

In the fantasy novel *Merlin's Shakespeare*, the immortal wizard Merlin discovers that high school actor Beth Owens has magical powers. He sends her to Shakespeare's London and the worlds of Shakespeare's characters in search of a missing play about King Arthur. Mercutio guides her and flirts with her. Richard III wants the play for his own purposes and tries to coerce her into helping him. He's a threat to her sanity, her friends' lives, and the integrity of Shakespeare's plays.