

# **ROBIN HOOD**

*Series One, Episode Four*

## **Parent Hood**

*written by Mark Wadlow*

*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
Mary	Matilda Thorpe
Annie	Joanna Horton
Peter	Guy Porritt
Tess	Emily Aston

## Scene One

### *Sherwood Forest.*

Roy is running with knobler in hand through the forest, pursued by five of Gisborne's men on horseback. After a while he reaches the agreed-upon ambush point and runs right at Robin, who is standing in the open. Roy winks at Robin as he runs past him and Robin winks back, takes a deep breath and waits. The horsemen gallop towards him. Much, waiting behind a thick tree trunk, readies the long stick in his hand. Will, with his broadaxe out, and Allan, with a roughhewn bow, peek out from behind another tree on the other side.

Robin, still standing in plain sight, holds his arms out, inviting the gullible men in. The horsemen maintain their pace, unaware that a thin strand of twine has been suspended between two trees. The first two riders run into it with their shoulders and are knocked off their horses. Much swings his stick and hits the helmet of a third, who pulls hard on the reins and the horse rears, knocking him off. The last two riders have stopped and Allan and Will each pull them off their horses. Beyond the ambush site, Roy stands in front of a startled, riderless horse, holding his arms out wide.

ROY

Whoa!

Gisborne gallops up last and watches the last of the scene. Much, Allan and Will each mount a horse and ride off. Robin sees Gisborne and turns his new horse to face him.

ROBIN

Triumphantly, impudently: Ha-ha!

Gisborne stares, but stays put as Robin and Roy follow the others into the forest. Then he smirks.

### OPENING CREDITS

### *Sherwood Forest. Further into the forest.*

The gang have stopped to congratulate Roy. Robin hugs him.

ROBIN

A good idea, Roy.

ROY

Do we like it? I think we do!

Roy clasps fists with Allan

ALLAN

What up, mate?

Will hugs him.

ROY

Fantastic.

Much goes over to Roy with his hand up, ready for him to slap.

MUCH

Roy! Roy!

Roy makes to slap Much's hand, but he deliberately misses it, spins round and sticks his tongue out, laughing at Much, who is unamused.

Yeah, very funny.

ROY

Very funny! to Robin: Seeing it were my idea, I get [*points at the horse he rode*] to keep the nag, right?

ROBIN

The nag? *Steps between Roy and the horse. With feigned indignation:* This is a destrier warhorse of the finest pedigree. *Brightly:* Of course, my friend... *playfully pushes Roy...* you deserve it!

*Irked that the others are having fun at his expense, Much steps away, after pulling off his cap. A baby fusses, but is not heard. Robin notices Much off by himself.*

Much? *Takes several steps towards him.* Much, do not be so easily wounded!

*The baby fusses again, louder.*

ROY

Oh, you have it then if you're going to cry about it!

MUCH

*Turns around.* I am not crying!

*The baby wails and Much looks behind him. Will, seeing nobody else is doing anything, steps quickly between Robin and Roy. Much, Allan and Robin follow. Will picks up the swaddled infant and cuddles it as all but Roy gather round.*

What is it? I mean, I know what it is, but...

WILL

It's a boy.

ALLAN

We rode straight past him, could have trampled him.

MUCH

Where's its mother?

WILL  
This baby's cold. Mother's long gone.

ROY  
*Standing stiffly, bothered by the noise:* Can't you stop it crying?

ALLAN  
*Glances back at Roy.* Yeah, here you are.

*Will shushes the baby as Allan steps towards him, then takes the infant and holds him upside down. The baby's cries escalate.*

WILL/MUCH/ROBIN  
Whoa!  
*Robin quickly takes the baby from Allan.*

ALLAN  
What? That's how you shut them up.

ROY  
Come on. Leave it. Let's go.

MUCH  
You can't just leave a baby.

ROY  
What you want to do with it? We're outlaws, not wet nurses.

*The baby's wails turn into coos as Robin bounces him gently.*

WILL  
Hey, how'd you do that?

ROBIN  
He likes me. *Chuckles.*

ALLAN  
He's lucky to be alive. *Looks around at the ground.* There's hoofprints everywhere.

*They all look down at the ground and Robin notices something.*

ROBIN  
*Holds up a finger behind the baby's head.* Shh. *Turns around.*  
No noise, no movement.

*The others all freeze. Robin kneels down to look at a print. He looks up at Much, who kneels down, too.*

MUCH  
What is it?

ROBIN  
Look at these hoofprints.

*Will kneels down to look.*

They're marked.

*Robin points to a horseshoe print with a large X in it.*

Gisborne is not the fool he looks like. *Looks around.* He will track us.

ALLAN  
That's clever. You've got to admit.

MUCH  
*Stands to face Roy.* You didn't think of that, did you?

*Roy turns his head away, exasperated.*

ALLAN  
I'm not being funny, though, shouldn't we be moving on? They could be coming already.

GISBORNE  
They could be here already.

*Gisborne is watching and waiting amongst the trees on his horse. The outlaws all look at Gisborne, then Robin hears leaves rustling and twigs snapping and turns to see Gisborne's men advancing on foot from all sides. The others turn their heads to gauge the situation with him.*

MUCH  
Master, what do we do?

ROBIN  
What can we do? We do not believe in harming man nor beast.

MUCH  
What?

ROBIN  
*Draws his scimitar, still carrying the baby on his other arm.*  
Vermin, on the other hand...

*The others look at the advancing men, then Much draws his sword and raises his shield, Allan slides the bow off his shoulder to use as a staff, and Will pulls his broadaxe out of his baldric. The footsoldiers charge. Allan ducks a sword from a man and hits him in the face with the bow. Will swings his broadaxe. The man ducks it and swings his sword. Will parries, then ducks a punch. The guard's momentum turns him round and Will kicks him in the back.*





## Scene Four

### Nottingham Castle. Dungeons.

*Roy is sitting against the wall in a cell, having been roughed up by Gisborne, who is leaning over him. Roy repeats what Robin has taught him to say.*

ROY

My name is Royston White. I fight for Robin Hood and King Richard.

*Gisborne backslaps him hard.*

My name is Royston White. I fight for Robin Hood and King Richard.

*Gisborne grabs Roy's shirt and punches his jaw. The Sheriff opens the cell door.*

SHERIFF

It would be wise, would it not, to break his jaw after he's talked, rather than before? *Steps to Gisborne.* Who is he?

GISBORNE

*Stands up, holding Roy's tag.* One of his associates. *Hands the tag to the Sheriff.* Raided my stables. Unfortunately for them, I had my horses shod with an identifying mark, which enabled me to track them down.

SHERIFF

*Bends down to Roy.* Quietly: Talk.

ROY

*Recites:* My name is Royston White. I fight for Robin Hood and King Richard. I'll say no more.

SHERIFF

*Whispers:* Oh, you've said enough. You must have had a very difficult day.

ROY

*Baffled, quietly:* What?

SHERIFF

*Stands to Gisborne:* Let our friend rest. *Turns to leave.*

ROY

What's happening here?

SHERIFF

*Turns back around and holds his finger near his lips.* Shh. Shh-shh-shh-shh.

*Th Sheriff motions to Gisborne with his finger and they both go to stand outside Roy's cell.*

GISBORNE

He'll not talk, I can assure you, unless he is beaten.

SHERIFF

*Twirling the tag around his finger:* First, find out if he has any relatives in Nottingham. *Leaves the dungeons.*

*Gisborne turns around to stare at Roy a moment, then as he turns to leave, Annie approaches with a tray.*

ANNIE

*to Gisborne:* You are back quickly.

*Gisborne starts to leave.*

Did... did he cry?

*Roy perks up at the strange question. Gisborne glances at Roy, then leaves without a word. Annie continues on to Roy's cell with the tray. Roy scrambles to the door as Annie kneels, puts the tray down on the floor and hands him a cup through the bars.*

ROY

What's your name?

ANNIE

Annie.

ROY

Why did you smile at him, Annie?

ANNIE

He has another side. A side he cannot show. *Stands with the tray.*

ROY

You're wrong.

ANNIE

Be careful. *Squats down.* If I had position, I would be his wife.

ROY

He tell you that, did he?

ANNIE

I am the mother of his child.

ROY

Well, you look what he did to me.

*Roy pulls his shirt off his shoulder, revealing large bruise. Annie stares at it.*



**Scene Six**

**Nottingham Castle. Dungeons.**

*Annie returns with another tray. Roy stands. Annie puts the tray on the floor and stands up with a cup, which she hands to Roy.*

ROY

What's your baby called?

ANNIE

None of your business.

*She bends down to pick up the tray and stands. Roy stares at her.*

Seth. Turns to leave.

ROY

He's a few weeks old, got a velvet shawl?

ANNIE

*Turns back, smiling.* Yes. How...? Did you meet him on the way to the abbey?

ROY

Sort of.

*The dungeon door opens and Annie leaves as Gisborne approaches.*

GISBORNE

*Smugly:* Sheriff wants to see you.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

**Scene Seven**

**Sherwood Forest. Outlaws' camp.**

ALLAN

*Arms outstretched, flustered:* What is the point of us all dying?!

*Robin leans on a tree looking away from the group.*

ROBIN

"For every man there is a purpose which he sets up in his life.

*Will, with the baby, looks up at him. Little John looks, too.*

"Let yours be the doing of all good deeds." *Looks back at the gang and shrugs.* That's us, lads.

WILL

Is that the Bible?

ROBIN

It's the Qur'an.

WILL

What's that?

MUCH

It's the Turk bible. He read it in the Holy Land.

ALLAN

Why?

ROBIN

I wanted to know what it was that we were fighting.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

## Scene Eight

### Nottingham Castle. Sheriff's quarters.

Roy is brought in as the Sheriff is painting his toenails black, his foot resting on the table. Gisborne is sitting on the edge of the table, holding the tiny cup for the Sheriff.

SHERIFF

Finishing his big toe: Ah. Looks up at Roy. Mocking his northern accent: "Royston White. I fight for King and country."

Gisborne sets down the cup and stands beside the table.

Hm? Blah-di-blah-di-blah. Now look, I'll be blunt. I have a favour to ask. Puts down his foot. I would be very grateful if you would, erm... picks up a dagger... use this on our mutual friend, Robin Hood.

ROY

I'd sooner kill me own mother.

SHERIFF

Ah! Yes, what an amazing coincidence.

The Sheriff nods to Gisborne, who steps to the door.

You see, when people say things like [*in Roy's accent*] "I'd sooner kill me own mother," they usually don't have that statement tested.

The Sheriff nods at the door, which opens to reveal Roy's mother, Mary. Gisborne smugly presents her with his hand.

ROY

Looks incredulously at Mary. Mother...

MARY

Sees Roy and cries with relief, hand to her mouth. Oh, Royston! I thought you were dead!

ROY

Mother...

MARY

I thought you were dead.

ROY

I was going to come back. Sniffs. I was going to come back when things were better. But they never got better.

Mary sobs.

SHERIFF

Oh, yes, I like this. This is good, isn't it, hm? The, er, the

horns of dilemma. Kill Robin or kill mother. So which is it to be?

ROY

I'll not do it.

SHERIFF

No, erm... stands, takes the dagger. Walking over to Mary: You... you do not understand what dilemma means. It means you have to do one or the other. You have to... decide. And if you don't, well, let's just say I'll decide for you. Hm?

The Sheriff takes the towel off his shoulder and dabs Mary's eyes.

So... shall we say... puts his face in Roy's... sunrise tomorrow? Hm? I don't know about you, but I work best to a deadline. Of course, when people say deadline

The Sheriff stoops down to look up into Roy's downcast eyes.

they don't usually mean that somebody will be dead at the end of it.

The Sheriff hangs the dagger's belt round Roy's neck and pats his shoulders, leaving Roy shell-shocked.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

### Courtyard.

Roy mounts a horse.

SHERIFF

Walking up beside Roy's horse: So, you've made an heroic escape, I think, don't you?

Roy sits dejectedly on the horse.

And my men, well, they're determined to catch you. Oh, look... holds up Roy's tag... don't forget your little badge of honour.

Roy takes his tag.

Well, go on then, run.

Roy doesn't move. The Sheriff turns to go back inside as Roy dismally looks out the gate.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

### Scene Nine

#### *Outside Nottingham, at the edge of the woods.*

*Robin has fashioned a sling to carry the baby in during their pending adventure. He is the last to mount his horse.*

ALLAN

What are you doing with the baby?

ROBIN

Well, we can't leave him.

ALLAN

Well, he can't come with either. What you gonna do?  
Give him a little dagger? A little bow and quiver?

LITTLE JOHN

Look! There's Roy!

*They look out towards the town and see Roy running on his horse away from the gate. Robin canters out of the shelter of the trees so Roy can see him.*

ROBIN

Roy!

*Robin motions to Roy to follow him. Roy turns his horse towards him as a small squad of mounted guards start their pursuit from the gate. When Roy catches him up, Robin turns his horse and they disappear into the woods. The squad stop and turn back.*

#### *Sherwood Forest.*

*The gang canter through the trees towards camp.*

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

### Scene Ten

#### *Sherwood Forest. Outlaws' camp.*

*The baby is crying in Robin's arms. Roy is nervous about his impending deed, but the gang, in their delight, don't notice.*

ROBIN

It is good to have you back, sir. *Claps a hand on Roy's shoulder.*

ROY

Good to be back.

WILL

*Steps over to congratulate Roy. How are you? Shakes Roy's hand.*

ROY

Yeah, good.

WILL

You all right?

ROY

Good, yeah. *Steps back from Will.*

LITTLE JOHN

*Faces Roy, arms outstretched. Roy!*

ROY

John. *Taps Little John's sides instead of a hug, and steps backwards away from him.*

ALLAN

*Arms outstretched, stepping towards Roy: Hey, how'd you escape?*

ROY

*Backing off: Oh, you know, erm... I showed the Sheriff some of me moves.*

*The others laugh.*

I reckon he was impressed. Reckon he were gonna ask me to join his side. *Laughs.* I would have said, "No thanks, mate. I don't do red wine from Burgundy. I'm an October ale man, me."

*All laugh and "yeah" in approval.*

ALLAN

So how many did you take down?

ROY

Oh, a few, a few, er... yeah, quite a few.

*Much takes the crying baby from Robin, who joins the celebration. Much walks towards his horse, unimpressed by all the jabber.*

ALLAN

What, a hundred? Two?

ROY

Well, not that many. Come off it.

*The others continue to talk and joke.*

MUCH

*Mutters to the crying baby:* "Moves." What does that mean?

*Much looks at Roy's horse, then has an idea and turns back to the gang.*

Stop. Stop! He's going to kill us! *Points at Roy.*

ROY

You what?

ALLAN

Who?

MUCH

*Pointing:* Him!

ROY

Much? *Looks questioningly at Much.*

MUCH

*Frustrated that no-one understands:* The horse! It's the same trick! They've tracked us!

*Robin goes over to Roy's horse, touching Much's shoulder as he passes.*

He's led them right to us! We're done for.

*Robin picks up the horse's foot, looks at it, and shakes his head back at the gang.*

WILL

*Whispers admonishingly:* Much.

Well, it was possible. You've got to admit that.

*Robin looks sternly at Much and steps over to him. Roy walks over to Robin.*

ROY

Robin, I need to... *jerks his head aside, meaning for Robin to follow...* tell you...

*Roy and Robin step away into the trees.*

Something happened at the castle.

ROBIN

*Puts his hand on Roy's shoulder.* Go on.

*Roy faces Robin, struggling with the task set before him.*

ROY

*Stammering:* I... *finger*s his new dagger... I've something that...

ROBIN

What is it?

*Roy gives up and hides the dagger with his shirt.*

ROY

I know the baby's name.

ROBIN

*Chuckles at Roy's struggle over just that.* OK.

ROY

It's Seth.

ROBIN

*Calls back to the gang:* He's called Seth!

*Will joins them.*

ROY

I-I-I met the father in the castle dungeon. Just for stealing bread.

*Will is horrified.*

It looks like the mother... The thought of raising the child on her own, she must have panicked and brought the baby out to the woods.

WILL

This sheriff, he... he's destroying lives.

*Will turns and walks away, not wanting to hear any more.*

ROY

Well, look, the mother lives out in Knighton. You and I, we should take him home and give her some money to keep the child.

*Much walks over.*

MUCH

Are we moving on?



PETER

If the Sheriff knew your game, he'd have your guts for garters. I'm right, aren't I? *Takes a bite of pie.*

MARIAN

*Pleads:* The pestilence is gone. These people need food.

PETER

Oh, oh! *Throws the pie back in the basket and steps back to Marian.* Nice pie! Now how about a kiss to go along with that. What do you say, my lady?

*He puts a hand on Marian arm. She jerks it away.*

MARIAN

Don't you touch me!

*An arrow splits the distance between them and lands in a loaf of bread behind Marian. Robin, with the baby, and Roy, who just shot the arrow with a longbow, sit on their motionless horses, Roy nocking another arrow.*

ROBIN

Everybody still, if you please!

*Robin and Roy ride up to the cart as Marian rolls her eyes at the interruption. Robin dismounts, and the baby fusses at the movement.*

*Flippantly to Marian:* Having a little trouble?

MARIAN

*Quietly, annoyed:* Nothing I cannot resolve myself, thank you.

ROBIN

*to Peter:* Sword.

*Peter makes no move, so Robin takes his sword from its scabbard.*

MARIAN

*Eases her tone.* The village has been starved.

*Robin continues around, taking away all the swords.*

The disease is gone but the Sheriff has not lifted the quarantine. He wants the village for accommodation.

ROBIN

Roy, tie them.

*The guards walk away with Roy and his bow after them. Robin walks back to Marian, whose eyes are narrowed at him.*

*Arrogantly, mischievously:* And what was your plan? To sweet-talk the guards? *Smiling:* Tt-tt-tt-tt. Bad idea.

MARIAN

*Piqued:* Oh, and you have a better one?

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

*Arrows sail over the barricades and land in the village, pies and bread skewered on them. Robin smiles at Roy, thoroughly and vainly enjoying himself, as Roy shoots a round loaf into a fencepost.*

MAN

Look! It's bread! Quick everyone!

WOMAN

Run, run! Come on, quickly! Quickly!

*The villagers take up the food and eat hungrily.*

MAN/WOMAN

Bless you, Robin Hood. Bless you, Robin Hood.

*Robin and Roy send more laden arrows over the barricade as Marian stands by the trap, left to mind the baby.*

MARIAN

That is a waste of arrows!

ROBIN

No! *Chuckles.*

MARIAN

You could simply throw the food.

ROBIN

*Nods.* We could... *turns back to the village, then turns back to her...* but where would be the fun in that? *Shrugs.*

*Robin and Roy each shoot one more arrow, then as Robin stands up to shoot another, he is shot in his left arm.*

Argh!

MARIAN

Robin!

ROBIN

*Continuing to shout in pain:* Argh!

ROY

Get up!

*Robin pulls the arrow out of his arm.*





ROBIN  
*In pain:* Ow!

MARIAN  
*Sarcastically:* That hurt?

ROBIN  
Yes!

MARIAN  
*Evilly satisfied:* Good.  
*Robin glances down at his arm.*  
*Pleasantly:* Just tying off.  
*Robin looks in her eyes while she ties the knot, then leans in with a cunning smile.*

ROBIN  
Kiss it better?

*Marian pulls the knot tight.*

*In pain:* Ah!

MARIAN  
Done.  
*Robin looks at the stitch, then bends down for his shirt while Marian dips her hands in the water bowl.*

**Exterior.**  
*Roy is pressed against the house, looking through the window at Robin. Tess comes round the corner with a tray and sees him.*

TESS  
Are you spying?

*Roy jumps back, startled.*

Up to no good?

*Tess goes inside as Roy composes himself.*

**Interior.**  
*Tess comes in and closes the door.*

TESS  
Sorry. I heard crying. This is the milk... *looks at Marian...* and cheese for the mother.

MARIAN  
This is not our child.

*Robin looks glum, knowing that had things been different, they very well could have a child now. Tess stands still in the awkward silence.*

MUCH  
*Calling from outside:* Master!

*Robin looks out the window.*

Master!

*Robin turns and goes outside. Tess follows.*

*From outside:* Your horse returned without you...

*Marian hears the baby cooing and squats down beside him, trying to put a finger in his fist, then picks him up. Robin comes back in and wistfully watches Marian with the baby for a moment.*

ROBIN  
Can you take the baby?

MARIAN  
Me?

ROBIN  
Its mother lives in Knighton.

MARIAN  
What, because I am a woman?

ROBIN  
*Sighs, looking aside:* Because I have to go. My men are here.

MARIAN  
*Scoffs:* The call of the wild.

*Robin takes a deep breath, trying not to lose his temper and steps towards her.*

ROBIN  
Marian, why is it everything you say to me sounds like a criticism?

MARIAN  
I do not know. I suppose these are the lives we have chosen. Always different directions.

ROBIN  
And yours is the better direction?

MARIAN  
I work within the system. It is the only way.





## Scene Fourteen

### **Nottingham Castle. Courtyard. Late afternoon.**

*The gallows platform, with one noose ready, has been set up in the centre of the courtyard.*

*The main doors open and thunder rumbles in the distance as Marian steps out bravely in a light grey sack dress with a rope belt. Her hair is loose and her hands are tied behind her back. She is escorted down the steps by two guards as the Sheriff and Gisborne stand at the top. Edward stands halfway down, watching as Marian is led to the platform.*

EDWARD

*As she passes him: Marian...*

*Thunder rumbles again.*

SHERIFF

*to Gisborne: Long and flowing. Sweet.*

*Gisborne is clearly unhappy with the turn of events. Marian steps up to the platform and turns around, head high, staring straight at the Sheriff.*

We cannot have challenges to our authority. The law applies to everybody... *puts his hand out to indicate Marian... even the privileged.*

*The Sheriff nods to the guard, who grabs the back of Marian's hair and roughly cuts it off with a pair of shears as thunder sounds again. Marian is defiant, but tears gather in her eyes at the pain.*

*to Gisborne: Ahh. Wasted beauty.*

*Gisborne hangs his head as the guard continues to saw at Marian's hair.*

Humiliation. Sometimes so much better than execution.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

## Scene Fifteen

### **Tess's barn. Interior. Night. Thunderstorm.**

*Roy sits with his arms wrapped round his knees and the dagger dangling from his hand, leaning between two barrels and staring miserably at the floor. Robin is sleeping in front of him on a short bench with his feet resting on a large sack. Much has fashioned a hammock from a net. Little John sleeps in the straw behind them. Roy looks up at Robin, who starts to thrash and breathe erratically in his sleep. He is having a nightmare, triggered by the mention of the incident earlier.*

**Robin's Nightmare:** *In the Holy Land, a Saracen dashes into the King's tent. Robin is asleep when he is awakened by swords crashing. He hurries to King Richard's tent with a sword and knocks away the Saracen's blade, who was ready to plunge his sword into the King. The Saracen stands over him...*

*Suddenly Robin's eyes open for real and he sees Roy standing over him, driving the dagger towards his chest. Robin grabs Roy's wrist. Roy puts his other hand on top to get more force on it, but Robin manages to keep it pointed over his shoulder.*

ROBIN

Roy, what are you doing?!

ROY

*Desperately, crying: Sorry!*

*Robin sits up, keeping Roy's hands above him, and throws his arms round Roy's waist. Much wakes up.*

MUCH

*Terrified for Robin, thrashing, trying to get out of his hammock: Master! Get up! Wake up!*

*Robin pushes Roy to the floor and pins him there as the others rise. Will and Allan pull Robin off Roy.*

ROBIN

*Roars with indignation: What are you doing?! We came to rescue you! Every man here was willing to risk his life for you!*

ROY

*Distraught: I've gotta kill him! I've gotta kill him!*

*Roy lies on the ground, not moving, and Robin stands up.*

ROBIN

*In war, a rescued man owes his life to his rescuers!*

*Will and Allan help Roy stand.*

He gives his life like that for the men who saved him!

LITTLE JOHN

What is going on?

MUCH

*Furiously, pointing at Roy:* This one tried to kill Robin.

LITTLE JOHN

*In utter disbelief:* What?

*Will is holding Roy by one arm and glaring at him.*

*Stepping towards Roy:* Ffff, ffff.

*Little John looks at Robin, confused, and sees Robin is not disputing it. He faces Roy, rage boiling.*

You were like my son!

*He stares fiercely at Roy, starts to turn away, then punches him. Roy spins backwards out of Will's grip and Little John charges him.*

My son!

*Robin, Much and Allan catch and hold Little John away from Roy. Little John is still screaming at Roy, who is cowering against the wall. Roy, Will and Little John are all shouting simultaneously.*

ROY

Kill me!

LITTLE JOHN

I... will... kill... you!

*Robin, Much and Allan manage to push Little John to the ground, but Little John keeps trying to get up again.*

ROBIN

John, leave it!

LITTLE JOHN

I'll kill him!

ROBIN

John, that's enough!

LITTLE JOHN

Kill him!

*Robin somehow wrestles the large man back down and grabs his head.*

ROBIN

Listen to me! Listen to me!

*Little John grudgingly stops struggling.*

That's enough. Enough. I need to think. Stop. Now.

*Robin glances back at Roy, then gets up. Little John stands up. Robin turns away, his hand over his arrow wound, and Much glares at Roy. Little John spits at Roy, then sits down. The others relax and Robin sits down on the bench, still holding his arm and catching his breath as thunder rumbles. He looks at Roy, who is still cowering miserably against the wall.*

What have I ever done to you to make you want to kill me?

ROY

*Crying:* My mother. They've got me mother.

ROBIN

*Pauses, realising Roy's dilemma.* And they will kill her... unless you kill me first.

ROY

She'll hang at dawn.

*Robin sighs and looks down as everyone else finally understands the situation.*

WILL

*Spitefully:* I hate the Sheriff.

*Much looks at Robin, who walks over to Roy and squats by him.*

ROBIN

*Softly:* And the story about the child's mother? That was a lie, too?

ROY

*Nods.* Gisborne is the father.

*Robin looks at Much.*

WILL

Gisborne?

ROY

The mother's a kitchen girl. She thinks Gisborne's going to take to child to Kirklees Abbey to be raised there.

WILL

I hate Gisborne, too.



*They all whisper "Mary" or "Mother" as they walk through to the end, finding all the cells empty. Then the Sheriff's voice comes from behind.*

SHERIFF

*Whispering:* Mary, Mary! Mary, Mary!

ROY

*Steps forward.* Where is she? What you done wi' her?

SHERIFF

Gisborne, what do you think? Does that look like the first light of day?

GISBORNE

*Glances up.* Mm-hm.

SHERIFF

Mm, well, I kept my part of the bargain. You didn't keep yours. So... *turns to four guards...* bring them to see [*whispers:*] Mary, Mary [*normally:*] swing. *Leaves.*

### **Courtyard.**

*Mary is led to the gallows as the gang are escorted down the exterior corridor towards the courtyard. Two guards lead Roy, who has an additional guard on each side holding an arm. Roy sees his mother through the cloister.*

ROY

Mother!

*The executioner starts to put a hood over Mary's head.*

SHERIFF

Erm... no hood, I think.

*The executioner takes back the hood as Roy is led down the steps past the Sheriff.*

ROY

*to the Sheriff:* You'll rot in hell for this!

SHERIFF

Really? Just for this? Oh.

*Robin and Much are next, also with a guard on each arm. Little John has his staff tucked under his arms and behind his back, a guard on each side. Will comes last with just one guard, who has his broadaxe. Mary tries to be brave as the noose is slipped over her head.*

Mary, Mary's, boy's contrary, time to see her swing.

*Annie grabs Gisborne's hair and holds a knife to his throat.*

ANNIE

*Roars:* Murderers! I will kill you!

*Everybody turns to look at her.*

GISBORNE

Annie!

ANNIE

Do not move!

*Allan sneaks in down the side steps, his deed done.*

You left him in the woods! You said he would be safe! You left him to die! Our son! Our baby!

SHERIFF

Gisborne? *Tuts.*

*Gisborne knocks Annie's knife away, then backslaps her with all his might, knocking her to the floor. Robin takes advantage of the distraction and lunges into the guard on his left, pulling free of the other's grasp, and Roy does the same. Robin throws an elbow into the man to his right, then turns, grabs the left arm of the first guard about to punch him, and kicks him in the groin. The guard doubles over. Will pushes his lone guard into the wall, grabbing the man's sword as Allan runs between them to Annie's aid. After Allan passes, Will strikes twice with the sword. Gisborne is trying to pin Annie to the floor when Allan runs up and shoves him into the wall and then kicks him in the face. Allan pulls Annie to her feet and leads her away from the fight. Little John twists his body to hit a guard with the staff, then frees an arm and spins the staff round to knock back the second, then drives the butt of his staff into the first. Robin wrenches his bow away from his fallen guard as he parries a blow from one soldier with his sword, then turns, swinging, and quickly brings his sword up to parry a thrust from another behind him as he turns to face the first again. Much blocks a swing, then slaps the guard with his bare hand and grabs the sword arm of the second. With his eyes on Mary, Robin runs down the steps, dodging a swinging sword, and heads for the steps to the platform as Little John is thrusting the end of his staff into the guard. The executioner charges Robin as he runs up the steps and he uses his bow like a staff to block the executioner's kick and then to knock him over backwards.*

LITTLE JOHN

Robin!

*Robin steps up on the platform and lifts the noose off Mary's head. Little John comes over to help.*

Robin...





*opposite direction.*

MARIAN

*A silent chuckle. Gently: Always different directions.*

*Marian stares at him. Robin glances aside, realising her earlier words are right, then Marian turns the horse around and leaves. Robin watches her go, but the others are watching Annie.*

MUCH

*A bit sadly: I have to say I'm not going to miss that baby.*

WILL

*With sadness in his eyes: Me neither. Watches the cart go round the bend. Peace.*

*Will turns to go back into the forest, revealing Allan behind him.*

ALLAN

*Closing his eyes, desperately: Sleeeep!*

*Allan and Much follow Will. Robin solemnly watches the trap fade into the trees, then turns to watch Marian disappearing over the rise. He dejectedly follows his gang.*

*Annie gazes at Seth, then opens her bag to find a tiny recurve bow and then pulls out a small quiver of arrows, complete with striped fletching. She smiles brightly at Seth.*

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

**.END OF EPISODE FOUR.**