

Robin Hood

Perusal
Only
NOT FOR
PRODUCTION

By

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Original Score by
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Cast of Characters

Robin Hood – 30s – legendary hero who becomes the leader of the band of thieves. He is the son of the late Earl of Lockley who was imprisoned by the Sheriff of Nottingham and died there. Robin recognizes King Richard as the true and good King of England and is willing to fight to protect him. He meets Marian and is attracted to her for her patriotism and passion in her mission to save the king. He asks for Marian's hand in marriage when King Richard returns.

Little John – 40s-50s – Husband of Maud, father of Maddie, and brother to Alan. He is the unofficial leader of the band of thieves before Robin joins them. He is big and burly – and has a good sense of humor, he is resigned to his fate of having to become a thief to survive and provide for his family. He is an untrained but talented fighter. He recognizes Richard as the true King of England and is angered by the cruelty and injustice of Prince John.

Maud - 30s-40s - wife of Little John for 17 years – loves Little John, good mother to Maddie, wonderful cook and runs the camp like a tight ship. She is resourceful and capable like Lady Marian but in a more rustic manner.

Maddie – young child – daughter of Little John and Maud – friend of Jocelyn

Alan Little – 30s-50s – is the younger brother of Little John and was a minstrel before he joined the thieves. He has a girlfriend named Anna in Nottingham that he would like to marry – but hasn't seen her in a month due to the need to stay undercover in Sherwood Forest

Will Scarlet – late teens - 20s - a young and handsome man who is a skilled swordsman, arrogant at times, and quick to anger. At first he is too self-absorbed and focused on his responsibilities to notice Elissa (Lady in Waiting to Lady Marian) - but later softens and allows himself to have feelings toward her when she risks her life to rescue him from capture.

David of Doncaster – any age - member of band of thieves who is a seasoned local competitive fighter and skilled poacher. His manners are somewhat coarse but he is of like allegiance to King Richard as the rest of the band members.

Friar Tuck – a jolly, travelling monk who battles only with his wits. He is captured by Will Scarlett on the road traveling from town to town to collect coins from people in villages for the "work of the church" - which is making his homemade ale. He feigns being drunk in order to create a diversion to allow the men to enter Nottingham Square unnoticed.

Sheriff of Nottingham – mean, cruel, self-serving head of the guards of the palace who answers directly to Prince John – and conspires with him against King Richard. He is responsible for the cruel acts that are inflicted on the people

who do not pay their taxes. He is taken with Lady Marian and seeks to place himself in the good graces of Prince John in order to win his permission to marry her.

Lady Marian - 20s - beautiful, loving, kind, elegant, capable, and resourceful young niece of King Richard and Prince John. She rejects Prince John as the King of England and is willing to sacrifice herself to warn King Richard of the conspiracy to kill him. She is repulsed and despises the Sheriff of Nottingham who wants to ask her to marry him. She falls for Robin Hood when they capture her and her Lady-in-Waiting in Sherwood Forest. She appeals to Robin Hood to let her complete her mission to warn her uncle of the assassination plot – and they are brought together by helping each other in their common cause to save England and King Richard.

Prince John – 30s – Greedy brother of King Richard who lusts for his power. He is left to run the kingdom in King Richard’s absence and he abuses the poor farmers and townsmen by taxing them until they have nothing. Then he punishes them for not having what he has already taken. Some die as is in the case with Robin Hood’s father. He conspires with King Phillip II of France to have King Richard assassinated in France upon his return to England. He appoints the Sheriff of Nottingham to enforce his unjust laws and encourages his betrothal to his niece, Lady Marian.

King Richard – 35 - 40 – True and good King of England. Has been a courageous and victorious leader in the Third Crusade and is en route from the Holy Lands to England through France. Older brother of Prince John – wise and virtuous – is protective of his niece, Lady Marian.

Lady in Waiting (Elsa) – early 20s - a trusted servant of Lady Marian – who assists her in trying to travel to warn King Richard. She becomes enamored of Will Scarlet when she and Lady Marian are captured by the band of thieves – but Will is resist to liking her until she puts her life in danger to help him escape capture. They ultimately become love interests.

Jocelyn (Extra) – child living in the encampment – friend of Maddie.

Scenes/Setting

Takes place in Nottingham and Sherwood Forest in England in 1192 - at the end of the Third Crusade

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Act II

Scene 1 – Room of Lady Marian in Palace – later that day	56
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ROBIN HOOD

ACT I

SCENE 1 – EDGE OF SHERWOOD FOREST - 1192 (end of the Third Crusade)

SONG: *Honor Is Her Name*

(ROBIN HOOD enters thru audience Stage Left singing merrily. ROBIN HOOD stops in the aisle, then continues and ascends the stage singing.)

(LITTLE JOHN, ALAN, and DAVID ENTER from Stage Right and LITTLE JOHN steps into the path of ROBIN when he ascends the stage - ROBIN stops abruptly)

LITTLE JOHN

I'll lighten your load, sir, by taking that purse of coins there.

ROBIN HOOD

And you'll pay your life for trying, villain!

MEN

Whoooo!

LITTLE JOHN

A Challenge! I like that! Then I'll take your purse and your life, sir!

ROBIN HOOD

Try you can – but succeed you won't!

(ROBIN drops his cape and readies himself with his walking stick as LITTLE JOHN meets his challenge. They engage in a fight with quarter staves and men yelling around them. Fight ends with ROBIN HOOD holding the cane at LITTLE JOHN's throat)

ROBIN HOOD

Begone with you scoundrel and detain me no longer!

LITTLE JOHN

My men could deal with you now!

ROBIN HOOD

Then I'll have your word of honor that I'll have unhindered passage through these woods!

(LITTLE JOHN is amused as the MEN laugh - he responds sarcastically)

LITTLE JOHN

My word, sir? ... as a thief?

ROBIN HOOD

Is there no honor among thieves?

LITTLE JOHN

Aye, sir! Then you've my word of honor as a thief, and that of my men, that you'll pass through Sherwood Forest without harm!

(ROBIN removes the cane from his throat)

ROBIN HOOD

Then you'll live today!

(ROBIN picks up his cape and boldly walks past men to CRS as LITTLE JOHN gets to his feet chuckling)

LITTLE JOHN

Does the one who speaks so boldly and canes me proper have a name by which you're called?

ROBIN HOOD

I am Robin of Loxley - Son of the Earl of Loxley and you are trespassing on my father's land!

LITTLE JOHN

Well, young Loxley, I am John Little - but my men call me Little John. I take it that you've been away for a good bit of time?

ROBIN HOOD

I have, sir. I've been away from my father's home for these 15 years past – the last 5 fighting alongside our good King Richard in the Holy Land. I am his loyal subject, a faithful servant to God, and defender of our motherland England.

LITTLE JOHN

Then you've no knowledge of England's fate in King Richard's absence?

ROBIN HOOD

King Richard left his brother Prince John behind to rule in his absence until his return from the Crusades.

(LITTLE JOHN and MEN exchange glances as some of the MEN mumble and LITTLE JOHN holds up his hand to silence them)

LITTLE JOHN

Prince John has announced that King Richard has perished in battle and has proclaimed himself King John, "protector" of the crown. His coronation ceremony is only days away!

ROBIN HOOD

Rubbish! King Richard will return in triumph to celebrate his victory in the Holy Lands!

LITTLE JOHN

It will be none too soon! Prince John has made a mockery of justice and mercy! He taxes the people without regard to their lot in life - and has empowered the Sheriff of Nottingham to enforce his will. The Sheriff is a ruthless devil who jails those who cannot comply with his demands. Prince John preys upon the poor to benefit himself and those who have his favor in court. Oppression reigns England now!

ROBIN HOOD

I am grieved in earnest to hear of this outrage - but our good King Richard will return and Prince John will have to answer for his crimes against the people.

LITTLE JOHN

King Richard will surely be met with resistance upon his return. Prince John will not be satisfied to hand back the throne to him.

ROBIN HOOD

Prince John is no match for the formidable armies of the king! So tell me John Little...Little John, what brings you to Sherwood Forest to become a thief no better than Prince John and the Sheriff of whom you speak with such disdain?

(LITTLE JOHN becomes irate)

LITTLE JOHN (angry)

We are the thieves they made us!!!...and I won't have regrets for doing what we must to survive. They've taken our families and stripped us of our fortunes - the difference is that we steal to eat and they steal to fatten their pockets! Prince John preys on the poor and has the audacity to call himself a king!

ROBIN HOOD

You are outlaws of the kingdom.

LITTLE JOHN

We are the loyal subjects of King Richard. We pray for his safe return to free us from the ruthless reign of his brother. I would it were Prince John be dead!

ROBIN HOOD

King Richard will see to his justice and God to his mercy – but for him, living is far worse than a sentence of death!

LITTLE JOHN

True enough, young Loxley - you are wise for your years.

ROBIN HOOD

I wish you Godspeed, John Little - that you will live to join me in rejoicing at the triumphant return of King Richard. For now, I take my leave of you to long last greet my father after these long years.

(ROBIN turns to leave but LITTLE JOHN stops him in deep concern)

LITTLE JOHN

Young Loxley...you will not find your father upon his estate.

(LITTLE JOHN motions to ALAN and DAVID to leave the two of them – and ALAN and DAVID EXIT USR)

ROBIN HOOD

You have news of my father? What then - has he journeyed to see his cousin in Lancaster shire?

LITTLE JOHN

He has not.

ROBIN HOOD

Tell me then - what do you know of him? These 15 years have been hard on me - and I wish to reunite with him now.

LITTLE JOHN

I regret to say that your father died in Debtor's Prison some two years ago.

ROBIN HOOD

You are a liar as well as a thief!

LITTLE JOHN

God strike me dead if I do not speak the truth!

(ROBIN HOOD is stunned and slowly sits on log)

ROBIN HOOD

This cannot be...you are mistaken then.

LITTLE JOHN

Your father would not support Prince John –and so his taxes were raised until he could no longer pay them. The Sheriff of Nottingham burned his estate to the ground and took him to Debtor’s Prison where he became ill due to the foul conditions there. I learned of his demise shortly thereafter.

(ROBIN HOOD is silent for a moment)

ROBIN HOOD

I will avenge the evil that has been done here! (to himself) And may God have mercy on my soul.

(ROBIN HOOD pulls his cape hood over his head and turns to leave)

LITTLE JOHN

Join us man! Take refuge in the cloak of Sherwood and become a rogue like us who has taken to thieving in order to eat! The irony of life...that we are the villains and they, the virtuous!

ROBIN HOOD

Perhaps the truth is that thievery is a kind of justice against the villainy of Prince John and his evil Sheriff. I know that they will both pay the price for their greed and treachery to the people of England! King Richard will see to this!

LITTLE JOHN

Come young Robin... (pulling off the hood on his cape) HOOD! Let’s away to the encampment to meet the others who are England’s outlaws!

(ROBIN HOOD & LITTLE JOHN EXIT USR)

END OF SCENE

ACT I

SCENE 2 – KING’S PALACE IN LADY MARIAN’S CHAMBERS

(MARIAN ENTERS from USL rushing into room followed by her LADY IN WAITING ELISSA)

MARIAN

Shut the door - and come quickly!

ELISSA

Yes, my lady! I am here!

MARIAN

KING John he calls himself!!! I would as soon be a frog in the forest than call him king! We will find reason to leave the palace at once to seek out my uncle Richard – the true King of England. He must hear of the treasonous acts by his brother Prince John!

ELISSA

My lady, you intend for the two of us to journey alone to the Holy Lands?

MARIAN

I have heard from a trusted source that my uncle Richard left the Holy Lands some weeks ago and is traveling home through France to Paris to be the guest of King Philip. Prince John is a traitor though - and has made an alliance with King Phillip! They plan to ambush King Richard before he reaches Paris! We must get there first and warn him - or it could mean the ruin of England!

ELISSA

If you please, my lady, I can ask my brother Dillon to come with us. He'll insure our safe passage through Sherwood Forest. There is talk of thieves there who'll take your coins and jewels and such if you aren't careful. Some say that you need a king's army to escape them!

(MARIAN picks up a bucket and some money and gives to LADY IN WAITING)

MARIAN

Nonsense! We'll be fine! Here is money to give to Dillon to buy horses! Tell him that we'll meet him outside of the palace gate at noon tomorrow! Now - take this pitcher, and if you are seen, tell them that you have been ordered to bring me some water. Be careful to calm yourself or you will give it away completely!

ELISSA

Yes, my lady, I promise!

MARIAN

Then take your leave - quickly!

ELISSA

I am gone, my lady!

(Just as ELISSA turns to leave, PRINCE JOHN ENTERS MARIAN's room. ELISSA is startled but stops immediately and curtsseys to him - she waits to be given permission to leave)

PRINCE JOHN

Lady Marian, my niece and ward! Where is your Lady-in-Waiting going so quickly?

MARIAN

I have sent her for a pitcher of water - as I am thirsty.

PRINCE JOHN

I hope that you are well. You hardly touched your supper and left in such haste that I was inclined to come here to check on you.

MARIAN

Pardon me uncle, I did not intend for you to worry. I was feeling out of sorts and returned to my chambers to retire early. I am well enough as you can see. Please allow my lady to fetch my water.

PRINCE JOHN

Of course, please do so immediately. I would not want to interfere with the comfort of my niece.

(ELISSA curtseys to PRINCE JOHN and MARIAN - then EXITS USL door as calmly as possible)

PRINCE JOHN

I have your interests in mind and plan to insure your safety and well-being to the best of my ability.

MARIAN

I thank you for your concern, uncle.

(SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM ENTERS from USL and bows to PRINCE JOHN and then MARIAN)

SHERIFF

Sire! Lady Marian!

MARIAN

Who is this man who enters my chambers uninvited and unannounced?

PRINCE JOHN

I beg your pardon that he is unannounced – but I have asked him to come here. My Lady and my niece - may I introduce William de Wendenal, Baron of Normandy and one who has the high favor and recommend of King Phillip of France.

SHERIFF

It is an honor and a pleasure, my lady.

(SHERIFF kisses the hand of MARIAN in a pleased/less than professional manner as he bows - MARIAN sees this and quickly withdraws her hand)

MARIAN

I hardly know what to say to an introduction of this sort. I am unaccustomed to meeting outsiders within my chambers.

PRINCE JOHN

My apologies for this intrusion upon your privacy my lady! However, your abrupt exit from supper leaves me no choice but to insist upon this rather unusual meeting. The Baron is no longer an outsider to our court. Rather some weeks ago, he was bestowed with the office and responsibilities of the Sheriff of Nottingham. He insures our safety as well as enforces the laws of the kingdom.

(the SHERIFF is obviously attracted to MARIAN)

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

It is my pleasure to make your acquaintance, my lady. I will do my utmost to serve you in every way possible!

PRINCE JOHN

The Sheriff has my absolute confidence - and I have entrusted him with all of the necessary powers to carry out his office.

MARIAN

I have already heard of you...and your brutal methods of enforcement!

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

I am pleased that my reputation precedes me. Should I say that I am effective in my work – and I can assure you that no one in this kingdom will escape punishment for an act of committing a crime against the crown.

MARIAN

Not even the crimes by those who are entrusted with enforcing the laws?

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

On occasion, there are unpleasant means in which one must engage to achieve certain results. You must be acquainted with them from your Uncle Richard's reign?

MARIAN

My uncle, King Richard, fights for justice and seeks to protect England! He despises villains and treachery – but he would never harm innocent citizens!

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

It is a pity that your uncle is not here – but someone must enforce the laws of the kingdom - or there will be chaos.

PRINCE JOHN

As you know, Marian, word has been received that your uncle - - my brother was felled in battle in The Holy Lands.

MARIAN

No! I have not heard this from a reliable source!

PRINCE JOHN

I know that it is a shock to all of us - but we must bear it somehow and move on...for the sake of England of course.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

Of course!...and I pledge my loyalty to the new crown, and to you, my lady, as I carry out the responsibilities of my office.

(SHERIFF bows to Prince John - MARIAN is disgusted)

MARIAN

Now that we have met, I ask that you take your leave of me at once so that I may retire for the evening.

PRINCE JOHN

Another purpose for this visit is to inform you that I have asked the good Sheriff to keep an especial watchful eye on you, my dear niece, such that no harm will come to you!

(SHERIFF takes her hand as he looks into her eyes with lecherous thoughts)

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

And I always take my work to heart!

MARIAN

I implore you to take your leave at once, sir!

(SHERIFF takes her hand and kisses it)

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

Of course, dear lady, and may you have a pleasant sleep. I bid you adieu!

(SHERIFF bows to PRINCE JOHN and EXITS USL door)

PRINCE JOHN

Marian, I am aware that you favored your Uncle Richard - and that his death is a shock to you. He was my brother and, of course, I am in mourning as well. However, we all must move on...for the sake of England. Oh, I said that already, didn't I? Well, he is dead anyway.

MARIAN

King Richard is not dead! It was never confirmed!

PRINCE JOHN

It was confirmed by the most reliable of sources - our good Sheriff of Nottingham!

MARIAN

He LIES!!!

PRINCE JOHN

Marian, I strongly advise you to be very careful about those who you malign.
You never know if you may someday become their wife!

MARIAN

Never!

PRINCE JOHN

You will if I so decree it!

(moment of silence)

PRINCE JOHN

Now, I will allow you to retire as I take my leave. Good rest and repose to
you, Marian!

(MARIAN curtseys as PRINCE JOHN EXITS USL door - MARIAN is
frustrated with angry tears and sings)

SONG: *Where Can My Prince Be?*

(ELISSA ENTERS USL door and rushes to her side)

ELISSA

My lady, are you ill?

MARIAN

No...but all of England is!

(short moment of silence)

ELISSA

My lady, I have done as I was told and my brother Dillon will meet us outside of the palace gates at noon tomorrow with horses and supplies for our journey.

MARIAN

The Prince's visit to my chambers makes it very clear that our journey is of the utmost importance to England...and to me!

ELISSA

Shall I pack for you now?

MARIAN

No! If we are caught, we must not appear as if we are traveling! We cannot bring anything beyond the clothes upon our backs...and our prayers that we can reach King Richard before England is lost to a tyrant!

ELISSA

My lady?

MARIAN

Come! We have work to do!

ELISSA

Yes, my lady!

(MARIAN EXITS USL door quickly followed by ELISSA)

END OF SCENE

ACT I - SCENE 3

SHERWOOD FOREST - Encampment of men

(LITTLE JOHN, ROBIN HOOD ENTER from audience to DSL and ascend the stage while other MEN, WOMEN, and CHILDREN ENTER from USL, USR, and off SR doors)

LITTLE JOHN

Well, Robin Hood, if a man's home indeed be his castle - your castle floors are made of dirt, your stove is this pile of wood, and your walls are the trees of Sherwood Forest! Welcome home man!

MAUD

Come and sit down! Have ya-self somethin' to eat!

LITTLE JOHN

This here's me Maud - been me wife for 15 years now! She's the one who rules the roost 'round here - just ask her!

(MADDIE ENTERS from off SR door – she runs to LITTLE JOHN and hides behind him because she is shy of the stranger)

MAUD

Its 17 years – and that'll be enough out of you, John Little! This is young Maddie.

(ROBIN HOOD bows to her and she giggles as she emerges from behind Little John)

ROBIN HOOD

It's nice to meet you, Maddie.

(MADDIE curtseys to ROBIN HOOD)

MADDIE

Very pleased to meet you, Sir!

ROBIN HOOD

The pleasure is all mine!

MAUD

Maddie, I'll be needin' some help with the men here.

MADDIE

Yes, Mum!

MAUD

This one is quite gentle. Where'd you find 'im, John?

LITTLE JOHN

He whipped me proper with his quarter stave o'r by the creek. This is Sir Robin of Loxley, son of the late Earl.

MAUD

I am truly sorry for your loss, sir. Your father was a good man - and the best of landlords...that is until the Sheriff of Nottingham stole his land in the name of the KING he says! Rubbish I say!

LITTLE JOHN

Now Maudie!

MAUD

I can't help it, John - He's a monster, that Sheriff - and Prince John is behind it all! You know it!

LITTLE JOHN

Don't worry Maudie, he'll get his just due. That's the way it works - if he don't get his justice here on earth, then he'll have to answer to God!

MAUD

My apologies, Sir Robin. I didn't mean to go on like that!

ROBIN HOOD

Just Robin, please.

LITTLE JOHN

You mean Robin...Hood!

(LITTLE JOHN & MEN laugh and tease ROBIN HOOD)

ROBIN HOOD

I can see that I'll have to get my quarter stave out after you again!

(MEN laugh and tease LITTLE JOHN)

LITTLE JOHN

I'll have another go at it!

MAUD

You can play another time, John - there's work to be done!

LITTLE JOHN

Play she says!

MAUD

I'll be needin' some more firewood when you finish there!

LITTLE JOHN

You kin see that she keeps me out of trouble!

(MEN laugh)

ROBIN HOOD

I do thank you for your hospitality, sir - but mind that I'll want to earn my keep!

LITTLE JOHN

Have no worry, man, you'll be pulling your own weight soon enough. For now, sit, 'an have a plate of Maudie's venison stew - compliments of Prince John himself!

(LITTLE JOHN and MEN laugh)

ROBIN HOOD

Compliments of Prince John?

LITTLE JOHN

Shall we just say that...what he don't know, won't hurt us!

(MEN laugh)

(MAUD brings ROBIN HOOD a bowl that she fashioned from mud and a stick and piece of bread for a spoon – ROBIN HOOD examines them)

ROBIN HOOD

This is unique eating ware!

MAUD

We had to leave from our home in a hurry 'cause we got word that the Sheriff's men were comin' to arrest John for not paying his taxes! We had to leave everything behind. They burned our house when they left...to teach us not to "disobey the law."

ALAN

Prince John is a tyrant – but the Sheriff is the embodiment of evil!

DAVID

I would it he answer to me someday! I'd give him his just due!

LITTLE JOHN

Now where are me manners? I haven't introduced ya to the men! This here's me brother Alan.

ROBIN HOOD

Pleasure to meet you, sir!

(ALAN acknowledges him by touching his hat brim)

LITTLE JOHN

He was a minstrel before he joined us in Sherwood Forest. Now here he sits without a heart!... 'cause he left it in Nottingham with a young lass named Anna!

(MEN jeer at ALAN)

ALAN

She'll be pining for me now too! I'm figuring to marry her as soon as I kin make an honest livin'.

ROBIN HOOD

How long has it been since you've seen her?

ALAN

It's been more than a month since I've taken to thieving in Sherwood.

ROBIN HOOD

Why don't you bring her here?

ALAN

Can't get into Nottingham without the Sheriff discoverin' me - and he don't take kindly to the likes of a thief who can't and won't pay taxes to fatten his pockets! Anyway, I can't do that to her. What kind of life would it be for her here?

ROBIN HOOD

Perhaps that choice would best be given to her.

LITTLE JOHN

If they catch 'im in Nottingham, the Sheriff will see to it that he's arrested - and Anna and her family will suffer the consequences for harbourin' a criminal.

ALAN

I nearly got caught the last time I tried to see her - and I can't put her in harm's way like 'at.

ROBIN HOOD

I am deeply sorry for your situation, sir!

ALAN (to DAVID)

I'm a "Sir!" I like this chap!

LITTLE JOHN (as Will Scarlet passes near)

This is young Will Scarlet. He's a fiery lad and has a lot to learn – but no one can beat him out with a sword!

(WILL ignores him)

WILL

I'll be leavin' to take my watch now.

ROBIN HOOD

Perhaps we can spar a bit another time?

WILL

Yes...another time.

(WILL passes by DAVID on his way to SL watch)

DAVID

Don't mind him - he's always off a bit!

WILL SCARLETT

Mind yourself!

(WILL MOVES to SL watch post while LITTLE JOHN makes a gesture to not mind him)

LITTLE JOHN

Young Will's a man of few words - but you always get his meaning. He'll come 'round. Now this here's David of Doncaster...and you don't want to be on the bad side of 'im. He's a real fighter!

ROBIN HOOD

Pleased to make your acquaintance, sir!

DAVID

Sir? I could get used to that title!

LITTLE JOHN

David's the best poacher we've got! You're enjoying the fruits of his labor right now!

ROBIN HOOD

My compliments on the dinner!

DAVID

My pleasure...sir!

ROBIN HOOD

I have an aunt living in Doncaster. I haven't seen her or her family since my mother died when I was in my 8th year.

DAVID

I only spent my younger years there - and then my family came to Nottingham. Been 'ere ever since.

LITTLE JOHN

Young Will has relatives in Doncaster as well. Maybe you kin ask him about 'em when he isn't quite so put out.

ROBIN HOOD

Where did you get your fighting skills? Were you alongside our good King Richard in the Holy Land?

DAVID

I am afraid that it's not quite that heroic. I've got 6 older brothers - and we tussle now and then!

(MEN laugh and jeer)

ROBIN HOOD

Have you ever put your fighting skills to the test outside of your home?

DAVID

I kin hold me own with the best of 'em!

LITTLE JOHN

Why, David 'ere won his weekly pint at the local pub with those skills!

(MEN laugh and tease as DAVID enjoys his reputation. MAUD ENTERS from SR camp and she and MADDIE give the men drinks)

ROBIN HOOD

What if you were to put those skills to use for a higher purpose?

ALAN

And what "higher" purpose would you mean?

ROBIN HOOD

To resist the tyranny of Prince John and the Sheriff of Nottingham – and to bring justice to those who are the victims of their power!

DAVID
Aye?

LITTLE JOHN

How's that?

MAUD

Fancy talk! Thievin' is thievin' - there's no "higher purpose" in that!

ROBIN HOOD

What if you were to steal from those who were made rich by Prince John's taxes - and give it back to those from whom it was stolen in the first place?

MAUD

You mean robbin' from the rich ta give it back ta the poor?

ROBIN HOOD

Think of us as being the guardian of those who cannot advocate for themselves- and we become the guardians of the citizens and protectors of true justice in England – until King Richard returns.

ALAN

Prince John will turn his Sheriff loose on us!

ROBIN HOOD

Let him then – and we will be ready for him!

LITTLE JOHN

I like it!

ALAN

But we've only pinched a purse here or there in the cloak of Sherwood Forest.

DAVID

...an' poached a bit of venison here and there to feed our families!

LITTLE JOHN

None of us know anythin' about real fightin'.

ROBIN HOOD

Well I do! I've been in the Holy Land for the past 5 years fighting alongside our good King Richard.

ALAN

Gaw! King Richard himself!

LITTLE JOHN

And ya think ya can turn us into real fightin' men?

ROBIN HOOD

I know that I can!

DAVID

Well, I like that!

ALAN

And me as well! I always fancied meself as a soldier!

LITTLE JOHN

Well, it would be worth seeing ya try to make fightin' men out of us! I'm with you!

ROBIN HOOD

Are there other men here in the encampment?

LITTLE JOHN

There's young Will of course, but the rest of 'em are out in the forest keeping watch for any "benefactors" who happen by - and are wanting to make a "donation" of their jewelry and coins to a few poor men like us!

MAUD

Thieves, you mean you are - and don't try to get around it!

LITTLE JOHN

Now, Maudie! I'm just havin' a bit of fun!

ROBIN HOOD

You can't allow tyranny to prevail, Maud. We must resist it while there is still a breath in our body!

MAUD

I don't want my John hurt that's all! I couldn't bear his children growin' up without a father and...

(MAUD is overcome with distress - and quickly EXITS SR to lower encampment - WILL ENTERS from USL with FRIAR TUCK who is contesting his capture.)

WILL SCARLETT

Look what I found on the road!

(the FRIAR closes his eyes and swings his fist around in a circle not coming close to hitting anyone - he opens his eyes and sees that he has hit nothing)

FRIAR TUCK

Oh please, sir, don't take my life!

LITTLE JOHN

And what would I do with it if I had it? Wouldn't do me a bit of good! David – ya'd better take over the watch for the encampment since young Will 'as to take care of his pris'ner.

(DAVID EXITS USL)

FRIAR TUCK

I can assure you, sir, that I am a most worthy person among the living!

(ROBIN is amused and seeks to have some fun)

ROBIN HOOD

I see – and just how do you measure your worth?

FRIAR TUCK

Oh sir, I say my prayers thrice daily and at every meal!

ROBIN HOOD

That will get you redemption with the Lord - but it won't redeem you with us, Friar.

FRIAR TUCK

I do charitable works every day!

LITTLE JOHN

Can't see how that'll help us here! We look after ourselves!

ROBIN HOOD (teasing)

I suppose John is right, I guess we'll just have to take your life after all - since you have nothing to offer us.

FRIAR TUCK

Oh but I do, sir, I do! Please do spare me!

LITTLE JOHN

You 'ave something of worth for us?

ALAN

Some gold coins?

FRIAR TUCK

Oh no, sir!

WILL SCARLETT

Jewelry then?

FRIAR TUCK

I am but a Friar and take a vow of poverty. I own nothing but the clothes on my back...and my good intentions.

ROBIN HOOD

You know what they say about good intentions, Friar!

WILL SCARLET

So what do you have to give us?

(FRIAR TUCK struggles to think of something to offer)

LITTLE JOHN

Speak up, man!

(FRIAR TUCK is desperate to convince them to spare his life)

FRIAR TUCK

If worth be measured by a penny, then I am truly worthless, sir - but if worth be measured by wit, then I am a wealthy man for certain!

ROBIN HOOD

You are saying that we should spare your life for the worth of your wit?

FRIAR TUCK

The measure of a man's worth should not be from the metal of his penny - but rather the mettle of his character!

ROBIN HOOD

Well spoken, Friar!

FRIAR TUCK

Tuck.

ROBIN HOOD

Pardon, sir?

FRIAR TUCK

Tuck. My name is Tuck.

ROBIN HOOD

Well, Friar Tuck, I can see that you are indeed a man of true wit.

WILL SCARLET

Half-wit if you ask me!

(to ROBIN)

FRIAR TUCK

I can see that you are a man of wisdom and justice. I appeal to your good sense and mercy to spare the life of a worthless - but worthy Friar!

ROBIN HOOD

You are a man of enlightenment and inspiration – and I will enjoy your company!

WILL SCARLETT

He needs to give something here to get anything in return.

ALAN

True -it's the way of Sherwood!

WILL

I don't see him being any good to us here!

FRIAR TUCK

I can see that my philosophy does not inspire you with compassion – nor are you moved to redeem yourselves.

LITTLE JOHN

We're thieves plain and simple, Friar – an' there's no redemption for that!

(to LITTLE JOHN with all sincerity)

FRIAR TUCK

Any man can have redemption - he need only seek it!

(this makes LITTLE JOHN uncomfortable and he takes a few steps from FRIAR TUCK)

ROBIN HOOD

I think that the good Friar can carry his own weight around here.

WILL SCARLETT

And the likes of him has a good deal of weight to carry!

FRIAR TUCK

Well I do have a few hidden talents that make me think that I could be an asset to you men!

(sarcastically to the FRIAR)

WILL SCARLETT

He's been holding out on us!

FRIAR TUCK

I can make the finest ale in England!