

ROBIN HOOD

Series One, Episode Twelve

The Return of the King

written by Dominic Minghella

directed by Matthew Evans

**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
Thornton	John Carlisle
Pitts	Michael Maloney

Scene One

Nottingham Castle. Sheriff's quarters.

The Sheriff fishes a bird out of a cage. Gisborne enters.

SHERIFF

Ah, Gisborne. *Walks over to Gisborne.* Hold a bird. Come on. Here, come on. Give him some love, hm?

Gisborne reluctantly closes his gloved hands around the bird.

Poor thing. It is poetry though, isn't it? Caged bird, a creature that would fly free, absolutely under my control.

Gisborne glowers at the Sheriff from under his brows.

Chuckles. It's good. I like it. Now, er, talking of caged prettiness... when are you marrying Marian?

GISBORNE

Sullenly: In due course.

SHERIFF

Oh, come along, don't be coy. That's not the arrangement, is it?

GISBORNE

No. We will marry when the King returns.

SHERIFF

Ah. When the King comes. I might have news for you there. *Goes around the back of the birdcage.*

GISBORNE

Perking up: What news?

SHERIFF

Peering into the cage: Do you know? Sometimes I don't feed them for, ooh, three days. Cruel perhaps, but I find it makes them sing better.

GISBORNE

Impatiently: What news?

The Sheriff looks at Gisborne, then the bird flies away.

SHERIFF

Oh, Gisborne.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Two

Sherwood Forest. Near a large cave.

Djaq, with a lit torch, leads Allan, Much, Robin and Little John, the latter loaded down like a mule with tent poles, canvas and what else, through the forest towards the cave. They stop near the entrance.

MUCH

I hate the cave.

ALLAN

It's gonna rain again and it's dry in there.

Allan sets the basket he's been carrying by Djaq, who sits with the torch in her hand. Robin lights his torch from hers.

MUCH

It's dark... and it's, you know, horrible.

ROBIN

Passes Much with the torch. We voted, Much.

ALLAN

And you lost, five one.

Djaq holds the torch to Allan so he can light his. Robin enters the cave.

MUCH

Yeah, well... I should have two votes, because I really don't like the cave. *Lights a torch from Djaq.* In fact, I should have three, because I really, really don't like the cave.

Cave. Interior.

Robin and Allan enter, then Much and Little John. As Much enters bats flutter and shriek. Much curses and spins round, startled.

MUCH

Bats! I hate bats. Bats are rats. Rats with wings.

Robin looks around as Djaq enters. Allan sets his torch upright in the floor.

DJAQ

No, they are intelligent. Bats make noises you cannot hear.

Much sets his torch into the floor and removes his cloak.

ALLAN

What's the point of that? Noises you can't hear?

MUCH

What if there was a noise nobody could hear?

ALLAN

Shut up.

Allan helps Little John unload as Much continues.

MUCH

And then if you were the only person in the world who could hear it... because I am that person.

Much sets down his shield as Little John brings in the basket.

To see sense where others see nonsense. Just like the bat.

Robin puts his torch into the ground by the front wall and sits down near it.

I take it back. I like the bat. *Sits.* The bat is my friend. The bat understands me.

Will runs breathlessly into the cave.

LITTLE JOHN

What took you so long?

Will says nothing, but brings out a loaf of bread wrapped in a cloth.

MUCH

Ho!

Will tosses it to Much, who catches the bundle.

Well done!

Robin sits along the wall, watching Will, knowing by his face that something is wrong. Much unwraps the cloth and breaks off a piece.

Bread, good. Mmm.

Will is bent over, catching his breath and looking at Robin. Allan goes over to Much and wrestles off a piece of bread.

MUCH

All right!

Robin and Will stare at each other as Allan passes between them with his prize.

ROBIN

Will?

Allan looks back and forth between them in confusion.

What's the matter?

Much and Djaq turn their attention to Will, who has a look of apprehension. Little John looks at him, encouraging him to speak.

WILL

The King is coming.

OPENING CREDITS

MUCH

With his mouth full: Richard? To England?

LITTLE JOHN

Sarcastically, walking between Will and Much: Yeah, that'll be right.

WILL

It's not a rumour, John.

Little John stops and looks back at him.

I spoke to Thornton. He heard Gisborne talking.

Robin stares at Will, listening intently.

MUCH

To England?

WILL

With reservation: To Nottingham. They're saying he's landed at Hull. He's gonna come through here on his way to London.

Little John smiles at Robin, who falls back against the rock wall with his eyes full of alarm and dread.

MUCH

The King? To Nottingham?

Will nods, eyes wide.

Oh, this is good, isn't it?

Little John scowls at Much, who is oblivious to the disquiet in the air.

to Will: The King?

WILL

Quietly: Yes.

Scene Three

Knighton Hall. Exterior.

Marian is weaving a basket and Edward is tending the garden when Gisborne strides up.

GISBORNE

Marian. Sir Edward.

Marian steps back from her work and faces him.

I bring good news. There's something I... *Gets an idea.* No.

He picks Marian up and slings her over his shoulders.

MARIAN

Oil! What are you doing?

EDWARD

What do you think y—

Marian kicks out to the side and cartwheels off his back to her feet. Gisborne is taken by surprise at the move.

Sir Guy!

Marian glares at Gisborne and flips her hood back over her shoulder.

GISBORNE

I apologise. I just wanted to sweep you off your feet.

Marian gives a faint chuckle.

Stepping towards her: Will you come with me to Locksley?

MARIAN

Why?

GISBORNE

There's something you should see.

Marian glances over Gisborne's shoulder at her father, but says nothing.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Four

Locksley.

It's washing day. Three large tubs have been set up near the pond and the posts between it and the manor are strung with lines of drying sheets.

Locksley Manor. Main room.

Gisborne quickly steps inside and Marian follows, startling Thornton on his way outside.

THORNTON

Lady Marian.

MARIAN

Thornton.

Thornton glances at each of them, then continues out.

GISBORNE

Come with me. There's something I want to show you.

Gisborne goes upstairs. Marian hesitates at the foot, then follows.

Master's chamber:

Gisborne pulls aside the curtains in front of the alcove, revealing several chests.

GISBORNE

I show you this.

Marian hesitantly steps down into the room, looking cautiously curious as Gisborne opens the first small chest. He grabs a handful of coins and lets them fall back in.

My wealth.

MARIAN

Why? Er... I'm not sure what this means.

GISBORNE

This means everything. *Stepping slowly to her:* This means that I am a man of substance... wealth. I can provide for you.

Marian stares blankly at him.

I'm a man of power... the Sheriff and I, increasingly with Ki—Prince John. This means that I am a man of lineage.

Gisborne holds out his hand to Marian, who glances distrustfully at it, then takes it and Gisborne leads her further inside.

The Gisborne heritage is a proud one.

Marian crosses to the alcove and looks around inside.

I will be glad to continue that line... *following her...* with you... as my wife.

MARIAN

Something has changed.

She looks at Gisborne, who has a hint of a smile on his face.

The King is returning.

Gisborne's smile widens briefly.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Exterior.

Robin, in just his shirt, and Much hide among the hanging sheets, watching the house. Marian exits the manor on her horse, stops and glances back at Gisborne, who puts his hand on the back of her horse, looking at her, and then goes back inside. Marian is about to start her horse when she sees Robin. She frowns and Robin shakes his head slightly, marking his disapproval. Marian stares at him as she rides by. Thornton stops to watch her leave. Robin steps through the sheets, keeping an eye on her as she goes.

THORNTON

Mary! Thomas! Come on! Get with it. Work to be done.

Robin peeks through the sheets at Thornton, who sees him and immediately goes over to him. Robin walks back through the rows of sheets, looking around.

Robin, I don't know what to say. I am sorry.

ROBIN

Tell me what you know. *Faces Thornton and puts his hands on his hips.*

THORNTON

Ah, the King comes on Saturday. The wedding takes place on Saturday here at Locksley. Er... *points at the church...* they're going to decorate the church.

Robin puts his hand on Thornton's shoulder and they walk a few steps towards Much.

ROBIN

I need you to cast your mind back... to my absence. Gisborne was unwell, or so he said. *Stops.* The truth is he went to the Holy Land to try to kill the King.

THORNTON

Taken aback, thinks a moment. Robin, I'd love to say that you were right, but...

Robin starts pacing.

... he was here. He was unwell.

ROBIN

Turns back to Thornton. But no-one was allowed to see him!

MUCH

Shhh!

Robin throws a piercing stare at Much for his insolence.

THORNTON

A fever, contagion.

ROBIN

Conta— *Turns around in frustration.*

THORNTON

But the physician came every day. I cooked the master's meal every day. The physician took it in to him.

ROBIN

Shakes his head. No.

MUCH

Who was this physician?

THORNTON

Turns to Much: Erm... Pitts is his name.

ROBIN

And where does this Pitts live?

Robin slowly walks away.

THORNTON

In Nottingham now, in Battley Street. But... Robin...

ROBIN

Without turning around: This wedding cannot happen.

Much hurries to follow Robin as he picks up his bow and jacket and leaves quickly towards the trees.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Five

Knighton Hall. Exterior. The next morning.

Dawn.

Marian is slowly practising sword manoeuvres against a large post. Robin arrives behind her, holding a long, thin stick behind his neck with both hands.

ROBIN

I would prefer if you did not visit my house...

Marian stops and lets the sword swing from her hand.

... until it is mine again.

MARIAN

Not looking at Robin: Guy wanted to show me my future fortune as Lady Gisborne.

ROBIN

Walks past Marian without looking at her. Ridiculing scornfully: And what? He showed you some trinkets? Made you agree to go along with the wedding?

MARIAN

Absently hitting the post with the sword, ambivalently: You know I have no choice. I promised to marry him when the King returned.

ROBIN

Under duress.

MARIAN

Stops. Flatly: Yes, under duress. *Glances at Robin.* Proving my loyalty to save my life and my father's.

ROBIN

Leaning on his upright stick: A promise made under duress is no promise at all.

MARIAN

Turns and gives him her full attention. And what, you think I should just back out and Guy will smile and release me?

Robin steps away, flustered, then turns to listen again.

If he knew I betrayed him, if he knew I was the Nightwatchman, he would lash out, and not just at me. At my father.

Robin turns his head with a grimace of exasperation and walks off past her. Marian watches him go, then shrugs and lifts her sword at the post. Robin turns around.

ROBIN

Why do you always do this?

MARIAN

Without looking: What?

ROBIN

Use your father as an excuse for doing nothing.

MARIAN

Swinging the sword at the post: Because my father needs me!

ROBIN

And you need him! Because without him, you would have to make a choice.

MARIAN

Facing him, without conviction: Oh, very well then. I am making a choice. I'm choosing to marry Gisborne.

Robin rolls his eyes.

Is that what you want me to say?

ROBIN

I will deal with this.

MARIAN

How?

ROBIN

Steps forwards and leans on the post towards Marian: I will expose him as the liar and the traitor that he is. Then you will not have to marry him.

MARIAN

Slaps her hand on the post. Frustratedly: Robin, please, do not make this more difficult than it already is!

ROBIN

But you do not love him!

MARIAN

Too loudly, protesting: He has qualities!

ROBIN

What qualities?!

MARIAN

I believe his feelings for me are genuine. He has wealth and security—

ROBIN

Interrupting: What do you mean, wealth?! You're supposed to be the Nightwatchman.

Edward appears in the doorway of the house.

You should steal from Gisborne and give to the poor, not acquire wealth yourself!

MARIAN

Do not tell me what I should be doing, please. *Slaps the post to make her point.*

EDWARD

Stepping towards them: Robin!

ROBIN

to Marian: Look at me. Look at me.

Marian looks him in the eye and he waits a moment before speaking.

I will deal with this!

EDWARD

Robin.

Marian takes her hand off the post and walks into the house.

Can't you see that you're upsetting Marian?

Robin turns his head away. Edward jerks his head a bit, indicating for him to leave. Robin leans against the post for moment, then abruptly turns and leaves.

Main room.

Marian paces in front of the fireplace, frustrated at herself. She knows Robin is right, but she sees no way out of marrying Gisborne, either. Edward enters.

EDWARD

I must leave for Merton. Will you be all right?

MARIAN

Nods slightly. You have some scheme?

EDWARD

The Sheriff has a scheme. I think he intends to kill the King in Nottingham. He cannot risk losing the shire.

Marian stares at the floor.

I must act. Merton is loyal to me and to the King. He will help.

MARIAN

And my marriage... *slowly:* I must go through with it. A man must... protect his king. A man must fight for his king.

EDWARD

Steps to her. If I could protect you and the King, I would.

MARIAN

I know. *Smiles.* Anyway, I have a plan of my own.

EDWARD

What? The Nightwatchman?

MARIAN

One final fling, something to make me feel more comfortable in my marriage.

EDWARD

Puts his hands on Marian's shoulders. You are my world, you know that.

MARIAN

Marian smiles. I am marrying a man I do not love. There are worse things in heaven and earth. And I am glad... and proud... that you are my father. My wonderful, honourable father.

Edward nudges her cheek and leaves.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Marian's bedchamber.

Marian takes off Gisborne's ring and puts it under a candle on a stand. She stares into the antechamber where her costume is waiting, then steps inside and stares at it.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Six

Nottingham Town. Battley Street.

Little John and Djaq are dressed in their cloaks at the rear of Pitts's house.

LITTLE JOHN

Battley Street. Yeah, the physician's.

Little John peers inside a window, then pulls the shutter closed. Much comes round the corner, checks the street, then turns to Robin.

MUCH

Master, all clear.

Robin steps around the corner. He opens the shutters Little John just closed. Djaq glances at the street, then steps between them to the window.

DJAQ

The physician's on his way.

ROBIN

Turns to Djaq in the window. Let's see what Pitts has to say about Gisborne's illness.

LITTLE JOHN

Aye.

Beside the house, Will sits on a table. Much stands beside him. Allan leans against the house on Will's other side. Robin slowly walks down the exterior wall, looking around.

MUCH

Containing his excitement: I was thinking, we spend our lives skulking, hiding in shadows. I've grown used to it. Be strange when it's over.

WILL

Hard to imagine.

MUCH

Well, soon it will be real. If Gisborne is exposed, Robin will be restored, then I will have my lodge, my Bonchurch.

Allan steps to Robin as he looks inside an open window. Djaq calls from the front door.

DJAQ

Robin!

Robin goes to the door and Allan puts his back to the window.

WILL

Allan, what will you do?

Djaq goes back inside and Robin follows her, stepping backwards into the house.

ALLAN

Me?

Little John walks to and stands in the doorway.

Well, live in my lodge. Yeah, you know, servants and that. What about you?

WILL

Carpentry, I s'pose. Wood.

MUCH

Walking between Allan and Will towards the door: There's Pitts.

Pitts comes down the street, carrying two large baskets of food.

Will walks past Allan to the front window of the house as Allan raps a signal on the windowsill. Pitts shoulders the door open and enters.

Pitts's house. Interior.

Pitts sets down his baskets on a table. Allan looks in, watching. Pitts pours himself water from a pitcher and is about to drink when he sees Robin standing across from him under the stairs. He looks slightly right and sees Djaq waving at him as she lies on the stairs.

PITTS

Lowering his cup: I have nothing of value.

ROBIN

What was the trick?

PITTS

What trick?

ROBIN

You are the physician who treated Guy of Gisborne in Locksley a year ago?

PITTS

You're Robin.

ROBIN

What was the trick?

PITTS

There was no trick.

ROBIN
Quietly: I see. *Inhales sharply.* So tell me... what illness did he have?

PITTS
Well, difficult to say. Fever, contagion, the humours out of balance—

ROBIN
Sternly: Do not lie. My humours are out of balance.

PITTS
He was very ill. He is lucky to be alive.

ROBIN
Shaking his head: I do not have time for this. You tell me the truth.

PITTS
You're a peace-lover. I have heard. *Sets down his cup.* You will not harm me.

Pitts turns around right into Little John and immediately turns back to face Robin. Robin throws his knife into a post right above Pitts's head. Pitts is genuinely frightened.

ROBIN
You think you do Gisborne an innocent favour? You do not. *Steps forward and leans on the table.* This is a matter of treason. Admit your part now, and when King Richard returns I will speak for you.

PITTS
I established a quarantine.

Robin stares at Little John a moment.

The servants prepared their master's meals

Robin steps around the table to Pitts.

I took the meals in to him. I sat there for an hour at a time, ate the meals myself... brought out empty dishes.

Robin faces him.

ROBIN
You're a fool.

Djaq comes quickly down the stairs.

PITTS
I meant no harm. Sir Guy had business in London.

ROBIN
He had business in the Holy Land. He tried to kill the King.

PITTS
Whispers: I had no idea.

Robin notices Much appearing in the window behind Little John.

Forgive me. What can I do?

MUCH
Master? Soldiers.

ROBIN
I will require you to speak in evidence... *takes his knife out of the post...* before the King.

PITTS
I... really? *Stammering:* Do-do you think I-I—

Robin holds the knife in front of his face.

Yes.

ROBIN
Pats Pitts's face. Good decision.

Robin leaves. Djaq puts her hood up and follows him and Little John. Pitts stays put, his back to the post, smiling slightly.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Nine

Locksley Manor. Master's chamber. Night.

Marian continues to load coins into her bag.

Main room.

The now-conscious guard staggers towards the back room.

GISBORNE'S MAN

Sir Guy! The Nightwatchman!

Master's chamber.

Marian looks up.

Back room.

Gisborne looks up, then stands and heads for the stairs.

Master's chamber.

Marian runs for the door and pulls the bar down, trapping herself in as well. Gisborne rams the door with his shoulder, then peers through a crack in the door as Marian presses her face to it.

GISBORNE

Open up. There's no escape.

Marian turns her back against the door, panicked.

to his men: Get me an axe. You two, outside. Cover the windows in case he jumps.

Marian runs to grab her bag from the alcove as the guard tosses an axe up to Gisborne, who deftly catches it. Marian goes to the window with the intent of jumping and sees the two guards standing below, each with a torch. Gisborne swings the axe at the door. Marian gasps and turns around. Gisborne swings the axe three more times and a narrow piece of wood splinters off and clatters to the floor. He reaches a hand through, but can't yet reach the bar. He peers inside as Marian stands, trapped. He swings the axe again, then peers in again.

Fiercely: Time to play, Nightwatchman.

Gisborne swings the axe into the door once more and an arrow pierces the wood right above it. Gisborne turns and looks downstairs.

Main room.

The two guards in the main room are paying no attention to the front door and instead are watching Gisborne upstairs. Djaq runs in with a short sword, grabs one of them from behind and holds her sword to his throat. Robin and Little John rush in behind her. Robin pulls another arrow from his quiver as Much follows him in and points a new re-

curve bow at the guards entering from the back room.

MUCH

Ah-ah-ah!

ROBIN

Nocking the arrow: Mind if join in?

Little John holds his staff to the second guard. Djaq pushes her man against the stairs. Robin draws and aims his bow at Gisborne. Allan comes in last and points his new bow at the back room guards with Much. Out of sight in the doorway, Will holds his broadaxe at a guard's neck.

Master's chamber.

Marian listens to the goings-on downstairs.

Main room.

GISBORNE

Locksley!

Robin smiles, keeping the bow pointed at Gisborne.

Steps towards the stairs. Have you heard the news? I'm to marry Marian.

Robin's anger flares. Marian opens the door and steps out with her bag, then looks at Robin. Robin eyes her. Djaq looks up. Little John glances at Robin. Marian slowly steps forward.

Chuckles. I will think about you when I take her to the marriage bed.

Gisborne looks at the Nightwatchman coming towards him, then Marian suddenly drives a kick into his stomach, knocking him down the stairs. She quickly follows him down and Robin lowers his bow, watching. When she is at the bottom, Gisborne reaches up and punches her in the stomach. Marian groans and staggers sideways. Allan glances at her. Robin lets loose his temper, rushes over and violently kicks Gisborne in the face as Marian leans on a post and her bag falls to the floor. He grabs Marian and quickly helps her to the door.

ROBIN

Get the money!

Much and Allan hold off the guards as Djaq and Little John run outside. Gisborne rolls over, trying to reach for the fallen bag, but Will grabs it first.

WILL

Picking up the bag: I've got it!

Much backs towards the door:

ALLAN

to Will: Go! Go!

Will runs for the door as Allan points his drawn bow at Gisborne and the guards in turn, retreating backwards towards the door:

Good night, gents!

Allan runs out after the gang:

Exterior.

The gang run out of the entrance tunnel.

ROBIN

Split up! Twos and threes! You know where to meet!

They scatter: Robin with Marian through the village, Will with Allan around the manor to their left, Little John with Much and Djaq around the house to their right.

Main room.

Gisborne turns his hand over to reveal a small curved dagger which was concealed in his hand. Blood drips down the blade and through his fingers. He holds it up in front of his face.

GISBORNE

Sneering: Gotcha!

† †

Scene Ten

Sherwood Forest.

Robin is running; Marian drops to walk as thunder rumbles. Robin stops at the top of a hill, looking around while waiting for her to catch him up.

ROBIN

What do you think you're doing? This Nightwatchman business will be the death of you. *Steps back down to Marian.*

MARIAN

Dejectedly: But these are my last days as the Nightwatchman. I will not be able to do it when I am at Locksley.

ROBIN

You do not have to go back to Locksley. I told you. *Shakes his head as thunder rumbles again.* You do not have to marry him.

Robin turns and takes a few more steps forwards.

MARIAN

I have no choice.

ROBIN

Turns back to Marian. No! I was coming to tell you. I have the proof I need. The physician. The physician will talk. I found him and he agreed to give evidence. He did not treat Gisborne. Gisborne was not there. He was in the Holy Land.

MARIAN

Spirits brightening: And he will say this in public?

Robin nods, smiling. Marian chuckles in relief. A bird flutters loudly nearby and Robin puts his hand on Marian's shoulder and listens for trouble.

ROBIN

Shh!

MARIAN

Really?

Robin nods at her, smiling.

Thank you. *Half smiling, half ready to cry.* *Puts her hand on his on her shoulder.* I do not know how to thank you.

Robin caresses her cheek.

ROBIN

Lovingly: We'll think of something. *Winks at her. Excitedly:* Come on!

MUCH
Holding his torch out: Here!... John!... John!
Little John takes the torch as Djaq starts to examine Marian.

DJAQ
I need clean water to wash the wound.

MUCH
Ah, here! Here!
Much finds his flask and hands it to Djaq as Robin lights a thick candle from the torch.

DJAQ
Do you have wine? *Uncorks the flask.*

MUCH
A little.

DJAQ
Nodding at Marian. For the pain.

MUCH
Yes. *Runs to fetch the wine.*
Marian winces and grunts as Djaq pours water on the wound. Robin stands by anxiously. Djaq pulls open the cut.

DJAQ
This is not long. What did he use?

ROBIN
I don't know. I thought he punched her.
Much returns with the wine flask and Robin takes it.

MARIAN
A dagger.
Much glances anxiously at Robin.

DJAQ
Can you feel this?
Djaq pushes on the wound. Marian shouts and grimaces.

MUCH
Should you be pressing there?
Robin glares at Much.

DJAQ
I need to look inside. Wine.

ROBIN
Here.
Robin holds the flask up to Marian's lips. She takes a drink.

DJAQ
This will hurt. Are you brave?

MARIAN
Nodding: Do it.
Djaq spreads the wound open and Marian shrieks and arches her back.

DJAQ
Keep breathing.
Marian starts to take shallow, loud breaths.
Good.

ROBIN
She will be all right?
Djaq looks up at Robin and nods very slightly. Robin nods back.

DJAQ
I need to sew. Give me a needle.
Robin pulls a needle from the bottom of his jacket.

ROBIN
to Marian. This needle is thick... and blunt. Are you prepared?

MARIAN
It is the way you sell it.
Robin smiles slightly and briefly at her use of his earlier words.

DJAQ
Give it to me.
Djaq gets a good grip on the needle with the help of her teeth, then starts to stitch. Robin grabs Marian's hand as Djaq works.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Thirteen

Sherwood Forest. The cave. Interior.

DJAQ

to Marian: All right?

Robin goes to sit against a nearby rock and pulls a blunt arrow from his quiver on the floor.

MARIAN

Yes. Thank you, Djaq.

DJAQ

I'm sorry.

MARIAN

Why?

DJAQ

I did not think you would be so brave.

Marian smiles weakly. Robin watches Djaq leave, scraping at the point with his knife. When she has disappeared, Marian smiles at Robin.

DJAQ

to Little John, by the fire: Any sign of Allan or Will?

LITTLE JOHN

No.

Robin stops sharpening and sits back against a large rock.

ROBIN

Well, the bad news is you've been stabbed. But the good news is you don't have to marry the man that stabbed you.

MARIAN

Chuckles weakly. And what will happen?

ROBIN

When the King comes to Nottingham, I will make an entrance. He will let me speak; he trusts me. I will present the evidence, the physician will corroborate it, and... and Gisborne will be done for.

MARIAN

Well, will he hang?

ROBIN

Yes.

Marian weakly scowls and turns her head away.

Marian, this is a man who would force you to marry him. A man who tried to kill the King, a man who stabbed you!

MARIAN

Looking back at Robin: Even so, I will never support hanging.

Robin stares at her incredulously a moment, then looks away.

What?

Robin looks up, about to say something, then changes his mind. He shakes his head and looks down.

No, tell me.

ROBIN

He looks up and stares solemnly at her a moment before answering. Softly: I think you feel for him.

MARIAN

He's a human being.

ROBIN

Hardly! *Pauses. Jealously:* You are stirred by him.

MARIAN

Stirred? *Chuckles and turns away.*

ROBIN

He said it. And he was right, wasn't he?

MARIAN

Still looking away: Grow up.

ROBIN

Well, this morning when you thought you had to marry him, you were happily resigned to your fate. His... "qualities"... and his "genuine feelings."

MARIAN

I was trying to be brave.

ROBIN

But why? This whole Nightwatchman thing, it's—

MARIAN

Interrupting: What whole Nightwatchman thing? I am only doing what you do, but with more intelligence.

Robin stands and goes to Marian's side.

ROBIN

Angrily, scornfully: You would have thought you would

have learnt by now. Every time you go out, you get arrested... or stabbed... or betrothed. *Adding:* You should stay at home and do your embroidery!

Marian scoffs in utter disbelief at his affront and turns her head away. Robin squats down to pick up his knife and quiver, then stops, realising what he just said.

Quietly: I did not mean that.

MARIAN

Indignantly: You know, even my father, who is old and infirm

Robin stands up with his quiver, turns his back to Marian and walks away. Marian speaks louder as he disappears and Djaq comes over to quiet her.

and has a lot more to lose than you do, even he supports me more than you do! Ah! *Writhes in pain.*

DJAQ

Marian, you need to sleep.

Marian takes a deep breath, trying to calm herself.

† †

Scene Fourteen

Cave. Exterior. The next morning.

Much blows on the smoking kindling under a suspended pot as Djaq returns from getting some herbs and berries. She sits down near Much, inspecting them.

MUCH

You think Marian'll want anything to eat? *Scowling at the pot:* What is it girls eat?

DJAQ

Not looking up. Special girls' food.

MUCH

You know what I mean. *Blows on the fire.*

DJAQ

Annoyed: Ask her yourself what she wants to eat.

MUCH

She's still asleep. I gave her a nudge earlier, but she didn't wake up.

DJAQ

With concern: Really? Still? *Looks worriedly up at the cave.*

Interior.

Marian is still unconscious. Robin is sitting on the floor at her side, his back to the rock, slumped over asleep. Marian's hand is resting on his back. Djaq runs in and crawls up next to Marian.

DJAQ

Marian? Wake up!

Djaq undoes Marian's buttons to reach the wound again.

ROBIN

Waking up: You said to let her sleep.

DJAQ

This is not sleeping. This is her body shutting down.

Robin immediately stands up with alarm.

Gisborne's knife has caused damage inside. I must open her wound. Marian! Marian! *She slaps Marian's face.*

MARIAN

Weakly: I do not feel well.

DJAQ

I need clean instruments.

ROBIN
What instruments?

DJAQ
You stay here.

Robin nods.

Hold her hand. I'll be quick.

Robin picks up Marian's hand as Djaq climbs down from the rock.

Do not let her sleep. *Leaves.*

ROBIN
Marian.

Robin puts his arm under Marian's head.

Marian!

He shakes her chin, trying to wake her up, then glances back at Djaq.

Marian!

Exterior.
Djaq returns to Much by the fire. Much is holding up a ladle in one hand and cracking an egg into it with the other. He tosses the empty shell aside.

MUCH
Is she awake?

Much puts the ladle into the pot of hot water as Djaq picks up her earlier find of herbs and berries and picks through them.

DJAQ
Only just.

MUCH
Now, does she want an egg, or does she want some bacon?
She can't have both, I don't care who she is.

DJAQ
Pray to your god... and to mine. She is going to die.

MUCH
Frowns. Die? What do you mean, die?

DJAQ
Looks up, staring at nothing: Her face. I've seen that look a thousand times before.

MUCH
Oh. *Starting to panic:* Ah, er, w-w-w-w-w-what do we do?

DJAQ
Calmly: I need hot water.

Much nods and reaches for the ladle.

I need clean instruments. Knives.

Much pulls the ladle out, grimacing as it burns his fingers, throws the hot ladle away and shakes his hand.

MUCH
Yes, er...

DJAQ
And here. *Holds out some berries.* Grind this into a fine paste. Now.

MUCH
Takes the berries. Yes. Er, er, now.

Interior.
Robin is kneeling by Marian's side, gently pulling at her hair.

MARIAN
I should go home. My father will be worried.

ROBIN
All in good time.

MARIAN
I'm a nuisance.

ROBIN
Yes, you are.

MARIAN
You were supposed to say no.

ROBIN
Gently, facetiously: And you should be at home, doing your embroidery.

Robin lightly taps Marian's nose. Both smile. Much comes in with a torch and a bowl, panicked, and sets the bowl down at Marian's feet.

MUCH
Right. Here is the paste, and er... *setting the torch into the ground:* ...the instruments are coming.

Marian lifts her head to stare at Much.

And er, Djaq is... *stands*... Djaq is, er, coming, and I'm, er...

Robin motions down with his hand to Much, indicating he needs to calm down.

...I'm sure, I'm sure of...

MARIAN

I'm sure, I'm sure?

MUCH

Somewhat confidently: I am sure.

MARIAN

Lays her head down. "I am sure" is reassuring. "I am sure, I am sure" is not.

MUCH

I am sure. It's just, er, Djaq is, er... very, er... *points outside.*
Er...

MARIAN

A bit flustered and scared: Djaq is very what?

MUCH

I'll shut up.

ROBIN

Good idea.

MUCH

Yeah, I'll go. *Turns to leave, then thinks of something.* Er, drink this.

Much hands Robin the wine flask.

All of it.

Much backs up a few steps, then turns and runs out of the cave.

MARIAN

Lays her head back. Frowning in exasperation: Oh, Much!

ROBIN

Softly: He means well.

MARIAN

What can Djaq have told him?

Robin looks up from the flask, then looks aside with a sigh, avoiding an answer.

This is not good, is it? *Silence.* Tell me... the truth.

ROBIN

Maybe not so good. Here.

He holds the flask to her lips and she drinks. Djaq arrives and starts to undo Marian's clothes as Marian grimaces from the burn of the wine.

DJAQ

I will cut you open.

Marian looks up at Djaq, lifting her head, her eyes wide with anxiety.

If I can find the damage, I will sew it up.

Robin stands and walks a few steps away.

MARIAN

What are my chances?

Robin turns back around with fear and dread in his eyes.

DJAQ

If I do not do this, none. If I do, very little.

Marian leans back, stunned by her words. Robin stares.

My father treated the wounded in the battlefield. He said, "Never lie to a wounded man."

MARIAN

With composure: Or was it "Never lie to a dying man"?

Robin's face intensifies.

DJAQ

He said that, too. *Leaves.*

MARIAN

Turns her head to Robin. So? "Never lie to a dying man."

ROBIN

You are not going to die. And I have never lied to you.

MARIAN

Oh, come on. *Tries to sit up a little.* We have never once spoken the truth to each other.

ROBIN

Now is not the time to argue.

MARIAN

A bit flustered: Do not tell me when it is the time to argue!

Robin turns aside and chuckles.

Scene Seventeen

Sherwood Forest. The cave. Interior.

Much stands over Marian with his finger inside her wound. Nearby, Djaq squats over a bowl of water, washing her hands. Little John holds a torch over Marian.

MUCH

I'm not doing anything. I'm just pressing, right?

DJAQ

Yes. There's not much else we can do. The physician has the instruments.

MUCH

Should I be able to feel a heartbeat?

DJAQ

Looks up. Yes.

Much sends a panicked look at Djaq. Djaq gets to her feet and hurries over. She lifts up Marian's eyelids, thinks a moment, then pounds a fist on Marian's chest. Much grabs her arm.

MUCH

What are you doing?! What are you doing?! You'll hurt her!

DJAQ

Trust me, Much. Where she is she cannot feel a thing!

Djaq pulls her arm away and pounds three more times.

Sherwood Forest.

In the forest, Robin and Pitts gallop towards the cave. Pitts flips a bandage behind him.

The cave.

Djaq pounds twice more.

DJAQ

Anything?

MUCH

Shakes his head vigorously. Oh, come on. Come on, Marian.

Sherwood Forest.

Robin and Pitts gallop towards the cave.

The cave.

Djaq pounds on Marian's chest.

Sherwood Forest.

Robin and Pitts gallop towards the cave.

The cave.

Djaq pounds on Marian's chest.

Sherwood Forest.

Robin and Pitts gallop towards the cave.

The cave.

Djaq pounds on Marian's chest.

Sherwood Forest.

Robin and Pitts gallop towards the cave.

The cave.

Djaq pounds on Marian's chest.

MUCH

Please.

Sherwood Forest.

Pitts throws another bandage. Robin reins in his horse.

The cave.

Djaq pounds on Marian's chest and looks at Much.

MUCH

Yes! *Smiles brightly.* Yes! Yes!

DJAQ

Laughs. Allah be praised!

MUCH

Raises his fists in the air. Allah be praised!

LITTLE JOHN

Arms wide. Allah be praised!

MUCH

How did you do that?

DJAQ

Put your finger back in. Now!

Much puts his finger back in. Both of them are breathing heavily.

This will happen again. Where is the physician? I cannot wait.

The cave. Exterior.

Robin shoos the horses away.

ROBIN

Yah! Go on!

Pitts looks nervously behind him. Robin runs up to the cave.

Djaq! ... Much! John!

Pitts follows Robin inside with the large bag over his shoulder.

Interior.

Robin enters and walks over to Marian.

ROBIN

How is she?

DJAQ

Alive.

Robin glances at Much's anxious face then solemnly bends over Marian as Pitts comes over.

ROBIN

to Pitts: You have to save her.

PITTS

Nervously: Science is advanced, but we're always in the hands of the Lord. *to Djaq:* Here, you give her this.

Pitts pulls a bottle out of his nearly empty bag as Robin takes off his cape. Pitts hands the bottle to Djaq.

It's a draught for the surgery. Put a little on her tongue.

Pitts pulls the strap over his head, then looks nervously back at Little John behind him. Djaq puts a drop of liquid on Marian's tongue.

DJAQ

She has a dagger wound near the liver. A leaking blood vessel. I have sewn it up.

PITTS

You've been trained?

DJAQ

A little.

PITTS

Good, good. Then you've probably saved her life.

MUCH

She has saved her life.

Much nods at Djaq, who returns it.

DJAQ

If you agree, I can close up the wound.

PITTS

Glances at the wound. Very agreeably: Very good. Close away. *Nervously looks around.*

DJAQ

Do you have clean needle?

Pitts looks at Djaq.

Thread? Cloth?

PITTS

Oh, yes.

Pitts opens his bag and Robin notices it is void of bandages. Pitts pulls out an instrument case and hands it to Djaq. Much wipes his forehead as Djaq opens the case. Robin glances at Much and Djaq with just his eyes, then stares at Pitts with a piercing glare. Pitts's eyes flicker nervously at Robin.

ROBIN

Calmly, but with a hint of urgency: Excuse me.

Robin turns and walks quietly out of the cave. Little John frowns, wondering why Robin would leave at a time like this, and watches him go. Pitts glances around nervously to see if anybody else has recognised the ruse.

Exterior.

Robin runs, retracing the route he and Pitts took earlier. He stops and looks around, then continues on. He stops again as sees a flash of white on the ground. He runs to it and anxiously looks around before picking up the discarded bandage. He runs as fast as he can down the trail and finds another, then pulls it off a sapling's branch. He runs a bit further and finds another bandage hanging off a branch. He looks around for any unwelcome guests and hears a horse whinny in the distance.

ROBIN

Quietly to himself: What have I done?

He hears more horses and dogs barking and sees the Sheriff coming through the trees. He runs back to the cave.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Interior.

Little John is carrying another torch to the back as Robin runs in calling for them.

ROBIN

From outside: Much! John!

Little John jumps.

Entering: Your weapons, now!

MUCH

Why?

ROBIN

Pulling arrows from his quiver by the fire: Unless I am badly mistaken, [*turns to pick up his bow*] the Sheriff and Gisborne will arrive at any moment. We'll be surrounded.

Little John puts on his coat. Much runs in from the back room.

MUCH

Panicked: What? We've got to run! *Starts to run outside.*

ROBIN

We cannot run! I cannot run!

Little John picks up his staff.

Quieter: Marian.

LITTLE JOHN

We do not run. *Goes to the cave entrance.*

MUCH

We are trapped in a cave and surrounded. We're all gonna die!

ROBIN

Quietly: Yes. *Looks at Much.*

MUCH

Oh, Lord.

Little John looks out at the forest.

Slams down his cloak. Allan. Where is Allan? And Will?! Where are they?!

Much slams down a handful of arrows as Little John walks back to them. Much picks up his sword belt and fumbles to put it on.

I thought if I survived the Holy Land, then I would die by the fire in Locksley, not in some... forest in some... some poxy, [*kicks dirt into the fire*] poxy cave!

ROBIN

Much!

MUCH

What?!

ROBIN

Let me think!

Pitts walks away from Marian towards Robin, laughing sinisterly. Robin stands up.

ROBIN

With quiet intensity: You.

Much looks back at Pitts.

PITTS

What did you think? That Gisborne did not tell me that one day somebody might come asking about his alibi? That we did not have a plan in place for just this occasion? *Sighs.* The charade is over. *Starts to walk past Robin, nodding once at him with his eyebrows raised, then stops beside him.* Oh, your friend is dead.

Pitts continues on towards the exit as Robin turns in horror to the back room.

MUCH

Dead?

PITTS

Turning to Much without stopping: Dead!

Robin hurries to Marian. Much looks after him in disbelief. Little John turns his staff to horizontal and stops Pitts from leaving.

In the back, Robin stops and looks fearfully at Djaq. She turns to him, the sad look on her face confirming what Pitts has just said.

DJAQ

Robin. I'm sorry.

Djaq walks over to him, then decides to leave him alone with Marian.

Exterior.

Little John and Much go outside to face the Sheriff. Crouching behind a large boulder on a rise, Much slams arrow points into the ground as Little John peeks over another boulder next to him. They hear horses coming, men shouting and dogs barking.

Interior.

Robin starts to sob, taking a few steps towards Marian. He stops to stare at her, then slowly kneels at her side, sobbing

