



King Arthur
and the Knights
of the
Round Table

**Król Artur
i rycerze
Okrągłego
Stołu**



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Warsaw 2003

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Publishing House, 2003

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Printed in Poland
ISBN 83-88667-28-9

Prologue



Once upon a time a boy was born in Britain. His name was Arthur. He was the son of King Uther and his wife Igraine. The boy was educated by a grey-bearded wizard, Merlin. Arthur learned from the old man how to be good and honourable.

Years go by. Arthur's father, King Uther, dies. Who will rule Britain now? Who will defend it from its enemies? The knights begin to fight for the throne. Villages are burned down and innocent people killed. Britain is in chaos.

One year, on the last day of winter, all the British knights came to Londinium. They met at a church with a large stone in front of it. Merlin took King Uther's sword and stuck it deep into the stone. Then he said to the knights:

“The one who pulls this sword out of the stone will be king.”

Many knights tried to remove the sword. However, none of them could pull it out.

When Arthur was 15, Merlin took him to Londinium. They stood in front of the stone. Then Arthur pulled the sword out of it. It came out as easily as a knife out of butter.

“Here is your king! King Arthur,” said Merlin to the knights.





Not all the knights wanted Arthur as their new king. A new war began. During one of the battles Arthur's sword broke in half. He was afraid that no peace would ever come to Britain again.

However, the grey-bearded wizard helped Arthur one more time. Merlin took the king to an open place in the mountains. Arthur saw a strange lake there.

"The Lady of the Lake lives here. Say her name loudly so she can hear you from under the water."

Arthur saw a boat. He got into it and when he was in the middle of the lake, he called:

"O Lady of the Lake!"

The quiet water began to move. In the middle of the lake Arthur saw two slender hands holding a beautiful sword. He took the sword gently. Then the lake was quiet again. It was like a dream, but the sword was there, in Arthur's hands.

"This is the sword Excalibur. He who carries it will rule the land," Merlin's voice broke the silence. "Arthur, you will give your people peace, defend the weak and punish the proud. Long live King Arthur!" and the great wizard was gone.

