

BOOK I

CHAPTER I. How Uther Pendragon sent for the duke of Cornwall and Igraine his wife, and of their **departing** suddenly again.

IT **befell** in the days of Uther Pendragon, when he was king of all England, and so **reigned**, that there was a mighty duke in Cornwall that held war against him long time. And the duke was called the Duke of Tintagil. And so by means King Uther sent for this duke, charging him to bring his wife with him, for she was called a fair lady, and a passing wise, and her name was called Igraine.

So when the duke and his wife were come unto the king, by the means of great lords they **were accorded** both. The king liked and loved this lady well, and he made them great cheer out of measure, and **desired to** have lain by her. But she was a passing good woman, and would not **assent** unto the king. And then she told the duke her husband, and said, I suppose that we were sent for that I should be **dishonoured**; **wherefore**, husband, I **counsel** you, that we **depart from hence** suddenly, that we may ride all night unto our own **castle**. And in like wise as she said so they **departed**, that neither the king nor none of his **council** were **ware of** their **departing**. All so soon as King Uther knew of their **departing** so suddenly, he was wonderly **wroth**. Then he called to him his privy **council**, and told them of the sudden **departing** of the duke and his wife.

departing leaving

befell happened to

reigned ruled

were accorded were given

desired to wanted to

assent agreement

dishonoured dishonored

wherefore why

counsel give advice to

depart from leave/move away from

hence because of this

castle (huge, fancy, stone house)

wroth extremely angry

departed left/gone

council (group of people who advise or govern)

Then they **advised** the king to send for the duke and his wife by a great charge; and if he will not come at your **summons**, then may **ye** do your best, then have **ye** cause to make mighty war upon him. So that was done, and the messengers had their answers; and that was this shortly, that neither he nor his wife would not come at him. Then was the king wonderly **wroth**. And then the king sent him plain word again, and **bade** him be ready and stuff him and garnish him, for within forty days he would fetch him out of the biggest **castle** that he **hath**.

ware of aware of

wroth angry

advised (gave opinions about what could or should be done about a situation)

summons (ticket/order to appear in court)

ye you

bade asked/invited

hath has

When the duke had this warning, **anon** he went and furnished and garnished two strong **castles** of his, of the which the one **hight** Tintagil, and the other **castle** **hight** Terrabil. So his wife Dame Igraine he put in the **castle** of Tintagil, and himself he put in the **castle** of Terrabil, the which had many issues and posterns out. Then in all **haste** came Uther with a great host, and laid a **siege** about the **castle** of Terrabil. And there he pight many pavilions, and there was great war made on both parties, and much people **slain**. Then for **pure** anger and for great love of fair Igraine the king Uther fell sick. So came to the king Uther Sir Ulfius, a noble knight, and asked the king why he was sick. I **shall** tell **thee**, said the king, I am sick for anger and for love of fair Igraine, that I may not be whole. Well, my lord, said Sir Ulfius, I **shall seek** Merlin, and he **shall** do you **remedy**, that your heart **shall** be pleased. So Ulfius **departed**, and by **adventure** he met Merlin in a **beggar's** **array**, and there Merlin asked Ulfius whom he **sought**. And he said he had little **ado** to tell him. Well, said Merlin, I know whom thou seekest, for **thou seekest** Merlin; therefore seek no farther, for I am he; and if King Uther will well reward me, and be sworn **unto me** to fulfil my desire, that shall be his **honour** and profit more than mine; for I shall cause him to have all his desire. All this will I **undertake**, said Ulfius, that there shall be nothing reasonable but **thou shalt** have **thy** desire. Well, said Merlin, he shall have his intent and desire. And therefore, said Merlin, ride on your way, for I will not be long behind.

anon soon
castles (huge, fancy, stone houses)
hight called
haste (hurrying/foolish rushing)
siege attack
slain killed
pure total/totally/with nothing else mixed in
shall will
thee, you,

seek look (for)
remedy fix (for a disease)
adventure fun trip
beggar poor person (who asks for money)
array dress, clothes
sought searched for/tried to get
ado talk/activity
thou you
seekest search for
unto me to me
honour honor
profit (money made/good)
undertake begin/try
thou shalt you will
thy your