

ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY MEN

A COMEDY IN TWO ACTS

By **Richard Gremel**

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SYNOPSIS: Prince John has decreed that the citizens of Nottingham pay weekly taxes or face the penalty of death. His decrees are enforced by the evil Sheriff of Nottingham. The citizens think that all hope is lost until they hear word of a noble hero, Robin Hood of Locksley. Robin Hood, with the help of his merry men (which are mostly girls) robs from the rich, gives to the poor, and saves the fair Maid Marian. This comic retelling of the story includes thumb wars, missed cues, and a slow motion fight scene.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(FLEXIBLE CAST OF 23-38: 13-18 WOMEN, 8 MEN, 2-12 EITHER,
DOUBLING POSSIBLE, EXTRAS)*

ROBIN HOOD (M)	118 lines
MAID MARIAN (F)	92 lines
SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM (F)	122 lines
MATILDA (F)	The Sheriff's sidekick. (84 lines)
PRINCE JOHN (M)	129 lines
KEVIN (M)	Prince John's henchman. (65 lines)
FRIAR TUCK (M)	May double with Throne Guy. (66 lines)
LITTLE JOHN (M)	May double with Throne Guy. (56 lines)
DUNCAN (M)	The page. May double with Tech Guy. (39 lines)
KING RICHARD (M)	May double with Narrator. (7 lines)
WOODSMAN (M)	May double with the Lighting Guy. (25 lines)
GUARD 1 (F)	May double with Costumer 1 (17 lines)
GUARD 2 (F)	May double with Costumer 2 (7 lines)

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LADY GWEN (F)	May double with Merry Man #5. (6 lines)
LADY HELENA (F).....	May double with Merry Man #4. (5 lines)
LADY ELIZABETH (F).....	May double with Merry Man #3. (5 lines)
LADY JACQUELYN (F)	May double with Merry Man #2. (3 lines)
LADY ISABEL (F).....	May double with Sweeper. (3 lines)
LADY CASSANDRA (F)	May double with Citizen 2. (6 lines)
LADY GERTRUDE (F)	May double with Merry Man #1. (3 lines)
LADY SYBIL (F).....	May double with Prop Guy and Citizen 1. (2 lines)
CITIZEN 1 (M/F).....	3 lines
CITIZEN 2 (M/F).....	2 lines
NARRATOR (M/F)	30 lines
MERRY “MAN” 1 (F).....	7 lines
MERRY “MAN” 2 (F).....	5 lines
MERRY “MAN” 3 (F).....	4 lines
MERRY “MAN” 4 (F).....	5 lines
MERRY “MAN” 5 (F).....	4 lines
MAC (M/F).....	12 lines
STAGE MANAGER (M/F).....	8 lines
LIGHTING GUY (M/F)	
SWEEPER (M/F)	
COSTUMER 1 (M/F)	
COSTUMER 2 (M/F)	
PROP GUY (M/F)	
TECH GUY (M/F)	
THRONE GUYS (M/F)	

Note: Extras as MERRY MEN, STAGE HANDS, CROWD SCENES.

SET

The set can be as simple or elaborate as desired. For the original production, the castle was built far upstage and was used as the setting for both *The Throne Room* and *Maid Marian's Chamber* with just a few boxes and chairs moving around. For the forest scenes, a backdrop was placed in front of the castle with additional trees, stumps and rocks used to dress the rest of the stage. For the scene where Robin Hood and the other characters jump/fall out of the window, a mattress was placed on the other side of the window for the actors to fall on.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I have always enjoyed the adventurous nature of Robin Hood and this one has all the action and suspense with a lot of humor in between. The play allows for big, cartoon like characters and a variety of talent levels. Add in the fact that the characters refer to the script throughout the show and that the merry men are actually a bunch of girls (because in a high school drama department, girls outnumber the guys) and you are sure to have a performance that will have the entire audience rolling in their seats.

PROPERTIES

- Broom
- Ladder
- Hammer
- Lights
- Costume Rack
- Big Red Bow
- Throne
- Sign that reads "The Throne Room"
- Ye Old Notebook
- Extra Long Scroll
- Marriage Invitations
- Bag of Money
- Rope, Blindfold

- Swords
- Vines
- Sign that reads “Maid Marian’s Chamber”
- Hand Mirror
- Long Rope
- Sign that reads “Somewhere in Sherwood Forest”
- Sign that reads “Somewhere Else in Sherwood Forest”
- Book
- Small Wooden Sword
- Stick
- Pop-Gun
- Spaghetti Noodle
- Cash
- Script
- Sign that reads “Back in Sherwood Forest”
- Sign that reads “Somewhere Deep Within Sherwood Forest”
- Net, Axe
- Wig
- Dress
- Rope
- Script
- Sword

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE, SCENE 1	Pre-show
ACT ONE, SCENE 2	The Throne Room
ACT ONE, SCENE 3	Maid Marian’s Chamber
ACT ONE, SCENE 4	Somewhere in Sherwood Forest
ACT ONE, SCENE 5	Somewhere else in Sherwood Forest

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO, SCENE 1	Back in Sherwood Forest
ACT TWO, SCENE 2	Somewhere Deep Within Sherwood Forest

PRODUCTION HISTORY

Robin Hood (title changed at publication to *Robin Hood and His Merry Men*) was originally performed at Empire High School in Tucson, Arizona on October 18-20, 2012 with the following cast:

Robin Hood.....	Connor Griffin
Maid Marian.....	Emily Beaulieu
Sheriff of Nottingham.....	Ashley Summerset
Matilda.....	Corey Craig
Prince John.....	Aaron Archuleta
Kevin.....	Aidan Cipra
Friar Tuck / Throne Guy.....	Daniel Marquez
Little John / Throne Guy.....	Evan Cipra
Duncan / Tech Guy.....	Jessica Blackburn
King Richard / Narrator.....	Jake Stollings
Woodsman / Lighting Guy.....	Ruby Macias
Guard 1 / Costumer 1 / Merry “Man”.....	Diana Garcia
Guard 2 / Costumer 2 / Merry “Man”.....	Janay Dehler
Lady Gwen / Merry “Man” 5.....	Beth Roberson
Lady Helena/ Merry “Man” 4.....	Gabriela Elizondo-Craig
Lady Elizabeth / Merry “Man” 3.....	Lauren Becker
Lady Jacquelyn / Merry “Man” 2.....	Brionna Sayles
Lady Gertrude / Merry “Man” 1.....	Madelyn Skopak
Lady Sybil / Prop Guy / Citizen 1.....	Elizabeth Nadeau
Lady Isabel / Sweeper / Merry “Man”.....	Kirsten Novelty
Lady Cassandra / Citizen 2 / Merry “Man”...	Christin Jordan
Mac.....	Graciella Rinaldi
Stage Manager.....	Becca Krauss

ACT ONE, SCENE 1

AT RISE:

Before the curtain opens, the house lights dim and we hear the STAGE MANAGER say over the speakers: "Attention actors, we are going to places. Please make your way to the stage now. Thank you." Following the announcement, we begin to hear sounds of construction. As the curtain opens, we see the stage mostly finished. There is a crew of people that are putting the final touches on the show. During the beginning dialogue, we see the following actions happening: Someone is adjusting the lights, someone is sweeping up the stage, and a couple of people walk on with Prince John's throne and set it in place. Someone is on a ladder and drilling or hammering the scenery into place. Other stage-related work can be happening as well.

MAC: Alright people, we really need to get the finishing touches put on this show. The curtain could open any moment and it would be terrible if the audience saw the set unfinished. (STAGE MANAGER enters and taps MAC on the shoulder.)

SM: Psst...hey...

MAC: Sorry, but I'm a little busy right now. Can't you see that we are trying to get the set finished before the curtain?

SM: Yeah I know... (STAGE MANAGER keeps following MAC around where ever he goes.)

MAC: You there, finish focusing that light.

LIGHTING GUY: Almost finished. (He looks out and spots the audience and freezes in place.)

SM: Listen Mac...

MAC: Hey, let's get this sawdust swept up. We want the audience to see a clean stage.

SWEEPER: I'm on it. (Begins to sweep stage, then looks up and sees audience. Freezes in place.)

MAC: You two, hurry and get those costumes backstage. The actors are waiting for them. Hurry.

COSTUMER 1: (Rolling a costume rack across stage.) Oh relax they'll get them when they get them.

COSTUMER 2: Yeah. Don't be so uptight. *(They see the audience and freeze.)*

PROP GUY: Mac, where should I set this? *(Holding a giant red bow.)*

MAC: What is that for?

PROP GUY: For Robin Hood, of course. It said in the script he has a bow and arrows so here is the bow.

MAC: Not a giant red bow...a bow for shooting arrows.

PROP GUY: Oh, I'll see what we have in storage. *(Sees audience and freezes.)*

MAC: Good. And get a move on. And you...almost done with the set? We need to get this ladder out of here.

TECH GUY: I'm working as fast as I can. *(Sees audience and freezes on stage.)*

SM: Would you just hold on a minute...

MAC: Hey guys, let's get Prince John's throne on here. We need it for the first scene.

THRONE GUYS: Coming. *(They place the throne onstage and see audience and freeze. Stage is completely quiet now. .)*

SM: Mac...

MAC: *(Frustrated.)* Listen, I don't have time to deal with you right now. We are trying to finish this set, and you following me around isn't helping! *(Realizing that everyone is frozen and the stage is quiet.)* What is going on? Why are you all just standing around? All of you get back to work. The curtain is about to open and we need to be finished. *(Snaps fingers in face of one of the workers.)* Hello...hey, snap out of it.

SM: Mac, if you would just let me say something...

MAC: What is it?!

SM points out towards the audience and MAC turns around and sees them, screams and turns around

MAC: Let's go people. The curtain is open. Get this stage cleared. Move, move, move!

The stage gets very loud with everyone working and people work as fast as possible to finish. Once stage is finished, and everyone is off, STAGE MANAGER walks out to center.

SM: Actors take your places. Sound, ready? (*A voice is heard through the speakers from the booth, "Ready."*) Lights, ready? (*Another voice is heard, "Ready."*) Go.

Music begins to play as the lights go black. Actors take place into tableau depicting narration

NARRATOR: In a land far, far away...

MARIAN: England really isn't that far.

NARRATOR: Yes it is.

MARIAN: No it's not. There are plenty of places that are much farther.

NARRATOR: Fine. In a land that is far...but not as far as some other places, a long, long time ago...

LITTLE JOHN: It really wasn't that long ago either.

FRIAR TUCK: Little John is right. I mean, we're only talking about 12th Century, Medieval England here. Sure, it's *long* ago...but *long, long*...I think that's pushing it.

NARRATOR: Oh good grief. Let me start over then...

EVERYONE: Good.

Lights go black and then back up on tableau as the music stops and starts back up.

NARRATOR: The place: Nottingham, England. The time: Ye Olde 12th Century. Better?

EVERYONE: (*Ad-libs.*) Yeah, that's good. That sounds about right.

NARRATOR: King Richard has taken his knights and set off on the crusades thus leaving his brother, Prince John, (*Thunder and lightning flash.*) as temporary keeper of the throne. Prince John (*Thunder.*) greedy as he is, has decreed that all citizens of England be forced to pay weekly taxes or face the penalty of death. (*Citizens show empty pockets.*) His decrees are enforced by the wicked, vile, disgusting, rude, menacing, creepy, frightening...

SHERIFF: We get the point.

NARRATOR: Ugly...

SHERIFF: Hey, I take offense to that.

NARRATOR: And down right, *mean...*

SHERIFF: That one, not so much

NARRATOR: Sheriff of Nottingham.

MATILDA: (*Sweetly.*) Hello?

NARRATOR: Oh, and her sidekick, Matilda. The citizens of England...

CITIZENS: That's us!

NARRATOR: Think that all hope is lost until word gets 'round of a noble hero. Stories of his bravery and heroism have been told throughout the kingdom. This man goes by the name of Robin Hood of Locksley. (*Trumpets.*) He is a fine archer who is skilled with a bow and arrow. Who is very handsome and strong. He is a true warrior indeed...at least, that's what the stories say.

ROBIN HOOD: Thank you...thank you, very much.

NARRATOR: Robin Hood's main mission is to aid the people of Nottingham by stealing from the rich to give to the poor. Robin Hood is aided by three gallant lads living in the forest to avoid the harsh taxes put on the citizens. The first of these three goes by the name, Friar Tuck, a man of the cloth and a very smart individual.

FRIAR TUCK: (*LITTLE JOHN sneezes.*) God bless you. (*Looks at the audience.*) Get it?! Cause I'm a Friar? Never mind.

NARRATOR: The second is Duncan, a young page who longs for adventure.

DUNCAN: Hi.

NARRATOR: Little John, the other...he is not too bright, but what he lacks in brains he makes up for in brawn.

LITTLE JOHN: What's brawn?

DUNCAN: It's muscle.

LITTLE JOHN: Muscle?

NARRATOR: Yes, muscle you know, strength?

LITTLE JOHN: Huh?

NARRATOR: You're strong, okay?! You're not smart but you're strong!

LITTLE JOHN: Oh, I knew that.

DUNCAN: (*Shaking his head.*) Unbelievable.

NARRATOR: Moving on...lastly, we have the heroine of the story, Maid Marian. She is sweet and fair and she longs to find true love.

MARIAN: (*Lovingly.*) Ahhhh.

NARRATOR: Will the citizens of England be free from taxes? Will Prince John (*Thunder.*) quit making foolish decrees? Will the Sheriff and Matilda ever be stopped? Will Robin Hood (*Trumpets.*) be able to save the day? Will Friar Tuck, Duncan, and Little John be able to help Robin? Will Maid Marian ever find true love?

EVERYONE: Get on with it!

ROBIN HOOD: Yeah, It's getting hard to hold these positions.

NARRATOR: Sorry, I just get excited.

MATILDA: Oh, that's okay...

NARRATOR: Anyways, why don't you just watch the show and see for yourselves.

PRINCE: Really? We just spent all that time frozen in some silly tableau for you to just tell them to watch the show? This is ridiculous. (*Actors walk off stage upset.*)

SM: (*To audience.*) Look folks, we know this show has gotten off on the wrong foot and we would understand if you wanted to leave. But the producers want me to remind you all that your tickets are non-refundable, so you might as well stay in your seats. I promise the rest of the show will get better. So just sit back, relax, and enjoy. (*Exits.*)

ACT ONE, SCENE 2

AT RISE:

A sign is placed on an easel in the downstage corner reading, THE THRONE ROOM.

PRINCE: (*Entering the stage.*) Bartholomew?! Reginald?! Laertes?!
(*To GUARDS.*) What is my henchman's name again?

GUARD 1: Beats me.

GUARD 2: Don't know.

PRINCE: Whatever your name is?! Henchman!

KEVIN: (*Pops up from behind Prince's throne.*) Were you calling for me?

PRINCE: Yes, yes I was.

KEVIN: I didn't know because you didn't say my name.

PRINCE: Yes, well...what is your name again?

KEVIN: It's Kevin.

The GUARDS laugh.

PRINCE: No, that can't be right.

KEVIN: No really, my name is Kevin.

PRINCE: Whatever. I have some important issues to deal with so get Ye Old Royal Notebook out so you can jot this down.

KEVIN: *(Pulling notebook out.)* Yes, Your Princely-ness.

PRINCE: What did you call me?

KEVIN: Your Princely-ness?

PRINCE: How many times have I told you, as long as my brother, *(With disgust.)* King Richard, is off fighting in the Crusades I shall no longer be called Prince John— *(Thunder.)* AHHHHHHH! *(Hiding behind Kevin.)* —what was that?

KEVIN: That was your sound effect.

PRINCE: My what-y-who?

KEVIN: Your sound effect. Whenever you, or anyone for that matter, says "Prince John"— *(Thunder.)* —that happens. It is a common theatrical device used to show that you are evil, vile, menacing, or all of the above.

PRINCE: So whenever I say my name, Prince John— *(Thunder.)* —that is going to happen?

KEVIN: Yep.

PRINCE: Okay...well, let's get back to where we were. *(He thinks.)* Oh yeah. As long as my brother is off, I, Prince John— *(Thunder.)* —am ruler of this kingdom and you shall refer to me as Your Majesty.

KEVIN: Yes, Your Majesty.

PRINCE: Or should it be Your Highness?

KEVIN: Yes, Your Highness.

PRINCE: Or maybe Your Greatness.

KEVIN: Yes, Your Greatness.

PRINCE: No, I think Your Majesty.

KEVIN: Yes, Your Majesty.

PRINCE: Yes, I do like that. But Your Highness does have a very good ring to it. Whatever. Just make sure you refer to me as something kingly. Because as long as Richard is gone, I hold the throne as your king!

KEVIN: Yes, you're...my king?

PRINCE: Not bad. Now, Frank, can I call you Frank?

KEVIN: But my name is Kevin.

PRINCE: Right...Kevin, I have just finished my daily count of money in the royal vault and I am not satisfied.

KEVIN: But Your Majesty, the money has doubled since you have taken the throne.

PRINCE: Yes it has, but it needs to be more. Therefore, I want to pass a new decree.

KEVIN: Wait... (*Unravels a long scroll that falls to the floor. Kevin finds the next available space and pulls out his pen.*) Ready Your Highness.

PRINCE: Very good. I, King John, formerly known as Prince, decree that there is to be a raise in taxes. All citizens of Nottingham and the surrounding areas will double their current taxes giving me 95% of their weekly wages.

KEVIN: Are you sure, Your Majesty? Most citizens will not have enough to even buy a loaf of bread with just five percent of their wages.

PRINCE: Are you questioning my decree, Kevin?

KEVIN: No...never. I just know that the citizens will not be happy and soon they will all be out of money.

PRINCE: I do not care for your opinions or about the well-being of the citizens. I give the decrees and you deliver them to the kingdom. Is that clear?

KEVIN: Yes, Your Highness.

PRINCE: Good. Now, how many decrees is that?

KEVIN: Let me see...that was 499.

PRINCE: Four hundred ninety-nine in two months. Excellent. But, next is the 500th decree. For that, I will need something really, really good. But what could it be?

KEVIN: You could announce that every third Thursday is water fun day and then we could construct a giant water slide from the top of the castle into the moat!

PRINCE: What an idiotic idea.

KEVIN: Sorry, Your Majesty...yes, Your Majesty. I just thought it would be fun.

PRINCE: Fun?! I don't want the citizens of Nottingham to have fun. I want them to work hard to make lots of money so that I can take

it all. Besides, water day? We live in England, it rains almost all the time— *(To audience.)* although, conveniently it never rains during this play. *(Back to KEVIN.)* Who wants to swim in the rain? No, this next decree must be a great one.

KEVIN: You could decree that a giant statue of yourself is to be constructed in the center of the kingdom.

PRINCE: Not bad.

KEVIN: Really?!!

PRINCE: But, not good enough.

KEVIN: Well you could...

PRINCE: Listen, I know you are just trying to be helpful by shouting out suggestions, but you're not. This next decree needs to be the best decree I have ever made.

KEVIN: *(Aside.)* All I was going to say is that you could decree that Maid Marian must marry you if she doesn't find a suitor in the next week.

PRINCE: What was that?

KEVIN: I said that you could decree that Maid Marian must marry you. After all, every Prince needs a Princess...I mean, king needs a queen. And you have been looking quite lonely at times.

PRINCE: Have Maid Marian marry me? That's it. Kevin, write this down. I have just thought of the perfect decree.

KEVIN: Ready, my king.

PRINCE: I, King John, formerly known as Prince, and ruler of the people of Nottingham, must have a queen to stand by my side. Maid Marian, being an available bachelorette, must wed me one week from today if she cannot find a suitor by that time.

KEVIN: *(Writing.)* ...cannot find a suitor. Done.

PRINCE: Perfect. Now go call on my partner in crime, the Sheriff of Nottingham. I want to receive my collections from today and inform her of our new decree.

KEVIN: Yes, right away. *(He exits.)*

PRINCE: *(Sitting on his throne.)* What a great king I make. Don't you think guards?

GUARD 1: *(Sarcastic.)* Oh yes, Your Majesty. You look very good upon that throne.

PRINCE: Does it make me look manly and debonair?

GUARD 2: *(Sarcastic.)* It truly does Your Majesty. *(They both look at each other and mime throwing up.)*

PRINCE: Yes, I quite agree. I shall sit upon this throne for many years and become the greatest, richest, most powerful ruler Nottingham has ever seen. No more Prince John for me. *(Thunder.)* AHHHHH! *(He hides behind throne while the guards laugh.)*

KEVIN: *(Entering with SHERIFF and MATILDA.)* I brought the Sheriff and Matilda - Your Highness. Your Highness? Where did he go? *(The GUARDS both point at PRINCE JOHN behind throne.)* Sir?

PRINCE: *(Coming out from behind throne.)* Uh? Oh...you are probably wondering what I'm doing here, behind my throne. Well, I can tell you that I am definitely not hiding. Not at all, I mean that would be pretty silly.

MATILDA: Then what were you doing?

PRINCE: I was uhhhhhh...just looking for my crown.

MATILDA: Isn't it on your head?

PRINCE: Why, yes it is. Thanks for helping me find it. *(Silence.)* Well...this is awkward.

KEVIN: If you don't mind my butting in, Your Majesty, but you did call for the Sheriff and Matilda

PRINCE: That's right, I did. Sheriff of Nottingham, do you have my daily collections?

SHERIFF: Right here, Your Majesty. It's all right here.

MATILDA: Yep, every penny. It's all there in the bag.

PRINCE: Let me see! *(He begins to count the money while the SHERIFF and MATILDA try to sneak away.)* Wait a minute! *(He looks up and sees them sneaking away.)* Guards! Get them!

The GUARDS begin to chase the SHERIFF and MATILDA who split and run in opposite directions. Eventually, the SHERIFF and MATILDA run into each other and fall down. The GUARDS pick them up.

SHERIFF: Why didn't you watch where you were going, you nincompoop?

MATILDA: I'm sorry, I panicked.

PRINCE: So you thought you could pull a fast one on me? Well, I can easily see that this is not all of today's collections. Half of it is missing. I shall have the both of you thrown into the dungeon for stealing from me. Guards, take them away.

GUARDS: Right away, Your Majesty.

GUARD 2: Come on.

MATILDA: Don't hurt me.

SHERIFF: Take your hands off me! I'm not going anywhere.

GUARD 1: Oh yes, you are.

SHERIFF: But, we didn't steal the money from you. It was stolen from us.

GUARD 1: Likely story.

PRINCE: Hold it. You say that the money was stolen from you?

SHERIFF: Yes, and by you-know-who.

PRINCE: Oh, I knew it.

KEVIN: Who?

MATILDA: *(Lovingly.)* Robin Hood. *(MATILDA and the two GUARDS sigh with love.)*

PRINCE: Shhh!

KEVIN: Who? Who is Robin Hood?

PRINCE: Don't say his name. It makes me sick every time that I hear it.

KEVIN: Well who is he?

MATILDA: You mean, besides the main character of this play in which his name is the title?

KEVIN: I mean, who is he?

SHERIFF: Only the most rotten...

MATILDA: Dreamy...

PRINCE: Vile...

GUARD 1: Brave...

SHERIFF: Slimy...

GUARD 2: Dashing...

PRINCE: He is a scoundrel thief and I hate him.

SHERIFF: He burns me up.

MATILDA: He makes my heart jump.

GUARDS: Ours too. *(Both GUARDS and MATILDA sigh with love again.)*

PRINCE: Oh, for heaven's sake!

ROBIN HOOD runs and leaps onto the stage.

ROBIN HOOD: Tis I, Robin of Locksley, (*Trumpets.*) hero to all the people of Nottingham.

PRINCE: Pssst...you aren't supposed to enter yet.

ROBIN HOOD: I'm not?

PRINCE: No, you don't come on for a couple more pages.

ROBIN HOOD: But you said my cue line. I wait for you to say, "Oh for heaven's sake and I make a running leap onto the stage and say "Tis I Robin of Locksley, (*Trumpets.*) hero to all the people of Nottingham."

PRINCE: Okay, but you don't do that yet.

ROBIN HOOD: But you said...

PRINCE: Look I know what I said, but I say that line a few times. One of those lines is your cue line.

ROBIN HOOD: So what you're saying is that I shouldn't be on stage right now?

PRINCE: No.

ROBIN HOOD: Oh... (*To audience.*) sorry. (*To cast.*) Continue from where you were? (*He exits. The cast is standing around looking at each other.*)

KEVIN: Where were we?

SHERIFF: I don't remember.

STAGE MANAGER: (*Enters.*) Take it from the Prince's line, "Oh for heaven's sake."

ROBIN HOOD: (*Entering.*) Tis I, Robin of Locksley...

ALL: Not now!

ROBIN HOOD: Ooops. (*Exits while Stage Manager exits opposite side of the stage.*)

PRINCE: That was Robin Hood. He is the bane of my existence.

KEVIN: But why?

SHERIFF: Because he is constantly stealing the taxes that we collect and giving it back to the poor citizens of Nottingham.

PRINCE: Yes. He is stealing *my* hard earned money and going against *my* decrees. Well, there is no way that he will go against my latest decree. Number 500. Which reminds me? Sheriff...buddy...pal.

SHERIFF: Yes?

PRINCE: I have another decree for you to enforce.

SHERIFF: Gladly, what is it?

PRINCE: Go get Maid Marian and bring her here. I will explain everything then.

The SHERIFF exits with MATILDA. The guards take their places. Prince John sits on his throne.

PRINCE: Now, Kevin. I need you to mail these.

KEVIN: If you don't mind my asking, what are they?

PRINCE: Why, invitations for my wedding to Maid Marian this Saturday.

KEVIN: Right away, Your Majesty. *(He exits.)*

SHERIFF: *(Entering with MAID MARIAN.)* Here she is.

PRINCE: Ah, Maid Marian, just the woman I was looking for. How you doing?

MARIAN: Why do you care?

PRINCE: What was that?

MARIAN: Nothing. I said that I'm doing fair.

PRINCE: Just fair? Are my accommodations not good enough for you? I mean, I gave you your own room, plenty of servants, food to eat, clothes to wear, what more do you need?

MARIAN: I appreciate all that you have given me. But, I wish that you would consider cutting the high taxes that you are putting on the citizens of Nottingham. Many of them are already poor and soon none of them will be able to afford the things they need to live.

PRINCE: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. Too bad I just passed another decree to raise taxes even higher. Oh, well. *(He starts to evil laugh, SHERIFF and MATILDA join in.)*

MARIAN: If your brother, King Richard, were here he would have you tarred and feathered for your selfishness. He is a true ruler, not a fake like you.

PRINCE: What did you say?

MARIAN: You heard me. I said, King Richard is the true ruler of Nottingham and you are nothing but a worthless fake.

PRINCE: Why you...

KEVIN: I have mailed off all the invitations, Your Majesty. Your wedding is set for Saturday.

MARIAN: Wedding?! (*Laughs.*) Who in this kingdom, better yet, this world, or even better, this universe, would ever marry you?

PRINCE: Well, since you asked...you.

MARIAN: Wait, what?!

PRINCE: That's right.

MARIAN: I don't think so. What makes you think that I would be willing to marry you?

PRINCE: You don't have to be willing.

MARIAN: What do you mean?

PRINCE: Kevin, do the honors.

KEVIN: With pleasure, Your Majesty. Hear ye, hear ye. By royal decree number 500, Maid Marian must marry Prince John (*Thunder.*)—if she cannot find a suitor by Saturday.

MARIAN: But...but...

PRINCE: That's right.

SHERIFF: And I am here to make sure that it happens.

MARIAN: What if I don't want to marry you?

PRINCE: You don't have a choice.

MARIAN: I can't believe this. I hate you and I will never marry you. I would rather die than marry a sneaky, vile creep like you.

PRINCE: Sheriff, tie Marian up, blindfold her, and throw her in the dungeon. Maybe some time in there will help her rethink my proposal for marriage.

The SHERIFF begins to tie her up.

MARIAN: Go ahead, throw me in the dungeon. I won't be in there long. Robin Hood, hero of Nottingham, will rescue me.

PRINCE: How do you know about Robin Hood?

MARIAN: I have read about him in many books, and everyone in the kingdom is talking about him. He is brave and strong, and a hero to all the people. He is returning money to the poor and keeping order in this unjust society. And, while I have never seen him, I just know that he is handsome, dashing, and so very strong.

MATILDA: Oh, he is. They talk about him in the latest issue of Rolling Stonehenge magazine and he was just named Nottingham's most eligible bachelor.

PRINCE: I can't believe this. Not only is that fool stealing my money, but he is stealing my fame and fortune. What do you ladies see in him anyway?

GUARDS: He's so...dreamy (*Sigh.*)

PRINCE: What about me? (*The GUARDS and MATILDA mime throwing up.*) Robin Hood? (*The GUARDS and MATILDA sigh with love.*) Me? (*The GUARDS and MATILDA mime throwing up.*)

KEVIN: Robin Hood? (*The GUARDS and MATILDA sigh with love.*)

PRINCE: Oh for heaven's sake. (*Everyone stands around on stage and begins to look off toward Robin Hood.*) I said, "Oh for heaven's sake." (*Still standing and waiting.*) Psst...Robin Hood?!

ROBIN HOOD: (*Peeking out from behind curtain.*) Yes?

PRINCE: You're on.

ROBIN HOOD: Me?

PRINCE: Yes.

ROBIN HOOD: Now?

PRINCE: Yes!

ROBIN HOOD: Oh, I didn't know. Did you say the cue line?

PRINCE: Yes, you missed it.

ROBIN HOOD: Well...say it again.

PRINCE: (*Fed up.*) Oh for heaven's sake.

ROBIN HOOD: (*Entering.*) Tis I, Robin of Locksley. (*Trumpets.*)
—hero to all the people of Nottingham.

PRINCE: (*Sarcastic.*) Oh look, it's Peter Pan, here to save the day.

ROBIN HOOD: Peter Pan? Where?

PRINCE: No, I am calling you Peter Pan because you are small and scrawny and dressed like him. Tights and all.

ROBIN HOOD: Oh, nice one Prince John (*Thunder and lightning. Prince and Robin scream and run and hug one another. Then they split up and act like nothing happened.*) But there is no way that I am Peter Pan. First, I look much better in tights. Second, he fights Captain Hook and I don't see any pirates around here.

KEVIN: Especially, none with hooks.

ROBIN HOOD: And lastly, Peter Pan is a boy and I...well, I'm a man.
(*The PRINCE, KEVIN and SHERIFF all begin to laugh.*) What...I am. I can even grow a goatee. See?

SHERIFF: That's painted on your face.

PRINCE: Enough of this chit-chat. Guards, seize him.

SHERIFF: Matilda you too.

GUARDS AND MATILDA: With pleasure! (*They run to grab ROBIN.*)

ROBIN HOOD: Hey ladies...how you doin'?

All the girls scream and hang around ROBIN HOOD

GUARD 1: Oh Robin, you're so dreamy.

GUARD 2: And so brave.

MATILDA: I love you. Marry me Robin!!!

PRINCE: Good grief. Remind me why I hired female guards?

KEVIN: Because all the male guards are off fighting in the crusades with your brother, King Richard.

PRINCE: Oh, right. Well then, I will just have to take care of things myself.

PRINCE JOHN grabs a sword off of the wall and runs after ROBIN who screams and ducks his attack. ROBIN runs up and tries to grab the other sword, but has trouble pulling it off of the wall. He is able to pull it off, just as PRINCE JOHN gets to him and it turns into an attack. PRINCE JOHN gets very angry and goes after ROBIN HOOD who begins to run away. They play chase around the throne. ROBIN HOOD jumps up on the seat of the throne, and PRINCE JOHN continues to run around, until he can't find ROBIN HOOD. The SHERIFF tries to get involved at some point but gets knocked out of the window; we hear her scream and then a splash, then MARIAN sneaks off.

ROBIN HOOD: Oh no, look over there!

PRINCE: Where? I don't see anything (*Robin grabs the money and heads towards the exit.*) Hey wait, that money is mine.

ROBIN HOOD: I am returning it to the people of Nottingham. To whom it truly belongs. So long. (*ROBIN dives out the window.*) Huzzah! (*We hear the SHERRIFF yell "Ouch."*)

KEVIN: (*Jumping out of the window after ROBIN HOOD.*) Kevin!
(*Again, we hear the Sherriff yell "Ouch."*)

PRINCE: Oh, fiddle-faddle. I had him right where I wanted him. I was that close to capturing him and throwing him in prison, for good. Kevin?!

KEVIN: (*Popping head through window.*) Yes, Your Majesty.

PRINCE: Write this down. Royal decree number 501. Robin Hood of Locksley is an outlaw. Anyone seen helping him, in anyway, will be thrown in prison. Robin Hood should be captured and punished for the crimes he has committed. (*SHERIFF enters with seaweed in her hair and mouth. Then she spits it out.*) Where have you been?

SHERIFF: I was knocked out the window and into the moat, during your little scuffle.

PRINCE: Well then, where is Maid Marian?

SHERIFF: I don't know.

KEVIN: She must have snuck off during the fight.

PRINCE: Sheriff, find her immediately. She couldn't have gotten far. And once you have found her, capture her and bring her back to me. We will be wed this Saturday.

SHERIFF: Yes, Your Majesty. Matilda, you good for nothing...let's go.

PRINCE: Foiled again, by that good for nothing Robin Hood. (*The guards sigh lovingly.*) Oh for heaven's sake.

ACT ONE, SCENE 3

AT RISE:

A sign is placed on the stage reading, MAID MARIAN'S CHAMBER. The lights come up on the LADIES-IN-WAITING sitting around MARIAN.

MARIAN: ...then he rushed in and said with the most dashing tone, "Tis I, Robin of Locksley—hero to all the people of Nottingham."

LADIES: Aaaaaah... (*Sigh with love.*)

HELENA: That sounds lovely.

GWEN: What did he look like?

ELIZABETH: Was he tall, sleek, and handsome?

CASSANDRA: I'll bet he was rugged and strong.

JACQUELYN: I bet he had that "bad boy" look. I just love that "bad boy" look.

SYBIL: That Robin Hood is the man of my dreams.

CASSANDRA: He could come rescue me any day.

HELENA: So, what did he look like?

ELIZABETH: You have to tell us.

MARIAN: Well, I didn't see him at all. I had a blindfold over my eyes.

But I'm sure he was everything that we have imagined him to be.

ISABEL: I read that Robin Hood is so brave that he fought off 100 guards just to steal three bags of money.

GERTRUDE: I read that it was 200 guards for just one bag of money.

SIBYL: Every book you read, and every tale that you hear on the street has a different telling of the stories, but one thing is for sure.

Robin Hood is handsome, he is strong, and he is incredibly brave.

All the LADIES sigh in love.

MARIAN: That's it!!!

HELENA: What is it, Maid Marian?

MARIAN: I know what I have to do. I need to go into Sherwood Forest and find this man that they call Robin Hood.

CASSANDRA: What will you do when you find him?

MARIAN: I will explain to him this ridiculous situation with Prince John— (*Thunder.*) and his forced proposal of marriage. I know that as soon as he hears it, he will come up with a plan to stop it.

GERTRUDE: He will be your knight in shining armor. Only...without armor...so, your knight in green tights and a pointy hat.

SIBYL: I can't believe that you are going to find Robin Hood in Sherwood Forest. You are so lucky.

ELIZABETH: Maybe you will find Robin Hood and the two of you will fall in love.

MARIAN: I hope so. If he is anything like the stories say, then he has already won my heart. That is why I can't marry that good-for-nothing, Prince John— (*Thunder.*) —my heart longs for Robin Hood.

JACQUELYN: How will you know when you have found Robin Hood if you've never seen him?

MARIAN: I didn't think about that.

GWEN: Just look for a man that is very strong.

HELENA: And incredibly handsome.

CASSANDRA: Don't forget that he is brave, as well.

MARIAN: I'm sure that when I see him, I will know instantly.

Knock at the door is heard and LADY GWEN goes to answer it.

GUARD 2: *(Offstage.)* We are here looking for Maid Marian. Have you seen her?

GWEN: *(Offstage.)* Why? What do you want with her?

GUARD 1: *(Offstage.)* We have direct orders to find her, capture her, and throw her in the dungeon.

GWEN: *(Offstage.)* Well, in that case, I cannot say that I have seen her. *(MARIAN hides behind some of the other girls.)* Come on in and see for yourselves.

GUARD 2: Don't mind if we do. *(Entering with GUARD 1.)*

GWEN: Ladies, we haven't seen Marian all day, have we?

During the following dialogue, MARIAN sneaks away towards the door that the guards entered from.

GERTRUDE: Well, Lady Gwen, I must say that we haven't. Have you seen her, Lady Sibyl?

SYBIL: I don't recall seeing her for some time. Have you seen her Lady Jacquelyn?

JACQUELYN: No, I haven't. What about you, Lady Cassandra?

CASSANDRA: I don't believe that I have. Have you, Lady Isabel?

ISABEL: I have not seen her today. Lady Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH: No Marian around here. Have you seen her Lady Helena?

MARIAN is almost out the door when the SHERIFF and MATILDA enter.

HELENA: I haven't seen Marian at all. Have you Lady Sheriff of Nottingham and Lady Matilda?

MARIAN: Lady Sheriff of Nottingham?

SHERIFF: Trying to sneak out, are we? *(She goes to grab MARIAN, but MARIAN ducks and runs away.)* Get her, Matilda.

The SHERIFF and MATILDA, along with the guards, chase MARIAN around the room. The LADIES-IN-WAITING work to get in their way.

MARIAN: Keep away from me.

SHERIFF: I have my orders. I'm not letting you out of my sight until you are behind prison bars.

MARIAN: But I don't want to marry Prince John— *(Thunder and lightning. Everyone freezes until the sounds subside and then go back to the chase. MATILDA grabs MARIAN.)*

MATILDA: I've got her, I've got her!!! *(MARIAN steps on MATILDA's toe and then heads for the door.)*

SHERIFF: Don't let her escape! *(The GUARDS block the exit and MARIAN is trapped.)*

MARIAN: Let me go!

SHERIFF: Well, well Marian. I guess you've come to the end of the road.

GWEN: Not if we have anything to say about it! Get 'em girls. *(All the LADIES start to attack the GUARDS, MATILDA, and the SHERIFF. They end up tying all four together.)*

SHERIFF: This isn't fair. You all are going to end up in the dungeon when Prince John— *(Thunder.)* —hears about this.

MARIAN: Thank you, ladies.

ISABEL: Go get him, Marian.

MARIAN: I will, and if you do get thrown in the dungeon, I will have Robin Hood save you. *(She exits.)*

MATILDA: Did she just say "Robin Hood"?

ELIZABETH: She sure did. She is going to go find him in Sherwood Forest.

CASSANDRA: And when she does, she is going to tell him about the evil plans of the Prince and then profess her love to him.

MATILDA: But that is *my* sweet, sweet Robin. *(She begins to cry.)*

GUARDS: Ours too. *(They cry.)*

SHERIFF: That's gross...now, stop your crying and figure a way to get us untied!

NARRATOR: Will Marian find the hero she is looking for? Will the Sheriff and Matilda ever get free? Will Prince John— (*Thunder.*)—get his wife? Will this play ever get any better? Find out the answers to these questions and more right after this scene change.

ACT ONE, SCENE 4

AT RISE:

A sign is placed on the stage reading: SOMEWHERE IN SHERWOOD FOREST. MAID MARIAN runs across the stage and exits. Then, the SHERIFF and MATILDA run across the stage and exit behind MAID MARIAN. MARIAN runs back onstage.

MARIAN: Help me Robin Hood! You're my only hope! (*Exits.*)

SHERIFF: (*Entering.*) Come on you slowpoke. We'll never catch Maid Marian with you running so slow.

MATILDA: Sorry Sheriff, I'm running as fast as I can.

SHERIFF: Well, it's not fast enough. Come on, we have to catch her before she gets to that nasty, good-for-nothing Robin Hood. Oooo...I hate him.

MATILDA: I don't...I think he's dreamy.

SHERIFF: Ew...let's go, I think she went that way. (*Exits.*)

MATILDA: Yes, Sheriff. (*They exit.*)

MARIAN: (*Enters.*) Robin Hood, if you are out here, I need your help quickly. (*Exits.*)

SHERIFF: (*Enters.*) Well, that little stunt that got us tied up at the castle gave her a half-hour head start, but we are getting close. I can feel it.

MATILDA: All I feel is dirty and a little damp. Why would anyone want to live in this forest?

SHERIFF: Who cares? Come on! (*Exits.*)

MATILDA: Right behind you, Sheriff!

MARIAN: Robin Hood?! Save me! (*Goes to exit then runs back.*) I get this funny feeling that I am just running around in circles.

SHERIFF: (*Offstage.*) I think she's right over here.

MARIAN: Where is that Robin Hood? (*Exits.*)

SHERIFF: (*Entering.*) We must be right behind her.

MATILDA: You think so?

SHERIFF: Yes. That's what I just said, isn't it?

MATILDA: Yes.

SHERIFF: Well...I meant it. Now, let's go. *(They start to exit.)*

MATILDA: *(Stops SHERIFF.)* Wait...doesn't it seem like we are running around in circles. I mean, I feel like I've seen trees like this before.

SHERIFF: Look all around you and tell me what you see.

MATILDA: *(She turns all the way around.)* Trees.

SHERIFF: Good. And five minutes ago what did you see?

MATILDA: *(She turns around the opposite way.)* Trees.

SHERIFF: Right again. And that is because forests have trees. Lots and lots of the same kind of trees.

MATILDA: Maybe you are right.

SHERIFF: Not maybe...I am. Now hurry up, she is getting away. *(They exit.)*

MARIAN: *(Offstage.)* Robin Hood?! *(ROBIN HOOD pops his head through curtain looking around. Then he sneaks onto the stage.)* Robin Hood?! *(ROBIN HOOD, at the sound of MARIAN'S voice, screams, runs and hides.)*

ROBIN HOOD: Where are those voices coming from? Wait a minute...what are you doing? Why are you afraid? Maybe that someone calling your name is in need of your help. Maybe she is a damsel in distress. You are Robin Hood of Locksley aren't you? The books say that you are strong and brave. So why aren't you brave? Why are you hiding like a scared-y-cat? *(Beat.)* Why are you talking to yourself? Good question. *(Pauses and thinks about it.)* I need to get out there, be brave, and save that damsel in distress. After all, I am Robin Hood. *(He strikes a pose and waits for the trumpet sound cue.)* I said I am Robin Hood. *(Poses and waits again. He makes his own trumpet sound.)* I SAID I'm Robin Hood! *(Silence.)* Hey, sound guy in the back, I said "I'm Robin Hood!" *(Trumpets.)* That's better. *(To audience.)* I steal from the rich and give to the poor, I am a true hero to the people of Nottingham, and I make my home right here in Sherwood Forest. Now...I know I came to this part of the forest for some reason, but I can't seem to remember why.

MARIAN: *(Offstage.)* Robin Hood, help!

ROBIN HOOD: Oh, that's right. I heard my name being called by a damsel in distress. I must go save her, for I am Robin Hood. (*Trumpets.*) Coming, fair maiden! (*Exits.*)

MARIAN: (*Entering.*) Robin Hood? Please save me. Help! Where is that man they call Robin Hood? I need him to find me quickly before the evil Sheriff of Nottingham and her no-good sidekick, Matilda, find me. I just need a quick rest. Just to catch my breath.

ROBIN HOOD enters and sneaks up behind MAID MARIAN.

ROBIN HOOD: Ah-ha! I've got you.

He goes to grab her and she ducks, so he misses and she kicks him in the butt. He falls, gets back up and grabs her, but she elbows him in the gut and then punches him in the face. She gets in fighting pose and waits. He goes after her. She tries to punch him again, but this time, he grabs her arm and pulls it behind her back.

MARIAN: Unhand me you brute.

ROBIN HOOD: Brute? I am capturing you because you are after the damsel in distress. What do you want with her?

MARIAN: What do I want with the damsel in distress? Nothing...I am the damsel in distress. (*She punches him in the face again.*)

ROBIN HOOD: Ouch...stop with the hits to the face. You'll damage my masculine features. Now, what do you mean *you* are the damsel in distress?

MARIAN: I am the fair, loving, and kind-hearted, Maid Marian. I am being chased through Sherwood Forest by the evil Sheriff of Nottingham and her right-hand woman, Matilda.

ROBIN HOOD: I can't stand those two villains.

MARIAN: I escaped from the castle of Nottingham and ran to the forest to find help because I've heard, and read, about a man that makes his home here. He is very brave, very strong, and very handsome. (*ROBIN HOOD strikes poses to show each of those words.*) His name is Robin Hood.

ROBIN HOOD: Well, you're in luck.

MARIAN: You mean that you know where I can find Robin Hood?

ROBIN HOOD: Yes, I do know...for I am Robin Hood— (*Trumpets.*)

MARIAN: You? Robin Hood? You can't be. The books and stories say that he is strong and brave and handsome. I felt that when I found that man, that I would know instantly that he was Robin Hood. But you? You're joking, right?

ROBIN HOOD: No, I really am Robin Hood— *(Trumpets.)* You hear that? That sound when I say Robin Hood?— *(Trumpets.)* That sound means that I am Robin Hood— *(Trumpets.)* See?

MARIAN: I'm sorry, I guess I was just expecting someone who could fight a little better and had some larger muscles...but you are cute.

ROBIN HOOD: Shucks...you're not too bad yourself.

MARIAN: Well, if you're him then you must help me. The Sheriff of Nottingham, and her no-good sidekick Matilda are trying to chase me, and take me back to the castle.

ROBIN HOOD: Why are they doing that?

MARIAN: They are trying to uphold one of the many ridiculous decrees of Prince John— *(Thunder and lighting. ROBIN trembles.)* —that is why I ran from the castle. Prince John— *(Thunder.)* has made a decree that will force me to marry him. Prince John— *(Thunder.)*

ROBIN HOOD: *(Trembling.)* Look, can you stop saying that?

MARIAN: What Prince John—? *(Thunder.)*

ROBIN HOOD: Yes, please.

MARIAN: Why don't you want me to say Prince John—? *(Thunder.)*

ROBIN HOOD: I just don't like all the thunder and lightning, okay?

MARIAN: Oh, sorry. Anyways, Prince J...I mean the Prince sent the Sheriff and Matilda to capture me and take me back to the castle where he will have me thrown in the dungeon until our wedding on Saturday, but I can't marry that horrible man.

ROBIN HOOD: Why not?

MARIAN: Because he's horrible.

ROBIN HOOD: Oh...right.

MARIAN: Besides, my heart belongs to someone else.

ROBIN HOOD: It does? Who?

MARIAN: Well, a man that I have heard about in many stories. He robs from the rich and gives to the poor; he lives deep within Sherwood Forest. He is a true hero to the people of Nottingham.

ROBIN HOOD: Who's that? He sounds great.

MARIAN: It's you. My heart belongs to you, Robin Hood.

ROBIN HOOD: Well...my heart belongs to you, Maid Marian.

MARIAN: Then will you help me escape from the Sheriff of Nottingham and Matilda?

ROBIN HOOD: I will do my best.

MARIAN: I love you, Robin Hood.

ROBIN HOOD: I love you too, Marian. *(They embrace.)*

MARIAN: The Sheriff of Nottingham and Matilda are close behind. They could be here any minute. We need to go, that is, if you are still willing to help me.

ROBIN HOOD: Of course. Come on, I know a place that we can hide deeper within the forest. *(They exit.)*

SHERIFF: *(Entering.)* So, Maid Marian has fallen in love with that ruthless scoundrel Robin Hood. How sweet...

SHERIFF/MATILDA: *(Finger in mouth.)* Blah!!!

MATILDA: Sheriff, how are you going to capture Maid Marian and take her back to the castle of Prince John— *(Thunder.)* —if she is with Robin Hood? What a hunk. *(Day-dreams.)*

SHERIFF: Well, Matilda...Matilda? **MATILDA!** *(Getting her back to reality.)* Are you listening to me?

MATILDA: Sorry Sheriff. I was just thinking about my sweet Robin Hood.

SHERIFF: Sweet Robin Hood...disgusting! Now, we have to think of a way to outsmart Robin Hood, just long enough to get Maid Marian away from him. That way we can capture her and take her back to the castle to be married to the Prince. But how can we outsmart him?

MATILDA: I can distract him with a magic trick.

SHERIFF: Do you know any magic tricks?

MATILDA: Well...no. But I could learn one.

SHERIFF: We don't have time for that. Think of something else.

MATILDA: Ooh, ooh I've got it. We can ask him a challenging math question. One that makes him think for hours. Then, while he struggles to come up with the answer to the question, we grab Marian and take her back to the castle to marry the Prince.

SHERIFF: Do you really think that a math question is going to distract Robin Hood?

MATILDA: My Robin may be dreamy, but he isn't the smartest.

SHERIFF: Not bad. So, what question do we ask?

MATILDA: How about... (*Whisper.*)

SHERIFF: Not bad. Wait, what's the answer? (*MATILDA whispers.*) I knew that. But, how do we know that it is hard enough to stump Robin Hood?

A random WOODSMAN enters the stage.

MATILDA: Why don't we ask that random woodsman over there?

SHERIFF: What random woodsman?

MATILDA: That one. (*Points to WOODSMAN.*)

SHERIFF: (*Stopping WOODSMAN.*) You... Woodsman, what are you doing here in the forest?

WOODSMAN: I'm just your everyday, run-of-the-mill woodsman here to chop down trees in the forest.

MATILDA: But why are you here in our play?

WOODSMAN: I'm here so you can ask me a difficult math question that you are going to try out on Robin Hood. That way you can see if it is difficult enough to stump him.

SHERIFF: Works for me.

WOODSMAN: Great. So, let's have it.

SHERIFF: Very well, what is the square root of 144?

WOODSMAN: That is pretty difficult.

MATILDA: I told you that one was hard.

WOODSMAN: The answer is 12.

SHERIFF: Ha, wrong! That will be perfect for Robin Hood.

MATILDA: Actually Sheriff, the Woodsman is correct.

SHERIFF: Wait, what? No...it can't be.

WOODSMAN: It is. The answer is 12.

SHERIFF: Well, that plan is no good. If a simple woodsman can answer that question, then Robin Hood can surely answer it.

WOODSMAN: Simple?! It may surprise you, but woodsmen are quite good at math.

SHERIFF: Yeah, yeah...whatever. We need to think of something else, Matilda.

WOODSMAN: Why don't you...

SHERIFF: Get lost, woods-y.

WOODSMAN: But...

MATILDA: She said, get lost!

WOODSMAN: Fine. (*Exits.*)

SHERIFF: That was a waste of an idea. We need something better.

MATILDA: Like what?

SHERIFF: Don't ask me. That is what I have *you* around for. You do the thinking, and then I say that I thought of it.

MATILDA: Why can't I get credit for the ideas that I come up with?

SHERIFF: Look, we got a good thing going here. Don't spoil it. Now, think of something else.

MATILDA: Maybe, *maybe*, I could distract Robin Hood with my sweet charms and beauty.

SHERIFF: That won't work.

MATILDA: Why not?

SHERIFF: Because you have no charms...or beauty. Only I do.

MATILDA: You're probably right. Besides, he is so in love with Maid Marian that if we did manage to take her away from him, he would come after us and do anything, including hurting the both of us, to get her back.

SHERIFF: That's it, Matilda, you are a genius!

MATILDA: I am?

SHERIFF: Yes. We don't need to outsmart Robin Hood.

MATILDA: We don't?

SHERIFF: No. We will just go right up to Robin Hood and kidnap Maid Marian right in front of him...but, we are not going to take her back to the castle of Prince John— (*Thunder.*)

MATILDA: We're not?

SHERIFF: Well...not right away. There has been a little change of plans, Matilda. We are going to kidnap Maid Marian, but instead of taking her back to the castle, we are going to stay here, in Sherwood Forest. Robin Hood, after seeing his lovely Maid Marian kidnapped, will follow us. We will hide, and when he arrives, we will jump out and capture that rotten scoundrel, Robin Hood.

MATILDA: Then what?

SHERIFF: Then...then...oh, then we take Maid Marian to the castle to marry Prince John (*Thunder.*) and we put the captured Robin Hood in prison. That way, we uphold both decrees. It's like killing two birds with one stone. Except these aren't birds, they're humans by the name of Maid Marian and Robin Hood.

MATILDA: Robin is the name of a bird.

SHERIFF: Sure...Whatever. Why, with Robin Hood captured and locked in prison, and Maid Marian back in time for the royal wedding, the Prince will make me a hero and he will be able to raise and collect taxes from all the people of Nottingham.

MATILDA: He can?

SHERIFF: Well of course. Robin Hood won't be able to steal from the rich and give to the poor and he won't be able to stop our evil schemes. *(Evil laugh.)*

MATILDA: Ooh, sheriff. You get to be a hero, what will I get?

SHERIFF: You? Oh, well you get the best thing of all. You get...a high five.

MATILDA: A high five! I can't believe it. I have never received a high five before. Yes Sheriff, we must capture Robin Hood. But how will we do it?

SHERIFF: We will... *(Whisper.)*

MATILDA: What a brilliant, yet, sinister plan.

SHERIFF: I know. *(They go to exit.)* Wait...Woodsmen?!

WOODSMAN: *(Entering.)* Did you call for me, Sheriff?

SHERIFF: Yes. Did you overhear our sinister plan?

WOODSMAN: Nope.

SHERIFF: Excellent. But if you did and I find out that you told Robin Hood, I will make sure that you never chop down a single tree ever again. Because you will be spending the rest of your life behind bars. Got it?

WOODSMAN: Yes, I understand.

MATILDA: That means that you will be in jail.

SHERIFF: I think he knows that.

MATILDA: I was just making sure.

WOODSMAN: I know. Don't worry, I didn't hear a thing.

SHERIFF: Good. Come, Matilda. *(She exits.)*

MATILDA: Coming Sheriff. *(To WOODSMAN.)* I love being evil. *(Evil laugh.)*

SHERIFF: Matilda! When I say come that means come.

MATILDA: Sorry. *(They exit.)*

NARRATOR: Will the new lovers, Robin Hood and Maid Marian, be able to escape the decrees placed upon them? Or will the Sheriff of Nottingham and Matilda be able to pull off their evil scheme?

ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY MEN

And what's up with the random woodsman? Find out in just a minute.

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