

ROBIN HOOD

Series One, Episode Nine

A Thing or Two About Loyalty

written by Paul Cornell

directed by Graeme Harper

**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
Lambert	Rene Zagger
Eve	Kelly Adams
Merton	Simon Green

Scene One

Treeton Mine.

Black powder is being poured from a small barrel into a bowl, then the barrel is pulled back to leave a trail on the ground. When Lambert reaches the Sheriff, Gisborne and Marian, he turns the barrel upright, corks it, and trades it for a lit torch from an assistant. The Sheriff watches him with his eyes from his horse.

LAMBERT

We are ready. Forgive our excitement, Marian, but we've been waiting months for this.

MARIAN

I'm intrigued.

GISBORNE

You'll be astonished, I assure you.

The Sheriff leans on his hand, bored.

LAMBERT

Right. What you are about to see here today demonstrates that by containing the black powder, we can control the charge. Guy's miners would then be able to place a small charge at the scene

Gisborne glances back at the Sheriff.

let the powder do the hard work, and increase production without endangering lives.

The Sheriff yawns.

GISBORNE

Please dismount, my lord. There may be quite a bang.

SHERIFF

Flatly: Really?

GISBORNE

And your horse is highly strung.

SHERIFF

Motions to a guard. It won't be the only highly strung creature if I'm made to hang around for much longer. *Dismounts by stepping on the guard's back.*

Lambert lights the end of the trail with a torch. He tosses the torch into a bucket of water behind him as he, Gisborne and Marian dash behind a partition made of thin logs. The Sheriff stands and watches the flame as his horse is led away, then realises how volatile the powder is as it quickly travels along the line. He ducks behind the partition with the others and peeks out its window. There is a

large explosion as the powder bowl ignites and the horse neighs loudly. All but Lambert duck. As the three slowly stand again, the Sheriff is now visibly impressed. All but Marian walk towards the blast site. Gisborne pats Lambert on the back.

GISBORNE

Well done, my friend.

The Sheriff stands in the centre of the crater and jumps up and down, giddy with excitement as Gisborne folds his arms and watches him.

SHERIFF

Well done, Gisborne! Get me ten or twenty large, huge crates. Ha-ha! *Claps.*

LAMBERT

If I'm to create more black powder, then there are conditions.

SHERIFF

Really?

Gisborne glares at Lambert.

LAMBERT

One, I'm allowed to sell my discovery to other mining concerns.

SHERIFF

Naturally.

LAMBERT

Two, I get a bonus for me work.

SHERIFF

Of course.

LAMBERT

And finally... *notices Gisborne glaring at him...* this powder must never be used as a weapon.

SHERIFF

Exaggerates an agreeing look. Ah. *Climbs out of the crater to Lambert and looks him in the eye.* I think you and I have a future. Trust me.

LAMBERT

Thinks. Mutter: No.

GISBORNE

Admonishing: Lambert...

LAMBERT
I think not.

GISBORNE
Think about what you're doing.

LAMBERT
I cannot trust you.

The Sheriff steps in to Lambert as guards gather round, drawing their weapons.

SHERIFF
My dear boy...

LAMBERT
Let me go or there will be trouble. *Backs away from the Sheriff.*

SHERIFF
I adore trouble.

Lambert backs away more, then takes two short tubes from his belt and throws one towards the Sheriff and Gisborne, who throw themselves onto the ground.

Whoa!

The tube explodes when it hits the ground. Lambert brandishes the other at the guards.

Get him!

Lambert throws the bomb at the guards approaching from in front of the partition. Marian ducks behind it and the guards are thrown back from the explosion as Lambert makes a run for it.

Pointing: Alive!

GISBORNE
Getting up: Lambert!

The guards pursue. Lambert runs through the woods, straight into Robin and Little John, who catches him.

ROBIN
Whoa!

LITTLE JOHN
Whoa! Whoa! Don't go.

ROBIN
Stop. Stop! We can help you!

Lambert twists away, thinking they're with the Sheriff.

LAMBERT
Back off! No. No!

Lambert tosses a bomb at Robin and Little John, who turn away and are pushed to the ground as it explodes.

OPENING CREDITS

Lambert turns around and runs straight into the guards. Allan, Much, Djaq and Will are watching from further away. Robin and Little John join them.

GUARD
Stand still.

LAMBERT
Back off!

GUARD
No point struggling.

Another guard grabs Lambert from behind. Gisborne arrives on his horse.

GISBORNE
It was a mistake to run, Lambert. You'll not renege on our deal.

LAMBERT
There can be no deal. You lied to me, Guy.

GISBORNE
You force me to do this. *to guard:* Search him.

LAMBERT
You promised me you would not use it as a weapon. Please!

GISBORNE
Where is the ledger... with the formula?

Lambert is silent.

That information belongs to both of us. I commissioned you.

LAMBERT
And that is where your input ends.

The gang are still watching from the brush. Little John wipes the soot from his hair as Robin looks on with concern.

Black powder is not a toy, Guy. It is lethal. And I will not let you abuse its power.

GISBORNE

Where is it?

LAMBERT

Somewhere you'll never find it.

SHERIFF

Next to Gisborne on his horse. Your friend seems to enjoy the power he has over us. Very clever. Congratulations, you just made yourself the most important man in Nottingham, Lambert. So when we hurt you, we'll do it very carefully.

The Sheriff clicks to his horse and the guards follow him with Lambert. Robin and the gang are still watching, hidden amongst the trees.

ALLAN

He's done for.

ROBIN

We're done for, if the Sheriff gets the ledger.

† †

Scene Two

Sherwood Forest.

The gang walk back to camp.

ALLAN

Few of those, you could take out a whole town, couldn't you? "Hello, villagers. What? You can't pay your taxes? Boom! You're out."

LITTLE JOHN

It's not funny. Punched me to the ground.

WILL

What was that?

ROBIN

Greek fire. When we were in the Holy Land, we heard tales of boats being destroyed, sunken without a trace.

DJAO

Typical. Our alchemists have been experimenting with it for years and it's called Greek? Never Saracen. Greek!

ALLAN

It's amazing.

WILL

No, it's not. It's evil. It doesn't require any courage or strength or wit to use it.

ROBIN

Right. The plan is... somebody needs to get arrested and taken to the dungeons.

ALLAN

Chuckles. I'm not being funny or anything, but isn't getting arrested what we normally try and avoid?

ROBIN

Well, that's the quickest way in. Why, are you volunteering?

ALLAN

No.

Much stops and raises his hand. The gang stop and stare at him.

MUCH

What?

The gang snigger and laugh and resume walking.

GISBORNE

Take this runt... *pointing to Much...* to the Great Hall.

Guards come in and drag Much off.

to Lambert: Lambert, help me to help you. I cannot hold off the Sheriff much longer.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Nottingham Castle. The Great Hall.

The guards push a shackled Much into the centre of the room. Gisborne follows him in. The Sheriff enters from above. Much freezes when he hears the Sheriff's voice.

SHERIFF

Coming downstairs: Lambert should be at the screaming stage right now, but all I hear is nothing.

GISBORNE

I'm determined to reason with him, my lord.

SHERIFF

Ah, really? *Walks to Much.* And is it working... *looks at Much...* reason? You going soft, Gisborne, hm? *Faces Gisborne and steps back to circle Much.* Because he's your friend, is that it? Well, leave him with me. I'll reason with him.

GISBORNE

I can handle him.

SHERIFF

No-no, you failed me. You're off the project.

Gisborne turns his head aside, biting back his temper.

Now, what [*points at Much*] is this creature doing here?

GISBORNE

Proudly: This is one of Robin Hood's inner circle. This is his right-hand man.

SHERIFF

Sarcastically: Oh, bravo! *Steps to Gisborne.*

GISBORNE

He can tell us all we need to know about the outlaws.

SHERIFF

Like what, hm? That Robin Hood is against us? That he keeps moving his camp on, hm? There's nothing to know!

GISBORNE

All right. So hang him then, make an example.

Much looks up but shows no emotion.

SHERIFF

Brilliant! *Whispers in Gisborne's face:* A clue:... *looks at Much...* no. Hang him... *walks behind Much...* and you have an instant martyr. Suddenly, everybody loves Robin Hood.

GISBORNE

So what would you suggest we do with him, then?

SHERIFF

I'll make a real example of this man.

Much's eyes widen as the Sheriff chuckles.

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Scene Four

Sherwood Forest. A path to Nottingham.

Little John, Djaq, Allan and Robin, in cloaks, are heading to Nottingham to help rescue Much and Lambert.

ALLAN

Does anyone fancy a wager? *No answer.* Yeah? Who thinks he'll get out on his own?

ROBIN

Glances back at Allan. Trust me, Allan. Much can do it.

ALLAN

Are we talking about the same Much?

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Scene Five

Nottingham Castle. The Great Hall.

Much is seated at one end of the long table, which has been lavishly piled with food. The Sheriff is at the other end.

MUCH

I will not poison myself. You will have to kill me first.

SHERIFF

Stands. Poison yourself? *Walks briskly down the table to Much and picks up a goblet.* This... *holds the goblet to Much's nose...* is Burgundy wine. And this... *picks off a piece of meat and holds it in Much's face...* is the very best venison, hm? *Eats the meat.* Mm. A feast. *Drinks.* Although, granted, it may taste like poison to a peasant's palate. *Holds the goblet to his lips, raises his eyebrows at Much, then drains the goblet.*

Much hesitantly takes a bite of a plum.

Hm... which reminds me. Gisborne, your sword.

Much stops eating and glances at Gisborne wide-eyed.

We're going to take hearts and minds to a new level.

Gisborne draws his sword. At the sound of it ringing, Much glances at Gisborne uncertainly, then the Sheriff. He pushes the Sheriff aside to make a break for it.

Calmly: Stop him.

Two guards catch Much.

Make him kneel.

The Sheriff checks the edge of the blade as Gisborne walks over to Much, who is struggling to get free. Gisborne puts a hand on Much's head and pushes him to his knees. The Sheriff approaches Much, point first. Much stares at the point as it reaches his face and cringes, expecting the worst.

By the powers vested in me... blah-di-blah-di-blah, I dub you... *taps Much's shoulders in turn with the blade...* Earl of Bonchurch. Hm?

The Sheriff puts the point of the sword under Much's chin, forcing him to look up.

That's what you were promised, wasn't it, when you came home? Hm?

Gisborne looks at the Sheriff, astonished.

Stand!

The Sheriff glances at Gisborne, who then pulls Much to his feet.

Lord Much! Well... *swings the sword back to Gisborne.* Do you feel honoured?

MUCH

Astonished: Have you really just made me an earl?

SHERIFF

Well, not quite. No. I will have a word with Prince John and he will make it official.

Gisborne shakes his head.

So, you will have all the privileges and luxuries of a lord. You will take your seat in the lodge at Bonchurch. Oh, and er, I expect you at the Council of Nobles tomorrow. *Sits in Much's seat and eats the plum.*

Mm.

Gisborne glowers at Much, unhappy that the Sheriff appears to have given away a piece of his estate.

† †

Scene Six

Nottingham Castle. Dungeons.

Lambert is hanging by his hands, chained to the ceiling, trying not to make any sound as the Sheriff comes downstairs with Gisborne behind him. Lambert looks up as he approaches, his lips trembling.

SHERIFF

You're an intelligent young man. What would you do if you were me, hm?

The Sheriff pokes Lambert in the chest and Lambert cries out a bit.

I have a little of your very exciting black powder and I want some more. *Feigns being hurt:* But you won't give any more, poo.

LAMBERT

Still trembling: I'll not allow you to use this as a weapon.

SHERIFF

But if I ask you nicely... will you give me your ledger with the formula, please?

Lambert hums quietly.

Well, there'll be no nicey nicey now. Have fun. *Turns to the jailer.* Show him the instruments of torture.

Gisborne turns away.

LAMBERT

Guy!

The jailer nods as a large object slides across the floor. Lambert looks about wildly in terror.

† †

Scene Seven

Nottingham Castle. Guest chamber.

The Sheriff and Gisborne spy on Much from behind an ornate wooden wall. Much is being fitted with lordly robes of bright orange.

SHERIFF

Don't take it so personally, Gisborne. Consider if you will the effect on the peasants. "Oh, look, one of us has been made a noble. If we work hard, keep our heads bowed, good little boys and girls, maybe we'll get rewarded, too." You see, our point of view is that of money and power. Give him money and power, well, he sees the world from our point of view. Oh, and erm, just between you and me, I've a certain person in place who'll keep him on track... loyal, trustworthy.

Gisborne watches with narrowed, angry eyes.

GISBORNE

If you'll excuse me, my lord. *Leaves.*

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Scene Eight

Nottingham Castle. Courtyard.

Marian comes down the main steps towards the gate. Gisborne kicks a bench under the tree as she passes. She walks over to him.

MARIAN

Guy!

Gisborne turns away from Marian.

You are upset.

GISBORNE

I'm fine. I cannot discuss it. *Leans on a low branch.*

MARIAN

I had not imagined the man who wishes to marry me would shut me out of his thoughts.

GISBORNE

Forgive me, Marian. I'm not myself.

MARIAN

Has the Sheriff angered you?

GISBORNE

No, the Sheriff undermines me whenever possible. That's not unusual.

MARIAN

Is this about Lambert and finding the ledger? This black powder is costing you a dear friend.

GISBORNE

I am angry, Marian, because the Greek fire was my project and the Sheriff took it away from me.

MARIAN

Thinks a moment, and comes up with a plan to save Lambert.
Suppose we were to take matters into our own hands.

Gisborne looks back at her.

Surely the Sheriff would not mind how you went about it. He strikes me as an end-game man. If you could find the ledger...

GISBORNE

What would you suggest?

MARIAN

Looks around and whispers: Show Lambert you are still his friend. Take him to a place of safety. You always say people respond to loyalty.

Scene Ten

Bonchurch. Exterior.

*The coach arrives. The gang sneak through the trees and watch.
Robin pushes back his hood.*

WILL

Why isn't Much running away?

DJAQ

Maybe he cannot.

ROBIN

Whatever the Sheriff has planned, it will include us. But
Much is safe as long as we are not seen.

ALLAN

Yeah, well, Lambert might've already given in.

ROBIN

I know. *Looks at Allan.* I need to get into the castle.

ALLAN

Well, I've got a lovely idea.

*Meanwhile, two young men rush to open the coach's door. Eve
walks out and kneels with her head bowed as Much steps
down and looks around. Eve looks up at him and then he
notices her.*

EVE

My lord. *Stands.* Welcome. The wealth and bounties of
Bonchurch are yours.

Much nods, then heads inside.

† †

Scene Eleven

Nottingham Castle. Dungeons.

GISBORNE

I'm not here for a confrontation, Lambert. I'm here to
help you.

LAMBERT

Rushes limping to the cell door. Get me out of here, Guy.
They'll break me.

GISBORNE

You reconsidered?

LAMBERT

No. I want to help people, not harm them.

GISBORNE

Quietly: But we can help people. Don't you see? This is the
perfect weapon of war for our troops in the Holy
Land. It would help to save lives.

LAMBERT

You're so naïve. I will die in here and all because I have
not toed the line. Then so be it.

GISBORNE

I have a plan to get you to safety, if you give me the ledg-
er.

Lambert considers the offer.

† †

Scene Twelve

Bonchurch Lodge. Main room.

Much sits in a chair by the fire.

MUCH

You are surely a spy and this is a trap... of sorts.

EVE

I beg to differ, my lord.

Much sees a bowl of grapes on the table, takes one and puts it in his mouth.

I am just Eve, your servant here and I'll do my best to please you.

Much looks at her in a panicky distrust, chewing and swallowing.

This is a lovely place and it's warm here, especially at night.

MUCH

Gives her a sidelong look and reluctantly agrees. Yes, we'll see.

Eve smiles and gets some slippers for Much and places them in his hands.

I mean, I must say it is very pleasant as, erm... as traps go.

Much turns the slippers around and looks at the ornate "M" that has been embroidered on them as Eve kneels down to remove his boots. She looks at him apprehensively.

EVE

Will there be anything else, my lord?

MUCH

Looks at Eve. Yes. How does the Council of Nobles work nowadays?

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Scene Thirteen

Nottingham Castle. Kitchens.

Robin pushes out a horizontal partition, under which he's been hiding, in a barrel, flipping off a side of pork buried in flour and the cloth to protect him from it. He spits the fine dust from his mouth and looks about.

ROBIN

Meat dip. Nice one, Allan.

Robin pushes himself out of the barrel and walks out the door, adjusting the water flask tied to his belt.

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Dungeons.

Robin waits behind a pillar for the jailer to pass, then punches him in the back. The jailer drops his keys, turns around, parries Robin's next punch and comes back with one himself. Robin ducks the next one, punches the jailer in the stomach, pushes him headfirst into a column and throws his unconscious form to the floor. He picks up the keys and looks around for Lambert.

Lambert is slumped against the wall of his cell, dozing. Robin unlocks and enters, quietly closing the door behind him. He creeps over to Lambert with his water flask in his hand.

ROBIN

Do you remember me? I'm going to get you out of here.

LAMBERT

No, you're not. They've broken both my legs.

ROBIN

Shakes head. A detail.

Robin tries to sit Lambert up but he whimpers. Robin covers Lambert's mouth with his hand.

All right, sh-sh-sh-sh. We need to get you out some way.

LAMBERT

You can't.

ROBIN

I'm not giving you a choice. You are the only one who knows how to make Greek fire.

LAMBERT

Tries to chuckle. And that is the joke. There have been so many variations in ingredients, amount... *shakes his head...* I can't remember everything so I record it all in my ledger.

ROBIN
Where is it?

LAMBERT
Slight chuckle. And I should tell you? You're an outlaw.

ROBIN
But it would be catastrophic in the hands of the Sheriff.
Now, how much did you make for him?

LAMBERT
There are three barrels of the mixture and the Sheriff has confiscated them.

ROBIN
Hears a noise and glances back to the door. In the castle?

LAMBERT
Grimaces and shakes his head. I don't know.

ROBIN
Glances back again. The Sheriff will torture you again.

LAMBERT
Yes.

ROBIN
And you'll break. Everybody breaks, and then the Sheriff will have the ledger and the Greek fire. Now, I can hide it for you in another place, and you can honestly tell the Sheriff you do not know where it is, and I will gather my men and I will come back and rescue you.

LAMBERT
And what's to stop you from using the Greek fire for your own ends?

ROBIN
Shakes his head. Nothing. Other than I am Robin Hood and I offer you my word.

Lambert stares at Robin and sees the sincerity in his eyes.

† †

Outside Nottingham.

Robin slides out the sewer and lands on the rubbish heap. His face falls as he sees a guard.

ROBIN
Complaining with a groan: Oh.

GUARD
Oi!

The guard draws his sword and comes running as Robin tries to climb out. Robin falls back into the rubbish, ducking the guard's swing, then kicks him back. He pushes himself to his feet and kicks the guard again, driving him into the wall. He leans his left arm on the guard's shoulder and grabs the helmet with his right hand.

ROBIN
When you wake up, you will tell the Sheriff Lambert no longer knows where the ledger is. Robin Hood knows.

GUARD
But I'm not asleep.

Robin punches him out cold and nods at him.

ROBIN
You are now.

The guard slumps to the ground.

† †

Scene Fourteen

Bonchurch Lodge. Main room.

Eve opens the front door.

EVE

Lady Marian. *Curtseys.*

Marian takes a step inside.

MARIAN

I have come to pay my respects to the new Earl of Bonchurch.

Eve extends her arm into the room to indicate Much standing by the fireplace in his new dressing gown with a goblet in his hand. Marian steps over to him as Eve closes the door.

MUCH

Lady Marian.

MARIAN

Lord Much. Perhaps you might call on us soon at Knighton with our mutual friend.

MUCH

Steps over to Marian. I do not think that that will be possible. *Quietly:* Robin hasn't come yet.

Marian, alarmed at the mention of Robin's name, turns to look over her shoulder to see if Eve overheard.

MARIAN

Well, then, I shall call again when it is more convenient. *Holds up a note. Quietly:* This is for him.

Marian leaves. Much looks at the note, then slips it into the pocket of his dressing gown as Eve steps in and notices the action. Much looks up to see her and she smiles.

MUCH

Brightly: I think I will find it, erm, useful... *turns to the fireplace and shoves some food into his mouth...* being on the Council of Nobles.

EVE

I will have your best robes ready for tomorrow.

Much nods, sipping from the goblet. Eve heads upstairs and stops after a couple.

There is something particular which I think will make your first evening at home... complete. Come upstairs.

Much looks aside wide-eyed.

† †

Scene Fifteen

Nottingham Town. A nondescript one-room building. Night.

Robin and Little John enter and Little John starts tapping barrels. Djaq and Allan follow, Allan standing guard.

ROBIN

The ledger is in the fourth water butt.

LITTLE JOHN

Taps a barrel. That's this one. *Lifts the lid aside.*

Robin reaches with both arms into the water.

ALLAN

Whispers: Guards!

Robin pulls his arms out with a rush of water. They all duck behind barrels and sacks. A guard with a torch looks in through the window in the door, sees nothing, then moves on. The gang hear him leave and stand up. Little John watches the light of the torch move off and nods to Robin, who reaches in again and pulls a rope-tied bundle out of the water.

ALLAN

Whispers: I'm not being funny. It's soaking wet! It'll be ruined.

DJAQ

Let me see.

Robin unwraps the ledger and unties its cover. He opens the book and Djaq pulls it towards her to look.

No. It's still good. This is it. I knew it. We know Greek fire.

Robin jerks it from her and ties it up again.

ROBIN

We are keeping Lambert's ledger safe.

ALLAN

Guards are coming back. Come on!

They raise their hoods and leave.

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Scene Sixteen

Bonchurch Lodge. Bathroom.

Much is snoring in a tub full of water. Eve turns, startled at the noise, smiles at him in satisfaction, then leaves.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Main room.

Robin sneaks in from an upper window, then climbs over the railing of the gallery and edges across a beam as Eve, below, searches Much's pockets for the note. She thinks she hears something and looks up, but Robin has already moved on.

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Gallery.

As Much continues to snore, Robin takes a couple of plums from a bowl, carefully watching Eve below, then sneaks into the bathroom with a devilish grin.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Bathroom.

Standing behind the tub, Robin tosses a plum into the petal-strewn water. Much is startled awake. He looks at the floor beside him, then at Robin behind. Robin is leaning against the wall eating the other plum.

ROBIN

You sit back and relax, Much.

MUCH

I am trying to complete my mission, master.

ROBIN

With disbelief: Yeah? Because I saw this girl...

MUCH

Eve.

ROBIN

Mm. Eve. Well, you do know Eve will be working for the Sheriff? *Walks around to face Much.*

MUCH

Well, I'm sure she is.

ROBIN

Leans on the side of the tub. What happened, Much? Hm?

MUCH

I am made Lord Much, Earl of Bonchurch, actually.

Robin looks at Much incredulously and keeps himself from laughing.

This is from Marian.

Much reaches to the floor where he looked before, picks up the note and hands it to Robin, who opens it.

And I was thinking that I could be of help.

Robin quickly skims the note.

There's a Council of Nobles meeting tomorrow and they have access to prisoners.

ROBIN

Leans over the tub again. No need. We found a way in. But we still need to find the barrels of black powder and [*sneering:*] the Sheriff has made a big mistake making you a noble. *Shakes his head and scoffs sarcastically.*

MUCH

Dejectedly: Yeah. *Looks aside.*

ROBIN

Sincerely, proudly: 'Cause now, we have a noble... on the inside.

Much looks at Robin, who tilts his head and smiles genuinely at Much. Much smiles too, as Robin nods.

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Scene Seventeen

Knighton Hall. Stables.

Marian waits by her horse in her Nightwatchman's outfit, sans mask and hood, when Robin sneaks up and taps her on the shoulder. She turns around, startled, raising a fist behind her, ready to punch the intruder. Robin catches it and laughs arrogantly. His tone throughout shows cynicism, sarcasm and jealousy. Marian keeps her temper under control despite his attitude.

ROBIN

All right. I got your note. *Turns and walks a few steps away. So! Claps and rubs his hands together, then turns to face Marian.* Gisborne's going to help us.

MARIAN

Yes.

ROBIN

Puts his hands on his hips. And what on earth did you do to him to make him agree to that?

MARIAN

Nothing! I played on his conscience.

ROBIN

You see, I'd believe you, if I thought he had one. *Sneerfully playfully, stepping back to Marian:* So go on, what did you promise him?

MARIAN

Stop it! Lambert is his friend. Gisborne feels undermined by the Sheriff and I took advantage of the situation.

ROBIN

Clever you!

MARIAN

Well, I cannot see how we can get Lambert out any other way.

Robin turns away. Marian follows.

This is the best opportunity we have at the perfect time.
Guy thinks—

ROBIN

Interrupting angrily: Guy thinks! So what is this plan?

MARIAN

Guy will not attend the Council of Nobles in the morning. He will use the Sheriff's absence to secure Lambert's release and then take him on to Kirklees where it is safe.

Robin ponders the plan.

If you wait on the Great North Road, you can intercept them and seize Lambert yourself. And for heaven's sake, find that ledger and burn it.

ROBIN

I already have the ledger, and I am not going to burn it. I'm keeping it safe for Lambert.

MARIAN

At the risk of the Sheriff getting hold of it?

Robin looks aside.

And what then? It is too dangerous.

ROBIN

How is it our calling to judge what should or shouldn't exist as knowledge?

MARIAN

It is our calling to protect others.

Robin scoffs. Marian's anger finally shows.

Bitterly: If it is glory you seek by keeping the ledger then God help you.

Marian pushes by him and leaves. Robin turns around and watches her go, angry and frustrated with her.

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Scene Eighteen

Nottingham Castle. Sheriff's quarters.

The Sheriff is painting his long toenails black with a small brush. Gisborne sits nearby holding his hand to his face, thinking through Marian's plan.

Gisborne nods.

Yes, it's play... or pay.

The Sheriff stands and massages Gisborne's shoulders.

SHERIFF

What's the matter, hm? Marian getting you down?

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

GISBORNE

I'm tired, my lord.

SHERIFF

Looking at his work: You're, erm, you're probably wondering where your loyalties lie.

Gisborne raises his head a bit and gives the Sheriff a sidelong glance, wondering how he knows.

Well, let me tell you where they do lie. *Points at Gisborne with the brush:* Your friend, Lambert... *dips the brush in the black paint...* he has slighted your loyalty.

Gisborne looks at the Sheriff.

You do know that he told Robin Hood where the ledgers were?

Gisborne's eyes widen.

The information he kept from you, he gave to your enemy.

Gisborne's blood begins to boil. The Sheriff puts down the brush, rubs his hands together and stands.

Circling behind Gisborne: Now, what friend would act so callously when your every effort has been to protect him, hm?

The Sheriff claps him on the shoulder, wraps his arm round him and puts his face next to his.

Take heart. *Holds his hands out as a frame.* Look at the bigger picture, hm? Your black powder will open so many doors for us, Gisborne. *Clenches fists.* It is power beyond imagination. And take heed, the sorry state of affairs has in no way affected my judgement of you. Trust! When all others around us falter, that is, that they... We make a fine team, my friend, a fine team. *Whispers:* Let's build on it, shall we?

Gisborne closes his eyes, sighs and turns his head away.

So... I'll go and pay our friend a visit. Shall I teach him a thing or two about loyalty?

Scene Twenty-Two

Bonchurch Lodge. Main room.

Pipes are playing. Voices are chatting merrily.

MUCH

I couldn't save you from the plough tax, but tonight no-one shall go hungry.

Much smiles at Eve as she brushes past with a pitcher and smiles back.

MAN

to Much: Thank you for all this.

MUCH

My pleasure.

Eve laughs with an older woman and fills the woman's goblet from the pitcher, glancing at Much.

EVE'S MOTHER

Thank you, Eve. *Raises her goblet to Much.*

Much raises his goblet in return. Eve comes over to him.

EVE

It is my mother. She thanks you.

MUCH

Well, you tell her she can come here and eat whenever she wants.

EVE

I make sure she wants for nothing, but I've never seen her so happy. Everyone's happy here... *her tone softens...* and you've made that happen, my lord.

MUCH

Please, don't call me "my lord." We are friends now.

Eve smiles weakly.

And while I'm here and while I have food, then so should everyone. That's Robin Hood's way.

Much looks up to find Marian standing in front of him.

Lady Marian.

Eve curtsies and leaves.

MARIAN

I should like to speak with you in private, Lord Much.

MUCH

Of course.

Much heads for the door. Before following him, Marian quickly looks around for Eve, but can't see her amid the peasants. Eve looks sideways after them.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Bonchurch. Stables.

Marian tells Much the plan. Both whisper.

MARIAN

Look, we need you to tell the girl that the ledger is in the third barrel of black powder.

Eve silently pokes her head in the door.

MUCH

But that's not true. Robin has the ledger. He told me himself.

MARIAN

What is the problem?

MUCH

I will not lie to Eve. I cannot.

MARIAN

Why?

Much is silent.

Oh, of course, you are fooled by her. She has to be nice to you. She is paid for it. Grow up.

MUCH

If she passes on wrong information to the Sheriff, then he will punish her.

MARIAN

If she's working for the Sheriff, then she deserves no less. A good man has already died over this.

Much agonises over his decision as Eve disappears. Marian notices the movement and glances at the door, but sees nothing.

Just do as Robin says and tell the girl. *Leaves.*

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Twenty-Three

Bonchurch Lodge. Bathroom.

Much is in the bath and a melancholy and preoccupied Eve sings for him, sitting on a stool next to the tub.

EVE

Singing mournfully: The stars above know more than we, for they can see the hearts, the souls, the loves that cannot be.

MUCH

That is a sad song.

EVE

Startled from her thoughts: I'm sorry, my lord, I'll sing—

MUCH

Interrupting: Tell me, why is it so sad?

EVE

My father would sing that song. He died last year.

MUCH

That annoys you, talk of the past.

EVE

Shakes her head. Thinking: I... sighs... I don't know how to be around you.

MUCH

You could have a bath.

Eve ponders this, then stands. She starts to untie her bodice as Much takes a drink from a goblet. Then Much notices what she's doing.

No! Wear a bath shirt and pour yourself a bath.

Eve holds her dress closed and chuckles.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Much and Eve are each in their own tub. They are both singing Eve's song, but Much's tune is off key.

EVE/ MUCH

Singing: For they will see the hearts, the souls, the loves that... can...

Eve giggles as Much tries to finish.

EVE

You have a terrible voice.

MUCH

Well, it has been said by many, most of them fools, and now by you, so... so it must be true.

EVE

It is terrible.

MUCH

Smiles. Ha. Flattery.

Eve chuckles. Much's face falls.

Quietly: Again.

EVE

And now I've upset you.

MUCH

When I was in the Holy Land, I would find myself craving something. I thought... I thought it was hunger. And it was hunger most of the time. But now and then, when I would feel it, it would not be in the stomach... but in the heart.

EVE

Your song's a bit sad, too, isn't it?

Much sighs.

But does it need to be? I mean, you could stay here. You could stay here with... with me.

MUCH

Looks at Eve. I belong with Robin.

EVE

Lets out long sigh and smiles. If I were Robin Hood, I would never leave your side.

MUCH

I saw him... Robin. He visited me here.

EVE

Really?

MUCH

Leans on the side of the tub facing Eve. Whispers: There's something I should tell you.

Eve leans on the side, too, facing him.

Robin... This is top secret. Robin has found...

EVE

Yes?

Scene Twenty-Nine

Nottingham Castle. Sheriff's quarters.

The twin doors burst open and Gisborne takes a step inside.

GISBORNE

Hood got there first.

Gisborne steps towards the Sheriff, who is sitting behind a large chessboard.

The ledger's gone.

SHERIFF

Looking down at the chessboard: Didn't you tell me that you'd hidden the barrels of black powder?

GISBORNE

I did. Yes, I did.

SHERIFF

Who else did you tell? *Moves a rook.*

GISBORNE

No-one.

SHERIFF

So how did he find it before you?

Gisborne throws back his head, realising the trick.

Were you followed, Gisborne?

GISBORNE

No.

SHERIFF

Stands and picks up a king. You fool!

The Sheriff throws the chess piece at Gisborne's head, but Gisborne ducks and it hits the sentry's halberd with a clatter.

We've been set up! Now you dispatch every man you can to the caves! Bring me Eve and fetch me my horse!
Storms out past Gisborne.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Thirty

The cave. Exterior.

The Sheriff, Gisborne and guards gallop to the cave. Robin, back in the hiding place with the gang, sees them approach.

ROBIN

to the gang: Show time.

Robin leaps over the rock with his bow and runs off as the others take their places with longbows. The Sheriff and Gisborne stop their horses. The Sheriff peers at the cave and looks all around for signs of a trap as Gisborne and two guards dismount and walk briskly towards the cave. The Sheriff turns his horse around and walks it away. Just then, Robin runs to the top of a rise within sight of the cave and calls out.

ROBIN

Echoing: Gisborne!!!

Gisborne and the guards stop and turn near the cave entrance.

GISBORNE

to his guards: What are you waiting for? Get him!

The guards draw their swords and start to advance, but stop as they are inundated by a shower of arrows before them. Gisborne folds his arms and stands impatiently, unconcerned about possibly being hit.

ROBIN

You have five seconds left in this world! *to himself:* This is for you, Lambert. Four! Three!

Robin aims a flaming arrow at the cave opening and the two guards run for the horses.

Two! Shoots. One!

Gisborne watches the arrow fly past him into the cave, then realises there is going to be three barrels' worth of powder exploding. He starts to run.

GISBORNE

Run!!!

Gisborne gets a few yards away before he is flattened, facedown, by the colossal blast. The Sheriff, well away from danger, turns his head away. Gisborne pushes himself up as the Sheriff walks his horse over to him, staring at what's left of the cave.

SHERIFF

Life is a cruel mistress, Gisborne.

