

ROBIN HOOD

Series One, Episode Three

Who Shot the Sheriff?

written by Paul Cornell

directed by Richard Standeven

This is not an official copy. This was typed up by a fan of the show strictly for personal enjoyment.

CAST

Robin Hood	Jonas Armstrong
Marian	Lucy Griffiths
Guy of Gisborne	Richard Armitage
Sheriff of Nottingham	Keith Allen
Little John	Gordon Kennedy
Much	Sam Troughton
Allan A Dale	Joe Armstrong
Will Scarlett	Harry Lloyd
Roy	William Beck
Edward	Michael Elwyn
Owen	Sam Hazeldine
Kate	Natasha Alexander
Matthew	Dorian Thomas
Joderic	Jonathan McGuinness
Joe Lacey	Thomas Lockyer
de Fourtnoy	Kwame Kwei-Armah

Robin tilts his head again, giving Joderic a mischievous, encouraging smile. Joderic thinks.

I could break it into small amounts, pay it in over time.

Robin nods, pleased.

That would be credible.

ROBIN

Every time somebody breaks bread in Nettlestone, [*points to Joderic*] they will thank you, Joderic.

JODERIC

Chuckles. Sure.

ROBIN

Do me a favour. *Steps forward.* Tell them you have not seen me. Tell them this was your own scheme. *Winks.*

JODERIC

Why?

ROBIN

My friends think I am vain! *Shrugs with feigned disbelief.*

The gang disappear back into the trees, Roy looking sceptically first at Joderic. Joderic watches them go, wondering what he'll say.

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Nettlestone.

Owen comes out of the mill, Kate behind him, as Joderic rides into the village, followed by four mounted guards.

KATE

He's here to evict us. Robin did not make it right.

OWEN

He said he would fix it.

KATE

How?

Robin and the gang peer through the trees at the village.

ROY

Let me get this straight. We're giving money to a tax collector?

ROBIN

A bailiff.

ROY

Sarcastically: Oh, that makes all difference.

Robin shakes his head and watches Joderic dismount and walk over to Owen and Kate as Matthew comes out. Kate reaches back for her son's hand.

JODERIC

Looking at each in turn: Owen, Kate, as you know I am here today—

OWEN

Interrupting: Did—didn't you see Robin Hood? He said he'd speak to you so we wouldn't be evicted.

JODERIC

No. No, I'm sorry. I have not seen Robin Hood.

A bow with a nocked arrow appears in the trees.

But we can work this out.

The arrow flies. Joderic is hit squarely in the back with the white-fletched shaft. Kate screams as Joderic falls. Robin looks back to where the arrow came from as Owen sets Joderic gently on the ground.

OWEN

He's killed him. Robin's killed him!

Robin watches in disbelief.

OPENING CREDITS

Behind the gang, a cloaked figure runs through the trees. Robin quickly starts pursuit.

ROBIN

Oi! Stop!

Robin chases the stranger through the trees, then cuts ahead of him and pushes him down a hill. They tumble down together, then as Robin stands, the murderer kicks him hard over another small rise, knocking him flat on his back.

MUCH

Master!

Much runs to Robin to see if he's all right as the mysterious person gets away. Robin lifts his head, frowning at Much, then lets his head fall back to the ground, letting out a dismayed and flustered sigh.

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Scene Two

Sherwood Forest. Outlaws' camp.

Roy is sitting on top of a boulder.

ROY

What, you can't believe someone's better than you?

Robin, sitting nearby, looks up at him in annoyance.

He kicked you good.

ROBIN

Who is he?

WILL

Sharpening an arrow with his hand axe: The Nightwatchman.

ROBIN

Well, I've never heard of him.

Robin stands, goes to the fire and sits next to Much, who is eating, as Will explains.

WILL

The Nightwatchman? Been around for years. Maybe you were off on a crusade. He's a good man. He's, er, talked about in all the villages. He's been seen in Nottingham, even at the castle. Always at night.

(As Roy speaks, a vision is shown of the Nightwatchman sneaking around, leaving a bundle at a doorstep, then disappearing round the corner out of sight.)

ROY

Leaves medicine and stuff. Food. Sheriff's men are ordered to shoot him on sight, but he's never hurt a fly.

ROBIN

Flummoxed: Why did he kill Joderic then? Shakes his head.
We need to find him.

Much and Allan continue to chew their food.

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Scene Three

Nottingham Castle. The Great Hall.

Council of Nobles. The Sheriff is seated behind the table, Gisborne stands at the end of the table to his left, de Fourtnoy at the end to his right. Marian stands behind her father, who is sitting in the half-circle of nobles facing the Sheriff.

SHERIFF

The villagers of Nettlestone report that Robin Hood killed an innocent bailiff today. This is marvellous, isn't it? What drama. Because now, even his beloved villagers will lose patience when their heroes start picking them off. *to Gisborne:* What else are they saying?

GISBORNE

Hood was fulfilling a promise to prevent an eviction.

SHERIFF

Mm. War has addled his brain. I'm not at all surprised. So, what do you propose we do?

GISBORNE

Immediate reprisals against villages.

Marian bravely speaks up, knowing she's expected to remain silent.

MARIAN

Joderic would not want that. Why should more innocent people suffer because of his death?

Edward holds up his hand, trying to silence her.

The same people who witnessed and reported the crime?

The Sheriff patiently lets her speak.

Looking straight at Gisborne: And did this strategy of reprisals work in the villages before? *Shakes head.* No.

SHERIFF

Marian is right.

Gisborne stares at Marian with a mixture of anger and disbelief. Marian resolutely keeps eye contact with him.

We will not be going down that road again. De Fourtnoy, alternatives?

de FOURTNOY

There is a... political advantage to be had here.

Gisborne scoffs silently.

SHERIFF

Robin Hood has given us the high ground, we should keep it. My thoughts exactly.

de FOURTNOY

We could have the town criers announce what's taken place. Make sure everybody knows that an... an innocent was killed.

SHERIFF

Good. We are going to win hearts and minds.

The Sheriff stands and walks past Gisborne, who follows him.

GISBORNE

My lord.

The Sheriff stops.

Quietly: I still believe actions rather than words. If I had the resources, I could deal with him. I could hunt him down.

SHERIFF

Very well. We'll do both and may the best man win.

The Sheriff leaves. Gisborne turns to de Fourtnoy and smirks at him.

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Scene Four

Nottingham Castle. Courtyard.

The Sheriff stands on the steps delivering Joderic's eulogy to a gathered crowd. Gisborne and de Fourtnoy stand on either side of him.

SHERIFF

Joderic was unique. He was kind, compassionate, learned.

Marian and Edward are in attendance, listening.

The murder of the bailiff...

EDWARD

to Marian: We'll leave as soon as Joderic's buried. We can say you were too upset.

MARIAN

Looks at Edward: I am too upset.

Marian notices Lacey standing guard in the crowd beyond Edward. As the Sheriff continues his speech, Marian walks over to Lacey and speaks with him.

SHERIFF

In response to this change of direction from Robin Hood (who now seems to be targeting innocent civilians, I have recalled all men of eligible age to join us in this war on terror. Make no mistake, that is what this is, a war on terror. These people, Robin Hood. . . striking the very heart of our system, of our compassion...)

MARIAN

Joe, what are you doing here? You cannot work.

LACEY

They've made everyone come back in. Called me out of retirement.

MARIAN

I will talk to the Sheriff. I will get you off your duties.

LACEY

Work helps. I still reach out for her in the night. I know it's daft...

MARIAN

It is not daft. When all this is over, you are coming home with us.

SHERIFF

... of our humanity and of our innocence.

There is a smattering of applause as Robin and the gang appear behind the crowd in the gate. The Sheriff raises a

finger.

All this is gone in one moment, with one arrow fired from the bow of [*clenches his fist*] Robin Hood! (And in that moment, Robin Hood has forced upon us the responsibility. The responsibility to choose...)

MUCH

to Robin: He's saying you killed Joderic!

ROBIN

Of course he is!

MUCH

Yes, but he's making us look like... criminals!

ROY

You know, we are criminals.

MUCH

What?

ROY

Are we suddenly something else?

SHERIFF

... between stability, order, authority, or the random, chaotic cruelty of Robin Hood and all outlaws like him.

As the Sheriff continues, Robin notices Marian talking to Lacey in the crowd. He gently edges through the people towards her, then lightly fires a blunt arrow at her hip. Marian looks around and sees him glance back at her, gesturing with his head to follow him.

(This cowardly crime, this murder, will be punished. We will hunt Hood down, with dogs if necessary, and we will ensure that he does not succeed. We will not be cowed. This is what he wants...)

Nottingham Town. A lane south of the marketplace.

The crowd applaud in the background.

MARIAN

Quietly, irked: You never shoot me, understand?

She pushes the broadside of the arrow against his chest with enough force to make him lean back a bit. Robin takes the arrow and goes to peer round the corner at the castle gate.

ROBIN

Stepping back to Marian: This, this is all in my honour, isn't it?

Marian's tone throughout is sour, showing her disapproval of his actions.

MARIAN

Whispers sarcastically: Well, you really do think everything is about you, don't you?

ROBIN

Loudly: Only when it is about me!

MARIAN

Whispers: You have given him a stick to beat you with. You killed an innocent clerk and now, here he is making the most of it.

ROBIN

Points to self: I did not do it!

MARIAN

Quietly, not quite believing him: I'm sure.

ROBIN

It was the so-called non-violent Nightwatchman!

MARIAN

Scoffs. Confidently: No.

ROBIN

I saw him. I was there.

MARIAN

Matter-of-factly: It was not the Nightwatchman.

ROBIN

How do you know?

MARIAN

Earnestly: I know!

ROBIN

Then why did he run?

MARIAN

Well, why did you run from Joderic?

Robin scoffs and turns aside in exasperation. Marian checks the marketplace as Robin turns around to face her again.

I should go.

ROBIN

Pleadingly: You must help me.

MARIAN

I am helping you. I'm telling you it was not the Night-

watchman.

ROBIN

Whoever it is, I will find him. I can look everywhere apart from one place. *Pauses a moment. Gently but firmly:* I need you to look in the castle.

MARIAN

Scoffs. I need you to not tell me what to do.

ROBIN

Flustered: Please! I must clear my name!

MARIAN

And what about catching the killer? Is that not more important than your name?

ROBIN

If people do not trust me, then what good can I do?

Marian thinks it over, and grudgingly agrees with Robin's logic.

MARIAN

Sighs. I'll try. *Leaves abruptly.*

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Scene Five

Nottingham Castle. Inside the main doors. The next morning.

De Fourtnoy, entering the castle, passes Gisborne, who is leaving. Barking dogs can be heard from the courtyard.

GISBORNE

Tell me, de Fourtnoy, is master-at-arms just a ceremonial position now?

De Fourtnoy glares at him.

Because problems like Hood demand real solutions. *Scornfully:* Town criers?

Gisborne departs to the courtyard as de Fourtnoy glares after him before continuing inside.

Courtyard.

Gisborne appears at the top of the steps, gazing out at the assembled crowd of hunters and dogs. Marian approaches him from the cloister.

MARIAN

Sir Guy.

GISBORNE

Marian.

MARIAN

Looks out at the courtyard, concerned. All these dogs for one man?

GISBORNE

Yeah, it was my idea. The master-at-arms would have us do nothing.

MARIAN

Trying not to sound too curious: You are in competition?

GISBORNE

He's a little man promoted too far, and anyone would make a better master-at-arms.

Marian smiles and pretends not to understand.

MARIAN

Politics. Even when my father was the sheriff, I could not grasp the intricacies. He sent me here, by the way. He thinks it is safer with a killer on the loose.

GISBORNE

You say a killer. You do not think it is Hood?

Scene Seven

Nottingham Castle. Sheriff's quarters.

The Sheriff is seated at a table looking a piece of parchment.

He reaches for his seal and stamps it. Matthew enters with a tray. He sets it down to the left of the Sheriff, then turns to leave.

SHERIFF

Matthew, am I left-handed?

Matthew turns to face him.

A clue... *holds up his seal in his right hand...* nooooo.

MATTHEW

Sorry, sir.

Matthew moves tray to the Sheriff's other side as the Sheriff puts down the parchment and picks up another. He skims it over as he pours wax from tiny, long-handled pitcher onto it, not looking at Matthew.

SHERIFF

Stand on one leg.

Matthew glares at the Sheriff from the corner of his eye, then stands on his left leg.

No, the right one.

Matthew switches feet.

One hour. That might help you to remember, hm? *Stamps the wax on the parchment, blows on it, then rubs his hands together. Grabs a goblet from the tray.* So, new boy, how are you finding your new job, eh?

Matthew gives him a sidelong glance as the Sheriff chuckles, looking at Matthew's leg.

Oh, don't worry. *Stands.* You know, you're a lucky boy. *Circling behind Matthew:* Now your daddy's mill is shut, you could be... *whispers in his ear:* ...could be running through the forest chased by hounds.

Suddenly the window behind them breaks and an arrow hits Matthew in the back, knocking the goblet from the Sheriff's hand at the same time. The Sheriff quickly ducks aside into his hanging birdcages. Matthew grunts and falls to the floor.

Guards! Guards!

The two sentries enter.

Pointing at the sentries: Raise the alarm!

The sentries leave and de Fourtnoy comes in as the Sheriff steadies the cages.

In my own room? In my own room?

The alarm bell starts to toll.

Where are the men?

de FORTNOY

Making his way to Matthew: Gisborne has taken them to hunt Hood with the dogs.

SHERIFF

Gisborne is a fool!

De Fourtnoy kneels down to check Matthew, who is gasping his last breaths with the white-fletched arrow still in his back.

de FORTNOY

Evidently, Hood has evaded him.

SHERIFF

This has nothing to do with Robin Hood!

De Fourtnoy stands.

Now, you lock down this castle. You tell Gisborne to scrap the dogs and find the killer!

de FORTNOY

Yes, my lord.

Interior corridor.

De Fourtnoy leaves the Sheriff's room and closes the door behind him. He takes a few steps before the Sheriff yanks the doors open again.

SHERIFF

Stop!

De Fourtnoy turns, surprised.

Now, you tell Gisborne to double the dogs!

de FORTNOY

But, my lord, I thought you said it could not be Hood.

SHERIFF

Holds up two fingers: Two words: mud sticks. Hood's already been blamed for one death, let's blame him for two. Let Gisborne have his hunt. *Points at de Fourtnoy.* Meanwhile, you find out who's really responsible for

Scene Nine

Sherwood Forest. By the tall rock wall.

The gang have lost their pursuers. Will and Allan come over the rise near the meeting place and pause at the top. Will puts his broadaxe over his shoulder and the two trudge to meet Robin at the rock wall.

WILL

I don't believe it. The soldiers found it.

The pairs of Much and Roy and Robin and Little John arrive from different directions.

MUCH

No! *Looking back at Allan and Will:* That was our... that was our store!

Robin and Little John walk over to the smouldering pit.

ROBIN

John, they've destroyed everything.

MUCH

That was our food!

Robin waves at the smoke, peering into the cache, as the others stare in disbelief.

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Scene Ten

Nottingham Castle. Sheriff's quarters.

The Sheriff enters his room under guard. De Fourtnoy is standing by the boarded-up window and a servant is cleaning up under it.

SHERIFF

Sullenly: What is going on? I am hiding in my own castle. I cannot move in my own castle. *to the guards:* Out. Get out. Out! Get out!

The Sheriff pushes his guards out the door.

de FOURTNOY

We will not leave a stone unturned, my lord. The killer will be found.

SHERIFF

You will not leave a stone unturned. He will be found. La-di-da-di-da. Well, get on with it, then!

De Fourtnoy claps his hands and the servants leave. The Sheriff sits at the table and rubs his forehead. De Fourtnoy bows and starts to leave.

How is Gisborne doing with Locksley?

de FOURTNOY

More dogs have been brought in, but the outlaw is still on the run.

SHERIFF

Fondling his ear: Have you put it about that he's killed at least twice?

de FOURTNOY

Yes, my lord. *Tries to leave again.*

SHERIFF

Good. Do you think... two deaths are enough, hm? To get them to really turn against him, the rebel? Hm? If we're going to blame Hood, well, let's do it properly. What do you think? Hm? I think maybe a few more deaths, it'd be interesting. You know, pretty deaths, not just boys, but pretty deaths.

De Fourtnoy nods once and leaves.

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Cloister.

A maid is polishing goblets and looks up at Marian as she is passing by under guard. A white-fledged arrow shoots the maid, who screams and falls to the floor. Marian rushes back to her side.

KATE
You deny it?

MAN
Get out!

ROBIN
Yes!

MUCH
We're going. Let's get out of here!

Owen pulls Kate off Robin. Kate starts crying.

Much helps Robin to his feet and pushes him out of the village as the others cover for them. The villagers shout aggressively.

Kate, you know me!

OWEN
And Joderic? You told me yourself you'd see to him. If I'd known you would kill him...

MAN
Let me through! Let me through!

ROBIN
Steps towards Owen: Owen, I swear, I could never hurt Matthew!

LITTLE JOHN
Brandishing his staff: Stay back!

Will holds out his broadaxe and Roy his knobber. They, Allan and Little John form a line and back up out of the village.

KATE
Struggling to get away from Owen: Matthew! Don't you say his name! Don't you put his name in your mouth!

Pointing at a man: Stay there!

ROBIN
Steps forward. I swear I never killed Matthew! I didn't kill Joderic!

MAN
Leave us be, you son of a cur!

The gang turn and run after Robin as Owen hugs a sobbing Kate.

OWEN
No, and you didn't kill those others, either!

Let's go! Let's go after them!

ROBIN
Utterly perplexed: What others?!

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Kate breaks free and attacks Robin again.

KATE
I hope they draw your guts out and quarter you!

Little John pulls Kate off.

ALLAN
We didn't do it! We didn't do any of it!

OWEN
Hold them for the Sheriff!

The villagers try to capture the gang, but the men hold them off. Once a stalemate has been reached, Robin speaks his mind to the villagers.

ROBIN
You don't understand! I'm fighting for you! The Sheriff hangs people for stealing bread! He cuts out their tongues! He divides us.

Owen punches Robin.

Scene Thirteen

Sherwood Forest. Dusk.

Robin is pacing, frustrated and angry with the day's events. In the background, Will is putting the finishing touches on his creation.

ROBIN

I walked away from my home... for them! I gave myself up to the Sheriff, for them!

ALLAN

We gave Joderic money for them.

ROY

I never really did understand that.

Will excitedly taps a tag on his palm. Robin jerks up his head, acknowledging him, and walks over to him.

WILL

Stands to face Robin. It's the, er... it's the tag. I refined it. You, er, can't copy it now. It's only me and my dad know how to do edges like that. *Hands the tag to Robin.*

ROBIN

Turns the tag over in his hand. It's good. *Looking Will earnestly in the eye:* It's good. *Walks off to think.*

Will stands, pleased with Robin's praise. Much watches Robin go, jealous of the attention.

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Scene Fourteen

Nottingham Castle. Cloister.

Marian is walking through the cloister when she is stopped by a guard.

GUARD

Sorry, my lady, you can't come through here.

MARIAN

I've come to see Sergeant Lacey.

Lacey, standing in the entrance near the castle doors and wearing a quiver full of black-fletched arrows, turns to them upon hearing Marian's voice.

LACEY

I'll deal with this.

The guard drops his arm and Marian passes him.

Stepping to her: You shouldn't be here, Marian. It's not safe.

MARIAN

Smiling: I know. Thank you.

LACEY

It's all right.

MARIAN

It's not though, is it?

LACEY

Stares a moment, then turns his head and sighs. No. Who'd have thought? Robin a killer? All these people dead. I can't understand. Matthew... his poor mum and dad. I know how they feel. It was the same with Ruth. You try not to dwell on it, remember the good times.

Marian is listening glumly, eyes glistening.

The only thing I regret is that she didn't die in her own bed. That I cannot...

Marian pats Lacey's arm and tries to smile.

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Scene Fifteen

Sherwood Forest. Twilight.

All is quiet. The gang stop to rest. Robin looks around. Little John, Allan and Will wearily sit down. Much looks around, scratching his cheek. Robin makes a decision and goes to sit beside Little John.

ROBIN

John, I need you to take over. I have to go to the castle.
Enough is enough. We stop running, now.

WILL

You're not going to give yourself in again?

ROBIN

Not this time.

ALLAN

I've got some ideas for how you could get in.

ROBIN

Go on.

ALLAN

Well, do you want clever or really clever?

ROBIN

I want fast.

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Scene Sixteen

Nottingham Castle. Cloister.

Marian steps round the corner of the corridor, looking out at the tower across the courtyard.

MARIAN

From here, could I shoot an arrow through that window?
Mimes a bow in her hand, aiming at the tower window where she saw the anonymous man earlier.

LACEY

Facing down the corridor: Pull smoothly, like you're combing your hair.

Marian, still aiming her "bow," steps back to be able to see the corridor opposite her, where the Sheriff walking through with several guards. Lacey watches with alarm, glancing back and forth between her and the Sheriff.

You could.

MARIAN

Drops her hands. But of course I wouldn't. *Turns to Lacey.*
You're teasing me, aren't you?

They stare at one another blankly, then Lacey chuckles. Marian chuckles, too, steps to him and leans her back on the wall.

LACEY

Yeah, I'll say anything, I will. I'm from the days when you could. Nowadays, we hold our tongues, those of us lucky enough to still have them.

Both chuckle slightly.

We say one thing when we mean another.

Marian glances behind her at the courtyard.

For instance...

Marian turns to him.

Well, you say you want archery lessons, but you're really only interested in bow range.

Marian glances behind her again, then slightly shrugs and raises her eyebrows at Lacey, saying nothing.

You're trying to prove it couldn't be him.

Marian scoffs, but can't hide a smile. She looks away again.

You still love him?

ROBIN

I can catch him for you.

The Sheriff thinks a bit, breathes in loudly, then props up on one elbow.

SHERIFF

Two questions. How... and why?

ROBIN

Ride through Nettlestone village. Parade yourself. Make sure everybody knows you're there. That will draw out the killer and my men will shoot him.

SHERIFF

Well, what about my men?

ROBIN

Because mine are invisible.

SHERIFF

Supposing... I agree... why?

ROBIN

Quietly: Innocent people are being killed. *Whispers:* I cannot allow that.

SHERIFF

Smiles. Oh, come along, Robin. *Rests sideways on his pillow.* This is pillow talk, isn't it, hm?

Robin smiles, glances down, then to the left.

Oh, come on, you can be honest with me. That's not the real reason, is it? Do you want to know what the real reason is? *Whispers:* Nobody loves you any more. Hm?

Robin's face falls and his eyes narrow, but he holds his tongue.

Whispers, getting fainter until barely audible at the end:
They've turned against you, the common serfs. And really, those are the people that you love the most. That's what you can't allow to happen.

ROBIN

Slowly, sternly, in the Sheriff's face: Do we have an agreement?

SHERIFF

Oh, have a touched a sore point?

ROBIN

I'll take that as a yes.

The Sheriff chuckles.

And by the way, this... *dangles a tag in front of the Sheriff...* is for you... for future reference.

The Sheriff takes the tag.

Anybody wearing one of those is with me. *Nods once and leaves.*

SHERIFF

How sweet. *Holds the tag to his chest.* Robin, does it go with my dress?

ROBIN

Walks over and takes a full purse from the table. This is my fee for saving your life. *Leaves.*

SHERIFF

Pretends to sleep. Mmm. *Lifts his head, realising what Robin has just done.*

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Interior corridor.

Robin sneaks away from the Sheriff's room, his boots loud on the stone floor. He turns a corner and happens across two guards, who chase him. Robin runs down another corridor, gauges his whereabouts and dashes into a room. The guards follow into the corridor and one points at the first door before moving on to Robin's choice and opening it.

Marian's chamber.

Marian sits up, startled, hugging the covers to her as the guard bursts in.

GUARD

I'm sorry, my lady.

The guard leaves, closing the door behind him. Robin peeks out from under the covers and smiles roguishly, looking her up and down.

ROBIN

So, this is you with your hair down!

Marian kicks him as he gets out of the bed and gives him a shove for good measure.

MARIAN

You cannot be here!

ROBIN

Shh! *Looks at the door. Walking to it round the end of the bed:* Do not be such a spoilsport, Marian.

He checks to see if anyone is listening at the door. Hearing

nothing, he smiles back at Marian, walks back to the foot of the bed and reaches up to lean one hand on the top crosspiece of the bed as she leans towards him.

MARIAN

Listen, I've been trying to think about who could have done this. I think the killer is de Fourtnoy, the master-at-arms.

ROBIN

Because?

MARIAN

Well, he was right there when the maid was killed. And think about it, a murderer on the loose merely consolidates his position. The situation is in his interests.

ROBIN

Well, I intend to change the situation.

MARIAN

You think just because you want to change things, you can?

ROBIN

Smiles. Stepping round to the side: It's hard to change the things you do not want to change.

MARIAN

And what about just getting away while you can?

Robin sits down next to Marian on the bed, his face close to hers.

ROBIN

Playfully: Why? When we're having so much fun?

MARIAN

Oh! Does anything touch you, Robin?

ROBIN

What does that mean?

MARIAN

It means you wander around as if nothing could hurt you. As if arrows would bounce off you. I do not think I've ever seen you hurt.

ROBIN

Oh, I have been hurt.

MARIAN

Tell me.

Robin's shoulders fall as he sighs and looks down without an

answer.

See? You think it is strong not to feel. But if you cannot admit you feel, how can you understand when others feel?

Robin turns his head aside.

How can you be a whole man?

ROBIN

With quiet intensity: I feel when innocent people are shot down. I feel when my men are hunted like animals. I feel when good people turn against me.

MARIAN

With a softer tone: I was talking about you to someone today. A good man. Someone who still remembers you from the old days. And you know... *slowly, meaningfully:* there are still people who love you.

They are silent a moment, then a guard knocks at a second door to the room behind her bed.

GUARD

My lady!

MARIAN

One moment!

GUARD

I must search your room.

Marian turns back to Robin and, seeing that he hasn't moved, impatiently shoves him off the bed.

Go! Out!

Robin obediently heads to the first door, then turns back.

ROBIN

By the way, your investigations. *Kisses Marian on the cheek and beams at her proudly.* Good work!

Robin goes back to the door as Marian smiles at his praise. Robin grabs the bedpost and swings his head round it.

Let's see if you're right tomorrow.

Marian frowns slightly, confused at his meaning. Robin goes back to door, opens it, and holds a finger to his lips, shushing her as he leaves and the guard knocks again.

Little John sullenly shakes his head.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Sherwood Forest.

Robin and Much lead the way towards Nettlestone, Much carrying a small barrel and Robin an even smaller barrel and a ham. Will and Allan carry a large basket between them. Little John carries his staff across the back of his shoulders like a yoke with a sack hanging off each end. Roy is also carrying some sacks.

ROBIN

If we were killers, would we bring them food? It proves we are not killers.

MUCH

But they hate us.

ROBIN

Now the mill is closed, the village will be suffering. They will be hungry.

MUCH

You just want everyone to love you.

ROBIN

No, I do not want to be branded a killer. It is different.

MUCH

You want to be loved! And I'll tell you something. It's not fair. I love you, and no-one gives me any food, yet people who do not love you are fed.

ROBIN

Oh, Much!

MUCH

The world is wrong. We're feeding people who do not love us and saving a man who wants us dead. I've changed my mind. I no longer love you. Now can I eat?

Robin sniggers.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Nineteen

Nettlestone. Early morning.

The gang enter the village quietly. The villagers stop their work and stare as the gang slowly make their way to the centre. Robin sets down his small barrel and puts the ham on top as the others set down their offerings. Robin looks around at every face as he speaks.

ROBIN

I am no killer. I bring food to show my goodwill. *Pauses.* I am your friend.

Owen steps out to listen.

My men are tired and hungry. *Turns, pausing.* This is the last of our food.

Roy shakes his head in disbelief. Owen slowly steps towards Robin, who turns around to face him.

Owen...

OWEN

You are using us. You and the Sheriff.

ROBIN

Shaking head, sincerely: I am not.

OWEN

Fighting your own personal battle, using us as pawns. What gifts will he bring later?

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Twenty

The road to Nettlestone. Later in the day.

The Sheriff sits in his coach as it makes its way to the village.

Nettlestone.

Gisborne addresses the villagers, slowly circling the perimeter.

Gisborne's men are scattered around the village.

GISBORNE

Fellow Englishmen... your Sheriff and I bring you a gift.
That gift is the reminder that we are free and we
should walk free.

Robin hides in the trees, watching.

Today, your Sheriff and I show no fear.

The Sheriff's decoy is talking to the villagers.

Today, we defy Robin Hood. Today, we walk among you
to show that life goes on. We will not hide or cower
in the face of outlaws. We will not change our lives to
suit their campaigns of terror.

*Allan and Roy peer from the trees, each with a bow, watching
carefully as Gisborne continues his speech.*

(We hold our heads high. Laws exist to protect us. If we
allow Robin Hood to flout these laws, if we

Much peers over a pile of dirt, also with a bow.

(support him when he undermines basic justice, the
taking of flour or bread,

*Little John and Will walk up behind a fenced-off pen and peer
into the village, each with a bow as the Sheriff's decoy
greet another peasant.*

(then where will he stop? We give him the right to
ignore another law

*The mystery Bowman nocks a white-fletched arrow, draws and
aims at the decoy.*

and another, and finally to condone the taking of a
human life.

*Gisborne stands in the shot of the unknown archer, and the bow
is pulled back.*

(For that, too, is a law made to protect us.

*The decoy walks on to the next man and the archer takes aim
again.*

(Your Sheriff and I share your horror at the murder of
innocents. And we stand here today

Gisborne walks between the Bowman and the decoy.

to show that we are united—

*The arrow hits one of Gisborne's men walking past the Sher-
iff's decoy, who ducks as the guard, clutching at the bolt in
his arm, falls to the ground. The villagers scream and run
in panic as Robin scans the village. The Nightwatchman,
also watching the village from the trees, sees a castle guard
with a bow jump out a back window and hop over a fence.
The Nightwatchman, with a longbow and three arrows in
his hand, starts to run after the guard. Robin hears leaves
rustle behind him, turns to see the Nightwatchman run-
ning away and hurries after him. After a short chase, Rob-
in catches the Nightwatchman trying to climb a small rise,
pulling him down by his feet, and turns him over.*

ROBIN

What do you think you're doing?! You're killing innocent
people! What kind of man are you?!

*The Nightwatchman says nothing, but struggles to push his
captor off. Robin pulls the hood off the head of the Night-
watchman, who pulls the mask and scarf off, revealing
Marian's face. Stunned, Robin immediately backs off and
stands up.*

Marian!

MARIAN

Yes!

*Marian stands up as Much scrambles to their location and
trips. He looks up at Marian in utter disbelief.*

MUCH

You're the Nightwatchman?

MARIAN

There's no time for this. I know who's trying to kill the
Sheriff. It's Joe.

ROBIN

His eyes grow wide in disbelief. Joe Lacey?

*Marian leads Robin and Much, over the uneven terrain, follow-
ing the murderer. Robin finds Lacey near the top of a rise,
lining up for another shot at the Sheriff.*

ROBIN

Joe!

Lacey looks down at Robin, who pulls an arrow from his quiver and nocks it in his bow, but does not draw.

Put it down.

Lacey looks down at the village, where the guards are getting ready to escort Gisborne and Sheriff out.

Put the bow down, Joe.

LACEY

Turns to Robin. You let me do this, Robin.

ROBIN

Why did you kill them, Joe?

Marian and Much catch him up, Marian with arrow nocked but not drawn, Much only carrying his bow.

LACEY

My Ruth. She worked all her life in the castle.

Robin, Marian and Much listen, sympathising with him.

When she lay dying, where was the Sheriff? Did he come and visit? Did he send food? No. He sent Joderic because we hadn't paid our taxes. He put us out and she died like a dog on the street. And now, so will he. *Sharply turns towards the village.*

ROBIN

Imploring: You kill that Sheriff, Prince John will send another one. And the people of that village will be tortured because the Sheriff died there!

LACEY

It's just me then. What, am I the only man in Nottingham who can say what he likes? Do what he likes?

ROBIN

Flustered: Matthew! The miller's boy!

LACEY

That was an accident. The Sheriff moved.

ROBIN

Angrily: And the Sheriff moved the next day, when you killed three more, stableboys and washerwomen?!

Lacey looks anxiously towards the village and sees the Sheriff's decoy running to his white horse.

LACEY

The Sheriff's leaving. *Pleading:* Look, let me do this terrible thing, Robin!

ROBIN

Shakes his head. No.

Lacey looks back at the decoy mounting the horse.

Put it down.

Both Robin and Marian raise and draw their bows.

Joe, put it down.

Lacey looks at Robin.

I will shoot you.

Lacey quickly lines up a shot and fires as Robin and Marian both shoot and two striped arrows hit Lacey in his left arm. The force of Lacey's arrow knocks the Sheriff's decoy from his horse as Lacey falls and rolls down the hill into the village. Robin watches a brief moment, then runs to another vantage point so he won't be seen. At the bottom of the hill, Lacey grabs the stub of one of the arrows in his arm.

LACEY

I did it, Ruth. I shot the Sheriff!

Lacey lies back and closes his eyes, satisfied as the real Sheriff steps in and stands over Lacey.

SHERIFF

No, you shot the deputy.

Lacey's eyes fly open and he snaps his head round to look at the dead man, who he thought was the Sheriff.

My lookalike.

Robin, Marian and Much emerge from the trees several paces away from Joe. The Sheriff nods at Gisborne. Gisborne approaches and stands over Lacey, who looks up at him, visibly frightened, then plunges his sword into Lacey's chest. Marian is shocked at Gisborne's action and she and Much turn their heads as Gisborne pulls out his sword, but Robin calmly stares with troubled eyes.

MARIAN

Poor Joe. I understand his grief, but why did he kill so many?

ROBIN

Assuredly, while still staring at Lacey: He didn't.

MARIAN

Frowns at Robin. Well, who did?

MUCH

Having seen enough: Let's go.

The three leave, but Robin stops for a moment and glares knowingly back at the Sheriff, who is walking back to his coach as de Fourtnoy is coming to meet him.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Twenty-One

The road to Nottingham.

The Sheriff is riding in his coach, brushing dirt from his fur coat, when Robin climbs inside the moving vehicle, sits opposite the Sheriff and scowls at him.

SHERIFF

Annoyed: Oh, what now, Locksley? Hm? Girly voice: "Oh, I will kill you, I get to kill you, I mean it. You cow, I mean it."

ROBIN

With quiet intensity: Lacey had no reason to kill stableboys and washerwomen. But you did. It suited you to have people think I was the killer.

SHERIFF

Raises his eyebrows. Yeah, interesting idea. I wish I'd thought of it.

ROBIN

You did. Admit it.

SHERIFF

How could I admit it? You swore that you would kill me if ever did such a thing.

ROBIN

Pulls out his knife and leans over the Sheriff: I meant it.

They glare at each other.

SHERIFF

Whispers: And that's why... no-one will ever know.

The Sheriff plants his foot in Robin's hip and pushes him out of the coach.

Road to Nottingham.

Robin falls backwards out the doors of the moving vehicle, rolling onto his stomach. He quickly scrambles to his feet and runs to the trees where the gang are waiting as backup, bows drawn. Two mounted guards pursue as far as the trees, then stop as the gang disappear into the forest. They turn back to the road as the coach rounds a bend.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Twenty-Two

Nottingham Castle. Courtyard.

Gisborne and the Sheriff quickly climb the steps.

GISBORNE

My lord, let me send my men after him.

SHERIFF

No, too late for that. But I do have another job for you.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Twenty-Three

Nottingham Castle. Stables.

De Fourtnoy is brushing down a horse. Gisborne silently slinks round the corner, startling the master-at-arms. De Fourtnoy glares at him.

de FOURTNOY

Oh, Gisborne, it's you. Excuse me. *Resumes brushing the horse.*

GISBORNE

I just came to inform you that... I'm to be the new master-at-arms.

de FOURTNOY

Stops brushing, looks at Gisborne. I don't believe you. I'd need to hear that from the Sheriff himself. *Resumes brushing.*

GISBORNE

That will not be possible, I'm afraid. *Steps beside de Fourtnoy.*

de FOURTNOY

I have been a loyal servant. I have...

GISBORNE

What?

de FOURTNOY

Fully faces Gisborne. I've even killed for him.

GISBORNE

Smiles. Yeah, the Sheriff thought you might say that.

De Fourtnoy turns back to the horse as Gisborne steps behind him.

Which is why... *pulls out a dagger and holds it behind his back...* I am to be the new master-at-arms.

Gisborne quickly stabs de Fourtnoy in the back. De Fourtnoy falls to his knees, then his back, and dies.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Twenty-Four

Nettlestone. Late afternoon.

Robin and Marian walk towards the village. The rest of the gang are waiting in the village.

ROBIN

Can I ask you a question?

Marian looks at Robin.

Why do they call you the Nightwatchman when you come out in the day?

MARIAN

I don't normally. You know I can't be seen. And I did not choose the name.

ROBIN

Scoffs: Bah. Anyway, you do not need to do it any more, day or night.

MARIAN

Now you're here, you mean.

ROBIN

Chuckling, arrogantly: Yes!

MARIAN

Scoffs and stops. Calmly: My father had me taught to fight. He wanted me to have choices in the world. And I choose to help the poor. You are not about to stop me doing that.

ROBIN

Knowingly: But does your father know what you're doing?

MARIAN

Evasively: He thinks I enjoy embroidery.

Robin sniggers and Marian can't help but chuckle with him. He looks at his men waiting in the village, then turns back to Marian.

ROBIN

Give me a moment? I have a mill to open.

Marian nods and watches him leave. Robin walks into the village and nods to Much, who tosses him the Sheriff's purse. The gang walk with him towards the mill. From her shelter next to it, Kate sees them, and stands. Sniffing, she slowly walks towards them. Robin strides up to her and holds out the purse.

ROBIN

Take this.

Kate stands, trying not to cry.

It's for you and Owen, in memory of your son.

Kate grips the purse tightly, desperately holding back her tears. Robin looks back at Little John.

John?

Little John hands his staff to Will and walks up to the mill. Robin joins the gang again. Little John laces his fingers, stretching them back to crack his knuckles, then rips the wood slats off the door of the mill and kicks in the door. He stands back.

Announcing to the villagers: I hereby declare this mill... open for business!

The villagers cheer and go to hug Robin and the gang.

MAN

God bless you, Robin!

But Much has already left and is walking over to Marian, who is watching with her arms folded and a look of fond admiration.

MARIAN

Turns to Much, smiling: He has to have the glory, doesn't he?

MUCH

Glory? Nah. I think he just wants to be loved.

Marian glances at Much, then stares at Robin again as he is hugged and patted on the back, giving that a thought.

MAN

Thank you, all of you. All of you.

Robin looks back to see if Marian is watching. She smiles coyly at him, and he smiles elatedly back at her.

† †

.END OF EPISODE THREE.