

# ROBIN HOOD

BEING A TALE OF DERRING-DO, ADVENTURE, AND BANDITRY IN TWO ACTS.

## ACT ONE

### SCENE 1 - OUTLAWS, OUTLAWS EVERYWHERE

*(The lights go up (figuratively) as Sir Godfrey walks across stage distractedly, looking around)*

**Godfrey:** Beaky! Beeeeky? *(accosts member of the audience)* Sorry to be a pain old chap/madam, but have you seen my hawk? No? Oh blast and bother it. Where HAS it got to? Beaky! Beaky!

*(He bumbles about the stage for a while, as Robin, Will, Alan, and John sneak up. They pounce)*

**John:** Stand and deliver!

**Will:** Your money or your life!

**Alan:** *(does the rhythm from 'Stand and Deliver')*

**Robin:** Hah! Ooh, Alan, that sounded quite good - make a note. *(Alan plucks string)* We'll use that. Ahem, where was I?

**Godfrey:** I think you were about to rob-

**Robin:** Robin Hood, outlaw, at your service. *(doffs cap)* Or rather, you're at my service, I suppose. Ha! *(takes Godfrey's hat and puts that on instead, then doffs it)*. Boys?

*(the team begins to rob Godfrey, pulling out every kind of treasure imaginable. As they do so, in run Marian, Jack, and Jill!)*

**Marian:** Stand and deliv-oh. Robin.

**Robin:** Gosh, Marian! *(clears throat, starts again in an attempt to be manly)* I mean, oh look, boys, it's Marian. Hi. Um. You remember my boys, right? The Merry Men! This is Little John-

**John:** Robin, I'm literally six inches shorter than you! Look around - I'm still taller than everyone else here!

**Robin:** Eh, more like nine...

**John:** *(Indignantly)* Nine? I think I know nine inches when I see it!

**Robin:** Quite. And this is Will Scarlett *(Will bows)*, and Alan-a-Dale *(Alan waves)*.

**Marian:** Pleased to meet you, I'm sure. Well, these are the Mighty Maids - my second-in-command,

Tiny Jacqueline-

**Jack:** It's Jack. And Marian, we get it, I'm short, that's still not funny. I don't go around calling you "Excessively Tall Marian", do I?

**Marian:** And this is Jill Crimson (*Jill curtseys*). Ellen's not here yet. She broke a lute string, or something. She'll catch up.

**Alan:** (*panicked*) Ellen? You mean-

(*in runs Ellen, with a guitar. She stops, suddenly, when she sees Alan*)

**Ellen:** Alan? What are you-? (*she looks around and sees everyone else*). Oh. Robin's gang.

**Alan:** Hi, Ellen. How- hi.

**Marian:** Oh lord, have you two not gotten over each other yet?

**Ellen:** You don't just get over your boyfriend running away in the middle of the night to join some idiot bandit group!

**Alan:** Well nor do you get over finding out your girlfriend was secretly a spy all along!

**Ellen:** I'm a bard, Alan, what did you think I did? Sing songs all day and never hear anything worthwhile?

**Alan:** Yes! Like me! I never resorted to bribery!

**Ellen:** And that's why we never had any money.

**Marian:** All right, all right, you two, simmer down. We'll be leaving in a minute, assuming there's nothing left to steal from this gentleman?

**Sir Godfrey:** Nope, nothing to steal here.

**Little John:** Oh, I don't know, maybe just (*Casually pulling all sorts of trinkets out of Godfrey's clothing*) this, and this, and- wait, why are your underpants made of gold?

**Sir Godfrey:** Mummy said it would be safer, in case I got robbed...

**Will Scarlet:** She was wrong. Come on, trousers off.

(*Godfrey looks embarrassed*)

**Godfrey:** Not in front of the girls!

**Little John:** Seriously? You're being robbed by two *different* sets of bandits, and you're worried about your dignity? (*Godfrey nods sheepishly. John sighs.*) Come on then. Will, Alan? Give me a hand with the idiot?

*(They march him over to a tree, where he takes off his golden underpants with a lot of fuff during the next conversation. Godfrey then PUTS HIS CLOTHES BACK ON. The girls check out the pile of treasure.)*

**Robin:** Marian, can I talk to you for a sec? Over here? *(He pulls her aside)* Listen, I just wanted to ask...

**Marian:** Yes?

**Robin:** You know, any answer is fine, no pressure...

**Marian:** Yes?

**Robin:** And you'll answer me honestly?

**Marian:** Yes!

**Robin:** Have you... by any chance... changed your mind about marrying me?

**Marian:** No!

**Robin:** No, you haven't changed your mind, or no, you won't marry me?

**Marian:** No to both - they're the same thing, idiot! *(more sadly)* Look, Robin, I explained this to you. It's not you - I just think it's a little rash to marry the first man I meet outside the castle. Thanks for the rescue, and all, but I'm not going to marry you just because of that. I don't know anything about you! I don't know anything about *me*, for that matter!

**Robin:** But that's how it works! I rescue you from a terrible marriage with the evil Prince John, and then you marry me! It's in the books!

**Marian:** No, Robin. I'm sorry. I'm still finding out who I am. And at the moment, I'm enjoying being a bandit queen!

*(The boys bring Godfrey back, waving the golden pants)*

**Little John:** Looks like we're the best, girls, sorry! Every last scrap of gold on him!

**Godfrey:** *(sadly)* Yep, every last bit, excep-

**Marian:** There's more? Get him!

*(The girls pile onto Godfrey, knocking him to the floor. After a struggle, they come up with several bags of coins).*

**Jack:** Sewed into the seams of his trousers, Marian, look!

**Jill:** They always think that'll fool us...

**Marian:** Good work, Jack!

**Robin:** (*sarcastically*) Ooh, scavenging off our robbery. They'll be writing ballads about this for sure.

**Ellen:** Yes, actually, they will!

*SONG: The Tale of the Time the Mighty Maids got More than the Merry Men/ The Tale of the Time the Merry Men Moved Faster than Any Maids.*

## SCENE 2 - ROBIN'S CAMP

*(At Robin's camp, the boys are counting out their gold. Friar Tuck is cooking.)*

**Little John:** Interesting to see how Marian's getting on, hey Robin?

**Robin:** (*petulantly*) No.

**Little John:** O..kay... Oh, come on, Robin, you have to tell us what's going on with you two. I mean, the last we heard, we'd successfully bailed Marian out of the castle, stopped the evil Prince from marrying her, and she was all set to finish off a fairytale romance with you.

**Will:** And now she's living in the woods and threatening our profit?

**Robin:** (*sigh*) That's my girl.

**Little John:** What went wrong?

**Robin:** Apparently, it's "short-sighted to marry someone you just met", even if he's risked his life, come close to imprisonment, and *shaved* for you. That's certainly not what I'd heard!

**Friar Tuck:** Dude. That's not how women work. That's not how *anyone* works.

**Robin:** Oh? And you're the expert on women, are you? An elderly monk? Who *lives in the woods*?

**Friar Tuck:** I wouldn't say expert. But I certainly know what I'm talking about. I was once a dashing knight! Oh, sure, they call me Friar Tuck, 'cause I make a good bowl of stew, but that's just a nickname. Descended from King Arthur, I am.

**All:** Really?

**Will:** But you never do anything but cook - you've never trained us, never swashed your buckle...

**Friar Tuck:** Well, I'm 93! It's not as easy as it used to be!

**Robin:** Nothing's like it used to be. We never do anything heroic any more. Remember the old times?

*SONG: THE DAYS OF YORE*

**Alan:** Don't feel bad. I'll compose something flattering and pass it round a few inns, that'll get the heroics going again!

**Robin:** Thanks. Shall we go and find something to put in the pot? *(Everyone except Tuck leaves)*

**Friar Tuck:** *(Shouting, as they leave)* Hey! This is organic home grown quinoa, with a root vegetable puree and gluten-free dumplings! I'm not having some greasy 'orrible rabbit shoved in here! I worked hard on this! *(To audience)* Are they gone? *(He proceeds to light a pipe and get out a copy of 'Nuns with Guns')* What? Even men of the cloth are allowed a few bad habits... *(he wanders off)*

### SCENE 3 - MARIAN'S CAMP

*(Marian and the Mighty Maids in camp, cooking dinner. Ellen-a-Dale plucks at a guitar idly, while Sister Nip stirs the pot. Jill and Jack are sparring in the back. Marian is polishing a knife.)*

**Ellen-a-Dale:** I heard another bloody Robin Hood ballad at the inn today.

*(grumbles all around)*

**Ellen-a-Dale:** Listen to this rubbish.

*SONG: Robin, Robin  
(after song, Ellen keeps strumming quietly)*

**Jill:** Ugh! That's even worse than usual.

**Jack:** I wish they'd write something about us for a change...

**Ellen:** That can be arranged! *(strums dramatically)*

*SONG: Merry Maids*

*(All cheer, then get back to what they were doing. Jill and Jack go back to sparring, and Jill defeats Jack)*

**Jill:** Haha, too easy!

**Jack:** Well I'm sorry! It's not my fault you had about seventeen brothers growing up!

**Jill:** I know, but I wish I had someone stronger to train with...

**Marian:** None of us are going to be good enough to beat Robin unless we find a teacher.

**Sister Nip:** *(clearing throat)* Perhaps I could be of assistance?

**Jill:** You, Sister Nip? But you're a nun!

**Sister Nip:** *(slightly too quickly)* Yes. Yes I am. But you think I was born in a nunnery? I had a life,

child, quite an exciting one. And I learned a thing or two.

*(With wooden spoon, attacks Jill and defeats her. Everyone else is stunned)*

**Sister Nip:** What? I'm not just here 'cause I make good stew, you know?

**Ellen:** *(sniffing bowl)* Clearly not.

**Sister Nip:** Anyway, dinner's ready. Come and eat!

**Marian:** But Sister, won't you tell us how you came to know things like that?

**Sister Nip:** No! It's... it's too much for your young ears. Hush and eat your stew!

#### SCENE 4 -AN EVIL INTERVIEW

*(Castle interior (no, I don't know how to do that in a field either) - Guy of Gisborne is looking nervous in a chair, across from Sheriff of Nottingham, who looks a lot more relaxed. Prince John paces villainously.)*

**Sheriff:** So, it's Guy, is it? Of Gisborne? Thank you for coming in. I'm the Sheriff, and this is Prince John - obviously.

**Guy:** I recognise you from your coins! Er, I mean, thank you for taking the time to see me. Er, my liege.

**Sheriff:** So tell us a bit about yourself.

**Guy:** Well, I grew up in a hut, a little wattle and daub affair. My dad ploughed and my mother sowed, but the farming life wasn't really for me. I've always had an affinity for *kicking*, me. There's just something about giving someone a really good kicking that satisfies me. So, when I was little, I practised on my brothers, and if they weren't around, I practised on the cat.

**Sheriff:** I see. *(To Prince John)* Rather limited skill set.

**Guy:** Oh, I do some punching, too, I didn't neglect that. I mean, kicking's my passion but I've got a good level of punching, too. My da used to say I had a lovely headbutt. Takes out six teeth in one go, my headbutt.

**Sheriff:** Hmm. He seems good. Useful.

**Prince John:** Ooh, can I do one? Can you tell me about a time when you had to deal with an awkward client?

**Guy:** Well, in my last role, I was responsible for this cartload of orphans, right-

**Sheriff:** I don't think we need to hear any more about that.

**Prince John:** What about hobbies?

**Guy:** What, apart from kicking?

**Prince John:** Yes, apart from kicking.

**Guy:** ...I make a lovely Victoria sponge.

**Prince John:** Oh, a baker! I like this one, Sherry, I like him a lot. You're hired!

**Sheriff:** Your Highness, wait - we haven't checked his qualifications, his insurance, his right to work!

**Prince John:** Nonsense, he's a peasant - he doesn't have a right to work, he has a responsibility to work! I own him! *(to Guy)* You can have the job. You get three groats a year - if you get injured on the job, there's statutory sick pay of nothing, and you get a snazzy uniform! Are you in?

**Guy:** I'm in! ... Er, what's the job, exactly?

**Sheriff:** *(sigh)* Your first task: find and kill Robin Hood. Your second task: recover Maid Marian.

**Guy:** Ooh. Multi-tasking.

**Prince John:** Wonderful! Now that's sorted, why don't we get you fitted for your uniform?

*(Exeunt)*

## SCENE 5 - MUCH AND MANY

*(Two lovers kissing amongst the scream of midnight; two lovers missing the tranquility of solitude)*

**Many:** Much! You're here!

**Much:** I only managed to get away for five minutes, but I had to see you.

**Many:** My love! Your mother still hates me, then?

**Much:** As much as your father hates me. *(Sigh)* They will never allow our forbidden love! Me, Much, the Miller's Son, marry you, Many, the Baker's Daughter? Think of how they'll talk!

**Many:** But milling and baking go together!

**Much:** I know we can see that, but my mother... she'll be crushed, like the grain under the millstone. She wants me to marry a girl who mills.

**Many:** I could learn!

**Much:** She'll never allow it.

*(Enter Mrs Miller, Much's Mum, brandishing a rolling pin. She looks angry. And sounds it.)*

**Mrs Miller:** Much? Who are you talking to?!

**Much:** Quick! Hide!

*(Many runs around looking for somewhere to hide but eventually gives up and hides behind Much.)*

**Mrs Miller:** It's not that *GIRL*, is it? You're sneaking off to meet that good-for-nothing baker's daughter!

**Much:** Mum, she's not like that!

**Mrs Miller:** Ooh, yes she is! Always *kneading*, always rubbing her little fingers in someone's dough...

**Much:** That's her job! You make it sound dirty!

**Mrs Miller:** It is dirty! You're too good for her, Much, your destiny is *grinding*!

**Much:** That sounds even worse!

**Mrs Miller:** Where is she, anyway? Where's that little baggage? *(She starts to look around and Much and Many try to rotate to keep Many hidden. Surprisingly, it doesn't work.)* A-ha!

*(Almost simultaneously)*

**Many:** Please don't hurt me! I love your son!

**Much:** Don't hurt her! I love her!

**Mrs Miller:** I'm not going to hurt her - as much as I'd like to grind her bones right down to the endosperm... Just think of what it would do to the flour! We could never sell that!

**Much:** I don't want to sell your horrible flour anyway!

**Mrs Miller:** You are no son of mine!

**Much:** Er, I am, Mum, I'm "Much the Miller's Son Miller ". That's literally what you named me.

**Mrs Miller:** No, Much, you don't understand. I don't have a son. Not anymore.

*(She storms out, leaving Much on the point of tears)*

**Much:** So, I'm just... Much. Much the No-one's Son.

**Many:** Oh Much, I'm so sorry! I've ruined everything!

**Much:** It's okay, Many. At least this way we can be together.

**Many:** But how?



**Much:** We'll live in the woods, like the famous Robin Hood!

**Many:** Robin Hood! But he's an outlaw!

**Much:** And until we can unite our in-laws, I suppose we're outlaws too.

*(They wander off holding hands)*

## SCENE 6 - NUNNERY BOOTCAMP

*(The Merry Maids are training. They jog in, led by Sister Nip who from somewhere - presumably the forest - has got a great big stick)*

**Sister Nip:** Hup, two, three four, keep it up, two, three four. ATTEN-HUT!

*(The maids line up and follow Nip's orders in a training routine)*

**Sister Nip:** And jump - and kick - and punch - and kick *(et cetera et cetera)*. My god, what do they teach you in these finishing schools of yours?

**Jill:** Well it's certainly not star jumps!

**Jack:** This actually makes me miss embroidery! *(Jill and Jack flop to the floor)*

**Sister Nip:** *(mock solicitously)* Oh, my sweethearts, I'm sorry. Is this too hard for you? *(Jill and Jack nod, but Nip's tone gets scary)* THEN TRAIN HARDER! Look at Marian - she's doing fine.

**Marian:** Want *(puff)* to show *(puff)* Robin *(puff)*!

**Sister Nip:** Okay, okay, take five. Jill, Ellen, with me, it's time to find some lunch!

**Jill:** Oh, thank goodness...

**Sister Nip:** *(prodding them with sticks)* Come on then, at the double. Jog, you weaklings, jog!

**Ellen:** Argh!

**Jill:** Why us!

*(She leads Jill and Ellen off at a jog round the back of the stage. Jack crawls over to Marian)*

**Jack:** Marian, why is this so important to you? So the Merry Men are a bit more established than us. They've been working together longer. We'll get there.

**Marian:** I know. It's just... Can I tell you a secret?

**Jack:** Of course.

**Marian:** I... I really hated what Robin did back there.

**Jack:** Rescuing you from the evil clutches of the amorous Prince John?

**Marian:** Well, the not marrying John bit was quite good. But yeah. The rescuing.

**Jack:** What's so bad about being rescued? It's pretty traditional for princesses, ladies, damsels in distress, and so on.

**Marian:** Yes, I know! But since when have I ever been happy being traditional? When I was eight, my father stopped the court chef from teaching me to scramble eggs. When I was ten, it was fencing lessons he objected to. At twelve, magic tricks. At fourteen, he was shocked and appalled to find me climbing out of the window to sit on the roof and read!

**Jack:** Well, that was rather dangerous...

**Marian:** I don't care! I'm fed up being proper, and traditional, and sitting around waiting to get married. I want to face up squarely to Robin, look him in the eye, and say 'Robin, I love you' knowing I could take him in a fight, or a race, or an argument.

**Jack:** (*understandingly*) You want to be a match, not a plaything. I get it.

**Marian:** Yes. So I'm - we're - going to take down the Sheriff, and the Prince, and then I'm going to say to Robin 'Ha! I rescued myself! Now I don't have to love you out of obligation!'

**Jack:** But you *do* love Robin.

**Marian:** What?! (*sputters*) The very idea of the thing! Love! Robin! No way!

**Jill:** (*calling across*) What's this about loving Robin?

**Jack:** (*in a sing song voice*) Somebody's in lo-ove!

**Marian:** No! I'm not! Maybe... Maybe *you* love Robin! Oh, leave me alone!

(*she runs off-stage. Sister Nip looks up at the commotion*)

**Sister Nip:** Right, that's your time. Hup! Hup, the lot of you! After me, at the double. Hup, two, three, four, keep it up, two, three, four...

(*she leads them all off-stage, skipping and jumping*).

## SCENE 7 - AN ACCIDENTAL AMBUSH

(*Godfrey, the Sheriff, and Guy are walking through the forest. Godfrey is flinching at everything.*)

**Sheriff:** So this is where you were robbed?

**Godfrey:** Somewhere around here - I'm not sure - Gosh, it's all a bit tree-y, isn't it? I think it was definitely... in the woods somewhere.

**Sheriff:** Well, yes, it is known that Robin Hood lives in the woods. Anything more specific?

**Godfrey:** Well, I was riding home from Mummy's house, so it was somewhere along this path. I can't really be more specific than that. It was very scary!

**Sheriff:** *(sigh)* I thought as much. Guy? Have you got the bait?

**Guy:** Yes sir. *(He begins taking out of his bag a large amount of shiny stuff and essentially just wrapping Godfrey in it while he makes small objecting noises)*

**Sheriff:** What we're going to have to do is this. Guy and I will hide in these trees here. You are going to walk along this path, up and down, until Robin Hood catches you. At which point, while they're distracted robbing you, we'll swoop in and-

**Guy:** Kick their lights in! Or out. Which one is the knocking out one? *(Sheriff glares at him)* Never mind.

**Sheriff:** Okay? *(Godfrey opens his mouth to protest but is cut off by Sheriff)* Okay. Off you go.

*(Godfrey begins to walk up and down the stage, while the Sheriff and Guy follow him, having put on a terrible branch disguise.)*

**Godfrey:** Um. I don't mean to bother you, sir, but I think that Robin might notice you.

**Sheriff:** Shush. These are highly effective disguises. And be quiet!

*(Godfrey takes another turn about the stage)*

**Guy:** I think I hear something. Ready?

**Godfrey:** No!

*(Robin and gang come racketing onto stage, making a lot of noise and barrelling about in play fights.)*

**Robin:** And then I said, take that, you noble old bag of bones! And I pushed him into a wall like this *(he pushes Little John, but John does not move)* Aw, you spoilsport. Come here, Will. Like this! *(he pushes Will - it's super effective)*

**Will:** Ugh, I always have to be the bad guy. Just once, I want to be you, Robin!

**Robin:** Okay then, my scarlet friend. You can be me. I'll be the Prince, and John can be the Sheriff. Alan, you can be Marian.

**Alan:** Fine by me. A bard needs to keep his face pretty, you know.

**Robin:** I... won't ask why.... Right then, Robin me lad. We've seized Marian! What are you going to do about it?

**Will:** Avast, foul beast!

**John:** What, are you some kind of pirate dragon slayer? Come on, everyone knows there's no pirates in Nottingham!

**Will:** Shut up! It's my turn! Er... Oi! Evil Prince! It is I, Robin Hood, here to save the day! And the girl! Preferably the girl.

**Alan:** My hero!

**Robin:** *(With a big cackle)* Oh-ho, puny outlaw, you cannot stop me. I'm mean old Prince John, and I will kill you! *(he lunges for Will, who ducks under his arm)*

**John:** And I'm the Scaredy Sheriff! I'll just cover here in the corner until he's killed you.

**Sheriff:** *(Aside)* Right, that does it. Guy, with me. *(They sneak up until they're close to the Merry Men)*

**Will:** Oh no you won't! You forget. The narrative force is on my side. So I can only win this battle! *(He dashes around Robin and John, and grabs John, who gets really into it and sends himself flying. Into Guy, who is knocked out.)*

**Alan:** Oh, no, my maiden sensibilities! Too much Saxon violence!

**Robin:** Seriously, though, John, mind the trees. We'll have no forest left to live in. *(In Prince Voice)* And anyway, this is MY FOREST.

*(Will is still kung-fuing his way around, and pushes John again, this time into Robin, who the Sheriff has snuck up behind. Gosh, I'm so sorry, this is going to be a nightmare to choreograph. John and Robin fall onto the Sheriff, who is also knocked out by this.)*

**Robin:** Okay, okay, you've defeated us. Let's not cause any more damage here - hey!

*(his attention has been caught by Godfrey, who, seeing his protection knocked out entirely accidentally, has tried to leg it across the stage. John blocks him)*

**John:** Ooh, we've flushed out a pretty little rabbit.

**Robin:** You again?! Haven't you found a new way home?

**Will:** You've got to know this wood belongs to the Merry Men!

**John:** Hey boss, if he's that stupid, I feel bad robbing him...

**Robin:** I don't! Come on boys!

*(They divest Godfrey of his bait-y riches)*

**Robin:** Please, next time you're out here. Bring more riches. And let us know you're coming? I'd hate to miss this.

*(They leave, tipping their hats at a forlorn Godfrey, who wanders off in a daze.)*

## SCENE 8 - MARIAN AT THE BOYS' CAMP

*(Marian enters, and seeing the campfire, inspects it.)*

**Marian:** Still warm. This must be their camp. I think I'll just take a quick look around.

*(Just then, Friar Tuck comes in, smoking his pipe again. Marian gasps and hides to one side of the stage. Then the boys arrive back to camp, carrying bags of loot, and Tuck hurriedly hides his pipe.)*

**Friar Tuck:** Oh, you're back! What have you got, then?

**Alan:** *(pulling things out of bags)* We've got gadgets and gizmos aplenty-

**Will:** Whoozits and whatsits galore-

**John:** You want a thingamabob?

**Tuck:** Ooh, yes, don't mind if I do! Another nincompoop noble?

**Robin:** The same.

**Tuck:** Hmm. They just seem to be getting stupider.

**Little John:** A good sign for the plan to take down the Sheriff, though, if average noble IQ seems to be falling?

**Robin:** Oh, I don't know. Maybe there isn't even any point in going after the Sheriff. It's not going to impress Marian, is it?

**Will:** Oh god, he's in one of those moods.

*(Much and Many approach from the opposite side of the stage to Marian)*

**Much:** Look, there they are - Robin Hood and his Merry Men!

**Many:** Wow! They don't seem very merry.

**Much:** No, they don't. Let's watch and see if they're as nice as I'm hoping!

**Robin:** ARGH!

**Little John:** Robin, is this about the girls again? The forest is big enough for the both of us...

**Robin:** No it's not! If I ever see a girl near this camp, I'll... I'll... Oh, it's useless!

*(Much and Many stare at each other in shock)*

**Many:** No girls?!

**Much:** Well, we'll just have to make our own way.

**Many:** No, you go. Go and see if you can talk them round. I'll wait here.

**Much:** I'll meet you at nightfall. Be safe, my love.

*(Many leaves, and Much approaches the camp)*

**Much:** Er, hello, chaps. Room for one more?

**Robin:** *(suspiciously)* You're not a girl, are you?

**Much:** No! I'm Much, the Miller's Son. Do you... do you not accept girls, then?

**Little John:** Watch out, lad, that's not a great question to ask right now.

**Much:** Sorry, sorry. I just wanted to know if I could join you? I've run away from home and I've always wanted to be like you.

**Robin:** That's sad. No one wants to be like me. No one likes me. Oh Marian!

**Will:** We won't get any sense out of him when he's like this.

**Alan:** Come on, Much, we'll show you round the camp, and maybe Robin will be a bit more legendary when we get back.

**Robin:** Sigh. Oh Marian. What have you done to me?

*(They all leave, except Robin. Marian comes a little closer, but watches from afar. If Robin can play the guitar a little, leave the guitar.)*

*SONG: The Marrying Kind*

*(Robin leaves, and Tuck returns to sneak up next to Marian)*

**Tuck:** I know you're there, by the way, Marian. None of my boys smell that pretty.

**Marian:** Why didn't you give me away?

**Tuck:** Why are you here? Spying on our plans?

**Marian:** No! I just... I just wanted to see him.

**Tuck:** Ah. Young love.

**Marian:** I'm not in love! *(she runs off, and Tuck chuckles. Chuck tuckles?)*

## SCENE 9 - EVIL PLOTS ENSUE

*(Back in the castle. The Prince, Sheriff and Guy are reconvening after the ambush - S & G are*

*rumpley and bruised).*

**Prince John:** He did WHAT?!

**Sheriff:** It was a stealth attack! Carefully planned and executed!

**Guy:** Er, yes. Totally planned.

**Prince John:** Damn it! Damn it damn it damn it! I want that boy dead, and I want that girl in my bed! Ooh, hey, that rhymes... Dead, bed, head - I'll have his head...

**Guy:** And her to wed, my liege?

**Prince John:** Ooh, yes, that's good. I like you, Guy, I like you very much. Good job on this one, Sherry.

**Sheriff:** Hmph.

**Prince John:** And this time, when Robin Hood is dead, there will be nothing stopping me from marrying Marian! Last time she never shut up about him, and how he was sure to rescue her, and so on, and so forth. This time it'll be different! *(begins to hum)*

*SONG: If Only Murder Weren't Illegal, Oh Well, Technically I'm The King (aka, The Evil Plot Song)*

## SCENE 10 - A CONTEST, A CONTEST, THERE'S GOING TO BE A CONTEST!

*(The woods again. Guy of Gisborne sneaks on with a big poster rolled up under his arm)*

**Guy:** *(Muttering angrily)* Kill Robin Hood, he says, like it's so easy. And I'm not sure that I like forcing anyone to marry anyone, even if they are royalty... And now this crazy plan... It'll never work. No one's that stupid, are they?

*(He hangs up the poster on a tree - or if the venue's wrong, we could get a sandwich board - then leaves. Soon the Merry Men come by)*

**Will:** So I said, that's not the only place my arrow's going, if you know what I mean! *(He looks round, expecting laughter)*

**Alan:** Will. That's disgusting. Grow up.

**Robin:** You know what, I'm feeling good about today!

**Little John:** Oh, what a change. Calloo callay.

**Robin:** Hush you - I've got a good feeling, and I'm not thinking about Marian, and it's going to be good. I've just got to get on with my life, and good things will come to me. *(he punches Will lightly in the shoulder)*

**Will:** I think this might be more annoying than the moping!

**Alan:** So we're allowed to say the 'M' word today?

**Robin:** Say what you like, my musical friend! It's like my mother always used to say: 'you have to love yourself, then love will come to you!'

**Much:** Aww, that's a nice saying. My mum never said anything like that. She used to say, 'there's no love that survives being put through a mill.'

**Robin:** *(blithely ignoring Much's oddity)* And we've got a new recruit! Things are looking up for the Merry Men!

**Little John:** Hey boss, look at this... There's going to be a contest!

**Robin:** A contest! I'm in!

**Alan:** You don't even know what it's a contest *for*, Robin.

**Robin:** Is it ballet?

**Little John:** No.

**Robin:** *(smugly)* Then I'm good.

**Will:** I don't know, Robin. This seems a little... shady. *(he turns the billboard to face the audience and begins to read dramatically)* Grand Archery Contest! Definitely different from last time. Not at all affiliated with Prince John or the Sheriff of Nottingham. To be held in Nottingham Castle. PS, Marian's going.

**Robin:** What a coincidence! If Marian's there... Well, we all know that contests bring out the impressive in me.

**Will:** And right here at the bottom, the pièce de resistance.... *(Alan does a drum roll)* Guaranteed not a trap!

**Robin:** Well that sounds great! Let's go! *(he rushes off, whooping)*

**Will:** It's like he doesn't even *hear* sarcasm.

**Alan:** I worry about that boy. One day he's going to get us into real trouble.

*(As they leave, following Robin, Guy sneaks back and sticks something on the poster. He leaves again and the Mighty Maids enter.)*

**Marian:** There's got to be something to do around here! The forest is so boring.

**Jack:** *(to Jill)* Without Robin to moon over, she means.

**Jill:** *(to Jack)* A lot less romantic living wild without someone dashing to brighten your days.



**Jack:** It's not like a lot of guys are going to be interested in a girl with leaves in her hair and no access to running water. Even I'm a mess.

**Jill:** Don't be silly. You look lovely... But I do miss baths.

**Ellen:** Oh, don't! I could just go for a lovely hot bath, all bubbly and smelling good and most importantly NOT A RIVER.

**Marian:** Hold up - what's that? Is someone following us?

*(Yes, they are. It's Many. Hello Many.)*

**Many:** Hi! Um, I'm Many, the Baker's Daughter. I'm sorry for following you.

**Jack:** Are you a spy?

**Many:** No!

**Jack:** It's fine if you are. I mean, we have a spy already *(Ellen waves)*. I just wanted to know.

**Many:** I'm not a spy! I'm just me. I was on my way to join the Merry Men with my true love, but I wasn't allowed to, because I'm a girl.

**Marian:** Those idiot boys! Well, we accept anyone.

**Jill:** Except boys.

**Marian:** Well, yes, except boys. So you can tag along with us if you like!

**Many:** Brilliant!

**Ellen:** Hey boss, what's that?

**Jack:** It's advertising a contest... Listen to this: Grand Archery Contest! Definitely different from last time. Not at all affiliated with Prince John or the Sheriff of Nottingham. To be held in Nottingham Castle. PS, free hot baths to all contestants. Definitely not a trap.

**Marian:** That sounds like a trap.

**Jill:** No, really? What gave it away?

**Marian:** Still, I think we should go. Come on! *(She starts to leave)*

**Jack:** Did you miss the part where it's a trap?

**Marian:** Yes, it's a trap. But a) it's a good opportunity to get into the castle and ambush the Sheriff, b) you're not telling me that Robin won't be all over this like a rash, and c) we can all have a bath.

**Ellen:** So you can kill the Sheriff and show Robin your independence, and we can pretend we don't

live in the forest?

**Marian:** Exactly. Let's go!

*(They rush off, and Godfrey saunters on, sees the sign, says 'interesting' and heads off to the castle. Party at the castle and everyone's invited!)*

## SCENE 11: THE ARCHERY CONTEST

*(Okay, hold onto your hats. This scene has EVERYONE in. It's going to be a wild ride.)*

*(Prince John and the Sheriff are sat on chairs to one side of the stage, facing the audience. Guy stands behind them looking menacing. The Merry Men are huddled together on the other side, and the Mighty Maids are huddled in the middle. They are all wearing cloaks. Godfrey is hanging out on his own. Anyone else is an audience member, and will sit around the actual audience (ooh, meta) to get them to whoop in appropriate places.)*

**Prince John:** *(standing)* Welcome, welcome all of you to this totally non-suspicious Grand Archery Contest. It's good to have you here. *(To Sheriff)* I wish they wouldn't bother with the whole disguise thing. Do they not know what we're here for?

**Robin:** *(to John)* I thought this *wasn't* affiliated with that slimy prick?

**John:** That was just you. Everyone else knew he was. That's why we made you wear the cloak.

**Robin:** Hm. Maybe I can work this to my advantage...

**Sheriff:** Contestants, are you ready? Your target is hung in that oak tree at the edge of the grounds. As the target is so far away, my associate, Guy of Gisborne, will stand by the target and let us know how the arrows score.

*(The contestants assemble: Robin, Will, Marian, Jill, and Godfrey. The others stand back, but do not reveal their faces - throughout this, they call support, and generally react to their team-mates' shots. Guy goes round the back of the audience.)*

**Sheriff:** Ready? Archer number one, you will fire on my first whistle! *(He whistles, Godfrey fires).*

**Guy:** Miss!

**Sheriff:** You're out. Go home. *(Godfrey leaves, looking sad)* Archer number two! Phwee! *(Jill does so).*

**Guy:** Third ring. Three points.

**Sheriff:** Archer number three! Phweee! *(Will fires)*

**Guy:** Three points also!

**Sheriff:** Archer number four! Phweee! (*Marian fires*)

**Guy:** Wow! Dead centre! Ten points!

*(The Mighty Maids cheer and whoop)*

**Prince John:** (*to Sheriff*) That must be Robin. Best archer here, plus look at the groupies.

**Sheriff:** And finally, archer number five! Phweee!

*(Robin starts to fire, then aims straight at the Prince and shoots. The arrow knocks off John's crown, then circles round and splits Marian's in two.)*

**Prince John:** My crown!

**Guy:** That's- that's amazing! He's split the other arrow in two! (*he returns, carrying the target, to show them*)

**Prince John:** Treason!

**Robin:** Noooo, not treason. Just a trick shot! Look, the audience loved it! (*the audience whoops*)

**Prince John:** (*falteringly at first, then getting more confident and oily*) Er, well. Um. Good show, I suppose. good show! I pronounce Archer Number Five the winner. Please step forward, and take off your hood, so that we may see the face of our winner. For a prize. Nothing suspicious at all...

**Robin:** Gladly!

*Robin doffs his hood and poses proudly.*

**Prince John:** (*gasp*) It's Robin Hood!

**Robin:** Well of course it is!

**Little John:** No, wait, I'm Robin Hood!

*(as each member of the gang says this, they doff their disguises and step forward, pushing the real Robin back and mixing themselves up. Have fun, directors!)*

**Alan:** No, I'm Robin Hood!

**Jack:** No, I'm Robin Hood!

**Will:** I'm Robin Hood!

**Ellen:** No, I'm Robin Hood!

**Jill:** It's me! I'm Robin Hood!

**Many:** I'm Robin Hood!

**Much:** Well then so am I! I'm Robin Hood!

**Guy:** Oh for f- you're *all* Robin Hood? What about you? (*rounding on Marian, who's still disguised*) Are you Robin Hood too?

**Marian:** (*in a very fake deep voice, pulling hood as far down as she can*) No, I'm just... I'm not anyone. I'm leaving. (*she does so*)

**Guy:** Oh, okay. That one wasn't Robin Hood, sir. These (*does a headcount*) nine are, though.

**Sheriff:** To the dungeon with them! To the dungeon! Take them all!

(*The guards drag off our heroes roughly. Robin pauses.*)

**Robin:** Wait, to the dungeon? I thought you were going to give me a prize!

(*Little John cuffs him round the head, and our heroes disappear in chains. Exeunt everyone else.*)

## END OF ACT ONE

### ACT TWO

#### SCENE ONE - DUNGEONS AND, WELL, MORE DUNGEONS

(*Figurative lights up on our heroes in a desperate condition, tied up in the dungeon. Merry Men are tied back to back in pairs Robin-Alan, John-Will, Mighty Maids tied up Jill-Jack, Ellen on her own. Everyone looks very despondent.*)

**Jill:** Maybe if we work together, we can get our hands free! John, Will, shuffle over here a second? Look if you (*motion motion*) do this, and we (*motion motion*) do this, we might just be able to- (*motion motion motion, much tangling and confusion and elbows.*)

**Jack:** Ow!

**Will:** Hold still, I just need to-

**Jill:** I don't even know how you're pulling my hair with your hands tied but STOP IT!

**John:** Heh. Good job you're the short one, eh, or I'd be getting an eyeful!

**Jack:** Shut up, or you'll be getting a crotchful. Of my foot. (*John looks confused*) As in, I'll kick you in the balls.

**Ellen:** (*calling over*) Maybe if you-?

**John:** Thanks, we've got it.

*(Everyone feel free to squabble for a bit, and Ellen to chip in 'encouragement' from the side - eventually they fall down, knotted up together worse than before.)*

**Jill:** Well, brilliant.

**Will:** This is way worse - now we're stuck to you too!

**Jack:** Teamwork sucks.

**John:** Girls are useless.

**Jack:** Say that again!

**John:** Girls are... useless?

*(Jack begins to try to pummel John despite being tied to him. During this, Robin has successfully found a knot and unpicked his and Alan's ropes, and is casually watching the struggle)*

**Robin:** *(Nonchalantly)* I don't suppose anyone would like a hand to get free?

**John:** Yes! Yes! Pick me! Please! Help!

**Robin:** Here I come, saving the day again... *(He frees everyone, and they rush to the door)*

**Will:** Can you get us out?

**John:** Yeah, Robin, can you pick the lock?

**Alan:** Are you picking the lock?

**Robin:** Bear with me... Bear with me... Ooh - yes - I think - no, I can't do it. Damn, I knew I should have put more points into lock picking.

**Jill:** Brilliant, just brilliant. We get locked up with the famous Robin Hood, and he's utterly useless.

**Robin:** Hey! I did get you all untied, remember that?

**Ellen:** To be fair, he did do that.

**Alan:** And where's your precious Marian, anyway? I notice she snuck away like a coward!

**Jack:** You take that back! She didn't get herself captured so she could come and rescue us!

**Jill:** Yeah! She'll be here any second.

**Will:** Oh, great. We'll just sit here like ninnies and wait then, shall we?

**Jill:** *(Muttering)* Maybe you sit like a ninny...

*(Alan jiggles around a lot and pulls out a ukelele (or other small instrument depending on what's available/what Alan can actually play))*

**Alan:** How about a tune to pass the time?

**Robin:** Do I *want* to know where you hid that?

**Alan:** *Always* have a back up instrument.

*SONG: It's Not 'Not in Nottingham'.*

**Ellen:** Oh, Alan.

**Alan:** I'd forgotten how good it was to have you to sing with.

**Ellen:** Hey, it was you who ran away!

**Alan:** I thought... Because I thought you were bored of me. Why else would you be hanging around, spying on nobles instead of playing with me (cough) playing music with me?

**Ellen:** You mean apart from the chance to get wined and dined like a noble? To earn money, you fool!

**Alan:** But we earned money from our music!

**Ellen:** Yes, but – oh, fine. I was saving up a dowry, okay? I was saving so we could get married!

**Alan:** Ellen, I-

*(The noise of someone approaching...)*

**Will:** Sh, someone's coming!

**Prisoner:** Ooh, it's been a long time since I've heard music.

*(Everybody screams and freaks out as a raggedy old prisoner comes near)*

**Much:** Ah! A ghost!

**Prisoner:** A ghost? Ha, ha, ha, boy, I'm no ghost. Skin and bones, yes, but as real as you.

**Robin:** Then who are you?

**Prisoner:** My name... is Richard.

**Jill:** Gasp! Not-?

**Jack:** *King* Richard?

**Ellen:** Richard the King of all the land?

**Many:** Imprisoned in the dungeon by the evil Prince John?

**Will:** My lord.

*(All take a knee and bow to the raggedy old prisoner)*

**Prisoner:** Er... Yeah. Sure. That's me!

**Little John:** *(To Robin)* Um, are we sure about this? I mean, we have absolutely no idea if this guy is telling the truth...

**Robin:** True. But he might be the king, or he might be mad. I don't really want to find out which.

**Prisoner:** Ah, my loyal subjects, you are here to rescue me! If you free me from my chains, I will lead you to freedom!

**Robin:** Metaphorically?

**Prisoner:** No! I've made a tunnel! I think it leads outside!

**Jack:** Brilliant!

**Little John:** I thought you wanted to wait for Marian?

**Jack:** Nope, out of the dungeon is good.

**Jill:** Let's go!

**Prisoner:** Then follow me...

*(They all leave, following raggedy dude)*

## SCENE TWO - MARIAN'S RESCUE ATTEMPT

*(Enter Marian (woof) looking all sneaky, with ropes, etc. The Sheriff, unbeknownst to her, is hiding somewhere at the edge of the stage - can we knock up a door for him to hide behind? Marian knocks on various doors)*

**Marian:** *(In a LOUD whisper)* Psst - Robin, are you there? Jill? Jack? Anyone?

**Sheriff:** Marian, is that you?

**Marian:** Robin? *(Rushes over)* Oh Robin, are you safe?

**Sheriff:** Well, I'm in a dungeon. But I'm alive, so that's a bonus. Can you get the door open?

**Marian:** Already on it. This is brilliant! I'm rescuing you this time!

*(she picks the lock, and just before the door swings open...)*

**Marian:** Oh Robin!

**Sheriff:** I'm afraid not... Come with me!

*(He slings her into a fireman's lift and carries her off, screaming. She's screaming. It would be odd if he were screaming.)*

### SCENE THREE - THE SUMMER DUNGEON

*(Enter a long line of prisoners, led by 'King Richard', who get fed up and flop when they get on stage.)*

**Alan:** Oh, well this is just brilliant. Freedom, you said, and we've just ended up in another dungeon!

**Prisoner:** This one's a bit nicer, at least?

**Little John:** I knew we shouldn't have trusted you!

**Prisoner:** Fine! I'll go back to the old dungeon then! *(he does)*

**Will:** King Richard, no!

**Little John:** *(clapping him on the shoulder)* Lad, that's not the king.

**Will:** He's not?

**Jack:** Quiet down, everyone! Someone's coming!

*(And indeed they are – it's Prince John!)*

**Robin:** Pretend you're still tied up!

**Prince John:** How on earth did you get here? I'm sure I left you all in the winter dungeon, and I've been looking everywhere, and here I find you in the summer dungeon!

**Alan:** You have a *summer* dungeon?

**Prince John:** Yes! The fun-geon, I call it. It's much nicer! South-facing, lovely views...

**Ellen:** There's no window.

**Prince John:** It's still south-facing... So are you enjoying your little tour of my dungeons?

**Robin:** Not really.



**Prince John:** GOOD. I just wanted to come by, and see if any of you fancied confessing to being Robin Hood?

**Little John:** Ro-bin Hoo-d? Who's that? I'm Jim.

**Will:** I'm Steve.

**Jack:** Amanda.

**Ellen:** Emily.

**Alan:** James.

**Jill:** Sarah.

**Much:** Mu...Martin.

**Many:** Er.. Nigel.

**Robin:** I'm Ro-

**Jill:** *(Placing a hand over Robin's treacherous mouth)* Dave. He's Dave.

*(Muffled noises from ~~Dave~~Robin).*

**Prince John:** Sigh. Well, never mind. I was just going to say, if there were any Robins Hood in here, that I'll let all your friends go free if you submit to me, and bring me back my wife.

**Robin:** MPHEE'S MPHNOT MPHOUR MPHIFE!

**Jill:** Yeah, she's not your wife! Marian is her own woman.

**Prince John:** Oh, and how would you know that? *(pause)* Ah, never mind. I'll leave you with the rats, and maybe they'll help bring you around to my way of thinking... Ta ta! *(Leaning in close to Robin)* Bye, Dave. *(he leaves)*

**Robin:** *(bursting out of Jill's grip)* I'm not Dave!

**Little John:** Look, let's just sit down, relax, and wait for Marian. I'm sure she's on her way now.

*(The sheriff bursts in, still carrying Marian. He puts her down by Prince John)*

**Sheriff:** *(In the most over the top, campy voice)* Did somebody say "Marian's on her way"?

*(gasps all around! Prince John bursts back into the room too.)*

**Robin:** Marian! No!

**Marian:** Robin! Girls! I'm so sorry!

**Jack:** What happened?

**Marian:** I was looking for you, but-

**Sheriff:** She found me. Your Majesty, I present Lady Marian for your marrying pleasure.

**Prince John:** Excellent. Stick with me, girl, and you'll have anything you want!

**Marian:** My freedom?

**Prince John:** Of course! You'll be free to roam the castle, to spend your days in luxury, and to do as you please - within reason.

**Marian:** And if what I please is not to marry you?

**Prince John:** Ah. No, then. That bit's non-negotiable.

**Marian:** Figures. But other things I want are fine? Good. Then I will marry you (*John claps and jumps for joy a little*) BUT I want you to free my friends.

**Robin:** Marian! No!

**Prince John:** Done.

**Sheriff:** But your Majesty, surely it's more important to have these thieves and outlaws hanged!

**Prince John:** More important? More important than my wife?

**Sheriff:** Right, yes, shutting up.

**Prince John:** Untie them these-oh. You're already untied? My, my, I really will have to talk to my security team! Anyway, off you go. Go on. (*He herds them off the stage with a shoo-ing motion*)

**Marian:** (*Loudly*) So, Prince John-

**Prince John:** Johnny, please.

**Marian:** (*Still loudly*) Ugh, Johnny. Which tower will I have for my bedroom?

**Prince John:** Oh, well, the West Tower, if you like?

**Marian:** (*even louder*) Sounds great. THE WEST TOWER. That's where people could find me, visitors and so on. IN THE WEST TOWER.

**Prince John:** Ooh, well don't you sound excited? :)

(*everyone continues leaving*)

## SCENE FOUR - THE WORST THING EVER

*(Maid Marian is in her tower room, searching through a box of things)*

**Marian:** Argh! Why don't normal ladies hide rope and knives in their jewellery boxes! It's just not practical!

*(Miriam bustles in)*

**Miriam:** Knock knock! Marian dear, it's your mother!

**Marian:** Mother? What are you doing here?

**Miriam:** Why, I'm here for your wedding of course! I can't let my little girl get married without me!

**Marian:** It's not like it's the day of my dreams!

**Miriam:** Oh, now don't be dramatic! It will be lovely! Dear Johnny's pulling out all the stops, there'll be goose, there'll be champagne, there'll be a never-ending stream of beautiful young knights dying to get in with royalty - which you'll be! And I'll be!

**Marian:** How will you be royalty?

**Miriam:** I'm related to the bride, darling... So I'll be related to the princess!

**Marian:** You'll be *Mother* of the Bride, Mother. I doubt the knights will be falling over themselves to sweep the "Mother of the Bride" off her feet.

**Miriam:** Well, I'll just ask them not to say that bit too loudly. I could pass for your sister, don't you think? With a bit of make up.... Mary Ann, come in here please!

*(Enter Mary Ann)*

**Marian:** I'm already here!

**Miriam:** How, then, do you reckon the chances that I'm referring to you? This is Mary Ann, your new maid.

**Marian:** I don't need a maid!

**Miriam:** Oh yes you do - look at those twigs in your hair, the mud on your face! Sit down here and let Mary Ann clean you up.

*(She pushes Marian into a chair and Mary Ann begins to brush her hair)*

**Mary Ann:** Begging your pardon, miss, but how did you get so much stuff in your hair?

**Marian:** That's what happens when you live in the woods, my girl. You don't really think about primping and preening when you're out there, *(wistfully)* living the free life, wind in your hair and trusty companions by your side...

**Mary Ann:** Wow! Living in the woods sounds brilliant!

**Miriam:** Oh, don't encourage her. You're very lucky Prince John was willing to take you back, Marian, you know, after you pulled a stunt like that at your last wedding.

**Marian:** Lucky! Lucky?! I was lucky to get out of it, and I would have been lucky to stay out of it! I'm only doing this to save R- save some friends.

**Miriam:** Oho, there's a young fellow involved, is there? Well, well, well, that explains the odd behaviour.

**Marian:** Mother, you've thought I was behaving oddly since I first spoke.

**Miriam:** Well, really! What kind of a first word is 'arrow'? Mary Ann, get Marian dressed in something suitable to see the prince. *(She does so)*

**Marian:** And there's no young man! I escaped for myself!

**Miriam:** It's all right, darling, I can see you're a girl after my own heart after all. You don't have to give this fellow up just because you're married, although of course you'll have to be discreet. Before your father died I had several flings with the gardener, the ostler, a steward or two...

**Marian:** LALALALA I don't want to hear this!

**Mary Ann:** There now miss, don't you look pretty. *(shows her a mirror)*

**Marian:** I suppose so. It is nice to wear a dress again...

**Miriam:** Now, the Prince is on his way up to visit you-

**Marian:** What?

**Miriam:** -so you sit there, look pretty, and play nice, okay. Okay, ta-ta!

*(Enter Prince John - ooh, dirty. Miriam and Mary Ann slip out. Miriam can be a bit winky)*

**Prince John:** Good morning, my darling! Did you sleep well?

**Marian:** It's not exactly the forest floor.

**Prince John:** Is that a good thing? Well, I assume so! Anyway, you should see my bed. That's where you'll be sleeping soon.

**Marian:** Lovely.

**Prince John:** No, I meant you should come see it now!

**Marian:** I'm okay here, thanks.

**Prince John:** Now Marian, darling, I'm sensing a bit of an attitude here. You wouldn't be thinking about going back on our plans, would you? Because then I'd have to get all your little friends back here, sling them in the dungeon, and then EXECUTE THEM.

**Marian:** No attitude, I swear.

**Prince John:** Tell me how much you're looking forward to marrying me, Marian...

*SONG: Marry Me Marian*

## SCENE FIVE - PUT MORE SKILL POINTS INTO SNEAKING, DAMNIT

*(The Mighty Maids, minus Marian, are huddled together on one side of the stage. Two guards stand*

*on the other side.)*

**Jill:** Okay, I have the perfect plan. I'll pretend to be a nun, and beg for alms from the lady of the castle - that's Marian - and when I see her, I'll secretly slip her a knife which I've got stashed under my costume. Then she can kill everyone in the castle.

**Ellen:** With a single knife?

**Sister Nip:** Ooh, I have the costume! I mean, I- I am a nun.

**Jill:** Well, that's brilliant then. I'll wear your habit and sneak in!

**Sister Nip:** Oh no. I couldn't do that. It's... It's the law. Nuns can't take off their clothes.

**Jack:** I've never heard that before.

**Many:** How do they wash?

**Sister Nip:** I'm a special kind of nun, you see, there's rules, and, and, I am forbidden from removing my habit or, or, eating radishes, and reading poetry, and, and, wearing underwear!

*(Strange looks all round.)*

**Sister Nip:** Er, why don't I just go? I could do the knife-slipping thing instead.

**Jill:** Oh, fine. Here's the knife, then.

*(They all sneak off and head over to the guards, everyone except Nip hanging back. Sister Nip puts on a strange falsetto voice and approaches the doors..)*

**Sister Nip:** Why, good day to you, sirs. I come to beg alms.

**Guard Ian:** Arms? You look like you have both arms.

**Sister Nip:** Alms, sir, alms. Alms for the poor. Can you bring the lady of the castle to see me?

**Guard Ian:** Nope.

**Sister Nip:** But I'm a poor nun!

**Guard Ian:** And I'm a Shinto Buddhist.

**Sister Nip:** Hmph. Do you know who you're speaking to, lad?

**Guard Ian:** A nun?

**Sister Nip:** No- er, nun, yes, a nun. Well, take this!

*(She proceeds to kick Guard Ed in the shin.)*

**Sister Nip:** Now will you fetch Lady Marian for me?

**Guard Ian:** No, you crazy old bat! Get away before I chase you out of here!

*(Sister Nip flounces back to the group)*

**Sister Nip:** Well, that was a terrible plan.

**Jill:** Oh sure, blame the plan. And not the fact you kicked him.

**Ellen:** Hey, look, it's Robin and John!

*(And indeed, there they are, sneaking on towards the guards. Robin shoots the girls a 'sh' sign, and they carry on sneaking)*

**Robin:** Good day to you, my good men.

**Guard Ian:** Not a great day, really.

**Robin:** Oh dear, I'm so sorry to hear that...

**Little John:** Tell us all about it.

**Guard Ian:** Some crazy witch kicked me in the leg!

**Robin:** Oh dear, that does sound bad.

**Little John:** You poor man.

**Robin:** I mean, if she was a witch, she might have cursed your leg!

**Guard Ian:** Oh no!

**Robin:** Oh yes! Why don't you let me look at it?

*(Guard Ed holds out his leg, and Robin tuts over it)*

**Robin:** Oh dear, very bad. Haunted, wouldn't you say?

**John:** Yes, haunted, definitely. Have to get some lady's tears on that before it goes nasty.

**Guard Ian:** Lady's tears? What's that?

**Robin:** You know, tears of a lady. Got any ladies in there, by the way?

**Guard Ian:** Uh, yeah, actually. Got one. She does a lot of weeping, that one.

**Little John:** Oh, really? Brilliant. Off you pop and get her then.

*(Guard Ian disappears off.)*

**Robin:** *(To Ian)* Now you just sit down here, and... *(loudly)* Men? In we go!

*(On - and off again- run the rest of the Merry Men. From somewhere hidden comes the sound of much fighting. Will runs back on)*

**Will:** There's like forty guys in there! We have to retreat!

**Robin:** Oh blow. Merry Men, retreat!

*(Everyone runs back off across stage and off again. The Mighty Maids look on astounded.)*

**Jill:** That very nearly worked! If they'd had a bit more of a distraction...

*(Much runs on and grabs Many's hand, pulling her over to the guards.)*

**Much:** Hi, can't stop, sorry, come on Many, I have an idea! Just play along!

**Many:** Okay!

*(They approach the guards)*

**Much:** Hi! We're a young couple!

**Many:** We're in love!

**Much:** My father disapproves of our relationship, but we just want somewhere to spend a bit of time together...

**Many:** Is there a room in there?

**Much:** Or a coat cupboard?

**Guard Ian:** Well, I'm not supposed to let anyone in... But I suppose it's okay. Go on then - up the stairs and to the right.

*(They go off stage)*

**Jack:** What in the world?

**Jill:** Who was that boy?

**Ellen:** Who does he think he is, grabbing Many like that?

**Jack:** They got inside the castle, though. That's pretty impressive.

**Jill:** I don't hear fighting or anything...

**Ellen:** Look, they're coming back!

*(Back they come)*

**Jack:** What's going on? Have you been hiding something from us, Many?

**Many:** Yes. I didn't want you to kick me out! This is Much, the Miller's Son. He's my betrothed.

**Much:** Well, neither you or us had much luck sneaking in, so I thought I might try a bit of a quieter approach.

**Many:** We got up to see Marian!

**Jill:** What?

**Jack:** Is she okay?

**Much:** She's fine, a bit frustrated. She's got her mum with her.

**Ellen:** Poor thing! Her mother is a bit...

**Much:** But we couldn't get her out, and she didn't have a message to pass on...

**Many:** I offered her my knife but she said she was fine.

**Jack:** So we're back to where we started. No luck.

**Ellen:** Yes, but are you thinking what I'm thinking?

**Sister Nip:** Come back with swords?

**Ellen:** No! I'm thinking, if we very nearly got in, and the Merry Men very nearly got in...

**Many:** And Much and I got in, but couldn't do anything...

**Much:** Anything useful...

**Jack:** Sigh. We need to work together, don't we?

**Sister Nip:** Looks like.

**Jill:** Come on then, Much-lad, show us the way to Robin's camp...

*(Exeunt)*

## SCENE SIX - WHY CAN'T BAD GUYS SHOOT STRAIGHT?

*(Guard Ian is standing in front of the three bad guys, looking intimidated.)*

**Sheriff:** So tell me again how you managed to let the Merry Men into, and then out of, the castle?

**Guard Ian:** They're mighty sneaky, sir.



**Guy:** They are quite sneaky.

**Sheriff:** I know they're sneaky, they're outlaws, for God's sake!

**Prince John:** Do you think we need some kind of training, Sherry? 'How to spot an outlaw'?

**Guy:** I know this! They're the ones with hats!

**Prince John:** Very good!

**Sheriff:** *I wear a hat.*

**Prince John:** Right, yes. So you do. Write that down then. 'Outlaws sometimes wear hats.' Anything else you've spotted, Guy?

**Guy:** Well, they call themselves 'the Merry Men' - so they're men. Except the ones that are girls.

**Prince John:** Good, good. 'Could be men or women.'

**Guard Ian:** Ooh, I've got one - they're very tall! And one of them's a nun!

**Prince John:** It's all valuable stuff. Sherry, write that down - 'tall, with religious affiliation'.

**Guy:** But some of them are quite short. And some of them aren't nuns.

**Prince John:** Right. 'Possibly tall, or not, with possible religious affiliation', then.

**Guy:** Oh, and every time I've seen them, they've been wearing tights.

**Sheriff:** *(pause, and look around meaningfully)* We are *all* wearing tights.

**Prince John:** Put it in anyway, it might be useful. What have we got so far, then, Sherry?

**Sheriff:** Well sire, we're looking for a man *or* a woman, either tall or short, who may or may not be wearing a hat and/or tights, and may or may not be a member of the church. Well, that should be just about everyone in the court.

**Prince John:** That should do it - we can pass it out to all the guards so they know who to stop coming into the castle.

**Sheriff:** It's going to be a lonely couple of months.

**Prince John:** Good, that's sorted out then. Off you pop, Guard. Back to duty. Keep an eye out for outlaws. Guy, go and get this copied out by the castle scribes, and then disseminate it to the guards.

*(Exit Guard and Guy)*

**Prince John:** Who's my next appointment, Sherry?

**Sheriff:** That odd little nobleman who got attacked by Robin's gang a few weeks back...

*(Enter Godfrey.)*

**Godfrey:** *(shouting off behind him)* I'm not a bloody outlaw!

**Guard Ian:** *(From off)* Come back and take those tights off then!

**Prince John:** Sir Godfrey, welcome. What can we do for you?

**Sheriff:** He's here so we can discuss the next attempt to capture Robin Hood. We're going to dress him up as a rich noblewoman, sit him on a fancy horse, and send him into their camp to ask for help. They'll either rob him, or they'll get a bit more violent, and then we'll have a reason to barge in there and arrest them!

**Godfrey:** NO! That's it! I've got a complaint.

**Sheriff:** Oh dear me. Tell you what, why don't you write it down, put it in an envelope, tear it in half, throw it away, and shut your face.

**Prince John:** Sherry! That's not nice. Besides, the poor man's probably illiterate. Literacy rates are woefully low, you know.

**Godfrey:** I will not shut my face! You have done nothing but make fun of me since I came to you, begging for help after I'd been robbed. You mock me, you use me as bait, you put my life at risk, all so you can catch Robin Hood - except you've failed! You won't catch him, and you certainly won't get me killed while you're trying!

**Prince John:** Right, that's it! Insubordination! You're fired!

**Sheriff:** Er, sire, we never hired him.

**Godfrey:** You can't fire me! I quit! I'm finished being everybody's... butt-monkey! Maybe I should go and join the outlaws, they seem to be doing okay!

*(Prince John and Sheriff start laughing very hard)*

**Prince John:** Join the outlaws! Ha!

**Sheriff:** Have fun!

**Godfrey:** You know what, I will!

*(He flounces off. Sheriff and John continue to laugh while they take themselves off stage.)*

## SCENE SEVEN - WORKING TOGETHER

*(Health and safety warning - large sticks abound (woof). The Merry Men are standing in pairs, training with sticks - Robin and John, Will and Alan. Friar Tuck is pacing up and down, barking*

orders.)

**Tuck:** High! (*The boys strike high*) Middle! (*strike*) Low! (*strike*) Again! (*Tuck keeps calling out directions*)

**Robin:** Oh my god, Tuck, we've been doing this for hours!

**Little John:** Can we please take a break?

**Tuck:** And get beaten by the girls?

**Will:** At this point, that's looking quite good!

**Alan:** Ow! Watch it - you hit my finger!

**Tuck:** Aww, diddums. Get over it and get back to work!

**Alan:** I need my fingers to play, idiot! And what are we going to do for money if I can't play?

**Robin:** Oh come on, Alan, you know that I make most of the money around here. You know, robbing people? That thing that I do?

**Will:** I resent that!

**Alan:** That's not fair, Robin! John, tell him!

**Little John:** Robin, we're a team. It's not just you.

**Robin:** Yeah, but it's mostly me, isn't it? I mean, no one is afraid of 'the Merry Men'. That sounds quite delightful! It's 'Robin Hood', that's the name that stirs you up and strikes fear into your heart!

**Little John:** The name's pretty useful, sure, but you wouldn't be able to do it alone. Any more than one opponent and you'd be stuffed.

**Alan:** That's why we work together.

**Will:** Yeah, you're not going to rescue Marian all on your own.

**Robin:** I might!

**Little John:** Snort, I'd like to see that.

**Robin:** Fine! I'm going to go and practice on my own. (*he flounces off and starts swinging his stick at thin air WAY stage left. Don't hurt anyone!*)

**Will:** You've got to talk to him, John. You're his best friend, he'll listen to you.

**Alan:** I know Robin's in a bad place, but I for one am completely sick of putting up with his narcissistic, me-me-me rants.

**Will:** I think your songs have gone to his head, Alan. He really believes he's legendary.

**Little John:** Trouble is, I think that's what's helping him get over Marian. Haven't you seen how much happier he's been, since he's started believing he's a legend again?

**Alan:** Well, I suppose so...

**Little John:** I think we need to help him. I was a bit harsh back there.

**Will:** But if he doesn't want our help?

**Little John:** We just have to make him think he's helping us. Once this whole Marian thing's blown over, we can work on the narcissism.

*(Enter Much, at a bit of a run)*

**Alan:** Much, lad, where have you been?

**Much:** Nowhere! Umm, John, I've got a sort of hypocritical question.

**Little John:** Have you indeed?

**Much:** Umm, well, suppose something had happened, and the girls showed up here...

**Alan:** The girls? Marian's girls?

**Much:** Yes, suppose they showed up here and they wanted to join our gang...

*(In run the girls)*

**Jack:** Oi, Much, we don't want to 'join your gang'! We're not interested in subordinating ourselves to that idiot Robin.

**Jill:** We want to join *forces*. Two gangs together.

**Will:** What? Why?

**Jack:** We saw your attempt to rescue Marian today. It was pretty good.

**Ellen:** Not quite good enough, though. You need to forward plan more.

**Nip:** And we did all the planning, but not enough follow-through.

**Many:** So if we join up together-

**Jack:** Pool our resources, as it were-

**Ellen:** We might just have a chance.

**Little John:** I see what you're saying. But no thanks.

**Alan:** This is a Merry Men thing.

**Jack:** How?! You want to rescue Marian, right?

**Will:** Yeah.

**Jack:** And so do we. Work together, voila, one Marian rescued. Then we go our separate ways and you never bother us again.

*(Tuck comes over)*

**Tuck:** Well, hello, ladies. I'm assuming you're the Mighty Maids?

**Jill:** Yep, that's us.

**Tuck:** And who's this fine figure of a nun?

**Sister Nip:** I'm Sister Nip.

**Many:** She's not allowed to wear underwear!

**Sister Nip:** Hush!

**Tuck:** Ah, Nunquam Ubi Sub Ubi, as they say.

**Sister Nip:** Er, um, yes. Yes, exactly.

**Tuck:** What's a lovely lady like you doing out here dropping in on us boys?

**Sister Nip:** We're here to propose a truce - to work together to rescue Marian. You don't seem too interested though, so...

**Tuck:** Wait! I'm interested - I mean, we're interested. You know what they say... Clergy-er-people should stick together.

**Nip:** Do they say that? I rather thought the whole monks live in one place, nuns in another meant that men and women of the church were supposed to stay apart.

**Tuck:** Well, yes. But I'm liberal like that. I see no reason not to do a bit of... mingling, if you know what I mean.

**Nip:** That's exactly what I'm saying! This whole gender separation thing is spreading their skills too thin! They need to get together

**Tuck:** That's not quite what I meant.

**Nip:** What did you mean?

**Tuck:** That you and I should do a little... bonding.

**Nip:** Oh, to encourage the others to get to know each other! Good idea! Why don't we take some time to discuss our strategy tonight? And in the meantime, we can practise! En garde! *(She grabs her stick and gets ready to fight)*

**Tuck:** Sigh, that's *really* not what I meant.

**Nip:** Ah, strategy now? Good plan. Let's go and put a couple of challenges together for that lot - I'm sure we can teach them to work together!

*(Off they go)*

## SCENE EIGHT: JOHN'S GETTING MARRIED IN THE MORNING

*(Prince John is standing in front of a mirror held up by Guy. The Sheriff is standing behind him, holding up two fancy doublets)*

**Prince John:** Sigh, I'm just so worried, Sherry, you know? I just know Robin Hood's going to show up and ruin my wedding day. Again...

**Sheriff:** Don't worry, my lord. I've got guards stationed all around the castle. Guy here will escort Lady Marian every step of the way, til she's at the altar, and then, well, you can just hurry through the vow bit.

**Prince John:** And what will you be doing?

**Sheriff:** I'll.. be around... somewhere.... I expect....

**Prince John:** No, you will not! I need you by my side, Sherry.

**Sheriff:** *(awestruck)* Sire, I- what an honour-

**Prince John:** In case Robin attacks, I mean. Hmm, now who should I ask to be my best man?

**Sheriff:** *(visibly deflating)* I- I'm sure I don't know, my lord. Now, the blue doublet, or the gold?

*(Colours of the doublets dependant on what we can find in the wardrobe!)*

**Prince John:** Ooh, I don't know. I do look good in blue. What do you think Marian will like? Guy?

**Guy:** You do look nice in blue, sire. The gold might be a bit more... fancy, though?

**Sheriff:** The blue is a perfectly smart option.

**Guy:** Not that it'll matter. I think she prefers green.

**Prince John:** WHAT DID YOU SAY??

**Guy:** Er, just that she seems to wear a lot of green?

**Sheriff:** I'm sure that all he meant was that green is Marian's favourite colour. He wasn't referring to R... *(Prince glares at him)* anything else.

**Prince John:** He'd better not have been. *(to Guy)* You'd better not have been. I think the gold. Unless-?

**Sheriff:** The gold will be perfect, sire. *(helps him into it)* Now, then. Are you all set?

**Prince John:** Are you all sure the castle's safe? *(Sheriff nods)* Then yes. I'm looking good, I'm feeling fine, and tonight's the night I make Marian mine!

**Sheriff:** *(to himself)* Oh god, please not another song. I don't have nearly enough time to get the backing dancers up here...

**Prince John:** Fine, fine. No more songs! But tonight, when I've got Marian wed and back to my bedroom - that's the time. I'm going to keep her up all night.

**Guy:** Singing songs?

**Prince John:** *(as dry as you can)* Yes, Guy, we're going to sit in bed and sing songs.

**Guy:** Huh. Rich people are weird. I'd just fu-

**Sheriff:** *(pulling Prince John away from the mirror)* Fun, fun! Won't you two just have so much fun!

**Prince John:** I should hope so! Two years I've been waiting to marry this girl. It had better be worthwhile. Ooh, is it time for my sponge bath?

**Sheriff:** No, sire, you just had a bath before you got dressed.

**Prince John:** Well, I want another one! Honestly, Sherry, it's not every day you get married... Guy, fetch my duck.

*(Off they go)*

## SCENE NINE - WORKING TOGETHER

*(Nip and Tuck come on and stand centre stage, then Nip blows a whistle. In run the rest of the outlaws, and they line up, Men on one side, Maids on the other)*

**Sister Nip:** All right you 'orrible lot, it's time to get working together!

*(Mutters from both sides, no real enthusiasm)*

**Friar Tuck:** Don't be like that - do you want to rescue Marian or not?

**Jack:** That's why we're here, isn't it?

**Little John:** Oh, what, because you couldn't do it yourselves?

**Jill:** Hey, you take that ba-

**Friar Tuck:** Look, it's obvious tensions are high between you, but stop and look at the situation, would you? You've each got skills the others don't, so why not make use of them?

**Robin:** This is ridiculous, Tuck, we can do anything the girls can do? Can't we, lads? ...Can't we?

**Sister Nip:** Well then, let's do a little test. We are standing on one of the main roads to the castle. The first nobleman that comes along, you Merry Men are going to rob him (*general noises of enthusiasm*) BUT! I want you to do it sneakily.

**Friar Tuck:** Yeah, you're not going to be able to storm the castle all arrows blazing in the middle of a wedding. You're going to need subterfuge!

**Robin:** Subterfuge is my middle name!

**Little John:** Is it? I thought it was 'of Loxley'?

**Will:** And yesterday it was 'Bravery'.

**Alan:** And the day before that, it was 'I-Don't-Need-Marian-Just-You-Wait-And-See'

**Robin:** Well, today, it's Subterfuge! Look, there's a nobleman coming now - let's get him.

*(Enter Sir Cameo, a nobleman. The boys attempt to sneak up on him, as in the first scene. They leap on him)*

**Will:** Stand and deliver!

**Little John:** Shh!

**Sister Nip:** No, no, no, no, NO! Loud, arrogant, foolish boys. Now everyone in the castle is awake, and coming to kill you. Try it again. *(To Sir Cameo)* You, go back off and come in again.

**Sir Cameo:** What? I'm not-

**Sister Nip:** GO OFF AND COME IN AGAIN!

*(Sir Cameo looks terrified and goes meekly off, then comes in again. The MM sneak up on him, and then leap out again.)*

**Will:** *(In a whisper)* Stand and deliver!

**Sir Cameo:** I have no idea what's going on.



**Robin:** *(clapping him on the back)* Well, it's like this, you see. I'm Robin Hood, and these are my Merry Men-

**Sister Nip:** WRONG!

**Friar Tuck:** You tell a single guard you're Robin Hood, and you're toast! Crunchy, burny, crispy toast.

**Little John:** Sigh. I suppose we do it again, then?

**Sister Nip:** No. The girls will show you how it's done. *(To Sir Cameo)* Once more, with feeling. Go on, get. *(she shoos him off)*

**Jack:** All right! Girls, Tactic 37.

*(In Sir Cameo comes again, and is instantly beset by the girls simpering and fluttering their eyelashes)*

**Jill:** Oh, good sir, could you help us please?

**Jack:** We were out gathering may for the wedding and when we turned around, we were lost!

**Ellen:** It's so foresty out here...

**Many:** And we're scared!

**Jack:** Please, noble knight-

**Jill:** Handsome knight-

**Jack:** Will you escort us back to the castle?

**All:** Pleeeease?

**Sir Cameo:** Hmph, er, yes, I mean, I can't leave ladies out here in the woods. Come along now, girls, I'll see you safely home.

**Sister Nip:** Perfect, perfect, you clever things. You can get inside the castle unnoticed if you pretend to be what they want to see.

**Jack:** *(with a shrug)* It's disgustingly sexist, but it does work.

**Robin:** But that's - that's not fair! They know how to be great ladies, they've lived like that.

**Little John:** We never grew up in a castle!

**Sister Nip:** That's not the point! The Mighty Maids are hardly simpering ladies-in-waiting in real life, are they?

**Alan:** I suppose not.

**Jill:** It's just about watching the nobility, seeing how they act.

**Jack:** And how they expect you to act.

**Robin:** Fine. Where's that nobleman got to? *(In a silly voice)* Good golly gosh, I'm going to knock his blocks off!

**Sister Nip:** I think we've had enough of that. My good sir, you may leave.

**Friar Tuck:** Might I suggest you run?

*(Exit Sir Cameo.)*

**Little John:** But if the girls are so much better at this, then why do they need our help?

**Jack:** We're not as experienced as you. We're not trained.

**Jill:** Sister Nip's been doing her best, but embroidery lessons don't give you muscles.

**Alan:** Oh, so we're just supposed to be your bodyguards then? No thanks.

**Ellen:** No, you're supposed to help us! It'll take more than six of us to take down all the Prince's guards.

**Sister Nip:** Someone's coming - now's your opportunity to work together. Boys, follow Jack's lead.

*(Enter Sir Godfrey from the castle. Robin and the Men throw their cloaks on and attempt to look lady-like)*

**Jack:** Why good morning, sir.

**Godfrey:** Sorry, I'm a bit busy.

**Jill:** Please, sir, we need your aid!

**Godfrey:** I can't stop, sorry, somewhere to be.

**Robin:** We are ladies of the castle, locked out by accident.

*(At this Godfrey turns, looks Robin up and down and pauses)*

**Godfrey:** You're no lady... Wait! *(Snatches Robin's hood off)* You're Robin Hood!

**Robin:** How did you know?!

**Little John:** Look, Robin, it's that idiot we keep robbing!

**Godfrey:** I'm not an idiot! *(pulls out sword and points it at Robin's throat)* Now listen here, outlaws. I've had a horrible day, I'm thoroughly fed up of taking everyone's sh... *(Sister Nip clears*

*throat*) ...enanigans. I'm looking for the Merry Men.

**Alan:** Well, you've found us.

**Ellen:** Hey, and us. The Mighty Maids, at your service.

**Godfrey:** Well I hardly want to be one of those, now, do I?

**Little John:** You be nice. We're working together. Merry Men *and* Mighty Maids. That's how it works.

**Robin:** And anyway, what? You want to be one of us?

**Godfrey:** Yes! I've had it up to here with working for Prince John-

**Jill:** You were what?

**Godfrey:** Oh yes, you didn't think I was just getting robbed by you for the fun of it, did you? He used me as bait!

**Jack:** That's low.

**Godfrey:** You took it! You robbed me every time! But they didn't catch you. So maybe it's smarter to side with you.

**Robin:** It's always smarter to side with me. I'm the main character!

**Godfrey:** Well then. Er... Will you have me?

*(Many meaningful looks and murmurs are exchanged between the MMs. Eventually...)*

**Little John:** Yes, all right. Welcome to the Merry Men!

**Jack:** And the Mighty Maids!

**Much:** Maybe to the Merry-Mighty... Meeple?

**Godfrey:** Thanks, thanks very much. Um... What does an outlaw actually do?

**Robin:** *(blithely)* Oh, we're off to crash Prince John's wedding, rescue Marian, and destroy the cruel usurper himself.

**Godfrey:** Oh. Right.

**Sister Nip:** Now, this is the plan. I've sketched this map of the castle interior...

**Will:** How do you know what it looks like?

**Sister Nip:** I... Never you mind. Just shut up. We'll go back to camp and plan there.

*(Exeunt all.)*

## SCENE TEN - A DARING RESCUE

*(Marian in a pretty dress getting ready for wedding. She is sad. )*

*SONG: Beautiful Love Song Reprise*

*(Enter Robin in a beautiful matching dress! He looks very dashing indeed and it's conceivable that the two could be mixed up. Yes it is. Stop arguing with me.)*

**Marian:** Robin!

**Robin:** Marian!

**Marian:** I was expecting more... knight in shining armour than outlaw in a dress, but it's so good to see you!

**Robin:** Aha, it's all part of my cunning plan! You climb out of the window - then, when your mother comes in, I'll pretend to be you! Imagine Prince John's face when he discovers what we've done...

**Marian:** Robin, that's brilliant!

**Robin:** Have we got a couple of minutes before they come back?

**Marian:** Yes, I think they should be gone for a while.

**Robin:** Good, 'cause if you think climbing in that window was hard...

*(They embrace, and go to kiss, but are interrupted by a knock at the door)*

**Miriam:** *(from offstage)* Marian, are you decent?

**Marian:** One second, Mother!

**Robin:** Quick, climb out of the window!

**Marian:** No!

**Robin:** No?

**Marian:** I don't want you to rescue me! I want to be the one to do it!

**Robin:** Marian, there isn't time! We get you out of this one, and I swear, I'll let you rescue whoever you like, whenever you like. But for now, just get out of the window!

**Marian:** Oh, fine! *(She leaves)*

*(It's just in time as in burst Miriam and Mary-Ann with make up)*

**Miriam:** Ooh, love, you're looking terrible! And have you grown?

**Mary Ann:** I'm sure you should be done with growth spurts...

**Robin:** I'm just a bit nervous. And I'm not taller. I'm just... er... Standing on my tiptoes.

**Mary Ann:** Why?

**Robin:** I thought the Prince liked tall women.

**Mary Ann:** I don't think so? I'm not tall!

**Miriam:** We'll be ignoring that. Get off your tiptoes right now! *(She hits him with her fan, and Robin hunches down)* No daughter of mine will be a giant on her wedding day!

**Robin:** *(defiantly, then finishing lamely)* Good job I'm no- t a giant then.

**Mary Ann:** She still looks nervous.

**Miriam:** Well she can't chicken out now! The Prince is waiting for you. Oh, my daughter, the princess! The only thing better would be me as Queen... but this will have to do.

*(Enter Guy)*

**Guy:** Knock knock - are you ready?

**Miriam:** We're just on our way! Announce us, please!

*(On the other side of the stage, Prince John, Sheriff, a vicar (played by prisoner) and various guests (ie Merry/Mighty people in disguise) assemble as if for a wedding. Guy goes over to them, and the ladies follow.)*

**Guy:** Announcing: Maid Marian's Maid, Mary Ann! Maid Marian's Mum, Miriam! And the lady herself, Maid Marian!

*(Robin begins to process down the aisle. As he reaches the altar, the Prince grabs his butt!)*

**Prince John:** Not a maid much longer!

*(A wild Marian appears! She throws off her cloak and stands up, accosting John)*

**Marian:** How dare you! Is that any way to treat a woman? I was going to escape before I had to marry you anyway, but seeing that? Ugh!

**Robin:** You know, she's right! Gosh! I don't think I will marry you after all, either. Take that!

*(A fight! The MMs throw off their cloaks and begin to beat everybody up)*

**Marian:** Much! Many! Get my mother and my maid to safety! I'll see you back at the camp!

*(exit those four. Now there's only like 19000 characters to deal with)*

**Robin:** Jill - as we said! Find Will, and get that perimeter secure! Alan, Ellen - make sure you don't miss a thing! I want this to go down in history!

*(Jill heads off, and grabs Will once he's changed out of maid costume. The two of them stand at the sides of the stage guarding the edges. Alan and Ellen take out note books and stand at the edge of the battle)*

**Prince John:** Right! Guards, you're all fired! I mean really, after the archery contest, you didn't stop all these cloaked idiots coming in?? Fired! The lot of you!

**Guard Ian:** Fired? Okay then. *(he puts down the person he's hitting and walks off)*

*(Exit the guards)*

**Prince John:** Wait, Guy! Not you! You're not fired! Protect me!

**Guy:** Well, that option does lead to more kicking...

*(Robin and the Sheriff get locked in battle)*

**Sheriff:** You weaselly little outlaw! I'll... get.. you... this time!

**Robin:** Oh, you will? *(A near miss from the Sheriff)* Eek, you might. Marian, a little help here?

*(Depending on how this gets choreographed, Marian either throws Robin a knife or just stabs the Sheriff. Either way, it's awesome and sexy and everyone, especially Robin, is very impressed.)*

**Sheriff:** Gurk.

*(He proceeds to die. I say proceeds as it is not straightforward. Embrace your inner Alan Rickman, Jasper.)*

*(Godfrey is absolutely wailing on Guy)*

**Godfrey:** And that's for kicking me! And that's for forcing me to be bait!

**Guy:** Hey! Why aren't you mad at the Sheriff? I'm just an ow-employee!

**Godfrey:** Yeah! I'll get the Sheriff! *(looks around)* Oh. He's been got. I'll stick with you.

**Guy:** Oww! That was a good punch!

**Godfrey:** Ooh, really? I think I have a bit of a talent for punching *(punches him again)*.

**Guy:** Yeah, you really do. I'm like that with kicking *(kicks Godfrey)*.

**Godfrey:** Ooh, yes, you are! We'd be a good team!

**Guy:** D'you want to, maybe, get a drink sometime? Talk about technique?

**Godfrey:** Sure, how about now? Bet there's no one watching the bar...

**Guy:** Okay.

*(They trundle off arm in arm. The others have got Prince John)*

**Little John:** Hey, Robin, is it still treason to kill the Prince if he's a terrible person?

**Robin:** Sadly, yes. Stick him in the dungeon - the Winter dungeon!

**Prince John:** No! Not with Crazy Richard!

**Will:** That's no way to speak of your brother and our rightful king!

**All:** He's not the king!

**Prince John:** Why does everyone think I'd imprison my brother? Richard's off crusading! That's just some old guy! *(They start to drag him)* Robin, don't you dare. I'm royalty, you know! I'll have your guts! Robiiiiiiiiin!

*(They carry him out, leaving Robin and Marian alone.)*

**Robin:** You saved my life back there.

**Marian:** I did a bit, didn't I?

**Robin:** Well, I reckon that makes us even - you've saved my life twice, and I've saved you from two weddings...

**Marian:** Even, hey? I like the sound of that...

*(They move in to kiss but are interrupted by the MMs coming back.)*

**Little John:** Prince is all stashed.

**Will:** Guards are all sorted.

**Jack:** Sheriff's all dead.

**Jill:** Gold is all nicked.

**Robin:** Right then - anything you want from upstairs, then, Marian?

**Marian:** No, I just want to get back out to Sherwood and feel free again.

**Robin:** Off we go!

## SCENE ELEVEN - FOUR WEDDINGS AND AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR

*(In pile all of our heroes, except Robin and Marian! Friar Tuck and Sister Nip are waiting for them outside the castle, and as everyone runs in, there's hugs all around)*

**Much:** We did it!

**Many:** We made it!

**Friar Tuck:** You did it! You stopped the wedding, did away with that bastard sheriff, and saved Marian! Er... Marian is safe, isn't she?

**Little John:** Um, Friar, we've something to tell you... *(Friar Tuck looks worried)*

*(In run Robin and Marian, holding hands)*

**Robin:** We're safe! We're free!

**Marian:** Jill! Jack! Is everyone all right?

*(More hugs. When everyone starts to disentangle themselves, Alan and Ellen are left hugging.)*

**Robin:** You two all right there?

*(Much splutting as they jump apart)*

**Alan:** Fine.

**Ellen:** Yes, fine.

**Robin:** Well, I think we can all agree, we certainly work better together.

**Marian:** Who's for a permanent merger?

**All:** Woo! Etc.

**Robin:** An amalgamation, if you will.

**Much:** Now we can get married, Many!

**Many:** No more secret meetings! *(They hug and move away to the side).*

**Alan:** *(To Ellen)* You know...

**Ellen:** We could...

**Alan:** I love you, Ellen. Let's get married!

*(They move to stand by the 'altar')*

**Friar Tuck:** Any more for any more? Woodland weddings, roll up, roll up!

**Little John:** *(To Jack)* Well, it'd be a shame to waste the chance, hey. How about it?

**Jack:** Are you kidding me? Seriously, have you seen this height difference? I'd have to stand on a box! My entire life! Besides... *(grabs Jill's hand)* I've kind of got a good thing going here. Sorry,



John.

**Jill:** Jack - you really mean it?

**Jack:** Well, we've been spending time together for a while now, and we've had our ups and downs - up, being ladies in the castle...

**Jill:** Down, living in the forest with the spiders....

**Jack:** And I've always liked you.

**Jill:** Well then. Shall we get married too?

**Jack:** Why not!

*(they line up at the altar too)*

**Robin:** And now, Marian, that reminds me. I have a question to ask you. Now that we're even on the rescue front, have you... by any chance... changed your mind about marrying me?

**Marian:** *(staring him straight in the face)* Robin, I love you. I've always loved you. And now I know what I'm capable of, I know I can love you and not lose myself. Yes!

**Robin:** Is that a yes you've changed your mind, or yes you'll marry me?

**Marian:** *(lovingly)* Yes to both. It's the same thing, idiot. *(she kisses him)*

*(Whooping all round, hopefully from the audience too. Leave some space for it.)*

**Robin:** Friar Tuck! Will you marry me?

**Friar Tuck:** Steady on, you've got one fiancee already! Oh, marry you. Why not!

*(The four couples line up in front of the altar)*

**Tuck:** Aaaaanyone else?

**John:** *(nudges Will, and looks suggestive)*

**Will:** No, nuh uh, no way. I'm... going over here now.

**Friar Tuck:** I'm calling it. Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today...

**Sister Nip:** Excuse me. I believe that is my responsibility!

**Friar Tuck:** But you're a nun!

**Sister Nip:** Am I?

*(She doffs her habit to reveal... King Richard! Everyone bows very deeply)*

**Friar Tuck:** Well, well, well!

**Marian:** I thought you were suspiciously good at fighting!

**Jack:** And all that military strategy starts to make sense...

*(King Richard offers his hand to Marian, and helps her up)*

**King Richard:** Marian, my dear, I was so impressed with your bravery, and your clever team. And Robin *(helps Robin up)* your outlaw band has really matured into something brilliant. I had no army with which to defeat my brother and his evil minions, but as it turns out, I didn't need one. The two of you have been my greatest asset Would you kneel?

**Robin:** But we just got up-

**Marian:** Hush! *(she pushes him down.)*

*(King Richard draws his sword and knights them.)*

**King Richard:** Now, then, Sir Robin, Sir Marian, would you care to be married?

**Robin:** I think first, we should have a toast! To the Amalgamated...

**Jill:** Mixed!

**Will:** And merged!

**Marian:** Mingling!

**Little John:** Merry!

**Jack:** Mighty!

**Marian and Robin:** Maids and Men!

*SONG: The Amalgamated, Mixed and Merged, Mingling, Merry-Mighty Maids and Men!*

**FIN**