

Robin Hood: Second Chances
(An Alternate Series 3 Story)

By

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Based on: The BBC 2006 Series
(Episodes 5-13 have been reworked and included)

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Author's Note

This story changes the ending of Episode 13 Series 2. Marian still dies, but not by Gisborne's hand. It then follows our characters in an alternate Series 3.

Series 3: Episodes 1-4 have been dropped. Episodes 5-13 have been incorporated into this story, with a little reworking.

1. Kate - never joined the gang, so she has been removed and her lines either reassigned or dropped.

2. Gisborne - is part of the gang so he's been added to the Outlaw scenes and removed from any scene he is in where he is on the wrong side. Any lines that were assigned to Gisborne in an episode where he is on the wrong side, have to be reassigned to another character. (ie: Episode 5. In the aired version Gisborne commands the Black Elite. In my version it is a man named Harrison.)

Scenes that've been taken from an episode, have been labeled with the episode number in brackets in the scene header as follows:

1. (305) - scene is from Series 3, Episode 5, and appears as aired.

2. (305R) - scene is from Series 3, Episode 5, and has been reworked (location/character changes, dialog added/removed, etc...)

3. (305M) - scene is from Series 3, Episode 5, and has been merged (2 or more scenes due to restructure)

4. (305MR) - scene is from Series 3, Episode 5, and has been merged and reworked -- (2 or more scenes due to restructure)

Any scene not indicated with an episode number, is an ORIGINAL scene.

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1 (213R) MAIN SQUARE - FOUNTAIN

1

KING RICHARD's horse walks into the square. KING RICHARD's head falls limply forward. He slides off the horse, near the fountain, grasping at his shoulder. GISBORNE appears at the end of the square, beyond KING RICHARD. MARIAN comes out from between the buildings and sees KING RICHARD on the ground. Then she sees GISBORNE.

MARIAN

Guy!

GISBORNE draws his sword. MARIAN races across the square to confront GISBORNE. She runs past KING RICHARD and holds up her hands as she comes to a halt facing GISBORNE.

MARIAN

Stop! It's over, Guy.

GISBORNE's eyes are intensely focused on the fallen KING RICHARD.

GISBORNE

(mad)

Get out of the way.

GISBORNE advances steadily towards KING RICHARD. MARIAN keeps herself in front of him, walking backwards with her hands still up.

PAN TO:

2 BEHIND MARIAN

2

ROBIN, MUCH, LITTLE JOHN, WILL, DJAQ, and ALLAN come down the stairs. ROBIN sees MARIAN and is about to run to her. ALLAN grabs him.

ALLAN

Wait. Let her talk to him. She can talk him down. Trust me.

ROBIN gives ALLAN a look, and then against his better judgment, he nods "okay".

PAN TO:

GISBORNE

(mad)

I said, out of the way, Marian.

MARIAN

(pleadingly)

You don't want to do this.

GISBORNE

(still mad)

Marian, I...

MARIAN

(pleadingly)

Guy. Look at me. Look at me.

(beat)

This isn't you.

(beat)

You are better than this.

GISBORNE

Marian, get out of...

MARIAN

Please. For me. Stop.

GISBORNE looks at her. He knows she would never understand why he must do this.

GISBORNE

You don't understand. I...

MARIAN

If you love me, you...

GISBORNE looks at her in disbelief. What was that supposed to mean? Of course he loved her, didn't she know that? After everything he's done for her, sacrificed for her. Why question his feelings?

GISBORNE

I do love you. Don't you know that?

I...

MARIAN

Guy, I...

MARIAN's line is cut short as an arrow comes flying out of nowhere and hits her in the chest. She falls.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE
 (screams)
 No!!!

GISBORNE runs to her and catches her as she falls.

PAN TO:

4 ROBIN AND GANG

4

ROBIN runs to MARIAN. The gang stay, just looking at the scene.

PAN TO:

5 GISBORNE AND MARIAN

5

 GISBORNE
 (tears start to show)
 Marian?

GISBORNE strokes her face.

 MARIAN
 (smile)
 Guy, I...

MARIAN's line is cut off as ROBIN reaches them.

 ROBIN
 Marian?

MARIAN looks at ROBIN and smiles.

 MARIAN
 Robin.

ROBIN takes one of her hands in his.

 ROBIN
 Sh.

DJAQ reaches them. ROBIN looks to DJAQ.

 ROBIN (cont'd)
 Djaq. Help her. You have to...

DJAQ isn't sure she can.

 DJAQ
 I don't know if I...

ROBIN
You saved her last time, you can...

GISBORNE seems to just notice ROBIN and DJAQ.

GISBORNE
(raise an eyebrow)
Last time?

ROBIN doesn't say anything. DJAQ signals GISBORNE to put MARIAN down. He does so, reluctantly. As he does, he notices the arrow. He recognizes it. He recoils away as if he's just been slapped. ROBIN notices the look. DJAQ inspects MARIAN's wound as ROBIN and GISBORNE talk.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
(disbelievingly)
No.

ROBIN
What is it?

GISBORNE
(quietly)
When I get my hands on him, I'm going to kill him.

ROBIN
Who?

GISBORNE
The Sheriff. Who do you think?

ROBIN is giving GISBORNE one of those "what?" looks. GISBORNE points to the arrow.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
That's one of his arrows.

ROBIN
Why would the Sheriff want to...

ROBIN's line is cut off by DJAQ.

DJQAQ
Robin.

ROBIN and GISBORNE look at DJAQ. She has a sad look on her face.

DJQAQ (cont'd)
I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

DJAQ walks away and heads to the rest of the gang. ROBIN and GISBORNE go to MARIAN's side. ROBIN on the right. GISBORNE on the left. They look at her, tears in their eyes. MARIAN looks at them. [In the background DJAQ is telling the gang that MARIAN is dying.]

MARIAN
I guess this is it.
(beat)
Never thought I'd...

ROBIN
Marian, I...

MARIAN looks at him and smiles.

MARIAN
Robin of Locksley. I love you.

ROBIN smiles. GISBORNE looks hurt.

ROBIN
And I you.

MARIAN looks to GISBORNE. She smiles at him. He loves that smile. That smile makes everything else bearable.

MARIAN
Guy. I...

GISBORNE
Marian, don't say anything.

MARIAN
I have to. I don't want to die
without saying this.

GISBORNE is curious. ROBIN is too. ROBIN wonders if he was right all along.

MARIAN (cont'd)
If things were different. If you
could've only seen what I saw in
you.

GISBORNE smiles. She smiles back at him. ROBIN thinks to himself, "here it comes".

GISBORNE
I'm sorry. I...

MARIAN

Guy.

(smile)

Shut up. Please.

(beat)

I really did care for you. And, I
did love you.

GISBORNE is surprised. ROBIN is not really that surprised. He had always suspected that she might care for GISBORNE more than she was willing to admit. ROBIN and GISBORNE exchange a look, and then look back down at MARIAN who winces. Momentary pause. MARIAN looks to ROBIN.

MARIAN (cont'd)

I'm sorry. I...

ROBIN takes her right hand in his, kisses it, then smiles at her. Before he can say anything, she continues.

MARIAN (cont'd)

Kiss me.

ROBIN kisses her. They break kiss. MARIAN then looks over at GISBORNE.

MARIAN (cont'd)

Kiss me.

GISBORNE kisses her. He knows this is the last time he will ever kiss her. It is a soft, gentle, loving kiss. They break the kiss. MARIAN looks from GISBORNE to ROBIN and then back at ROBIN. She takes their hands in hers and brings them together over her.

MARIAN (cont'd)

Now, promise me one thing.

GISBORNE / ROBIN

Anything.

MARIAN

Don't kill each other. This isn't
your fault. I...

MARIAN gasps in pain.

MARIAN (cont'd)

Promise me.

GISBORNE / ROBIN

I promise.

(CONTINUED)

MARIAN smiles at them one last time, then dies. GISBORNE and ROBIN look at her.

GISBORNE / ROBIN (cont'd)

Marian?

No reply. GISBORNE and ROBIN both lower their heads in grief.

PAN TO:

6 (213) THE GANG

6

The camera focuses on the gang as they realize that MARIAN is dead. WILL has his arms around DJAQ, who has her head in his chest, and is crying. MUCH is crying. ALLAN, WILL, and LITTLE JOHN all have tears in their eyes.

DJAQ has removed the arrow from KING RICHARD, and bandaged his arm. KING RICHARD is standing with the gang.

CUT TO:

7 (213R) BURIAL

7

ROBIN, MUCH, ALLAN, LITTLE JOHN, WILL, DJAQ, KING RICHARD, and GISBORNE are standing around a freshly dug grave. Nearby is another burial mound with a Crusader's shield on it. It is CARTER's.

GISBORNE is feeling like an outsider. He knows the band of outlaws don't really want him here, but MARIAN meant something to him too. More than just something. She was his world. He would do anything for her. And now she is gone. The love of his life. The one good thing in his world.

MUCH is leaning on a spade.

LITTLE JOHN is leaning on his staff.

ALLAN is just standing there. He knows how much Marian meant to both ROBIN and GISBORNE. And he knows that Marian really did care for both of them. He'd seen the way she acted around GISBORNE and knew that deep down she really did love him. If things had only been different she and Guy might have had a chance. He is torn between his loyalty to ROBIN and his loyalty to GISBORNE. He has gotten to know and see a side to GISBORNE that the others haven't. The side that loved Marian and would do anything for her. He knows that both ROBIN and GISBORNE are feeling the same thing right now.

DJAQ hangs off of WILL's arm. WILL has his arm around DJAQ.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN and GISBORNE are both staring at MARIAN's body in the grave. Both remember all the times they spent together.

CUT TO:

8 MONTAGE OF GISBORNE AND MARIAN FLASHBACKS 8

Various moments Gisborne and Marian have shared from Series 1 and Series 2.

CUT TO:

9 (213) MONTAGE OF ROBIN AND MARIAN FLASHBACKS 9

Various moments Robin and Marian have shared from Series 1 and Series 2.

RETURN TO:

10 BURIAL 10

Camera stays with the solemn looking group for a few more seconds then fades out.

FADE TO:

11 KING'S CAMP - KING'S TENT - A FEW HOURS LATER 11

KING RICHARD is standing outside his tent. GISBORNE is kneeling in front of him, head lowered, seeking forgiveness for all he has done. They are alone.

GISBORNE
I'm sorry, sire. I...

KING RICHARD
I forgive you.

GISBORNE looks up at KING RICHARD, confused. KING RICHARD motions him to rise.

PAN TO:

12 ROBIN AND HIS GANG 12

They are sitting around looking over at GISBORNE and KING RICHARD.

MUCH
What do you think they are talking about?

ROBIN
(curiously)
Not sure.

Pause. WILL and DJAQ give each other the "Should we tell them" look. WILL clears his throat. All eyes turn to him.

WILL
Djaq and I have an announcement.

EVERYONE thinks they know what it will be. WILL takes DJAQ's hand.

WILL (cont'd)
We won't be going back with you.
(look at Djaq)
We're staying.

EVERYONE is shocked, but not really surprised.

DJAO
Don't try to stop us.

DJAO looks at ROBIN.

DJAO (cont'd)
Robin. I have been honoured to have
fought at your side.
(beat)
But it is time for me to...

DJAO looks at WILL, and corrects her line.

DJAO (cont'd)
Us, to leave.

WILL
I'm sorry guys, but I...

ROBIN
Don't be silly.
(smile)
It's okay.

WILL and DJAQ smile.

MUCH
When will you be leaving?

WILL and DJAQ look at each other.

WILL

Now.

The gang say their goodbyes to WILL and DJAQ. ROBIN looks over at GISBORNE and KING RICHARD who are still deep in conversation.

PAN TO:

13

KING'S TENT

13

KING RICHARD is looking at GISBORNE. He is waiting for a reply. GISBORNE appears to be thinking. Neither notice ROBIN approach. KING RICHARD addresses GISBORNE.

KING RICHARD

So, what do you think?

When it looks like GISBORNE isn't going to answer, ROBIN does.

ROBIN

About what?

GISBORNE looks at ROBIN. How long had he been there? And how was it he always seemed to be able to sneak up on him?

GISBORNE

Working together.

(beat)

You and me.

ROBIN laughs.

ROBIN

Together? Us? Are you serious?

KING RICHARD

Yes. Quite.

ROBIN stops laughing.

KING RICHARD (cont'd)

If you two worked together, you...

ROBIN

(skeptically)

I don't know.

KING RICHARD looks at ROBIN.

(CONTINUED)

KING RICHARD
Robin, I knew your father.

KING RICHARD looks at GISBORNE.

KING RICHARD (cont'd)
And yours.

KING RICHARD addresses them both.

KING RICHARD (cont'd)
What would Malcolm and Roger think
if they saw you now?

ROBIN and GISBORNE look at each other, and then at the ground. KING RICHARD places a hand on ROBIN's shoulder, and a hand on GISBORNE's shoulder.

KING RICHARD (cont'd)
I know a lot has happened since
then.
(beat)
What's done is done. You can not
undo it. But you can start to fix
it. Make it right.

KING RICHARD gives them each a final glance, and then walks into his tent. ROBIN and GISBORNE look at each other.

GISBORNE
What do say, Robin?
(beat)
You think we can work together?

GISBORNE offers ROBIN his hand. ROBIN looks at it.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
For Marian?

ROBIN accepts GISBORNE's hand as he says the next line.

ROBIN
For Marian.

ROBIN and GISBORNE shake hands.

PAN TO:

14 ROBIN'S GANG

14

WILL and DJAQ are gone. LITTLE JOHN is watching ROBIN and GISBORNE. ALLAN and MUCH are talking.

ALLAN
He really did love her.

MUCH assumes ALLAN is talking about ROBIN and MARIAN.

MUCH
Of course he did. Robin and Marian...

ALLAN gives MUCH a look.

ALLAN
Not Robin. Guy.

MUCH is surprised by the use of GISBORNE's first name.

MUCH
Guy?

ALLAN
Yeah.
(beat)
I seen him with her. He is...
was... different around her.

MUCH
Different? How?

ALLAN
Protective. Attentive. Caring.

MUCH
Allan, I...

ALLAN
When he caught and unmasked *The Nightwatchman* and saw Marian...

MUCH is surprised. This is news. Marian had never mentioned that Gisborne knew.

MUCH
Gisborne caught...

ALLAN
(defendingly)
What did he do? Did he turn her in?
No. He asked me to disguise myself
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN (cont'd)
as The Nightwatchmen and escape. He
protected her. And that wasn't the
only time.

(beat)
I'm telling you, he loved her. He
really did. Probably more than...

ALLAN's line is cut off by LITTLE JOHN.

LITTLE JOHN
Sh. Robin and Gisborne are coming
this way.

MUCH / ALLAN
Together?

LITTLE JOHN
Looks like it.

ROBIN and GISBORNE reach the gang. MUCH, ALLAN, and LITTLE JOHN look at them questioningly. ROBIN can tell his men are curious.

ROBIN
Men, say hello to our new member.

ROBIN smiles. The gang all look surprised.

MUCH
What?

ROBIN
You heard me. Guy is joining us.

MUCH raises an eyebrow. Did Robin just call Gisborne Guy?

GISBORNE
The King asked that we join forces
and...
(beat)
...Robin and I agree.

GISBORNE's not used to calling ROBIN by his first name. Ever since Robin returned it's been Locksley or Hood. He wonders for a moment if he ever will get used to calling him Robin.

The gang also notice the use of first names.

GISBORNE continues after only the slightest pause.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
The Sheriff must be stopped.

LITTLE JOHN
Agreed. But how do you...

GISBORNE smiles that cunning smile of his. ALLAN recognizes the smile.

ALLAN
I know that smile. That is not good.

GISBORNE looks to ALLAN and goes to him. He places a hand on his shoulder.

GISBORNE
Looks like we will be working together again, Allan.

GISBORNE positions himself beside ALLAN, and puts his arm playfully around ALLAN's neck. ALLAN gets a "great, terrific" look on his face.

FADE TO:

15

SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP - 1 MONTH LATER

15

ROBIN is tossing and turning, sleeping restlessly.

MUCH wakes up and goes to his side.

GISBORNE is tossing and turning, sleeping restlessly. [Note: He now wears one of the "dog tags" that everyone in the gang wears.]

ALLAN wakes up and goes to his side.

LITTLE JOHN is fast asleep. Snoring.

ALLAN
(to Much)
We have to do something.

MUCH
(to Allan)
Like what?

ALLAN
They've been like this for over a week.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH
I know. But what...

ALLAN
They can't keep going like this.
They need their sleep.

MUCH looks at ROBIN full of concern and worry. ALLAN looks at GISBORNE the same.

FADE TO:

16

NOTTINGHAM - ALEHOUSE - NEXT AFTERNOON

16

ALLAN walks in and sits at a table in the back corner. Trying not to be seen. A man, named TUCK, dressed in a grey monk robe sees him enter and follows him to the table. TUCK can tell he is troubled.

TUCK
What has you so troubled, my son?

ALLAN answers, not looking at TUCK.

ALLAN
(lie)
Nothing.

TUCK raises an eyebrow and sits at the table across from ALLAN. TUCK notices ALLAN's "dog tag".

TUCK
It is not nothing.
(beat)
You are one of Robin Hood's men,
are you not?

ALLAN looks at TUCK questioningly. How did he know that?

TUCK (cont'd)
I am Brother Tuck.
(beat)
Maybe I can help?

ALLAN wonders if he should tell him. ALLAN decides to only partially tell him.

ALLAN
It's Robin.

TUCK raises an eyebrow in concern. Could he be too late? Did he come all this way for nothing?

(CONTINUED)

TUCK
Is he hurt?

ALLAN
No. At least, not physically.

Momentary pause. TUCK waits for ALLAN to continue.

ALLAN (cont'd)
He's been having a lot of sleepless
nights lately.

TUCK
I see.

ALLAN looks at TUCK, hopefully. ALLAN leans in over the
table.

ALLAN
Is there something you can give
him, or do for him, to help him
sleep?

TUCK thinks.

TUCK
Maybe.
(beat)
Restless sleep is usually the sign
of something weighting heavily on
the mind. On the soul.
(beat)
If you could take me to him...

ALLAN gives TUCK a look. Should he? Should he bring this
monk to the camp? He would do anything to help Guy and
Robin, but can he trust him?

TUCK continues his line without a pause.

TUCK (cont'd)
...I will see what I can do.

ALLAN thinks a little longer. Then decides it is worth the
risk.

ALLAN
Okay.

ALLAN and TUCK rise from the table and exit.

CUT TO:

17 SHERWOOD FOREST - PATH TO OUTLAW CAMP

17

TUCK and ALLAN are walking in silence. TUCK can tell ALLAN is hiding something. ALLAN is a few paces in front of TUCK.

TUCK
There is more isn't there?

ALLAN stops walking and turns to TUCK.

ALLAN
What?

TUCK continues walking and stops beside ALLAN.

TUCK
It's not just Robin you are worried about.

ALLAN doesn't answer. ALLAN's silence is confirmation to TUCK that he is right.

TUCK (cont'd)
There is someone else.

ALLAN gives TUCK a look.

TUCK (cont'd)
Someone who means more to you than Robin. Someone whose identity must remain a secret.

ALLAN wonders how TUCK knows all this.

ALLAN
How...?

TUCK
I am right, aren't I?

TUCK gives ALLAN a look. ALLAN pauses for a moment.

ALLAN
Yes.

TUCK
Don't worry Allan, it is Allan right?

ALLAN nods.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK (cont'd)
You can trust me.

TUCK starts walking again, saying line as he does.

TUCK (cont'd)
Besides, I know who it is.

ALLAN looks at TUCK with a "what" look, and starts walking again.

JUMP TO:

18

OUTLAW CAMP - ABOUT 1/2 HOUR LATER

18

LITTLE JOHN and MUCH are gone. ROBIN and GISBORNE are alone. GISBORNE is sharpening his sword, ROBIN is making arrows. ROBIN looks at GISBORNE.

ROBIN
How did you sleep last night?

GISBORNE answers without looking up from his sword.

GISBORNE
Not good.

ROBIN
Me neither.

GISBORNE looks up from sword at ROBIN.

GISBORNE
We can't go on like this, Robin. We need...

ROBIN hears something. He holds up his hand in a "quiet" gesture. GISBORNE tightens his grip on his sword.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
(quietly)
What is it?

ROBIN
(quietly)
Someone is coming.

GISBORNE gets to his feet, sword at the ready. ROBIN is about to ready his bow when he hears a bird call. ROBIN relaxes. GISBORNE looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)

Allan.

GISBORNE is about to say something, when he remembers the bird call, and puts down his sword.

GISBORNE

That wasn't a bird.

ROBIN

Nope.

GISBORNE

A signal.

ROBIN flashes GISBORNE that infuriating smirk that he use to hate so much. ALLAN and TUCK enter.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Who's your friend?

ALLAN

This is Brother Tuck. He's here to help.

GISBORNE

(curious)

With what?

TUCK looks from ROBIN to GISBORNE. He figures that the man with arrows is ROBIN and the other one must be who he suspected. TUCK thinks to himself, "So the rumours were true."

TUCK

I hear you are having trouble sleeping.

ROBIN and GISBORNE look at each other, and then at ALLAN.

ROBIN

Allan?

ALLAN

I was worried about you. Both of you.

TUCK looks at ROBIN.

TUCK

As well he should be. A leader is no good to his men if he doesn't get enough sleep, Robin.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN, GISBORNE, and ALLAN look at TUCK. TUCK gets a thoughtful look on his face.

TUCK (cont'd)

You know, years ago, when I left this country, the people of this nation were proud, strong, full of spirit. Now I come back to find their backs broken, their hope shattered. Everywhere I go I see fear and suspicion haunting their faces. And yet everywhere, I hear one name. Even from the mouths of children. One name, whispered in hope. One name that keeps the flame of England burning...Robin Hood.

TUCK looks at ROBIN, smiling.

TUCK (cont'd)

You are Robin Hood.

ROBIN nods in agreement. TUCK looks at GISBORNE.

TUCK (cont'd)

You too are well known, Sir Guy of Gisborne. Although, at the moment, for entirely different reasons.

GISBORNE gives TUCK a look.

TUCK (cont'd)

You know the Sheriff is going crazy trying to find you!

GISBORNE

Good. After what he did he better pray he never finds me.

TUCK gives GISBORNE a look. Momentary pause. TUCK looks to ALLAN.

TUCK

Leave us alone.

ALLAN

I don't know. I...

TUCK

You want me to help them?

ALLAN

Yes.

TUCK

Then please, leave.

ALLAN looks to ROBIN and GISBORNE. ROBIN gives him an "It's okay, go" look. ALLAN leaves. TUCK watches ALLAN leave, then looks to ROBIN and GISBORNE.

JUMP TO:

19

OUTSIDE DOORWAY - ABOUT 90 MINUTES LATER

19

ALLAN is pacing near the door. LITTLE JOHN and MUCH approach. They spot ALLAN pacing and wonder what's up.

MUCH

Why are you...

ALLAN raises a finger to his lips signaling them to be quiet.

ALLAN

Shh.

LITTLE JOHN

(curious)

Why?

LITTLE JOHN waits for ALLAN to answer. ALLAN doesn't. After a few seconds LITTLE JOHN continues.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)

What's going on, Allan?

Before ALLAN can answer, TUCK exits. LITTLE JOHN and MUCH are startled. LITTLE JOHN addresses TUCK.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)

Who are you?

TUCK

I am Brother Tuck. I have been tending to your friends.

MUCH

(deeply concerned)

Tending? What happened? Is Robin...

TUCK holds up his hands in a "stop-like" gesture.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK
They are both fine.

MUCH breathes a sign of relief. TUCK looks to ALLAN.

TUCK (cont'd)
They should sleep better tonight.
And every night after.

ALLAN
Thanks.

TUCK
Any time, my son.

ALLAN
If something should happen, how can
we find you?

TUCK is about to answer when ROBIN appears in the doorway.
He leans on the side and addresses TUCK.

ROBIN
I don't suppose you'd like to stick
around for a while?

GISBORNE appears in the doorway and leans on the other side.
He looks to TUCK. TUCK looks at ROBIN and smiles.

TUCK
I would be honoured.

ROBIN smiles. GISBORNE rolls his eyes and goes back inside.
ROBIN heads to TUCK.

ROBIN
Great.

ROBIN offers TUCK his hand.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Welcome to the gang.

TUCK takes ROBIN's hand.

FADE TO:

Lady ISABELLA Thornton is pacing the room. A servant enters.

SERVANT

The monk has returned, m'lady.

ISABELLA

(smiles)

Show him in.

SERVANT

Yes m'lady.

The servant exits. ISABELLA walks over to a cabinet, unlocks it, and removes a small vial. She walks over to a table that has goblets and a pitcher of wine. She empties the contents of the vial into a goblet, and then fills the goblet with wine. She is pouring wine into a second goblet when the door re-opens. ISABELLA looks up. The servant enters, followed by the monk. It's TUCK. ISABELLA picks up both goblets, and addresses the servant.

ISABELLA

Leave us.

The servant leaves. ISABELLA walks towards TUCK as he walks toward her. ISABELLA offers TUCK the goblet with the drug in it.

ISABELLA

Brother Tuck, I hope you bring good news.

TUCK says his line as he accepts the goblet ISABELLA is offering.

TUCK

I do.

ISABELLA

(smile)

Well, let's drink to that.

ISABELLA drinks from her goblet. TUCK takes a big drinks from his.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

You've been gone for a long time. I was starting to worry.

ISABELLA takes another sip from her goblet.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK

As you can see, m'lady, I am fine.

TUCK takes another big drink from his goblet.

ISABELLA

Yes. That you are.

(beat)

So, what news do you bring me?

TUCK

(smile)

I found him.

TUCK finishes his drink.

ISABELLA

(surprise/joy)

Really?

TUCK

Yes.

ISABELLA

Where?

TUCK

Nottingham.

ISABELLA

(curious)

Nottingham?

TUCK

Yes.

ISABELLA

Why on Earth would he go back there?

TUCK looks at her with raised eyebrows. Back? What did she mean back?

ISABELLA

(smile)

Revenge. Has to be. He always did have short fuse. And, he knows how to carry a grudge.

TUCK is about to say something, but his vision starts to go blurry, and he starts feeling dizzy. ISABELLA looks at TUCK and can see the drug is starting to take effect.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

Where, exactly, in Nottingham, is he?

TUCK

He's... He's...

TUCK realizes that ISABELLA must have drugged the wine.

TUCK

You, drugged, me.

ISABELLA

Yeah. Sorry about that.

(beat)

When you wake up, you will forget that we know each other.

(beat)

If we ever meet again, you will not recognize me.

TUCK

Why? Why did you...

ISABELLA

I can't have you telling my husband what I am planning.

TUCK

But I... I don't... What are you plan...

ISABELLA

Tell me where in Nottingham he is?

TUCK is fading fast. He realizes she is up to something. He decides to not tell her where the man she seeks truly is.

TUCK

Castle. ... Sheriff. ... He is...

TUCK passes out.

ISABELLA

(smile)

So, he's managed to get himself into the Sheriff's good graces. This is perfect.

(beat)

Now I just have to figure out how to get out of here.

(CONTINUED)

As ISABELLA thinks, the servant comes back in the room. She sees TUCK on the ground and gasps. ISABELLA turns to face the servant.

ISABELLA
Fetch a guard. The Monk has
collapsed.

The servant looks at ISABELLA not really believing her.

SERVANT
Yes, m'lady.

The servant leaves. ISABELLA returns to pacing and thinking. A few moments later a guard enters. He sees TUCK on the ground. ISABELLA has her back to them.

GUARD
What do you want me to do with him?

ISABELLA addresses the guard without looking at him.

ISABELLA
Take him to the cross roads, and
leave him.

GUARD
Yes, m'lady.

The GUARD picks up TUCK and leaves.

FADE TO:

21 SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP - 2 DAYS LATER 21

ROBIN, MUCH and LITTLE JOHN are sitting over near a fire. GISBORNE and ALLAN are sitting away from the group talking. ALLAN looks over at ROBIN, and then back at GISBORNE.

ALLAN
Don't tell Robin I said this but...
(beat)
I think Marian really did care for
you.

GISBORNE looks at ALLAN.

ALLAN (cont'd)
More than she'd've cared to admit.

GISBORNE remembers MARIAN saying that before she died. He can still hear her voice in his head.

(CONTINUED)

MARIAN (VO)

Guy, I really did care for you.
And, I did love you.

GISBORNE thought he must have been dreaming, but if ALLAN is saying the same thing...

GISBORNE

You think so?

ALLAN gets a "yeah, duh" look on his face.

ALLAN

Yeah.

GISBORNE

(raise an eyebrow)

You're not just saying that?

ALLAN

You forget that I actually saw her
with you, and I saw her with Robin.

GISBORNE raises an eyebrow. He hadn't really thought of that before.

ALLAN (cont'd)

She really did care for you,
couldn't you tell?

GISBORNE

Not sure what to believe. She used
me more than once.

ALLAN

Guy. Trust me. It wasn't all an
act. She really did care.

GISBORNE

Hmm.

GISBORNE looks at the ground.

ALLAN

And one more thing. I honestly
believe that you loved her more
than Robin ever did, ever could.

GISBORNE looks back at ALLAN.

ALLAN (cont'd)

How many times did you put your
neck on the line for her?

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE thinks.

ALLAN (cont'd)
When did Robin ever do that?

GISBORNE looks over at ROBIN.

ALLAN (cont'd)
She also defended you, and came to
your rescue, more than once.

GISBORNE looks back at ALLAN.

ALLAN (cont'd)
Didn't she convince the Sheriff to
surrender the diamonds to save your
life?

GISBORNE remembers the incident.

ALLAN (cont'd)
Didn't she convince the Sheriff to
trade Djaq for you?

Silence.

ALLAN (cont'd)
She didn't have to do that, did
she?

GISBORNE realizes ALLAN is right.

GISBORNE
No. She didn't.

GISBORNE looks at ALLAN, smiles, and places a hand on his
shoulder.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
Thanks, Allan. I...

ALLAN
(smile)
Don't mention it. That's what
friends are for.

GISBORNE gives him a look.

GISBORNE
Friends?

ALLAN

Yeah.

GISBORNE

Haven't had a "friend" in a long time.

ROBIN looks over. GISBORNE rises and heads over to the fire. ALLAN watches GISBORNE walk away, waits a few seconds, then follows.

MUCH

(to Robin)

How long did Tuck say he would be gone?

ROBIN

He didn't.

MUCH

He's been gone for days, you think we should go look for him?

GISBORNE sits at the fire.

GISBORNE

Tuck can take of himself.

MUCH

I know, but...

ROBIN gives MUCH a look.

ROBIN

Much, shut up.

MUCH gives ROBIN a look. ALLAN sits at the fire. MUCH is about to say something, but he notices that ROBIN and now GISBORNE are giving him that look. He says nothing.

FADE OUT:

22

SHERWOOD FOREST - PATH - 3 DAYS LATER

22

A woman (named DEBORAH) is walking down the path. She appears to be looking for someone or something.

CAMERA PANS to show a figure watching her from the bushes. The figure exits the bushes and sneaks up behind DEBORAH. It's ROBIN.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Boo!

DEBORAH jumps and spins around. ROBIN laughs. She recognizes him.

DEBORAH

Robin. You...

DEBORAH raises a hand as if to slap him. He grabs it.

ROBIN

Easy.

ROBIN smiles. DEBORAH smiles back.

ROBIN (cont'd)

So, Deborah....

ROBIN leans on his bow and continues line without stopping.

ROBIN (cont'd)

What has you roaming the mighty
Sherwood alone?

Silence. She has a concerned look on her face. ROBIN remembers that she appeared to be looking for something, or was it someone?

ROBIN (cont'd)

Did you loose something?

DEBORAH

No I...

(beat)

I was looking for someone.

Momentary pause. ROBIN looks at her with raised eyebrows.

ROBIN

In the forest? Who were you...

DEBORAH gives him a "who do you think" look.

DEBORAH

You actually.

ROBIN looks at her confused. Why would she be looking for him?

ROBIN

Me?

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH

Yes.

ROBIN

Why?

DEBORAH

I need your help.

ROBIN is curious. DEBORAH starts to wonder if this was a mistake. Maybe he won't help her. ROBIN waits a few seconds for her to continue. When she doesn't, he prompts her.

ROBIN

What can I help you with?

DEBORAH

I need you to help me find...

(2 beats)

...someone.

ROBIN

Who?

No reply. ROBIN prompts her again.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Deborah, I can't find someone if I don't know who...

DEBORAH

Sir Guy.

ROBIN raises an eyebrow. Was she serious?

ROBIN

Sir Guy? Of Gisborne?

DEBORAH

Is there another?

ROBIN

(mutter)

One is enough.

DEBORAH

(concern)

Robin, please. No one has seen him in months. It's not like him to be away for so long. I'm really starting to worry.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
He can take care of himself.

DEBORAH
I know but, I don't want history to
repeat itself. Last time...

He remembers what happened the last time. He looks at her.

ROBIN
That was different.

DEBORAH
I know. But still, I...

ROBIN
Why?

DEBORAH
(confused)
Why what?

ROBIN
Why do you want me to find him?

ROBIN says the next line not really meaning it. But since GISBORNE's involvement with the gang is still not commonly known, he needs to keep up appearances. (There is no pause between lines.)

ROBIN (cont'd)
Locksley is better off without him.

ROBIN turns and starts to walk off, knowing she will stop him.

DEBORAH
How long have we known each other?

ROBIN stops, and turns back to face her.

ROBIN
A long time.

DEBORAH
(pleadingly)
He's not a monster, Robin. You know
that.

ROBIN
Yeah. I know.

DEBORAH
 It's not like him to just vanish.
 He hasn't been to Locksley Manor in
 months. He hasn't been to
 Nottingham or the Castle either.
 I've checked. It's like he's
 just...

ROBIN can hear the concern in her voice and gives in.

ROBIN
 Okay.

DEBORAH
 You mean that?

ROBIN
 Yes.

ROBIN goes to her and places a hand on her shoulder.

ROBIN (cont'd)
 I'll help you.

DEBORAH
 (smile)
 Thank you.

ROBIN
 Come on.

ROBIN and DEBORAH walk off.

CUT TO:

23

OUTLAW CAMP - ABOUT 1/2 HOUR LATER

23

MUCH appears to be cooking. LITTLE JOHN is sitting alone.
 GISBORNE is off to one side, daydreaming. ALLAN enters. All
 eyes turn to him.

ALLAN
 Robin is coming.

MUCH
 I hope he brought dinner.

ALLAN
 No.
 (beat)
 But he is bringing someone.

Everyone raises an eyebrow. Before anyone can say anything,
 ALLAN continues.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN (cont'd)

A woman.

LITTLE JOHN / MUCH

A woman?

LITTLE JOHN and MUCH run to the door to get a look.

GISBORNE

(mutter)

So much for a secret base.

FOCUS ON: DOORWAY. CAMERA positions itself behind MUCH.

MUCH

Hang on. I know her.

ALLAN

You do?

MUCH

She's from Locksley.

FOCUS ON: GISBORNE. GISBORNE is curious and ventures over.

FOCUS ON: DOORWAY. GISBORNE recognizes her.

GISBORNE

(mutter)

Deborah.

MUCH hears what GISBORNE says and looks at him.

MUCH

That's right. Deborah.

GISBORNE turns and walks away.

FOCUS ON: GISBORNE. CAMERA follows GISBORNE as he heads away from the group to a shadowy part of the camp. He is almost hidden. You might not see him if you didn't know he was there.

FOCUS ON: DOORWAY. MUCH looks at GISBORNE.

MUCH (cont'd)

You know her then, I take it.

FOCUS ON: GISBORNE

GISBORNE

Yes. You could say that.

(CONTINUED)

FOCUS ON: DOORWAY. MUCH realizes that of course Gisborne knows her.

MUCH
(feeling a little stupid)
Of course you do. I mean she does
work in Locksley Manor. And you...

LITTLE JOHN
Sh.

Group goes silent.

CAMERA moves to behind MUCH and we see ROBIN and DEBORAH approach.

FOCUS ON: FIRE. MUCH, LITTLE JOHN, and ALLAN head to the fire and sit down. GISBORNE stays where he is.

FOCUS ON: DOORWAY. ROBIN and DEBORAH enter. ROBIN notices LITTLE JOHN, MUCH, and ALLAN at the fire and looks around and sees GISBORNE off in a corner. ROBIN lets GISBORNE know that he knows he is there but will not say anything. ROBIN motions DEBORAH to join the gang at the fire. They head over.

FOCUS ON: FIRE. ROBIN and DEBORAH sit. ROBIN looks at DEBORAH.

ROBIN
Let me introduce everyone.

ROBIN indicates MUCH.

ROBIN (cont'd)
You already know Much.

DEBORAH
Yes.

MUCH and DEBORAH nod to each other. ROBIN looks to LITTLE JOHN.

ROBIN
John....

LITTLE JOHN and DEBORAH nod to each other. ROBIN looks at ALLAN.

ROBIN (cont'd)
...Allan.

ALLAN and DEBORAH nod to each other.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
Men, this is Deborah.

ALLAN gives ROBIN a "you forgot Guy" look. ROBIN gives ALLAN a "no I didn't" look. DEBORAH looks at ROBIN.

DEBORAH
Where's everyone else?

ROBIN
They're around.

ROBIN looks over at GISBORNE.

LITTLE JOHN
So, what brings you to...

ROBIN
She has asked for my help in finding someone.

MUCH
Who?

ROBIN glances at GISBORNE again. No one notices.

ALLAN
Come on. Who is it? Who does she want...

ROBIN
(smile)
That's the best part.

Momentary pause. Everyone looks at ROBIN.

ROBIN (cont'd)
I don't *have* to find him.

Everyone is confused. Including DEBORAH.

DEBORAH
What? You said you would...

ROBIN
And I have.

Everyone is still confused.

MUCH
What do you...

ROBIN

I don't have to find him, because
he isn't missing.

DEBORAH

Of course he is.

ROBIN

No he isn't. He's right here.

(beat)

Aren't you, Guy?

DEBORAH

What? Here? Where? I don't...

GISBORNE walks out. DEBORAH rises.

GISBORNE

Deborah.

DEBORAH

Sir Guy.

She goes to him. The gang is stunned.

GISBORNE

What are you...

DEBORAH reaches him and kisses him. The gang all raise their
eyebrows. ROBIN smiles and shakes his head from side to
side. DEBORAH and GISBORNE break kiss. GISBORNE looks a
little stunned.

DEBORAH

This is where you've been all this
time?

GISBORNE

Well, I...

DEBORAH

With Robin?

GISBORNE

Yes.

DEBORAH hugs him, tightly. The gang are watching them
wondering what is going on. GISBORNE gives ROBIN a look.

DEBORAH

I looked everywhere for you.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

(mutter)

Obviously not everywhere or you
would have...

ROBIN gives him a look. ALLAN shuts up. DEBORAH breaks the hug and looks at GISBORNE.

DEBORAH

No one. And I do mean no one. Has
seen you in months.

GISBORNE

(mutter)

Kinda the plan.

GISBORNE looks at her, and raises an eyebrow.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

(concerned)

Why are you looking for me?

DEBORAH

I... I...

DEBORAH's not sure how to really answer. Should she tell him she loves him? That she always has? It's obvious he doesn't remember her, but it was so long ago. And he has changed so much. She finally finishes the sentence.

DEBORAH (cont'd)

(quietly)

I miss you.

She thought she was being quiet, but she forgot where she was. These guys could hear a twig snap a mile away.

LITTLE JOHN and MUCH stifle a laugh. ROBIN and ALLAN say nothing.

GISBORNE

You *miss* me?

DEBORAH

Yes. Is that so hard to believe?

GISBORNE

I don't think anyone has ever said
that to me before.

DEBORAH

Well *I* did. I do.

Momentary pause.

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH (cont'd)
You aren't always the nicest
person, Sir Guy...

LITTLE JOHN
(mutter)
That's an understatement.

DEBORAH
...But you're all I have.

ROBIN gives LITTLE JOHN a look. LITTLE JOHN gives ROBIN a
"sorry" look back.

Momentary pause.

DEBORAH (cont'd)
Working for you let me see a side
of you that hasn't been seen in
years. I know how much you...

GISBORNE gives her a look.

GISBORNE
You think you know me?

DEBORAH
Sir Guy, I...

GISBORNE
You don't know me. No one does.

ALLAN
That's not true.

GISBORNE gives ALLAN an icy stare. ALLAN shuts up. GISBORNE
walks away from DEBORAH. She looks over at him. His back is
now to the group. She looks at ROBIN. ROBIN gives her a "go
to him" look. DEBORAH walks over to GISBORNE. ROBIN watches,
ready to interfere if he has to. But he doesn't think he
will have to. DEBORAH places a hand on GISBORNE's arm.

DEBORAH
(pleadingly)
Please, m'lord. Come home. Come
back to...

GISBORNE doesn't look at her. He looks at the ground.

GISBORNE
(sadly)
I can't. Too much has...

DEBORAH
(still pleading)
Please.

GISBORNE turns and faces her. DEBORAH removes her hand from his shoulder. He gives her a look. A look she has seen many times before. A look that says "I'm sorry. I can't". No one says anything. After a few moments she accepts it.

DEBORAH (cont'd)
(sadly)
Okay.
(beat)
At least I know you are all right.
(beat)
Just know, that if you ever...

GISBORNE
(smile)
Thanks.

DEBORAH smiles back at him. She's missed his smile. He doesn't smile often, but when he does, it makes her feel so good.

DEBORAH
Walk me back to Locksley?

GISBORNE
Sure.

DEBORAH and GISBORNE head for the doorway. As they pass ROBIN stands.

DEBORAH
See ya later, Robin.

ROBIN
(smile)
Later, Deborah.

DEBORAH hugs him and whispers in his ear.

DEBORAH
(whisper)
Thank you.

ROBIN looks at GISBORNE. They share a look. ROBIN and DEBORAH break the hug. DEBORAH and GISBORNE exit. ROBIN sits back down to notice that LITTLE JOHN, MUCH, and ALLAN are all staring at him.

ALLAN
Okay. Out with it.

ROBIN looks to ALLAN.

ROBIN
What?

LITTLE JOHN
Why did you really bring her here?

ROBIN
(play innocent)
What do you mean?

LITTLE JOHN
You could have told her you knew
where he was without bringing her
here.

Momentary pause. ROBIN gives in.

ROBIN
I thought Guy needed to know that
he wasn't alone. That someone cared
about...

MUCH
What?

ROBIN
He keeps a lot bottled up.
(mutter)
Always did.
(normal)
It's not good.

ALLAN
(understandingly)
And you thought she could...

ROBIN
Yeah.

ALLAN thinks that ROBIN may be right. He'd seen DEBORAH a few times when he was at Locksley Manor. He thought he'd caught Guy looking at her when no one was looking. And he was pretty sure the only reason Guy never made any moves on her was because of Marian.

ROBIN knows DEBORAH has always had a "thing" for GISBORNE. He never understood why.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
Look, it's obvious that she really
cares and...

ALLAN
And you wanted to play Cupid.

LITTLE JOHN
(look at Allan)
For Gisborne? Why would...

ROBIN
Why not?

ALLAN knows that Guy is still grieving Marian.

ALLAN
I don't think he's ready.

Everyone looks at ALLAN. ALLAN gets a "what" look on his
face.

MUCH
Not ready?

ALLAN
I think I know him better than you
do. I mean I did work with him for
a few months.

LITTLE JOHN
Don't remind us.

ROBIN doesn't want a fight to break out.

ROBIN
John.

ALLAN rises and looks to ROBIN.

ALLAN
This could back fire, Robin.

ROBIN
I doubt it.

ALLAN gives ROBIN a look.

ROBIN (cont'd)
What could possibly go wrong?

Silence. MUCH thinks of something.

MUCH
He could decide that she is right.
And...

Everyone looks at MUCH. MUCH continues his line without stopping

MUCH (cont'd)
...go back.

MUCH notices the looks and gets defensive.

MUCH (cont'd)
I mean, it is possible. He could see Locksley, think of everything he's given up, and go back.

ROBIN
No. He wouldn't.

MUCH
You don't know that.

ROBIN
Yes. I do.

LITTLE JOHN thinks he hears something in ROBIN's voice. Why was ROBIN so sure Gisborne wouldn't leave.

LITTLE JOHN
What makes you so sure he won't?

ROBIN
I know him. He...

ROBIN stops himself. Should he tell them? Could he tell them?

CUT TO:

24 FOREST PATH TO LOCKSLEY

24

GISBORNE and DEBORAH are walking, side-by-side, quietly. After a few moments GISBORNE breaks the silence.

GISBORNE
Did you mean what you said back there?

DEBORAH looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH
Every word.

GISBORNE looks at her.

GISBORNE
You really missed me?

DEBORAH
(smile)
Yes.

GISBORNE stops walking. DEBORAH stops.

GISBORNE
Why?

DEBORAH
Isn't it obvious?

GISBORNE looks at her with a raised eyebrow. She goes to him.

DEBORAH (cont'd)
I've seen the way you look at me
when you think no one is looking.

GISBORNE looks to the ground. She lifts his head up.

DEBORAH (cont'd)
I tried to let you know that you I
feel it too. Always have. I wanted
you to know that you could have me.
I wanted you to know that it could
be like it was be...

GISBORNE
I...

DEBORAH raises a finger to his lips, shushing him.

DEBORAH
I know your heart belongs to her.
It will always belong to her.
She...

GISBORNE brings his hand to the side of her face and cups it.

GISBORNE
Deborah, I...

DEBORAH smiles. He has that look again.

DEBORAH
Kiss me, m'lord.

GISBORNE
(smile)
Guy. Call me Guy.

DEBORAH
(smile)
Kiss me, Guy.

GISBORNE kisses her.

CUT TO:

25 LOCKSLEY 25
The SHERIFF and some guards ride into the village.

PAN TO:

26 OUTSIDE LOCKSLEY MANOR 26
The SHERIFF and his men stop outside the manor house.

SHERIFF
Well, let's go see where he is!

The SHERIFF dismounts.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
(yell)
Gisborne!!!!

The SHERIFF enters the house, still yelling for Gisborne.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
(yell)
Gis-borne!!!!

The CAMERA stays outside focused on the door as the SHERIFF searches the entire house yelling for Gisborne. After a few moments he exits. Not happy. The SHERIFF yells at the Villagers.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
Where. Is. He!!!

MALE VILLAGER #1
I don't know m'lord.

The SHERIFF looks at him disbelievingly.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF

You expect me to believe that?

MALE VILLAGER #1

It's the truth, m'lord.

The SHERIFF looks around addressing the entire village.

SHERIFF

He is lord of this village! Surely
you've seen him!

MALE VILLAGER #2

No, m'lord.

The SHERIFF looks at the man.

MALE VILLAGER #2 (cont'd)

He's not been seen in months,
m'lord.

SHERIFF

I don't believe you.

MALE VILLAGER #2

Why would I lie, m'lord?

The SHERIFF thinks. The villager was right. These peasants are no fan of Gisborne's. If they knew anything they'd tell him. Wouldn't they? The SHERIFF looks around.

PAN TO:

27

HILLSIDE OVERLOOKING LOCKSLEY

27

GISBORNE and DEBORAH are approaching. They hear the ruckus going on in the village and approach to a spot where they can observe.

CAMERA positions itself behind GISBORNE and DEBORAH.

They see the SHERIFF and his men. They can hear them as well.

SHERIFF

Search the entire village.

GISBORNE looks unhappy. Down below the guards start to search the village.

GISBORNE

The Sheriff.

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH
Wonder what he wants?

DEBORAH's question is answered as the SHERIFF bellows from below.

SHERIFF
GISBORNE!!!!

GISBORNE looks at DEBORAH.

GISBORNE
Me.

The SHERIFF bellows from below again.

SHERIFF
Come out, come out, where ever you are?

GISBORNE gets a look of pure hatred on his face.

GISBORNE
I've waited long enough. This ends here. Now.

DEBORAH
No.

GISBORNE
What?

DEBORAH
If you go down there, alone, he'll...

A voice sounds from behind them.

ROBIN
Maybe we can help.

GISBORNE and DEBORAH turn and see ROBIN, MUCH, LITTLE JOHN, and ALLAN.

GISBORNE
Following me, Robin?

ROBIN
No.

GISBORNE gives him an "Oh really" look.

ROBIN (cont'd)
We spotted the Sheriff and his men
in the forest and followed them
here.

GISBORNE
Oh.

ROBIN
(smile)
We've been here for a while.
(beat)
You guys been up here the whole
time?

GISBORNE and DEBORAH look at each other. DEBORAH speaks
without thinking.

DEBORAH
No. We just got here.

MUCH
Just now? What took you so long to
get here? You left...

ROBIN gives MUCH a "shut up, Much" look. MUCH gets it.

MUCH (cont'd)
Oh.

GISBORNE looks at ROBIN.

GISBORNE
So. You got a plan?

ROBIN smiles. GISBORNE used to hate that smile, but he is
getting to like it.

JUMP TO:

28 LOCKSLEY

28

A guard approaches the SHERIFF.

GUARD
He's not here, m'lord. We've
searched everywhere.

SHERIFF
(yell)
Well he didn't just vanish! He has
to be...

(CONTINUED)

The SHERIFF stops talking as he sees a young woman enter the village. He calls to her.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

You!

DEBORAH stops and looks at the SHERIFF.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Come here!

DEBORAH goes to the SHERIFF. As she draws closer the SHERIFF thinks he recognizes her. The SHERIFF dismounts and waits. DEBORAH reaches him.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

You work in the Manor House, don't you?

DEBORAH

Yes, m'lord.

SHERIFF

(smile)

Good.

The SHERIFF gets in her face.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Your master.

(beat)

Where is he?

DEBORAH looks at him questioningly.

DEBORAH

Sir Guy?

SHERIFF

Do you have another Master?

DEBORAH

No, m'lord.

Momentary pause.

SHERIFF

Well?

DEBORAH

I don't know, m'lord. I... He hasn't been here in months.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF

Damn!!!!

The SHERIFF turns his back on her. Momentary pause.

DEBORAH

But...

The SHERIFF turns back to face her.

SHERIFF

But?

DEBORAH

I can't be certain, but...

SHERIFF

Yes, yes, spit it out woman.

DEBORAH

I think I just saw him in the forest.

SHERIFF

(raise eyebrow)

The forest? What would...

DEBORAH

I'm not saying it was him, m'lord. He looked...

SHERIFF

But it could have been?

DEBORAH

Yes, m'lord.

The SHERIFF thinks to himself, then he looks at two guards.

SHERIFF

You two, go check it out.

The SHERIFF addresses the rest of the guards as the two men he just signaled out mount their horses and ride off.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

The rest of you, back to the castle.

The SHERIFF mounts his horse and leaves with the rest of his guards. The villagers return to what they were doing before the Sheriff arrived.

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH looks up the hillside where she knows Guy and ROBIN's men are hiding. DEBORAH heads to the Manor House.

CUT TO:

29

FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT - 1 WEEK LATER

29

GISBORNE and DEBORAH are standing by a stream. It is a starry night. The moon is full. GISBORNE is behind her. His arms are around her waist. She is leaning back, against his chest. GISBORNE whispers in her ear.

GISBORNE

It is getting late.

DEBORAH sighs.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

I should get you back.

DEBORAH

Do you have to?

GISBORNE

We've been over this, D. I...

DEBORAH

But I want to stay here. With you.

GISBORNE

I know, but...

DEBORAH turns in his arms and looks at him.

DEBORAH

Then stay with me. At Locksley.

GISBORNE

You know I can't. It's too dangerous.

GISBORNE lovingly strokes the side of her face.

DEBORAH

Just for the night.

He looks at her. He knows what would happen if the Sheriff caught him.

GISBORNE

The Sheriff has spies everywhere.
He...

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH
Not at the Manor House.

GISBORNE raises an eyebrow. DEBORAH puts her arms around his neck.

DEBORAH (cont'd)
(smile seductively)
How long has it been since you've
slept in a real bed?

GISBORNE thinks to himself, "Too long".

DEBORAH (cont'd)
Come on. No one will know.

GISBORNE thinks a little longer, then reluctantly, agrees.

GISBORNE
Okay.

DEBORAH smiles and kisses him.

JUMP TO:

30 LOCKSLEY - HEADING TO MANOR HOUSE

30

GISBORNE and DEBORAH are sneaking through the village on the way to the Manor House. They pass a house close to the Manor house and don't notice the man near the window. MAN watches GISBORNE and DEBORAH sneaking past.

MAN
(quietly)
He's back!

MAN waits till he can no longer see GISBORNE and DEBORAH then runs out of the village.

PAN TO:

31 MANOR HOUSE - INSIDE

31

Door opens. GISBORNE and DEBORAH enter. GISBORNE looks around. He's missed this place. He didn't realize how much until just now. DEBORAH takes GISBORNE's hand in her's and leads him to her room.

PAN TO:

32 BEDROOM

32

DEBORAH and GISBORNE enter. GISBORNE swoops her up in his arms and carries her over to the bed. He places her down on the bed. They undress each other. (Note: GISBORNE does not take off his "dog tag". It stays.) They make love.

FADE OUT:

33 NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - GREAT HALL - NEXT MORNING

33

SHERIFF is sitting in his chair, daydreaming. He is wondering where GISBORNE is. A guard enters.

GUARD

M'lord, there is a man from
Locksley here to see you.

The SHERIFF perks to attention at the mention of Locksley.

SHERIFF

Locksley?

GUARD

Yes, m'lord. He arrived last night.

SHERIFF

What does he want?

GUARD

Wouldn't say, m'lord. Said he'd
only talk to you.

The SHERIFF is curious.

SHERIFF

Show him in.

GUARD

Yes, m'lord.

The guard goes to the door and motions someone in from outside. A man enters. It is the man that spotted Gisborne and Deborah last night. The guard brings the man to the SHERIFF. The SHERIFF looks at the man.

SHERIFF

Well, what is it?

MAN

(smile)

He is back, m'lord.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF
(raise eyebrow)
Who's back?

MAN
Sir Guy, m'lord.

SHERIFF sits at attention.

SHERIFF
Gisborne?

MAN
Yes, m'lord. I saw him last night.

SHERIFF
Where?

MAN
Locksley, m'lord. Heading to the
manor house he was, m'lord.

SHERIFF is intrigued.

SHERIFF
Hmmm.

MAN
And he wasn't alone, m'lord.

SHERIFF
(curious)
Oh?

MAN
Deborah was with him, m'lord.

SHERIFF
(raise eyebrow)
Who?

MAN
She works at the Manor House,
m'lord.

The SHERIFF thinks he knows the woman.

SHERIFF
5'6", brunette, blue eyes, big...

MAN
(smile)
Yes, m'lord. That's how I knew it
was him. If she hadn't have been
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAN (cont'd)
there, I wouldn't have recognized
him, m'lord.

The SHERIFF smiles.

SHERIFF
Gisborne, Gisborne, Gisborne, when
will you learn.

The man looks at the SHERIFF.

MAN
I don't suppose there is a reward
for this information, m'lord?

The SHERIFF looks at him and smiles.

SHERIFF
Reward?
(beat)
Of course.

The man smiles. The SHERIFF looks at the guard and signals
him to take the man away.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
Guard. Take him to the dungeon.

MAN
(confused)
M'lord?

SHERIFF
Last time I checked, betraying your
master was still a crime.

MAN
Betraying? I...

SHERIFF
Silence.

The Guard takes the man away.

JUMP TO:

34 LOCKSLEY - MANOR HOUSE - BEDROOM

34

GISBORNE and DEBORAH are asleep. DEBORAH wakes first. She turns over and sees GISBORNE asleep on his back. He looks so peaceful.

DEBORAH turns to the bedside table and opens the drawer. She reaches in and pulls out a box. She opens the box. It contains a necklace with a black arrow pendant. She runs her fingers along the pendant, trying not to cry.

DEBORAH

(mutter)

So long ago. Can you have finally
found your way back to me, my love?
Can we...

GISBORNE stirs. She puts the box back in the table, closes the drawer and turns to him. He opens his eyes.

DEBORAH (cont'd)

Sleep well?

GISBORNE

Better than I have in a while.

DEBORAH

(smile)

Good.

DEBORAH rolls onto him. GISBORNE looks at her.

GISBORNE

I really should be going. Robin
will...

DEBORAH

A few more minutes won't make a
difference.

She kisses him. He pulls her close to him. They make love.

CUT TO:

35 OUTLAW CAMP - 2 HOURS LATER

35

ROBIN, MUCH, ALLAN, and LITTLE JOHN are getting ready to head out.

ROBIN

Who saw him last?

Silence. After a few seconds ALLAN speaks up.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

I know he was meeting Deborah last night. Maybe...

ROBIN looks to ALLAN.

ROBIN

Deborah?

ALLAN

Yeah. They've been spending a lot of time together lately.

ROBIN

Really?

ALLAN

Guess you were right.

LITTLE JOHN

Robin, we can't wait for him. We have to...

The door opens and GISBORNE enters. All eyes turn to him. LITTLE JOHN looks to ROBIN.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)

Now, can we go?

GISBORNE

Go? Where?

ROBIN signals the men to move out. ROBIN looks at GISBORNE as he passes him.

ROBIN

I'll explain on the way.

ROBIN and GISBORNE leave.

CUT TO:

36

LOCKSLEY - MANOR HOUSE

36

DEBORAH is daydreaming of GISBORNE. She is holding the necklace with the black arrow pendant in her hands.

DEBORAH

Tonight I will show you this and see if you remember when you...

The door swings open. She jumps, startled, and hides the necklace in a fist. Two guards grab her. She struggles as they drag her out.

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH
Let go of me!!!

They drag her out.

PAN TO:

37 OUTSIDE

37

The SHERIFF is outside the main door on his horse. The guards exit with DEBORAH. DEBORAH is about to protest again, but she sees the SHERIFF. The SHERIFF smiles his evil smile and glares at her. DEBORAH tries to jerk her hand free. (Note: She does this so she can drop the necklace off to the side on the ground behind her. No one notices.) The guards tighten their grasp on her.

SHERIFF
You lied to me.

DEBORAH
What?

SHERIFF
Lying is not tolerated.
(beat)
And collaborating, is...

DEBORAH
(raise eyebrow)
Collaborating, m'lord?

SHERIFF
You have been seen in his company.
You know where he is.
(beat)
You will tell me where he is, or
you will die.

DEBORAH looks at him.

DEBORAH
Never.

SHERIFF
What?

DEBORAH
I will not betray...

SHERIFF
Then you will die.

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH looks worried. She starts to struggle. The SHERIFF looks at another guard, and signals him over.

GUARD

Yes, m'lord?

SHERIFF

Kill her.

GUARD

Yes, m'lord.

DEBORAH gets a look of shock. Guard draws his sword and heads to her. The SHERIFF looks at DEBORAH.

SHERIFF

That's right. You will die here.
Now. No one will come to save you.
I've made sure of that.

DEBORAH raises an eyebrow. What did he mean by "he'd made sure".

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Care to change your answer?

DEBORAH

Do what you must. I will not betray
Guy.

SHERIFF

(raise eyebrow)

Oh, Guy, is it?

The SHERIFF gives the guard the signal. The Guard kills her. The two guards holding her drop her. She falls to the ground. The SHERIFF and the guards ride off.

The villagers, who for the most part have been hiding and staying out of the way, gather around. They are not sure what to do.

Once the SHERIFF and his men are out of sight, two men pick up DEBORAH's body and bring her back inside the Manor House. The rest of the villagers return to what they were doing.

JUMP TO:

ROBIN and the gang have stopped a convoy. All the guards are dead, except for one who is tied to a tree. ROBIN's men have been searching the wagon. It is empty.

LITTLE JOHN

Nothing.

ROBIN

You sure?

ALLAN

Yeah.

MUCH

I don't understand?

The guard starts snickering. GISBORNE goes over to him.

GISBORNE

What's so funny?

GUARD

You've been had, *Sir!*

ALLAN

What?

GUARD

Don't you get it? This was a diversion. To keep you from...

The GUARD stops talking. LITTLE JOHN addresses him.

LITTLE JOHN

From what?

The GUARD is quiet. GISBORNE advances, and brings his sword to the guard's neck.

GISBORNE

Tell me?

Silence. GISBORNE presses the sword closer to the man's skin.

GUARD

Locksley.

Everyone exchanges looks.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

Why?

GUARD

Don't know. The Sheriff just said he had a *matter* to attend to there and didn't want Robin Hood interfering.

Guard laughs.

GUARD (cont'd)

Wait till he finds out that you're now helping Hood. He...

GISBORNE kills him, then stares at the body.

ROBIN

What did you...

GISBORNE pulls the sword out.

MUCH

(interrupt)

What do you think the "*matter*" is that the Sheriff has to...

GISBORNE looks at ROBIN, and they share a look.

GISBORNE

Deborah!

GISBORNE runs off, heading to Locksley.

ROBIN

Guy! Wait!

ROBIN runs after him. The rest of the gang run after ROBIN.

JUMP TO:

39 LOCKSLEY - MANOR HOUSE

39

The door flies open. GISBORNE enters.

GISBORNE

Deborah?

The few villagers that were in the house all snap to attention at the sound of their Master's voice.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE (cont'd)

De...

GISBORNE notices the crowd in the "living room". The group appear to be gathered around something. GISBORNE gets a very bad feeling.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Move!

Everyone moves. He sees DEBORAH's body.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

No!

GISBORNE runs over to her. ROBIN and gang enter the house and see DEBORAH. They stop. The villagers all run out of the house.

FOCUS ON: GISBORNE. GISBORNE reaches her.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

D. I'm sorry. I...

GISBORNE cradles her head in his arms, stroking her hair and face. He starts to cry.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND HIS GANG. ROBIN signals his men to leave. They leave. ROBIN goes to GISBORNE.

FOCUS ON: GISBORNE. GISBORNE feels a hand on his shoulder. He looks up. It's ROBIN.

ROBIN

I'm sorry, Guy. I...

GISBORNE is about to say something, when he notices a young boy is still there. GISBORNE addresses the boy.

GISBORNE

What happened?

BOY

(nervous)

The Sheriff, m'lord. He ordered one of his guards to kill her.

ROBIN

Why?

BOY

She wouldn't tell him what he wanted to know.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

Which was?

BOY

He wanted you, m'lord. He said she'd lied to him and that he knew that she knew where you were because she had been seen with you.

Silence. The boy comes over.

BOY (cont'd)

She wouldn't tell him, m'lord. She...

ROBIN gives the boy a "thank-you" look. The boy leaves. GISBORNE looks back at DEBORAH. ROBIN looks at GISBORNE.

ROBIN

I'll wait for you outside.

ROBIN leaves.

CONTINUE TO:

40 OUTSIDE

40

ROBIN exits. Out of the corner of his eye, he notices something shining in the sunlight. He bends down to pick it up. It's the necklace Deborah dropped earlier. He picks it up, strokes it, and puts it in his pocket. He looks back at the closed door behind him, then turns and heads to the gang.

JUMP TO:

41 ABOUT 30 MINUTES LATER

41

ROBIN, MUCH, ALLAN, and LITTLE JOHN, are all waiting for GISBORNE. ROBIN is leaning on his bow. ALLAN is spinning his sword on its tip on the ground. LITTLE JOHN is leaning on his staff. MUCH is pacing.

LITTLE JOHN

We should be leaving, Robin.

MUCH

He's right. We've been here too long.

ALLAN looks to the Manor House. He wonders why Gisborne hasn't come out yet. ROBIN address LITTLE JOHN and MUCH.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
Go if you must. But I'm staying.

MUCH
Robin.

ROBIN
I'm not leaving him alone.

ALLAN is still looking at the Manor House. He gets a feeling that something is not right. He puts his sword in his belt, and heads to the house. MUCH sees him.

MUCH
Where's he going?

ROBIN
Leave him.

MUCH looks at ROBIN. He can't believe how much Robin has come to accept Gisborne over the last few months.

ROBIN looks over at ALLAN as ALLAN is entering the house, and continues his line.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Allan might be able to...

ROBIN's line is cut short as ALLAN immediately comes back out.

ALLAN
He's gone!!!

ROBIN runs to the house. MUCH and LITTLE JOHN follow.

PAN TO:

42 INSIDE

42

ALLAN reenters, followed by ROBIN, then MUCH, then LITTLE JOHN. The place is empty.

ROBIN
He must have snuck out the back.

MUCH
You think he's gone to confront the Sheriff.

ALLAN notices that DEBORAH's body is gone.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

No.

ALLAN points to where DEBORAH was. Everyone looks.

ALLAN (cont'd)

I think he's...

ROBIN

Yeah.

ROBIN looks to MUCH and LITTLE JOHN.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Go back to camp.

MUCH

What are you...?

ROBIN

Allan and I will look for Guy.

ALLAN raises an eyebrow, and gives ROBIN a look.

ALLAN

Why do I have to...

ROBIN

(turn and look at Allan)

You know him, don't you?

ALLAN

Yeah, sorta. But so do you.

ROBIN wonders what ALLAN meant by that. Does he know? Could Gisborne have told him? ALLAN is not sure what ROBIN is thinking. The look he is giving him could mean a few different things.

ALLAN (cont'd)

Okay.

LITTLE JOHN and MUCH leave. ROBIN looks at ALLAN.

ROBIN

Where would he have taken her?

ALLAN thinks.

CUT TO:

43

SOMEWHERE IN THE FOREST

43

GISBORNE is kneeling by the grave he has just made for DEBORAH. He has now buried two women killed by the Sheriff. GISBORNE has his head down.

GISBORNE

I'm sorry. I never should have let you talk me into spending the night in Locksley.

GISBORNE is about to say something else, when he senses someone behind him. He's amazed how his senses have heightened since joining ROBIN. Not only can he sense someone behind him, but he knows who it is.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Not as stealthy as Robin, are you Allan?

GISBORNE turns to look at him.

ALLAN

I wasn't trying to be.

GISBORNE

Did he send you after me?

ALLAN

(lie)

No.

GISBORNE looks at him. He knows he is lying and gives ALLAN that look that let's him know he knows he is lying.

ALLAN (cont'd)

He's worried about you.

GISBORNE

I can take care of myself. I don't need Robin to...

ALLAN

Guy, it's me. You don't have to pretend with me. You're not alone. We...

GISBORNE

Maybe this was a mistake.

GISBORNE gets up and walks over to tree. He leans on the tree. ALLAN looks over at him.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

Maybe what was a mistake?

GISBORNE doesn't answer. ALLAN walks over to him.

ALLAN (cont'd)

Guy, I...

GISBORNE

Maybe I should just...

GISBORNE looks at his "dog tag".

GISBORNE (cont'd)

...give this back.

ALLAN

And do what? Go back to your old life? Go back to the Sheriff?

Silence. After a few seconds, ALLAN continues.

ALLAN (cont'd)

You can't.

GISBORNE

(look at Allan)

It would be so easy. It...

ALLAN

No. You've come so far. Marian would be so proud.

The mention of MARIAN's name stirs something in GISBORNE. He looks at ALLAN.

GISBORNE

You think so?

ALLAN

Yes. The you that is standing in front of me right now, is the you that she always knew was there. The you that she loved.

(beat)

You can't throw it all away now, Guy.

GISBORNE sits, head down. ALLAN sits beside him.

GISBORNE

Sometimes I think I'm cursed.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN
(raise eyebrow)
Cursed?

GISBORNE
My whole life. Nothing has ever
gone my way. Everyone I love dies.

Silence. ALLAN doesn't know what to say. He waits for GISBORNE to continue.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
First my parents. Then Marian. Now
Deborah. I..

ALLAN
You still have me.

GISBORNE looks at him.

GISBORNE
Thanks.

GISBORNE rises. ALLAN rises too.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
I think I need to be alone.

ALLAN
Not a good idea.

GISBORNE
Allan, I'm okay.

ALLAN's not sure about that. He can tell he's up to something. He has that look.

GISBORNE knows ALLAN will not leave.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
I'm sorry.

ALLAN
(confused)
For what?

GISBORNE
This.

GISBORNE punches ALLAN, knocking him out. GISBORNE looks down at ALLAN.

GISBORNE

Robin.

ROBIN gives him a "can you let me go" look. GISBORNE lets him go.

JUMP TO:

46

CASTLE - GREAT HALL

46

The SHERIFF is pacing. His thoughts are interrupted when a Guard enters.

GUARD

M'lord, Sir Guy is back!

SHERIFF

Really?

GUARD

Yes. He's been spotted in the city on the way to the Castle. And... He's not alone.

SHERIFF

Not alone?

GUARD

(smile)

He has Hood, m'lord.

SHERIFF

Hood?

GUARD

Yes, m'lord.

SHERIFF

Gisborne's come home. And he's brought me a present.

GUARD raises an eyebrow. The SHERIFF looks at the guard, dismissing him.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Leave me.

GUARD

Yes, m'lord.

GUARD leaves.

JUMP TO:

47 HALLWAY

47

ROBIN and GISBORNE are walking through the castle heading to the Great Hall.

GISBORNE
You shouldn't have followed me.

ROBIN
I didn't follow you. I just suspected that you might show up here.

GISBORNE gives him a look.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Guy, you need to calm down.

GISBORNE grabs ROBIN and slams him against the wall.

GISBORNE
Don't tell me what to do! I don't take orders from you! I...

GISBORNE stops talking. He let's ROBIN go.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
Sorry.

ROBIN
It's okay, Guy. This *arrangement* is still new to both of us. It will take a while to get used to it.

GISBORNE continues down the hall. ROBIN following.

PAN TO:

48 GREAT HALL

48

The SHERIFF is pacing again, muttering to himself.

SHERIFF
Gisborne. Back. I wonder what he's been up to. I wonder if all the rumours are true?
(beat)
I hope he's still not pining over Marian.
(beat)
He better...

(CONTINUED)

The SHERIFF's thoughts are interrupted by a commotion outside the door. The SHERIFF looks to the door as it comes crashing in. GISBORNE and ROBIN enter. But something looks different. They seem to be together. Maybe all those rumours were true.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
Ah, Gisborne. The prodigal son returns. And with Hood, how thoughtful.

GISBORNE and ROBIN advance. The SHERIFF starts to feel uneasy. He's not sure why. Then he notices the "dog tag" around GISBORNE's neck.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
You didn't? Tell me you didn't?

GISBORNE gives him a "what" look.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
You did. Really? After all I've done for you?

GISBORNE
Done for me?

GISBORNE glares hard at the SHERIFF.

SHERIFF
I loved you like a son. And you loved me like a father once. I know you did. Don't deny it.

GISBORNE is still glaring at the SHERIFF.

GISBORNE
All you've ever done is make my life hell! If it wasn't for you...

GISBORNE is getting madder and madder. But the SHERIFF continues to taunt him, continues to push his buttons. ROBIN watches, waiting to jump in if either of them looks like they are about to go to far.

SHERIFF
If it wasn't for me, you'd be nothing. Nothing!!

The SHERIFF gets an evil smirk on his face.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Sir Guy of *Gisborne*. There hasn't been a *Gisborne* in over 20 years. I don't think anyone even remembers where it was.

ROBIN gets a look on his face. He does.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

I brought you in. I saw something in you. I made you my right hand. And this, this is how you repay me, *Gisborne*? You owe me your...

GISBORNE draws his sword.

GISBORNE

I owe you nothing. You represent everything that is loathsome in a man.

SHERIFF

(smile evilly)

I thought you loved that about me. I was always fond on you, *Gisborne*. Not overly fond, but fond.

GISBORNE raises his sword.

GISBORNE

I hate you.

ROBIN thinks to himself. "Okay, enough of this. I'm going to put a stop to it."

ROBIN

Guy, don't.

GISBORNE

Robin stay out of this.

SHERIFF

So, it's Robin now.

GISBORNE

Shut up. You have destroyed everything I ever cared about.

SHERIFF

Oh boo hoo. Poor little...

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

If it wasn't for you, I...

SHERIFF

If it wasn't for me, you'd still be...

ROBIN can tell the SHERIFF isn't helping matters.

ROBIN

You can't do this Guy. You can't.

GISBORNE

He killed Marian and...

SHERIFF

Marian. Always Marian. Grow up Gisborne. I did you a favour. She was using you. From day one.

GISBORNE

You're wrong. She cared for me.

SHERIFF

Sure she did. Keep telling yourself that.

GISBORNE

I know she did. And she was right. You are poison.

(smile)

You have no idea how much pleasure this is going to give me. You are going to die slowly. And I'm going to watch the venom drain from your body as you die.

(beat)

I should have listened to her. I should have left you like she asked. If only...

SHERIFF

What? You think she would have married you? Really? How many times did she betray you. How many times did she...

GISBORNE lunges at him.

GISBORNE

Shut up!!!

The SHERIFF can see the look in GISBORNE's eye. He's never seen him so angry. The SHERIFF looks at ROBIN for help.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
Guy. Stop.

GISBORNE stops. SHERIFF breathes a sign of relieve.

ROBIN (cont'd)
He's not worth it.

SHERIFF
He's right. I'm not.

ROBIN
You've worked so hard to turn your
life around. Don't...

GISBORNE
But he deserves it. He...

ROBIN
Yes he does. But..

The SHERIFF looks at ROBIN. ROBIN starts to slowly advance on GISBORNE.

GISBORNE
No buts. I have to do this. For
Marian. For Deborah.

ROBIN reaches GISBORNE and places his hand on the sword.

ROBIN
Have you forgotten what will happen
to Nottingham if you kill him?

GISBORNE had been so caught up in his own rage that he must have.

GISBORNE
I...

ROBIN
I know how you feel. I want him
dead too. But...
(beat)
...this isn't the way to do it.

ROBIN takes the sword from GISBORNE.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Come on, let's go.

ROBIN looks at the SHERIFF.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
Don't follow us.

The SHERIFF, grateful to be alive, nods affirmatively.
GISBORNE and ROBIN exit.

JUMP TO:

49 OUTLAW CAMP

49

The camp is deserted. TUCK enters, and noticing that he is alone, lies down on his bunk and goes to sleep.

JUMP TO:

50 A FEW HOURS LATER

50

The gang return to camp. ROBIN notices TUCK asleep.

ROBIN
Tuck's back.

ALLAN
Wonder where he's been all this time.

GISBORNE
Wonder all you want, Allan. He won't tell you.

ALLAN
What makes you say that?

GISBORNE
Just a feeling.

LITTLE JOHN
If he wanted us to know, he would have told us where he was going before he left.

TUCK starts to wake up.

ALLAN
Hey! Welcome back.

TUCK
(confused)
Back?

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN
Yeah. You've been gone for weeks.

TUCK
Weeks?

ROBIN and GISBORNE exchange a look.

ROBIN
Yes. Weeks.

TUCK
Really? I... I can't seem to
recall...

TUCK looks confused. ROBIN and GISBORNE exchange another
look.

GISBORNE
(to Robin)
I don't like this.

ROBIN
(to Gisborne)
It could be nothing, but then again
it...

TUCK looks at ROBIN and GISBORNE.

TUCK
I'm right here you know.

LITTLE JOHN
You really don't remember where
you've been for the last...

TUCK
No.

GISBORNE
What's the last thing you do
remember?

TUCK thinks.

FADE TO:

51 (305R) SHERWOOD FOREST - BY THE RIVER - 2 MONTHS LATER 51

ISABELLA races on horseback.

Two riders in black, with a crest of three yellow circles on their chests, follow her just as quickly.

ISABELLA slows her horse, dismounts, takes a jewelery box and a purse out of the saddlebags, slaps the horse away and disappears behind a tree.

The riders go past suspecting nothing.

ISABELLA spins around the tree as they pass, keeping out of sight. After they're gone, she steps quickly across the path to a hollow log and sets the box and purse inside. She pulls vines out to cover them when she hears a horse snort behind her.

She turns her head to look and sees one of the men standing, the other still on his horse. The standing man pulls out a short length of rope. ISABELLA gets to her feet, thinks a moment then lets out a breath and raises her eyebrows briefly. She holds her hands out together and steps forward.

ISABELLA

I suppose I should just come quietly.

The man slaps the rope on top of her wrists and ISABELLA raises her arms to throw off the rope, then kicks the man in the stomach and flips him over her back. She kicks him down again, pulls his sword out and approaches the man on horseback. The horse rears. She blocks his sword twice and then pulls him off the horse. The first man runs up and grabs her from behind and pulls her hands behind her.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

No! No!

ISABELLA grunts as the rope is pulled tightly around her wrists.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Please, no.

The man pushes her forward, picks up his sword and holds it to her back, the length of rope in his other hand.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

You know what he'll do to me.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN, who has been watching out of sight the entire time, lets an arrow fly and it cuts the rope. The man turns on ROBIN. ROBIN blocks twice with his bow as ISABELLA runs out of the way a few steps behind them. ROBIN punches the first man and turns to the second. He turns the man's sword aside with his bow, then side slaps him with it. ROBIN turns back to the first man.

ROBIN
Robin Hood. The pleasure's all
yours.

The first man shields his eyes to look at ROBIN.

ROBIN (cont'd)
I think it's time you were on your
way.

The man gets up staring at ROBIN.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Now!

The men run off. ISABELLA tries to pull her hands free. ROBIN goes over to ISABELLA.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Here, allow me.

ROBIN unties her hands.

ROBIN (cont'd)
There you are.

ISABELLA turns around and is immediately entranced by ROBIN. ROBIN sees it and smiles.

ROBIN (cont'd)
So, tell me, why would two of
Squire Thornton's men pursue you
all the way from Shrewsbury?

ISABELLA
It wasn't me they were after. They
were in pursuit of my mistress.

ROBIN chuckles silently, disbelievingly.

ROBIN
Your mistress?

ISABELLA

Well, I would hardly be much of a decoy in my maid's apron. I was helping *her* escape.

ROBIN

Escape from what?

ISABELLA

Her marriage.

ROBIN

But the squire sent men after her. You know, some might consider that an act of love, wouldn't they?

ISABELLA

Squire Thornton has never loved my mistress.

ROBIN hangs his head.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Now if you'll excuse me, my mistress awaits me in Nottingham.

ISABELLA turns to go, but ROBIN catches her right arm.

ROBIN

Whoa, wh-wh-wh-wh-wh-whoa!

ISABELLA raises her left fist to hit him, but he catches it and chuckles.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Whoa! All right. You can't just go to Nottingham alone. It's too dangerous.

ROBIN switches to a more gentle grip on her wrists.

ROBIN (cont'd)

I'll take you there... safely, if you tell me your name.

ISABELLA

Isabella.

ROBIN nods and smiles. They stand there a moment, then ISABELLA wiggles her fingers.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Will it be necessary for us to hold
hands throughout?

ROBIN chuckles, then lets go of her left wrist.

ROBIN
I'm sorry.

ROBIN stands still, a bit entranced by her beauty.

ISABELLA
In all seriousness, I would like
the use of my other arm.

A horse whinnies in the distance.

ROBIN
Sh-sh. Come here quick! Quick!

ROBIN pulls ISABELLA behind the tree.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Come here, come here.

ROBIN pulls ISABELLA's back to him and wraps his arm around her.

FOCUS ON: HARRISON. A man named HARRISON, leads a line of Prince John's Black Elite troops, all on horseback, down the path. HARRISON stops and looks around. Behind him is a flag bearer, the rest of the men have shields. The flag is a red and black checkerboard design with a yellow griffin on it. The shields have the same design on them.

HARRISON
We're close. Keep moving.

A horse whinnies. HARRISON turns to his right and continues on.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN. ROBIN frowns, releases ISABELLA and steps into the path, watching where the men have disappeared to.

CUT TO:

52

(305R) SHERWOOD FOREST - BLACK ELITE CAMP

52

In front of two large tents, some soldiers are practicing a shield turtle. Others are dueling with swords or spears. In the back is an enormous red crate. [Note SERGEANT is spouting orders in the background.] HARRISON's table is on the opposite side of the camp. If HARRISON looks straight

(CONTINUED)

ahead he can see the crate. The soldiers practice in the middle of the camp between HARRISON and the crate.

SERGEANT (VO)

*Keep together, lads! Move slowly.
Slowly forward. Tighter! Close
grouping! Right! Come on! Put some
energy into it! Shields higher...
and... now!*

HARRISON is looking over the maps he has. One is of Nottingham and the area surrounding it. Another is a map of the forest and the river. He looks up at the troops and the red crate behind them.

SERGEANT (VO)

Move in closer together!

The gate suddenly opens and the troops form a turtle facing it, then they separate neatly to reveal the SHERIFF riding in on his white horse. He and HARRISON exchange long looks, then HARRISON bends back down over his maps, unfazed. The SHERIFF dismounts and walks over to him.

SHERIFF

So... Prince John sent you to Nottingham with a mission, and yet nobody saw fit to tell me. The last time I checked, I was still the Sheriff.

HARRISON

The Prince is still waiting for his thousand crowns. His patience wears thin.

HARRISON starts for the tent to get another map.

SERGEANT (VO)

Protect yourself, come on!

SHERIFF

As indeed does mine. What's the mission?

HARRISON returns with the map.

HARRISON

He wants me to kill Robin Hood.

One of HARRISON's men approaches. HARRISON hands the man the map. The man leaves.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEANT (VO)
Come on, people!

SHERIFF
 (chuckle)
 I'm sure he does.

The SHERIFF chuckles again.

HARRISON
 I will command the mission without
 incompetent, ill conceived
 interference from others.

SHERIFF
 No. You will fail like...

HARRISON
 Not this time. The Prince has
 furnished me with a weapon not even
 your Robin Hood can escape.

SHERIFF
 What weapon?

HARRISON smiles, then turns and leaves, still smiling. The SHERIFF frowns, wondering if there's something more to the plan, something maybe involving him.

CUT TO:

53 (305R) SHERWOOD FOREST

53

MUCH, ALLAN, LITTLE JOHN, TUCK, and GISBORNE are walking. MUCH is carrying a rough bow and two dead rabbits.

MUCH
 All I'm saying is I shot them. It'd
 be nice if someone else offered to
 cook them.

ALLAN sees ROBIN approaching.

ALLAN
 Robin!

ROBIN and ISABELLA run out of the trees.

ROBIN
 Turn back! We've got company!

(CONTINUED)

MUCH

What?

ALLAN

So I see.

LITTLE JOHN looks back the way they came. ROBIN looks to ALLAN. He is about to explain that ISABELLA is not the "company" he was referring to. ISABELLA notices TUCK and hopes that the drug really does what it claimed. If he recognizes her, her plan will be over before it starts.

ROBIN

No. There are...

LITTLE JOHN runs back, having seen troops.

LITTLE JOHN

Robin...

ROBIN

Come on! This way!

TUCK

Go, go!

The Black Elite ride after them. They chase them through a meadow.

ISABELLA

What are we doing? We can't outrun them!

ROBIN

Don't worry. We're not going to.

TUCK

Follow me!

TUCK jumps into a short ravine. GISBORNE, LITTLE JOHN, MUCH, then ALLAN follow. ROBIN and ISABELLA approach the edge. ISABELLA balks.

ISABELLA

We can't!

ROBIN

Yes, we can! Jump!

ROBIN and ISABELLA, holding hands, jump into the ravine. The horsemen slow and stop at the edge, unable to follow.

HARRISON goes to the front and watches them run along the bottom. ISABELLA slips and ROBIN pulls her back up.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
Quickly! Come on! Come on!

PAN TO:

54 (305R) FOCUS ON: SOLDIERS 54

HARRISON holds out his hand to a man, who gives him a map.
HARRISON studies it.

HARRISON
(unperturbed)
It's time. Get the weapon into
position.

JUMP TO:

55 (305R) FOCUS ON: GANG 55

ROBIN
Go, go!

GISBORNE, TUCK, MUCH, ALLAN and ISABELLA run down the hill.
ROBIN comes last checking behind him frequently. ISABELLA,
exhausted and not watching where she's going, falls into a
low spot.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Come on, come on.

ROBIN bends down, helps her up and they run through the tall
rocks. TUCK stops by a rock wall as LITTLE JOHN runs ahead.

LITTLE JOHN
I'll see if the road's clear.

The rest of the gang stop. LITTLE JOHN comes back.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
No, they're closing in.

ROBIN
Right. We're making it too easy for
them. We have to split up.

MUCH
Split up? We should stick together!

ROBIN
Listen to me. We've got Prince
John's elite guards after us.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK
They're taking us seriously.

ROBIN slaps TUCK's chest.

GISBORNE
So, he finally did it. There was talk about sending them before I left.

ROBIN
I'll lead them away.

ROBIN turns to go.

TUCK
Yeah.

MUCH
What?!

ROBIN
(turn back)
I'll be fine. Just go to Nottingham. I'll meet you there. Get out of the forest as quick as you can.

ALLAN
Nottingham? Are you mad?

In the following line, ROBIN says "mistress" in such a way as to let ISABELLA know he still does not believe that.

ROBIN
That's the last place that they'll look. And she needs to meet up with her "mistress". Guy, I need you to make sure she gets there safely.

GISBORNE nods. There is something about this girl that seems familiar. Did he know her? Had they met?

LITTLE JOHN
You're sending Gisborne to...

ISABELLA raises an eyebrow.

ISABELLA
Gisborne?

All look at her. ISABELLA is both happy and sad.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Guy!

GISBORNE and ISABELLA stare at each other.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Mon frère doux.

ROBIN stares incredulously at them both. Did she just say "my sweet brother?"

GISBORNE

(stunned)

Isabella?

ISABELLA hugs him. MUCH, TUCK, LITTLE JOHN, and ALLAN look at them, not sure what is going on. ROBIN looks at GISBORNE.

ROBIN

Frère. That's French for brother,
is it not?

GISBORNE looks at ROBIN.

GISBORNE

Yes.

ISABELLA stops hugging him.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

She's my little sister.

ALLAN looks at GISBORNE with a confused look. ROBIN looks at ISABELLA again, thinking of the girl he knew so long ago.

ALLAN

Sister? You said you had no family?

ISABELLA

We haven't seen each other in...

GISBORNE

What are you doing here?

ROBIN hears the guards getting closer.

ROBIN

Hate to break up this family
reunion, but those men are still
after us? We have to get out of
here.

(CONTINUED)

Everyone nods in agreement. ROBIN is not sure why ISABELLA really wants to go to Nottingham, but now is not the right time to ask questions. He decides to stick to the plan and maybe discover what she is up to along the way.

ROBIN (cont'd)
See ya in Nottingham.

ROBIN slaps TUCK's shoulder and runs off.

MUCH
Robin, wait!

ROBIN keeps going.

TUCK
Listen, listen, listen. Guy,
Isabella, go north, take the cliff
road. Allan, Much, go west through
the marshes.

LITTLE JOHN
Tuck, I'll go east.

TUCK
Good man. I'll go south. Go, go!

GISBORNE
(to Isabella)
Follow me.

The gang go their separate ways as the CAMERA pans up to show soldiers appearing on the rocks above them and all around them.

CUT TO:

56 (305) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - GREAT HALL

56

The merchants have been assembled. They're whispering amongst themselves when the door under the balcony squeaks open and the SHERIFF enters, taking off his gloves.

TREASURER
The merchants are here as per your
instructions, sir.

The SHERIFF walks through the people.

SHERIFF
Yes, I can see that. Let's get on
with it.

The SHERIFF addresses the merchants.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Thank you...

(beat)

...for coming on such short notice.

The SHERIFF stands behind the table with a ledger.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

I thought we would get the boring
business of paying our taxes out of
the way nice and early this month.

The SHERIFF lays his gloves down on table and looks up.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Unless of course...

(sit)

... anybody has a problem with
that?

The TREASURER draws his sword. The merchants look at each other.

TREASURER

Step forward with your
contribution.

One merchant comes forward and places a purse in the
TREASURER's outstretched hand. The TREASURER squeezes it,
and it's nearly empty.

SHERIFF

Business is very slow these days,
very slow. Must be, hmm? Because
you would not short-change me,
would you? Because...

TREASURER

...if you short-change the Sheriff
you short-change Prince John.

The merchants all turn to leave, some muttering.

SHERIFF

What was that?

The SHERIFF stands and comes around the table.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Hmm? You dare to cast aspersions on
my relationship with Prince John,
hmm? Because your fate is in my
hands, hmm? A word in the right

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF (cont'd)
ear, a whisper in the right
direction.

The SHERIFF grabs the merchant's collar.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
(roar)
I am *still* the Sheriff!

CUT TO:

57 (305) SHERWOOD FOREST - FOCUS ON ROBIN 57

ROBIN runs. Soldiers steadily march behind him.

JUMP TO:

58 (305R) GISBORNE AND ISABELLA 58

GISBORNE and ISABELLA walk quickly. Thunder crashes. They stop when they see soldiers. GISBORNE draws his sword.

GISBORNE
Black Elite.

They step forward a bit, standing backs together.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
There's more of them. Why aren't
they attacking?

ISABELLA
Would you prefer if they did?

GISBORNE grabs her hand.

GISBORNE
Let's go!

They run off to the right of their original direction. The soldiers come out from behind a tree each, and follow.

JUMP TO:

59 (305) TUCK 59

TUCK checks behind him, then turns forward again to face a band of soldiers, 2 on horseback, 8 on foot with shields.

SERGEANT
Shields! Together!

The soldiers form a shield turtle.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEANT

Right, lads, shields up!

The shields open, then close. TUCK stares, ready for them to attack. TUCK turns around to find another way but they do nothing more.

CUT TO:

60

(305) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - GREAT HALL

60

The TREASURER puts a coin into a wooden bowl. The SHERIFF is watching, sitting in his chair.

SHERIFF

Do you even know how to count?

The TREASURER looks up anxiously, quill in hand.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Where the hell is my treasurer?

TREASURER

You killed him, sir.

The SHERIFF kicks the money chest off the table. The TREASURER stands up at attention.

SHERIFF

Anybody can see that *that* is nowhere near enough!

The SHERIFF advances on the TREASURER.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

(quietly)

Years of loyal service. That's worth more than coins and dead outlaws, isn't it?

The TREASURER remains silent. The SHERIFF kicks the TREASURER in the shins.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

(shout)

Isn't it?!

TREASURER

Yes, sir! It is, sir!

SHERIFF

Apparently not.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF (cont'd)
 Very well. I shall pledge my
 allegiance in gold.
 (beat)
 Come with me. Bring *that* book.

The SHERIFF leaves. The TREASURER closes and takes the book from the table and follows.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
 We're going to make money.

CUT TO:

61 (305) NOTTINGHAM - MARKETPLACE

61

The SHERIFF and the TREASURER press through the crowd.

TREASURER
 It's market day, sir. It's always
 congested on market day.

SHERIFF
 Yes, yes, you're quite right.

The SHERIFF puts his hands together eagerly with a clap.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
 So, something needs to be done.
 (point)
 There.
 (yell)
 You!

The SHERIFF approaches a couple with two cows.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
 Two cow family, are we?

MAN
 Yes, sir.

SHERIFF
 That'll be two crowns.

The SHERIFF looks to the TREASURER.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
 Well, don't just stand there, man,
 take the money.

(CONTINUED)

TREASURER

Yes, sir.

The TREASURER looks at the man.

TREASURER (cont'd)

Two crowns.

The SHERIFF turns.

SHERIFF

Stop! How many goats have you got there?

The SHERIFF steps aside. The cow man is still searching his pockets. The TREASURER holds out his purse.

TREASURER

Where's your two crowns?

CUT TO:

62

(305) SHERWOOD FOREST - THUNDERSTORM

62

LITTLE JOHN sneaks through the trees in the rain. He hears the sounds of grunting and clanging.

Five boys in a wagon watch a woman, with a sword in each hand, fight two men who also have swords.

The woman is knocked on her back and LITTLE JOHN intercedes. He blocks and punches one man (named GIZMO) in the stomach with his staff. The other man (named TITUS) is also hit in the stomach, and then upside the head.

LITTLE JOHN looks around.

LITTLE JOHN

Anyone hurt?

He sees the woman at his feet and pulls her up.

BERTHA

No.

BERTHA punches LITTLE JOHN in the jaw with her left fist and he falls over backwards, dazed.

BERTHA (cont'd)

But you are.

LITTLE JOHN slowly sits up, grunting.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN

Oh!

A small boy (named WALT) sits at his side, smiling. LITTLE JOHN sighs and looks away. WALT pokes the bruise on his cheek.

WALT

Does that hurt?

LITTLE JOHN

Yes!

LITTLE JOHN looks up and sees BERTHA wrapping GIZMO's arm. TITUS is lifting a small log up and down behind his head. The wagon with the boys is behind GIZMO.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)

(sigh)

I thought you were being attacked.

LITTLE JOHN gets up.

BERTHA

No. I was training my men, although watching you and Gizmo...

BERTHA pulls the splint tight as the boys help WALT into the wagon.

BERTHA (cont'd)

...maybe I'm out of a job.

LITTLE JOHN

(Rub cheek)

Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't...

BERTHA

Don't worry. You've got Titus training hard.

BERTHA steps to LITTLE JOHN and spreads her arms wide, presenting herself.

BERTHA (cont'd)

Bertha of Bath.

LITTLE JOHN nods and looks away, not knowing the name.

BERTHA (cont'd)

(impatiently)

Of Bertha's Circus Maximus... famous from Huddersfield to Haltemprice?

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN shakes his head. BERTHA puts her hands on her hips in disbelief.

BERTHA (cont'd)
Where you been?

LITTLE JOHN
Here, mainly.

BERTHA frowns and a horse whinnies in the distance. They both look in that direction and see Black Elite approaching.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
I've got to go.

BERTHA
Why?

LITTLE JOHN
That's Prince John's men. They're looking for me.

BERTHA thinks quickly. LITTLE JOHN turns to go. BERTHA grabs his staff.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
Please! I'm an outlaw, one of Robin Hood's men. If they capture me...

BERTHA
Which is exactly what they will do if you run.

BERTHA turns to the wagon. WALT hands her a dirty piece of white cloth. She offers it to LITTLE JOHN.

BERTHA (cont'd)
Here, trust me.

LITTLE JOHN
I don't...

BERTHA pushes him behind TITUS and GIZMO. Three horsemen stop in front of them, while the foot soldiers surround them. BERTHA ties the cloth over LITTLE JOHN's nose and mouth.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
This is not going to work.

BERTHA
No-no-no-no. Keep your head down.

(CONTINUED)

A guard hands off his shield, dismounts and approaches BERTHA. BERTHA smiles grandly and slyly, a hand on one hip.

BERTHA (cont'd)
How can I help you, officer?

ELITE GUARD
Name... and purpose in this forest.

BERTHA
I see, straight to business, is it?
Suit yourself.
(put arms out)
I'm Bertha, of Bertha's Circus
Maximus.
(turn to right)
These are my gladiators...
(turn to left)
...my little band of helpers, and
we're on our way to Nottingham.

The guard looks over all the faces, and shows interest in LITTLE JOHN's. LITTLE JOHN keeps his head down.

ELITE GUARD
What's wrong with him?

The guard steps forward. BERTHA puts a hand to the guard's chest.

BERTHA
He's a leper.

LITTLE JOHN coughs. The guard looks at BERTHA, then steps back, repulsed.

ELITE GUARD
Begone, woman. The forest is no
place for you to be today.

The guard walks back to his horse.

BERTHA
I was getting that impression
already, but thank you for the
advice.

The guard mounts, takes back his shield and they all leave. LITTLE JOHN pulls down the cloth.

BERTHA (cont'd)
(Whisper to men)
Let's get out of here.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN nods.

CUT TO:

63 (305) SHERWOOD FOREST - ROBIN 63

ROBIN runs. He stops by a tree to catch his breath. He looks behind him and sees the Black Elite still closing in. An arrow whistles and sinks into the tree trunk right by his head.

ROBIN
(determined)
All right.

ROBIN looks back at his quiver with a single arrow in it.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Damn.

ROBIN pulls out the arrow.

CUT TO:

64 (305) SHERWOOD FOREST - LITTLE JOHN 64

BERTHA pats one of the horses pulling the wagon. TITUS is looking at the horse's back foot.

TITUS
This is going to slow him down a
bit.

BERTHA
This is all we need.

BERTHA gives a frustrated sign, and turns to LITTLE JOHN, with WALT.

BERTHA (cont'd)
This could take a while. Keep an
eye out for company.

WALT stares at LITTLE JOHN. LITTLE JOHN wonders what the kid is looking at.

LITTLE JOHN
(annoyed)
What?

WALT
Are you a giant?

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN
No. Are you a gladiator?

LITTLE JOHN immediately growls at WALT, who laughs and runs off.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
(to Bertha)
Are they all yours?

BERTHA
Er... not by birth.

They both chuckle.

WALT
She saved us.

BERTHA
Eh, Walt, don't be silly.

WALT
She did! None of us had anyone.
We'd have starved to death.

BERTHA
Hey! That's enough!

BERTHA turns to LITTLE JOHN.

BERTHA (cont'd)
I find them on my travels. Begging
or thieving. I take in as many as I
can. I feed them, I clothe them.
I'm only doing what anyone else
would.

LITTLE JOHN
I wish that was true.

BERTHA
Hey, you could help us.

LITTLE JOHN
How?

BERTHA
When we get to Nottingham, fight
for us.

BERTHA turns to the boys for their approval.

BERTHA (cont'd)
Yeah? In the show.

The boys cheer.

LITTLE JOHN
No, that wouldn't be helping you.
That would just put all of you in
more danger.

BERTHA
We'd disguise you again. It was you
that put Gizmo out of action.

LITTLE JOHN
(sigh)
No, I can't.

BERTHA
I *can't* cancel the show.

BERTHA puts on a pitiful face.

BERTHA (cont'd)
Or if I do it will be a long cold
winter for us all.

LITTLE JOHN
(look at the boys, sigh)
All right. I'll stay with you.

BERTHA laughs and the boys cheer.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
Until my friends make it to
Nottingham.

BERTHA turns to the boys. LITTLE JOHN turns around.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
(mutter)
If my friends make it to
Nottingham.

CUT TO:

65 (305R) SHERWOOD FOREST

65

ALLAN and MUCH, panting, run into GISBORNE and ISABELLA, who are also panting. ALLAN gasps as he almost crashes into GISBORNE.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

I thought you were heading west!

MUCH

We were. You're meant to be heading north.

GISBORNE

We're trying, but there's Black Elite at every turn.

ALLAN sees movement coming at him. He's about to draw his sword when he recognizes TUCK running at him.

ALLAN

There must be hundreds of men.

TUCK

Yeah, there are, and they seem to know exactly where we're going.

ROBIN runs in.

ROBIN

Or where they want us to go.

The gang are silent, trying to catch their breath.

ROBIN (cont'd)

We've been herded!

MUCH

Like sheep.

ROBIN

Like lambs... to the slaughter. They've been tracking us, they've exhausted our arsenals. I've one arrow left!

GISBORNE

So how do we get out of here?

ROBIN

(look behind)

Well, there's only one way left to go.

(jerk head to left)

Come on. Quickly.

ISABELLA, TUCK, ALLAN and GISBORNE take off after ROBIN. MUCH looks behind himself, then follows.

They run a short way and ROBIN stops.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
They're coming. This way.

ROBIN turns around but can only go a few steps before he sees the soldiers closing in. GISBORNE turns around.

GISBORNE
What now?

The elite guards are quickly closing in.

ROBIN
Come on.

He stops when he catches up to ISABELLA. GISBORNE looks at ROBIN.

GISBORNE
Where now?

MUCH
Back that way!

GISBORNE pushes ISABELLA forward.

GISBORNE
Go, go, go, go!

The Black Elite close in, walking shield to shield.

The gang run towards them. MUCH at the rear walking backwards with his sword out.

The guards form a turtle and slowly advance.

The gang exit the trees to a large clearing where HARRISON and more troops await them.

HARRISON sits quietly on his horse, a flag bearer and the red crate behind him.

ROBIN
I take it you're in charge.

HARRISON
(smile)
Yes. And be assured, *Robin Hood*, that your death will be real this time. Not rumoured.

ROBIN
Prince John must have great confidence in you for him to give you all these men.

(CONTINUED)

HARRISON smiles and turns his horse around, as does the flag bearer.

The red crate, with a square door, stands alone, with a guard on top holding a rope handle.

MUCH
(uneasily)
What's he got in there?

ROBIN
(flustered)
How should I know? Just ready yourself.

MUCH
How can I ready myself if I don't know what I have to be ready for?

GISBORNE
Then just be ready for anything!

The gang wait, shifting their feet while the troops clear to the side.

ROBIN checks behind him, and the turtle are still there.

The guard pulls up the rope to open the square door. A lion quickly crawls out and roars.

The gang jump back all shouting in alarm. ROBIN pulls his last arrow out again and readies it, holding his bow down.

ALLAN
What the hell...?

MUCH
Are you ready for that?

HARRISON
Seemed a rather apt way to dispatch such virulent supporters of the Couer de Lion. He hasn't been fed for days! I wanted him ready for you!

The lion has stopped and is staring at the gang.

The guards start to bang their swords and spears against their shields in a rhythm.

The lion steps forward.

The gang retreats a step or two.

(CONTINUED)

The turtle open and close their shields with a clatter to let the gang know they're still there. The other troops begin to close in behind the lion, still beating their weapons against their shields.

The lion paces.

ROBIN
Just stay together.

ISABELLA
Robin, are you as good a shot as they say you are?

GISBORNE looks at ISABELLA.

ROBIN
(not bragging, but annoyed)
Of course I am.

ISABELLA pulls out two small cloth bags. The lion roars. MUCH yells.

ALLAN
Calm down! They can smell fear, you know.

MUCH
Oh, really?

TUCK
(to Isabella)
What are you thinking?

The gang take small steps backwards. ISABELLA hands a bag to TUCK.

ISABELLA
Throw this as far away from us as you can. Robin, you hit it in the air.

ROBIN nods, eyes on the lion.

ROBIN
Tuck, can you take the other?

TUCK
Yeah.

ISABELLA
Now everyone cover your eyes. Don't breathe this in.

TUCK
On three. Ready?

ISABELLA
Yeah.

TUCK
One... two... three!

ISABELLA throws her bag up. ROBIN shoots it and the bag explodes into a fine powder which drifts down onto the troops and the lion.

HARRISON pulls a black handkerchief out and puts it to his face.

TUCK throws his bag at the turtle, then quickly draws his knife from his sleeve and throws it at the bag and it explodes over the turtle.

The lion turns around. The guards cough and fall to the ground.

HARRISON
(muffled)
Get it back in the damn box!

The lion falls to ground, roaring.

TUCK
Go, go!

MUCH
Run!

Some horses rear and the soldiers try to rein them in.

HARRISON
(to two soldiers)
You men, with me.

HARRISON and the two soldiers start their horses forward as the gang run coughing past the incapacitated turtle.

TUCK
Mustard powder!

ROBIN
(to Isabella)
Nice work!

MUCH leads them back through the forest. After they are a safe distance away, ROBIN stops them.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
Wait, wait, wait!

ROBIN stops and turns to ISABELLA.

ROBIN (cont'd)
And where exactly did you find
mustard bombs?

The gang stop running.

ISABELLA
Does it really matter?

TUCK passes ROBIN and ISABELLA.

TUCK
I think it does.

ISABELLA
I believe the words you are looking
for are "thank you."

ROBIN walks over to MUCH.

ROBIN
Right, it won't take long for them
to regroup.

ROBIN hands his bow to MUCH.

ROBIN (cont'd)
You need to go back to camp and
rearm, all right?

ROBIN motions to GISBORNE.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Guy, with me.

GISBORNE, knowing what ROBIN is planning to do, agrees.

GISBORNE
Yeah.

MUCH
Where are you going?

ROBIN
Back to the camp, to see what else
they've got, to see if and where
they are vulnerable.

ALLAN notices that LITTLE JOHN is missing.

ALLAN

Hang on. Where's John? Why didn't he get rounded up with the rest of us?

ROBIN bends over, frustrated and exhausted.

TUCK

Well, there's two possible answers to that. One, he might have made it to Nottingham, and the other...

MUCH

(interrupt)

I don't want to know the other one.

ROBIN

Much, just go back to the camp and rearm, all right?

ISABELLA looks at ROBIN.

ISABELLA

I should go with you.

ROBIN is curious as to why she would want to come with them. So is GISBORNE. ROBIN wonders why she's really here. So does GISBORNE. She could be a trap. If so, he doesn't want her to know where the camp is. ROBIN is about to say something but GISBORNE, who has been thinking the same thing, beats him to it.

GISBORNE

I think that would be a good idea.

GISBORNE and ROBIN share a look.

ROBIN

I agree. The camp should be on a need-to-know basis and...

(point at Isabella)

...you don't need to know.

ISABELLA nods. ROBIN turns and leaves to head back to the camp. GISBORNE holds out his arm for ISABELLA to go first. She nods and follows after ROBIN. GISBORNE follows her.

CUT TO:

66 (305) NOTTINGHAM - MARKETPLACE

66

The boys are twirling colourful ribbons and some let them sail into the crowd.

BERTHA drives the wagon in behind them, with LITTLE JOHN walking shirtless and with the cloth over his face next to it.

WALT is on TITUS' shoulders, announcing to all.

WALT

Bertha's Circus Maximus! Ladies and gentlemen, it's your lucky day! Bertha's Circus Maximus is in town! Place your bets here to add some extra excitement!

BERTHA stops the wagon.

BETHA

Whoa.

TITUS puts WALT down. GIZMO places the point of his short sword onto a table and stands with his chest out.

BERTHA leans over to LITTLE JOHN, looking at GIZMO.

BERTHA

The ladies love him.

WALT

Get going and show me your money! Place your bets. Be a winner!

PAN TO:

67 (305) THE SHERIFF

67

The SHERIFF, already in the marketplace collecting new taxes, sees BERTHA.

SHERIFF

(to Treasurer)

Bring *her* to see *me*.

The TREASURER steps forward.

CUT TO:

BERTHA enters under the balcony, escorted by two guards.
The SHERIFF is standing in front of the table, waiting.
BERTHA bows.

SHERIFF
No need for that, Bertha.

BERTHA looks up, frowning.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
I don't expect it from old acquaintances.

BERTHA
Vasey?

SHERIFF
Sheriff... Vasey. Let's not dispense with all formalities. Now, the last time we spoke, I told you that if I ever saw you in Nottingham again, that I would kill you, but... here you are.

BERTHA
(shrug slightly)
In my defense, I heard you were no longer Sheriff.

SHERIFF
Why shouldn't I be? Who told you that?

BERTHA
(try to recover gracefully)
I was told you'd moved on to better things.

SHERIFF
Well, unfortunately for you, it was a lie.

The SHERIFF chuckles. BERTHA bows and starts to turn to leave.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
(snap fingers)
Not so fast. I assume you're here to alleviate the locals of their purses.

(CONTINUED)

BERTHA
I go where the audiences are.

SHERIFF
No, you go where men are prepared
to gamble... on your fixed fights.

BERTHA
(offended)
Fixed? My fights are for real.

SHERIFF
(chuckle)
Let's not insult each other,
Bertha.

BERTHA
(quick sigh)
How much do you want?

SHERIFF
(hold up fingers)
Two hundred crowns.

BERTHA's jaw drops in amazement. The SHERIFF turns to walk
around the table.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
Anything else you make you can
keep.

BERTHA
(scoff)
I can't make that in a day! There
won't be anything over.

SHERIFF
That's your problem.

The SHERIFF sits at the table.

BERTHA
I can give you half.

SHERIFF
(calmly)
Then I shall only half hang you.

The guards step forward. BERTHA puts her hand up.

BERTHA
Wait.

BERTHA goes to the Sheriff.

BERTHA (cont'd)
I could settle the debt with...

BERTHA flirts with the SHERIFF, placing her hand on him.

BERTHA (cont'd)
... something better than money.

SHERIFF
(throw off her hand)
There's no such thing.

The SHERIFF nods to the guards, signaling them over. They approach again.

BERTHA
(think quickly)
What about one of Hood's outlaws?

The SHERIFF holds up his fingers in a "wait" gesture, and the guards stop.

BERTHA (cont'd)
What if I told you I could have him
killed in your market square for
all to see this afternoon?

SHERIFF
(think greedily)
You can really do this?

BERTHA
Would it be worth a hundred crowns
to you?

SHERIFF
(nod)
Yes.

JUMP TO:

69 (305) NOTTINGHAM - MARKETPLACE

69

The children are playing in the background. LITTLE JOHN watches WALT from around a corner, out of sight of any guards, as TITUS and GIZMO set up a large pole for the ring. WALT is throwing rocks at an unseen target.

TITUS
Who's got the rope? It has to go
over there.

(CONTINUED)

GIZMO
Right, then.

TITUS
You ready?

GIZMO
Ready.

TITUS
Right. Heave!

The men pull the rope to raise up the pole, then one of the boys, playing, falls into GIZMO's sore arm. GIZMO immediately drops the rope and howls in pain.

LITTLE JOHN, seeing that the pole is falling right onto WALT, runs in and snatches WALT away. They fall to the ground and the pole slams down next to them.

TITUS (VO)
That was close. Someone give me a hand over here!

LITTLE JOHN sits up with a groan.

LITTLE JOHN
Walt, are you hurt?

WALT
(awed)
You saved my life!

LITTLE JOHN tries to stand, but his foot slips out from under him and he sits down hard.

LITTLE JOHN
What? Oh. I saved you from a sore head.

WALT
No, I was nearly dead.

LITTLE JOHN
(scoff)
Very well.

BERTHA arrives from the castle.

BERTHA
(solemnly)
Children?

All but WALT come to her and she sends them to the side of the marketplace.

WALT
Now I have to save your life in return.

LITTLE JOHN
No, no. There's no need.

WALT
No, I have to!

LITTLE JOHN looks at the boy's bright face and sighs.

LITTLE JOHN
All right.

WALT smiles and they shake hands, one exaggerated shake, then WALT goes over to BERTHA.

PAN TO:

70

(305) BERTHA

70

WALT
What did I miss?

BERTHA sighs and shakes her hands in frustration.

BERTHA
Oh!
(quietly to the boys)
We're rigging tonight's fight.

In the background, LITTLE JOHN goes over to TITUS. [Note: the conversations in bold are in the back ground]

LITTLE JOHN (VO)
What are you playing at?

BERTHA
So I want you to take as many bets as you can on our new gladiator.

(Little John tugs on the rope.)

LITTLE JOHN (VO)
That should be tighter.

WALT
Awww, does that mean he's going to be the loser?

(CONTINUED)

BERTHA grabs WALT's shoulder.

BERTHA
Why don't you say that a bit
louder?

WALT
Does he have to?

BERTHA
Oh, for heaven's sake, Walt!
(smile, calm)
He can win next time. Right, off
you go.
(call after them)
And make sure you give good odds!
Go, go, go!

TITUS (VO)
It has to go over there.

BERTHA
(to Titus)
Hey!

BERTHA motions for him to come over. **Little John pulls the cloth back over his face.**

BOYS (VO)
Place your bets here! Place your
bets! Be a winner! Place your bets
here!

BERTHA
(quietly to Titus)
We've had a special request...

WALT has come back to BERTHA, but she doesn't see him. She continues without stopping.

BERTHA (cont'd)
...for tonight's fight. Our new
attraction appears for one...
night... only. At the end of the
fight I want you to kill him.

She motions with her fingers across her throat. TITUS and BERTHA nod in agreement.

WALT
No!

BERTHA grabs WALT by the ear.

BERTHA

You know what they do to little
pigs with big ears?

WALT

You're hurting me!

BERTHA

They take them to market!

BERTHA leads WALT off by the ear.

CUT TO:

71 (305R) SHERWOOD - BLACK ELITE CAMP

71

GISBORNE, ISABELLA, and ROBIN, sneak around the outside of
the camouflaged partitions.

ROBIN and GISBORNE peek between the partitions.

ROBIN

Looks like they've been here a
while.

GISBORNE

Yeah, and they could be here a lot
longer. They've picked a good
position. Only one way out, easy to
defend.

ROBIN

Well, there's no-one defending it
now! Where are they?

Unbeknownst to ROBIN, HARRISON and two guards are standing
right behind him.

HARRISON

Where we've been all along...

ROBIN jumps around to face him, drawing his knife. GISBORNE
turns around too. He looks at HARRISON with a "this guy
looks familiar" look.

HARRISON (cont'd)

...one step ahead.

ROBIN and HARRISON circle each other, giving themselves room
away from the partitions, then fight.

GISBORNE and ISABELLA each take on a guard.

ISABELLA kicks hers and takes his sword.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE draws his sword and blocks a sword.

ROBIN charges HARRISON. HARRISON grabs ROBIN's arm and takes his feet out from under him. ROBIN falls backwards to the ground.

GISBORNE and ISABELLA see ROBIN down. Both rush over to defend him.

HARRISON holds his sword over his head with both hands and brings it down, but GISBORNE trusts his sword in its path and blocks HARRISON's with a ringing clang.

ROBIN takes advantage of HARRISON's distraction and kicks him in the ribs, knocking him to the ground.

ISABELLA and GISBORNE help ROBIN up. Then they run out of the camp, into the forest. HARRISON watches them run as he gets up. He yells at his guards.

HARRISON (cont'd)

After them!

HARRISON realizes why the man with ROBIN seems so familiar.

HARRISON (cont'd)

(quietly)

GISBORNE? So that's where you've been.

CUT TO:

72

(305R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP

72

ROBIN, MUCH, ALLAN, and GISBORNE are in the camp.

[TUCK is not. TUCK is making sure ISABELLA is out of the way for a while.]

ROBIN leans his arms on the rope ladder, peering through it. They have been discussing a plan. MUCH is not happy.

MUCH

Well, I'm not happy about it.

ALLAN

When are you ever?

ROBIN starts to put on his belt.

MUCH

Robin cannot just walk into that camp... alone, with no means of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MUCH (cont'd)
defense against Black Elite and a
massive cat!

GISBORNE
If we storm in there, we'll be shot
down in a moment. Robin has to look
like he's surrendering.

ALLAN looks at ROBIN.

ALLAN
It's not one of your better plans,
is it?

ROBIN, finished with his belt, leans on the ladder again and
looks at ALLAN with wide and impatient eyes.

ALLAN (cont'd)
You know, maybe if we waited...

GISBORNE
(interrupt)
Waited for what?

ALLAN turns and walks a few steps.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
It's a good plan.

ALLAN turns around to face in again.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
Robin won't be undefended for long.
(turn to Allan)
Allan, let's go.

GISBORNE and ALLAN go.

ROBIN
(to Much)
Go tell Tuck what's going on, and
meet us there.

ROBIN leaves.

CUT TO:

73 (305) NOTTINGHAM - MERCHANT HOUSE

73

BERTHA has WALT with her.

BERTHA

He may look small, but he's strong
and he's very smart.

MERCHANT

Sounds like trouble to me.

BERTHA

Not too smart, no need to worry
about an impertinent tongue, though
you could always have it cut out.

BERTHA smiles. The merchant puts his hand on WALT's chin to
look at him closely.

MERCHANT

Give you ten crowns.

BERTHA

No, I'm thinking twenty crowns.

MERCHANT

(look at Bertha)
Not likely.

BERTHA

Fifteen.

The merchant grunts.

BERTHA (cont'd)

Thirteen, final offer.

MERCHANT

All right. Deal.

The merchant takes WALT's arm.

WALT

Please don't sell me! I won't say
anything to him!

The merchant places the coins on BERTHA's outstretched hand.

WALT (cont'd)

I'll keep quiet!

(CONTINUED)

BERTHA
 (quietly)
 I wish I could believe that.

BERTHA leaves.

PAN TO:

74 (305) NOTTINGHAM - MARKETPLACE

74

TITUS and GIZMO practice their swordplay.

LITTLE JOHN is watching the boys among the bettors.

BOYS
 Come on! Place your bets here!

MAN 1
 Tuppence to win!

MAN 2
 Come here and I'll go up to
 thruppence!

BOY
 Is that all you've got?

The boy is slapped upside the head.

BERTHA
 Nearly show time, lads!

BERTHA sits next to LITTLE JOHN.

BERTHA (cont'd)
 And... we got the Sheriff watching.

LITTLE JOHN's eyes widen.

BERTHA (cont'd)
 Let's make sure we give him what he
 wants.

LITTLE JOHN
 What's that?

BERTHA
 A fight... the near death. Blood,
 guts...

LITTLE JOHN
 Hey, I don't want to hurt him.

TITUS laughs.

(CONTINUED)

BERTHA

Don't worry, you won't. You'll be losing this bout.

LITTLE JOHN

What? Why?

BERTHA

Why do you think?

BERTHA looks around for eavesdroppers.

BERTHA (cont'd)

The Sheriff. He wants it rigged so he can clean up on the bets we take. And if we don't make enough, he will hang us all. All you got to do is you watch out for my signal.

BERTHA wiggles her finger.

BERTHA (cont'd)

You see that, you go down and you stay down.

LITTLE JOHN

Stay down.

BERTHA

If you do that, then the Sheriff gets what he wants. If you don't, we won't get out of here alive.

LITTLE JOHN

Well, you're not giving me much choice, are you?

BERTHA pats his arm and he walks away.

MAN 1

Oh, I'll just have a penny on the little guy.

TITUS steps over and pulls tight the cloth he's wrapping around his hand.

CUT TO:

75

(305) SHERWOOD FOREST - BLACK ELITE CAMP

75

ROBIN struts in through the gate. HARRISON turns around. ROBIN walks in with his hands up. The guards line up on either side.

HARRISON holds up his hands to the guards, then motions them to move aside. ROBIN puts his hands up behind his head, looking around.

HARRISON

Welcome.

(beat)

I wasn't expecting your visit.

ROBIN

(chuckle)

Well I find that very hard to believe.

(beat)

So... would you like to hear my demands?

HARRISON

(amused)

Demands?

(chuckle and fold arms)

Please, demand away.

ROBIN

It's quite simple, really. Get out of my forest.

HARRISON

Yeah, that's a reasonable request. Let me think.

(point at Robin)

Kill him.

HARRISON turns away and the guards close in on ROBIN. ROBIN turns and runs to the red crate.

ROBIN

Now!

A net drops over a group of guards.

ROBIN climbs up on the crate.

HARRISON snaps back around.

More guards come in the gate.

(CONTINUED)

BERTHA comes out with a scowl, looking for the SHERIFF. The SHERIFF is sitting in his chair overlooking. She catches his eye and the SHERIFF nods.

LITTLE JOHN comes out, sees the SHERIFF and quickly puts on his lion mask.

BERTHA climbs into the ring.

BERTHA
Ladies, Gentlemen...
(bow to the Sheriff)
...honoured guests...

The SHERIFF raises a finger to BERTHA.

BERTHA (cont'd)
Tonight, you are truly in for a
treat! You may have thought the
ancient art of the gladiator was
gone, but no!

BERTHA cracks the whip and the crowd cheers.

BERTHA (cont'd)
Tonight... you're in for a dazzling
display of their swordplay! Welcome
our gladiators warmly!

TITUS, in a bald, scowling man mask, and LITTLE JOHN climb into the ring to cheers and boos.

BERTHA (cont'd)
Tonight, they fight for nothing but
pride and your applause only!

The SHERIFF rolls his eyes impatiently. The crowd cheers. The SHERIFF rolls his fingers to hurry up.

SHERIFF
(mouth words)
Let's get on with it.

BERTHA sees him and nods.

BERTHA
So...
(climb out of ring)
...without further ado...
Gladiators, ready?

TITUS and LITTLE JOHN each tap their sword against their shield once.

BERTHA (cont'd)
 (crack whip)
 Fight!

The crowd cheers and claps. TITUS attacks first. LITTLE JOHN blocks with his shield, his sword, and attacks then both together and TITUS kicks him in the stomach. TITUS attacks again. LITTLE JOHN blocks with the shield and then swings his sword at TITUS. TITUS blocks the blow with his sword and swings his shield around, hitting LITTLE JOHN in the shoulder and pushing him into the rope. LITTLE JOHN turns to face him. TITUS attacks and LITTLE JOHN blocks with his shield, then swings his sword, but TITUS defends with his shield. TITUS rams his shoulder into LITTLE JOHN, pushing him back into the rope again.

BERTHA watches them, glancing at the SHERIFF, smiling at the fact that TITUS is winning.

TITUS kicks LITTLE JOHN in the back, and the big man is thrown forward. LITTLE JOHN regains his balance and turns to face his adversary again. He blocks with his shield and attacks TITUS, who also blocks with his shield, then parries and punches LITTLE JOHN in the face with his shield. LITTLE JOHN spins round, then punches TITUS's back with his shield, sending him into the rope.

The boys cheer.

PAN TO:

80 (305) NEARBY STREET

80

The merchant pulls WALT along by the arm.

WALT
 Let me go!

MERCHANT
 Behave yourself!

WALT
 I don't want to come! Please!

PAN TO:

81 (305) LITTLE JOHN

81

LITTLE JOHN attacks with his sword, but TITUS blocks with his shield, spins round and elbows LITTLE JOHN, who then knocks TITUS' sword away with his.

PAN TO:

82 (305) WALT 82

MERCHANT

You belong to me now, so shut up!

WALT bites the hand holding him and runs to the marketplace.

PAN TO:

83 (305M) BERTHA AND RING 83

BERTHA

(mutter)

That's it, don't go down just yet.

LITTLE JOHN, not used to fighting with a sword and shield, is learning quickly as he goes. He pushes TITUS off him, blocks with his sword low, then twists it up and over. He steps back as TITUS swings his sword across at him. TITUS attacks and LITTLE JOHN blocks with his shield.

TITUS and LITTLE JOHN continue to fight, striking and blocking alternately until LITTLE JOHN spins round and hits TITUS' back with the sword butt, forcing TITUS into the ropes.

The boys cheer.

TITUS comes back to fight. They alternate blows and LITTLE JOHN kicks him in the chest.

BERTHA sees the SHERIFF watching and frowning.

LITTLE JOHN hits TITUS with his shield and kicks him again as BERTHA circles the ring to LITTLE JOHN.

BERTHA (cont'd)

No, you fool! You're supposed to be the loser!

LITTLE JOHN deflects TITUS' sword and punches him with his shield, sending him into the ropes.

PAN TO:

84 (305) WALT 84

WALT grabs at people, trying to push through the crowd.

WALT

Let me through!

PAN TO:

LITTLE JOHN roars in triumph, then sees BERTHA wiggling her finger. LITTLE JOHN tilts his head. BERTHA nods and he slumps his shoulders and hangs his head.

WALT

Let me past!

BERTHA

(nod. Hiss)

Yes!

LITTLE JOHN stands and turns to TITUS just in time for TITUS' fist to hit his jaw. LITTLE JOHN falls to his hands and knees.

BOYS

Ooh!

WALT

Let me through! Out of the way!

LITTLE JOHN looks up at BERTHA, who clenches her fist and nods. TITUS stands with his sword as WALT climbs into the ring.

WALT (cont'd)

No! He's going to kill you! No!

WALT stands between TITUS and a kneeling LITTLE JOHN, his hands outstretched. LITTLE JOHN pushes WALT aside and takes TITUS' feet out from under him, then kicks him in the head, knocking him out cold.

The crowd cheers.

BERTHA is holding on to WALT through the ropes.

WALT (cont'd)

She told him to do it! I heard!
That's why she sold me!

LITTLE JOHN takes off his mask and glares at BERTHA.

LITTLE JOHN

What?!

BERTHA

He's exaggerating. That's what he
does. You know how he goes on!

The SHERIFF stands up, visibly angry at the turn of events.

(CONTINUED)

WALT
No, I'm telling the truth to save
your life just like I said I would!

SHERIFF
(point at Bertha)
I warned you what would happen the
next time you crossed me!
(point at Little John)
Kill him! Arrest the others!

The guards run in to obey.

LITTLE JOHN jumps out of the ring.

LITTLE JOHN
Follow me, boys!

SHERIFF
Stop them!

BERTHA pulls WALT down the steps of the ring. LITTLE JOHN
sits and rolls under the ropes, but is stopped by GIZMO

GIZMO
Stop!

GIZMO attacks with his sword. LITTLE JOHN ducks it twice,
punches him.

SHERIFF
Kill them!

LITTLE JOHN grabs WALT off the steps to the ring.

LITTLE JOHN
(to Bertha)
You sold him?

BERTHA and LITTLE JOHN run towards the town gate, between
the buildings, with the other boys trailing along.

BERTHA
I had no choice! The Sheriff
said...

WALT
No! She sold me 'cause I heard her
talking about killing you!

LITTLE JOHN
What?!

WALT

She was going to get Titus to do
it!

BERTHA stops.

BERTHA

No, you don't understand. If I
didn't do what the Sheriff told me,
he was going to kill us all.

From seemingly nowhere, but from the building next to
BERTHA, the SHERIFF speaks as guards line up behind her.

SHERIFF

What an excellent idea.

The SHERIFF steps outside between BERTHA and LITTLE JOHN,
waving at WALT.

BERTHA turns to run but a guard steps up and grabs her arm.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

So... exactly how far did you think
you'd get, Bertha? We had a deal.

LITTLE JOHN

(firmly)

The deal is off. You do not touch
those children.

SHERIFF

No, no. I just want the money from
the wagers. She's welcome to the
slaving money.

LITTLE JOHN glares at BERTHA.

LITTLE JOHN

What?

SHERIFF

Oh, I suppose she told you that she
took the children off the streets
out of the goodness of her heart?

The SHERIFF pats his heart.

BERTHA

(pleading)

Look at them. They're healthy and
well fed.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF

Healthier children fetch a bigger price! She's been doing it for years, taking waifs, strays, off the streets, fattening them up and then selling them on at the end of the season.

LITTLE JOHN

Have you?

BERTHA, her face pitiful, shrugs slightly.

SHERIFF

(chuckle)

Yes, not this year, though. Take her to the dungeons.

Two guards each grab an arm and escort BERTHA away, leaving four.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Oh, and, er, arrest those.

The SHERIFF points at the boys and turns around. LITTLE JOHN steps in front and turns his staff to horizontal.

LITTLE JOHN

(intensely)

Leave... them... be.

The SHERIFF walks away.

SHERIFF

Somebody kill that man.

LITTLE JOHN fights off the initial attack, turning the swords away with his staff, then stands ready as they regroup. He swings his staff around, parries two swords at once, then two more from the other side, but he is surrounded, trapped against the wall.

LITTLE JOHN

(to boys)

Run!

WALT

Come on, boys! Run!

WALT and the boys run past the gate, which has only one door open, and right into ROBIN and the gang.

ROBIN rushes in, bow with arrow ready and drawn, MUCH gathers the boys together.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

I leave you alone for one minute,
John!

ROBIN points his bow at the guards in turn.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Get back! Get back!

GISBORNE and ALLAN run in, swords ready, and fight off the guards. LITTLE JOHN takes his place next to ROBIN near the gate and fights off a guard.

ROBIN (cont'd)

It used to safe for children in
Nottingham!

LITTLE JOHN fights off one more guard, then guides the boys outside.

The SHERIFF pulls a guard in front of him as a shield.

SHERIFF

So says the outlaw!

The boys run out the gate. LITTLE JOHN backs out. TUCK, MUCH, LITTLE JOHN, GISBORNE, and ROBIN stand in the gate. ROBIN with bow still drawn. GISBORNE gives the SHERIFF a mock salute, and pulls the gate closed in front of them.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

After them!

FOCUS ON: Outside the gates. The boys run down the bridge. LITTLE JOHN puts his staff in the hooks, effectively barring the gate closed.

FOCUS ON: Inside. The guards try to push it open.

FOCUS ON: Outside the gates. ROBIN and gang run down the bridge.

FOCUS ON: Inside. The SHERIFF kicks a guard.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Open it!

The SHERIFF hits another guard in the helmet.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Idiots! Open it!

The SHERIFF kicks the guard again, who kicks a third guard. The SHERIFF kicks the first guard again.

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO:

86 (305R) ORPHANAGE NEAR LOCKSLEY

86

ROBIN, MUCH, ALLAN, and TUCK say goodbye to the boys.

BOY

Who will watch out for me now?

TUCK

You're safe now. No-one's going to hurt you. Everything's going to be fine. Betty's going to look after you.

LITTLE JOHN is with WALT and BETTY at the front door. LITTLE JOHN shakes hands with BETTY.

LITTLE JOHN

Thank you.

LITTLE JOHN rubs WALT's head and leaves. WALT runs after him.

WALT

John!

LITTLE JOHN stops. WALT gives him a big hug.

WALT (cont'd)

I want to stay with you.

LITTLE JOHN sighs and kneels in front of WALT

LITTLE JOHN

I know, but it wouldn't be safe. I have a job to do, Walt. Helping other people who are in trouble. I can't do that if I'm looking after you.

ROBIN goes up to BETTY. The gang give their last hugs to the other boys.

WALT

But I could look after you.
(to Robin)
I saved his life.

ROBIN smiles at WALT.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN

Walt...

LITTLE JOHN shakes his head.

WALT

Will I ever see you again?

LITTLE JOHN

(stand with a sigh)

I hope so.

WALT and LITTLE JOHN shake hands.

TUCK

(to another boy)

Good luck. Take care of your brother.

MUCH

Take care of each other.

BOY

Thank you.

The gang head off. ALLAN walks up to ROBIN.

ALLAN

Where's Guy?

ROBIN

With Isabella.

ALLAN gets an "oh" look on his face.

CUT TO:

87 (305MR) SOMEWHERE IN THE FOREST

87

GISBORNE

(turn to Isabella)

So, why are you really here, sis?

ISABELLA

I could not endure another day.

GISBORNE

So what? You just walked away?

(point at her)

You were joined in holy matrimony!

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

I was only a thirteen-year-old girl.

(beat)

Why did you give me to Squire Thornton?

GISBORNE ignores her. He really doesn't want to get into it. It was so long ago, things were so different then.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Why won't you answer me? Don't you owe me that at least?

GISBORNE

I owe you nothing. I did what was best.

ISABELLA

For who, you? You did nothing but condemn me to hell and I demand to know why.

GISBORNE

You're a foolish girl and you do not understand the world.

ISABELLA

No, I understand perfectly. I just want to hear it from you.

He looks away.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Why did you give me away?

Silence.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

I said, why did you give me...

GISBORNE

(quietly)

Because he offered a fair price for you, that's why.

ISABELLA is shocked.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

I'm sorry. I...

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

Do you have any idea what he has done to me?

He faces her.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Guy, I'm your sister... I... came to ask for protection.

GISBORNE

Really? And what if I were to send you back to your husband?

ISABELLA

Then you'd be condemning me to a life of misery for a second time. Only this time you'd be doing it knowingly. Guy, I don't believe you knew the damage you were doing when you sent me to Squire Thornton...

He turns away.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

...but now you do. Surely you must feel some obligation towards me, a sense of loyalty, duty? Please... do not send me back to my husband.

GISBORNE thinks for a moment. Then looks at her.

GISBORNE

Very well. But you can't stay here.

(beat)

I can not offer you the protection you seek in the life I now lead.

(beat)

I can talk to Robin. He might be...

ISABELLA

Hood? Why would he help me? He doesn't know me. He...

GISBORNE realizes that ISABELLA doesn't know who ROBIN really is.

GISBORNE

You don't know.

ISABELLA

Know what?

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE
Robin Hood is Robin of Locksley.

ISABELLA
(surprise)
Robin of Locksley? Really?

GISBORNE
Yes.
(beat x2)
You will be safe where you are, for
now.

ISABELLA
Thanks. I will wait to hear from
you.

ISABELLA hugs GISBORNE. Then walks off. GISBORNE walks off
in the other direction.

CUT TO:

88 (305R) NOTTINGHAM - CITY GATES

88

The camera is inside the city, focused on the gates.

The gates open. HARRISON stands there with his horse as the
staff that LITTLE JOHN had used to hold the gates closed
earlier, clatters to the ground. HARRISON looks at the staff
as it hits the ground, then looks up to see the SHERIFF
approaching.

The SHERIFF recognizes the man from their earlier encounter.
And can tell from the look on his face that he has not been
successful.

SHERIFF
(chuckle)
Can I help you?

HARRISON
I have come to offer my services,
lord Sheriff.

SHERIFF
Did you now?

HARRISON
Since Gisborne has joined the
outlaws, you need a new right hand.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF

And you think you are right for the job?

HARRISON

I'm sure Prince John will vouch for me, m'lord.

The SHERIFF thinks. HARRISON might make a nice replacement. After all he couldn't be any worse.

SHERIFF

Very well. Maybe now Prince John will remember why he put me in command!

The SHERIFF looks at HARRISON and waves him in. The SHERIFF walks away as HARRISON pulls the horse inside.

FADE TO:

89

(305R) BY THE RIVER

89

ISABELLA peers into the hollow log where she hid her valuables, but coils and stands, finding the log empty. She stares at it, perplexed.

ROBIN comes out from behind the tree where he was watching, and waiting for her, holding out her purse.

ROBIN

Is this what you're looking for?

ISABELLA steps forward to grab it from him.

ISABELLA

That's mine!

ROBIN throws her arm off and shakes his head.

ROBIN

Not your *mistress*'?

(softly)

Why didn't you tell me you were Guy's sister, and wife to Squire Thornton?

ISABELLA

I couldn't tell you I was Lady Thornton.

ISABELLA pits her hand on ROBIN's.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)
You're Robin Hood. I know what you
do to nobles.

ROBIN
(sincerely)
You are not just *any* noble,
Isabella. And I never turn my back
on someone in true need.

ISABELLA
Good. 'Cause that's exactly what I
am.

ROBIN rubs a thumb along her cheek and hangs his head a
moment.

ROBIN
We can't turn back time. If I
could, I would have tried to stop
you and Guy from leaving that day.

ISABELLA reaches out to touch ROBIN's cheek.

ISABELLA
And if I'd known that Robin Hood
was Robin of Locksley I would have
told you who I was from the start.
(beat)
The last time we saw each other, we
were just kids. And look at us now.

ISABELLA laughs.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
One little incident changed our
lives forever. Mine. Yours. Guys.
If only...

ROBIN looks into her eyes, trying to determine if she is
still up to something. He's not quite sure. She looks
sincere, but looks can be deceiving.

ROBIN holds up her purse. ISABELLA knows he will not be
giving it back so tells him he can keep it.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Keep it.

ROBIN
I will make sure this donation goes
to good use.

ROBIN walks away. ISABELLA takes a step forward to watch him go, thinking to herself, "Can I do this? Should I do this?"

JUMP TO:

90 (306R) SHERWOOD FOREST - 1 MONTH LATER 90

Soldiers gallop through the forest on horseback, bringing HARRISON to PRINCE JOHN's camp.

JUMP TO:

91 (306R) PRINCE JOHN'S CAMP - PRINCE JOHN'S TENT 91

Soldiers bring HARRISON into PRINCE JOHN's tent and throw him to the ground before his throne.

PRINCE JOHN
Do you love me, Harrison?

HARRISON
(softly, gruffly)
Yes, sire.

PRINCE JOHN lets out his breath.

PRINCE JOHN
I'm so pleased to hear it because I don't think the Sheriff loves his prince.
(beat)
No.
(beat)
I don't think he does at all.
(beat)
My time is almost here, Harrison.

HARRISON, on his knees, raises his head a bit, staring at PRINCE JOHN's feet.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
You know my father Henry, God rest his soul, wanted me to be King, not my brother Richard.
(beat)
Me.
(beat)
King.
(beat)
That was his wish.
(deep breath)
And I will be... soon.
(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
My father taught me to surround
myself with only those most loyal,
with only those who love me.

HARRISON raises his head a bit more to stare at PRINCE JOHN's knees.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
(lean forward)
You'd make a fine Sheriff,
Harrison.

HARRISON looks in PRINCE JOHN's eyes.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
I'm confident in that.

HARRISON straightens his back, still on his knees.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Does it please you that I have such
confidence in you?

HARRISON
(softly, gruffly)
Yes, sire.

PRINCE JOHN
Hmm...
(lean back)
Robin Hood isn't dead.

HARRISON slumps his shoulders in shame.

PRINCE JOHN
I told you, I told the Sheriff.
(beat)
I wanted Robin Hood dead. His blood
is a gift I covet and yet no-one
gives it me.
(beat)
If the Sheriff loved Prince John...
(beat)
...he would give it me. And yet I
do not have it, ergo he doesn't
love me.
(beat)
Well, I will have blood.

HARRISON looks at the ground, closes his eyes tightly,
thinking his end is near.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
The Sheriff's blood.

HARRISON opens his eyes, raises his eyebrows, and looks up.
PRINCE JOHN leans forward again. HARRISON slowly
straightens.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
You will kill the Sheriff for me,
Harrison, discreetly.
(beat)
Only the two of us will know.
(beat)
A private secret we can share.

PRINCE JOHN puts a hand on either side of HARRISON's head.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
And you will do this for me,
Harrison...
(beat)
Because you love me.

PRINCE JOHN smiles.

CUT TO:

92 (306R) SHERWOOD FOREST - NEAR PRINCE JOHN'S CAMP - NEXT DAY
92

ROBIN, ALLAN, LITTLE JOHN, GISBORNE and TUCK are walking
down a road when MUCH comes running to meet them.

MUCH
Wait!

ROBIN
(chuckling)
All right.

MUCH
(look behind)
Prince John and his soldiers have
made camp
(point behind)
down there.

ROBIN
What?

ROBIN looks to where MUCH is pointing.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE
How many men?

 MUCH
Thousands.

 LITTLE JOHN
No!

 MUCH
Hundreds.

 GISBORNE
 (admonishingly)
Much!

ROBIN glances at ALLAN.

 MUCH
I didn't stop and actually count
them! I can't actually count.

They hear a horse neigh and see two soldiers, one with
PRINCE JOHN's banner, come galloping down the path.

 ROBIN
Run! Run!

The gang scatter.

JUMP TO:

93

(306R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP

93

ROBIN has drawn a map in the dirt marking the roads with a
trace of his finger and placing twigs and rocks as
landmarks.

 ALLAN
What are they doing in the forest?

 GISBORNE
Well, it's obvious, isn't it?

 ALLAN
 (still confused)
Yeah, all right.

 ROBIN
When they break camp, they use the
North Road to get to Nottingham.

LITTLE JOHN steps over the map.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN

Why is he coming?

TUCK

He's visiting all the nobles
throughout England to grease their
palms.

ROBIN steps over the map.

ROBIN

He's trying to buy their loyalty
before King Richard returns, isn't
he?

ALLAN

What, he thinks it can be bought?

TUCK

He knows it can. He's buying the
nobles and their men to seize the
throne so that King Richard returns
to King John's England.

ROBIN

Every noble he buys will bring us
closer to civil war. And a war
between Prince John and King
Richard...

(beat)

It will tear this country apart.

LITTLE JOHN

(thinking))

If he's going to buy them, he'll be
carrying gold.

The gang realize he's right.

GISBORNE

And lots of it.

ROBIN thinks, chewing on his thumb. He lets out his breath
with a hiss.

ROBIN

Well...

(beat)

We stop him stealing the crown...

(beat)

by stealing his gold.

TUCK, GISBORNE, and LITTLE JOHN chuckle. ALLAN says his line
then smiles.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

This is mad.

LITTLE JOHN

Yes, it is. Utterly mad.

GISBORNE

(seriously)

He'll have a small army with him.

ROBIN steps forward and kneels over the map.

ROBIN

Right, our only advantage is surprise. The best place to mount an attack is here...

ROBIN stabs the map repeatedly with a sharpened stick.

ROBIN (cont'd)

.. outside Locksley. So we're going to have to find more men.

GISBORNE

(nod affirmatively)

Let's do it.

JUMP TO:

94

(306R) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - INTERIOR CORRIDOR

94

The SHERIFF walks through a wide corridor, alert. Out of habit, he starts to yell for Gisborne.

SHERIFF

Gis....

The SHERIFF remembers Gisborne is gone.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

(mutter)

Never thought I'd actually miss Gisborne. Good help is so hard to find.

HARRISON steps out from behind a pillar, his hand on a knife stuck in the back of his belt. He boldly and quickly strides forward, his boots loud on the stone floor. The SHERIFF turns around. HARRISON stops to face him, his head held high.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF (cont'd)
Ah, Harrison, isn't it?

HARRISON
(quietly)
Yes, m'lord.

SHERIFF
I've been looking for you.

HARRISON fingers the knife still in his belt.

SHERIFF
I've, er, been thinking about our
relationship.

HARRISON raises an eyebrow on the word relationship. The
SHERIFF continues his line without stopping.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
We should work on it?

The SHERIFF circles HARRISON, who is careful to keep himself
facing the SHERIFF.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
Don't you think?
(beat)
I know you come highly recommended.
From the Prince himself no less.
(beat)
You've been here for, what a week
now?

HARRISON nods in agreement.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
...and I don't think we have gotten
off on the right foot.

HARRISON crosses his arms in front.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
You see, your predecessor and I,
had an understanding, and, in the
light of Prince John's visit, well,
I think we should make *our*
relationship stronger.

HARRISON gives a gracious nod.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
The best way forward...

The SHERIFF and HARRISON walk together down the corridor.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
...is unity. Between you and me,
hm? Standing strong, together,
don't you think?

The SHERIFF stops. HARRISON says nothing. The SHERIFF steps in front, his back to HARRISON. HARRISON reaches for his knife and is about to pull it out when the SHERIFF turns around.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
The man is a tyrant. We both know
that. And he's dangerous. The only
way we're going to survive is...
unity.

The SHERIFF holds his arms out, inviting HARRISON to embrace him. HARRISON returns the gesture and steps forward, then grabs his knife and steps behind the SHERIFF. Suddenly a door opens and a guard exits. HARRISON whips the knife behind his back. The guard sees them in this strange position, but doesn't see the knife.

GUARD
Sorry, m'lord. I....I hope I'm not
interrupting.

SHERIFF
No... no, not at all. We were just
having a nice little...
philosophical chat. Weren't we,
Harrison?

The SHERIFF looks back at HARRISON.

HARRISON
Yes, m'lord.

GUARD
(to the Sheriff)
There is someone here to see you,
m'lord.

SHERIFF
Ah. Visitors. I wonder who it could
be.

The SHERIFF leaves. The door squeaks open, then closes. HARRISON turns around and puts the knife back into his belt.

(CONTINUED)

JUMP TO:

95 GREAT HALL

95

ISABELLA is waiting for the SHERIFF. The SHERIFF enters with the GUARD. The guard introduces them.

GUARD

Isabella of Gisborne, m'lord.

The SHERIFF raises an eyebrow at the name Gisborne.

SHERIFF

Gisborne?

GUARD

Yes, m'lord.

ISABELLA looks at the SHERIFF.

ISABELLA

I have come to see Guy.

SHERIFF

Guy?

ISABELLA

My brother.

SHERIFF

Your brother?

ISABELLA

Yes.

Momentary pause. The SHERIFF tries to size her up. His next line is referring to the fact that Gisborne is not here.

SHERIFF

Not here.

ISABELLA

(play dumb)

Where is he?

SHERIFF

Don't know. Don't care.

ISABELLA

Look I came to see my brother, and I'm not leaving until...

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF
Then try Sherwood.

ISABELLA
The forest?

SHERIFF
Yes the forest. Is there another
Sherwood?

ISABELLA
Why would he be...

SHERIFF
Haven't you heard?
(beat)
He's teamed up with Hood.

ISABELLA is silent. So he knows. Better think quick.

ISABELLA
Then I have come in vain. Sorry to
have bothered you. I shall go.

ISABELLA turns to go. The SHERIFF stops her.

SHERIFF
Wait.

ISABELLA turns back to the SHERIFF.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
Are you really his sister?

ISABELLA
Yes.

SHERIFF
Prove it.

ISABELLA
(raise eyebrow)
M'lord?

SHERIFF
Gisborne always claimed to have no
family. If you expect me to believe
that, all of a sudden, out of the
blue, he has a sister? You'll have
to prove it.

ISABELLA

How?

SHERIFF

Tell me something about him, that
is not known by all.

ISABELLA

Like what?

SHERIFF

That is for you to decide. If you
really are his sister, then it
should be easy.

ISABELLA thinks. The SHERIFF stares at her, waiting.

ISABELLA

He has a tattoo on...

SHERIFF

Old news. Try again.

ISABELLA thinks.

ISABELLA

Our mother, Ghislaine, was French.

SHERIFF

Again, old news.

ISABELLA thinks.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

One more chance. Better make it
good.

ISABELLA thinks.

ISABELLA

The Gisborne estate was part of
Locksley.

The SHERIFF raises an eyebrow.

SHERIFF

What?

ISABELLA

Malcolm of Locksley gave the land
to our father, Roger.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF

Really. Locksley?

ISABELLA

Yes. And when our father died, the land reverted back to the Locksley estate.

SHERIFF

Why?

ISABELLA

Why what?

SHERIFF

Why did it revert back? Why didn't it pass on to...

ISABELLA

Our parents were killed in a fire at the estate house. And Guy and I left after that, never looking back.

SHERIFF

(confused)

Why leave?

ISABELLA

(head down)

Our parents weren't the only victims. Lord Malcolm was also killed in the fire.

SHERIFF

(curious)

Really.

ISABELLA

Yes. Guy blamed himself for the fire. And he figured that if he stuck around others would too. He figured the best thing for us would be to leave. That was 20 years ago.

(beat)

I've never told anyone that before.

The SHERIFF thinks.

SHERIFF

Locksley? That would explain Gisborne's desire to manage the lands while...

(CONTINUED)

The SHERIFF thinks of something.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Wait. If the Gisborne Estate was part of Locksley, that means that Guy and Robin would have grown up together.

ISABELLA

(pretend not to see the issue)

Yes.

SHERIFF says next line more to himself than ISABELLA.

SHERIFF

Why did he not say anything? Why?

ISABELLA

Why should he? What difference does it make?

SHERIFF

Big difference. He never mentioned, not even once, that he knew Hood.

ISABELLA

(play dumb)

Hood? You mean Robin Hood? What does...

The SHERIFF looks at ISABELLA. He realizes she doesn't know that Robin Hood and Robin of Locksley are the same person.

SHERIFF

Robin Hood, is Robin of Locksley.

ISABELLA pretends this is news.

ISABELLA

Really?

SHERIFF says next line more to himself than ISABELLA.

SHERIFF

I wonder why he never mentioned it?

ISABELLA

Well it was 20 years ago. Maybe he forgot.

SHERIFF

No. Gisborne never forgets anything. Ever. He can carry a grudge for...

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF stops talking, and looks at ISABELLA.

JUMP TO:

96

CASTLE HALLWAY

96

HARRISON is walking down the hall. A guard passes.

GUARD

Ah, sir?

HARRISON

Yes?

GUARD

The Sheriff would like to see you
in the Great Hall.

HARRISON wonders what the SHERIFF wants this time.

HARRISON

(mutter)

What now?!

(to guard)

Dismissed.

Guard leaves. HARRISON heads to the Great Hall.

JUMP TO:

97

GREAT HALL

97

SHERIFF

So, tell me more.

ISABELLA

About?

SHERIFF

Hood and your brother. Their
relationship.

ISABELLA

Relationship?

SHERIFF

Were they friends?

ISABELLA laughs. The SHERIFF raises an eyebrow.

ISABELLA

Friends? Not really. Guy always
wondered why mother kept pushing

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)
 him to be nicer to Robin when, in
 his words, he was such an insolent
 little brat.

SHERIFF
 He still is.

Momentary pause.

ISABELLA
 Robin always had a knack for
 finding trouble. Or was it trouble
 always found him.

(beat)

Guy was usually dragged into it as
 well.

(beat)

I remember Guy saying that if
 anyone else did what Robin did,
 they would have been severely
 punished or worse.

(beat)

But Robin always seemed to come out
 unscathed.

SHERIFF
 Still does.

The door at the top of the stairs opens. ISABELLA and the
 SHERIFF look up to see who it is. It's HARRISON. The SHERIFF
 calls to him.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
 Ah Harrison. Join us.

HARRISON enters.

PAN TO:

98

TOP OF STAIRS

98

HARRISON notices the woman with the SHERIFF. He recognizes
 her from the showdown with Robin Hood.

HARRISON
 (mutter)
 I wonder who she is, and what she
 wants.

(CONTINUED)

HARRISON goes to the SHERIFF and ISABELLA. As he gets closer, ISABELLA recognizes his as the guy with the lion from the forest. She realizes everything she just went through could be for nothing if he recognizes her. HARRISON reaches them.

SHERIFF
This is Isabella of Gisborne.

HARRISON raises an eyebrow at the name.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
Sir Guy's sister.

HARRISON nods a "hello" to her. She returns the nod.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
She will be staying with us for a while.

HARRISON is curious.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
Show her to one of the guest rooms.

HARRISON
Yes m'lord.

HARRISON indicates that ISABELLA should come with him. ISABELLA nods a "thanks" to the SHERIFF and follows HARRISON out of the hall. SHERIFF watches them walk out.

SHERIFF
(mutter)
Sister, eh? So, the plot thickens.

JUMP TO:

99

CASTLE HALLWAY

99

HARRISON and ISABELLA are walking down a hall. HARRISON checks to make sure no-one is around.

HARRISON
Are you really Gisborne's sister?

ISABELLA
Yes.

Momentary pause.

(CONTINUED)

HARRISON

What were you doing in the forest
with Hood?

ISABELLA gets a look on her face pretending not to know what
he is talking about.

HARRISON (cont'd)

I saw you. More than once. So don't
pretend you don't know what I'm
talking about.

ISABELLA

I was trying to get here. To see my
brother. Robin Hood saved me from
some men who were chasing me, and
offered to escort me to Nottingham.
All would have been fine if you and
your men hadn't...

HARRISON

Yeah.

Momentary pause.

ISABELLA

So where is that lion now?

HARRISON

On his way to some circus, I
reckon.

They reach a door and stop.

CONTINUE TO:

100 DOOR TO ISABELLA'S ROOM

100

They stop outside the door.

HARRISON

You can stay here.

ISABELLA

Thanks.

HARRISON

(quietly)

If I were you, I'd turn around and
leave as soon as you can.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

Why?

HARRISON

There are things at play here that could...

HARRISON pauses. ISABELLA waits a few moments then prompts him to continue.

ISABELLA

(curious)

Like what?

HARRISON

(seriously)

I owe your brother my life. And since he has apparently joined Hood's gang, I may never get the chance to repay him personally. But I can protect you. You are his sister. Therefore you are my sister.

ISABELLA looks at him confused.

ISABELLA

Protect me?

HARRISON

Be careful, m'lady. Trust no-one.

ISABELLA

Does that include you?

HARRISON

I will protect you as long as I can.

HARRISON nods to her, turns, and leaves. ISABELLA watches him go, then opens the door and enters her room. Door closes.

JUMP TO:

101 SHERWOOD - WAY TO LOCKSLEY

101

ROBIN, MUCH, GISBORNE, ALLAN, TUCK and LITTLE JOHN are walking through the forest on the way to Locksley.

A whistle sounds.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN holds up his hand in a "halt" gesture. Everyone stops. ROBIN turns around and places a finger on his lips in a "sh" gesture.

Silence.

ROBIN listens. After a few seconds, the whistle sounds again.

ROBIN looks to GISBORNE, then addresses the men.

ROBIN
You head to Locksley.

ROBIN looks to GISBORNE again.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Guy, with me.

GISBORNE nods in agreement. MUCH looks to ROBIN.

MUCH
Where are you...

ROBIN looks to MUCH.

ROBIN
We'll catch you up. Go.

The gang heads off. ROBIN goes to GISBORNE.

GISBORNE
Isabella?

ROBIN
Isabella.

Whistle sounds again. ROBIN and GISBORNE run off.

JUMP TO:

102

SHERWOOD - MEADOW

102

ISABELLA is waiting. Her horse is off to the side. ROBIN and GISBORNE arrive.

ISABELLA
It worked. I'm in.

ROBIN and GISBORNE smile. ISABELLA looks at GISBORNE.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Do you know a man named Harrison?

GISBORNE
Harrison?

ISABELLA
Yes.

GISBORNE thinks. After a few seconds ISABELLA continues.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
He said he owed you his life.

GISBORNE
Yes. I think I...

GISBORNE remembers something.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
Wait. He was the man with the lion.
I thought he looked familiar.

ROBIN
You know him?

GISBORNE
Knew him. Haven't seen him in about
7-8 years.

GISBORNE looks to ISABELLA.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
Why do you ask?

ISABELLA
He's your, how should I say,
replacement.

GISBORNE
I see.

ISABELLA
He said since he owed you his life
and might never be able to repay
you, he would "protect" me while I
was at the castle.

GISBORNE
Protect you? From what?

ISABELLA

He wouldn't say. But I get the feeling he is up to something.

ROBIN

Like what?

ISABELLA

You don't think he is planning to kill the Sheriff and...

ROBIN

He can't.

ISABELLA

Why not?

GISBORNE

The Sheriff is protected by Prince John.

ISABELLA

What?

ROBIN

It's true.

GISBORNE

Prince John made him a promise. If he should die an unnatural death, then the county of Nottingham and everything in it shall be obliterated.

ROBIN

Every town and village will be burned to the ground.

GISBORNE

Every man, woman, and child, hanged.

ISABELLA

Are you two serious? That's mad.

ROBIN

But it's true.

GISBORNE

Almost happened once.

FADE OUT AND INTO FLASHBACK:

103 FLASHBACK TO EPISODE 210: WALKABOUT 103

GISBORNE recalls the events the episode. As the Sheriff voice is heard bellowing "GISBORNE!!!!" we....

FADE OUT AND RETURN TO THE PRESENT:

104 MEADOW 104

ISABELLA has been listening to the story. ROBIN never really knew what happened inside the castle that day. Marian and Will never spoke of it. Now he did.

ISABELLA

But the Sheriff wasn't dead he was just missing.

GISBORNE

That didn't matter to Jasper. The point is Prince John means it.

ROBIN

As much as we want the Sheriff dead, we can not kill him.

GISBORNE

Keep an eye on Harrison. He might not know about the deal the Sheriff has with Prince John.

ISABELLA

I'll try.

Momentary pause.

ROBIN

We have to be off, so be careful.

ISABELLA

(smile)

Of course.

GISBORNE brings her horse over. ISABELLA gets on the horse and rides off. ROBIN and GISBORNE head to Locksley.

JUMP TO:

105 (306R) LOCKSLEY

105

ROBIN, TUCK and GISBORNE walk through the village, gathering the men together. LITTLE JOHN keeps watch.

ROBIN

But we need your help and you know us. We fight for England and we fight for King Richard.

GISBORNE

We must stop Prince John. We must!

ROBIN

So let's steal his gold, thwart his ambition.

TUCK

He's a pretender and not our king. This is not treason. Help us.

JUMP TO:

106 (306R) SHERWOOD FOREST - NEAR LOCKSLEY

106

The gang and their recruits hide behind the trees.

PRINCE JOHN's train comes through. It's a coach, two outriders and several soldiers.

ROBIN shoots the coach driver with an arrow and then he, the gang, and the villagers charge the train.

LITTLE JOHN puts his staff through a rear wheel, then punches a soldier.

ROBIN pulls out his sword and climbs into the driver's seat.

Next to ROBIN, TUCK blows a pipe dart at one of the outriders. He falls to the ground and the other starts forward.

ROBIN

(to Tuck)

Good shot. Look out!

The second outrider has turned his horse around and is getting ready to fight. ROBIN points at him with his sword. Two villagers run downhill with a rope tied between two long tools, and knock down several soldiers with it. LITTLE JOHN fights one. TUCK pulls off the other outrider. ROBIN uses his sword and blocks a soldier, then jumps off the coach. GISBORNE pulls a soldier off his horse, then runs behind

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN to fight more. ALLAN attacks with his dual swords. GISBORNE wounds a soldier, then runs to defend ALLAN's back. A guard off screen throws a knife and it hits GISBORNE in his left side. GISBORNE looks at the knife. MUCH fights on. GISBORNE looks at the knife again, and falls backward, to the ground. LITTLE JOHN knocks out a soldier with his staff. ALLAN punches out a soldier. More soldiers run off. ROBIN pushes a soldier into the side of the coach, slices his back, then peers inside the coach. ALLAN runs over to the coach not seeing GISBORNE, on the ground, behind him. MUCH runs to the coach. TUCK is on the other side. A well-dressed man is inside, looking warily at them all.

PALMER

Hello.

MUCH

Good God, we've captured Prince John.

ROBIN and TUCK each open a door. ROBIN pulls PALMER out.

ROBIN

Come here.

TUCK climbs through the coach. ROBIN lets PALMER go.

PALMER

(timidly)

I'd be very grateful if you might spare my life.

ALLAN and MUCH lift a chest off the back of the coach and set it on the ground.

LITTLE JOHN

The gold.

LITTLE JOHN stabs at the lock with the butt of his staff. ROBIN and TUCK each grab one of PALMER's arms and drag him to the chest.

ROBIN

Let's go.

LITTLE JOHN (VO)

This has to be the gold.

LITTLE JOHN bends over the chest, pulls off the broken lock and flips open the clasp. LITTLE JOHN opens the chest and it's empty.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN

Nothing.

LITTLE JOHN slams the lid open. ROBIN stands up and faces PALMER. LITTLE JOHN stands.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)

Absolutely nothing!

ROBIN

Well, Prince John is a coward. If this were Prince John, his soldiers wouldn't desert him. He'd try and buy our allegiance. This is his double!

ALLAN realizes that GISBORNE is missing.

ALLAN

Where's Guy?

ALLAN looks around and sees GISBORNE lying on the ground. He rushes to him, dropping his sword on the way.

ALLAN

Guy!

ROBIN is quick on his heels. ALLAN lifts his head into his arms.

ALLAN (cont'd)

Guy.

GISBORNE

I'll be all right.

ALLAN

Sh-sh.

GISBORNE's breathing quiets and he passes out.

ALLAN

Guy!

(beat)

Guy!

ROBIN and ALLAN stare at each other fearing the worst. TUCK, MUCH and LITTLE JOHN come over. PALMER follows. ROBIN hangs and shakes his head.

ROBIN

Lay him down. Come on, give him some space.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN lays GISBORNE's head down and steps back. TUCK kneels beside GISBORNE, his fist to his mouth, thinking. ROBIN is confused as to why TUCK is doing nothing. PALMER watches.

ROBIN (cont'd)
What is it?

TUCK
If I remove it, the bleeding could kill him, could cause more damage.

ALLAN looks away. TUCK looks at MUCH.

TUCK
I need the bark of an elm tree and some nettles to grind. Go, please.

MUCH nods, and he and ALLAN run off.

PALMER
A poultice.

ROBIN, TUCK, and LITTLE JOHN look at PALMER.

PALMER (cont'd)
Quite effective. It draws out the evils while keeping the wound clean.

PALMER dashes forward and pulls the knife out of GISBORNE. GISBORNE gasps.

TUCK
What are you doing?

PALMER
To leave it in would kill him.

PALMER presses his hands to the wound.

PALMER
I shall will the blood back into his body while you prepare the poultice, then we'll need to re-balance his humours.

ROBIN
Who are you?

PALMER
Benjamin Palmer, physician to Prince John.

TUCK tilts his head, amazed.

PALMER

(look up)

But neither his supporter nor his
apologist.

JUMP TO:

107 (306R) A WHILE LATER

107

TUCK bandages GISBORNE's wound, PALMER looking on. ROBIN sits under a tree nearby, spinning GISBORNE's sword on its point on the ground in front of him. MUCH sits next to him. ALLAN and LITTLE JOHN stand nearby.

PALMER

Two soldiers reported seeing
assassins in the forest.

ROBIN looks at MUCH.

PALMER (cont'd)

The Prince needed a double. He couldn't cancel his dinner with the Council of Nobles tomorrow and there was no-one else. I could have refused, but I'd have been beheaded.

ROBIN chuckles.

PALMER (cont'd)

Mind you, my predecessor was beheaded because he couldn't find a case of scrofula.

ROBIN

And what's scrofula?

TUCK looks up from his bandaging.

TUCK

It's a very rare disease.

PALMER

So rare I can't find a case of it either.

TUCK

Legend has it, it can only be cured by the touch of a king.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

So why would he want to find a case
of it then?

PALMER

Prince John's obsessed with it.

TUCK

He once saw his father, Henry,
successfully cure a child with
scrofula.

ROBIN sneers, guessing it was a ruse.

ALLAN

My father told me that when I was a
kid.

LITTLE JOHN

I heard it as well.

PALMER

Prince John brought me with him
hoping I might find a case of
scrofula for him to cure.

(beat)

Like his father did.

(Beat)

To prove that he's the rightful
king of England, not his brother
Richard.

ROBIN nods, understanding now.

PALMER

Of course there's absolutely no
evidence that a king's touch cures
anything. But as I'd like to keep
my head, I... I... I'll not be the
one to tell him.

GISBORNE wakes up. He is pale and sweaty. He lifts his head.
ROBIN sets aside the sword.

GISBORNE

Can I have some water, please?

Surprisingly MUCH jumps up.

MUCH

I'll get it!

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

I'll go.

ROBIN watches them both race off, then calmly stands with the water flask and leans over GISBORNE.

ROBIN

Here you go.

ROBIN holds GISBORNE's head up.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Here.

GISBORNE drinks.

GISBORNE

Thank you.

ROBIN

(smile)

You might be out of commission for a few days, but you'll live.

GISBORNE

Thanks.

ROBIN

(jokingly)

Hey, we did fine without you before, I'm sure we can survive a few days without you, now.

GISBORNE tries to laugh. But it hurts. He places a hand on his side. ROBIN smiles.

JUMP TO:

108 (306R) A WHILE LATER

108

ROBIN, PALMER, ALLAN, and MUCH walk off to the side.

ROBIN

Thank you for helping to save his life. You're free to go.

ALLAN

Yes, thank you.

PALMER

(look at them)

Thank you all...

(to Robin)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PALMER (cont'd)
 ...Thank you for not killing me.

ROBIN
 So... will you go back to Prince
 John?

PALMER
 Well... I suppose I should.

ROBIN
 Right.

ROBIN looks to ALLAN.

ROBIN (cont'd)
 Tie him up.

ALLAN looks questioningly at ROBIN. PALMER is confused.

CUT TO:

109 (306) NOTTINGHAM

109

The royal train arrives in town. PRINCE JOHN rides in an open carriage. The townsfolk cheer and throw rose petals on the street in front of him.

PAN TO:

110 (306R) CASTLE - COURTYARD

110

There is a bell faintly ringing in the background. The SHERIFF steps out of the main doors. HARRISON behind him. The carriage enters through the portcullis. ISABELLA comes out behind HARRISON.

The carriage stops. PRINCE JOHN gets out, scowling at the SHERIFF.

The SHERIFF comes down the steps, arms outstretched.

SHERIFF
 Welcome to Nottingham, Your
 Highness.

The SHERIFF bows.

PRINCE JOHN
 You're still alive.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF
(stand)
Yes, of course.

PRINCE JOHN
How surprising.

HARRISON shows a strained face.

PRINCE JOHN
I don't particularly like
surprises.

PRINCE JOHN goes up the steps, glaring at HARRISON, then
stops at ISABELLA. The SHERIFF glares at HARRISON.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
What's your name?

ISABELLA
(smile slyly)
Isabella.

PRINCE JOHN
Lovely!

PRINCE JOHN lifts her chin up.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Italian or Spanish?

ISABELLA
Which do you prefer?

PRINCE JOHN smiles and chuckles. ISABELLA chuckles too. They
hear horseshoes on the cobblestones and PRINCE JOHN turns
and steps towards it.

A soldier leads in a horse with PALMER face down over its
back, his hands tied and a cloth tied over his face. The
soldier unties him and PALMER stands facing PRINCE JOHN. He
takes off his blindfold and chuckles nervously.

PRINCE JOHN
Speak.

PALMER
Congratulations. We were ambushed,
not you. Y... y... your plan
worked, Your Highness. Y... your
brilliance is unsurpassed.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN
Who attacked you?

PALMER
Robin Hood.

PRINCE JOHN closes his eyes in fury, then turns around and heads for the castle door.

PRINCE JOHN
Harrison.

HARRISON follows PRINCE JOHN. The SHERIFF watches them go.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
(heading up the steps)
Prove your loyalty to me. Rid me of
him.

ISABELLA, the SHERIFF, a bouncing PALMER, and guards, follow PRINCE JOHN and HARRISON up the steps.

JUMP TO:

111 (306) OUTSIDE SHERIFF'S QUARTERS - A SHORT WHILE LATER 111

The SHERIFF is approaching his room. He spins around, watching suspiciously, then backs up to the door, opens it and enters the room.

PAN TO:

112 (306R) SHERIFF'S BEDROOM 112

He quickly closes the door, listening for sounds behind it. He continues to walk backwards, then hears a tap and pulls his knife out of his coat.

PRINCE JOHN is sitting on his bed.

PRINCE JOHN
Do you love me, Sheriff?

The SHERIFF turns around.

SHERIFF
With all my heart, sire.

PRINCE JOHN stands, with a pained face.

PRINCE JOHN
Would you give your life for me?

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF

My life?
(no hesitation)
Is that all? Of course.

PRINCE JOHN

Would you take a life for me?

SHERIFF

Even easier to answer.

PRINCE JOHN stops in front of the SHERIFF.

PRINCE JOHN

Harrison has so disappointed me.

SHERIFF

(confused)
Disappointed?

PRINCE JOHN

Obedience, loyalty and love, is it
too much to ask?

(beat)

A king requires all three.

(beat)

Who's more loyal to me, Sheriff?

(beat)

You or Harrison?

SHERIFF

Of course, I am, sire. My loyalty
is infinite.

PRINCE JOHN

Good.

(beat)

Then prove it to me.

(beat)

Rid me of Harrison, Sheriff.

(beat)

Quickly, discreetly. We don't want
to disturb our noble guests with
this messy business.

(beat)

Kill him for me, Sheriff.

SHERIFF

A privilege, sire.

A pause, then PRINCE JOHN glances at the door and slightly
jerks his head that way.

PAN TO:

113 (306R) HALLWAY

113

HARRISON waits behind a pillar. He sees PRINCE JOHN leave the room. PRINCE JOHN catches his eye and continues on. Then the SHERIFF comes out. HARRISON's anxious face glares at him. The SHERIFF glares back.

JUMP TO:

114 (306R) THE GREAT HALL

114

PRINCE JOHN, ISABELLA, HARRISON, and the SHERIFF are having dinner in the Great Hall as a piper and drummer entertain.

PRINCE JOHN's throne is at the head of the table. On the left side of the table are ISABELLA, PALMER, and three other men. On the right side of the table are the SHERIFF, HARRISON, a man, and a woman.

A serving boy puts two bowls of dried plums between the SHERIFF and HARRISON, who are sitting with their backs to the fireplace.

PRINCE JOHN is fingering his mustache.

PRINCE JOHN

And where were you attacked?

PALMER

Near a village.

SHERIFF

Locksley village.

HARRISON takes a dried plum and is about to eat it, then he stops and looks at the serving boy.

PALMER

We fought courageously, but we were dreadfully outnumbered.

SHERIFF

No doubt the villagers helped the outlaws.

The SHERIFF watches HARRISON give a plum to the serving boy to try.

PALMER

And eventually I was captured...

The boy chews the plum.

(CONTINUED)

PALMER (cont'd)
...by Robin Hood himself.

SHERIFF
Or so he said.

HARRISON waves off the boy.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
I mean, we've all been proved wrong
in the past...

HARRISON is quickly popping plums into his mouth.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
...haven't we, Harrison?

HARRISON looks up from his plums.

PRINCE JOHN
But this time Robin Hood was
fooled.

The SHERIFF looks at HARRISON's bowl, scratching his chin.

PALMER
Yes, Your Highness.

PRINCE JOHN
(chuckle)
Excellent. And was he angry...
(beat)
...that I'd made such a fool of
him?

PALMER
(smile)
Very angry.

PRINCE JOHN
Did he curse us?

PALMER
Fulsomely.

PRINCE JOHN
(stand)
Wonderful!

HARRISON leans over to the man next to him. The SHERIFF quickly switches bowls and takes a plum from his new dish as HARRISON raises his goblet to his lips.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN stands behind PALMER's chair, and leans on the back of it.

PRINCE JOHN
What did he say?

PALMER
(face falls)
Oh, I... I... I couldn't, Your
Highness.

PRINCE JOHN
Oh, please, tell me exactly what he
said.

PALMER
But Your Highness...

PRINCE JOHN
Do you not love me?

PALMER
(smile)
Of course.

PRINCE JOHN
Well, then say!

PRINCE JOHN smiles sweetly. PALMER thinks.

PALMER
He called you a coward.

The music stops. PRINCE JOHN freezes, the smile still on his face.

PALMER
He said only a coward would have a
double.

Everyone else at the table freezes. Not daring to make a move. PRINCE JOHN's smile falls a bit and he raises his head.

PRINCE JOHN
Arrest him.

Two guards step forward. The music starts back up. PRINCE JOHN takes his seat. Everyone starts to breathe again.

SHERIFF
With pleasure... and what shall I
charge him with?

PRINCE JOHN
 (impatiently)
 Impersonating the Prince Regent.

PALMER
 (being dragged away)
 If it makes any difference, sire,
 I... I didn't agree with him.

PRINCE JOHN sits slouched, hand to his head. ISABELLA eats a grape.

PRINCE JOHN
 Where is this village of Locksley?
 I want to see it.

JUMP TO:

115 (306R) LOCKSLEY

115

The villagers are applauding and cheering. The village is decorated with garlands and flowers. Two men bring a pig on a spit, ready to be roasted, past rows of long tables. The villagers stand and applaud as they pass by and set it over a fire between the manor and the church.

FOCUS ON: Manor House. PRINCE JOHN's carriage arrives from behind Locksley Manor. HARRISON, the SHERIFF, and ISABELLA, ride in on horseback. ISABELLA to the right of PRINCE JOHN and HARRISON and the SHERIFF on his left side.

PRINCE JOHN
 These villagers helped attack me?
 Why? They look so lovely.

The carriage stops.

FOCUS ON: Villagers.

ISABELLA (VO)
 Looks like a wedding.

FOCUS ON: Prince John.

PRINCE JOHN
 I love weddings.
 (smile and stand)
 I shall speak with them.
 (to Isabella)
 You'll join me?

PRINCE JOHN gets out of the carriage. ISABELLA dismounts. HARRISON and the SHERIFF watch from their horses. PRINCE JOHN walks with ISABELLA towards the people.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN
They are sad little creatures
really, aren't they?

ISABELLA remains quiet.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
I sense disagreement.

ISABELLA
One cannot disagree with one's
king.

PRINCE JOHN
King?
(stop)
You see me as your King? How
delightful of you. I wish others
accepted me as readily as you do.

ISABELLA
Perhaps I've had the good fortune
to know you better than most.

PRINCE JOHN
Perhaps.
(continue walking)
And perhaps you'd like to get to
know me better still.

ISABELLA chuckles.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Ah, you'll make me work for my
conquest.

ISABELLA
Was not France more valuable
because it was fought for?

PRINCE JOHN
Hah! You make this such good sport.

ISABELLA chuckles. A boy comes up with a flower for PRINCE JOHN. A few men follow him.

PRINCE JOHN
Hello, young man.
(take the flower)
Oh, thank you.

ISABELLA walks forward.

VILLAGE MAN (VO)
Would His Highness give us his
blessing?

The MAN stretches his arm out to welcome him forward.

ISABELLA
They would be honoured if you would
bless the bride and groom.

PRINCE JOHN
Of course.

PRINCE JOHN smiles and exaggeratedly swaggers forward.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Hah! Are you the bride and groom?

BRIDE / GROOM
Yes, sir, Your Highness.

PRINCE JOHN holds his hand over the couple.

PRINCE JOHN
I wish you prosperity and
happiness.

BRIDE / GROOM
(bow)
Thank you, sir.

PRINCE JOHN
And I'm so glad that I could bring
you sun today.

The villagers laugh. PRINCE JOHN chuckles, turns and walks back to his carriage.

The church bell rings and the villagers make their way to the church.

PRINCE JOHN steps into the carriage and ISABELLA mounts her horse. PRINCE JOHN waves and smiles at the villagers, who wave back.

PRINCE JOHN
Wait until they're all inside the
church and then burn it to the
ground.

PRINCE JOHN smells his flower. ISABELLA is shocked. The last villager waves at PRINCE JOHN, and he waves back. ISABELLA is panicked for them.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)

Burn it.

Two soldiers on horseback with cold torches gallop forward. The church doors close. They hold the torches to the flames under the pig to light them. One gallops by and throws the torch onto the roof. It lights the shingles, then drops to the ground and the wall is quickly engulfed in flames.

PRINCE JOHN smiles.

A third soldier runs forward and puts a stick through the handles, barring it closed. The second torchbearer lights the walls on the other side. ISABELLA can't help but watch. The flames rise and the people inside scream. The doors shake but don't open.

JUMP TO:

116

(306R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP

116

TUCK peels a carrot with his knife. LITTLE JOHN tastes the soup, makes a face, looks at TUCK, then sets the spoon back in the pot. GISBORNE lies in a bunk and ALLAN feeds him a spoonful of soup. ROBIN sits on a log opposite them, watching. He swings his feet off, comes over and sighs.

GISBORNE

I'll be fine, Robin. It's just a scratch.

LITTLE JOHN

(to Tuck)

We're already too late. The gold is in the castle.

ROBIN turns to LITTLE JOHN.

ROBIN

Then we'll steal it back.

LITTLE JOHN

It's dangerous.

ROBIN

It's too dangerous not to.

MUCH comes running in.

MUCH

Prince John's burning Locksley.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE makes a move to get up. But ROBIN holds him down and gives him a look. GISBORNE gives ROBIN a look that says, "okay. But..."

JUMP TO:

117 (306R) LOCKSLEY

117

A soldier lights a wooden cross outside the church as PRINCE JOHN laughs. Inside, people are crying and screaming. The doors rattle and finally break open. The villagers come out, coughing. PRINCE JOHN calls out to them.

PRINCE JOHN
You're being punished! For
intolerable disloyalty to me!

The bride and groom run out holding hands, stop and listen.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
For harbouring and assisting Robin
Hood and his outlaws! And may God
forgive you!

The bride, groom and villagers run and women scream as the soldiers upset the lavish tables. The flames rise on the church.

VILLAGE MAN 1
To the river, quick!

VILLAGE MAN 2
More buckets!

VILLAGE WOMAN
We need more water here!

VILLAGE MAN 1
Bring more water!

The men race with buckets from the pond.

PRINCE JOHN
(whine)
No, no, no, no, no! They're trying
to put the fire out.

PRINCE JOHN turns to the SHERIFF and HARRISON.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
That's not what I want!

The villagers dump water on the flames but the church is completely engulfed.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Stop them, the both of you! Go on!

VILLAGE MAN 1
Come on, hurry up!

The SHERIFF and HARRISON gallop their horses forward.

PRINCE JOHN
This should be entertaining.

VILLAGE MAN 1
You lot, hurry up! Get the buckets!

The villagers splash water on the flames.

VILLAGE MAN 2
Faster!

VILLAGE MAN 1
Bring more water, quickly!

VILLAGE MAN 2
I've got two here!

A soldier sets fire to the back wall. PRINCE JOHN sits, watching.

ISABELLA
Do you want them to love you?

PRINCE JOHN
Of course. And I think they do love me. But I will have respect as well as love.

ISABELLA
Any landowner can subjugate his serf. Only a king can liberate them. A benevolent king is loved.

PRINCE JOHN
But I am benevolent.

He looks at ISABELLA, amazed, and double takes.

VILLAGE MAN 1
Everyone over here, quick! It's spreading!

A man goes to the pond to refill his bucket.

VILLAGE MAN 1
We need more help!

VILLAGE MAN 2
Come on!

A man pours water on the freshly lit wall. The SHERIFF pulls the man aside.

SHERIFF
Get out of the way! Get out of the way!

A soldier holds HARRISON's horse for him and HARRISON dismounts. The SHERIFF throws the village man to the ground.

SHERIFF:
Go, peasant!

HARRISON draws his sword and sees the SHERIFF standing near an overhang of the church. HARRISON growls, and with all his might knocks out a supporting pole and the overhang crashes to the ground. The SHERIFF screams, then is silent. HARRISON watches, smiles with satisfaction and turns away. The SHERIFF peeks out at HARRISON from under the wagon where he had rolled and sees a bow and arrow on the ground in front of him. He crawls out, picks them up and aims at HARRISON's back as HARRISON approaches two other village men.

HARRISON
Back off and your lives will be spared!

The SHERIFF lets his arrow loose just as another village man approaches HARRISON from behind with his axe raised.

VILLAGE MAN 2
I'll kill you. Ah!

The SHERIFF's arrow hits the would-be assassin in the arm and he falls to the ground. HARRISON turns around, sees the man fall, then looks up at the SHERIFF. The SHERIFF lowers the bow, a grimace on his face. HARRISON smirks and waves at the SHERIFF. The SHERIFF smirks and waves back.

SHERIFF
Oh, bother.

HARRISON turns to the two men.

HARRISON
Back off!

The church is all flames.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN walks towards it and looks back at ISABELLA, smiling proudly. ISABELLA stares in disdain. PRINCE JOHN laughs, watching, then gets back in the carriage. HARRISON and the SHERIFF come back on their horses.

PRINCE JOHN

Bored now.

(to guard)

Make sure it's burned to the ground.

ISABELLA starts her horse, unable to watch any more. PRINCE JOHN chuckles at ISABELLA.

PRINCE JOHN

Ah, I love the refusal before the surrender.

PRINCE JOHN smiles and briefly raises his eyebrows. The SHERIFF smiles. HARRISON smirks briefly.

The church continues to burn.

The soldiers and the carriage quickly leave. They take the road back towards the Manor house and exit the same way they came in. The SHERIFF and HARRISON follow behind him. PRINCE JOHN tosses his flower out.

ROBIN and the gang, (minus Gisborne), arrive from the other end of the village and engage the few soldiers left behind, incapacitating them all.

LITTLE JOHN

Come on!

ROBIN

Come on! Come on! Let's go!

ROBIN has organized the gang and the villagers into a bucket brigade. ISABELLA joins it next to ROBIN by the pond and hands him a bucket.

ISABELLA

Take this.

ROBIN

You should be burning it down, not trying to save it, shouldn't you?

ISABELLA

This was once my home too, remember?

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA turns for another bucket, but ROBIN hears the building collapsing and pulls her out of the way.

The bucket brigade stops as the people realize there's no saving the church. The front upper wall falls in. The belfry falls into the roof causing the entire front of the church to collapse under the weight. The side walls fall in. The rest of the roof caves in.

JUMP TO:

118 (306R) LATER

118

Only smoldering timbers remain. ROBIN brings a cup of water from the well over to ISABELLA.

ROBIN
Isabella.

ISABELLA turns.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Here.

ROBIN holds out the cup. ISABELLA takes it and drinks.

JUMP TO:

119 (306R) MEADOW NEAR LOCKSLEY

119

ISABELLA readies her horse, which she had tethered out of sight of Locksley before coming back to help. ROBIN comes up to her with his bow and quiver in hand.

ALLAN
(questioningly)
Robin?!

ROBIN looks back at him, and ALLAN points in the other direction.

ROBIN
I'll catch you up!

ALLAN
Right!

MUCH
Come on, let's go.

ALLAN and MUCH jog off.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
So!... Will you go back to
Nottingham?

ISABELLA
(sigh)
That was the plan.

ROBIN
Right. Well, you know where I am if
you need my help, eh?

ROBIN turns to go.

ISABELLA
You're Robin Hood. Shouldn't you be
robbing me, not helping me?

ROBIN scratches the back of his head, tosses his things to
the ground and rolls up his sleeve.

ROBIN
Yeah, you're right, I am.

ROBIN turns to face ISABELLA and motions to her.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Give me your necklace.

ISABELLA
(disbelief)
You're robbing me?

ROBIN stares bluntly at her a moment, then puts his hand to
her neck, pausing just before he touches her, then gently
reaches around her with both hands to take it off.

ISABELLA
(chuckle)
See, I like this necklace.

ROBIN pulls it away.

ROBIN
Are you going to help me?

ISABELLA
Help you? This is not the way to go
about it.

ROBIN
Give me your rings.

ISABELLA

Er...

She takes a ring off each index finger.

ROBIN

Because you don't want Prince John to think we cooperated, do you?

ISABELLA

Anything else you might want?

ROBIN

Mm-hm. I want to undermine Prince John's claim to be the legitimate King of England and humiliate his ambition.

She frowns.

ROBIN

And I'm prepared to die to stop him.

ISABELLA

You might be more effective alive.

ROBIN

Will you help me?

ISABELLA

Yes.

She pulls up her skirt and unties a purse wrapped around her left thigh. ROBIN chuckles.

ISABELLA

Give this to the people of Locksley.

Coins clink as she hands him the purse.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Help them rebuild their church.

ROBIN nods, staring at her.

ROBIN

So you defy Prince John.

ISABELLA

(shake head)

He begs my defiance.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN tosses ISABELLA's purse to the ground. They stare at each other. ROBIN strokes her cheek.

ROBIN
So... is there anything else...
(smile slightly)
...that I might steal?

ISABELLA
Perhaps.

They stare another moment, then ROBIN leans in a bit, pauses to see her reaction, then gives her a quick kiss on the lips. He sees her eyes are still closed and wraps his arms around her and gives her a longer kiss. Afterwards, ISABELLA keeps her eyes closed and puts a finger to his lips.

ISABELLA
(weakly)
Stop thief.

ISABELLA opens her eyes. ROBIN chuckles and kisses her again.

JUMP TO:

120

(306R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP

120

ROBIN takes off the cloth that is covering ISABELLA's eyes, then steps into the "kitchen."

ISABELLA looks at the uncertain faces of the gang. GISBORNE is sitting up on his bed. ALLAN sits with him.

ISABELLA chuckles nervously and steps forward. She says her line to ROBIN in a "politely but not meaning it" way.

ISABELLA
It's nice.

ISABELLA sees GISBORNE.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Guy?

She goes to him. She notices he is hurt.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
You're hurt.

GISBORNE
Just a scratch. I'm fine.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE gives ROBIN a "why is she here" look. ROBIN addresses the gang.

ROBIN
She said she can help us.

ROBIN looks at ISABELLA.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Didn't you?

ISABELLA
Yes. I.... I can get you into the castle.

TUCK
You want us to trust her with our lives? We're still not sure she is on our side?

GISBORNE
She is my sister. She will do what I say.

ISABELLA gives him a hard look. GISBORNE realizes that didn't come out the way he meant. He is about to say something else, but MUCH jumps in.

MUCH
But she *lives* in the Castle. She could be..

ROBIN
I trust her. Guy trusts her. That's enough.

ISABELLA gives ROBIN a look. GISBORNE notices and wonders what it means.

ALLAN
All right, so she gets us in the castle. Then what?

MUCH
Well, then we get captured and I presume killed.

ROBIN turns away, flustered with the gang. ISABELLA is uncomfortable. TUCK is thinking. He gets an idea.

TUCK
The "king's evil!"

MUCH

"The Prince," Tuck. The Prince is evil.

TUCK goes to the storage place for his red book.

TUCK

Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no.

TUCK comes back and sits.

TUCK (cont'd)

Prince John is searching for a victim, of scrofula.

ROBIN frowns, shifts his feet, thinking along with TUCK.

ROBIN

So he can repeat that same feat, prove his divine right to the throne, yeah?

TUCK

We give him a victim. I can make a potion which brings out red blisters on the neck which looks exactly like scrofula.

ROBIN

So the nobles all assemble in the Great Hall, in comes Prince John with his victim, he touches him...

TUCK

(interrupt)
..fails...

ROBIN

...then we humiliate him.

LITTLE JOHN

Which distracts the nobles while we steal the gold.

MUCH

That might work.

MUCH jumps down from his perch and looks at TUCK's book.

ROBIN

Right. Isabella can get us in, and apart from Guy here, Allan...

(chuckle in anticipation)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
...knows the castle better than the
rest of us.
(look at Allan)
So you can get us out.

ALLAN
There's a trap door in the
cloisters... now if we lower a rope
down we can get into a tunnel that
leads directly out of the castle.
We won't even be seen.

ROBIN
So come on, what do we think? We
can convince Prince John, can't we?

Silence.

TUCK
(stand)
Benjamin Palmer, the physician! We
helped him, he owes us. He'll
convince Prince John.

ROBIN
(look to Isabella)
You should know him. If he's part
of the Prince's entourage, you can
get to him.

ISABELLA
No. He's due to be executed
tomorrow.

GISBORNE
Well, there's no reason why he
shouldn't help us then. Is there?

ROBIN
Right.

ISABELLA smiles at ROBIN, chuckles, then seriously says next
line.

ISABELLA
I won't fail you...

ISABELLA looks at everyone, and lingers on GISBORNE.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
...any of you.

The gang remains silent.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK

We, er, still need a victim.

ROBIN

I think I know someone who can help.

JUMP TO:

121 (306R) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - COURTYARD

121

PALMER is sitting in the birdcage on the ground in the middle of the courtyard. ISABELLA rides in on her horse.

GUARD

Send for the groom!

The guard holds the horse while ISABELLA dismounts. She sees PALMER in the cage and is about to go to him when she sees HARRISON and rushes to him instead, playing the victim of Robin Hood.

ISABELLA

They are beasts! Hood and his outlaws, they've robbed me.

ISABELLA runs her fingers through her hair. HARRISON puts his hands on his hips, listening.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Stole my jewelery. Look at me.

The CAMERA pans up to cloister as ISABELLA continues talking.

PAN TO:

122 (306R) SHERIFF AND PRINCE JOHN

122

The SHERIFF and PRINCE JOHN are watching from the cloister. (ISABELLA and HARRISON can be heard off camera)

PRINCE JOHN

(referring to Isabella)
She's lovely, isn't she?

ISABELLA (VO)

I was so scared.

PRINCE JOHN

(indicating Harrison)
He will be dead before supper, yes?

(CONTINUED)

HARRISON (VO)

*Well, you should have come back
with us and not tried to...*

SHERIFF

Well, I wouldn't set a place for
him myself, sire.

PRINCE JOHN

Mm. Have her brought to me.

PRINCE JOHN walks off. The SHERIFF looks down into the
courtyard.

JUMP TO:

123 (306R) GREAT HALL

123

ISABELLA is in the center of the room, recounting her story
of Robin Hood to the nobles and PRINCE JOHN.

PRINCE JOHN is sitting on his throne opposite the balcony.
The SHERIFF sits on his right, and HARRISON sits on his
left.

ISABELLA looks around her, then approaches a nearby guard.

ISABELLA

Then I took the sword in my hand...
(beat)
...and tugged it from its sheath...

The onlookers gasp as ISABELLA pulls out the guard's sword.
PRINCE JOHN looks alarmed, totally engrossed in the tale.
ISABELLA slowly sweeps the sword around, then approaches
PRINCE JOHN. Four guards step forward with their spears,
then retreat when they see there is no danger.

PRINCE JOHN

Ooh!

ISABELLA

And I put the sword to the soft
part of his throat.

She puts the sword at PRINCE JOHN's throat.

PRINCE JOHN

And?

ISABELLA steps back to the middle of the room.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

Dozens of outlaws appeared from
nowhere. And I shouted, "Long live
King John!"

ISABELLA drops the sword and throws back her head and arms.

PRINCE JOHN

Oh, you adorable girl! Everyone
leave us!

ISABELLA lifts her head upright while the nobles mumble and
leave the hall. ISABELLA turns around, watching PRINCE JOHN.
The SHERIFF and HARRISON pass her, followed by the guards.

PRINCE JOHN

(stand)
You spoke to them...
(beat)
...the villagers...
(beat)
...as you tried to put out the
fire?

ISABELLA

Yes.

PRINCE JOHN

(sigh)
Why do the people not love me as
you love me, Isabella?

ISABELLA

You burnt their church to the
ground with them in it.

PRINCE JOHN pauses a moment, thinking.

PRINCE JOHN

Yes... and?

ISABELLA

The people want to love you as
their King.
(beat)
If you can prove your divine right
to the nobles, then the people will
follow.

PRINCE JOHN

Do you think?

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

Yes... King John.

PRINCE JOHN

Oh, you adorable girl.

His head drifts, thinking of the sound.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)

Say it again.

ISABELLA

(whisper seductively)

King... John.

PRINCE JOHN revels in the words again.

PRINCE JOHN

It does sound good.

(turn)

It is my divine right.

PRICE JOHN sighs.

ISABELLA

You must prove it to everyone.

PRINCE JOHN looks gratefully at ISABELLA.

JUMP TO:

124

(306) COURTYARD

124

PALMER sits cross-legged in the birdcage. ISABELLA runs down the steps to him. PALMER stands as he sees her approaching.

ISABELLA

You are going to help me.

PALMER

(confused)

Am I?

ISABELLA

The Sheriff is going to execute you. This is your last chance to save yourself.

PALMER

Mm. You've convinced me.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN

Where is he?

PRINCE JOHN comes quickly down the stairs. ISABELLA runs to him, pointing back at PALMER.

ISABELLA

Our prayers have been answered,
sire.

PRINCE JOHN

Has he really found a victim of the
disease? Really?

ISABELLA

He saw a woman in Locksley. I
couldn't believe my ears.

PRINCE JOHN

(to Palmer)

Is it true?

PALMER

Yes.

PRINCE JOHN

Oh, this is so exciting!

PALMER

I saw the poor pitiful woman when
Robin Hood held me captive. I was
sure it was scrofula.

PRINCE JOHN

Why didn't you tell me?

PALMER

Because you put me... because the
Sheriff put me in this cage.

PRINCE JOHN

(to Isabella)

What does the Sheriff think he's
doing? The man's my physician!

(to Palmer)

Are you sure it's scrofula?

PALMER

Yes.

ISABELLA catches his eye with her finger and puts it to her chin.

(CONTINUED)

PALMER (cont'd)
Completely and utterly certain.

PRINCE JOHN
The nobles will have their proof of
my divine right to be King.
Physician, you will bring this
woman to me tonight. In front of
all the nobles... I will cure her
and prove myself their rightful
King.

PRINCE JOHN turns and leaves. PALMER looks wide-eyed at
ISABELLA. ISABELLA smiles at him and follows PRINCE JOHN.
Guards come forward to release PALMER from his cage.

JUMP TO:

125 (306R) OUTSIDE THE CASTLE WALLS - NIGHT 125

A hooded ISABELLA leads the gang along the outside wall.
ROBIN carries his bow and quiver and wears a cloak. The gang
follow.

ISABELLA
He's given each of the nobles a
casket full of gold, too much for
them to carry on their person. It
will be in their rooms.

They arrive at an iron gate.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
There'll be five trumpet fanfares.

MUCH
Five.

ISABELLA
(open gate)
On the fifth, you have to be ready
to escape.

ROBIN
Right, and I'll make a distraction.

MUCH, ALLAN and LITTLE JOHN go through the gate. TUCK takes
the village girl, ANNA, aside. ANNA wears a cloak, cloth cap
and headscarf. ROBIN waits at the gate.

TUCK
Five, good.

TUCK holds up a vial and looks at ANNA.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK (cont'd)
 Drink this. The marks will be gone
 by tomorrow.

ANNA looks at ROBIN as TUCK uncorks the vial. She hesitates a moment, then takes it and drinks.

JUMP TO:

126 (306R) GREAT HALL

126

The first fanfare sounds.

PRINCE JOHN enters through the upper doors onto the balcony as the nobles applaud. PRINCE JOHN leans on the banister a moment, reveling in the adulation, then goes down the stairs.

Meanwhile, ISABELLA enters through the lower doors underneath and ushers ROBIN and ANNA to the side opposite the stairs where PALMER is waiting.

A dozen guards follow PRINCE JOHN down the stairs.

ROBIN
 (whisper to Palmer)
 Thank you for helping us.

PALMER
 You're welcome.

ANNA waits nervously. ROBIN looks at her.

ROBIN
 (whisper to Anna)
 After the fifth blast, be ready for
 my signal.

ANNA nods.

ROBIN (cont'd)
 (to Palmer)
 Don't worry, we won't leave you
 behind.

PALMER
 (chuckle nervously)
 Very optimistic.

PRINCE JOHN sits on his throne at the far end.

CUT TO:

127 (306) INTERIOR CORRIDOR 127

LITTLE JOHN, MUCH, and ALLAN defeat two guards. TUCK follows.

They split up: TUCK and LITTLE JOHN search the guest rooms and MUCH and ALLAN ready their escape.

MUCH
Where is this trap door?

ALLAN
I think it's down here.

MUCH
You think?

ALLAN
Yeah.

ALLAN walks down a corridor and MUCH follows.

JUMP TO:

128 (306) GUEST ROOM 128

LITTLE JOHN empties a small box of gold into a sack. The second fanfare plays.

JUMP TO:

129 (306R) THE GREAT HALL 129

PALMER
Was that the second fanfare?

ISABELLA draws PALMER forward to PRINCE JOHN.

ISABELLA
Good luck.

A page sets out a cushion in the middle of the floor. The nobles are standing along both sides of the room. As PALMER reaches the cushion, he announces.

PALMER
Bring the poor afflicted woman forward.

ISABELLA escorts ANNA to the center of the room. ANNA kneels on the cushion. ISABELLA takes her place at PRINCE JOHN's side. PALMER stands behind ANNA and pulls off her headscarf, revealing large blisters on her neck and lower jaw.

(CONTINUED)

PALMER (cont'd)
This woman has scrofula...

PRINCE JOHN grimaces as sounds of disgust sound from the crowd.

PALMER (cont'd)
...the "king's evil," and can only
be cured by the touch of a king.

PRINCE JOHN closes his eyes, steeling himself, rises with his hands up, and approaches ANNA.

PRINCE JOHN
I shall now lay my hands upon
this...
(beat)
young woman...
(beat)
cure her of her affliction...
(beat)
and save her life.

PALMER
When she's cured, Prince John will
be revealed, like his father before
him, to be the rightful King of
England.

PRINCE JOHN closes his eyes.

PRINCE JOHN
I command you now, in the name of
all things holy, to leave this body
now and never to return.

PRINCE JOHN puts his hands on either side of the ANNA's face, over the blisters.

The third fanfare plays.

CUT TO:

130

(306R) CHAPEL

130

The SHERIFF peeks in the door. HARRISON is kneeling at the altar. The SHERIFF walks along the wall and stands behind the altar. HARRISON looks up at him.

SHERIFF
Harrison.
(scoff)
What are you doing here?

(CONTINUED)

HARRISON suddenly draws his sword and takes a hack at the SHERIFF. The SHERIFF steps aside to avoid it. HARRISON stabs, and the SHERIFF steps the other way. HARRISON swings and the SHERIFF ducks. The SHERIFF picks up a thick wooden candlestick and blocks twice, then kicks HARRISON back. They fight on, and the SHERIFF, with the candlestick, knocks HARRISON on his back to the floor. The SHERIFF brings down the candlestick, but HARRISON rolls over and kicks back the SHERIFF. HARRISON swings his sword. They fight and crash through a window into the corridor.

CONTINUE TO:

131 (306R) CORRIDOR

131

HARRISON has the SHERIFF at the point of his sword and is slowly advancing on him. HARRISON swings his sword at the SHERIFF. The SHERIFF retreats. HARRISON swings his sword. The SHERIFF ducks behind a pillar and the sword hits it. The SHERIFF pulls a torch off the wall and holds it out at HARRISON. HARRISON retreats a step, then attacks. The SHERIFF grabs his arm and swings the torch at him. HARRISON ducks, then punches the SHERIFF in the kidney. The SHERIFF swings the torch back over HARRISON's head.

CUT TO:

132 (306R) THE GREAT HALL

132

PRINCE JOHN pulls his hands off ANNA. The nobles applaud. The page brings a bowl of water to PRINCE JOHN for him to rinse his hands.

ISABELLA shifts in her chair as the fourth fanfare plays. ROBIN nods. ISABELLA starts to clap as PRINCE JOHN takes his seat and leans back with his eyes closed.

PRINCE JOHN

Has the disease been cured?

ANNA shifts uneasily as PALMER peers closely at her.

PALMER

(disappointingly)

No, sire.

The nobles gasp and murmur.

PALMER (cont'd)

The woman is not cured.

PRINCE JOHN stares blankly at the ANNA as ROBIN smiles triumphantly.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN
How can this be?

There is silence in the hall. PRINCE JOHN stands.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
(shout)
How can this be?!

The nobles gather around ANNA.

CUT TO:

133 (306R) DUNGEONS

133

The SHERIFF and HARRISON tumble down the stairs to the dungeons. The SHERIFF gets up first.

SHERIFF
(panting)
Did Prince John put you up to this?
He asked me to kill you, do you
hear me, Harrison?

HARRISON sits up slowly as the SHERIFF advances.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
This is nothing but sport for him.
Putting us up against each other?

HARRISON kicks the SHERIFF, and the SHERIFF drops his sword.

HARRISON
This isn't for Prince John.

HARRISON grabs the SHERIFF's coat and throws him into the wall, then punches him in his back. He grabs him again and throws him up against the opposite wall. The SHERIFF doubles over and HARRISON pulls him to standing.

HARRISON (cont'd)
This is for me! And a promise I
made.

HARRISON punches the SHERIFF to the ground and picks up his sword.

HARRISON (cont'd)
A promise to get rid of you.

The SHERIFF turns over on to his back, hiding a knife lying on the steps under him.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF

Quickly, quickly, please, I beg
you.

HARRISON holds his sword to the SHERIFF's throat as the
SHERIFF feigns fear.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Have mercy on me. Don't disgrace
me. Kill me quickly.

HARRISON hesitates, then raises his sword over his head. The
SHERIFF quickly sits up and stabs HARRISON in the thigh with
the knife and lets it go, still stuck in the leg. HARRISON
roars with pain, doubles over and drops the sword. The
SHERIFF kicks HARRISON in the head. HARRISON falls back to
the floor, gets himself up and cries out in rage. The
SHERIFF picks up the fallen sword. HARRISON grabs the
SHERIFF's arm and punches him in the stomach, then the
SHERIFF elbows him and kicks him. HARRISON struggles
backwards up the short stairs towards a cell, groaning in
pain as the SHERIFF advances. HARRISON scrambles backwards.

CUT TO:

134 (306) GUEST ROOM

134

The fifth fanfare sounds. TUCK and LITTLE JOHN hold another
box of gold.

TUCK

That's five. We'd better go.

CUT TO:

135 (306R) THE GREAT HALL

135

PRINCE JOHN stands in front of ANNA. PRINCE JOHN shouts at
ANNA.

PRINCE JOHN

I order you to be cured!

ROBIN steps out with an arrow laid on his bow.

PRINCE JOHN

(shout)

I order you to be cured!

ROBIN aims. ANNA ducks as she hears the bow twang. The arrow
whistles past PRINCE JOHN's head and lands in the wall just
above the throne. ISABELLA immediately stands and draws
attention to the arrow.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA
 (melodramatically)
 Oh, good lord! It can't be!

The nobles and PRINCE JOHN gather round her.

PRINCE JOHN
 What is it?

PALMER pulls ANNA to her feet and they run towards the door.
 ISABELLA looks at ROBIN.

ISABELLA
 Robin Hood.

ROBIN, PALMER, and ANNA run out the door.

ROBIN
 Palmer, the door!

PRINCE JOHN
 Get him!

ROBIN and PALMER close the doors and ROBIN puts the bar
 down.

PRINCE JOHN
 Get him!

ISABELLA smiles.

GUARD (VO)
 After them!

CUT TO:

136 (306R) CLOISTER

136

A square hole is in the floor and a rope hangs down into it.
 ALLAN, TUCK, and MUCH surround it. LITTLE JOHN is keeping
 watch.

LITTLE JOHN
 They're coming.

MUCH
 Quick!

ROBIN, ANNA, and PALMER run in. LITTLE JOHN gets out of
 their way. TUCK looks at ANNA.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK

Come on!

MUCH

Take that.

MUCH holds out the rope to ANNA.

MUCH (cont'd)

Down you go. As quick as you can.

(to Palmer)

You're next.

CUT TO:

137 (306R) DUNGEONS

137

HARRISON punches the SHERIFF, then grabs him from behind. HARRISON pushes the SHERIFF forward into the wall, then kicks his behind, turns him around, pushes his back into the wall several times, then punches him in the stomach and pins his shoulders to the wall. The SHERIFF grabs the knife still stuck in HARRISON's leg. HARRISON roars in pain and grabs the knife. The SHERIFF punches him. HARRISON staggers away. The SHERIFF picks up the sword.

CUT TO:

138 (306R) BATTLEMENTS

138

HARRISON staggers along the battlements, the knife still in his leg. The SHERIFF follows with the sword. The SHERIFF stabs at HARRISON. HARRISON ducks aside. The Sheriff swings and HARRISON ducks. The SHERIFF holds it overhead and HARRISON grabs his arm, then elbows him in the head, grabs his neck and pushes his head over the parapet. HARRISON slams the SHERIFF's hand into the merlon until the sword drops over the side, then holds both his hands on the SHERIFF's throat. HARRISON pulls his dagger out and holds it above his head. The SHERIFF knees HARRISON in the groin. HARRISON swipes with the dagger, then stabs at the SHERIFF. The SHERIFF catches his arm and punches it, causing HARRISON to drop the dagger. The SHERIFF backslaps HARRISON. HARRISON falls into the gap between two merlons, one hand on each keeping him from falling. The SHERIFF shifts the knife in HARRISON's thigh. HARRISON howls. HARRISON looks up at the SHERIFF. HARRISON adjusts his grip on the stones. The SHERIFF grabs HARRISON's feet and pulls them over HARRISON's head. HARRISON now hangs from the merlon with one hand. The SHERIFF retrieves the dagger and holds it over HARRISON. HARRISON pulls the knife out of his leg and stabs the SHERIFF in the chest just as the SHERIFF is about to stab him. HARRISON grabs the stones with both hands. The SHERIFF

(CONTINUED)

drops the dagger, staggers backwards, then leans on a merlon. HARRISON pulls himself up over the parapet onto safe ground. The SHERIFF lowers himself to sit on the floor.

SHERIFF

Harrison... don't trust him.

The SHERIFF puts a hand on HARRISON's foot.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Do you hear me?

The SHERIFF breathes hard.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Nothing... is what it seems.
Nothing.

The SHERIFF dies. HARRISON stares at him.

CUT TO:

139 (306R) THE GREAT HALL

139

Two tables run the length of the hall. The nobles sit around the one closest to the fireplace. PRINCE JOHN sits at the center of the other, his back to the wall. ISABELLA sits at his right. An empty chair is to his left. PRINCE JOHN stands, visibly disappointed and depressed.

PRINCE JOHN

(slurring)

I pray you will remember my
generosity and my gifts to you all.
All I ask for in return is your
loyalty and your love.

PRINCE JOHN sits and the feast commences. PRINCE JOHN looks to ISABELLA.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)

(justifyingly)

It wasn't scrofula. It couldn't
have been.

ISABELLA

Of course not, sire.

PRINCE JOHN

Say it.

(beat)

Like you did before.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)

Say it.

ISABELLA

(whisper)

King John.

PRINCE JOHN

It does sound good.

ISABELLA smiles. Footsteps slowly approach. HARRISON steps around a blue-and-black banner. PRINCE JOHN motions him over. HARRISON sits in the empty chair, sighs, places the SHERIFF'S jeweled tooth on the table and looks up at PRINCE JOHN. PRINCE JOHN chuckles, smiles slightly, then stands. ISABELLA looks at HARRISON.

PRINCE JOHN

It is with great sadness that I must announce the death of the Sheriff of Nottingham. He has been murdered by the villainous Robin Hood.

The nobles murmur. PRINCE JOHN picks up ROBIN'S arrow from the table.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)

These outlaws must be stopped.

PRINCE JOHN snaps the arrow in two on the word "stopped." ISABELLA and HARRISON exchange looks. ISABELLA has a feeling that it has HARRISON who killed the Sheriff, and not ROBIN or one of his men. ISABELLA quietly stands and raises her goblet.

ISABELLA

Long live Prince John!

The nobles and HARRISON stand.

ALL

Long live Prince John!

PRINCE JOHN

(sit and lean back)

Long live me.

PRINCE JOHN smiles. ISABELLA and HARRISON glare at each other as they drink, then sit. HARRISON wonders just how much ISABELLA knows. PRINCE JOHN puts his hand on HARRISON'S arm.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN
Tell me all about it.

JUMP TO:

140 (306R) SHERWOOD FOREST

140

ROBIN, GISBORNE, MUCH, ALLAN, LITTLE JOHN, and TUCK laugh as LITTLE JOHN empties a bag of gold coins onto kneeling TUCK and ROBIN's outstretched hands. PALMER kneels by TUCK and ROBIN. ALLAN and MUCH stand behind them.

ROBIN
Well, come on!

TUCK
Come on! Friends, my gold is yours.

The laughter continues.

MUCH
I don't believe it.

JUMP TO:

141 NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - GREAT HALL

141

Everyone is gone except ISABELLA and PRINCE JOHN.

ISABELLA
Is it true?

PRINCE JOHN
Is what true?

ISABELLA
That you had a deal with the Sheriff that if he were to die an unnatural death, that you would burn Nottingham to the ground?

PRINCE JOHN
Oh that.

PRINCE JOHN doesn't continue.

ISABELLA
So it *is* true.

PRINCE JOHN
What if it is?

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

If it is, now that he is dead, and
he didn't die a natural death...

ISABELLA pauses. PRINCE JOHN sees where she is going.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

If I asked you to spare Nottingham,
would you?

PRINCE JOHN

I...

ISABELLA gives him a look.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)

I might be persuaded to change my
mind.

ISABELLA smiles. PRINCE JOHN smiles.

JUMP TO:

142 (306) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - EXTERIOR CORRIDOR 142

The SHERIFF's body is on a cart. A guard pulls a narrow
cloth over it, leaving the right arm exposed. The SHERIFF
raises his index finger a bit, and as the cart starts,
clenches his fist.

JUMP TO:

143 SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP - NEXT DAY 143

ALLAN, GISBORNE, ROBIN, LITTLE JOHN, and TUCK are sitting
around. MUCH stops in the doorway with an "I can't believe
it" dazed look on his face. ALLAN looks up and notices the
look.

ALLAN

You okay? You look like your best
friend just died.

MUCH doesn't say anything. Everyone else looks at MUCH.
ROBIN and GISBORNE get an eerie feeling.

ROBIN

Much?

MUCH

(monotone)

He's dead.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN
Who's dead?

MUCH
The Sheriff.

ROBIN and GISBORNE exchange a look. MUCH continues.

MUCH (cont'd)
Last night. While we were...

ALLAN
No way. Really?

MUCH
Prince John is saying that he was
killed by Robin Hood!

LITTLE JOHN looks at GISBORNE.

GISBORNE
Don't look at me. I was in no
condition to take him on last
night.

ROBIN thinks, and heads for the exit. GISBORNE thinks he
knows where ROBIN is going.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
Wait for me.

ALLAN looks at them.

ALLAN
Where are you going?

ROBIN
To find out what happened.

TUCK
Want company?

ROBIN
No. Guy and I can handle it.

ROBIN and GISBORNE leave. MUCH and ALLAN watch them leave.

JUMP TO:

144 SHERWOOD FOREST - MEADOW

144

ROBIN and GISBORNE arrive to find ISABELLA already there.

ISABELLA
You heard.

GISBORNE
Is it true? Is he dead?

ISABELLA
Yes.

ROBIN
It wasn't us.

ISABELLA
I know that.

GISBORNE
You can't go back there. It's not safe.

ISABELLA
I'll be fine.

ROBIN
But Nottingham will be...

ISABELLA
No it won't. Prince John promised me.

GISBORNE
(raise eyebrow)
And you believe him?

ISABELLA
Yes. He has withdrawn the deal.

GISBORNE
Really? Just like that?

ISABELLA
Yes. He said it was a verbal deal and no proof of it existed. He said if anyone asks he could say the Sheriff was lying.

Momentary pause.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
So what happened?

ISABELLA
I think Harrison did it. I can't prove it. But I'm pretty sure it was him. He and the Sheriff were acting pretty weird around each other.

ROBIN and GISBORNE exchange a look.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Well, I better be getting back.

ISABELLA turns to leave. ROBIN grabs her arm.

ROBIN
Be careful. We can't protect you behind the...

ISABELLA
(smile)
Don't worry. Harrison has promised to protect me, remember.

ROBIN
Right.

ISABELLA looks at ROBIN's hand on her arm. He removes it. GISBORNE looks at ROBIN.

GISBORNE
Come on, Robin. We should go.

ROBIN
Yeah.

ROBIN and GISBORNE leave. ISABELLA goes to her horse, mounts, and rides off.

JUMP TO:

145 (307) LOCKSLEY - 3 WEEKS LATER

145

The sun shines brightly over the parched earth. Flies buzz over a dry riverbed of sticks and stones. The villagers have set up awnings to shade them from the sun, but they are all suffering from the heat.

TUCK and MUCH are in the village. MUCH gives an older woman, whose lips are cracked and dry, a drink from a water flask. MUCH looks up as TUCK walks by.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH
That's the last drop.

TUCK
God help us.

TUCK looks behind him at the villagers, shakes his head, and walks out.

CUT TO:

146

SHERWOOD - MEADOW

146

GISBORNE and ISABELLA are in the middle of a discussion. Things appear to be getting a little heated.

GISBORNE
Don't.

ISABELLA
Don't what?

GISBORNE
Don't get pulled in.

ISABELLA
What do you mean?

GISBORNE
I can see it in your eyes, sis.
You're enjoying it. You're enjoying
hanging out with Prince...

ISABELLA
(try to deny it)
Don't be ridiculous.

She turns away from him. He grabs her arm.

GISBORNE
Isabella, I know the look. I was
where you are. It almost destroyed
me. It cost me so much. If only I
got out sooner.

ISABELLA stares at GISBORNE.

ISABELLA
Well *I'm* not you!

GISBORNE looks at her.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

Promise me. Promise me you won't...

ISABELLA pulls her arm free.

ISABELLA

Trust me. I can handle Prince John.

They look at each in silence for a few moments.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

I have to go.

ISABELLA walks over to her horse, mounts it, and rides off.
GISBORNE watches her go, wondering if he's already too late.

CUT TO:

147

SHERWOOD - WAY TO LOCKSLEY

147

ROBIN is walking by himself, heading to Locksley. He sees GISBORNE walking towards him. He can tell something is wrong. ROBIN stops and waits for GISBORNE.

FOCUS ON GISBORNE. GISBORNE looks up and sees ROBIN up ahead. He walks to him.

FOCUS ON ROBIN AND GISBORNE. GISBORNE reaches ROBIN. He stops and looks at ROBIN.

GISBORNE

We have to do something, Robin.

ROBIN wonders what GISBORNE is talking about.

ROBIN

About?

GISBORNE

Isabella.

ROBIN gets an "of course" look on his face.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

We have to get her out of there. We have to make her see that...

ROBIN

What would you have me do? Tie her up?

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

If I thought that would work,
I'd...

ROBIN

Guy, I know she's your sister,
but... She says she's fine, so we
have to trust her.

GISBORNE

That's just it. I don't think I do
anymore.

ROBIN gives him a look.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

She gets this look sometimes. A
look I know all too well.

ROBIN thinks he knows the look GISBORNE means. He too has
seen it. More than once.

ROBIN

There's nothing we can do.

GISBORNE

Maybe not us, but you might be able
to.

ROBIN

Me?

GISBORNE gives ROBIN the "I'm not an idiot" look.

GISBORNE

I'm not blind, Robin. I've seen the
way she looks at you.

ROBIN

Guy, I'd never...

GISBORNE

I know.
(beat)
Maybe you should.

ROBIN gives him a look.

ROBIN

It would never work.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

Why not?

Momentary pause as ROBIN tries to figure out how to answer.

ROBIN

You know what our lives are like.
Do you really want her out here
living it?

GISBORNE

It would be better then the path
she is heading down now.

ROBIN

You don't know that.

GISBORNE

Yes I do.

ROBIN

You have no proof that she...

GISBORNE

No. But I've been there. And my gut
feeling is that...

ROBIN

Look, I promise that if, when, the
time comes that you really want her
out of there, I'll help you.

GISBORNE

You mean that?

ROBIN

Yes.

GISBORNE

You're not just saying that to shut
me up?

ROBIN

I've never lied to you, Guy.

ROBIN places a hand on GISBORNE's shoulder.

ROBIN (cont'd)

You have my word.

GISBORNE

Thanks.

Momentary silence.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Much and Tuck are in Locksley. I'm heading there now. Want to come?

GISBORNE

No. You go. I'll meet you back at camp.

ROBIN

Okay.

ROBIN walks off. GISBORNE watches him walk off. After a few seconds he continues the way he was going, back to camp.

JUMP TO:

148

(307R) LOCKSLEY - MANOR HOUSE - MAIN ROOM

148

ISABELLA, giggling, pours water from a silver pitcher into a goblet. Her hair is disheveled and damp where it sticks to her sweaty neck.

PRINCE JOHN

(to Isabella)

Do you know, I don't know who's hotter, you or me.

ISABELLA hands the goblet to PRINCE JOHN.

ISABELLA

Oh, it's you, sire.

ISABELLA walks around behind him.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

(sultrily)

You... are hot...

She dabs a cloth all around his head.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

...hot...

She looks at HARRISON and leans in closer to PRINCE JOHN and whispers in his ear.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

...hot.

PRINCE JOHN giggles. HARRISON is unamused.

(CONTINUED)

HARRISON

If we could get back to the
business in hand, sire.

PRINCE JOHN

Do we have to?

ISABELLA smiles at HARRISON.

ISABELLA

I think I'll leave you to it.

PAN TO:

149 (307R) COURTYARD

149

ISABELLA pulls the front door closed behind her and sighs. She lifts up her hair with both hands to cool her neck. She looks out at Locksley, then turns around right into ROBIN.

ROBIN

Good evening.

ISABELLA

(startled)

Oh, God! Don't do that.

ISABELLA looks around to see if anyone is watching, then takes ROBIN's arm as he leads her around the back of the stables.

ROBIN

Sorry. Just thought I'd pop in on
you.

She smiles. They turn the corner.

ROBIN (cont'd)

I, em... thought you might like
some of these.

He unwraps a few strawberries in a cloth.

CUT TO:

150 (307R) MAIN ROOM

150

HARRISON

I need to make arrangements.

PRINCE JOHN

Now, do stop whinging, Harrison.

PRINCE JOHN stands and goes to sideboard.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN
I've told you, you're as good as
Sheriff already.

PRINCE JOHN turns around holding a grape.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
The only thing you don't have is
the title or the power...
(beat)
...or the castle.

HARRISON stares in disbelief.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
But the truth is, right now, there
are more pressing matters.

PRINCE JOHN eats the grape.

HARRISON
Robin Hood.

HARRISON drinks from his goblet.

PRINCE JOHN
Now obviously, he has to hang. The
only problem is the people do
rather insist on adoring him still.

HARRISON
Well, the people are fools, sire.

PRINCE JOHN
(lower goblet)
Well, of course, they are.

PRINCE JOHN walks towards the rear window.

PRINCE JOHN
But we need their co-operation if
my plans for England are to come to
fruition.

HARRISON shadows PRINCE JOHN down the middle of the room.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
So...
(beat)
I need to woo them.
(beat)
Make them love me.

HARRISON
Yes, sire, but how?

PRINCE JOHN turns from the shuttered window.

PRINCE JOHN
By giving them what they want, of course.

HARRISON is puzzled.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
What they want more than anything else with this drought.
(beat)
Water.

PRINCE JOHN drinks, then looks out a crack in the shutters and sees ISABELLA seductively eating a strawberry in front of ROBIN. He frowns.

CUT TO:

151 (307R) COURTYARD

151

ISABELLA
Mmm.
(lick fingertip)
Juicy.

PRINCE JOHN's voice can be heard off camera as he yells to the groom from the front door.

PRINCE JOHN (VO)
Prepare the horses!

ISABELLA is startled.

PRINCE JOHN (VO)
I wish to leave!

ROBIN leans in and whispers in ISABELLA's ear.

ROBIN
Good night, Isabella.

ROBIN takes the cloth and leaves around the back of the manor. ISABELLA, disoriented for a moment and still holding the hull of the berry, turns and watches him go. She smiles a bit slyly.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA
Good night, Robin Hood.

CUT TO:

152 (307R) MAIN ROOM

152

PRINCE JOHN stands by the door, drinking. ISABELLA opens the door and comes in smiling and wipes her lip with a finger. Her face falls when she sees PRINCE JOHN and HARRISON watching her.

PRINCE JOHN
(sternly to Isabella)
You'll accompany me on my trip back
to the castle.

PRINCE JOHN walks away. ISABELLA wipes her lips again.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
We'll visit the dungeons.

JUMP TO:

153 (307R) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - DUNGEONS - NIGHT

153

A prisoner screams. PRINCE JOHN and ISABELLA walk towards a square hole in the floor. PRINCE JOHN has a goblet in his hand. A grate leans against the wall. PRINCE JOHN sighs, looks at ISABELLA, and puts his finger under her chin.

PRINCE JOHN
Don't be scared, my dear. I just
want to show you something. Kindred
spirits, you and I.

They reach the hole. PRINCE JOHN circles it.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Now usually the water in here comes
halfway to the top, but my men are
blocking the spring that feeds it.

In the hole, guards are stacking stones against the wall.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
The same spring supplies all the
underground water sources in
Nottingham. Within the hour, every
well within a ten-mile radius will
be without water in this drought,
which is when I shall start giving
them water from my own personal

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
 supplies. And then, Isabella, then
 they shall realize it is me they
 should adore, me they should
 worship and obey, me who is their
 kind and merciful father.

ISABELLA
 What if they don't?

PRINCE JOHN
 Well, then the filthy little
 wretches can die of thirst.

PRINCE JOHN turns away, leaving ISABELLA to stare at his
 back in disbelief.

JUMP TO:

154 (307R) LOCKSLEY

154

A baby cries. LITTLE JOHN winds up a bucket from the well
 and pulls it towards him. It's empty. LITTLE JOHN looks at
 the woman (ELEANOR) with her baby.

LITTLE JOHN
 Nothing. I'm sorry.

ROBIN hands ELEANOR his flask.

ROBIN
 Here, have some of mine.

ELEANOR
 But you need it, too.

ROBIN
 Come on.

ELEANOR
 We'll get through this drought,
 Robin. I know we will.

TUCK
 Change is coming, Robin.

ROBIN
 (disheartened)
 Is it now?

TUCK sighs.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
I'm beginning to wonder if we can
ever really change anything.

TUCK
(sigh)
The Sheriff is dead. Is that not
change enough?

LITTLE JOHN joins them.

ROBIN
Well, in his place is the Prince
who does nothing while his people's
wells run dry and they die of
thirst.

MUCH joins them.

ALLAN
Thank goodness for me, then.

ROBIN puts his hands behind his head.

ROBIN
Your recce went well?

ALLAN comes over.

ALLAN
Two guards, one door, and twenty
barrels of Prince John's cool fresh
water hidden in a barn...

The gang sigh and/or giggle in relief.

ALLAN:
...just begging to be sampled.

JUMP TO:

155 (307R) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - SHERIFF'S QUARTERS

155

PRINCE JOHN sits on his throne.

HARRISON
I don't believe it.

PRINCE JOHN
(shout)
There's no point resisting it!

PRINCE JOHN stands and advances on HARRISON.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN

I saw them. They were all over each other.

HARRISON

Sire, is it possible that you could have misread the situation?

PRINCE JOHN

Well, we'll see, won't we? Because I've set her a little trap.

HARRISON

A trap?

PRINCE JOHN

Mm. Told her all about my plan with the water. If she is in league with Hood, I suspect she'll want to find him and tell him all about it and when she does, you'll be there because you'll be following them.

HARRISON

And then?

PRINCE JOHN

(a bit flustered)

What do you expect? They're traitors. Execute them.

PRINCE JOHN circles behind HARRISON.

HARRISON

(unsure)

Both of them?

PRINCE JOHN

Harrison, I have great plans for you. I do hope you're not suffering from any pathetic pangs of...

HARRISON

My loyalty to you is absolute. Whatever the outcome, it shall be my hand that resolves it for you...

HARRISON turns to Prince John.

HARRISON (cont'd)

... and I promise you...

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN
 (interrupt)
 Yes, bored now.
 (turn away)
 Leave, please.

PRINCE JOHN sits. HARRISON leaves.

JUMP TO:

156 (307R) BARN

156

Two guards are talking quietly. The back door is ajar. TUCK pokes his head in. MUCH follows, making the door creak. TUCK holds a finger to lips.

TUCK
 Shhhh.

The guards are playing a board game inside the front door. ALLAN slowly makes his way to the door, in a cloak and hood.

ALLAN
 (huskily)
 Help me please?

The guards turn their heads to look at him.

ALLAN (cont'd)
 Help me?

GUARD
 Naff off!

Behind the barrels, MUCH, with a rope, and ROBIN sneak in.

ALLAN
 This drought's made me so thirsty,
 that I... I need water, please.

GUARD
 There's no water here for you.

ALLAN
 I'm parched, sir... Please.

GUARD
 Get lost!

ALLAN
 Just a little too wet my mouth
 then, eh? It's as dry as a camel's
 bum in a sandstorm.

(CONTINUED)

GUARD

You're givin' me the hump.

The first guard stands. The second guard laughs, then stands.

GUARD

Now push off!

The two guards step towards ALLAN, the second behind the first.

GUARD (cont'd)

There's no water here for you.

ROBIN, behind them, leans his arm on a barrel.

ROBIN

(cheekily)

Really?

ROBIN points at the barrel with his other hand.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Well, what's all this, then?

MUCH releases a barrel on a rope swing. The second guard ducks it and it knocks out the first. TUCK and MUCH catch it as it swings back.

ROBIN (cont'd)

And again!

The barrel swings forward again, knocking out the second guard. TUCK and MUCH nod at each other. ROBIN smiles. ALLAN comes in, stepping over the guards.

ALLAN

I mean, really. It's not like I asked for ice and a slice, was it?

MUCH laughs.

ROBIN

Come on.

(to Allan)

Well done.

(to all)

Let's get this water to the villagers.

JUMP TO:

157 (307R) LOCKSLEY

157

The villagers are calmly lined up at the barrel. ALLAN pours water into a pitcher for an old woman. Another villager doles out some to a man.

MAN

Thank you.

WOMAN

Thank you.

ELEANOR bounces her baby, waiting in line.

ELEANOR

Sh, sh, sh. It'll be fine.

ROBIN comes over.

ROBIN

So what's his name then?

ELEANOR

Actually, his name's Robin.

ROBIN

Is it? Oh, thank you very much.
That's very flattering.

ELEANOR

No, after the bird.

ALLAN chuckles.

ELEANOR

One landed on his crib the day he
was born.

ROBIN

(a bit embarrassed. Nod)
Of course it did. Right, good,
good.

ALLAN slightly smiles. Momentary pause, then ELEANOR lets him off the hook.

ELEANOR

Joke. It was after you.

ROBIN laughs. JACK has a pitcher of water in his hands.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

He's always been a poorly lad, so,
er, we thought we'd give him a name
of strength.

ROBIN gently tugs the baby's chin.

ROBIN

Hey, hello.

JACK steers his family away from the line. ROBIN wistfully watches them go.

ELEANOR

Let's have some water.

ROBIN turns away as MUCH comes over, but ROBIN walks away, slapping his wet cloth into his hand in despair. MUCH glances at what he saw ROBIN watching, sees the happy couple, then follows. ROBIN leans on a fence and puts the wet cloth on the back of his neck.

MUCH

Hey, what's wrong?

ROBIN

Oh...

ROBIN shakes his head and looks around.

ROBIN

...I envy them, Much.
(beat)
You know, they have
(beat)
nothing, and yet I envy them,
(beat)
their lives, because...

FOCUS ON: ELEANOR and baby Robin.

ELEANOR

That's better.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN and MUCH

ROBIN

...they have each other... you
know?

MUCH tries unsuccessfully to sound cheerful.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH

Well... we've got each other.

ROBIN

It's not the same though, is it?

MUCH

No, it's not.

ALLAN comes walking over.

ALLAN

Robin.

ROBIN

What is it?

ROBIN stands and goes to him.

ALLAN

Isabella just spoke to me as I was passing the manor. She said she had important information for you. She wants to meet you in the meadow.

ROBIN scratches his cheek, thinking.

ROBIN

Right, okay.

The gang are gathering to see what's up.

ROBIN (cont'd)

(to Tuck)

I'm going to have to leave you a while.

MUCH comes up to ROBIN.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Just had a message from Isabella. I think she may have information about the problem with the well.

TUCK

You think that's wise?

ROBIN

(flustered)

Oh, come on, Tuck. We've been through this.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK

My gut still tells me there's something not right about her.

LITTLE JOHN

She helped us before, Tuck.

MUCH

She defied Prince John when she helped us put out the fire, huh?

TUCK

You really think she doesn't have ulterior motives? Or maybe you think she just likes you for being you?

ROBIN shows frustration with TUCK.

TUCK

The truth is Robin Hood is needed here. The water in these barrels will last each village a day or so at the most. Soon, the very old and the very young will start dying.

ROBIN

(quietly. Keep temper)

That's exactly why I should go and meet her. If she has information about the wells, then I...

TUCK

(interrupting)

I hear there's water still in the Trent.

ROBIN

(angrily, frustrated)

And I heard that there isn't. And even if I'm wrong, it's still only a temporary solution. We need something permanent and Isabella may offer us that. I'll be back. Wait for me here.

ROBIN leaves.

TUCK

Robin!

ROBIN grabs his bow and his jacket, then looks back at the gang.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Wait here.

ROBIN runs off towards the meadow.

JUMP TO:

158 (307R) SHERWOOD - MEADOW

158

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA. ISABELLA walks into the meadow from the forest. She looks around for ROBIN.

FOCUS ON: HARRISON. HARRISON, still in the trees, watches her.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA.

ROBIN (VO)

Well, I am punctual...

ISABELLA, startled, turns around. ROBIN stands behind ISABELLA, his arm resting on his upright bow.

ROBIN

...if nothing else.

ISABELLA quickly lets out her breath, smiling.

ISABELLA

You have to stop doing that.

ROBIN

(smile)

So... what's so important that you'd risk being seen with me in public?

ISABELLA seductively puts her hands on ROBIN's arm.

FOCUS ON: HARRISON. HARRISON's eyes widen.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA and ROBIN

ISABELLA

Prince John's blocked the spring that provides the water supply to the villages.

ROBIN

We have to find a way of unblocking the spring then, don't we?

ISABELLA nods. ROBIN shifts his feet, listening.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

There's another entrance to the chamber via an overflow outside the town. One of the guards told me about it.

They start walking.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

It eventually leads to the chamber underneath the castle dungeons. If we...

ROBIN chuckles at "we."

ISABELLA (cont'd)

...go in that way, we can bypass the castle completely.

ROBIN

What do you mean...

(beat)

"we"?

ROBIN stops and leans on the bow again.

ISABELLA

I mean, I can take you there myself.

ROBIN

(nod)

Would you?

(beat)

And lead me straight into the dragon's lair.

ISABELLA

What do I have to do to make you trust me?

(pause)

Look, I have no interest in being on the losing side.

ROBIN

(chuckle)

So this is a politically motivated act.

ISABELLA

(flirting)

Call it what you want. Political maneuvering...

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA laces her fingers in ROBIN's on the bow.

FOCUS ON: HARRISON. He can't believe what he is seeing.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA and ROBIN.

ISABELLA
...a naked attempt... to get you to
like me more...

She leans up to him. ROBIN pauses a moment, then kisses her.

FOCUS ON: HARRISON. HARRISON slowly rolls back behind a tree.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA and ROBIN. ISABELLA pulls back.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
You can trust me, I swear.

ROBIN
(smile)
Right. Well...

ROBIN looks down, chuckles and steps back.

ROBIN
...we have to go back and get the
others.

ISABELLA pouts. ROBIN puts a hand on her arm.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Because we're going to need all the
help we can get. All right? And
then we'll go straight to the
entrance.

ISABELLA silently begs him for a kiss, and he gives her a quick one.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Now, come on.

ISABELLA tries to kiss ROBIN again, but he pulls back.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Come on.

ISABELLA playfully gives in, putting her hands up. They walk into the trees and ISABELLA takes ROBIN's hand.

JUMP TO:

159

(307R) LOCKSLEY

159

LITTLE JOHN runs through the village past TUCK.

LITTLE JOHN
Horses! Run!

TUCK
Go!

TUCK falls in behind LITTLE JOHN and the gang drop everything to run under an awning in the background.

PRINCE JOHN enters on a white horse with guards following. The people gather round him. A wagon rumbles in carrying two barrels with the royal crest painted on them.

PRINCE JOHN
(smiling)
Good morning!

PRINCE JOHN dismounts and goes to the center of the village.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Good morning to you all, my, er...
my children. You know, I know
you've been suffering, and when you
hurt...
(beat)
I hurt.
(beat)
Which is why I am here now.
(beat)
To dispense succour.
(beat)
Quench your thirst.
(beat)
And to give you the gift of life
itself...
(beat)
...through water.

PRINCE JOHN indicates the wagon.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Water for every...

PRINCE JOHN sees another barrel lid with the royal crest in front of him. His face falls and he points at the stolen barrel.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Where did you get that?

The villagers are silent. Some glance at the rogue barrel.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Huh?

PRINCE JOHN approaches a man and the man shies away. PRINCE JOHN holds his hand up.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Ah-ah-ah.

PRINCE JOHN smiles, chuckles, and puts a hand on the man's shoulder.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
There's no need to be scared, as long as you tell the truth. You see...
(beat)
This water...
(beat)
Is mine.
(beat)
So...
(beat)
Where did you get it?

VILLAGE MAN
Hood, sire.

PRINCE JOHN freezes a moment.

PRINCE JOHN
Of course.

PRINCE JOHN closes his eyes and restrains his temper.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Hood.

PRINCE JOHN turns to guards.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Men, give this man a drink.

GUARD
Come here.

Two guards grab the man, one kicking him in the stomach, then they put his head in the barrel and hold it under water. JACK steps forward. PRINCE JOHN draws his sword.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN
Ah-ah-ah-ah. I really wouldn't.

JACK steps back.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
You've seen already how your
treachery pays!

PRINCE JOHN points around as he walks.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
You like my water so much, from now
on you pay for it!
(beat)
A penny a gallon.

ELEANOR
But sire, we don't have that sort
of money.

PRINCE JOHN
Well, sell something. Some grain, a
cow, a grandparent, I don't care.

PRINCE JOHN walks off.

ELEANOR
My baby needs water to live, sire.

PRINCE JOHN
(go to Eleanor)
Yes. On that we both agree.

PRINCE JOHN leaves. JACK steps behind his wife and puts his hand on her shoulder. PRINCE JOHN mounts his horse. The gang watch from their hiding place.

PRINCE JOHN
If you won't love me, then by God
you'll fear me!

PRINCE JOHN nods at the guards at the barrel. They dump it and the man falls out, dead. PRINCE JOHN and the guards leave. MUCH runs out. ALLAN follows.

LITTLE JOHN
(to Tuck)
What have we done?

LITTLE JOHN runs after ALLAN. TUCK slowly follows LITTLE JOHN.

JUMP TO:

160 (307R) SHERWOOD

160

ROBIN and ISABELLA walk, hand in hand. ROBIN is on ISABELLA's right side. ROBIN already knows the answer to the question he is about to ask.

ROBIN

What do you think your brother would say if he knew we were together?

ISABELLA

(laugh)

Guy still wet the bed when he was twelve. He doesn't scare me.

ROBIN

Yeah? I'll be sure to mention that to him the next time I see him.

ISABELLA laughs as HARRISON comes up behind them. He quickly puts a shackle on ISABELLA's wrist, then catches ROBIN's and does the same. ROBIN wonders how he managed to sneak up on them.

ISABELLA

(yelp at the cuff)

What the...?

HARRISON pulls ROBIN's sword from its scabbard.

ROBIN

It's Harrison, right?

HARRISON steps in front of them, pointing the sword at them with his left hand. HARRISON addresses ISABELLA.

HARRISON

How could you do this?

ROBIN looks at ISABELLA. Was Guy right, had she turned on them? [ROBIN and ISABELLA talk back and forth to each other as if HARRISON isn't saying anything.]

ROBIN

(to Isabella)

What is this?

ISABELLA

(pleadingly)

Robin...

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
You tricked me!

ISABELLA
I didn't trick you.

HARRISON
Are you really with him?

ISABELLA
I didn't know, I swear.

ROBIN
How else would he know where we
were?!

ISABELLA
Well, he must have followed me!

ROBIN
You're a liar!

HARRISON
He's an outlaw! A murderer!

ISABELLA
He shackled me! Why would he
shackle me if I'd known?

ROBIN
You kissed me. You made me believe
that we may have a future together!

ISABELLA turns to HARRISON.

ISABELLA
Let me go!

Silence.

ISABELLA
Please.

ROBIN's eyes bounce back and forth between HARRISON and
ISABELLA. HARRISON looks at ROBIN, then ISABELLA.

HARRISON
All right. I will. I'll give you
another chance. For your brother.
(beat)
I mean, we all make mistakes, don't
we?

Momentary silence.

(CONTINUED)

HARRISON (cont'd)
(to Isabella, gently)
I will unshackle you.

ISABELLA
Thank you.

HARRISON
On one condition.

ISABELLA
(through her teeth)
Why is there always one condition?

HARRISON
Prove to me that you understand the
terrible error you have made.

HARRISON glances at ROBIN.

HARRISON
Kill him...

ISABELLA stares at HARRISON. ROBIN glares intensely at
HARRISON, then looks at ISABELLA.

HARRISON (cont'd)
...in front of me...

HARRISON pulls out his sword from its scabbard and holds it
up.

HARRISON (cont'd)
...with this.

HARRISON points the second sword at ISABELLA.

HARRISON (cont'd)
If you do that, I will lie to
Prince John.

ISABELLA
(warily)
What does he know?

HARRISON
I will tell him that he misread
what he saw last night...

HARRISON holds out the hilt to ISABELLA.

HARRISON
...and your life will be spared.
The debt I owe your brother repaid.

ROBIN looks at ISABELLA. ISABELLA stares, deciding.

ROBIN
(disgustedly)
Oh, just do it.

ROBIN looks away. ISABELLA is still. ROBIN looks at her again.

ROBIN (cont'd)
You're a rubbish kisser anyway.
Just save us all the pretense and
do it quickly.

ISABELLA glares at ROBIN.

ROBIN (cont'd)
It'll make his day.

ISABELLA
(scoff)
Fine! I will, then.
(to Harrison)
You were right. It was obviously a
mistake having anything to do with
this weasel.

ROBIN warily glances at ISABELLA and HARRISON. ISABELLA looks at HARRISON.

ISABELLA
Unshackle me... and I'll put things
right.

HARRISON ponders. ROBIN watches them carefully. HARRISON glances at ROBIN, then lowers the point of the sword in his left hand and lets it fall. He looks down as he reaches for the key entwined in the scabbard's belt. ROBIN punches HARRISON in the stomach with his bow. HARRISON doubles over and drops the key.

ISABELLA sees him raising the other sword over his head and pulls up ROBIN's bow to block it as ROBIN reaches down for his fallen sword.

ROBIN stabs at HARRISON, but HARRISON steps aside. ROBIN spins ISABELLA around and pulls her down to duck HARRISON's swing. They stand.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA spins round as ROBIN blocks, then she kicks their crossed swords away. HARRISON swings.

ROBIN blocks it with the gauntlet on his left forearm and swings at HARRISON. HARRISON ducks. ROBIN twists around, throwing the chain over ISABELLA's head, then grabs her from behind and throws her into HARRISON.

HARRISON grabs her left arm with his left hand and slams the hilt of his sword into her forearm, forcing her to drop the bow. He pulls her past him, pulling ROBIN along with her, and raises his sword. ROBIN is ready to block, then he back punches HARRISON with his shackled left hand, spins under the chain and stabs with the sword in his right but HARRISON deftly blocks.

ISABELLA pulls ROBIN back out of the way. HARRISON advances, swinging. ROBIN blocks with his arm, then brings his sword under and up to parry. ISABELLA sees a thick stick on the ground behind her and pulls on the chain, reaching for it and finally picks it up as HARRISON disarms ROBIN and holds him by the throat. ISABELLA swings the stick over both men's heads.

HARRISON lets go of ROBIN to block the stick with his arm. ROBIN ducks, grabbing the stick, as ISABELLA kicks HARRISON's other arm off ROBIN, who follows with a kick to HARRISON's groin. HARRISON falls back. ROBIN spins, pulling ISABELLA around him, and swings the stick into HARRISON's jaw. HARRISON falls to the ground unconscious, rolling onto his back. ROBIN also falls from the momentum and ISABELLA with him.

ISABELLA sits up, holding her arm where HARRISON hit it.

ROBIN

You were going to do it.

ISABELLA

What are you talking about? I was tricking him. I helped you fight him.

ROBIN

(sit up)

That was helping me?

ISABELLA

I gave you the piece of wood, you fool.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

What do you mean "gave it to me"? I took it from you!

ISABELLA

(sarcastically)

Oh, yeah, of course you did, 'cause you are so perfect.

ROBIN

Oh, shut up.

ROBIN stands, and incidentally ISABELLA must, too. ROBIN walks to HARRISON. ISABELLA picks up ROBIN's sword and inspects it. ROBIN watches her, sensing her intent.

ROBIN

What are you doing?

No answer. ROBIN holds up his hands to her.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Isabella, once you do it, there's no going back. There's nothing more to be said or done.

ISABELLA

This will do all the talking I need.

She starts to step over HARRISON.

ROBIN

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa.

ROBIN reaches slowly for the cross-guard of the sword.

ROBIN (cont'd)

(whisper)

Don't do it.

ROBIN gently grasps the guard.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Come on. Give it to me.

ISABELLA lets go of the hilt and ROBIN gently takes it away. ROBIN puts the sword down behind him.

ISABELLA

Get the key.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA stands. ROBIN nods and reaches into HARRISON's clenched fist for the key. It's not there. ROBIN rubs his eyes with thumb and forefinger.

ROBIN
(sarcastically)
Great.

ISABELLA
(sigh)
Oh, no.

ROBIN
Look, it's all right. It'll be fine.
(think)
We'll go to Clun. It's nearer than the camp and there'll be a blacksmith there.

ISABELLA
(look down at him)
Take it back.

ROBIN
(stand)
Take what back?

ROBIN walks past ISABELLA.

ISABELLA
The bit about being a rubbish kisser. Take it back.

ROBIN
(face her. Impatiently)
Fine, you're not a rubbish kisser.

ISABELLA
So why did you say it?

ROBIN
To make you angry.

ISABELLA frowns at him.

ROBIN
We need to tie him up.

ROBIN bends over HARRISON as ISABELLA ponders his motive.

JUMP TO:

161 (307R) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - SHERIFF'S QUARTERS 161

PRINCE JOHN sits on his throne, thinking out loud.

PRINCE JOHN
It's a fine line, isn't it, between
love and hate?

He looks at the gold coin in his hand.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Two sides of the same coin, really.
Maybe they need to truly hate me
before they can understand how to
truly love me.

PRINCE JOHN thinks, sighs, and then turns to a guard.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
A penny a gallon. Put guards on all
the roads to the River Trent. Any
water in there is now requisitioned
by me... for the good of the
nation.

JUMP TO:

162 (307) SHERWOOD 162

ISABELLA and ROBIN, who has retrieved his sword, walk and approach a fork in the path. ROBIN takes the right path, and ISABELLA the left, until the chain pulls taut and stops them.

ISABELLA
Clun's this way.

ROBIN
It's this way.

ISABELLA
(scoff)
I know which way it is.

ROBIN
Isabella, I live in the forest. I
know which way Clun is. It's this
way.

ISABELLA
All right. You think I'm going to
lead you into another trap, right?

ROBIN hangs his head in frustration.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

Fine.

ROBIN raises his head.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

We'll go your way.

ROBIN

(think)

Well, if you think your way...

ISABELLA

(interrupt)

No, no, no, no, no, no.

ROBIN

Then we can go your...

ISABELLA

(interrupt)

No, really.

ROBIN

(firmly)

Isabella... I am letting you have your own way. Now surely you can't get angry with me for letting you have your own way, can you?

ISABELLA

You've not been out with many women, have you?

ROBIN is trying to be patient.

ROBIN

There are people who need our help and they need it fast. We can go whichever way you want, all right? But just decide.

ISABELLA

(put off)

Fine.

ISABELLA starts walking down the right path. ROBIN, flustered, has to follow.

JUMP TO:

163 (307R) LOCKSLEY

163

The sun shines brightly. LITTLE JOHN finishes talking to a woman, pats her leg, stands, and walks to the well. TUCK is with JACK, ELEANOR, and baby ROBIN.

TUCK
How long's he been this ill?

JACK
Since the water ran out.

ELEANOR
(agreeing)
Mm.
(kiss baby)
It's just a fever. He's going to be fine.

TUCK
(nod)
Absolutely.

TUCK smiles. JACK and ELEANOR exchange reassuring smiles. TUCK stands and goes over to the well. MUCH is sitting against it. ALLAN is leaning on a ladder nearby and LITTLE JOHN is standing between MUCH and ALLAN.

TUCK
(to Little John)
We need to do something.

ALLAN
Robin told us to wait here.

TUCK
That baby has a few hours at the most. His temperature's raging. All the wells and springs around Nottingham have dried up. We need to go to the river.

LITTLE JOHN
And maybe we take the weaker ones with us.

MUCH
Yes.

ALLAN
But what if there is no water there?

TUCK hangs his head.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

What if Robin's solving the problem with the wells? If we stay here and the water returns then everything's sorted.

TUCK

That's three *if's*. We need to make a decision based on what we know. And we know people will die unless we take action now.

JUMP TO:

164 (307R) CLUN - BLACKSMITH'S

164

The blacksmith breaks the chain near ISABELLA's wrist, puts down his tools and opens the shackle. ISABELLA pulls her wrist out and rubs it.

ROBIN

Isabella, tell me where the entrance is.

ISABELLA looks at ROBIN as he puts his wrist down for the blacksmith.

ROBIN (cont'd)

I'll try to get to the spring source and clear it on my own. You can still try and escape.

ISABELLA

Escape? To where? Harrison was my protector. Without him, I have nothing.

ROBIN

You have me.

ISABELLA stares at him, then strokes ROBIN's cheek.

JUMP TO:

165 (307R) SHERWOOD

165

HARRISON slowly awakens, his back to an enormous tree trunk. He tries to sit up and realizes his outstretched arms are tied round the back of the tree. He breathes heavily, pushes himself up twice to try to sit higher, looks at his left arm and pulls on the rope. He starts to pull his arms back and forth to saw the rope on the tree.

CUT TO:

166

(307R) SHERWOOD - BETWEEN CLUN AND NOTTINGHAM

166

ISABELLA and ROBIN walk to Nottingham (not holding hands).

ISABELLA
What was she like?

ROBIN
What was who like?

ISABELLA
Marian.

ROBIN walks silently for a while.

ROBIN
(exhale deeply)
She was Marian.

ISABELLA
(chuckle)
Well, she must have been a pretty special woman to have such a hold over you... and my brother.

ROBIN stops and solemnly looks at ISABELLA. He says his next line knowing that it's not entirely be true.

ROBIN
She never gave your brother a reason to feel anything for her.

ISABELLA
And you?

ROBIN
I just want to forget.

ROBIN walks on, looks at the sky and sighs. ISABELLA watches him a moment, then catches him up.

ISABELLA
Hey...
(reach him)
Hey, come on. We're nearly there.

JUMP TO:

167 (307R) SHERWOOD 167

HARRISON, his arms tired, slowly saws the rope. He pulls on it and it finally breaks.

HARRISON

Ah!

He quickly stands up, gets his bearings, picks a direction and runs.

JUMP TO:

168 (307R) SHERWOOD - ROAD TO THE TRENT 168

TUCK leads the gang and some of the villagers down the road. ALLAN walks behind him with ELEANOR and baby Robin.

TUCK

When I was in Anatolia, when we were really desperate, we'd find a lizard and squeeze it until the contents of its bladder emptied into our mouths.

ELEANOR

What did you squeeze if you were hungry?

LITTLE JOHN

(see guards ahead)

Perhaps we should turn back, Tuck.

Around the bend is a cart and three guards blocking the road.

ALLAN

There is no way we are turning back.

One guard approaches them. TUCK raises his hood.

TUCK

Keep your heads down and your weapons hidden.

(adjust hood)

John?

LITTLE JOHN nods and heads into the trees. TUCK leads the rest forward.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK (cont'd)
(to guard)
Good day to you, my son.

GUARD
(hold up hand)
No way through today. Trent's water
is requisitioned by the crown.

ELEANOR
We need water now.

GUARD
Plenty available at the castle,
penny a gallon.

The Guard peers into TUCK's hood.

GUARD
Unless you're not welcome there.

The guard pulls off TUCK's hood and recognizes him.

GUARD (cont'd)
Hello, Tuck.

TUCK punches the guard. The two others draw their swords and advance towards him. LITTLE JOHN comes out from behind the cart. MUCH rushes forward, ready to fight. LITTLE JOHN hits one on the back of the head, turns his staff down to block the second's sword, then knocks him out with a blow to his jaw. LITTLE JOHN nods at TUCK. MUCH puts his sword on his shoulder, shaking his head at how easily they went down. Then they hear hoof beats. Another four mounted guards approach.

LITTLE JOHN
Run! Get in the trees! Move!

The gang help everyone into the trees first, then follow them in. The horses stop.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
(to villagers)
Keep moving.

The gang turn to face the road but remain hidden behind the trees. The guards look around, then head back the way they came. The gang relax.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
That was close.

JUMP TO:

169 (307) NEAR NOTTINGHAM - OVERFLOW FROM THE CISTERN 169

A rock wall has a rectangular hole in it. Its grate lies to one side.

CONTINUE TO:

170 (307) INSIDE 170

ROBIN kicks out another grate with his foot. He climbs out of the narrow tunnel into the cistern.

ROBIN

Come on.

ROBIN lifts ISABELLA down, not unlike carrying a bride into a new home. ISABELLA and ROBIN smile at each other, then ROBIN sets her down on her feet. ISABELLA looks up.

ISABELLA

There's the trap door to the dungeons.

ISABELLA looks down to a rectangular hole in the wall just above the floor.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

And that's where the water flows to the wells.

ISABELLA looks at the rock pile.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

The spring is somewhere under there.

ROBIN

Right.

He puts down his bow and quiver, and takes off his jacket.

ROBIN

Best get started then, eh?

ROBIN winks at ISABELLA and smiles. ISABELLA smiles back.

JUMP TO:

171 (307R) CASTLE - COURTYARD

171

The guards quickly pull open the gates. HARRISON storms in on his horse.

HARRISON

I need four men to go to the overflow entrance and block the chamber.

(dismount)

Now!

GUARD

You heard him! Move! Move!

Four guards run out the gate.

JUMP TO:

172 (307R) CASTLE - CISTERN

172

ISABELLA and ROBIN move rocks. ROBIN pulls at a large one, and ISABELLA helps.

ROBIN

Come on!

They finally pull it loose and water starts to cascade down the rocks.

ISABELLA

We're nearly there.

Unbeknownst to them, the guards start to slide a large rectangular block into the overflow tunnel. ROBIN cups his hands under the water, nods, and offers it to ISABELLA. She drinks from his hands. The stone slides in, even with the wall. ROBIN hears it and dashes over.

ROBIN

Wait!

He puts his shoulder to the stone, but it doesn't budge. ISABELLA sees the stone and rushes over.

ISABELLA

Hey!

ROBIN

No!

They both push on the stone but it still doesn't move. They both start looking for another way out. ROBIN gives up.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
 (head down)
 Harrison must have escaped.

PAN UP:

173 (307R) [CAMERA BOUNCES POV FROM HARRISON TO ROBIN & ISABELLA
 THROUGHOUT THIS SECTION] 173

HARRISON stands above them.

HARRISON
 And you'd be right.

ROBIN and ISABELLA look up at HARRISON. ISABELLA goes to stand under the trap door.

ISABELLA
 What are you doing?

HARRISON
 My duty to Prince John. Executing a traitor...

ROBIN stands next to ISABELLA.

HARRISON
 ...and his accomplice.

ISABELLA
 (with disbelief)
 Executing us?

HARRISON glances up at a guard, who turns a wheel on the wall. A partition slides down and closes the lower tunnel.

HARRISON
 Now that all the exits are blocked, you're both going to drown.

HARRISON looks at the waterfall.

HARRISON (cont'd)
 The chamber will fill pretty quickly, and you'll try to tread water.
 (beat)
 You might manage a few hours, maybe even a day, who knows?
 (beat)
 But in the end, you'll just run out of energy.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
I swear, if I get out of here
alive...

ROBIN points up at HARRISON.

ROBIN
(earnestly)
I will kill you!

HARRISON
Swear all you like, Hood. It won't
make any difference.
(beat)
The legend dies here.
(beat)
Slowly and painfully I would
imagine.

ROBIN tries to move the stone again.

HARRISON (cont'd)
Meanwhile, I get to be Sheriff.
(chuckle)
Life is sweet, isn't it?

HARRISON leaves. ROBIN stands by ISABELLA again.

ROBIN
Harrison!
(roar)
Harrison!

ISABELLA
Save your breath. I know him. He
won't be coming back.

ROBIN sighs, puts his hand on the back of his head,
thinking, watching the waterfall.

JUMP TO:

174

CASTLE - SHERIFF'S QUARTERS

174

The guards throw GISBORNE at PRINCE JOHN's feet, his hands
tied.

PRINCE JOHN
Well, well, well. If it isn't Sir
Guy of Gisborne! What brings you to
the castle?

PRINCE JOHN leans in to GISBORNE. GISBORNE is just glaring
at him.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
 At a loss for words, Guy?
 (beat)
 I hear Hood has taken an interest
 in your sweet little sister,
 Isabella.

GISBORNE
 (feign ignorance)
 Isabella?

PRINCE JOHN
 Oh, come on, spill the beans.
 (step towards Gisborne)
 Has she turned up yet with an
 urgent message?

GISBORNE
 Robin can't stand Isabella. Why on
 earth would he have anything to do
 with her?

PRINCE JOHN stands directly in front of GISBORNE.

PRINCE JOHN
 Why don't you go down and relax in
 the dungeons? I'll pop down later
 for a little chat.

PRINCE JOHN signals the guards to take GISBORNE away.

JUMP TO:

175 (307R) SHERWOOD

175

The gang and the villagers try another way. LITTLE JOHN
 leads a boy by the hand. TUCK runs up to ELEANOR.

TUCK
 Here, here!

TUCK squeezes some liquid from a stick into ELEANOR's hand.

TUCK (cont'd)
 There.

ELEANOR
 Thank you.

TUCK
 It's bitter, but it's perfectly
 safe.

(CONTINUED)

ELEANOR
All right.

LITTLE JOHN
Tuck.

ELEANOR
(to baby)
Here we go.

She tips the liquid in her hand into baby Robin's mouth.

LITTLE JOHN
This is good, but it won't keep
them going for long. What do we do
now?

TUCK says nothing, walking behind the villagers.

JUMP TO:

176 (307R) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - GREAT HALL

176

The nobles are gathered in the hall for dinner. Pipes play in the background. HARRISON comes over to a sullen PRINCE JOHN in his throne.

PRINCE JOHN
Well?

HARRISON
She was as you suspected.

PRINCE JOHN
She followed Hood?

HARRISON
She did.

PRINCE JOHN
And?

HARRISON
(look around)
And I solved the problem, sire.

PRINCE JOHN
Oh, please don't go all enigmatic
on me, Harrison. Are they dead?

HARRISON
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN

(chuckle)

Well, have a drink, man. It's not every day you can celebrate killing a national treasure and his feisty little accomplice.

HARRISON

(brusquely)

No, I don't want a drink, sire.

(with composure)

I merely ask that you fulfill your side of the bargain.

PRINCE JOHN

You're right.

PRINCE JOHN grabs a ring of large keys from the table.

PRINCE JOHN

You're owed that much at least.

PRINCE JOHN holds the keys up at HARRISON.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)

There you are. Keys to Nottingham.

HARRISON puts both his hands under the ring and PRINCE JOHN lets them go. HARRISON genuinely smiles very briefly, then his face falls, feeling no different now as Sheriff. PRINCE JOHN stands.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)

My lords, ladies... never let it be said that I'm a man who does not deliver on his promises. Robin Hood is dead...

The nobles applaud. HARRISON is silent, wondering why he is not happy to have achieved his ambition.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)

...executed by my loyal friend here. My lords and ladies, I give you the new Sheriff of Nottingham.

The nobles all rise with their goblets.

NOBLES

Sheriff of Nottingham.

HARRISON politely nods at them as they drink to him. The nobles set down their goblets and applaud. HARRISON nods and sighs.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN
(quietly to Harrison)
So, go on, do tell. Did they
squeal?

HARRISON smiles and chuckles.

JUMP TO:

177 (307R) CASTLE - CISTERN

177

ISABELLA treads water. ROBIN comes up from the bottom,
sputtering and gasping for air.

ROBIN
I tried to shift the stone blocking
the overflow. It's too heavy.

ISABELLA
Would you mind holding me? I'm
freezing.

ROBIN swims over and holds her from behind.

ROBIN
Here.

ISABELLA
We must be the only two people in
the whole of England who are cold
and wet right now.

ROBIN turns around to embrace her.

ISABELLA
You know... I had a dream about you
and me.

ROBIN
Did you?
(beat)
What was it?

ISABELLA
I drempt that we...we lived
together...

ROBIN stares out, picturing a similar dream he once had
about him and Marian.

ISABELLA
...lived in a... a farmhouse... had
a few animals, grew all our own
food... and we had children.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
(smile slightly)
How many?

ISABELLA
Four. Two girls, two boys...
freckles on their little knees.

ROBIN listens, wistful.

ISABELLA
The boys had your... strength and
your courage...

ROBIN
And the girls your brains?

ISABELLA
We were so happy. Hm.

ROBIN is silent as he ponders his own dream.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
You probably think it sounds
ridiculous.

ROBIN
No. It sounds... sort of perfect.

ISABELLA hugs him tighter. ROBIN is quiet a moment. He looks up at the grate above, thinking of Marian, then spies something.

ROBIN
What's that?

He lets go of ISABELLA, who turns and looks up.

ISABELLA
What?

ROBIN
(point up)
There. That's a ring.
(still looking up)
Take your dress off.

ISABELLA
What?

ROBIN
(look at her)
Take your dress off. I can make a
rope. I can get an arrow through
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
that ring. We can get out of here,
Isabella.

ISABELLA
Yeah, it sounds so simple. Getting
a tiny little arrow through that
tiny ring.

ROBIN
You're forgetting one thing.

ISABELLA
What?

ROBIN
(Nod and smile)
I'm Robin Hood.

JUMP TO:

178 (307R) SHERWOOD - NEAR THE TRENT

178

TUCK walks forward with a divining rod. LITTLE JOHN carries
a boy on his shoulders.

LITTLE JOHN
How much farther to the river,
Tuck?

TUCK
We're nearly there. Very nearly. I
can feel it.

ELEANOR, half dazed, trips. She catches her balance and baby
Robin cries.

ALLAN
Hey!

ALLAN turns back to her.

ALLAN (cont'd)
Look, let me carry him, eh?

ELEANOR possessively holds baby Robin closer

ELEANOR
No.

ELEANOR bounces baby Robin and walks on, but ALLAN stays
close.

JUMP TO:

ROBIN

Hold on.

ISABELLA

Where's the bow?

ISABELLA pulls it up out of the water. ROBIN has tied the dress to the arrow and readies it in his bow.

ROBIN

All right?

ISABELLA says nothing.

ROBIN (cont'd)

All right. Hold on.

ROBIN aims and shoots. The arrow hits the edge of the grate and falls. ROBIN retrieves the arrow, resolves himself, readies it, aims, shoots. The arrow bounces off the wall just below the grate. ROBIN splashes the water in frustration.

ISABELLA

(with encouragement)

Come on.

ROBIN readies the arrow again. He aims a bit longer, shoots, and the arrow goes through the ring, threading the dress through it.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Yes!

ISABELLA kisses ROBIN's cheek and chuckles with happiness. ROBIN tugs on the dress to see if it will hold.

ROBIN

Yeah. I told you I'd do it.

ISABELLA kisses ROBIN on the mouth.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Right. I'll climb up first and then I'll pull you up, all right?

ISABELLA

Yeah.

ROBIN starts to climb the rope.

CUT TO:

180 (307R) INTERIOR CORRIDOR 180

PRINCE JOHN and HARRISON walk down the corridor. PRINCE JOHN chuckles as he leads HARRISON towards the dungeons.

CUT TO:

181 (307) DUNGEONS 181

ROBIN's fingers grab the grate, push it up and aside. He pulls himself out.

PAN TO:

182 (307) BELOW 182

ISABELLA ties a loop in the rope, fits her foot in it, and ROBIN pulls her up.

PAN TO:

183 (307) DUNGEON 183

When she is close to the top, ROBIN bends down to take her hand, but he can't quite reach her.

ROBIN

Reach!

The dress starts to tear. ROBIN and ISABELLA stretch their arms, but they still can't reach each other. ROBIN bends down farther as the dress tears through, and ROBIN grabs her hand just in time.

ROBIN (cont'd)

I've got you.

ROBIN uses all his strength to pull up a struggling ISABELLA.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Come on. Come on!

ISABELLA's hand reaches over the edge.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Come on! Come on!

ROBIN helps her up and over to the floor.

ISABELLA

Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
Well, we're not safe yet.

PAN TO:

184 (307R) CELL

184

From his cell, GISBORNE sees them.

PAN TO:

185 (307R) ROBIN AND ISABELLA

185

ROBIN leads ISABELLA in the opposite direction, ducking under a lit torch on the wall.

ROBIN
Careful. Watch out.

GISBORNE
(call out)
Robin!

ROBIN stops, turns around, and is surprised to see GISBORNE.

ROBIN
Guy?

ROBIN runs to him.

WIDEN TO:

186 (307R) DUNGEON

186

ROBIN
What are you doing here?

ISABELLA follows ROBIN to GISBORNE.

GISBORNE
Long story.

ISABELLA says her line with out the slightest concern for her brother.

ISABELLA
Robin, we've got to get out of here.

ISABELLA looks behind her.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

It's only a matter of time before
someone comes down.

ROBIN can't believe she would be willing to leave her own
brother.

ROBIN

We can't just leave him, Isabella.

ROBIN walks past ISABELLA, looking for the keys.

ISABELLA

But we've got a chance to escape...

ISABELLA turns around to face ROBIN.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

...to escape our old lives.

ROBIN walks back to GISBORNE. GISBORNE is watching ISABELLA
trying to convince ROBIN to go and leave him behind.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Come on, we've got to take this
chance. Hey, listen.

ISABELLA pulls on ROBIN's arm. ROBIN faces her and she puts
her hand on his arm. He still can't believe she is willing
to leave her brother behind.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

What we talked about down there...
the dream... it can be our dream,
our reality... but we'd have to go
now.

ROBIN

Isabella... I like you.

(beat)

I really do.

(beat)

But I'm afraid, for me,

(beat)

it'll always be just a dream...

ISABELLA

(with disbelief)

What?

ROBIN

...whether I like it or not, and
believe me, sometimes I hate it...

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
But I am Robin Hood.
(beat)
I am an outlaw.

GISBORNE stares at them, wondering if they're really going to waste time discussing this now. ROBIN puts his left hand on the side of ISABELLA's head.

ROBIN
And I can't change that.

ISABELLA
But surely, Robin, surely in
time... we can... we could just
start afresh,

ROBIN shakes his head.

ISABELLA
...become someone new. Come on,
please.

ROBIN
(interrupt)
No, no. I am who I am.
(beat)
I tried to have it all once before.
(beat)
But it just caused so much pain for
everyone.

GISBORNE knows ROBIN is thinking of Marian. He thinks of her too.

ISABELLA
(fiercely)
No, I'm not her!

ROBIN
I'm truly sorry.

ROBIN goes to GISBORNE.

ISABELLA
No!

HARRISONS voice sounds from behind ISABELLA.

HARRISON (VO)
You!

ISABELLA turns around. PRINCE JOHN, the JAILER, and HARRISON, with his sword out, stand behind ISABELLA. GISBORNE watches from his cell. PRINCE JOHN draws the JAILER's sword.

PRINCE JOHN
(to Jailer)
Quick! Go get the guards.

The JAILER leaves.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
(to Harrison)
Dead, you said. Taken care of, you said.

ISABELLA steps forward.

ISABELLA
He's always lied, sire.

HARRISON
Isabella!

ISABELLA takes another step.

ISABELLA
In fact, he was going to let me go and not tell you about it.

PRINCE JOHN looks at HARRISON.

HARRISON
No.

ISABELLA
(point at Harrison)
Until I knocked him unconscious.

HARRISON
No, sire.

PRINCE JOHN
You've let the team down. You let yourself down. In fact, you're a liability.

HARRISON
No.

PRINCE JOHN
Harrison...
(point at him)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
...you're fired.

HARRISON
No, you will not fire me. I've
waited all my life for this and I
will not...
(turn sword to Prince John)
be fired by you!

ISABELLA picks up an unlit torch.

PRINCE JOHN
How dare you? How dare you threaten
the monarch?!

HARRISON
You're not a monarch. You're a
pretender, a fake, a fraud!

ISABELLA
No, no, not as big a fraud as him.

ISABELLA turns to ROBIN with hatred in her eyes.

ISABELLA
I've been a fool, sire, a weak,
vain woman blinded by his flattery.
But now I see the truth. And I beg
you, sire, let me show you how
sorry I am.

ROBIN
Isabella, put it...

ISABELLA
(interrupt)
Save your honeyed words for someone
who cares... Hood.

PRINCE JOHN
Be my guest!

PRINCE JOHN throws the jailer's sword at ISABELLA's feet and
draws his own to face HARRISON.

PRINCE JOHN and HARRISON raise their swords at each other.

ROBIN silently draws his sword. ISABELLA picks up the sword
with her left hand and faces ROBIN, who points his sword at
her. ISABELLA and PRINCE JOHN each strike first. ISABELLA
swings both the torch and sword together outward at ROBIN,
forcing him to take several steps back.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN and HARRISON block and circle each other.

ISABELLA advances and spins, first swinging the torch. ROBIN ducks the torch, then holds his sword upright to block hers as it comes around. ISABELLA swings the torch overhead. ROBIN steps to the side, grabs her arm and pushes her away. ISABELLA stumbles, regains her footing, points her sword at ROBIN and swings the torch again. ROBIN blocks it. She swings the torch at his feet and he blocks it again, then twists it up and over with his sword. ROBIN attacks this time and ISABELLA blocks, holding both her weapons crossed over her head, then kicks ROBIN in the stomach.

Meanwhile, PRINCE JOHN blocks HARRISON's attack with his sword held over his head with both hands while kicking his foe in the stomach.

ISABELLA swings, then jabs at ROBIN with the torch.

PRINCE JOHN knocks the sword from HARRISON's hand.

ROBIN grabs ISABELLA's arm and punches the inside of her elbow, forcing her to drop the torch.

PRINCE JOHN swings his point across at HARRISON's chest, forcing him back, then charges him and pushes him to the wall.

ROBIN holds his arm around ISABELLA's shoulders, then throws her into HARRISON just as PRINCE JOHN is getting ready to run him through. HARRISON catches ISABELLA around the waist.

PRINCE JOHN turns to ROBIN, who invites him to take him on. PRINCE JOHN swipes at ROBIN.

ISABELLA elbows HARRISON in the ribs with her right arm, then swings her left elbow into his face and breaks free from him. She swings her sword around at him as he bends down to retrieve his own. ISABELLA swings her sword over her head and brings it down, but HARRISON can only duck and spin away.

ROBIN blocks PRINCE JOHN. Their swords are crossed in front of them and ROBIN pushes PRINCE JOHN's hands to his chest, standing with their faces together a moment before ROBIN shoves him backwards and they continue their duel.

ISABELLA swings her sword crosswise at HARRISON, who retreats. She swings again and her sword catches the keys in his belt.

The keys sail across the room, landing near GISBORNE's cell. GISBORNE stretches his arm out between the bars, but they are just out of reach. He bangs his hand on the bar in frustration.

HARRISON now has ISABELLA by the hair and he shoves her face first into a pillar. She turns and reaches out with her sword, hoping to defend herself, but HARRISON grabs her arm and knocks her sword out of her grip with his. It clatters to the floor in front of GISBORNE, who picks it up.

PRINCE JOHN swings at ROBIN, who blocks and then twists his sword up and over. ROBIN grabs PRINCE JOHN's sword arm and bends it back into a defenseless position, exposing his chest.

ROBIN kicks PRINCE JOHN's sword away and it falls through the square hole into the water. ROBIN pushes PRINCE JOHN back towards GISBORNE and swings at him mercilessly.

GISBORNE uses the sword to pull the keys towards him, then unlocks the cell door.

In front of him, HARRISON pushes ISABELLA into another pillar and holds the point of his sword at her throat as she turns around. ISABELLA backs up towards the hole.

ISABELLA
(pleadingly)
Please, I...

HARRISON pushes ISABELLA into the cistern with his foot, then circles around to stand behind PRINCE JOHN, who is defenseless against ROBIN.

ROBIN swings at PRINCE JOHN, who ducks, turns, and backs towards the hole. ROBIN faces him, holding the point of his sword at him.

Behind him, HARRISON also has his sword point at PRINCE JOHN's back. ROBIN has PRINCE JOHN at his sword point at the edge of the trap door.

PRINCE JOHN
(petulantly)
It's... it's not meant to be like
this!
(point at Harrison)
Your days as a free man are over,
Harrison. They're over!

Both ROBIN and HARRISON lunge forward and PRINCE JOHN jumps into the water below to escape them. HARRISON looks down into the water as ROBIN eyes him greedily. PRINCE JOHN and ISABELLA yell from below.

PRINCE JOHN (VO)

Guards!

ISABELLA (VO)

Guards!

ROBIN and HARRISON hold their swords ready.

ISABELLA (VO)

*I'm down here with the Prince! Come
and help us!*

ROBIN walks around the trap door with an evil grin on his face.

ROBIN

You're a dead man walking,
Harrison.

HARRISON

Never seemed to do you much harm.

HARRISON attacks first. ROBIN blocks him twice, then twists his sword up and around, then attacks.

ISABELLA (VO)

Come and help us!

HARRISON sidesteps him and punches his back with the hilt of his sword. ROBIN attacks again. HARRISON blocks. They both take a step back, then ROBIN stabs at HARRISON, who sidesteps it. ROBIN attacks from overhead. HARRISON steps aside to block, then punches him in the jaw, then with a strong turn of his arm, twists ROBIN's sword up. ROBIN loses his grip and the sword sails towards the hole. ROBIN takes several steps backwards as GISBORNE catches the sword before it falls into the cistern.

GISBORNE

Robin!

He tosses the sword to ROBIN, who catches it and faces HARRISON. GISBORNE, with ISABELLA's sword, also faces HARRISON. They both advance on him, ROBIN wearing an evil grin again. HARRISON realizes he can't fight them both.

(CONTINUED)

HARRISON

No.

HARRISON glances behind him to see if the guards have arrived yet. HARRISON turns and runs out of the dungeons. ROBIN runs after him. GISBORNE pulls him back.

GISBORNE

Leave him! We have to open the hatch.

ROBIN stops and looks behind them.

ROBIN

This way, come on!

ROBIN goes to the wheel on the wall. He hands GISBORNE his sword, and turns the wheel. As ROBIN opens the hatch, GISBORNE looks back to where they just left ISABELLA and PRINCE JOHN.

GISBORNE

(quietly to himself)

I'm sorry.

ROBIN opens the hatch and then looks at GISBORNE.

ROBIN

Come on, come on!

ROBIN and GISBORNE run past the wheel and exit.

JUMP TO:

187 (307R) SHERWOOD - RIVER TRENT

187

TUCK runs towards the river.

TUCK

We're here!

Everyone hurries to the river, but it is bone dry, filled with rocks and sticks. TUCK sinks to his knees.

TUCK (cont'd)

I'm sorry.

MUCH throws down a flask.

TUCK (cont'd)

(hang head)

I'm so sorry.

(CONTINUED)

ELEANOR
No. Please, God, no.

MUCH stands in the dry riverbed, then turns to face upstream.

MUCH
Wait.

MUCH holds his hand up to them, listening. He walks a few steps, hears the trickling of water, then sees a bit of water starting to flow down the dry riverbed.

VILLAGE MAN
Look, there's water. Water, look!

TUCK
Thank the Lord!

LITTLE JOHN steps into the riverbed.

MUCH
(smile)
Thank the Lord?
(look at Tuck)
Thank Robin.

MUCH pulls another flask on a cord off from round his neck.

JUMP TO:

188 (307R) LOCKSLEY - NEAR SUNSET

188

JACK
It's full again!

JACK holds up an overflowing bucket.

JACK (cont'd)
The water's come back!

JACK shakes the bucket, splashing water out. ROBIN and GISBORNE enter the village. Both have solemn looks on their faces. The villagers all come out to the well. A woman gives another old woman a cup.

VILLAGE WOMAN
Here. Drink this.

ROBIN watches them.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
(to himself)
This is what you do.

TUCK comes up behind ROBIN and puts his hand on his shoulder.

TUCK
And you do it well.

ROBIN hugs TUCK. ELEANOR runs to JACK, laughing. JACK sweeps her up in his arms, baby and all. ROBIN releases TUCK.

ROBIN
No, we do it well.

ROBIN looks at GISBORNE who looks back at him. The villagers celebrate the return of the water as MUCH hugs ROBIN. ALLAN shakes hands with ROBIN, and pats GISBORNE the back.

ALLAN
So, come on then. What happened with Isabella, eh?

ROBIN and GISBORNE exchange a look.

ROBIN
Let's just say she won't be joining us just yet.

ALLAN notices the looks on ROBIN and GISBORNE's faces and realizes something must have happened, so he doesn't push. ROBIN looks back at ELEANOR with JACK and baby ROBIN.

ELEANOR
He's a beautiful boy. Yes, oh! Such a good boy.

ROBIN watches ELEANOR wistfully.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
Yes you are.

ROBIN smiles back. The gang walk out of Locksley. LITTLE JOHN glares at TUCK.

TUCK
I've got a smile on my face!
(arms outstretched)
What a beautiful day!

JUMP TO:

189 PATH FROM LOCKSLEY TO SHERWOOD

189

ROBIN and GISBORNE are at the front. ALLAN and MUCH are a few paces behind, in the middle. TUCK and LITTLE JOHN are pulling up the rear.

ROBIN

She made her choice, Guy. She sided with Prince...

GISBORNE

I know. But...

ROBIN

It's not your fault.

(beat)

I should have seen it coming.

JUMP TO:

190 (308) WORKSHOP - LONDON - NIGHT - 2 WEEKS LATER

190

Amid several candles, a sculptor (named DESCHAMPS) sits at a table concentrating on his work. He uses a stylus while looking through a magnifying glass mounted on a stand. An old man, (named LORD SHERIDAN), with a candle in hand, comes downstairs.

SHERIDAN

What progress, Deschamps?

SHERIDAN approaches the work table.

SHERIDAN (cont'd)

The Prince is not a patient man.

DESCHAMPS studies his work, silent. SHERIDAN looks over DESCHAMPS shoulder.

SHERIDAN (cont'd)

Uncanny.

SHERIDAN holds his candle closer, but DESCHAMPS puts his hand to it, signaling it away, without looking at it or SHERIDAN.

DESCHAMPS

Not so close with the candle.

DESCHAMPS pulls his hand back.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIDAN

You are indeed an artist.

SHERIDAN turns and sets the candle down out of harms way.

DESCHAMPS

It is finished.

SHERIDAN

As skillful with a scalpel and
brush... as I am with a dagger.

(beat)

You shall feel no pain, my friend.

DESCHAMPS suddenly realizes what SHERIDAN has said, but its too late. SHERIDAN holds DESCHAMPS' chin with his left hand and stabs his side with the other.

SHERIDAN

You give your life for a place in
history.

DESCHAMPS slumps to the floor, guided silently by SHERIDAN. SHERIDAN rises and looks through the magnifying glass at DESCHAMPS work.

JUMP TO:

191 (308R) SHERWOOD FOREST

191

ALLAN has a round shiny tin lid in his hands and he's reflecting the sun's light onto a rock.

MUCH and ROBIN are practicing their fighting moves with branches. MUCH swings his branch down and ROBIN blocks. MUCH stabs at ROBIN. ROBIN jumps back, raising his arm.

GISBORNE is sitting under a tree sharpening his sword. He occasionally glances up at MUCH and ROBIN.

ALLAN glances at MUCH at ROBIN.

ALLAN

(impressed)

Ohh!

ROBIN attacks. MUCH blocks, then swings back across, but stops before he hits ROBIN. GISBORNE stifles a laugh.

ROBIN

Much! Come on! You don't go easy
just because you're training!

(CONTINUED)

MUCH

I'm trying not to hurt you.

ROBIN grimaces and turns away, flustered. He glances at GISBORNE. GISBORNE shrugs his shoulders at him in a "don't look at me" look.

ALLAN

You're not going to hurt him if you never hit him, are you?

MUCH glares at ALLAN. MUCH places both hands on the hilt of his branch-sword and shakes the branch up and down. MUCH looks at ROBIN. He comes at him with everything and a roar, swinging largely in front of him. Just as he's approaching ROBIN, ALLAN reflects the sun in his eyes and ROBIN ducks the blow. MUCH's momentum carries him face first into a tree. He falls backwards, dazed. ALLAN laughs, totally amused.

ALLAN (cont'd)

Blinding!

MUCH

(dazed)

Oh!

LITTLE JOHN and TUCK run over the hill.

LITTLE JOHN

Robin?!

ROBIN jogs over to LITTLE JOHN. Everyone looks to LITTLE JOHN.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)

We've just seen a royal carriage on the North Road.

TUCK

Carrying the King's insignia, not the Prince's.

ROBIN looks over at GISBORNE and motions him over. GISBORNE rises and goes over. ROBIN address him on his way over.

ROBIN

Let's go.

ROBIN looks back at LITTLE JOHN.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN
It's heading for Nottingham.

MUCH is still trying to get up. ROBIN looks at ALLAN.

ROBIN
Get him up!

ALLAN pulls MUCH to his feet.

JUMP TO:

192 (308R) NOTTINGHAM - MARKETPLACE

192

SHERIDAN solemnly leads a procession of Crusaders who are carrying a coffin draped in white with a red cross through the streets.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND GANG. ROBIN and the gang watch from the shadows behind the crowd gathering.

MUCH
It's Sheridan.

ALLAN
Who?

GISBORNE
Keeper of the Crown.

ROBIN
He used to be the King's favourite
trainer of knights.

ROBIN leans his head back on the wall, perplexed.

ROBIN
He trained me.

FOCUS ON: PRINCE JOHN. PRINCE JOHN runs out of the castle gate with an anguished look of grief as the coffin is lowered to the ground.

SHERIDAN goes to stand near the gate.

PRINCE JOHN
Oh! No!

He kneels at the coffin's head, feigning devastation and sobbing.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
No, no, no, no.

He puts his face to the coffin. The Crusaders stand back.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
No.

ISABELLA stands behind SHERIDAN, watching.

SHERIDAN
People of Nottingham!
(beat)
It is to your great sadness...
(beat)
...but also to your great honour...
(beat)
...that you are the first to
know...
(beat)
...of the death of King Richard.

SHERIDAN hangs his head.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN. ROBIN's lips are pressed together tightly, not wanting to believe. LITTLE JOHN is upset at the news. ALLAN, MUCH, and GISBORNE all have looks of disbelief on their faces.

MUCH
(mouth)
What?

TUCK hangs his head.

FOCUS ON: SHERIDAN.

SHERIDAN
The Lionheart met his glorious
end...
(beat)
...in battle...
(beat)
...with the infidel.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN. ROBIN shifts his feet, his eyes darting everywhere.

FOCUS ON: SHERIDAN. SHERIDAN steps forward and grasps PRINCE JOHN's hand, which is stretched out behind him. SHERIDAN helps him up. PRINCE JOHN addresses the people.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN

I thank you for your sympathy...
 (beat)
 and for your love.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN. ROBIN lowers his chin, glaring at PRINCE JOHN.

FOCUS ON: PRINCE JOHN.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)

The Archbishop of Canterbury is on
 his way to
 (beat)
 bless my
 (beat)
 brother's body and though these are
 not the circumstances I would have
 wished for
 (beat)
 in the interests of stability and
 national security
 (beat)
 he will also oversee my coronation.

PRINCE JOHN walks slowly back to the gate.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN. ROBIN continues glaring. The gang stare in disbelief.

FOCUS ON: SHERIDAN.

SHERIDAN

The King is dead.
 (beat)
 Long live the King!

SHERIDAN turns towards PRINCE JOHN and kneels, head down. The Crusaders and the townsfolk do also, chanting.

CRUSADERS / TOWNSFOLK

Long live the King! Long live the
 King! Long live the King!

FOCUS ON: ROBIN.

LITTLE JOHN

Kneel.

LITTLE JOHN, GISBORNE, ALLAN and MUCH kneel. ROBIN remains standing. LITTLE JOHN pulls on ROBIN's cloak, and flashes him a look.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
Get down! Get down.

ROBIN reluctantly kneels, his face showing clearly he's not happy about it, but he relents, not wanting to draw attention. LITTLE JOHN looks around to see if anyone noticed.

FOCUS ON: PRINCE JOHN.

PRINCE JOHN
(to himself)
Long live me.

CUT TO:

193

(308R) AN ALLEY - A SHORT WHILE LATER

193

The gang gather in the alley. ROBIN paces. TUCK fiddles with his cross. GISBORNE is leaning against the wall. ALLAN, MUCH, and LITTLE JOHN are just standing there.

TUCK
If this is God's will, then I have
to question his judgment.

MUCH
Well, he was a great King and a
good man.

ROBIN stops in front of MUCH.

ROBIN
Don't, Much.

MUCH
I'm sorry, Robin.

ROBIN
(angrily)
He's not dead! He can't be!

LITTLE JOHN is gently, quietly, glancing back and forth between ROBIN and the guard, making sure they're not spotted. LITTLE JOHN looks to ROBIN with a "keep your voice down" look.

LITTLE JOHN
Robin, the guards...

ROBIN
(voice lower)
John, I'd know if he was dead. I'd
feel it!

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN
 (whisper)
 I know.

TUCK
 (to Robin)
 This Sheridan, is he a man you
 trust?

Both ROBIN and GISBORNE answer simultaneously.

GISBORNE
 Yes.

ROBIN
 (confused look)
 He used to be one of
 the Kings best. But now,
 obviously, he's gone with
 Prince John.

TUCK
 We all share your grief, Robin.

ROBIN
 I need to see his face.
 (think)
 I need to know for sure.

ROBIN turns and leaves. GISBORNE follows, then MUCH, then ALLAN. TUCK looks at LITTLE JOHN. LITTLE JOHN shakes his head, then they follow ROBIN.

JUMP TO:

194 (308) KIRKLEES ABBEY - SANCTUARY - NIGHT

194

Four Crusaders stand at each corner of the coffin with their backs to it. PRINCE JOHN lifts the shroud as the ARCHBISHOP comes over to look.

ARCHBISHOP
 His body is in remarkable condition
 for a month at sea.

PRINCE JOHN
 The Moors, they're masters of
 embalming.

The ARCHBISHOP eyes PRINCE JOHN suspiciously. He walks around the head of the coffin and SHERIDAN steps up to it. PRINCE JOHN clenches his jaw, looking at the ARCHBISHOP. The ARCHBISHOP crosses himself and says "Rest in peace" in Latin.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHBISHOP
Requiescat in pace.

PRINCE JOHN
(look at Archbishop)
Thank you. He's close to God now.

PRINCE JOHN stares at the ARCHBISHOP until the ARCHBISHOP looks down at the body again, then PRINCE JOHN steals a glance at SHERIDAN.

ARCHBISHOP
(look at Sheridan)
Why did I not hear of this sooner?

SHERIDAN
The advanced messenger came to me in London only a day before the body was due to arrive. I swore the man to secrecy before meeting it at Hull in the dead of night...

The ARCHBISHOP turns away and passes SHERIDAN. SHERIDAN continues his line without stopping.

SHERIDAN
...and coming to the Prince forthwith.

PRINCE JOHN
And rightly so, I believe. There are those who would take advantage of any interregnum to further their own ends.

ARCHBISHOP
I shall consult with the Royal Council.

PRINCE JOHN
I am the rightful heir, am I not?

The ARCHBISHOP looks PRINCE JOHN up and down, then looks to his left at SHERIDAN, then back at PRINCE JOHN.

ARCHBISHOP
Indeed.

There is a long pause during which PRINCE JOHN and SHERIDAN exchange glances.

ARCHBISHOP (cont'd)
But first...

The ARCHBISHOP walks the length of the coffin.

ARCHBISHOP (cont'd)
... there will need to be a state
funeral in London.

PRINCE JOHN walks along the other side of the coffin.

PRINCE JOHN
And there shall be one. I shall see
to it myself.
(beat)
London was my brother's seat of
power, after all.
(beat)
But... power, as you know, is
finely balanced between the north
and south, and now that the tragic
news is out, any delay could cause
that balance to shift, which is why
I propose making my seat,
Nottingham, the new capital of
England.

PRINCE JOHN looks at SHERIDAN and makes a slight jerk of the
head towards the ARCHBISHOP. SHERIDAN steps up to
ARCHBISHOP.

SHERIDAN
As the claim is uncontested, I saw
no barrier in bringing the crown
with me. Everything is in place.

The ARCHBISHOP looks at PRINCE JOHN, who raises his eyebrows
expectantly.

ARCHBISHOP
So be it.

SHERIDAN
We'll move his body to the crypt.

The ARCHBISHOP nods in agreement.

CUT TO:

195 (308R) KIRKLEES ABBEY - CRYPT - LATER THAT NIGHT 195

Two guards are on patrol outside the crypt.

TUCK comes around a corner and blows a dart at the guards neck.

The guard grabs his neck with a grunt and collapses. LITTLE JOHN catches him and pulls him back behind the corner.

The second guard turns around at the other corner and starts marching back.

ROBIN comes out from behind the corner with an arrow ready. He aims and shoots the guard in the back. LITTLE JOHN catches him and drags him out of sight as well.

ROBIN, GISBORNE, MUCH, ALLAN, and TUCK go to the door.

FOCUS ON: DOOR TO CRYPT. ROBIN keeps an eye out for trouble.

ROBIN

Allan.

ALLAN reaches for the lock and picks it in no time.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Good lad.

ROBIN goes through the door. GISBORNE, then MUCH, follow. ALLAN pulls the door closed behind MUCH.

ALLAN, TUCK, and LITTLE JOHN stand watch.

JUMP TO:

196 (308R) CRYPT - INTERIOR - STAIRS 196

ROBIN, GISBORNE, and MUCH make their way downstairs to the crypt. MUCH stops and shudders at the sight of the skeletons.

MUCH

Ah!

(whisper)

There's bodies down here!

GISBORNE scoffs.

ROBIN

That's the idea, Much. Come on.

They continue down the stairs.

(CONTINUED)

FOCUS ON: BOTTOM OF STAIRS. They go to, and stop at, King Richard's coffin.

ROBIN (cont'd)
(to Gisborne)
Come on. Help me get it off.

GISBORNE walks around to the other end and sets his lantern down on its edge. ROBIN nods to ask if he's ready, then pushes his end sideways as GISBORNE pushes on his end. ROBIN stands looking down at the shrouded body. MUCH watches them.

ROBIN (cont'd)
All right.

ROBIN looks up, sighs, resolves himself. His fingers touch the shroud and his left hand recoils.

GISBORNE
I'll do it if you like.

ROBIN:
No. I can do this.

ROBIN tries again. He lifts up and folds back the cloth. He sighs, disappointed.

ROBIN
It's him.

MUCH saddened by the news, goes over.

MUCH
It's true.

MUCH almost drops his candle. GISBORNE takes it from him.

ROBIN
Be careful.

GISBORNE notices something as he sees the face in the candlelight, he holds the candle to the King's face. ROBIN is about to say something when GISBORNE speaks.

GISBORNE
(impatiently)
Wait!

GISBORNE holds the candle closer. ROBIN watches as GISBORNE holds the candle to the King's ear. MUCH is disgusted, thinking flesh should burn soon.

MUCH
Oh, God... Urgh!

ROBIN tilts his head, trying to get a good look in the dim light, as the ear starts to melt.

GISBORNE
It's wax!

ROBIN
What?!

ROBIN reaches out with a finger to touch the corpse's face.

GISBORNE
It's a waxwork made to look like
King Richard.

ROBIN, amazed, laughs in relief, and looks at MUCH.

ROBIN
I knew it!
(confidently)
I knew he was still alive!

GISBORNE looks down at the corpse and thinks to himself.

GISBORNE (VO)
If this is fake, that means that
Prince John is up to something. And
I think I know how to find out
what.

He looks over at ROBIN and MUCH who are overjoyed that their friend and King is still alive.

GISBORNE (VO) (cont'd)
This is something I will need to do
on my own. Once we get topside,
I'll have to find a reason to get
away.

JUMP TO:

197

(308) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - THE GREAT HALL

197

PRINCE JOHN spins a blindfolded nobleman in front of a large banner-map of England hanging from the ceiling. Several large pins are stuck in it. PRINCE JOHN stops the man, facing the map.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN
Wherever you stick the pin, the
city's yours.

PRINCE JOHN steps back and the nobleman steps forward.
PRINCE JOHN begins a rhythmic clap. The nobleman feels for
the map, then plunges the pin in. PRINCE JOHN looks at the
pin as the nobleman turns around.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Ah... Swindon. Rather you than me.

PRINCE JOHN pushes the new owner of Swindon into the crowd.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Come on! Who's next? London's still
up for grabs, but Nottingham's out
of bounds. Don't want our
prospective new capital in the
hands of drunkards, do we?

Everyone laughs. PRINCE JOHN takes a grape from the table.

ISABELLA
(to Prince John)
So tell me, where would a King
desire to put his pin?

PRINCE JOHN
(spitefully)
In a flatterer's eye.

PRINCE JOHN walks around the table eating the grape and
ISABELLA follows.

ISABELLA
I actually wanted to give you my
personal congratulations, Your
Highness.

PRINCE JOHN
(sneer)
I'm sure you do.

PRINCE JOHN takes another grape.

ISABELLA
And of course, my condolences for
your late brother.

ISABELLA comes around to face him.

ISABELLA

And in the light of your increasing
national responsibilities

(beat)

I imagine you'll need the loyal

(beat)

and varied services

(beat)

that only I could offer you as a
potential Sheriff.

PRINCE JOHN

Same sort of services as you
offered Robin Hood?

ISABELLA

Hm?

(recover)

No.

PRINCE JOHN puts a grape in his mouth.

PRINCE JOHN

Or that your brother once offered
me?

PRINCE JOHN walks past ISABELLA to the table and picks up
more grapes.

ISABELLA

Robin and Guy mean nothing to me.
Given the opportunity, I would love
to prove that to you.

PRINCE JOHN tosses and catches a grape.

PRINCE JOHN

Well, why don't you prove it
anyway.

ISABELLA

Hm?

PRINCE JOHN

And maybe I'll... consider you
along with the other candidates for
Sheriff.

ISABELLA

(frown)

What other candidates?

PRINCE JOHN turns around to see SHERIDAN behind him.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN
(brightly)
Ah! Sheridan...

SHERIDAN bows slightly.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
...my rock in these troubled times.

PRINCE JOHN puts his arm around SHERIDAN's shoulders, then wraps the other around for an embrace.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
You do love me, don't you?

SHERIDAN
With all my heart, sire.

PRINCE JOHN chuckles.

SHERIDAN
Perhaps you should use this distraction to finish our night's business at the abbey, while the Archbishop sleeps here.

PRINCE JOHN
Hm.

PRINCE JOHN puts a grape in his mouth.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Have you met the Lady Isabella, Guy of Gisborne's sister?

ISABELLA smiles slightly. SHERIDAN takes her hand.

SHERIDAN
Enchanted.

SHERIDAN kisses ISABELLA's hand.

ISABELLA
(flatly)
I'm sure.

PRINCE JOHN
Beware, Sheridan, she share's blood with an outlaw.

ISABELLA slightly glares at PRINCE JOHN, but PRINCE JOHN leaves. SHERIDAN kisses ISABELLA's cheek, then the other, pulling at her skin each time. ISABELLA deliberately pulls her hand from his grip.

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO:

198 (308) KIRKLEES ABBEY - CRYPT - EXTERIOR 198

TUCK whistles a low bird call. LITTLE JOHN and ALLAN go to the door. ALLAN opens it a bit and echoes a higher-pitched whistle through it.

JUMP TO:

199 (308R) INTERIOR 199

ROBIN looks at GISBORNE and MUCH.

MUCH
Where do we hide?

ROBIN
(to Gisborne)
Get the lid on! Get the lid on!

GISBORNE quickly goes to the foot of the coffin and he and ROBIN slide the lid into place.

ROBIN
Shhh.

JUMP TO:

200 (308) EXTERIOR 200

ALLAN whistles again. LITTLE JOHN impatiently reaches around him and pushes the door closed.

LITTLE JOHN
This way, come on!

LITTLE JOHN pulls ALLAN back around the corner. TUCK goes around the opposite corner.

FOCUS ON: PRINCE JOHN AND SHERIDAN. PRINCE JOHN and SHERIDAN arrive, on horseback. Five foot soldiers approach with them. PRINCE JOHN turns his horse around.

PRINCE JOHN
Set the bonfire in the clearing
over there!

PRINCE JOHN points and dismounts.

JUMP TO:

201 (308R) INSIDE CRYPT - BOTTOM OF STAIRS

201

ROBIN

It's time to play dead.

ROBIN motions to MUCH.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Come here.

ROBIN leads MUCH to a sarcophagus.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Get this lid off.

MUCH

(disbelief and fright)

Oh, come on, please!

ROBIN bows his head, flustered.

MUCH

Do we have to?

ROBIN

(urgently)

Unless you want to be put in one
yourself, I'd say yes. Now get it
open!MUCH blows out his lantern. GISBORNE waits by a larger
sarcophagus as they hear PRINCE JOHN descending the stairs.

PRINCE JOHN (VO)

(singsong)

Richard!

GISBORNE

(whisper)

Robin!

ROBIN goes to him.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

There's no time. You're going to
have to get in with me.ROBIN gives him a look. This time last year they wouldn't be
caught dead sharing a sarcophagus. But a lot has changed.

GISBORNE

You got a better option?

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN shakes his head no. GISBORNE blows out his lantern as he and ROBIN get in.

PAN TO:

202 (308R) PRINCE JOHN 202

PRINCE JOHN nears the bottom of the stairs, holding out a lantern.

PRINCE JOHN
(singsong)
Oh, Richard? Dicky, Dicky, Dicky?

PAN TO:

203 (308) MUCH'S SARCOPHAGUS 203

MUCH sees the skull next to his face, closes his eyes and grimaces, shaking his head slightly.

PRINCE JOHN (VO)
We've come back for you.

PAN TO:

204 (308) PRINCE JOHN 204

PRINCE JOHN and SHERIDAN are standing over Richard's open casket.

PRINCE JOHN
Brother! There you are.
(chuckle slightly)
You know, I think I prefer this one
to the real thing.
(beat)
At least this one doesn't lie and
double deal
(beat)
and steal his brother's place on
his father's throne...
(beat)
or in his mother's heart.

PRINCE JOHN bends to corpse's face.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
(whisper)
I've been in your shadow too long,
brother.
(beat)
It's my turn to step into the light

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
while you burn in the pits of hell!

PRINCE JOHN repeatedly punches the wax cheek with his ringed fist.

PAN TO:

205 (308R) IN THE SARCOPHAGUS 205

ROBIN starts to raise his sword but GISBORNE grabs his arm.

ROBIN
That's the only evidence!

GISBORNE puts his hand over ROBIN's mouth.

GISBORNE
Shh.

PAN TO:

206 (308) PRINCE JOHN 206

PRINCE JOHN stops, revealing a hole in the waxworks cheek. PRINCE JOHN breathes heavily. SHERIDAN glances sideways at him, stunned.

PRINCE JOHN
It's all right.
(beat)
We have no further use for the
body.
(beat)
The Archbishop has seen enough of
my brother's beauty to proclaim it
to the world, no doubt.

SHERIDAN stares at the wax face.

SHERIDAN
(flatly)
Then we should proceed with the
plan forthwith.

PRINCE JOHN
You're not having second thoughts,
are you, Sheridan?

SHERIDAN
(look at Prince John)
Certainly not.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN
You seem nervous.

PRINCE JOHN puts his hand on SHERIDAN's back and stares in his eyes.

PRINCE JOHN
Guards!

The guards thump noisily to the coffin.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Take the coffin.

PRINCE JOHN steps around SHERIDAN.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
If anybody asks
(beat)
where the body is
(beat)
it's gone to London for a state
funeral at the Archbishop's
request.

PAN TO:

207 (308R) INSIDE SARCOPHAGUS

207

GISBORNE takes his hand off ROBIN's mouth. ROBIN lies back, flustered.

PRINCE JOHN (VO)
By the time anybody finds out that
there is no body...

PAN TO:

208 (308) PRINCE JOHN

208

PRINCE JOHN
...it'll be too late.

PRINCE JOHN picks up his lantern and leaves, his footfalls echoing loudly.

PAN TO:

209 (308MR) CRYPT - INTERIOR

209

Once PRINCE JOHN and his entourage have left, MUCH, ROBIN and GISBORNE get out of their sarcophagus'.

ROBIN
(hand to forehead)
We have to stop them destroying
that thing.

MUCH dusts himself off.

MUCH
How? There could be loads of them.

ROBIN raises his eyebrows as a sneaky idea comes to him.

ROBIN
We need a cloak.

MUCH frowns, puzzled. GISBORNE gives ROBIN a "what's he thinking" look.

JUMP TO:

210 (308R) CLEARING NEAR THE ABBEY

210

Horses neigh as PRINCE JOHN and SHERIDAN approach the bonfire. The coffin is on top of the blaze.

PRINCE JOHN
Good, good.

PRINCE JOHN and SHERIDAN circle the fire on their horses.

SHERIDAN
Make sure you destroy everything.

GUARD 1
Yes, sir.

The horses neigh. The two guards mutter to themselves and sit to watch the fire as PRINCE JOHN and SHERIDAN ride off on their way back to Nottingham.

GUARD 1
Oh, well. At least we'll be warm.

GUARD 2
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

GUARD 1
I've had worse jobs.

The guards hold their hands over the fire to warm them. After a few moments, eerie groaning is heard behind them. The guards look at each other.

GUARD 1
Did you hear that?

GUARD 2
Yeah.

They look behind them. A tall black cloak with a skull in the hood and skeletal hands poking out the sides is coming towards them. There is a wailing shriek. MUCH and ALLAN yell wickedly as the guards scream and run off.

GUARD 1
Quick! Run! Run!

ALLAN pulls the skull off his face as MUCH throws open the cloak.

MUCH
Tuck!

ROBIN
John.

TUCK
(going to Much)
Yeah, yeah.

TUCK helps ALLAN down as ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN go to either end of the coffin.

LITTLE JOHN
Ready?

ROBIN wraps a cloth around the metal handle.

ROBIN
One... two... three.

ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN lift the coffin off the fire and set it down on the ground. They shift the lid off to reveal a skeleton with wax dripping off the bones. [Note: No one seems to notice that GISBORNE is not with them]

ALLAN
We're too late!

(CONTINUED)

MUCH

No, we can still tell the Archbishop. Tell him the truth.

ROBIN

(frustrated)

He already thinks he's seen the body. It'll be our word against theirs!

TUCK

We can't let the Prince take power like this.

(beat)

We have to stop him.

(beat)

Assassinate him if we have to.

ROBIN

If we assassinate him, Tuck, we risk invasion!

(beat)

Civil war, even!

TUCK

But this is treason!

ROBIN

I know! And I hate him as much as you do, but while Richard's away, Prince John is our only leader!

TUCK

That's all very well while he's prince, but when he's King, he can make new laws, say what he wants, do what he wants, spend what he wants.

ROBIN

Well, then, we stop him becoming King, don't we?

LITTLE JOHN

How?

ROBIN thinks aloud.

ROBIN

Well, for a coronation to take place, you need a crown. Am I right?

The gang are silent and look at TUCK.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
(decisively)
Well then, we steal his crown.

CUT TO:

211 (308MR) LOCKSLEY - MANOR HOUSE - MAIN ROOM 211

ISABELLA enters holding a candelabra of two lit candles. A maid follows her in and closes the door behind her.

ISABELLA
I mean, what does Sheridan know
about Nottingham anyway?

ISABELLA sets the candelabra down on the table.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Stupid old fool.

ISABELLA disgustedly brushes her cheek where SHERIDAN had kissed it earlier, then she takes a deep breath.

GISBORNE steps out from the shadows behind her.

GISBORNE
Hello, sis. Making yourself at
home, I see.

ISABELLA doesn't turn around but grabs a knife from the table and plunges it over her shoulder. GISBORNE tries to grab it but the knife cuts the back of his hand instead. He yells and pushes ISABELLA into the table. She slides along it and stumbles to the wall as GISBORNE draws his sword and slams it onto the table.

ISABELLA
(arms out, pleading)
Guy, please, please, just wait.

GISBORNE
For what? For you to betray me
again?

He advances on ISABELLA.

ISABELLA
You got what you deserved.

ISABELLA steps to the other side of the table, but GISBORNE pulls her back by her hair. A maid enters and is frightened by the scene. GISBORNE pushes ISABELLA into a post, his hand on her throat and his sword pointed at her.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

And you... will get what you
deserve?

(beat)

How could you turn on us like that?
I trusted you. Robin trusted you.
How could....

ISABELLA

(stand calmly)

So kill me. You did as much to me
when I was a child anyway.

GISBORNE

(shake head)

Is that to be your dying thought?

ISABELLA

Yes.

GISBORNE stands a bit straighter, lowering his sword point
slightly.

ISABELLA

Go on.

(beat)

End it now.

(beat)

Put us both out of our misery.

GISBORNE charges at her, but lays the sword blade against
her throat instead of stabbing her.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Come on!

GISBORNE does nothing. ISABELLA looks up at him.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

What's wrong with you? Hanging out
with Hood has made you weak. The
Guy I know wouldn't hesitate. He'd
kill me without a second thought.

GISBORNE blinks. He can't do it. He looks a bit lost and
hangs his head. ISABELLA sees the conflict going through his
mind and decides to use it. She looks at him.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Maybe we change things.

GISBORNE looks up.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)
King Richard is dead. Prince John
is due to be crowned.

GISBORNE
Is that what you think?

ISABELLA
I can help you.

GISBORNE
How can you help me?

ISABELLA
I can speak for you. Prince John
will listen to me. But for that,
you need me alive. Kill me, and you
kill your last chance back with the
new King. Let me live, and we both
get what we want.

GISBORNE stares at her, thinking, then slowly backs off.
He's not sure what she's up to, but he wants to find out.

JUMP TO:

212 (308) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - SHERIFF'S QUARTERS 212

PRINCE JOHN holds the crown in his hands, inspecting it as
SHERIDAN watches.

PRINCE JOHN
How did you control yourself
looking over it every single day,
hm?

SHERIDAN
I am but a soldier, not a king.

PRINCE JOHN
But with your help, I will be one
soon.

The corners of his mouth quiver and he holds the crown out
to SHERIDAN.

PRINCE JOHN
Quick! Quick! Lock it away. I don't
trust myself.

SHERIDAN takes it and bows his head.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
I shall wait until the time is
right...

SHERIDAN goes to a large wooden box on the table.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
...when all the world will see me
shine in the role to which I am
destined.

SHERIDAN places the crown in the center section of the box
and closes the lid.

JUMP TO:

213 (308R) LOCKSLEY - MANOR HOUSE - MAIN ROOM - NEXT MORNING 213

GISBORNE sits at the table and pours water into a goblet
while chewing. ISABELLA comes downstairs.

ISABELLA
How did you sleep?

GISBORNE
(pick up goblet)
With one eye open.

ISABELLA chuckles and pulls out a chair.

ISABELLA
If we're going to work together, we
must learn to lower our guard.

A maid sets a box on the table. ISABELLA sees the cut on the
back of GISBORNE's left hand. She inhales sharply.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Looks painful.

GISBORNE
(flex hand)
It's a scratch. I'll be fine.

ISABELLA
(gently)
Here.

ISABELLA holds her hand out, palm up. GISBORNE looks at it
as the maid goes upstairs. He relaxes and puts his hand in
hers.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

So...

ISABELLA examines his cut.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

How am I to get back into the new
King's favour?

GISBORNE drinks as ISABELLA reaches for a bowl and picks up
a cloth. She sighs.

ISABELLA

I've decided to speak to him for
you.

GISBORNE looks up.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

On one condition.

ISABELLA looks at GISBORNE.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

I need you to apologize.

GISBORNE

(puzzled)

Apologize?

GISBORNE looks away briefly and frowns.

GISBORNE

What for? It's you who...

ISABELLA

You know what for.

GISBORNE thinks he knows what she is referring to.

GISBORNE

Isabella, had I not arranged your
marriage, we would still be living
in some godforsaken corner of
France without a penny or acre to
our name.

ISABELLA

Better that than to have been with
him.

GISBORNE

No! It is not my fault that you failed to make the best of your chance.

ISABELLA frowns and picks up a bottle from the box, thinking. She pours a bit of the bottle's contents onto GISBORNE's wound.

GISBORNE

Instead of wasting time, I say we work out exactly what it is you're going to say to the Prince.

ISABELLA replaces the bottle in the box and works the liquid into GISBORNE's cut with the cloth.

ISABELLA

I was thinking... maybe I should just drug you and hand you in to him myself.

GISBORNE

What?

ISABELLA drops GISBORNE's hand and crosses her arms.

ISABELLA

I was willing to forgive you, brother... but you don't deserve my absolution.

GISBORNE looks disoriented, groans and tips the empty cup towards him to look inside. He can hear Robin chastising him for even trusting her again.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Oh, no, no. It's not your drink.

GISBORNE looks up and ISABELLA shoves his hand away.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

It's your wound.

GISBORNE's head nods forward and he slumps to the table with a groan.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Straight into your bloodstream.

ISABELLA pulls GISBORNE's hair aside, then picks up the bottle as the maid comes downstairs.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA
Concentrated Valerian Root.

GISBORNE's head lies on the table, his face pale.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Enough to knock out a horse. I
doubt Lord Sheridan would have
thought of that one.

ISABELLA smiles.

CUT TO:

214 (308) NOTTINGHAM - "THE TRIP TO JERUSALEM" INN. 214

SHERIDAN laughs drunkenly. ALLAN, dressed as a barman with
apron and tray, pulls aside a curtain and nods quickly at
ROBIN waiting inside, then speaks to SHERIDAN.

ALLAN
Private room, sir?

ALLAN gestures inside.

SHERIDAN
(drunkenly)
Another round for my drinking
friends.

SHERIDAN pats ALLAN's shoulder, then stumbles in, putting
his hand to the wall to catch himself, not noticing ROBIN,
who is seated in the far corner, a hood over his head.

ROBIN
Hello, master.

ROBIN lifts off his hood and sits back smugly. SHERIDAN
leans heavily on the table.

SHERIDAN
Robin of Locksley.

ROBIN
Shh.

ROBIN slides to the near end of the bench.

ROBIN
I do apologize for our
surroundings...
(smile slightly)
...but I'm not really a favourite
with the guards.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIDAN

(sit)

So it's true.

(laugh)

I heard tell of your feral
existence.

ROBIN

I thought it only right to raise a
toast...

(nod at cup)

...to our late King.

ROBIN pushes another cup towards SHERIDAN.

ROBIN

I know you would have been as...

ROBIN looks at Sheridan for his reaction.

ROBIN (cont'd)

...distracted

(beat)

...as I was with the news?

SHERIDAN

(instantly acting)

Oh, indeed.

(pick up cup)

But we must look to the future.

ROBIN and SHERIDAN knock cups and drink.

SHERIDAN

You're not going to cause me any
problems, are you?

ROBIN

What do you mean?

SHERIDAN

Well, I also hear that you've been
making trouble for the Prince.

ROBIN laughs.

SHERIDAN (cont'd)

And as the new Sheriff of
Nottingham...

ROBIN reacts slightly to that bit of news.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIDAN (cont'd)
I can't allow that to happen.

ROBIN holds his hand palm up.

ROBIN
So...

ROBIN puts his hand to his cheek.

ROBIN (cont'd)
...you're to be the new Sheriff,
are you?

SHERIDAN
(proudly)
Mm, and a very strict one at that!

On the word strict, SHERIDAN suddenly slams a knife point into the table between ROBIN's thumb and forefinger. ROBIN doesn't flinch, but stares open-mouthed at his hand as SHERIDAN laughs loudly. ROBIN opens his eyes and mouth wide and sarcastically laughs, too.

ROBIN
All work and no play? That doesn't
sound like Lord Sheridan, the great
Keeper of the Crown, to me.

SHERIDAN
The crown is surrounded by
outlaws...
(glance at Robin)
...where outlaws fear to tread.

ALLAN steps in the door. ROBIN raises his eyebrows at him, then ALLAN leaves.

ROBIN
Well, if you're happy with the
Prince, then... what problems can I
possibly have?

A serving maid comes to the door as ALLAN leaves.

SHERIDAN
(raise cup)
To King John!

They knock cups again and drink. The serving maid steps in to SHERIDAN's right, feigning drunkenness.

MAID

So, is this a private party, or can anyone join in?

ROBIN

(sternly)

I told you to wait outside.

SHERIDAN sees her.

SHERIDAN

Mmm.

MAID goes around SHERIDAN to his other side.

ROBIN

We're talking in here.

MAID giggles and drunkenly holds out her cup.

MAID

(to Sheridan)

I'm sorry about this. I apologize.

SHERIDAN takes her arm.

SHERIDAN

No, no, no, please...

(look in her eyes)

...please. Service!

ALLAN steps in the door.

ALLAN

Sir!

SHERIDAN

Er, mead!

MAID points at SHERIDAN.

MAID

You will make me tipsy.

SHERIDAN stares at the breasts in his face.

SHERIDAN

Oh!

ROBIN

(to maid)

This is private.

(CONTINUED)

Behind SHERIDAN, ALLAN cuts at SHERIDAN's belt. ROBIN points outside.

ROBIN (cont'd)
(sternly)
I told you to wait outside.

MAID ignores him.

ROBIN (cont'd)
(more firmly)
I told you to...

MAID falls into ROBIN and spills her drink in his lap.

SHERIDAN
Oh!

MAID
(giggling)
Oh!

SHERIDAN
You're wet, Locksley.

ALLAN cuts through the belt and takes the keys.

ROBIN
I'll go and clear this up.
(nod at Sheridan)
I'll be back.

ALLAN waits as ROBIN stands.

SHERIDAN
(to maid)
Well, delicious.

ALLAN hands the keys to ROBIN as he passes.

MAID
Why, thank you.

SHERIDAN
Mm. Could eat you.

ALLAN puts the knife back on the table, then leaves. MAID giggles.

CUT TO:

215 (308) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - GATE 215

LITTLE JOHN leads a horse pulling a cart to the gate and stops at the guard. MUCH waits behind him. LITTLE JOHN points to a rose stuck in the halter behind the horse's ear.

LITTLE JOHN
Roses, mate... for the coronation.

The guard nods and takes the cart in. LITTLE JOHN says his line as the guard takes the cart to the courtyard.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
(waves)
Thanks very much.

MUCH looks around, a wheat stalk in his mouth. LITTLE JOHN goes to him.

CONTINUE TO:

216 (308) COURTYARD 216

The guard leaves the cart. TUCK and ROBIN lift up the cloth covering them and look around.

217 (308) EAST EXTERIOR CORRIDOR 217

ROBIN and TUCK walk down the corridor, then hear PRINCE JOHN coming. [Note: PRINCE JOHN's lines are all said with out stopping.]

PRINCE JOHN (VO)
Now, I want the theme of my
coronation to be...

TUCK and ROBIN jump up onto the plinth of a column in the cloister.

PRINCE JOHN and the ARCHBISHOP walk down the north corridor.

PRINCE JOHN
..."out of the darkness, into the
light." And I want all the guards
with mirrored shields...

TUCK and ROBIN shimmy around to the back of the column.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
...to reflect the glory of my
leadership far and wide.

PRINCE JOHN and the ARCHBISHOP turn the corner into the east corridor.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHBISHOP

I wonder if this opulence is
appropriate while people starve.

PRINCE JOHN

Well, I'm giving them something to
aspire to, Archbishop.

The ARCHBISHOP gives him a fatherly disapproving look.

PRINCE JOHN

Oh, very well. I'll compromise.
I'll use rubies instead of
diamonds.

The ARCHBISHOP shakes his head in disbelief as they walk
past the cloister.

TUCK peeks out. ROBIN peeks out behind him.

TUCK

(sigh)

Good to see he's got his finger on
the big political issues of the
day.

ROBIN

If you were Sheridan, where would
you hide the crown?

TUCK

Well, you know him better than I
do.

ROBIN

Well, apparently not.

TUCK

Come on, Robin. Trust yourself.

ROBIN

(think)

Oh, what did he say?

(beat)

Surrounded by outlaws

(beat)

where outlaws fear to tread.

ROBIN and TUCK look at each other.

ROBIN

It's the...

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN / TUCK
...dungeons!

ROBIN
Come on.

ROBIN jumps off the plinth and heads for the dungeon door.

CUT TO:

218 (308) DUNGEONS

218

The Jailer holds a roast goose leg in his hand and taunts the prisoners, who are reaching though the bars, with it.

JAILER
Here.

The Jailer chuckles. A bowstring twangs and an arrow whistles. The Jailer falls forward, into a table loaded with food, with an arrow in his spine. The prisoners gasp. ROBIN and TUCK enter.

ROBIN
(to Tuck)
Pick up his keys.

ROBIN takes off his quiver as TUCK finds the keys and unlocks the door to a cell behind them, where a large wooden box sits at the back. ROBIN and TUCK look at a series of strings which criss-cross the cell, then look at each other. ROBIN looks back at the jailer, thinking.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Hang on.

ROBIN goes to the Jailer and slaps his shoulder.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Sorry, mate.

ROBIN takes the goose leg and holds it up to the first string at shoulder height, then nods at TUCK.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Ready?

TUCK
Yeah.

ROBIN strikes the leg against the string, and a dart flies straight into the thick flesh.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

This is going to take us a bit
longer than we thought, isn't it?

CUT TO:

219 (308R) NOTTINGHAM - "THE TRIP TO JERUSALEM" INN 219

SHERIDAN and the MAID slam their cups on the table. SHERIDAN
wipes his mouth with his hand.

MAID

(laughing)

Another.

A very drunk SHERIDAN replies.

SHERIDAN

No, I must go and help with the
preparation for the coronation.

SHERIDAN stands uneasily. MAID jumps up.

MAID

No!

SHERIDAN

Where's Robin?

MAID

(feign drunkenness)

I'll only let you go if you

(beat)

beat me

(beat)

at arm wrestling.

MAID lets her elbow slip off the table and they both laugh
outrageously.

MAID

Oh, come on, look at those muscles.

The MAID pulls on SHERIDAN's arm.

MAID (cont'd)

Now, don't you think you can beat
someone my size?

She sits down with her arm up and ready.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIDAN
(still standing)
Well...

SHERIDAN grips her hand, then slowly sits.

SHERIDAN (cont'd)
...if you insist.

She giggles and pulls on his hand with both of hers.

MAID
Oh... oh...

MAID suddenly tugs harder and SHERIDAN is pulled into her lap. ALLAN comes to the door then and sees them giggling together on the bench, SHERIDAN on top of her, and gets the wrong idea.

ALLAN
Hey!

ALLAN pulls SHERIDAN off her.

ALLAN (cont'd)
Hey, get off her!

SHERIDAN
Unhand me!

SHERIDAN faces ALLAN.

MAID
Allan!

ALLAN
A plan's a plan. It's gone too far!

SHERIDAN
Plan? What plan?

SHERIDAN grabs at his belt.

SHERIDAN (cont'd)
My keys! Locksley!

The MAID crashes her earthenware mug against the back of SHERIDAN's head. He grabs the back of his head with both hands.

SHERIDAN (cont'd)
Oh... oh!

SHERIDAN falls into the table. ALLAN kicks SHERIDAN in the ribs before following MAID out.

CUT TO:

220

(308) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - DUNGEONS

220

ROBIN stands behind the first shoulder-high trip line. He takes off his sword belt and hands it under the line to TUCK, who adds it to the pile of jacket, quiver, etc., in his arms.

ROBIN faces the box, rubs his hands together, spits on them, rubs them again. He carefully crawls up the steps, lies under the lines low to the ground, rolls over, checks for lines and rolls to sit up. He steps over one, then gets down on his stomach, springs push-up like sideways under another, then steps to the wall.

TUCK sighs in relief.

ROBIN, on hands and tiptoes, steps over a line, then another. He shuffles forward, ducks under a line, then shoulder rolls over the last one. He slowly stands up at the box, peeking over the edge.

TUCK checks the door.

ROBIN pulls out SHERIDAN's keys, picks one and fits it into a slot on the front of the box. A front panel of the box slides open.

TUCK

Robin! Come on, hurry!

ROBIN glances back at TUCK indignantly, then reaches into the opening and pulls out his hand. There's a small black scorpion on it. He quickly flicks his hand to get rid of it, tripping a line behind him in the process. A dart sails across behind him.

TUCK (cont'd)

Careful.

ROBIN looks back and glares at him.

ROBIN

(sarcastically)

Thanks!

ROBIN gets another key and fits it into a slot on the left side of the box. A small panel in the side slides back. ROBIN starts to reach in, then pulls his hand back. He

(CONTINUED)

chuckles nervously, thinks, then scoffs. He reaches in and the center top section rises up a couple of inches. ROBIN stands facing the front again, wiggles his fingers, and lifts the lid. Inside are a dozen more small scorpions amid the crown.

ROBIN (cont'd)
(whisper)
Hallelujah.

TUCK smiles slightly. ROBIN gingerly reaches in, knocks a scorpion off a point, lifts it out by the points and blows and bangs on it to get the scorpions to fall off. He turns around, holding out the crown to TUCK, makes a flourish with his hands and steps back to bow slightly at TUCK, who smiles.

PRINCE JOHN's voice is heard from a hidden tunnel nearby

PRINCE JOHN (VO)
The crown! Stop him!

The alarm bell tolls. TUCK looks around for the source of the voice. ROBIN pushes his shoulder into the strings and bursts through them. Darts fly behind him. He rolls under more strings, gets up then crashes through some diagonal ones. He and TUCK run away.

PRINCE JOHN appears in a doorway near the box, horrified to see the lid open. The ARCHBISHOP and SHERIDAN are behind him.

PRINCE JOHN
What?! Hood!

The ARCHBISHOP stands next to PRINCE JOHN with a satisfied smile.

ARCHBISHOP
There can be no coronation without
the crown.

The ARCHBISHOP turns and walks through the dungeons. PRINCE JOHN follows him, whining.

PRINCE JOHN
What? I'm sure another crown can be
made if needs be.
(hand to heart)
I know the design by heart.

SHERIDAN follows. The ARCHBISHOP continues walking, down the steps.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHBISHOP

That crown was made for the
coronation of Edward the Confessor.
It cannot be replaced.

PRINCE JOHN stops and watches the ARCHBISHOP leave.

PRINCE JOHN

(whining)
Sheridan.

SHERIDAN

Locksley was a former student of
mine. I can get it back.

ISABELLA comes in smiling, delighted that PRINCE JOHN is
unhappy with SHERIDAN.

PRINCE JOHN

(in Sheridan's face)
What are you waiting for, you
stupid old fool? Get me back my
crown before the coronation or I'll
have your head!

SHERIDAN leaves.

ISABELLA

Sire, I have some very good news
for you.

PRINCE JOHN

(snap at her)
Someone better had!

PRINCE JOHN walks out and ISABELLA follows.

After they've gone, ROBIN and TUCK peek out from behind
several prisoners crowded into the cell where they hid.
ROBIN smiles.

TUCK

You know, I never did get what you
saw in her.

ROBIN's face falls a bit.

ROBIN

No.
(beat)
I wonder what her *good* news is?

ROBIN looks to prisoners.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
Right, chaps.

ROBIN pushes open the door and holds up the keys to a prisoner.

ROBIN (cont'd)
You can let yourselves out.

PRISONER
Thank you.

ROBIN
Good luck.

ROBIN and TUCK leave.

221

(308R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP

221

LITTLE JOHN
(from up top)
They're here!

LITTLE JOHN climbs down from the top of the camp as ROBIN and TUCK run in.

MUCH
Well?

TUCK
We got the crown.

ROBIN holds a cloth sack aloft.

LITTLE JOHN
Yay!

TUCK
But they followed us with dogs.

Pause.

ROBIN
I have to get a horse from
Nettlestone...
(shake bag)
... and get this crown to London.

ROBIN goes into the storage area and gets a water flask.

LITTLE JOHN
London?

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
 (step back)
 The King may still have supporters
 there. I'll be back.

ROBIN notices GISBORNE isn't around. He looks around the
 camp just to make sure.

ROBIN
 Where's Guy?

Silence. ROBIN looks to ALLAN.

ALLAN
 Haven't seen him since the Crypt.
 He muttered something about having
 to settle something and took off.

ROBIN
 That was last night! You haven't
 seen him since?

ALLAN nods negatively. ROBIN looks at everyone else.

ROBIN (cont'd)
 None of you?

No one answers. ROBIN wonders where he could have gone. He
 has a feeling that something is not right. He remembers what
 Isabella told Prince John and wonders if it could be
 connected. TUCK looks at ROBIN.

TUCK
 Robin. You better get going.
 Gisborne can handle himself.

ROBIN nods.

TUCK (cont'd)
 We'll take care of the guards!

ROBIN leaves the camp hoping that Tuck is right and that
 Gisborne okay.

JUMP TO:

222

(308R) SHERWOOD

222

In the forest, a guard with two dogs on a leash, some foot
 soldiers, SHERIDAN, and two horsemen, one with a banner,
 walk quickly through the trees.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIDAN

I coated the crown with a special
scent.

MUCH, hiding behind a tree in his cloak, steps out in front
of SHERIDAN.

MUCH

Sheridan!

SHERIDAN draws his sword as MUCH runs off. ALLAN, also in
his cloak, jumps out from behind another tree.

ALLAN

More mead, sir?!

SHERIDAN

Follow the bag!

TUCK comes out from behind yet another tree in his monks
habit.

TUCK

Which one?!

SHERIDAN

Both!

LITTLE JOHN in his cloak jumps out from a tree up on a hill.

LITTLE JOHN

Oi! Old man!

LITTLE JOHN laughs and runs off.

SHERIDAN

(flustered)

Arrest them all!

The guards scatter in different directions following the
gang.

CUT TO:

223

(308) LOCKSLEY - MANOR HOUSE - GROUND FLOOR BEDCHAMBER 223

A maid comes into the room. GISBORNE lies unconscious on the
bed. He is gagged and his hands are tied over his head to a
point on the wall. The maid walks around the bed to the
window, looks out, then turns to gaze at GISBORNE. She
smiles, steps to the bedside and leans over. GISBORNE's eyes
fly open and he grabs her throat.

CUT TO:

224 (308R) SHERWOOD FOREST

224

ALLAN runs. Two foot soldiers chase him. TUCK jumps out behind the two and in front of two more who had been following ALLAN.

TUCK

The crown! The crown!

TUCK runs the other direction. MUCH, behind a tree, waits for TUCK to pass. He is about to run off but SHERIDAN and another guard sneak up behind him. SHERIDAN grabs MUCH around the waist with his right hand, snatches the sack with his left and holds it out to the guard. MUCH struggles to get free. The guard reaches into the sack and something snaps loudly. The guard yells and pulls out his hand with a rattrap clapped on it.

GUARD

Vermin!

SHERIDAN pushes MUCH into the tree.

SHERIDAN

Where's the crown?

MUCH

What crown?

SHERIDAN turns him round, puts his left arm around his neck, and puts a knife to his ribs. ALLAN runs up with a sack.

SHERIDAN

Give me the crown or he will die!

ALLAN hears the dogs snarl and he looks around. The guard with the dogs comes down the hill.

ALLAN

(mutter)

Dogs! Er...

The dogs bark and howl. The guard grabs the sack as SHERIDAN eyes the dogs. The guard opens it.

SHERIDAN

Wait. The dogs!

The guard pulls out a vine of stinging nettles. He cries out in pain and drops the plant. MUCH elbows SHERIDAN hard and gets away.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH

Run!

SHERIDAN staggers and leans on the tree.

SHERIDAN

Leave them! We need Hood!

The dogs jump and growl.

SHERIDAN (cont'd)

(to dog handler)

Let the dogs go! They're picking up
the scent!

CUT TO:

225 (308R) LOCKSLEY - MANOR HOUSE - GROUND FLOOR BEDCHAMBER 225

ISABELLA leads PRINCE JOHN into the bedchamber.

ISABELLA

(brightly)

I wanted to give you a personal
coronation gift from me.

ISABELLA goes to the opposite side of the bed.

PRINCE JOHN

So you bring me to your bedchamber?

ISABELLA

I give you my brother...

ISABELLA reaches for the sheet covering the body.

ISABELLA

(proudly)

...Guy of Gisborne.

ISABELLA pulls off the sheet, revealing the maid, bound and gagged in GISBORNE's place. ISABELLA is shocked. Meanwhile GISBORNE steps forward from his hiding place and grabs PRINCE JOHN from behind, with a knife in his hand across the Prince's chest.

ISABELLA

Guy!

GISBORNE

Get back!

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

Guards!

Two guards run in immediately.

GISBORNE

(to guards)

Get in the corner!

The guards obey.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Look what you've done to me,
Isabella. You betrayed me. Again.

GISBORNE pushes PRINCE JOHN into the bedpost, which he takes nose first.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Both of you!

PRINCE JOHN

Ow! Ooh!

PRINCE JOHN grabs his nose. GISBORNE jumps out the door and pulls over a shelf onto the door frame, blocking the guards as items clatter to the floor. The guards scramble to push it back.

ISABELLA

(to Prince John)

Are you all right?

PRINCE JOHN

Guards! Arrest her!

(to Isabella)

If I'm disfigured for my
coronation...

The guards each grab an arm. PRINCE JOHN runs out.

ISABELLA

Sire!

CUT TO:

226

(308) NETTLESTONE STABLES

226

ROBIN runs in from the trees and into the doorway of the first building. Two horsemen, who were hot on his trail, gallop past him. ROBIN watches them go, then draws his sword. SHERIDAN peeks out from around the back of the same building, his sword out, and creeps forward. ROBIN looks at the passing soldiers.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (VO)
(mutter)
Idiots.

The dog handler, with quiet dogs, follows SHERIDAN. ROBIN steps out from his hiding place, sees the horsemen are not stopping, and steps out into the village, failing to check behind him. SHERIDAN silently comes up from behind and starts to reach for the sack, but ROBIN senses he's there, turns around and holds his sword at SHERIDAN's throat, and SHERIDAN simultaneously does the same. They pause a moment, then ROBIN steps back. SHERIDAN comes down with his sword and ROBIN pushes it down with his. SHERIDAN spins around, ROBIN catches SHERIDAN's free arm coming in for a punch and brings his sword under and up to push away SHERIDAN's arm. The sack goes flying. The dogs growl, go to and sniff the bag. SHERIDAN and ROBIN hold their swords at each others throats again.

ROBIN
You taught them well.

SHERIDAN
Better than you.

SHERIDAN swings his sword over ROBIN's head. ROBIN ducks, then stands up. They both point their swords at the other, ready. They circle each other. ROBIN spins his sword over his head. SHERIDAN copies. SHERIDAN spins and ROBIN does the same.

ROBIN
You taught me to love the King, not
lie about him.

SHERIDAN
I gave the King the best years of
my life, and do you know what he
gave me in return?

SHERIDAN stabs at ROBIN. ROBIN blocks and swings back. SHERIDAN blocks. ROBIN kicks and SHERIDAN blocks with his hand. ROBIN swings and SHERIDAN catches his arm and swings his sword around. ROBIN somehow blocks and twists SHERIDAN's arm down, but SHERIDAN holds him firmly and puts his sword to ROBIN's throat.

SHERIDAN (cont'd)
(spitefully)
Retirement. Too old to train his
knights, and good for nothing but
(beat)
looking after his jewelery!

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN pulls himself free. They circle each other. ROBIN points at SHERIDAN with his sword.

ROBIN

He entrusted you with the crown
because he loved you!

SHERIDAN

Then why didn't he keep me by his
side?!

SHERIDAN steps forward and swings his sword overhead. ROBIN parries twice, blocks twice, then swings the sword over and across with SHERIDAN's. ROBIN blocks, then SHERIDAN spins the sword behind his back to his left hand and swings across in front of him. ROBIN ducks. SHERIDAN swings with both hands from overhead. ROBIN kneels in front, holding his sword at both ends to block.

SHERIDAN (cont'd)

Is that the blow of an old man?

ROBIN continues to hold his sword up a moment longer, then pulls it away and punches SHERIDAN's chest, then swings his hilt into SHERIDAN's chest again. SHERIDAN steps back, catching his balance and his breath.

ROBIN

So that's what this is about, is
it?

(angrily)

You gave up on your country for
your vanity, for your ego?!

SHERIDAN

If the King cared about the
country, he'd be here! But he
isn't!

SHERIDAN charges ROBIN, who blocks and swings SHERIDAN's sword aside. ROBIN shoves SHERIDAN's shoulder. SHERIDAN falls on his back. ROBIN steps over him and puts his sword at his throat.

ROBIN

Your time is past, old master.

SHERIDAN

It still is my time.

Four crossbowmen and four swordsmen come out of the trees or from behind the building. ROBIN looks up at them and realizes he is surrounded on all sides. Two swordsmen pull ROBIN off SHERIDAN.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIDAN (cont'd)
Leave him! He's mine.

SHERIDAN rolls over and sits up.

SHERIDAN (cont'd)
Just like the crown.

SHERIDAN stands, out of breath, his sword out.

SHERIDAN (cont'd)
(breathlessly)
Out of respect for a good student,
I will not kill you.
(stronger)
But you shall never see England
again!
(to guards)
Take him to Hull, put him on a
boat, one way.
(to Robin)
Farewell, Locksley!

ROBIN glares at SHERIDAN, who swings his sword quickly back and forth in his face. ROBIN is dragged away, still glaring at his old master.

CUT TO:

227 (308R) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - DUNGEONS

227

A guard with a torch leads PRINCE JOHN and a shackled ISABELLA down the stairs.

PRINCE JOHN
Send extra search parties to the
forest around Locksley. I want
Gisborne dead!

ISABELLA
Sire, I want the same as you.
Please just give me another chance.

PRINCE JOHN grabs ISABELLA's arm and throws her through the gate.

PRINCE JOHN
Too late. You've had your chances.
Welcome to your new home.

ISABELLA
Sire, please, anyone can make a
mistake.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN has his eyes on SHERIDAN, who is standing quietly ahead of them with the crown in his upraised hands. ISABELLA does not notice SHERIDAN.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Look at Lord Sheridan for example.

PRINCE JOHN
(sigh)
Oh, Sheridan.

PRINCE JOHN steps forward. ISABELLA turns and sees SHERIDAN.

PRINCE JOHN
Sheridan, how could I ever have doubted your powers of recovery?

PRINCE JOHN takes the crown.

SHERIDAN
(bow head)
Your Highness.
(look at Isabella)
Lady Isabella.

PRINCE JOHN
Pay her no heed.
(beat)
She's a prisoner of state for aiding and abetting her terrorist brother in the attempted assassination of the new King of England.

PRINCE JOHN looks adoringly at the crown.

SHERIDAN
A serious crime.

SHERIDAN steps towards ISABELLA.

PRINCE JOHN
For which she will be punished as seriously as you shall be rewarded.

SHERIDAN
Perhaps she merely requires the firm hand of a man to encourage her to mend her ways.

PRINCE JOHN
(melodramatically)
But where, where would I find such a man willing to martyr himself?

SHERIDAN
Always at your service, Your
Highness.

PRINCE JOHN dangles the keys to ISABELLA's shackles in front
of SHERIDAN.

PRINCE JOHN
She's all yours.

ISABELLA
Please, sire.

PRINCE JOHN
Or she'll rot alone down here.

SHERIDAN unlocks ISABELLA's cuffs.

SHERIDAN
Oh, and I took the liberty of
dealing with Robin Hood.

ISABELLA looks up furiously at SHERIDAN.

SHERIDAN (cont'd)
I hope you don't mind.

PRINCE JOHN
You'll make a fine Sheriff of
Nottingham, Sheridan.

PRINCE JOHN looks sideways at ISABELLA and steps away.
ISABELLA glares at him.

CUT TO:

228 (308R) NETTLESTONE

228

LITTLE JOHN runs back to the gang waiting where ROBIN was
ambushed previously.

LITTLE JOHN
The stable boy says the horses are
all accounted for.

MUCH sucks in his breath.

TUCK
(quietly)
If Robin didn't make it, then
Sheridan has the crown. If Sheridan
has the crown, then Prince John can
carry on with his coronation. We
can't let that happen.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH
What about Robin?

MUCH stares at TUCK.

CUT TO:

229 (308) ROAD TO HULL 229

Two guards drive a wagon with a tall cloth cover over the back. It rumbles quickly through the trees. One of the guards yells back into the wagon.

GUARD 2
Shut up!

PAN TO:

230 (308) INSIDE THE WAGON 230

ROBIN, lying in the back with his hands and feet bound with rope and his mouth gagged, is pounding his feet repeatedly into the rear door of the wagon. Eventually he breaks a plank free and then reaches to his feet to untie them.

PAN TO:

231 (308) OUTSIDE THE WAGON 231

The guard notices the silence.

GUARD
Stop!

The driver stops the horses. The guards get down and draw their swords. They stab into the wagon just above the wood sides several times while making their way to the back. They look at each other and agree to open the door. The wagon is empty.

Behind them, ROBIN steps out from his hiding place and knocks out each one with the severed plank. His deed done, he throws the piece of wood on the ground and starts running back down the road.

CUT TO:

232 (308) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - BEDCHAMBER - NEXT MORNING 232

The ARCHBISHOP is asleep. Footsteps approach the bed and PRINCE JOHN swiftly opens the bed-hangings.

PRINCE JOHN
Wakey, wakey, Archbishop. No rest
for the wicked.

The ARCHBISHOP stirs sleepily.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
You've got a coronation to
attend...
(look up smugly)
... Mine.

PRINCE JOHN walks to the window.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
(quietly, smiling)
All mine and no-one to stop me.

JUMP TO:

233 (308R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP 233

TUCK has made a map of the abbey in the dirt. He points at it with a sharpened stick. LITTLE JOHN and MUCH pace beside it. ALLAN is trying to concentrate on what TUCK is saying, but he's really starting to worry about Gisborne.

TUCK
These are the abbey doors. We need
to go in here, here, and here...
and storm the altar.

LITTLE JOHN kneels to look.

TUCK (cont'd)
First one with the crown makes it
out... the rest of us deal with the
consequences.

MUCH nods, understanding.

TUCK (cont'd)
He might have the crown, but he's
not King until that crown makes it
onto his head.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH

Good. But doesn't storm imply that there's more than four of us?

ROBIN waltzes in.

ROBIN

How about five?

LITTLE JOHN / ALLAN

Hey!

MUCH

Robin!

ROBIN looks around and notices that Gisborne isn't there.

ROBIN

Guy still not back?

Group nods negatively.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Hmm.

ROBIN goes to the storage area and MUCH stares at him as he passes, shaking his head in disbelief that ROBIN has managed to escape yet again. TUCK rises and steps back out of ROBIN's way. LITTLE JOHN gives ROBIN a look.

LITTLE JOHN

(slightly whimpering)

Please tell us you've got a better plan than this one.

ROBIN

(get bow and sword)

I have actually.

(come back)

We're going to need shields... just like those ones Prince John wanted for his guards.

(look at Allan)

It's going to be blinding, Allan.

ALLAN frowns, puzzled.

CUT TO:

234 (308) KIRKLEES ABBEY - SANCTUARY - EXTERIOR

234

The guards have shiny shields just like PRINCE JOHN wanted. They line the path to the abbey door, holding back the crowd. The people cheer and throw rose petals. PRINCE JOHN revels in the attention. He turns around, his back to the abbey, arms outstretched.

PRINCE JOHN
Do you love me?!

The people cheer louder. PRINCE JOHN closes his eyes, enraptured. SHERIDAN escorts ISABELLA on his left arm. ISABELLA is looking up at the abbey with no expression.

SHERIDAN
Smile.

PRINCE JOHN
I said, Do you love me?!

More cheers. PRINCE JOHN shakes hands with the nobles lined up by the door. Clergymen wait inside the doorway. PRINCE JOHN passes GISBORNE, dressed as a guard, who watches him with an intense look, standing just outside the door.

CONTINUE TO:

235 (308) SANCTUARY - INTERIOR

235

PRINCE JOHN enters the sanctuary, followed by clergymen and nobles in their finest. Light pours through the tall windows and the floor is strewn with red rose petals. GISBORNE slips in and slowly makes his way near the front, taking a place beside the monks near the altar. The ARCHBISHOP waits at the altar in his finest robes. PRINCE JOHN stands before him, trying to look meek and humble. The procession moves to their places at the sides. Two pages remove PRINCE JOHN's fur robe. PRINCE JOHN turns around to face the assemblage. The ARCHBISHOP makes crosses with his thumb on PRINCE JOHN's palms, chest and forehead while he speaks.

ARCHBISHOP
As kings,
(beat)
priests and prophets were anointed,
(beat)
and as Solomon was anointed king
(beat)
by Zadok the priest,
(beat)
so be thou anointed...

(CONTINUED)

PRINCE JOHN sits on his throne. The ARCHBISHOP speaks as another man hands a scepter to PRINCE JOHN.

ARCHBISHOP (cont'd)
 The sovereign scepter
 (beat)
 to do justice
 (beat)
 and stop the growth of iniquity...

PRINCE JOHN stands facing the ARCHBISHOP. SHERIDAN places the royal fur robe around PRINCE JOHN's shoulders and fastens it at his throat.

ARCHBISHOP (cont'd)
 The robe of righteousness
 (beat)
 and the garment of salvation...

PRINCE JOHN sits on the throne. The ARCHBISHOP stands behind him holding the crown far over his head.

ARCHBISHOP (cont'd)
 The crown of the faithful.
 (beat)
 Bless,
 (beat)
 we beseech thee, this crown,
 (beat)
 and so sanctify thy servant, John.

The ARCHBISHOP slowly lowers the crown. Just before it can touch PRINCE JOHN's head, the doors burst open with a blinding light.

TUCK
 (deep voice)
 Halt!

Four shiny shields enter. The sanctuary is engulfed in their reflected light.

TUCK (cont'd)
 I am King Richard...

The two front shield-holders kneel. The other two remain standing behind the kneeling ones.

TUCK (cont'd)
 ..King of the English, Duke of the
 Normans...

The ARCHBISHOP makes his way forward.

TUCK (cont'd)
...and Aquitainians.

SHERIDAN
(point at shields)
You should be in the Holy Land!

TUCK
The waxwork lives.

SHERIDAN gasps and quickly looks at PRINCE JOHN.

ARCHBISHOP
(to Prince John)
What is the meaning of this?

SHERIDAN rushes to kneel at the ARCHBISHOP's feet, grabbing his robes.

SHERIDAN
It was the Prince's doing, your
worship!
(quietly)
He ordered that I have a model made
of the King so he could lie about
his death.

The ARCHBISHOP looks at PRINCE JOHN.

SHERIDAN (cont'd)
(to Prince John)
I'm sorry, sire.

PRINCE JOHN pulls SHERIDAN to the floor.

PRINCE JOHN
Shut up, you stupid old fool!
(look at crowd)
We will finish this coronation!

ARCHBISHOP
Impossible!

PRINCE JOHN looks at him.

PRINCE JOHN
This is treason.

PRINCE JOHN wrestles the crown from the ARCHBISHOP and pushes him back.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
I will be King!

PRINCE JOHN raises the crown over his head. The two upper shields part and ROBIN shoots an arrow, knocking the crown from PRINCE JOHN's hands. The crown clatters to the floor. PRINCE JOHN can see the silhouette of ROBIN and his bow between the shields.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
Hood!

Everyone turns to look. Suddenly, the sanctuary darkens as clouds cover the sun. ROBIN looks up, and pushes back his hood. The others lower their shields and push back their hoods, too. The two kneeling were ALLAN and MUCH, the two standing were TUCK and LITTLE JOHN. ROBIN steps forward, an arrow ready in his bow.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
You impersonate the King?!

ROBIN
Just like you, Prince John.

PRINCE JOHN
Arrest him!

ROBIN
You can do what you want!
(beat)(quieter)
These people,
(beat)
they know the truth.

ARCHBISHOP
(boldly)
And so do I.

PRINCE JOHN looks at the ARCHBISHOP.

ARCHBISHOP (cont'd)
I will never make you King.

PRINCE JOHN
(panicked)
Where's my crown?

Behind two rows of monks, a black-gloved hand raises the crown and waves it a bit.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

Is this what you're looking for?

GISBORNE stands up. The people gasp. ROBIN shifts his eyes to GISBORNE, wondering how he got here, and what he's up to. GISBORNE steps between the monks.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

How about... a state funeral?

GISBORNE lowers the crown and simultaneously raises a crossbow in his right hand and aims it at PRINCE JOHN, who gasps.

ROBIN

Guy.

GISBORNE turns to ROBIN.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Don't do it.

The ARCHBISHOP looks at ROBIN.

ROBIN (cont'd)

I know he deserves it,
(beat)
but with no leader at home,
(beat)
England could be ripped apart,
(beat)
torn up by war.

GISBORNE

What has England ever done for me?

ISABELLA

Brother...

GISBORNE

Don't think I won't shoot you, as well, after everything you've done.

ROBIN wonders what he meant by that. Something must have happened. Is that where he was?

ISABELLA

I know.

SHERIDAN pushes ISABELLA forward and PRINCE JOHN throws himself to the floor behind her. GISBORNE steps down to the floor.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)

But you'll have to decide which one
of us you want dead the most.

(beat)

Prince John or me.

(beat)

Because as much as I hate Robin
Hood, he loves his country,

(beat)

and he won't give you a second
shot.

GISBORNE glances at ROBIN. After everything they'd been through, would he really do it. ROBIN pulls his bowstring back a bit more. He gives GISBORNE a look. GISBORNE understands the signal.

GISBORNE turns and aims at PRINCE JOHN. ISABELLA glances where the crossbow is aiming and sees PRINCE JOHN crouched at the ARCHBISHOP's feet. She starts to throw herself in front of PRINCE JOHN as GISBORNE shoots. ISABELLA takes the bolt in the arm. She screams and sails into PRINCE JOHN.

ROBIN and GISBORNE share a look. ROBIN fires and GISBORNE ducks. ROBIN and GISBORNE share another look. GISBORNE nods and heads into the crowd, still holding the crown.

ISABELLA grabs at the black-fletched bolt in her arm. She sees GISBORNE blending back into the crowd.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Arrest him!

ROBIN glances back at his gang and they take up positions against the guards. ROBIN hopes they can distract the guards long enough for GISBORNE to get away with the crown.

ARCHBISHOP

Stop! Anyone who draws blood in the
house of God will be damned for all
eternity.

They all pause, then ROBIN sets down his bow and slides it to the side. TUCK tilts his head and smiles, pleased at the thought of hand-to-hand. ROBIN straightens his jacket and stands ready to fight. He smiles wickedly and motions with his hands. The gang fight with fists and shields.

A guard tackles GISBORNE, knocking him to the ground.

ROBIN throws a guard to the floor. TUCK takes out a guard.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

Robin!

ROBIN turns to GISBORNE.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Catch!

GISBORNE slides the crown near ROBIN's feet then tries to shake the guard off of him. PRINCE JOHN sees the crown sliding across the floor, and slowly crawls out to get it.

MUCH punches a guard. ALLAN punches another. TUCK stands by the crown.

TUCK

If God had wanted you...

PRINCE JOHN looks up at TUCK.

TUCK (cont'd)

...to have the crown, he'd have given it to you.

PRINCE JOHN hurriedly grabs at the crown but TUCK kicks it away. ALLAN picks it up.

ALLAN

I've got it!

ROBIN runs to ALLAN.

ROBIN

Well, come on!

ROBIN and ALLAN follow TUCK, LITTLE JOHN, and MUCH out the doors as the crowd cheer.

ALLAN

We've got it!

PRINCE JOHN

Quick! Stop them!

The ARCHBISHOP shoves him down.

ARCHBISHOP

Let them go!

ROBIN looks back at PRINCE JOHN. PRINCE JOHN grimaces. ROBIN smiles, nods, and the doors close behind him.

JUMP TO:

236 (308R) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - COURTYARD - A FEW HOURS LATER
236

Guards carry chests of PRINCE JOHN's belongings to his coach. One of them stumbles on the steps, and a couple boxes stacked on top of the last chest clatter to the ground.

PRINCE JOHN
Fragile!

PRINCE JOHN slaps the guard on the shoulder.

GISBORNE watches the procession from the birdcage.

PRINCE JOHN walks to the coach, hand to his head.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
This is what happens when you
employ incompetents.

ISABELLA follows PRINCE JOHN, her arm in a sling.

In the coach sits SHERIDAN, bound and gagged.

PRINCE JOHN (cont'd)
(to Isabella)
I trust you will not make the same
mistake... Sheriff.

SHERIDAN growls through his gag.

ISABELLA
Oh, fear not, sire. By the time you
return I intend to have Robin Hood
in shackles alongside my brother.

GISBORNE growls. ISABELLA glances at him.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Or coffins.

ISABELLA smiles.

JUMP TO:

237 (308R) SHERWOOD FOREST - THE NORTH ROAD

237

The ARCHBISHOP is returning to Canterbury in an open carriage when he encounters ROBIN and the gang standing in the road, blocking the way. ROBIN stops the carriage as if ambushing it.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
That's far enough!

The gang slowly approach the carriage after it stops. The ARCHBISHOP stands in the carriage.

ARCHBISHOP
What is the meaning of this?

The ARCHBISHOP gets out and approaches. The gang line up in front of him. ROBIN smiles pleasantly and nods, then he and the gang kneel to the ARCHBISHOP. ALLAN holds out the crown. The ARCHBISHOP smiles at them and holds out his arms.

ARCHBISHOP (cont'd)
Stand.

They all rise to their feet.

ROBIN
(a bit cheekily)
You know...

ROBIN leans on his upright bow.

ROBIN (cont'd)
...I think this is the first time
we've ever stopped a carriage to
give gold back.

LITTLE JOHN and TUCK chuckle. The ARCHBISHOP laughs. ALLAN steps forward, holding out the crown. The ARCHBISHOP takes it.

ARCHBISHOP
Thank you, Robin Hood. England owes
you a debt of gratitude.

ROBIN
(sternly)
Just make sure Prince John pays it.

The ARCHBISHOP smiles at them all in turn, then goes back to his carriage. Just before he steps in, he looks back at ROBIN, but the road is deserted.

JUMP TO:

238 SHERWOOD - OUTLAW CAMP

238

ROBIN, MUCH, ALLAN, LITTLE JOHN and TUCK enter. ROBIN is surprised to see that GISBORNE is not there. ROBIN drops his bow.

ROBIN

Damn!

Everyone looks at him.

MUCH

What?

ROBIN

I thought he'd be here. The plan was...

MUCH

Plan?

ROBIN goes over to a bed and sits on it.

ROBIN

I'm going back.

ALLAN looks at him.

ALLAN

No. I'll go.

ROBIN gives ALLAN a look.

ALLAN (cont'd)

I know a few places he might hide in if he has too.

ROBIN

Thanks.

ALLAN leaves.

JUMP TO:

239 NOTTINGHAM - OUTSIDE CITY GATES

239

ALLAN approaches the gates. He blends in with a group of people entering the city.

CONTINUE TO:

240 CASTLE - COURTYARD

240

ALLAN approaches the castle and sees the birdcage with GISBORNE in it.

ALLAN
(quietly)
Oh no.

ALLAN makes his way over to birdcage, making sure not to be seen.

CONTINUE TO:

241 BIRDCAGE

241

GISBORNE is looking like he has given up on everything. He doesn't notice ALLAN arrive.

ALLAN
Never thought I'd see you in there.

GISBORNE
Go away, Allan.

ALLAN
We will find a way to get you out of here. Just...

GISBORNE
Don't bother.

ALLAN
You don't mean that.

GISBORNE
I have nothing Allan. My own sister hates me so much she put me in here. She...

ALLAN
No one's perfect.

GISBORNE
Please. Just go. Tell Robin...

ALLAN looks at him waiting for him to continue.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
Tell Robin to leave me.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN
He would never do that.

GISBORNE
This time last year he would have.

ALLAN
A lot has changed.

GISBORNE is about to say something but sees ISABELLA heading over.

GISBORNE
You better go. She's coming.

ALLAN doesn't have to ask who the *she* is. He knows. He gives GISBORNE a look.

ALLAN
I'll be back. I won't leave you here.

GISBORNE gives ALLAN a "go" look. ALLAN leaves.

JUMP TO:

242 SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP

242

TUCK is reading. LITTLE JOHN is resting. MUCH is cooking. ROBIN is pacing. ALLAN enters.

ROBIN
Well?

ALLAN
They caught him.

ROBIN kicks a branch on the ground. TUCK looks up from his book.

TUCK
It's not your fault.

ROBIN
I shouldn't have left him. I...

LITTLE JOHN
Robin, he left us. He...

ROBIN
He didn't leave us.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN

He took off on his own. Without
telling anyone where he was going.
If he'd've let...

ROBIN gives LITTLE JOHN a look. ALLAN steps in between them.

ALLAN

Stop!

Momentary silence. Everyone, but ROBIN, looks at ALLAN.

ROBIN

I'll think of a way to get him out.
I...

ALLAN

No. Guy doesn't want us to rescue
him.

ROBIN

What?

ALLAN

He told me to tell you to leave
him.

ROBIN

I'm not going to leave him. He's
one of us. I will not...

ALLAN

He's had it, Robin. He's given up.
He...

ROBIN

Allan, would I leave you?
(look at Little John)
Or you?
(to Much and Tuck)
Or you?

Silence.

ROBIN (cont'd)

I will find a way to get him out.

TUCK

You will have to go through
Isabella.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
I can handle Isabella.

MUCH
Really? Like you did last time?

ROBIN glares at MUCH. So does the rest of the gang. They can't believe MUCH, of all people, just said that.

LITTLE JOHN
She used you. Right from the start.
She lied to you. She betrayed you.
She never really cared about you or
our cause.

ROBIN
You don't really believe that do
you?

ROBIN looks at his men. None of them can look at him. ROBIN looks to the ground.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Maybe you're right. Maybe I was
seeing what I wanted to see.

ROBIN walks over to the bed and sits. He lowers his head, resting it in his hands. TUCK goes to him.

TUCK
Robin.
(beat)
She betrayed you. She betrayed,
Guy, her own brother.

Momentary silence. ROBIN looks up at TUCK after a few moments.

ROBIN
It wasn't all a lie. I'm sure part
of her really meant everything she
said.

TUCK
Maybe. Maybe not. Maybe she was
only getting close to you so that
she could get what she wanted.

LITTLE JOHN
And you fell for it.

ROBIN lowers his head again, closes his eyes, and thinks. No one says anything. TUCK rises and goes back to where he was. After a few moments ROBIN looks up.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Allan.

ALLAN goes to him and sits beside him.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Where is he?

ALLAN

Right now he's in the birdcage in the courtyard.

ROBIN

He won't be there for long.

(beat)

What's the guard detail like?

ALLAN

They appeared to have all the angles covered. It might be too risky to attempt a rescue while he's there.

ROBIN

Agreed. It's a lot easier to break someone out of a cell.

ALLAN

So what's the plan?

ROBIN

Still working on it.

CUT TO:

243 NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - COURTYARD - BIRDCAGE - NEXT DAY 243

GISBORNE is sitting in the cage, head down. He looks up and sees ISABELLA coming over.

ISABELLA

How's the view, brother?

GISBORNE

It was better before you got here, sis.

ISABELLA

Still the sharp tongue, I see. Maybe I should have it cut out.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE
What's happened to you?

ISABELLA
Don't you approve? After all *this*
is what you made me. I've had to
fend for myself since you...

GISBORNE rolls his eyes.

GISBORNE
Not that again. I thought we were
past that.

ISABELLA
I will never get over that. Never!

Momentary pause.

GISBORNE
So, was it all a lie?

ISABELLA
(confused)
What?

GISBORNE
Robin.

ISABELLA gets an almost sorrowful look on her face.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
Did you ever care for him? Or were
you just using him to...

ISABELLA
If I was, I'd say he had it coming,
wouldn't you?

GISBORNE gives her a "what" look?

ISABELLA (cont'd)
I mean, didn't he have Marian treat
you the same way?

GISBORNE
No.

ISABELLA
Still carrying a torch, are we
brother dear?

GISBORNE

Marian loved me. She...

ISABELLA

Sure she did. She just loved him more.

GISBORNE

You don't know anything about her. You can't compare...

ISABELLA

Oh really. Ask yourself, who do you think put her in the position in the first place?

GISBORNE

Marian was here because she wanted to be. She...

ISABELLA

Are you sure? Are you sure Robin didn't ask her spy on...

GISBORNE

Robin would never...

ISABELLA

If Robin loved her so much, he would have kept her far away from you!

Momentary pause. GISBORNE looks at her, trying to see the sister he once loved.

GISBORNE

You really have let all of this...
(look around)
...go to your head, haven't you?

ISABELLA

I have what I've always wanted.

Momentary pause.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

I am Sheriff. I have Locksley. I...

GISBORNE

Enjoy it while you can, sis.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA
Is that a threat?

GISBORNE
A warning.

ISABELLA
You think Hood will try to rescue
you?

Momentary pause. GISBORNE hopes that ROBIN will just stay away. ROBIN has to know that ISABELLA is trying to lure him here.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
I wouldn't count on it. I'll have
him and his gang so busy they won't
have time to think of you.

Momentary pause. GISBORNE still doesn't say anything.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Enjoy the view while you can.
You're going to the dungeons
tonight.

ISABELLA glares at her brother. He glares back.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
If by some fluke you do manage to
see Hood, tell him he will regret
ever spurring me.

ISABELLA turns and walks off. GISBORNE looks at her walking away wondering if his sister is completely nuts, or if there is hope for her.

JUMP TO:

244 (309) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - SHERIFF'S QUARTERS - NIGHT - 2
DAYS LATER 244

ISABELLA is asleep in her bed. Her eyes open, aware someone's in the room. She sits up, whimpers in surprise and reaches under her pillow for her knife, but it is raised up in front of her.

ROBIN
(impatiently)
Isabella...

ISABELLA gasps and turns to face ROBIN, who is sitting on the foot of the bed with her knife. Behind him is an open window with a rope hanging outside it.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
If I wanted to kill you, you'd be
already dead.

ISABELLA
What do you want?

ROBIN lowers the knife.

ROBIN
I want to know why you've done a
deal with the devil.

ISABELLA
Why do you care?

ROBIN
The Prince...
(beat)
is evil.

ISABELLA
It's not everyday a prince asks you
to be Sheriff...

ISABELLA props up on her elbow.

ISABELLA
...especially if you're a woman.

ROBIN
Well, you'll be working with a
traitor.

ISABELLA
No, I'm working for myself.
(beat)
I intend to be the best Sheriff
Nottingham has ever seen.

ROBIN laughs softly.

ISABELLA
And you'll see for yourself
tomorrow.

ROBIN
No. It'll never work, because the
Prince will fall...
(beat)
and you'll fall...
(beat)
unless...

ISABELLA

What?

ROBIN

Unless you work with me.

(beat)

Keep me in the picture, tell me the
Prince's plans,

(beat)

...and I'll protect you when the
King returns.

ISABELLA inches down to the bottom of the bed to sit next to
ROBIN.

ISABELLA

What if I don't want to be your
friend?

ROBIN

(sternly)

Then you'll find out what it is to
be my enemy.

ISABELLA

Hmm.

ISABELLA leans in to ROBIN's lips.

ISABELLA

Are you threatening me, Robin Hood?

(beat)

I could destroy you whenever I
choose.

ROBIN

Mm. So what's stopping you?

ISABELLA yells in ROBIN's face.

ISABELLA

Guards!

ROBIN cringes at the loud voice in his ear, but doesn't back
away. He slides off the bed and goes out the window, leaving
ISABELLA's knife behind.

ROBIN

You think it over, Isabella.

(beat)

The offer's open...

(beat)

But not for ever.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN goes out the window. ISABELLA slides off the bed with her knife and goes to the window

PAN TO:

245 (309) OUTSIDE WINDOW 245

ROBIN climbs down the rope suspended outside the window.

PAN TO:

246 (309) INSIDE WINDOW 246

ISABELLA sees ROBIN lowering himself to the ground. The guards rush in. ISABELLA points out the window.

ISABELLA
It's Robin Hood!

The guards do nothing.

ISABELLA
Well, sound the alarm!

The guards run out the door.

GUARD
Quick! Stop him! Guard the exit!

ISABELLA looks out the window, where ROBIN is still going down the rope. She puts her knife to the rope and starts sawing at it.

PAN TO:

247 (309) OUTSIDE WINDOW 247

ROBIN looks up, sees what she's doing, and quickens his pace.

PAN TO:

248 (309) SHERIFF'S QUARTERS 248

She cuts through the fourth and final strand and the rope snaps.

PAN TO:

249 (309) ROBIN 249

ROBIN falls with a grunt to the stone floor of the courtyard below.

The alarm bell tolls. ROBIN sits a moment, recovering from the pain, then stands and looks up at ISABELLA, perfectly fine. He chuckles defiantly at her exasperated face and saunters away.

PAN TO:

250 (309) SHERIFF'S QUARTERS 250

ISABELLA
(whisper to self)
I swear...

PAN TO:

251 (309) OUTSIDE 251

Guards run out of the portcullis.

GUARD
Find Hood! I want every corner of
Nottingham searched!

The guards scatter throughout the town. After they pass, a man (named THORNTON) steps out between buildings, looking up at ISABELLA hanging out the keep's upper window.

THORNTON
Trouble, Isabella?

ISABELLA (VO)
Guards!

THORNTON
You haven't seen anything yet.

JUMP TO:

252 DUNGEON - GISBORNE'S CELL 252

GISBORNE, is lying calmly on the floor, giving in to his depression. He is staring at his "dog tag" and thinking of everything that has happened in the last 7 months. How had everything gone so wrong.

GISBORNE
(to himself)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE (cont'd)
 Marian. Why didn't I listen to you?
 Things could have been so different
 if I'd just done as you wanted.

CUT TO:

253 (309R) NOTTINGHAM - TOWN - NEXT MORNING

253

The gang, in cloaks, walk through the town towards the castle.

ROBIN
 Well, this should be interesting.

ALLAN
 What exactly are we doing here,
 again?

TUCK
 Robin thinks he can charm our new
 Sheriff into working with outlaws.

ROBIN
 Look, let's just see what she's
 made of, shall we?

They walk through the castle gate.

MUCH
 Well, it's not sugar and spice and
 all things nice.

CONTINUE TO:

254 (309R) COURTYARD

254

At the top of the steps, ISABELLA's high-backed chair sits flanked by guards. A young lady prisoner (named MEG) stands at the bottom, a guard holding her tied hands. Around the platform, with four gallows set up ready, the townsfolk gather to watch.

ISABELLA
 Meg Bennett,
 (beat)
 the Sheriff's Court has heard of
 your disobedience to your father...
 (beat)
 and your refusal to accept any
 suitors he chose for you.

MEG looks down, avoiding Isabella's eyes.

(CONTINUED)

MEG

Lady Sheriff, one was a drunken
sot, the second looked like a
donkey, and the... the third was a
halfwit with the brains of a tree.

The crowd chuckles. A man near the guards on the steps limps
forward.

THIRD SUITOR

You little wretch!

ISABELLA holds her hand up at the man and a guard pulls him
back.

ISABELLA

Please!

(beat)

And the fourth, you apparently
bribed to go back to York with
money you stole from your father.

MEG

He was a mummy's boy!

The crowd laughs again.

MEG

What use is that?

ISABELLA

Meg, tell the court why you acted
in such a deplorable fashion.

MEG

(fiercely)

Because I won't accept anyone
telling me how to live my own life!
I don't want to marry. Men are
so... stupid!

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND GANG. ROBIN looks around with a slight
smile.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA.

ISABELLA

Quiet!

MEG

I think England would be a much
better place if women were in
charge.

(CONTINUED)

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND GANG

ALLAN
(chuckle)
Dream on, girl.

ROBIN looks down with a silent chuckle himself.

MUCH
Shh.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA.

MAN IN CROWD (VO)
Won't stand for that, would you?

ISABELLA
Untie her.

THIRD SUITOR
What?!

MEG
Thank you.

ISABELLA rises as MEG is untied. ISABELLA takes a step down.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND GANG. ROBIN stares at her, dumbfounded.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA

ISABELLA
People of Nottingham.
(beat)
Now maybe you can see the kind of
Sheriff I am.
(beat)
And as I've set Meg here free...

ISABELLA, with a motion, invites MEG to her side, then takes her hand.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
...I intend to set the whole of
Nottingham free!

The crowd cheer with fists in the air.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND GANG. The gang are silent.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA

ISABELLA (cont'd)

To be fairer

(beat)

more peaceful and prosperous place
for us all.

The crowd cheer again.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND GANG. The gang are still silent, but ROBIN looks at ISABELLA with narrowed, incredulous eyes.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA. ISABELLA turns to MEG and leads her up the steps.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

(quietly)

You are far too bright to be locked
up.

(beat)

I think I need people like you
around me.

ISABELLA stops, looks back at the crowd, then turns around to address them again.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

The last regime was brutal and
corrupt.

(beat)

And in recognition of crimes
committed against the people,

(beat)

my brother,

(beat)

Guy of Gisborne,

(beat)

shall be executed here on Thursday
at midday.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND GANG. ROBIN and MUCH exchange glances as the crowd cheer. ROBIN leans into ALLAN.

ROBIN

Thursday? Doesn't give us much
time.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA. The crowd are still cheering, then naturally quiet down. THORNTON steps out from the back of the crowd, clapping slowly.

THORNTON

Bravo.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THORNTON (cont'd)
Isn't she marvelous?

ISABELLA stands with her hands on her hips as THORNTON comes up the steps to her, with a tall bald man, GODFREY, following in his wake.

THORNTON (cont'd)
How I've missed you.
(turn to crowd)
My lovely wife.

ISABELLA stiffens as THORNTON grabs her and gives her a long kiss. THORNTON pulls back as GODFREY grabs ISABELLA's shoulders, and takes her away.

ISABELLA
(quietly)
Get off me.

THORNTON
(address crowd)
I'm your new Sheriff.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND GANG. LITTLE JOHN leans in to whisper something to ROBIN.

FOCUS ON: THORNTON.

THORNTON (cont'd)
Thornton, at your service.

The crowd whispers amongst itself.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND GANG. ROBIN watches THORNTON, sizing him up.

FOCUS ON: THORNTON.

THORNTON (cont'd)
I'm sure you'll understand that my
wife now has me to care for,
leaving me
(hold arms out)
to care for you.
(beat)
Rest assured you are in firm and
capable hands.
(beat, bow head)
Now, if you'll excuse me,
(beat)
the little wife and I have some
catching up to do.

(CONTINUED)

THORNTON smiles, then turns to follow ISABELLA.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND GANG.

ROBIN
(to Much)
There'll be no deal with Thornton.

FOCUS ON: THORNTON. MEG looks around before following THORNTON inside.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND GANG.

LITTLE JOHN
We should get going, Robin. The villagers will be expecting a food drop.

ROBIN
I know. You go.
(thinking quickly)
I need to stay here and find out his next move.

MUCH
Fine. I'm staying, too.

ALLAN
No. It's all right, Much. You go. I'll stay.

ROBIN
(to Much)
Go on.

MUCH nods once and leaves. MUCH is a little jealous of how much ALLAN seems to have taken his place with Robin.

ROBIN and ALLAN look at each other, wondering what will happen next.

JUMP TO:

255

SHERIFF'S QUARTERS

255

GODFREY throws ISABELLA into the room.

ISABELLA
Ow!

THORNTON
You ran away! You deserted me!

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA runs from him, turning over a table, whose items clatter to the floor.

ISABELLA

No!

She stands behind the overturned table as MEG comes in the door.

THORNTON

But I loved you, cared for you.

ISABELLA runs to another table on the other side of the room. THORNTON calmly walks towards her.

THORNTON (cont'd)

We were so happy together.

ISABELLA

How can you say that?

ISABELLA picks up a knife from the table and swings it at THORNTON, who stops. She slowly advances and he retreats a step, then suddenly grabs her hand and pulls her into him.

ISABELLA

Ow!

MEG

Guards!

ISABELLA

No!

MEG

Guards! Take him! He's attacking your Sheriff !

MEG runs at THORNTON. Two guards from another entrance come in and pull THORNTON off ISABELLA.

GUARD

That's enough! Let her go!

ISABELLA turns and holds the knife out at THORNTON again. More guards come in the main door and flank GODFREY.

ISABELLA

Take him to the dungeons!

THORNTON

(loudly)

Do you want Prince John to know he has a criminal for a Sheriff?!

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

He appointed me. He trusts me.

THORNTON

You abandoned your husband,

(beat)

broke man's law and God's!

(beat)

Now my men will ride to him at
nightfall if they receive no word
of my safety.

ISABELLA's face falls and her knife lowers a bit.

THORNTON

Release me, or it's over.

ISABELLA stands still. MEG is in disbelief. All is quiet for
a few moments.

ISABELLA

(quietly)

Let him go.

The guards release THORNTON. THORNTON stares a moment, sighs
deeply, then takes the knife. ISABELLA has tears in her
eyes. He grabs her face, making her mouth pucker.

THORNTON

(quietly)

And now it's time I taught you some
respect.

THORNTON turns her around and pushes her forward. MEG steps
between them.

MEG

Stop it! Please! If you promise not
to hurt her... I can make you rich.

THORNTON

Away with her!

MEG

It's true. I know where gold coins
are buried, handfuls and handfuls.

THORNTON

(stop)

Where?

(CONTINUED)

MEG
There's a mound.

MEG looks back at ISABELLA and guards.

MEG
Near Dead Man's Crossing in the
forest.

ISABELLA
I think I know it.

THORNTON holds the knife at MEG.

THORNTON
If you've told a lie, it'll be your
last.
(to guard)
Lock her up.

ISABELLA
(to Meg)
Listen, I won't rest until you're
free.

THORNTON
Ahh, look at them, boys. The ladies
are getting a little emotional.

The guards and THORNTON laugh. THORNTON grabs ISABELLA's arm
and pulls her away.

ISABELLA
(to Meg)
You stay strong.

The guards pull MEG in the opposite direction. MEG
struggles.

MEG
Get off me!

CUT TO:

256

(309R) "THE TRIP TO JERUSALEM" INN - EXTERIOR

256

ROBIN and ALLAN walk around to the front of the inn, each
with a tall, earthenware cup in hand.

ROBIN
Thornton's dangerous.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN
For Isabella, maybe.

ROBIN sits on a bench alongside an empty table.

ROBIN
No, for Nottingham and for
everyone.

ROBIN sets down his cup as ALLAN does the same and sits next to him.

ALLAN
Oh, and Isabella's an angel?

ROBIN
I just think we can work together
with her, unlike him.

ALLAN
Really?

ROBIN
I'm not wrong!

ALLAN
Can't you see?

ROBIN
See what?

ALLAN
See her for what she really is?

ROBIN briefly puts the heel of his hand to his forehead.

ROBIN
Why are you so angry with me?

ALLAN
Sorry. It's just after everything
she's done to you, and Guy, I...

ROBIN hears a horse neighing. He motions ALLAN to be quiet. He sees a coach coming down the street with THORNTON and ISABELLA inside. ROBIN's jaw drops as he watches it pass. He exhales sharply.

ROBIN
We should probably go.

ALLAN
 (sarcastically)
 Of course.

ROBIN looks at him.

ROBIN
 What's that supposed to mean?

ALLAN
 I just think we should be getting
 Guy out and not...

ROBIN stands up and leaves. ALLAN follows.

CUT TO:

257 (309R) CASTLE - DUNGEONS

257

The guards put MEG in a cell next to GISBORNE. GISBORNE is lying calmly on the floor, giving in to his depression. He is staring at his "dog tag".

MEG
 Get off me! Let go! Ah! Don't!

MEG screams as the guard puts shackles on her wrists. GISBORNE coolly looks over. The guards leave.

MEG (cont'd)
 I'll make you pay for this, you
 rancid brutes!

The cell door closes.

MEG (cont'd)
 Oh!
 (disgustedly)
 Men. If I had my way, they'd all
 disappear in a puff of smoke and
 the world would be a happier place.

MEG sighs, then sees GISBORNE.

MEG (cont'd)
 What are you staring at?

GISBORNE merely turns his head to the wall away from her.

MEG (cont'd)
 I know you.

GISBORNE looks at her again. MEG goes to the bars separating them.

(CONTINUED)

MEG (cont'd)
You're him, aren't you?
(beat)
Isabella's brother?
(beat)(smugly)
She's a friend of mine.

GISBORNE
Not that close, obviously.

MEG
Her nasty husband did this to me,
clever.

GISBORNE
Thornton?
(chuckle)
Is he here?

GISBORNE chuckles again.

MEG
She's terrified of him.

GISBORNE
Well, she shouldn't have run off
and left him then, should she?

MEG
You always were a bit pleased with
yourself.

GISBORNE eyes her.

MEG
(a bit dreamily)
I saw you once...
(beat)
the man in black on his black
horse,
(beat)
the big "I am."
(beat)
Look at you now
(beat)
dirty
(beat)
and miserable...
(beat)
and small.
(beat)
And now you're going to be
executed.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE
 (look sharply at Meg)
 By the look of it, you might not be
 far behind.

Momentary pause. MEG looks at him.

MEG
 I hope you go to hell!

MEG turns away and sits against the wall. GISBORNE mutters
 line quietly to himself.

GISBORNE
 I'm already there.

GISBORNE turns his head back to the wall.

JUMP TO:

258 (309R) SHERWOOD FOREST - NEAR DEAD MAN'S CROSSING 258

ISABELLA leads THORNTON and GODFREY through the forest. She
 breaks through a large and tough cobweb and falls through
 it. THORNTON laughs. ISABELLA gets up and walks through the
 thick undergrowth. Then she stops.

ISABELLA
 This is it.

THORNTON grabs her arm, takes a spade from GODFREY and hands
 it to her.

THORNTON
 Get going then.

ISABELLA looks at the spade in disbelief.

ISABELLA
 You expect me to...

THORNTON
 (interrupt quietly, intensely)
 Don't you understand?

ISABELLA puts on a blank face, staring past him.

THORNTON (cont'd)
 Every time you cross me,
 (beat)
 ...every little word or action, you
 make it worse for yourself when I
 get you on my own in a small, dark
 room.

(CONTINUED)

(beat, feign a sweet smile)
Now go on.
(beat)
Prove you love me.
(beat)
Get digging!

ISABELLA turns, walks to a spot and steps on the spade.
THORNTON takes a drink of water from a flask, sloshes it in his mouth, then spits it out.

THORNTON (cont'd)
If this is a wild goose chase, I'll
kill that girl.

ISABELLA hears coins rattle. She sticks the spade in the ground beside her, staring at the tall mound. She digs by hand in its side, then reaches in as far as she can.
THORNTON goes to her. ISABELLA holds up a coin.

ISABELLA
Look.

THORNTON
Let me see.

THORNTON pulls her out of the way. GODFREY holds ISABELLA and THORNTON reaches in where she was digging with her fingers and pulls out a handful of earth. He brushes the dirt off his palm, picks out a coin and bites it.

THORNTON
(to two guards)
You, get some more men. You, what
are you waiting for?

THORNTON smiles as the second guard steps forward.

THORNTON (cont'd)
Get digging!

The guard politely waits for ISABELLA to step aside.

FOCUS ON: Guard as he leaves. THORNTON continues shouting orders as guard leaves.

THORNTON (VO)
Well, come on! Get on with it!

The guard passes ALLAN and ROBIN hiding in the brush.

THORNTON (VO) (cont'd)
 Not... no, no, no! Not there, you
 idiot!

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND ALLAN.

ALLAN
 He really is a pig, isn't he?

ROBIN
 Yep. At last there's something you
 and Isabella agree on.

ALLAN is silent, thinking. THORNTON still barking orders.

THORNTON (VO)
 Right, you lot! I want the treasure
 out of here by nightfall.

ROBIN, hearing THORNTON's words, realizes he needs to get a
 plan in action.

ROBIN
 I'd best get the others.

ROBIN stands up and takes a step behind ALLAN, then stops
 and looks to THORNTON again.

THORNTON (VO)
 ...get with it! And the rest of
 you, start moving the gold to here.

ROBIN leaves as THORNTON continues ordering around the
 guards.

CUT TO:

259

(309) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - DUNGEONS

259

MEG pulls repeatedly on her chain, shrieking with
 frustration, trying to break it. GISBORNE is annoyed with
 the noise and her persistence.

GISBORNE
 Just... leave it, will you?

MEG
 Well, it hurts!

GISBORNE sits against the wall, his hands on his head. He
 takes them down.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

That's why they do it. Deal with it.

MEG sits against the wall, flustered.

MEG

I'm thirsty.

GISBORNE

Well then save your breath and stop whining.

MEG

Nasty piece of work you are, aren't you? No wonder Isabella wants you dead.

GISBORNE remains silent.

MEG (cont'd)

What did you do to her anyway?

GISBORNE looks up at the ceiling.

GISBORNE

Oh, give me strength.

(beat)

It's almost worth dying to be spared your endless chatter.

MEG

Oh, come on. You're here, I'm here.

(beat)

What else are we going to do?

GISBORNE

(silent a moment)

I found her a husband.

(beat)

That's what I did.

(look away)

Good price, too.

MEG

You sold her? Your own sister?

GISBORNE

It was her best chance in life.

It's not my fault she went and made a mess of it.

(CONTINUED)

MEG

Well, of course, it is! All of it!
You sold her to a monster!

GISBORNE

(quietly)

You stupid girl.

(beat)

You know nothing about it.

MEG

I'm not a stupid girl!

(beat)

I'm Meg!

MEG leans her head back on the wall.

MEG (cont'd)

(softer)

And I'm still thirsty.

Momentary pause. GISBORNE stares at MEG.

GISBORNE

That stone around your neck.

MEG picks it up.

GISBORNE

Suck it.

(beat)

It'll make your mouth water.

MEG looks at it, puts it in her mouth, sucks on it, then looks at GISBORNE, who looks sideways back at her.

JUMP TO:

260 (309) SHERWOOD FOREST - NEAR DEAD MAN'S CROSSING 260

GODFREY finds a boarded up entrance. He pulls away the rotten planks.

PAN TO:

261 (309R) ROBIN AND GANG 261

The gang watch from afar, hidden in the trees.

TUCK

Burial mound. Danish by the look of it. They placed curses on horse's heads to ward off intruders.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH turns, wide-eyed, to the mound.

PAN TO:

262 (309) MOUND - INSIDE 262

GODFREY goes inside and recoils at the sight of a gold-covered horse skull, mounted on a pike. He backs out, visibly frightened.

PAN TO:

263 (309) MOUND - OUTSIDE 263

THORNTON comes over to see what the commotion is. ISABELLA is in the background walking near the carriage.

THORNTON
What are you doing?

GODFREY stands still, scared.

CONTINUE TO:

264 (309) INSIDE 264

THORNTON steps inside and sees a room full of shining gold treasure piled on a replica of a Viking longship. He picks up the horse's head.

CONTINUE TO:

265 (309) OUTSIDE 265

THORNTON brings it out, wailing like a ghost and brandishing it at the guards. The men are all frightened.

THORNTON
Get a grip! It's just a horse's head.

PAN TO:

266 (309R) ROBIN AND GANG 266

ROBIN watches intently, an idea forming if needed. MUCH leans to ROBIN.

MUCH
Golden bridle, nice.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK

Now I'd say that's a chief's.

(beat)

It's the treasure.

(beat)

They bury it with them for the long journey to Valhalla.

ALLAN

Where is that? It's near Norwich,
isn't it?

ROBIN rubs his forehead with his fingers trying not to laugh at ALLAN's ignorance.

TUCK

(patiently)

No, Allan. Valhalla is Norse for heaven.

PAN TO:

267 (309) THORNTON

267

THORNTON stands behind ISABELLA and puts an ornate tarnished silver chain around her shoulders.

THORNTON

My beautiful wife.

ISABELLA stares in silence. Momentary pause.

THORNTON (cont'd)

What's going on in that pretty little head of yours?

ISABELLA

Nothing at all.

ISABELLA turns her head to look back at THORNTON.

ISABELLA

Just the way you like it.

She pulls the chain off her shoulders. GODFREY picks out several gold chains from a bag sitting on a tarnished silver platter to admire them. THORNTON sees him and is outraged.

THORNTON

What have you taken?

GODFREY turns to THORNTON as THORNTON draws his sword.

(CONTINUED)

THORNTON (cont'd)
Steal from me, would you?

THORNTON puts his hand on GODFREY's shoulder and runs him through with the sword. GODFREY falls onto the edge of the table.

ISABELLA
He was just looking!

THORNTON looks around at the guards.

THORNTON
Let that be a lesson to you all!

THORNTON pulls the body off the table.

THORNTON (cont'd)
Now get the cart.

GUARD (VO)
Fetch the cart!

THORNTON puts his sword away.

THORNTON
The sooner the gold's back in
Nottingham, the better!

GUARD (VO)
You four, start loading the gold
onto the cart!

ISABELLA throws the silver necklace into the platter and walks away in disgust.

PAN TO:

268 (309R) ROBIN AND GANG

268

ROBIN
(intensely)
Right. We get rid of him.

TUCK
Let's take his gold first.

MUCH
And make Isabella Sheriff again?

ALLAN
(scoff)
Sheriff. We'll have a donkey for an
archbishop next.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Shh.

(beat)

Much, I want you to stay and watch the hoard. The rest of you, come with me.

(stand)

Come on.

ROBIN, TUCK, LITTLE JOHN, and ALLAN leave.

JUMP TO:

269 (309) THE CART

269

The cart comes down the road. ALLAN, with a black cloak over his shoulder, stands in the road. He speaks with a slightly Scottish accent.

ALLAN

Hey, you! Stop there! Stop!

(beat)

Stop, I say!

The carts stops in front of him.

ALLAN (cont'd)

You're on my land. Well, you pay me a toll, I guess we might forget about it.

The guards laugh. They look at each other, and laugh more.

ALLAN (cont'd)

That's not very nice, now is it?

TUCK climbs into the cart, stands behind the two guards, slams their heads together and pushes them off the cart. The guards fall to the ground on their backs. They sit up, dazed, and see ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN waiting to punch them into oblivion.

CUT TO:

270 (309) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - DUNGEONS

270

GISBORNE stands with his back to the bars of MEG's cell. MEG is still sitting with her back against the wall.

MEG

Are you scared?

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

What of?

MEG

(scoff)

"What of?"

(beat)

Your date with the execution.

GISBORNE

(brazenly)

Do I look scared?

Momentary pause.

MEG

Actually, no.

GISBORNE looks at MEG, who smiles and chuckles.

MEG (cont'd)

Terrible, yeah.

(beat)

One out of ten for personal
appearance...

(beat)

But not frightened.

(beat)

I'm almost impressed.

(beat)

It's as if you've got a clear
conscience.

GISBORNE sits down.

GISBORNE

Well, why shouldn't I have?

MEG

Because of all the awful things
you've done in your life.

(beat)

I mean, no-one

(beat)

actually seems sorry that you're on
the way out, do they?

(beat)

Does that not make you sad?

GISBORNE

I can't help what people think of
me.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE (cont'd)
What's done is done.
 (beat)
And if I am to die, then so be it.

 MEG
Is your life
 (beat)
really that empty that you don't
care whether you live or die?

GISBORNE's eyes widen, pondering the thought. MEG picks up a stale heel of bread. She sees the maggots crawling on it.

 MEG (cont'd)
Eughh

She tosses it, unintentionally, at GISBORNE. She wipes her hands on her skirt and crosses her arms.

 MEG (cont'd)
 (quietly)
I'm starving.

GISBORNE reaches for the bread and calmly flicks off the multitude of pests with his fingernail. MEG watches curious and slightly amazed. GISBORNE hands her back the bread.

 GISBORNE
 (gently)
Here...
 (beat)
Keep your strength up.

MEG smiles, goes up to the bars, and takes the bread.

 MEG
There must be some good in you yet.

 GISBORNE
 (shake head negatively)
You don't know me.

MEG breaks off a bite and eats it.

 GISBORNE
Besides... I thought you hated men.

 MEG
 (pause. Caught)
I do.

She looks down at bread and eats another bite.

MEG
 (a bit softer)
 I do.

GISBORNE scoffs softly and leans his head against the bars, staring at MEG. MEG glances up at him.

JUMP TO:

271 (309R) SHERWOOD FOREST - NEAR DEAD MAN'S CROSSING 271

GUARD (VO)
 Start loading the gold now onto the cart.

MUCH deliberately keeps his eyes on the guards working. MUCH is half listening to the guards' conversation and half day-dreaming.

GUARD (VO) (cont'd)
 Come on, lot! Quickly!
 (beat)
 Haven't got all day. You! Come on!

ROBIN comes up behind MUCH.

ROBIN
 Right. We're almost ready.
 (beat)
 Much, when the cart's ready, I want you to get it out of there.
 (beat)
 All right?

MUCH
 (very silently whisper)
 Yeah, yeah.

ROBIN
 Good luck.

ROBIN leaves. MUCH gathers his arrows and weapons together before following.

PAN TO:

272 (309R) THORNTON 272

THORNTON takes a ring off a skeletal hand and puts it on his own finger, where several others have already found a new home. ISABELLA watches him, a bit horrified at taking things from a dead man. THORNTON pokes his fingers through the eye sockets of the skull and holds it up.

(CONTINUED)

THORNTON
(to skull)
Thanks, my friend. I shall enjoy
spending your ill-gotten gains.

ISABELLA
(eyes wide)
You ought to be careful. He might
come back to haunt you.

THORNTON grabs her head with both hands, tossing the skull
back at its corpse.

THORNTON
You're the one who's living a
nightmare, precious.

A horse whinnies as LITTLE JOHN and ALLAN, dressed as
guards, drive the cart in.

THORNTON (cont'd)
That's it! We're done.

THORNTON releases ISABELLA. She steps back, her eyes full of
terrified hatred.

LITTLE JOHN (VO)
Whoa!

The cart stops. ISABELLA steadily walks away from THORNTON.

THORNTON
(watching Isabella)
Start loading!

LITTLE JOHN gets off the cart.

LITTLE JOHN
Right! Let's get it loaded! Come
on, men.

The guards, LITTLE JOHN and ALLAN start to load the cart.
THORNTON follows ISABELLA, who suddenly stops by the coach.
She sees ROBIN standing behind the brush through its
curtains. He puts a finger to his lips. Her eyes show she
understands.

THORNTON
Isn't this my lucky day.

THORNTON holds out his hand to admire the rings.

THORNTON (cont'd)
My first day as Sheriff and untold
riches fall into my lap.

ISABELLA
(turn around)
Luck can easily change.

ISABELLA stares at THORNTON. ROBIN watches him through the curtain. THORNTON suspects something and looks at the coach, but can't see ROBIN. He calls to the guards.

THORNTON
Right. Let's go!

THORNTON walks away and MUCH shoots the guard next to the coach with an arrow. THORNTON hears the guard groan and draws his sword as ROBIN steps out from behind the coach.

ROBIN
This hoard isn't yours to take,
Thornton.

ROBIN draws his sword. The gang start to fight.

THORNTON
And who's going to stop me?

ROBIN
Robin Hood.

ROBIN charges and THORNTON parries. They both make sweeping moves and deflect each other's moves. THORNTON raises his sword overhead and down. ROBIN blocks, holding his sword at both ends, then quickly shoves THORNTON's blade aside. ROBIN swings and THORNTON ducks.

ISABELLA makes the most of the distraction and runs into the trees.

ROBIN jabs at THORNTON but has to block his swing instead. ROBIN holds his sword overhead and swings down. THORNTON side steps it, falls to one knee, then takes off after ISABELLA as three guards surround ROBIN.

THORNTON
Isabella, I haven't finished with
you yet!

ALLAN runs to help ROBIN. They put their backs to each other.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
Get back! Get back!

THORNTON points his sword at some guards.

THORNTON
You lot! With me! The rest, get the
cart out of here!

ROBIN and ALLAN fight the three guards.

LITTLE JOHN
Much, the cart!

MUCH runs to the cart. Once he's seated, he sees ALLAN and ROBIN fighting together. MUCH watches ROBIN fight with ALLAN they way he used to fight with him.

ROBIN
Stay back!

A guard climbs up beside the distracted MUCH, who turns just in time to be punched off the cart. He lands face down on the ground. The guard drives it off. MUCH shakes his dazed head and looks up at ROBIN. ALLAN ducks under a guard's upraised sword, just in time to avoid ROBIN running him through.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Get after them!

LITTLE JOHN sees MUCH sitting on the ground.

LITTLE JOHN
(admonishingly)
Much!

MUCH, embarrassed at his failure and jealously, picks himself up.

JUMP TO:

273 (309) NEARBY

273

ISABELLA runs as fast as she can though the forest.

THORNTON
Isabella! Isabella!

THORNTON and two guards with torches chase her in the late afternoon sunlight.

CUT TO:

274 (309R) ROBIN AND GANG

274

MUCH runs after ROBIN.

MUCH
Robin, wait! Wait!

ROBIN stops impatiently.

ROBIN
Much!

MUCH
(hold hands up)
I'm sorry.

ROBIN
We haven't got time for this. We
have to find Thornton.

ROBIN runs off. MUCH watches him.

CUT TO:

275 (309R) ISABELLA

275

ISABELLA runs, then ducks behind a thick tree, breathing heavily. She hears a twig snap close behind her. She quiets her breathing, pulls up her skirt and takes a knife from a small belt tied around her thigh. She slowly slides around the tree, then suddenly stabs out with the knife. ROBIN catches her arm and faces her with a stern look.

ISABELLA
(relieved)
Robin...

ROBIN presses the inside of her wrist to make her drop the knife. He watches it as it falls from her hand to the ground.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Oh, thank God.

ISABELLA throws her arms around ROBIN's neck. He loosely puts his arms around her waist and lets her hold him. ALLAN and MUCH wait awkwardly behind her. As do TUCK and LITTLE JOHN.

ROBIN
Are you all right?

ISABELLA nods and lets go.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

I was a fool to turn my back on you. Please help me.

ROBIN

If you promise to fight with us for King Richard, then I'll protect you.

ISABELLA

Yes, of course. You and me, Robin.

ROBIN shifts his feet, his look still stern, deciding if he can trust her.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

I think we can work together.

(beat)

I've always known it and I think you do, too.

ROBIN

And Guy? You will release him?

ISABELLA doesn't answer right away.

ROBIN (cont'd)

I know you hate him. For a while, I did too. But he has changed. He deserves...

ISABELLA

(reluctantly)

Okay.

ROBIN purses his lips, then nods slightly.

ROBIN

It's a deal.

ISABELLA

You won't regret this. How can I repay you?

ROBIN

Well, you can start by handing over the gold...

(beat)

Tomorrow, at Knight's Glade.

ISABELLA

Of course. You must give it back to the people. It's theirs, after all.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Good.

THORNTON's voice is heard getting closer.

THORNTON (VO)

Isabella, you'll suffer for this!

LITTLE JOHN and TUCK turn towards the voice, pulling their weapons ready.

THORNTON (VO) (cont'd)

Isabella!

ROBIN

John, escort the Sheriff back to her castle.

LITTLE JOHN makes a silent look of disbelief as MUCH and TUCK disappear into the trees.

ISABELLA

(quietly)

Thank you.

LITTLE JOHN stomps past her, clearly unhappy with his assignment.

LITTLE JOHN

(gruffly)

This way.

ROBIN leans on the tree and ISABELLA follows LITTLE JOHN. ALLAN comes over up to him.

ALLAN

She always manages to get what she wants, doesn't she?

ROBIN

Just leave it... please.

ROBIN angrily walks away after the gang. ALLAN glances at the retreating LITTLE JOHN and ISABELLA, then follows.

CUT TO:

THORNTON and six guards with torches walk down the road.

THORNTON

Isabella!

They encounter a cross made with flat white stones in the middle of their path.

GUARD

I don't like the look of this. You shouldn't have touched that burial mound.

THORNTON

Superstitious peasant!

THORNTON kicks a rock near the center out of place. Suddenly, a swarm of bats fly at them. The guards try to swat them away, scared.

THORNTON (cont'd)

They're just bats!

Four guards run away.

THORNTON (cont'd)

Get back here, you cowards!

THORNTON hears a horse whinny behind him. A figure in a black cloak, face hidden in the hood, on a white horse gallops up and stops.

TUCK

You have disturbed the dead!

The horses neighs and rears. The last two guards run off.

GUARD

Somebody help me! Help!

THORNTON

Come back!

TUCK

You invoked the Viking curse!

(beat)

You'll be visited by suffering,

(beat)

...madness...

(beat)

...and death!

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN quietly stands behind THORNTON.

ROBIN
Playing with the devil.

THORNTON looks behind him. ROBIN draws his bow.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Big mistake, Thornton.

JUMP TO:

277 (309R) NOTTINGHAM - TOWN - NIGHT

277

LITTLE JOHN and ISABELLA walk through the streets to the castle as a bell tolls. LITTLE JOHN clears his throat.

ISABELLA
You don't say much, do you?

LITTLE JOHN
(sigh)
Robin sees you as an ally, strictly business.

ISABELLA
(chuckle)
Typical man. There's nothing ever strictly business between a man and a woman.

LITTLE JOHN
(sigh)
If he has done a deal with you, it's for the good of the cause, nothing else.

ISABELLA
How can you be so sure?

LITTLE JOHN slows down.

LITTLE JOHN
Because I know Robin.

ISABELLA stops. Could Robin really not feel anything for her? Could he really be only taking advantage of her heart?

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
After what you've done. I'm surprised he...

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN shuts up. But ISABELLA can tell from the look on his face that any chance she had of getting back with ROBIN was gone. And that Robin. like every other man in her life, was using her for their own gains.

JUMP TO:

278 (309) SHERWOOD FOREST

278

TUCK, at the head, and ALLAN carry a bound and gagged THORNTON into a small caged cart. THORNTON yells behind his gag.

TUCK
(to cart driver)
We found him in the forest,
babbling something about Viking
ghosts.

TUCK stands over THORNTON.

TUCK (cont'd)
He needs to be locked up.

ALLAN is standing at the back.

ALLAN
Yep, madhouse is the best place for
him.

TUCK
He's a danger to himself and the
people around him.

TUCK gives a smug look to ALLAN and gets out. THORNTON struggles and yells.

TUCK (cont'd)
And if he mentions something about
being Sheriff of Nottingham, just
pay no attention.

THORNTON looks back at the driver and yells. ALLAN closes the door and latches it.

ALLAN
He was the Queen of Sheba last
week.

ALLAN steps away and ROBIN comes up.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Well, Nottingham's well rid of you,
Thornton.

(beat)

And don't even think of coming
back.

The cart driver turns around to watch.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Because if you do, your next
destination won't be an asylum...

THORNTON yells.

ROBIN (cont'd)

...but where you really belong...

(beat)

Hell.

ROBIN taps the cart and nods. The cart drives off with
THORNTON still screaming in back.

JUMP TO:

279

(309) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - DUNGEONS

279

ISABELLA comes down with two guards.

ISABELLA

Release her.

MEG stands.

MEG

Isabella, you're back.

ISABELLA

Meg!

MEG

Thank goodness.

The guard unlocks MEG's cuffs. GISBORNE sits at the bars
separating them, his hands gripping the iron.

ISABELLA

I'm not so sure my brother will
feel the same. Come on, let's go.

ISABELLA walks away. GISBORNE watches MEG with a look of
sadness in his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

MEG

Won't you release Guy, too?

ISABELLA turns to MEG. Did she just call him "Guy"?

ISABELLA

What? Are you mad? He's our enemy.

MEG looks plaintively at GISBORNE.

MEG

But...

ISABELLA

You see? Do you see how they
manipulate us?

GISBORNE glances down, but the fact MEG wants him released
clearly moves him.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

A few hours in a cell with a
cold-hearted killer and even you
lose your wits. That's the poison
of men, Meg. None of them can be
trusted.

GISBORNE takes a last look at MEG.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

My brother will get exactly what he
deserves. Now come on.

ISABELLA glances at GISBORNE, then pulls MEG behind her. MEG
looks back at GISBORNE, who lowers his eyes, sinking back
into his depression.

CUT TO:

280 (309R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP - JUST AFTER DAWN 280

MUCH lies in his bunk. He opens his eyes, takes a deep
breath and backs out. He gets his bag out from under his bed
and slips it over his shoulder. He looks at ALLAN in the bed
opposite his, sleeping. In the bunk next to ALLAN's, TUCK
rolls over. MUCH turns and looks at the bunk next to his,
where LITTLE JOHN is asleep.

In the storage area, MUCH unhooks his shield and sword as
quietly as he can. A bow and some arrows are in his other
hand. He drapes his shield over his shoulder.

MUCH's eyes drift to the next bed, where his friend and
master sleeps with a childlike face.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH walks past them and out into the forest.

CONTINUE TO:

281 (309R) SHERWOOD FOREST 281

When he is out of earshot he stops, sighs, and walks onward, his shield clanking against his sword.

CUT TO:

282 (309) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - DUNGEONS 282

MEG comes down the stairs with a plate of food and a cup. She stops at the bottom, then moves forward to GISBORNE's cell. She sets down the plate and cup outside the bars where GISBORNE is sitting. He looks forlornly up at her.

GISBORNE

(quietly)

Thank you.

(shake head)

But no.

MEG

You must eat...

(beat)

f... for me.

(beat)

It's the least that I can do.

GISBORNE

(honestly)

You've done more than enough.

MEG

(start to cry)

I haven't done anything.

Throughout the rest of this scene she is trying, unsuccessfully, to hold back the tears.

GISBORNE

(nod slightly)

You have.

(beat)

You made me think.

MEG

About what?

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

About...

(beat)

someone I used to know.

MEG snuffles, holding back tears.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

She saw good where there was none.

MEG snuffles, holding back tears.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

She made me a better man.

MEG snuffles, holding back tears.

MEG

What happened?

GISBORNE is silent a moment before answering.

GISBORNE

(quietly)

I destroyed her.

(voice breaks a bit)

I destroyed everything.

MEG snuffles, holding back tears.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

G... Go on.

MEG stands, gazes at him a moment, then leaves. GISBORNE hangs his head.

CUT TO:

283

SHERIFF'S QUARTERS

283

ISABELLA gives instructions to two guards. Behind her, more guards unpack the treasure and MEG stands watching her.

ISABELLA

I want some guards behind me, and I want the rest of them hidden.

Understood?

The guards nod.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Good.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA picks up a sheet of parchment and gives it to the guard. The guard leaves.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
 (sigh deeply)
 Right.

ISABELLA sits at the table and dips a quill in ink as MEG comes over, pretending to look at the jewelery in a chest on the edge of the table. ISABELLA quotes as she writes. MEG keeps looking at the dungeon keys, lying next to the chest, when ISABELLA is not looking.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
 "Sire, I write to you with a grave confession..."

She looks up at MEG, who looks back at her. ISABELLA chuckles slightly.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
 "...that I hope you will find in your heart to forgive."

MEG silently takes the keys off the table when ISABELLA turns her head away to think.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
 "By way of an apology, I would like to offer you... a gift..."

ISABELLA smiles up at MEG, but she has disappeared. She quickly glances at the table and sees the keys are gone, too. She frowns slightly, realizing MEG's intent. She puts down the quill, stands and hurries out.

CUT TO:

284 (309) DUNGEONS

284

MEG comes downstairs, checking for guards. She rushes to GISBORNE and unlocks his cell.

GISBORNE
 Meg?

MEG opens the door and kneels down to unlock GISBORNE's shackles.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
 What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

MEG

I can't let her kill you. I just can't.

GISBORNE

(touched)

You'd do this for me?

MEG smiles. GISBORNE grabs a bar and pulls himself up, then takes MEG's hand and strokes her cheek lovingly. They stare into each other's eyes. ISABELLA stands at the foot of the stairs, watching.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Thank you.

He smiles.

ISABELLA

Well, this is touching.

GISBORNE

(to Meg)

Go!

GISBORNE pushes MEG forward and they start to run to the stairs, but ISABELLA catches MEG and two guards with swords jump out to confront GISBORNE.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

She didn't know what she was doing!

ISABELLA

Oh, yes, she did!

(to Meg)

How could you? I set you free and this is how you repay me?

MEG

We're not the same! I try to do things out of love. You're doing this out of hate!

ISABELLA

(eyes deliriously wide)

How dare you?!

(beat)

I suppose I should be grateful.

(beat)

Now I know the only person I can trust is myself.

(beat)

I'm on my own!

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA shoves MEG at the guards. One stays with GISBORNE, the other takes MEG.

MEG

You put yourself there, Isabella.

ISABELLA

I could say the same for you.

MEG and GISBORNE stare at ISABELLA, who steps forward.

ISABELLA

And if you two lovebirds want to be together... that's fine. You shall.

(beat)

You'll both die.

MEG can only choke on the air and she puts her hand to her throat as the guards steer them away.

CUT TO:

285

(309R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP - MID-MORNING

285

The gang gather their weapons together.

ROBIN

Come on, we don't want to be late for Knight's Glade. And where's Much?

ALLAN walks past ROBIN.

TUCK

Probably *attempting* to catch breakfast.

ROBIN sighs, wondering where he could be. ALLAN looks worried.

ROBIN

(to Allan)

Are you all right?

ALLAN

Fine.

ROBIN tilts his head, looking at him, knowing it's not the truth.

ALLAN

Let's just go. Don't want to be late for Isabella.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Hey... this is for the good of everyone.

(beat)

If we can get a Sheriff working...

ALLAN

(interrupt)

Yeah, I know, I know.

ALLAN pushes past ROBIN. ROBIN grabs his arm.

ROBIN

She's promised to release Guy, hasn't she?

ALLAN

Then where is he? She's been back at the castle for hours.

No answer.

ALLAN (cont'd)

He should be your priority right now. Not her.

ALLAN pulls away. LITTLE JOHN comes up behind ROBIN.

LITTLE JOHN

Never thought I'd say this, but he's right.

CUT TO:

286

(309R) SHERWOOD FOREST - BETWEEN NOTTINGHAM AND KNIGHT'S GLADE

286

MUCH is walking through the forest, daydreaming. It used to be him that Robin counted on. Him that had Robin's back. But things have changed. Ever since they returned from the Holy Land it's been Gisborne. When they paired off in fights it was Robin and Gisborne, Little John and Tuck, him and Allan. And, since Gisborne's capture, Robin has been turning to Allan. Why? Why had Robin stopped turning to him. Would things ever be as they were? Would Robin ever put him first again? He and Robin used to be so close now things were...

The sound of a horse neighing, breaks him out of daydream. He soon hears horses galloping down the path. He quickly slips behind a tree. ISABELLA, two horsemen, a cart, and another lone horseman pass him. He steps out to watch after they pass, then hears more men behind him in the trees. He steps in front of the tree and watches fourteen foot

(CONTINUED)

soldiers trying to hurry quietly through the brush. MUCH suspects an ambush on the gang, bitterly pulls his sword out and follows.

CUT TO:

287

(309R) SHERWOOD FOREST - KNIGHT'S GLADE

287

LITTLE JOHN, ROBIN, ALLAN and TUCK walk out to the middle of the clearing. ISABELLA meets them.

ROBIN
(pleasantly)
You came, then?

Two guards set down a chest as ISABELLA strides towards ROBIN.

ROBIN (cont'd)
I am glad.

ISABELLA
(sweetly)
Of course.
(beat)
We had a deal, you and me,
remember?

ROBIN
I do remember.

ROBIN and ISABELLA stand facing each other.

ISABELLA
Working together.

ROBIN
For the good of Nottingham.

ISABELLA
Absolutely. That's all that matters
now, isn't it?

ROBIN
(nod once)
Mm-hm.

ISABELLA
(indicate the chest)
Please, take it. You earned it.

ROBIN looks at LITTLE JOHN behind him and motions his head at the chest. ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN go to it. ISABELLA walks with ROBIN.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)
You were my knight in shining
armour.

ROBIN
(quietly, putting her off)
Yeah, that's me.

ISABELLA walks to the guards, smiling as ROBIN stops at the chest and opens it. It's full of stones and horseshoes. The guards draw their swords.

LITTLE JOHN
(admonishingly)
Robin!

LITTLE JOHN turns away and is surprised to see more guards coming at them. ROBIN, utterly disappointed in himself, leans with both hands on the chest as the gang gather in a circle round him.

ISABELLA
(bitterly)
Life's full of disappointment,
isn't it?

FOCUS ON: MUCH. MUCH runs, following the guards, and stops behind a tree to watch near the glade. He sees a single guard with the cart and three horses - two brown and one black. MUCH gets a tighter grip on his sword, preparing to take the man out.

FOCUS on: ISABELLA and the Gang.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Now, I've decided to stand on my
own two feet.
(beat)
Thought about what you said.
(beat)
Obey your every command, do
whatever you say.

ROBIN
I offered you friendship.

ISABELLA
No, you threatened me.
(beat)
I won't be some frightened little
woman.
(beat)(to guards)
Go on, take them!

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN rips his sword from its scabbard. The gang, in the inner circle, face seventeen guards surrounding them. ALLAN spins his dual swords once. The guards slowly advance, closing the circle.

ROBIN
(to Allan)
Well, it looks like you were right.

ALLAN
Next time, you might just listen.

TUCK swipes out with his cross.

ROBIN
If there is a next time.

ROBIN thrusts and hits a guard's sword, but the guards do not react. After a few moments, MUCH, riding the black horse and leading the other two (one on each side), gallops through the middle.

MUCH
Yah! Robin!

Some guards and ISABELLA have to step back to avoid getting trampled, giving the gang a momentary advantage. They attack as ISABELLA watches in disbelief. MUCH stops at the far end of the clearing, and looks back at the gang.

MUCH (cont'd)
Come on!

The gang each fight off the guard in front of them and then run to the horses. LITTLE JOHN jumps onto the horse on MUCH's right. TUCK runs and jumps onto the saddle behind MUCH. ROBIN runs to the side of the horse on MUCH's left. ALLAN is still fighting in fury.

ROBIN
Allan! Come on!

ALLAN stabs his foe.

ISABELLA
Get them!

ROBIN
Allan!

ALLAN runs to ROBIN as ROBIN starts the horse. The guards chase after them. ROBIN pulls ALLAN up by the arm onto the back of his galloping horse. The guards run after them.

JUMP TO:

288 (309R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP

288

A disgruntled MUCH walks through to his kitchen. ALLAN follows him. MUCH talks to ALLAN without turning around.

ALLAN

So, where did you go then?

MUCH

Er, nowhere.

(beat)

Just, er, wanted to be alone,

(beat)

that's all.

ALLAN

You weren't leaving, were you?

MUCH looks down, then turns around. He looks at ALLAN as ROBIN comes over.

ROBIN

Where did you spring up from? Eh?

TUCK stands behind ROBIN.

MUCH

Er...

MUCH lets out his breath between rounded lips, not wanting to explain and not come up with a quick lie, either.

ROBIN

You all right?

MUCH

(nod)

Yeah.

LITTLE JOHN stands with his staff behind ROBIN and TUCK.

MUCH (cont'd)

I'm fine.

TUCK

Robin, what's the plan?

ROBIN

We're going to take that hoard back...

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
today at noon.

TUCK
What about Gisborne's execution?

ROBIN
We can use it as the perfect
distraction. Isabella will be
expecting us to save Guy, not steal
the gold.

ALLAN
So we do both.

ROBIN
(smile)
Exactly.

JUMP TO:

289 (309R) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - COURTYARD - THE NEXT MORNING 289

The portcullis is raised as guards hold back the crowd with
crossed halberds. Once it's fully up, the guards let the
people in. The gang, in cloaks and hoods, pass among them.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND GANG. ROBIN eyes the executioner's axe
as he enters. The crowd swarm around the platform in the
center. The gang meet up on the far side.

ROBIN
Now, we'll make our move as soon as
everybody's looking to the
platform. When he comes out, we
slip inside. Tuck, go through the
armoury. John, through the kitchens
with Much. Allan, you come with me
to the west gate. We'll go from
there.

ROBIN tilts his head to the side.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Go on.

The gang slowly scatter.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA. A fanfare sounds and ISABELLA walks out
from the cloister towards her chair set at the top of the
steps. The crowd cheer loudly. ISABELLA quiets them with a
motion of her hand.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

(sigh)

Bring out the prisoners.

Two boys start a drum roll. A door opens in back. GISBORNE is pushed out into the light. The crowd jeer. MEG is pushed out behind him.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND ALLAN. ROBIN, standing behind the tree with ALLAN, sees her.

ROBIN

That's the girl from the other day.
Wonder what...

FOCUS ON: GISBORNE AND MEG. MEG and GISBORNE are pushed towards the platform. MEG looks at GISBORNE.

MEG

I'm scared.

GISBORNE looks at MEG.

GISBORNE

When it comes, it'll be very quick.

GISBORNE and MEG are lead to the platform.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND ALLAN.

ROBIN

(to Allan)

Come on, this way.

FOCUS ON: GISBORNE AND MEG. MEG and GISBORNE go up the steps and are positioned behind large stumps with wide notches cut out for their heads. MEG is taken to the stumps to GISBORNE's left.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA. The drum roll stops.

ISABELLA

As you all know from bitter
experience,

(beat)

Guy of Gisborne is an enemy of the
people.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND ALLAN. ROBIN peeks at ISABELLA from around the corner under the cloister.

FOCUS ON: (bISABELLA

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)

He must pay the ultimate penalty.

(beat)(point at Meg)

This woman tried to help him escape justice.

(beat)

Therefore, she must share his fate.

In future, if anyone challenges my authority,

(beat)

they shall suffer the same punishment.

GISBORNE looks at MEG, who is shaking with terror. ISABELLA sits and crosses her legs triumphantly.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Have the condemned any final words?

FOCUS ON: GISBORNE. He keeps his eyes straight ahead.

GISBORNE

Very well, Isabella. You win. Kill me if you must, but not her.

GISBORNE looks up at ISABELLA.

GISBORNE

I'll do whatever you want.

(beat)

But don't take her life.

ISABELLA is silent.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN. ROBIN watches her for a reaction, hoping she will change her mind.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA.

ISABELLA

Proceed with the execution!

FOCUS ON: PLATFORM.

GISBORNE

She's just an innocent girl!

The guards push GISBORNE and MEG onto the stumps. MEG whimpers and sobs. The guards part their hair away from their necks. GISBORNE sees ROBIN and ALLAN.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN and ALLAN. ROBIN notices that GISBORNE has spotted them. ROBIN gives GISBORNE a "be ready" signal. ALLAN turns to ROBIN.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN
What do we do?

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA.

ISABELLA
(impatiently)
I said proceed!

FOCUS ON: PLATFORM. The two executioners get a grip on their axes.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN.

ROBIN
(temper rising)
This.

ROBIN draws his bow and shoots.

FOCUS ON: ALL. The arrow hits MEG's executioner in the chest as he raises his axe. The axe flies straight up in the air as the man falls back into the crowd. ROBIN quickly readies another arrow, ISABELLA notices the movement and its owner. ROBIN shoots for the axe. The arrow hits the axe and sends it spinning into the stump next to GISBORNE's head, right where ROBIN wanted it so that GISBORNE can cut his ropes. GISBORNE gasps and looks at the close call.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA.

ISABELLA
(quiet rage)
Hood.
(stand)
Get him!

ROBIN
(to Allan)
Come on! Come on!

THORNTON calls from the back of the crowd.

THORNTON (VO)
(singsong)
Is-a-bel-la!

ISABELLA freezes.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN. ROBIN stops.

FOCUS ON: THORNTON. THORNTON makes his way to the front of the platform and draws his sword.

(CONTINUED)

THORNTON

Didn't think you'd get rid of me
that easily, did you?

(Beat)

And... sicking Hood on me? Really?
Wonder what Prince John would say
if he learned his Sheriff was
working with Outlaws?

THORNTON charges ISABELLA.

ISABELLA

No!

ISABELLA turns and runs into the castle as the guards
scatter to find ROBIN. THORNTON goes up the steps.

THORNTON

I've come to take what's mine! Your
life!

ROBIN draws his bow at THORNTON. ALLAN pulls on his arm.

ALLAN

Hey, hey! She doesn't deserve your
help. Come on!

ROBIN lets ALLAN pull him away.

FOCUS ON: GISBORNE AND MEG. GISBORNE unties MEG's hands. He
jumps down from the platform as MEG skips to its edge. He
turns to help her down. A guard charges at GISBORNE with a
halberd. MEG sees him.

MEG

Look out!

MEG jumps in front of the guard.

MEG (cont'd)

Guy, no!

GISBORNE grabs the halberd just as it stabs MEG. He yanks it
away and punches the guard, then quickly turns to MEG.

GISBORNE

Are you all right?

GISBORNE takes MEG's arm and helps her to her feet.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Come on.

(CONTINUED)

MEG holds her stomach. GISBORNE sweeps her up in his arms and takes her away.

JUMP TO:

290 (309R) SHERIFF'S QUARTERS 290

The gang burst into the room with sacks and bags.

ROBIN

We have to do this quickly. Come on! Hurry up!

They all start sweeping the treasure into the sacks.

CUT TO:

291 (309) INTERIOR STAIRCASE 291

ISABELLA runs up the stairs. THORNTON calmly but boldly stalks her, saying his line as he climbs the stairs.

THORNTON

Did you really think I'd let you get away with it?

CUT TO:

292 (309R) NORTH EXTERIOR CORRIDOR 292

The gang run down the corridor with bulging sacks.

CUT TO:

293 (309) INTERIOR STAIRCASE 293

THORNTON

You've betrayed your husband for the last time!

CUT TO:

294 (309R) EXTERIOR CORRIDOR 294

The gang run.

CUT TO:

295 (309) INTERIOR STAIRCASE 295

THORNTON
Is-a-bel-la!

CUT TO:

296 (309R) EXTERIOR CORRIDOR 296

ROBIN stops, his temper getting the better of him. ALLAN stops behind him.

ALLAN
Hey, hey! Where you going? We've got what we came for.

ROBIN
I have to help her.

ALLAN
She's your enemy!

ROBIN
I told him not to come back. I warned him.
(beat)
I have to sort this out.

ROBIN switches his bow to his left hand.

ROBIN
Here, take this.

ROBIN hands ALLAN his bag.

ROBIN (cont'd)
I'll catch you up. Go on, go!

ALLAN sighs, flustered and confused.

CUT TO:

297 (309R) SHERIFF'S QUARTERS 297

ISABELLA throws open the door. THORNTON is quick on her heels.

THORNTON
No, you don't!

ISABELLA runs to the bed.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA
Don't you dare!

THORNTON
It's over!

ISABELLA
Just leave me alone!

THORNTON
You're finished!

ISABELLA flips onto her hands and knees on the bed, facing the foot.

ISABELLA
I warn you.

THORNTON points his sword at her.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
(with quiet intensity)
Don't come any closer.

THORNTON slowly puts the sword's point under her chin.
ISABELLA looks down at it warily.

THORNTON
You're going to die, Isabella.

He holds the sword there a moment longer, then drops it and advances with his hands out in claws.

THORNTON (cont'd)
With these.

THORNTON slowly reaches out for ISABELLA's neck, but she quickly bows her head into a pose she knows will appease him.

ISABELLA
No. I beg you, please.
(beat)
I'll give you everything you want.
(beat)
Just let me live.
(sniffle)
I see now.
(beat)
I'll be a good wife.
(beat)
I will show you the love of a good woman.

(CONTINUED)

THORNTON
(annoyed)
Get up.

ISABELLA slowly raises her head.

THORNTON (cont'd)
Stop sniveling, will you?

THORNTON leans in to kiss ISABELLA, but she brutally stabs him with her knife instead. THORNTON steps back, utterly surprised.

THORNTON (cont'd)
What have you done?

ISABELLA
What I should have done years ago.

THORNTON falls back as ROBIN throws open the door.

ROBIN
Isabella!

THORNTON hits the floor. ISABELLA spins off the bed and stands at his feet as ROBIN drops his bow, kneels over THORNTON and checks to see if he's still alive. ROBIN looks up at ISABELLA.

ROBIN
Your first murder, Sheriff.

ISABELLA points the knife at ROBIN.

ISABELLA
You were supposed to finish him off, but you weren't man enough for the job.

ROBIN
I only kill when there's no other way!

ALLAN runs in.

ISABELLA
You'll get the blame for this as far as Prince John is concerned.

ROBIN stands.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
The murderous Hood still at
large...

ISABELLA changes her grip on the knife to a fist and charges
ROBIN.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
... but not for long!

ROBIN anticipates her move, catches her arm with one hand
and her chin with the other.

ROBIN
Listen to me!

He pushes her past ALLAN to the foot of the bed so her back
arches over it.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Now, we've taken your precious
hoard. And in case you're
wondering, the deal's off!

ROBIN pushes ISABELLA onto the bed.

ROBIN (cont'd)
(to Allan)
Let's go.

ROBIN picks up his bow as ALLAN takes one last look at
ISABELLA.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Come on.

ROBIN puts his hand on ALLAN's back, gently pushes him out
the door and follows. ISABELLA watches them leave.

CUT TO:

298 (309) SHERWOOD FOREST - BY THE RIVER - LATE AFTERNOON 298

GISBORNE carries MEG down the path by the river.

GISBORNE
Let's just rest here for a while.

GISBORNE stops by a tree.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
There we go.

(CONTINUED)

He sets MEG down gently against the tree trunk and holds her, cradling her shoulders, then starts to look at her wound.

MEG
(weakly)
Kiss me.

He looks up into her eyes, helpless, sadly wanting to, but knowing he shouldn't.

GISBORNE
Shhh.

He strokes her hair lovingly, shaking his head no.

MEG
Please?

MEG whimpers softly in pain. GISBORNE stares into her eyes, then leans in and gives her a quick kiss. She smiles.

MEG (cont'd)
I always quite liked you, you know.

She tries to smile again, but must gasp for air instead. She takes her last breath and dies. Her arm falls off his. GISBORNE closes her eyes with his hand and starts to cry. He pulls her into him, unable to control his tears, and rocks her in his arms, mourning the lost of yet another.

CUT TO:

299

(309R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP - NIGHT

299

ROBIN and ALLAN sit by the fire outside the camp. ROBIN is fiddling with a small twig.

ROBIN
You *can* say it, you know.

ALLAN
Say what?

ROBIN
(flustered)
"Say what?"
(beat)
You're dying to.

ALLAN
(smile)
All right.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
I told you so.

ROBIN chuckles.

ALLAN (cont'd)
You finally saw what sort of a woman she really is.

ROBIN
Yeah, I did.

ALLAN shakes his head and looks into the fire.

ALLAN
You think he'll ever come back?

ROBIN
I don't know. I hope so. It's not the same without him. I've gotten kinda used to having him around.

ALLAN and ROBIN stare into the fire wondering where GISBORNE is right now.

CUT TO:

300 (309) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - SHERIFF'S QUARTERS 300

ISABELLA stands in front of a mirror with her knife. A guard stands behind her.

ISABELLA
Make sure all of Thornton's men are dead. I don't want Prince John hearing any more lies about me.

She looks back at him.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
See to it!

The guard nods and leaves. ISABELLA looks in the mirror and sighs.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Oh, and next time...

Momentary pause as she points the knife in the mirror.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
...it will be you...

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Robin Hood.

She holds the knife up and stares at it intensely, thinking of how she can finally finish him off.

JUMP TO:

301 SHERWOOD - OUTLAW CAMP - LATER THAT NIGHT

301

GISBORNE stumbles into camp. His head is down and he looks really sad. He sits by the fire. ROBIN goes to him.

ROBIN

You okay?

GISBORNE

Fine.

ROBIN

You don't look fine.

GISBORNE gives ROBIN a look. ROBIN realizes that Meg didn't make it.

ROBIN (cont'd)

No.

(beat)

I'm sorry.

GISBORNE

She seemed like a nice girl. She shouldn't have died. It..

MUCH

Why was Isabella having her executed? Didn't she just free her?

GISBORNE

It was my fault.

ALLAN

Your fault? How...

GISBORNE

When Thornton had Meg thrown back in the dungeon, she wound up in the cell beside me. We talked. She...

GISBORNE goes quiet. No-one says anything.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

Later Isabella let her out and...

GISBORNE goes quiet again. No-one says anything.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

She came back to see me. She brought me food and... and then tried to release me. She stole the keys from Isabella and when she came to let me out, she got caught.

ROBIN

It wasn't your fault, Guy.

GISBORNE

Yes it was. She was just a kid. She died because she wanted to save me. Me!

GISBORNE gets up and walks away from the fire. ROBIN is about to go after him, but ALLAN rises first and goes to his ex-master.

ALLAN

Guy, she...

GISBORNE

Allan, please. Don't.

ALLAN

Wow. You really have changed.

GISBORNE gives him a look.

ALLAN (cont'd)

7 months ago you would've said...
(imitate Gisborne)
She got what she deserved, helping a prisoner escape. She should have known better.

GISBORNE

I probably would have. And you're right. I have changed. Just being here with all of you. And Robin. I understand why you all cling to him. I think I'm the man Marian always knew I could be.

ALLAN

Yeah. I know how much you loved her.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

I still miss her, Allan. Not a day goes by that...

ALLAN

Guy, Marian would be so proud to see you now.

GISBORNE looks at ALLAN.

GISBORNE

Thanks Allan.

GISBORNE goes back to the fire. ALLAN follows.

JUMP TO:

302 SHERWOOD FOREST - A FEW DAYS LATER

302

GISBORNE and ROBIN are walking through the forest.

GISBORNE

Where are we going?

ROBIN

I told you.

GISBORNE

"Wait and see", isn't an answer, Robin.

ROBIN

It's all your going to get.

They walk on.

CUT TO:

303 LADY GLASSON'S PLACE - OUTSIDE

303

LADY GLASSON meets ROBIN and GISBORNE as they approach the house.

A woman (ANNIE) watches from a window. No one notices her watching them.

LADY GLASSON smiles and hugs ROBIN.

LADY GLASSON

Robin.

ROBIN breaks the hug, looks at her and smiles.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
It's been a while, everything
still...

LADY GLASSON
All is well.

LADY GLASSON glances at GISBORNE, then back at ROBIN.

LADY GLASSON (cont'd)
They are waiting inside. Come.

ROBIN and GISBORNE follow LADY GLASSON.

GISBORNE
Robin, why are we here?

ROBIN
Patience, Guy. You will see soon
enough.

LADY GLASSON enters the house. ROBIN and GISBORNE follow.

CONTINUE TO:

304

LIVING ROOM

304

ANNIE (the woman from the window) is playing with her son
(SETH). LADY GLASSON, ROBIN, and GISBORNE enter the room.

GISBORNE sees ANNIE, then SETH. GISBORNE looks to ROBIN.
ROBIN looks back.

ROBIN
Don't just stand there, go say
hello to your son.

GISBORNE goes over to ANNIE and SETH. ANNIE notices the "dog
tag" around GISBORNE's neck. LADY GLASSON leads ROBIN to the
table and they sit. ANNIE comes over to join them, leaving
GISBORNE alone with SETH. ANNIE sits beside ROBIN

ROBIN (cont'd)
Thanks for agreeing to this.

ANNIE
What's happened to him? He...

ROBIN
Long story.

(CONTINUED)

ANNIE

He looks so... lost.

ROBIN

A lot has happened in the last 2 years. He's not the man you knew.

ANNIE

Obviously.

ROBIN looks at her.

ANNIE (cont'd)

Last time I saw him, he wanted you dead. Now he wears your tag, and calls you Robin.

ROBIN

He's lost so much. I thought seeing Seth might give him hope.

ROBIN and ANNIE watch GISBORNE play with SETH.

JUMP TO:

305 LADY GLASSON'S PLACE - OUTSIDE - A FEW HOURS LATER 305

LADY GLASSON is standing outside by the front door. ROBIN and GISBORNE are standing in front of her. ANNIE is standing in the doorway, holding SETH. ANNIE looks to GISBORNE.

ANNIE

Come back anytime you wish.

GISBORNE

Thank you.

Everyone says their goodbyes, then ROBIN and GISBORNE head off.

JUMP TO:

306 (310R) SHERWOOD FOREST - A FEW HOURS LATER 306

ROBIN hears a twig snap and turns his head towards the sound. He looks and listens, frowning.

GISBORNE also looks around for the source of the noise, but is hit in the neck with a slim dart. He immediately swoons and falls.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Guy?

ROBIN looks around anxiously and is hit in the neck himself.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Ah!

ROBIN swoons and tries to control his fall to the ground. He fights to keep his eyes open long enough to see a strange man in a dark cloak coming towards him, then blacks out.

JUMP TO:

307 (310R) SHERWOOD FOREST - NIGHT

307

A fire burns brightly between ROBIN and GISBORNE, who are lying on either side of it. ROBIN is facing it and GISBORNE has his back to it. Both have their hands and feet bound together. ROBIN wakes, grunting softly. GISBORNE wakes, too, silently. In the distance, an owl hoots and a wolf howls. ROBIN tries to get up and discovers his bonds. GISBORNE looks around and finds he is bound, too.

ROBIN

What is this?

GISBORNE

Who's done this?

GISBORNE looks at ROBIN behind him. GISBORNE tries to pull himself free.

ROBIN

Where are you?! You're a coward to take us like this!

GISBORNE

Show yourself!

GISBORNE looks around. They both hear footsteps crackling on the carpet of dead leaves. GISBORNE flips himself over to face ROBIN.

ROBIN

(softly)

Guy?

The STRANGER steps between their heads and around the fire. ROBIN and GISBORNE's eyes follow him. The STRANGER sits on a fallen tree where both can see him, but with his face far back in his deep ragged hood, keeping his identity hidden from both.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE
Who sent you? Prince John?

 ROBIN
No, this is more like one of your
sister's tricks.

ROBIN looks to the STRANGER.

 ROBIN (cont'd)
What would Isabella want with us?

The STRANGER speaks to them in a hoarse, raspy voice.

 STRANGER
I want you to listen and
understand. Someone's life depends
on it.

 GISBORNE
 (through teeth)
I find it hard to understand when
I'm tied.

GISBORNE kicks his feet out to make his point.

 GISBORNE (cont'd)
Now free me!

 STRANGER
I'll free you, free you from that
which has shackled you to each
other for longer than...

GISBORNE glares at ROBIN, who returns the look.

 GISBORNE
What do you know about our lives?

 STRANGER
More than you do.

GISBORNE blinks in confusion. There is a short pause before
the STRANGER continues.

 STRANGER
I know the truth.

 ROBIN
 (impatiently)
The truth about what?

STRANGER

About how your parents really died.

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

308 (310) PAST: 20 YEARS EARLIER 308

An 11 year old ROBIN stands in front of a burning house.

YOUNG ROBIN

My father's inside!...

RETURN TO PRESENT:

309 (310) PRESENT: SHERWOOD 309

YOUNG ROBIN (VO)

Yours too and your mother! Do something!

ROBIN and GISBORNE are silent a moment, each remembering that day. Both had thought they had come to terms with the events of the past. But now it all comes flooding back.

GISBORNE

(unimpressed)

You know about the fire.

(look at Stranger)

So?

ROBIN

It was never a secret.

ROBIN's face is sad. GISBORNE blinks.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Everybody knew that we both became orphans that day.

STRANGER

There are still things you don't know about your past.

FLASHBACK TO PAST:

310 (310) PAST: BARN 310

A man (MALCOLM LOCKSLEY) waits in the barn. A dark-haired woman, (GHISLAINE GISBORNE), comes in, smiling.

MALCOLM

Oh, Ghislaine.

GHISLAINE runs to him.

(CONTINUED)

MALCOLM (cont'd)
I've been thinking about you all
day.

GHISLAINE hugs him. MALCOLM kisses her cheek. (Note:
Ghislaine speaks with a French accent)

GHISLAINE
We do not have much time, but if
you wish to talk, then...

GHISLAINE kisses MALCOLM.

MALCOLM
Oh... Oh, I look forward to the day
when we no longer have to hide in
stables and outhouses to do this.

GHISLAINE
Mm. Not long now, my love.

She kisses him again. Through a crack in the wall, a 15
year-old boy (GUY) watches them, then runs off in anger.

RETURN TO PRESENT:

311 (310) PRESENT: SHERWOOD FOREST - NIGHT

311

ROBIN
(fiercely)
My father loved one woman only, and
that was my mother.

GISBORNE
(look up at Robin)
That's just what you were told.

ROBIN looks at GISBORNE and scoffs.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
(scornfully)
The truth was kept from you by your
precious father.

ROBIN
What are you talking about?!

GISBORNE
He shielded you from reality like
he always did!

ROBIN silently glares at GISBORNE, who shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

You were never made to face the
consequences of your actions.

ROBIN ponders the thought.

STRANGER

You were once on a very different
path, Robin.

FLASHBACK TO PAST:

312 (310) PAST: NIGHT

312

The village is decorated for a celebration. A roasted pig is brought into the village. There are jugglers and fire-eaters and music. Lanterns have been strung round in a ring just outside the manor.

MALCOLM

Robin, come and give Swain a hand.

YOUNG ROBIN

Yes, Father.

ROBIN hurries forward with a recurve bow over his shoulder and joins SWAIN, who is rolling a barrel towards the festivities.

OFF CAMERA: GHISLAINE comes out of the manor with her children, GUY and ISABELLA. (Isabella is 10).

GHISLAINE (VO)

Guy, Isabella, come with me.

She walks to the crowd and addresses them. GUY stands beside her, sullen because of his discovery earlier in the day.

GHISLAINE

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am so
pleased you decided to join me in
celebrating the safe return of our
men from the Holy Land.

The crowd quiets, and gather round her. MALCOLM and ROBIN stand opposite her.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)

Sadly, not everyone was able to
make the journey back, and I would
ask that we think also of our loved
ones who died on this day.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GHISLAINE (cont'd)

As you know, I feel your pain, as it is my own, my own husband being among the dead.

GUY hangs his head, as does ISABELLA. GHISLAINE smiles at MALCOLM as LONGTHORN pushes through the crowd.

LONGTHORN

My Lady Gisborne, as bailiff of these parts, it's my duty to ask who will now be the lord of the manor?

MALCOLM

Longthorn! Now is not the time.

GHISLAINE

No. He is right to ask. There will be no lord.

(brightly)

Instead, there will be a lady of the manor.

LONGTHORN

So... we're expected to serve a woman?

LONGTHORN looks around at the villagers.

LONGTHORN (cont'd)

A French woman?

The villagers laugh.

LONGTHORN (cont'd)

The land should be returned to Lord Locksley.

MALCOLM

(in warning)

Longthorn...!

LONGTHORN

This village was awarded to your husband for his services in the Holy Land. Now he's dead...

LONGTHORN looks at MALCOLM.

LONGTHORN (cont'd)

...it's your right to reclaim them.

(CONTINUED)

MALCOLM

A right I will not be exercising.
Sir Roger fought and died for an
English king. His family should be
respected.

MALCOLM raises his goblet.

MALCOLM

To Sir Roger of Gisborne.

The villagers all raise their cups and chant.

VILLAGERS

Sir Roger of Gisborne.

LONGTHORN turns away, disappointed.

GHISLAINE

Now...

GHISLAINE walks slowly towards the church.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)

... to celebrate those who have
returned and to honour those who
have not, I want you to join me in
enjoying something the men have
brought back from their travels.
The fire wheel...

All turn to look behind MALCOLM and ROBIN at the tall tower
of golden new wood. Leaning against its base is a large,
solid wooden wheel flanked by several crates.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)

...will light our skies to show us
that our darkest days are now
behind us. Now, I need two strong
men to lift the wheel and the two
best archers in the county.

She smiles brightly at ROBIN and rubs the back of his head.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)

Robin, will you help me?

ROBIN smiles, pleased. SWAIN, standing behind him, pats
ROBIN's shoulder.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)

And Guy.

(CONTINUED)

The corners of GUY's mouth twitch. As the people make their way towards the tower, ROBIN picks up his father's recurve bow and starts to ask him a question.

YOUNG ROBIN
Father, may I...

MALCOLM interrupts in a warning tone.

MALCOLM
Robin...

MALCOLM takes the bow from his son.

YOUNG ROBIN
I want to make the shot.

MALCOLM
And you will, but not because of
the bow.

ROBIN hangs his head, disappointed, and MALCOLM pulls ROBIN's head into his shoulder with a hug, rubbing his head.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
You're not ready.

MALCOLM looks at GHISLAINE, who turns to him, smiling. MALCOLM walks to the tower. GUY scowls at him.

ROBIN and GUY stand at the edge of the pond. ROBIN with the forbidden recurve bow and GUY with his longbow. Each has a flaming arrow at the ready.

YOUNG ROBIN
I don't know why you're bothering,
Guy.
(beat)
You're a terrible shot.
(beat)
I'm younger than you, and everyone
knows I'm the best shot in the
village.

YOUNG GUY
(looking away from Robin)
Only because you keep telling
everyone you are.

ROBIN sneers and GUY notices ROBIN's bow.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)
I thought your father said you
couldn't use his bow. You're not
ready.

YOUNG ROBIN
I'm going to show him he was wrong.

The wheel starts to rise. ROBIN raises his bow to indicate a lantern hanging in the middle of the tower near the top.

YOUNG ROBIN (cont'd)
I can hit that lantern with this.
Watch.

ROBIN aims and draws but GUY snatches the white-fletched arrow off the bow.

YOUNG GUY
Don't be so stupid!

ROBIN immediately grabs GUY's black-fletched arrow, readies it and shoots before GUY can react again.

The arrow hits just below the lantern on the wheel being raised in front of it.

ROBIN and GUY watch as the arrow burns and sets off the fireworks.

The two men pulling on the rope underneath it, one of whom is SWAIN, look up at the noise and sparks.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)
Look what you've done!

ROBIN watches, partly in awe of the fireworks, partly in horror. The men below are showered in sparks.

MALCOLM waits at the top of the tower to guide the wheel into place. He looks down at the commotion.

MALCOLM
No!

The second man on the rope can't bear the sparks and runs away, leaving SWAIN on his own. ROBIN drops his bow and backs away.

LONGTHORN and the villagers gather behind him and GUY, who is still holding his longbow.

SWAIN tries desperately to hold the wheel up, but the rope slips from his hands and the wheel falls on top of him.

(CONTINUED)

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Swain!

SWAIN lies under the wheel on his chest. MALCOLM watches, horrified, then quickly descends the tower.

LONGTHORN points at GUY.

LONGTHORN

Seize the boy!

ROBIN does nothing but watch as two men each take one of GUY's arms.

MALCOLM gets the rope, steps back out of the way of the cascading sparks and pulls on the rope to lift the wheel off SWAIN.

MALCOLM

Help me!

Two other men step forward and take the rope. SWAIN cries out in pain as MALCOLM pulls him out to a safer spot.

LONGTHORN leads the villagers to them, holding GUY's longbow over his head.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Don't just stand there! Somebody
get a physician!

ROBIN follows GHISLAINE as she kneels at SWAIN's side.

GHISLAINE

Let me see him. I can help.

GUY stands right behind her, watching, still held by the men.

LONGTHORN

(to Guy)

You see? You see what your stupid
prank has done?

YOUNG GUY

I didn't do it.

LONGTHORN

Well, who did then?

YOUNG ROBIN

(quickly)

It wasn't me!

(CONTINUED)

GUY flinches in frustration at ROBIN's denial of responsibility.

LONGTHORN
Of course it wasn't, Master Robin.

SWAIN cries out.

LONGTHORN (cont'd)
You wouldn't fire at your own father.

YOUNG ROBIN
No, I swear.

LONGTHORN
(point at Guy)
He fired the arrow that caused the priest's injuries. He's a murderer!

YOUNG GUY
I didn't...

LONGTHORN pulls out GUY's black-fletched arrow from the wheel, and GUY immediately sees he has no defense.

LONGTHORN
(brandishing the arrow)
One of yours, Master Guy?

GHISLAINE
How dare you?!

LONGTHORN
It's not a question of daring, but duty. As bailiff, it's my job to uphold the law.

GUY hangs his head, knowing he will not be believed even if he tells the truth.

MALCOLM
I warn you only to hold the boy. Any further action and you will have me to answer to.

GHISLAINE
What?! No!

MALCOLM
(to Ghislaine)
He will only be charged if he dies.

(CONTINUED)

GHISLAINE thinks quickly, knowing things are in her hands now.

GHISLAINE
Get him to the manor. Get him to
the manor. Quickly!

MALCOLM
You heard her!

JUMP TO:

313 (310) MANOR - MAIN ROOM

313

GHISLAINE sweeps the main table clear as MALCOLM and two other men bring SWAIN in.

GHISLAINE
Carefully! Carefully!

SWAIN is laid on the table.

MALCOLM
Everybody out! Leave us! Let her
work.

GHISLAINE feels SWAIN's chest.

GHISLAINE
His rib is broken... and it has
punctured a lung and his chest is
filling with air.

MALCOLM
There must be something you can do.

GHISLAINE looks behind her.

GHISLAINE
Ah... yes.

GHISLAINE grabs a slim knife from the table behind her. She pulls the clothes away from SWAIN's neck.

MALCOLM
What are you doing?

GHISLAINE holds the knife tip at SWAIN's chest as ROBIN runs in.

GHISLAINE
It will release the air.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG ROBIN

Father!

MALCOLM looks back at ROBIN as GHISLAINE punctures SWAIN's upper chest with the knife. SWAIN cries out, gasps, then starts to breathe easier. ROBIN watches in awe.

GHISLAINE

(to Swain)

Just breathe. Careful. Better?

SWAIN lies calmly, concentrating on his breathing.

YOUNG ROBIN

Father, they're going to hang Guy.

MALCOLM and GHISLAINE look at ROBIN in horror. GHISLAINE is clearly torn between rushing to her son and tending to her patient and starts to panic.

GHISLAINE

I can't leave him. I cannot leave him!

MALCOLM

(fiercely, quietly)

I'll put an end to this.

MALCOLM runs out, ROBIN on his heels. GHISLAINE turns back to SWAIN.

CUT TO:

314 (310) OUTSIDE

314

LONGTHORN

Did you see the way she declared herself "lady of the manor?"

The villagers mutter in agreement as MALCOLM walks through the circle gathered around LONGTHORN. ROBIN follows in his wake.

LONGTHORN (cont'd)

She has no right to this estate.

GUY hangs his head, standing behind LONGTHORN with two men on the crates under the tower.

LONGTHORN (cont'd)

Like an eye for an eye, the boy must hang.

The villagers gasp.

(CONTINUED)

MALCOLM

Have you all taken leave of your senses? If you do this, you will have to answer for it.

LONGTHORN

We all must pay for our actions, my lord.

ROBIN stops at the sight of GUY.

MALCOLM

You were told not to harm the boy.

LONGTHORN

True. But now I feel compelled by the will of the people.

A horse whinnies and hoof-beats approach.

LONGTHORN

And they want justice...

A Crusader on a white horse stops behind the crowd and quickly dismounts.

LONGTHORN (cont'd)

...and to that end...

A man puts a hood over GUY's head.

MALCOLM

Then you force my hand!

MALCOLM starts to draw his sword. The Crusader (ROGER) yells out.

ROGER

Stop! I command you to stop!

LONGTHORN

On whose authority?

ROGER strides quickly forward through the villagers.

ROGER

The King's... as he made me lord of this manor. I am Sir Roger of Gisborne, this boy's father.

ROGER points at GUY.

(CONTINUED)

VILLAGE MAN
(boldly)

No!

ROGER turns round to glance at the villagers.

ROGER
What? You doubt my word?

MALCOLM
We thought you were dead.

ROGER
I was captured, not killed.

ROGER looks at LONGTHORN and jerks his head to the side.

ROGER (cont'd)
Out of my way.

LONGTHORN draws his dagger.

LONGTHORN
I cannot do that.

ROGER stops abruptly in front of LONGTHORN, then backs off.

LONGTHORN (cont'd)
As bailiff, I must uphold the law.

ROBIN takes a step forward to get a better view.

ROGER
You are no longer bailiff.
(step forward)
Out of my way!

LONGTHORN stabs out with the dagger. ROGER puts his left hand up to block and the dagger goes right through it. ROGER doesn't make a sound as MALCOLM throws off LONGTHORN and pushes him back. MALCOLM faces ROGER, staring at the dagger in his hand as the people groan in horror. LONGTHORN and ROBIN stare, too. ROGER pulls out the dagger, again with no sound or flinch of pain.

ROGER (cont'd)
(to Longthorn)
You will never hold office again as long as I am lord of this manor.

ROGER throws down the dagger and goes to his son as GHISLAINE comes running out of the manor.

(CONTINUED)

GHISLAINE
He will live! Swain will live!

ROGER takes the hood off GUY's head, then pulls him off the crate. GHISLAINE runs through the crowd and stops in shock when she sees ROGER.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)
Roger.

She stares at him like a ghost.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)
They told...

ROGER
I was captured. There was no way to
get word to you.

GHISLAINE
Captured? Did they hurt you?

ROGER shifts his feet, thinking.

ROGER
I must talk with you at once,
Ghislaine.

ROGER walks past his wife, who is still frozen in place. MALCOLM and ROBIN watch him go, then ROBIN hangs his head, ashamed.

ROBIN (VO)
I was truly sorry for what happened
that night.

RETURN TO PRESENT:

315 (310) PRESENT: SHERWOOD FOREST - NIGHT

315

ROBIN
It was a mistake... which I learnt
from...

ROBIN pauses. GISBORNE is silent.

ROBIN (cont'd)
...and it was one that made me a
better man.

RETURN TO PAST:

316 (310) PAST: THE NEXT MORNING

316

ROBIN kneels at the side of his mother's grave on the grassy hillside overlooking the village. MALCOLM stands by the cross with his bow.

YOUNG ROBIN

Do you think Mother watches me...
from heaven?

MALCOLM

I'm sure she does. I'm sure she
sees everything you do.

YOUNG ROBIN

(think a long moment)

Father... it was me that shot the
arrow.

(look up at Malcolm)

I was showing off... with your bow.

MALCOLM kneels by ROBIN and puts his hand on his shoulder.

MALCOLM

Robin... one day you will be Lord
of Locksley, lord of my lands. You
must grow up and learn to take
responsibility when you do
something wrong. You could be the
best shot in England. You shouldn't
stand by and let something terrible
happen because you were too scared
to do the right thing. Do you
understand?

YOUNG ROBIN

(nod)

Yes.

MALCOLM chuckles slightly, then holds out his arms. ROBIN
embraces his father.

RETURN TO PRESENT:

317 (310R) PRESENT: SHERWOOD FOREST

317

GISBORNE

(sarcastically)

Ah. How touching. I almost get
killed because you were going to
let me take the blame, and all you
got was a speech.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

I'm sorry. I should have...

GISBORNE

What would you have done if Swain had've died?

ROBIN

But he didn't.

Momentary pause ROBIN looks at GISBORNE. They had come so far in the last 7 months. And now this stranger arrives and drags up the past. Could the truce be over?

ROBIN (cont'd)

I wouldn't have let them hang you.

GISBORNE looks at ROBIN, then at the STRANGER.

GISBORNE

(annoyed)

Look, I really don't see the point of any of this. Why are you dredging up...

STRANGER

You need to know the truth to save a life.

RETURN TO PAST:

318 (310) PAST: SHERWOOD FOREST - NIGHT

318

GHISLAINE waits in the woods. MALCOLM gallops towards her on his horse. GHISLAINE smiles sadly as he approaches on foot and hugs her.

MALCOLM

Oh, we should not do this.

GHISLAINE

Malcolm...

MALCOLM

I have done what I thought was right. I have stayed away from you, but you have no idea how hard that's been.

GHISLAINE

Of course, I do. But you understand I had to care for Roger.

(CONTINUED)

MALCOLM

I understand more than you think.

GHISLAINE stares at him apprehensively.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

I know about his affliction.

Momentary pause.

GHISLAINE

How?

MALCOLM

The night of his return...
Longthorn's dagger went straight
through his hand, and he didn't
even cry out.

GHISLAINE

(frown, mouth)

Oh.

(nod, understanding)

Hm. He told me he was infected in
the Holy Land. All he wanted was to
get back home and spend his last
days with his family. He made his
own way home, away from his
soldiers, so they wouldn't know.

MALCOLM

People will know. There is talk
about the bandages, the fact that
he barely leaves your house.

GHISLAINE

He is a sick man!

MALCOLM

He is a leper! If he is discovered,
you will all be cast out.

GHISLAINE starts to cry. MALCOLM holds her.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

You should not have been put in
this position, Ghislaine.

GHISLAINE audibly sucks in a breath.

GHISLAINE

There is something else.

(CONTINUED)

MALCOLM releases GHISLAINE, who takes a step back. MALCOLM waits for her to say something, but she puts her hand on top of her belly, pulling the fabric in and revealing a pregnant bump. She rubs it with her other hand. MALCOLM, shocked, reaches out, hesitates, then puts his hand on her belly. GHISLAINE puts her hand over his.

In the trees, LONGTHORN is spying on them. He smiles gleefully at this revelation, then strides off.

MALCOLM pulls GHISLAINE into an embrace.

RETURN TO THE PRESENT:

319 (310R) PRESENT: SHERWOOD FOREST

319

ROBIN

More lies!

GISBORNE

There was never any child.

The STRANGER stands and brings out his knife. GISBORNE flinches. ROBIN stares calmly.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

(apprehensively)

Wh... what are you doing?

STRANGER

If you think me a liar, there's no point in you being here.

GISBORNE

Y... You're going to kill me with no means to defend myself?

GISBORNE thinks he has figured out who the stranger is.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

(with conviction)

Well, I expected nothing less from you.

The STRANGER steps towards GISBORNE. ROBIN gives GISBORNE a look. Did he know who the man was?

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Bailiff Longthorn!

The STRANGER cuts the rope at GISBORNE's feet. GISBORNE quickly untangles the rope. Then the STRANGER cuts ROBIN free and ROBIN also quickly pulls the ropes off himself.

(CONTINUED)

STRANGER

Hear my story or walk away.

GISBORNE gets up and staggers a few steps. ROBIN also stands and means to leave.

STRANGER (cont'd)

But if you do...

(beat)

Your brother will die.

ROBIN and GISBORNE both stop.

STRANGER (cont'd)

Do you want that on your
consciences?

ROBIN steps back towards the fire. GISBORNE pauses, watching ROBIN.

ROBIN

Keep talking.

GHISLAINE (VO)

You understand now?

RETURN TO THE PAST:

320

(310) PAST: SHERWOOD FOREST

320

GHISLAINE

I must go away. Roger will know for
sure this is not his child.

MALCOLM

Then I will declare my feelings for
you and we can be a family.

GHISLAINE

But I am married to another man.

MALCOLM

If he is discovered, he'll be
banished from the village. He'll be
stripped of his title, his lands,
you will have nothing. Ghislaine,
listen. If he is declared a leper,
you'll be given a choice. You can
declare yourself a widow.

GHISLAINE

But that will be a lie... in the
eyes of God.

(CONTINUED)

MALCOLM

In the eyes of the law, you will be free of him.

GHISLAINE

But... the baby will show. People will still know. Roger has been back a very short time.

MALCOLM

Then you will have our baby in secret and I will arrange for it to be taken away.

GHISLAINE thinks the child will gone forever.

GHISLAINE

No!

MALCOLM

(reassuringly)

No-no-no. Only for a short while. Once you are recovered from the birth, you can go on a pilgrimage, bring him back, claim he is a foundling, an orphan. With that, we can be a family.

GHISLAINE agrees, and nods slightly.

321 (310) MANOR - MAIN ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

321

ROGER nervously sits in a chair by the fireplace. GHISLAINE opens the front door and comes in, not noticing her husband at first. She closes the door, turns and is startled to see him. She regains her composure and smiles at him.

GHISLAINE

Roger, I did not expect to see you. I was restless, I went for a ride.

ROGER says line barely looking at her.

ROGER

Of course.

Long pause.

ROGER (cont'd)

And on this ride, did you happen to see anyone? Malcolm Locksley perhaps?

Momentary pause. GHISLAINE is stunned.

(CONTINUED)

GHISLAINE
How did you know?

Momentary pause. ROGER looks at her.

ROGER
Because I am your husband.

ROGER stares into the fire. GHISLAINE comes over to him and kneels at his feet.

GHISLAINE
And I have failed you as a wife.

She picks up his bandaged hand and puts her forehead to it.

ROGER
No.

ROGER puts his other hand on hers. GHISLAINE looks up at him.

ROGER (cont'd)
It is I who failed you... leaving
you alone and returning like this.

GHISLAINE
No, Roger.

ROGER
You will never know how grateful I
am that you've kept my secret...

GHISLAINE fights to hold back her tears.

ROGER (cont'd)
...and allowed me to see out my
days with you and the children. And
I'm glad you've found someone who
will care for you when I've gone.

He pulls up on her hands. She stands and he guides her back into the facing chair, still holding her hands.

ROGER (cont'd)
All I ask is that he has the
patience to wait until that day.

GHISLAINE makes a pained face. Momentary pause.

GHISLAINE
Roger... you must go.

ROGER frowns.

(CONTINUED)

GHISLAINE (cont'd)
No, not for me. For yourself. Now.

ROGER
I don't understand.

GHISLAINE
(quietly)
I'm sorry.

She sits back in the chair.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)
I thought that I was doing the
right thing.
(stand)
You must leave right away.

Somebody pounds on the door. GHISLAINE chokes down a sob.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)
Not already.

SWAIN opens the door. ROGER stands. LONGTHORN follows SWAIN in. GUY and ISABELLA come halfway down the stairs in their nightclothes. MALCOLM steps inside.

SWAIN
Sir Roger, I think you know why
we're here.

GHISLAINE can barely control her tears.

322 (310) THE NEXT MORNING

322

Sir ROGER of Gisborne walks stoically through the village in the mist, the small cowbell round his neck jingling.

SWAIN, LONGTHORN, GHISLAINE with GUY and ISABELLA, and MALCOLM with ROBIN follow him behind the church to a freshly dug grave.

ROGER stands at its foot. The others and the villagers gather behind him, several paces off.

GHISLAINE sees the open grave.

GHISLAINE
Oh...
(to Swain)
Oh, will you not show him mercy? I
saved your life!

(CONTINUED)

SWAIN

I'm sorry. This is God's will.

ROGER looks round, then jumps in the grave and turns to face the people. GHISLAINE starts to cry.

SWAIN (cont'd)

Roger of Gisborne, you are a leper...

YOUNG GUY

Mother, please.

SWAIN

...and, as such, are to be cast out from the society of others.

YOUNG GUY

No, don't let them do this!

ROGER

Guy! You must act like a man and not a child. Do not shame me.

GUY hangs his head.

SWAIN

From this day forward you are deemed unclean. Do you understand?

ROGER

(nod once)

I do.

SWAIN

As his wife, you may go with him... or you may declare yourself a widow and be free of your impediment.

GHISLAINE shakes her head.

GHISLAINE

(incredulously)

Impediment? He is my husband!

ROGER

Ghislaine, you must set an example for the children.

GHISLAINE sighs and bites her lip. Momentary pause. ROGER waits expectantly.

(CONTINUED)

SWAIN
Do you declare?

Momentary pause. ROGER nods at her in encouragement.
GHISLAINE says line while fighting back tears.

GHISLAINE
Yes. From today I am a widow.

ROGER is saddened upon hearing her words aloud.

SWAIN
Very well.

ROBIN, standing behind ISABELLA, looks back at his father,
who stands with his arms folded and a grim look on his face.

SWAIN (cont'd)
Roger of Gisborne, I forbid you
ever to enter any church, market,
tavern, or any assembly of people.
I forbid you to drink or eat from
any vessel but your own.

GHISLAINE breaks down.

SWAIN (cont'd)
I forbid you to touch any child...

ROGER looks up, exasperated. Momentary pause.

SWAIN (cont'd)
Now you must leave this place.

ROGER turns around, walks to the far end of the grave, and
tries to climb out, but can't. GUY hangs his head. MALCOLM
strides over and offers an arm to ROGER. ROGER accepts and
MALCOLM pulls him out.

ROGER
Thank you. Care for her.

MALCOLM looks past him, unable to look him in the eye.

ROGER (cont'd)
Care for them all.

ROGER leaves up the hill.

YOUNG GUY
Father...!

GUY runs after him but MALCOLM catches him.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)
Get away from me!

GUY pulls himself free, but MALCOLM still blocks his path. GUY watches his father go up the hill, his bell ringing faintly. GHISLAINE watches him, and a tear falls down her cheek. GUY glares at MALCOLM.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)
(to Malcolm)
You did this. I'll never forgive you.

GUY turns his gaze back to his father.

323

(310) MANOR - EXTERIOR

323

GHISLAINE walks with ISABELLA through the tunnel. GUY follows them. MALCOLM and ROBIN follow behind GUY. ROBIN stops before he enters the tunnel. ISABELLA continues into the house.

YOUNG ROBIN
(with disdain)
I'm not going in here. It's a leper's house.

YOUNG GUY
(turn to Robin)
Shut your mouth.

YOUNG ROBIN
Why? It's true! Your father's a leper!

Before ROBIN can say anything else, GUY charges him and tries to push him to the ground.

YOUNG GUY
Shut up!

GHISLAINE gently pushes ISABELLA towards the door before she and MALCOLM go to separate the boys.

GHISLAINE
Guy, no!

GHISLAINE pulls GUY off and pushes him into the wall.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)
It is a good thing your father is not here to see this.

ROBIN stands by his father, his head hanging in shame.

(CONTINUED)

GHISLAINE (cont'd)
He would be ashamed of your
behaviour.

GUY pushes his mother away and walks out the tunnel, pushing
ROBIN aside as well.

YOUNG ROBIN
(in protest)
Hey!

MALCOLM
Robin, no more!

YOUNG ROBIN
But he just...

MALCOLM
(interrupt)
Imagine you had lost what he has
lost!

ROBIN hangs his head again. MALCOLM glances at GHISLAINE.
MALCOLM addresses ROBIN.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
Go and find him, make your
apologies. Go!

ROBIN scampers off passing LONGTHORN who is arriving.

LONGTHORN
Lady Gisborne... Lord Malcolm...

MALCOLM sighs, not wanting this interruption.

LONGTHORN (cont'd)
How fortuitous to find you both
together. Have you told the
children the good news?

GHISLAINE's face falls.

MALCOLM
What?

LONGTHORN
Do you think they'll want a little
brother or a sister?

GHISLAINE stares at LONGTHORN. MALCOLM pushes him into the
wall.

(CONTINUED)

MALCOLM

You've been spying on us?

LONGTHORN

I've been looking for an
opportunity to get what I deserve.
Lands of my own.

MALCOLM loosens his grip and LONGTHORN pushes him off.

LONGTHORN

You will give me yours, lady,
unless you want everyone to know
your little secret.

LONGTHORN glances at GHISLAINE's stomach. GHISLAINE looks
fearfully at MALCOLM.

MALCOLM

(calmly)

Very well. Go to Nottingham, have
the deeds drawn up.

LONGTHORN bows his head in acceptance.

LONGTHORN

Thank you, my lord.

LONGTHORN leaves. GHISLAINE looks at MALCOLM.

GHISLAINE

(disbelief)

Malcolm, the lands have to pass to
Guy.

MALCOLM

And they will. On Saturday, we
shall be married. Your lands will
become mine and Longthorn's deeds
will be worthless.

GHISLAINE

Saturday? The children have just
lost their father.

MALCOLM

But we must marry soon.

GHISLAINE nods slightly. MALCOLM hugs her.

ROBIN (VO)

They never married.

RETURN TO THE PRESENT:

324 (310) PRESENT: SHERWOOD FOREST

324

STRANGER

No. They only ever planned to.

GISBORNE is pacing. ROBIN is sitting by a tree.

STRANGER (cont'd)

Didn't they, Guy?

GISBORNE stops pacing. ROBIN looks up at him. GISBORNE's eyes cast down.

ROBIN

You knew?

GISBORNE looks at ROBIN.

GISBORNE

I found out.

RETURN TO THE PAST:

325 (310) PAST: SHERWOOD FOREST

325

GUY makes his way through the trees.

GISBORNE (VO)

I saw my mother making her way into the forest... and so I followed.

GUY sees his mother in the leper camp in the woods with a shallow basket of supplies, tending to ROGER.

GISBORNE (VO) (cont'd)

She still loved him. I was so angry. She told me that I had to forget him...

GHISLAINE hands an apple to ROGER and unwraps his bandaged hand as ROGER takes a bite.

GISBORNE (VO) (cont'd)

... pretend that he didn't exist... yet here she was, denying me my father.

GUY has seen enough and runs away.

326 (310) SAME DAY, LATE AFTERNOON

326

GHISLAINE carries the empty basket through the forest, very tired and not paying attention to anything around her. GUY stands in her path.

YOUNG GUY
How could you?

GHISLAINE is startled.

GHISLAINE
Guy! You frightened me.

YOUNG GUY
I saw you with Father. You said...

GHISLAINE
(interrupt)
I could not just abandon him. He needs care.

YOUNG GUY
You said he was gone.

GHISLAINE
I know.

YOUNG GUY
Did Malcolm make you do it?

GHISLAINE, disappointed, confused, ashamed, shakes her head.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)
I've seen how he looks at you. He wants you for himself.

GHISLAINE
Malcolm is a good man, Guy. He can take care of us now that your father cannot. We are to be married.

YOUNG GUY
Married?

GHISLAINE
Yes. On Saturday. It is for the best. All will be well. But you must promise not to speak of it until it is done.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG GUY

Why? Why must it be a secret?

GHISLAINE

Just promise me, huh? You must tell no-one, especially Robin. He must hear it from his father.

YOUNG GUY

You don't have to do this, Mother. Let's leave Nottingham, go back to France, take Father with us. We could be together.

GHISLAINE

(frown)

No.

GHISLAINE suddenly gasps in pain.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)

Mon dieu!

GHISLAINE sinks to her knees and grabs her belly.

YOUNG GUY

(concern)

What is it?

GHISLAINE

(in pain)

Ah! Get help. Get help!

GUY runs off.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)

Hurry! Guy! Please! Oh...

GISBORNE (VO)

I'd never run so fast.

RETURN TO PRESENT:

327 (310) PRESENT: SHERWOOD FOREST - DAWN

327

GISBORNE

I thought that...

STRANGER

(interrupt)

She was in labour.

GISBORNE glances at ROBIN, who has been watching and listening intently.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

I see that now.

ROBIN

What happened to the baby?

STRANGER

He was early... but strong.

RETURN TO PAST:

328 (310) PAST: MANOR - MASTER'S CHAMBER

328

GHISLAINE sits up in the bed, cradling her newborn. MALCOLM comes over and solemnly sits by her.

GHISLAINE

Look. He's so quiet, like he knows he's a secret. And look at this.

GHISLAINE pulls the blanket back from the baby, revealing a red arched birthmark on his right breast.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)

My son, by this mark, you will never be lost to me.

GHISLAINE starts to cry.

MALCOLM

Ghislaine...

GHISLAINE looks up at him excitedly.

GHISLAINE

I have thought of a name. Archer. Do you think it suits?

MALCOLM

I do.

GHISLAINE bends over the baby, crying.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

But it's... it's...

GHISLAINE

I know. It's time.

She tries to fight back her tears. MALCOLM stands and takes the baby as GHISLAINE cries.

(CONTINUED)

STRANGER (VO)

The baby was to be taken to a safe place until the parents could marry and reclaim him.

CUT TO:

329 (310) STABLE

329

MALCOLM hands the baby to a man.

MALCOLM

You ride carefully. You carry precious cargo.

The man nods as thunder rumbles.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Go.

The man leaves with baby Archer.

STRANGER (VO)

But that was the last he or Ghislaine ever saw of their son.

CUT TO:

330 (310) SHERWOOD FOREST - DAY BEFORE WEDDING

330

GUY walks through the woods to the leper camp, searching for ROGER. Crows caw in the trees.

YOUNG GUY

Father?

ROGER turns around, startled, and walks towards his son.

ROGER

My son...

ROGER stops, realizing others are listening.

ROGER (cont'd)

Come, come with me.

GUY follows ROGER to the edge of the camp.

ROGER (cont'd)

You should not have come here.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG GUY

I needed to tell you something.
Malcolm Locksley is forcing Mother
to marry him.

ROGER frowns in sadness.

YOUNG GUY

The wedding is tomorrow. You must
stop them.

ROGER

No. That's no longer my right. You
must try and understand. Your
mother needs a husband, and you
need a father.

YOUNG GUY

I thought I already had one.

ROGER

(sympathetically)
Guy...

YOUNG GUY

I thought you loved us, even when
you went to the war. But you can't
love us. If you did, you would
never let this happen. If you did,
you would fight for us.

ROGER steps forward and reaches for him, but GUY steps back.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)

Leave me be... leper!

GUY storms off, leaving ROGER angry and sad.

CUT TO:

331

(310) GRASSY HILLSIDE - EARLY SATURDAY MORNING

331

ROBIN is up on the grassy hillside. Two small red bags hang
from a branch. ROBIN, with his longbow, shoots both bags in
rapid succession and each explodes in a cloud of white dust.
He smiles at his feat, then frowns, seeing ROGER of Gisborne
sneaking around at the foot of the hill. ROBIN ducks behind
the tall grass as ROGER goes around to the back of the
manor. ROBIN runs to the village.

332 (310) VILLAGE

332

In the village, MALCOLM meets SWAIN and asks a question with a look.

SWAIN

Yes, I've readied an altar in the woods.

ROBIN comes running in.

YOUNG ROBIN

He's back! The leper! Guy's father!

MALCOLM and SWAIN stop and turn to ROBIN running in from behind them. ROBIN points at the manor.

YOUNG ROBIN (cont'd)

He's in their house!

MALCOLM looks towards the manor. SWAIN reaches out an arm to him, but MALCOLM runs to the house. ROBIN tries to run after him, but LONGTHORN catches him by his jacket.

LONGTHORN

Hold! What's going on?

YOUNG ROBIN

The leper's back!

ROBIN pulls free and runs after his father. LONGTHORN addresses the gathering villagers.

LONGTHORN

Do you hear that? The leper's back. Risking all our lives again. Come on.

LONGTHORN steps forward, waving his arms for them to follow.

LONGTHORN (cont'd)

Come on!

LONGTHORN leads the procession to the manor.

CUT TO:

333 (310) MANOR - MAIN ROOM

333

MALCOLM bursts in the front door.

MALCOLM
Where is he?

ISABELLA and GUY are sitting in the chairs by the fireplace. GUY stands. MALCOLM steps towards GUY, looking around. GUY grabs a burning stick from the fireplace and confronts MALCOLM.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
Out of my way, boy.

YOUNG GUY
No, not after what you did to my
father.

GUY thrusts the stick at MALCOLM, forcing him to step back. GUY swings the stick again and MALCOLM ducks, then pushes GUY into the table under the stairs, knocking over two goblets of wine.

The alcohol ignites, as does a curtain hanging over the table from the banister.

GUY stares at the rising flames. MALCOLM steps back.

MALCOLM
Get out!

GUY glances at him.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
Get out!

GUY grabs ISABELLA's hand.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
Get your sister out of here!

GUY pulls ISABELLA out the door. MALCOLM goes upstairs.

CUT TO:

334 (310) MASTER'S CHAMBER

334

MALCOLM opens the door. He sees ROGER and GHISLAINE standing together, holding each other's two hands. GHISLAINE is wearing a fine gown and has a few blossoms in her hair. MALCOLM steps inside.

(CONTINUED)

MALCOLM

Ghislaine, there's a fire. You must leave now.

MALCOLM closes the door. ROGER steps forward, alarmed.
MALCOLM draws his sword.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

You were told not to return.

MALCOLM briefly points the sword at ROGER as smoke starts to rise between the floorboards.

ROGER

You expected me to stay away whilst you stole my wife?

MALCOLM

Your wife? The woman that you abandoned for years?

ROGER draws.

GHISLAINE

Oh, please don't do this.

MALCOLM

(to Ghislaine)

Why are you not leaving? Go, go.

GHISLAINE

Not without you, both of you.

GHISLAINE steps forward but ROGER pushes her to the wall, out of the way. ROGER and MALCOLM circle each other.

ROGER

I was wrong... to give up without a fight, and I see it clearly now... how you had things planned from the moment I returned.

MALCOLM

You brought disease to your family. If you loved them, you would have stayed away.

ROGER

You know nothing of our love. It was she who came to me... in the leper colony.

GHISLAINE's face falls. MALCOLM glares at her.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER (cont'd)
 But perhaps your hold over her
 wasn't as strong as you thought.

MALCOLM charges. ROGER blocks. They fight.

GHISLAINE
 Malcolm! Malcolm! He is my husband!
 The father of my children!

GHISLAINE stretches her hand out towards MALCOLM and he stops. MALCOLM says his line as he points to himself.

MALCOLM
 And so am I!

ROGER is stunned.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
 Our son!

GHISLAINE looks pleadingly at ROGER.

ROGER
 There is a child?!

ROGER attacks MALCOLM. MALCOLM blocks and kicks at ROGER. They fight.

GHISLAINE
 Stop!

ROGER and MALCOLM fight until MALCOLM throws ROGER to the floor.

CUT TO:

335 (310R) EXTERIOR

335

GUY stands with ISABELLA, watching and waiting for their parents to come out. LONGTHORN stands nearby with several torches in his hand.

LONGTHORN
 Look! Lord Malcolm is burning the place.

YOUNG GUY
 No, it was an accident!

LONGTHORN holds the torches out and some village men take them. ROBIN watches, entranced.

(CONTINUED)

LONGTHORN

The only way to get rid of the
disease! Come on!

The villagers charge the manor.

YOUNG GUY

No, you're wrong! Don't do this!

SWAIN stands next to ROBIN, trying to stop the men.

SWAIN

Stop! Stop!

SWAIN tries to grab a man as he passes. The men start
lighting the walls of the house.

YOUNG ROBIN

Wait! My father's inside!

ROBIN runs towards the house, but SWAIN pulls him back by
the shoulders.

YOUNG ROBIN (cont'd)

No! No!

The men continue to light the building on fire.

GISBORNE (VO)

I should have saved her.

RETURN TO THE PRESENT:

336

(310) PRESENT: SHERWOOD FOREST - A MISTY SUNRISE

336

GISBORNE sits, somber.

GISBORNE

I should have braved the flames.

ROBIN sits, somber as well.

STRANGER

It would have been too late.

GISBORNE

You don't know that.

STRANGER

She was already dead.

RETURN TO PAST:

337 (310) PAST: MANOR - MASTER'S CHAMBER

337

MALCOLM and ROGER continue to fight as smoke filters in.

GHISLAINE

No!

MALCOLM has the upper hand. ROGER tries to defend himself, his back to the wall. ROGER elbows MALCOLM. MALCOLM kicks him, then punches him several times before throwing him to the stairs at the foot of the bed.

ROGER crawls up the steps. MALCOLM walks towards him, GHISLAINE follows. ROGER turns over on the steps to face MALCOLM, scrambling backwards. MALCOLM is delirious with the thought of finishing him, shaking his sword. ROGER crawls to the side of the bed.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)

Please!

(beat)

This solves nothing.

ROGER raises his hand in defense. MALCOLM holds his sword at his throat. GHISLAINE grabs MALCOLM's right arm.

GHISLAINE (cont'd)

Enough!

Without thinking, MALCOLM throws his elbow back into her face in intense anger to free his arm. GHISLAINE screams and falls back, her head slamming onto the hard floor.

MALCOLM immediately comes to his senses, looks back at her and drops his sword. ROGER sits up. MALCOLM goes to GHISLAINE, coughing from the smoke.

He kneels by her side and checks her. ROGER staggers over, staring in horror. MALCOLM looks up at ROGER and fights back a sob, as does ROGER.

MALCOLM

She's dead.

ROGER holds the point of his sword at MALCOLM's throat. MALCOLM closes his eyes, waiting for the death he knows he deserves. ROGER stares at him, wondering why he no longer fights, and realizes MALCOLM loved her just as much as he did.

RETURN TO PRESENT:

338 (310R) PRESENT: SHERWOOD FOREST - MORNING

338

GISBORNE, hearing that it was MALCOLM that killed his mother and not the fire, gets up and attacks ROBIN, putting his hands around his throat. ROBIN tries to pull them off.

ROBIN

Guy!

The STRANGER stands. ROBIN is sputtering and choking.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Guy, stop.

STRANGER

What will that achieve? He didn't kill Ghislaine.

GISBORNE looks intensely at the STRANGER.

GISBORNE

No, but his father did. And as his father's dead...

GISBORNE lets go of ROBIN's throat and reaches back to punch him.

ROBIN

But...

STRANGER

No, he isn't.

GISBORNE stops, confused. ROBIN, also confused, raises his head to look at the STRANGER.

GISBORNE

Explain yourself.

RETURN TO THE PAST:

339 (310) PAST: MANOR - MASTER'S CHAMBER

339

ROGER lowers his sword, then drops it and hangs his head.

ROGER

Go.

(cough)

My children will be better off without me.

ROGER kneels over GHISLAINE as MALCOLM stands.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER (cont'd)
And I wish only to spend my last
moments with my wife... alone.

ROGER looks up at MALCOLM.

ROGER (cont'd)
Please!

ROGER picks up GHISLAINE's shoulders and cradles her in his
arms, crying. He rocks her and kisses her.

MALCOLM turns, opens the door and is greeted by a roaring
wall of flames which throw him backwards into the room.

CUT TO:

340 (310) EXTERIOR 340

The entire manor is engulfed in flames. SWAIN holds back a
struggling ROBIN.

SWAIN
Robin!

YOUNG ROBIN
Let me go! My father's inside!

ROBIN turns to GUY, standing with ISABELLA, behind him.

YOUR ROBIN
Yours too, and your mother! Do
something!

GUY watches in horror, thinking it's his fault.

RETURN TO PRESENT:

341 (310R) PRESENT: SHERWOOD FOREST 341

ROBIN kicks GISBORNE off of him. GISBORNE falls back. ROBIN
strides to the STRANGER, grabs his shoulders and pushes him
back into a tree.

ROBIN
My father would never have left me
alone!

GISBORNE stands as ROBIN stops, frowns and peers into the
STRANGER's hood. The STRANGER puts a hand to ROBIN's chest.
ROBIN glances at it and takes a step back. The STRANGER
pulls his hood open wider, looks at ROBIN, then pushes it
off all the way, revealing long, unkempt hair and a scruffy
face half scarred from the fire. It's MALCOLM.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
(whisper)
No... no!

ROBIN fights back his tears, shaking his head, staring.

MALCOLM
I'm sorry, Robin.

ROBIN
(shaking head)
No!

ROBIN turns, walks away, then faces him again.

ROBIN (cont'd)
I mourned for you!

MALCOLM stands, silent. ROBIN turns away again.

MALCOLM
How could I be your father... after
what I had done? After all I'd
taught you about honour. Robin...

ROBIN turns to look at him.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
I couldn't bear to see the shame in
your eyes.

ROBIN shifts his feet, shaking his head. GISBORNE addresses MALCOLM.

GISBORNE
You killed her. All these years I
thought it was my fault, that my
parents died because of the fire
that I started, but it was you.

GISBORNE slowly steps towards MALCOLM, his anger rising.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
That guilt was with me every day.

GISBORNE pushes past ROBIN and grabs MALCOLM's shoulders.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
(roars)
Every day!

ROBIN pulls GISBORNE off.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Stop.

GISBORNE

Can't you see he deserves this?!
He's betrayed us both!

ROBIN looks at GISBORNE

MALCOLM

You're right. Death would be a
release.

ROBIN turns back to look at MALCOLM.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

There's been many times that I've
been tempted to do the job myself.

ROBIN

And you expect us to feel sorry for
you?!

MALCOLM

Of course not.

GISBORNE

So why now?

ROBIN walks a few steps away.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Why tell us after all this time?

MALCOLM

Because of your brother.

ROBIN stops and looks back at MALCOLM.

MALCOLM

I need you two to save him.

GISBORNE

(exasperated)
Oh, this again!

GISBORNE turns away.

MALCOLM

Everything I've told you is the
truth, Guy.

MALCOLM looks at ROBIN.

(CONTINUED)

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Son...

ROBIN shakes his head slowly, barely holding his temper, not looking at MALCOLM.

ROBIN

No. No, you lost the right to call me son when you left me alone in the world.

ROBIN looks at MALCOLM with hatred. MALCOLM sighs. ROBIN walks a few steps. Momentary pause.

MALCOLM

Maybe... but didn't it make you the man you are today?

ROBIN looks up, pondering his words.

RETURN TO THE PAST:

342

(310) PAST: MANOR - EXTERIOR - LATE AFTERNOON

342

The manor is nothing but smoking ruins. ROBIN, GUY and ISABELLA stand in the same place, watching.

LONGTHORN comes out of the ruins.

LONGTHORN

Children! We've searched what is left of Gisborne Manor. Your parents... there's nothing left.

YOUNG GUY

You killed them!

ROBIN watches GUY.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)

All of you. You murdered them.

LONGTHORN

You started the fire, boy.

GUY hangs his head in shame, then takes ISABELLA's hand and leaves.

LONGTHORN

That's right. You go back to where you came from. News of your father's shame won't have reached France yet.

(CONTINUED)

LONGTHORN smiles, watching them go.

LONGTHORN (cont'd)
You're no longer welcome anywhere
near my lands!

SWAIN
Your lands?
(chuckle)
Longthorn, you are not a noble. You
have no right to this land. The
village will become part of the
Locksley estate again.

ROBIN looks incredulously at SWAIN.

SWAIN (cont'd)
They are Robin's lands now.

YOUNG ROBIN
Me?

LONGTHORN
Him? You run along. There's no room
for you here now either.

SWAIN
(quietly to Robin)
Robin, he's stealing from you, from
your poor father.

LONGTHORN
I'm doing the boy a kindness.
(step forward)
Do you really think you can run
this estate, boy?

ROBIN looks overwhelmed.

LONGTHORN (cont'd)
Feed the people when they're
hungry, clothe them when they
freeze, hm? You're just a child.

ROBIN turns and runs.

SWAIN
Robin!

LONGTHORN
I thought not. The duty falls to
me. Right, let's start as we mean
to go on, shall we?

(CONTINUED)

LONGTHORN steps towards the village.

LONGTHORN (cont'd)
Tax collection.

CUT TO:

343 (310) ROBIN'S MOTHER'S GRAVE

343

ROBIN runs up to his mother's grave and throws himself down at the side, breathing heavily.

YOUNG ROBIN
I don't know what to do.

ROBIN bows his head, puts his hands together and prays. He hears the words of his father echoing in his head.

MALCOLM (VO)
You shouldn't stand by and let something terrible happen because you were too scared to do the right thing.

The setting sun suddenly shines its golden light upon ROBIN and the cross. ROBIN opens his eyes, looks up at the cross, and sees his father's recurve bow leaning against it where there was nothing before. He stands up and stares at it, then takes it, realizing it's his now, and looks out at the sunset.

YOUNG ROBIN
Thank you... thank you.

ROBIN runs back to village.

CUT TO:

344 (310) VILLAGE

344

In the village, LONGTHORN and his followers are terrorizing the inhabitants.

LONGTHORN
Get them out!

LONGTHORN waves his arm. The villagers are crying and panicked.

VILLAGE WOMAN
Leave us alone! Leave us alone!

(CONTINUED)

LONGTHORN

Stay out!

ROBIN runs to the center of the village with his new bow and a quiver of white-fletched arrows on his back. One of LONGTHORN's men pulls his sword out at a villager. SWAIN looks around, helpless to intervene.

YOUNG ROBIN

Leave them be!

LONGTHORN turns around.

LONGTHORN

Ignore him!

ROBIN draws, aims and shoots. One of LONGTHORN's men ducks the arrow. ROBIN turns around, and shoots again in another direction. The swordsman ducks, then runs away. LONGTHORN glances around in disbelief.

YOUNG ROBIN

(confidently)

Next time, I won't miss.

LONGTHORN

You stupid little boy!

LONGTHORN starts to advance on ROBIN. ROBIN quickly pulls another arrow from his quiver, readies it, and draws. LONGTHORN stops in his tracks, his mouth open in shock.

YOUNG ROBIN

My father never struck me. Neither will you.

ROBIN glances behind him.

YOUNG ROBIN (cont'd)

These are my people, and I will care for them as my father intended.

LONGTHORN is dumbstruck.

YOUNG ROBIN (cont'd)

(boldly)

I am lord of the manor now.

SWAIN looks proudly at young ROBIN.

(CONTINUED)

LONGTHORN

We'll see how long that lasts. Wait till you have to deal with your first poor harvest or bad winter. You'll be begging for help.

SWAIN steps forward and points at ROBIN.

SWAIN

And he will have it.

VILLAGERS

Yeah!

LONGTHORN

(scornfully)

What, from a simpering priest and a few...

(look around)

... villagers?

ROBIN still has his bow drawn at LONGTHORN. SWAIN and the villagers take a steadfast pose. LONGTHORN realizes he cannot win, wipes his mouth with his hand, and quickly walks away. The villagers jeer.

VILLAGE MAN

Go on! Get out of here!

ROBIN shoots the arrow past LONGTHORN's face into a tall post. LONGTHORN stops. SWAIN laughs. LONGTHORN ducks under the arrow and continues walking as the villagers cheer. ROBIN smiles. SWAIN claps, smiling proudly at him. The villagers gather around ROBIN. ROBIN punches the air.

345

(310R) PRESENT: SHERWOOD FOREST - MORNING

345

MALCOLM

Both of your lives could have been so different... were it not for the... mistakes your parents made.

ROBIN

Well, we can't change that.

MALCOLM

I have watched you two. You nearly destroyed each other. But something has changed. Over the last few months you have put aside your differences and learned to work together. Just like it was meant to be. Now, you must save your brother.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

You know where he is?

MALCOLM

Finally. After many years of searching. I thought if I could find him, tell him the truth about who he was... it seemed the right thing to do...

MALCOLM looks at GISBORNE.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

... for Ghislaine.

MALCOLM address both of them.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

It wasn't easy. He doesn't stay in the same place for long, but now he has no choice.

GISBORNE takes a step.

GISBORNE

(reluctantly)

Where is he?

MALCOLM

York jail. He is to hang.

GISBORNE looks at ROBIN. ROBIN glances at GISBORNE.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

I'm too sick to help. I'm dying, Robin.

ROBIN blinks and looks down, not ready to lose him again.

ROBIN

Father...

MALCOLM

You are my last chance.

(look at Gisborne)

Together, I know you can both do this. Remember the birthmark, shaped like an arrowhead. It is why your mother named him... Archer. You'll do this for me?

ROBIN bites his lip, looking down. He makes his decision, goes to MALCOLM and puts his hands on his shoulders.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
I won't let him die, Father.

GISBORNE
WE, won't let him die.

ROBIN gingerly gives his father a long, tight hug, fighting his tears, then steps back with glazed eyes.

STRANGER
I wish I could see you three together at last.

ROBIN sighs, starting to get dizzy.

ROBIN
Well, surely we have... more time.

MALCOLM
I'm sorry.

ROBIN sighs again and groans as he realizes he's been drugged once more.

ROBIN
No...

ROBIN falls on his back. GISBORNE looks up at MALCOLM. MALCOLM raises his pipe. GISBORNE spreads his arms out. MALCOLM blows a dart into GISBORNE's neck. GISBORNE grunts and grabs at it, then falls backwards. MALCOLM sighs.

MALCOLM
Save him...

MALCOLM looks at ROBIN, whose leg relaxes and settles to the ground.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
... and make peace with your past.

CUT TO:

346 (310R) SHERWOOD FOREST - LATE MORNING

346

ROBIN and GISBORNE wake up. The campfire has died to a small flame. ROBIN groans and sits up, holding his head. GISBORNE sits up as well. ROBIN brushes the dead leaves from his hair as GISBORNE stands up.

ROBIN
So, I'm guessing it wasn't a dream.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE
 No more talk.

GISBORNE walks a step past ROBIN.

 ROBIN
 You think we should head...

GISBORNE holds his hand out to ROBIN and finishes the sentence.

 GISBORNE
 ...to York.

ROBIN reaches out and lets GISBORNE pull him to his feet. ROBIN nods once. GISBORNE starts walking. ROBIN picks up his bow and arrows and jogs in front of GISBORNE, but the effects from the darts haven't totally worn off yet.

 ROBIN
 Oh, oh, oh!

ROBIN and GISBORNE walk off.

JUMP TO:

347 SHERWOOD FOREST - A FEW HOURS LATER

347

ROBIN and GISBORNE are walking in silence. Both are thinking about everything that just happened.

 ROBIN
 You know, I searched for you.

GISBORNE looks at him.

 GISBORNE
 You did?

 ROBIN
 I sent men to find you and Isabella
 and bring you back.

 GISBORNE
 I'd heard that men from Locksley
 were looking for us, but I...

 ROBIN
 You thought Longthorn sent them.
 That they were looking for you to
 punish you.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

Yeah.

Momentary pause.

ROBIN

What do you think our lives would have been like if you'd've come back?

Momentary pause.

ROBIN (cont'd)

I wanted you back because, even though at times you could be a real pain in the backside, you were still a friend.

GISBORNE looks at him.

ROBIN (cont'd)

I was barely 11 and I had just inherited everything my father had. What did I know about running an estate? I really needed a friend. Someone I could rely on. To help me.

GISBORNE

And you thought that I...

ROBIN

Think about it. We could have run it together. Side by side. Like brothers.

GISBORNE looks at ROBIN, remembering another incident from their past.

GISBORNE

(smile)

Maybe more like brothers-in-law.

ROBIN gives GISBORNE a look.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

You may have just been a kid, but even then you had a thing for my sister.

ROBIN and GISBORNE share a look.

RETURN TO PAST:

348 PAST: MANOR HOUSE

348

GUY is sitting at a table. ISABELLA comes down the stairs. GUY looks at her. She is all "dolloed" up.

YOUNG GUY
Where are you going?

YOUNG ISABELLA
Nowhere.

ISABELLA heads for the door. GUY looks at her with a raised eyebrow not believing her. ISABELLA exits. GUY follows.

CONTINUE TO:

349 VILLAGE

349

GUY follows ISABELLA out of the village. GUY realizes she is heading to the forest.

CONTINUE TO:

350 SHERWOOD - MEADOW

350

GUY follows ISABELLA to the meadow. He sees a boy waiting for her. The boy's back is to him. ISABELLA approaches the boy. The boy turns. It's ROBIN.

YOUNG GUY
(mutter)
Robin.

GUY watches them. He can't hear what they are saying. ROBIN leads ISABELLA to a log. They sit and talk. ROBIN says something that makes ISABELLA laugh. ISABELLA looks up at ROBIN. ROBIN and ISABELLA stare at each for a few moments, then ROBIN kisses her.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)
(mutter)
This stops now.

GUY comes out of hiding and heads over to ROBIN and ISABELLA.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)
Isabella!

ROBIN and ISABELLA break the kiss. ISABELLA jumps to her feet.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG ISABELLA

Guy?

YOUNG GUY

Come with me. Now!

YOUNG ISABELLA

But...

GUY grabs her arm.

YOUNG GUY

Now!

ISABELLA gives ROBIN a look as GUY drags her off.

RETURN TO PRESENT:

351 PRESENT: SHERWOOD

351

ROBIN

I'd forgotten about that. Why were you so mad anyway?

GISBORNE

At the time, I thought it ill advised that my sister should be kissing her soon to be step-brother.

ROBIN chuckles. GISBORNE gives him a look.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

What?

ROBIN

If my father and your mother had have gotten married as they planned, then we would have been step-brothers.

GISBORNE

Your point?

ROBIN

Don't really have one.

They walk on in silence for a few moments.

ROBIN (cont'd)

I wasn't the only one who missed you when you left.

GISBORNE gives ROBIN a look.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
Deborah was really upset.

GISBORNE
Deborah?

ROBIN
Yeah. She had a thing for you even
back then.

RETURN TO PAST:

352 PAST: SHERWOOD - MEADOW 352

ROBIN and GUY are target practicing. Neither notice that two girls (DEBORAH and ANNA) are spying on them. ROBIN hears a noise and looks at GUY.

YOUNG ROBIN
(quietly)
Be right back.

GUY gives him a "where are you going" look. ROBIN gives him a "shhh" look. ROBIN walks off. GUY returns to practice.

PAN TO:

353 BEHIND THE GIRLS 353

ROBIN sneaks up, unseen behind them. He says nothing.

YOUNG ANNA
(dreamy)
He's so cute?

YOUNG DEBORAH
I know. One day I'll marry him.

YOUNG ANNA
In your dreams Deborah. Master
Robin is...

YOUNG DEBORAH
Robin? I'm not referring to Robin.

YOUNG ANNA
You mean Guy? You think Master Guy
is cute?

YOUNG DEBORAH
Yes. Just look at the way he holds
that bow.

Focus on GUY as he aims and fires the bow at target.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
And have seen him ride?

ANNA gives her a look.

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
He can ride me anytime.

ANNA gives her an "I can't believe you said that" look.

YOUNG ANNA
Deborah! I...

YOUNG DEBORAH
Seriously. One day I will be his
wife.

YOUNG ANNA
Keep dreaming, Deb. We don't stand
a chance with them.

ROBIN turns and leaves.

PAN TO:

354

GUY

354

ROBIN comes back and goes to GUY. He whispers something in his ear and points over to where the girls are hiding. The girls, realizing they have been spotted, run away.

RETURN TO PRESENT:

355

PRESENT: SHERWOOD

355

ROBIN
She cried as you walked away from
the village with Isabella.

GISBORNE doesn't say anything he just thinks of another incident.

RETURN TO THE PAST:

356

PAST: HILLSIDE OVERLOOKING VILLAGE - DAY AFTER FIRE WHEEL 356

GUY is sitting on the hill looking down at the village. DEBORAH approaches him. She goes to him, and sits beside him.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Why didn't you say anything?

GUY looks at her, not knowing what she is referring to.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
I saw you and Master Robin last
night. It was Robin that shot your
arrow.

Momentary pause.

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
Why didn't you...

YOUNG GUY
No one would've believed me.

YOUNG DEBORAH
But you didn't even try? You could
have been killed?

DEBORAH places a hand on his arm. GUY looks at her.

YOUNG GUY
It's Deborah, isn't it?

DEBORAH smiles, surprised that he knows her name.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Yes.

YOUNG GUY
(smile)
Thanks.

DEBORAH smiles again.

YOUNG DEBORAH
For what it's worth, I don't think
Master Robin would have let...

YOUNG GUY
Don't count on it.

YOUNG DEBORAH
You don't mean that.

YOUNG GUY
Robin can be a real spoiled brat
when he wants to be.

GUY looks at her. DEBORAH looks at him. GUY kisses her.
DEBORAH kisses him back. GUY lays her down on the grass.
They start to make out. [Note: ISABELLA is coming up the
hill and calls out. We only hear her.]

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG ISABELLA (VO)
Guy? Where are you?

GUY and DEBORAH break the kiss.

YOUNG GUY
(mutter)
Isabella.

YOUNG ISABELLA (VO)
Guy? Are you up there?

YOUNG GUY
See ya later, Deborah.

GUY rises. DEBORAH is still trying to catch her breath.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Bye. Guy.

GUY leaves. DEBORAH watches him leave with an "oh my god he kissed me" look. GUY looks back. DEBORAH waves.

CUT TO:

357 MEADOW - A FEW DAYS LATER

357

GUY is target practicing. He hears a twig snap as someone approaches behind him. Without turning around, he addresses who he thinks it is.

YOUNG GUY
Go away, Robin.

YOUNG DEBORAH
It's not Robin.

GUY turns and looks at her. She continues walking to him.

YOUNG GUY
Deborah. What are you...

DEBORAH places her hand on his bow.

YOUNG DEBORAH
I was hoping you could teach me how to shoot?

YOUNG GUY
(raise eyebrow)
Seriously?

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG DEBORAH

Mm-hm.

YOUNG GUY

(smile)

Okay.

GUY stands behind her.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)

First...

GUY moves her hair off her right shoulder, bringing it over across the back of her neck, to her left shoulder. He looks at her bare neck where he just moved the hair from. He then puts his arms around her and holds up the bow. He leans in over her shoulder, whispering in her ear.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)

Put your left hand here.

GUY indicates the spot where his left hand is. DEBORAH places her left hand beside his.

YOUNG GUY

And your right hand here.

GUY indicates the spot where his right hand is. DEBORAH places her right hand beside his. He guides her arms into the proper positions. He says line as he gets an arrow.

YOUNG GUY

Then you take an arrow.

He brings the arrow up.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)

And place it in the bow.

He loads the arrow.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)

Now, you aim the arrow.

He aims for the target.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)

Once you have the shot lined up,
You release the arrow.

They fire the arrow. DEBORAH sighs as the arrow releases. GUY looks at her neck, and gently kisses it. She leans back. He drops the bow, and turns her to face him. He raises a

(CONTINUED)

hand to the side of her face and kisses her. She kisses him back. She wraps her arms around him and pulls him close. Without breaking the kiss, GUY walks over to a tree and leans her up against it. DEBORAH's back is against the tree. He breaks the kiss and looks at her.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)

A little bird told me you wanted to go for a ride with me.

YOUNG DEBORAH

(smile)

This bird, it wouldn't happen to have been a robin would it?

YOUNG GUY

Might have been.

YOUNG DEBORAH

He heard us.

YOUNG GUY

(smile)

You still want to go for a ride?

She wraps her arms around him tighter.

YOUNG DEBORAH

Oh yes. More than anything.

GUY smiles at her. She smiles back.

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)

I've never been riding before, so...

YOUNG GUY

Don't worry. I can teach you that too.

She smiles. He smiles back. He picks up one of her legs and places it on his hip. He kisses her as his hand travels up the inside of her leg. She sighs. She locks her leg around his waist. He brings up her other leg. She locks that one around his waist as well. He kisses her deeper as she tightens her hold on him. He prepares to take her. When he is ready he breaks the kiss and looks at her.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)

You ready for this?

YOUNG DEBORAH
(smile)
Yes, Master Guy.

YOUNG GUY
Say it.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Take me.

GUY brings his hands to her legs, and runs them up the inside. He opens her up. She sighs at his touch. He kisses her as he slides himself inside of her. She moans. He brings his hands and arms up and braces himself against the tree. She wraps her legs tighter around him, pulling him closer, and allowing him to go deeper. He rides her, starting out slow and gradually building up speed. After a few minutes, he erupts inside of her. He looks at her and lovingly strokes the side of her face. He is about to withdraw from her when she smiles.

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
Don't. Please stay. I love the way
you feel inside of me.

He smiles and kisses her. She tightens her leg grip on him. He stays inside her. She kisses him hard. After a few moments she breaks the kiss and looks at him.

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
Again, Master?

YOUNG GUY
(surprise)
Now?

YOUNG DEBORAH
You make me feel so... good.. I
want you to...

She pulls him closer.

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
I am yours, Master Guy. Take me for
another ride.

He strokes the side of her face.

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
Please.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG GUY
Well, if you insist.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Oh, I insist.

GUY smiles and pushes deeper into her. She moans.

YOUNG GUY
You like that?

YOUNG DEBORAH
Yes, Master.

He pushes deeper. She moans again. He whispers in her ear.

YOUNG GUY
Say it. Tell me you want it.

YOUNG DEBORAH
I want it. I want you. Please. I
want you so much.

He pushes into her.

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
Take me, Master. Take me.

He pushes into her hard, and deep. She moans. He starts to pump her up.

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
Faster.

He pumps her faster. He pushes deep inside her. It doesn't take long before he erupts inside of her. This time he exits her. He looks at her.

YOUNG GUY
Deborah, I...

He stops talking as he senses someone coming.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)
Someone is coming.

GUY removes DEBORAH's legs from around his waist. He pulls his pants back up and she straightens out her dress. He goes over and picks up his bow.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)
C'mere.

DEBORAH goes to GUY.

PAN TO THE LEFT:

358 ROBIN 358

ROBIN is walking toward the target practice area. He has his father's bow. He gets there and sees GUY.

CONTINUE TO:

359 MEADOW 359

YOUNG ROBIN
Guy, what are you...

GUY turns and ROBIN sees DEBORAH. GUY starts talking, and on the word "to" he looks at DEBORAH and smiles.

YOUNG GUY
Teaching Deborah how to.. shoot.

DEBORAH smiles back at him.

YOUNG DEBORAH
And you are a great teacher. Can't wait for my next lesson.

ROBIN gives them an "are you guys feeling okay" look.

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
I should be getting back.

YOUNG GUY
I'll see you later.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Anytime.

DEBORAH smiles. GUY smiles. DEBORAH leaves. ROBIN watches DEBORAH leave, then looks at GUY.

YOUNG ROBIN
You okay?

YOUNG GUY
Never better. Why?

YOUNG ROBIN
You look, I don't know, different.

YOUNG GUY
I do?

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN gives him another look. He knows something is different, he's just not sure what. He decides to change the subject.

YOUNG ROBIN
So, is she any good?

GUY gives him a look.

YOUNG ROBIN (cont'd)
You said you were teaching her how to...

YOUNG GUY
Oh. Right.

YOUNG ROBIN
Well. Is she?

YOUNG GUY
We've only just started but...
Yeah. She has... potential.

YOUNG ROBIN
Potential? Is she good or not, Guy?

GUY smiles to himself.

YOUNG GUY
She's great.

ROBIN gives him a look.

YOUNG ROBIN
Great? How...

ROBIN notices the look in GUY's eyes.

YOUNG ROBIN (cont'd)
You're not referring to her archery skills, are you?

YOUNG GUY
What?

YOUNG ROBIN
You like her.

YOUNG GUY
Robin I...

YOUNG ROBIN
Hey. I approve. She is pretty.

YOUNG GUY
Yeah. She is.

CUT TO:

360 MANOR - GUY'S ROOM - A FEW HOURS AFTER ROGER BANISHED 360

GUY enters his room. He sees DEBORAH sitting on the edge of the bed. She looks at him. She pats the bed. He goes to her. He sits.

YOUNG DEBORAH
I'm sorry.

He hugs her, tightly, burying his head in her shoulder. He starts to cry. She comforts him. After a few moments, he looks at her. He strokes the side of her face lovingly. She smiles at him. He kisses her. He lays her back on the bed. He pins her arms to the bed and hungrily kisses her.

JUMP TO

361 A FEW HOURS LATER 361

GUY and DEBORAH are laying in bed. She has her head resting on his chest. He is stroking her hair.

YOUNG GUY
I have something for you.

She looks up at him. He gets up from the bed and walks over to a table. He picks up a box, then returns to bed. She sits up in the bed. He sits beside her. He hands her the box. She opens it. It's a necklace, with a black arrow pendant.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Guy, I can't...

GUY looks at her and cups her face.

YOUNG GUY
Please. Take it. The last few weeks with you have been the best few weeks ever.

He smiles at her.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Put it on me?

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH hands him the necklace, and turns her head so he can put it on her. He does. She turns back to face him.

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
I shall wear this always.

She kisses him. He lays her back down on the bed and they make love.

CUT TO:

362 VILLAGE - GUY IS RETURNING FROM VISIT TO ROGER 362

GUY walks through village, looking upset. He looks up and sees DEBORAH. She jerks her head to the barn. He understands and heads to it. DEBORAH also heads to barn. We see DEBORAH enter the barn. GUY picks up his pace.

CONTINUE TO:

363 BARN 363

DEBORAH is standing near the back wall. GUY enters. He sees her and goes to her. He grabs her, kisses her, and pushes her up against the wall.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Guy, I...

GUY puts a finger to her lips, shushing her.

YOUNG GUY
No talking.

He kisses her hard. She kisses back. She wraps her arms around his neck and pulls him close. He brings her legs up around his waist. She is straddling him. He prepares to take her. He thrusts into her hard and fast. She moans and sighs upon his entry. He stays kissing her as he rides her till he explodes. He breaks the kiss and looks at her.

YOUNG GUY (cont'd)
Tomorrow my whole life will change.

YOUNG DEBORAH
(confused)
What do you mean?

He strokes her face.

YOUNG GUY
Promise me you'll still...

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG DEBORAH
 Guy, nothing could ever keep me
 away. As long as you want me, I'll
 be here.

He smiles and kisses her. [Present day ROBIN is trying to
 get GISBORNE's attention]

ROBIN (VO)
 Guy? ... Guy?

RETURN TO PRESENT:

364 PRESENT: SHERWOOD

364

ROBIN
 Guy?

ROBIN looks at GISBORNE. GISBORNE looks a million miles
 away. He never connected the Deborah he knew then to the one
 that he met when he returned to Locksley.

ROBIN (cont'd)
 Guy?

ROBIN snaps his fingers. GISBORNE looks at him.

ROBIN (cont'd)
 You okay?

GISBORNE
 Yeah.

ROBIN
 Where were you?

GISBORNE
 What?

ROBIN
 What were you thinking of?

GISBORNE
 When you brought Deborah to the
 camp that day, you knew she was the
 Deborah that...

ROBIN
 Yeah. Of course.

GISBORNE
 Why didn't you say anything?

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
Like what?

Silence.

ROBIN (cont'd)
You two weren't that close back
then. I figured you probably
forgot...

ROBIN looks at GISBORNE.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Wait...

ROBIN places his hand on GISBORNE's arm, and they stop.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Were you and she...

GISBORNE
It was along time ago. I...

ROBIN
You were.

ROBIN remembers the archery lesson.

ROBIN (cont'd)
That day I found you two together
at the target practice site, you
weren't giving her "archery"
lessons, were you?

GISBORNE
Drop it, Robin.

GISBORNE shakes ROBIN's hand off his arm. ROBIN remembers
another incident.

ROBIN
Now it all makes sense.

GISBORNE
What does?

RETURN TO THE PAST:

365 PAST: LOCKSLEY MANOR

365

ROBIN is sitting at the table. DEBORAH enters.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Aren't you going to do anything?

ROBIN looks at DEBORAH not knowing what she is talking about.

YOUNG ROBIN
About?

YOUNG DEBORAH
Guy. And Isabella. They've been gone for weeks.

YOUNG ROBIN
So?

YOUNG DEBORAH
Can't you send someone after them?
Bring them back?

YOUNG ROBIN
Why?

DEBORAH leans on the table. Her necklace dangles.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Don't you care?

Momentary pause.

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
Robin, he's your friend. He's lost everything too. You two should be...

YOUNG ROBIN
He left on his own. I didn't...

YOUNG DEBORAH
He left because he blamed himself for the fire and...

YOUNG ROBIN
Deborah, Guy is...

YOUNG DEBORAH
He is alone, Robin. You can't just abandon him. He needs his friends. He needs us, the people who love

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
him. If he doesn't come back, his
guilt will consume him, eat away at
him, forever. The Guy we know, will
cease to exist, and I hate to think
what he will turn into. Robin,
please, you...

YOUNG ROBIN
Okay.
(beat)
No promises, but I'll try.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Thank you.

DEBORAH smiles and turns to leave.

YOUNG ROBIN
Oh, Deborah.

DEBORAH looks back at ROBIN.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Yes.

YOUNG ROBIN
Thanks.

YOUNG DEBORAH
For what?

YOUNG ROBIN
For not talking to me like everyone
else. I need people who are not
afraid to speak their mind. I'm
sick of "Yes, m'lord", "Right away,
m'lord", "Whatever you say,
m'lord".

DEBORAH smiles.

YOUNG ROBIN (cont'd)
Would you like to work for me? Here
at the Manor House?

YOUNG DEBORAH
Really?

YOUNG ROBIN
Yes. Your first job will be to
round up some men to search for Guy
and Isabella.

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH runs to him and hugs him.

YOUNG DEBORAH
Thank you.

They break the hug and DEBORAH looks at him.

YOUNG DEBORAH (cont'd)
And you know what? When Guy gets
back, he would be a perfect right
hand. You two would make a great
team.

DEBORAH turns and exits. ROBIN reflects on what she said.

RETURN TO THE PRESENT:

366

PRESENT: SHERWOOD

366

ROBIN
After a few months, she gave up. I
never knew that you two actually
hooked up. I always thought it was
just her. I see now that she never
got over you. You sure did cast
quite the spell on her.

ROBIN looks at GISBORNE.

ROBIN (cont'd)
I can't believe you didn't know it
was her? I mean didn't she say
anything to you when you arrived at
Locksley?

GISBORNE
No. She never said a word.

They walk in silence for a few minutes.

ROBIN
If it will make you feel better,
you can hit me.

GISBORNE stops and looks at ROBIN. ROBIN stops and looks at
GISBORNE.

GISBORNE
I'm not going to hit you, Robin.

ROBIN drops his bow.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
Come on, I know you want to.

ROBIN drops his quiver.

ROBIN (cont'd)
I did some terrible things to you
back then.

GISBORNE
Yeah. You did.

ROBIN
And last night dredged them all up
again.

Momentary pause. GISBORNE looks at ROBIN.

ROBIN (cont'd)
If we're going to rescue Archer,
then we need to bury the past once
and for all.

GISBORNE
You're right.

ROBIN
Thanks. I think. So...

GISBORNE swings. They fight. We stay with the fight for a
few minutes then cut to next scene.

CUT TO:

367 ELSEWHERE

367

ALLAN and MUCH are out searching for ROBIN and GISBORNE.
ALLAN has his bow with him. ALLAN hears something, and
stops.

ALLAN
You hear that?

MUCH
What?

ALLAN
(point)
Over there.

ALLAN runs off in the direction of the sound. MUCH follows.

CONTINUE TO:

368 FIGHT

368

ALLAN and MUCH see GISBORNE and ROBIN fighting.

ALLAN
What are they....

MUCH
Maybe they're just practicing.

ALLAN
I don't think so.

ALLAN raises his bow, readies an arrow, and aims. He aims the arrow at the tree near ROBIN and GISBORNE but over their heads. He just wants to fire a warning shot. Just as ALLAN is about to release the arrow, MUCH turns to ALLAN and, getting the wrong idea tries to knock the bow out of ALLAN's hands. MUCH says line as he grabs for bow.

MUCH
What are you....

The arrow releases. Only now it is heading straight for ROBIN and GISBORNE.

ALLAN
Much.

PAN TO:

369 ROBIN AND GISBORNE

369

ROBIN hears the arrow coming. He pushes GISBORNE backwards, then falls back to avoid the arrow's path. The arrow just misses them and hits the tree. GISBORNE manages not to fall over from ROBIN's push. Both turn to see the arrow in the tree.

ROBIN
Where...

ROBIN sees MUCH and ALLAN running to them. ROBIN goes over and pulls the arrow out of the tree. He offers it to ALLAN.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Yours, I take it.

ALLAN
Ah yeah. But I can explain.

ROBIN gives ALLAN a "go ahead, explain" look. GISBORNE walks over. ALLAN opens his mouth to say something.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH

It was my fault. I knocked the bow
and...

ROBIN

Okay. But what were you aiming at?

ALLAN

Nothing. I just wanted to fire a
shot to get you two to stop
fighting. Why were you fighting
anyway?

ROBIN looks to GISBORNE. GISBORNE looks at ROBIN. GISBORNE
starts to laugh. ROBIN starts to laugh. MUCH and ALLAN look
at them confused.

ALLAN (cont'd)

Want to fill us in on the...

ROBIN

Back at camp.

ROBIN picks up his bow and quiver and heads off. GISBORNE
follows him. MUCH and ALLAN look at each other and then
follow them.

JUMP TO:

370

OUTLAW CAMP

370

LITTLE JOHN and TUCK are alone.

LITTLE JOHN

I don't like this. Robin never
stays out all night. Something must
have happened.

TUCK

He's with Guy. I'm...

LITTLE JOHN scoffs. TUCK continues his line without
stopping.

TUCK (cont'd)

...sure they are okay.

LITTLE JOHN

(softly, sadly)

Things aren't the same anymore.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK
What do you mean?

LITTLE JOHN
You weren't here at the beginning.
You don't know.

TUCK
Then tell me.

LITTLE JOHN
It was so different in the
beginning. Our goal was clear.

TUCK can tell that LITTLE JOHN is not happy.

TUCK
And now it isn't?

LITTLE JOHN
That's not what I meant.

TUCK
Well then, please explain.

LITTLE JOHN goes quiet. TUCK waits for him to continue.

JUMP TO:

371 ELSEWHERE IN THE FOREST

371

ROBIN, GISBORNE, ALLAN, and MUCH are heading back to the camp. ROBIN and GISBORNE are a few paces ahead of ALLAN and MUCH. Focus on ROBIN and GISBORNE.

ROBIN
How much you think we should tell
them?

GISBORNE
How much do you *want* to tell them?

Momentary pause.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
You think they could handle the
whole truth?

ROBIN
I'm pretty sure Much and Allan
could. Maybe Tuck.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

And John?

ROBIN

Not sure. He still isn't comfortable with you being around.

GISBORNE

I've noticed.

They walk on.

JUMP TO:

372 OUTLAW CAMP

372

LITTLE JOHN

Ask Much. Ask Allan.

TUCK

Ask them what?

LITTLE JOHN

It used to always be Robin and Much. Much used to always have his back. Much was the one that always backed him. But ever since we got back, it's been Gisborne.

LITTLE JOHN says GISBORNE's name like he still hates the man.

TUCK

I see.

LITTLE JOHN

Gisborne has become the one that Robin turns to.

TUCK

And that's a bad thing?

LITTLE JOHN

What about us? We've been here since...

TUCK

(understanding)

And you think Guy is taking over.

LITTLE JOHN

Gisborne is a snake. He always was, and he always will be. I don't see

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
how Robin can so easily welcome him
into our group.

TUCK
Is that all you are concerned
about?

LITTLE JOHN
No. Robin treats Gisborne like...
Like...

TUCK thinks he understands.

TUCK
Like a right hand, a second in
command?

LITTLE JOHN
Yeah.

TUCK
And you don't think he's qualified
for the position.

LITTLE JOHN
Qualified? Gisborne is the enemy
he...

TUCK
Was, John. He was the enemy. He has
proven his worth over and over.
Whatever he was, he is not that man
now.

LITTLE JOHN
He'll never truly be one of us.
He's a noble, a knight. He...

TUCK
So's Robin.

Momentary pause.

TUCK (cont'd)
John, you have to...

LITTLE JOHN looks out the door and sees ROBIN, GISBORNE,
ALLAN, and MUCH coming.

LITTLE JOHN
They're coming.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK goes to the door to see for himself. He pats LITTLE JOHN on the back as he says his line.

TUCK
See. They are fine. Come let's sit.
Don't want them thinking we were
worried.

LITTLE JOHN
But we were.

TUCK gives him a look, then returns to where he was sitting. LITTLE JOHN leans back on the door.

CONTINUE TO:

373 OUTSIDE CAMP 373

ROBIN, GISBORNE, ALLAN, and MUCH walk up to, and enter, the camp.

CONTINUE TO:

374 (311R) OUTLAW CAMP 374

LITTLE JOHN stands impatiently in the entrance, leaning a hand on a post on either side, tapping his fingers.

TUCK is standing in front of the bunks.

ROBIN heads goes to a stump. GISBORNE heads to a bed and sits.

LITTLE JOHN
So where have you been two been?

GISBORNE
Little trip down memory lane.

ROBIN sits somewhat patiently on the stump, draping his arm over the rope ladder, dazed from lack of sleep and overwhelmed by his recent experience. Would they understand if he told them? Could he tell them? He had kept this hidden for so long. Not even Much knew the history he shared with Gisborne.

ALLAN
Is that what...?

GISBORNE lays down. ROBIN looks to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
I've been with my father.

MUCH
I thought your father was dead.

ROBIN
(quietly)
So did I.

GISBORNE
So did I. Until Malcolm met us last
night and he told that we were
almost family. And that...

LITTLE JOHN looks GISBORNE.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
...we share a brother.

MUCH
(scoffs)
What?

ALLAN looks back and forth between GISBORNE and ROBIN,
trying to determine if they're joking.

MUCH (cont'd)
A brother?

MUCH looks at ROBIN to confirm it. ROBIN raises his
eyebrows, slightly nodding.

MUCH (cont'd)
Both of you?

ROBIN nods again.

ROBIN
My father... his mother.

MUCH takes a step towards ROBIN, then glances at GISBORNE.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Our brother is in jail in York...
awaiting execution.

LITTLE JOHN's head snaps to look at ROBIN.

ROBIN (cont'd)
And I promised my dying father that
I would save him.
(face turns intense)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
... and I intend to honour it.

ROBIN sits up straighter and looks at each in turn while speaking.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Me and Guy will go to York and bring him back. If it were any of you, you know I'd do the same.

GISBORNE
You still believe good conquers evil?
(beat)
To defeat Isabella we need our brother in York.

TUCK
(calmly)
Who is this brother, Robin? What do you know...

ROBIN
His name is Archer. We've never met.

ROBIN takes a deep breath.

ROBIN
All I know is he's traveled far and wide and has a knowledge of exotic weapons he's brought back from the East.

GISBORNE
Isabella's forces are far greater than ours. Archer's weapons will make us stronger.

GISBORNE glances at MUCH, who walks over to ROBIN.

MUCH
We all go.

ROBIN
No. Guy and I will go alone. I need you here to protect the people from Isabella.

MUCH
Who's going to protect you?

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
 Much, we'll be fine!

LITTLE JOHN scoffs.

ROBIN (cont'd)
 (impatiently)
 No-one is going to recognize us in
 York.

TUCK, deliberately not looking at ROBIN, is not agreeing with him at all. He feels this could be a trap. Before he can say anything ROBIN tries to reassure them.

ROBIN (cont'd)
 (decisively)
 It'll be a simple in and out. We'll
 be back soon.

ROBIN stands and pats MUCH on the shoulder. MUCH nods, accepting ROBIN's decision. ROBIN leaves, deliberately leaving his recurve bow behind, knowing it will identify him immediately. GISBORNE follows ROBIN out of camp.

CUT TO:

375 (311) YORK 375
 Establishing city shot.

JUMP TO:

376 (311) CASTLE - DUNGEONS 376
 Two guards come down the stairs. In a cell with about ten prisoners, ARCHER and an OLD MAN sit against the wall, near the cell's front.

GUARD
 Archer! It's time.

The OLD MAN gives ARCHER a sympathetic look.

GUARD (cont'd)
 God have mercy on ya.

The keys jingle as the guard unlocks the door. The OLD MAN and ARCHER exchange looks. ARCHER gets up, seemingly resigned to his fate. The OLD MAN looks up at him.

OLD MAN
 Rest in peace.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER nods, resolved. He walks out the door and the guard grabs him and pushes him up the stairs while the second one locks the door again.

CUT TO:

377 (311) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - WEST EXTERIOR CORRIDOR 377

ISABELLA walks down the west corridor as her Guard comes up the small steps from the courtyard.

ISABELLA

Is there any news of my brother?

ISABELLA'S GUARD

No, Sheriff.

ISABELLA

And nothing on Hood, either?

ISABELLA'S GUARD

No.

The Guard waits for her to join him at the top of the steps. Behind him waits LIPSCOMB, a mute with a scar running from the corner of his mouth back to his right ear.

ISABELLA'S GUARD

This is Lipscomb, Sheriff. Collects the toll for you, from the Great North Road.

ISABELLA

Thank you.

ISABELLA goes down a few steps to Lipscomb.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Your loyalties will be rewarded, I assure you. And if you hear or see anything, you report to me immediately.

LIPSCOMB nods earnestly. Coins jingle as ISABELLA reaches into her purse.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Hood and his men are spreading terror throughout Nottingham. Your help in finding them...

ISABELLA holds up a gold coin.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)
 ...keeps us all safe. Here.

ISABELLA puts the coin into LIPSCOMB's hand and he closes his fist over it. Isabella's Guard taps his shoulder to dismiss him. ISABELLA watches him go with evil eyes.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
 Let's hope this little Judas does
 better than the last one I paid
 good money for.
 (temper rising)
 I want them found!

ISABELLA looks back at Guard.

CUT TO:

378 (311) YORK - CASTLE - SHERIFF'S QUARTERS

378

Candles are set up in candelabras all over the room. White roses surround them. Two lovers are kissing audibly on the bed. A woman (named GWENETH) sighs, lying next to the man (ARCHER) kissing her neck. She turns over and sits up. ARCHER also sits up so he can keep on kissing her neck. GWENETH sighs in pleasure.

ARCHER
 You are glorious, Gweneth.

He puts his face next to hers.

GWENETH
 Am I? I'm not sure my husband would
 agree.

GWENETH puts her left hand up to ARCHER's head. He pulls her hand down again, looking at her wedding ring.

ARCHER
 The Sheriff of York is a fool to
 neglect such a passionate,
 beautiful woman.

GWENETH
 Yes, well, I don't like to
 complain, but sometimes I just feel
 so under-appreciated.

ARCHER turns her face to his.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER

Well, shall we do something about that?

GWENETH smiles.

JUMP TO:

379 (311) YORK ROAD - TOLL HOUSE

379

GISBORNE, riding a white horse, and ROBIN, whiting a brown horse, gallop up and stop at the sight of a toll house, where LIPSCOMB is opening the gate for a patron.

GISBORNE

Toll house.

ROBIN

(shake head)

It's not worth the risk.

LIPSCOMB closes the gate.

GISBORNE

(amiably)

Well, they collect money for Isabella.

ROBIN looks at GISBORNE.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Robbing them is robbing her.

ROBIN says nothing. GISBORNE clicks his horse forward. ROBIN follows against his better judgment.

CUT TO:

380 (311) INSIDE

380

LIPSCOMB is on his knees in front of ROBIN, who is holding the collection purse. LIPSCOMB reaches back but GISBORNE puts his sword on his arm.

GISBORNE

Don't... move.

ROBIN pulls out a handful of coins and lets them fall back in, sighing unhappily.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Is that everything?

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
(sullenly)
Let's go.

ROBIN goes out the door, which is behind GISBORNE. GISBORNE puts the point of his sword in LIPSCOMB's back.

GISBORNE
Stay on your knees!

GISBORNE follows ROBIN out the door. LIPSCOMB bravely turns to look at the robbers with narrowed eyes, his scar purple from unexpressed indignation.

JUMP TO:

381 (311) YORK - CASTLE - SHERIFF'S QUARTERS 381

GWENETH and ARCHER stand in the middle of the room, kissing. ARCHER pulls back.

ARCHER
I really must get back to the
dungeon before your husband comes
back.

GWENETH
Yes, the Sheriff would be very
upset.

GWENETH tries to kiss ARCHER.

ARCHER
Yes, he would.

He kisses her.

GWENETH
He is the most powerful man in
York.

She kisses him.

ARCHER
Yes, he is.

ARCHER puts both his hands on GWENETH's face.

ARCHER (cont'd)
And if you're as fond of me as I am
of you...

(CONTINUED)

GWENETH

You know how fond I am of you.

She tries to kiss him, but he stops her.

ARCHER

Then perhaps you might speak to him
about not hanging me next week.

ARCHER wraps his arms around her, and she nestles into his
shoulder.

ARCHER (cont'd)

You can tell him that I fully
intend to deliver the weapons his
cousin paid for.

GWENETH turns away.

ARCHER (cont'd)

It's all a big mistake.

ARCHER pulls on his shirt.

ARCHER (cont'd)

I'm completely innocent.

GWENETH stands in front of her mirror, putting her jewelery
back on.

ARCHER (cont'd)

You heard the part about the
hanging?

GWENETH steps briefly back from the mirror.

GWENETH

Yes, of course.

ARCHER picks up a goblet.

ARCHER

And if you find a good moment, you
might want to suggest some sort of,
em...

(tilt head)

...pardon.

ARCHER takes a drink.

ARCHER (cont'd)

And I will show him one of the
mysteries of the Orient.

GWENETH

Mm, like the one you showed me?

ARCHER

(chuckle)

Not quite the same one.

GWENETH giggles. ARCHER draws her forward by the hand.

ARCHER

You see, this is the mystery of how something glittering and precious, like you...

(kiss her hand)

...can be made out of base metal.

GWENETH's eyes widen. ARCHER pulls her into an embrace.

ARCHER (cont'd)

The alchemist's art... of making gold.

ARCHER gives her a long kiss.

GWENETH

(breathing heavily)

Ever since I've known you, you make me feel so... alive.

ARCHER guides her to sit together on the foot of the bed.

ARCHER

And it would be a shame if anything were to happen to me that might interfere with that... alive feeling.

He kisses her.

ARCHER (cont'd)

Mm.

ARCHER keeps his forehead on hers.

ARCHER (cont'd)

By the way, you didn't happen to bring any food with you, did you? It was a big success with the other lads last time.

GWENETH laughs. ARCHER kisses her and pulls her back onto the bed.

CUT TO:

382 (311) DUNGEONS

382

ARCHER drops several coins into the guard's outstretched hand. He holds a cloth tied into a bag in his other hand.

ARCHER
Thank you, my good man.

ARCHER steps into the cell, looking behind him. The OLD MAN is amazed.

OLD MAN
You said they were going to kill you.

ARCHER
Probably next time.

OLD MAN
You said that last time.

ARCHER bends down to the OLD MAN and sets the cloth bag on the floor in front of him.

ARCHER
Hungry?

The other prisoners lean forward as ARCHER unwraps sausages, bread and fruit. One leans in very closely to ARCHER's right. ARCHER stops him and holds up a finger.

ARCHER (cont'd)
I'll take offers.

OLD MAN
I'll give you ten gold coins for that sausage.

ARCHER
(hold up a sausage)
I accept.

ARCHER holds out his hand. The OLD MAN twice mimes taking coins out of his pocket and dropping them into ARCHER's hand. ARCHER wiggles his fingers for more. The OLD MAN frowns in mock frustration and slaps another into his hand. ARCHER holds an invisible coin to his lips and glances at the OLD MAN before he bites on it. The OLD MAN watches apprehensively.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Good as gold.

(CONTINUED)

They both laugh at their joke as ARCHER hands over the sausage. The OLD MAN takes a bite. ARCHER gently slaps his shoulder, then starts tossing food to the others in turn.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Eat up, lads. Enjoy the fruits of
my labour.

CUT TO:

383

(311R) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - SHERIFF'S QUARTERS

383

ISABELLA
And you are absolutely certain he
saw them together?

ISABELLA'S GUARD
Yes, Sheriff.

ISABELLA turns away, wrinkling her nose. She walks away. She'd've thought that after Guy's last stunt Robin would have severed ties. But it seems that Robin has let him back in.

ISABELLA
You said they were on their way to
York?

ISABELLA'S GUARD
Yes, Sheriff.

ISABELLA
York?

ISABELLA turns to the fire.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Why York? Do you think they're
plotting against me?

ISABELLA'S GUARD
I know nothing more, Sheriff.

ISABELLA, totally confounded, goes to sit at her desk.

ISABELLA
Then you must go to York
immediately, as my emissary. I'll
assemble soldiers and I will follow
you.

Isabella's Guard bows his head and starts to leave. ISABELLA points to him.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Go to the Sheriff of York. Warn him that two murderous scoundrels are fouling his domain, Guy of Gisborne and Robin Hood. Tell him... I will offer 100 crowns for their heads, each... alive.

Isabella's Guard bows his head again and leaves.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

(chuckle)

Oh, yes. I want them alive.

CUT TO:

384 (311) YORK

384

ROBIN and GISBORNE gallop up to the gates of York, whose castle is at least twice the size of Nottingham's.

In the town, they walk their horses through the narrow streets. They stop and look up at the walls when they hear a sergeant giving orders.

SERGEANT (VO)

Attention! Left turn! Stand at ease!

GISBORNE

(bit disheartened)

He's inside that.

ROBIN

(cheerfully)

Well, it can't be that difficult... can it?

ROBIN leads his horse on. GISBORNE follows.

CUT TO:

385 SHERWOOD FOREST

385

TUCK and LITTLE JOHN walk down the road with sacks, making a food drop in Robin's absence. MUCH and ALLAN walk a few paces behind them.

LITTLE JOHN

I can't believe Robin never told us that he and Gisborne go way back.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

I can't believe they share a brother.

LITTLE JOHN

Robin never once mentioned that he and Gisborne grew up together. That they had issues that went back to their childhood.

TUCK

It was in the past. A past they both wanted to forget.

ALLAN

If Guy and Robin share a brother, then that sorta makes them step brothers. Which makes Isabella Robin's sorta step-sister.

TUCK

We are striving not just to protect Nottingham, but England. Not to settle old scores, John. Robin and Gisborne put aside their issues a long time ago.

LITTLE JOHN

Did they?

(beat)

They might have put their present issues behind them, but I'm not to sure of the past ones.

ALLAN

John, Robin and Guy trust each other now. They will not turn their backs on one another. They are family.

LITTLE JOHN

So are we.

ALLAN

You know, you've never accepted Guy.

(look to Much)

Neither have you.

LITTLE JOHN

I admit. I did not like the idea of Gisborne joining us.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

You can't even call him by his name. He has been fighting with us, by our side, for almost a year. And you still don't trust him.

TUCK

Allan.

ALLAN

Do you know how hard it was for him to work for the Sheriff? I saw what it did to him. I saw how he was constantly talked down to, how he battled with the choices he was forced to make. Now his own sister wants him dead.

(beat)

We don't know the whole story of what their past was, but the fact that they can work together and trust each other, it has to be worth something.

TUCK

You're right. Robin and Guy have been on this journey for years. Their paths keep crossing. And now they've learned they share a brother. We have to let them do this.

MUCH, who has been quiet throughout this entire scene, speaks up. Everyone looks at him.

MUCH

I've known Robin almost my entire life.

(beat)

I never knew the whole story about how his father died.

MUCH corrects himself.

MUCH (cont'd)

I mean how he was supposed to have died. When we arrived in Locksley, Robin had already been lord of the manor for a season.

(beat)

We'd heard the story about the fire that killed Lord Malcolm, Sir Roger, and Sir Roger's wife. but...

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
 ...no one ever mentioned Sir
 Roger's full name.

MUCH goes quiet. Everyone lowers their eyes and looks at the ground.

JUMP TO:

386

(311) YORK - CASTLE - THE GREAT HALL

386

ARCHER is brought in by two guards.

The SHERIFF of York, who is a short man with white hair, brings in GWENETH behind them, holding her hand high.

ARCHER smugly nods at the SHERIFF as he stands before him.

SHERIFF OF YORK
 Is this petty thief the one you
 mean?

GWENETH
 Yes, Harold.

ARCHER
 With all due respect, Sheriff, I
 have to object to the use of the
 word *petty*.

The SHERIFF glances at a guard and jerks his head towards ARCHER. The guard punches ARCHER in the stomach. ARCHER doubles over.

ARCHER (cont'd)
 (breathlessly)
 Go ahead and use it if you like.

The SHERIFF steps forward and grabs ARCHER's chin.

SHERIFF OF YORK
 I know you. You're the one who took
 money from my cousin, but never
 delivered the weapons he purchased.

The SHERIFF roughly removes his hand. ARCHER smiles up at the SHERIFF.

ARCHER
 A misunderstanding.

(CONTINUED)

GWENETH
 (look at Archer)
 He brings back mysteries from the
 Orient, Harold. More than one.

ARCHER stands up straight, looking at her.

SHERIFF OF YORK
 What kind of *mysteries*?

ARCHER
 (quietly)
 Alchemy.

SHERIFF OF YORK
 Ah. You have the power of alchemy?

ARCHER
 It's not a power, my lord. It's a
 science.

The SHERIFF scoffs.

ARCHER
 (look out dreamily)
 A science of the East... but what
 it can do... brings power.

ARCHER looks down at the SHERIFF, who smiles slyly.

CUT TO:

387

(311R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP

387

MUCH is making supper. ALLAN comes in with a bundle of sticks and notices LITTLE JOHN is not in camp.

ALLAN
 Where's John?

Nobody answers.

ALLAN (cont'd)
 Is he not back yet?

MUCH shakes his head. TUCK crosses to MUCH with a carrot to peel.

TUCK
 No.

ALLAN places his hands on his hips.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN
 (sigh)
 Right. I'll find him.

ALLAN turns and leaves.

CUT TO:

388

(311) YORK - CASTLE - THE GREAT HALL

388

ARCHER stands behind a small table with a large pewter plate and a lit candle. Across from him GWENETH and the SHERIFF sit in tall-backed chairs, watching.

ARCHER
 Do we have the nail?

The guard behind him steps forward and hands him a nail. ARCHER takes a step round the table and holds it up. He goes to GWENETH, puts one foot on the dais, leaning his elbow on his knee, and hands it to her. She takes it and hands it to the SHERIFF.

GWENETH
 Harold.

The SHERIFF takes it and examines it, sighs disinterestedly, then hands it back to her. GWENETH passes it back to ARCHER, who takes it from her.

ARCHER
 My lady.

ARCHER strides back behind the table and sets the nail on the plate. He takes a handful of black powder from a small bag, sifts it over the nail, then dusts off his hands.

ARCHER (cont'd)
 Now, this can be only the smallest
 of demonstrations due to the
 limited amount of magic powder I
 have with me at the moment.

The SHERIFF sits up, skeptical but smiling indulgently.

SHERIFF OF YORK
 Of course.

ARCHER picks up a taper and holds it in the candle flame to light it. He holds it up, then sets the tip on the nail. After a brief moment, the powder explodes with a cloud of smoke. He quickly picks up the nail with his left hand and drops a pyrite nugget in its place before the smoke clears.

(CONTINUED)

GWENETH claps. ARCHER holds up the nugget. The SHERIFF stands and steps forward, amazed. GWENETH follows him. The SHERIFF takes the nugget as GWENETH peeks over his shoulder.

GWENETH

I told you.

SHERIFF OF YORK

You can make more gold?

ARCHER

Not if I'm a prisoner.

CUT TO:

389 (311) MARKETPLACE

389

ROBIN and GISBORNE wind their way through the busy and narrow marketplace on foot, looking around.

MERCHANT (VO)

Sir, have a look at this!

ROBIN points at something to his left as they pass through. They come to a side gate of the castle.

GUARD (VO)

As far as I know, yep. I'm doing the rounds again in five minutes, so I'll check them. I need to get in the gap, sorry.

GISBORNE peeks out at the guards, then quickly ducks back as ROBIN takes a more cautious look. There are three guards covering two exits. A church bell tolls in the background.

GISBORNE

The place is heavily fortified.
There's guards on every entrance.

ROBIN looks at the gates again.

ROBIN

I know. I think the only way in is to get invited.

GISBORNE

Even if we are, how do we get into the dungeon?

ROBIN frowns and shakes his head, not knowing at the moment

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
(thinking)

Hmm.

CUT TO:

390 (311) CASTLE - CORRIDOR - NEAR SHERIFF'S QUARTERS 390

ARCHER is led down the corridor by a lone guard.

ARCHER
It's a bit insulting he doesn't
trust me to come back with the
powder... on my own.

YORK PRISON GUARD
(stop. Turn around)
Why don't you just shut up?

ARCHER punches him hard. The guard is turned round from the blow and falls back into ARCHER's arms. ARCHER drags him into an alcove and sets him down, then shakes the pain from his hand.

ARCHER
He was right not to trust me.

ARCHER starts to walk down the way he came and runs into GWENETH.

GWENETH
Archer.

ARCHER stops.

GWENETH (cont'd)
I was rather hoping you'd take me
with you.

ARCHER
Oh, Gweneth.

ARCHER turns her round.

ARCHER (cont'd)
I am so grateful for everything
you've done for me...

He looks back, hearing the SHERIFF's voice behind them.

SHERIFF OF YORK (V)
Are you sure the gold was
counterfeit?

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER
 ...but I think we should probably
 try to resist each other. Don't
 you?

ARCHER tries to leave but GWENETH pulls him the other way.

SHERIFF OF YORK (VO)
 Lock the gates! Lock the gates!

GWENETH
 Quick, quick! Archer, quick! Here!

GWENETH pulls him along the corridor.

CUT TO:

391 (311) SHERIFF'S QUARTERS

391

GWENETH pulls ARCHER in to stand at the foot of the bed. She puts her hands on ARCHER's face.

GWENETH
 We'll be safe in here.

GWENETH kisses ARCHER as he glances at the door.

GWENETH (cont'd)
 Archer.

ARCHER gives in and pulls her down onto the bed, kissing her. The SHERIFF comes down the corridor, his voice sounding from outside.

SHERIFF OF YORK (VO)
 Gweneth! It's not real gold!

GWENETH flails her arms as she gets up in a hurry and pulls down her skirt. The SHERIFF enters, flanked by two guards.

SHERIFF OF YORK
 The man's a fraud...

The SHERIFF sees the two of them on the bed.

SHERIFF OF YORK (cont'd)
 (quietly)
 No.

GWENETH puts a hand to her stomach.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF OF YORK

Oh, no, Gweneth. How could you?

The SHERIFF looks at ARCHER, who remains still but is thinking quickly how to get out of this.

SHERIFF OF YORK (cont'd)

I understand why you were so desperate to have him pardoned. I loved you so much.

GWENETH looks ashamed. Momentary pause.

SHERIFF OF YORK (cont'd)

Take them both to the dungeon...

One guard takes a step forward.

SHERIFF OF YORK (cont'd)

...and prepare them to be put to death.

GWENETH glares at her husband. ARCHER slowly raises his head, at a loss as to how to get out of this. Momentary pause.

SHERIFF OF YORK (cont'd)

How could you do this to me?

ARCHER thinks of an idea.

ARCHER

She didn't.

He pushes himself down to sit with GWENETH at the foot of the bed.

ARCHER (cont'd)

It was my fault. I forced her into the bedchamber and she resisted. My lord, she fought me off, and then you entered and like the coward I am, I tried to hide.

ARCHER jumps off the bed to kneel at the SHERIFF's feet and takes his hand.

ARCHER (cont'd)

And I beg your for...

The SHERIFF pulls his hand away.

ARCHER (cont'd)
...forgiveness.

The SHERIFF looks at GWENETH. ARCHER looks back at her, twitching his eyebrows at her, encouraging her to go along.

GWENETH
Er... it's true.

ARCHER bows his head at the SHERIFF as he passes him to get to GWENETH. The SHERIFF chokes back a sob and sniffles.

SHERIFF OF YORK
Of course, it is. I never doubted
you for one moment.

The SHERIFF takes GWENETH into his arms. ARCHER sighs and looks back at GWENETH. GWENETH mouths the following to ARCHER.

GWENETH
Thank you.

ARCHER smiles sheepishly. The SHERIFF releases GWENETH and turns to ARCHER.

SHERIFF OF YORK
I sentence this fraud to be put to
death tomorrow.

ARCHER's eyes widen.

SHERIFF OF YORK
He will be boiled in oil before his
head is removed from his body and
his entrails as well as another
part of his body are fed to the
pigs.

ARCHER
(bit meekly)
I don't suppose there's any...

SHERIFF OF YORK
Take him away.

The two guards pull ARCHER to his feet and lead him away.

JUMP TO:

392 (311R) SHERWOOD

392

LITTLE JOHN walks through the trees. He stops, sighs, and looks around. ALLAN sees him and calls to him.

ALLAN

John!

LITTLE JOHN turns around.

ALLAN (cont'd)

Come on.

LITTLE JOHN starts walking away.

ALLAN (cont'd)

Hey?! John?!

ALLAN runs to catch him up.

ALLAN (cont'd)

What you doing? I've been looking everywhere for you.

LITTLE JOHN walks on silently.

ALLAN (cont'd)

John?

LITTLE JOHN

I don't want company.

ALLAN puts the back of his hand to LITTLE JOHN's chest.

ALLAN

Hey, come back...

LITTLE JOHN

(roar)

I've had enough!

ALLAN stares at him.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)

Robin betrayed us!

ALLAN

What?

LITTLE JOHN

He's had a personal stake in this the whole time. He should have told us. If he's been hiding this, what else has he been hiding!

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN walks on, and ALLAN catches him up again.

ALLAN

We all have a past John. Robin's is just a little more... complicated.

LITTLE JOHN

Leave me be.

ALLAN

Okay.

ALLAN stays at his side.

LITTLE JOHN

Why are you walking beside me?

ALLAN

Maybe we're going to the same place, eh?

LITTLE JOHN

Maybe we are. You still don't need to walk beside me. There are many roads to the same place, Allan.

ALLAN

Yes, there are. We all believe the same things, John.

LITTLE JOHN

Well, I don't know that I do.

ALLAN

Well, I know we do, eh?

ALLAN stops LITTLE JOHN.

ALLAN

I know we need you around, all right? To remind us who it is we're fighting for here. All right? We're lost without you.

LITTLE JOHN sighs, thinking it over.

LITTLE JOHN

No. Go away!

LITTLE JOHN walks on.

LITTLE JOHN
 (mutter)
 Leave me alone.

ALLAN lets him go, then turns round, wondering what to do next, and goes back the way he came. After a moment, they both hear a horse neigh. LITTLE JOHN looks behind him and his faces falls as he sees ISABELLA on a horse with several guards behind her.

LITTLE JOHN
 (mutter)
 Of all the people...

LITTLE JOHN starts to run. ISABELLA sees him.

ISABELLA
 After him!

ISABELLA and the guards gallop after him. ALLAN hides behind a tree, watching. LITTLE JOHN runs but is soon overtaken.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
 So tell me, where were you going,
 John? To your camp?

LITTLE JOHN is on his knees with five swords pointed at his neck. He doesn't answer.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
 Or to York?
 (chuckle evilly)
 I'll deal with him when I get back.
 Take him to the castle and lock him
 up.

GUARD
 On your feet!

The guards pull LITTLE JOHN to his feet.

CUT TO:

393 (311R) YORK - TAVERN

393

ROBIN and GISBORNE sit at a table in the corner with their backs to the wall, eating.

GISBORNE
 So we've got two fairly difficult
 problems.

ROBIN takes a drink from his cup.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE (cont'd)
 One, we don't know what he looks
 like.

GISBORNE puts a bit of chicken in his mouth. ROBIN swallows his ale.

 ROBIN
 We'll recognize him by his
 birthmark.

GISBORNE gives him a dark look.

 ROBIN (cont'd)
 Don't worry, we'll find him when we
 get there.

 GISBORNE
 Which brings us to problem two.

 MAN (IN BACKGROUND)
 Enough! That's it!

ROBIN and GISBORNE both suddenly sit back to avoid a chair thrown between them. They both yell in irritation back at the patrons.

 ROBIN / GISBORNE
 Oi!

They grab their cups from the table and stand up as two wrestling men fall into the table in front of theirs, knocking it over.

GISBORNE steps around their table, picks up one of the men and punches him with his cup as a roast chicken soars past his head.

ROBIN punches the other man with his cup as he is getting up.

They both duck behind the overturned table as the fight continues among the other patrons. Food, cups and plates are thrown indiscriminately.

 ROBIN
 I think I have a...

ROBIN ducks a flying cup

 ROBIN (cont'd)
 ...I have a plan.

GISBORNE sets his cup firmly on the table. ROBIN picks up his cup from the floor and sits down.

ROBIN

I will not leave you in the dungeons. You have my word.

The guards force their new prisoners out the door.

GISBORNE

You did last time.

The tavern is quiet now. Three guards stand near the door.

ROBIN

We rescued you.

GISBORNE

Eventually.

ROBIN

Isabella didn't make it easy. We got to you as soon we could.

GISBORNE

You cut it pretty close.

ROBIN

(flustered)

All right. I'll get myself arrested then.

GISBORNE

Now that sounds like a better plan.

ROBIN

And you come and get me out.

ROBIN picks up a loaf of bread from their table as GISBORNE stands up. To GISBORNE's surprise, ROBIN throws it at a guard, hitting him in the helmet. GISBORNE recovers quickly from the shock, smiles and pats ROBIN's shoulder.

GISBORNE

(flatly)

Good luck.

ROBIN gives GISBORNE an apprehensive sidelong glance as the guard thumps over. GISBORNE walks round the table with the intent of going to their room.

(CONTINUED)

GUARD
 (to Gisborne)
 Do you think that's funny?

GISBORNE walks past him with the smile still on his face.
 The two other guards grab him.

GUARD (cont'd)
 Right.

GISBORNE
 Get off me! Get off me!

GISBORNE looks to ROBIN for help. ROBIN smiles at the
 unintentional arrest of GISBORNE. GISBORNE glares at ROBIN
 as he is being dragged away.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
 Get off me!

CUT TO:

394 (311) SHERWOOD FOREST

394

Two mounted guards lead LITTLE JOHN down the road. His hands
 are tied together and tethered to a horse's saddle. They
 make their way slowly down the road.

ALLAN shadows them in the trees.

When LITTLE JOHN looks his way, ALLAN comes out from behind
 a tree and mimes falling to LITTLE JOHN. LITTLE JOHN, full
 of resentment and anger, mouths back.

LITTLE JOHN
 What? No!

ALLAN runs to keep up, and motions again, larger. LITTLE
 JOHN realizes he's not going to give up and rolls his eyes.
 He starts moaning in pain and stops. The rope pulls him to
 the ground.

GUARD 1
 You!

The guard dismounts.

LITTLE JOHN
 Oh, my leg.

GUARD 1
 Get up now!

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN runs ahead with a large stick for a weapon, intending to come up behind the second guard.

LITTLE JOHN

My leg's gone. You'll have to carry me.

LITTLE JOHN pats his knee

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)

My leg.

GUARD 1

On your feet, I said!

LITTLE JOHN

My leg's gone.

The guard pokes him with the sharp, pointed end of his banner.

GUARD 1

Get up!

LITTLE JOHN

All right, all right, all right!

LITTLE JOHN gets up. Guard 1 hits him on the back with the pole. ALLAN hits Guard 2 with the stick and pulls him off his horse. LITTLE JOHN takes the pole from Guard 1 and punches him with his tied fists. Guard 2 takes ALLAN's feet out from under him, giving himself time to stand. They both get up. Guard 2 draws his sword and faces ALLAN as LITTLE JOHN stabs the butt of the pole into Guard 1. Guard 2 brings down his sword. ALLAN blocks with both hands on the stick, but then Guard 2 knocks it away with another blow. ALLAN steps back from Guard 2's first swing, ducks the second and comes up wrapping his arm around Guard 2's neck, choking him as LITTLE JOHN surges forward and stabs him with the banner point. ALLAN throws Guard 2 aside, then holds his hands out at LITTLE JOHN.

ALLAN

What are you doing?

LITTLE JOHN drops the banner.

ALLAN (cont'd)

I was just going to finish him off!

LITTLE JOHN

(unconvinced)

Yeah, I saw.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN unties LITTLE JOHN's hands.

LITTLE JOHN
What are you doing? Risking your
life, no weapons?

ALLAN
I was just saving you.

LITTLE JOHN
Then you're a fool.

ALLAN
Ha! Maybe, but I had no choice.

ALLAN starts to bend down to drag off the guard, then stands
back up.

ALLAN (cont'd)
Hey, I'm your family, right?

LITTLE JOHN is silent a moment, then chuckles.

LITTLE JOHN
Yeah, you are.

ALLAN
(excited)
Right. Horses.

LITTLE JOHN
No. Isabella. She's on her way to
York. We need to get the others.
Come on!

LITTLE JOHN takes off for the camp. ALLAN takes a deep
breath, then jogs off after him.

CUT TO:

395 (311) YORK - CASTLE - DUNGEONS

395

GISBORNE is thrown into the same cell as ARCHER and the OLD
MAN.

YORK PRISON GUARD
In you go!

The other anonymous prisoners immediately start picking at
him as the cell door closes and is locked.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

Get off me! Get... Get off me!

GISBORNE gets to his hands and knees and kicks the men off.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Get off! I'll kill the next one
that touches me!

The OLD MAN crawls over and puts a hand on GISBORNE's leg.

OLD MAN

Kill me... please.

GISBORNE looks at him, frowning, having no intention of carrying out his threat on an old man.

OLD MAN (cont'd)

Put me out of me misery.

GISBORNE

No!

OLD MAN

(brightly)

You didn't bring any food, did ya?

CUT TO:

396

(311R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP

396

LITTLE JOHN and ALLAN run into camp.

MUCH

Ah!

MUCH claps. ALLAN checks behind them to see if they were followed.

LITTLE JOHN

Robin's in trouble. Isabella's on
her way to York with her guards.

MUCH scrambles to get weapons. TUCK walks calmly to LITTLE JOHN.

TUCK

She must know Robin and Guy are
there.

(think a moment)

Why else would she go?

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN
 (breathlessly)
 Yeah.

LITTLE JOHN nods. MUCH comes back with a makeshift longbow and a quiver of white-fletched arrows.

MUCH
 Well, we'll stop her before she gets to York.

ALLAN
 We'll have to cut across the forest then, try and get on the York road ahead of her.

MUCH
 Well, let's go.

MUCH heads out. ALLAN goes to get his bow and arrows. TUCK tilts his head at LITTLE JOHN, asking the silent question. LITTLE JOHN shakes his head at TUCK, a bit in shame, a bit in apology.

LITTLE JOHN
 He's family.

ALLAN returns and hands LITTLE JOHN his staff. TUCK pats LITTLE JOHN's arm.

TUCK
 I'm glad you came back, John.

TUCK follows ALLAN out. LITTLE JOHN looks around sentimentally, realizing it's home, then follows.

CUT TO:

397 (311) YORK - CASTLE - DUNGEONS

397

GISBORNE squats by the OLD MAN. ARCHER, chained by each wrist to the walls of an alcove, holds his head back in the shadows.

GISBORNE
 I'm looking for a man called Archer. Have you heard of him?

OLD MAN
 Might have. Why?

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE
He's my brother.

 OLD MAN
Brother?

 GISBORNE
Yeah. I've come to help him escape
from this godforsaken place.

 OLD MAN
 (a bit loudly)
Escape?

 GISBORNE
Shh.

 OLD MAN
 (whispering)
How will you escape?

 GISBORNE
Well, I haven't come alone. You
ever heard of Robin Hood?

 OLD MAN
 (make a pitiful face)
Brother...

 GISBORNE
You're my brother?

 OLD MAN
Prison ages a man.

 GISBORNE
No, you can't be Archer.

 OLD MAN
Who says?

 ALL PRISONERS
I'm Archer!

 GISBORNE
 (grumble sarcastically)
Great.

 ALL PRISONERS
I'm Archer!

A guard steps out.

(CONTINUED)

YORK PRISON GUARD

Quiet!

The prisoners are immediately silent. The guard steps back to his post.

ARCHER

I'm Archer.

GISBORNE looks back at him. ARCHER leans forward, putting his face in the dim light.

GISBORNE

Who's your father?

ARCHER

I don't know...
(slight sneer)
...and I don't care.

GISBORNE

(stand)
Your mother?

ARCHER

She died when I was a baby.

GISBORNE steps to him.

ARCHER (cont'd)

I was given away.

GISBORNE

I was told you have a birthmark.

ARCHER raises his eyes, then looks down at his chest. GISBORNE glances down, then pulls up ARCHER's shirt, revealing a red welt shaped like an arrowhead just below his right breast.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

You're my brother.

ARCHER

Who are you?

GISBORNE

Guy of Gisborne.

ARCHER

Well, that's an very expensive sounding name.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE
 (chuckle grimly)
 I've come to get you out of here.

ARCHER
 How?

CUT TO:

398 (311) MARKETPLACE

398

ROBIN strides around a corner, putting a seed into his mouth, and happens to come across two men in expensive clothes exchanging a fat purse in the street. ROBIN steps back behind the corner and watches them, putting another seed into his mouth.

MERCHANT
 Pleasure doing business with you.

The men shake hands.

MERCHANT (cont'd)
 Thank you.

The Merchant, wearing a striped coat with a fur collar, shakes the purse in his hand. ROBIN turns his head to spit out a hull as the Merchant's customer leaves. The Merchant checks the purse's contents before going inside his home.

ROBIN looks round him, then makes his way towards the door. The door closes. ROBIN stands on the doorstep and checks round him again, then opens the door.

MERCHANT (VO)
 Who are you?

We hear the sound of a punch to the jaw.

MERCHANT (VO) (cont'd)
 Oh!

We hear a thud on the floor.

The door opens and ROBIN steps out in the fine coat holding the purse. He ties the purse to his belt, then pulls the fur collar out properly and smiles mischievously, heading in the direction of the castle.

CUT TO:

399 (311) CASTLE - THE GREAT HALL

399

ROBIN stands before the SHERIFF, who is seated at a small table in front of the fireplace. ROBIN's stolen purse sits on the edge of the table in front of him.

ROBIN

(posh accent)

Well, the truth is, Gisborne just had a bit too much to drink. And for that I am sure he is profoundly sorry.

The SHERIFF says his line sternly, not willing to give in.

SHERIFF OF YORK

An assault on one of the Sheriff's men is an assault on the Sheriff.

ROBIN

Oh, believe me, I know.)

ROBIN inhales sharply, then frowns at the silver coins in his hand.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Would this be enough to... salve the indignity of this terrible assault?

ROBIN slaps a stack of at least twenty coins onto the table. The SHERIFF looks at the coins, then raises his eyebrows, staring down at the money in sincere awe.

SHERIFF OF YORK

It is but a faint memory now, sir.

ROBIN winks and smiles at him.

SHERIFF OF YORK

I thank you for your... sympathy.

The SHERIFF looks at the guard standing near his table.

SHERIFF OF YORK (cont'd)

Escort this gentleman to the dungeons so that he may collect his malfeasant friend.

The SHERIFF motions him away.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
Thank you very much.

ROBIN smiles and nods, picking up the purse, and follows the guard as another announces the next visitor.

GUARD (VO)
An emissary from the Sheriff of Nottingham.

Upon hearing the words, ROBIN turns up the collar of his coat and holds his face away from Isabella's Guard, who is looking down and adjusting his uniform, and passes by unrecognized. Near the door ROBIN slows his pace, watching and listening as long as he can.

CUT TO:

400 (311R) SHERWOOD FOREST

400

TUCK, LITTLE JOHN, ALLAN and MUCH run through the trees towards the road.

TUCK
Come on! We must hurry. Come on!

They run over a rise and stop when they hear a horse neigh. They see ISABELLA below on the road in front of them. TUCK nods at LITTLE JOHN, who leads them along the rise, shadowing the road.

CUT TO:

401 (311) YORK - CASTLE - DUNGEONS

401

GISBORNE paces, waiting impatiently for ROBIN. A guard comes down the stairs.

YORK PRISON GUARD
Gisborne! Visitor.

The guard lets ROBIN into the cell.

GISBORNE
He's over here.

GISBORNE leads ROBIN to ARCHER.

ROBIN
We have to hurry. One of Isabella's men's here.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN stands in front of ARCHER, looks him up and down, then nods. ARCHER barely looks at ROBIN. ROBIN puts his left hand on the side of ARCHER's head.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Brother.

ARCHER
All of a sudden, I have so many
brothers.

ROBIN glances at GISBORNE.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Who are you?

ROBIN
I'm Robin Hood.

ARCHER
(raise eyebrows)
Really?

ROBIN nods. ARCHER looks him up and down.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Robin Hood really exists.

ROBIN's eyes glance at GISBORNE.

ROBIN
Just... stay here.

ROBIN turns and walks to the guard waiting in the open door.

ROBIN (cont'd)
How much to take him with us?

ROBIN pulls up the purse tied to his belt and reaches in.

YORK PRISON GUARD
How much you have?

OLD MAN
I'd be cheaper.

The OLD MAN looks at ARCHER and chuckles. ARCHER waits in amused anticipation to see what will happen. GISBORNE slowly steps towards the guard. ROBIN drops a few silver coins into the guard's outstretched hand.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
How about that?

ROBIN leans on the doorjamb.

YORK PRISON GUARD
Er...
(shake head)
Nah. He's meant to die tomorrow and
I think the Sheriff was, you know,
looking forward to it.

ROBIN
Right. Of course he is.

ROBIN drops three large gold coins into his hand.

YORK PRISON GUARD
I'll have to leave York.
(inhale sharply)
The missus won't be happy.

ROBIN
(giggle)
Yeah, the missus. All right.

ROBIN drops several more silver coins into his hand.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Right.

GISBORNE is now standing unnoticed behind the guard.

YORK PRISON GUARD
(look up at Robin)
Nah, I'm sorry. Can't help you.

ROBIN suddenly punches the guard. GISBORNE catches him and drags him back into the cell.

CUT TO:

402 (311) THE GREAT HALL

402

The SHERIFF sits at his table, talking with Isabella's Guard.

ISABELLA'S GUARD
Robin Hood and Guy of Gisborne,
they're both dangerous criminals.

The SHERIFF thinks the name sounds sorta familiar. He says the name thinking.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF OF YORK
 Gisborne...
 (look aside)
 ...Gisborne... Gisborne...

CUT TO:

403 (311) DUNGEONS

403

ROBIN
 We need to go.

GISBORNE and ROBIN go out the door. ARCHER follows, frowning at the OLD MAN as he passes, then stops.

ARCHER
 No!

ROBIN and GISBORNE stop.

ARCHER (cont'd)
 Either we all go...

ARCHER stands resolutely in front of the OLD MAN with his hands on his hips.

ARCHER (cont'd)
 ...or none of us go.

ROBIN eyes dance a moment, looking round at the prisoners, then shrugs.

ROBIN
 Fine.

ROBIN tosses the keys to the OLD MAN, who cackles in glee.

JUMP TO:

404 (311R) STAIRS

404

GISBORNE runs up the stairs from the dungeons. ROBIN, having left his stolen coat in the dungeons, comes up behind him.

ROBIN
 Do you know where you're going?

GISBORNE
 Not really, no. Do you?

GISBORNE peeks around the corner.

(CONTINUED)

GUARD (VO)
 (from a distance)
 Come on!

ROBIN
 (to prisoners behind)
 Get back!

ROBIN motions them to the side.

GUARD (VO)
 This way!

ROBIN and GISBORNE duck behind the doorjambs. A line of guards pass them. ROBIN checks to see if it's clear.

ROBIN
 Right, come on.

GISBORNE leads ROBIN and the prisoners out to the right. ARCHER is last, helping the OLD MAN up the stairs.

ARCHER
 Come on.

OLD MAN
 Go on without me.

ARCHER
 Come on, you old codger. I'm not leaving you behind.

GUARD (VO)
 (from a distance)
 Down here!

ARCHER stops in the doorway, listening, and hears the guards heading away.

ARCHER
 Come on.

He and the Old Man follow the others.

JUMP TO:

405 (311R) GREAT NORTH ROAD

405

ISABELLA leads two guards on horseback down the road. The gang wait to ambush her. ALLAN draws his bow, which has an arrow ready to go with a rope tied to it. LITTLE JOHN squats behind him holding the other end of the rope, which is anchored to a tree trunk. TUCK watches the road.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

Now?

TUCK holds his hand up to ALLAN.

TUCK

No. Hold it.

ISABELLA gallops closer.

ALLAN

Now?

TUCK

Hold it...

ISABELLA gallops closer.

ALLAN

Now?

TUCK

(through teeth)

Hold it.

ISABELLA passes them.

TUCK (cont'd)

Now!

ALLAN shoots the arrow into a tree across the road. LITTLE JOHN pulls it taut and it knocks the two guards off their horses. TUCK sprints to them.

ISABELLA stops her horse and looks back.

TUCK kicks a guard down again as he runs towards four more mounted guards galloping down the road. ALLAN runs in and engages a fallen guard with his dual swords as TUCK grabs the banner of a horseman to pull him off his mount and MUCH pulls off another. LITTLE JOHN yells at a guard on the ground.

LITTLE JOHN

Get off! Get off! Get off!

ALLAN blocks an overhead blow with both swords held together, then blocks with his left sword and punches the guard with his right fist. LITTLE JOHN knocks out the other fallen guard.

ISABELLA turns her horse around as the remaining horsemen run away. MUCH shoots an arrow at their retreating forms.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN sees ISABELLA about to charge. He puts his swords away and picks up his bow. He runs towards her with an arrow at the ready in his bow. ISABELLA draws her sword and starts her horse forward. ALLAN stops and draws as TUCK pats MUCH's back, watching the guards leave. ISABELLA gallops closer and closer. ALLAN lets his arrow fly. ISABELLA knocks the arrow away with her sword but the momentum causes her to fall from the horse. ALLAN throws his bow aside and starts towards ISABELLA, but TUCK holds him back.

TUCK

Wait!

ISABELLA gets up.

TUCK (cont'd)

Come on, wait.

ISABELLA runs off down the road, away from the gang and towards the two horses who stopped after their riders were knocked from their saddles.

TUCK (cont'd)

We have to get Guy and Robin away from York before she returns.

TUCK points at ISABELLA.

TUCK (cont'd)

Let's go.

ALLAN picks up his bow.

JUMP TO:

406 (311) YORK - CASTLE - INTERIOR CORRIDOR.

406

ARCHER follows GISBORNE down the corridor.

ARCHER

So you're a noble who's now an outlaw with no money.

GISBORNE reaches a corner and peers around it.

GISBORNE

Yep.

ARCHER

Can you explain the point of that?

(CONTINUED)

GUARD

Come on!

Two guards charge before GISBORNE can answer. GISBORNE blocks with his sword. ARCHER spins and kicks one of them, then grabs GISBORNE's foe's hand and forces his fingers back from the hilt with a crunching sound, then drives the sword behind the guard's back and into the toe of his boot before kicking him to the floor. GISBORNE and ROBIN are amazed.

ROBIN

Where did you learn that? The Orient?

ARCHER

Nah.

ARCHER spins the guard's sword from hand to hand and catches it deftly.

ARCHER (cont'd)

That's pure English.

ARCHER steps forward to GISBORNE, glancing back at ROBIN, who is checking on the prisoners behind them.

ARCHER (cont'd)

(to Gisborne)

He doesn't, by any chance, have any money, does he?

ROBIN

(irritatedly)

No, I don't.

GISBORNE raises his eyebrows and nods towards ROBIN with a "what he said" look.

ROBIN (cont'd)

I gave up all my family's wealth to help the poor.

ARCHER

Of course you did.

ARCHER points to the side of the corridor.

ARCHER (cont'd)

Pull their bodies in there.

The Old Man motions the prisoners forward.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Come on.

The prisoners walk forward and some drag the guards to the side.

ARCHER

Come on. Let's keep moving.

The Old Man jumps over a body to catch up ARCHER, who leads them down the corridor.

ARCHER (cont'd)

Both of you are mad. I know what poor is. I grew up that way. If either of you had... There is no honour in being poor, and there's no shame in it. If you'd grown up with nothing you'd know that. And you wouldn't apologize for wanting to have a little money...

ARCHER stops and faces GISBORNE.

ARCHER (cont'd)

...for dreaming of something better than you've got.

GISBORNE angrily pushes ARCHER into the wall, pointing his sword at him.

ROBIN

(admonishingly)

Guy!

GISBORNE

(snap at Archer)

You know nothing about my life... about what I've endured! I envy you. Better no family, rich or poor, than a leper father and a mother...

GISBORNE stops himself. ARCHER glances at ROBIN, who looks back and forth between them.

ARCHER

My mother what?

GISBORNE looks at ROBIN, who is glaring a warning at him, then lowers his sword and pulls his hand off ARCHER's shoulder. GISBORNE finishes the sentence with an alternate thought then the one he was about to use.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE
 ...killed in a fire.

Tears start to well up in ARCHER'S eyes.

 ARCHER
 What was her name?

The prisoners footsteps sound behind them.

 GISBORNE
 Ghislaine.

ARCHER nods sadly, fighting his emotions. The other prisoners, finished with their chore, catch them up. ROBIN steps between ARCHER and GISBORNE.

 ROBIN
 Come on. We have to keep moving.

GISBORNE follows him. The Old Man goes up to ARCHER, takes his arm and nods. They follow ROBIN. ROBIN stops at an intersection, intending to go right and GISBORNE passes him.

 GISBORNE
 This way.

ROBIN points to the right.

 ROBIN
 It's this way.

ARCHER leans between two columns, waiting for them to play it out.

 GISBORNE
 Don't argue with me.

 ROBIN
 Guy, it's this way.

 ARCHER
 Have either of you been in this castle before?

 ROBIN / GISBORNE
 No.

ARCHER sighs and looks up, then mumbles sarcastically.

 ARCHER
 Great!

GUARD (VO)
(from a distance)
Come on! Quick!

ARCHER
This way!

GUARD (VO)
Find them!

ARCHER points to the right and motions the prisoners to go first.

ROBIN
Come on!

ARCHER
Come on!

ARCHER, ROBIN, and GISBORNE go last.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Stop! Stop.

They all stop and ARCHER turns to ROBIN, a bit panicked.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Where's the old man? Where is he?

ROBIN
I don't know.

The Old Man shuffles down the previous corridor.

GUARD
You! You! Prisoner!

GISBORNE holds his sword ready. The Old Man holds his hands in the air as several guards come up behind him. GISBORNE and ROBIN dash forward to hide behind a column.

OLD MAN
Please. Please don't shoot.

ROBIN motions for the Old Man to come to him, but the guards shoot three arrows into his back. ARCHER surges forward.

ARCHER
No!

ROBIN and GISBORNE hold him back. The Old Man falls onto his face, dead. ARCHER breaks free of his brothers.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER (cont'd)

Get off!

He goes to stand over the Old Man, looking down at him. He looks up at the guards, his temper rising, takes a deep breath and roars at them in rage. The guards are frightened and take off back down the corridor. ARCHER chases them.

ROBIN and GISBORNE follow. ARCHER slams himself into a guard. He blocks a sword twice, forcing the guard into the wall with the second block, then ROBIN and GISBORNE pull him away from the first guard, whom ROBIN engages. GISBORNE fights a third. The left-handed ARCHER steps in to take over for ROBIN, who spins away gracefully, his sword arm no longer hindered by the wall. GISBORNE elbows a guard charging by him in the back, then pops up and punches another as ROBIN faces the elbowed guard. He and ARCHER both kick him backwards. ARCHER holds up his sword and faces another guard. ROBIN motions him back.

ROBIN

Get back! Get back!

Two more guards attack ROBIN and GISBORNE. ARCHER kicks his back, then kicks him in the face. ROBIN punches one into the wall. ARCHER spins round ready to help him. Amid the chaos, Isabella's Guard turns the corner into the corridor.

ISABELLA'S GUARD

It's Robin Hood!

The trio have taken out all their adversaries. They turn and run back down the corridor.

ROBIN

This way!

GISBORNE

Go! Robin! Through here!

ARCHER

Robin, over here!

Isabella's Guard chases them. More York guards are behind him.

CONTINUE TO:

407 (311) THE GREAT HALL

407

ARCHER bursts through the doors to the Great Hall. The SHERIFF and more guards enter from the opposite end.

SHERIFF OF YORK

Guards!

GISBORNE, ARCHER and ROBIN slide to a stop on the wood floor. GISBORNE glances back and forth, holding his sword out, and sees they're trapped. Isabella's Guard and more York guards block the exit behind them. They are surrounded. On the balcony above them four archers appear and draw their bows.

ISABELLA'S GUARD

(to archers)

Stop! Take them alive!

The guards from the corridor take away the other escaped prisoners as Isabella's Guard turns back to the trio and holds his sword out at them.

ISABELLA'S GUARD

The Sheriff of Nottingham is offering 100 crowns each...

Isabella's guard points at ROBIN and GISBORNE as he says their name.

ISABELLA'S GUARD

for Robin Hood and Guy of Gisborne.

The SHERIFF stands with GWENETH at the opposite end of the hall.

SHERIFF OF YORK

It might be worth more than that to watch them die.

ARCHER whispers quietly, eagerly to GISBORNE.

ARCHER

I think we've got a good chance.

GISBORNE

Well, then we should give ourselves up.

ARCHER

Give ourselves up?

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE
Yeah, live to fight another day.

 ARCHER
No.

ARCHER slides himself behind ROBIN.

 ARCHER
That's not how I do business.

ARCHER pulls ROBIN's knife from its sheath and holds it to ROBIN's throat.

 GISBORNE
 (to Archer)
Stop!

GISBORNE, distracted by ARCHER's unanticipated move, has his sword knocked away by Isabella's Guard.

 ISABELLA'S GUARD
Stop!

Two guards seize GISBORNE.

 GISBORNE
Get off me!

ROBIN tries to pull himself free. ARCHER whispers in his ear.

 ARCHER
The best chance we have is to work together. Understood? Don't struggle.

ROBIN stops squirming.

 ARCHER (cont'd)
 (to Isabella's Guard)
Gentlemen! I offer you Robin Hood for my freedom. He is valuable, I am not. And it'd be a shame for me to kill him since he's worth so much more to you alive.

 SHERIFF OF YORK
Guards!

The longbowmen on the balcony draw. Isabella's Guard turns round and points to them with his sword.

ISABELLA'S GUARD

Don't shoot!

ARCHER drags ROBIN towards the opposite door.

ARCHER

(to Robin)

See? We're making progress.

GISBORNE watches helplessly. The SHERIFF steps forward and knocks the sword from ROBIN's hand. Isabella's Guard goes to the Sheriff's side.

ISABELLA'S GUARD

Allow me, Sheriff, to give the gift of Robin Hood and Guy of Gisborne to the Sheriff of Nottingham on your behalf.

ARCHER

(to Robin)

I see why the Sheriff wants you, but Gisborne?

ROBIN

The Sheriff is his sister.

ARCHER

(confused)

His sister?

ISABELLA'S GUARD

The Sheriff covets them both, my lord.

ROBIN

(hiss)

We're supposed to be working together.

ARCHER

(to Robin)

Well, I changed my mind.

ARCHER addresses the SHERIFF.

ARCHER (cont'd)

Do we have a deal, Sheriff? I won't kill Robin Hood and you won't kill me.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF OF YORK
(think a moment)

Yes.

GWENETH smiles slightly.

SHERIFF OF YORK
It's a deal.

ROBIN
You're going to betray me like
this?

ARCHER
I have a sister who's the Sheriff
of Nottingham. She's rich, she's
powerful, and she hates you. This
really isn't taking me a lot of
thought.

ARCHER addresses the guards behind him brandishing his
sword.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Out of the way!

The guards step aside and ARCHER drags ROBIN into the
doorway.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Nice meeting you.

ARCHER pushes ROBIN at Isabella's Guard and turns around.

SHERIFF OF YORK
Seize him!

ARCHER opens the door behind him and runs into three
halberds pointing straight at him.

GUARDS
Stop!

SHERIFF OF YORK
Prepare them all to die.

The SHERIFF nods at Isabella's Guard, who is holding the
point of his sword at ROBIN's chest. GWENETH stares sadly at
ARCHER.

SHERIFF OF YORK (cont'd)
The Sheriff of Nottingham can keep
her money. I'll send her their
severed heads...

(CONTINUED)

GWENETH gives the SHERIFF a sidelong look of horror.

SHERIFF OF YORK (cont'd)
...as a gift.

ARCHER stares at GWENETH plaintively as he is taken away.

JUMP TO:

408 (311R) TOWN SQUARE

408

A long beam stretches across one side of the square. Three nooses hang from it. Under it are ARCHER (on a brown horse), ROBIN (on a white horse) and GISBORNE (on a brown horse). They are each sitting backwards on a horse with their hands tied behind them.

GISBORNE
Well, I'm certainly glad I came to
rescue my brother, aren't you?

ROBIN glares at him.

ARCHER
This is not my fault.

GISBORNE
No? Whose fault is it then?

ARCHER
I didn't ask you to come.

GISBORNE glares angrily at ARCHER. A fanfare sounds. The SHERIFF and GWENETH arrive to the cheers and applause of the townsfolk. The gang filter their way through the crowd. The SHERIFF leads GWENETH up onto a platform. GWENETH has her eyes on ARCHER in between polite nods to her admirers. ARCHER acknowledges her with a look. The SHERIFF kisses GWENETH's hand and she sits in her chair.

TUCK
Much, John, take the right-hand
side. Allan, left.

The SHERIFF points and a drum roll starts.

ARCHER
The drums aren't generally thought
to be a good thing.

ROBIN glances at him. GWENETH hands a green purse to a page and gives him quiet instructions, pointing across the square. He nods and leaves. A guard puts a noose around

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE's neck. GISBORNE starts to shake and breathe quickly, frightened at the prospect of death. ROBIN looks up at him, surprised at his reaction and also feeling sorry for him. GWENETH, after catching ARCHER's eye again, nods at the page. ARCHER sees the page by a fire-bowl and nods understandingly at GWENETH.

SHERIFF OF YORK

Proceed with the first execution!

GWENETH looks at the page, who nods, then pulls ARCHER's small bag of "magic powder" out of the purse, tosses it into the fire and runs. The black powder explodes loudly, generating a large cloud of smoke. ARCHER jumps off his horse. ROBIN immediately notices he's gone. TUCK fights his way through the crowd to ROBIN. ROBIN slides off his horse. TUCK catches him and turns ROBIN's back to him.

ROBIN

Get them off! Get them off!

TUCK carefully puts his sword under ROBIN's ropes and cuts through them.

ROBIN (cont'd)

This way! Go!

ALLAN watches ROBIN's escape, holding a makeshift bow. ARCHER sees it and runs to him, then stands next to him, appraising the situation.

On the other side of the square, MUCH holds up an arrow for ROBIN, who takes it and MUCH's thin longbow.

GISBORNE remains still amid the chaos, visibly scared that the horse will bolt and literally leave him hanging.

ARCHER takes the bow and arrow from ALLAN. ROBIN and ARCHER both aim and shoot at the same time. Both arrows land in the same place on the beam, severing GISBORNE's rope.

GISBORNE looks up with a gasp. ROBIN's jaw drops in amazement at the sight of two arrows and looks across the way to see ARCHER with ALLAN's bow. ARCHER looks at ROBIN. TUCK grabs ROBIN's shoulders.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Let's go! Let's go!

ARCHER smirks at ROBIN, then nods to ALLAN and leaves. ALLAN stares after him.

GISBORNE frees his hands and jumps off the horse.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN, near GISBORNE, blocks the sword of one guard and knocks him upside with the butt of his staff, then a second guard jumps over the first one, forcing LITTLE JOHN to block him. LITTLE JOHN punches him, but then gets punched by the first.

GISBORNE sees LITTLE JOHN being overpowered.

GISBORNE

John!

GISBORNE runs over, ducks a sword, grabs the guard's arm, kicks and punches him in one fluid motion, then helps LITTLE JOHN to his feet.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

All right?

LITTLE JOHN

Yeah.

GISBORNE runs off. LITTLE JOHN follows him out.

ARCHER, meanwhile, has retrieved his Japanese katana and runs through the town, pushing people out of his way. He cuts through a building and sees a horse tethered to a railing beyond it. He smiles, runs to the horse and unties it. GWENETH comes up behind him.

GWENETH

Take me with you, please!

ARCHER's face falls. He turns to GWENETH.

ARCHER

Gweneth...

GWENETH

I'm begging you!

ARCHER

You have to stop doing this.

GWENETH

I want to come.

ARCHER

You can't.

Isabella's Guard comes up behind ARCHER, grabs his arm, turns him round and punches him to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

GWENETH

No! Leave him alone!

GWENETH grabs Isabella's Guard, but he pushes her down as ARCHER tries to sit up.

ARCHER

How dare you...

Isabella's Guard kicks him back down, then puts his foot on his chest, draws his sword and puts the point at his chest, too. GWENETH sits up.

ISABELLA'S GUARD

Where is Robin Hood and Guy of Gisborne? Tell me or die.

ARCHER

(smirk)

I don't know.

ISABELLA'S GUARD

Then you die.

The guard raises his sword up, hands over his head.

GWENETH

He's behind you.

ISABELLA'S GUARD

(look at Gweneth)

Well, you think I'm a fool?

ROBIN

Yes.

Isabella's Guard turns around to see ROBIN standing behind him with MUCH's bow drawn at him. Before he can make another move ROBIN shoots him in the heart with enough force to push him into the wall. ARCHER hops over the railing to face ROBIN as GISBORNE and the gang assemble behind him. ROBIN turns to the gang.

ROBIN (cont'd)

This is my brother, and this is my family.

ARCHER stares at the ragtag group.

GISBORNE

Look, we need your help. We know you have weapons and we need them.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER
(smile knowingly)
My weapons are for sale. Do you
have money?

GISBORNE
We just risked our lives for you,
and you betrayed us.

GISBORNE points at him.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
You owe us.

ROBIN
Archer... I want you to join us. I
want you to join us in our fight
against Prince John.

ARCHER
I'm flattered. But I have my own
plans.

ROBIN looks grimly at GISBORNE.

ARCHER (cont'd)
And they don't include anyone else.

GISBORNE and LITTLE JOHN turn to go.

GWENETH
Archer, please, take me with you.

ARCHER holds her face and gives her a long kiss.

ARCHER
Gweneth, thank you for everything
you've done for me. I don't deserve
a woman like you.

ARCHER mounts his stolen horse (the white one that Gisborne rode to York) and rides off. Leaving GWENETH shocked and hurt. GISBORNE turns to watch him go, frowning.

GISBORNE
He stole my horse.

ROBIN looks at GISBORNE, holding back a laugh.

JUMP TO:

409 (311) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - COURTYARD

409

ISABELLA stands by the SHERIFF of York. She looks down as he pulls a cloth off Isabella's Guard's dead face. ISABELLA sighs in exasperation. The SHERIFF of York hands her an arrow.

SHERIFF OF YORK

He was killed by Robin Hood's
arrow.

ISABELLA takes the arrow.

SHERIFF OF YORK

Both Hood and Gisborne escaped.

(sneer)

I would thank you to keep a tighter
rein on your affairs...

(with contempt)

...Sheriff.

The SHERIFF of York leaves. ISABELLA frowns and breaks the arrow in two, then throws the pieces down. She sighs and covers the dead man's face again.

JUMP TO:

410 (311) GREAT NORTH ROAD - TOLL HOUSE

410

ARCHER approaches on Gisborne's white horse and stops at the gate. LIPSCOMB hears the horse approaching and comes out as ARCHER stops at the gate.

ARCHER

Is this the road to Nottingham?

LIPSCOMB nods and holds out his hand, rubbing his fingers together. ARCHER turns the horse round, gallops for several yards, then turns the horse round again, rears and jumps over the gate.

JUMP TO:

411 SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP

411

The gang all arrive back at camp. They drop their weapons and sit down.

GISBORNE

Well that was a wasted trip.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

Think we'll ever see Archer again?

ROBIN

I'd bet on it.

All look at him.

ROBIN

When he found out his sister was the Sheriff of Nottingham, he couldn't wait to get out York.

GISBORNE

You think he'll go to Isabella.

ROBIN

Yes. He thinks there's money in it. He doesn't know that Isabella doesn't know he exists.

GISBORNE smiles.

GISBORNE

I'd love to see the look on her face when he shows up and calls her sister.

ROBIN

We might just have to break him out again.

ALLAN

At least this time it will be out of a castle you both know your way around.

ROBIN and GISBORNE both pick up something and throw it at ALLAN. ALLAN ducks.

JUMP TO:

412

(312R) SHERWOOD FOREST - GREAT NORTH ROAD

412

ROBIN puts his ear to the ground and listens. He hears a single horse galloping down the road. He chuckles and gets up. He readies an arrow, pulls out a second one from his quiver and readies it beside the first. He draws and aims.

The horse neighs. ROBIN draws and shoots. The arrows sail and land in front of the horse, spooking it. It rears and bucks off its rider. GISBORNE immediately stands over him with his sword, turns him over and pulls the message from his belt.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

I'll take that.

GISBORNE hands the parchment to TUCK. ROBIN walks over to them.

ROBIN

Tie him up, then.

ALLAN flips the messenger back onto his face, whips out a piece of rope and hands it to GISBORNE. MUCH leads the horse over to ROBIN as TUCK reads the message.

TUCK

It's from Isabella to Prince John.

TUCK reads the message.

TUCK

"My Prince, I understand the urgency of your request. Richard returns from the Crusades within the month.

ROBIN turns his head, distressed at what he's hearing.

TUCK

"Troops loyal to him await his return in Loughborough. We must be ready."

ALLAN

Richard... King Richard?

MUCH

The King's coming home.

ROBIN steps away from the gang, thinking.

ROBIN

Read the rest.

ALLAN leads the tied-up messenger to his horse.

TUCK

"You asked for three hundred men, food and supplies. I will dispatch them at sunset to join with your northern forces in Doncaster."

ROBIN

(grimace)

So where's Isabella got three hundred men from?

(CONTINUED)

TUCK

"England will soon be yours."

ROBIN, leans on his bow, and addresses the messenger.

ROBIN

You give the Sheriff this message.

ALLAN pats the horse's rump.

ALLAN

Go on.

The horse walks down the road with the messenger riding backwards, his hands tied to the saddle.

ROBIN

England will never be a slave to
Prince John, not while Robin Hood
fights for King Richard.

LITTLE JOHN calls from over the hill.

LITTLE JOHN

Robin!

TUCK and ROBIN run up the hill. GISBORNE, ALLAN, and MUCH follow.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)

They've taken them!

ROBIN and TUCK come over the rise.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)

They took them!

ROBIN

Who?

LITTLE JOHN

I was in Clun. The Sheriff's
soldiers. They've taken all the
men!

GISBORNE

How many?

LITTLE JOHN

I don't know. Must have been at
least a hundred.

MUCH yells from a nearby ridge.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH

Robin! Same in Nettlestone! The Sheriff's guard came and just carted them off. Crops and livestock, too.

TUCK

A hundred from Clun, a hundred from Nettlestone.

GISBORNE

They'll go to Locksley next.

ROBIN

(to Much)

Get to Locksley!

JUMP TO:

413 (312R) LOCKSLEY

413

Soldiers are in Locksley, rounding up men, food and livestock. ROBIN stands over the ridge of a thatched roof, pulls an arrow from his quiver, and shoots a guard on a horse chasing a small group of men and boys. Those men already caught have been chained to the back of a wagon. BLAMIRE turns his horse around and immediately knows who's to blame for the commotion.

BLAMIRE

Hood!

ROBIN shoots another guard coming out of a house with more men, then he swings his back foot over the ridge and slides down the roof to the ground while the gang charge in. LITTLE JOHN and TUCK race in between buildings.

LITTLE JOHN

Come on, then! Aaaargh!

GISBORNE, ALLAN, and MUCH run in from another direction, swords blazing, killing the guards. ROBIN defends himself using his bow like a staff. GISBORNE says his next line while racing through the village.

GISBORNE

Get all the men! Move! Get the men!

BLAMIRE

Pull back! Get the supplies to the castle!

(CONTINUED)

The gang herd the village men together, away from the guards. ROBIN shoots a soldier standing near the foot of the wagon.

BLAMIRE (cont'd)
 (mutter to self)
 Idiots!
 (yell to guards)
 Get the prisoners out of there!

ROBIN
 John! Break the chain!

LITTLE JOHN runs towards the wagon, chased by a guard. LITTLE JOHN turns to fight him off, but ROBIN shoots him instead, pulls another arrow from his quiver and points it at BLAMIRE. LITTLE JOHN pulls the chain off the wagon with a loud grunt.

LITTLE JOHN
 On the move! On the move!

The soldiers withdraw, riding or running out of the village. The gang gather the men together. ROBIN advances on BLAMIRE, still pointing his bow at him. BLAMIRE looks back menacingly at him before finally leaving.

ROBIN
 They're gone.
 (lower bow)
 Let's get these men to Sherwood!

ROBIN continues to stare after BLAMIRE a moment longer.

JUMP TO:

414 (312) NOTTINGHAM - MARKETPLACE

414

ARCHER, armed with his sword in its scabbard and his katana in the baldric over his shoulder, walks through the marketplace. He is passed by the messenger, who is still tied and riding backwards on his horse. ARCHER stops to watch him go into the castle courtyard, then continues on to the Trip Inn.

CUT TO:

415 (312R) CASTLE - THE GREAT HALL

415

ISABELLA turns around and sighs at her messenger, who is flanked by two guards.

ISABELLA
You are an imbecile.

She approaches the messenger and sighs. She says her line right in the messenger's face.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
(shout)
Failure!

ISABELLA slaps the messenger with all her might. She hears footsteps and looks up at the balcony.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
(with relief)
Oh, Blamire. Tell me, are the men of Locksley secured?

BLAMIRE
We had a situation, some... unforeseen difficulties.

ISABELLA turns away.

ISABELLA
(mutter)
Robin Hood.

BLAMIRE
(coming down the stairs)
There's a man here to see you.

ISABELLA
A man?

BLAMIRE
Apparently, he has a proposition for you.

ISABELLA
(chuckle)
Really?

ARCHER, having left his weapons at the inn, enters and leans over the balcony with a nod and a smile. ISABELLA gives him a sidelong glance.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER
The name's Archer.

ISABELLA
Hmm.

BLAMIRE
Archer?

ARCHER goes downstairs.

BLAMIRE (cont'd)
Archer what?

ARCHER stops on the landing, says his line, then continues down the stairs.

ARCHER
Just Archer.

BLAMIRE
(frown)
Archer?

ARCHER stands a few paces off from ISABELLA and BLAMIRE.

BLAMIRE (cont'd)
Weren't you due to hang in York?

ARCHER
(feign ignorance)
Me? Hang? York?
(shake head)
Don't know anything about that.

BLAMIRE walks towards and past ISABELLA.

BLAMIRE
That's right. He's the one that Hood and Gisborne broke out of prison. Many of my men were injured.

ARCHER outstretches his arms, protesting.

ARCHER
I never asked them to do that. They just turned up.

ISABELLA
Arrest him.

Two guards immediately step forward. ISABELLA turns to go sit in her chair.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER

That Robin Hood's a nut. He feels compelled to go about saving people.

ISABELLA

Even so, do you really think I would fraternize with such a lowlife as you?

The guards drag ARCHER back. ISABELLA smiles wickedly.

ARCHER

You would if you knew the truth.

ISABELLA

(intrigued)

Wait.

The guards stop.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

The truth?

ARCHER pulls free and strides to ISABELLA.

ARCHER

(nod)

You and I...

ARCHER puts a foot on the dais.

ARCHER (cont'd)

... we're brother and sister.

ISABELLA

(laugh)

I'm sorry?

ARCHER leans into ISABELLA's face.

ARCHER

Ghislaine is my mother, too.

ISABELLA

Impossible.

ARCHER

She had me out of wedlock and sent me away.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA
How dare you stand there and tell
me such evil lies.

ARCHER
Is it a lie that she died in a
house fire?

ARCHER leans in and whispers in ISABELLA's ear.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Or that she was married to a
leper... your father?

ISABELLA's eyes turn angry.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Is that a lie? See, I've traveled
far and wide...

ARCHER glances at BLAMIRE.

ARCHER (cont'd)
... I know the most exotic ways to
kill a man. That's why Robin and
Gisborne saved me. They wanted to
use me. They figured that since I
was their brother, I'd...

ISABELLA
(raise eyebrow)
Their brother?

ARCHER
Yes. Your mother was my mother, and
Robin's father was my father.

ISABELLA
Are you telling me that my mother
and Malcolm...

ARCHER
Yes.

BLAMIRE has had enough of ARCHER.

BLAMIRE
Enough. Guards, take him away.

ISABELLA silences him with a wave of her hand.

ARCHER

If we join forces, think about it.
Your power, my skill, we can be
unstoppable.

ISABELLA leans forward to ARCHER's face.

ISABELLA

(intrigued)

What I need are men that can offer
me loyalty and protection.

(loudly, still in his face)

Arrest him!

ARCHER

Sister...

ARCHER grabs her face with both hands.

ARCHER (cont'd)

...don't forsake me.

ISABELLA smiles. The guards grab him and drag him away.

BLAMIRE

Lock him up.

ISABELLA

He must never be allowed to leave
the castle.

ISABELLA looks at BLAMIRE.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

And not a word about what he said.
To anyone.

ARCHER smirks and nods at her. She stands.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Ever!

JUMP TO:

416

(312) EXTERIOR CORRIDOR

416

ARCHER, his hands shackled behind him, is led out the door and down the exterior corridor towards the dungeon door. He covertly holds a pick retrieved from his sleeve and unlocks his cuffs. As they walk into the dimmer light of the corridor, he wraps his chains around the forward guard's neck and turns him round to face the rear guard. ARCHER pulls the first guard's sword with his unfettered hand and

(CONTINUED)

uses it to fight the rear guard, holding the first soldier around the neck. He kicks back the rear guard, throws down the first one, and stabs him. The rear guard attacks and ARCHER pushes him to the wall and elbows his head several times, then pulls the sword from the first body and runs.

JUMP TO:

417 (312R) SHERWOOD FOREST

417

ROBIN leads the village men through the forest.

ROBIN

We have to get the rest of our supplies to Locksley. That'll keep the women and children alive until we return their crops and livestock.

TUCK

Robin.

ROBIN stops.

TUCK (cont'd)

What about the men?

ROBIN

What about them?

The villagers file past them.

TUCK

Well, when are they going to fight?

ROBIN

(scoff)

Tuck, these men are farmers, they're not warriors.

TUCK

"The Lord helps those who help themselves," Robin.

ROBIN turns with a scowl to look at the men walking past.

TUCK (cont'd)

Your protection weakens them. We are failing in our mission. We're supposed to be inspiring these men to stand up and fight for themselves, giving them real hope.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

These men are terrified for their lives. They've forgotten how to hope.

TUCK

Then, my friend...

TUCK puts his hand on ROBIN's arm.

TUCK (cont'd)

...it's time we lit the flame in them again.

TUCK walks past, leaving ROBIN to ponder his words.

418

(312R) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - THE GREAT HALL

418

ISABELLA, appraising her situation out loud, gets up off her chair as BLAMIRE goes to stand by it.

ISABELLA

If I disappoint the Prince, I hang like every other noble who's ever failed him.

(take a deep breath)

Blamire, I need those men.

BLAMIRE

Tricky. Hood's protecting them in the forest.

ISABELLA

Then it's Hood I need to destroy.

ISABELLA turns aside, and thinks aloud.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

I need to get to his weakness...

(sigh)

... exploit his vulnerabilities.

BLAMIRE

Which are?

ISABELLA thinks for a long moment, then gets an idea.

ISABELLA

His friends. That odious little gang. The idiot cares about them. That's his weakness.

ISABELLA sighs, and turns to BLAMIRE.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Blamire, bring me Rebecca from
Locksley.

BLAMIRE walks to the door as ISABELLA turns to her chair.

CUT TO:

419 (312) COURTYARD - A FEW HOURS LATER 419

The courtyard is filled with wagons, livestock, sacks and village men. A woman (REBECCA) is brought through it all, staring at the goods around her.

GUARD
Hurry up!

The guard pushes her in the back.

GUARD (cont'd)
Move!

REBECCA goes up the steps.

JUMP TO:

420 (312R) THE GREAT HALL 420

ISABELLA holds the chain to a locket in both hands, letting the pendant slide back and forth on the taut chain. BLAMIRE enters with REBECCA and they stand before her. REBECCA has her hands clasped in front of her.

ISABELLA
Good. Go, please, Blamire. This is delicate.

BLAMIRE nods, glares at REBECCA and leaves. ISABELLA walks to REBECCA and holds up her locket.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
It's pretty, isn't it?

ISABELLA sighs and looks at the locket.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
You know, sometimes the prettiest things can be the most fragile.

REBECCA is silent a moment. ISABELLA starts to circle her.

(CONTINUED)

REBECCA

What do you want with me?

ISABELLA

I want to help you.

REBECCA

Help me?

ISABELLA

Yes. A safe passage to Doncaster
for you and your family.

REBECCA looks at here with a raised eyebrow. ISABELLA drops the locket, breaking it in two. The back half of the locket is attached to the chain, the front half is not. ISABELLA picks up the two locket pieces from the floor and brushes the dust from them. ISABELLA drops the locket front into REBECCA's hands.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Plant this on Robin.

REBECCA looks at the locket then at ISABELLA.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Then persuade Much that Robin still
loves me. That he is devoted, to
me.

REBECCA is about say something, when ISABELLA holds up the chain with the back.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Then give him this.

ISABELLA drops the chain into REBECCA's hands.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

When he finds the other half on
Robin, his faith will be shaken.
And he'll realize that a candle
still burns deeply in his heart for
me.

Satisfied, ISABELLA turns to her chair. REBECCA stares.

REBECCA

I can't.

ISABELLA stops and faces REBECCA.

ISABELLA
 Can't? I don't think you
 understand, you ignorant crone.

ISABELLA strides to face her.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
 Every last morsel of food, every
 animal, every grain of barley
 within a fifty-mile radius is
 locked up in my courtyard ready for
 transportation to the north. Hell
 is coming, Rebecca.
 (giggle)
 I think you should save your family
 whilst you still can.

REBECCA looks down at the locket. ISABELLA sends her a
 glaring look, then turns for her chair again.

JUMP TO:

421 (312R) LOCKSLEY - REBECCA'S HOUSE - A FEW HOURS LATER 421

A thunderstorm is approaching. REBECCA opens the door and
 MUCH enters with a sack for her.

MUCH
 This is everything we have.

REBECCA sets it down on the floor. She's not sure she is
 going to be able to pull this off, but she has to try. If
 she fails Isabella will kill her.

REBECCA
 I've got something to show you.

REBECCA holds out the chain and locket back.

MUCH
 Where did you get that?

REBECCA
 Isabella.

MUCH looks quizzically up at her.

MUCH
 Why would she give you...

REBECCA
 She says that Robin holds the other
 half... close to him. That there's
 a... a deep bond between them.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH
(shake head)
I don't believe that.

MUCH turns to leave, but REBECCA stops him.

REBECCA
He loves her. I...

MUCH
No. Isabella's the enemy. She...

MUCH tries to leave again, but REBECCA stops him once more.

REBECCA
Is she? Check his things.

REBECCA presses the locket into MUCH's hands.

REBECCA (cont'd)
If he holds the other half, like
Isabella claims, then you'll know.

MUCH
I don't need to check his things. I
know...

ROBIN's voice is heard from outside.

ROBIN (VO)
Much, what's taking you so long?

ROBIN comes halfway to the door, sees MUCH in the doorway ready to leave, then goes back to the gang as MUCH slides the locket into a pouch on his belt. MUCH looks at REBECCA.

MUCH
We have to go.

MUCH leaves. REBECCA pulls the locket front from her shirt.

REBECCA
(pleasantly)
Robin?

ROBIN walks over to her. REBECCA gives him a hug. ROBIN chuckles at the affection. REBECCA slips the locket into the bag he holds over his shoulder, then releases him.

REBECCA (cont'd)
Thank you.

ROBIN
You're welcome.

REBECCA stares at him. ROBIN leaves and joins the gang.

ROBIN (cont'd)
(to gang)
Come on, then.

JUMP TO:

422 (312R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP - RAIN

422

ROBIN tosses his bag onto his bunk. The locket front falls out and lands on the ground at his feet. He doesn't see it as he turns to retrieve their empty baskets, but TUCK does.

TUCK
What's that?

TUCK picks up the locket. GISBORNE recognizes it and comes over to see as ROBIN puts away the baskets under a bunk.

GISBORNE
It's Isabella's.

GISBORNE smiles remembering where the locket came from.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
Our mother gave it to her when she
was a child.

ROBIN overhears and comes over, curious.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
She worshiped her.

GISBORNE gets a puzzled look on his face as he wonders how the locket got here.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
And she cherished this.

ROBIN takes the locket and hisses between his teeth.

ROBIN
Well, she wouldn't give this to
just anyone now, would she?
(beat)
So what's it doing here?

GISBORNE looks back and forth between ROBIN and TUCK.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

You think this is mine?

ROBIN

Well, she's your sister, Guy.

GISBORNE

Yeah, a sister that's betrayed me many times and tried to kill me.

TUCK

We're not...

GISBORNE

Would I have told you it was Isabella's if it was mine?

ROBIN

Well, if it's not yours, then whose is it? And how did it get here?

GISBORNE and TUCK say nothing. ROBIN tosses the locket onto his bunk where it partly slips under a fur.

JUMP TO:

423

(312) NOTTINGHAM - THE "TRIP TO JERUSALEM" INN

423

ARCHER comes downstairs. At the bottom, he peeks around the corner, then scans the room and sees the man he wants sitting at a table, leaning into the corner. He goes over to him.

ARCHER

You haven't moved from that spot in ten years.

DIGGLER

They let you out?

ARCHER

Not exactly.

DIGGLER

Need a drink?

ARCHER leans on the table.

ARCHER

I need money... fast.

ARCHER sits at the table.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER (cont'd)
I'm a wanted man. I need safe passage out of England. I need information I can sell.

DIGGLER
(lean forward)
What sort of information?

ARCHER
I need to prove my loyalty to the Sheriff, show that I can protect her.

JUMP TO:

424 (312R) OUTLAW CAMP - THUNDERSTORM

424

ROBIN leans on the rope ladder, his knife in his hand. He relates his plan for dealing with Isabella and Prince John to the gang.

ROBIN
We take the castle.

ROBIN stands and walks round the ladder.

ROBIN (cont'd)
We claim it under King Richard. We put Isabella under house arrest. We release the supplies. We release the men.

ROBIN looks round at gang for reaction.

ROBIN (cont'd)
And we hold that castle till King Richard returns.

CUT TO:

425 (312) TRIP INN

425

ARCHER
If I can penetrate the castle, I open her eyes to what I'm capable of achieving.

DIGGLER
But the castle, it's bursting with men, crops, livestock. It's defended by an army of guards.

CUT TO:

426 (312R) OUTLAW CAMP 426

MUCH stands and goes to Robin.

MUCH
We can't take a castle.

GISBORNE stares out at them thoughtfully.

GISBORNE
We can if we go down the tunnel.

The gang all look at GISBORNE.

ROBIN
What tunnel?

CUT TO:

427 (312) TRIP INN 427

ARCHER
I'm tired of looking over my
shoulder. I need enough so I can
leave England... for ever.

DIGGLER
(slowly)
Well... there is one way in.

DIGGLER holds out his hand to ARCHER.

CUT TO:

428 (312R) OUTLAW CAMP 428

GISBORNE walks slowly towards ROBIN.

GISBORNE
Vasey was paranoid so he built
himself an escape route...

GISBORNE draws his sword, but holds it down.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
...a tunnel.

CUT TO:

429 (312) TRIP INN

429

ARCHER
Who dug this tunnel?

DIGGLER
Their rotting bodies were found
underground. Gisborne locked them
in, the whole force.

CUT TO:

430 (312R) OUTLAW CAMP

430

GISBORNE draws in the dirt with his sword.

GISBORNE
The diggers were silenced.
(quietly)
I'd made sure of that.

GISBORNE draws more.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
(normal)
So no-one else knows about the
tunnel, especially not Isabella.

ROBIN steps forward, listening intently.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
It starts here in a derelict
churchyard outside the west gate...

GISBORNE draws a long line.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
...and it leads directly into the
heart of the castle.

GISBORNE stabs the sword into the dirt.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
I say we go down the tunnel, we
seize Isabella, and we force her to
dismiss her guards. If we take
Isabella, we take the castle.

CUT TO:

431 (312) TRIP INN

431

DIGGLER holds out his hand to ARCHER. ARCHER puts a small purse into it and jerks back the old man's hand at the same time, pulling it in towards himself.

ARCHER
(sternly)
Now that's everything I have.

DIGGLER
The opening is in a derelict churchyard under the grave with the fallen cross.

DIGGLER pulls the purse away. ARCHER stands, daring DIGGLER to move, then leaves.

CUT TO:

432 (312R) OUTLAW CAMP

432

ROBIN
If we time the break-in to coincide with the supply train leaving, most of the guards'll be busy with the convoy anyway.

LITTLE JOHN
How do we know that this isn't a trap?

GISBORNE pulls his sword from the dirt and puts the point in his scabbard.

GISBORNE
You think I'm lying? We want the same thing, John.

GISBORNE slides the sword home.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
I'm on your side. Haven't I proved that? ... I want Isabella just as much as you do. She betrayed me and I intend to make her pay.

ROBIN
That's enough! We go through the tunnel, and that's my final word!

ROBIN points at GISBORNE, and addresses the men.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
 Guy is one of us.
 (beat)
 Tuck, John, get some forging tools
 to make weapons.

TUCK and LITTLE JOHN nod and leave.

ROBIN (cont'd)
 The rest of you, get whatever money
 we have and melt it down to make
 arrowheads.

GISBORNE and ALLAN set off to fetch the coins. MUCH watches ROBIN leave, then wanders over near ROBIN's bunk. He sees the locket peeking out from under the fur. He pulls it out and looks at it, then takes the other half out of his belt and puts them together. The halves unite with an audible click.

MUCH
 No. I don't... There has to be...

MUCH looks over at ROBIN, puts the locket in the pouch on his belt, then goes to join ALLAN and GISBORNE.

JUMP TO:

433 (312) OUTSIDE NOTTINGHAM - GRAVEYARD 433

ARCHER pulls one side of the wooden cover, still laden with stones, off the tunnel entrance. He looks around, picks up an unlit torch and his sword, looks around again and steps down, checking round him constantly.

CUT TO:

434 (312) TUNNEL 434

He breaks through cobwebs as he enters the lower level of the castle, as indicated by the carved columns. He stops for a few moments, looks around, and then continues on.

JUMP TO:

435 (312R) NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - THE GREAT HALL 435

ISABELLA holds a scroll, talking to BLAMIRE.

ISABELLA
 Now, I want you to issue this
 proclamation and I want you to make
 sure it's spoken about in every
 corner of Nottingham.

(CONTINUED)

Behind her, ARCHER opens a panel in the wainscoting. He steps out and silently closes it behind him.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
...that due to his duties and loyalties to the Sheriff, the outlaw Allan A Dale is pardoned for all his wrongdoings.

BLAMIRE
Allan A Dale has...

ISABELLA
(interrupt)
Shh. Just do it.

BLAMIRE nods, takes the scroll and leaves. ISABELLA smiles.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
(to herself)
Trust me.

BLAMIRE goes up the stairs. ISABELLA turns to her chair, behind which stands ARCHER, his back to the chair. ISABELLA sighs, satisfied with her plans and sits down. BLAMIRE gives her one last glance before disappearing out the door. She giggles.

ARCHER
Something funny, sis?

ISABELLA freezes. ARCHER makes a half spin round the chair and walks out.

ISABELLA
How on earth did you get in here?

ARCHER
(impudently)
Call the guards and you'll never find out.

ISABELLA
Speak.

ARCHER
A tunnel. It was an escape route for the old Sheriff, but what's far more interesting is this. It was supervised by one Sir Guy of Gisborne. He and Hood are together, and with all that stuff locked up in your courtyard just waiting to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER (cont'd)
be stolen, how long do you think
it'll take before they come in the
same way I did?

ISABELLA
I'll get the guards and wait.

ISABELLA steps down from her chair.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
I could ambush them as soon as they
emerge.

ARCHER
Guards are useless. I've seen what
they do to guards.

ISABELLA steps in front of him.

ARCHER (cont'd)
You need something a little more
sophisticated than guards.
Something they're not expecting.

ISABELLA
Keep talking.

ARCHER
Well... for a few pennies, I can
trap the tunnel. It does happen to
be one of my specialities.

ISABELLA
If you can make sure they both die
a slow and very painful death, I'll
give you more than pennies...
brother.

ARCHER turns to the tunnel as ISABELLA ponders the
possibilities.

ARCHER
Oh, you might want to send some
people to cover the entrance back
up.

ISABELLA gives him a look.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Robin and Gisborne aren't stupid.
If they show up and see that the
entrance has been disturbed,
they...

ISABELLA
Of course.

JUMP TO:

436 (312R) NOTTINGHAM TOWN - EMPTY SHOP 436

LITTLE JOHN and TUCK look for tools in an empty shop. A fanfare sounds.

LITTLE JOHN
They've taken everything.

TUCK
Even the forging tools.

LITTLE JOHN jumps at the sound of BLAMIRE's voice and they both go to the window to peek out at him.

BLAMIRE (VO)
This is a proclamation from the Sheriff of Nottingham. Let it be known that for services to the Sheriff...

CONTINUE TO:

437 (312) OUTSIDE SHOP ON STREET 437

BLAMIRE is on his horse reading the proclamation.

BLAMIRE
...the outlaw Allan A Dale..

CONTINUE TO:

438 (312) INSIDE SHOP 438

LITTLE JOHN and TUCK exchange incredulous glances.

BLAMIRE (VO)
...has been given immunity from prosecution.

CONTINUE TO:

439 (312) OUTSIDE SHOP ON STREET 439

BLAMIRE continues reading the proclamation.

BLAMIRE
He is a free man.

BLAMIRE rolls up the proclamation and rides off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUE TO:

440 (312) INSIDE SHOP 440

LITTLE JOHN seethes with anger as TUCK stares in disbelief. BLAMIRE moves on. LITTLE JOHN turns on his heel and leaves. TUCK turns and glances at the spot where LITTLE JOHN was and notices he is gone.

TUCK
John! John!

TUCK follows LITTLE JOHN.

JUMP TO:

441 (312R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP - THUNDERSTORM 441

Thunder rumbles. MUCH brings in a small chest and sets it down by his bunk. He is still wondering what to make of locket. Was it true?

ALLAN and GISBORNE are making arrows.

ROBIN enters bringing two large purses.

ROBIN
All of this needs to be made into arrowheads.

MUCH
Robin?

ROBIN
We're running out of time.

ROBIN sets the purses by the chest, deliberately ignoring MUCH.

MUCH
Robin!

ROBIN
Where's Tuck and John with those tools?

ROBIN picks up the two purses and heads to a bunk.

ROBIN (cont'd)
(to Allan)
Did you say something to them?

ALLAN holds his arms out.

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN
Why is it always my fault?

MUCH walks out. ROBIN turns angrily to MUCH.

ROBIN
Where are you going?

MUCH
I...

ROBIN
We've got a castle to take.

MUCH
I know.

ROBIN is about to say something else, but LITTLE JOHN runs in. LITTLE JOHN pushes MUCH aside in his hurry to get his hands round ALLAN's neck.

ALLAN
What?

LITTLE JOHN
Traitor! What did you tell them?
(through teeth)
Judas!

ROBIN looks at TUCK as he comes in explaining.

TUCK
It's all over Nottingham. Allan's been pardoned by the Sheriff... for services rendered.

ALLAN
What?

ROBIN
(holding in his temper)
John, let him go!

ALLAN
Let me speak!

LITTLE JOHN
Why? You're good at that, aren't you? Speaking, lying...

TUCK tries to pull LITTLE JOHN back.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
Twisting us around your little
finger.

TUCK
John! John, come on!

ROBIN
Let him go.

TUCK
Come on!

LITTLE JOHN lets go, throwing ALLAN's head down.

LITTLE JOHN
Liar!

ROBIN turns to ALLAN and puts a hand on his shoulder.

ROBIN
All right?

ALLAN
I haven't done anything!

ROBIN, TUCK, LITTLE JOHN and MUCH line up to face him.
GISBORNE, off to ALLAN's right, stays in the background, not
wanting to believe it.

ALLAN (cont'd)
I swear, I haven't betrayed you.
(to Much)
Much...

MUCH stares at him a moment, then looks to ROBIN, who
returns his gaze with doubt in his eyes. ALLAN looks to
GISBORNE.

ALLAN (cont'd)
You believe me, Guy.

LITTLE JOHN charges ALLAN, but TUCK puts his hand to his
chest and stops him.

TUCK
No.

GISBORNE, in answer to ALLAN, raises his eyebrows and
shrugs, then looks ALLAN in the eye as if to say, "Well,
you've done it before..."

ALLAN
(pleadingly)
Tuck?

TUCK looks at ROBIN. ROBIN looks up in exasperation at the sky. ALLAN looks at ROBIN, his voice almost breaking, beseechingly as he says line.

ALLAN (cont'd)
Robin?

ROBIN shoots ALLAN a furious look. The gang just stare at ALLAN. None can believe he would betray them again.

ALLAN (cont'd)
So you think I'm a coward? Is that it, yeah? What, that I've... sold you out to save myself somehow, yeah?

MUCH
You've done that before!

LITTLE JOHN nods in agreement.

ALLAN
I know! And every day I wish I could take that back, you know that!

Nobody says anything. ROBIN frowns, trying to decide what to do. ALLAN shakes his head.

ALLAN (cont'd)
None of you? None of you believe me? I'll be off, then.

ALLAN turns to gather his things.

MUCH
Did you tell her about the tunnel?

ALLAN
I told you, I haven't said...

ROBIN
(furiously)
Tie him up!

LITTLE JOHN steps forward to obey.

ALLAN

What?

LITTLE JOHN grabs his shoulders and pushes him into a wooden ladder.

ALLAN (cont'd)

No, no, no, no.

ROBIN

I can't take the risk. I'm sorry.
I...

ALLAN

(begging)

Robin...

ROBIN

Once we've secured the castle, we
will come back.

(point at Allan)

And we will sort this out.

ALLAN

John, don't do this.

ROBIN

Get it done!

ROBIN walks past ALLAN.

LITTLE JOHN

Don't even look at me!

ALLAN's eyes plaintively follow MUCH as MUCH accompanies ROBIN to the storage area. Thunder rumbles again.

MUCH wonders if Allan really did betray them again. Everything seems to falling apart. First there was Isabella's locket that he found on Robin, then there was the pardon that Allan received. If he was a betting man, Much would have to say that those things might not be as they seemed. Should he confront Robin about the locket? Should he tell Robin that he thinks this is all a game and that Isabella is playing them off each other?

MUCH

Robin, I...

ROBIN

Not now, Much.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH
But this is...

ROBIN
I said. Not. Now!

MUCH gives ROBIN a look. Then he looks over at Gisborne. Gisborne knows Allan as well as they do, and he knows Isabella. He might be the perfect one to ask about his theory.

JUMP TO:

442 (312R) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - TUNNEL

442

ARCHER works with a hammer and anvil, pounding out thin strips of iron. ISABELLA comes down with a guard.

ISABELLA
(to guard)
Stay here.

ISABELLA makes her way to ARCHER, smiling. ARCHER stops and wipes the sweat from his brow with the back of his hand.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Specialist, you say?
(cross arms)
For your sake, you better be.

ARCHER flips the hammer up and catches it.

ARCHER
You'll get your money's worth, sis.
As long as I get mine.

ISABELLA
You'll get paid on one condition,
that this trap kills Hood.

ARCHER
You're the boss.

ARCHER resumes his hammering. ISABELLA keeps a tight smile and leaves.

JUMP TO:

443 (312R) SHERWOOD FOREST

443

On their way to Nottingham, the gang stop to say goodbye before going their separate ways.

ROBIN

We get into the castle, we capture
Isabella, release the villagers.
But if the convoy leaves, then
we've failed. Tuck, John, it's up
to you to stop it, no matter what.

TUCK and LITTLE JOHN nod solemnly.

ROBIN (cont'd)

This could be the last time we see
each other.

ROBIN hugs LITTLE JOHN. MUCH extends a hand to TUCK and they shake warmly.

GISBORNE stands back, watching. These guys had been through so much. They were all so close. He starts to wish that Allan were here. Next to Robin, Allan was the one he was the closest to. The others never really accepted him. He still couldn't believe that Allan would actually betray them again.

TUCK goes over to GISBORNE and offers his hand. GISBORNE takes it. MUCH hugs LITTLE JOHN.

ROBIN

(to Tuck)

Best of luck.

ROBIN and TUCK shake hands. LITTLE JOHN looks at GISBORNE. He goes to him and offers his hand.

LITTLE JOHN

Good luck.

GISBORNE takes his hand.

GISBORNE

Thanks. Same to you.

LITTLE JOHN

I know I haven't...

GISBORNE

It's okay, John.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
 (to Gisborne)
 It's time.

GISBORNE acknowledges, and follows ROBIN. MUCH follows GISBORNE. LITTLE JOHN gets his staff from where it was leaning against a tree. The gang splits up. ROBIN, GISBORNE and MUCH going one way, TUCK and LITTLE JOHN going the other.

JUMP TO:

444 (312R) SHERWOOD FOREST - OUTLAW CAMP 444

ALLAN slips a knife out from his sleeve and starts cutting at the ropes. He mutters to himself as he saws.

ALLAN
 I put my neck on the block time and time again and for what? Nothing. They should know I wouldn't betray them. I don't know what Isabella is up to, but when I get out of here, I'm gonna find out.

JUMP TO:

445 (312) SHERWOOD FOREST 445

TUCK addresses the Locksley men while walking among them.

TUCK
 Those of you who can fight must help us intercept the supply train.

The men start muttering many reasons why not.

TUCK (cont'd)
 Those are your crops inside that castle. Your livestock, your brothers. Damn it, men, it's time to stand up and fight!

TUCK puts his hand on a Locksley man's shoulder. LITTLE JOHN strides towards him.

TUCK (cont'd)
 Take back what's rightfully yours.

LITTLE JOHN
 Brother Tuck...

LITTLE JOHN pulls TUCK away from the man.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK

They've been trodden on, John, and they're taking it! If they would only stand together, they could defeat the Sheriff.

LITTLE JOHN

Defeating the Sheriff is our job, Tuck. Even if it is the last thing we ever do.

LITTLE JOHN leaves. TUCK hangs his head in dismay.

JUMP TO:

446 (312) OUTSIDE NOTTINGHAM - GRAVEYARD 446

GISBORNE leads ROBIN to the tunnel entrance.

GISBORNE

Robin... this is it.

GISBORNE kneels at the side of the rock-covered grave and starts moving the stones off. ROBIN kneels on the other side to help. MUCH, scared of disturbing the grave, stands off, distressed, until ROBIN glances at him. Then he kneels by GISBORNE to help.

MUCH

You shouldn't mess with graves.

They clear off all the rocks and GISBORNE lifts off the cover. ROBIN looks down the steps. GISBORNE watches him, waiting for his approval. ROBIN starts down the steps.

JUMP TO:

447 (312) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - THE GREAT HALL 447

ARCHER sits on a windowsill on the south side. BLAMIRE approaches ISABELLA.

ISABELLA

Hm?

BLAMIRE

(quietly)

Hood and his men have entered the tunnel.

ISABELLA

Good.

BLAMIRE holds up a fat purse. ISABELLA takes it.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Thank you.

ISABELLA goes to ARCHER and tosses him the purse. He deftly catches it.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

This should buy your disappearance.

ARCHER

This everything I asked for?

ISABELLA

Count it.

ARCHER

(smile)

I believe you.

ISABELLA

Good. Then you can believe this. If I ever smell your fetid odour anywhere near Nottingham again, I will have you dipped in blood and torn apart by starving dogs. My mother was a saint. The fact that she could have had a child out of wedlock is bad enough, but some nasty little hustler like you...

ISABELLA puts her face in ARCHER's. ARCHER doesn't look at her.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Be assured, I will kill a thousand times to keep my mother's sacred memory pure.

ARCHER

(half-smile)

Don't worry. I've got plans far away from here.

ARCHER bends down to pick up his sword.

ARCHER (cont'd)

You'll never see me again.

ARCHER jumps off the sill and leaves.

JUMP TO:

448 (312R) TUNNEL

448

ROBIN, with a lit torch, walks through the tunnel. GISBORNE and MUCH follow. The tunnel turns into stone column supports. MUCH stops.

MUCH

Oh! We're under the castle.

ROBIN

Much, keep moving! Come on!

MUCH steps on a trip stone and grunts in surprise. GISBORNE and ROBIN look round, hearing gears turning. They see a barrier come down a few paces in front of them.

MUCH

Oh no!

They rush to the barrier, but it's already down. ROBIN and MUCH pound on it as GISBORNE tries to lift it. Then they see another barrier coming down back the way they came. They rush to it and again they're too late. ROBIN looks at the floor and then the ceiling, which has a round grate in it. MUCH raises his sword at ROBIN.

MUCH (cont'd)

I knew it would be a trap!

ROBIN holds his hand up to silence him.

ROBIN

Much... let me think.

JUMP TO:

449 LOCKSLEY - REBECCA'S HOUSE

449

REBECCA is feeling bad for what she did. She decides she has to make things right. She goes to the back room and pulls a sword out of a drawer.

REBECCA

Never thought I'd ever use this.
But I can't let Isabella do this. I
must get to Robin.

JUMP TO:

450 NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - TUNNEL

450

ROBIN is thinking.

MUCH

Robin.

ROBIN

Much, I....

MUCH pulls the locket out of his pocket.

MUCH

Can you explain this?

ROBIN looks at MUCH. GISBORNE notices the locket is whole again.

ROBIN

Where did you get that?

MUCH

I found it in your...

ROBIN

I only had half of it. That is whole. Where...

MUCH

So it's true. She...

GISBORNE realizes this has all been a set up.

GISBORNE

I think we've been had, Robin.

ROBIN turns to him.

ROBIN

What?

GISBORNE

I think Isabella planted half on you for someone to find and...

ROBIN

How? I haven't...

GISBORNE

When we returned from Locksley the other day, we found half on the ground in the camp.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Yeah.

GISBORNE

Now it is whole.

GISBORNE looks to MUCH.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Where did you get the other half?

MUCH

What?

ROBIN

Much?

MUCH

Rebecca.

ROBIN

The Potter?

MUCH

Yes. She said that Isabella wanted us to know that you were still in love with her and the proof was that you would have the other half. I didn't want to believe her, but when...

ROBIN

Rebecca. She must have slipped the other half in my bag when she hugged me. I knew that hug seemed odd.

GISBORNE thinks of something else.

GISBORNE

You know what this means, don't you.

ROBIN and MUCH look at GISBORNE. ROBIN understands what GISBORNE is thinking.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

She probably lied about Allan as well. She is turning the men against you, and you against them.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

And we bought it. Everyone was so quick to turn on him.

GISBORNE

She knew his history. She knew he'd done it before. She knew...

ROBIN

We all owe Allan an apology.

MUCH looks at the locket, and then at ROBIN.

MUCH

I'm sorry. I...

ROBIN

She played us, Much. She's good. And if I get out of...

MUCH

When. You did mean "when", right?

ROBIN smiles. GISBORNE smiles. MUCH smiles. ROBIN and GISBORNE exchange a look that MUCH doesn't notice.

JUMP TO:

451 (312) SHERWOOD FOREST

451

ALLAN walks quickly and angrily through the trees.

ALLAN

You give'em the best years of your life... and for what?!

He hears a horse neigh. He stops and peers down at the road through the trees. The sound of several wagons, horses and soldiers reaches his ears.

ALLAN (cont'd)

(disbelief)

No.

He creeps through the trees to get a better look.

ALLAN (cont'd)

(shake head)

It can't be.

He takes another step forward, staring, when two guards run at him from behind. ALLAN fights them with his dual swords, kicking and punching them. He lets the last one roll over

(CONTINUED)

his back, then stabs him. He puts his foot on the guard's chest and pulls out his sword, then stares down at the road again.

ALLAN (cont'd)
I've got to get to Robin.

ALLAN runs off.

JUMP TO:

452 (312) NOTTINGHAM - OUTSIDE THE WEST GATE

452

The gate is closed. TUCK and LITTLE JOHN walk down the bridge and stop in the middle. The only sound is the breeze blowing.

TUCK
Nearly time.

LITTLE JOHN
It's quiet, isn't it? Calm. It's like when you're hunting. The moment you spot your prey, your stag, there's a... stillness. Just for a moment, you wonder whether you can go through with it. Whether you can slaughter this beast with... so much...

LITTLE JOHN shakes his head, unable to find the word he wants.

TUCK
Dignity?

LITTLE JOHN
(look at Tuck)
Yeah. Dignity.

TUCK puts a hand on LITTLE JOHN's shoulder in agreement, then notices movement behind him.

TUCK
John...

LITTLE JOHN turns round to see the Locksley men coming out of the forest with torches, axes, scythes, flails, any tools or farm implements they could muster.

LITTLE JOHN
They're brave, but they can't fight, Tuck. Look at them. It'll be a massacre.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK

They're not going to fight, John.

TUCK puts his hand to LITTLE JOHN's chest and turns to the men.

LITTLE JOHN

What?

TUCK

Gentlemen, these gates will open soon. Now, it is our task to stop the supply train in its tracks. And that is exactly what we're going to do. As an army, as a militia, we would be crushed. The Sheriff's men would hack us down like weeds. But it's harder to cut the spirit with a blade. When these gates open, and the supply train pulls out, we are going to sit down.

LITTLE JOHN shoots TUCK an incredulous look.

TUCK (cont'd)

Just sit, in silence.

LITTLE JOHN

(mouth)

What?!

LITTLE JOHN steps towards TUCK.

TUCK

My friends, we are going to turn the other cheek.

LITTLE JOHN

They will be... we will be crushed.

TUCK

Dignity, John. Dignity! Even when everything has been taken from us, we still have that.

LITTLE JOHN

(flustered)

Tuck!

TUCK

And the Sheriff's men will be faced with a choice. Stand aside or carry out a massacre.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN
 (in Tuck's ear)
 These are the Sheriff's men. I
 think we know what choice they're
 gonna make.

TUCK
 They may be soldiers, John, but
 they are still men... just men. And
 faced with the power of truth, a
 man can change. If we all stand
 together, we can have that power.

The villagers nod.

TUCK (cont'd)
 We can be unstoppable.

LITTLE JOHN eyes TUCK, still unsure of the success of his
 plan.

JUMP TO:

453 (312R) TUNNEL

453

MUCH
 This was a trap.

MUCH looks at GISBORNE. GISBORNE can see the look in MUCH's
 eye. GISBORNE grabs MUCH by the shoulders and pushes him
 against the wall.

GISBORNE
 You still think I... If I knew this
 was a trap, do you think I'd be
 stuck in here as well?

GISBORNE roughly pushes MUCH away.

ROBIN
 That's enough! The both of you!

They hear a loud rumbling noise and small white pebbles
 start pouring down on them. ROBIN looks up.

ROBIN (cont'd)
 What is that?

GISBORNE and MUCH look up in a mix of disbelief and fright
 as the deluge continues. MUCH whispers in hopelessness.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH
(whisper)
There's no way out.

ROBIN gives him an intense look.

ROBIN
There's always a way out, Much.

ROBIN drops his bow and takes off his quiver. MUCH is unconvinced.

MUCH
So this is how it ends. This is how
we die. Buried in limestone.

GISBORNE looks at MUCH. MUCH gives a sidelong look at ROBIN.

MUCH (cont'd)
Hardly fair, is it?

ROBIN
If one of us can reach the top, we
can hold out longer. Much, come
here. Guy, get on our shoulders.

MUCH starts to go to ROBIN, then stops.

MUCH
No! It's got to be you, Robin.
You're the one who has to live. It
has to be you.

GISBORNE realizes that MUCH is right. ROBIN, realizing there is no time to argue, relents

ROBIN
All right. Come on. Let's do this.

MUCH and GISBORNE grab each other's shoulders and accidentally knock heads.

MUCH
Ow!

ROBIN
Ready?

GISBORNE
Go!

Under the relentless cascade of limestone, ROBIN pulls on their clothes and climbs up on their shoulders, then pulls up MUCH's hand as MUCH and GISBORNE grunt under the strain.

(CONTINUED)

JUMP TO:

454 (312) SHERWOOD FOREST

454

ALLAN runs as arrows whistle by him. One hits him in the back of his knee. He limps to a stop and pulls it out, hearing Robin's voice echoing in his head. "Allan!" He starts running again. Two arrows hit him in the back, then a third. Again, Robin's voice echoes in his head. "Allan!" He falls forward and determinedly tries to crawl on until a long, black cloak swishes in front of him. He looks up at the person.

ALLAN

You?

JUMP TO:

455 (312) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - COURTYARD

455

BLAMIRE enters from the stables.

BLAMIRE

Raise the portcullis! Move out!

The portcullis starts to move. BLAMIRE leads soldiers through first. The village conscripts unwillingly line up behind.

FOCUS ON: ARCHER crosses the courtyard, watching and waiting to leave.

BLAMIRE (VO)

Open the gates!

JUMP TO:

456 (312) THE WEST GATE

456

(Note: FOCUS shifts constantly throughout scene. There are various angles to be covered and various viewpoints to be taken. Some are from outside the gate, some are from inside the gate.)

LITTLE JOHN and TUCK turn round as they hear footsteps at the gate. TUCK crosses his legs and sits defiantly as the gates open. LITTLE JOHN and the men sit, too.

FOCUS ON: ARCHER walks amongst the conscripts, watching.

FOCUS ON: BLAMIRE steps forward, and the guards follow. They stand several paces in front of TUCK and LITTLE JOHN, who is the last to settle into place.

(CONTINUED)

BLAMIRE

You there! Move out of the road!

Nobody moves. BLAMIRE and one guard take a step forward.

BLAMIRE (cont'd)

(forcefully, quietly)

Move out of the road, I said.

FOCUS ON: ARCHER makes his way to the rear of the waiting guards.

BLAMIRE (VO)

Or prepare to die where you sit.

FOCUS ON: BLAMIRE stares a moment, then moves to the side.

BLAMIRE

Men, draw your swords!

FOCUS ON: ARCHER leans against a post, curious as to the outcome.

FOCUS ON: The guards put a hand to their hilts, but do not draw.

BLAMIRE (cont'd)

(a restrained yell)

I said, draw your swords. Now!

The guards half-heartedly draw pull their swords free.

CUT TO:

457 (312R) TUNNEL

457

ROBIN stands on MUCH and GISBORNE's shoulders, one hand each holding one of theirs. The limestone continues to pour down on top of them.

ROBIN

Don't worry! I won't let you die!

GISBORNE

Aah! I'm sinking!

GISBORNE lets go of ROBIN's hand.

ROBIN

Guy?

(beat)

Guy, don't...

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN reaches up and grabs the grate. MUCH's hand slips from ROBIN's grasp and MUCH flails his arm.

MUCH
I'm going under! Aah!

ROBIN
Give me your...

ROBIN brushes MUCH's fingertips.

MUCH
Aah! Robin!

ROBIN hangs from the grate by one arm and finds MUCH's hand again.

ROBIN
Much! Guy! Stay together! If you stay together, you can breathe for a little while longer! And keep your hands moving, so I know! Much! Guy!

MUCH's hand slips from ROBIN's. ROBIN reaches for MUCH's hand, but it disappears under the growing pile of gravel. ROBIN reaches up and grabs the grate with both hands, and grimaces with grief at losing two friends.

JUMP TO:

458 (312R) THE WEST GATE

458

(Note: FOCUS shifts constantly throughout scene. There are various angles to be covered and various viewpoints to be taken. Some are from outside the gate, some are from inside the gate.)

BLAMIRE draws, his eyes wide with anger, and steps towards TUCK.

FOCUS ON: ARCHER. ARCHER watches intently, silently supporting the outlaws.

FOCUS ON: BLAMIRE. BLAMIRE raises his sword with both hands, preparing to stab down. TUCK leans back, sticking out his chest, ready for the blow. BLAMIRE hesitates, looking at all the faces staring at him. To TUCK's relief, he slowly lowers his sword.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA. ISABELLA appears on the battlements over the gate with a crossbow. She aims it at the men.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA
Get out of the way!

BLAMIRE turns aside and looks up at ISABELLA. ISABELLA shoots and hits TUCK in the shoulder. All the men groan.

FOCUS ON: ARCHER. ARCHER winces sympathetically.

FOCUS ON: LITTLE JOHN. LITTLE JOHN looks up at ISABELLA and starts to stand, but TUCK grabs his arm.

FOCUS ON: ARCHER. ARCHER moves to stand in the middle of the street.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA

ISABELLA
Cut them down!

FOCUS ON: BLAMIRE. Nobody moves. BLAMIRE frowns, then his attention is caught by REBECCA running up behind the villagers with a sword.

REBECCA
Start with me, then!

REBECCA strides through the men.

FOCUS ON: ARCHER. ARCHER sighs, thinking she just ruined the stalemate.

FOCUS ON: BLAMIRE. REBECCA stands before the guard next to BLAMIRE, presenting him her sword lying across both palms.

REBECCA (cont'd)
Go on, be a man! Start with me!

ISABELLA
Do it or die.

REBECCA
And kill an innocent woman.

REBECCA glances at BLAMIRE, who is glaring at the guard. The guard yells as he raises his sword.

FOCUS ON: ARCHER. ARCHER makes a decision to side with Robin and throws a shuriken, which hits the guard facing REBECCA in the spine.

FOCUS ON: REBECCA. The guard sinks to his knees and falls back. REBECCA is relieved.

(CONTINUED)

FOCUS ON: ARCHER. ARCHER draws his sword from his hip and his katana from the baldric over his shoulder and charges the guards.

FOCUS ON: TUCK. TUCK and LITTLE JOHN get up. TUCK fights BLAMIRE. REBECCA gets out of the way. LITTLE JOHN charges a guard. BLAMIRE grabs the arrow in TUCK's arm, and TUCK staggers back in pain. TUCK pulls out the arrow. BLAMIRE retreats.

FOCUS ON: ARCHER. BLAMIRE retreats into the town past ARCHER, who is delighted to be taking part in a good fight.

FOCUS ON: VARIOUS ANGLES. The village men fight with their various weapons. LITTLE JOHN makes it through the guards in front to the conscripts in the town and herds them back. REBECCA makes her way to the gate. ARCHER defeats two guards. TUCK finishes off another.

TUCK

Let's go!

The villagers charge the gate as ARCHER finishes another guard. ISABELLA stares down in disbelief, then realizes she needs to retreat.

FOCUS ON: ARCHER. ARCHER defeats his last foe, then runs to REBECCA.

ARCHER

Nice work at the gate.

REBECCA

Thanks.

ARCHER

Name's Archer.

REBECCA

Rebecca.

ARCHER

I need your assistance.

REBECCA

Anything.

ARCHER

We need to save Robin.

REBECCA

What?

ARCHER grabs her hand.

ARCHER

Come on!

ARCHER pulls her out the gate and down the bridge.

JUMP TO:

459

(312R) TUNNEL

459

ARCHER and REBECCA run down the tunnel to the first barrier. ARCHER reaches up the left side. REBECCA stops and almost runs into him with a desperate cry.

ARCHER

We've got to get that rope.

ARCHER laces his hands together for REBECCA to step on.

REBECCA

What's in there?

REBECCA steps up on ARCHER's hands and reaches up for the rope.

REBECCA (cont'd)

I've got it, I've got it, I've got it!

ARCHER

Then pull!

REBECCA

I'm pulling!

ARCHER lets REBECCA dangle from the rope a moment as he grabs her by the waist and pulls her down before taking the rope himself and pulling on it hand over hand. The barrier raises and limestone pebbles spill out from beneath.

ROBIN falls out. REBECCA screams at the sight of his body. MUCH and GISBORNE fall out after him. None of them are moving.

REBECCA (cont'd)

Robin! No.

REBECCA brushes the gravel from ROBIN's face, pinches his nose, and breathes into his mouth as ARCHER helps GISBORNE sit up, patting his back. GISBORNE coughs.

REBECCA (cont'd)

Come on, come on! We need you!
Breathe!

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER turns his attention to MUCH. REBECCA breathes into ROBIN's mouth again as ARCHER pulls MUCH out of the stones. ROBIN opens his eyes with a gasp. He is surprised to see REBECCA. ARCHER pulls a small bottle out of one of his pockets, uncorks it with his teeth, then spits out the cork. GISBORNE looks around, recovering. ARCHER holds the bottle under MUCH's nose. ROBIN turns over to his hands and knees. MUCH starts coughing at the smell of the bottle's contents. ARCHER returns the bottle to his pocket as ROBIN coughs.

REBECCA (cont'd)

Robin. I'm sorry. Isabella made me...

ROBIN

I know. She's been playing with us all along. We need to find her now!

ARCHER pulls MUCH up to his feet.

ARCHER

The entrance to the castle's blocked. Follow me!

ARCHER puts MUCH's arm around his neck and helps him along the tunnel. ROBIN digs out his bow and quiver and follows.

JUMP TO:

460

(312) EAST EXTERIOR CORRIDOR

460

BLAMIRE and ISABELLA meet at opposite ends of the corridor, BLAMIRE by the main doors. In the background, the peasants can be heard shouting in rage.

ISABELLA

The peasants are trying to get into the castle. You have to protect me.

BLAMIRE

(step forward)
Can't help...

ISABELLA strides quickly towards him.

BLAMIRE (cont'd)

... sorry.

ISABELLA

They're going to tear me to pieces.

(CONTINUED)

BLAMIRE
Not my problem.

ISABELLA stares at him in utter disbelief.

BLAMIRE (cont'd)
I've got to be somewhere else.

ISABELLA
I just gave you an order.

BLAMIRE
(scoff)
You have no idea what's happening
here, do you?

ISABELLA
What? You can't just leave me here
to be massacred by this rabble.

BLAMIRE glares at her, then turns to leave.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Please.

ISABELLA pulls on BLAMIRE's arm.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
For pity's sake, help me.

BLAMIRE
If you want to save yourself, hear
this. Deliver Gisborne to the
tunnel.

ISABELLA
What? Gisborne is dead.

ISABELLA turns towards the portcullis.

BLAMIRE
Goodbye, Sheriff. And good luck.

BLAMIRE leaves.

ISABELLA
Blamire!

Realizing he's not coming back, ISABELLA turns round and suddenly sees REBECCA, striding slowly towards her.

REBECCA

You forced me to lie for you. To
try and turn...

ISABELLA

What of it?

ISABELLA tries to pass her, but REBECCA steps in her way and pushes her into the wall, then pulls and pushes her into the opposite wall. ISABELLA pushes REBECCA away, then punches her, grabs her and throws her into the wall. ISABELLA grabs REBECCA and twists her down the corridor, slowly making their way to the side steps. REBECCA grabs ISABELLA and throws her against the pillar at the top of the steps. ISABELLA pulls a tiny knife.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Don't come any closer.

REBECCA deliberately takes a step and ISABELLA stabs out at her. REBECCA grabs ISABELLA's arm and her neck and twists her into the opposite side of the steps as ROBIN, who has been standing behind the pillar spins round to stand next to her. He holds his arm over his head, dangling the locket from its chain in front of ISABELLA's face as REBECCA holds her against the wall by her chin. ARCHER, MUCH, LITTLE JOHN and GISBORNE crowd behind ROBIN.

ROBIN

I believe this is yours.

ROBIN leans into ISABELLA's face.

ROBIN (cont'd)

It's over, Isabella.

REBECCA roughly pushes ISABELLA's chin as she releases it.

JUMP TO:

461 (312R) NOTTINGHAM - MARKETPLACE

461

ROBIN stands on boxes/barrels outside the portcullis to address the peasants. GISBORNE guards a disheveled ISABELLA. The gang stand around in support, TUCK with a bandage around his shoulder.

ROBIN

In the name of King Richard, I
charge Isabella of Gisborne with
high treason and crimes against the
people of Nottingham.

ROBIN points to the castle.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
The castle and everything in it
belongs to the people!

ROBIN raises his arms and all the townsfolk and villagers cheer and celebrate. GISBORNE stands solemnly behind ISABELLA. After several moments, MUCH runs in from the main gate.

MUCH
Robin!

ROBIN recognizes the alarm in his voice and immediately jumps off his perch. MUCH motions for them all to follow. GISBORNE grabs ISABELLA's arm.

GISBORNE
Move! Move!

CONTINUE TO:

462 (312R) OUTSIDE THE MAIN GATE

462

The gang hurry to the gate. MUCH stops just outside it where a heavy burlap roll lies, bulging in the middle. LITTLE JOHN throws his staff aside as he runs for the gate. ROBIN stops beside MUCH, then they and LITTLE JOHN step forward, grab the edge of the cloth and pull it, unwinding it. ALLAN's body rolls out.

TUCK jumps over the edge of the cloth as the three men drop it and kneels by ALLAN's head. He turns ALLAN's head and the unseeing blue eyes stare up at the sky. TUCK looks back at the gang, shaking his head.

ROBIN is visibly distressed. MUCH starts to sob. LITTLE JOHN drops down to sit on the ledge of the bridge. GISBORNE hangs his head in a moment of silence for his friend.

TUCK closes ALLAN's eyes. ROBIN shifts his feet, keeping his emotions in check. TUCK stands up. ARCHER has a grim look on his face, and ISABELLA a smug one.

GISBORNE looks up, and stares out at the trees beyond, alarmed. He immediately starts issuing orders.

GISBORNE
Close the gates.

ARCHER looks out as GISBORNE draws his sword.

ROBIN looks to see what GISBORNE sees, and frowns.

PAN TO:

463 (312) FIELD OUTSIDE THE GATES 463

By the trees, several hundred soldiers are making their way towards the town.

BLAMIRE is galloping out to join them. A man in a long, black cloak rides his horse to the front to meet him.

PAN TO:

464 (312R) THE MAIN GATE 464

GISBORNE
Man the battlements!

ARCHER turns to the peasants inside.

ARCHER
(to the peasants)
Move!

GISBORNE pulls back ISABELLA. ROBIN stands staring, seething in anger and fitting the pieces together, as MUCH pulls the cloth out from under ALLAN and tosses it over the side. LITTLE JOHN picks up ALLAN's body, slings it over his shoulders and gives the new troops one last look before heading inside. ROBIN doesn't move.

GISBORNE (VO)
Come on!

465 (312) FIELD 465

BLAMIRE circles behind Vasey, the Sheriff of Nottingham, at the front of the troops, and stops his horse beside him.

BLAMIRE
My lord.

SHERIFF
Blamire, you old tomcat. How the devil are you?

BLAMIRE
The plan is in place.

SHERIFF
Good.

The SHERIFF smirks and chuckles, revealing a gold, jeweled tooth, then pulls up the hilt of his sword by his face.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF (cont'd)
Oh, this will be so much fun.

He kisses the cross-guard, then lets it slide back into its scabbard.

JUMP TO:

466 (312R) CITY GATES 466

ROBIN still hasn't moved.

GISBORNE (VO)
Come on!... Robin!

MUCH
Robin!

MUCH and TUCK each have a door ready to push closed. ROBIN finally turns and strides in as the gates close behind him.

JUMP TO:

467 (313) SHERIFF'S CAMP 467

The SHERIFF's army surround the town. BLAMIRE shouts orders.

BLAMIRE
Bring forward the trebuchets.

The soldiers push one of two large contraptions of golden, new wood forward and a soldier brings over a small barrel.

BLAMIRE (cont'd)
Load and make ready.

The soldiers pull on the chains to lower the arms and fasten the barrel in place.

BLAMIRE (cont'd)
Unfurl the flag of truce.

The SHERIFF comes up beside BLAMIRE.

SHERIFF
This is my destiny, Blamire. The time is almost upon us. Welcome to hell, Robin Hood.

CUT TO:

468 (313R) NOTTINGHAM TOWN

468

(Note: FOCUS shifts constantly throughout scene. There are various angles to be covered and various viewpoints to be taken.)

LITTLE JOHN lays ALLAN's body on the ground inside the gates. MUCH looks down at it with shame.

MUCH

What have we done? We doubted him,
John.

ROBIN and GISBORNE come round the corner from the castle on horseback. GISBORNE on a white horse, ROBIN on a brown one. MUCH steps back and points at the gate, (indicating the Sheriff) his temper rising.

MUCH (cont'd)

He did this.

MUCH draws his sword and walks round ALLAN towards the gate.

MUCH

He killed him!

ROBIN and GISBORNE stop beside him.

ROBIN

Much!

MUCH obediently stops, but his ire still shows.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Much, you'll have time for that.

FOCUS ON: THE BATTLEMENTS ABOVE. TUCK calls down.

TUCK

There's soldiers at every wall.
Hundreds of them. The whole town's
surrounded.

FOCUS ON: INSIDE MAIN GATES. ROBIN's face falls. GISBORNE stares, perplexed at the turn of events.

GISBORNE

Harrison killed him. He was
proclaimed dead by Pr...

ROBIN

(stoic calm)

Well, that ghost has raised an
army.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN and GISBORNE kick their horses forward.

CONTINUE TO:

469 (313) OUTSIDE THE GATES 469

The gates open. ROBIN and GISBORNE canter across the bridge. ARCHER and TUCK close the gates behind them.

CONTINUE TO:

470 (313R) HALF WAY POINT 470

BLAMIRE and the SHERIFF walk their horses to meet ROBIN and GISBORNE. They are followed by a man with a white banner.

SHERIFF

Surprise. You thought I was dead.
Very nasty wound.

SHERIFF points to below his left shoulder.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

But, as you can see, not dead.

SHERIFF looks at GISBORNE.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Gisborne, we *will* have our
reckoning. Right now...
(hold arm out)
...I want my town back!

ROBIN

(quiet intensity)
Never. You're finished, Vasey. Your
weapons are no match for the hatred
these men have for you.

The SHERIFF draws his sword over his horse's back.

SHERIFF

You tell your peasant army anybody
who resists me will die. Poor
Allan...

ROBIN walks his horse forward as the SHERIFF inspects his blade.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

...he squealed like a stuck pig
when he died.

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE
 (in warning)
 Robin...

ROBIN stops his horse sideways in front of the SHERIFF's.

 ROBIN
 And you'll pay for that, you
 murdering swine.

The SHERIFF, unperturbed, points his sword at ROBIN

 SHERIFF
 Sticks and stones, Hood.

ROBIN, glaring at the SHERIFF, sharply reins in the horse and it rears slightly before ROBIN walks it back to GISBORNE's side.

 SHERIFF (cont'd)
 Give them a demonstration, Blamire.

BLAMIRE raises his hand. A soldier lights the barrel chained to the trebuchet's arm. BLAMIRE drops his hand.

 BLAMIRE
 Loose.

ROBIN and GISBORNE watch the flaming barrel fly deep over the town wall.

CUT TO:

471 (313R) MARKETPLACE

471

It lands in the marketplace and explodes.

CUT TO:

472 (313R) ROBIN/GISBORNE AND SHERIFF/BLAMIRE

472

ROBIN turns back to the SHERIFF with stoic calm, masking the fury within.

 SHERIFF
 (to Robin)
 You have until dawn. Give me
 Gisborne, release Isabella, and
 then return Nottingham to myself
 and Prince John. Otherwise, you and
 your noisy friends, well, they'll
 be wiped off the face of the earth.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN and the SHERIFF exchange glares one last time before turning their horses around.

JUMP TO:

473 (313R) MARKETPLACE

473

ARCHER and TUCK run in from the gates as the townsfolk scream and run away in panic.

REBECCA
What the hell was that?

ARCHER surveys the damage.

ARCHER
The Arabs call it Byzantine fire.

ARCHER kneels over the barrel remains.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Doesn't work like you'd expect.

ARCHER hands the charred wood to TUCK.

ARCHER (cont'd)
See?
(rub fingers)
Sticky, like oil.

TUCK inspects the wood.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Repels water.

TUCK looks the wood over, frowning.

TUCK
*Phlegon thanatos. Literally the
burning death.*

ARCHER picks up another piece of debris.

TUCK (cont'd)
An alchemical mixture of flammable
elements.
(sniff fingers)
I've heard of it, but I've never
seen it used till now.

ARCHER
(stand)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER (cont'd)
This will spread chaos across the town... destroying everything and everyone in its way.

ROBIN and GISBORNE return.

ROBIN (VO)
Put lookouts on every wall! Scour the town!

ROBIN stops at TUCK and circles his horse in front of him. GISBORNE dismounts.

ROBIN
Tuck, I want every able-bodied man armed and ready. We hold Nottingham... for the King! We know the King's coming! He has loyal troops waiting for him at Loughborough. If we can get word to them...

GISBORNE
Robin, you could end this now by giving me to the Sheriff. You could have done it back there. Why didn't you?

ROBIN leans down to him from his horse.

ROBIN
(intensely)
This is bigger than you, Guy. It always has been. We stand together. We fight together. I will not give you to him. We are family.

GISBORNE gives ROBIN a look.

ROBIN (cont'd)
We are fighting for the future of England. You have Isabella behind bars. That's what you wanted. Are you with me?

GISBORNE
I'm with you.

ROBIN
(to Tuck)
Get it done!

MUCH and LITTLE JOHN wheel in a cart from the main gates with ALLAN's body on it.

MUCH
There's something we have to do
first.

MUCH and LITTLE JOHN set the cart down on its handles.

LITTLE JOHN
Honour the dead.

ROBIN stops his horse and looks at ALLAN, dreading the deed. ARCHER steps forward and stares at ALLAN's body.

CONTINUE TO:

474 (313R) FUNERAL

474

ALLAN's body has been wrapped tightly in burlap and set upon a pyre. One short sword has been laid on his abdomen, pointing to his toes. ROBIN places ALLAN's tag on his chest. Waiting behind ROBIN on either side of the pyre are GISBORNE and MUCH, each with a lit torch. TUCK, LITTLE JOHN and ARCHER stand several paces off at ALLAN's feet. ROBIN walks to the side and nods at GISBORNE. GISBORNE nods back, then he and MUCH step to the pyre. MUCH raises his torch and looks round at them all, trying not to cry.

MUCH
To Allan, our loyal friend.

EVERYONE
To Allan.

There's a brief moment of silence before GISBORNE and MUCH reach down with the torches and light the pyre. ROBIN stands, stoic and silent, watching the flames rise.

CONTINUE TO:

475 MONTAGE OF ALLAN FLASHBACKS

475

Camera pans to each member of the gang as they recall some fond Allan moments.

First: Robin and Allan

Second: Much and Allan

Third: Little John and Allan

Fourth: Tuck and Allan

(CONTINUED)

Fifth: Gisborne and Allan

Camera zooms in on the flames.

CUT TO:

476

(313R) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - DUNGEONS

476

Keys jingle as a guard and GISBORNE approach ISABELLA's cell. The guard unlocks the door and GISBORNE storms in.

GISBORNE

Did you know he was still alive?

GISBORNE slaps ISABELLA's face with rage, then grabs it and turns it to look in her eyes. She stares at him with hatred.

ISABELLA

I knew nothing of this.

GISBORNE searches her eyes for a hint of a lie and sees none. He lets go and turns to the guard.

GISBORNE

Leave us.

The guard obediently disappears. ISABELLA walks boldly towards GISBORNE.

ISABELLA

You so want to kill me, don't you?
What's stopping you, Guy? Not the
fact that I'm a woman, surely.

GISBORNE

There is too much blood on my hands
already. Isabella, you'll find no
mercy amongst Robin now.

GISBORNE looks down to his belt.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

So when the time is right...

GISBORNE unhooks a small corked bottle from his belt.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

...you might want to use this.

GISBORNE places the nearly empty, pink glass bottle onto ISABELLA's palm. She immediately suspects what it is.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

Poison.

GISBORNE

A single drop will act slowly and painfully. For it to be quick, you must take it all.

ISABELLA

This is your idea of mercy?

She looks at the bottle and scoffs.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Your last brotherly gesture. For whose sake, Guy? Mine or yours?

ISABELLA bolts for the open door but GISBORNE catches her.

GISBORNE

I do this for our mother's sake.

GISBORNE strokes her hair as he holds her against his chest. He gently lets her go, holding her back as he reverses out the door, closes it, locks it and leaves.

ISABELLA

Guy...

He does not turn back, his deed done.

JUMP TO:

477 (313R) BATTLEMENTS - NIGHT

477

REBECCA ties a rope around the post of the gibbet. She heads for the edge of wall as LITTLE JOHN approaches her.

LITTLE JOHN

What are you doing?

REBECCA

You have to get word to the King's troops at Loughborough, right?

LITTLE JOHN

Yeah, but Robin...

REBECCA

Someone has to get help.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN
You're not...

REBECCA
Please. Let me do this. I made a
mistake. Let me fix it. Let me...

LITTLE JOHN
(nod)
Hmm.

REBECCA
Pull the rope up after me and tell
Robin... I'll be back with an army.

LITTLE JOHN
Right.

REBECCA abseils down the side as LITTLE JOHN watches. When she gets to bottom, she looks up and nods. LITTLE JOHN waves. REBECCA checks for soldiers, then runs off into the night. LITTLE JOHN looks out at the army in wait under an orange haze and a nearly full moon.

JUMP TO:

478 (313R) THE GREAT HALL

478

GISBORNE comes downstairs from the balcony entrance and sees the gang's distressed faces. ROBIN leans over the far end of the long table. ARCHER sits staring into the fireplace. TUCK takes off his bandage.

GISBORNE
What's happened?

ROBIN
(agitatedly)
I just learned that Rebecca has
taken it upon herself to go to
Loughborough for the troops.

GISBORNE
Rebecca? She's just a...

LITTLE JOHN
I tried to talk her out of it,
but...

ROBIN gives LITTLE JOHN a "What were you thinking look".

Momentary silence.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

The Sheriff is playing with us!
(exasperated)

He knows he's got the advantage. We
have to hold this castle until the
troops arrive.

MUCH

Can we? I mean, how long under
bombardment from Byzantine fire?

ARCHER

He's got plenty of it.

ROBIN

How do you know?

ARCHER

I sold it to him.

ROBIN turns round and puts his hands on his head in utter
disbelief.

MUCH

For a profit?

TUCK looks up at ARCHER. GISBORNE silently chuckles at MUCH.
MUCH strides forward and grabs ARCHER's shirt.

MUCH (cont'd)

You sold it to the man who killed
my friend?!

ROBIN turns round to ARCHER.

ROBIN

(roar)

Well, now your trade has caught up
with you! And you're going to be
bombarded by your own weapons!

MUCH circles the table to stand behind GISBORNE.

ARCHER

I've done you a favour by sticking
round here.

ROBIN glares at him.

ARCHER (cont'd)

I saved your ungrateful lives!

(CONTINUED)

GISBORNE

Our lives wouldn't have needed
saving if you hadn't trapped the
tunnel in the first place.

MUCH

(point at Archer)

We lock him up! We can't trust him.

ARCHER, hurt and flustered, walks towards the stairs.

ROBIN

(to Archer)

Well, what's the matter? A guilty
conscience?

ARCHER stops. ROBIN leans on the table again.

ROBIN (cont'd)

And what about all those people
that are going to die because of
your greed?

ARCHER turns round and leans on the opposite end of the
table.

ARCHER

Well, what about all those who have
died because they listened to Robin
Hood?

ROBIN stares silently at him. ARCHER walks the length of the
table to him.

ARCHER (cont'd)

A few untrained, under-equipped
peasants...

ARCHER gestures outside towards the SHERIFF.

ARCHER (cont'd)

...against that war machine.

ROBIN hangs his head. ARCHER leans on the table next to him.

ARCHER (cont'd)

So you think about what you got
them into... before you ever try
and judge me.

ARCHER leaves through the door under the balcony. There is
an icy silence before ROBIN speaks.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

We have to take the trebuchets.

MUCH looks up at him.

ROBIN (cont'd)

A small unit, tonight. You with me?

LITTLE JOHN and MUCH immediately head for the stairs.

ROBIN (cont'd)

I'll see you all at the
battlements.

LITTLE JOHN and MUCH continue up the stairs. GISBORNE looks to ROBIN and heads over to him.

GISBORNE

Don't let our brother get to you.
He...

ROBIN

He's right.

GISBORNE

No. He isn't.

GISBORNE places a hand on ROBIN's shoulder.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

I know. I've seen what you can do
from both sides. And I'm proud to
fight with you.

ROBIN

Thanks.

GISBORNE

So, shall we?

GISBORNE points to the door by the fireplace. ROBIN nods and heads for the door. GISBORNE follows him out.

JUMP TO:

479

(313) BATTLEMENTS - NIGHT

479

LITTLE JOHN lays out four coiled ropes in a line along the parapet. MUCH runs up to ROBIN to report as the others ready their ropes for the descent.

(CONTINUED)

MUCH
There's pockets of men around the
walls.

LITTLE JOHN
Regular patrols.

ROBIN lays down his bow.

ROBIN
You all know what we're doing. We
go up along the dry moat...
(point below)
...then we head for that cart and
then the tent. That'll give us
cover until we make our way to the
trebuchets.

GISBORNE tosses his rope over the side.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Much, you're in charge. If we don't
come back, you fight to the end.

LITTLE JOHN stops and looks at ROBIN.

MUCH
Well, I'm coming too, aren't I?

ROBIN
No-no-no-no. No, you're not. I need
a cool head here...
(point below)
...not a hot one out there.

MUCH
(disbelief and hurt)
What?!

ROBIN
Listen to me...

ROBIN puts his hand on the side of MUCH's head...

ROBIN (cont'd)
You'll get your revenge for Allan,
I promise.

MUCH sullenly relents. ROBIN gently slaps his cheek. TUCK
stands at the edge, rope in hand. MUCH hands TUCK his bag
and TUCK slips it over his shoulder. GISBORNE, ROBIN, TUCK
and LITTLE JOHN stand ready with their backs to the parapet.
ROBIN looks at them all.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
Right, let's do this.

LITTLE JOHN nods.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Ready?

All four abseil down the side.

CUT TO:

480 (313) OUTSIDE TOWN

480

GISBORNE, ROBIN, TUCK and LITTLE JOHN poke their heads up over the edge of the moat and quickly duck down again as two horsemen go by. After they pass, the outlaws scramble out of the moat and run for the cart.

CONTINUE TO:

481 (313) SHERIFF'S CAMP

481

GISBORNE, ROBIN, TUCK and LITTLE JOHN duck down beside the cart. Beyond it the soldiers sit by the fire and talk, oblivious to the intruders. ROBIN peers around the wheel, then looks back and nods.

ROBIN
(whisper)
All right?

ROBIN crawls on his hands and feet to the tent. TUCK, GISBORNE, and LITTLE JOHN follow, all unnoticed.

LITTLE JOHN and TUCK go to one trebuchet, ROBIN and GISBORNE go to the other. They unhook the chains and set them up again shorter than before, lessening their range dramatically.

LITTLE JOHN
(to Tuck)
Yeah?

TUCK
Let's go.

GISBORNE, ROBIN, TUCK and LITTLE JOHN crawl back to the cart unobserved just as BLAMIRE starts striding among the soldiers, yelling orders.

(CONTINUED)

BLAMIRE
Come on, you lazy rebels! Move
yourselves!

BLAMIRE appears out of the haze as ROBIN crawls back to the wagon.

BLAMIRE (cont'd)
Get to your posts!
(beat)
Weapons ready!

The soldiers scramble to obey.

ROBIN
(to gang)
The Sheriff had no intention of
waiting till dawn.

BLAMIRE
We attack immediately!

The SHERIFF looks at Nottingham as BLAMIRE strides to his side.

SHERIFF
Time to wake them up, I think.

The soldiers load the trebuchets. BLAMIRE lowers his hand.

BLAMIRE
Loose!

The soldiers trip the trebuchets. The flaming barrels are sent straight up as the SHERIFF looks out at the town expectantly. When he doesn't see flying, flaming barrels, he turns to BLAMIRE.

SHERIFF
What's going on, Blamire?

BLAMIRE looks up as the barrels start to whistle in the air. The SHERIFF looks up, too, and sees the barrels falling down right on top of them. BLAMIRE grabs the SHERIFF, pulling him away.

BLAMIRE
Run for cover!

The barrels come down on top of the trebuchets and explode, destroying them.

ROBIN takes advantage of the chaos.

ROBIN
(to gang)
Come on! Run!

SHERIFF
The trebuchets!

The SHERIFF looks round in confusion, then sees the outlaws running.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
Robin Hood! Get him!

The gang run into a band of soldiers who draw their swords, forcing them to stop in their tracks.

SOLDIER
Stay there!

TUCK
Robin?!

ROBIN looks round, but realizes they are surrounded. Then he hears hoof beats approaching. ARCHER is galloping towards them. He shoots a flaming arrow at a small barrel, which explodes with a blinding light, cutting off the gang from the SHERIFF and the other soldiers. GISBORNE, ROBIN, TUCK and LITTLE JOHN fight off the guards in the bedlam. The SHERIFF is bewildered at what's happening as ARCHER rides by, holding his bow over his head, cheering at his feat. He then shoots a flaming arrow at another barrel and it explodes.

ARCHER
Run for it, Robin!

ROBIN
Come on! Go!

GISBORNE, ROBIN, TUCK and LITTLE JOHN run for town as the SHERIFF watches. BLAMIRE remains calm, shouting orders.

BLAMIRE
Archers to the left flank. Prepare
to fire!

The archers assemble as ordered.

BLAMIRE (cont'd)
Main gate.

CUT TO:

482 (313R) MAIN GATES

482

MUCH, having watched the situation from above, descends the battlements using the ladder by the main gate.

MUCH
Open the gates!

Two men pull open a door each as MUCH jumps off the ladder.

ROBIN, TUCK, GISBORNE, and LITTLE JOHN run down the bridge. ARCHER gallops behind them, the soldiers close at his heels.

ROBIN, TUCK, GISBORNE, and LITTLE JOHN and ARCHER enter and the men close the gates behind them before the soldiers can get through.

MUCH, TUCK and ROBIN hold the doors closed while LITTLE JOHN and GISBORNE put in the beam to reinforce it.

ROBIN heads for ARCHER before turning to find MUCH first instead.

ROBIN
You see? That's why I had you here!
Now you know!

MUCH
(giddy with success)
That's for Allan!

ROBIN goes to ARCHER. MUCH climbs up to the battlements.

ROBIN
I thought you'd run out on us!

ARCHER
(dismount)
Thought you needed a hand. By the way, I got you a little present, courtesy of the Sheriff.

ARCHER slaps a leather flask into TUCK's hand. ROBIN is a bit suspicious.

ROBIN
What's that?

TUCK smells the liquid and recognizes it.

TUCK
(delighted)
It's Byzantine fire!

(CONTINUED)

TUCK pours some into his hand and smells it again.

TUCK (cont'd)
If I can work out its base
components, I can make some more of
this.

ROBIN looks intensely into TUCK's eyes.

ROBIN
So we can fight the Sheriff.

TUCK looks proudly into ROBIN's eyes. ROBIN shoves TUCK's
good shoulder.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Do it!

ROBIN goes to the ladder. TUCK smells his hand again,
thinking.

JUMP TO:

483 (313) SHERIFF'S CAMP

483

The SHERIFF is livid.

SHERIFF
Destroy everything!

BLAMIRE
Storm those gates!

SHERIFF
I want Robin Hood's head!

BLAMIRE
Attack!

JUMP TO:

484 (313) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - DUNGEONS

484

ISABELLA goes to the door of her cell, by which sits a
peasant man as guard. She talks to him dreamily, sultrily.

ISABELLA
Well, well, well. You are a big
boy, aren't you?

ISABELLA chuckles at his silence.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Oh, come on, now. Don't be shy.
It's just you and me, waiting for
the end. I mean, Robin Hood can't
win. You saw the Sheriff's army. So
I guess we're in the same
position... condemned.
(sigh)
Such a waste.

JUMP TO:

485 (313R) NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - DAWN

485

(Note: FOCUS shifts constantly throughout scene. There are various angles to be covered and various viewpoints to be taken.)

FOCUS ON: BATTLEMENTS. ROBIN climbs the ladder to MUCH on the battlements.

MUCH

Robin! We're going to need the
King's troops fast.

ROBIN

Let's hope Rebecca can get there.

They both look down at the bridge where soldiers are wheeling a battering ram made of three thick logs towards the portal. The ram hits the gates, which have been braced with thin tree trunks.

FOCUS ON: BELOW. GISBORNE turns sharply at the noise, and yells up to ROBIN.

GISBORNE

The gates won't hold against a
battering ram and we don't have the
men to take them on!

FOCUS ON: OUTSIDE. The battering ram pounds the gates again and archers, behind it, shoot flaming arrows over ROBIN and MUCH's heads.

FOCUS ON: BATTLEMENTS

MUCH

Run!

ROBIN yells down to the men below.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
Take cover!

FOCUS ON: BELOW. ARCHER, LITTLE JOHN and GISBORNE scramble to the sides. TUCK, with nowhere to go, turns his back and protects his head and the flask as the flaming arrows land amongst them. The battering ram pounds the gates.

FOCUS ON: BATTLEMENTS. ROBIN fires an arrow and a soldier falls. MUCH shoots another right in the heart.

ROBIN (cont'd)
(yell down)
Pull everyone back into the castle courtyard!

FOCUS ON: BELOW. TUCK slides the flask of Byzantine fire over his shoulder.

FOCUS ON: BATTLEMENTS.

ROBIN (cont'd)
We defend from there until the King's troops arrive!

ROBIN tosses his bow down.

FOCUS ON: BELOW.

LITTLE JOHN
(to peasants)
Move! Let's go.

LITTLE JOHN and the men move a cart into the gateway. ROBIN tosses his quiver down.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
Take cover! Take cover! Take cover!

FOCUS ON: BATTLEMENTS.

ROBIN
(to Much)
Abandon this tower. Take a company of archers, hold them as long as possible.

MUCH nods as ROBIN goes down the ladder.

FOCUS ON: BELOW. LITTLE JOHN, two men, and GISBORNE position themselves to turn the cart on its side.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN
One, two, three.

They turn the cart over.

FOCUS ON: BATTLEMENTS.

MUCH
(to men on the battlements)
Abandon the tower!

FOCUS ON: BELOW. TUCK runs to the castle as the men put up more barriers. MUCH and seven archers take up position behind the overturned cart.

MUCH (cont'd)
Steady!

The battering ram pounds the gates.

MUCH (cont'd)
Draw!

The battering ram pounds again and the gates burst open.

MUCH (cont'd)
Loose!

Eight arrows fly and fell the first soldiers coming through. The battering ram is pushed in after them.

MUCH (cont'd)
Run!

The eight men run for the castle.

FOCUS ON: IN FRONT OF THE CASTLE GATE. TUCK stands directing another line of archers.

TUCK
Hold! ... Hold!

MUCH and the archers come round the corner and run past the line.

TUCK (cont'd)
Nock! ... Draw! ... Loose!

The archers let fly their arrows and immediately retreat to the rear, exposing a line led by LITTLE JOHN.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN

Nock! ... Draw! ... Loose! Fall
back!

LITTLE JOHN's archers retreat to the rear and MUCH's line
steps up.

MUCH

Nock! ... Draw! ... Loose! Fall
back!

TUCK

Fall back to the castle!

MUCH / LITTLE JOHN

Fall back! Fall back!

FOCUS ON: COURTYARD. TUCK and LITTLE JOHN usher the men into
the courtyard. MUCH is overtaken by the heat of the moment,
seeing that most of their opponents are down, and starts to
celebrate, cheering and jumping up and down in front of the
gate. LITTLE JOHN and TUCK each grab an arm and pull him
back through the doors just before they close.

CUT TO:

486

(313) DUNGEONS

486

ISABELLA is still crooning to her guard. He looks back at
her.

ISABELLA

Isn't it traditional to offer the
condemned one last request? You
open the door and I'll give you
exactly what you want.

The man smiles, giddy with anticipation. He gets the keys
and unlocks the door. ISABELLA steps out, puts her left hand
on his shoulder, seemingly to give him a big kiss, but her
right hand pulls out his dagger and stabs him.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

Men are so easy.

CUT TO:

487 (313) COURTYARD 487

ROBIN runs into the courtyard, pulling an arrow from his quiver.

TUCK

John!

LITTLE JOHN joins TUCK and MUCH and helps them and a few men turn over a flatbed wagon in front of the gate.

CUT TO:

488 (313) NOTTINGHAM TOWN 488

BLAMIRE and the SHERIFF march through the town as archers scout the streets. Spent arrows and felled bodies are everywhere.

SHERIFF

Bring the battering ram, smash those gates! And bring me the prisoner you captured!

BLAMIRE

My lord!

BLAMIRE goes back through the town.

BLAMIRE (cont'd)

Battering rams, now!

CUT TO:

489 (313R) CASTLE - COURTYARD 489

LITTLE JOHN looks through the crack in the gates, then calls out to the men above.

LITTLE JOHN

Portcullis!

He and two men run out from the gates as the portcullis is lowered.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA. ISABELLA, cloaked, makes her way from the dungeons into the courtyard, unnoticed, but watching.

FOCUS ON: GANG. MUCH, holding his sword, directs a line of archers behind the overturned wagon. Behind him is LITTLE JOHN's line, and ARCHER leads a third, freeing TUCK to work on the Byzantine fire. ROBIN stands in the middle of MUCH's line of archers.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)
(to archers)
Get in rank with me!

ROBIN
Get ready!

MUCH points his sword at the archers.

MUCH
Hold!

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA. ISABELLA stops by the small steps,
watching, holding her dagger.

FOCUS ON: GANG. The battering ram smashes open the gates and
they swing back to almost closed.

MUCH (cont'd)
Draw!

BLAMIRE brings REBECCA forward into ROBIN's line of sight
between the doors.

ROBIN
(interrupt)
Wait!

MUCH
But...

ROBIN
Wait!

REBECCA
I'm sorry, Robin.

ROBIN grabs the tip of his nocked arrow and flips it forward
to hold it against the bow. The SHERIFF pushes open the left
door all the way, revealing himself.

SHERIFF
Not as sorry as she's going to be.

ROBIN glances back to see where MUCH is.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
She was on her way from
Loughborough... with this.

The SHERIFF holds up a folded note and looks at it.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF (cont'd)
Expecting reinforcements? Not
coming.

The SHERIFF tosses the parchment casually aside.

FOCUS ON: ISABELLA. ISABELLA wipes her dagger on her cloak,
licks her lips and heads up the small steps.

FOCUS ON: SHERIFF AND ROBIN

SHERIFF (cont'd)
(to Robin)
Don't believe me?
(to Rebecca)
Tell him.

BLAMIRE shakes REBECCA, who struggles against his grip.
ROBIN whispers to MUCH.

ROBIN
Much...

ROBIN looks up at the battlements over the portcullis. MUCH
looks up, too. ROBIN turns away from the SHERIFF to circle
behind MUCH, feigning exasperation to the SHERIFF.

SHERIFF
King Richard isn't coming either.
He was on his way...

ROBIN
(whispering)
Can you do it?

MUCH
(take a deep breath)
Watch me.

SHERIFF
...but he was captured by Leopold
of Austria.

ROBIN completes his circle and faces the SHERIFF again.

ROBIN
You're lying.

REBECCA
It's true. He's being held to
ransom.

SHERIFF

Two hundred and fifty thousand
crowns, enough money to bankrupt a
nation.

In the background, MUCH runs along the battlements with a
rope in hand.

REBECCA

The troops at Loughborough won't
fight unless Richard leads them.

SHERIFF

So what's it to be, Hood? Surrender
or slaughter?

In the background, MUCH tosses the rope down into the
courtyard.

ROBIN

Neither.

TUCK, GISBORNE and LITTLE JOHN catch the rope. ROBIN strides
forward, stalling for time so the gang can get in place.

ROBIN (cont'd)

You see... I don't trust you...
Vasey.

MUCH takes up the slack in the rope.

ROBIN (cont'd)

You said you'd take no prisoners.

The SHERIFF says the next line flippantly, and feigning
remembering.

SHERIFF

Oh, yes. Yes, I did say that. Well,
that was rather hasty of me. I
mean, who's going to pay tax if the
villagers are all dead?

ROBIN

(scoff)

So... What, you're going to release
all these people now only to make
slaves of them later?

SHERIFF

Why?

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
(scoff, shake head)
You don't give me much of a choice,
do you?

SHERIFF
(chuckle)
What, have you got some little
trick tucked up your sleeve, have
you, hm?

MUCH nods to the men below.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
Humiliate me and rescue the woman?

MUCH looks down at REBECCA on the other side.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
You're so predictable, Hood. Bored
with that game.

ROBIN's eyes flicker to REBECCA.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
(to Blamire)
Kill her.

ROBIN
Rebecca! Above you!

ROBIN runs back behind the wagon.

ROBIN (cont'd)
(to Tuck)
Lower the rope!

MUCH is quickly lowered down in front of BLAMIRE and REBECCA puts one foot in a loop in the rope. BLAMIRE draws his sword and REBECCA elbows him in the chest, breaking free. She throws her bound hands over MUCH's head.

MUCH
Up!

GISBORNE
Pull!

GISBORNE, TUCK and LITTLE JOHN pull back on the rope. BLAMIRE tries to grab them, but MUCH and REBECCA are quickly raised up out of his reach.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Fire!

FOCUS ON: UP ON THE BATTLEMENTS. ARCHER and some villagers shoot down at the soldiers.

FOCUS ON: BELOW. ROBIN and the archers behind the wagon shoot. Soldiers fall.

FOCUS ON: BATTLEMENTS. A peasant man pulls MUCH and REBECCA back over the parapet. ARCHER leans over the battlements and shoots at the Sheriff, who ducks and runs to the side of the gate.

FOCUS ON: TOWN. BLAMIRE stands on the other side.

SHERIFF

That is the last time Robin Hood
makes a fool out of me!

FOCUS ON: BATTLEMENTS. REBECCA waits for MUCH as he tumbles ungracefully over the edge of the wall.

FOCUS ON: BELOW. The villagers and ROBIN shoot as fast as they can.

FOCUS ON: TOWN.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

To the tunnel!

The SHERIFF and BLAMIRE run from the gate.

BLAMIRE

Fall back!

The soldiers retreat and the battering ram is pulled back to the center of the marketplace.

FOCUS ON: ROBIN AND GANG.

MUCH

It's working! They're falling back!

One last arrow hits the shield of a retreating soldier.

ROBIN

They're regrouping.

ROBIN calls back up the stairs.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
Barricade the portcullis!

REBECCA runs down the steps from the battlements.

MAN
Bring him inside.

ROBIN looks behind him at the wounded being taken inside. LITTLE JOHN pats the shoulder of an exhausted old man, who gratefully sits down as LITTLE JOHN looks at the wound of his neighbour.

MAN (cont'd)
I think he's still breathing.

GISBORNE looks around in despair at the few men they have left.

CUT TO:

490

(313R) COURTYARD - A SHORT WHILE LATER

490

As the gang and peasants do what they can to prepare for the next assault, ROBIN rests his head on his folded arms on the side of the overturned wagon. His face is solemn, knowing their situation is hopeless. TUCK comes up behind him and leans an arm beside him.

TUCK
The people need you, Robin. Talk to them.

ROBIN doesn't move or answer.

TUCK (cont'd)
Robin?

ROBIN remains silent a moment before slowly turning his head to look at TUCK, realizing he must act the leader. He stands and walks slowly up to the top of the steps. He turns and looks around at all the remaining men. ROBIN's speech starts out bleakly but gains strength and conviction until he is shouting at the end.

ROBIN
Loyal comrades... you know the situation. And you know that we are on our own. Now we have already lost friends and loved ones.

ROBIN starts to pace along the top of the steps.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)

But England will lose far more if we do not make a stand this day. And yes, some of us may fall, but our fight will live on. In the minds of those that despise injustice, in the hearts of those that cherish freedom, you are the soul of England standing firm against tyranny for a real future. Now ask yourself, is that not something worth fighting for?!

(draw sword)

Together...

(raise sword high)

...for England!

All those in the courtyard raise their fists in the air and cheer. ARCHER, near the gate, sees movement behind him and looks out the portcullis.

ARCHER

They're coming!

ARCHER pulls an arrow from his quiver, nocks and draws.

LITTLE JOHN

Archers! Archers!

The soldiers march down the street and start pushing the battering ram forward from where it was left. ROBIN and the villagers let arrows fly. More arrows whiz past them. Soldiers fall. ROBIN lets loose arrows as fast as he can. An arrow fells a villager. ROBIN quickly shoots the soldier who fired it. MUCH runs to LITTLE JOHN on the battlements. Together they push a ladder down with soldiers climbing up it.

LITTLE JOHN (cont'd)

Much, get down to the portcullis. Help hold it.

MUCH

Right!

LITTLE JOHN

Go!

JUMP TO:

491 (313) TUNNEL

491

The SHERIFF, BLAMIRE and a small company of soldiers walk down the tunnel. Drifts of limestone pellets litter the floor.

SHERIFF

Robin Hood won't know what's hit him.

They come upon ARCHER's wall.

BLAMIRE

Blocked. There's a balance trap. We'll never get through there, my lord.

The SHERIFF's eyes dance over the face of the wall, first frowning, then chuckling as an idea forms.

SHERIFF

Well, we'll see about that.
(chuckle)
Back.

The SHERIFF smiles and turns round, noticing the guards still blocking his return path.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Back!

The soldiers split neatly to each side and the SHERIFF walks between them.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Bring down the Byzantine fire!

CUT TO:

492 (313R) COURTYARD

492

The battle continues. The archers behind the wagon have all fallen or retreated behind other barriers. MUCH surges forward, shooting an arrow, and motions with his arm for the men to advance.

MUCH

Archers! Forwards!

MUCH ducks to avoid an incoming arrow, then pops up again and shoots as the peasant archers move in with him. Soldiers fall.

JUMP TO:

493 (313R) THE GREAT HALL

493

ROBIN runs in from the main doors to the balcony.

ROBIN

Tuck!

TUCK, not looking up from his work, answers.

TUCK

Yeah?

ROBIN

(lean on railing)

I need that fire! We can't hold out
much longer!

TUCK looks up excitedly at Robin.

TUCK

Robin, Robin!

TUCK steps back to get a long-handled, small pitcher.

TUCK (cont'd)

Nut oil. The Sheriff had gallons of
it in the cellar.

TUCK pours the contents of the small pitcher in.

ROBIN

Boiling oil, we can use it.

ROBIN glances back through the doors.

TUCK

No, no-no-no-no. I can do better
than that.

TUCK sets down the pitcher and picks up a short burning
candle.

TUCK (cont'd)

Watch.

TUCK lights a fuse with the candle.

TUCK (cont'd)

The nut oil is a base compound.

ROBIN glances back through the doors again. TUCK steps back.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK (cont'd)
(impatiently)
Come on.

The mixture explodes in a ball of fire that almost reaches the top of the double-high ceiling. A woman screams at the noise. ROBIN watches in awe.

TUCK (cont'd)
That, my friend, is Byzantine fire.

ROBIN ponders the possibilities.

ROBIN
How much have we got?

TUCK turns round, his arms wide at the several large barrels behind him.

TUCK
Gallons and gallons.

ROBIN looks at TUCK intensely.

ROBIN
Get it done.

REBECCA rushes in behind him.

REBECCA
Robin! The portcullis is breached.
We can't hold them.

ROBIN looks over the balcony in dismay.

ROBIN
(mouths)
Damn!

REBECCA
They're going to take the
courtyard!

ROBIN runs out the doors.

CONTINUE TO:

494 (313R) COURTYARD

494

Once outside, ROBIN sees MUCH trying to fight off two soldiers at once from behind the wagon. He quickly pulls an arrow from his quiver and shoots. The arrow hits one of the soldiers in the neck and he drops like a sack of potatoes as MUCH stands up and slams his sword into the helmet of the second.

ROBIN

Much!

(windmill arm)

Pull back! John! Abandon the battlements!

MUCH has stepped out beyond the wagon and is furiously fighting two soldiers. His sword dances as he blocks and brings up a slicing blow at one, then fights the other off.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Much!

MUCH turns around and stabs a third soldier.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Much!

Behind LITTLE JOHN, a wooden roof is on fire. LITTLE JOHN viciously stabs a soldier on the floor with the point of a banner pole.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Get everyone in the hall!

The villagers stream past ROBIN into the castle. MUCH rallies them to go.

MUCH

Come on!

LITTLE JOHN

(wave banner)

Abandon the battlements!

MUCH is the last one in. He glances back to be sure before going inside.

JUMP TO:

495 (313R) THE GREAT HALL

495

ROBIN runs to the railing of the balcony.

ROBIN
Pass out the weapons and
ammunition! Guy, get these men into
position!

ARCHER walks forward from the back of the room, carrying a small barrel on his shoulder and another full of arrows in his hand. GISBORNE, behind him, starts shouting orders.

GISBORNE
Barricade the doors! Move!

ISABELLA, wide-eyed but unnoticed, slides to the back of the hall.

ISABELLA
(quietly)
Guy.

GISBORNE turns to face her. She meekly steps towards the tunnel entrance, knowing he will follow.

GISBORNE
Isabella.

ARCHER rushes past GISBORNE as ISABELLA closes the door behind her.

ARCHER
It's the entrance to the escape
tunnel.

GISBORNE slowly steps towards the door.

ARCHER (cont'd)
Why's she gone in there? She knows
it's blocked. I'm going to get
Robin.

ARCHER starts to leave, but GISBORNE grabs him.

GISBORNE
No.

GISBORNE draws his sword and faces the entrance.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
She's mine.

GISBORNE takes another step.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
Barricade the door!

Men race to block the main doors as GISBORNE enters the tunnel. ARCHER looks up at ROBIN, then decides to follow GISBORNE.

CONTINUE TO:

496 (313) TUNNEL

496

GISBORNE walks slowly, his sword out in front. ARCHER walks down the other side and sees a grate at the bottom of a wall. He taps it with his sword, making a loud rattle.

GISBORNE
Shh.

ARCHER
Where does that lead?

GISBORNE
It leads into the cellar and back to the castle.

JUMP TO:

497 (313) OUTSIDE NOTTINGHAM - GRAVEYARD

497

The SHERIFF walks towards the tunnel entrance as BLAMIRE climbs out.

SHERIFF
So, you've laid out the barrels like I told you to.

BLAMIRE
Exactly as you said.

A soldier holds out a torch to the SHERIFF, who lights a short, thick, stick-like fuse in it.

SHERIFF
Good. Very good.

The SHERIFF drops the fuse down the open hole and walks away. BLAMIRE watches him go, confused for a moment, then realizes gravely that there's about to be an explosion. Balls of fire erupt from the grave.

JUMP TO:

498 (313) TUNNEL

498

ARCHER and GISBORNE fight to keep their balance as the explosion rocks the ground beneath their feet. Dust rains down on them.

ARCHER
Byzantine fire.

GISBORNE
So that's why Isabella came down here. She's trying to blast her way out of the tunnel.

ARCHER
Might be a way out for all of us.

GISBORNE
Go and tell Robin. I'll deal with Isabella.

ARCHER turns back. GISBORNE continues cautiously forward.

CUT TO:

499 (313R) THE GREAT HALL

499

TUCK is standing on a large barrel. He gives REBECCA a small one.

TUCK
Fill it. Fill it, please.

TUCK hops to another barrel.

TUCK (cont'd)
Robin!

ROBIN comes over. TUCK kneels down to him.

TUCK (cont'd)
Robin, if we use this much Byzantine fire, we'll destroy everything. The castle, the Sheriff's arm...

REBECCA
(interrupting)
And with it, his power, everything he has, gone for ever. That's what you want, isn't it?

(CONTINUED)

TUCK
But, we'll kill every man, woman
and child in here.

ARCHER comes out of the tunnel.

ARCHER
(breathlessly)
Robin! The tunnel! Isabella's just
cleared it.

LITTLE JOHN calls out from the balcony where he, MUCH and
several archers stand ready.

LITTLE JOHN
Robin! They're coming!

ROBIN
(to Tuck)
Hold them out!

ROBIN runs to ARCHER.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Tuck, you're in charge.

TUCK
John, hold the doors!

TUCK pounds a barrel top with his cross.

JUMP TO:

500 (313R) TUNNEL

500

ISABELLA waits for GISBORNE, seeing the glint of his sword
in the dim light. GISBORNE walks through drifts of dust and
limestone pebbles on the floor.

GISBORNE
Isabella!

ISABELLA
Guy?

ISABELLA slinks behind a pillar. GISBORNE walks on, water
dripping around him.

GISBORNE
Isabella, where are you?

GISBORNE walks past ISABELLA's pillar.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA
Come and get me.

ISABELLA chuckles. GISBORNE stops and puts his sword at ISABELLA's throat. ISABELLA looks back at him.

GISBORNE
That explosion.

ISABELLA looks down at the blade.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
The tunnel should be clear by now.
(step forward)
I'd say there's a way out if you
want it.

He lowers his sword.

ISABELLA
Look at you, Guy.

She faces him, holding out the bottle of poison on her palm.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Perhaps it's time you take the
poison for yourself.

She reaches for his arm.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
After all, you've destroyed anyone
you've ever held dear to you. You
know, brother, you loved me once.

GISBORNE hangs his head as the SHERIFF comes up behind him.

SHERIFF
And me, too.

GISBORNE whips his head around to look and raises his sword at the SHERIFF. The SHERIFF walks closer. GISBORNE turns to ISABELLA.

GISBORNE
You planned this?

ISABELLA chuckles.

SHERIFF
Isabella, you will, of course,
relinquish your claims to my title,
if... you wish to join me.

ISABELLA unbuckles her cloak and lets it drop behind her before stepping towards the SHERIFF. The SHERIFF address GISBORNE.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

I didn't want anyone else to have the pleasure of killing you, so I set up this little trap.

BLAMIRE steps forward and draws. ISABELLA brings out her dagger.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

Stay back.

GISBORNE takes small retreating steps.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

He's mine.
(draw)
I made you!

The SHERIFF immediately attacks. GISBORNE blocks and punches him as ISABELLA darts behind a pillar.

GISBORNE

I will kill you. And you will stay dead this time.

The SHERIFF and GISBORNE fight. GISBORNE has the SHERIFF on his knees. The SHERIFF holds up the sword with both hands, blocking GISBORNE's repeated blows. ISABELLA steps behind GISBORNE and grabs his arm just as ROBIN intervenes, catching her other arm and her neck and twisting her out of the way, but GISBORNE's arm is pulled round, distracting him. The SHERIFF sees the advantage and slices GISBORNE's arm. BLAMIRE points to the side, directing two soldiers. The SHERIFF attacks again as ROBIN pushes ISABELLA into a pillar.

ROBIN

(hissing)

Still as treacherous as ever.

ISABELLA brings up a knee to ROBIN's gut and he is forced back into the soldiers. ROBIN draws as the soldiers charge him. ROBIN pushes one aside. ISABELLA calmly walks over to the SHERIFF's "side" of the tunnel. The SHERIFF kicks the back of GISBORNE's knee. GISBORNE fights to keep his balance. The SHERIFF is about to stab him when ARCHER charges the SHERIFF.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER
Gisborne!

The SHERIFF turns to ARCHER, who fights with a sword in each hand. BLAMIRE renews the attack on GISBORNE. ROBIN fights the two soldiers. ARCHER kicks the SHERIFF. GISBORNE bests BLAMIRE and kicks him back. ARCHER spins and kicks back the SHERIFF. ROBIN fights off the soldiers.

ROBIN, ARCHER and GISBORNE retreat to the right side of the tunnel, each under an arch. ISABELLA advances, pointing her dagger at ROBIN. The soldiers and BLAMIRE regroup. ROBIN draws his knife and holds it out with his sword. The SHERIFF steps between the pillars in front of ARCHER as BLAMIRE faces GISBORNE. All have their weapons outstretched in front of them.

SHERIFF
How appropriate. A battle so huge
should come down to the important
few.

GISBORNE, ARCHER and ROBIN stand ready. The SHERIFF points his sword at ARCHER.

SHERIFF (cont'd)
A new one. Don't know you, do I?

ARCHER smirks at him.

ISABELLA
He's my mother's foolish mistake.

ISABELLA glances at GISBORNE.

ISABELLA (cont'd)
Look at us, the whole sorry family.

ROBIN looks sideways at ARCHER and GISBORNE and nods.

ROBIN
Together.

ARCHER
Brothers in arms.

The SHERIFF attacks ROBIN, BLAMIRE attacks GISBORNE, and the soldiers attack ARCHER. ROBIN blocks the SHERIFF's blow and twists under his arm, away from the wall as ARCHER dropkicks one of the soldiers. GISBORNE also makes a twisting move against BLAMIRE, moving away from the wall. ARCHER quickly dispatches the remaining soldier and faces BLAMIRE. The SHERIFF swings at ROBIN, who blocks. ROBIN swings and the

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF ducks as GISBORNE knocks down a soldier. Meanwhile BLAMIRE punches ARCHER's face, causing ARCHER to drop his katana, then BLAMIRE kicks ARCHER in the chest, kicking away ARCHER's remaining sword at the same time. ARCHER falls on his back, then kicks himself to his feet again. GISBORNE sees he's defenseless.

GISBORNE

Archer!

GISBORNE tosses his sword to ARCHER. ROBIN wrestles the SHERIFF to the floor. He grits his teeth and stands over him, holding the point of his sword down.

ROBIN

This is for all the lives you've ruined...

ISABELLA stands behind the pillar, watching.

ROBIN (cont'd)

...for all the people you've killed.

SHERIFF

Now, Hood...

ROBIN changes his grip on his sword and holds it over the SHERIFF. ISABELLA charges him, but GISBORNE sees her.

GISBORNE

Robin!

GISBORNE pushes ROBIN out of the way, but ISABELLA reaches with her dagger and grazes ROBIN's neck. GISBORNE stands over the SHERIFF now, defenseless. The SHERIFF sits up and stabs GISBORNE with all his might. ISABELLA steps forward and drives her dagger into her brother's back. The SHERIFF pulls out his sword and ISABELLA her dagger, whipping her hair out of her face. GISBORNE grimaces.

ROBIN

Guy!

GISBORNE falls on his side towards ROBIN. ARCHER, having knocked out BLAMIRE, steps over and kneels at GISBORNE's side. The SHERIFF gets up and sees BLAMIRE on the floor. GISBORNE tries to stand, but falls again. ROBIN brandishes his sword at the SHERIFF.

ROBIN (cont'd)

This ends... here!

ISABELLA points her dagger at ROBIN.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

How right you are, Robin Hood.

ISABELLA touches her neck in the same spot as she cut ROBIN and hisses loudly. ROBIN fingers his wound.

ROBIN

It's a scratch. It's nothing!

ISABELLA

No-no-no. You should be careful. I mean, this blade, it could be rusty or... or even worse.

ARCHER guards GISBORNE from the SHERIFF.

GISBORNE

What have you done?

ISABELLA

I used your poison on the blade. A few drops flowing through your bloodstream...

ROBIN lowers his sword.

ISABELLA (cont'd)

...I say you'll be dead by sundown.

ROBIN

(to Gisborne)

Is this true?

GISBORNE nods, grimaces in pain and lets his head sink to the floor. ROBIN contemplates his fate.

SHERIFF

(ecstatic)

Oh, this is too good to be true. You've killed Robin Hood! Ah! Oh, we'll be back...

ROBIN steps forward with his sword up.

SHERIFF (cont'd)

...to finish the rest of you off with an army. Please... wait for me.

(step behind Isabella)

I don't want to miss the big moment.

(CONTINUED)

The SHERIFF pulls ISABELLA down the tunnel. GISBORNE groans. ARCHER turns him onto his back and ROBIN drops his sword and kneels at his side.

GISBORNE
(huskily to Robin)
Get the people out... through the
cellar... backs onto this tunnel.
The Sheriff will take his men the
easy route through the Great Hall.

ARCHER nods to ROBIN, indicating he understands even if ROBIN does not.

ARCHER
So we hide our people in that
tunnel until he moves his men
through, and then we lead ours out.

ROBIN
(nod to Archer)
Get word to Tuck.

ROBIN jerks his head towards the castle entrance.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Go on.

ARCHER starts to get up, but GISBORNE pulls him down.

GISBORNE
(earnestly)
Brother...

ARCHER smiles at him sadly, then leaves. GISBORNE's head falls back with a groan. ROBIN cradles his head. GISBORNE's eyes swim.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
Is this the end?

ROBIN
For you and me both, my friend.

GISBORNE
I'm sorry.

ROBIN shakes his head.

GISBORNE (cont'd)
At least you have someone waiting
for you... Marian... the love of my
life. She was always yours.

ROBIN bites his lip, trying not to cry. GISBORNE grasps ROBIN's elbow from below.

GISBORNE (cont'd)

Robin, I've done many things I regret. But, spending this time with you, at your side, wasn't one of them. Because of you... I die proud... I am free.

GISBORNE's hand slips from ROBIN's arm. ROBIN lifts his hand to close GISBORNE's eyes and GISBORNE's arm falls to his chest. ROBIN lets his head down softly and grieves a moment for his friend.

JUMP TO:

501 (313R) THE GREAT HALL

501

LITTLE JOHN and MUCH man the closed doors of the Great Hall on the balcony. LITTLE JOHN opens the door, throws something out, then spits and closes the door again. Meanwhile, MUCH yells down to TUCK.

MUCH

Tuck, get up here! We can't hold them!

TUCK pours from a large pitcher.

TUCK

Just a little bit longer!

ARCHER comes out of the tunnel.

ARCHER

Leave the door! Everyone is to follow me! Robin's orders!

ARCHER picks up a boy to carry him.

ARCHER (cont'd)

With me! To the cellars!

ARCHER leads the peasants out. Those who can walk help those who can't. ROBIN enters and leans wearily on a barrel next to TUCK.

ROBIN

Are we ready?

(CONTINUED)

TUCK
Yeah, we're done, we're done.

TUCK looks at ROBIN with concern.

TUCK (cont'd)
Guy?

ROBIN shakes his head solemnly.

ROBIN
(mouth)
No.

ROBIN grimaces with the first twinge of the poison's effects. TUCK nods, understanding GISBORNE is dead, but he also suspects something more with ROBIN.

ROBIN (cont'd)
(shout impatiently)
Get these people out!

TUCK
Come on!

MUCH and LITTLE JOHN herd those still guarding the doors out.

JUMP TO:

502 (313) TUNNEL

502

The SHERIFF leads his men down the tunnel. ISABELLA stops at GISBORNE's lifeless form and looks down at it. The SHERIFF sees her and stops.

SHERIFF
This is no time for sentiment.

The SHERIFF turns and continues. ISABELLA looks down at GISBORNE, then spitefully turns away. BLAMIRE gets up and sheathes his knife, staring at GISBORNE's body.

PAN TO:

503 (313R) BEHIND A GRATE

503

ARCHER and MUCH crouch by the grate in the tunnel wall. ROBIN shushes the people behind him as the SHERIFF's men pass through in front of them. After they've gone, ARCHER pulls on the grate but it doesn't budge.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
Try it again. Come on.

LITTLE JOHN impatiently crawls forward through the peasants.

LITTLE JOHN
Out of the way!

ROBIN
Shh.

LITTLE JOHN
Move.

LITTLE JOHN hands his staff to TUCK. He spits on a hand, then rubs them together and grips the grate with both hands.

MUCH
(quietly)
Come on, John.

LITTLE JOHN pulls harder, grunting with the effort.

MUCH (cont'd)
(quietly)
Come on.

LITTLE JOHN groans loudly and breaks the grate free with a yell. MUCH hugs LITTLE JOHN.

MUCH (cont'd)
Thank you, John.

PAN TO:

504 (313R) TUNNEL

504

ROBIN crawls out after LITTLE JOHN and stands up. He sees the last man coming down the tunnel and throws his bow and quiver to the floor, then holds his hand up behind him to stop the others.

ROBIN
Stay back!

LITTLE JOHN holds the people back as ROBIN draws and fights the soldier. MUCH runs to stand by LITTLE JOHN, to hold the peasants back and to watch ROBIN. ROBIN holds the soldier's shoulder and runs him through. He falls against the pillar and grimaces as MUCH and LITTLE JOHN let the villagers through.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN (cont'd)
Come on! Get them out!

LITTLE JOHN
(encouraging the people)
Go on!

ROBIN
(impatiently)
Come on!

REBECCA passes ROBIN and notices him leaning on the pillar.

REBECCA
You're hurt.

ROBIN doesn't answer.

REBECCA (cont'd)
Robin.

ROBIN
I'm fine. Go on.

ROBIN gives her a gentle push. ARCHER stops by ROBIN. They share a look, then ARCHER nods and runs down the tunnel. TUCK stops at ROBIN.

TUCK
What happened? You look...

ROBIN catches his breath, and puts a hand on TUCK's shoulder.

ROBIN
There's something you need to know.

CUT TO:

505 (313R) OUTSIDE NOTTINGHAM - GRAVEYARD

505

LITTLE JOHN helps some young people out of the grave. ROBIN follows, breathing heavily and stands with his hands on his knees.

ROBIN
John... get them all to the forest.

LITTLE JOHN nods and heads off to obey.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Tuck, you set everything up?

TUCK climbs up the steps and out.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK

Yes.

ROBIN nods.

ROBIN

Archer...

ROBIN slaps TUCK's side.

ROBIN (cont'd)

...you come with me. Come on.

ROBIN leaves, nodding back to TUCK. TUCK looks at ARCHER, who hurries after ROBIN. TUCK watches them go, then follows the rest towards the forest.

JUMP TO:

506 (313) NOTTINGHAM - CASTLE - THE GREAT HALL 506

The SHERIFF walks into the Great Hall. ISABELLA follows him in.

ISABELLA

They've all escaped. How could that happen?

The SHERIFF walks through the barrels, suspicious of a trap, but not seeing it yet.

CUT TO:

507 (313) MARKETPLACE 507

ROBIN and ARCHER, both with arrows nocked and ready, walk down the street, watching for snipers. ROBIN walks with heavy steps. ROBIN lights his arrow in a blaze left from the Byzantine fire earlier, breathing heavily. He aims and draws, then suddenly winces in pain.

ARCHER

Can you do this?

ROBIN

Of course I can.

ROBIN steels himself against the pain and stands up.

ROBIN (cont'd)

I am Robin Hood.

(CONTINUED)

He aims, draws and lets loose with a grimace before doubling over. The arrow flies through the portcullis, the main doors and under the railing of the balcony.

CONTINUE TO:

508 (313) THE GREAT HALL 508

An arrow lands solidly in a barrel right in front of the SHERIFF and ISABELLA. The SHERIFF immediately recognizes the striped fletching and looks up at the balcony, expecting to see ROBIN, but the landing is empty. The SHERIFF is puzzled. ISABELLA chuckles.

CUT TO:

509 (313) MARKETPLACE 509

ROBIN turns to ARCHER.

ROBIN

Come on!

(turn to leave)

Let's go.

ROBIN and ARCHER run out of Nottingham.

CUT TO:

510 (313) GREAT HALL 510

The SHERIFF pulls out a large cork floating in the barrel and sniffs it.

SHERIFF

(casually)

Byzantine fire.

The SHERIFF sees that there's a flaming arrow embedded in this barrel of Byzantine fire and realizes what will happen next. The barrel explodes. Soldiers are blown aside outside the main doors.

CUT TO:

511 (313R) OUTSIDE NOTTINGHAM 511

A series of explosions rock the castle. The villagers and townsfolk turn to watch. Dust billows out from the town as ARCHER and ROBIN run down the bridge, leaping over fallen bodies.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
Come on. Come on.

The castle towers collapse in billowing clouds of dust and smoke. LITTLE JOHN laughs. MUCH punches the air.

MUCH
Yeah!

ARCHER and ROBIN run to join the gang.

MUCH (cont'd)
You did it! You did it!

MUCH runs to embrace ROBIN. He puts an arm on ARCHER's shoulder.

MUCH (cont'd)
You did it!

MUCH hugs ARCHER.

MUCH (cont'd)
You did it!

All the people cheer loudly. ROBIN somberly walks through them as the people slap him on the back and congratulate him.

LITTLE JOHN
Yes!

MUCH notices ROBIN is gone.

MUCH
Where is he? Where's Robin? He
should be here to celebrate.

TUCK stops MUCH.

TUCK
(solemnly)
Listen to me. There was a fight, in
the tunnel. Isabella stabbed Guy
with a dagger. The blade was
poisoned. She also managed to cut
Robin with it.

MUCH
(with disbelief)
What?

TUCK

Guy died in the tunnel. And Robin
will be joining him soon. It's time
to say goodbye.

LITTLE JOHN is stunned. ARCHER hangs his head. MUCH refuses
to believe his ears and runs after ROBIN, who is steadily
climbing the hill towards the forest's edge.

MUCH

No!

TUCK follows ROBIN, as does LITTLE JOHN. ARCHER glances back
at the castle ruins before following.

ROBIN lets his hand slide over the tall stalks of brown
grass as he walks up the rise.

CUT TO:

512 (313R) SHERWOOD FOREST

512

ROBIN looks up at the sun streaming through the trees as the
gang slowly catch him up.

ROBIN

I'd forgotten how beautiful sunsets
here can be.

ROBIN sighs and turns his head to look around at the trees.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Sherwood. This is home.

ROBIN looks back at the gang and realizes he must say his
goodbyes, however much he doesn't want to. He turns to face
them. MUCH tries to be brave and chokes back his tears.

MUCH

Is it true?

ROBIN

(nod)
The final battle.

LITTLE JOHN

(quietly)
No.

MUCH

(shake head)
No, this can't happen. There's...
there's a cure.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN shakes his head.

ROBIN
Much...

ROBIN steps towards MUCH

ROBIN (cont'd)
We have cheated death... so many
times.

MUCH takes trembling breaths and takes a step forward.

MUCH
What am I going to be without you?

ROBIN claps his hands on either side of MUCH's head.

ROBIN
You... are already more of a man...
than I will ever be.

ROBIN pulls MUCH's head covering off and looks him sternly
in the face.

ROBIN (cont'd)
You are Much... and you are my best
friend.

ROBIN gives MUCH a long embrace and MUCH can't hold back the
tears any longer. ROBIN pulls himself away and turns to
LITTLE JOHN, a tear streaking down his cheek. MUCH turns his
back, unable to watch any more.

LITTLE JOHN
This isn't fair.

ROBIN
Oh, come on, John!
(try to smile. Fiercely)
Today is a good day to die!

LITTLE JOHN hugs ROBIN. They are both crying now. ROBIN
turns to ARCHER, then groans and doubles over. ARCHER
catches him. ROBIN grabs his arm.

ROBIN (cont'd)
And you... you make sure this
doesn't finish here. Because
this... this is where you belong.

ARCHER
(grimly)
Without you?

ROBIN
These men are your brothers now.

ROBIN turns to TUCK.

ROBIN (cont'd)
Our work isn't finished yet, Tuck.
And you'll find another leader. I
know you will.

ROBIN looks back at the gang, and MUCH finally looks at
ROBIN in trepidation.

ROBIN (cont'd)
I'm sorry I have to leave you. All
of you. But I have to do this
alone.

ROBIN leaves and starts up the hill. After a few steps, he
leans on a tree and groans. He puts a hand to his stomach
and continues up the rise towards the sun.

ARCHER and LITTLE JOHN watch solemnly. LITTLE JOHN steps
forward to MUCH and puts an arm round him. ROBIN stops,
doubles over, then turns between the rocks and continues
into the forest out of sight.

JUMP TO:

513 (313) SHERWOOD FOREST

513

ROBIN weakly climbs into the exposed roots of an old tree
and settles himself into the hollow. He lays back his head,
breathing heavily. His eyes catch movement, and he watches
as a woman in a light blue cloak, the hood partly over her
head, approaches him, winding through the trees, stealing
glances at him. She smiles and chuckles slightly.

ROBIN
(whisper)
Marian.

MARIAN smiles and stops in front of him.

MARIAN
I have waited for you.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
I knew I would find you again.

ROBIN chuckles. MARIAN smiles.

MARIAN
It's time.

MARIAN reaches out a hand to him. ROBIN sits up, reaching for her, grasps her fingers and rubs them, convincing himself he's really touching her.

MARIAN (cont'd)
The greatest adventure is yet to come.

ROBIN gets to his feet. MARIAN smiles. ROBIN strokes her face.

ROBIN
My wife.

MARIAN
Now and for ever, my love.

ROBIN gives her a long kiss and MARIAN wraps her hands round the back of his neck. ROBIN pulls back and they look into each other's eyes and laugh, then embrace. ROBIN picks her up and swings her round in circles...

ROBIN's hand reaches out from where he sits, then falls as he lets out his last breath. His head slumps to his chest. The birds continue singing to the setting sun, oblivious that the legendary Robin Hood has died in their midst.

JUMP TO:

514 SHERWOOD

514

ARCHER, LITTLE JOHN, TUCK, and MUCH are still standing around. ARCHER looks at the gang.

ARCHER
Look, I don't know you guys that well, but... Robin and Guy were my brothers. I've always been alone. I find out I have two brothers and then lose them both on the same day. I...

ARCHER remembers that GISBORNE's body is still in the tunnel.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER (cont'd)
He's still down there. I need...

LITTLE JOHN, TUCK, and MUCH, look at ARCHER.

ARCHER (cont'd)
We can't leave his body in that
tunnel. He deserves...

LITTLE JOHN
You're right.

TUCK places an arm on ARCHER's shoulder. ARCHER smiles a
thank you.

LITTLE JOHN
You know, Gis... Guy. Wasn't my
favourite person. I spent years
hating him and everything he stood
for. When Robin brought him into
our ... family... I still had my
doubts. I never fully trusted him.
But he gave his life today fighting
with us. He died protecting us.
I...

TUCK
John, it's...

LITTLE JOHN
Let's go get him.

MUCH
Robin would want that. We can... We
can lay them to rest together.

LITTLE JOHN puts an arm around MUCH. The gang heads for the
tunnel to get GISBORNE.

JUMP TO:

515 (313R) SHERWOOD FOREST - LATER THAT DAY

515

MUCH and LITTLE JOHN carry ROBIN's body on a stretcher. TUCK
and ARCHER carry GISBORNE's body on a stretcher. White
lilies are clasped in ROBIN's and GISBORNE's hands, which
are placed over their chests. The men take a break and put
the stretchers down. A devastated MUCH looks down at the
bodies. TUCK walks away a step.

MUCH
I never thought... it would end
like this.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK

It does not end, Much. Robin Hood goes on. Our work here is far from finished.

MUCH

Our leader and our friend is dead.

LITTLE JOHN stares down at the bodies. ARCHER leans his back on a tree. TUCK puts his hand on MUCH's shoulder.

TUCK

Would you let his legacy die along with him?

MUCH looks at TUCK.

ARCHER

He wouldn't want us to give up. ... They wouldn't want us to give up.

MUCH walks a few steps around ROBIN, gazing down at him. TUCK glances at ARCHER.

TUCK

As long as Prince John and his allies bring misery and suffering to the people of England, we will fight it.

LITTLE JOHN

(nod in agreement)

We are Robin Hood.

TUCK puts out his hand. LITTLE JOHN puts his hand on top of TUCK's. ARCHER stoutly walks to TUCK's other side, looks down at the bodies of his brothers, then up at TUCK.

ARCHER

I'm with you.

ARCHER slaps his hand on top. LITTLE JOHN looks at MUCH.

LITTLE JOHN

(quietly)

Much? For Robin.

ARCHER

And Guy. My brothers.

MUCH gazes down sadly at ROBIN's body, then looks up at LITTLE JOHN. He slowly steps back to TUCK and rests his hand on top. TUCK puts his other hand on MUCH's.

(CONTINUED)

TUCK
We are Robin Hood.

LITTLE JOHN
We are Robin Hood.

MUCH / ARCHER
We are Robin Hood.

They break their hands apart and resume their positions as pallbearers.

TUCK
Come on. Let's go.

The pick up the stretchers and continue carrying them through the trees.

THE END