

ROBIN HOOD

Series One, Episode Eight

Tattoo? What Tattoo?

written by Julian Mitchell

directed by Declan O'Dwyer

**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
Djaq	Anjali Jay
Edward	Michael Elwyn
The Jailer	Mark Phoenix

Scene One

Acre, the Holy Land, 1191.

The King's camp. Dawn.

Robin is having another nightmare about the Holy Land: One of King Richard's guards falls to the sand, dead, as four Saracens gripping scimitars run towards the camp. Robin, his back to the tent wall of fine netting, and Much, opposite him, are asleep as another Crusader soldier engages one of the intruders. Robin's eyes open at the sound of swords clanging. He flips his head around towards the noise and sees them battling, then scrambles to his feet, grabbing his longbow and some arrows as he runs out of the tent calling to Much.

ROBIN

Much! Saracen raid! The King's under attack! Much!

Much grabs his sword and jumps to his feet.

Outside, the intruders are cutting down the Crusader sentries and making their way in with relative ease. Robin runs to an open spot and falls to his knees as he slams the arrow points into the sand and picks one up to nock into his bow. He aims quickly, shoots down a running Saracen, then grabs his arrows, jumps over a large bundle and runs further into the camp as another Crusader goes down. Robin reaches another open spot, again falls to his knees, slams arrow points into the sand and shoots a Saracen chasing a Crusader, then a third as he runs past. The fourth Saracen comes up unnoticed behind Robin and stabs him in the left side of the chest with a knife. Robin screams and goes down on his other side as the lone surviving Saracen runs off. Robin gets to his knees and nocks one last arrow as Much comes running.

MUCH

Master!!!

Robin shoots at the last Saracen just as the intruder is about to enter the King's tent, but he misses. The Saracen stops and glances at Robin, then ducks inside. Robin falls down again in pain, clutching his side, as Much reaches him, dropping his sword in front of Robin.

Master! You're wounded!

ROBIN

Breathlessly: Get help. The King's tent. Picks up Much's sword. Now.

Much doesn't move.

Now!

Much scrambles off as Robin uses Much's sword to help himself to his feet. He rushes into the King's tent just as the Saracen is raising his sword to thrust it down at the sleeping King.

ROBIN

Your Majesty!!!

Robin uses all his strength to turn the sword from its path, then elbows the intruder in the ribs. The Saracen falls back. Robin goes after him with an overhead blow, but the intruder rolls away from the blade. Robin wildly swings again, and the stranger dodges it. Robin blocks the Saracen's thrusting move, then swings at his chest as his foe throws himself back and swings low. Robin deftly blocks, pulls his sword back, ducks the Saracen's swing and comes up throwing a punch at the intruder's jaw. He charges the Saracen, grabs his right arm and draws his sword across it, cutting through the sleeve and a distinctive black wolven tattoo beneath it. The Saracen runs out as Robin winces and hangs on to a tent pole.

Sherwood Forest. Outlaws' camp.

Robin wakes abruptly from his dream and tosses his head back and forth, grimacing at the memories. Much is seated on a boulder above him and has seen it all. Robin starts to sit up, notices Much watching him, and looks guiltily away.

MUCH

Quietly, knowingly: Acre.

ROBIN

Sighs heavily, then nods slightly. Quietly: Yes.

MUCH

Silent a moment, then scratches his nose. It's his birthday today. The King. Gisborne is celebrating in Locksley. Can you believe that?

Robin sits with his knees up, puts his hands on them, and pushes himself up to stand. He steps to the fire and stretches his arms over his head as Much continues.

The great and the good raising their cups in your house to a man who wouldn't be here if it wasn't for you. Without you, there would be no birthday to celebrate.

Robin stretches his back with his hands behind his head.

Can you imagine them, the Sheriff and his cronies, and their syco... sycophantic... scoffs, shakes his head. It's galling.

Robin gets a glint in his eye as a plan forms in his mind.

ROBIN
In Locksley?

MUCH
More than galling.

Much looks at Robin, who has a mischievous grin on his face as he looks sidelong at Much, a grin which Much knows all too well.

With mistrust: What?

Robin smugly scrunches up his face as he rests his hand on top of the fire's tripod.

ROBIN
Hm. Why don't we celebrate the King's birthday, too?
Hm?

Much stares at Robin, who smirks and raises his eyebrows in anticipation.

What do you say?

MUCH
There is something wrong with you.

ROBIN
Smiling and nodding. Mm-hm.

MUCH
I'm serious.

Robin laughs wildly.

† †

OPENING CREDITS

Scene Two

Locksley Manor. Interior. Main room.

A crowd of people are talking and drinking. Marian and Edward stand near the fireplace under the stairs. Marian scowls at the guests.

EDWARD
to Marian: What is it?

MARIAN
What is it? This is Robin's house. Look at these people.

Gisborne addresses the crowd.

GISBORNE
My lords, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance here today. As you know we are here to celebrate the King's birthday. *Turns to the table and pours wine into a goblet.* We wish him success in the Holy Land... *picks up two goblets and walks over to Marian...* and we pray for his speedy return to these shores.

Gisborne hands a goblet each to Edward and Marian, who smiles slightly as she takes it. Gisborne goes back to the table to pick up his own drink.

Please, raise your goblets in a toast... to King Richard.

THE GUESTS
King Richard.

The guests all sip from their goblets. Gisborne stares at Marian as he drinks. Marian lowers her goblet and notices him staring.

GISBORNE
I, myself... *sets down his goblet...* have a particular reason to hope for the King's early return to England. For when that day comes, this fair lady, Marian...

Marian stares at him with apprehension in her eyes.

... has consented to be my wife.

The guests "oh" and applaud.

Exterior.

Allan and Will drop from the upper storey right in front of two of Gisborne's men in the courtyard near the main door. They come up swinging with a knife and hand axe, respectively, in their clenched hands and knock each man out with one blow, then nod at each other. Allan waits by the front door as Will goes to stand watch at the other end of the tunnel.

Main room.

Edward takes Marian's hand.

GISBORNE

Before I toast my future bride... *takes a ring from the table and steps towards Marian...* there is something that I would like to present to her.

Gisborne walks over to Marian. Her face is blank as Gisborne holds up the ring to her.

May I?

MARIAN

Whispers, leaning towards Gisborne: You leave me little choice.

GISBORNE

I thought you had already made your choice.

MARIAN

Smiles faintly. I have. This means so much to you, doesn't it?

GISBORNE

This means everything to me. Have I not expressed myself? *Takes Marian's left hand.* You mean everything to me.

Gisborne sighs, then slips the ring on Marian's finger. Edward watches silently. Gisborne pauses, letting the satisfaction of the moment sink in.

My lords and ladies, I give you... *takes Edward's goblet and holds up Marian's hand...* the future Lady Gisborne.

THE GUESTS

Hooray! Hooray!

An arrow suddenly knocks the goblet from Gisborne's hand. Gisborne wildly looks up to see Robin standing at the top of the stairs with one foot on a crossbeam, which runs parallel to the stairs.

ROBIN

Facetiously: Have we missed the speeches?

Little John kicks open the back door as Allan bursts in the front. Gisborne glances at Allan with his hand on his hilt as Marian smiles up at Robin, then quickly hides it. Djaq follows Little John in as Much strides along the gallery behind Robin with his bow drawn.

GISBORNE

Hood! I don't remember inviting you.

ROBIN

With open contempt: Since when has a man needed an invitation to his own house?

Much passes Robin and goes downstairs as Djaq takes Allan's place by the front door and Allan goes to the back fireplace.

GISBORNE

Oh, I don't know. Perhaps since he lost all rights to that house by becoming an outlaw? *Glares at Robin.*

ROBIN

Laughs. I would have declined anyway. My men and I are here on business.

Much heads straight for the food as Robin addresses the guests.

Cheerfully: Please, everyone, if you could assist us by removing all your jewellery and valuables and handing them to that man over there. Much?

Much, chewing, looks up, then wipes his mouth.

Coming downstairs: And then proceed to that room where you will all wait quietly until we've gone.

GISBORNE

Do as he says.

ROBIN

Leans on a post at the foot of the stairs. Wise decision, Gisborne.

Little John, shaking his head in a silent scold, takes a sword from a guest. Robin looks around the post at Marian.

LITTLE JOHN

Well, come on! Move it! Move it! Get up there.

Little John herds the guests towards the back as Much opens his shoulder bag. Robin looks at Marian and raises his eyebrows briefly with a glint in his eye. Marian fights to keep the smile from her face.

ALLAN

This way, please, my friends. Thank you.

Much nods, mouth full, as the guests pass and put things in his bag.

ROBIN

Look on the bright side.

ALLAN

Don't be shy.

ROBIN

You'll sleep well tonight, knowing your donations will be feeding the poor of Nottinghamshire by this time tomorrow.

Marian lets a smile show as Allan and Little John herd the guests into the back room. Robin checks their progress, then looks back again at Marian. Gisborne notices where Robin's gaze is directed and his jealousy flares.

Exterior.

A coach approaches. Will sees it, heads for the front door, places the butt of his broadaxe against it and knocks three times.

Main room.

Robin glances at the door.

LITTLE JOHN

Signal. Motions to Allan and Much.

ROBIN

Nearly done.

Little John, Allan and Much go to stand by Robin, who leans his bow against the post

MUCH

Master?

Robin steps to Gisborne and claps once.

ROBIN

So...

Gisborne starts to draw his sword but Djaq puts her blade on his arm.

EDWARD

Robin, this is ugly.

ROBIN

Yes, this is ugly. *Looks pointedly at Gisborne.* This is my house. So, Marian—

GISBORNE

Interrupting: Back off, Locksley. Marian does not carry money about her person.

Little John comes over and puts his staff to Gisborne's neck.

ROBIN

How do you know?

MARIAN

He is right. I do not carry money.

ROBIN

My compliments. You are very wise to take precautions when there are so many unsavoury characters around.

Allan glances around the room then leaves by the back door as Much stares wide-eyed at Robin, who picks up Marian's left hand.

But this ring... *Scoffs.*

LITTLE JOHN

In warning: Robin... signal.

Robin grasps Marian's ring.

Exterior.

Inside the coach, the Sheriff is approaching.

Main room.

GISBORNE

You've taken everything else. You can leave that.

MARIAN

Quietly, slightly pleading: Robin...

ROBIN

Leans into her. What?

LITTLE JOHN

Impatiently: The signal! *Moves away from Gisborne towards the back door.*

Robin kisses Marian's hand and pulls off the ring.

MUCH

With disgust, picking up Robin's bow: Please...

Little John and Much leave through the back as Djaq heads for the back door.

ROBIN

Stepping backwards, to Gisborne with contempt: We should do this again. It was entertaining. *Turns for the back door.*

GISBORNE

Drawing sword: With any luck, once will be enough.

Robin turns, draws his sword and blocks Gisborne's in one motion, spinning Gisborne round as Edward pulls at Marian. Gisborne, with a dagger in his left hand, attempts to reach back with it to stab Robin, but Robin grabs his arm, twists it behind his back and pushes him forwards into the

post by the stairs. Edward quickly leads Marian beyond the stairs, well out of the way, then they turn to watch. Robin pulls the dagger out of Gisborne's hand, then steps back, allowing Gisborne to spin round and strike with his sword. Robin blocks it and drives Gisborne's arm up, pushing him back, then pins Gisborne's sleeve to the post with the dagger. Gisborne reaches out with his free hand at Robin's throat, but Robin pushes it away and steps back, bringing his scimitar to the front and pointing it at Gisborne. Robin backs away. Gisborne glares at Robin, who grins wickedly back at him.

Exterior.

The Sheriff approaches.

Main room.

Gisborne pulls his arm down from the dagger, tearing his sleeve and revealing a solid black wolverine tattoo with a neat, straight, white scar across it. Robin's grin falls into a wide-eyed gape as he recognises the tattoo.

(A flashback to Robin's dream: Robin slashing across the tattoo and Gisborne's eyes in a masked face.)

GISBORNE

Surprise.

ROBIN

It was you!

(A flashback to Robin's homecoming: "Do not pretend that you do not love war. I've seen you fight." "When?" "I do not recall."; overlapping the incident in Acre: Gisborne's eyes above the scarf over his face as Robin shoots and misses the fourth Saracen; slashing the tattoo on the Saracen's arm; Gisborne, the fourth Saracen ducking into the King's tent.)

Robin is so shocked he cannot move.

Exterior.

The Sheriff gets out of the coach and approaches the tunnel.

Main room.

Robin stares as Gisborne pulls the dagger out of his sleeve and Djaq runs over to Robin.

DJAQ

Robin, what's the matter with you? Wake up!

Djaq circles behind Robin and pushes him towards the back exit as Gisborne punches her in the back with the butt of the dagger handle, knocking her to the floor.

The Sheriff enters. Gisborne sheathes his sword as the Sheriff notices Djaq lying on the floor.

SHERIFF

Food poisoning?

Gisborne runs outside past the Sheriff, Marian following.

Exterior.

Will, Allan and Little John are on horseback, getting away as fast as they can. Robin, sitting on his horse, glares back at Gisborne as Much rides past him.

MUCH

Master?

Robin starts his horse and Gisborne chases him on foot, Marian hurrying behind.

MARIAN

Guy, leave him.

Gisborne runs to an outrider's horse as Robin gallops away.

GISBORNE

I don't think so.

MARIAN

What has he taken? Trinkets, a few purses... nothing.

GISBORNE

Mounts the horse. He has your ring.

The Sheriff strolls over to Marian.

SHERIFF

Your parties are much more fun than mine.

Marian ignores him, watching anxiously as Gisborne gallops off after Robin.

Main room.

Two guards pull Djaq to her feet and drag her outside.

Exterior.

Djaq is escorted past Marian, who gazes after her with concern.

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Scene Three

Sherwood Forest.

Gisborne is in pursuit of Robin. He races his horse through the forest up a hill and finds Robin calmly standing on a rise, looking down at the ring in his hand, his bow and quiver leaning against a tree. Gisborne dismounts, loops the reins over the roots of a fallen tree, and walks cautiously towards his foe. Robin appears to be calm and rational, but inside he is absolutely livid.

ROBIN

Without looking up: Is this what you're after? *Looks up at Gisborne.* Take it.

Robin flips the ring like a coin at Gisborne and it lands on the dead leaves carpeting the ground. Gisborne sighs, looking down at the ring.

Who else, Gisborne?

GISBORNE

Who else what?

ROBIN

You do not travel to the Holy Land to try and kill the King of England on your own. *Shakes his head slightly.* At least you don't. You're not that clever.

GISBORNE

Are you surprised the King has enemies? *Menacingly:* He has no idea. He would make peace with the Turk. And there will never be peace with the Turk.

ROBIN

You made sure of that. Dressing as Saracens and attacking your own king?

GISBORNE

I did what was necessary.

ROBIN

For whom? The Sheriff? Is he behind this?

Gisborne says nothing.

Forcefully: Who else?!

Gisborne chuckles with a smirk. Robin resumes his quiet tone.

I will find out, and when I do, I will see you all hang for treason.

GISBORNE

Oh, and when will that be?

ROBIN

When the King returns.

GISBORNE

I wouldn't hold your breath if I were you.

ROBIN

Confidently: The King will return.

GISBORNE

If the King returns... *quietly:* I still win. I win Marian.

Gisborne keeps an eye on Robin as he bends down to the ring, but as soon as he drops his gaze to pick it up, Robin runs forwards and kicks him in the face. Gisborne falls to the ground. Robin pulls out his scimitar and holds it to Gisborne's throat while lifting up Gisborne's shoulders, letting his head fall back and exposing his neck.

What are you gonna do now? Cut my other arm?

ROBIN

No. I'm going to kill you.

LITTLE JOHN

No!

Robin looks back at Little John, Allan, Will and Much rushing in behind him.

Killing we do not do.

WILL

He's right. At least that's what you taught us.

MUCH

We do not take part in bloodshed... unless absolutely necessary.

Allan meekly shrugs. Robin looks at Gisborne, lets him go, then stabs the scimitar's point into the ground. Gisborne smirks contemptuously at him and Robin punches him out cold.

ROBIN

Breathing heavily: That was necessary.

Little John nods with an accepting look.

WILL

Hang on. Where's Djaq?

Much and Little John turn to Will with anxious faces, and Allan looks at Robin for an answer.

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Scene Five

Sherwood Forest.

Gisborne is gagged and his hands are tied over his head to a tree. He watches Robin, who is glaring at him, walk into camp. Robin throws a piece of wood to the ground by the fire.

WILL

Djaq is our priority. She's one of us.

ROBIN

Stopping in front of Will: How long before Gisborne's men come looking for their master? *Looking around at them all:* I need to sort this and I need to sort this now. *Points to Gisborne.* This man is a traitor. He tried to kill the King!

ALLAN

Look, I'm not being funny, but... I didn't see it.

WILL

Nor did I.

Robin turns to Much with his arms wide, as if to say, "Back me up, here!"

MUCH

Turns his head nervously. Hesitantly: You sent me for help, remember?

Robin turns away in utter frustration.

WILL

You were about to kill him. What happened to your famous justice... trials and evidence and—

ROBIN

Interrupting, roaring: I'm telling you it was him! He's not even trying to deny it! *More patiently, stepping towards Gisborne.* He tried to kill the King in Acre. He stabbed me and left me for dead... *looks Gisborne in the face...* and then he went for the King.

Gisborne stares defiantly at Robin.

WILL

Then have him tried in public. Then he's seen to be a traitor. You kill him here, he's a victim.

ALLAN

I thought you said a Saracen stabbed you.

ROBIN

That was before I realised it was Gisborne!

ALLAN

Well, get your story straight.

ROBIN

Exasperatedly: I told you I fought him! I cut his arm... his tattoo. Look!

ALLAN

You didn't mention tattoos.

Robin turns, hands on his head, trying not to scream.

I don't remember tattoos! Anyway, that is not the point. The point is—

WILL

Interrupting: They've got Djaq.

Robin turns, frowning.

MUCH

We can't leave her.

Robin stares at him.

ALLAN

We've got to get Djaq, Robin.

WILL

They could be torturing her.

ROBIN

Do any of you understand what treason is?!

ALLAN

I understand what torture is.

LITTLE JOHN

Robin, we go to Nottingham, for Djaq.

ROBIN

Intensely: This... is for England.

Robin turns to a sniggering Gisborne and punches him in the jaw, then turns back to the gang.

And this is for England, too.

He punches Gisborne again. Will and Allan pull him away.

LITTLE JOHN

Admonishingly: Robin!

Little John forcefully punches Robin in the jaw with his staff in his hand, knocking him out cold. Allan lets him fall gently

Scene Seven

Sherwood Forest.

Much takes a drink of water from his flask. Robin is still unconscious and the gang have tied his hands over his head to a tree, just like Gisborne, and set up camp. Robin starts to stir. He grimaces at the pain in his head, then realises he can't bring his arms down and looks up to see them tied. Much notices he's awake and stands up. Robin looks at him, then frowns up at his bound hands. Much chuckles nervously.

MUCH

Sorry. *Sighs.* This is difficult.

ROBIN

Untie me.

MUCH

Er, that's... that's the difficult bit. John said... Little John said... I think we should wait until they get back.

Holding out his flask to Robin: Do you want some water?

ROBIN

Much! Untie me. Now.

MUCH

I knew this would happen.

ROBIN

Nods at Gisborne. That man betrayed England.

Much desperately wants to obey. He glances back at Gisborne.

The slaughter in the Holy Land continues because of him. The others would not understand.

MUCH

Then you must make them understand.

ROBIN

Exactly. I need to talk to him... *amicably:* and I cannot do that tied to a tree. Just untie me.

MUCH

You promise me? Because earlier... earlier you were not yourself. You were...

His sense of duty takes over and he gives up.

I'm doing it.

Much hurries over to Robin and unties the knot fastening his hands.

Now, you've had an upset. You need to just sit down, have nice hot—

Once free, Robin makes a beeline for Gisborne.

Robin!

Much chases after him. Robin pulls the gag from Gisborne's mouth and puts his hands around his throat.

ROBIN

Who else was in the plot to kill the King?

GISBORNE

What are you going to do if I don't talk?

ROBIN

I will kill you. I will kill you whether you talk or not.

GISBORNE

No. You've changed, Locksley. You told me so yourself. "Show me an argument ever settled with bloodshed" was it?

Robin storms off to the fire.

You've become a peace-lover, warm and woolly, taking trinkets for the poor.

Robin bends down, pulls his knife from its sheath and returns to Gisborne. Much steps between them, grabbing Robin's shirt.

MUCH

What are you doing? You promised me! You said you would explain things! How is this explaining things?!

Robin shrugs out of Much's grasp.

ROBIN

Angrily: They are simple men. They have spent years hiding in the forest. They cannot understand politics.

Robin tries to push past Much, but Much holds onto Robin, preventing his escape.

MUCH

What has happened to you? I have not hidden in the forest, and I cannot understand this.

Robin pushes Much off.

ROBIN

That, Much, is because you are also simple!

Gisborne chuckles. Much stares incredulously at Robin a moment, then walks away a few steps. Robin notices Gisborne smiling and is immediately sorry for what he's said.

I did not mean that.

MUCH

I have never seen you like this. And may I say I am glad.

Gisborne is smiling, entertained by the altercation between master and servant. Robin glares at him, then starts to walk towards Much, but Gisborne's sniggering is too much for him. He turns and ferociously throws his knife at him, narrowly missing his head and sinking the blade deep into the trunk. Gisborne stops laughing and looks at the knife. Robin glares at him one last time before striding off past Much. Much is relieved for the moment and looks up at Gisborne.

† †

Scene Eight

Nottingham Town. Main gate.

Little John and Allan, with kerchiefs over their heads, drive a cart up to the gate. Little John stops the horse and hides his face, embarrassed at his costume.

ALLAN

Delivery for the castle.

GUARD

Toll charge. Ha'penny.

The second guard walks around the cart, inspecting the sacks and bushel baskets of vegetables. Little John looks back at an odd-looking, long, lumpy sack in the cart.

ALLAN

Holds up a coin to the guard. Daylight robbery.

One of the homeless peasants steps closer to the cart.

PEASANT

Here! I know you fellas, don't I?

Allan spreads his arms wide in exasperated disbelief at the peasant as John chirrup to the horses. They enter the gate.

ALLAN

See? Who needs Robin? As easy as shelling peas.

† †

Scene Ten

Sherwood Forest.

Robin kneels by the fire holding a sword point in the coals. Much checks Gisborne's bonds, then takes a few steps towards Robin.

MUCH

This is wrong.

Robin doesn't look at him.

Master... this is wrong.

ROBIN

Quietly: I'm not going to kill him. Just make him talk.

Robin glances up at Much, then stands, holding out the white-hot tip of the sword. Much gets out of his way as Robin slowly steps towards Gisborne.

Intensely, quietly: The plot against the King.

Robin grabs the front of Gisborne's jacket and puts the sword point near his cheek.

I want names.

GISBORNE

Panting: What kind of king deserts his people to fight someone else's war in a foreign land?

ROBIN

If you are his people then he was right to desert them.

The intensity deepens in Robin's eyes as he brings the tip a bit closer. Gisborne turns away from it.

MUCH

No! Stop! I will not take part in this. You will regret this. You will see sense and you will regret it.

ROBIN

Eyes on Gisborne: This does not concern you, Much.

MUCH

You are my master. Everything concerns me! I have followed you into battle. I have followed you into the forest. But I will not follow you into torture.

ROBIN

Looks at Much. Callously: Then leave me. *Looks back at Gisborne.*

MUCH

If I thought you meant that—

ROBIN

Interrupting forcefully: Go!!!

Much stares for a moment in disbelief, then turns away. Gisborne's eyes follow him, then turn back to Robin in fear, his only supporter gone. Much runs down to his horse and mounts it as Robin backs off from Gisborne.

GISBORNE

With derision: Oh... you seem to be short of friends, Locksley.

Much disappears on his horse.

And what about all those peasants you've championed?

They'll be so disappointed when they realise that under your fine words you're just as violent as the next man. And not just the peasants, either. Some of the nobles you've championed. Swayed by your charitable acts. Edward... *dips head and smiles smugly...* Marian...

Robin swings the sword overhand at Gisborne, who grimaces, expecting to be hit, but the sword hits tree above his head, severing his bonds. Gisborne looks up, then pulls his hands free and rips away the gag hanging round his neck as Robin calmly walks away, sword in hand. Gisborne looks about and sees Robin turn around to face him.

ROBIN

Intensely: Make no mistake. This ends here, traitor.

Robin throws the sword down the hill and it lands point down in the ground, quivering. Gisborne looks from side to side, searching for a weapon. Robin bows his head and spreads his hands, daring Gisborne to charge, then takes a fighting stance with his fists up. Gisborne runs down and swipes a punch, but Robin ducks and successfully returns with a left hook, sending Gisborne reeling. Gisborne attempts another punch, but Robin ducks again, then connects with his right fist. Gisborne comes back at him swinging. Robin backs away from him and Gisborne advances, then swings overhand and Robin grabs his arm and pulls him into the tree where Robin was tied up earlier. Robin resets his feet and is ready when Gisborne turns and tries another punch. Robin grabs his arm again with his left hand and swings a punch with his right into Gisborne's stomach, then immediately follows with an uppercut to his jaw and a punch with his left fist. Gisborne goes down and rolls down the hill a bit. Robin follows, but stumbles as he stops and Gisborne backslaps him as he gets up, then punches him in the face, knees him in the stomach and throws him into the trunk of a large tree. Gisborne pulls Robin upright by his shirt and punches him in the stomach, then throws him downhill. Robin rolls to the bottom of the hollow and Gisborne follows, picks him up, punches him in the gut, then

the face.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Eleven

Nottingham Castle. Interior corridor.

Little John, Allan and Will sneak through the castle, taking turns advancing from column to column.

WILL

I don't suppose anyone's given any thought as to how to get back out again?

LITTLE JOHN

Grumpily: Later! We came for Djaq.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Alchemy room.

Djaq goes from shelf to shelf, checking out the available compounds and herbs. She takes a metal jar from a shelf, opens it, sniffs it, and recoils at the pungent odour. It gives her an idea.

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Scene Twelve

Sherwood Forest.

The fistfight continues. Robin punches Gisborne, who is slow to get up.

GISBORNE

Face it. You're loyal to a weak king. *Stands.*

ROBIN

A king with principles.

Robin and Gisborne circle each other, waiting for the other to strike first.

GISBORNE

No. He's a pawn and you know it. It's not England's war.
It's Rome's.

ROBIN

Then why have you made it worse? Your attack broke the
ceasefire. There could have been peace.

GISBORNE

No, there will always be war. So let's have a king who will
fight for our gain, not the Pope's.

ROBIN

Do you know why I went to war? To recover Jerusalem.
To recover our Holy Land.

GISBORNE

Sarcastically: How noble.

ROBIN

No. When I got there, I met the Muslims... and the Jews...
and I saw it was their Holy Land, too.

GISBORNE

What are you, Locksley, lord of the dance?

Robin reaches back and his right fist lands solidly on Gisborne's jaw. Gisborne stands back up with a smile and Robin answers with his left fist. He swings again, but Gisborne catches his arm and pushes him backwards into a tree. Robin pushes Gisborne's arms down, shoves his shoulders back and connects with a left hook. Gisborne falls to his knees.

ROBIN

And you were right. There will always be war

Gisborne gets to his feet, picking up a large stick.

as long as people like you revel in their own ignorant
bigotry!

Gisborne thrusts the stick into Robin's stomach, then swings it at him, but Robin ducks and the stick hits the tree. Still doubled over, Robin throws himself at Gisborne and they roll down the hill together. Robin gets to his feet first, straddles Gisborne and punches him with his left fist.

† †

WILL
to *Djaq*: Are you all right?

DJAQ
Are you all right?

Will nods.

ALLAN
I thought we came to save you.

DJAQ
Now I'm saving you.

ALLAN
Chuckles. You're a woman. We're men.

DJAQ
Irritating, isn't it?

Little John, impatient at this banter, whistles and pointedly indicates the door. They run out into the castle.

Interior corridor.
The gang run down a long, narrow corridor.

DJAQ
Where now? Do you actually have a plan?

Will, Djaq and Little John pause behind columns. Allan brings up the rear.

ALLAN
I've never been in this part of the castle. Have you?

Little John shakes his head.

DJAQ
Robin? Where is he?

Little John runs past her without answering. The others try to think of an excuse.

ALLAN
Well, he's basically...

Little John groans loudly as they reach a dead end.

That's difficult to explain.

DJAQ
Robin did not come?

Will comes up to her side.

WILL
He was, erm, he was... distracted.

DJAQ
to *Little John*: Because I am a girl?

Little John stares silently at her a short moment, then opens the door at the end of their corridor.

LITTLE JOHN
Here! Go!

Privy room.
They all file into the small room. Little John closes the door behind them.

ALLAN
Seen this? Indoor privy.

Allan opens the trap door and they all recoil at the smell as flies buzz around them.

WILL
So?

ALLAN
So? It leads outdoors.

Flies buzz around their heads.

Well what? Have you got any better ideas?

WILL
Must be another way.

LITTLE JOHN
Firmly: We go.

Little John pushes Will.

Go, go, go!

Will wraps his cloak around him, steps in and slides down.

Outside Nottingham.
Will slides down into the rubbish heap.

Nottingham Castle. Privy room.
Allan steps into the hole.

Outside Nottingham.
Allan slides down into the rubbish heap.

GISBORNE

Shakes his head. A detail. Stands.

ROBIN

She will know you are a traitor. I will tell her.

GISBORNE

I'll deny it.

ROBIN

She is astute.

GISBORNE

True.

Robin gets to his feet.

And she has her doubts about me. But she's also stirred by me.

Robin's temper flares with jealousy.

She will believe my denial.

Robin musters every ounce of strength, punches Gisborne's jaw and falls back, exhausted. Gisborne falls back, unconscious. Robin sits up just as Much and Marian appear at the top of the rise. Marian shakes her head in disbelief at the sight.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Gisborne is still unconscious and is tied to a tree, this time by several loops of rope around his torso. He is also gagged and blindfolded. Much sits near Gisborne, guarding him and holding the hilt of his sword, point down. Nearly out of earshot, Robin lounges against the tree to which he was previously tied, holding the water flask in his lap. Marian stands in front of him, trying to reason with him. They make an effort to keep their voices down, knowing Gisborne must not hear her.

MARIAN

What are you doing? You're a killer now?

ROBIN

When I have to be.

MARIAN

Grow up!

ROBIN

Gisborne made his choice. Everything is a choice. Everything we do. You told me that.

MARIAN

What choice?

ROBIN

Stares off for a moment, reluctant to remember his story. In the Holy Land, Saracens came to kill the King. But it wasn't Saracens. Sets the flask on the ground beside him. It was him.

MARIAN

Rubbish!

ROBIN

He stabbed me and left me for dead. And then he went to kill the King in his bed.

MARIAN

I don't believe you. This is about—

ROBIN

Interrupting: What?

MARIAN

Quietly: You and me.

Robin leans his head back against the tree, rolling his eyes.

I want you to know I didn't realise he was going to announce the marriage.

ROBIN

Well, you didn't seem uncomfortable.

There is a moment of silence as Marian glares at him.

I have proof... his arm. I wounded him. His tattoo.

MARIAN

What tattoo? *A bit agitated:* And I was uncomfortable.

ROBIN

He has a tattoo on his arm. *Pause. Silently, fiercely:* You took his ring.

MARIAN

You took his ring! How could he have been in the Holy Land? He was here in your house!

Marian pauses, then remembers something, and stares at Gisborne. Robin glances at him, too.

ROBIN

What?

MARIAN

Looks back at Robin, unwillingly realising he may be right. He was unwell for many weeks.

Robin scoffs silently, shaking his head.

No-one was allowed to see him.

ROBIN

That is why I have to kill him.

MARIAN

No! Even if you are right...

ROBIN

I am right.

MARIAN

A trial. The process of law.

ROBIN

There is no law. *Sits up.* Until Richard returns the Sheriff is the law. Gisborne is the law. And that is why I have to kill him.

MARIAN

No. I forbid you.

Robin sags back to lean against the tree again.

ROBIN

Sighs. You don't believe me.

MARIAN

I don't know what to believe. Guy... is not a man who would... Surely...

ROBIN

Of course. He is to be your husband.

MARIAN

You know full well I agreed to that under duress. You know I have to play things this way

Robin looks down and shakes his head.

from the inside, for my father if for nothing else. I do not have the option to just run off into the forest.

Robin looks at her and shakes his head again.

What?

ROBIN

Everything... is a choice.

Marian stares at Robin, knowing he has a point. Robin drops eye contact and frowns.

Meanwhile, Much is stabbing the ground with his sword, watching Robin and Marian from a distance when Little John, Allan and Will return to camp behind him. Little John, flustered, kicks over a basket, sending it flying at Much, who quickly stands, thinking Little John is angry at him for releasing Robin.

MUCH

Now, look, he's been my master for ten years. What do you expect me to do?

Little John glares at Much as he passes him. Much notices their long faces.

What happened?

The new arrivals start to take off their cloaks.

Sniffs twice. You stink! Hah! *Looks around.* Where's Djaq?

LITTLE JOHN

Turns around. It was a trap!

ALLAN

We came out through the privy.

WILL

She was right behind us.

ALLAN

They took her back!

LITTLE JOHN

Approaches Much, looks at Gisborne. Him?

MUCH

Sheathes his sword. Alive... It has been somewhat touch and go.

Little John frowns at Much.

Not since the Holy Land have I seen... *jerks his head sideways at Robin.*

Little John scoffs loudly.

It took all my powers to calm him. *Looks at Marian.* And... and hers.

Little John, surprised, looks back at Robin, sees Marian, then scowls at Much.

But it was I who fetched her, so you could say it was all my doing.

LITTLE JOHN

We need him.

Little John, Allan and Will walk over to Robin.

Pleasantly to Robin, motioning to go: We go to Nottingham.

ROBIN

Acidly: I thought you were going. *Glances at Marian.* I have unfinished business here.

ALLAN

It's Djaq.

Much joins them.

ROBIN

The Sheriff will be expecting a rescue. It is better to wait... to think.

WILL

Robin, wake up! It's Djaq!

ROBIN

Sits up. You are thinking of just one man. I am thinking of the King and the whole of England.

WILL

Djaq is not one man. She's a woman.

Marian looks at Will, startled at this revelation.

Have you even thought about what could happen if the Sheriff realises?

MARIAN

Djaq is a woman? The Saracen?

ALLAN

Holds up a hand to her. Long story.

LITTLE JOHN

Points at Gisborne. He can wait. Djaq cannot.

ROBIN

No!

MUCH

If they know we're coming, then we could all die.

ALLAN

True, but it's Djaq.

WILL

It's Djaq.

MUCH

Well, what does that mean? "True, but it's Djaq." It's not even an answer.

ALLAN

But the thing is...

Allan and Will speak their next lines simultaneously.

I like her.

WILL

I think I love her.

Allan and Will look at each other. Robin turns to them, Much is agape, Little John stunned, Marian not sure what to think.

MUCH

Well! *A pause.* Well, even then, that is... that is no reason to knowingly walk into a trap.

MARIAN

Robin is right. You need to think. *Looks at Gisborne.* Look. That is your solution. Trade him for her.

ROBIN

No!

Marian looks sternly at him, Little John glares sidelong at him.

I am not letting him get away with this. *Stands.*

LITTLE JOHN

Admonishingly: Robin!

Little John steps forward and punches Robin's jaw, knocking him out again. Much puts his hands on the back of his head, exasperated.

Not sorry.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Fifteen

Nottingham Castle. Dungeons.

The Sheriff and the Jailer are standing in front of Djaq's cell.

SHERIFF

Has he talked yet?

JAILER

Just about to start. *Clicks the shears in his hand.*

SHERIFF

Pointedly: Well, hurry up then.

The Jailer unlocks and opens the door. Djaq is visibly frightened.

Try and do it quietly. I can't bear bawling.

The Sheriff and the Jailer are about to enter the cell when Marian interrupts.

MARIAN

My lord sheriff?

The Sheriff turns to face her.

I need your help.

The Sheriff looks at Djaq, who is staring fearfully at him, then back at Marian.

† †

The Great Hall.

The Sheriff is seated at one end of the long table. Marian stands at the other end.

MARIAN

They said to give you this.

Marian slides a tag down the length of the table. The Sheriff catches it.

Said you'd understand?

SHERIFF

Inspecting the tag: This, erm, this outlaw. He didn't rob you?

MARIAN

He was only interested in the exchange. Guy for your prisoner. My husband-to-be for a Saracen.

SHERIFF

You see, something's not right. How do I know this isn't

an outlaw ruse? *Holds the tag to his lips.*

MARIAN

Guy is your lieutenant, your ally... your friend.

SHERIFF

Friend?

Marian nods slightly, her face full of worry.

We are talking about the same Guy? I mean, I hardly noticed he was missing. *Chuckles and licks the tag.*

MARIAN

My lord sheriff, please. They have Guy. If they should do anything to him, I... *Feigns trying not to cry.*

SHERIFF

Yes, all right. *Stands and walks the length of the table to Marian.* Might just stop your snivelling.

MARIAN

The outlaws will kill Guy if you harm the Saracen boy. Have you harmed him?

SHERIFF

Pauses, tapping his fingers against the tag. No. Sighs, thinking, then decides. Clicks his fingers to a guard. OK. Prepare the Saracen for travel. Drops the tag on the table in front of Marian.

Marian sighs, relieved it worked.

† †

Scene Sixteen

Sherwood Forest.

Robin wakes, puts his hand to his head, grimacing, then suddenly looks to Gisborne's vacant tree. Much waits, leaning against a fur-covered rock, arms folded, bracing himself for Robin's reaction.

ROBIN

Looks at Much. Where is he?

MUCH

Quietly: They've taken him.

Robin's head falls back in dismay.

It was the only way for Djaq.

ROBIN

Sits up. It was not their decision to make. Where have they gone?

Much shakes his head slightly.

Where?

MUCH

I'm not gonna tell you!

Robin hangs his head.

Please, you can't make me!

ROBIN

If you are my friend, if you are my true friend, you must do this one thing for me... Please.

Much agonises over his duty to Robin or the gang. He pulls his cap over his eyes, bangs his fists on his legs and groans in frustration. Robin looks back at Gisborne's tree.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Seventeen

Treeton Mine. Interior.

Little John pushes a bound and gagged Gisborne ahead of him. The Sheriff follows some guards inside from another direction, pulling Djaq by a rope around her neck.

SHERIFF

Robin Hood has gone to a lot of trouble for you, pretty boy. *Pulls on Djaq's rope.* Not one rescue, but two.

DJAQ

He didn't come the first time.

SHERIFF

Ah, are you feeling unloved?

The Sheriff pulls hard on the rope and Djaq stumbles into him. The Sheriff stops, thinks, then opens each side of Djaq's vest in turn.

Ah! Ah, pretty boy, not a pretty boy at all! Oh, no wonder they want you back in the forest, hm? All those long, cold nights. Well, obviously... *tugs on rope again...* you won't be going back. You see, Hood, he thinks there are two tunnels that are clear. One in, one out. Clever... but not clever enough.

Little John appears with Gisborne from the opposite direction. He pushes Gisborne to the ground.

Where's Hood?

Little John silently sets down his lantern and stands up with a look of defiance. Then Robin appears behind him.

ROBIN

Here. *He hangs his lantern on the wall.*

LITTLE JOHN

Turns around. Robin, no!

ROBIN

I did not agree to this trade, John.

SHERIFF

to Djaq: Dissent in the ranks?

ROBIN

Sternly: I did not agree to this trade. *Walks to Little John's side and looks Djaq in the eyes.* But I should have done. *to the Sheriff:* Let him go.

SHERIFF

Scoffs. It's all right, Hood. Your secret's out, hm? Your pet Saracen...

The Sheriff pulls hard on the rope, making Djaq stumble to Robin's side. Gisborne quickly crawls towards the Sheriff.

... is a lady! Hm? The great thing is, she gave me this.
Pulls up Djaq's container round his neck, sniffs and recoils.

ROBIN

Your secret's out, too. There is no way Gisborne went to the Holy Land without your say-so.

Gisborne, standing up, turns to look at Robin.

SHERIFF

Feigning innocence: Holy Land? Gisborne?

ROBIN

I have proof. On his arm. His tattoo

The Sheriff glares sidelong at Gisborne.

People in the King's guard have heard about that tattoo, and when they return from the Holy Land, he will pay.

The Sheriff pulls out Gisborne's arm and looks at the tattoo beneath the torn sleeve.

And you will pay.

SHERIFF

Tattoo?

The Sheriff pours acid from the container on Gisborne's tattoo. Gisborne screams.

What tattoo?

Robin charges, but Little John holds him back.

ROBIN

No!!!

SHERIFF

to Gisborne: Shut up, you big jessie! [*edited to "jester"*]

DJAQ

to Robin. Let's go.

SHERIFF

You're not going anywhere. Guards!

Several guards break through the slats boarding up a tunnel.

Look, an old tunnel.

Little John punches his arms forward to stretch back his sleeves, ready to fight.

Surprise. Gotcha!

ROBIN

Surprise.

Two ropes drop from above.

An old shaft. Surprise. Let's go! *Grabs a rope.*

LITTLE JOHN

Go!

Little John backslaps a guard as Djaq gets a foothold in the loop, Robin grabs the rope and the Sheriff pulls Gisborne back down the mine tunnel.

Go!

ROBIN

Let's go!

Robin and Djaq's rope rises.

As he's pulled up: Another time, Gisborne.

Little John kicks back a guard, who lands at the feet of another. Little John turns and punches out a fourth.

Above ground.

Much, Will and Allan pull up on the rope. Djaq climbs out. Will and Allan both acknowledge her at the same time as she takes a place between them to help pull out Little John.

WILL

Djaq.

Allan nods to her, then Will glances jealously back at him as Robin climbs out.

In the mine.

SHERIFF

Furiously to the guards: Get off them!

Above ground.

ROBIN

Quick! Get John out!

In the mine.

LITTLE JOHN

Ready at the rope: Pull!

Little John is raised up just in the nick of time to get out of the reach of the guards' sword points.

Above ground.

ROBIN

Pull!

Robin, Much, Will, Allan and Djaq all pull on Little John's rope, which has been looped through a gibbet's supports. Much waits at the edge. Little John looks down at the guards below and laughs, then falls onto the ground at the edge as Much loses his footing and falls onto his back with his feet flying. Robin drops the rope and bends over with his hands on his knees in relief.

In the mine.

The Sheriff looks up the shaft.

Above ground.

Little John looks and nods at Robin. Robin nods back.

In the mine.

Gisborne is still moaning.

SHERIFF

Through his teeth: Stop mewling, Gisborne. Maybe in future you'll think twice before painting your arm like a girl!

The Sheriff tugs on the tattooed arm and leaves.

† †

Scene Eighteen

Sherwood Forest. Outlaws' camp.

Robin sits on a log away from the gang, dejected and ashamed. Little John stands away from him, his back turned and arms folded, but turns to watch over his shoulder as Djaq approaches Robin. Much, Allan and Will are filling plates by the fire.

DJAQ

Is it true? There would have been peace without this...
Gisborne?

Robin nods slightly, still staring out at the trees.

And yet you gave him up for me?

Robin is silent a moment, then he glances at Djaq and hangs his head. Little John relents a bit and comes over. Much and Will stand and walk over, each with two plates. Allan takes a bite and follows with his. Little John sits beside Robin, wanting to say something, but still not looking at him. Will hands a plate to Djaq. Much sits at Robin's feet and offers him a plate.

MUCH

Brought you some food.

Robin slowly takes the plate as Will sits at Little John's feet and Allan settles himself on a rock between Robin and Much. Robin glances at Much, who nods once in encouragement. Robin tears off a piece of chicken and puts it in his mouth as Little John taps his leg. Robin looks back at him.

LITTLE JOHN

Quietly: Hey. Jerks his head a bit to indicate he wants some.

Robin hands him a small bite and Little John eats it. Much looks at Robin, chewing and a smile forming. Robin takes a bite off the chicken leg, chuckles with Little John, and realises all is forgiven.

† †

.END OF EPISODE EIGHT.