

A King Arthurs' Interview

Kitty/K. M. Shea: Good day to you Champions! I'm here with Britt and Merlin from the *King Arthurs and Her Knights* series. You all were given a chance to submit questions to ask them for an interview, and here we are!

Merlin: You sound like a bad game-show host.

Britt: You actually know what those are?

Merlin: It's all that plays in the mansion during the afternoon. Griflet is addicted to them—Jeopardy in particular as he uses it to learn about 'pop culture'.

Britt: That actually kinda concerns me...

Kitty: Too bad, on to the questions! **Kayla** asks "I have one question for Britt and Merlin... When is the wedding?"

Merlin: Let's move on to the next question.

Kitty: Fine. **Chloe** wonders: "Will Britt and Merlin be planning a wedding in the near future?"

Merlin: You're the worst.

Britt: I would marry Merlin in a minute, but I want him to get to know my sister and mom first, and I also want to settle into my role of CEO. While I loved life in Camelot, I had to make a lot of split decisions really quickly, so I'm looking forward to taking my time. Besides, we've got a long time ahead of us so there is no need to rush.

Merlin: Right.

Kitty: You look like you swallowed a lemon, Merlin.

Merlin: You're worse than Morgan, did you know that?

Kitty: **Maria J.** has a question for Britt. "Are you ever going to tell your King Arthur obsessed friend about you?"

Britt: NO!

Merlin: Why not?

Britt: She would fangirl over the knights so much!

Merlin: So?

Britt: Can you imagine what that would do to Lancelot's ego?

Merlin: Oh. Good point.

Kitty: Maria was also wondering how your mom and sisters reacted to meeting the Camelot crew.

Britt: They liked them a lot, but I only introduced them as my co-workers. They don't even know I'm the CEO of Avalon.

Merlin: We're attempting to ease them into it.

Kitty: But are you going to tell them the truth eventually?

Merlin: I'm not certain it will ever be necessary. It is important to remember the lessons learned in the past and recall fond memories, but if we dwell on Camelot too much we will waste the present.

Kitty: That is...surprisingly wise.

Merlin: I'm *always* wise.

Kitty: Yeah. Sure. Oohh, **Kimberly H.** has two good questions. "*Why were the legends so wrong about Guinevere and Mordred?*" and "What is the purpose of Kay's logbook?"

Britt: Yeah, I was wondering about that myself.

Merlin: It's Kay's fault, really. We told the people that you died in battle.

Britt: Really.

Merlin: Yes.

Britt: You didn't say anything else?

Merlin: Who, me? Of course not?

Britt:...

Merlin: Okay, so I *might* have told a few of my contacts that Lancelot had a hand in your death, so there were some rumors swirling about your relationship with him. But it wasn't until Kay and Morgan frolicked through France when we popped out of the cave for a break around 1150 and inspired a renewed interest in King Arthur that the rumors really had an impact. The storytellers of the era were hired to make romantic ballads, and by then it was widely believed Lancelot had caused the death of King Arthur. Poor Guinevere was caught in the crossfire as they tried to make the stories more pleasing for a female audience. Mordred's role was twisted by the ballads because it was known he married Guinevere, and the general public believed Arthur had been in love with Guinevere, so they assumed Mordred disliked him.

Kitty: Couldn't you have corrected the legends?

Merlin: Not really. Kay actively encouraged stories that highlighted Lancelot's treachery, and as we popped in and out of time, never staying outside the cave very long, it was impossible to fix

everything. Moreover, people were seeking good stories. They didn't want to hear about a wonderful king who was beloved by all and practically died a saint.

Kitty: How pleasant. As for the logbook question, there's actually a short story about it! Currently it's only available in the first King Arthurs bundle that has books 1-3. (If you have KU you can check it out!) The long and short of it, though, is that it's sort of like an observation journal/to do list.

Britt: What are you talking about?

Kitty: Nothing. Next question! **Claire** was wondering "*What were the other side effects of the time-travel spell?*"

Merlin: It drained our power—and when I say power, I am referring to Morgan, Ragnelle, Blancheflor, and myself—fairly quickly. That was why we had to pop out every so often, to make certain we didn't over extend ourselves.

Kitty: Anything else?

Merlin: The other side effects were congruent with anyone who spent time in faerie land: a feeling of slight bewilderment, a disconnect with time—you all would call it jet lagged—and so on. But, in truth it didn't matter much. Popping out years later into a new era was shocking enough, we would have been puzzled and glassy-eyed anyway.

Kitty: I guess it would be shocking to witness the technological advances.

Merlin: And the cultural and educational shifts as well. We had to learn how to write a number of times. I was ever so grateful when the computer was born and word processing programs were equipped with spell check.

Britt: Aww, that's cute.

Kitty: If you say so. **Greta** asks "*Could Britt and Merlin have children in the future if they so choose?*" Oh yes, **Lauren** was wondering the same thing, too, though she was wondering how many you want.

Merlin: Uhhhhh

Britt: We could have kids, but we're going to wait until we're absolutely ready.

Merlin: Uhhhh

Kitty: What do you mean by that?

Merlin: Uhhhh

Britt: Our kids won't have our extended lives, so it's going to take an emotional toll to have children and watch them grow old as we remain ageless.

Kitty: I see your point.

Merlin: Uhhhh

Britt: We'll definitely have kids—for certain more than one—but it won't be for a long while.

Kitty: That's probably a good idea. Plus I don't think I want to be around in a world that has a bunch of little Merlins running loose.

Merlin: Uhhhhh

Kitty: **Maegan S.** has a fun one for you, Merlin. "*What's your favorite invention of the 21st century?*"

Merlin: I am particularly fond of the more recent "smart technology." I got the mansion hooked up, so I can control much of it with a mere tablet. It's like magic, but more efficient and a lot less dangerous.

Britt: They have one of those smart fridges that lets you see the inside when you're gone, and they also have a bunch of those amazon buttons that will automatically order stuff when you press them.

Merlin: I am less fond of the house's alarm system. Lancelot is a dunder-head, and consistently sets it off when he returns home from his late-night escapades. Lionel is just as bad.

Kitty: I'm impressed you're willing to keep either of them as roommates.

Merlin: We have to. Now that Britt is aware we are here, Morgan and Kay plan to make a mint off Lancelot's pretty face.

Kitty: Good plan. Up next we've got an observant reader here. **Annie H.** wants to know "*Is King Arthur and her Knights in the same world as the MBRC?*"

Merlin: The what?

Kitty: Don't worry your head. This question is for me.

Nymue: No, it's actually for me.

Britt: How did you get in here?

Nymue: The answer is yes. I actually sold the MBRC their prime location decades ago.

Kitty: Britt's name is known to the Fae folk, but as her reign as King Arthur was more earth-shattering for humans, no one from the MBRC is much interested in her, or her courts.

Nymue: It also helps that I haven't told anyone she's still alive. Who knows, though. Maybe she could have a speaking circuit among the magical community...

Merlin: Another stream of revenue, hmm? You might be on to something...

Nymue: Of course I am!

Britt: Whatever, just shoo for now. I don't need you encouraging him—we still have pages of questions to get through.

Nymue: Hmph! Fine!

Kitty: **Eliana** is wondering “*Do Merlin, Morgan, and Nymue still have magic?*”

Merlin: You doubt *me*?! Merlin—one of the greatest wizards known to mankind?

Britt: When was the last time you used your magic for anything besides fueling the cave's time-spell?

Merlin: Sometimes I *hate* you.

Britt: The answer is yes. All three have magic, but as Morgan and Merlin weren't in the habit of flashing it around frequently back when it *was* accepted, they rarely use it now.

Merlin: It's much more energy efficient to use modern technology. When it works.

Kitty: **Sarah** wants to know “*Did Merlin have a hand in naming Britt, Britannica?*” and “*Does Lancelot get a lady friend?*”

Merlin: No, I'm sorry to say I did not have any impact on Britt's name.

Britt: If he had, my middle name probably would have been “King.”

Merlin: We didn't locate Britt until after she had been born—we had a particularly rough time with it as none of us knew her full name was *Britannica*.

Britt: And Lancelot still has the loyalty of a tom cat right now, but I'm sure eventually he'll meet a woman who is filled with enough iron to beat him into submission.

Kitty: That sounds romantic. Next up, **Hazel S.** has a question for Britt! “*What did you study before? And have the... “Cultural differences” caused any trouble?*”

Britt: In college I studied communications with an emphasis on public relations. Back when I was in Camelot I seriously regretted not taking a speech writing class and instead opting for a mixed media class. Now I really wish I had done something business related.

Merlin: Communication is a key part of running a business.

Kitty: True. Plus is also probably why you have such strong charisma.

Merlin: That, and her dentist.

Britt: *Ignores* Thankfully the difference in cultures between Merlin and I are pretty minimal. I mean, I lived in that time, so I'm fairly familiar with the stupid preconceived notions of that era. Also, Merlin is a weirdo, so he was super forward thinking for his age.

Merlin: We have Blaise to thank for that—and I am *not* a weirdo!

Kitty: Oh my. **Sarah** has a really good question. “*Did you have a plan in place for when one of the knights that came to the future for Britt falls in love? I mean, we wouldn't want them to watch the woman they love grow old and die, so what will they do? And how awkward would it be to explain who they really are to the poor woman?*”

Britt: WHAT?! Oh, wow, that never occurred to me!

Merlin: Everything is fine, I have a solution!

Kitty: And that is?

Merlin: They will merely have to fall in love with faeries. Or elves.

Britt: It's not fair to limit them like that.

Merlin: Two of the three women your knights have fallen in love with are faeries. I think that's a good enough record to say that they probably won't find it to be much of a burden.

Kitty: Maybe one of them will fall for Nymue.

Britt:...

Merlin:...

Kitty: Yeah, okay, I realized how dumb that was after I said it out loud. But you never know—maybe Lionel will snag her. These days they are getting along better. Ish.

Britt: Better Lionel than Lancelot.

Kitty: She would murder Lancelot in his sleep.

Merlin: Amen.

Kitty: Up Next, **BB** was wondering if we ever learn about Merlin's parents, or get extras from his POV. For the point of view, the answer is probably no. At this point I really want to concentrate on wrapping up the current Timeless Fairy Tales arc, and I also want to try some new stuff. (Aka: I've been going a little batty from living in the same two story worlds for so long, and I badly need something new.) That's not to say I'll *never* write a King Arthurs freebie again, but I wouldn't hold out hope. Sorry! Although I am honored (and delighted) that you want to hear more!

Britt: And what about Merlin's parents?

Merlin: *shrugs* As far as I'm concerned Blaise is my parent. He cared for me since I was but a baby.

Kitty: I purposely never dwelled on Merlin's parents for two reasons. Firstly, the vast majority of legends about Arthur don't mention it. Merlin's parents were never as important as the fact that

Blaise was his mentor and that he had great powers. Secondly, the very few legends that *do* describe his birth are sad/gruesome as his mother was always an unwilling participant in his conception. As the author I had the freedom to change it, so I focused on Merlin's childhood with Blaise instead as it better suited the framework of my story. (It's sorta depressing to learn—sorry!)

Britt: On that fun note, what's the next question?

Kitty: **Priya** wants to ask Britt "How did you survive in the Middle Ages without toothpaste, a toothbrush, clean water, proper disinfectant, soap, and all the other hygienic necessities of the modern age? HOW? "

Britt: The "bathrooms" were the worst. Chamber pots and privies? So not fun. Ugh, I don't like remembering it, it was a nightmare. As for clean water, that was partially why everyone consumed so much wine, but they did boil water which made it safe to bathe with and all of that. Also, I was the king, so I had waaaaay more luxuries than the average population.

Merlin: You were also close companions with the Lady of the Lake, who can filter water with her magic.

Britt: Mmm yeah, and there were ladies who made tons of soaps and lotions. Surprisingly, the middle ages weren't totally the dirty cesspits we think of them as. In spite of what you learned in school, people actually KNEW bathing was good for them, it just was *reaaaaaally* hard for them to properly bathe unless you had money.

Kitty: Yeah, what actually caused the most problems were the floor materials and fleas—they were what spread the plague. And dental hygiene wasn't too bad because there wasn't much sugar in the average person's diet. Toothbrushes weren't introduced to Europe yet, but they did use herbs and a cloth and rubbed teeth clean. And as Britt mentioned, people did produce soaps and lotions back then, and they used lots of amazing plants for different effects. (Like lavender, rose water, chamomile, frankincense if you were super rich, goat milk, honey, and so on and so forth.) I did a lot of research before starting the series, but here's a few basic links to check out if you want to learn more: <https://www.quora.com/What-was-dental-hygiene-like-during-the-Middle-Ages-in-Western-Europe> and <http://rosaliegilbert.com/cleanliness.html>

Britt: But the bathrooms! Those were *awful*.

Merlin: You already said that.

Britt: I know, but that whole process was so disgusting it deserve being mentioned again.

Kitty: oooo-kay. On to the next question! **Meritt** wants to know "*What happened to Rudolph?*"

Nymue: He lived a very long and spoiled life.

Britt: Would you *stop* darting in and out of here?

Nymue: You weren't around to spy on the white hart, and Merlin certainly wasn't, so who else could tell them? Anyway, Once Guinevere and Moredred got hitched, Guinevere doted on him like a dog. She frequently took him out to the meadow surrounding Camelot with her ladies to graze. She even tried to convince Mordred to find a doe for him because she was worried he was lonely.

Britt: Poor Rudolph!

Nymue: He was fine. He was stabled with Llamrei and Roen.

Kitty: **Brittany** wants to know, Britt, "*who is your favorite Disney Princess?*"

Britt: Hands down, Mulan.

Merlin: Disney Princess...they are referring to the royal heroines featured in many of the famed Disney children's movies, right?

Britt: Yeah, how do you know about Disney?

Merlin: There were several mentions of it in the guidebook, so we invested in the company.

Britt: I think you might have missed your calling as a financial investor or a stockbroker.

Kitty: Why is Mulan your favorite, Britt?

Britt: Because she knows how to FIGHT! I also love that she does the rescuing again and again, *and* she can handle herself with a sword. She's incredible!

Kitty: Ah. I should have known.

Merlin: Aren't you going to ask who my favorite Disney Princess is?

Kitty: No. **Maegan S** wants to know, Merlin, "*Did you charge Britt's iPod and look at all of her stuff?*"

Merlin: Yes.

Kitty: Creeper.

Merlin: It was for the sole purpose of understanding her!

Kitty: Uh-huh.

Merlin: It's true! Using the music list on her ipod, we were able to pinpoint the year she left based on the song publication dates. Also she had her email hooked up to it, so we were able to find out details about her trip.

Britt: So what did you think of my music taste.

Merlin: Er, wonderful, of course.

Britt: You didn't like it.

Kitty: No, he just couldn't get over the fact music was playing digitally from a box and tinkered with it for days before he finally figured out how anything worked.

Merlin: Sometimes I forget that I hate *you* as well.

Kitty: And I don't care. Okay, up next, **Tiffany** was wondering "*With Kay and Lancelot appearing in Britt's past (sword/riding instructor), did Merlin intervene in Britt's past to teach her anything useful for use in the Medieval times?*"

Merlin: It was I who managed to track Britt down as a babe, but when she was ready for sword training I was...indisposed.

Britt: Nymue locked him in the cave until after my parents divorced and I left the sword hall.

Merlin: HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?!

Britt: She told me.

Merlin: Ingrate.

Kitty: Oooh, **Kaitlin** has a slew of questions! We sadly don't have time to tackle them all, but here's a few good ones for Merlin! "*Did you ever approach Britt before her trip to England that sent her back in time? How long do you think it will take before you've conquered the world and we're all bowing to King Arthurs again?*"

Merlin: I did get close to approaching Britt several times as she continued to grow, I managed to restrain myself. Our group purposely cut off public contact with her after she left the sword hall because we worried that if she recognized our faces, it would change her future in our past, by which I mean it might make her react differently when pulled back through time, which we couldn't risk. As for your last question, I thought we would be more *subtle* this time. Perhaps we needn't have you crowned the high king, just as long as every figure of authority bows to you.

Britt: And how on earth would we do that?

Merlin: The first step would be to take over Hollywood.

Britt: Hard pass.

Kitty: **Kaitlin** had a few questions for you as well, Britt. She's wondering... "*What new problem areas do you intend to tackle with Avalon? How do you think your personal leadership skills (as in inspiring idealism and loyalty in the people who know you personally) will translate to the stereotypically impersonal corporate world?*"

Britt: Yikes, yeah, I have been worried because leadership in modern times is a completely different ballgame. But my plan is to focus on ways we can better the world, and ways we can teach employees to be better people and then release them to follow their own passions.

Merlin: So basically you want to re-establish the Round Table.

Britt: Well micro-managing everything will only get me so far. Besides, I trust my knights to do what is right, so it's better for everyone if I give them their own resources to manage. As for personal pet projects, I really want to focus on teaching—whether it's teaching better farm/food production practices in third world countries, or offering free finance courses or school supplies in places like America. But I want to focus on *useful* and *helpful* things—and also a few fun things as well.

Kitty: We have a fluffier question next! **C** wants to know "*What are your favorite and least favorite things to do as a couple?*"

Britt: At this point I mostly just value time spent with Merlin. That year without him was really tough, so I don't care so much what we do as long as we take time to just be *us*. But I do especially love when we go riding together, and I really love taking him out with my mom or sister. It's something I never thought I would get to do, so it's really special.

Merlin: It is a similar situation for me, although perhaps even more so. I had to go years without her, so now I'm willing to drop all work projects and problems in a moment if she wishes to do something with me—which is something I was not so good about in the past.

Kitty: **Audrey** says "*I would love to know all the nitty gritty details of what was going through Merlin's mind when Britt was wearing the enchanted necklace. I vocally giggled when I realized what was going to happen when Britt had to put on the necklace to hide it.*"

Merlin: As Ragnelle mentioned, if you were already in love with the person wearing the necklace it did make your love more obsessive, so, I was—

Kitty: NOPE! Nope. Gonna cut you off there.

Merlin: Why? It is a very valid question.

Kitty: I don't care. There was a reason I didn't do that scene from your Point-of-view, it was because you would move up the rating of the story and make it inappropriate. So NOPE. Next question!

Kitty: We've got a question from a particularly astute reader named **Olivia**. She says "*I was wondering if in fact the "nice boy" that Brit's mother meets and says Brit should meet for coffee, was actually Merlin, and that maybe he had wanted to meet Brit's mother or was at least trying to find out where Brit was or something?*"

Kitty: The answer is....

Kitty, Britt & Merlin: Yes!

Merlin: Nymue was keeping a close eye on Britt, but she wasn't getting much information on her since Britt was acting so taciturn. I was trying to get more information, but I had to abandon that avenue after a bit as I wasn't coming up with anything productive. I had disguised myself so she wouldn't recognize me later—Avalon isn't located near Britt's mother, and I suspected I would come off a little too strong if she found out I was dating and hiring Britt.

Britt: Please don't say you disguised yourself as an old man like you did for Uther.

Kitty: Buwahah, no, it was even better! He had black hair and acted like a hipster!

Britt: WHAT?!

Merlin: Next question!

Kitty: I picked out a few of Hallie's questions as our last go. First of all, she's wondering how Britt is going to hide her non-aging from her family.

Britt: Yeah, we've been talking that over. Thankfully we have magic on our side! Nymue—or even Merlin—can create fairy glamours—which are basically illusions that disguise you.

Kitty: Like Merlin's hipster disguise.

Merlin: You said "even Merlin" can create a fairy glamour—I resent that indication!

Britt: With our disguises in place it will be a cinch to fake aging—though we'll have to take up new identities every once in a while.

Merlin: That will be easy as well. We have quite a bit of practice in that area.

Kitty: Hallie is also wondering if you, Britt "*ever let it go that her knights gave her command of such a big company?*"

Britt: It took some time to accept.

Merlin: She means she argued strenuously against it for days.

Kitty: And I'm going to close out with Hallie's last question, "*Will any of these characters or parts of this world show up in different stories later on?*"

Hmm, that's a toughie. It's fairly likely that you might see a fleeting reference or two, but they won't ever play major roles in future stories.

Okay, that's all we have time for today! Thank you, Champions, for submitting your questions, and thanks again for supporting Britt and Merlin, and their stories.

Merlin: What is that supposed to mean?

Britt: Thanks everyone, goodbye!