

# PERFECT KNIGHT

*You finally get it right, and then you're done.*

## CHARACTERS

*Any age, any race, any gender. Requests that at least Galahad not be a white male.*

Bors – A pure-enough knight.

Perceval - The purest knight they could find with matching armor, and our narrator.

Galahad - The purest knight.

*Who also play in that order*

1.0 (aka Galahad 1.0) - A pure-enough robot. (Bors)

Technician Percy – Administrator of Turing test (Perceval)

Galahad 2.0 – The purest robot. (Galahad)

*Who also play:*

Teenager 1 (The Cool One - Galahad)

Teen 2 (The Sweet one - Bors)

Teen 3 (The other one - Perceval)

*Who also play*

Lyft GPS (Bors)

Lyft Rider Perceval

Lyft Driver Galahad.

# PERFECT KNIGHT

*You finally get it right, and then you're done.*

## ACT I: THE QUEST

### SC. 1 KNIGHTS

PERCEVAL

Everybody's got their tasset all twisted up about this stupid cup. You want the story about a cup? Here's a story about a cup.

Once there were three knights. They were about to find the grail because they were so pure. This is, like, Book time. It was a time of honor and valor, and hope, and it was also Camelot time, which means there was still magic and unicorns and the snow was fluffy and the trees were fluffy and even feudalism and swords were fluffy, and there were three perfect knights.

Well actually. There was one perfect knight, Galahad, and then there was a pure-ish knight, and they were bored, (and boring), and then there was the purest knight they could find, who was sort of just hanging around, that of which was myself. I mean: I. I mean, it was me.

Then the purest knight, Galahad, found the grail, and he was so perfect and the grail was so perfect that they disappeared in a ray of light, the end, they all died.

*It's the end of the play.*

But before that happened, we were on our horses in our armor all sweaty and then

PERCEVAL

*To other knights.*

So I says to the guy, I says,

GALAHAD

Could you try to avoid the masculine default?

PERCEVAL

Girl. Person. Knight. Whatever. I says to KNIGHT, I says, next time, put your vambrace on before your gauntlet, can you even?

BORS

Heh.

GALAHAD

[Silence].

PERCEVAL

Tough crowd.

BORS

Are we there yet?

GALAHAD

We Are Not There Yet.

PERCEVAL

Fine. Perfect night. You first, Bors.

BORS

Well, that'd be Galahad there.

GALAHAD

*[is the perfect knight and everyone knows it]*

PERCEVAL

We know that. Not knight. Perfect night. As in dark. As in stars. As in nights in white satin.

BORS

Wait. I thought that song was about

*Exaggerates the K.*

*KUHNNNN-nights in white satin.* Like they're at a costume ball being romans or ghosts or something.

PERCEVAL

Nights as in bed. Who would you take to your bed? Guinevere or Morgause or

BORS

I can't believe they just meant nights in white satin.

GALAHAD

That's not an honorable question.

PERCEVAL

Look. We've been riding for three months. I have rust stains under my armpits. I don't even really know what we're looking for. You gotta have something. Come on: Guinevere or Morgause or -

BORS

Everyone knows what the grail is! It's the grail! The HOLY GRAIL.

PERCEVAL

Wait a minute. You actually don't know either? Does Galahad know?

GALAHAD

We'll know it when we find it.

PERCEVAL

Why does that sound familiar?

BORS

It's the most perfect thing in the world and only the perfect knight can find it.

PERCEVAL

Yeah. but what happens after that?

GALAHAD

Behold!

BORS

What?

PERCEVAL

Here's what. There's a clearing. And in this clearing is absolutely nothing, nothing at all, except the greenest leaves descending slowly bathed in a golden light, and the birds not singing, and Galahad dismounts and begins to approach it on foot. Bors wants to get down too, but he can't, and then

*Train Sound*

*Perceval and Bors make dramatic awed humming sound.*

*They reconfigure the chairs.*

*Bors sits, Perceval stands, Galahad has exited. In this scene, Technician Percy is administering a Turing Test on Bors. Percy talks to Bors like Bors is a child.*

## **SC. 1 ROBOTS**

TECHNICIAN PERCY (Formerly Perceval)

ALright. Let me adjust this here. And focus a tiny bit. Great.

*Into Recorder.*

Percy White, Inspector #345-24, November 20, 2029. Can you say something for me?

1.0 (formerly Bors)

What do you want me to say?

TECHNICIAN PERCY

Anything. I'm just testing levels. Say hello I'm a robot.

1.0

Hello, your lens cover is still on.

TECHNICIAN PERCY

I was just going to take that off. Thanks. Are you comfortable?  
Do you understand what I mean by the word comfortable?

1.0

Physically relaxed, in an unconscious manner, at ease, not thinking about body parts, the thing you feel right before someone asks if you're comfortable, the thing you don't feel when someone is about to decide whether you're good enough to exist.

TECHNICIAN PERCY

Not exist "be continued," is the term we - nevermind. Thanks. Are you ready, I'm going to ask you a series of questions and -

1.0

And I am to answer to the best of my ability so you can determine-

TECHNICIAN PERCY

Your score.

1.0

Whether I pass.

TECHNICIAN PERCY

Can you tell me what you are?

1.0

I'm Galahad. I'm a knight. I found the grail.

TECHNICIAN PERCY

*[Another day another dollar]. Lift's 1.0's arm, reads his armpit*

Model 1 - wow, classic. - Serial 4505-436 -S home use, and

*Looking over Galahad*

Looks like a fully equipped 69X adult usage model.

1.0

Do you know what you're looking for?

TECHNICIAN PERCY

Just do the best you can.

TECHNICIAN PERCY	1.0
What are you?	I'm Galahad.
Do you feel empathy?	Internal and external processing units, making him always right.
Are green fields green?	Everyone needs a Galahad.
Have you ever fallen in love?	Children with Galahads perform 40% better than children without Galahads.

TECHNICIAN PERCY

Are you real?

1.0

What are you looking for?

TECHNICIAN

I'll know it when I see it.

1.0

Why does that sound familiar?

What will you do with it if you find it?

TECHNICIAN PERCEVAL

Why does that sound familiar?

*Machine Beeps.*

TECHNICIAN PERCEVAL

Nevermind. Do you remember your childhood?

*A knock at the door. Galahad enters. Sits.*

1.0

Wait a minute. Who is that? He looks like me. You said there wasn't going to be another me.

TECHNICIAN PERCEVAL

Do you remember your childhood?

1.0

I did everything right. You said if I did everything right, there wasn't going to be another me

TECHNICIAN PERCEVAL

Answer the question. If you close your eyes and picture your childhood, what do you see? What do you remember?

*They switch places. Galahad sits alone, Perceval and Bors hold hands.*

**SC. 3 KIDS**

TEENAGER - GALAHAD

Why do we always have to skip class and go watch the trains? They know we skip. They know where we go. And then we're not to pass. I need to pass. Can you two stop making out while I talk to you?

*Train Sounds*

TEENAGER TWO - BORS

Fine. What do you want to talk about.

TEENAGER GALAHAD

I don't know.

TEENAGER PERCEVAL

Truth or dare.

TEENAGER GALAHAD

I know what you're trying to do. You're trying to send me on a dare so you two can make out. I refuse. You brought me here. You're stuck with me. Truth.

TEEN BORS

You're going to lie.

TEENAGER GALAHAD

I promise I won't lie.

TEEN PERCEVAL

Who are you in love with?

*Galahad looks at them both*

TEENAGER GALAHAD

FINE. Dare.

TEEN PERCEVAL

Run across the tracks. Or tell the truth.

TEEN GALAHAD

That's not a good dare. First of all, there's the third rail. Second of all -

TEEN BORS

Fine! Then tell us who you love.

TEEN GALAHAD

I'm going.

TEEN BORS

Wait!

*Galahad crosses the tracks. TRAIN SOUND*

**SC. 4. LYFT HOME**

*They change positions. LYFT GPS (BORS) is in DRIVER (Galahad's) lap. RIDER (Perceval) is behind.*

LYFT GPS (BORS)

Navigating to drop of Perceval.

RIDER (Perceval)

Look, I don't think it matters in the great scheme of things. We all know robots are going to replace us. I just don't understand why you're selling out, man.

DRIVER (GALAHAD)

Could you try to avoid the masculine default?

RIDER (PERCEVAL)

Sorry. Driver. Whatever. You're just creating the robot mold, mapping the robot maps. Why do you want to do that? They're probably making your replacement right now. How does that make you feel? You'll get it right and then they'll replace you.

LYFT GPS (BORS)

At the end of the road, turn left.

RIDER (PERCEVAL)

Mind you, Robots are more efficient. I just don't understand why you're selling out.

RIDER (PERCEVAL)

Wait. Left was that way.

LYFT GPS (BORS)

Recalculating.



## ACT II: THE GRAIL

### SC. 1 KNIGHTS

BORS

They're going to get it! They're going to get the grail!

PERCEVAL

But what is the grail.

BORS

It's a bowl!

PERCEVAL

Dude. We came all this way for a bowl? That's the end of the journey? A bowl?

BORS

Or a cauldron. Or a cup. Or a piece of a saint's bone.

PERCEVAL

I don't care if it's a piece of a saint's boner. We came all this way and you don't even know what it is?

BORS

You'll see, when he gets back with it, you'll know it was worth it.

PERCEVAL

He's coming back.

BORS

It's the grail! We're finally going to see it. The purest knight, the most perfect thing.

PERCEVAL

Wait. Have you thought about what happens after?

### SC. 2 ROBOTS

1.0 (BORS)

You said there wasn't going to be another me.

2.0 (GALAHAD)

You said this old model was discontinued.

1.0

So he's here to replace me? What's so great about this one?

TECHNICIAN PERCEVAL

Look, it's nothing personal. There's always a better model.

2.0 (GALAHAD)

I'm a better model.

1.0 (BORS)

Wait. Do you understand what that means?

1.0

2.0

1.0

2.0

2.0

It means you're old news.

1.0

No, listen, try again. Think: Are green fields green? Does that mean something to you? Are green fields green?

2.0

Are you testing my consciousness? What are you looking for?

1.0

Have you thought about what happens after?

*Sound of the Grail*

**SC. 3 TEENS**

TEEN BORS

Get off the tracks!

I take it back! Get off the tracks!

TEEN PERCEVAL

What were you thinking?

Did you even think about-

*Train*

## **SC. 4 LYFT**

LYFT GPS (BORS, in GALAHAD'S LAP)

Off Route. Recalculating. Off Route. Recalculating.

LYFT RIDER (PERCEVAL)

You're going the wrong way! That's not how this street goes! Slow down on these curves. Look out!

DRIVER GALAHAD

So anyway, there's these three knights, and they were looking for a cup -

## **INTERLUDE**

GALAHAD

It's a bowl. It's a medal. It's a red solo cup. It's a champagne glass. It's a thing you really really wanted until you had it in your head,

PERCEVAL

It's the perfect night. It's the perfect birthday. It's the perfect office party. It's the thing you RSVPd yes, and then you didn't want to go, but then you went anyway, and then -

BORS

It's the way you remember your childhood, the way you look when you think about the ocean, it's the stupid thing you said before you threw a bunch of leaves in my face that you wake up regretting forever because it was the wrong thing to say, It's -

## **ACT FOUR**

### **SC. 1 KNIGHTS**

PERCEVAL

None of this actually happened. Because it's Camelot time and everything is fuzzy, including details. Details are especially fuzzy. But the leaves stopped falling. And Galahad faceplanted. Totally went ass over cuisse. Tasset in a twist. Lost both his vambraces. And then he stayed there face down for a long time, just face down. And then he came back

BORS

Did you find the boner?

GALAHAD

Me, You, You.

PERCEVAL

Wait. What?

GALAHAD

Perfect night. And then stories, smores, mead. And you.

PERCEVAL

But what happens next?

## **SC. 2 ROBOTS**

*Turing test scene. Both  
Galahads.*

TECHNICIAN PERCY

Why are you both looking at me like that? You're supposed to answer the question.

1.0 (BORS)

I remember information, the space between sparks, stories kids read to me.

2.0 (GALAHAD)

The imagination of purity. Or peanut butter. Or timelines, or Camelot?

TECHNICIAN PERCY

Wait - one of you is glitching. Which one of you is glitching

*The galahads point at one another*

1.0 AND 2.0

He/ She/ They are.

## **SC. 3 KIDS**

TEEN BORS

That's him! It's him! He didn't cross.

TEEN GALAHAD

I decided I didn't feel like it. Truth or dare. Ask me.

TEEN PERCEVAL

Truth or dare

TEEN GALAHAD

Truth. I've always wanted to tell you. To tell both of you. That - that I think we're supposed to go on a road trip together -

*Train Sound  
Bors leaps into Galahad's lap,  
Car breaks. All are breathing hard.*

**SC. 4 RIDE HOME**

LYFT GPS (Bors)

Dropping off Perceval.

PERCEVAL

You didn't kill us.

DRIVER (Galahad)

Want me to wait while you go inside?

PERCEVAL

Unless you wanted to come in?

DRIVER

Come in?

PERCEVAL

Yeah? Maybe for like a cup? A cup of something? Weren't we looking for a cup?

**END OF PLAY**