The Darkest Hour

By ginathehedgehog

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My most popular fanfic from DA. A Sonic and the Black Knight fanstory with lots of my friends characters thrown in!

Provided by Fanart Central.

http://www.fanart-central.net/stories/user/ginathehedgehog/56946/The-Darkest-Hour

0 - Characters, Weapons and Couples

Sonic: King Sonic
Shadow: Sir Lancelot
Knuckles: Sir Gawain
Blaze: Dame Percival
Jet: Sir Lamorak
Silver: Sir Galahad
Manic: Sir Gaheris
Sonia: Dame Iseult
Bartleby: Sir Tristan
Vector: Sir Ector
Vanilla: Lady Enide
Espio: Sir Erec
Charmy: Sir Dagonet, the court jester
Amy: Nimue, the Lady of the Lake
Big: Sir Colgrevance
Cream: Lady Kay
Rouge: Dame Ragnelle
Marine: Lyonesse, the blacksmith's apprentice
Tails: Ywain, the local blacksmith
Cosmo: Lady Laudine
Elise: Lady Lynette
Storm: Sir Tor
Wave: Dame Morgause
Maria: Lady Elaine
Shade: Dame Arrok
Mephiles: Claudas, the band wizard
Gina: Dame Safir
Abyss: Dame Evaine
Comatose: Sir Bors
Gigi: Dame Elyan
Otto: Gareth, the blacksmith's apprentice
Mist: Sir Galehaut
Rockfire: Sir Caradoc
Dream: Sir Cador
Merrik: Sir Breunor
Fenix: Sir Bedivere
Xargos: Griflet, the Wizard
Rainjha: Bel Inconnu, the traveler
Rochelle: Gwendolyn, the healer apprentice
Alexis: Cynedyr, the traveler
Sonata: Lady Morgan
Hero: Sir Warwick

Morgue: Taliesin, the king's bard (Poet)
Sass: Caelia, the faerie queen
Scythe: Prince/Sir Claudin
Calico: Blanchefleur, the healer
Shaunty: Sir Reynold
Iblis: Lady Sannah, the band sorceress
Aqua: Dame Olwen
Kiba: Sir Dinadan

Couples:
Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnelle (KnucklesxRouge)
Sir Tristan and Dame Iseult (SoniaxBartleby)
Sir Ector and Lady Enide (VectorxVanilla)
Ywain and Lady Laudine (TailsxCosmo)
Sir Lancelot and Lady Elaine (ShadowxMaria)
King Sonic and Dame Safir (SonicxGina)
Sir Bors and Lady Evaine (AbyssxComatose)
Sir Galahad and Dame Percival (SilverxBlaze)
Sir Lamorak and Dame Morgause(JetxWave)
Sir Dagonet and Lady Kay (CharmyxCream)
Sir Gaheris and Dame Elyan (ManicxGigi)
Sir Galehaut and Cynedyr (MistxAlexis)
Sir Caradoc and Lyonesse (RockfirexMarine)
Gareth and Lady Lynette (OttoxElise)
Sir Warwick and Lady Morgan (SonataxHero)
Sir Reynold and Blanchefleur (ShauntyxCalico)
Sir Dinadan and Dame Olwen (KibaxAqua)
Claudas and Lady Sannah (MephilesxIblis)

Weapon Names:
Sonic: Caliburn (Sacred talking sword)
Shadow: Arondight
Knuckles: Galatin (Two swords)
Blaze: Corrougue
Jet: Chorro
Silver: Fliteku
Manic: Defrethio
Sonia: Verona
Bartleby: Ticketo
Vector: Crunchelio
Vanilla: N/A
Espio: Erevu
Charmy: Buzz (Jester's Satff)
Amy: N/A
Big: Guerro
Cream: N/A
Rouge: Lura

Marine: N/A
Tails: N/A
Cosmo: N/A
Elise: N/A
Storm: Frolgoni
Wave: Palakai
Maria: N/A
Shade: Dusk
Mephiles: Trigger (Magic Staff)
Gina: Ariados
Abyss: Ahsoka
Comatose: Konsui
Gigi: Skylos
Otto: N/A
Mist: Haburi
Rockfire: Aisu
Dream: Derovia
Merrik: Darkflame (Two swords)
Fenix: Boradsword (Double bladed)
Xargos: Zeroskia (Magic staff)
Rainjha: N/A
Rochelle: Horsa (A mini sword)
Alexis: N/A
Sonata: N/A
Hero: Nasata
Morgue: Ryloth (A harp)
Sass: Alijean
Scythe: Sitorsis
Calico: N/A
Shaunty: Bluestar
Iblis: Arimandon (Magic Staff)
Aqua: Waveturn
Kiba: Firedance

1 - Prologue

The small group of knights crouched behind a crumbling boulder, waiting for their chance to attack. Knights of the Underworld waded through the open wasteland, patrolling the area, flanking each other as to not let anyone get past them and there were many of them, all armed with either dark swords, spears or arrows. The five knights didn't stand a chance against the hundreds of underworld knights but they still continued to plan out their moves.

"Right, we are highly outnumbered but we can never give up!" The oldest knight said. He was only 17 but the oldest and leader of the mission. "The king will not accept failure!" he said as he pounded a fist into his hand. This was Sir Rex, a blue fox with black pants and a black pouch hooked over his shoulder. The other four knights nodded in approval as Rex started to run over their battle tactics. "Dame Snips and Sir Avalar will wade around the left of them whilst Sir Cody and Dame Safir will flank the right. I'll go straight through the centre after both sides have attacked and if were lucky, we should be able to take down the knights and it will lead us straight to the Dark Castle." Dame Safir, the youngest knight stared up at Sir Rex. She admired him and being the youngest at only 9 years old, thought of him as her closest friend. Deep down inside, she also knew that she loved him but she would never tell him that. Avalar and Snips started creeping round the left of the wasteland whilst Cody and Safir crept round the right. They were making good timing and the Underworld Knights hadn't spotted them. Safir smiled cheerfully to herself, this was her first real mission that the king had entrusted her with and she was happy to be fending the kingdom. Suddenly, her pride and happiness crashed right down on her full force. She tripped on a rock and stumbled on top of Cody causing the two to crash towards the ground causing a terrible thud. The knights had spotted them. Cody pushed Safir off him and ran straight towards the knights. "Stop, that's not the plan!" Rex shouted from the boulder that was hiding him but it was too late, Cody's recklessness had let him straight into a fleet of underworld knights. He slashed with all his might but there were too many for one small cat to handle and he was getting tired out. He finished slashing two underworld knights in front of him but one crept up behind. Cody turned around just in time to see the spear plunge straight towards him and right through his stomach. He screamed in pain and dropped to the floor, grasping the open wound in his stomach, trying to prevent the blood from pouring out but it was no use. His lips quavered as a new fleet of underworld knights ran towards him and with one final blow, he was struck down to the ground, dead.

"Oh no!" Snips shook, her face filled with fear.

"Come on! It's not safe to hang around here!" Avalar screamed and hit Snips' shoulder to get her to move before making a run for it but Snips was petrified with fear and shock. She was in love with the young Cody and had just watched the underworld knights take his life right in front of her face and she had just stood there watching. The underworld knights spotted her and started running towards her at full speed, swords in front of them.

"Snips, you have to move!" Rex shouted with fear but she just stood there, dazed with shock. "Listen to me, if you don't move you'll be killed! Snips please!" Rex pleaded with tears in his eyes but it was too late. The underworld knights struck the petrified Snips down and a horrid sound of ripping flesh could be heard as the underworld knights scarred their swords across Snips' back. She lay on the ground,

moaning in pain as more knights flew towards her. She rolled over and managed to dodge the sword swings but it was too much for the open wounds to handle and blood gushed out of her back. The underworld knights took this as their chance to go in for the kill and with one blow, scored her flank and left her breathless on the blood-stained floor.

"Rex! What are we going to do?" Avalar asked with a scared tone but Rex didn't reply. His eyes were filled with tears as they streamed down his face, staining his cheeks as his ears twitched with fear. Avalar stared at his leader, too in shock to do anything as the underworld knights ran towards the two. "Look out!" Avalar screamed as he jumped in front of Rex and started thrashing his sword at the knights but there were too many. An arrow flew into his left arm and he dropped to his knees in pain, his sword falling to the ground and he was unarmed and unshielded. The knights took advantage of him and slashed at his limp body leaving him the third victim. Rex reared up in shock and stared into the knights eyes with a look of horror before they flew towards him. He then snapped out of his shock and broken into a teary eyed fury and slashed his sword endlessly at his enemies.

"Rex!" Safir called out, tears streaming down her face as she stared at her fallen comrades and Rex being taken down too. She ran towards him but as she got close enough, she stopped in shock. Rex's face was stained with blood but he was still alive.

"Safir…h-help me! P-please Safir!" Rex breathed heavily as he continued to slash his sword at the underworld knights. Safir took her sword from her scabbard and started to run towards the knights but as she drew closer, she stopped dead in her tracks. She couldn't do it. She was terrified of these knights and what they had done to her friends. She knew it was the wrong thing to do, she took one last look at Rex, his body now on the ground, cowering under the weight of his sword as he shielded his face from the endless blows from the underworld knights' swords and then she turned and fled. "Safir! A knight never flees their foe!" Rex called out in a weak whimper but Safir kept running, not turning back. "Safir!" She heard Rex call before she heard a blood-curdling scream. She didn't dare turn around because she already knew what had happened. That was the last of her group. Rex was gone. She kept on running until she came to a forest and stormed through the trees. She threw herself down by a tree trunk and breathed heavily. She stared into space, shock filled her eyes. What had she done? She had fled her foe and caused the death of her leader! She closed her eyes. How was she to tell the king this? Then it struck her. There was no way she could go back to Camelot for she would no longer be welcome. She turned into the distance where she could just about make out Camelot Castle peeking over the hills and through the trees. Taking one last glance at it, she walked the opposite way, deeper into the woods. She was no longer a knight of the Round Table, she was an outcast destined to live the rest of her life alone.

2 - An Old Friend

The sun shined brightly down into the grounds of Camelot as townspeople busied themselves at the Camelot centre, buying fruit and trading goods. Knights practiced in the Camelot Castle courtyard as they had fake jousts with one another and shared news of their latest missions and swordsmanship. The woods next to the castle was alive with the sound of singing birds and the soft wind that thrashed through the trees. Sun peeked through the many canopies of bright green trees and made a light path across the stony floor.

A silver knight suddenly pushed away stray twigs and branches from his face so that he could get past them all as he brushed a stray quill from his eyes and turned to face behind him.

"Come on dad, we haven't got all day!"

The knight taunted playfully as a second knight streamed out of the trees, tilting his metal helmet up onto his head so he could stare at his son with great curiosity. A grin spread across his face.

"If you were as smart as me Galahad then you would have thought to actually put your helmet over your face to shield it from the twigs!"

The older knight smirked playfully at his son and he placed his sword back into his scabbard as he waltzed over to him.

"Ah dad! Stop mocking me! You've had much more knight training then me and you know that!"

Galahad pointed out eying his father wearily. His father on the other hand, playfully hit Galahad's helmet, forcing the heavy plate to fall over his face inexpectedly.

"Dad, stop playing around! A knight never plays around!"

Galahad snapped at his father. Lancelot just resulted in chuckling again and cuffing the young hedgehog's exposed ear causing him to grab his father's arm and tug at it. The two laughed as they continued to walk through the woods, this time each wearing his helmet to stop stray twigs from fraying their faces. They walked for a while, neither saying anything until they came to the heart of the woods. Lancelot removed his helmet and placed it on a large, flat rock that was conveniently placed in the middle of the circular path. Galahad did the same and then turned to face his father, his silver quills swaying gently in the wind as he twitched his perked ears.

"So why did you bring me here anyway dad?"

Galahad questioned, his eyes wide with curiosity. It had been ages since Lancelot had offered to take a walk with Galahad. He had trained his son well and Galahad had spent most of his life in his father's shadow, learning all of his moves and perfecting them into his own style but he still lingered an empty space in his heart that he couldn't quite figure out just yet although he felt it had something to do with

his vow to chastity and purity.

Lancelot stared hard at Galahad, eyeing his son up and down and reviewing the progress he had made since a few weeks ago. He had progressed through major changes as he had had a growth spurt and began fighting more intensely, building his weak muscles into tough ones that allowed his ability to wield a sword greater. Lancelot's crimson eyes blazed into Galahad's soft gold ones as he began to explain why he had brought him out here.

"I think it's time that we asked the king to make you a proper knight of the Round Table."

Galahad was taken aback by this sudden outburst and his eyes widened with shock as he took a pace backwards.

"B-but I'm not ready yet, you know I'm not! I can barley hold my sword without falling and I can't joust well enough yet!"

"Nonsense, you'll make a great knight and your ready for it, I know you are!"

Lancelot smiled at his son. Galahad still stared in shock at his father but managed to flash a weak smile at him.

"I promise you that the king will accept you, no matter what other people say, you're a great knight and nothing's going to change that!"

Galahad wasn't so sure. He had had to live a life filled with threats and taunts from knights and townspeople who didn't accept him because of an ancient prophecy.

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"A Silver knight will lead to the fall of the kingdom!" the crazy old hedgehog who was traveling through Camelot had shouted across the town centre, pointing a wiry finger at the 4-year old Galahad, gripping tightly to his father's hand as the hedgehog drew closer to him, spitting harsh words in his face. Lancelot had merely growled and drew his sword from his scabbard but was stopped from attacking the old hedgehog by his wife, Lady Elaine who had merely shaken her head and placed one hand across the drawn sword and the other gently on his shoulder to control his anger. The quaking Galahad stood on the ground shaking as townspeople shot him horrific looks and nasty threats and he sunk to the floor, cowering in a ball of sadness and softly whimpered to himself.
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Galahad nodded at his father's words and realized that he was right. There was no point in dwelling on the past, if the prophecy was true then there was no point in blaming it on himself, he'd just have to live

with the burden until it actually happened.

Lancelot caught a glimpse of sadness flash in Galahad's eyes and he placed one glove on his son's shoulder. He looked up at his father and smiled.

"Should we head back to the castle?"

Lancelot asked and Galahad nodded.

Just as they turned to leave, they each heard a rustle in the trees behind them. Lancelot turned to face the tree, eyes staring in slits as a weak looking hedgehog burst through. She was covered in cuts and bruises and dirt stained her clothes, matted hair spewed across her face and a look of tiredness in her eyes. Despite all of this, the first thing Shadow seemed to notice was a sword, hanging in it's scabbard on her belt and he immediately widened his eyes and pulled out his sword.

"Who are you? Are you a knight of these plains?"

The Hedgehog stared up at Lancelot, fear rippled over her mud-stained face as Lancelot pointed his sword directly towards her.

"Answer me! Who are you hedgehog?"

Lancelot spat coldly. The hedgehog struggled to heave herself off the floor before eying Lancelot straight into the eyes.

"Greeting sir knight, I am merely an old friend to the king. Or I used to be anyway."

Lancelot flicked his right ear with curiosity.

"Used to be?"

"That's right but I can't explain further, I need to see the king in person so I can tell him my full story."

"How do I know your telling the truth?"

"Please, I have to speak to the king!"

Lancelot stared into her deep brown eyes and somehow, through all her desperation, he knew she was telling the truth. He put his sword down and placed it back into his scabbard before turning around, back to the castle.

"Follow us, we'll take you to the king."

The hedgehog's eyes filled with relief.

"Thank you sir knight, I haven't known this much kindness for ages!"
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Lancelot and Galahad flanked the hedgehog on either side of her, to stop her from trying anything sneaky but to also protect her from knights looking for a fight. Gawain followed her gaze with slanted eyes as she walked past but it was nothing new, Gawain was known for his reckless behavior and was always looking for a fight. She didn't seem to take notice of the harmful stares she got though, her main goal was to reach the king.

Lancelot and Galahad led her into the castle and to the door that lead into the throne room.

"The kings right through this door. We'll wait outside for you."

The hedgehog nodded thankfully at Lancelot and pushed the huge wooden doors open, revealing a large stone room with a long dinner table at one side and a huge throne at the very back of the room.

"Who enters the throne room?"

A voice called from the far end of the room.

"King Sonic?"

The hedgehog whispered before running over to the throne and stopping dead in front of him.

"Dame Safir! Is that really you? Is it really really you!?"

The king gasped, his eyes filled with happiness as Safir stood in front of him, slightly bent over to catch her breath from running across the large room. Sonic stood up from his throne and Safir ran up towards him, embracing him in a tight hug, her face pressed against his chest as tears burnt her eyes.

"I missed you so much!"

Safir whimpered to her king. Sonic rubbed her back and wiped tears away from her cheeks with a soft hand.

"I missed you too but, where were you? And where's Rex and the rest of the knights?"

Safir cringed at Rex's name and stared up at Sonic as a scared expression crawled onto her face.

"I'm the only survivor. We were ambushed by the knights of the underworld and we were picked off one by one."

Safir started as tears started streaming down her face once again as she played back the horrible memory in her mind of her friends' lives ending. Sonic stared at her with concern as she continued the horrific story.

"I went to help Rex but once I got to him, I got so scared that I ran away. I heard the sound of his bones cracking beneath the weight of the underworld knights but I didn't do anything. I fled my foe and worst of all, am responsible for the death of all four knights so I went to live my life as an outcast but I was

attacked and couldn't hold back, I had nothing, everything was gone so I had no choice but to return to Camelot"

Safir gritted her teeth as tears flooded her eyes and she hugged Sonic even tighter for reassurance. Sonic didn't know what to say at first.

"Safir."

Sonic started with a warm tone as he placed a hand on her shoulder and smiled.

"Everyone makes mistakes and it's not your fault that Rex and the others died. Even if you did try to help Rex, you probably would have ended up dead too! Safir, this was 5 years ago now, you've been gone for a long time, I had search parties scout the areas for you and your team but they had no luck, I feared I had lost one of my closest friends. But I haven't because I know that your alive, and you're here with me back in Camelot where you'll be safe and accepted, no matter what!"

Safir gazed up into Sonic's emerald green eyes, a warm feeling washed over her and for the first time in years, she smiled.

3 - Knighted

"What's taking her so long?"

Lancelot spat through a stubborn yet worried tone. Galahad shot him a curious glance.

"Why are you so worried? Did you see how she looked? I don't think the king will have any problems handling her if she tries anything sneaky."

Lancelot stared at the ground. He wanted to know just who this hedgehog was. He had the feeling that he knew her from long ago. He started to shuffle uneasily as he gripped his scabbard to be on the safe side.

"Ah, I can't take this, I'm going in!"

He suddenly screamed as he threw the huge door open.

"What? Father, wait!"

Galahad cried as he ran after his father.

"What is this?"

Lancelot asked in shock as he saw Sonic and Safir hugging by the throne, Sonic's hand placed on her shoulder and her hands wrapped tightly around the king's neck.

"King Sonic, who is this hedgehog?"

Lancelot shouted, his voice breaking in vein as he raked his memory for where he had known her from. Sonic's mouth hung open as he stared wide-eyed at Lancelot.

"You mean to say that you don't remember who this Hedgehog is? It's Safir, your sister!"

Lancelot's eyes widened. Of course! How could he not have known who his own sister was? Sonic's expression was almost angry from the fact that Lancelot couldn't tell who his own sister was but truth had it, they were separated as babies and only got back together at the age of 6 when Nimue brought them both to train in the castle. Safir had then gone on the mission at the age of 9 so frankly, the two hedgehogs had only really known each other properly for less than 3 years, Sonic probably knew them both better than they knew each other. His angered expression turned to a warm smile as Safir turned to face Lancelot.

"Safir, you came back, you came back!"

Lancelot called as he ran towards his sister, hugging her tightly.

"Lancelot, I missed you so much!"

Safir whispered as she hugged her brother back. She opened her eyes and peered over Lancelot's shoulder and caught a glimpse of the young Galahad.

"Who's that?"

Safir asked, curiosity growing in her chocolate eyes.

"That's my son and your nephew, Galahad."

Lancelot replied smoothly. Safir's eyes widened.

"Your son? Who's the mother?"

"Elaine, you remember her, right?"

Safir squinted her eyes, trying to remember all of the people she used to know and then it hit her. Elaine, one of their only friends when they first arrived at the castle. It was a shock that Lancelot had fallen in love with her, she only saw the two as best friends at the time but she felt happy for her brother.

"Greetings Galahad!"

"Greeting Safir, I've heard a lot about you!"

Safir smiled at the young hedgehog as Sonic walked forward to approach her.

"Young Safir, I think you have done well to survive alone for 5 years in the wilderness and your short amount of training before the mission was superb! Lancelot is already a Knight of the Round Table and I think it's time that I dubbed you a knight."

"Really?"

Safir asked, her eyes melting into Sonic's and a wide smile spread across her face.

"Actually, that's why we came here in the first place. I think it's time you made Galahad a full knight!"

Lancelot pointed out to the king. Sonic eyed Galahad and then nodded slightly.

"Yes, I think Galahad has come together very well in the past few weeks, he may be knighted as well."

All three hedgehog's expressions were priceless at this wonderful news.

"We will hold the knighting ceremony tonight."
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That night, the lights shone brightly in the courtyard as all the knights of the round table formed a circle around King Sonic who was standing at the far end by the castle door, a proud smile on his face as he waited for the knights. The castle drawbridge swung down and the knights walked over it and through the circle, towards King Sonic. Safir was being led by Lancelot and Galahad was being led by Galehaut, Lancelot's closest friend who was very fond of Galahad and had often helped Lancelot out in helping him train his son. Behind the 4 hedgehogs, walked Lady Elaine, mother of Galahad and close friend of Safir. Lancelot and Galehaut walked Safir and Galahad over to King Sonic, bowed to him and then stepped behind them, next to Elaine. Sonic faced the knights and smiled. The two bowed before their king and the already knighted knights took out their swords and held them towards the two young knights. Safir found it a bit scary having all of the swords being pointed at her but she shook the feeling off and turned her attention to Sonic.

"You have both trained your hardest to be fit knights of the round table. I have watched you progress through time and I believe your ready to become full-fledged knights."

He turned towards Galahad.

"Galahad, your much like your father, you share a lot of his talent and I admire you for that. In the past 2 weeks, you have improved greatly, your sword skills especially and I believe that it is this that has allowed me to see your acceptance here."

Galahad smiled widely, Sonic was accepting him as were the rest of the knights despite the legendary prophecy. Sonic placed his sword on Galahad's shoulder and stared up at his knights.

"Sir Galahad is now a full knight of the round table! Please welcome him with open arms!"

Galahad got up and turned towards his fellow knights.

"Galahad, Galahad, Galahad!"

They all chanted. Lancelot and Elaine's faces were filled with pride as was Galehaut's. Sonic then turned to Safir.

"Dame Safir, the time you spent away from us couldn't stop your destiny of becoming a full knight. You're brave and always willing to help out, a truly trusted knight!"

Sonic then put his sword on her shoulder as he had done with Galahad.

"Dame Safir is now a full knight of the round table! Please welcome her with open arms!"

Safir got up and turned to the other knights, standing close to Galahad and peering at the sea of faces in front of her.

"Safir! Safir! Safir!"

They chanted and a smile spread across her face. Galahad prodded her shoulder to get her attention.

"Hey Safir, let's go and stand with my father!"

He smiled as Safir nodded and they went to stand with Lancelot, Galehaut and Elaine. All the knights turned towards Sonic and proceeded to bowing down to him.

"Knights of the Round Table, I thank you all for staying loyal to me and I hope you will do so for the rest of your lives!"

The king smiled. His sword then shot straight up to make an announcement.

"For the sake of Camelot, do what you must to protect the kingdom!"

The sword, known as the sacred sword, Caliburn called aloud.

"Yes Caliburn, they get the point!"

The king grinned at his trusty sword who only snorted in an attempt to uphold his high standards.

"Well Sir Galahad, nice going! It'll be great to get to know my nephew better now that I'm back!"

Safir winked at the young hedgehog who smiled in return.

"Yeah, you too!"

"Hey, congrats to both of you! I'm going to miss helping your father train you Galahad, but I'm sure I can show you some of the tricks I have up my sleeves!"

Galehaut grinned as he placed his hand on Galahad's shoulder.

"Gee that would be great!"

Galahad smiled at Galehaut, grateful for the training he was being offered. Lancelot stood there looking extremely proud with both his son and his sister whilst Elaine looked equally as proud.

"Safir, you got a second?"

Sonic called from behind, startling the black hedgehog.

"Sure your highness!"

Safir replied as she said a quick farewell to Elaine, Lancelot, Galehaut and Galahad and walked over to Sonic.

"I already told you, just call me Sonic!"

Sonic grinned. Safir rolled her eyes and grinned at the king.

"I just wanted to tell you how glad I am that you came back, I was so worried about you, I though I'd never see you again!"

Sonic began to stutter. Safir looked warmly at Sonic and placed a hand on his shoulder.

"I'm glad I came back too and I'm even more pleased that your still the king and better than ever! I missed you and everyone here so much!"

Safir began when Lancelot called her over.

"I've got to go. I'll see you later Sonic!"

She stared warmly at the hedgehog and then bounded off to meet her brother. Caliburn eyed Sonic's dazed look carefully before chuckling to himself.

"Is the mighty King Sonic falling in love?"

Caliburn asked cheekily. Sonic snapped out of his daze and slanted his eyes at his sword.

"Of course not! Besides, this is no time to be looking for a queen, we are still at war, we need to put all of our attention into our training!"

Sonic shouted at his sword.

"Ok, I understand!"

Caliburn replied but he just caught a glimpse of a small blush crawl across Sonic's cheeks.

4 - A Big Suprise

The moon shone down on the now desolate kingdom of Camelot, the only movement was the occasional shopkeepers packing up the items from their stalls and carrying them away from the market place. All of the knights had retired to their quarters but two figures disturbed the desolate scene. The two eerie figures tramped across the plains leading up to the gate of Camelot Castle, carefully picking their way around sharp rocks or stray fruit that had rolled away from the marketplace. One was a snow white fox whose heavy armor clanked together as he strode down the path, his red-tipped tail slowly brushing the dusty ground, dragging along in the dirt. The other, a hedgehog who's jet-black fur seemed to shadow the fox's. She had aqua tipped quills that sparkled in the moonlight, her armor shimmering as she walked down the path. The two looked worn out and tired but they kept up their pace. Their armor was dusty and had various scratches raked across them and their swords looked blunt through their scabbards. The hedgehog raised her head and tilted her helmet away from her eyes to stare clearly at the full moon. She let out a sigh and the fox placed a hand on her shoulder before smiling.

"Dinidan, I don't know, what if he gets angry?" The hedgehog asked, a worried expression crawling across her face.

Dinidan pushed his helmet above his eyes as the hedgehog had done before replying.

"Olwen, you needn't worry, the king will be very pleased that were back, and so will your father." Dinidan smiled wider and Olwen returned the smile. She pulled him into a warm hug of thanks, a small blush crept across Dinidan's face.

"Thank you Dinidan, your right." Olwen looked up and stared towards Camelot castle. She took a deep breath before walking towards the huge drawbridge. Dinidan followed closely and he tapped the door lightly.

The guard behind the door was lightly dozing and jumped at the sudden noise, scratching his head before realising what he was supposed to be doing. He let out a yawn and hoping no one had realised that he'd absent-mindedly dozed off, cranked a lever so there was a tilt in the drawbridge. He peeked out to eye Dinidan and Olwen.

"Who goes there?" The guard asked, squinting his eyes as he adjusted to the darkness.

"It is us, Sir Dinidan and Dame Olwen." Dinidan called across the small river that run around the castle. The guard's eyes widened.

"Sir Dinidan! Dame Olwen! You have returned!" The guard cried as he quickly ran back to the lever and turned it so the drawbridge was spread fully across the river allowing Olwen and Dinidan to cross into the kingdom safely.

The fox and the hedgehog nodded thanks to the guard who bowed as the walked past him and made their way to the kingdom. Olwen took a deep breath as she stared towards the huge castle door. Dinidan

took her hand softly and smiled.

"Are you ready?" He asked quietly. Olwen nodded and they carefully knocked on the huge wooden door. Lights flashed on from the various windows of the castle as various knights and servants light candles to come and see what the commotion was about. A few knights wandered downstairs, these including Lancelot, Safir, Elaine, Galahad, Galehaut, Cador who was a close friend of Galehaut's and of course King Sonic but they were surrounded by a number of other knights and people of the kingdom. Sonic cocked his head slightly before wading through the small crowd over to the door.

"Who goes there?" The king called out, his voice vividly echoing through the huge halls of the castle.

"Sir Dinidan and Dame Olwen." A muffled voice called from the other side of the door. Lancelot and Galahad's eyes widened and Elaine let out a small shriek, tears rolled down her face at the sound of the names. Safir stared strangely at her. What was so important about these two knights? Cador crept closer to her and placed a hand on her shoulder.

"Olwen is very important to your family, Safir." He explained. Safir's expression was still confused but Sonic had wasted no time in opening the huge door. Standing outside were the fox and hedgehog. Safir stared strangely at the hedgehog, she looked almost like herself and her brother. Elaine let out another shriek and ran towards the hedgehog, throwing her arms around her and rubbing the back of her head lightly, tears still rolling down her cheeks. Tears welled up in the hedgehog's eyes as well as she hugged Elaine back. Lancelot trailed over to her and touched her cheek lightly.

"Welcome back." He smiled, a stray tear burning down his face. Galahad also ran up to her and threw his arms around her.

"I missed you so much!" He smiled widely.

"That's Dame Olwen, Lancelot and Elaine's daughter." Cador finally finished explaining. Safir's eyes almost popped out of her head.

"Daughter?" She echoed in confusion but before Cador had time to explain, Galahad called her over to meet the hedgehog. The two hedgehog's approached each other, their quills swaying in almost identical movement as they strayed over to each other. As they stood face to face they both bowed in greeting.

"Greetings Safir, my father has told me so much about you, It's an honor to finally meet you!" Olwen said in a serious tone but everyone could see she was about ready to burst with happiness.

"The pleasure is all mine although I never thought the day would come where I would meet my brother's offspring, I never expected him to have children, especially not two!" Safir replied back, also with a serious tone but she could feel happiness welling inside of her. The two hedgehogs then each stepped back, Olwen to stand with Lancelot and Safir stood with Sonic. The king clapped his hands together for attention.

"This calls for a celebratory feast!" The king grinned, regardless of how late it was. He pointed to a few servants who quickly scurried off to the kitchen whilst Sonic led all of the knights into the dining room. They sat there chatting, beautiful music was also being played from a harp by the king's bard, Taliesin.

The gray vampire bat grinned a toothy grin whilst reciting beautiful poetry, the harp being strummed many times as beautiful music echoed around the dining hall. On the other side of Taliesin hovered Dagonet, the court jester. The small bee giggled cheerfully as he juggled balls or balanced various items on his head. Before long, servants came pouring in carrying plates and plates of wonderful food, placing them carefully on the table as everyone dug into the banquet.

Galahad and Olwen were laughing hysterically as they told each other jokes and Lancelot was rubbing Elaine's shoulder in comfort as tears were still streaming out of her eyes. Sonic noticed Safir staring at them all and turned towards her.

"Olwen and Dinidan, that's her fox friend, were sent on a mission around six months ago. They were only supposed to be gone for a week but something must have happened. We didn't think they'd be coming back, that's why Elaine's crying so much." Sonic explained to Safir.

"Do you know what happened to them?" She asked.

"No but there's no point in asking at the moment, we'll ask tomorrow when they've had time to readjust to their atmosphere." Sonic replied. Safir nodded and turned towards her dinner plate, her mouth hung open as she began eating the mouth-watering food.

Safir stretched as she jumped out of her bed and opened the window to reveal the morning sunshine. She breathed in the fresh air and sighed.

"It's been ages since I've slept so well!" She smiled to herself. Suddenly, the door burst open and Olwen was standing there in her full armor.

"Hi!" She smiled. "I'm going to see Ywain and Breunor about getting my sword sharpened, you wanna come?" She asked excitedly. Safir blinked.

"Ywain and Breunor?" She mimicked. The name Ywain sounded familiar.

"Yeah, the local blacksmiths!" Olwen replied cheerfully. Safir nodded.

"Just let me get dressed, I'll bring my sword along too." She smiled. Olwen nodded and shut the door.

"I'll meet you by the castle gate!" She shouted before scurrying off.

Safir quickly put her armor on and ran downstairs. Olwen was waiting by the door with Dinidan standing next to her.

"Hi there!" Safir smiled at Olwen and then Dinidan.

"Hi, you must be Safir, Olwen's aunt." Dinidan said kindly. "We didn't quite get to meet each other properly last night. My names Sir Dinidan." Dinidan extended a hand towards Safir who gratefully shook it.

"Hi Dinidan, nice to meet you!" Safir smiled back. She wasn't quite sure that calling her Olwen's aunt was a good thing, Olwen looked older than her in fact! So far, she considered Olwen more as a friend than family since she had just met her. She shook off the comment and opened the door.

"Dinidan's coming too, I hope that's ok." Olwen explained.

"Of course! Any friend of yours is a friend of mine!" Safir replied, a smile sweeping across her face. The three bounded off down the path and came across King Sonic walking across the drawbridge with Caliburn bouncing beside him.

"Morning guys, where are you three off in such a hurry?" Sonic grinned, placing a finger under his nose and rubbing it vigorously as he grinned at the three knights.

"Were off to see Ywain and Breunor to get our swords sharpened." Olwen replied heartily. The king nodded.

"Well, say hi to Ywain for me, will ya?" He asked. Sonic and Ywain were inseparable friends but Sonic found it hard to visit the blacksmith because of his duties as king. The three nodded before heading off.

It didn't take them long to reach the smithy, as they walked in they were greeted by an amazing blast of heat and saw two young animals in blacksmith outfits. One was a bright orange raccoon whose fluffy tail swayed back and forth as she worked endlessly in the boiling atmosphere. The second was a brown otter who was also working hard with the orange raccoon. The raccoon raised her hand to mop her brow when she caught a glimpse of the three figures. Her eyes widened as did the otter's once he had seen them.

"Dame Olwen, Sir Dinidan, is that really you?" The raccoon asked through a gaped mouth.

"Lyonesse and Gareth! It's good to see you again!" Dinidan said as he walked towards the raccoon and the otter. The otter then spotted Safir.

"Who's that? A new knight?" He asked.

"Gareth, this is Lancelot's sister and my aunt, Dame Safir!" Olwen explained.

"Ah, I've heard a bit about you, Ywain knew you didn't he?" Gareth asked.

"That's right, he's good friends with King Sonic." Safir nodded, her memory lodging as she remembered who Ywain was. Just at that moment, the yellow twin-tailed blacksmith walked into the room, his goggles carefully placed over his eyes and his gloves and apron were covered in coal. He removed his gloves and placed them under his left arm whilst he rubbed his hands together.

"You two alright?" He asked the two apprentices before he had a chance to look up but when he did, he got a surprise.

"Olwen, Dinidan and Safir, your all back!" He gleamed, his eyes filled with happiness. The three smiled

at him. Just at that moment, a second figure entered the room, this one was a black fox that looked almost identical to Ywain except he was taller and had three tails instead of two.

"I don't think you've met my cousin have you Safir? This is Breunor, the second blacksmith and Gareth's mentor." Ywain pointed out. Safir nodded politely to the new blacksmith. "Lyonesse is now my mentor." Ywain continued as he ruffled the hair of his young apprentice who giggled cheekily.

"So what brings you here?" Breunor asked as he sat down on a chair looking very tired out and sweaty because of the heat in the room.

"We've come to have our swords sharpened." Olwen said as she extended her sword to Ywain. Ywain looked at it but then pushed it away.

"I think I should let Lyonesse try and sharpen a sword for her blacksmith test that is coming up soon. How do you feel about letting Gareth sharpen a sword as well?" Ywain asked as he turned towards Breunor. Breunor only nodded and the two gleeful apprentices grabbed all three swords from the knights and ran into the next room. The sound of a heavy machine was heard and metal against stone as the apprentices turned the huge stone wheel to sharpen the swords.

Ywain gestured for the three to sit down on the sofa whilst he got up and walked over to a small kitchen in the corner of the room.

"Anyone want a drink?" He asked as he reached the cupboard for some glasses, having to stand on his tiptoes because of his short height. Olwen and Safir nodded but Dinidan said that he wasn't thirsty. Ywain took six glasses and filled them with water and then gave two to Olwen and Safir, one to Breunor, one for himself that he left on the arm of the chair he was sitting on and he left two on a tray on the worktop for when the two apprentices had finished. Safir gratefully took a sip as did her companions and they began talking again.

"So where were you three then?" Ywain asked curiously.

"It's a long story." Safir sighed as she explained fully what had happened to her. Around twenty minutes later, Safir had finished.

"What about you two?" Ywain asked as he turned towards Olwen and Dinidan. The two knights eyed each other warily but luckily, Lyonesse and Gareth walked into the room at that moment, grins spread across each of their faces as they carried the three sharpened swords towards the three knights.

"Great job guys, you've really improved since I last saw you!" Olwen grinned causing both apprentices to blush. Breunor and Ywain raised from their seats and came over to inspect the swords.

"Hmmm, yes, very well done indeed!" Breunor smiled.

"I think you two will pass the blacksmiths test easily next week!" Ywain grinned. Both apprentices happily squealed and hugged each other. Everyone laughed happily before Olwen, Safir and Dinidan got up to leave.

"Thanks Ywain. Breunor, it was nice meeting you." Safir said as the three walked out of the smithy.

"Come back soon!" Lyonesse waved.

The three knights had decided to take the long way back to the castle and go through the woods around the castle instead. Safir eyed Olwen and Dinidan.

"Hey, what actually happened to you guys anyway?" Safir asked curiously. The two looked at each other and Olwen sighed, bowing her head.

"I guess we'll have to tell them sometime." She said. Dinidan nodded.

"Basically, we got captured by Underworld Knights and got locked up and taken across the sea. It was like being in prison. After ages at sea, the boat we were on sunk and we were left to float in the cage that we couldn't get out of for days without food and drink. We were close to death until a small fishing boat picked us up and took us to a blacksmith who unlocked the cage. The person who rescued us was very kind, she was an old goat called Ariados." Dinidan started. Safir's ears flicked.

"Did you say Ariados? That's the name of my sword!" Safir touched her scabbard as she said these words.

"That's interesting, I've never heard of a sword name being used for a person's name." Dinidan pointed out.

"So basically, we stayed with Ariados for a while until we were fed and hydrated and then we set out on a long journey back to Camelot." Olwen finished. Safir's ears pressed back against her head.

"I'm sorry I asked, it must have been hard for you to go through all that." She sighed.

"Don't worry, we would have had to tell someone anyway." Olwen stifled a smile. The three carried on back to Camelot castle when they saw two familiar figures in an opening in the trees. It was none other than Lancelot and Galahad training. Safir shook her head and smiled. In the short amount of time she had known Galahad, she had noticed that he constantly trained with Lancelot or Galehaut.

"Greetings father, Galahad!" Olwen ran up and hugged both in turn. Safir smiled at both and went to greet them whilst Dinidan just nodded in greetings.

"What are you doing?" Safir asked although she already knew what the answer would be.

"Training." Galahad replied shortly whilst slashing his sword across the air.

"He has very strange powers actually, telekinetic ones!" Lancelot said. Safir gasped as she hadn't known this up until now. She turned towards Olwen but she guessed that she already knew since she didn't look too supirsed. Galahad blushed beet red and stared towards his feet. Lancelot just nodded and playfully hit his son across the helmet.

"You three are going back to the castle aren't you?" Lancelot asked, his hand on Galahad's shoulder. The three knights nodded. "Ok, we'll join you then."

The now five knights started their way back through the forest to Camelot castle but as they got there, there was a loud commotion coming from the marketplace. They all stared at each other worriedly before running over to see what was going on, pushing townspeople out of the way as they ran past. In the centre of the circle stood Gawain. The hot-headed red echidna stood face to face with a female black fox who was looming over a peach cat, protecting her from Gawain's rift. Both Gawain and the fox had their eyes slanted and they looked as if they were about to lunge at each other in a level-headed sword clash. Just as they had expected, Gawain drew both his swords from their scabbards and threw himself towards the black fox. Undefended, the fox merely dissolved into the shadows just as Gawain threw himself into her. He stood there and blinked hard before looking around. Suddenly, the black fox became visible again and kicked Gawain in the back of his head. Gawain growled and slashed at the fox, ripping the sleeve of her cloak. The fox slanted her eyes before disappearing in the shadows again. Gawain scooted around restlessly, waiting for the fox to pop up again. She shot down from the sky and pelted straight into Gawain's head, causing him to fall face first in the dirt. Gawain grew awfully angry and threw both his swords as the fox. One slashed her ear whilst the other just missed her tail. The fox growled steadily and started to run towards Gawain. Gawain lunged towards her as well and the two were just about to clash together.
"Stop!" a voice called. Both the fox and Gawain stopped in their tracks, a few centimeters away from each other, Gawain's swords held a few inches away from the fox's neck and the fox's hands were clenched in tight fists, a bit away from Gawain's exposed face. The two looked up as did the townspeople and the rest of the knights to see Sonic looming over the crowd, an angry scowl spread across his face as he stared at the ravaging expressions of Gawain and the fox and the mess all over the floor from the nearby stalls. The peach cat looked up at the king with fear in her eyes, blood trickled down her face and dripped onto the dusty floor, she had obviously been wounded by someone. Safir closed her eyes, hoping it wasn't Gawain who had injured the cat and had started this battle. As she looked back up, Sonic was picking his way through the crowd to stand face to face with the cat and the fox. He twitched his ears and sighed.

"Who are you?" He asked slowly, his green eyes burning into theirs as the wind blew steadily, leaving the scene in silence.

5 - Shock

"King Sonic, I caught these two in Camelot, who knows where they came from! They could be trying to claim the throne!" Gawain shouted at Sonic.

"That's not true, were just passing through!" The black fox growled. "You have no right to judge us anyway you crazy hedgehog!" Gawain's face grew more angered.

"Hedgehog? Don't you know anything you stupid fox! I'm an echidna!" Gawain raged, taking a pace closer to her. The fox just snorted and then grinned.

"Well, you definitely need to fix your act, only a fool could be hurt by your pathetic sword swings!" The fox replied, an evil grin spread across her face.

Gawain almost tore the ground with his swords at the comment and charged towards the fox again, slicing a gash across her face. The fox flew back and hit the peach cat and the two rolled over each other. The fox lay on the floor, the cat next to her writhing in pain, Gawain looming over them with a satisfied grin on is face.

Gasps called up from the crowd at the sight of Gawain's peril. The black fox opened one eye and stared at Gawain, a menacing snarl on her face and she threw herself onto him, knocking the experienced knight head over heels. Before Gawain had time to recover, the fox slashed at his face with exposed claws causing blood to trickle from his forehead. The fox looked more angry than Gawain had done and carried on slashing at Gawain who eventually fell back, landing on his knees and dropping his swords down beside him, gasping for air and panting from shock. The fox breathed heavily over Gawain, blood oozing from a cut on her cheek but she showed no former sign of weakness. Even the peach cat had got up and snarled at Gawain causing the hot-headed echidna to flinch.

"Stop!" Sonic called out in rage, Caliburn bouncing beside him.

"Gawain, this is not how a proper knight should behave!" Caliburn fumed at the knight who turned away in embarrassment.

"Gawain, did you hurt this cat?" Sonic asked turning towards the peach cat and trying to hold his anger in. Gawain hesitated and then slowly nodded. Sonic sighed, closing his eyes and looking down. "Sir Caradoc, go and fetch Blanchefleur to tend to these traveler's wounds." Sonic said after a moment, pointing to a wolf knight. Caradoc slowly nodded and scurried off.

"I don't need any medical attention, it's only a cut, this stupid knight should have known better but I'm not going to die from it!" The cat scowled at Gawain but he wasn't even looking anymore, he was staring at the ground in shame, his swords dug into the earth beside him. Everyone turned against Gawain, everyone apart from a white bat who hurried over to Gawain's side, fear clouded he eyes as she bent beside the knight.

"Gawain, are you alright?" The bat asked worriedly but Gawain didn't reply. The bat sighed heavily as she placed her hands around Gawain's neck and pulled him into a hug.

"Dame Ragnelle is the only one who has sympathy for him." Olwen whispered to Safir who nodded in agreement. Gawain and Ragnelle had always shown rivalry when Safir was training before she ran away but it seemed as if they had both matured now. Safir caught a glimpse of Ragnelle gently kissing Gawain's check in comfort. She twitched her ear, the two must either be really good friends or be engaged. Just at that thought, Safir saw a silver ring with green gems studded in the middle on one of Ragnelle's fingers. Safir smiled gently to herself, those were pieces of the Master Emerald, Gawain's most prized possession. She guessed Ywain or Breunor had helped to make the ring for Gawain, maybe even one of the apprentices! Before she had time to work out the answer, Caradoc came sprinting across the stony trail followed closely by a calico cat and a small horse. Safir was puzzled as she had never met neither the cat nor the horse before but by the wad of herbs that they were both carrying, she guessed that they were healers. The calico cat quickly ran over to the peach cat but she got pushed away.

"Not me, are you all as dumb as that knight? Bel Inconnu is hurt worse than me!" The peach cat said pointing to the fox. The calico cat bowed to the peach cat and called the horse to follow her over to the black fox known as Bel Inconnu.

"I'm not that badly heart." Bel Inconnu hissed but still allowed the calico cat to dab wet moss on her wounds and dress them in honey. She then took some burdock root and emptied it into a small bowl and crushed it to a pulp and applied it to Bel Inconnu's wounds before mopping her brow and turning to the horse.

"Gwendolyn, can you do what I just did to that peach cat please?" The calico cat asked kindly.

"Yes Blanchefleur." The horse nodded before walking over to the peach cat and copying what Blanchefleur had done. The peach cat hissed in pain but allowed Gwendolyn to dress her wound. After she had finished, the peach cat went to stand next to Bel Inconnu.

"Thanks." Bel Inconnu mumbled.

"So, who are you anyway?" Sonic asked curiously.

"Just two travelers, I'm Bel Inconnu and that's Cynedyr." The fox replied pointing in turn to herself and the peach cat.

"We were hoping to rest here but I think I've changed my mind now." Cynedyr snarled, shooting a menacing glance at Gawain who was still perched on the floor, Ragnelle by his side. Sonic leaped in front of them with a huge jump to talk face to face with them.

"Please, stay a while, you're in no condition to travel anyway and Gawain will be punished for his actions." The king pointed out.

"Thanks but no thanks, we don't stay in any place too long." Bel Inconnu replied closing her eyes as she pushed past the king and down the path. Gwendolyn ran after the cat and pulled her tunic.

"Please, don't leave! We haven't had travelers for a long time and it's nice to see new faces!" The young healer apprentice pleaded, her eyes shining. Blanchefleur's face lit up at her apprentice's enthusiasm. Bel Inconnu hesitated before turning to Cynedyr who slowly nodded. Bel Inconnu turned back to the young apprentice.

"Ok, we'll stay for a while." She sighed. Gwendolyn's face lit up and she started bouncing around happily. Sonic smiled and went up to the two travelers.

"Then welcome to my kingdom!"

Sonic allocated the travelers a room in Camelot Castle, they were sharing with Dame Arrok, a hasty young echidna who had offered up her room to the travelers. Sonic was thrilled since he now didn't have to ask every single knight in the kingdom if they didn't mind extra company. Arrok had one of the biggest rooms as well so it was easier for Bel Inconnu and Cynedyr to settle in plus they could stay together.

The next few days were pretty much the same, training and visiting the blacksmith's to get their swords sharpened and items. Galahad had fallen sick and had to remain in bed for a while. Early one bright morning, Safir and Olwen were out training together when they heard something. It almost sounded like laughter and the two knights grew suspicious. Olwen looked somewhat worried as she turned towards Safir.

"That sounds a bit like my brother." Olwen She said worriedly. "I hope he's ok!"

"Let's go and check it out!" Safir suggested as the two knights bounded across the moorlands and into the forest. The laughing got louder as they reached the heart of the forest. Safir nodded for Olwen to follow her as she slid to hide behind a tree. They both peered out from behind to catch a glimpse of Galahad and another knight. Olwen gasped as she realised the situation. Galahad wasn't sick at all, he was using that as an excuse to go off alone and meet this knight. Who was this knight? None other than Dame Percival, one of Sonic's strongest knights. The two carried on laughing before leaning towards each other, their faces almost touching as hot breath breathed on their opposing muzzles. Galahad smiled at the slender purple cat before closing the gap between his lips and hers. Olwen almost shrieked out loud but Safir flicked her ear to remind her that they were hiding.

"What's the big deal? Galahad's just meeting Percival." Safir whispered.

"You don't understand, Galahad vowed to chastity in front of my father's eyes, if he breaks that promise, he would have disobeyed Lancelot!" Olwen fretted. Safir bit her lip and then turned back towards Galahad who was now cradling Percival in his arms and stroking her feathered head. Olwen's face showed sympathy for her brother but she looked very disappointed as well. Safir placed a hand on Olwen's shoulder.

"Don't worry Olwen, I'm sure he'll realise that his actions are wrong within time, just wait, trust me! Safir smiled. Olwen stared towards the ground for what seemed like ages but then she slowly looked up and nodded slightly.

"Ok Safir, I trust you." She smiled faintly. "But one thing, don't mention this to my father." Safir nodded in agreement.

"Good, let's leave them alone, intervening will only make matters worse." Safir suggested as she pushed Olwen in the opposite direction. Olwen looked back once more at her brother and then turned to leave.

On their way back to Camelot, Safir and Olwen came across a group of patrolling knights. There was a large purple cat with a frog on his head, a muscular green crocodile, a purple female hedgehog, a blue female cat and a black and red male hedgefox.

"Hello you two, going anywhere good?" The black and red hedgefox asked. Safir identified him as sir Bedivere by his three tails and red-tipped quills.

"No where special." Olwen replied half-heartedly. Safir could tell she was upset because of the shock about Galahad.

"Were going to go and see the blacksmiths." Safir added. Bedivere nodded before turning to his fellow knights.

"Were off to the heart of the forest to train." He replied. Olwen froze at these words. That's where Galahad and Percival were, if these knights found out about Galahad's secret, Lancelot would be the first to know.

"No!" Olwen shouted. The knights stared at her strangely.

"What Olwen means to say is, maybe you should come to the blacksmiths with us first, we could all do with a drink I think and I'm sure at least one of you needs a sword sharpen!" Safir quickly jumped in.

"Thanks but no thanks, were on the morning patrol so we have to go there anyway." The female cat said, her spiked head-fur blowing in the breeze.

"But Dame Evaine, there's no point in checking, we just came from there!" Safir said quickly, Olwen was feeling worried now and Safir could tell by her short breaths and shivering.

"No, we must check, King Sonic asked us to." Abyss replied. Safir bit her lip whilst trying to think of a response.

"Ok, we'll come with you then." She quickly said. "I'll take the lead."

"Actually, I'm the leader, I'll tell you what to do!" The green crocodile said. What a surprise, Sir Ector always wanted to be first in everything and always wanted to be the leader Safir thought sarcastically. Safir had to listen to him since he was in fact the leader of this patrol. She slumped behind him next to the purple cat who was known as Sir Colgrevance. Sir Ector stared proudly at his small patrol and then pointed forward in a heroic pose.

"Excelsior!" He cried before charging off. The purple hedgehog slapped her forehead.

"Of all the patrols…" She grumbled.

"Ah, Sir Ector's not that bad Dame Iseult." Sir Colgrevance commented, stroking the frog he had under it's chin. Iseult just sighed before the whole group ran to catch up with Ector. Olwen and Safir slowly fell to the back, a little away from the group.

"What are we going to do?" Olwen asked with a worried tone. Safir closed her eyes and thought.

"Why don't I go on ahead and warn him, you keep the patrol distracted to get them out of the way while I run ahead." Safir suggested. Olwen nodded with a smile.

"Great idea pal!" She grinned before standing still. She suddenly fell to the ground writhing in pain.

"Ouch, my leg, I think I might have sprained it!" Olwen cried. The patrol turned around and ran over to her.

"Are you alright?" Iseult asked worriedly.

"I'll…be…fine…ouch!" Olwen shouted. She turned to Safir and winked. Safir took that as a signal and crept out of the ring of knights and quickly sped to the heart of the forest. Safir ran as fast as she could, even with super speed, her hatred of running slowed her down and it took her a while to reach the heart. Safir panted, she hadn't ran so far in a long time and absolutely despised doing so but she quickened her pace and dove into the heart of the forest. To her relief, Galahad and Percival were only sitting there, no romantic relationship between them was oticable at the present moment.

"Greetings Safir." Galahad blinked. Safir shook her head quickly.

"We haven't time, just come out of the heart of the forest!" Safir panted.

"What?" Percival asked with a confused tone.

"I'll explain on the way." Safir said as she grabbed Galahad and Percival's arms and started to run. Just at the moment when they leaped into the cover of the undergrowth, the patrol appeared. Ector scanned the area for a while and the turned to the other knights.

"Great job, were finished here." He said before waving his hand and escorting them out.

"Alright, I'll stay behind thanks." Olwen smiled to Ector who only shrugged.

"Suit yourself, come o the rest of you!" Ector replied before the other knights waked off. Olwen flopped onto a rock and sighed. At that moment, Safir, Galahad and Percival sprang out of the undergrowth.

"Oh Safir, thank you so much! You saved my family from a terrible shame!" She smiled before hugging her.

"It's no problem Olwen, I'm just glad everything turned out ok, that was some quick thinking there!" Safir grinned.

"Excuse me you two but I think you owe us both an explanation." Percival said coldly to the two knights.

"Look, I know what's going on between you and my brother and we did that to save you from being exposed." Olwen said quietly. She then turned to Galahad. "I'm so disappointed in you Galahad, father will be so upset if he finds out."

"But Olwen, it's not fair! I love Percival with all my heart and it's not fair that father should take my one true happiness away from me." Galahad sighed. He then lowered his eyebrows to his sister and an angry expression crawled across his face. "Besides, I wont tell if you don't tell." He said.

"Tell what?" Olwen asked puzzled.

"About you and Dinidan, don't think we've forgotten your little promise to daddy as well." Galahad replied. Olwen nearly fell back in shock.

"Are you threatening me? Dinidan and I are just close friends!" Olwen shouted.

"Pretty close friends then." Galahad replied.

"Galahad, me and Safir just saved you from shame and a lie! I know that your not really sick, you just used it as an excuse to sneak out and see Percival everyday! You shouldn't take my kindness for granted dear brother, you obviously haven't seen the angry side of me! If you think your going to get away with threatening me then your wrong because my lips aren't permanently sealed!" Olwen shouted, tears spilling out of her eyes. Galahad's face suddenly changed from his angry expression to oe of sympathy.

:Olwen, I'm so sorry." He stuttered, closing his eyes and bowing his head.

"Yeah, that's what you always say!" Olwen cried before turning round and bolting through the trees.

"Olwen!" Galahad called as tears rolled down his face but she had already gone.

6 - A Missing Knight

"Olwen, come back!" Safir called as she burst through the forest, following Olwen in her tracks. She caught the young hedgehog with her head in her palms sitting by a tree root. Safir trailed over to her and placed a hand on her shoulder.

"Olwen, Galahad didn't mean what he said, he's just confused as are you! Please don't be mad, I promise not to tell Lancelot about Galahad and Percival or you and Dinidan!" Safir said in comfort. Olwen stayed silent for a minute and then looked up at Safir before nodding.

"Thanks Safir, you're a great friend!"

"Swing Galahad, hurry and swing!" Galehaut shouted to the young silver hedgehog. Galahad clumsily swung his sword towards the grey hedgehog and missed him by a mile. Galehaut then jumped behind Galahad and kicked him back causing Galahad to sprawl into the dirt. "Hurry Galahad, if I was a real enemy you'd have to recover faster than that!" Galehaut called to Galahad getting slightly angry at his lack of concentration. Galahad quickly shot up and scanned the area for Galehaut who was no where to be seen. Suddenly, Galehaut shot out from behind a tree and struck Galahad to the floor who dropped his sword next to him. Galehaut pressed his blade against Galahad's protected chest and veered over him with one eyebrow raised. "Is there a problem Galahad? You don't seem to be functioning well today!" Galehaut asked the silver knight.

"Sorry Galehaut, there's just something on my mind." Galahad explained. Galehaut leant off the younger knight and stretched his hand towards Galahad's. Galahad daintily took it and Galehaut pulled him up, dusting dirt off his helmet.

"Are you sure? You've never been this bad before!" Galehaut joked with a grin on his face but Galahad growled at him.

"Bad? What's that supposed to mean? Look, I said I was fine, can't you see that for yourself?" Galahad sneered. Galehaut's grin faded and he pressed his ears back against his head.

"Sorry Galahad, you just didn't look too good."

"Oh gee thanks! Just leave me alone." Galahad replied sarcastically before throwing his sword to the ground and trekking off into the forest. Galehaut slowly picked the sword up off the floor and pressed it close to him before fitting it in his scabbard along with his on sword which was a tight squeeze but it still worked and then looked towards Camelot castle.

"Something is wrong with Galahad, I'd better investigate this! Lancelot relied on me to look after his son for today and I can't go back and tell him that he's grumpy because of what I said to him!" Galehaut then made up his mind to go and ask King Sonic for advice. He nodded proudly to himself and started walking back towards the castle. On his way, he met Cador leading a horse out onto the plains. "Greetings Cador!" Galehaut bowed to his fellow knight who did the same in return.

"Greeting Galehaut, where are you off to?" Cador questioned, stroking the horse he was leading gently across the muzzle.

"To see the King, I need to talk to him." Galehaut replied. Cador nodded.

"Wait for me and I'll tag along, just let me tie Rusty up first." Cador suggested as he pointed to the ginger horse.

After tying it up, Cador and Galehaut made their way to Camelot Castle. They crossed the drawbridge and went into the main room but stopped in their tracks. In front of them was a brown hedgehog, coated in shining armor. A dazzling sword placed in his scabbard caught the two knight's eyes. The newcomer was bowing to the king. Sonic flapped his hand to indicate for the knight to rise before allowing him to speak.

"Greeting King Sonic, I am Prince Claudin from the Kingdom of Wessex, I have come seeking refuge here from my father." The blue knight started. Sonic flicked his ear.

"Refuge?" He echoed.

"Yes, my father wants me to become king but I don't feel that I can take on that role, he told me to either take his place or leave the kingdom so I chose to leave. I only want to be a knight and I've heard great things about Camelot, may I stay here? At least for a while anyway?" Claudin asked politely. Sonic thought for a moment and then nodded.

"You may stay until you have proved your worth but any false moves and your straight out of Camelot!" Sonic decided. He then clicked his fingers over to a blue female hedgehog wearing a green dress.

"Lady Morgan, show this knight the town, he can stay with you for the next week or so." Sonic directed to the female hedgehog who slightly nodded and walked over to Warwick bowing.

"Greetings Prince Claudin." She said.

"Just call me Sir Claudin please, I'm no longer fit to be a prince." Claudin sighed whilst following Morgan out of the castle. Sonic then spotted sight of Cador and Galehaut and beckoned for them to come closer. They obeyed and paced towards the king.

"So what brings you two here?" Sonic asked whilst leaning to the side of his throne and placing his hands to the back of his head and put one knee over another, closing his eyes.

"Not too much trouble but have you noticed anything odd about Galahad lately?" Galehaut asked. Sonic

popped one eye open and stared at the knights.

"No, why?" He said in a more serious tone.

"Oh it's no big deal, he just snapped at me today, that's all." Galehaut replied.

"That doesn't sound like Galahad." Sonic commented, now sitting up straight to look clearly at Cador and Galehaut.

"I'm sure it's nothing serious, thanks King Sonic." Galehaut bowed before he started to back out of the door.

"If there's any problems with him, just let me know, okay?" Sonic called back. Galehaut nodded gratefully before rushing out of the door with Cador following him. The two knights silently walked on towards the market. They spotted Morgan showing the new knight around and a couple of other knights including a blue and pink cat known as Dame Elyan with a green hedgehog. Galehaut identified the green hedgehog as Sonic's brother, Sir Gaheris. He waved towards the two knights before walking on, Cador still following him.

"Is there a problem with Galahad then?" Cador asked after a while.

"Not really, I guess he's just tired. He wasn't concentrating and it's not like him to snap like that so I'm guessing something must be on his mind." Galehaut pointed out. Cador nodded in sympathy for Galehaut, he knew how much the grey knight loved Galahad, he was like the son he never had and he didn't want to lose him.

"Hey, don't worry Galehaut, he'll perk up in no time!" Cador smiled. Galehaut smiled back to his friend.

"Yeah, your right, thanks Cador." He replied.

The next day, Galehaut woke up bright and early in order to start fresh training with Galahad. He hopped out of bed and quickly threw his armor on and rushed to the castle door. He stopped in his tracks when he realised that Galahad wasn't there. He scratched his head in confusion, Galahad had never been late for training before, perhaps the poor knight was sick again! The very thought made Galehaut quiver. He spotted Lancelot trekking down the steep stairs and went over to greet him and ask about Galahad.

"Good morning Lancelot, do you know where Galahad is?" Galehaut asked cheerily. Lancelot blinked before replying.

"He went off early to train." He replied. Galehaut felt slightly hurt by this, Galahad and him had always gone and trained together early in the morning but he was happy to see the young knights enthusiasm. Galehaut nodded and said goodbye to his friend before busting out of the castle doors. He stopped off at the stable and chose a horse to take out, he'd catch up with Galahad faster if he was on a horse. He chose a sturdy cream one which was very muscular with hair that tufted it's hooves steadily. He quickly jumped on and threw the reins back. The horse reared up slightly and then galloped off. Galehaut lead it into the forest, towards the lake where he always trained with Galahad, a surge of excitement shooting through him as the wind buffeted his face but as he reached the lake, Galahad was no where to be seen. He pulled back the reins to stop the horse from running and quickly jumped off. He looked around for a while before calling out Galahad's name numerous times.

"Galahad! Galahad, where are you?" Galehaut shouted but there was no reply. Galehaut started to slightly panic. Where was the young knight? Lancelot had said he'd gone out to train, the knight wouldn't lie to his own father would he? Galehaut shook his head in frustration, of course he wouldn't! Galahad's always told the truth! But there was a hint of doubt clouding his mind. He pounded his fist to the nearest tree, wondering what to do. "The Blacksmith's! Galahad must have just gone to get his sword sharpened!" Galehaut thought, relief flooding over him when he realised that was what must have happened. He quickly jumped onto his horse and rode off towards the market.

He reached a stable and quickly tied the horse up, there was no point in bringing the horse all the way to the smithy, there would be no where to put it. He'd have to run the rest of the way so he set off keeping up his pace as he strode towards the smithy. It wasn't that far away and there wasn't any real need to run but Galehaut did anyway, he wanted to reassure himself and the only way of doing that would be to actually see Galahad. He turned a corner and bent down to catch his breath, panting at the hard effort but soon reared up and stared forward. The smithy! He was almost there, it was just up the road. He started to walk towards it at a quick pace when he suddenly bumped into something. It was one of the new travelers, Bel Inconnu. "Sorry." Galehaut quickly mumbled before walking off but he was pulled back by a firm hand to his shoulder.

"Hey, watch where you're going! Are all you knights heartless?" Bel Inconnu growled to Galehaut with a sneer on her face.

"I said I was sorry, what else do you want?" Galehaut snapped back. He realised too late that this was a bad idea and before long, the two were locked in a huge argument.

"Gosh, your as bad as that red hedgehog! What is wrong with this place?" Bel Inconnu shouted at Galehaut.

"First of all, Gawain is not a hedgehog and second, Camelot is a wonderful place! Maybe your just cranky because you've never been welcomed in one place for too long!" Galehaut snapped back. Bel Inconnu looked hurt but she continued anyway.

"Who are you to question my personality and where I come from? You don't even know me!"

"And you don't belong here!" Galehaut retorted before turning to leave, there was no point in arguing with a traveler in his opinion. He shot his head back to glance at Bel Inconnu who was just standing there snarling at him when he tripped over a plant root growing from a crack in the path. He fell face first

and mumbled under his breath, blaming Bel Inconnu for it. He was surprised when he felt a warm hand take his and pull him up. He stared around in shock to see Bel Inconnu. He blinked hard with his mouth agape and was about to speak when she turned to leave. Galehaut stood watching her until she turned the corner out of sight and then smiled weakly, a small blush taking over his face. He shook his head and pushed the cat out of his mind before turning back towards the smithy.

He was greeted by the familiar blast as he walked in. Gareth and Lyonesse were working hard as usual with Breunor looming over them. Ywain was sitting on the sofa with a mug in his hand, a green Seedrian in a beautiful dress sat beside him. As Ywain saw Galehaut walk in, he immediately got up to greet him followed closely by the Seedrian.

"Good morning Galehaut!" Ywain greeted cheerfully. The Seedrian nodded towards him as well.

"Hello Ywain, Laudine." Galehaut nodded in turn to Ywain and then the Seedrian. The two apprentices stopped their work for a mere second to wave at Galehaut and Breunor daintily nodded before turning back to Gareth and Lyonesse.

"What brings you here?" Ywain asked. Galehaut began to panic again when he realised that Galahad wasn't in the room. He had given his sword to Lancelot yesterday so Galahad must have got it back!

"Galahad isn't here is he?" Galehaut asked desperately. Ywain nodded his head slowly, his hair tuft swaying from side to side.

"I'm sorry Galehaut but Galahad hasn't been here for a while." Ywain replied, sympathy flooding his eyes. Galehaut almost fell over at that point. Galahad wasn't here? Where was he? Where could he have gone?

7 - Through The Fire

Galehaut bolted out of the smithy, not even thinking to say goodbye and left the smithy in confusion but he had to find Galahad, he was so worried and he didn't want to think about never seeing the young knight again. But where to go?

"The marketplace!" Galehaut whispered to himself. "If anyone's seen Galahad, they'll be in the marketplace!" He dashed down towards the market, almost knocking a woman over as she carried a heavy box of fruit to a stall and scanned the area looking for anyone who might know of Galahad. He caught a glimpse of Lady Lynette and Lady Enide by a small antiques stall and sir Erec slyly cutting across the village square, cleverly swiping a pomegranate from a stall as he walked past, the shop owner didn't seem to notice. Galehaut raised an eyebrow and cocked his head to one side but shrugged off the thought, Erec was the last thing on his mind. Just then, out of the blue a black hedgehog pushed him aside, her red streaked quills swaying as she quickly dashed through the marketplace.

"Safir?" Galehaut questioned to himself, he hadn't seen her run so fast for ages now. "Safir, wait up!" Galehaut then called to the young hedgehog. She swiftly turned around, panting as she did so to catch her breath, she had obviously been running around for a while. Galehaut charged up to her side and looked closely into her eyes.

"Safir, please, I need your help! Galahad is missing! He's your nephew and I really need help!" Galehaut pleaded the hedgehog. Safir's face was filled with shock but it wasn't for the reason that Galehaut had thought so. Safir bent closer to the white knight and lowered her voice to a hushed whisper.

"Listen Galehaut, I need your help as well! I think I know what's going on but I can't be too sure. Nevertheless this is no place to talk about it, let's go to the forest, we can talk there." Safir said with a scared tone and she quickly glanced around to make sure no one such as Erec was eavesdropping on their conversation. Erec had the tendency of turning invisible to fool his opponents or sneak up to listen to other people, hopefully he had already past when Galehaut had seen him before.

The two hedgehogs quickly ran out of the marketplace passing many villagers and knights as they went by and made it safely into the forest. Galehaut caught Safir by the hand, a scowl on his face which looked more worried than angry.

"Ok Safir, were here now, tell me what's going on!" Galehaut growled. Safir felt no anger back towards the hedgehog, he was clearly very worried about Galahad's disappearance and she couldn't blame him for being angry and upset. She shrugged his hand off her wrist which he was digging in by now and sighed.

"If I tell you Galehaut, you must promise not to breath a word of this to anyone, especially my brother!" Safir said seriously. Galehaut thought for a moment before nodding his head.

"Alright then." He spoke coldly. Safir ushered for the white hedgehog to sit down on a tree stump as she spoke of what had happened.

"Ok, yesterday I was out training with Olwen, we were in the forest when we heard noises. We followed them and they seemed happy, they were laughing in fact! We hid for a while and spied on the two voices which belonged to Galahad and Percival. They looked like they were having a lot of fun and they seemed very close! I thought they were just good friends but Olwen looked clearly upset by their bond. After a while, Galahad and Percival kissed and Olwen looked like she was almost in tears. I was very confused but Olwen soon told me through whimpers of sadness that Galahad had vowed to chastity. I was then also shocked. She made me promise not to tell anyone else…" Safir cut of there and stared long and hard at Galehaut. "That's why you can't say this to anyone, don't even tell Olwen I said any of this to you!" Galehaut just nodded and forced her to continue. "We left them alone but then we saw Ector's patrol coming. We were forced to disband and confuse them so they wouldn't find out about the two's secret relationship which worked. We joined their patrol and Olwen faked an injury whilst I went and warned the two away. After that we discussed the matter with Galahad and Percival but Galahad only got annoyed. He threatened Olwen who raged off crying. I didn't know what to do at this point but I chose to follow Olwen so I left Galahad and Percival alone again. That's the last I saw of them both, and not only that but Percival seems to have disappeared as well!" Safir finished. Galehaut's mouth lay agape as he took in all the information.

"You mean that…" He started.

"Yes, I think so." Safir sighed. "Percival and Galahad must have run away together."

Galehaut was speechless. The very thought of his best friend's son running away was unbearable and a small tear found it's way out of Galehaut's iris and began rolling down his cheek.

"He was my b-best friend's son and my student! How could he do this?!" Galehaut raged as he pounded a fist to the floor, tears freely streaming now. Safir bent down to her friend, tears forming in her eyes as well now.

"Galehaut, there's no need for this! We'll find him, Percival too! We just need to work together!" She soothed. Galehaut stopped wailing and slowly nodded his head, not daring to meet Safir's strong gaze. "Look, Blaze may be fast but not as fast as me, I take after my brother remember? Galahad on the other hand, didn't inherit his speed so they couldn't have gotten too far. First of we need to figure out where they went. Any ideas?" Safir asked. Galehaut slowly shook his head, daring to meet Safir's gaze which had gone soft now. She slowly sighed before shaking her head as well.

"I've checked the whole market and the smithy b-but I don't know where they could have gone." Galehaut stuttered as he sniffed quietly.

"Well, looks like were stuck finding them ourselves!" Safir replied, hauling herself back onto her feet as Galehaut followed her example, grabbing Safir's hand whilst she helped him up, the poor grey hedgehog was shaking with worry.

"Look, we'll find him, I promise." Safir told him, catching his gaze to make sure that he understood the she was confident and telling the truth. Galehaut seemed to perk up at this, a new light glinting in his

eyes as he got up and nodded more confidently.

"Your right, we'll find Galehaut if it's the last thing we do!" He gleamed. Safir smiled and ushered for him to follow her leading to the plains away from Camelot. "I'll die before I give up finding him." Galehaut whispered to himself before following Safir.

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Meanwhile, back in Camelot, everything was quiet and normal, Lancelot had assumed that Galahad and Galehaut were out training so he headed off to train with knights of his own ability. Sir Warwick who was a light blue hedgehog that sported armor of a similar colour and a glinting sword that was dotted with it's own quills. A red cape flowed behind him and his helmet placed firmly over his face. Along with the two was a green hawk with unusually large feathers on his head. His armor was pure silver that shone in the sun and he carried two swords, green in colour that had around five blades on each. Next to Lamorak walked one of his closest friends, Sir Tor who was a huge grey Albatross. He scouted a huge sword that looked rather heavy and to go with it was a huge hunk of metal armor covering his chest and face up. Grinning at the back of the group was a brown weasel known as Sir Reynold or better known as "The Knight who loved the healer." Reynold was well known though out Camelot as having a huge crush on Blanchefleur the healer but she didn't quite seem to get the hint at all. His armor was golden, dotted with light blue and his sword was pretty long, a lot like Dame Percival's. Traveling next to Reynold was the posh snobbish knight, Sir Tristan. Most people thought that this cream mink wasn't cut out for knightly hood as he acted more like an aristocrat than a knight around the king but he took his training up daily and by laws of the court, this was allowed. His armor looked very posh indeed, it was wine coloured and pretty smooth, not too bulky for his sensitive taste however this meant it was weaker than most normal armor. He even had a posh sword! It had a little hand shield and it was extremely thin. Tristan was the lover of Dame Iseult, she was the only one that seemed to notice any good in him much to the dismay of her brothers, King Sonic and Sir Gaheris. Cador also tagged along with the group in hopes of training and to catch up with Camelot news as he had been doing a lot of private training in the forest lately. The last of the rather large group was the shy hedgehog, Sir Bors. He was a relation of Lancelot who treated him as a younger brother. Grey in colour with a symbol on his head that also appeared on the front of his black armor. His sword looked a bit like Lancelot's however, it was much smaller.

The group set out to the training hollow, a large sandy pit where knights could come to train.

"Didn't bring Galahad with you then?" Reynold asked Lancelot with his usual grin and spring in his step. Lancelot firmly shook his head.

"No, he's training with Galehaut." He replied.

"And your sister?" Warwick pondered, rushing to the front to catch the conversation.

"Actually, I haven't seen her today, I wonder where she could have got to." Lancelot thought, a pang of worry lingered in his mind now.

"She's probably training with that riff raff daughter of yours." Tristan snorted. Lancelot just ignored his rude remark, everyone had learnt that whatever Tristan said, there probably wasn't any point in even listening, especially not answering.

The group split off into twos to train. Lamorak and Tor, Warwick and Tristan (much to Warwick's dismay), Cador and Reynold and lastly, Lancelot and Bors.

Lamorak and Tor were battling it out full on, no holding back as they swung their swords towards each other, friendship meant nothing in a fight even if this was only training. Cador and Reynold were having more of a friendly battle just to practice basic moves and blocks really. Lancelot and Bors were practicing dodging and were swiftly leaping from side to side as they shot blows at one another. They all seemed to be doing well but it was a different story for Warwick and Tristan.

"Ouch that hurts!" Tristan wailed as he rubbed a small scratch on his armor.

"Well maybe you should get some thicker armor." Warwick suggested.

"Are you brainless? This is the armor everyone should be getting! Not the cheap stuff you're wearing." Tristan snapped back, folding his arms over one another and shutting his eyes.

"But your armors too thin." Warwick retorted through gritted teeth. "That wasn't even a hard swipe and you're complaining about it.

"If you're going to be rude then I suggest you just leave me alone!" Tristan screeched causing all the other knights to spin around in shock. Warwick let out a shrill of frustration before storming off into the market, mumbling under his breath as he went.

"Ah that Tristan gets on my nerves, I'll never know why Sonic accepted him as a Knight!"

As he stormed through the market, he caught sight of Lady Morgan showing Sir Claudin around. A blush fell upon his face at the sight of Morgan, her beauty was dazzling! Without really thinking, Warwick strolled up to the two.

"Greetings Lady Morgan, Sir Claudin. I've heard of you Claudin, a former prince!" Warwick began to babble, he was at a loss for words at the present time. Claudin blushed a deep red and looked towards his feet.

"I was, but I wasn't really cut out for it." He replied hastily. Morgan smiled briefly at Warwick before coughing and looking to the floor. Warwick didn't really know what to say, he had thought that Morgan was very pretty for a long time but he didn't have the courage to tell her.

"Um hello?" Claudin called to Warwick who immediately shot out of his thoughts and stared at the

former prince.

"I'm sorry, what did you say?"

"I asked how you met Morgan." Claudin repeated. Warwick shot around and scanned the area but he noticed that Morgan was gone. A glum expression spread itself across his face and Claudin took a sudden interest in this.

"Anything the matter? Morgan just went to buy some pomegranates." Claudin pointed out, a grin forming on his face by now. "Do you like her or something?" Warwick's entire face glowed red at this remark, speechless, he slowly shook his head. "Haha, it's fine, I won't tell." Claudin winked at the light blue knight just as Morgan returned with a bag of pomegranates.

"Anyone want one?" She offered and the two knights gratefully took one each from her and continued to walk through the town together.

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Sonic and Caliburn were walking through the town at this time towards the Smithy to get Caliburn sharpened. As Sonic pushed the wooden door open, he too was greeted by the blast of heat. The apprentices were relaxing on the sofa and it looked as if Breunor had gone out for lunch. Sonic scanned the area for sight of his good friend, Ywain who he spotted under a table collecting old bits of metal from the floor.

"Hiya Ywain!" Sonic grinned as he walked towards his friend.

"Why hello Sonic, Caliburn! What a nice surprise!" Ywain smiled warmly. "Come to be sharpened Caliburn?"

"Just a quickie please Ywain." Sonic replied for Caliburn who huffed from the fact that Sonic had jumped in like that. Ywain nodded before picking up Caliburn and taking him towards the huge stone pedestal where he briskly begun to turn the wheel in order to sharpen the sword. Sonic leaned back on the table as Ywain sharpened the sacred sword.

"Hey Ywain, you haven't seen Safir by any chance have you?" Sonic asked. He turned away from Ywain when he said this and begun to rub the back of his head. Ywain blinked hard.

"I'm afraid not Sonic." He replied, a little curious as to why Sonic refused to face him. Caliburn seemed to have read Ywain's thought.

"Is the king blushing by any chance?" Caliburn chuckled.

"What!? Of course not!" Sonic retorted but he still refused to turn around causing Caliburn to let out a small chortle. Ywain let out a small sigh with a smile spread across his face.

"Listen Sonic, it's fine if you like her, you and her are very close and to be honest, you two look good together!" Ywain smiled.

"Ywain, I don't like her and even if I did, I have no time to be choosing a queen right now!" He retorted as he shot a death glare at Caliburn.

"Whatever you say Sonic." Ywain replied although he had a small grin on his face.

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"Any sign of them?" Safir asked as she panted from walking so far. The two had been traveling for hours and were long gone from Camelot by now, in fact they were clear in the battlefield where Safir had fled from. The thought of her old teammates made Safir cringe, especially the thought of Rex. She had clearly loved the fox and sadness was tearing at her heart at this point. Galehaut seemed to notice something was up and he immediately caught up with her.

"Something wrong?" He asked sympathetically. Safir looked towards the floor, tears streaming down her face.

"It's just…" But before she got to speak, she was shot in the chest by a huge flame that looked like a Phoenix. She fell to the floor, writhing in pain as her armor refused to protect the powerful burning.

"Safir!" Galehaut called but he too was struck by the fire and shrunk to the floor. Evil laughter filled the whole battlefield as it became shrouded in fire and above it all stood a yellow hedgehog.

8 - All My Fault

It felt like a Meteor. The compulsive impact and burning pained Safir all over. It was like her whole body went up in flames even with her element of fire. For Galehaut, it was ten times worse. Having the ability of water, he would have thought that it would cease his pain but he was wrong. Water was no use against the meteoric surge that was compressing and vibrating through his body. The water inside him was steaming and pain hit him like a rock. The yellow hedgehog just shrieked across the field, filling it with evil laughter as the whole atmosphere aroused in flames. Safir took one last look at the burning surroundings before her heart lurched, and she closed her eyes.

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"Hey Caradoc, you haven't seen Galehaut and Safir have you?" Cador asked as he approached the young wolf who was clashing swords with the young red knight, Sir Priamus. Caradoc signaled for the red knight to stop attacking as the wolf walked over to speak with Cador.

"No I haven't. They've gone?" Caradoc blinked.

"Well I can't find them anywhere, Lancelot asked me to help look for them but I've had no luck so far." At that moment, Olwen who had been watching the training between Caradoc and Priamus galloped over to Caradoc and Cador.

"Safir and Galehaut are missing?" She gasped as she ran over to the two knights. "Not them too!" She whined as she felt some-what responsible for their disappearance.

"What do you mean, them too?" Cador asked suspiciously. Olwen then looked away, wishing she had never said anything.

"Well, it's just…Galahad and Percival have disappeared as well." She whispered.

"What? Do you know why?" Cador asked in a rushed voice.

"No." Olwen lied as she wouldn't meet neither Cador nor Caradoc's gaze.

"Poor Lancelot, he must be worried sick! His sister, his best friend, his son and his son's friend all disappearing at once! I bet he's glad your not gone, Olwen." Caradoc pointed out. Olwen stifled a smile but it wasn't too convincing and it caused Cador to raise an eyebrow. Olwen sighed.

"Come with me." She whispered as she led them towards the leaving bridge of Camelot. Caradoc

waved goodbye to Priamus as they all followed the black hedgehog.

Once outside Camelot's protective walls, Olwen begun to retell the story of Percival and Galahad's relationship.

"I'm not too sure, but I think Safir and Galehaut have probably gone to look for them." Olwen finished with Caradoc and Cador staring in shock, mouth's agape at Olwen's explanation. "Please don't say anything to anyone, especially not to my dad!" Olwen replied, signs of fear spread all over her face. Caradoc and Cador looked thoughtful for a moment before turning towards the young black hedgehog and slowly nodding.

"Alright." Caradoc replied abruptly.

"Promise." Cador added. Olwen smiled at the two before dipping her head in thanks.

"But they could all be in great danger! If we can't tell anyone then I think we should do something about it." Caradoc suggested, fear flashing in his eyes at the thought of the four away from Camelot's safe haven. Cador turned towards the wolf and nodded. Olwen stared at the floor, carefully thinking the thought over.

"Ok. I think your right." She finally said. "But I honestly don't know where any of them went."

"Well we'll have to use our instincts. Galehaut and Safir can't be too far off, I bet they'll be on Percival and Galahad's trail so if we follow them then I think we'll be able to team up with them." Cador said as he placed a hand over his eyes, shading them from the beaming sun as he peered into the distant wastelands.

"Alright, let's just head straight and hope we catch up." Olwen said as she took the lead, Caradoc and Cador slowly trailing behind her.
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"That's enough. Really. Thank you, Taliesin, Dagonet. You may retire." Sonic sighed as he slumped back in his thrown, spinning his crown around on his fingertip as he let out a shrill yawn, his eyelids drooping as he held his free hand up to silence his bard and jester. Taliesin, a gray vampire bat ceased from playing his harp, Ryloth and brought it down to his knees before bowing to the king. The jester, Dagonet, a happy-go-lucky bee giggled whilst throwing his jester staff up in the air and catching it at the same time as floating in mid-air. Taliesin prodded his companion to stop playing about and bow to the king instead. Dagonet, who had a very short attention span had barely heard Sonic but as soon as Taliesin gave him a sharp look he immediately let out a small smile of embarrassment and lowered his staff before bowing to the king. Sonic just smiled.

"There's no need for that guys."

"Honestly King Sonic, its fine." Taliesin replied, still bowing.

"Get real Taliesin, the king said it doesn't matter!" Dagonet giggled who had already stopped bowing and was again throwing his staff high above his head. Taliesin shot a look of venom towards the young bee before yanking his wing and pulling him out of the room. Once away from Sonic, Taliesin let go of Dagonet's wing who had been shrieking all the way out of the throne room.

"Listen Dagonet, I know you're the jester and you like having fun but this is the king you're talking to! You have to stop being so reckless!" Taliesin lectured the bee with a look of scorn on his face. Dagonet's antenna drooped and his eyes grew watery.

"I was only having fun!" He sobbed as tears flowed freely down his face. Taliesin just sighed. He was used to Dagonet crying by now, if asked, he'd generally just stop anyway.

"Listen, Dagonet, I know you're just having fun but this IS the king! Please try to understand that!" Taliesin spoke in a warmer voice as he placed one hand on the bee's shoulder.

"Ok!" Dagonet then suddenly grinned as he shot up into the air, swiping Taliesin's hand as he quickly jerked up. Taliesin growled under his breath, fangs exposed that glinted in the light, ready to go for Dagonet's throat. Luckily he stopped himself as he heard the huge doors swing open and Lancelot stepped into view. He looked a little mad as he strode up to the jester and bard.

"Have you seen my sister or my kids?" He asked quickly. Dagonet and Taliesin stared at each other for a moment and then shook their heads.

"Sorry, Lancelot." Taliesin said eventually. Lancelot growled and then made his way to the thrown room to ask Sonic leaving Dagonet and Taliesin alone once more.

"What was that about?" Dagonet asked.
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Meanwhile, Caradoc, Cador and Olwen were still on Safir and Galehaut's trail.

"Ugh, we've been walking for ages!" Caradoc complained as he threw himself to the floor and begun to rub his tired feet.

"I know but they can't be too far!" Olwen replied anxiously as she scouted the area.

"I hope not." Caradoc mumbles.

As the group walked further up, the grass begun to shrivel and crunch under their feet as the atmosphere warmed.

"What the?" Caradoc gasped.

"Was there a fire?" Cador pondered as he looked around. The whole field was black with burnt grasslands and the heat was still rising.

"If there was then it couldn't have been that long ago, it's still pretty hot here." Olwen pointed out as she kneeled on the grass to brush the wisps between her fingers.

At that moment, the same fiery phoenix that had burnt the land flew straight into Olwen, burning her chest as she flew back on the ground writhing in pain.

"Olwen!" Cador gasped as he ran over to the young knight.

"I'm…o-ok…" She managed to stutter before she closed her eyes and fainted in Cador's arms. Cador stared at Olwen, fear plastered on his face.

"Cador, look out!" Caradoc shouted but it was too late. Cador was also slashed by the bird-shaped flames on his back as he flew right over Olwen and landed on his stomach, shaking as he tried to refrain from losing consciousness but failed as his body grew limp and he crumpled to the floor. Caradoc was as scared as ever. He ran over to his companions and tried to wake them but it was no use and before long, the meteoric sensation was spewing through hi veins as he too lay on the floor next to Cador, breathing heavily as he finally slipped into sleep.
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"W-where am I?" Safir asked as she sat up and begun to rub her head. "Galehaut?" Safir slowly opened her eyes and then shot up immediately. "What the?" She gasped as she lunged up and ran towards some metal bars. She was in a prison. "Galehaut!" She screamed but she couldn't see him anywhere. Hitting her hands against the strong bars clearly wasn't helping and even her fire couldn't melt them. As he anger subsided, she begun to peer around the room. There were others, flawlessly crippled in the huge cages, the same as her own. Some looked burnt like she was but others looked more stunned and had black bruises and a strange tar liquid all over them. Cocking her head to one side and forcefully flicking one ear, she pondered over the many bodies lying in pain around her. She continued to scan the area but her eyes stopped in one cell. Safir thought her heart had skipped a beat. Lying, soaked in blood on the floor was a blue fox.

"R-rex?" Safir gasped as her eyes waded over the blue fox. He looked much older than the last time Safir had seen him. He must have been about twenty one now but that wasn't the only difference. He

looked half dead. Scars etched all over his body and one eye was wounded, probably beyond repair. His once shining armor was cut and rusting, blood leaked all over it and the once shining state had disappeared all together. Rex, with his last ounce of strength raised his head towards Safir who was staring in awe at his battle-scarred body.

"S-S-Safir? Is that you?" He asked in a weak voice.

"It is Rex, it really is!" Safir then smiled with joy. Rex was alive. But the joy soon faded as Rex dropped his head again.

"I blame you for this." He spluttered as blood dripped from his mouth.

"W-what?" Safir asked as she let go of the prison bars.

"You ran when you could have saved me. It's your fault I've been locked in here for six years, fighting for my life everyday and…and…" Rex begun but his sentence only ended in a hacking cough as more blood spewed out of his mouth. Tears formed in Safir's eyes. He was right. Everything that had happened to Rex, was all her fault.