

HOODWINKED

A market scene is set on the stage, with villagers in groups/pairs. Stalls could be set up if desired, with relevant pictorial signs – butcher/baker/fishmonger etc. There should be signposts at either side, one to read: '**Sherwood Forest 1 mile**'; the other: '**Sheriff's Castle 1 mile**'. If villagers cannot stand 'frozen' for the duration of the first scene, they could be seated. There should be someone with '**Boo, Hiss!**' / '**Hurray!**' signs at the side of the stage. The Narrator/s are intended to be 'itinerant musicians', although the narration is not set to music, it is rhythmic and occasional guitar chords could be strummed.

The following action takes place in front of the stage, as space allows. The 'rich' people enter through the audience if possible.

In order to keep scenery to a minimum, signs could be made up to denote the various scenes:

'Ye Olde Sherwood Forest'; 'Ye Olde Market Town of Nottingham'; 'Ye Younge Maid Marian's Room'.

Servant (To audience) Make way, friends of the Sheriff coming through! All you mucky tradespeople stay over there and you smelly peasants keep your distance!

Lord Yes, the only filthy people we're interested in are the filthy rich!

Lady My dear Sir Gerald, somebody told me the peasants were revolting and they are!

Robin and some of his men run on and stand in front of the rich folk.

Robin Good morrow to you!

Lord Robin Hood!

Lady Robin Hood?!!

Robin That's my name, don't wear it out! My merry friends and I were thinking how awfully weighed down you look! I think we should jolly well relieve you of some of your burden. Will! Little John! Lighten the load of these weary travellers!

Will Certainly, Robin! Your jewels, m'lady...

Lady Never!

Robin A lady as fair as yourself has no need of trinkets like these. Your natural beauty shines far more brightly.

Lord Don't be so ridiculous! This is no time for jokes!

Lady Be quiet, Gerald! (*Lady hits him and hands over her jewels*)

Robin Farewell lovely lady! Have a safe journey!

Lord The Sheriff will hear of this! He'll stretch your necks! (*They exit*)

Little John For now, let's go and stretch our stomachs! I'm starving and we've got something to celebrate. (*Holding up bag of jewels*)

Will Yes! Now we'll be able to make a large donation to the Teachers' Benevolent Fund.

Robin Aye, my friends, a worthy cause! Poor souls! Overworked and underpaid and yet always cheerful. An example to us all! *(They exit. If seated, the villagers can begin to get into place)*

Narrator The nation is divided as you will plainly see,
The rich in all their riches, the poor in poverty.
King Richard has gone to a faraway land,
And justice is left in a brave outlaw's hands.
Young Locksley was robbed of his title and home,
Leaving only forest in which to roam.
His heart to a noble young lady belongs,
But she's held by the Sheriff and all hope seems gone.
Will misfortune now turn him to evil from good?
No! He's doing his utmost is our Robin Hood,
To undo all the bad that the Sheriff stands for;
He just robs from the rich – to give back to the poor!

Scene: Nottingham Town *(Market scene comes to life. A villager runs on from forest side)*

Villager 1 *(Running up to the nearest group)* Robin's done it again! Wait till you hear!

The villagers whisper the message across the stage from group to group until it reaches the furthest group.

Villager 2 Robin's done it again!

Song 1 OUT IN THE FOREST

At end of song Sheriff, Deputy, Marian, ladies-in-waiting and guards enter from direction of castle.

Sheriff *(Handing Marian a bag of money)* My dear, you must shop till you drop. Buy everything you need. While you are in my care, you shall have only the best.

Marian Thank you. I'm sure I'll enjoy spending this on 'necessities'.

Sheriff *(Pushing people aside)* Right! Out of my way! Guards! Get those posters up quickly, I want that scoundrel found!

*Sheriff's men put up **WANTED** posters promising a reward of 100 goats. They are seen to treat the villagers roughly. One poster is misspelled and offers 100 goats reward.*

Villager 1 *(Mocking)* Where do you expect us to keep a 100 goats? You've taken all our land!

Sheriff *(To Deputy)* You fool! It's goats not goats! You need to pay more attention in the literacy hour!

Marian and ladies give money to the poor and buy things, which they then give away. Marian secretly takes one of the posters.

Marian *(Looking at poster)* Only 100 goats! You're worth so much more than that to me!

Sheriff (Moving to front and side of stage - looking at poster) I've had enough of Robin of Locksley, or Robin Hood as he now calls himself. Stupid name! (Sarcastically) Why not Harold Helmet? Or Bertie Bobblehat?

Deputy His name's Robin and he wears a hood, Sire.

Sheriff (Gives him withering look) Why don't you go and offer yourself as target practice for my archers? (Deputy begins to go) No! Come back here! I hate to say it but I have need of you. I want you to disguise yourself as one of this rabble and see what you can find out about Robin Hood's whereabouts. Here take these, that should do the trick, you'll be a commoner in no time. (Gives him a bag marked 'Commoner Disguise Kit' containing a copy of the local paper, local supermarket bag, scarf with colours of the local football team, etc - Deputy exits)

(To audience) I have a cunning plan to rid myself of Robin Hood, 'The People's Champion' once and for all! **[BOO card]** Shut up or I'll have you in the stocks! My Deputy should be able to find out the whereabouts of Robin's forest camp, and his secret password! Meanwhile, I will start chopping down all the trees in Sherwood Forest, leaving him no place to hide! And it'll keep my castle in logs for years! Ha, ha, ha!!! **[BOO Card]** Quiet! Or it's extra numeracy for a month! When I have Robin Hood, I will think of some exquisitely painful punishment for him – and that will be the 'star attraction' at the party I have planned to celebrate my victory!

Jester 1 Sire, I heard you were looking for a jester.

Sheriff Indeed! I need to keep a sense of humour with all this stress!

Jester Well, have you heard the one about the failed lion tamer? He was called Claude Bottom.

Sheriff (To guards) Take him away! That's criminal!

Marian (Handing coin to villager) Please take this. I'm sorry it's not more.

Villager 3 God bless you, Lady Marian!

Sheriff (To villagers) You lot are always complaining about not having any money, so here's a chance to get some – one hundred groats, tax-free! (He holds up poster. No response) No-one interested, eh? Well I'd better get started on cutting down your precious forest. (He calls offstage) Tree fellers please! (2 lumberjacks walk across the stage)

Deputy (Counting on fingers) I thought you asked for three fellers. There are only two! (Withering look from Sheriff)

Villagers try to stand in the way of lumberjacks, Guards pull them away.

Sheriff I can see I'm going to have to think of some more taxes for you to pay me!

Villager 4 How about taxing the air that we breathe!

Villager 5 Simon's right! That's about the only thing left to tax!

Sheriff That's an excellent idea! I'll work on it. For now, I'll just double the tax on grain!

Villager 6 Robin Hood will never stand for that!

Sheriff Anyone found helping that outlaw will suffer terrible punishment, which I will thoroughly enjoy inflicting! **[BOO! Card]** (To audience) I've warned you already! (He exits towards Castle)

Deputy re-enters now in 'Commoner' disguise. The villagers don't recognise him but they are suspicious of him, as he is a stranger.

Villager 7 What are we going to do? He'll destroy the forest and we won't have any wood!

Villager 8 We can't pay all the taxes now! If he doubles the tax on grain, we'll all starve!

Villager 9 Why did King Richard have to go and fight in the Crusades? Nothing's been the same since he left.

Villager 10 I'd love to get my hands on that Sheriff when he doesn't have his guards round him!

Villager 1 Quiet! He's got his spies everywhere!

Deputy I thought Simon was the pie man. Why's the Sheriff selling pies? (Mumbling to himself) What sort are they? Shepherd's pies or mince pies or cottage pies or Cumberland pies or sausage pies or, or, or sausage pies with diced onions and a delicate hint of parsley and sage or...?

All (Withering looks) Shut up!

Song 2 ARE WE HAPPY?

Villager 4 I'm not going to hang around here waiting for the Sheriff to hang me around here, I'm going to join Robin Hood.

Villager 5 I'm with you!

Villager 6 Me too!

Villager 7 You'll need the password when you get to his camp, so he'll know he can trust you.

During the following, the villagers get into a huddle with Deputy at the back trying to listen. He can't quite hear. They mime mouthing the word 'Hood' to each other and practise the three winks in an exaggerated way.

Villager 7 The word is 'Hood' and you wink three times!

The villagers drift away leaving 5 and 6 on stage about to leave as well.

Villager 5 (He has forgotten the password already and shouts after the others) What was the password? Was it ...?

Villager 6 (Interrupts him, indicating that the Deputy is listening) Hold on you twit! (He quickly drags Villager 5 offstage)

Deputy (At front of stage) 'Hold on you twit'? ... Seems a funny password to me. (exits)

Narrator Far from the town, tucked away in the green,
Is Robin Hood's band – faithful, honest and keen.
They want to see justice honoured again,
So they hope and they pray and they fight and they train.

Scene: Robin's camp

Enter Merry Men doing 'American soldier type' training routine.

Leader 1,2,3,4. 1,2,3,4!
We are Robin's Merry Men

All We are Robin's Merry Men

Leader Living in a forest glen

All Living in a forest glen

Leader With our arrows and our bows

All With our arrows and our bows

Leader We keep the Sheriff on his toes

All We keep the Sheriff on his toes!

Merry Man 1 We saw the Sheriff pick his nose! *(All laugh)*

Enter Villagers 4, 5 & 6. They say password together.

Villager 5 We've come to help.

Leader Welcome!

Others gather round and greet newcomers with the 'Merry Men' greeting, which children can invent themselves!

Enter Robin and men.

Merry Men Robin!

Robin Some more goodies chaps! *(Looking at jewels)* These remind me of my darling Marian, so beautiful, so bright and precious ...

All *(Eyes to Heaven)* What is he like!

Robin ... but we'll have to arrange for them to go to those in need.

Villager 4 There's plenty of them, Robin.

Villager 5 The Sheriff's trying to starve us into betraying you, Robin - but he'll never make us tell!

Villager 6 We want to join you Robin and be Merry Men.

Robin The more the merrier, I say! It makes a chap proud to have fine followers like all of you! If we stick together, we'll win in the end. We won't give up! We'll fight them in the beeches! We'll fight them among the elms! It doesn't matter that we've got so little. Remember - from

little acorns do big oak trees grow! The Sheriff's barking up the wrong tree if he thinks he can stop us now! We won't rest until justice walks this land again!

All Hurray! We're with you, Robin!

Song 3 ROBIN, ROBIN HOOD

During song, Robin shakes hands with newcomers, perhaps gives them bows and arrows, shows plan marked 'Operation Cash Flow Rich → Poor' to men.

Robin Come on then, lads! Let's get this operation underway! *(They exit, cheering)*

Reset Market scene, or re-show Market scene card. Villagers are looking very miserable.

Narrator The village folk are hungry, the village folk are sad,
They all agree that things have never really been so bad.
They haven't any money, the Sheriff's people grab it!
They need an influential friend, perhaps one in a habit.
So when you see the villagers, their earnest, heartfelt cry is:
When the chips are truly down, you need some decent friars!

Enter Big Friars and Little Friars carrying basket of goodies. As LFs lay out picnic, it is probably best if the BFs remain standing, not restricting the audience's view.

Friar Nosh This looks like a fine place for a picnic.

Friar Guzzle Pop the basket down there and let's tuck in! *(LFs take out rug etc and begin to lay out picnic)*

Friar Nosh Don't use that word!

Friar Guzzle What, pop?

Friar Nosh No, Tuck. He's gone and joined Robin Hood!

Friar Guzzle It's enough to put you off your food! Well, maybe not ...

Friar Swill I'm so hungry! I haven't eaten since lunch time!

All BFs Terrible, shocking! Not good for you *(BFs carry on mumbling discontentedly)*

Little Friars But lunch was only half an hour ago!

Friar Nosh Little Friars should be seen and not heard! *(Takes a chicken leg from basket. To Friar Guzzle):* Have a chicken leg!

Friar Guzzle No thank you, they're 'fowl'! Ha, ha! *(BFs laugh)*

Friar Swill Oh, I shouldn't laugh on an empty stomach!

Villager 8 You don't do anything on an empty stomach!

Villager 9 Only on an empty head!

Friar Nosh Just ignore them! We won't let them spoil our lunch.

Song 4 AMEN, AMEN

Villager 10 You ought to be ashamed of yourselves! Getting fatter while poor people starve!

Friar Swill We need to keep our strength up to pray.

Villager 3 There won't be anyone left alive to pray for at this rate!

Friar Guzzle We must pray for the Sheriff as he seeks to lead us.

Villager 1 Seeks to lead us? Seeks to bleed us more like! Bleed us dry!

Villagers (*Shouting*) Yeah!

Friar Nosh I think we need to find a more secluded spot. All this shouting will give me indigestion.

Exit. LFs pick up picnic and repack basket. Villagers drift off muttering discontentedly.

Narrator Meat, fish and potatoes sizzling brightly on the fire,
Come out of the frying pan and straight into the Friars!
They need to learn the lesson that their greed just will not pay,
That they will get much more from life when giving things away;
That love is never selfish, but is thoughtful, true and kind,
But not always smooth-running as Maid Marian will find.

Scene: Maid Marian's Room (*A table with mirror, a stool and somewhere for the Friars to hide – perhaps a curtain. Marian is surrounded by her ladies-in-waiting*)

Marian (*Picking petals off flower*) He loves me, he loves me not. He loves me, he loves me not. He loves me! (*Looking at poster*) Oh Robin, some day we'll be together. Until then we'll just have to be satisfied with little glimpses of each other. And I never know when you might be watching me, so I must look my best at all times! (*Looks in mirror*)

Jane Your hair is so shiny since you started using that new pro-active shampoo! I'll need to wear sunglasses soon when I comb it!

Sarah And your hands that don't do dishes are as soft as your face!

Lucy 'For your wild, green, hairy boyfriend!' (*They snigger*)

Song 5 WE ARE MAID MARIAN'S LADIES

Marian (*To Sarah*) Sarah, I'd like you to take a note to the inn. Don't forget to say the password, 'Hood' and then wink three times. The Innkeeper will make sure it gets to Robin. I just want him to know how much I miss him and that I'd do anything to see him again soon, even for a moment! I long to see his face again and I'm sure he'll find a way. (*She exits with Sarah*)

Ladies (*Dreamily*) Ahhh! What is she like!

Anna He's so handsome, I could fancy him myself!

Mary And he is rather clever and good and fit!

Helen I prefer Will Scarlet – he's a songwriter. That's what I call a real man, so sensitive.

Jane Oh no, I prefer Little John, he's so big and strong. You can tell he works out.

Helen Works out? (*Thinks*) Oh, out in the forest, you mean! It must be all that fresh air.

Lucy Like you've got in your head!

Mary Come on, we've got work to do! (*They exit*)

Scene: Forest [*SFX: Track 23 - Tree being felled*]

Narrator So, "Timber!" is the cry we hear,
As one by one trees disappear.
Poor animals are homeless left,
And birds no longer have a nest.

The following two lines are optional:

Animal 1 (*Despondently*) Where shall we go now?

Animal 2 I don't know! Nowhere seems safe! (*They exit*)

Narrator Uncaring of the creatures' need,
Come friars wanting a good feed.

Narrator (*As s/he exits - to audience*) I'm still not happy about that last rhyme!

Friars enter with their picnic.

Friar Nosh Right! This should be far enough from prying eyes! Set it down little brothers.

Robin and men appear from both sides of stage.

Robin Welcome brothers! How kind of you to bring us a picnic. Any ginger beer?

Friar Swill I'm afraid we haven't enough to share.

Friar Nosh How true, Brother! (*Friars Nosh & Swill slyly try to stuff food up their sleeves*)

Robin Tut, tut, brothers, you seem to be getting into some bad habits! Allow us to help you out of them! Come on, chaps!

Merry Men remove habits from Friars Nosh and Swill, leaving them in vests and boxer shorts which could have 'Hello mummy' or 'I support McDonalds/Fitness Centre' etc. written on them.

Robin Feel that bracing air! You'd better run home before you catch cold! The exercise will do you good - help you work up an appetite! (*Big Friars exit hurriedly*)

(*To Little Friars*) Come on, Little Brothers, help us distribute this to those who really need it!

Villager 7 (*Running on*) Robin, Robin! Little Samuel won't stop crying, he's so hungry!

Villager 8 The Sheriff's men came and took our last farthing!

Robin Here, take this. It's fresh from the Friar! *(He gives them food)*

Villager 7 God bless you, Robin! Where would we be without you!

Little John Robin, you must stop a while and eat, too.

Robin When I see what the Sheriff is doing to this land, it takes my appetite away. Come on, chaps, we must share this out, no time to rest!

Song 6 WHAT A MAN

During the song, they distribute food – perhaps chocolate money or sweets - among villagers who drift onto the stage and some among the audience. Villagers gather round Robin shaking his hand, patting him on the back etc.

Villager 3 Three cheers for Robin Hood!

All Hip hip, hooray! etc.

Narrator He's leading the Sheriff a merry old dance,
Righting wrongs when he gets the chance!
Feeding the poor, never seeming to tire,
But what if the Sheriff makes taxes far higher?

Enter 2 taxi drivers.

Taxi Drivers Who called for taxis for hire? We're for hire! Best taxis for miles. Only ten groats to*(local place)* Who called a cab?

All No-one!

Driver 1 Somebody must have done! *(Going into audience)* Anybody here order a cab?

Driver 2 Haven't you had enough of this, Madam? I can take you home now for only five groats!

They exit through audience.

Villagers talk amongst themselves. Guards enter and put up posters 'Tournament: One Day Only! Biggest Bow and Arrow Bonanza Ever!' Enter Town Crier. Sheriff enters & stands at side of stage.

Town Crier Hear ye! Hear ye! Tomorrow there will be, for your entertainment, a tournament! The prize for the winner will be to kiss the hand of the fair Lady Marian! And two hundred groats! All are welcome to enter! Anyone under the age of eighteen must have the permission of a parent or guardian.

Villager 9 That's exciting! We could do with a bit of entertainment!

Villager 1 Someone should tell Robin!

Villagers Shhh!

Sheriff Pesky peasants! They're still protecting that criminal, Hood. Ah! Here comes my Deputy. Have you discovered the password?

Deputy 'Hold on you twit!'
Sheriff How dare you talk to me like that! Guards!
Deputy You don't understand! Hold on you twit! That's it!
Sheriff It certainly is! The man's lost his mind! Take him away!

Deputy is hauled off crying "Hold on you twit! Hold on you twit! ...".

Sheriff Now for my brilliant plan B! I know that show-off won't be able to resist a tournament and the prize of kissing the hand of the fair Lady Marian. No man could resist trying for such a prize. Meanwhile, I'll make those vile villagers sorry for defying me! I'll keep chopping down their precious forest and I'll squeeze every last drop of money out of them until they beg me for mercy! And of course I won't show them any!
[BOO card]

Song 7 I'LL MAKE THEM PAY

All exit after song.

A card could be shown saying 'The Next Day'. The Tournament is set up. People begin to gather excitedly. Nobles, Marian & Ladies seated. Targets are assumed to be offstage.

Narrator The people are gathered; contestants are here.
The Sheriff's plan B started off with a cheer! *(All cheer)*
Fun and excitement are felt in the air,
But under it all hides a terrible snare!
For the love of a lady, Rob casts off all fears,
So let's hope this day does not all end in tears!

Song 8 ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY

This is sung as Robin and his band walk around the hall on their way to the stage i.e. Tournament. The song should finish before they arrive.

Vendor Get your firefly necklaces here! Light up in the dark. Don't lose your children!

Announcer Ladies and gentlemen, what an exciting event so far! Now it's time for the archery contest! May I remind you again to keep hold of all carrier pigeons for the duration of the performance and that the management takes no responsibility at all for stray arrows landing randomly in body parts. Bring on the contestants! *(Could be led on by a glamorous assistant)* Hasn't it been exciting so far? Are you enjoying it?

All Yes!

Announcer *(To audience)* What about you lot in the cheap seats? *(Pause for reaction)* Ah! Here's our first contestant... Bob 'Bullseye' Baxter from Buxton.

Bob 'Bullseye' Baxter shoots [SFX: Track 24 - Bird squawking and falling to ground]

Announcer That's a little wide of the mark... but he'll enjoy a nice roast pheasant tonight! Next contestant please. Geoff the Archer! Now this boy has a novel approach, I think you'll find – but no cheating now Geoff!

Geoff the Archer shoots. [SFX: Track 25 - Person being hit and falling to ground]

Announcer That's a miss, I think. *(Pause)* Is there a physician in the house? And finally we have a mystery contestant, known only as the Sherwood Sureshot

Robin Hood shoots. [SFX: Track 26 - Arrow hitting target]

Voice off One hundred and eighty!

Announcer There's our winner! Give a big hand for the man who'll be kissing a little hand in just a few moments.

Sheriff Bravo! Come forward and claim your prize! *(Signals to guards)* You're an excellent shot. I expect you get lots of practice in Sherwood Forest... Robin Hood! *(Pulls Robin's hood/false beard etc off)* Seize him! I knew you wouldn't be able to resist a challenge or the chance to kiss the Lady Marian's hand. So I've finally trapped you! Take him away until I decide what to do with him. Lock him up and bring me the key.

Marian Oh Robin! It's all my fault. I should never have said how much I wanted to see you. *(To Sheriff, furiously)* I should have realised what you were up to you sly old fox!

Sheriff You're so beautiful when you're angry. But less of the old my dear... I don't mind the foxy! You know, you mustn't blame yourself, few can compete with an evil genius! Though you must know, Marian, that everything I do, I do it for you! *(Exit Marian upset)*

Jester 2 Sire! Are you still looking for a jester?

Sheriff I am.

Jester 2 What do you call a woman with a boat tied to her head? Maude!

Sheriff Ha! Ha! That's wonderful.

Jester 2 Which public school did Robin Hood go to?

Sheriff I don't know. Which public school did he go to?

Jester 2 'Arrow! Get it?

Sheriff You're hired! *(Exit. Strike Tournament set)*

Narrator Things are not looking good, Robin's captured, alas!
The Sheriff's plan B did indeed come to pass.
Will the land now be left in such mean, grasping hands?
And what will become of the proud, merry band?
The fair Lady weeps - her love's life is at stake!
Oh, a sad sight it is, to see a heart break!

Scene: Marian's Room

Marian What am I going to do? I should have seen the danger. I should have told him to keep away! Is all now lost?

Song 9 MARIAN'S LAMENT

Jane Keep your chin up! There's always hope. Love has a habit of finding a way... *(2 friars have entered – Friar Tuck and King Richard in disguise)* Speaking of habits...

Friar Tuck We have come to bring comfort to the Lady. Please leave us so that we can pray. *(Jane exits)* Marian! It's me, Friar Tuck. Lock the door... we haven't got much time. I've got a plan to rescue Robin, but you'll have to be very brave.

Marian Anything for Robin!

Richard You love him that much?

Marian Oh yes!

Richard Are you sure he deserves your love? Isn't he just a common thief?

Marian No! He only takes back what's already been stolen by the Sheriff with his unfair taxes! He keeps nothing for himself. He doesn't want to steal, but he won't just let the poor starve! No-one else will stand up to the Sheriff!

Richard What about King Richard?

Marian He's a good man but he's not here. He should never have gone away! Robin had no choice and now look what's happened!

Richard I see!

Friar Tuck Try not to worry, Marian. We must hurry. Here's my plan... *(they huddle together and whisper)*

Marian Urgh! Yuck! Disgusting, but for Robin I'll do it! *(There is a knock on the door)* Quick! Hide behind there! *(She opens the door. Friars hide)*

Sheriff Marian... why did you lock the door?

Marian With an outlaw in the castle, one can't be too careful!

Sheriff I thought you were 'in lurve' with that rascal Robin of Locksley, or should I say 'Locked up'? *(He laughs)*

Marian A girl can be so easily fooled. He looked all right outdoors, but he just doesn't look good in a dungeon. You'd look wonderful in a dungeon!

Sheriff Too kind, my dear, too kind!

Marian And you're so clever! No one could pull the wool over your eyes!

Sheriff *(Smoothing eyebrows)* If you've got it, flaunt it!

Marian You're so right! I'd like everyone to see you for what you really are! So I thought I might make you something special to wear for your big party. I'll need to take some measurements though. *(She fetches tape measure)*

Sheriff I'm sure that could be arranged.

Marian Or perhaps I should just make it 'Superman' size, I'm sure that would fit! *(Aside)* But not over his big head! Just to be safe, slip your jacket

off and I'll just pop this round here. Lovely! Keep your arms up a moment. *(She measures round his chest and then slips the key out of his pocket and hands/slides it to Friars)* There, all done!

Sheriff What will it be like?

Marian That will be a surprise!

Sheriff Oh I like surprises!

Marian Good 'cause you're going to get a really big one very soon! Au revoir!

Sheriff *(Obviously not understanding)* Right, well, I'll go then! *(He exits)*

Marian *(To Friars)* Be quick! Bring him here. *(They exit)* Oh Robin, my love!

Sheriff re-enters.

Sheriff Marian! I seem to have forgotten something! As the real winner at the tournament today, I think I deserve to kiss your lovely hand!

Marian Urgh! I mean, I haven't washed them for hours...

Sheriff I'll take my chances.

Marian No, I couldn't. It wouldn't be fair!

Sheriff But I insist! *(He tries to grab her hand. Robin rushes in followed by the two Friars)*

Robin Unhand her you cad!

Sheriff Hood! How did you escape?

Robin Never mind that... how about a fair fight? Just you and me.

Sheriff Just you and me, that sounds fair.

Robin Good.

Sheriff But good never was my style! Guards!

Robin and Sheriff start to fight, some Guards come in and stand on Sheriff's side. Friar Tuck blows a whistle/horn and some Merry Men rush in and stand on Robin's side – not too many to avoid delaying the action.

Robin Now that's more like cricket!

Sheriff Pah! You'll never defeat me, you and your measly men! I'm far too powerful and I'm rich!

Richard *(Taking off habit)* No, I'm Rich! Richard the Lionheart and I command you to stop this fighting!

Sheriff Friar! I mean, Sire!

Any remaining Guards and Merry Men can enter at this point. They all kneel on seeing the King.

Richard At last I'm back from the Crusades and I've seen enough fighting to last a lifetime! People of Nottingham! Don't we all want the same thing? Enough to eat; a safe, warm place to live and a good education?

Guard You should try School!

Richard Don't we all want to be free to live in safety? (*All cheer*) Don't fight, unite!

All Don't fight, unite! Don't fight, unite!

The Sheriff tries to sneak off. Richard grabs him.

Richard Because of your greed, you have caused great misery to my people! Take him away!

Guard With pleasure your Majesty.

All (*Beginning to shake hands*) Don't fight, unite!

Song 10 STOP THIS FIGHTING

Richard As the Sheriff has planned a party, I think we should go ahead and enjoy it. Things will change now I'm back!

All Hurray!

Richard (*To Robin*) You and your Merry Men are all pardoned! You're a free man, Robin!

Marian (*Winking to audience*) But not for long, if I've got anything to do with it!

Richard It seems like we've got a lot to celebrate!

Scene: Party (There could be 'acrobats', minstrels, jesters, Sheriff and Deputy in stocks)

A villager could give out cups in preparation for a toast or this could be mimed. Simon the Pieman brings on a custard pie.

Sheriff (*Getting pie in face*) It's a fair cop!

Richard A toast! To our hero Robin Hood.

All Our hero, Robin Hood!

Villager 8 Three cheers for Robin Hood!

All (*Encouraging audience to join in*) Hip, hip hooray!

Song 11 OUT IN THE FOREST (Finale)

For a rousing curtain call, Track 12 would be a suitable accompaniment!