

PRODUCTION SCRIPT
FIRST DRAFT—FEBRUARY 2026

ROBIN:

The HOOD *A New Musical*
of Sherwood

Book by
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Music and Lyrics by
C. Michael Perry

KoPe Productions

THEATRICALS WITH A DISTINCTIVE FLAIR

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Robin: The Hood Of Sherwood

The Musical

Cast of Characters — 14M 2W + 8 guards, 8 soldiers, doubling is possible. The performers for TYA can be all youth/children, or cast as it is aged. (*lead role — ** secondary role §supporting role)

Robin's Camp

***ROBIN Hood** — *[BARITONE]* Sir Robert Newbold 30-45

***Maid MARIAN of Bedfordshire** — *[SOPRANO]* — 25-40

***Little John** — 25-45 — Robin's #3

***Friar TUCK** — 50-60, a man of the cloth with a twist — Robin's #2

****WILLIAM "Scarlet" Bedford** *[TENOR]* (Will) 16-17 — the errand boy (KING RICHARD's son, protected by Robin)

***ALLEN A'Dale** — the hunter 30-40 Robin's assistant

****Alyssa (LISA) Martin** — 16-17 — Marian's Maid servant

§**SAMUEL Smith** — The Blacksmith, 30-45

§**Richard BAKER** — the cook, 50ish

§**DAVID Jewel** — the Clerk, 30-40

§**GEOFFrey Willis** — the lookout, 20

§**OLIVER Bedford** — the messenger, older brother to Will, 20

Any women and children, if desired.

The Opposition

***PRINCE JOHN** — *[BARITONE]* the brattish baby brother of King Richard, 40ish

***SHERIFF of Nottingham** — *[BARITONE]* the ambitious puppet, 30-40

TAX COLLECTOR — can double as a Guard

Guards 6-8 in number

The Royalty

***KING RICHARD the Lionheart** — King of England, 50ish

Soldiers 6-8 in number

Guide to the secret calls

- 1) "What Ho!" shouted means "hide".
- 2) "What Ho!" sung from say C-F (a fourth) means "stranger in the forest"
- 3) "What Ho!" sung and slurred from C to F to G means "all clear"
- 4) "What Ho!" sung from C to F to Bb means "friend approaching"
- 5) "What Ho!" played twice on the trumpet/horn from say C to F (a fourth) means "attack"

Scenes and Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

Scene One — Sherwood Forest

#1 — WHAT HO! — *Robin and His Merry Men*

#2 — A LITTLE CASTLE — *Robin & Marian*

Scene Two — Prince John's Castle

#3 — TAXES — *Prince and Sheriff*

Scene Three — A Stream in Sherwood

#4a — STAFF TO STAFF — *Little John and Robin*

#4b — RIVERS WE MUST CROSS — *Friar Tuck and RobinHood*

Scene Four — the Forest and capture of the Sheriff

#4c — Underscore/ Dance

Scene Five — the forest — Robin, Will

#4d — STAND UP TALL! — *Will*

Scene Six— At Court

#5 — THE SIMPLEST OF CRIMES — *Marian*

Scene Seven — The forest

#6 — MARIAN and SIMPLEST OF CRIMES (reprise) — *Robin & Marian*

Scene Eight — Lisa, Will, Robin, Marian

#7 — TOO YOUNG, TOO OLD — *Will and Lisa*

Scene Nine — Prince John's Castle — Prince, Sheriff, Marian

#8 — THE WINNING GAME — *Prince John, Sheriff*

Scene Ten— Robin's Camp

#9 — HUZDAH! — *Company*

INTERMISSION (if desired)

ACT TWO

Scene Eleven — In the Forest

#10 — DOUBT — *Will*

Scene Twelve — in a jail cell

#11— I'M TUCK! — *Friar Tuck*

Scene Thirteen — At the Castle

#12 — ALAS, A LACK! [No Man For Me] — *Marian and Lisa*

Scene Fourteen— The Forest — Robin, Allen, Little John, Tuck, Oliver, and more MEN

#13 — THE MARRIAGE PLAN — *Robin, Alan, Little John, Tuck*

Scene Fifteen—An ante chamber in the Castle—day before the Festival.

#14 — THE BETTER MAN — *Sheriff and Prince*

Scene Sixteen — The Festival

#15 — FINALE (Stand Up Tall)

#16 — Curtain Call (What Ho! [instrumental])

Robin: The Hood of Sherwood

Scene One — 12th century England, part historical/part mythical — The wooded glen of Sherwood Forest. King Richard the Lionheart is away on Crusade and his evil brother, PRINCE JOHN rules in his place making all throughout the kingdom miserable and subservient. We see a TAX COLLECTOR for the PRINCE traveling through the glen. Suddenly we hear a HORN call (WHAT HO) which is magnified by echoing from all over the forest. (DIRECTOR'S NOTE: The various calls come from all over the theatre.)

MUSICAL #1—WHAT HO!

BAKER:

WHAT HO!

ALL:

WHAT HO!

ALLEN:

WHAT HO!

ALL:

WHAT HO!

SAMUEL:

WHAT HO!

ALL:

WHAT HO!

(From all around the TAX COLLECTOR, the MERRY MEN OF ROBIN HOOD swing into action surrounding him and relieving him of his sacks of coins. Now empty-handed, they then send him packing. Calls of "WHAT HO" bring Robin's Band together.)

ALL:

WHAT HO!

WILL:

WHAT HO!

ALL:

WHAT HO!

ALL:

WHAT HO! WHAT HO! WHAT HO! WHAT HO!

(ROBIN HOOD enters and leads the MEN in their battle cry.)

ROBIN:

MERRY MEN OF SHERWOOD —

MEN:

THE BOLDEST MEN IN ALL THE LAND.

ROBIN:

MY MERRY MEN OF SHERWOOD!

ALL:

WE LIVE TO BE AT YOUR COMMAND!

IT STARTED LONG AGO

WE ARM TO FIGHT THE FOE!

THE TYRANT JOHN CANNOT WITHSTAND THE CRY "WHAT HO!"

WHAT HO!

MERRY MEN OF SHERWOOD

ROBIN:

THE BRAVEST FRIENDS A MAN CAN FIND.

THE MERRY MEN OF SHERWOOD

ALL:

THE BEST DEFENSE TO STAND BEHIND!

DEAR JOHN WE WISH YOU WOE!

YOU'RE LOWER THAN THE LOW!

YOUR DOWNFALL IS WHAT WE'VE DESIGNED AND SO "WHAT HO!"

ROBIN:

THE TIME IS NEAR

TO END THE PEOPLE'S FEAR.

TUCK:

WE HAVE AN EDGE

DEAR JOHN IS ON A LEDGE.

ALLEN:

AND JUMP HE MIGHT.

MIGHT EVEN JUMP TONIGHT.

ROBIN:

IT'S TIME FOR US TO STRIKE A BLOW!

WHAT HO!

ALL:

MERRY MEN OF SHERWOOD

ROBIN:

WITH SUBTLE STROKE AND WINNING PLAN

THE MERRY MEN OF SHERWOOD

ALL:

WILL STAND TOGETHER MAN TO MAN.

THE PEOPLE WANT WHAT'S RIGHT

AND RIGHT IS WORTH THE FIGHT!

PRINCE JOHN HAS STALLED US ALL HE CAN

AND SO

WHAT HO!

WHAT HO!

HALF THE MEN:

MERRY MEN OF SHERWOOD
WITH SUBTLE STROKE AND
WINNING PLAN
THE MERRY MEN OF SHERWOOD
WILL STAND TOGETHER
MAN TO MAN.
THE PEOPLE WANT WHAT'S RIGHT
AND RIGHT IS WORTH THE FIGHT!
PRINCE JOHN HAS STALLED US
ALL HE CAN AND SO

OTHER HALF:

WHAT HO!

WHAT HO!

WHAT HO!
WHAT HO!
WHAT HO!

ALL:

WE KNOW
THAT BLOW
BY BLOW
WE GO!
WHAT HO!

BAKER: Death to Prince John!

(Agreement and ad libs from others)

SAMUEL: Yay!

DAVID: The scoundrel!

OLIVER: We are right beside you, sire!

ROBIN: Hold there! We'll end his reign without killing him ourselves.

TUCK: Robin's right. We hit another tax collector every day.

ROBIN: And once the treasury is low enough he'll have to use his personal funds to run the kingdom. And he'll never dip into his own comfort.

DAVID: But we have the best archers in the land! We can fight for what we want!

ROBIN: And risk the loss of even a single life—maybe yours.

BAKER: I'd gladly die if it would bring about Dear John's death.

(Simultaneous shouts of solidarity from others.)

GEOFF: Aye too!

DAVID: Yay, I as well.

TUCK: Sounds like there are enough already, so...

ROBIN: I'm glad we all feel that way. Who knows, it may come down to that—but why, unless it's necessary?

ALLEN: My sentiments precisely, Robin.

TUCK: That's the way, men—the plan. It takes time.

ALLEN: Yes, but some of that time is wasted while the people sink deeper under John's heel—and lash.

SAMUEL: He's unfit to rule!

ALLEN: Yes he is. And he is cruel. Where's Richard?

DAVID: When will Richard return?

ROBIN: Only Richard knows—but he will return. And he will be our King again!

OLIVER: Hail to Richard, true King of England!

(GEOFF acts as a Lookout as the MEN scatter to hide.)

GEOFF: What Ho!

WILL: *(offstage)* What ho!

GEOFF: It's only Young Will! Hey, Robin—with Lisa and Maid Marian.

(The three enter to hearty welcomes. ROBIN rushes to MARIAN.)

ROBIN: It's good to see you here, Marian...

(Nods to her)

—and Lisa. Thank you, Will, for their safe passage.

(Cat-calls and good-hearted jeers follow WILL and LISA as they go off alone.)

What is news at the court?

MARIAN: Robin - - I - -

ROBIN: What's wrong?!

MARIAN: The Sheriff knows your real identity.

ROBIN: Are you sure? No one knows that!

MARIAN: I don't know. I'm afraid for you.

TUCK: And right you should be. An English noble fighting against the present crown as a common thief. Doesn't sound promising.

ROBIN: Come now, Tuck. I wouldn't change a thing were I to do it over again.

TUCK: Aye. And glad for that I am! As I should be! Or should I be? I am not certain but alas — we do what do... Or have done... Something like that!

MARIAN: He also suspects me; how you always turn up where you can cause the most trouble. If he should tell Prince John that I . . .

ROBIN: He has no proof—only suspicion. It's a good thing “Dear John” demands facts.

MARIAN: The Sheriff corners me and asks a lot of questions.

TUCK: And we have all the answers. It could be dangerous—for Marian and for us. We need to play it safely.

ROBIN: Moreso for Marian. The Sheriff fancies her.

MARIAN: He has proposed more than once. Each time I give him no hope, but he always returns to plead with me.

TUCK: Are you daft, Lad? Marry her yourself! Then she will have an excuse, solid and clear.

ROBIN: Not until my home and lands are safe from a tyrant's grasp should I fall into disfavor—which I guarantee would not take long. No. For now, we'll wait—

(CHORD)

...and watch...

(CHORD. Takes MARIAN'S hand.)

...And hope ...

(CHORD. And kisses it.)

... and dream.

(CHORD)

(During the song others onstage defer to leave in singles or small groups.)

MUSICAL #2—A LITTLE CASTLE

ROBIN:

IN A LITTLE WHILE
MY LADY WILL WEAR THE SMILE
OF A BRIDE TO BE.
BUT FOR NOW SHE'LL BE CONTENT
SHE WAS ALWAYS MEANT
FOR ME—JUST ME.
THE TROUBLE WILL SOON BE THROUGH.
SOON IT WILL BE ME AND YOU.

IN A LITTLE CASTLE WE WILL SETTLE DOWN
NOT FAR FROM TOWN, YOU'LL SEE.
WON'T BE JUST MIGHT OR MAYBE!
IT'S A GOLDEN GUARANTEE!

MARIAN:

WE WILL LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER DAY BY DAY.

ROBIN:

EXPAND OUR FAM'LY TREE!
EV'RY LEAF, EV'RY LIMB WILL BE SOLID AS AN OAK, YOU'LL SEE!

IN A LITTLE CASTLE WITH A GARDEN GATE
MY LOVE WILL WAIT FOR ME.
HOLDING A LITTLE BABY.

MARIAN:

LITTLE ROBIN NUMBER THREE!

ROBIN:

WITH THE CHILDREN SAFELY TUCKED AWAY IN BED—

MARIAN:

YOUR HEAD UPON MY KNEE

ROBIN:

THERE'LL BE TALK OF THE DREAMS FOR THE
CHILDREN THAT ARE YET TO BE!

MARIAN:

THINK OF AUNTS AND UNCLES.

ROBIN:

THINK OF A DOZEN COUSINS
CROWDING 'ROUND OUR LITTLE FAMILY!

MARIAN:

EACH ONE A-BUZZIN’!
OUR LITTLE CASTLE WILL BE PACKED SO FULL
WE’LL LIVE WITHOUT ENNUI!

BOTH:

WITH SOME CATS AND SOME DOGS
AND SOME CHILDREN RUNNING FREE,
WE’LL BE WARM, WE’LL BE FED,
FOR WE’VE FOUND THE RECIPE:
WITH EV’RY ITEM BREATHING —
THAT’S HOW IT SHOULD BE!

(BLACKOUT.)

Scene Two — *That same day at the castle of PRINCE JOHN — PRINCE JOHN & SHERIFF are discussing ways to raise taxes, more money for their lifestyle.*

PRINCE JOHN: My clothes are starting to wear out and its unfair to feed a Prince such gruel on my table.

SHERIFF: What should we do? What *can* be done?

PRINCE JOHN: We need to raise the taxes, the people do not pay enough!

SHERIFF: The people may refuse to pay more. As high as they are, Taxes are difficult to collect!

PRINCE JOHN: We’ll simply take everything they have if they do not pay. They can’t refuse.

SHERIFF: Oh perhaps, or perhaps not.

PRINCE JOHN: They need to respect us without question! We must show them all we provide.

SHERIFF: Like?

PRINCE JOHN: How we protect them and...

SHERIFF: The people know that is a lie...

PRINCE JOHN: They don’t. The people are stupid. We are here to tell them how bad they have it!

SHERIFF: Oh perhaps, or perhaps not.

PRINCE JOHN: We must show them it can always get worse.

SHERIFF: Like how? What do you mean, Sire?

PRINCE JOHN: (*grabs him by the collar, and twists.*) Like this!

SHERIFF: (*choking and coughing*) The people will understand that.

PRINCE JOHN: We own the air they breathe.

SHERIFF: When you put it that way, Sire...

PRINCE JOHN: We can cut off all their supplies...

SHERIFF: No!

PRINCE JOHN: (*tantrum*) Just. Do. Your. Job!!!!

SHERIFF: Yes, Sire.

PRINCE JOHN: Make them see the need!!

SHERIFF: Yes sire.

PRINCE JOHN: Your job or your head. Your choice.

MUSICAL #3 — TAXES

PRINCE JOHN:

FIRST YOU PUT THE FEAR IN ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND.

SHERIFF:

THEN YOU RAISE AN ARMY THAT IS THERE AT YOUR COMMAND.

PRINCE JOHN:

AND TO HELP YOU TO COLLECT THE COINS THAT SHINE A LOVELY YELLOW
THE EXECUTIONER BECOMES A VERY HANDY FELLOW.

BRINGING SACKSES AND SACKSES OF TAXES.

WE NEED MORE COINS IN HAND

TO MEET WITH THE DEMAND!

SHERIFF:

WITH SACKSES AND SACKSES OF TAXES

WE'LL DO THE THINGS THAT RICHARD PLANNED...

PRINCE JOHN:

AND WITHOUT HIM WE WILL RULE OVER ALL THE LAND!

WITH SACKSES AND SACKSES OF TAXES

I'M SURE THE POOR WON'T MIND

WE'LL LEAVE THEM ALL BEHIND!

SHERIFF:

MORE SACKSES AND SACKSES OF TAXES

WE'LL TAKE FROM ALL AND THEN WE'LL GRIND

THOSE NOBLES LEFT WHO CHOOSE NOT TO BE ALIGNED!

(MUSIC continues under as the TAX COLLECTOR enters.)

SHERIFF: So, what do you have today for our prince?

TAX COLLECTOR: Sire...

SHERIFF: Well, what is it?!

TAX COLLECTOR: Sire, I...

PRINCE JOHN: Out with it!!!!

TAX COLLECTOR: I have nothing. I am empty handed.

PRINCE JOHN: What?

SHERIFF: Why?

TAX COLLECTOR: There... there... there was an attack.

PRINCE JOHN: Who would dare?

SHERIFF: It was Robin Hood. He must be stopped!

PRINCE JOHN: *(tantrum)* Just. Do. Your. Job!!!!

(SONG CONTINUES.)

PRINCE JOHN & SHERIFF:

BRING PENCES AND PENCES OF EXPENSES!

WE'VE GOT TO GET THE GOLD
THE ONLY WAY, IM TOLD.
WITH PENCES AND PENCES OF EXPENSES
WE'LL LIVE LIKE KINGS! OUR MASTER MIND
WILL KEEP US UP ON TOP IT'S JUST AS WE HAVE DESIGNED!
AND KILL THAT 'HOOD' AS SOON AS WE FIND HIS FOLD
WITH SACKSES AND SACKSES
OF TAXES AND AXES
WE'LL RULE THIS LAND
JUST AS WE'VE PLANNED!
(BACKOUT.)

Scene Three — *Later that day — On the edge of Sherwood Forest by a stream. — ROBIN and few of his BAND are crossing the stream. LITTLE JOHN is asleep on the other side.*

ROBIN: *(calls out to sleeping man)* Ho there!
(No answer from LITTLE JOHN.)

To sleep in such unfriendly territory is daft!

LITTLE JOHN: *(rousing)* I want to cross this river.

TUCK: There is a price for crossing into our lands.

(LITTLE JOHN makes a move toward the log bridge. As he stands up, he towers over all. LITTLE JOHN is huge.)

ROBIN: Stop! You may not pass.

LITTLE JOHN: But I must.

ROBIN: Nay I say.

LITTLE JOHN: Who shall stop me?

ROBIN: I!

(LITTLE JOHN steps on to the bridge, ROBIN steps on to the other end. LITTLE JOHN raises his staff. ROBIN does as well.)

TUCK: *(aside.)* This boy is dense in mind!

ROBIN: Combat, it is then!

LITTLE JOHN: Fine by me, my friend.

(The combat by staff ensues between ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN. As they move back and forth along the bridge several times LITTLE JOHN seems to be playing with ROBIN, and ends up knocking him off the bridge into the water. All are shocked. LITTLE JOHN reaches down to help ROBIN up and lifts him easily onto the shore at the other end of the log.)

ROBIN: Well, stranger, I must know the name of a man who can defeat me.

LITTLE JOHN: They call me Little John.

TUCK: Why do they say “little”?

LITTLE JOHN: To deceive my enemies.

ROBIN: Who is it you seek?

LITTLE JOHN: I seek Robin Hood.

TUCK: The eyes do indeed deceive. This here is Robin Hood,
(*Laughs.*)

Now drop to your knees!

LITTLE JOHN: You are Robin Hood?

ROBIN: I am in fact.

LITTLE JOHN: (*aghast*) Please, please, please forgive! I've come to make a pact to join your band of angels to fight against Prince John. Will you ever ever forgive my stupidity.

TUCK: Ha! That is something we're born with. Robin has touch of it too.

ROBIN: (*laughing*) Little John?

LITTLE JOHN: Yes, my lord. What a way to meet you.

TUCK: Oh, small one, to defeat when you meet... Ha! Ha! ... It reminds me of the day I met Robin....

MUSICAL #4a — STAFF TO STAFF

FRIAR TUCK:

TWAS UPON THESE WATERS WHERE WE MET

(*To ROBIN.*)

YOU WEREN'T SO BOLD OR BRAZEN YET.

YOU MADE ME CARRY YOU ACROSS

MY PRIVILEGE, NOT MY LOSS;

WITH NOT A WORD WE REACHED THE OTHER SIDE.

THOUGH BEATEN I WAS SATISFIED!

NEW GOALS, NEW DRIVE, NEW KITH, NEW KIN

A NEW ADVENTURE WOULD BEGIN!

WE TRAINED IN EVERY SORT OF SPORT.

SO MANY MEN GAVE US SUPPORT!

TO ROBIN I SAID, "IF YOU PLEASE,

WHOSE MEN ARE THESE

WHO COME SO FAST?"

ROBIN:

MY BAND OF MERRY MEN

EACH WITH A SKILL UNSURPASSED.

NATURAL AS THE AIR,

AS A BREEZE BLOWING FAIR;

SO WITH THESE, NOW LINKED,

ALL:

WE EACH FORSWEAR

OUR LOYALTY TO RICHARD, THE TRUE KING, WE DECLARE!

STAFF TO STAFF WE STAND!

ROBIN:

A SOLID LITTLE BAND.
WE DO AS RICHARD WOULD COMMAND
AND SWEEP THE EVIL FROM THE LAND.
IT'S MURDER! MURDER! AT THE PRINCE'S HAND!
WE ONLY PLUNDER AND PURLOIN;

ALL:

TO STARVE HIM OUT OF MEN AND COIN
AS HE DECIMATES OUR LAND!
IT'S STAFF TO STAFF WE STAND.

(After they have crossed the bridge, ROBIN extends his arm toward LITTLE JOHN, they grasp each other firmly, hands on forearm, as they stand by the river.)

SEGUE TO:

MUSICAL #4b — RIVERS WE MUST CROSS

ROBIN: *(sings)*

BE BOLD.
WE'VE MANY RIVERS WE MUST CROSS.
A THOUSANDFOLD,
WE LIVE TO SELDOM SUFFER LOSS.
BE FAIR,
WITH ALL THE RIVERS WE MUST CROSS,
WE TAKE OUR SHARE!
THEN GIVE PRINCE JOHN
MORE RIVERS HE MUST CROSS!

ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN:

BE BOLD.
WE'VE MANY RIVERS WE MUST CROSS.
A THOUSANDFOLD,
WE LIVE TO SELDOM SUFFER LOSS.
BE FAIR,

WITH ALL THE RIVERS WE MUST CROSS,
WE TAKE OUR SHARE!
THEN GIVE PRINCE JOHN
MORE RIVERS HE MUST CROSS!

(BLACKOUT.)

THE MEN:

STAFF TO STAFF WE STAND!
A SOLID LITTLE BAND.
WE DO AS RICHARD WOULD COMMAND
AND SWEEP THE EVIL FROM THE LAND!
IT'S MURDER, MURDER
AT THE PRINCE'S HAND!
WE ONLY PLUNDER AND PURLOIN
TO STARVE HIM OUT OF MEN AND COIN
AS HE DECIMATES OUR LAND!
IT'S STAFF TO STAFF WE STAND!

Scene Four — *A little while later, deeper into in the woods, ALAN and LITTLE JOHN bring in the SHERIFF, after his capture. — Lighthearted and willing to explore possibilities, ROBIN decides to have a little fun with the SHERIFF.)*

ALAN: Robin, we have a visitor for you!

LITTLE JOHN: Yes Robin, come greet your guest!

ROBIN: The Sheriff!

SHERIFF: You dare speak to me!?!?

ALAN: That's no way to talk to the boss.

LITTLE JOHN: Yes, he is quite a kindly sort, he may even spare your head.

ROBIN: Stop, fellows. Don't scare him.

SHERIFF: Ha! Afraid of Robin Hood? You are but a common thief who uses the people to...

ALAN: Robin, he doesn't know you too well.

LITTLE JOHN: Our Robin is a bright and noble master, serving the poor and down-trodden.

ROBIN: Thank you, my man.

SHERIFF: That's not what I've heard!

ROBIN: Then whatever you've heard is most decidedly not the truth! Your type never deals in truth!

SHERIFF: You do not scare me at all.

ROBIN: Then why are you trembling like that, Sheriff?

SHERIFF: I am ...cold.

ROBIN: *(smiling)* You are covered in sweat.

SHERIFF: It's a cold sweat.

ROBIN: Whatever you say.

SHERIFF: I do have news for you; something you should be aware of...

ROBIN: What? More trickery?

SHERIFF: Nay, a contest. An exhibition of skill...

ROBIN: What skill?

SHERIFF: Archery.

ROBIN: Ha! Ha!

SHERIFF: I wouldn't laugh my friend!

ROBIN: I would as I am the finest in the land.

SHERIFF: Don't be too sure.

ROBIN: I am sure. I'm always sure of myself. I'm not too sure of you. Are you sure of you?

SHERIFF: Yes, of course. I always have my men my back. Guards!!!

(GUARDS run in. ROBIN's MEN draw their bows. GUARDS stop.)

SHERIFF: Flee! Fly!

(SHERIFF and GUARDS hurry away. but SHERIFF is caught and blindfolded by ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN, immediately. ROBIN's MEN run after the GUARDS.)

ROBIN: WHAT HO!

MERRY MEN: *(offstage)* What Ho!

MUSICAL #4c — UNDERSCORE/Dance

(SHERIFF leads his men into the audience, trying desperately to escape, ROBIN's MEN follow, and one-on-one each GUARD is caught. They are blindfolded — then lead back onstage. ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN are there with the SHERIFF. The scene changes to Robin's Camp, where SHERIFF and GUARDS remain blindfolded.)

ROBIN: You dare come to attack me, thinking I would just let you go?!

SHERIFF: You really have no idea of the power you are playing with.

ROBIN: When you work for the right, you need not be afraid.

SHERIFF: You harm me and Prince John will have your head.

ROBIN: (laughs) I doubt that. He has no authority!

SHERIFF: Oh, really? And who does?

ROBIN: Richard the Lionheart, true king of England.

SHERIFF: Yet, he is nowhere to be found.

ROBIN: It is my mission to find him and let him know what you are doing to his people.

SHERIFF: You will never find him for I have heard he's dead.

ROBIN: You are wrong and the truth shall always prevail. Now let me will do you a favor; I will escort you back to town where every one can see the result of your failure, and just how blind you are.

(The SHERIFF and GUARDS are then relieved of their armor and weapons, and led away to Town by all but ROBIN and WILL.)

(LIGHTS OUT.)

Scene Five — *LIGHTS up, A few moments later, still at the camp, ROBIN holds a long scroll*

ROBIN: *(reading aloud to WILL)* I entrust my two sons, Oliver and Will, to Sir Robert Newbold, dubbed by my own sword as Sir Robin Hood of Locksley. Let it be known that he has demonstrated a will of steel to protect my throne. I have left a rightful amount of funds to cover my duty to family and Kingdom.”

WILL: Mine is a loving father and King of great stature.

ROBIN: *(to WILL)* Of course he is. They don't call him Richard the Lionhearted for no reason. Indeed, your father must know what he is doing to ask me to be you and your brother's keeper. Aye?

WILL: Indeed.

ROBIN: I will remain loyal to him 'til my last breath comes to pass.

WILL: I believe he is aware, Sire.

ROBIN: Call me friend, now. This trust he has created is very generous. He wants me to take good care of you...

WILL: And my brother Oliver.

ROBIN: Aye, let's not forget Oliver.

WILL: Thank you Sir Robin.

ROBIN: To you, just Robin.

WILL: I believe my father has chosen wisely.

ROBIN: *(laughing)* Let's hope so.

WILL: It is so!

ROBIN: Alright my friend, we can only hope as I am just a man.

MUSICAL #4d — STAND UP TALL!

WILL: I see it slightly differently...

YOU'RE MORE THAN JUST A MAN
WITH MORE THAN JUST A PLAN
YOUR LOYALTY TO ROYALTY
HELPS US TAKE STAND.

THEY TOLD ME AS A BOY,
MY FATHER DID ENJOY
MEN'S LOYALTY TO ROYALTY;
BUT NOT ALL MEN DID STAND!

LOYAL TO A CAUSE, TO A FRIEND;
YOU AND YOURS SHOW WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF
THERE'S NO ONE YOU'RE AFRAID OF!
HERE'S WHY PRINCE JOHN'S NOT ROYALTY:
NO LOYALTY!

YOUR HEART IS CENTERED SQUARE,
FIRM ON THE CAUSE WE SHARE:
THE ONE TRUE KING OF ALL OF US
HAS SOUNDED OUT THE CALL,
AND WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS STAND UP TALL!

(BLACKOUT.)

Scene Six — *The following day at the court of Prince John — a heated discussion is already in progress with PRINCE JOHN, SHERIFF & MARIAN.*

PRINCE JOHN: Let not that vagabond, Robin, intimidate you.

SHERIFF: But I... I fear this will tarnish my reputation with King Richard.

MARIAN: Robin is quite clever and the finest archer ever.

PRINCE JOHN: Worry not about King Richard. He's history. I have a plan.

SHERIFF: A plan?

MARIAN: I think Robin Hood is aware of your plan.

PRINCE JOHN: Oh? And how does the Lady Marion know the mind of Robin Hood? Do you two speak in whispered moments?

MARIAN: He is a... friend. A casual acquaintance I know from...

SHERIFF: What are you talking about?

PRINCE JOHN: Let her speak! I fear he has her heart!

SHERIFF: Is this true Marian?

MARIAN: He, uh, I, uh...

PRINCE JOHN: Given the chance she cannot speak plainly, the split tongue cannot speak the truth.
Perhaps you are sworn to Robin Hood!

SHERIFF: Sworn to Robin! No!

MARIAN: Well, my heart...

PRINCE JOHN: *(to SHERIFF)* Have you not yet asked for her hand?

SHERIFF: I was just about to when I heard this.

MARIAN: Sheriff, I would never marry you, Sheriff. I prefer an honest man and a patriot!

PRINCE JOHN: Ha ha! And who is that?

SHERIFF: Not Robin. He is a thief!

MARIAN: You steal from the people!! He is merely returning what is rightfully theirs.

PRINCE JOHN: He is a thief.

SHERIFF: So, then I imagine you approve if I will announce our marriage and a wedding to take place at the Festival.

MARIAN: Please no!

SHERIFF: Yes, it will be the grandest wedding ever!

MARIAN: You can't do this! I don't accept!

SHERIFF: Watch me!

(MARIAN remains alone in tears as SHERIFF and PRINCE JOHN leave the room smirking and laughing.)

MUSICAL #5 — THE SIMPLEST OF CRIMES

MARIAN: *(to herself)* Oh, Robin!

LIKE KING ARTHUR IN YOUR MANNER
LIKE KING RICHARD WITH NO BANNER!
HE SEEKS TO REDEEM US.
SUCH A CHILD, IN THAT HE'S PLAYFUL.
YET, THERE'S NO MAN WHO MEASURES
AS ANYTHING NEAR!

WHEN HE'S HERE I CANT CONTAIN HIM.
HE'S EV'RYWHERE, ALL AT ONCE.
AND NOWHERE IS SEEN.
I CAN'T RESTRAIN HIM.
LET HIM PUT UP THE SHOW!

I MUST NOT LET HIM KNOW
HOW I MISS AND DISLIKE HIM.

TWO FEELINGS ARE ONE, IN ME.
IT'S A DOUBLE LIFE I'M LEADING,
AND NOT NEEDING HIM AT TIMES;
THE SIMPLEST OF CRIMES
IS TO LOVE AND NOT LOVE
THE MAN I CAN'T DO WITHOUT!

(MUSIC continues as the Castle moves off, leaving MARIAN alone downstage.)

Scene Seven— *Split-Stage reveals ROBIN is in the forest, while MARIAN remains in her own world.*

SEGUE TO:

MUSICAL #6 — MARIAN & THE SIMPLEST OF CRIMES

ROBIN:

MARIAN. MARIAN!
IS THE MAID I'M MARRYIN'!
PRETTY AND SMART,
A HEART OPEN WIDE.
MARIAN, MARIAN,
SHE'S THE GIRL I'M CARRYIN',
INTO THE CHURCH IN WHITE!

EV'RY DAY IS NOT JUST ANY DAY
WHEN SHE IS NEAR;
SKIES ARE NOT ALL CLEAR OTHER DAYS.
SIMPLE LITTLE GRACES FILL HER
TO THE BRIM WITH LIGHT;
MARIAN IS MY DELIGHT!

MARRYIN' MARIAN
IS THE HOPE I'M CARRYIN'.
NO ONE IS HALF SO CLEVER AND BRIGHT!
STERN AND STRONG AND HER SONG
MAKES ME WANT TO SING ALONG!
SOON COMES THE DAY
WHEN SHE WILL SAY
"I WILL BE YOURS FOREVER!"

(ROBIN continues to sing while the LIGHTS come up again on MARIAN.)

ROBIN:

MARIAN. MARIAN!
IS THE MAID I'M MARRYIN'!

MARIAN:

LIKE KING ARTHUR IN HIS
MANNER. LIKE A RICHARD WITH NO

PRETTY AND SMART,
A HEART OPEN WIDE.
MARIAN, MARIAN,
SHE'S THE GIRL I'M CARRYIN',
INTO THE CHURCH IN WHITE!

EV'RY DAY IS NOT ANOTHER DAY
WHEN SHE IS NEAR;
SKIES ARE NOT AL CLEAR OTHER DAYS.
SIMPLE LITTLE GRACES FILL HER
TO THE BRIM WITH LIGHT;
MARIAN IS MY DELIGHT!
MARRYIN' MARIAN
IS THE HOPE I'M CARRYIN'.
NO ONE IS HALF SO CLEVER AND
BRIGHT!
STERN AND STRONG AND HER SONG
MAKES ME WANT TO SING ALONG!
SOON COMES THE DAY
WHEN SHE WILL SAY
"I WILL BE YOURS FOREVER!"

(BLACKOUT.)

BANNER! HE SEEKS TO RE-
DEEM US!
SUCH A CHILD, IN THAT HE'S
PLAYFUL. YET, THERE'S NO MAN WHO
MEASURES AS ANYTHING NEAR!

WHEN HE'S HERE I
CAN'T CONTAIN HIM. HE'S
EV'RYWHERE ALL AT ONCE, AND NO-
WHERE IS SEEN! I
CAN'T RESTRAIN HIM, NO
MATTER WHAT LET HIM PUT UP THE SHOW!
I MUST NOT LET HIM
KNOW HOW I MISS AND DIS-
LIKE HIM. TWO FEELINGS ARE ONE
IN ME.
IT'S A DOUBLE LIFE I'M
LEADING AND NOT NEEDING HIM AT
TIMES; THE SIMPLEST OF
CRIMES IS TO LOVE AND NOT
LOVE THE MAN I CAN'T DO WITHOUT!

Scene Eight — *The next day, MARIAN's room in her well-appointed Manor House near the castle — MARIAN is alone. LISA enters to find MARIAN, sitting, in tears.*

LISA: My Lady — what is wrong?

MARIAN: It is the most horrible thing that could have happened.

(Unseen, ROBIN and WILL enter, listening cautiously.)

LISA: What could be so horrible?

MARIAN: The Sheriff wants me for his wife and he will not take “no” for an answer.

LISA: Did you accept his proposal?

MARIAN: Of course not!

LISA: Well, then what is there to worry about?

MARIAN: He won't let me refuse!

LISA: That's unheard of!

MARIAN: He's announcing our wedding at the festival today! He has conjured up all sorts of ceremonial clap-trap to obtain the support of the people. You know how they love festivities. Prince John is in league with him, as well; goading him on to destroy me and any possibility I have with my true love, Robin.

LISA: We have to stop them!

MARIAN: But how?

ROBIN: I will stop them!

(MARIAN turns and runs to ROBIN.)

MARIAN: Robin!

ROBIN: Marian, come with me and we will make a plan. We will trip him up in his own deceit.

(ROBIN takes MARIAN off. WILL and LISA remain.)

WILL: *(looking after ROBIN and MARIAN)* Ah, such loyalty in those two.

LISA: Will that be us someday?

WILL: I should hope.

LISA: Is loyalty built by hope?

WILL: Only time will tell.

LISA: Time.

WILL: Yes, we are infinite yet bounded.

LISA: Are we too young to think about such things?

WILL: Maybe too old.

LISA: Too old????

WILL: I'm teasing. Sometimes I feel too old—when they tell us that we are too young.

LISA: They say this — at our age — is just infatuation.

WILL: What do you say?

LISA: I say it is more. Much, much more. Perhaps, I have always loved you, Will.

WILL: You mean, even before you were born.

LISA: Ha! Ha! Of course. It was written in the stars.

WILL: Ah! So that's where I saw it.

LISA: *(playfully flirting.)* Yes, or perhaps written on the mighty oak tree in the forest.

WILL: You wrote it there?

LISA: Not I!

WILL: Then who?

LISA: You!

WILL: Not I.

LISA: This is a puzzle then.

WILL: A puzzle I do enjoy.

LISA: Me too.

WILL: Love knows not time...

LISA: But it knows there's me for you.

WILL: What's in the stars for us...

LISA: No mortal can erase.

MUSICAL #7 — TOO YOUNG, TOO OLD

WILL:

WHAT I FEEL IS MORE THAN INFATUATION.

LISA:

WHAT I FEEL IS MORE THAT ANY RELATION-SHIP.
IT'S LARGER THAN ANY SINGLE APPLE PIP.

WILL:

AS BIG AS A TREE?

LISA:

IT SEEMS SO TO ME.

WILL:

ARE WE TOO YOUNG
TO KNOW THE WORLD AROUND US?

LISA:

ARE WE TOO YOUNG
TO THINK THAT LOVE HAS FOUND US?

WILL:

I CAN'T SEE THE TIP OF MY TONGUE,
BUT I KNOW IT'S THERE.
WHY CAN'T THE YOUNG
HEAR THE BELLS HAVE RUNG?

LISA:

ARE WE TOO OLD
TO DRAG OUR YOUTH BEHIND US?

WILL:

ARE WE TOO OLD?
WHY CAN'T LOVE JUST REMIND US?

LISA:

I DON'T KNOW THE WAYS OF MY HEART,
BUT I KNOW IT BEATS.
THE OLD CAN'T START
WHEN IT'S LOVE THAT ENTREATS.

BOTH:

WE'RE NEITHER TOO OLD, TOO YOUNG,
TOO SAD, TOO SANE.
LIKE I'VE BEEN STUNG!
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.

WILL:

I'M CRAZY FOR YOU:
MY SUN AND MY RAIN.

LISA:

IT'S SO IN HUMANE.

WILL:

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.

TOO YOUNG, TOO OLD,

LISA:

TOO TIMID, TOO BOLD

BOTH:

ARE WE ALWAYS TOO YOUNG-TOO OLD?

(LIGHTS fade gently.)

Scene Nine — *Later that day at the castle of Prince John — MARIAN is cornered by PRINCE JOHN and the SHERIFF.*

MARIAN: I refuse believe you.

SHERIFF: It's the truth!

MARIAN: I didn't know you were acquainted with it.

PRINCE JOHN: *(slow burn)* Well, whether you want to believe or not, we have a witness to the deed. Show her the letter!

MARIAN: I refuse to look!

PRINCE JOHN: Well, then, I will read it to you!

(reading aloud)

“It is with great remorse that I report the following: On the 4th day of the month of April, I witnessed Robert Newbold...”

(To Marian.)

...your Robin Hood ...

“Murder King Richard, the Lionheart of England. I so swear that I was there, in company with the King, when Robert Newbold slew him. This is my affidavit to the event. Yours ever in allegiance, Sir Adam of Bedfordshire.”

MARIAN: My father?! I do *not* believe it. My father is loyal to King Richard and Robin of Locksley. He would have written me first. He knows my affections for Robin.

SHERIFF: Please, Marian, your love has closed your eyes; you never saw the real Robin Hood and his dark side. Let us take us to his camp. Then you will know the truth as we do.

PRINCE JOHN: Where is that camp?

SHERIFF: The hollow of the hill at the Plains of Arthur — near the river Glein?

MARIAN: No they moved from there. They are in the central hills inside Sherwood.

PRINCE JOHN: Aha!

(PRINCE JOHN and SHERIFF gleefully look at each other.)

MARIAN: *(exiting as she throws her hands up)* I look forward to you showing me the darker side of Robin Hood. But know this — there is no one darker than you two!

(MARIAN exits.)

MUSICAL #8 — THE WINNING GAME

PRINCE JOHN:

TO BE SO SLY
A LITTLE LIE
NEEDS JUST ENOUGH OF TRUTH TO TURN THE TABLE.
AND WHEN YOU KNOW
HOW IT WILL GO,
YOU CAN DO MOST ANYTHING — YOU'RE ABLE!

IT'S ALL A LITTLE GAME,
AND YOU'VE GOT TO NOT FEAR LOSING.
JUST KNOW THE COURSE YOU'RE CHOOSING.
THAT'S THE WINNING GAME!

TO LIVE A LIE,
YOU SHADE YOUR EYE,
WITH JUST ENOUGH CONTRITION. THAT'S YOUR MISSION!
AND ONCE DECEIVED,
IT'S ALL BELIEVED!
IT'S JUST THE WAY OF HUMAN DISPOSITION!

PRINCE JOHN and SHERIFF:

IT'S ALL A LITTLE GAME,
AND YOU'VE GOT TO NOT FEAR LOSING.
JUST KNOW THE COURSE YOU'RE CHOOSING.
THAT'S THE WINNING GAME!

(BLACKOUT.)

Scene Ten — *Within the next 24 hours — Robin's Camp — ROBIN and the MEN are gathered, ready for battle. ALLEN A'DALE runs in with the news of Richard.*

ALLEN: Long live the King! He is in Gaul...

(The CROWD interrupts with cheers.)

CROWD 1: Long live the King! Long live the King!

CROWD 2: No more John!

CROWD 3: Richard the Lionheart returns!

MUSICAL #9 — HUZDAH!

TUCK:

IN GAUL!

LITTLE JOHN:

IT'S SO?

ALLEN:

THAT'S ALL
I KNOW.

LITTLE JOHN:

HUZZAH! HUZZAH!

TUCK:

RICHARD'S PEOPLE ARE IN HIS HEART.

ALLEN:

HE'LL NOT LEAVE US AGAIN.

BAKER:

WE'LL NEVER BE APART.

SAMUEL:

HUZZAH! HUZZAH!

ROBIN:

RICHARD REIGNS AGAIN!

RICHARD, AS HE DID, WILL COMMAND HIS MERRY MEN!

TUCK:

LET HIM BANISH PRINCE JOHN,
TO AN ISLAND OF THE SEA.

GEOFF:

IMPRISON THE SHERIFF,
AND THROW AWAY THE KEY.

ALL:

HUZZAH! HUZZAH!

RICHARD 'S PEOPLE ARE IN HIS HEART.

HE'LL NOT LEAVE US AGAIN. WE'LL NEVER BE APART.

HUZZAH! HUZZAH!

RICHARD REIGNS AGAIN!

RICHARD, AS HE DID, WILL COMMAND HIS MERRY MEN!

(CROWD is dancing. MARIAN enters quickly.)

MARIAN: Robin! I must talk to you at once. Prince John and the Sheriff are on their way as we planned. They think have tricked me into telling them where your camp is. They have no idea that you know, and that we have a plan. But I must tell you that they have a letter, supposedly from my father, accusing you of the murder of King Richard.

ROBIN: Murder? He is alive and well in Gaul. Allen just brought word that he is on his way home.

MARIAN: Great news! I must get back before they suspect anything of our own plan.

ROBIN: They will soon know that our plan will trap theirs! Good work, Marian, my lady who will wait no longer!!

(ROBIN leads MARIAN into the DANCE. Just as the music reaches a peak, SHERIFF and his men surround the camp. The dance stops.)

ROBIN: *(commanding his men to drop their weapons)* WHAT HO!

TUCK: What Ho!

LITTLE JOHN: What Ho!

ROBIN: They have us now! We surrender! Drop your weapons.

(As CROWD gasps and complains, ROBIN gives a reassuring signal to his people. ROBIN, LITTLE JOHN, ALAN and WILL manage to escape. All the rest of the camp are captured and led off by the SHERIFF and his MEN. SHERIFF pulls along an unwilling MARIAN as the LIGHTS fade.)

INTERMISSION (if desired)

11 more pages in ACT TWO