

Around the Round Table

By

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Cast of Characters

<u>King Arthur:</u>	Young King of Britain - not too bright
<u>Queen Guinevere:</u>	Young Queen of Britain - much brighter
<u>Merlin:</u>	Arthur's court magician - and cardshark
<u>Sir Gawain:</u>	A knight of the round table
<u>Sir Gareth:</u>	A knight of the round table
<u>"Sir" Alice:</u>	A damsel loosely disguised as a knight, although not well
<u>"Sir" Kathrine:</u>	A damsel loosely disguised as a knight, although not well
<u>Waitress:</u>	Seen it all - not easy to fool - she has a job to do

Scene

The biggest round table in Camelot, which is in a restaurant

Time

Long, Long ago

ACT I

Scene 1

Knights around the Round Table. King Arthur and Guinevere have bigger seats of course. Oh yes and two of the "knights" are girls, with a bit of armor on and their hair pulled back.

GAWAIN:

If I may ask, my lord, why have we been summoned here today?

ARTHUR:

A very good question indeed. You see -

GUINEVERE:

That is indeed a very good question.

ARTHUR:

Gwen, Darling, I just said that.

GUINEVERE:

Yes, but I said it so much lovelier, don't you think Sir Gawain?

GAWAIN:

I try to, your majesty.

ARTHUR:

Try to what?

GAWAIN:

Think.

ARTHUR:

I'm thinking. But I still don't know what it is you try to do.

GUINEVERE:

Think.

ARTHUR:

I'm thinking! Or at least I'm trying to.

GARETH:

Your Majesty? I believe thinking is highly over rated. Do not waste your time.

ARTHUR:

yes, yes, a very good point. Now what I was saying was that your question was a good one. Why are we here? Why are we here, now?

(CONTINUED)

GARETH:

I do not know your lordship. We were hoping you knew.

ARTHUR:

I do.

GUINEVERE:

He does.

ARTHUR:

Please stop repeating me Gwen. It is quite annoying.
Don't you think so - what is your name? You - over
there.

ALICE:

Me, your lord?

ARTHUR:

Yes, you. There is no other you over there is there?

ALICE:

No, my lord. I am the only me that is here.

GARETH:

Not so. I am me, and I am here.

GAWAIN:

As am I. I am me, and I am here.

ARTHUR:

Yes, yes. You are here, in the general sense, but not
here there. (pointing to Alice) Only he is here there.
(pointing at Gareth) You are here there. But you are not
here (points to Alice) there. (pointing at Gawain) and
you are here there, but you are not here -

GUINEVERE:

They get the idea, Arthur.

ARTHUR:

Right, so what is your name, lad?

ALICE:

My name? You want to know my name?

ARTHUR:

Yes, tell us your name.

GUINEVERE:

Please - tell us your name.

ARTHUR:

Gwen, darling, you don't need to repeat everything I say. Hello? are you listening to me, Gwen? Did you hear me?

GUINEVERE:

Yes, of course.

ARTHUR:

Tell me what I said.

GUINEVERE:

Gwen, darling, you don't need to repeat everything I say. Hello? are you listening to me, Gwen? Did you hear me?

ARTHUR:

Good.

GUINEVERE:

Tell me what you said.

ARTHUR:

But you just said what I said.

GUINEVERE:

I know, dear. That is what you said. And if you don't want me repeating what you say, don't ask me to.

ARTHUR:

Women! They are the devils finest handiwork. But at least here we don't have to worry about it, eh men? So, Lad, tell us your name.

ALICE:

My name is - uh, Sir Alice, sir.

ARTHUR:

Alice? Alice is a girl's name.

ALICE:

Really? In Britain? I did not realize that. In Scotland it is considered a good rugged man's name.

ARTHUR:

Are you sure you are not a girl?

KATHRINE:

She's not a girl, your highness. I can vouch for her - him. I can vouch for him. We have fought in many a battle together. And wooed many a damsel in distress.

ALICE:

I would never woo a damsel in dis dress. (they giggle)

ARTHUR:

Well, The Scottish are a strange lot. The reason you are all here is that we are forming a new organization. A new purpose for all of you. From this point on, you are going to be The knights of the round table. That is why we are here at this big round table. It is a new order.

WAITRESS:

Right. Speaking of new orders - do you lot know what you want to eat yet? The manager says you can only sit at the big round table if you're ordering something. What would you like Miss?

ALICE:

Miss? I think you must be mistaken. I'm a knight. a manly rugged knight.

KATHRINE:

As am I. Rugged and tough. (pretends to spit)

WAITRESS:

Right. Whatever. Do you want anything to eat or drink?

ALICE:

A salad and Ohhh - do you have any of those frozen drinks with the little umbrellas in them? I love those.

KATHRINE:

Oh my god, me too! and the little swords? They are too cute. Imagine having a battle with those. Couldn't you just die? I'll have the same thing.

WAITRESS:

Right. Salads and two rugged manly frozen drinks with little umbrellas or swords in them. Be careful not to spill them on your skirts, men.

KATHRINE:

Kilts. These are kilts. They are all the rage in Scotland.

WAITRESS:

Sorry. You both look very manly and rugged today. I didn't know kilts came in pink.

KATHRINE:

That's how they wear them this year. They got tired of plaid.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE:

Plaid is so out.

GUINEVERE:

I think it's very - attractive.

KATHRINE:

Thank you my lady.

GUINEVERE:

And very stylish boots. You must tell me where you shop.

WAITRESS:

How about the rest of you?

GARETH:

I don't care where she shops.

GAWAIN:

Well, It wouldn't hurt to check it out.

WAITRESS:

I mean what do you want to order.

GARETH:

I'll have a hunk of red bloody meat, and some mead.

GAWAIN:

Same for me.

WAITRESS:

How do you want that cooked? Wait -Oh, never mind.
Royal couple?

GUINEVERE:

I'll have the turkey leg.

ARTHUR:

I'll have the turkey leg as well.

GUINEVERE:

Arthur, dearest, you don't need to repeat everything I say. Oh and I'll have one of those frozen drinks as well.

WAITRESS:

I'll be back with the drinks in a minute.

MERLIN:

Ahh. Here you are. I knew you'd be here. You can't fool me, I know everything. Have you ordered yet?

(CONTINUED)

GARETH:

Everything but that eh?

MERLIN:

What? Yes I suppose so. So, Arthur, what's good here?

GAWAIN:

And that?

MERLIN:

(glaring at Gawain and Gareth)

You know, I haven't turned anybody into a frog in weeks.

GUINEVERE:

You must all excuse me for a few moments. I need to freshen up a bit.

ALICE:

I'll go with you.

KATHRINE:

Me too.

(Alice and Katherine realize that Arthur, Gawain, Gareth and Merlin are looking at them oddly)

ALICE:

To protect the queen, of course.

KATHRINE:

You know - From dragons and things.

ALICE:

ewww. I hate dragons. They remind me of lizards. Big ugly slimy lizards.

(She looks at Merlin's robe on her way past)

Merlin, pretty gown. It brings out your eyes.

MERLIN:

Thank you. Wait. What? Its a robe. A wizards robe. It is. Really.

ARTHUR:

Merlin, do you find anything odd about those two knights?

MERLIN:

Those two? Let me think. Well, they accessorize well. That's unusual.

(CONTINUED)

GAWAIN:

Your Highness? I think one of them may be a girl.

ARTHUR:

One of my knights? That is a terrible thing to say. Not all of my knights can measure up to your manly roughness.

GARETH:

Sire, he means one of them may actually be a girl - a female girl - not a man.

ARTHUR:

That is absurd. Women can not be knights. You of all people should know that. You've been a knight for a long time. And why would a woman want to be a knight?

MERLIN:

Ahh, you see your highness, many women in the kingdom are feeling that their roles are too limited. So some of them are pretending to be knights, just to have something interesting to do. Now, pick a card. Any card.

ARTHUR:

Fine, now what?

MERLIN:

Put it back in the deck. Now, as I shuffle the cards, I want you -

GAWAIN:

Too limited? Women are an important part of the process. They can be a damsel in distress.

GARETH:

Or they can be a damsel out of distress. Either way, we need them. If not for them, who would we rescue?

MERLIN:

Yes. Very true. Now Arthur, try to see the card in your mind.

ARTHUR:

What card?

MERLIN:

The card you took out of the deck.

ARTHUR:

Oh that one? I put it back. Don't you remember?

(CONTINUED)

MERLIN:

Yes, but you remember what card you picked?

ARTHUR:

Not really. I am concerned that one of you may be a girl.

GAWAIN:

Not one of us, your majesty.

ARTHUR:

Of course you'd say that.

MERLIN:

Can we try this again? Now pick a card. Pay attention to what it is this time.

ARTHUR:

Fine. No! Look at this - even some of our cards are girls. I want all the girl cards taken out of the deck.

MERLIN:

Well, you spoiled that trick again. You just can't do magic.

ARTHUR:

I thought that was why I had you. And come to think of it, why do you walk around in a dress?

MERLIN:

Its a wizards gown - robe.

ARTHUR:

Likely story. When the Queen and those other knights get back, I'll ask them if they've seen anything suspicious.

WAITRESS:

Drinks. Here are the meads and here are the frozen drinks. Tell the girls I put both the umbrella and sword on them. Oh yes, and three of the drinks are half price. Ladies night and all. Food will be out a little later.

ARTHUR:

Wait! You mean three of our company are ladies?

WAITRESS:

Nothing gets past you, does it? How'd you get to be king, any way?

(CONTINUED)

GAWAIN:

Well, there was an anvil that had a sword stuck in it.

GARETH:

No, It was a stone.

GAWAIN:

No it wasn't. A stone stuck in an anvil isn't very interesting. It was a sword.

GARETH:

Yes, the sword was stuck in the anvil - which was stuck to the stone. And there was a plaque on the side that said -

GAWAIN:

Whosoever pulleth this sword from this stone, is rightfully declared the King of all Britain.

MERLIN:

And Arthur was the only one able to pull the sword out of the stone.

WAITRESS:

So it had nothing to do with intelligence? Just brute strength? Figures.

MERLIN:

Pick a card.

WAITRESS:

No thank you. I hate card tricks. Make my tips double and we'll talk.

GUINEVERE:

Oh good, the drinks are here.

ARTHUR:

Gwen. I have been informed that some of us here are women.

GUINEVERE:

What? Goodness no! Not me.

ARTHUR:

Not you?

GUINEVERE:

A joke, Arthur. A joke.

ARTHUR:

Merlin. Use your magic. Cast a spell that will clarify things for me. Fortell the future.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE:

Before you do, Merlin, may Sir Kathleen and I tell you something? Something really important?

(they whisper in his ear, very flirty)

MERLIN:

Ohhhhh. Really? Do you really think so? I have lost a little weight. What? Oh that would be nice. Yes, I think I understand. (to Arthur) Arthur, I am going into a trance. I can see the future. You become a great and powerful King leading the knights of the round table.

WAITRESS:

What kind of tip do I get?

ALICE AND KATHRINE:

A big one.

ARTHUR:

But what about the ladies?

MERLIN:

I see a future where men and women are both valued for their abilities, not limited to traditional limited roles. They work together, in similar jobs, for the same wages.

GUINEVERE:

That'll be the day.

ARTHUR:

But is someone here a woman? That's what I want to know?

MERLIN:

(glancing at Alice and Kathrine)
uhhhhh. Besides the Queen?

ARTHUR:

Of course, besides the queen.

ALICE:

(very flirty)
Merl -lin. Think about the future.

KATHRINE:

(very flirty)
yes, think about the future.

MERLIN:

uhhh, No Arthur, these are all hard working tough knights, ready to answer your call - and maybe mine.

(CONTINUED)

WAITRESS:

yeah, I was thinking about a different table, fer sure.

ARTHUR:

Then I propose a toast. To the Knights of the Round
Table.

ALL:

To the Knights of the Round Table.

MERLIN:

Now somebody pick a card, any card.