



Robin Hood

by Ellie King

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CAST OF CHARACTERS*

In order of appearance

1. **Demon Cursalot** – ultimate force for evil, but can be quite funny
2. **Goodfairy Charm** – ultimate force for good, doesn't stand for any nonsense from the demon
3. **Alan a Dale** – a minstrel, but really bad at it
4. **Little John** – prior leader of the outlaws, honourable, brace
5. **Friar Tuck** – loves his food and a joke
6. **Eddie Goodbrew** – lazy and useless son of Gertie, physical humour
7. **Robin of Loxley (Robin Hood)** – principal boy. Heroic.
8. **Lady Marian Fitzwalter** – feisty daughter of a Crusader, principal girl
9. **Miss Anne Thrope** – socialist servant of Marian
10. **Dame Gertie Goodbrew** – dame. Owner of the Inn. Major comedic chops needed.
11. **Fraulein Kibbles** – a German fortune hunter, partner of Bitz
12. **Herr Bitz** – also a German fortune hunter, partner of Kibble
13. **The Sheriff of Nottingham** – major bad guy.
14. **Prince John** – vague, older royal
15. **Lester The Jester** – sad little jester
16. **A Cowboy** – running gag, could double as villager
17. **Sir Guy de Guisbourne** – played by a genuine archer, recruited from a local club or?
18. **A monster** – puppet or costumed villager

The People of the Village of Nottingham doubling as Merry People

**Some doubling possible*

ACT I

PROLOGUE – frontcloth – A PATH IN SHERWOOD FOREST

SCENE 2 – OUTSIDE THE BLUE BOAR INN

SCENE 3 – FRONTCLOTH – ON THE WAY TO NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

SCENE 4 – THE GREAT HALL OF NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

SCENE 5 – FRONTCLOTH – A PATH IN SHERWOOD FOREST

SCENE 6 – THE KITCHEN IN NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

SCENE 7 – A PATH IN SHERWOOD FOREST

SCENE 8 – THE OUTLAWS' CAMP IN SHERWOOD FOREST

ACT 2

SCENE 9 – THE OUTLAWS' CAMP – SHERWOOD FOREST

SCENE 10 – ON THE WAY TO NOTTINGHAM

SCENE 11 – OUTSIDE THE BLUE BOAR INN NOTTINGHAM

SCENE 12 – ON THE WAY TO NOTTINGHAM CASTLE – FRONTCLOTH

SCENE 13 – THE DEEPEST DARKEST DUNGEON IN NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

SCENE 14 – FRONTCLOTH

SCENE 15 – FINALE – THE GREAT HALL OF NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

ACT I

SCENE 1 – PROLOGUE

SPFX – FLASHPOT OR?

Enter DEMON

DEMON Ah, ha, ha, ha i am demon sir cursalot!(sees audience) ooo – humans!!
and i'll bet you're all here just to see me, aren't you?!!! what a lucky audience
you are! here's a poem – just for you: (clears throat and strikes a pose)

MUSIC SFX – DRUM BEAT PUNCTUATION OF EACH LINE OF POEM

DEMON Now you've all heard of bold Robin Hood (drum beat – bom bom)
Who is so insufferably good (drum beat – bom bom)
Well I'm here to make His little heart ache
And ruin his life in Sher-wood. (drum beat – bom bom)
How's that??? Was that a boo I heard? Apparently not. We'll try again – Was that a
boo I heard? (biz) Better.

SFX – FAIRY BELLS

Enter FAIRY QUEEN who strikes a pose and encourages cheering

DEMON (sarcastically) Oh good – the fairy queen. Watch me put a bend in her wand....
(raises hands as if to cast spell) Abracadabra....

FAIRY (to DEMON)Excuse me, hey HEY – settle down, that's enough
You may be a demon, but you're not so tough.
(to aud) I represent goodness, honour and truth
And I will protect and defend our fair youth.
My magic is strong, and a force for good
So you cannot harm our bold Robin Hood.
(strikes a pose encouraging audience to cheer)

MUSIC – FANFARE

DEMON You!? Hah! I've seen more magic power in a Flash Magic Eraser. Now, about this
Robin Hood.....

FAIRY Oh it's none of your beeswax – he's not your affair.
I am his guardian – go back to your lair.

DEMON But, au contraire – this is my affair!!

FAIRY Will you cut that out? I'm the one with the rhymes Boy – you're really starting to bug me this time!!

DEMON (insufferably smugly) Temper, temper – did we forget our happy pills today, hmMMM? Well as much fun as this is taunting you an' all, I can't stand here chatting: it's rush hour and I have to go stall a lorry on a Bridge. (begins to leave, turns back) Hey I know it's been kind of quiet around here lately – why don't we have a little contest just to see who's magic is stronger? Whaddya say??

FAIRY Hmm – maybe I am in a rut It might do me good – kicking your butt!

DEMON So you agree?

FAIRY Why yes I do.
It'll be fun – defeating you.

DEMON Oh it'll be fun all right – for me that is! Because, Fairy, when Robin is destroyed – and trust me he will be – you're going down too. And for ever this time. You're both mine, baby!!! All mine!!! Ah, ha, ha, ha (Exits)

FAIRY Dear me, he sounds serious. But don't worry 'bout us
I always defeat him – despite all his fuss!
Oh but look – our story's about to begin
So I'd best go prepare, to make sure we DO win
For here comes a young man; ah, this is good;
Let's welcome the youth who'll become – Robin Hood! (exits)

SCENE 2 – OUTSIDE THE BLUE BOAR INN NOTTINGHAM

The exterior of the Blue Boar Inn, Nottingham. It is a half-timbered, thatched, building, typical of the mediaeval type found in 12th century England: there is an inn sign.

AT RISE the Villagers, Eddie Goodbrew, Little John, Friar Tuck AND Alan A Dale (the last three wearing disguises) all perform:

MUSIC – ROUSING OPENING CHORUS.

Following Opening Chorus, the Villagers return to their business and Eddie picks up a broom

EDDIE Well – back to it. (reluctantly begins to sweep)

As Eddie sweeps and Villagers begin to go about their business, Robin enters. Seeing Eddie working, he crosses to him and bows:

ROBIN HOOD Good day, good sir.

EDDIE What?

ROBIN I give you good day good sir. (bows again)

ALL OooooOOO-oo!

EDDIE Boy – aren't you posh!! Where're you from – (insert local upscale area) ??

ALL LAUGHTER

ROBIN I seek employment sir. I am honest and hard working and I haven't eaten these five days.

EDDIE Well we can't hire anybody. All our money's gone to pay the taxes –

ALL Down with taxes!

EDDIE and the money all goes to Bad Prince John.

ALL Down with Prince John!

EDDIE Our gold fills the pockets of his trousers!

ALL Down with his trousers! (*Much laughter*)

Robin has been fading during previous and now leans against the table.

EDDIE OK Lord Snooty – here's an idea: I'll give you three square meals a day if you do my work for me?

ROBIN Indeed I am so faint with hunger, I accept right gladly.

EDDIE *(pulling Robin to one side)* Ahem – there's just one thing. If you should happen to see a bad-tempered old woman, face like the back of a bus, for goodness sake don't tell her about our little – arrangement. She wouldn't understand. She thinks she owns this Inn, but she doesn't. *(half beat)* I do.

ALL *(Sharp intake of breath!)*

EDDIE In fact – take no notice of anything she says. She's – um – she's the village idiot.

ALL *(BIG reaction to this from the Villagers!)*

EDDIE *(to Villagers)* Ssh!!

ROBIN But I thought all village idiots were male.

EDDIE We're an equal opportunity village. So waddya say?

ROBIN Very well. *(he sways again)*

LITTLE JOHN You'd best feed him first Eddie.....

FRIAR TUCK You'll get no work out of him otherwise.

EDDIE Yeah – maybe I should. Wait here. *(he exits into Inn)*

At the same time MAID MARIAN & MISS ANNE THROPE her maid enter. The Villagers, busy with Robin do not notice them.

MARIAN My goodness – I wonder what's going on? Go and find out for me Annie.

ANNIE What am I – your servant??

MARIAN Well yes you are, actually.

ANNIE Oh yeah, yeah you say that now – but just you wait. One day the proletariat will rise up sister, and the glorious revolution will.....

MARIAN That's nice. But I'm not your sister and while we're waiting for the glorious revolution, I'd like to know what's going on over there. *(beat)* If you please!

(Annie folds arms, muttering to herself, and elbows her way through the crowd)

ANNIE *(calling back to Marion)* It's just some stranger.

MARIAN Oh, how exciting; someone new – here in Nottingham! I wonder what he's like?
Maybe he's tall, dark and handsome; from some far off land – wearing exotic
clothing and speaking a strange, foreign language – and – and – and.....

The crowd becomes aware of Marian and parts revealing Robin. He and Marian see each other for the first time.

MARIAN *(disappointed)* Oh.

ROBIN Oh?

MARIAN Yes oh. You're so – ordinary !

ROBIN *(amused)* Am I now. And whom were you expecting?

MARIAN *(slightly sulkily)* Nobody.

ANNIE And that's exactly what you got – a nobody!

ROBIN A nobody I may be.. *(to Marian)* but what makes you think you're so special?

ALL *(Intake of breath in horror. Some people hide.)*

MARIAN Impudent peasant! Do you know who I am?

ROBIN No – don't you?

MARIAN How dare you! I am the Lady Marian Fitzwalter, Lord of the Manor and Keeper of Nottingham Castle.

ROBIN *(laughing)* Really! Back where I come from, Lords of the Manor are usually men!

MARIAN Then those men are cowards! The real men of England – like my father – are all overseas fighting at the side of the Good King Richard!

ALL God save the king!

ROBIN But – my lady – they also serve the king who remain here, guarding his kingdom.

MARIAN Hmph! Well if I were a man I'd be abroad right now!

ALL *(Slightly confused reaction trying to put the joke together)*

ROBIN *(to aud)* I just know there's a joke in there somewhere. *(to Marian)* So you are looking after your father's estates in his absence?

MARIAN I am.

ROBIN And who's looking after you?

ANNIE I am.

ROBIN You are?

ANNIE All right then - I are.

ROBIN *(slight double take)* Well...these are dangerous times ladies. Prince John will likely kick you out of your castle and give it to one of his supporters. Bit like Trump (or current unpopular politician)

ANNIE And isn't that your typical evil prince. Give him an inch and he thinks he's a ruler. Well in order to do that he'll have to get past me, and I've got all the power of the people behind me! Right brothers and sisters??

ALL Ruh ruh!

MARIAN Yea - if he attacks, she'll be straight out on strike.

ROBIN Is this your maidservant?

MARIAN Well she's my servant -

ANNIE *(holding out hand)* How d'you do....the name's Thrope Miss Anne Thrope.

ROBIN *(shakes her hand; addresses audience)* I should've seen that one coming!

MUSIC - DAME'S ENTRANCE -

Gertie Goodbrew arrives in a sedan chair. Her legs are visible underneath moving in time with the CHAIRBEARERS. The group does a circuit of the stage and then heads towards a clump of Villagers who scatter as the chair stops and the Chairbearers collapse. Eddie re-enters during the mayhem & confusion.

GERTIE That's the last time I drive a cyber truck!

ROBIN Take care mistress – you nearly hit those people!

GERTIE *Nearly hit them? Oh dear, that'll never do. I'll make sure to get them on the way back. (kicks collapsed Chairbearers)* Get up get up – no sleeping on the job. Where do you think you are – the Houses of Parliament? (She addresses Robin) Now then, who are you in your short shirt?

Chairbearers get up and remove chair

ROBIN I am Robert – Earl of – that is – my name is Robert: I work here. The owner just hired me.

GERTIE Did I? That was nice of me! Just a minute – I didn't hire you!

ROBIN No, the owner did –

Eddie tries to sneak away but is spotted:

ROBIN and there he is now. (points at Gertie) Is this the village idiot you were telling me about?.

Eddie is trying to shush Robin.....

GERTIE Wha-a-a-a-t? How very dare you! I'm no village idiot. In fact – I don't look half as daft as I am you know.

ALL (laughter)

ROBIN Wow – she certainly is bad-tempered and loud. Just like you said.

GERTIE Bad tempered! **LOUD!!!!** (grabs Eddie by the ear) C'mere you. What have you been up to?

EDDIE About six foot two? (or height of actor in role)

ALL (laughter)

MARIAN Good day Mistress Goodbrew.

GERTIE (dropping Eddie and curtsying) Ooooooh, if it isn't your Lord of the Manorship. And I see you brought the pit-bull out for an airing.

ANNIE Go ahead – insult me all you like.

GERTIE OK. In that case you're also too short (*or tall, or whatever works for actor playing role*) and your mother dresses you funny.

ANNIE Oh yes you may laugh now.....

GERTIE Thank you, I will. (laughs)

ALL Everyone laughs.

ANNIE (*holding up her hands for silence*) You may laugh now (*there is a brief attempt at a laugh which she squashes*)- but one day the oppressed masses will rise up!

GERTIE (*indicating Eddie, still prone on the ground*) I haven't even begun oppressing this mass, and as for rising up- if it's before his breakfast forget it. (*stirs Eddie with her boot - he wanders off with Annie*)

MARIAN I see you've been shopping Mistress.

GERTIE Well yes I have.

MARIAN What did you buy?

GERTIE I thought you'd never ask. Well (*produces objects from shopping bag*) First I got myself a pair of golfing socks.

ROBIN Golfing socks?

GERTIE Yes - there's a hole in one! (to aud) Hole in one! Get it? You're going to have to try harder than that you know. Here - have a go at this. (*puts lamp shade on head*) Ta da!!

FRIAR Fiat lux - party time!

ALL Party time! (Etc ad lib & excitement)

GERTIE No no no no. It's my new hat.

MARIAN But - it's a lamp shade.

GERTIE I know - it's for when I feel light headed! Light-headed? Right, last one: and I bought a chicken dinner. (*holds up a packet labelled CORN*)

ANNIE That's a packet of corn

GERTIE I know - that's what chickens eat for dinner!

ALAN That's a very old joke.

GERTIE It was a very old chicken.

MARIAN Mistress Goodbrew, we are very hungry. Are you serving lunch today.

GERTIE Yes - lunch today is a la carte.....

LITTLE JOHNand they're just backing it up to the rear of the Inn!

ALAN What is for lunch?

FRIAR Carpe diem.

ALAN Carpe diem?

FRIAR Fish of the day!!

ALL (laughter)

GERTIE That's quite enough of that. Come on into the inn my lady. Walk this way.
(exits into Inn)

MUSIC - LAUREL AND HARDY THEME OR SIMILAR

EDDIE If I could walk that way -

ANNIE I wouldn't need the insurance.

GEN. LAUGH and EXIT

EDDIE (stopping Robin from following) Where d'you think you're going?

ROBIN For lunch.

EDDIE You eat in the barn. (gives small packet to Robin who opens it to reveal three Jacobs Cream crackers or?) What? I promised you three square meals a day! (take to aud re: crackers) Square food? And when you've done that, there's a pile of wood needs chopping and stacking.

ROBIN OK - you only have to axe!

EDDIE What?

ROBIN You only have to axe. Ask. It's just a joke.

EDDIE Only just. Give it up – you're not supposed to be a comedy character.

ROBIN Right. See you later then. **(EXITS)**

EDDIE See you later. Nice boy – talks funny though. (to aud.) Hey, how are you all? (listening and encouraging response) Good... Well, you probably figured out by now that my name is Eddie Goodbrew and that this is where I live. Trouble is, Ma makes me do loads of work around our home, and I really hate home-work. Who hates homework. (biz of listening etc) Me too! Besides, I don't even wanna live in Sherwood, I wanna live in Holly wood and be a star and make movies like Spiderman or Shriek. That's like Shrek only scarier!

Well, while I'm waiting to be discovered, let's play a game. Every time I come out here, I'm going to shout 'Is everybody ready?' and I want you to shout 'Ready Eddie, go'.

OK? Let's practice (biz) Well, I'm off to get my lunch. See you later. (exits into Inn)

MUSIC – OOMPAPA GERMAN MUSIC WHICH WILL BE THEIR THEME

Enter Fraulein Kibbles and Herr Bitz. They are wearing German/Bavarian/Austrian-ish national costume, adapted for panto. Fraulien Kibbles is carrying many panto-sized props including cameras, microphones, a bag marked "meine ersten spy kit" and so on

FRAULEIN Ve've arrived!

HERR Unt to prove it ve're here!

HERR
Wunderbar!

FRAULEIN
Wunderbar!

HERR Now meine saucy liddle sausage, mach schnell (*mack shnell*) mit der zooper-zecret-schpy equuipment vile I upon ze door k-nocken!

FRAULEIN But – meine kleine (*mina klina*) saurkraut- vy I mach schnell mitt der zooper-zecret-schpy equuipment? Vy I do not upon ze door k-nocken?

HERR Sssshhhhh. Sh! Because I der taller perzon am.

FRAULEIN Aaah !!!

HERR But hush – wass ist los??

GERTIE (OFF-STAGE ad lib singing)

HERR (Kibbles & Bitz clutch each other in terror) Ach du liebe (*ack du leebe*)- no-von can make a sound like that und live!!

GERTIE (entering from the Inn, still singing. She breaks off when she sees the two spies) Oh hello! More strangers. Well, more stranger than usual that is. Did you two fall off a cuckoo clock?

ALL THE Villagers also re-enter at this point.

HERR Knadige Frau: I am Herr Bitz, un here ist Fraulein Kibbles. (clicking heels and bowing) Guten tag. (*gooten taag*)

FRAULEIN (same action) Guten tag.

GERTIE Guten grieve! Where're you from – Wales?

HERR Nein , nein , nein , nein. (*nine*)

GERTIE Thirty six.

FRAULEIN Vot?

GERTIE Four nines is thirty six!

FRAULEIN (*beat – then she understands. Smacks Herr Bitz on the back and he joins in laughter until he gives hand signal and they both stop dead*)

HERR As to vy ve are here , I vill exshplain

GERTIE (*wiping eye then holding hand out and looking skyward*) Funny – the weather forecast didn't say showers.....

HERR Ve are zimple tourists –

FRAULEIN –here to vander ze highways und ze byvays –

HERR –of das wunderschon (*vunder-shern*) Englisch coundryside. Herr Musik Direktor!!

MUSIC -

Kibbles, Bitz, Gertie, Villagers and audience ending with the laughing bit of the song and everyone out of control

ALL WUNDERBAR !! (*vunderbar*)

GERTIE I see - so that's the long and the short of it, is it? (to aud) Long and short - see, he's tall she's short - keep up!! Vell - I mean well - come and have some lunch. We're having chicken pie.

HERR Does it contain lots of chicken ?

GERTIE No - but then you don't get much dog in a dog biscuit either. Walk this way...

FRAULEIN If ve could valk that vay -

HERR -ve wouldn't need the lederhosen! (*lader hozen*)

HERR } WUNDERBAR!

FRAULEIN }

General EXIT INTO INN

SPFX FLASH OR SMOKE

Enter Demon King

DEMON (to Aud.) Ah - so you're still here. Nothing good on TV tonight? Well buckle up because now it's time to meet one of the unpleasantest human beings you'll ever meet outside of the Tax Department! (as per wrestling announcer style) He's rotten, he's mean, he's the man who makes Elon Musk (*or current hated public figure*) look like a human being - your friend and mine - the Sheriff ooooooff Nottinghaaaaaam!

SHERIFF enters and holds for and encourages boos.

DEMON Now we'll have some fun you bet! (*exits laughing*)

MUSIC - GENERIC WESTERN SALOON PIANO

Enter THE COWBOY

COWBOY (*a la Walter Brennan*) Sheriff, Sheriff come quick. Jesse James jest hit town.

SHERIFF What?

COWBOY Why you're the Sheriff ain't yuh?

SHERIFF (*warily*) Yes...

COWBOY Then yuh gotta come save the bank!

SHERIFF (*take to aud then*) Look, you stupid little man, I am the Sheriff of Nottingham - and this is England in the twelfth century. (*points offstage*) Get off.

COWBOY But I.....

SHERIFF (*drawing sword*) Get off - or I'll rearrange your schedule!!

COWBOY But.....

SHERIFF Git!!!

Cowboy backs away and runs off, passing Prince John who is entering

PRINCE JOHN Who was that?

SHERIFF An anachronism.

PRINCE (*he's rather vague*) Really? I thought he looked Dutch.

SHERIFF How much further to this castle?

PRINCE Which castle?

SHERIFF Nottingham castle. (*beat*) The one you're giving to me, so I can collect taxes for you?

PRINCE What a good idea.

SHERIFF Yes, isn't it. (*beat*) So?

PRINCE Sew? No - can't manage it. I can knit a little.....

SHERIFF Aaagh - we'll try again. (*in measured tones*) Have you seen Nottingham castle?

PRINCE (*matching the measured tones*) No - where did you put it?

SHERIFF I'm losing the will to live. Maybe your fool knows where it is.

PRINCE Who?

SHERIFF Your fool: your jester: the man people laugh at. Think of a human version of ---
(*whoever is idiot du jour*)...

There is another beat while Sheriff waits in vain for more information.

SHERIFF Never mind. Stand over there and rest your brain before it gets overheated, and I'll go look for him. (*exits the way they came in*)

LESTER THE JESTER enters from the opposite side. He is riding a Child's tricycle

LESTER (*ringing his little bell*) Look out- - - - -

Biz. of Prince John and LESTER circling around until they meet face to face.

PRINCE It's my jester!

LESTER Well done sire!

SHERIFF (*re-entering*) So there you are - - - - -

PRINCE (*pointing*) Look it's my jester - Lester!

SHERIFF (*to Lester Perhaps you can tell me where Nottingham castle is?*)

LESTER No, sorry - (*brightening*) but I can tell you where my wife went on vacation.

SHERIFF (*sighing*) Where did your wife go on vacation?

LESTER The West Indies!

SHERIFF Oh, the West Indies. Jamaica?

LESTER
No - she went of her own accord

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
.....went of her own accord

LESTER does a sad little tinkle of his jester stick. Prince John thinks for a moment then gets the gag and chortles as the Sheriff goes to strangle LESTER who is taking a 'call'.

Enter Fraulein Kibbles and Herr Bitz from the Inn in a single pile - assisted by Gertie's foot to bum and hand to collar

GERTIE And stay out of my kitchen: rotten thieves.....(*exits muttering*)

FRONTCLOTH FLIES IN BEHIND ACTION -

SCENE 3 – FRONTCLOTH – ON THE WAY TO NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

SHERIFF Well well well , what have we here?

HERR *(indicating)* Fraulein Kibbles.....

FRAULEIN *(indicating)* Herr Bitz

FRAULEIN & HERR Wunderbar!

PRINCE Foreigners, eh?

SHERIFF Nothing gets past you does it.

HERR *(indicating Kibbles)* She is mine intended.

SHERIFF Ah – and just what was it you intended in that woman's kitchen?

FRAULEIN KIBBLES

Nozzink!

HERR BITZ

Nozzink

HERR Ve wouldn't take der rezeipe for der famous Shervood Forest Cake....

FRAULEINback to our kitchen

HERRin der Black Forest

FRAULEIN ...lots of cakes baking.....

HERR lots of monies making.....

FRAULEIN Zo married we can be!

HERR BITZ

Nein, nein, nein, nein, nein

FRAULEIN KIBBLES (CONT'D)

Nein, nein, nein, nein, nein

LESTER Forty five! *(off a questioning look from all)* Five nines? *(jingle)*

SHERIFF Shuttup. Black Forest Cake? That'll never catch on. Nevertheless I'm going to need a couple of assistants. Work for me, and I'll create an opportunity for you to get that recipe. Is it a deal?

Herr Bitz & Fraulein Kibbles confer briefly,

HERR BITZ

Wunderbar!

FRAULEIN KIBBLES

Wunderbar!

SHERIFF

Good. Now – do you know why I'm here?

HERR

You couldn't get in at der (*well-known scuzzy local watering hole*)?

SHERIFF

No; although --- NO! I am here to subdue the locals by sowing dread in their hearts!!

HERR

Stowing bread!

FRAULEIN

In a cart!

SHERIFF

I'll be the scourge of the peasants.

HERR

He'll splurge.....

FRAULEIN

On a pheasant!

SHERIFF

I'll plunder and pillage

HERR

He'll blunder...

FRAULEIN

Through the village

SHERIFF

Shuttup shuttup shuttup

FRAULEIN KIBBLES

Shuttup shuttup shuttup

HERR BITZ

Shuttup shuttup shuttup

The Sheriff knocks their head together

SHERIFF

Do you know where there's a castle around here?

HERR

Ja – over there. Valk (*vark*) zis vay.....

LESTER

If I could walk that way.....

Sheriff takes LESTER's jester stick and smacks him on the head with it which stops him speaking then nudges Prince John who comes to life and they all exit

SCENE 4 - INSIDE NOTTINGHAM CASTLE'S GREAT HALL

This is a typical mediaeval great hall with a large fireplace and hanging heraldic banners. There is a large chair, a couple of smaller ones and a rectangular table.

AT RISE we discover Maid Marian seated in the large chair, daydreaming. Miss Anne Thrope enters with a quill and a parchment.

ANNIE Here - I need you to sign this.

MARIAN Hmmm?

ANNIE Sign. Can you manage to hold the quill or will you add that task to my already over-burdened work-load and continue driving me into an early grave?

MARIAN Oh - yes please..... *(does nothing - continues to dream)*

ANNIE Oh good grief...*(thrusts parchment and quill at Marian who signs absently)* I don't know what's come over you. You've been day-dreaming ever since we got back from the village.

MARIAN Yes, Robert is handsome isn't he.

SFX - THERE IS AN ECHOEY KNOCKING OFFSTAGE AS ON A VERY LARGE HEAVY DOOR.

ANNIE And now I expect you'll want me to rush off in all directions and answer that? *(no reply)* No, no - that's all right- you just sit there being decorative and I'll continue to wear myself out in your service. No, please - *(begins to exit)* allow me to throw myself under the feet of the ruling classes..... I live only to serve.... *(ad lib muttering as she exits)*

MARIAN You see he's dressed like a peasant but he behaves like a nobleman. I wonder who he really is....

Annie re-enters followed by Sheriff, Lester, Kibbles, Bitz and Prince John

ANNIE *(announcing)* His Royal Highness, Prince John and some other weirdoes

LESTER I'm The Jester - Lester

SHERIFF *(to Marian)* Good day young woman - you must be Marian Fitzwalter

MARIAN *(bridling)* Of course I must - and you will address me as Milady.

SHERIFF Hmm. I am the new tax collector – among other things. And – milady Marian – you're sitting in my chair.

MARIAN I beg your pardon?

SHERIFF Oh don't beg. That's not at all ladylike.

ANNIE Hey you – watch your manners!

SHERIFF Silence when you speak to me!

ANNIE You can't silence me – I speak for the common man everywhere.

SHERIFF Well you're undoubtedly common –

ANNIE *(taking up boxing stance)* Why I oughta –

SHERIFF Kibbles! Bitz!

At a signal from the Sheriff they grab Annie by her arms and lift her up, her legs pedalling below

MARIAN Put her down. Put her down at once.

SHERIFF Yes – by all means let's put her down. It's probably kindest in the long run.

Bitz produces a DAGGER which he holds at Annie's throat.

MARIAN No!!

SHERIFF Just kidding! *(signals Bitz to lose the knife)* You'll find I have a superb sense of humour – among my other a-may-zing attributes. Now, let's get me settled into my new castle.

MARIAN Your new castle?

SHERIFF Quite the echo in here.

MARIAN I am charged by my father under solemn oath to guard his castle and protect his tenants.

SHERIFF Well don't worry your pretty little head about any of that, because I'm taking over.

MARIAN No you're not; and besides, I'm not leaving!

SHERIFF Leaving? Oh dear me no - you're staying. As my wife!

MARIAN As your -? What??? Marry you? You have got to be kidding. Never going to happen. Never!

SHERIFF You refuse?

MARIAN Well - yah!

SHERIFF Very well. Kibbles, Bitz. Take her down to the kitchens. A few days scrubbing pots and pans should change her mind.

MARIAN But I've never scrubbed a pot in my life. I don't know how.

SHERIFF Then ask your servant. She looks like a real scrubber. Take 'em away.

Kibbles & Bitz take Annie & Marian away as Sheriff sits in Marian's chair.

SHERIFF *(to Lester)* Now you - entertain us.

LESTER Who, me?

SHERIFF Yes - make me laugh - NOW - or you'll spend the rest of your days as an Asda greeter.

LESTER Nooo !!! Um - *(rattles jester stick)* I say I say I say - what's black and white and red all over??

SHERIFF Oo oo - I know this: a newspaper.

LESTER No - a sunburnt zebra! *(jester stick)*

PRINCE *(chuckling)* Oh that's very good. Yes. *(1/2 beat)* Of course it could have been an embarrassed penguin.....

SHERIFF *(meaningfully)* Or a newspaper. Continue.....

LESTER *(panicky)* Er - er - what do you call a boomerang that won't come back

PRINCE I don't know - what do you call a boomerang that won't come back?

LESTER A stick. *(rattles jester stick)*

Re-enter Kibbles & Bitz

SHERIFF Enough hilarity - *(picks up quill and begins to write)* take this note to Mistress Goodbrew. *(hands note to Lester who exits)* You two get ready to work in the kitchens. That recipe is as good as in your hands.

FRAU KIBBLES

Wunderbar!

HERR BITZ

Wunderbar!

FRAULEIN

Let us celebrate mein liebchen! *(mine leeb chen)*

HERR

Ja, meine kleine schnitzel. *(mina klina shnit zel)* *(they pinch each other's noses - affectionately. but perhaps a little too hard?)* Mit ein *(ine)* traditional Black Forest tanz

FRAULEIN

Herr musik direktor ...

MUSIC - GENERIC GERMAN SLAPPING DANCE MUSIC. VERY SILLY SCHLAPPING DANCE FOR KIBBLES, BITZ, ENDING UP BY INVOLVING THE SHERIFF

PRINCE

You know, I'm sure they're foreign.

SCENE CLOSES ON A REPRISE OF THE DANCE

SCENE 5 - FRONTCLOTH - ON THE WAY TO NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

Enter Gertie Goodbrew singing

GERTIE I've got the sun in the morning and his dad at night! (*sees aud.*) Oh hello. Have you seen that lazy good-for-nothing boy of mine anywhere? No??

Enter Eddie & Robin

EDDIE Are you ready kids? (*biz*) Hi ma!

GENERAL ENTRANCE of Villagers looking miserable - each carrying a bag of gold.

GERTIE Ooo - what's up with this lot?

EDDIE They're on their way to the castle to pay their taxes.

GERTIE Oh dear - well let's sing a song and have a bit of fun. Ready maestro????

MUSIC - DAME'S SONG

Enter Lester from opposite side riding his tricycle.

LESTER Are you by any chance Gertie Goodbrew?

GERTIE Yes, I am by any chance Gertie Goodbrew: any chance I can get! Of course a lot of people mistake me for Madonna. Mind you these days, they quite often mistake her for me!!! Anyway, who are you-hoo?

LESTER I'm the Jester - Lester, and I have a message from The Sheriff now he's the new lord of the manor.

GERTIE New Lord of the Manor???

EDDIE Uh oh - what's the Lady Marian got to say about this?

LESTER Quite a lot. But she can't do anything because he's forced her to work in the kitchen.

ROBIN What!!!

HUGE consternation from ALL.

LESTER He says she has to stay there and scrub pots until she promises to be his wife.