

Лучшее чтение на английском языке

Самые лучшие  
АНГЛИЙСКИЕ  
ЛЕГЕНДЫ

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Иллюстрации *В. Рябова*

**С 17 Самые лучшие английские легенды / адап-**  
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Чтение классических английских легенд — один из лучших способов начать изучение английского языка.

Книга включает самые известные английские легенды о короле Артуре. Легенды подготовлены для начального уровня, то есть для начинающих учить английский язык, снабжены комментариями и упражнениями для проверки понимания текстов. В конце книги дается англо-русский словарь. Легенды, озвученные носителями языка и записанные на диск, помогут развить восприятие английской речи на слух.

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# Предисловие

По версии, принятой в настоящее время в научном сообществе, легенды о короле Артуре и рыцарях Круглого стола восходят к сюжетам кельтской мифологии. Истории о короле бриттов V–VI века пересказывались и записывались множество раз, варьируясь от автора к автору и от издания к изданию. Менялся состав цикла, менялись отдельные легенды, но происхождение, рождение и смерть Артура, обстоятельства получения и утраты Экскалибура, а также роль Мерлина и Мордредра – элементы сравнительно постоянные.

«Смерть Артура» сэра Томаса Мэлори – одна из первых и наиболее обширных попыток компиляции корпуса легенд артуровского цикла, а также одна из первых печатных английских книг. Она была выпущена Уильямом Кэкстоном в 1485 году и стала источником для большинства последующих адаптаций легенд, – включая текст настоящего издания.

При подготовке настоящего текста мы стремились сохранить рыцарский и мифологический дух оригинала, а также композиционную завершенность, которая показала бы многообразие основных сюжетных линий артуровского цикла.

Мы надеемся, что читатель, уже знакомый с легендами цикла, уловит в нашей адаптации вкус английского оригинала, – а для того, кто столкнулся с историями о короле Артуре впервые, настоящая книга станет отправной точкой множества чудесных приключений.

*Александр Бохенек*



## Chapter 1,

**in which Uther Pendragon fell in love with lady Igraine, a wife of another man, Merlin helped Uther have what he wanted, and Uther and Igraine had a child by the name of Arthur**

It was in the days<sup>1</sup> of Uther Pendragon, when he was king of all England, that there was a mighty duke in Cornwall that held war against him for a long time. That duke was called the Duke of Tintagil. One time king Uther sent for this duke<sup>2</sup>, asking him to bring his wife with him, because she was known to be a fair and wise lady, and her name was Igraine.

When the duke and his wife came to the king, the great lords that were in the king's council helped them make

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<sup>1</sup> It was in the days... — и так случилось во времена...

<sup>2</sup> Sent for this duke — отправил (гонцов) пригласить этого герцога

peace. The king liked Igraine very much, and fell in love with her, and desired to lay with her. But she was a good woman, and did not accept the king's offer. She came to her husband the duke and said, "I suppose that we were sent for so that I be dishonored. I advise you that we depart from here immediately, and ride all night to our own castle." She also said that it would be wise to not tell the king and the lords that they were leaving.

So they departed. When king Uther learned that they left, he was very angry. He called his council and told the lords that the Duke of Tintagil rode away with Igraine. They advised the king to send for the duke and his wife to catch them and call them back, and if they didn't want to come back, then the king had a reason to start a war against them.

They sent the messengers, and the messengers caught the duke and his wife midway. The duke said that nei-

ther he nor his wife<sup>1</sup> would come back. King Uther was very angry to hear that message. He sent the messengers again to warn the duke that he should prepare for a war, and that in less than forty days, Uther would take his biggest castle from him.

When the duke heard this warning, he started to prepare his castles for war. The duke had two strong castles, the bigger one was called Terrabil, and the smaller one was called Tintagil. The duke put his wife Igraine in the castle of Tintagil, and he put himself in the castle of Terrabil, which had many secret exits and passageways. Then in all haste<sup>2</sup> came Uther with a great army, and laid a siege to the castle of Terrabil. And there was a great war, and many people were slain.

But then Uther fell sick, because of his anger and his love to Igraine. A noble knight named Sir Ulfius came to king Uther and asked why he was sick.

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<sup>1</sup> Neither he nor his wife — ни он, ни его жена

<sup>2</sup> In all haste — в великой поспешности

“I will tell you,” said the king, “I am sick because of anger and love to fair Igraine.”

“Well, my lord,” said Sir Ulfius, “I will find Merlin, and he will prepare a remedy that will cure you.” So Ulfius departed, and after great adventures he met Merlin.

“Who are you seeking?” Merlin asked him.

Sir Ulfius took a little pause to think.

“I will tell you who you are seeking,” said Merlin. “You are seeking Merlin, and you should seek no further, because I am he. If King Uther rewards me, and swears to do exactly as I say, I will give him what he wants so much.”

“I can promise you,” said Sir Ulfius, “that he will reward you and do as you ask, as long as you ask reasonable things of him.”

“Ride back to Uther,” said Merlin, “And I will not be long behind<sup>1</sup>.”

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<sup>1</sup> Will not be long behind — прибуду вслед за тобой

Ulfius was glad to hear that, and rode in all haste back to king Uther Pendragon, and told him that he had met Merlin.

“Where is he?” said the king.

“Sir,” said Ulfius, “He will be here soon.”

As he said that, he saw that Merlin was standing at the entrance to the pavilion. Then Merlin came to the king, and when the king saw him, he said he was welcome.

“Sir,” said Merlin, “I know what you wish with all your heart, so if you swear to me as a king that you will do as I say, you will have what you wish.”

The king swore on the Four Evangelists<sup>1</sup>.

“Sir,” said Merlin, “This is what I want from you: the first night that you will lie with Igraine, you will conceive a child. When this child is born, he will be delivered to me to nourish.

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<sup>1</sup> Swore on the Four Evangelists — поклялся именами четырёх евангелистов (авторов канонических Евангелий — Матфея, Марка, Луки и Иоанна)

This will bring great glory to you and your child, if he proves worth it<sup>1</sup>.”

“Let it be so<sup>2</sup>,” said Uther. “You will have the child.”

“Get ready,” said Merlin, “Tonight you will lie with Igraine in the castle of Tintagil. You will look like her husband the duke, Sir Ulfius will look like Sir Brastias, one of the duke’s knights, and I will look like Sir Jor-danus, another of the duke’s knights. Do not talk a lot with her nor her men, just say that you are sick. Go to bed, and rise in the early morning, and I will come to bring you back.”

They rode to the castle of Tintagil. The duke saw them depart from the siege of Terrabil, so came out to fight with the king’s men. That night he was killed even before Uther came to Tintagil.

After the death of the duke, king Uther laid with Igraine, looking like

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<sup>1</sup> If he proves worth — если он окажется достойным

<sup>2</sup> Let it be so — да будет так

the duke three hours after the duke was dead. In the early morning Merlin came to Uther to take him back. Uther kissed lady Igraine and departed in all haste.

When the lady heard that her husband the duke was killed that night, she wondered, who came to her chambers looking like the duke. She mourned privately, but didn't tell anybody. Soon, the lords of king Uther asked him to end the war between him and Igraine. He was happy to do that, and he made Sir Ulfius to be the messenger.

“Now we will do well,” said Ulfius. “Our king is a strong man, and he doesn't have a wife, and my lady Igraine is a fair lady. It would be great joy for us all and it might please the king to make her his queen.”

So king Uther took Igraine as a wife and made her his queen.

But the queen was pregnant, and soon everyone could see that. So the king came to her and asked who the

father of the child was. She didn't want to tell him.

"Tell me the truth," said the king, "And I promise I will love you even more after that."

"I will tell you the truth," said Igraine. "The same night my lord was killed, a man came to me at the castle of Tintagil, and he looked exactly like my lord, and with him were two men looking like my lord's knights Sir Brastias and Sir Jordanus. So I went into bed with him, as I should have with my lord, and that night we conceived a child."

"You're telling me the truth," said Uther, "Because it was I who came to lay with you that night. And I am the father of the child." And he told her how all of that happened as Merlin planned. She was happy to know that Uther was the father.

Soon Merlin came to the king.

"Sir," he said, "You swore that you would give the child to me to nourish."

“As you wish,” Uther said.

“I know a lord of yours in this land,” said Merlin, “his name is Sir Ector, and he is a true and faithful knight, and he owns many parts in England and Wales. Send for him, and tell him that in the name of his love to you, he should put his own child to nourishing of another woman, and that your child should be nourished by Sir Ector’s wife. And when the child is born, have him secretly brought to me unchristened, through the back door of the castle.”

Uther did as Merlin said. He called Sir Ector, and granted him great rewards. Sir Ector swore to do as the king told him. When the child was born, Uther commanded two knights and two ladies to bring the child, bound in a cloth of gold, through the back door of the castle and give him to the poor man they meet outside. So the child was brought to Merlin, and Merlin took him to Sir Ector and brought

a priest to christen the child, and he called him Arthur.

And Sir Ector's wife nourished the child as her own.



## EXCERCISES

1. Выберите верный вариант:

a) *Why did the duke of Tintagil and Igraine leave king Uther's keep?*

1. Because they didn't like the food.
2. Because they didn't want Uther to dishonour Igraine.
3. Because they didn't want to stay for too long.
4. Because they were afraid of the war.

b) *What was the lords' advice to king Uther?*

1. To send messengers to ask the duke to come back to Uther.
2. To declare a war to the duke and lay siege to his castles.
3. To send knights to catch the duke and Igraine midway and bring them back by force.
4. To come to the castle of Tintagil at night, dressed as the duke.

c) *Where did the Duke of Tintagil put his wife for the time of war, and where did he go himself?*

1. He put Igraine to the castle of Tintagil, and himself to the castle of Terrabil.

2. He put Igraine to the castle of Terrabil, and himself to the castle of Tintagil.

3. He stayed with Igraine in the castle of Tintagil.

4. He stayed with Igraine in the castle of Terrabil.

*d) How did the Duke of Tintagil die?*

1. He fought with King Uther and was killed by him.

2. He went out to fight the siege while Uther was away and got killed.

3. He died from sickness after a peasant shot him with a crossbow.

4. He was killed by a spell that Merlin put on him.

*e) When Merlin made a deal with Uther during the siege, what did he ask to do with the future child of Uther and Igraine?*