

ROBIN HOOD

Series One, Episode Thirteen

A Clue: No

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
Gisborne's Man	Ben O'Brien
Canon Bond	Timothy Knightley
King Richard	Lukács Bicskey
Merton	Simon Green
King's Guardsman	Barna Illyés

Recap of Episode Twelve

Ending with:

...Robin kneels at Marian's side and caresses her face.

ROBIN

Softly: Marian.

He turns his head aside, then leans on her chest and cries uncontrollably.

Exterior.

The Sheriff and Gisborne slowly approach on horseback, surrounded by several footsoldiers. More mounted guards follow.

SHERIFF

Singsong: Robin?

Interior.

Robin is still leaning on Marian's chest, crying.

SHERIFF

From outside: Oh, Robin? Come out, come out wherever you are! Chuckles.

Robin slowly raises his head with an intense look of rage and revenge in his eyes...

OPENING CREDITS

Scene One

Sherwood Forest. Cave. Exterior.

The Sheriff and Gisborne approach. A few footsoldiers are carrying large basket-weave shields on their backs.

SHERIFF

Calls out: You're getting slack, my friend!

Little John and Much scramble unseen from the cave entrance to behind two large boulders on a rise.

Could it have been easier for me, hm? If you'd led me by the

Interior.

Robin is listening, leaning on Marian's chest, staring at the wall, intense with rage.

hand to your little hidey-hole?

Exterior.

SHERIFF

A clue: no.

Little John and Much crouch behind the boulders.

MUCH

Muttering: Allan. Where are Allan and Will?

Much slams arrow points into the ground behind the boulder. Little John watches the Sheriff's advance as Much nocks an arrow in his bow.

LITTLE JOHN

to Much: Now.

Little John stands on the boulder and Much rises up behind his, in view of the oncoming party. Much points his drawn bow at the Sheriff.

MUCH

Roars: Stand!

SHERIFF

Unconcerned, feigned slight surprise: Oh.

MUCH

Stand or we shoot!

The Sheriff and Gisborne stop. The Sheriff looks around for more of Robin Hood's men.

SHERIFF

Er, there are two of you!

MUCH

Last warning!

SHERIFF

Quietly to Gisborne, still looking at Much: How many do you think there could be of them?

GISBORNE

A dozen or so at the most...

The Sheriff chuckles and looks around again.

... of the inner circle.

SHERIFF

Face falls. And how many of the outer circle?

GISBORNE

I don't know.

SHERIFF

Scowls. to Much: You seem to misunderstand me, my friend!

Interior.

Djaq pushes Pitts up against the wall, her sword at his throat.

SHERIFF

From outside: You do not have a bargaining position!

DJAQ

Robin...

Robin hasn't moved, still entranced with rage.

what do I do with him? If he dies you have nothing against Gisborne.

Exterior.

SHERIFF

Wait! *Thinking out loud:* Why are they not running? Why are they not running? *Pointing at the cave:* Hood must be in there.

MUCH

John? Now what?

Little John glances at Much.

SHERIFF

Tilts his head. Bored now. Kill them! *Motions advance with his arm.*

GISBORNE

Positions!

The soldiers and a handful of archers line up in front of the Sheriff and Gisborne. Two set up the large shields.

MUCH

John, I think we're gonna die.

Little John bends down to the ground as the soldiers and archers take their positions.

LITTLE JOHN

A good day. *Rubs a streak of black earth under his eyes.*

MUCH

What?

LITTLE JOHN

Gruffly, intensely: A good day to die.

MUCH

What?

LITTLE JOHN

It's a saying.

GISBORNE

Take aim!

MUCH

I hate sayings.

Much holds the arrow to his cheek and closes one eye. The Sheriff's archers pull back their bowstrings. There is a momentary standoff, then an arrow flies from behind Much and hits a soldier squarely in the chest in front of the Sheriff. Much looks behind him.

SHERIFF

Pointing: There's Hood! Shoot!

Robin bursts out of the cave and falls to his knees, slamming a fistful of arrows point first into the ground, his bow in his other hand.

MUCH

Quietly chastising: Robin!

Robin draws back a nocked arrow with another one waiting tucked in between his fingers, ready to be nocked quickly. He shoots and immediately grabs the bowstring as the Sheriff ducks low behind the horse's head. Robin fires off the other as the Sheriff's archers shoot back, forcing Much to duck.

SHERIFF

Sits back up. With a hand over his mouth: Ah! My tooth!

Robin shoots at Gisborne, who has to duck as the mounted soldiers regroup. Robin grabs his arrows from the ground as Little John glances at him. Robin rolls down the hill as more arrows fly past him.

Crawling on the floor: Where's my tooth?

Robin continues to roll as Much faces the battle and shoots down an archer. Robin stops about even with Little John and Much, but several paces away below the boulders. He slams the arrow points into the ground and pulls three back out. The Sheriff is on his hands and knees under his horse, looking for the tooth just knocked out of his mouth by his quick duck into the horse's head.

Gisborne, where's my tooth?

Robin shoots an arrow. A soldier grunts and falls onto the ground right in front of the Sheriff with an arrow in his back.

What is this? *With emphasis on each word:* Hood does not kill!

Robin has four arrows ready: one nocked on the string and three more between each of his fingers. He aims and shoots them in rapid succession. An archer and a footsoldier go down as Djaq, with her sword, and Pitts emerge from the cave. Three more soldiers are shot, the arrows squarely piercing their chests. A mounted soldier falls in front of Gisborne.

PITTS

Standing in the entrance waving a bandage: Do not shoot!

Much barely ducks an arrow flying past his shoulder. Pitts runs down the hill as Robin shoots another arrow.

Sir Guy, it's me!

Pitts runs past Robin and stops in his line of fire.

ROBIN

Irritably: Move!

PITTS

Sir Guy?

GISBORNE

Kill him!

PITTS

I have always served you well!

GISBORNE

You've served your purpose. Kill him!

Pitts panics and turns to run away as an archer takes aim at him. He is shot in the back and falls facedown. Robin is stunned for a brief second, watching his only witness fall, then regains his composure and draws.

SHERIFF

Pointing at Gisborne: You're learning.

Robin fires at Gisborne, who ducks. Little John's upper arm is grazed by an arrow which gets stuck in his sleeve.

GISBORNE

Second line forward!

The foot and mounted soldiers advance. Robin throws down his bow and reaches for his scimitar. He stands up, draws his weapon, tossing the scabbard aside, and runs a few steps forwards, holding the hilt with both hands. Much and Little John hear the ring of the scimitar and glance back at

Robin.

MUCH

Draws his sword and looks at Little John. It is a good day!

Robin charges. Little John, Much and Djaq follow, all yelling a war cry.

LITTLE JOHN

Come on, then!

The Sheriff stands behind his horse, frightened and confused.

SHERIFF

What is this? Is this suicide?

The Sheriff ducks behind his horse as the gang yell and charge. Robin swings his scimitar at a soldier's sword with all his might, then spins round and holds his sword up over his head to block a second. Gisborne looks on in disbelief.

MUCH

We fight for Robin Hood and King Richard!

Much charges in at two soldiers, swinging his sword in an arc to parry both at once. Little John runs in and jabs the butt of his staff into one man before taking on another. Robin is hacking at the soldiers, showing no mercy as Djaq enters the fray behind him. Little John knocks out a soldier with his staff. Djaq stops in front of a charging soldier and lets him roll over her back before taking on the next one. Gisborne circles the mêlée on his horse, watching incredulously as Robin spins, slicing through a man in front and behind him simultaneously. Little John knocks out a soldier. Robin hacks at another's back and makes a beeline for Gisborne, who pulls back his horse. They stare at one another, Robin with intense rage in his eyes.

Suddenly an arrow flies, just missing Gisborne's head, a shaft from Allan's bow. Robin looks back to see Will running to join in, yelling, as Little John watches in surprise.

MUCH

Allan!

Robin hears the swing of a sword, ducks, grabs the soldier's arm as he takes another swing, and slices his throat.

SHERIFF

Do something, Gisborne!

GISBORNE

Regroup!

Little John beats off more soldiers with his staff. Allan takes a shot at the Sheriff, who ducks. The arrow hits a mounted

soldier in the neck instead.

SHERIFF

Panicked: Get me out of here!

Will charges, yelling, at a guard. He blocks overhead with both hands on his broadaxe and kicks the man back at the same time. Allan runs in to join the battle with his sword in hand.

ALLAN

(I fight for) Robin Hood and King Richard!

Djaq stabs a guard. All the gang are stabbing, slicing, et cetera, and showing no mercy and amazingly receiving no harm in return. The Sheriff is running around, wildly trying to find an escape.

SHERIFF

Get me out of here!

Will swings his broadaxe into the stomach of a charging soldier and ducks another one swinging. Gisborne watches them all in fear as Allan swings his sword into the back of a soldier and Will kicks out at another. The Sheriff waves at Gisborne's retreating men, trying in vain to get them to protect him.

GISBORNE

Move back!

The gang keep attacking and all the soldiers run off. Gisborne follows on his horse as Allan hacks at a prone soldier's stomach. Little John wildly pulls the arrow out of his sleeve as the Sheriff and Gisborne gallop off side by side.

SHERIFF

Slapping Gisborne's shoulder: Those blithering idiots cost me my tooth!

The gang spin around, prepared to take on more, but their opponents are riding or running off. Battle over, they catch their breath. Robin looks around with wide eyes. Much turns around with his sword out. Allan looks round. Little John glances at Allan. Will guiltily looks down. Much sinks to his knees and sits on his heels. Robin takes one last look around, then, leaning on his scimitar, slowly goes down to one knee, hanging his head.

LITTLE JOHN

Glancing between Allan and Will: Where were you two?

Will is ashamedly silent.

ALLAN

I can explain.

Little John turns to Allan.

It's a woman, a mother, was giving birth to this newborn babe, right?

WILL

Simply, guiltily: We were gonna take the haul. Gisborne's money.

Allan sighs, looking at Will. Little John looks at Will. Much looks up at Will.

We were gonna take it to Scarborough.

Much turns to Robin, who slowly raises his head to look at Will.

ALLAN

Yeah... what can I say?

WILL

Sorry!

Much stands up with a look of disbelief.

Sincerely: Really.

Robin looks down again.

ALLAN

Well, we're here now. Saved your bacon, actually.

Little John looks angrily from Allan to Will. Much stares somberly at Allan. Djaq gapes at Will. Allan doesn't understand why everybody is so silent.

What?

Little John looks at Allan.

We said sorry.

MUCH

Marian. Gisborne stabbed her last night.

Allan is surprised.

And she's...

ROBIN

Looking up, quietly: She's dead.

Allan looks at Will, who stares, stunned, at Robin.

Marian's dead.

Robin lifts his scimitar slightly and drives the point into the ground, then stands and leaves it there as he heads back to the cave.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Interior.

Marian lies as they left her on the rock slab. Little John leads the gang in with a torch. They stop a few paces from her.

DJAQ

We need to bury her.

ROBIN

Voice all but breaking. Quietly: We must take her to Knight-on Hall, to her father. Stands staring at Marian with tears in his eyes. John, I want you to... trying not to break down. Djaq, prepare her body. Takes a step towards Marian. Will, I need you to make...

Robin takes in an audible breath as Little John passes behind him and puts his arm round his shoulders.

I need you to make a coffin.

LITTLE JOHN

Shhh-sh-sh-sh-sh-sh. In good time. First... glances at Marian... we say goodbye. Turns to face Marian.

WILL

Softly: She was a good woman. A tear falls. Kind and considerate.

MUCH

Good? Steps forwards next to Robin. Oh, she was... Nods, glances at Robin. She was... Nods.

ALLAN

Steps forwards next to Much. She was all right... Yeah.

LITTLE JOHN

Her... we liked.

ROBIN

Her we loved. Her I loved... I loved her and I never told her.

MUCH

Well, she knew. Sniffs. We all knew.

Allan shifts his feet, frowning at Marian. Much sniffs again

and Allan takes a step forwards, staring at her:

ALLAN

I'm not being funny, right? She's breathing. Turns to Robin.

Robin rolls his eyes, thinking Allan has a bad joke going, as Little John glances at Marian, frowning. Allan, sensing their scepticism, earnestly holds an arm out to her and Little John takes the torch over. Will stares at her, hardly daring to hope. Robin and Much remain still as Djaq holds her sword under Marian's nose, and sees her breath condense on the cold metal.

DJAQ

On the blade. She is breathing.

ALLAN

Holding his arms out: Eh? Told ya! Steps back to Much.

Will looks incredulously at Robin, who hurries to her side.

ROBIN

What?

DJAQ

Unbuttoning Marian's coat: The physician's draught. I have heard of this before. Hemlock. Too much and the body freezes... opening Marian's eyes, one at a time, to check her pupils: ...the breathing stops. But if one is young and strong, the body fights back. Comes back from the dead!

Little John leans over to look.

ALLAN

She died?

DJAQ

And came back!

MUCH

Shaking his head with relief and joy: Oh, that is...

Djaq and Little John chuckle with relief. Will stares, tears still falling.

ROBIN

Marian? Marian? Rubbing her cheek. Marian?

Marian weakly opens her eyes. Robin laughs in relief.

MARIAN

Where have I been?

tingham. Maybe he's thinking I and others will attend the wedding and leave him free to assassinate the King.

Robin turns an exasperated head, not wanting to hear. Djaq looks at Little John's arm as Little John listens.

But we must forget the wedding. We must be in Nottingham.

ROBIN

We? *Shakes his head slightly.* I don't think so.

EDWARD

You, me and a number of loyal nobles.

Robin stares desperately at Marian. Djaq stands up. Marian tosses her head on the pillow.

Now is the time to act, to stand up and defend our king. Join us.

ROBIN

Fiercely: What about Marian? She cannot be left to meet Gisborne at the altar.

Will leaves the window and steps in the doorway.

WILL

Whispers: Gisborne!

Edward and the gang look at Will in alarm. Robin hangs his head.

EDWARD

I'll get rid of him. *Goes downstairs.*

Little John stands and puts his arm back in his coat sleeve. Allan looks out Marian's window to see Gisborne dismounting.

Main room.

Edward comes quickly downstairs. Just as he reaches the bottom, Gisborne raps loudly on the door.

Marian's bedchamber.

Marian stirs. Much looks wildly around for a place to hide. Robin is still standing at the foot of the bed, staring at his beloved as Edward opens the door.

EDWARD

(From downstairs: Sir Guy?)

GISBORNE

(I've come to see Marian. There's something I need to

speak to her about.)

EDWARD

(She's indisposed.)

Main room.

Gisborne is standing at the door.

GISBORNE

Indisposed?

EDWARD

Sleeping.

GISBORNE

Leans on the jambs, suspecting Edward is hiding something: At this hour?

EDWARD

She is... unwell.

GISBORNE

She's not here.

EDWARD

She is here.

GISBORNE

Looks down, sighs. I knew it. I knew she would not keep her promise. *Looking pointedly at Edward:* She cannot run from me.

EDWARD

Protesting: Sir Guy, I assure you that she would—

GISBORNE

Interrupting: Do not "Sir Guy" me. *Steps inside.* Where is she?

EDWARD

She's been injured. I do not know how. Perhaps a fall in the woods.

GISBORNE

Pushes Edward aside. Don't lie to me! *Goes upstairs.*

EDWARD

I am not lying! *Closes the front door and follows Gisborne upstairs.*

Marian's bedchamber.

Robin stands still with an intense look on his face as footsteps come up the stairs. Much panics, looking for a place to hide and ducks behind the door as it opens. Gisborne strides in and Edward stops short to avoid running into him.

GISBORNE

Upon seeing Marian in the bed: Ah.

EDWARD

I told you.

Gisborne steps to Marian's bedside as Edward looks around for the others and spies Robin pressed between beams against the ceiling over Marian's bed. Gisborne leans over Marian.

GISBORNE

She looks pale. Marian?

Marian opens her eyes and sees Gisborne's face above hers and beyond it, through the green gauze draped over her bed, Robin against the ceiling.

Sh-sh. It's all right. It's only me.

Marian's eyes flicker to Robin, who is staring a warning at her, then close.

She is unwell. I will send for a physician.

EDWARD

No need. *Smiles.* I'm sure rest and recuperation...

Edward pushes Little John's foot further under the bed with his.

Reaches out to Gisborne's shoulder. Perhaps the excitement of the wedding.

Gisborne stands and lets Edward guide him to the door as Marian opens her eyes.

GISBORNE

Is that true? The wedding excites her?

Marian stares up at Robin.

EDWARD

You wanted to tell her something?

GISBORNE

Yes.

Robin and Marian both look at Gisborne.

Tell her... I am also... *pauses, shakes his head.* Goodbye. *Leaves abruptly.*

Marian looks at Robin.

EDWARD

Goodbye, Sir Guy.

Edward follows Gisborne out and closes the door behind them. Little John flips up a cloth hanging from the foot of the bed and pokes his head out. Much breathes a sigh of relief and slides his sword back into its sheath. Will jumps down from inside the chimney. Allan pulls himself up on the window bars from outside.

MUCH

Crossly: "I will send for a physician."

Will glances at Much, who walks towards the fireplace.

He just killed one.

Robin drops down from the ceiling.

Pointing towards the door: He is revolting.

Allan crawls headfirst through the window.

MARIAN

Weakly: He killed one?

Allan stands up and lets out his breath.

MUCH

Yes. Pitts.

Will stands up from the fireplace. A knock is heard in the room. Much looks behind him. Allan and Will open the trunk along the wall and pull up the green cloth draped over it to reveal Djaq, who gets out as Robin walks around the foot of the bed and sits at Marian's side.

We thought he would denounce Gisborne, but he was a traitor. He was also revolting. I'm glad he is dead.

Marian frowns.

ALLAN

Yeah, but she's got to marry Gisborne now. Tomorrow.

Marian stares at Robin.

MUCH

True.

Edward opens the door and enters.

ROBIN

Marian, I will find another way out of this.

EDWARD

Sternly, with deliberate care: Robin, I need to speak to you.

Marian weakly raises her head, wanting Robin to stay.

Outside Marian's bedchamber.

Robin and Edward step onto the landing outside. Robin leans on the windowsill, looking outside.

EDWARD

Do you really have another way out for Marian?

ROBIN

Earnestly, desperately: I will think of something.

EDWARD

If you cannot stop it, then do not speak of it.

ROBIN

Once Marian is married, it can never be undone.

EDWARD

Then what is your plan?

ROBIN

Turns to the window, sighs and hangs his head, then looks at Edward. Quietly: Edward, I will think of something.

EDWARD

No! That is not good enough.

Robin turns angrily to the window.

You will raise Marian's hopes. You will raise her hopes only to see them dashed. If you care about her, spare her that. If you cannot save her, I beg you, do the right thing. Let her go.

ROBIN

Chuckles. Turns to Edward with tears in his eyes: You know something? *Looks through the door at Marian.* I am sick of doing the right thing.

Robin glances once more at Marian, then goes downstairs.

EDWARD

Calling after him: Robin? I need your help.

The front door closes below.

Robin!

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Scene Four

Locksley.

Robin sits despondently on the hillside overlooking the village, his arms round his knees. Much walks up behind him.

MUCH

I knew you'd be here.

ROBIN

It is my village.

Much sits nearby, a bit downhill from Robin, facing the village.

MUCH

Smiling: Remember the times we used to sit up here? Sit up here and say there was no finer place in England. *Sighs, contented.*

ROBIN

Quietly: Gisborne is stealing my life.

MUCH

Pauses before answering. Then you must let him. *Looks at Robin.* You heard Edward. The King is in danger, and what is Locksley if England can't be saved?

ROBIN

At this moment I care more about Locksley than England.

MUCH

It isn't Locksley, is it? It's Marian. *Silence.* We must let her go.

Robin sorrowfully looks at Much.

I say we. I mean you. *Looks away.*

ROBIN

There must be a way.

MUCH

Robin, the King is coming back. And if we can stop the Sheriff from messing things up, then England will be right again.

ROBIN

Nods subtly, staring at Locksley. Flatly: Will it?

MUCH

Eagerly: Yes. The Sheriff will be out. You'll be in. We're talking days, surely. I mean, you'll have your lands back. You'll be in Locksley. I'll be in Bonchurch.

Robin closes his eyes in dread, knowing Much is going to babble

on about his promised estate.

It's not a huge estate, but it's big enough.

Robin smiles and lets out a silent flustered chuckle.

A man could easily get lost on it, easily. *Sighs.*

ROBIN

Quietly, smiling devilishly: You know something? If you want to get lost... why don't you start practising now?

MUCH

Scowls at Robin. You don't mean that.

Robin chuckles. Much scoots up the hill to sit even with Robin.

Playfully: You know a smaller man would be offended. A smaller man would wounded.

ROBIN

You see, there is no smaller man, Much.

Much scowls at Robin.

You are the smaller man. *Looking out:* All you care about is the roof over your head, the food in your belly... You speak every facile thought that comes into your head. *Looks at Much.* You're like a pox on my skin. I keep scratching... *pointedly:* but you never go away.

Much stares, his face falling and his lower lip trembling, then he suddenly gives Robin's shoulder a hard shove. Robin falls over and slowly sits back up.

MUCH

Quietly, indignantly: You go away.

Much glares at Robin as he rights himself, then stands and storms off. Robin stares glumly at Locksley for several moments, then hangs his head in shame.

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Scene Five

Knighton Hall. Interior. Main room.

Marian gingerly makes her way downstairs, using one hand on the wall to steady herself and holding her side with the other. Edward hears her feet on the stairs and turns from the table where he was preparing a tray for her.

EDWARD

Marian?

MARIAN

What is happening with Merton and the other nobles?

Edwards helps her down the last steps and guides her towards a chair in the main room.

EDWARD

They are ready, making preparations.

MARIAN

Will you get word to the King?

EDWARD

If we can. I not, we will protect him as he arrives in Nottingham.

Marian sits down and Edward returns to the tray on the table.

MARIAN

It is so dangerous. Any move against the Sheriff, if you were to be caught...

EDWARD

I have waited too long, Marian.

MARIAN

And Robin?

EDWARD

Stops, alarmed. What of him?

MARIAN

Well, he used to be in charge of the King's private guard. He will assist you.

EDWARD

I think not.

MARIAN

Why?

EDWARD

He wants to stop your wedding.

Scene Seven

Knighton Hall. Main room.

Marian drops her Nightwatchman's mask into the fireplace, then drops her cloak on top of it. Robin appears in the rear open doorway, his horse tethered to a post outside.

ROBIN

Softly: How are you feeling?

Marian looks up, surprised. Robin is leaning on the jamb with doleful eyes.

MARIAN

I've been to see Guy. I've challenged him.

ROBIN

Sarcastically, jealously: And let me guess. *Stepping towards Marian:* You asked him if he was a traitor, he said he wasn't, and you believed him.

MARIAN

Yes.

Robin nods once, leans on the post at the foot of the stairs, glances out the open front door, then stares at her.

Robin, I think you've been wrong about him.

ROBIN

Quietly: No! Trust me. I've been right about him.

MARIAN

Maybe the difference between you and he is not so huge.

Robin's eyes drift away.

And isn't that your thesis? Isn't that the Robin Hood world view?

ROBIN

What thesis?

MARIAN

That one man is much like another. That the poor are no different from the wealthy and just as deserving. Why can't you apply your charitable principles to somebody who's been deprived in a different way? Deprived of love.

ROBIN

Raises eyebrows scornfully. Deprived of love.

Robin crosses to fireplace. Marian clenches her fists in frustration as Robin notices the mask burning in the fire.

The Nightwatchman.

MARIAN

Slowly turns to face Robin. This is goodbye, Robin.

Robin sighs and turns around.

It's time for us to both grow up and accept our lot in life.

ROBIN

Are you marrying him?

MARIAN

Unemotionally: I am marrying him.

ROBIN

Nods once in gracious defeat. Very well.

MARIAN

Surprised: Pardon?

ROBIN

Walking past Marian: You said grow up, and I'm growing up.

Robin passes her for the back door, leaving her bewildered and confused.

MARIAN

Robin, where are you going?

Robin doesn't answer and goes out the door towards his horse. Marian slams her hand into a post, frustrated that Robin has given up fighting for her.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

MARIAN

If it is not the King...

GISBORNE

It is a ruse by the Sheriff to flush out his enemies.

MARIAN

What will happen to them?

Gisborne gives her a sinister look.

My father! I must go to Nottingham!

She hurriedly tries to stand up, but Gisborne grabs her by the arm.

GISBORNE

Your father will be safe; I have made provision. He alone will be spared. You see? My influence, it benefits you. As my father-in-law he is protected. *Emphasises:* As my father-in-law!

MARIAN

You are cruel!

MUCH

This is wrong!

CANON BOND

You must have legal grounds to object or remain silent.

MUCH

I have moral grounds!

GISBORNE

to his men: Get him out of here!

Gisborne's men grab Much and drag him away, but he continues to shout.

MUCH

This man is a traitor! And a liar! Is that legal? And... *points at Marian...* her heart belongs to another!

Gisborne's men stop. Marian is distressed at Much's revelation. She is trying to think what to do. She is torn between an opportunity to stop the wedding and a chance to save her father by marrying Gisborne.

A bit quieter, his voice breaking: Let her tell you that.

Marian is still wrestling with her decision.

Marian, my lady. Tell them.

GISBORNE

Yes, Marian. *Looks out at the audience.* Tell them. *Softly:* Remember your father.

Marian realises she must go through with the wedding if she is to save her father.

MARIAN

Unemotionally, a bit haltingly: It is not true.

Marian looks at Much, who stares back incredulously.

I am sorry. I know you mean well. But my heart belongs here.

GISBORNE

to priest: Get on with it!

MUCH

What?!

Marian is cringing inside as Gisborne's men continue to drag Much away.

I don't understand! This is surely some mistake!

CANON BOND

You have a ring?

MUCH

He needs you! Marian!!!

Marian looks agonizingly past Gisborne's shoulder, listening to Much's last words. Gisborne lifts her left hand up and puts an elaborate ring on her finger.

GISBORNE

Wise decision. In time you will thank me.

Much yells as he is pushed into the pond with a loud splash. Marian blinks and calmly looks down at her hand. She slowly pulls the ring off and slips it onto her right ring finger as the spectators start to murmur.

CANON BOND

No, the left hand.

MARIAN

No.

CANON BOND

The ring must go on the left hand.

MARIAN

No. *Rips the front of her veil from her face.* The right is

Scene Twenty-Three

Nottingham Town. Exterior. Main gate.

Robin, Marian and Much stop in front of the gate. Two sentries stand guard.

ROBIN

We can't be seen together.

MUCH

We'd never get in anyway.

MARIAN

I'll try the east gate.

Marian slides off the back of the horse.

ROBIN

We'll try the west.

Robin and Much gallop off to the left. Marian starts running to the right.

ROBIN

Marian!

MARIAN

Turns around. Robin!

Robin gallops back and stops in front of the south gate. Marian runs back to him. Robin leans down from the horse and gives Marian a long kiss. He straightens up, smiling, then turns his horse and rides off again. Marian lovingly and coyly watches him go, then runs off again herself.

Nottingham Castle. Interior corridor.

Edward walks down the corridor.

A small room.

The Sheriff is waiting, the hood over his face, tapping his quill impatiently on his fingers.

Nottingham Town. Outside the castle wall.

Robin and Much run in. Robin finds a coil of rope hanging on the side of a cart.

ROBIN

Much.

Much looks at him. Robin tosses his bow to him and then ties the rope around an arrow. Much realises what the plan is.

MUCH

Looking up: Climbing.

Robin takes his bow back.

You know I hate climbing.

Robin adjusts the knot on the arrow and shoots it up.

Nottingham Castle. Interior corridor.

Edward reaches the end of the corridor. He pauses, looks to his right, then goes in.

A small room.

The Sheriff loudly lays the quill down on the table.

SHERIFF

Gruff voice: Do you wish to give evidence against the Sheriff?

There is a moment of silence, then two arrows in quick succession pierce the table in front of him. The Sheriff pops his head up in total surprise.

ROBIN

Laughs. Mockingly: A clue: No!

Robin turns and leaves the room. The Sheriff makes to follow, but his sleeves are pinned to the table by the arrows. He frustratingly grabs at them, but can't work them loose.

SHERIFF

Help! Help!

Interior corridor.

Robin, Much and Edward run away, back to the Great Hall.

The Great Hall.

The doors by the fireplace open and Much runs in.

MUCH

It's a trap! *Jumps up on the table in front of the King's throne.*
It's a trap! *Points at the King.* This is not the King!

The King stands, glaring at Much.

MAN

Arrest that imposter!

Little John frowns in confusion at Much.

ALLAN

I knew this smelt funny.

Djaq glowers at Allan.

KING

Pointing at Much: Get him!

