

Plays for Young Audiences

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Robin Hood

by
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Robin Hood was first presented by the Children's Theatre Company for the 2010-11 season.
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Characters:

Actor 1 plays The Sheriff/King Richard/soldier3

Actor 2 plays Prince John/ Will Scarlett/ Soldier 1/Little John/ Friar Tuck

Actor 3 plays Much/Maid Marian

Actor 4 plays Robin Hood / Marians dad/ Soldier 2

2 Musicians Merry Men/Soldiers

Two street musicians/beggars are playing as the audience comes. Maybe some Woody Guthrie. 'I aint gonna be treated this way' / Aint got no home in this land anymore.' Four beggars trying to raise some money from the audience. The beggars have been filtering in with the audience. One of them has a dog (it is his foot with a lead on it) that does tricks. Another plays a rather bad tune on a tin whistle...One just sits with a placard and is wrapped in very old blankets. One shuffles about with a can.)

4 It's so cold.

3 Can't you be quiet?

4 Cold so cold.

3 Spare some change. Please.

2 Here boy. *(To his dog)*

3 I'm homeless and hungry.

2 Dime for the dog. Good boy.

4 Lost everything. Just trying to start over.

2 Good boy. Beg. Up. Good boy.

3 25 cents would help me and the kids eat...

4 Dirty broke and hungry. Anything helps.

2 Dime for the dog. Up. Come on. Up. Good boy.

1 You want to sign my coat? Anyone want to sign my coat?

3 25 cents.

2 Dime for the dog.

1 Sign my coat.

4 I haven't slept in a bed.

1 That'll cost ya a dollar.

3 I haven't eaten.

4 Not since...

2 Not since the men came,
1 Up on their high horses,
2 And trampled on our fields,
1 Stole our harvest,
4 Burnt our houses to the ground.

1 Now we've got nothing. Nothing to eat, nowhere to live.
2 And we ain't gonna get nothing here.
3 Somebody will take pity.
1 I don't want pity. I want my life back.
4 I want my bed back.
2 I want something to eat.
4 There's plenty of supper walking around the forest.
2 Take a shot at the King's deer?
4 Why not?
1 Why not? It's the death penalty if Prince John's men catch you.
4 They're not his deer. They belong to King Richard. He wouldn't let us go hungry.

Muso He's not here.

2 He's off fighting another war.

4 What do we want?

3/2/1 King Richard

4 What have we got?

3/2/1 Prince John

4 What do we want?

3/2/1 King Richard

4 What have we got?

3/2/1 Prince John

1 What do we want (*2 puts a hand over 3's mouth*)

2 He's not coming back. King Richard is not coming back. Dime for the dog.

1 Sign my coat.

3 (*Singing to himself*) Robin Hood, Robin Hood, Riding through the glen,

1 What you got to sing about?

3 Robin Hood, Robin Hood, with his band of men,

4 Who?

2 Hood, Robin Hood.

3 Rob from the rich

4 Who was he?

2 Nobody. He wasn't real.

3 Give to the poor.

1 Give to the poor. Who's going to do that? Rob from the rich, maybe. Give to the poor, no chance (*Moves off*).

3 There are stories.

4 About Robin Hood

3 Yes.

2 And they're just stories. Make believe. About some clown dressed up in green who flies through the forest on ropes, bursts out of trees, and saves the poor.

3 Why not?

2 Dime for the dog.

1 Let's go. (*2 and I do the nose thing.*)

4 God bless and good luck.

(1,2 and 4 leave 3 alone begging with a little placard gently singing the Robin Hood tune then he hears a noise behind him, turns and sees 1,2 and 4 who have become deer.)

3 Robin Hood, Robin Hood riding through the glen, (*Hears something, turns and sees deer.*) Sssh! There.

4 Grazing on the edge of the forest

2 Just waiting to be caught

1 A herd of deer

3 (*To the audience*) And that was my dad's mistake. We'd been gone for days. We were going home empty handed. When he saw the deer. He knew he shouldn't, but I had a baby sister at home, desperate for something to eat,

crying night and day. He made me stay hidden in the bushes as slowly...slowly, he began to stalk the deer. But, as he moved towards them, they moved away. At last he was close enough... carefully taking his long bow...he placed the shaft of an arrow...drew back the bowstring... aimed. It was against the law, but we had to eat (*As he is about to release the bow the deer turn into the Sheriff of Nottingham and others.*)

Sheriff Caught you. Red handed. Trying to kill the King's deer.

Much How many deer can the king eat?

Soldier Be quiet.

Much The forest is full of them. There's enough for everyone.

Soldier Silence.

Much I had no choice, your honour.

Soldier Kneel. Before the Sheriff of Nottingham.

Sheriff Who is he?

Soldier Much the Miller. We caught him before and cut off two of his fingers, Now, we've caught him again, we'll take out his eyes. A third time and he hangs.

Sheriff Poor Much. Not much to eat. Not much luck. Not much of anything. (*Gently*) What do you have to say for yourself?

Much I had to hunt to get food.

Soldier Kneel!

Much My children are starving. We can't live on grass.

Sheriff Course you can't. You're not a rabbit. (*Soldier laughs.*) Shut up. So you decided to try a richer diet. The King's deer!

Much What would you do?

Sheriff Not my problem. I haven't got any children. I don't like children. I wouldn't waste my food on them if I had any. Look, I'll make a bargain with you. Have you heard of Robin Hood? Course you have. Don't look so innocent. All you miserable lawbreakers know him. He's a rotten do-gooder.

Soldier Do gooder.

Sheriff Helps out lazy wretches like you when they can't fend for themselves. Tell us where we can find him, and we will spare you.

Soldier Will we?

Sheriff We might. Speak up.

Much I don't know where you can find him. People say he is the good spirit of Sherwood, and having brought help, he goes away as silently as he came. No one knows where to find him.

Sheriff I don't believe you. Burn down his cottage. See if that loosens the old man's tongue.

Much Don't. Please don't. I'm begging you.

Sheriff Of course you are. You're a beggar. (*The house is lit.*)

Much It's my home. We'll have nowhere to live.

Soldier Silence.

Much (*ad lib*) No! Please. That's my family!

Sheriff Let him shout. Let him wail. Maybe Robin Hood will come and rescue him? Is that what you want?

Much No.

Sheriff Well if he does we are ready for him. Men! (*To audience*) They're wearing camouflage. That's why you can't see them. Men scatter, hide in the trees.

You stay with me. (*Soldier echoes what Sheriff says.*) Yoo hoo, Robin. There's a poor man waiting to be rescued. A beggar man. A thief. Come on you coward...come out and fight...cowardy, cowardy custard. Enough. I'm bored of this. Take him away.

Much Take my eyes, throw me in the deepest dungeon, hang me from the nearest tree.

Sheriff Very well. Grab the boy. He's hiding in the bushes.

Much No! Run! Run!

Sheriff You thought I hadn't seen him. Do it.

Much Suddenly my dad jumped up, snatched a sword and made a run at the Sheriff.

Sheriff But he never reached me.

Much For with a sudden vicious whine

Sheriff A dagger sped from the trees.

Much And laid him dead on the ground.

Sheriff Which one of you men did that?

Soldier Did that.

Muso Not me.

Sheriff Come on, own up. I didn't want you to kill him. I wanted you to hurt him so that Robin Hood would hear his screams, come bounding through the forest and make a fabulous rescue. (*He acts this out as speaks.*) Look out poor people, here I come.

Soldier I got him! I got him! I got Robin Hood!

Sheriff (*To Soldier*) Idiot. And then I'd grab him tie him up and parade him through the streets of Nottingham.

Much They just left my poor old dad, lying in the dirt, dying, while our house burnt to the ground.

Sheriff The boy. Where's the boy?

Much At that very moment...

Robin Stay where you are.

Sheriff An arrow thudded into the ground.

Much At the sheriff's feet

Sheriff Help!

Much And another

Sheriff Help

Much And another

Sheriff Help again

Much Whichever way he turned

Sheriff *(A lot of arrows arrive at his feet.)* Ah! Ah! Aaaagh. *(Music stops.)* Help! He's here. Robin Hood is here. Charge Men.

Soldier I don't want to.

Sheriff Chaaaaaarge.

Robin Your men have fled.

Sheriff Fled

Robin Gone

Sheriff Gone.

Robin Run away.

Sheriff Help! *(v. quiet)*

Robin Now. Take that moneybag from your belt.

Sheriff No.

Robin And throw it to the ground.

Sheriff I can't. It's not mine. It belongs to Prince John.

Robin It belongs to the people you took it from. Throw it to the ground.

Sheriff No.

Robin Do it. The next arrow is aimed at your heart, or the place where his heart should be. *(The Sheriff throws bag to the ground, to the boy.)* Pick up the bag. *(Sheriff goes for the boy. Robin is on him in a flash and takes him to the ground.)* Don't be afraid. *(Other soldier runs away.)* I said, stay where you are.

Much It's full of gold.

Robin *(To Sheriff)* Now, bring me the rest of the money.

Sheriff There is no more.

Soldier No more.

Robin The money in your saddlebags. *(Soldier does so.)* The money you stole from the honest people of Nottingham to feather your own nest.

Sheriff You haven't heard the last of this. Prince John will have your head.

Robin *(To Soldier)* Bring the Sheriff's horse.

Soldier Do I have to?

Robin Do it! *(Soldier becomes the horse.)* Hup! *(Sheriff mounts horse.)* If Prince John wants his money tell him to come and get it himself.

Sheriff Traitor.

Robin Back to Nottingham, Sheriff. *(Slaps Soldier's rump, who whinnies.)*

Sheriff Outlaw. I'll hunt you down. I'll have your head.

Robin Long live King Richard.

Much I buried my dad, right there, out in the forest under a tall oak tree.

Robin I was too late to save him.

Much You didn't kill him.

Robin No. But I swore an oath to myself that I would help anybody in distress that I would protect those who suffer at the hands of the Sheriff. I let you down. I'm sorry. Are you hurt?

Much No. Just sad.

Robin Of course you are.

Much And angry. I swear that one day I shall have revenge on those men that killed my dad.

Robin Easy. Time enough for that.

Much The man took a horn from his belt, (*Muso chucks Robin a horn.*) blew a long blast, (*Does so*) and as darkness descended men appeared silently out of the forest.

Robin From now on, you will be one of Robin Hood's band.

Much Are you Robin Hood?

Robin I am. And these are some of my merry men (*Muso and Will*) Nat the weaver, Will Scarlett, Alan a dale and others too many to name (*the audience*). What shall we call you? How about Much in memory of your father?

Much Much. I like it. You're all outlaws?

Robin We live outside the law but we are not thieves or robbers. Are we lads? (*Cheer from merry men*) Instead we declare war on all those thieves and robbers among the bankers, the landowners, and among those that tax us until we have nothing left and give us nothing in return. Will, got with Much into Nottingham. Give the money to those that need it most. Prince John will be white with rage when he learns what we have done with his gold.

All Down with Prince John!

Much That night

Will Will

Much And Much

Will Crept

Much Silently

Will Along many winding paths

Much Through the forest

Will Until

Much They reached

Will The huddle of tiny houses

Much That crouched in the shadow of Nottingham castle.

Will No sign of the Sheriff's men. Everyone seemed to be asleep. (*Indicating the front row*)

Much As we slipped from house to house

Will And laid a bag of gold coins on each doorstep. (*Would be good if we could give one or two of those chocolate gold coins from Christmas time to maybe half a dozen of the audience.*)

Much To each bag, we pinned a note.

Both (*As they hand out gold*) Greetings to the poor people of Nottingham from Robin Hood who has robbed the rich to pay the poor.

Much I had just given away the last of the gold, when...

Sheriff Stop that man.

Muso Me?

Sheriff Yes you.

Much A gaggle of armed men ran towards Will. (*The Muso and the Sheriff*)

Sheriff Quickly.

Will Stay hidden. They haven't seen you. (*Muso hides in the audience.*)

Sheriff (*Muso echoes what Sheriff says.*) Stop. Stand where you are. I know you.

Muso So do I.

Sheriff Shut up. Will Scathlock. Better known as Will Scarlett. One of Robin Hood's men and a traitor.

Muso Traitor.

Will I am no traitor. I am loyal to King Richard.

Sheriff You can forget about King flipping Richard. That money belongs to Prince John. Hand it over. Empty. What have you done with it? Robbing from the rich to give to the poor. Again! How kind. Well, the poor don't deserve kindness.

Will What did Prince John say when he found you'd lost his precious gold?

Sheriff He doesn't know.

Will You haven't told him. Have you? Why? Are you frightened of him?

Sheriff A little bit, yes. No, of course, I'm not. Right, that's it.

Muso Shall I tell him off now?

Sheriff Tell him off! Tomorrow morning early, we shall hang him in the market square.

Muso Like a picture.

Sheriff No. By the neck. As a warning to others. That'll teach Robin Hood and his merry men to muck about with the Sheriff of Nottingham.

Muso Yeah. Don't muck about.

Sheriff But before we hang him let's see if we can persuade him to tell us where we can find Robin Hood.

Muso Yeah. Persuade him. Right. Go on tell us. I'll give you a sweet...

Sheriff Nastier. Meaner.

Muso Two sweets.

Sheriff (*Pushing Muso aside*) The dungeons in Nottingham castle are very deep.

Will I said I am no traitor.

Sheriff Very dark

Will I shall never betray Robin.

Sheriff And full of very nasty things.

Will As for your dungeons, go live in them yourself. I shall tell you nothing.

Sheriff You hang tomorrow. Robin Hood won't dare enter the castle to rescue you. And if he does, I will be ready for him.

Much (*in the audience*) Much leapt from his hiding place and ran, as fast as he could into the forest, missing his way many times along the twisting paths, until he was completely lost...

Robin Are you looking for me?

Much Robin. Thank goodness. Much poured out his story.

Robin We must rescue Will.

Much Let's march to Nottingham, take the place by storm and hang the sheriff on his own gallows.

Robin Not so hasty. At the first sign of an attack, they would withdraw into the castle, hang Will Scarlett and laugh at our attempts to lay siege to them. We must use guile.

Much What?

Robin Cunning.

Much Don't get it.

Robin We have to trick them.

Much Got it.

Robin I've got a plan.

Much Rumour of the hanging had gone through Nottingham and a great crowd (*counts the audience*) gathered on the green. People of Nottingham, I need your help. When I turn to you and say 'man after man in the crowd stood up,' stand up. Great. And when I say 'with one voice they shouted,' you shout 'Long live Robin Hood!' Let's try it. And as if by magic man after man in the crowd stood up...and with one voice they shouted out...Long Live Robin Hood! Sit down! Punctually at noon the Castle gates opened.

Sheriff And out marched the sheriff with several dozen soldiers. Forward men. Make a ring around the prisoner. They're still in camouflage.

Robin At the front of the crowd, close to the gallows

Sheriff Stood a pretty young woman in a long cloak and hood. Morning, miss. (*Robin waves back*) Lovely day for a hanging.

Robin That's a lot of soldiers to guard one man. Are you expecting trouble? A rescue maybe?

Sheriff Don't you worry your pretty head. My men and I can deal with any troublemakers.

Robin (*to audience*) I'm sure they can.

Sheriff (*Robin ad lib responses to Sheriff*) Now, you must excuse me for a moment. I have a little business to attend to. Later perhaps,

Robin Perhaps

Sheriff Tea and toast.

Robin And toast.

Sheriff Now. You. Tell us where to find Robin Hood and you need not die.

Will He is somewhere in Sherwood Forest. You'd better look for him there, if you dare.

Sheriff I shall and when I find him, I will burn out his eyes so that he must grope his way to Nottingham to hang beside your rotting bones. William Scathlock, the law decrees that you shall here and now be hanged by the neck. Noose!

Will Grant me one last request.

Sheriff Can't we just get on with it? Noose!

Will Grant me an honourable death. Untie me, put a sword in my hand, and I will fight with you and all your men until they kill me.

Sheriff Um ...shall we? Shan't we? Shall we? Shan't we? Shall we...

Robin No!

Sheriff Noose!

Will At least untie my hands, and I shall fight even though I have no weapon.

Sheriff I have sworn to hang you, as I will hang your master and all who follow him.

Will That shall never be. He scorns you and your kind.

Sheriff Enough of this! Where's the hangman? Let him do his duty without delay.

Much *(Feeds line to audience member)* The hangman can't be found.

Sheriff Is anyone prepared to hang this man? I'll pay you double.

Robin I will. I have grudge against Will Scarlett. Let me have the task of sending him to the devil.

Sheriff A woman hangman that's a novelty. This way, miss.

Robin And later...

Sheriff Tea

Robin And toast.

Sheriff Noose! *(The young woman daintily makes her way towards the gallows, climbs the steps, fumbles with the rope and seems to whisper into Will's ear, suddenly Robin reveals himself and gives a sword to Will.)*

Sheriff Treachery! Seize that man!

Will Much obliged, ma'am.

Sheriff Seize that man!

Much And then, as if by magic man after man in the crowd, stood up, and with one voice shouted *(Hopefully the audience shouts out 'Long live Robin Hood!')*

Sheriff Robin Hood!

Robin The very same.

Sheriff The sheriff turned and ran.

Much You'll never catch Robin by running in the wrong direction!

Robin *(To audience)* Let him go. Friends, please sit down. Friends we mean no harm to anyone here except to those who would harm us. And if any of you ever suffers unjustly, come without fear into Sherwood Forest and ask for Robin Hood.

Sheriff There he is.

Much The Sheriff was back.

Robin Not again.

Sheriff With reinforcements. Draw your bows, men. (*Muso's instruments up.*)
Fire! Again! And again! (*Muso play. Robin catches them all in the air, one by one very quickly, they are mimed, snaps them in two and discards them.*)

Sheriff That's not fair.

Robin Time to leave.

Much Robin knew the streets of Nottingham like the back of his hand.

Robin (*Reading his hand*) Really? Hey! It's this way.

Sheriff Come back here.

Robin (*As they are chased by the Sheriff, Robin reads the back of his hand like a map, helping them avoid the Sheriff as he lunges after them with a sword or staff*) Turn left. Right. Double back. Duck. Jump. Twist. (*To Sheriff*) Stop. Drop. Roll. (*The Sheriff is momentarily confused and facing the wrong direction.*)

Sheriff Which way did they go?

Much People of Nottingham. We need your help. When the sheriff asks where we are just yell out. Point in any direction you like.

Robin Not the way we've gone obviously.

Much Yell 'over there' or 'they went that way!' Whatever you like. Great! Here he comes. Let's go.

Sheriff Which way did they go? I've lost them. (*Business with the audience*) I'm completely confused.

Prince John Not so fast! (*He is in a bath full of money, wheeled on by a servant.*) Stop! Stop! Such a headache. Has anyone seen the Sheriff? Ah, there you are. What was that dreadful noise?

Sheriff There's a...

Prince John Chest.

Sheriff There's a prob...

Prince John Speak up!

Sheriff There's a problem.

Prince John I was having a bath in all my lovely, lovely money. Back. Suddenly the whole place is filled with shouting and running. Gives this idiot maid such a fright, she tips my bath up, spills some of my money, it rolls under the sink and she can't get it back. She lost it. Anyway, there's plenty more where that came from. Come. Come pour it in. Arms.

Sheriff The money has been taken.

Prince John What do you mean, taken? Who took it?

Sheriff Robin Hood, sire. He was here and...

Prince John Hood! Here! But...you caught him. You clever clog. (*Playing with a duck in the bath, pretends Duck is Robin Hood*). Bring the traitor to me. Hear that, Hoody? That's what you get for taking Prince John's money. Well, where is he?

Sheriff I didn't actually catch him.

Prince John Oh. Clever. What did you do?

Sheriff I lost him.

Prince John (*Laughs*) Lost him...ah a joke. I do love jokes.

Sheriff Not really a joke, sire. I actually did lose him.

Prince John What?

Sheriff Well he escaped. There were lots of very fierce men with him. I fought like an animal. (*Demonstrates*)

Prince John You are an animal! You're a very very, very weedy little rabbit.

Sheriff A rabbit, sire?

Prince John A rabbit. (*He demonstrates rabbit.*)

Sheriff Thank you, sire.

Prince John But you did recover the money.

Sheriff No, sire.

Prince John This had better be good. I need that money. My bath's nearly empty.

Sheriff I do have a plan, sire.

Prince John A plan? Good. That's what I pay you for.

Sheriff You don't actually pay me, sire.

Prince John Never mind that. Oh very well. (*Throws a tiny coin onto the ground.*) The plan. The plan.

Sheriff There is only one way to catch a thief like Robin Hood.

Prince John Go on. Go on.

Sheriff That is to lay a trap.

Prince John Even I know that.

Sheriff Robin Hood is so keen to rescue people in distress, I think we should provide him with someone in distress.

Prince John I don't understand. Too complicated.

Robin Your highness, may I call the Maid Marian?

Prince John I thought he had a plan.

Robin Yes, she is part of the plan, sire.

Prince John Don't get cross with me. I'm in charge. Carry on.

Sheriff (*Snaps fingers*) Marian! (*Sheriff wheels Prince offstage.*)

Prince John I need to get dressed.

Marian/3 Marian was one of the maids that served in Prince John's court.

Sheriff She was the youngest and very beautiful. Marian...

Prince John (*offstage*) Towel!

Sheriff Marian, we have some grave news regarding your father.

Marian Is he in danger? Is he ill?

Sheriff No. No. Your father is in good health. At the moment. But, if you do not answer our questions...if you don't help us he may suddenly fall very, very ill indeed.

Marian What do you mean?

Sheriff He might even die.

Marian You wouldn't.

Prince John Oh yes, he would.

Sheriff There is a way in which you can save him, if you are prepared to help us with a certain matter.

Marian (*Sheriff whispers in her ear.*) I can't. I won't.

Sheriff It would be very sad if anything happened to Daddy...So you'll help us?

Marian What choice do I have?

Sheriff Good. Take these pebbles.

Marian Early one morning, a few days later,

Sheriff Move.

Marian Marian found herself travelling through Sherwood forest

Sheriff Hurry up.

Marian In a smart horse drawn carriage...*(The carriage could be like the bath and be carried by a servant.)*

Sheriff Sit down.

Robin Close by, hidden in the trees, Robin's eyes lit up at the thought of a juicy piece of robbery. Here's a fat bird ready for plucking, some merchant with his moneybags stuffed with gold.

Sheriff Now!

Marian Could we...

Sheriff Louder!

Marian Could we rest for a moment?

Robin A woman's voice.

Sheriff Keep going.

Marian It's so hot in here.

Sheriff It's not safe. They say that Robin Hood lurks in these woods and preys on innocent maidens.

Marian Surely not.

Robin That's not fair. I have never, ever, hurt even a hair of a lady's head.

Marian At that very moment out of the bushes burst

Soldier Aaahhhh! An army of vicious, nasty, ugly, dirty looking rascals. (*Soldier then Sheriff make sword "Whoosh-shing-ah" noise.*) Aaahhhh!

Sheriff Stop. Stop. Don't really hurt me.

Soldier Why not?

Sheriff It a trick, remember? We're trying to bait Robin Hood.

Soldier Bait Robin Hood.

Sheriff Now, I'll attack you. (*There is a short/fake but very noisy fight between Sheriff and the attackers.*) Take that.

Soldier Ow.

Sheriff And that.

Soldier Ow. And you take that!

Sheriff Take it easy!

Soldier Sorry.

Sheriff Where's Robin? Why isn't he here? Marian, shout now.

Marian Help! Help! We're being attacked.

Soldier Ow.

Marian By vicious (*Fight*), Nasty (*Spit*),

Sheriff Aaagh! My eye! (*The Sheriff collapses senseless.*)

Soldier I didn't touch you.

Sheriff Keep going. Help!

Marian Ugly (*Fight*),

Sheriff Help!

Marian Dirty (*Fart*),

Sheriff Help!

Soldier (*Fart on Sheriff. Robin blows his horn offstage.*)

Sheriff He's here!

Robin To the rescue.

Sheriff Attack Marian. (*Fight between Robin and the soldier until he flees.*)

Robin Fly lady! There is still time to save yourself. (*Continues fighting invisible foe.*)

Soldier (*Arrow pins Soldier's foot.*) I thought we were pretending!

Sheriff He's not. (*To Marian*) Shout, lady. Louder. Really loud. Now faint. (*Finally Robin goes to Marian who seems to have fainted. He gently rubs her wrists to revive her and she wakes alarmed.*)

Robin There is nothing to be afraid of. Your attackers have fled. You can go safely on your way now.

Marian No, please don't leave me. I daren't go any further in this forest. My guard lies senseless. (*The sheriff is watching but when he hears this he gives her thumbs up and discreetly slumps down again.*) I feel so weak and frightened.

Robin There's no need. (*They are gazing into each other's eyes. Sheriff is mouthing 'Go on, go on.'*)

Will Scarlett (*Arrives from the woods*) I heard your horn, got here as soon as I could.
Robin.

Robin Will! Will Scarlett, one (*Caught by Marian's gaze...again*) of my merry men.

Marian Gentle sir,

Will Who's this?

Marian Will you allow me to rest in your dwelling, here in the forest for a short while?

Will Robin

Marian And then help me on my way. (*Still gazing into each other's eyes*)

Will Now if Marian hadn't been so pretty, had not gazed so innocently and trustingly up at him, Robin might have wondered how she knew he lived in the forest. But (*Robin and Marian sigh*) he was so overcome by her beauty that he replied

Robin Of course you can stay with us.

Will We never allow strangers into the camp.

Robin This young lady has been badly scared.

Will All right. But I don't like it. She'll have to be blindfolded. No one must discover the way to our hideout.

Robin Alright.

Sheriff It's working!

Robin Now bind the wounds on this man and take him to the edge of the forest. We'll see you back at the camp. (*As Will takes the Sheriff off over his shoulder.*)

Sheriff (*The sheriff gives a thumbs up to the audience. To Marian.*) Marian, the pebbles. The pebbles.

Robin This way my lady.

Marian How far do we have to go? (*While they walk Marion drops small white pebbles.*)

Robin Not far. But the valley where my merry men and I live is well hidden.

Marian Your merry men?

Robin Yes.

Marian So, who are you?

Robin I'm Robin Hood. You may have heard of me.

Marian No I don't think I have. All this time Marian's heart was heavy. Never in her life had she met anyone so brave, so kind, as this man.

Robin As they walked, Robin told her all about his life in the forest.

Marian Her heart was won by his gentle manners. But, this was the man she was sent to betray.

Robin They say I'm an outlaw. Prince John has offered a reward to anyone who captures me.

Marian Is that true?

Robin I'm afraid it is. (*Will is following behind them picking up the pebbles she is dropping.*) It's the largest reward that has ever been offered.

Marian That's awful.

Robin Not really.

Marian But everything she said to him, every gesture, every action, was part of the sheriff's plot.

Robin All this was hidden from Robin as he made his way down the winding track to the secret valley.

Marian Where are we going?

Robin *(He puts his fingers to her lips.)* He only knew that the sun seemed brighter, the grass greener, the bird song sweeter, because Maid Marian was beside him. Here we are. Light a fire, men. *(The musicians)* Strike up a song. We have a guest.

Marian The fire leapt up. Soon a grand feast was in full swing. *(Robin dances with Marian, Will is watching, Robin does some kind of mad dance with Will.)* With every moment, Marian felt that there had never been such a good life as this life in the forest. It was becoming more and more impossible to betray Robin and his merry band. She could keep quiet no longer. Men of Sherwood, listen to me. Forgive me for the great wrong I was about to do you.

Robin Great wrong? You were in great danger.

Marian There was no danger to me. Only to you. I was sent here to betray you. *(Sounds of protest from merry men.)* The ambush was false, the robbers hired men.

Will And these? *(Will produces the white pebbles.)*

Marian Dropped by me to leave a trail to your camp.

Will I told you no strangers.

Marian I'm not asking you to understand, only to forgive me. I did it to save myself and the life of my poor father. But since I have been with you in Sherwood, I have been filled with such love for you all and your leader that I can no longer find it in my heart to betray you. I'll go back to the Sheriff and tell him to find someone else to do his dirty work for him.

Muso Bravely spoken!

Robin Nothing to say, Will? I'll say it for you. *(Kneels before Marian)* Marian, we forgive you, and as long as I live I will serve you for I have seen many beautiful maids, but none so beautiful as you. *(Turns to Will.)*

Will I was figuring how best we can fool the Sheriff and protect Marian's

daddy. You'll have to be blindfolded again and returned to the castle. You just tell the sheriff the pebbles were discovered by one of the band.

Marian I'll do it. *(Robin starts to blindfold her,)*

Robin We must leave before it gets too dark. They walked the twisting turning paths until they appeared on the edge of the forest.

Marian Have you truly forgiven me?

Robin If I were not a penniless outlaw, I would ask you to share my life in the forest.

Marian I can imagine nothing sweeter. I will make sure my father is safe and come back to Sherwood as soon as I can.

Robin Take this horn. When you need me, blow on it three times. Now, I must leave you here. It's dangerous to go closer.

Marian I'm not afraid, not any more.

Robin *(Robin kisses her.)* Goodbye my heart.

Marian Until next time. *(She feels her way forward. Suddenly, the Sheriff appears and grabs her.)* Is it you, Sheriff?

Sheriff It is. *(He takes off her blindfold.)*

Marian I have been so scared. Those outlaws treated me so roughly.

Sheriff You're safe now.

Marian But it didn't work.

Sheriff What!

Prince John What didn't work?

Sheriff Bow before Prince John.

Prince John What didn't work?

Marian The sheriff's plan.

Prince John Oh, you surprise me. Why didn't it work?

Marian The roughest of the outlaws discovered the pebbles

Prince John Pebbles?

Marian And threw them into the woods.

Prince John Pebbles? What pebbles?

Sheriff You mean that in spite of all my plans you have no idea where Hood's camp is? Stupid, stupid, stupid girl.

Prince John No. You stupid, stupid man. Find him. Or you will find yourself hanging from the castle walls...*(exits)*

Sheriff You stay here while I decide what to do with you.

Marian Is my father safe? Can I see him?

Sheriff Maybe. Maybe not.

Marian Don't you dare harm him. I did what you asked.

Sheriff Don't cry. I hate the sound of snivelling.

Marian I'm not crying.

Sheriff Well, you should be. You should be very, very sad. *(exits)*

Marian My poor father. Thank goodness I didn't betray Robin.

Sheriff *(overhearing Marian)* Betray Robin. She has betrayed me. That rough outlaw has won her heart. But I see a chance to get the better of him.

Marian Robin.

Sheriff I'll marry her...that'll bring Mr. Hood running and I'll be waiting for him.

Marian Blow three times. *(She goes to blow Horn.)*

Sheriff *(Takes the horn)* You won't be needing that. Stay there.

Marian While Marian shivered in the cold comfort of the castle,

Robin Robin was wandering through the forest his heart full, his head giddy
with love...

(Singing to himself a bit of rock and roll? Very over the top. He is alone after all.)

Marian Marian

marry marry marry marry Marian

I love you girl.

My merry merry merry merry Marian...

(Stops dead in his tracks about to cross a river.)