Merlin arranged for King Arthur's birth through magical means. After the tyrant Uther attempted to wrestle Ygraine away from his vassal, King Gorlois, Merlin fashioned an enchantment that allowed Uther to take on Uther's form and rape Ygraine. In exchange for this spell, Merlin demanded that he be given the offspring of that union—which was the infant Arthur.

Merlin spirited away Prince Arthur into the forest, where he left the boy in the hands of a minor knight, Sir Ector, who fostered the child along with Kay, his own biologically son. Kay later becomes Arthur's squire—but always remains something of a bully. Note how different Kay is from his Welsh origin, the giant Cei who can change his size in The Mabinogion.

Like Helen of Troy, Ygraine is cursed by good looks that attract every man's lust near her. She remains faithful to her husband, however, until Merlin's magic tricks her.

In French accounts, King Pendragon seals his alliance with King Arthur by offering his daughter Gwenevere in marriage to seal the peace treaty. Malory inverts this, stating that King Lodegremon seals the peace treaty through a peace treaty through marriage to seal the peace treaty. Malory inverts this, stating that King Lodegremon seals the peace treaty through marriage to seal the peace treaty. Malory inverts this, stating that King Lodegremon seals the peace treaty through marriage to seal the peace treaty. Malory inverts this, stating that King Lodegremon seals the peace treaty through marriage to seal the peace treaty.

In early Arthurian accounts, Morgan is an evil elf-maid rather than a daughter of King Gorlois, hence the nickname “Le Fay” (the Faerie). In Malory’s account, her magic comes from the study of necromancy. In later accounts, Morgan is the eldest of the four Cornwall sisters, who are all sorceresses.

The Count or Duke of Cornwall, Gorlois, was a faithful vassal to Uther Pendragon. He rebels when Uther’s lust for Ygraine approaches madness.

In French accounts, Count Gorlois demands that he be given his daughter Gwenevere. In exchange, Arthur marries her.

Elaine of Cornwall is not to be confused with Elaine, the daughter of Pelles.

The pregnant Elaine gives birth in the faerie realm by the Lady of the Lake. This gave Merlin free will like other mortal men, though he still possessed his demonic powers. However, he dies at his powers when he is seduced by a girl (variously called Nimue, Vivienne, or Ninienne). She steals his magical powers and seals him in either an oak tree or a hidden cave, depending on the version of the legend.

The alternative French kings Ban of Banassac (modern Bordeaux) and King Morlon (King of Benwick—modern Scotland) were Arthur’s first two foreign allies against the rebellious Britons.

The alternate French king Ban of Banassac (modern Bordeaux) and King Morlon (King of Benwick—modern Scotland) were Arthur’s first two foreign allies against the rebellious Britons.

Gawain and his four brothers form what T. H. White calls, “The Orkney Faction,” i.e., a group of vengeful, discontented Scotsmen still angry about the death of their father, King Lot, at the hands of Sir Lamorak. Only Gawain resists Mordred’s conspiracy against Lancelot—but Gawain’s honor will not allow him to rest once his little brothers are struck down. Mordred is raised as a fifth brother.

Gawain was Sir Lancelot’s favorite of the four brothers. Lancelot himself weights Gareth, which makes Gareth’s death all the more tragic when Lancelot kills him in his mission to rescue Queen Gwenevere from the stake.

Lancelot sleeps with Elaine while under the effect of a magic charm. This glamour causes him to see Gwenevere when he looks at her. The pregnant Elaine gives birth to Galahad—the one perfect knight capable of achieving the Holy Grail when Lancelot himself—alasined with adultery—cannot touch the sacred cup.

Merlin’s birth is recounted in the Prose Merlin. His father is a demon that mated with a maid in the hopes of creating the anti-Christ. However, the maid was slain during her pregnancy. This gave Merlin free will like other mortal men, though he still possessed his demonic powers. However, he dies at his powers when he is seduced by a girl (variously called Nimue, Vivienne, or Ninienne). She steals his magical powers and seals him in either an oak tree or a hidden cave, depending on the version of the legend.