**Guinevere’s Trial- Act 2, Scene 7**

**Speakers:**

SINGER

CHORUS (2 PEOPLE)

MORDRED

ARTHUR

HERALD

DINADIN

*You need to know…*

*Since betraying the king is considered treason (a crime against the country), Guinevere is sentenced to be burned at the stake. Arthur is heartbroken, and does not want Guinevere to die, but if he doesn’t follow his own law, he will lose the respect of his country.*

**THE SINGER:**

Out of the room, down the hall,

Through the yard, to the wall;

Slashing fiercely, left and right,

Lance escaped them and took flight.

On a day, dark and drear,

Came to trial Guinevere.

Ruled the jury for her shame

She be sentenced to the flame.

As the dawn filled the sky,

On the day she would die,

There was wonder far and near:

Would the King burn Guinevere?

**THE CHORUS:**

Would the King let her die?

There was wonder far and near:

Would the King burn Guinevere?

**MORDRED:** (With wicked joy) Arthur! What a magnificent dilemma! Let her die, your life is over; let her live, your life's a fraud. Which will it be, Arthur? Do you kill the Queen or kill the law?

**ARTHUR:** (Defiantly, resolutely, tragically) Treason has been committed! The jury has ruled! Let justice be done.

**THE CHORUS:**

She must burn. She must burn.

Spoke the King:

She must burn.

And the moment now was here

For the end of Guinevere.

Slow her walk, bowed her head,

To the stake she was led . . .

**THE HERALD:**

The Queen is at the stake,

Your Majesty. Shall I signal the torch?

(ARTHUR cannot answer. The herald calls frantically)

Your Majesty ... ! Your Majesty . . . !

(But the King has no answer)

**THE CHORUS:**

In his grief, so alone

From the King came a moan . . .

**ARTHUR:** I can't! I can't! I can't let her die!

**MORDRED:** Well, you're human after all, aren't you, Arthur? Human and helpless.

**A SINGER:**

Then suddenly earth and sky were dazed by a pounding roar.

And suddenly through the dawn an army began to pour.

And lo! Ahead the army, holding aloft his spear,

Came Lancelot to save his dear Guinevere!

**ARTHUR:** (Crying out) Lance! Lance! Come save her.

**HERALD:** (Desperately) Shall I signal the torch, Your Majesty?

**DINADAN:** (Rushing in) Arthur, an army from Joyous Gard is storming the gate. Shall I double the guard? (ARTHUR shakes his head dazedly) Arthur, you're inviting a massacre! (DINADAN rushes off)

**ARTHUR:** Save her, Lance! Save her!