



THE BLADE'S BLESSING

A KING'S WORTH

Opening Gate

Nimue waits at the gates of Hoggtowne ready to welcome patrons. She explains she was summoned by her old friend Merlin so that she could meet young ward Arthur to see if he is prepared to take on the sword Excalibur, but Merlin seems to have been detained. As Arthur arrives to meet Nimue, the hunting horn of the Erlking sounds and the dark retinue arrives.



Scene One

It is revealed that Merlin believed Arthur is the true hope to lead the human Kingdom. Nimue has been asked to bequeath the sword, Excalibur, to him because with such a tool he can build a new world of honor and justice. Noble-hearted Nimue is prepared to hand over Excalibur, but they are stopped by the Erlking, and a retinue of human-opposed fae who have been warned by a jealous Morgana of the ceremony. Morgana and the Erlking object that Nimue was never given permission to give over the blade and they will not bestow their blessings now. Nimue petitions to let Arthur's people prove themselves. Morgana agrees thinking she can't lose and the Erlking agrees, if only for their own amusement. Battle chess is played. In the final battle, Arthur is losing but refuses to stay down. He stands again and again and holds his head high. Nimue is unable to interfere in the fight (either Arthur demands the right to prove himself, or it is ancient Fae law that interfering in a formal duel is instant forfeiture). The Erlking is content to let the abuse continue, but the white side rallies to Arthur's side. Morgana, sensing she's lost control of the situation, calls for her retinue to attack. Nimue ends the frenzy with a show of power and demands a rematch.



Scene Two

The two factions reconvene and the Erlking demands a tournament instead of chess. Nimue acquiesces. Every few fights, Morgana and the Erlking try to force the injured Arthur into combat. Instead of letting him stand alone, his friends continue offering themselves as champions out of love and loyalty. We begin to see Morgana's faith in her course shaken as she sees this display. Is the power she seeks worth it if she is alone at the top?

At the end, Arthur has the technical victory due to numbers, but a beloved member of his friend group is defeated and taken captive. He demands a final rematch for Excalibur and his dear friend, believing he could never be a true king if he left a companion behind.



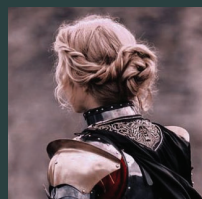
Scene Three

Morgana paces, conflicted. Why did Arthur demand a rematch when he had victory in his grasp? Why risk so much for one person? The Erlking agrees, stating they'd NEVER do the same for Morgana (which shakes her further). Nimue appears with the Noble Fae and the knights and tell the Dark Retinue that it is because a kingdom is more than a king, it is the people who support them, and that is why Arthur fights. Chess is played. In battle, Morgana wins Excalibur and all seems lost...but at the moment of her victory she contemplates the loneliness of one person winning dominion by force and, at the last moment, cedes the sword to Arthur.

In a rage, the Erlking tells her she had no right to do that and we have a final melee in which Arthur, Nimue, the White Side, and a penitent Morgana prove victorious. Nimue declares that Arthur is proven worthy through his ability to inspire those around him. She bequeaths the sword after making Arthur swear that it will always be a tool for good...a shield of the people as well as a sword. The Dark Retinue are banished after their loss.

THEMES

This is a story of the power of community and love and loyalty. The dark retinue has the potential to be funny or savage, but their weakness is their self-interest. The white side can be irreverent or noble, common or high-born; but any one of them would stand up for another.



Diversity Statement

This show is designed to be as racially and gender diverse as possible. Heritage and Nationality do not matter for casting of leads or secondary leads, or any character. Gender should also not be considered the main concern. This is a story of might, majesty, nobility, and compassion. These ideals are not limited to any one type of person, colour, or creed; nor should this show be.