Ashes of the Fenix

Episode 1

Many know the legend of King Arthur, Camelot, the Knights of the Round Table and Merlin. However everything to this point has been riddle with controversy and fiction. There are some historical facts however what you are about to read is not of King Arthur and his kingdom but the end of it.

538 A.D. Arthur and his Knights were asked to give aid to a nearby land that had been by many accounts attacked for several months. It has been said the leaders of these people and rulers of the land had asked for help from many other kingdoms but the only one that answered their plea for help was Arthur. He and his knights headed north to mount a crusade to save these people but what they did not know was that they were headed into a trap.

Back at the castle of Camelot, Arthur's most trusted advisor and friend Merlin stayed behind. Although Merlin was still the most powerful wizard on Earth his age was catching up to him plus he had a responsibility to his two young sons. Merlin blended with the task of raising his sons on his own as the woman who was their mother died while giving birth to their second child. The name of the woman is not known but we do know that she was once an apprentice of Merlin with whom she fell in love with.

It had been a year since she passes away and although he could have servants and nannies care for his boys he refused. His children showed a great sense of magic and it seemed to him that they had adopted their father's keen affiliation to sorcery. While playing with his children only three days after Arthur and his knights left Camelot he stumbled in his children's room. The children were still too young to call out for their father however their love for him and their own power was able to alert someone for help.

"Master Merlin, are you alright?"

"I am fine my friend but I fear that our king is dead."

"What, are you sure master?"

"I hope that I am not but we must know if my suspicions are true. I need you to deliver a message for me. Take this parchment and head north into the field just outside Camelot. When you get there drop the parchment in the middle of the field and leave."

"Master Merlin, are you sure that I am to just leave it in the field?"

"Don't question me just do as I say!"

While Merlin was waiting for confirmation of Arthur and his Knight's fates he ordered that the castle and the surrounding town be evacuated. The only people left at the castle were the last of the kingdom's knights, Merlin, and his children.

"Master Merlin, everyone is safe, only the castle's guards remain."

"Good Sir Raymond, good," he replied.

"Master what about your children, shouldn't we take the three of you to safety as well?"

"I am not leaving; while my love for my children is strong my duty is toward my king and Camelot. We will wait to hear word of our King."

"Yes Merlin but what do you think is going on," Sir Raymond asked him.

"I cannot say at this moment and I hope that what I believe this to be is not so."

"Then I am sorry to be the bearer of bad news."

Merlin turned around and saw his oldest friend...

"Calisto my friend, I was beginning to believe that you did not get my message."

"I did and I am afraid that you're suspicions are true. Arthur and his knights are dead and she is headed here."

"Who is headed here?" Sir Raymond asked.

"Morgan Le Fay..." Before Calisto could say anymore Merlin interjected.

"Morgana lives, she resurfaces after all these years," Merlin says.

"I don't understand Merlin. We believed Morgana to be dead for years. Why would she wait until now to resurface?" Sir Raymond asked.

"She needed help," Calisto said. "She is not alone. She has a man with her; someone who helped turned the tide of the battle in her favor. He actually seemed to be in control of everything."

"How do you know this?"

"I have seen it with my own eyes knight," Calisto answered.

"Who was this man that was with her my Friend?"

"I don't know much of him but a name...Maddox."

Merlin gasped and fell to the floor....

Merlin had not heard that name in some time but who knew who this man was.

"We must prepare for their arrival. Fortify the gates and double the guards in the towers and on the roof. Make sure that their bows are ready and that they are fully armed."

"Master Merlin, what do you think is coming?" The knight asked.

"An apocalypse..."

Sir Raymond went on to fulfill Merlin's orders. He turned to Calisto and told him that he had some preparations to make and asked if he could keep watch on his children. Calisto agreed and Merlin headed off to do what was needed.

Merlin returned an hour later...

"My friend I trust you with my life but now I must trust you with the life of my children."

"Merlin, what is going on? What is happening?"

"I cannot tell you now because we are running out of time. I have sent something to your home. It will be there by the time you arrive.

"What is it?" Calisto asked.

"It is something that will explain everything including instructions for my sons."

"Merlin what are you talking about I have never seen you like this before."

"I need you to take the children to safety and promise me that you will look after them for the rest of their lives."

"Merlin I will keep them safe until you can rejoin them."

"I am afraid that this will be the last time I gaze upon my children, now promise me!"

"Merlin..."

"PROMISE ME," he pleaded with Calisto. He gave Merlin his word and gathered the children as he was instructed to do and left the castle as fast as he could.

"Is everyone at their posts Sir Raymond?"

"Yes Master Merlin, but why are you still here?"

"I told you that I am not leaving. This thing between Morgana and I must end tonight. She has no idea what she has done aligning herself with Maddox. This ends now even if it cost me my life!"

Within a day Morgana, Blood and her army had reached the castle. The attack on castle Camelot was fierce and by the time they reached the castle her army had grown. The army forced their way into the castle and Morgana and Blood made their way to the tallest tower where Merlin was waiting.

"I know why you are here but I am sorry to tell you that what you are looking for does not exist."

"Deception was never your strong suit my dear."

"It is you that have been deceived Morgana. This ally of yours is not who he claims to be; when he gets what he wants he will kill you the first opportunity he can."

"How right you are Merlin," Blood said to him and then thrust Excalibur into Morgana's back and out her torso and then pulled it out.

Merlin yelled no and attacked Blood. Morgana was dead and the battle that ensued blew the tower apart leaving the two wizards now visible to the armies below. Thundering dark clouds hovered over the now fragile castle Camelot. Merlin called down the lighting from those clouds but with Excalibur in hand Blood was able to wean off the blasts. Thunder rang through the air and the two were casting so many spells that every color in existence could be seen.

The battle was doing more and more damage to the castle and to the surrounding landscape. This was leaving homes that the people of Camelot have known their whole lives destroyed. Merlin saw the destruction by both of them and put off of his power into one spell to end the battle once and for all. Merlin yelled out an incantation that no one; not even the dark wizard have known. Merlin lifted his staff in front of him with his right arm, turned it horizontal, and them raised it above his head. From his staff rang out a beast of fire that engulfed Blood.

Blood's screams of pain could be heard from the flames and his pleas for mercy. Merlin was always a merciful man but he knew that this time in order for his children and the world to be safe that mercy would have to be the farthest thing from his mind. The screams began to subside but just as Merlin thought that he had one and defeated Blood once again the beast was thrown back at him. Both wizards were now down and the battle that was taking place throughout the castle had stopped at the site of Merlin's power. Hours passed with the two wizards on the floor of the tower before and whisper from one of them could be heard.

"This isn't the end Merlin...cough; cough...I will find what I am looking for and when I do I will be this world's master."

"Perhaps but it will not be today demon," Merlin replied and with his last bit of power cast a spell upon Blood sending me far away from Camelot. It took all of Merlin's strength to cast those last two spells and once he knew that Blood was gone from Camelot he thought about his children and sent out his love for them and then he was gone.

Calisto arrived at his home with the children and waiting there on his table was a jewel that had been transported there by Merlin. Once he had the children settled he picked up the jewel and put Calisto into a trance. In this trance he saw an image of Merlin which spoke to him.

"Calisto, you are my oldest friend. I have known you since I was a young and naïve boy who refused to accept who I was. I was in a world that believed that Magic was power bestowed upon them by Satan himself but you taught me to be brave and to change the perceptions of man. I have trusted you for so long and now I trust you with the lives of my sons Ashe and Fenix. These boys, even at their young age show great power. Separately they are strong but together they are unstoppable. I have included directions to a cave 300 miles from here to a cave where you must take my children.

Morgana may be my notable enemy but it is Blood that I fear. I met him over a generation ago. He is more than just wizard but a demon but not of this world. We faced each other in battle and he was powerful then and just as I have grown more powerful over the years I know that so has he. He craves power above all else and he believes that with my power added to his own that he will be a god. I do not know how but he knows of my children. I will do whatever I can to stop him but if I cannot you must ensure that these children can never be found.

The cave is a doorway that I discovered long ago that leads somewhere into the future and is activated by this jewel. Once the children pass through the doorway will close forever. Since you are the only person that I know of that is immortal I know that you will be able to care for them in whatever time they arrive in. These children are extraordinary my friend and they will begin to ask questions about who they are and where they came from. When the time comes, present them with this jewel that contains a message that only they can summon. Keep them safe, thank you my friend and God be with you and my children."

Calisto prepared his wagon and the children with enough provisions for a very long journey. I would take a few weeks for him to arrive at the cave. Once there he activated the doorway, placed the jewel in the wrappings of the children who were asleep and took them through. Although he could not pass through all the way he had made plans to ensure that the children would arrive on the other side safely. As an immortal he remembered the time and date that the children were sent through and waiting on the other side of the cave was he almost 1500 years later. He was able to see himself on the other side and knew that he had fulfilled the first part of Merlin's last wishes.

"We have to go or we're going to be late!"

"Calm down Austin we have time."

"No we don't Tyler, Calisto said to go straight home after school we don't have time for this."

"Relax," Ashe said to his little brother Austin Fenix. They were sitting and waiting for a group of boys to get off of the bus that they are normally are on. The two children had made their way home by other methods...they flew.

"If Calisto finds out about this we are going to be in so much trouble," Fenix said to his older brother.

"He's not going to find out," Ashe responded.

"Oh yes he is; he always finds out."

"We have to do this Austin."

"Why, why do we have to do this?"

"If we do this then maybe those dirt bags will think twice before bullying someone else. Are you in or not?"

"I'm in," Fenix said.

The boys got off the bus and headed down the street for their customary after school stop at the local bodega. There were five boys that entered the store followed by the two brothers just a few steps behind them. The young boys looked through the isles searching for an after school snack while Ashe and Fenix seemingly disappeared.

The five boys took their goodies to the front counter where the owner had his back to them fixated on the small modest television on the shelf behind him. The kids waited for a few seconds believing that the owner knew they were there and would turn around soon enough to take care of them. However the large man behind the counter didn't turn around nor did he turn his head away from what seemed to be late breaking news on CNN. The volume was down but the caption at the bottom of the screen read "We are no longer alone in the universe, aliens on the attack." They couldn't believe what they were reading. Anderson Cooper standing in an area where Madison Square Garden was his backdrop when they saw on the television a large space ship that shot a laser beam at the building destroying it.

"OMG, OMG they blew up the Garden. Let's get the hell out of here," one of the children said to the others. They ran to the door but it was locked and they couldn't get through. They ran back to the counter and started yelling for the owner and this time he did turn around but he was not a man. He looked like a giant snake who hissed at them. At the same time outside the window havoc was ensuing as cars were being blasted and a bomb blew up and blew out all the windows in the bodega.

The boys were screaming and feared for their lives when the snake man behind the counter said something.

"Thissss is what happensssss to boyssss who bully other children."

All of the boys screamed and were interrupted by the sound of man's voice.

"Hey what the hell is wrong with you kids? Coming in here screaming and scaring my customers; what the hell is that dripping? Jesus Christ you pissed all over my floor. Get the hell out of my store and don't ever come back."

The boys ran out of the store screaming with their urine infested pants all the way home. Just as they ran out Fenix and Ashe appeared and asked the owner a question.

"How much is this candy bar," they asked simultaneously.

"That was awesome."

"I told you; I bet those boys don't go messing with anyone else again or they'll be afraid that the mean, evil aliens will come and get them."

"Mean, evil aliens?"

"Oh crap," they said simultaneously again.

"I suppose that you two are responsible for the five young boys I just saw running down the street with piss dripping down their legs?" Calisto asked them.

"Let me explain," Ashe said to him but Calisto told him to shut it and that they would discuss that issue at home.

Once home Calisto told them that they cannot go around doing things like that to people or flying home. He told them that there is a reason that people like the children or him don't disclose what they are to people. Who they were and what they could do was to be kept a secret.

"We cannot hope to expose ourselves or whatever powers you have." He looked at them with a snicker and spoke once more. "That was pretty damn funny though."

It had seemed that the lives of Merlin's children were filled with love and happiness. However some things are not made to last. Back in England not too far from where Blood's body landed some 1500 years earlier rested an old cemetery that had been abandoned for years. A tremor could be felt for miles with the epicenter generating from that cemetery.

The ground in the south part of the cemetery began to erode and what could only be described as a large bubble of earth expanded. It expanded almost 12 feet up and then exploded. The tremor stopped and all was calm once but from below in what was now a seven foot pit stood a man. However this was not just any man but the one man that Merlin feared would harm his children...Maddox Blood!

Blood took to the air, seemingly being pulled to the power that he searched for so long ago. He headed toward the United State east coast to New York City.

Meanwhile back at their home the jewel that Calisto used to send the children into the future began to resonate. It was a high pitched sound that only he could hear. He knew what that sound meant and it was something that he hoped he would never hear. The sound that the jewel made was a warning telling Calisto that Blood was alive and on his way to find the children.

For years the children began having images of who they were and who their father was but it was finally time for them to know it all. They had adopted their power and adapted to it better than Merlin could have hoped for. They had almost mastered their power but they needed to know Merlin and the man that was now hunting them.

"This jewel was given to me by your father and although this is sooner than I had hoped or expected it is time that you find out who you are. This jewel can only be activated by the two of you together and when it is it will tell you everything that you need to know about your father, your power and your place in this world."

Before he could continue a loud sound like a jet pierced the air and then a large crash right through the roof of their upscale penthouse apartment.

"What was that?" the two boys asked together.

"Both of you go to your room now and hide," Calisto ordered them to do.

They two boys questioned why they needed to hide but Calisto told them not to argue and once again ordered them to their room. The children ran so fast that they forgot to take the jewel that Calisto had presented to them.

Calisto went out into the living room of their apartment. Sirens could be heard for blocks as police and rescue converged on the home.

"I want the children," Blood said to Calisto as they now faced one another.

"You'll have to kill me if you want them and let me tell you that is not an easy thing to do."

"So be it," Blood said and lunged at him.

Just as Maddox lunged at Calisto the two children had a flash in their minds a memory of who this man was and what he did.

Maddox hit a barrier just as he reached Calisto and was knocked back onto the floor of the living room of their apartment. He sat up and looked at Calisto with confusion. He knew who Calisto was and he knew that while he was an immortal he did not have any kind of power. However could he have been wrong he thought to himself?

Calisto looked at Maddox Blood and smirked. Blood got up again and uttered a few words and threw a ball of light at him. He responded with words of his own and placed his arms in front of him and blocked it.

"What the hell, I didn't know that Calisto knew magic," Ashe said.

"He doesn't but he has dad's medallion remember."

"That won't be enough to protect him from that guy you know that."

"Well if he's here for us then I say we give him what he wants big brother."

Ashe looked back at Fenix and smirked. The battle between Calisto and Maddox was raging on. However since Maddox was a true wizard and not casting spells with the use of an object he was getting the upper hand.

"You have some of Merlin's magic however Merlin you are not!"

He cast another spell at Calisto immobilizing him and leaving him vulnerable to a deadly attack. He stood next to the now motionless Calisto and said "The children are mine."

"You're right about that dick," Ashe yelled aloud and hit him with a magical fist. Fenix turned to Calisto and undid the spell of immobilization.

"What are the two of you doing here? I told you to hide did I not?"

"Merlin may have been our father but you're our dad and there was no way we were going to let you die," Fenix told him.

"You don't know who this man is or what he is capable of..." Calisto told his young son.

"We know exactly who he is. Let us handle this from here; you've done enough over the years for us now it's our turn."

While Fenix and Calisto were talking Ashe and Maddox were battling it out. Maddox was casting spell after spell but Ashe was formidable but inexperience and be a downfall. Young, adolescent, and foolish Ashe made a mistake which gave Maddox the upper hand. Ashe was hit with an energy ball knocking him down.

"I will kill you one at a time and take what is rightfully mine."

He conjured the sword Excalibur and prepared to take Ashe's life when his younger brother stepped in. Fenix put his arms in front of him, swayed then in a circular motion and then snapped them out at Maddox. He was thrown at the wall of their living room and onto the floor.

"How many times do I have to save your but?"

"I had it under control," Ashe said that to him.

"Oh yeah, I couldn't tell it looked like you were taking a nap to me."

Maddox got to his feet again...

"Merlin's offspring; holders of the power greater than Excalibur; all I see are two pathetic children." He yelled out the words of another spell and cast it at the two boys.

They raised their hands together and blocked the spell.

"Can you believe this guy?" Fenix asked his brother.

"Yeah he still has to use words to cast spells, what a loser."

"You mock me."

"Let me ask you something, do you know that you have two last names?" Ashe asked him.

"You believe this to be a joke, see how you fair with this."

He once again pulled out the sword Excalibur and cast a spell through the sword at the children. They were frozen, unable to move and all the smug attitude and remarks were done.

"Foolish children, I have the power of Morgana, the sword Excalibur and that of Merlin; I cannot be defeated." Calisto appeared once more and saved the children however his effort would be short lived. Blood pushed the sword Excalibur through his chest. Calisto fell and his life began to leave him. He turned to the children again whose eyes were filled with tears as the only man they knew as their father was dying. Blood use the sword once more and stabbed both children killing them instantly.

He had accomplished what he set out to do. He killed Merlin's children and now it was time to take what he believed was his...their power. He cast a barrier spell around the building to keep anyone from entering and trying to stop him from what he had set out to do. He put down the sword Excalibur and began the incantation to steal their power.

He turned to the children's lifeless bodies and cast the spell. He held strong; preparing to receive that power but something that he did not expect happened. The bodies of the two children burst into flames and burned completely away leaving nothing but ash.

"No, no what is going on, where is my power?"

From the Ashes arose a large fiery bird that now faced Maddox.

"What magic is this?" Maddox asked.

"It is the magic that you wanted the one that you have been waiting for, for so long," two deep echoing voices said to him. "From the Ashes the Fenix will rise and so will lives you have taken here today."

Life breathed back into Calisto's body and the Phoenix disappeared leaving the two brothers alive once more. They stood before Maddox and he looked at them with fear.

"Surprise asshole," Ashe said to him.

Fenix disappeared and reappeared behind Maddox. Both boys put their arms out in front of them and magical beams of light emerged from their hands. The beams met each other on both sides of Maddox. He picked up the sword Excalibur and raised it to break the beam of lights. However when the sword hit the light it was thrown back; the children's eyes lit up and the sword Excalibur was shattered and destroyed. The beams of light were narrowing on Maddox's body and they were intended to kill him when they were stopped by a familiar voice.

"Stop," Calisto said to them. "This is not you; I did not raise you for this and your father Merlin did not wish that you take anyone's life."

The beams continued to narrow and Calisto continued to plead. The two boys looked at one another and stopped what the beams from slicing Blood in half. They raised their arms into the air once more and imprisoned him in a magical cell.

"You're out father," they said together.

They both joined Calisto in front of Maddox in his Cage. "What do we do with him now," Fenix asked.

With guidance from Calisto Maddox was sent deep into the center of the Earth trapped by the magic that he had searched for all those years.

"They last thing you guys said before you stopped..."

"We're happy that Merlin was the guy that gave us our lives but you made us who we are. We love you dad!" Fenix said.