

ACT TWO

Scene 4

The Forest of MORGAN LE FEY.

It is a labyrinth of tanglewood.

TIME: Immediately following.

AT RISE: MORDRED appears. Before his eyes, weird and startling members of QUEEN MORGAN'S COURT appear in choreographic pantomime. Finally the way is made for the entrance of MORGAN LE FEY herself.

SHE seems about in her late twenties, quite wild and quite beautiful. MORDRED kneels at her feet.

MORDRED

(As HE does)

Your Majesty.

MORGAN

Arise, Mordred. And give me the candy.

MORDRED

(Rising)

I have your candy, dear Aunt. Baskets and baskets, in sugary profusion. But first let us discuss what you shall do for me.

MORGAN

I shall do nothing for you, nothing at all. Why should I do anything for anyone? I have all I want of life: passionate afternoons, gluttonous nights, and slovenly mornings.

MORDRED

Very well, then.

MORGAN

Give me my candy, or I shall go home and continue eating my dining room.

MORDRED

Eating your dining room?

MORGAN

And why not? My chairs are made of vegetable; my table's made of cheese, and my doors are gingerbread.

MORDRED

And the floor?

MORGAN

Roast beef—wall to wall. But, candy I never get, so I desire it most of all.

MORDRED

Then why should you be denied it, when all I ask is to play a prank on King Arthur?

MORGAN

King Arthur! Oh, Wart! I used to watch him from my invisible window out walking with Merlyn. He was a dear little boy. No. I don't wish to harm him.

MORDRED

No harm.

MORGAN

You're the son of a wicked mother, Mordred, and I know you're up to mischief.

MORDRED

No mischief at all. Just a delicious little game that will amuse you. Arthur is out hunting. Lure him to your forest, and detain him for the night.

MORGAN

Detain him for the night? No. Such games are for the afternoon. At night, I eat. And I'm more ravenous every second.

MORDRED

Please dear Aunt? Make him drowsy and build a wall around him? The invisible kind you do so well.

MORGAN

How do you know I build invisible walls?

MORDRED

Mummy told me. Please dear Aunt?

MORGAN

No! I will not harm little Wart.

(SHE calls)

Court!

(The MUSIC begins)

Farewell, nasty Mordred!

(The COURT appears, and to MUSIC prepare to exit. Just as MORGAN is about to depart, there is a break in the MUSIC)