

ADVENTURES WITH YOUNG KING ARTHUR

SCENE: *Merlin's study.*

(MUSIC #1: "OPENING [ADVENTURES WITH
YOUNG KING ARTHUR]")

AT RISE: *It is spring. Lights up on MERLIN trying to tutor ARTHUR, who is looking at an egg.*

MERLIN. ...and so his son became king. Arthur, pay attention. Just because the trees are turning green doesn't mean your brain should turn to mush. What have you got there?

ARTHUR. An egg. I saw a hawk, and tried to follow it to its nest. Is this a hawk's egg?

MERLIN. No, this is the egg of a crow, *Corvus Frugilegus*.

ARTHUR. Oh. I asked the girls in the kitchen, and they thought it *was* a hawk's egg.

MERLIN. They were mistaken. Now, during the reign of Alexander the Great...

ARTHUR. I should have known.

MERLIN. What do you mean?

ARTHUR. Well...none of the girls here in the castle know anything about history or geography or reading books. All they ever do is cook and clean. I've never seen them do anything important, like fight with a sword.

MERLIN. Is that what's important? Fighting with swords?

ARTHUR. Sir Kay says so. Sir Kay says the brain is a muscle, and girls' muscles are small, so girls are stupider than boys.

MERLIN. Yes, well, Sir Kay's brain is a muscle, probably the tiniest in his body. What else does he say?

ARTHUR. That men were born to fight with swords, and that is how it will always be.

MERLIN. Always? Be careful with words like "always" and "never," Arthur. They are as powerful as spells, and just as dangerous.

ARTHUR. Are you going to throw a spell today, Merlin? It's been a whole week since you turned me into a fish, and a month since we flew to the pyramids.

MERLIN (*wandering toward his big book of spells, prominently displayed on a stand*). Yes, well, perhaps it's time you learned something about what girls can accomplish, and what the future holds.

ARTHUR. The future? Is that where we're going?

MERLIN. That is where *I* am going. I cannot show you the future, Arthur—it is forbidden.

ARTHUR (*disappointed*). Oh. (*Brightens.*) Well, do you want to take the compass you gave me? It might help you find your way.

MERLIN. No, thank you. I can't take you with me, but I can bring something back.

ARTHUR. What? What will you bring back?

MERLIN (*flipping through the pages*). Let's see...

(MUSIC #2: "MERLIN'S SPELL I—REVISED")

MERLIN. Travel...to the kingdom of giants...to the crystal cave...ah, here we are: to the future. Wait for me, Arthur; I shall soon return with...a surprise.

ARTHUR. Be careful. Remember the time you landed right in someone's living room.

MERLIN (*sings*).

**FROM THIS MOMENT TO THE NEXT
PAST AND FUTURE, CROSS-INDEXED
MOVING THROUGH THE WAVES OF TIME
UP THE CALENDAR WE CLIMB.
GODS WHO MUMBLE, LAUGH, AND ROAR
SHOW ME...MM...1994!**

(Blackout.)

SCENE TWO

SCENE: *Sara and Matt's living room.*

AT RISE: *We hear a searing crash of electric guitar.*

(MUSIC #3: "MIGHT, NOT RIGHT")

(MATT, his baseball cap on backwards, is listening to heavy metal on a boombox, jumping around the room playing air guitar and air drums. SARA enters and tries to get his attention.)

SARA. Matt...Matt...Matt, please! *(Turns off the boombox.)*

MATT. Hey! I'm listening to that, Sara! Turn it back on!

SARA. Excuse me, dear brother, but I am trying to study.
Your "music" is way too loud.

MATT. This particular band, Mega Might, sounds best turned up loud. Otherwise you miss the subtle nuances.