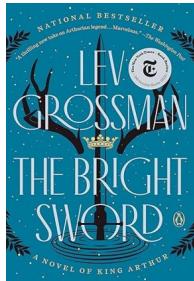




# Lambda Sci-Fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians



*The Bright Sword*  
By Lev Grossman  
*Discussed November/December 2025*

## Characters

### The Court

Arthur  
Guinevere  
Mordred  
Merlin  
Nimue

### The Round Table

Lancelot  
Galahad  
Collum  
Bedivere  
Palomides  
Dinadan  
Constantine  
Dagonet  
Scipio (not a knight)

### Otherworld

Morgan le Fay

## Discussion Questions

1. Did you finish the book? Did you like it? Why or why not?
2. King Arthur has been the subject of so many novels, movies, and academic works, so this book was a big challenge for Grossman to take on. How did he do?
  - o Do we have any King Arthur experts in the club and what do y'all think?
3. Think about how Grossman's novel compares to other tellings of the King Arthur legend. What do you think of Grossman's lack of focus on Arthur himself and pivotal events in his life?
4. Grossman introduces a new Knight of Round Table, Sir Collum. Does he bring anything important to the story? Are you pro-Collum, anti-Collum, or in between?
5. Grossman presents other knights and characters in new ways.
  - o For example, he recasts Morgan Le Fay as a sort of antihero and Sir Lancelot as the story's principal villain.

- Bedivere is gay and Dinadan is transgender—probably the first LGBTQ+ characters in King Arthur lore other than fan fiction.
- What do you think of these portrayals?
- Did other characters stand out in ways that you liked or disliked?

6. Aside from Bedivere and Dinadan, are there other aspects of this book or general Arthurian legend that are inherently queer?

7. What do you think of Grossman's narrative style (e.g., telling the story from different viewpoints and weaving between different subplots)

- Are there too many subplots, character histories, and knights' adventures?
- Were there particular subplots or stories you found exciting or wanted more of? Any that were dull or didn't seem to fit with the larger story?

8. Throughout the novel, there is a conflict between magic and Christianity.

- What are some examples that resonated with you?
- In the end, was there a clear winner between these forces?
- Did Grossman touch on other conflicts in belief or culture?

9. If there is a King Arthur canon, has Grossman been faithful enough to it?

- Has he added anything that could or should be canon 100 years from now?