

#11a – Pellinore's Entrance

(A MAN in clanking rusty armor enters. In one hand he carries a lance. In one eye he wears a monocle. Trailing beside him is a seedy looking mongrel, named HORRID. The Knight's name, as we will discover, is KING PELLINORE)

PELLINORE

Forgive the interruption. Anyone here seen a beast with the head of a serpent, the body of a boar and the tail of a lion, baying like forty hounds?

DINADAN

(Coming forward)

On your knees, Knight.

(Indicating GUENEVERE)

You are in the presence of Her Majesty Guenevere, Queen of England.

PELLINORE

(To GUENEVERE)

Oh, really? Howdyado, Your Majesty. Will have to forego the bending. Beastly hinges need oiling. Been sleeping out for eighteen years. Do forgive, what? Know it isn't proper, but there you are. I'll be with you in a minute.

(Removes helmet)

Oh, it stopped raining.

GUENEVERE

(Amused)

Who are you, Milord?

PELLINORE

Name of King Pellinore. What? May have heard of me, what? What?

(HE looks around for recognition, which he does not receive)

No matter.

(As he polishes)

You say you haven't seen a beast with the head of a serpent, the body of a boar...

GUENEVERE

Please, I beg you, don't describe it again. It sounds much too revolting. We have not seen it.

PELLINORE

Called the Questing Beast, what? The Curse of the Pellinores. Only a Pellinore can catch her; that is, or his next of kin. Family tradition. Train all the Pellinores with that idea in mind. Limited education, what? By the way, where am I now?

GUENEVERE

Don't you know?

PELLINORE

Haven't the foggiest.

(A few MEMBERS OF THE COURT laugh)

PELLINORE

(A little angry)

Oh, very easy to laugh, what? But nothing jocular about it to Yours Truly... always mollocking about after that beastly Beast. Nowhere to sleep, never know where you are. Rheumatism in the winter, sunstroke in the summer. All this horrid armor that takes hours to put on. Then sitting up all night polishing the beastly stuff... But I'm a Pellinore, amn't I? It's my fate. Oh, but sometimes I do wish I had a nice house of my own to live in, with beds in it, and real pillows and sheets. Oh, dear, what? Come on. Be a man, be a man. Where did you say I was?

GUENEVERE

I didn't but I will.

PELLINORE

Please do.

GUENEVERE

You're in Camelot.

PELLINORE

Thank you, Camelot?

(Looks at the dog)

Horrid, we've been through here, haven't we? Look around. Look around

(The DOG, who is lying down, looks up at him)

Oh, you wouldn't know. All you can see is hair. But I remember. Spent a lovely day here...

(To one of the LADIES, mistaking her for GUENEVERE)

**End
Here**

Hello, you've changed your frock.

GUENEVERE

I'm here.

PELLINORE

Oh! Spent a lovely day here years ago with a nice young chap who used to change himself into a Bunny Rabbit. Name of Wart.

(To GUENEVERE)

Ever meet him, Milady?