

Robin Hood

A Play in One Act

By David Barrett

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Dramatis Personae

Dame Betty Hood, Robin's mother
Robin
Little John
Will Scarlett
Friar Tuck
Adam
Theobald
Cedric
Egbert
Chorus of Merry Men
Lord Sheriff
Lord Robert Dubois, a Norman noble
Sir Henry Beaumarche, a Norman noble
Captain of the Guard
Sergeant at Arms
Henri, a cook
Marcelle, a cook (Henri's twin brother)
Chorus of Servants
Maid Marion
Ladies in Waiting
Esther
Marie
Claudette
Michelle
Elise
Madam Harfleur, Governess
Chorus of Ladies in Waiting
The Three Crones
Wizards: Fizz, Sparkle, Bubble
The fearsome Grog, evil monster
Two trees, (non-speaking)
Four Giggly Elves: Chuckle, Chortle, Snigger, Po
Villagers: Cuthbert, Elfgiva, Ethelred
Steve, the Reeve
Chorus of Villagers

Scene 1, Sherwood Forest

(Noises off. Sheriff's men searching for Robin Hood)

ROBIN Quick, Egbert, let's hide in here. They'll never catch us here.

EGBERT But, Robin, what about all these people, they'll tell the sheriff's men where we're hiding, won't they?

ROBIN Don't be daft, they're on our side, we're the good guys. You won't tell the sheriff's men where we're hiding, will you boys and girls?

EGBERT Oh yes they will. *(audience reaction)*

ROBIN Right then, let's hide here.
Enter sheriff's men. Boos.

CPT In here men, they can't have gone far, we'll catch them yet, and when we do..... *Mimes hanging.*

SERG Hey, Captain, let's ask these peasants, they must have seen something.

CAPT Oi, you peasants! Have you seen a desperate, cut-throat villain by the name of Robin Hood passing this way?

Audience No!

SERG I bet you have, *(oh no we haven't!)*

CAPT It's no use asking them, they're on his side. Come on let's look in here. *To audience.* And we'll deal with you later....
Boos as they exit into wings. Robin and Egbert reveal themselves.

ROBIN That was a close shave.
Egbert feels Robin's chin.

EGBERT Feels like you haven't shaved for days.

ROBIN No. You misunderstand me, my friend, what I mean is that we were nearly caught red-handed. *Egbert looks at his hands.*
Thank you boys and girls. Without your help we would have been in the dungeons at Nottingham castle soon.

EGBERT Robin, they're coming back, quick, let's hide.
He hides behind a bush which is far too small to conceal him.
Robin looks off stage left.

ROBIN Someone's coming, Egbert, but it certainly isn't the sheriff's men it's a right motley crew. But let's hide any way, we don't want to take any chances.
Enter the Merry Men

SONG 1: Once Upon a Time in Nottingham

JOHN What a cracking good song, there's nothing like a good song for lifting your spirits, eh Will.

WILL You're too right, John, but it won't get us back our property that the Sheriff's stolen, will it.

ADAM We'll get our money back, Will, you'll see. The Sheriff's men won't stand a chance against us, once we're armed. *Mimes a sword-fight.*

CEDRIC You and whose army, Adam, you couldn't even lift an iron sword, let alone fight with it.

ADAM Yea, well we'll soon see about that.
They start to jostle. Crowd noises.

FRIAR Stop! Stop this madness! You men have no discipline. How will we ever defeat the Sheriff if we squabble amongst ourselves. What we need is a good leader who will make us all find discipline, train hard and be a match for the sheriff.

WILL The monk's right, men. We need a skilled leader. But where in the world can we find a commander, out here in the woods?
Robin coughs, reveals himself and steps forward. Outlaws draw daggers. He looks them bravely in the eye. Egbert trembles in hiding.

ROBIN Gentlemen, allow me to present myself, Lord Robin of Locksley, son of the Earl of Locksley. You need a leader. I'm willing to help you.
A tense silence follows.

ADAM Lay us an egg, Robin. *Does some bird impressions.*
They lower their weapons, laughing.

JOHN What's your grievance with the Sheriff, you young impostor?

ROBIN I'm no impostor, Master....?

JOHN Little, John Little, known around here as Little John.

ROBIN My grievance is very simple. I have sworn an oath of loyalty to the king and the Sheriff is guilty of treason, along with that puppet of his, Prince John. They have caused my father's death, seized my inheritance and denied me my title. I will fight for the king to the death to end their tyranny.

EGBERT *From behind his tree.* And what's more, the Sheriff's men burnt my house down and stole all my money. Robin came to my rescue. Beat eight of the sheriff's men single-handed and now he's a wanted outlaw.

ROBIN Don't exaggerate, Egbert, it was only six men.

ADAM We're all wanted men here, boy you're in good company.

WILL Just a moment, not so fast, Adam. How do we know this man is who he says he is. I happen to know that the old Earl of Locksley had his lands confiscated.

ROBIN Too right, my friend, and I intend to win them back, from the hand of the King himself. And I intend to marry the king's cousin, Lady Marion.
Hoots of disbelief and scorn

THEOBALD And how do you intend to do that. Are you going to kidnap her?

ROBIN No such thing, she is an old childhood friend.
More laughter.

FRIAR You've got to hand it to him. He is clearly a brave man, even if he is a fool.

THEOBALD Every King has a fool. He is often the wisest man in court.

JOHN I propose to put Lord Robin to the test.

THEOBALD What test, John.

JOHN He claims to be a nobleman, right?

THEOBALD Yea, right chief.

JOHN Then, he must be able to shoot. Bring on the archery butts.

ADAM Yes, the archery butts, very clever, John.

They bring on the targets.

ROBIN *To audience.* Now I'm in trouble.

EGBERT Why's that, Robin, you know you're the best shot in Nottinghamshire.

ROBIN I lost my longbow in that fracas back in Nottingham, and I haven't a spare.

EGBERT But what about the spare one you got by mail-order.

ROBIN There's a problem with that, Egbert. You see I asked for a bow and arrow and this is what they sent me.
Shows a parcel bow and a road-sign for the arrow (from the wings).

JOHN Come then, Robin, the contest is afoot.
Egbert picks up his foot and looks at it.

ROBIN But, alas, John Little, I have no bow. How can I shoot.

WILL No problem my friend, you may shoot mine, if you have the strength to draw the string.

ROBIN Why, you...you...

EGBERT *Emerging from his hiding place.* Come on, Robin. You can do it. You know you can. *Robin snatches the bow from Will.*

FRIAR Let the contest begin, between Master John Little and Lord Robin of Locksley.

ROBIN You first, John. Show me how it's done.

JOHN So be it!
John draws back his arrow. Lighting changes and two sprites enter.
The action freezes.

SWIFT Hold your contest, freeze the scene,
Mischief abounds as we intervene.

FLEET Playful sprites of forest free,
Fairies, fast as fast can be.

SWIFT In the twinkling of an eye,
Swifter than the wind we fly.

FLEET Take the dart from archer's bow,
To the target - just so.
And away before we are discovered. *Exit*
The action unfreezes and the merry men cheer as they see John's shot.
As Robin draws his bow silence falls again, action freezes and the sprites enter.

SWIFT Now with shaft from Robin's bow,
Faster than the clouds I go.

FLEET Place in centre of the ring,
Now our Robin's sure to win.
And so adieu, good friends,

BOTH Adieu.
Action unfreezes. Wild cheers from the crowd. Robin is lifted up.
ENTER MESSENGER and all goes quiet.

MESS My Lord Robin, I have searched vainly for you throughout the forest with urgent news.

THEOBALD How is it that you find him now, Herald?

MESS The noise, my Lord, you were not hard to find.

EGBERT Well, what news, fellow?
MESS It concerns the Maid Marion, my Lord, she is taken by the Sheriff's men and held hostage in his stronghold in Nottingham.
ROBIN For pity's sake, not Marion. I must go to her and rescue her from his evil clutches.
EGBERT But Robin, there are only two of us, what do you propose to do?
Robin pauses for a while, looking around the men.
ROBIN Alright men, as highest ranking nobleman here I propose to take charge of this band of able men and form a fighting force. The purpose is two-fold; to take the castle and defeat the sheriff and to rescue the Maid Marion from his evil clutches. Now who is with me and who is not?
Silence! One man steps towards him and says "I'm with you, Robin" and slowly they all join. Will Scarlet is reluctant but joins in the end.
Very good. John, you shall be my Lieutenant and lead one group of men and I shall go ahead with an advance party to assess the extent of the opposition. I know the castle well from days gone by as a guest of the old honest Sheriff Able.
JOHN Right, Robin. We shall conceal ourselves at the edge of the forest and await your orders.
ROBIN Thank you, John. Well, off you go men, take your weapons and rally in the name of the king.
ALL In the name of the king!

SONG 2: Robin Hood and Little John

Scene 2, The Sheriff's Castle, That Evening

Curtain opens on Lord Robert, Sir Eustace, Lord Harry and the Captain of the guard awaiting the Sheriff at dinner.

ROBERT Well, Captain, have you heard of the Sheriff's plans to marry the Maid Marion.

CAPTAIN *Just taking a drink as Robert speaks he splutters and chokes.*
Why, Lord Robert, you jest, of course.

ROBERT Not in the least, he is most adamant that the wedding will go ahead, *(threatening)* one way or the other.

CAPTAIN Why, what on earth do you mean. *Footsteps approach.*

ROBERT Never mind that now, I expect he'll tell you himself, he is coming now. *Enter the Sheriff. Boos. Robert and Cpt stand until he sits. His servants are fussing around him. He flaps them away with his napkin.*

SHERIFF Enough, enough, away, leave me...CLEAR OFF, you Gallic imbeciles!
Well, gentlemen, my plans are working out nicely, don't you think.

ROBERT Why yes, Sire.

SHERIFF I will marry the woman, you know, whether she likes it or not. She will see sense. After all, not every woman has the chance to be a Sheriff's wife. *He guffaws with laughter.*

CAPTAIN No sire, but then not every woman is the king's cousin.

SHERIFF *Cross.* I know that, you fool. That's why I want to marry her. *With a cynical smile.* If I marry her, I shall be the king's cousin, by marriage. I will be of royal blood.

CAPTAIN Only by marriage, Sire, not a blood relative.

SHERIFF You fool, what does it matter? I shall have the power I crave for. *And..and.. The door opens and the servants bring in the first course.*

HARRY Ah, the food is served. *They are very nervous and fumble and stumble.*

EUSTACE I foresee a problem, Sheriff. According to English law, you cannot force a person to marry you against their will.

SHERIFF Poppycock!

EUSTACE However, I do have an ingenious plan.

SHERIFF Oh, goody, goody, I love ingenious plans.

EUSTACE You have Marion here as a hostage. I propose that you offer to free her and give her two choices.

CAPTAIN Go on Sir Eustace, what are these two choices?

EUSTACE She either marries you or signs a covenant giving you possession of all her lands and titles. You know how King Richard's lawyers love legal documents. They will never argue with a lawful covenant signed in the presence of witnesses.

SHERIFF *Becoming manic.* Excellent, Eustace, quite brilliant. It can't fail. *To the sergeant on guard.* Write that plan down sergeant in case I forget the details.

CAPTAIN Is that legal, Sire?

SHERIFF Of course it's legal you idiot. *Choking on his food.*

HARRY What in heaven's name is this we're eating?
ROBERT I believe it's venison, my Lord Harry.
SHERIFF It tastes like leather. Clear this away. *The servants clear the table.*
Sergeant, bring the cook to me at once.
And then go fetch Marion, I must speak with her.

SERG Right away, Sire.
Enter Sir Henry of Beaumarche.

SHERIFF Ah, Henry, there you are. Any luck?
HENRY Alas Sire, I have to report that the despicable and desperate outlaw,
Robin Hood, has evaded capture and appears to have entered
Sherwood Forest.

SHERIFF Evaded capture!
HARRY You mean he has given you the slip, you useless bunch of jellybabies.
SHERIFF Go into the forest after him and come back with his head on a pole.
CAPTAIN Are you sure that's legal, Sire?
SHERIFF Of course I'm sure, I'm the Sheriff am I not?
CAPTAIN Quite so, but as an officer of the law it is your duty to uphold the law.
Robin Hood has not committed treason, indeed he is loyal to the king.

SHERIFF Oh do stop drivelling, man, and telling me my job. Henry?
HENRY Well, Sire, there is a problem. My men believe the forest is haunted
and simply will not enter, not for Robin Hood or anybody else. Not
even for you, Sire.

SHERIFF Then execute them as deserters, that will soon change their minds.
ROBERT Pardon me, Sheriff, but if our soldiers are dead, they are not much use
to us, are they?

SHERIFF ENOUGH! Am I surrounded by faint-hearted poultry or men?
Put a price on Robin Hood's head. That should do the trick.

HARRY Yes, he'll be betrayed by his own mother for...say 500 Marks.
ROBERT But we can't afford to pay that price on a bounty.
SHERIFF I never said we'd actually pay...IDIOT!
Enter Henri, the cook.

SHERIFF Yes, what is it man, what do you want?
CAPT *Coughs politely.* The cook, Sire, you said you wanted to see him.
SHERIFF So I did. You garlic-chewing Gaul. I employed you because the French
are famous for their culinary skills. You managed to make venison
taste like leather. That is quite a skill. But I employed you as a cook
not a cobbler. Well, what have you to say for yourself. Can you speak
English?

HENRI Oui, Monsieur, but you see, There are two chefs and we share
ze duties. The venison was cooked by my brother, Marcelle. He is ze
venison gourmet.

SHERIFF Then I shall see him at once. Go get him, vite.
Enter Robin and a band of men F.O.H.

ROBIN This is the place. If we climb up on these ledges we can see and hear
directly into the banqueting hall.

EGBERT I could put an arrow straight through that rodent's heart from here.
ROBIN No, Egbert, stay your hand, lest Marion be harmed in revenge.

We are much wiser merely to listen and hear what the sheriff is planning.

Enter Marion, Madame Harfleur, the governess and ladies in waiting.

SHERIFF Ah, my dear Marion, I must speak with you.

MARION Don't call me my dear. You are lower than the pigs on my brothers estate. I am ashamed to breathe the same air as you.

SHERIFF Now, now, my dear. I understand your anger at being brought here.. for your own safety.

MARION I am held under guard, like a common criminal. Sure..I am angry.

MADAME What do you propose to do with us you wicked man.

SHERIFF You are surplus to my plans, Madame, and if you don't hold your tongue, you will be fed to the castle dogs for supper.

EGBERT The despicable rogue. I could let him feel my arrow between his ribs.

ROBIN Quiet, Egbert, they'll hear you. And don't draw back your bow-string like that, you'll shoot someone by mistake.

Enter more servants with the next course.

HENRY Allow me to explain, Lady Marion. You see, the Sheriff would like to ask for your hand in marriage, but he does not know the best way to go about these things. *The Sheriff waves the servants off, kicking one and throwing an apple at another.*

MARION NEVER!

MADAME Kidnapping a girl is certainly not the best way to win her affections.

SHERIFF Silence, you old bag!

HENRY In a nutshell, My Lady, you will either marry His Lordship or sign a covenant forfeiting all your lands and titles to him.

MARION You despicable rogue, cousin Richard will hear of this. You will end up in chains all of you.

MADAME You cannot possibly be serious. This is blackmail!

ROBERT Indeed it is, madame, indeed it is.

SHERIFF Enough, this is tiresome. Away with them. Marion, you have two days to consider my generous offer.

MARION Never, you horrible creature, I will never marry you.

ROBERT As you wish, My Lady. You have two days to reconsider.

Marion and Harfleur exit pushed out by guards.

The Sheriff tries a mouthful of pie and chokes on it. Enter Marcelle.

Others try to eat but display the same disgust at the food.

ROBIN So that's his game, the crafty devil, he is holding her to ransom.

EGBERT But Robin, what on earth are we going to do about it.

ROBIN Never fear, my trusty friend, I will think of something. Just you wait.

SHERIFF You...cook, come forward.

MARCELLE Sire?

SHERIFF I want to see that brother of yours, you said you would get him.

MARCELLE Oh no, Sire I said no such thing.

ROBERT We all heard you man.

HARRY What do call this disgusting dish...it's inedible?

MARCELLE Oh no, Sire, is not indelible...is blueberry pie.
EUSTACE It doesn't matter what you call it, we can't eat it, you see.
ROBERT It tastes simply awful. Is it the best you can do.
MARCELLE I'm very sorry, Sires, but I did not cook this dish, it was my brother.
You see, we share the cooking.
HARRY But that's what you said before. If you didn't cook the venison and your brother didn't cook the venison, who did?
MARCELLE I did!
ROBERT But you said before...
MARCELLE You never speak with me before.
HENRY Look, you Norman Ninny. Watch my lips. You go and get your brother and come back with him...both of you..... TOGETHER!
Egbert sneezes and lets loose an arrow by mistake.
ROBERT Ah, I've been hit, I'm mortally wounded. *In the butt, in fact!*
HENRY Quick men, after them.
Robert and guards chase Robin and Egbert off F.O.H.
Music for the chase.
If I might be so bold, Sire, I suggest we put some extra pressure on Marion. She can be persuaded.
SHERIFF Oh, goody goody.
HENRY You see, with all the hysteria about witchcraft at the moment, it wouldn't be too hard to find some evidence to try the old boot Harfleur as a witch.
SHERIFF How would that help us?
HENRY Well we could always drop the charges...
HARRY If Marion co-operates fully with us.
SHERIFF Ah, I see what you mean. You cunning devil. Write that down, sergeant. *Looks around for him.* Write it down, Henry.
Soldiers enter again F.O.H.
SERG Drat those outlaws, they always give us the slip.
CAPTAIN We daren't go back empty-handed, we must find some hostages.
SERG How about some of these boys and girls? They must be accomplices.
CAPTAIN Yes, just grab a few.
They roam around the audience for a while then find the plants.
SERG Come with us you wicked children, you need to be punished.
They are taken onto stage.
SHERIFF Ah, you have caught them, well done!
ROBERT Not exactly, My Lord, but we think these are accomplices.
SHERIFF What does it matter...Just punish them anyway.
EUSTACE If I might suggest, the pie, Your Lordship.
SHERIFF Yes, excellent idea, Eustace. They shall be made to eat...THE BLUEBERRY PIE!
PLANTS NO! NO! *Screams etc. as they are sat down and made to eat the pie.*
Enter Marcelle and Henri.
ROBERT I do believe they are twins My Lord...
HARRY And you were mistaking one for the other.
EUSTACE Yes, but neither of them can cook, can they!

SHERIFF These children shall be taken from this place...into the kitchen and perhaps they will do a better job than you. *Guards escort the twins and the children off.*

SHERIFF Well Henry, my plans are going well.

HENRY Our plans, My Lord!

SHERIFF Go and see to the witch, Harfleur, and Robert, go and put some more pressure on the girl, Marion. She will yet become my wife.
Evil laughter

BLACKOUT

Scene 3, In the Village

SONG 3: Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Sheriff

- ROBIN *Robin, disguised as the Sheriff enters, unseen, during the song.*
Hold the Festivities, you villagers, Your Sheriff has arrived.
Everyone boos, then silence.
No-one is allowed to sing or be merry without my permission.
- CUTHBERT Why, you nasty man, you leaky drain, all you ever do is make us pay taxes.
- ELFGIVA Taxes, taxes and more taxes, that's all we ever get.
- ROBIN *Revealing himself.* Yes, they say that taxis come in threes, like buses.
- CUTHBERT Robin, you joker, we thought it was really the Sheriff.
- ELFGIVA Robin, you must take care not to be seen. You know there's a bounty on your head.
- ROBIN *Taking off his hat.* That's not a bounty, it's a mars bar.
- ETHELRED Robin, you really must be serious about this, there is a price on your head, you know.
- EGBERT *Cutting the price tag off Robin's hat.* Yes, it says Henry Harrod's Cut-Price Store, 50 Euros.
- ROBIN You don't need to worry about your Robin. He can look after himself, you know.
Enter the merry men to reprise of Song 2.
- JOHN Robin, Egbert, you're still free, we thought you'd be in irons by now.
- EGBERT Robin's a smooth character but he's never been ironed yet.
Enter, Dame Hood.
- DAME Oh, Robin, my little cootchie-cootchie coo! Why have you not been to visit Mumsikins for so long.
- ROBIN Mother, I'm grown up now, I'm not your little boy any longer.
- DAME Oh, Robin, don't you remember your little childhood games.
- ELFGIVA Yes, surely you remember how we used to knock on peoples' doors and run away.
- JOHN There's a new version of that now...It's called PARCEL FORCE.
(wait)
- ROBIN But surely you remember, Mother, at school I was the brightest child in the class.
- ETHELRED So bright the teacher had to wear shades.
- CUTHBERT He really was the teacher's pet, you know.
- DAME But, how did you know that?
- CUTHBERT She put a little kiss by all his sums.
- ROBIN I used to have no problem with all the exam questions.
- ELFGIVA No, it was the answers he had trouble with.
- ROBIN But, you know, my mother used to be a real bully.
- EGBERT She doesn't seem the type to me.
- JOHN You should see her when she's cooking: she beats the eggs, whips the

cream and the fish is always battered.

EGBERT Do you know, once when he was on the way to market, Robin was overtaken by a horseman who told him his mother had fallen out of the cart six miles back.

ROBIN I was quite relieved, I thought I'd gone deaf.

DAME Do you remember the time I asked one of the Sheriff's soldiers if he could see me across the road.

CUTHBERT Yes, he replied, "across the road, Madam, I could see you ten miles away".

ETHELRED What about the time you drove the wrong way down a one way street. The policeman asked you if you had seen the arrows and you said you didn't even see the Indians.

ELFGIVA Hey, I've got a joke: what stays hot when it's put in the fridge.

JOHN I don't know, what does stay hot in the fridge?

ELFGIVA Mustard!

FRIAR Enough of this hilarity. The audience will forget what the plot is all about. We are supposed to be miserable, remember. Our king is held hostage in another country and we are over-worked, over-taxed and undervalued.

CUTHBERT The sheriff is always inventing new punishments. The latest torture is to strap victims to a chair, put headphones on them and make them listen to S Club all day. *Boys react with YUK etc.*

ROBIN We almost forgot the reason for coming to the village, apart from visiting mother of course. *She gives him a big kiss.* Where is the Reeve? We need to ask his advice. *Enter Steve the Reeve, a rather camp character.*

STEVE That's my name, can only be used under licence. Who asks for me. Ooh, Robin, Robin Hood. Is it really you? Aren't you a big boy now? What've they been feeding you on, Pedigree Chum?

ROBIN Woof, woof! I mean, hi, Steve.

STEVE *Feels Robin's muscles.* Ooh, aren't you Butch.

ROBIN No, I'm Robin. *Steve laughs a very high-pitched laugh with a sharp intake of breath at the end.*

STEVE Your biceps are more like triceps, it's all that twiddling you do with your longbow.

ROBIN We need your advice, Steve. I know you've been around a lot. *Dirty look from Steve.* You see, Maid Marion's in a bit of bother.

STEVE Oh, Robin!

ROBIN With the Sheriff.

STEVE Never!

ROBIN No, you don't understand. The sheriff's kidnapped her and is holding her very closely.

STEVE I can't blame him, she is a very pretty young lady.

JOHN Be serious, Master Reeve, we have to free her from his clutches before it's too late.

STEVE *Steve considers.* Well now, my advice to you Robin is to use magic.

EGBERT But we don't know anything about magic, do we Rob. *Robin shrugs.*

STEVE Go to the end of the village and consult the three witches...er, wise women. They will help you defeat the Sheriff by foul means.

ROBIN Thanks, Steve. I knew you would help us. Come on, Egbert. There's no time to lose.

CROWD Goodbye Robin, and good luck.
Robin, Egbert and John cross the stage and find the crones. One blows bubbles.

CRONE 1 Double, double toil and trouble,
I can blow enormous bubbles. *Blows one.*

C2 Eye of newt, leg of frog,
Handfuls of whiskers off our Mog.

C3 Stir them up inside our pot,
Double trouble someones got.

C1 Here, someone's coming, put the fire out, quick.
Enter, Robin, John and Egbert.

ROBIN Good day to you three witches.

C1 Who told you that?

C3 We ain't witches.

C2 Whatever gave you that idea, matie.

EGBERT Well, what about this cauldron, for instance..?

C3 It's our cooking pot, isn't it.

JOHN And your tall black pointed hats?

C2 It's the fashion.

ROBIN How about the black cat and the book of spells?

C1 That don't count, it's past its spell-by date.

ROBIN Alright, so you're not witches but we need your advice anyway.

C1 We know you do.

EGBERT Really? You see, it's about a certain lady called Marion...

C2 We know what your problem is.

ROBIN There you are, you see! It must be magic.

C3 No it ain't, we read about it in the *name of local paper.*

JOHN So, what can we do about it?

C1 There is only one solution to your problem and it's written in the mists of Hagar. *Robin and Egbert look at one-another, mystified.*

C2 Hang on, Mate, and we'll have a look.

C3 Long and short, big and small, we ain't got no crystal ball.

C1 Rather than just mope in bed, let's consult Hagar's mist instead....

TOGETHER Ummmmmm, Ummmmmm, Ummmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm!
Lights dim, cue smoke! Witches go into a trance and make conjuring gestures with their hands.

EGBERT Robin, I don't like this. I'm frightened, let's go.

JOHN No, Egbert, it's the only way, we must wait.
After a short pause, enormous sighs from each witch in turn.

C3 It is written that a handsome and skilled young man will wed a

beautiful and renowned posh lady.

ROBIN Hear that, Egbert? It must be me and Marion.
C2 He will receive a generous gift.

EGBERT What's the gift then, Robin?
C3 Prince David will receive from LadyVictoria a £200,000 car for Christmas.

ROBIN What? It's not me, it's that Manchester City bloke, Beckham.
J and E UNITED!
C2 Silence, you fools, or the magic won't work.
C1 We see in the mists of Hagar a handsome young nobleman who is destined to marry a beautiful lady.

ROBIN That's me!
C2 However, an evil, scheming soldier wants the bride and all her lands for himself.
C123 The only way the boy will get his girl is by harnessing the ancient magical powers of Grog the Oracle...

R,J and E Oh no, not Grog, the Oracle...
C123 And the mystic forces of the dark wood.
R,J and E Oh no, not the mystic forces of the dark wood.
C3 Don't be afraid children, the elves will guide you in the forest.
C2 You need not be afraid of the ghosts...

R,J and E Aaaaah
C1 The sorcerers...
R,J and E Aaaaah...
C2 The skeletons.....
R,J and E Aaah...
C3 Or the fearsome sixteen-eyed Grog, who will help you on your quest.
R,J and E Oh, that's all right then.

EGBERT Thanks witches, er not witches.... ladies
ROBIN Catch ya later...
Crossing to D.C.

C1 Farewell, travellers.
C2 And remember to renew your life insurance.

ETHELRED Well, boys? Have you discovered the secret.
EGBERT Well, not exactly.
ROBIN But all we have to do is to go into the dark wood and ask Grog, the Oracle, for help.
ETHELRED Oh, that's all is it.
Have you any idea how many men have perished in that wood? Few men are brave enough to enter, and even fewer come out alive.

ROBIN Oh well there's a first time for everything and besides, we've got all these boys and girls to help us.

EGBERT You'll help us boys and girls, won't you?
Reaction.

ROBIN Thank you folks. Well let's go, then. *He exits but the others stay behind biting their nails and looking at one-another. Robin re-appears.* Come on, what're you waiting for? Let's go!

SONG 4: If You Go Down To The Woods Today

Exit

Scene 4. Maid Marion's Quarters

DANCE: Maid Marion, Mme Harfleur and Ladies in Waiting

MARIE Come on, Marion, let's get on with the game: I'm winning.
MARION You owe me some rent, Esther!
ESTHER Surely not, I am on Go.
MARIE No, you threw a four, Esther, that puts you on Mayfair.
MARION Let's see, Mayfair with three houses, that's £1,400
ESTHER Oh, that's not fair, I'm not playing anymore. You all cheat.
MICHELLE Or perhaps you are a bad loser.
MADAME Now ladies, you are showing signs of stress...it must be this hostage situation...I think you will need counselling.
CLAUDETTE We'll need counselling all right, but it's the game of monopoly that's caused the anxiety.
ELISE Why, oh why has no-one come to rescue us. We are seven damsels in distress.
MARIE We are not important, Elise, we are just ladies in waiting. But our Lady Marion is of royal blood. Someone must care about her.
ESTHER Ladies in waiting...huh! Waiting for what? Waiting to grow old.
CLAUDETTE No Esther, waiting for the right man to come along.
MICHELLE For him to sweep us off our feet..
ELISE And ask for our hand in marriage,
MARIE If my hand ever gets married, I intend to tag along with it.
Sound of music off.
MARION Just listen to that, will you. The sound of a distant song. Don't you find it wonderful how music can caress the harp strings of your soul and awaken your innermost feelings.
ELISE Ooh Marion, you're getting very poetic now.
MADAME She's right girls. Have you not noticed how lovers serenade their ladies with minstrels. It really does work. Love is a song, you know!
SONG 5: Love is a Song
Enter Robin, closely followed by Little John, through the window.
MARION ROBIN!
ROBIN MARION!
Others watch as if this is a tennis match. Repeat several times.
MARION ROBIN, it's you!
ROBIN Marion it's me.
JOHN Go on then, give her a hug. *John gives him a big push.*
They embrace. John gestures to audience for an ah.
ALL Ah!
JOHN It was much more romantic than that.
ALL *(Louder)* Ah!
MARIE Oh how cute.
MICHELLE Gee, that song really worked, didn't it.
ROBIN Marion, we know what that rogue of a Sheriff is cooking up but we

have a plan.
 MARION You do?
 R and J We sure do!
 ROBIN Marion you must never agree to marry the Sheriff. If you do he will seize all your property and then throw you in jail.
 JOHN And in law, no-one can touch him.
 EGBERT I'd like to touch him - across the bridge of his nose with a twenty pound rock.
 R and J Shut up, Egbert.
Noises off - Sheriff, Captain and guards approach.
 MADAME Quick, I hear the guards approaching, hide.
 ROBIN No time to get back down the rope, in here, lads. *They hide.*
Enter Sheriff, Capt. and several guards, who block the open door.
 SHERIFF My dear Marion, have you come to your senses yet and made a decision.
 CAPTAIN All you have to do is agree to marry the Sheriff or sign the covenant, that's not so hard now, is it?
 MARION You dogs, you Norman swine, I don't intend to sign anything.
 SHERIFF Marion please don't take on so. It grieves me to see you like this. Where have you been all my life?
During this Robin becomes visibly angrier and has to be restrained by John.
 MARION Well, I wasn't born for most of it, was I
 SHERIFF Your face would delight a thousand suitors.
 MARION And yours would crack a thousand mirrors.
 SHERIFF Marion, hardly an hour goes by without my thinking about you.
 MARION Yes, and I think about you too.
 SHERIFF Do you really, my dear?
 MARION Yes, about how I'd like to kill you, slowly. You know, you remind me of the sea.
 SHERIFF What, you mean wild, restless, romantic....
 MARION No, you make me sick!
 SHERIFF Enough of this talk. You **will** see sense Marion.
 Guards, seize the old witch and take her to the dungeons.
They move to seize Harfleur. She struggles.
 MARION No, you cannot do this.
 CAPTAIN Can't we? Well just watch this then.
They drag her away, screaming threats.
 MARIE You pigs, have you no manners, to treat a lady so.
 SHERIFF Silence, little girl, or you'll go with her.
 MARION She's no witch, and you know it.
 CLAUDETTE This is all part of your dastardly plan to defeat Marion, you pigswill!
 SHERIFF If she is no witch, then what is this?
He produces a broomstick.
 ELISE Why, that's just a besom-broom she uses to sweep her room.
 SHERIFF Or a mode of transport! *Laughs loudly.*
 You see, I have you all in my power. You are just pawns for me to use

in my game of ambition.

You will change your mind, Marion, you **will** change your mind.

Cackles loudly and exits. All are silent for a while. Boys come out of hiding.

EGBERT Oh dear, we seem to be in a spot of bother.

MICHELLE This seems to rather change things, I think the Sheriff may have won.

ROBIN This changes nothing! We continue to defy the Sheriff.

MARION Oh Robin, it's so easy for you to say that but Madame Harfleur was my Nanny, then my Governess and now my dearest friend. I cannot let her burn at the stake for witch-craft, I just can't. Even if it means I have to marry the Sheriff.

John and Egbert are now weeping and they blow their noses loudly on hankies.

ROBIN You have to trust us Marion, we will go right away to the forest and find out how Grog, the Oracle, can help us. We still have a few hours left.

MARIE You can't be serious...No-one is brave enough to go into the forest.

CLAUDETTE It's getting dark - you won't find your way.

MICHELLE You'll be lost in the forest for ever...

ESTHER You'll never see Marion again....

EGBERT Or your mother...

They all weep, including Egbert.

JOHN Oh pull yourself together Egbert, what are you a man or a mouse.

Egbert jumps squeaking around the stage.

ROBIN Ladies, we bid you adieu, until the morrow when all your sorrows will be put to rights.

MARION That's my Robin, always the optimist.

JOHN Until tomorrow - and Marion, don't agree to anything until you hear from us again.

Exit John, Robin and Egbert, through the window. Marion goes back to the table.

MARION Esther, will you sell me Bond Street then I'll let you off the rent for Mayfair.

ESTHER No way, then you'll have all three green ones and you'll put houses on, I know you will.

MARION Have it your own way. You owe me £1,400

Blackout

Reprise: Oo-De-Lally (Chorus Off)

Scene 5, The Darkest Bit of the Forest

DANCE: Elves

After the dance, elves exit.

Robin and the merry men creep onto stage in silence. The elves are concealed behind trees and in dark corners.

JOHN Robin, is that you?
ROBIN Yes, John, where are you?
JOHN Over here. Where are the others?
OTHERS Here, John. Over here. etc.
FRIAR Egbert, what on earth is that noise. *Sound effect.*
EGBERT It's alright, Friar. That's just my knees knocking.
The elves faces light up at random (by torchlight).
ADAM Did you see that.
CEDRIC What?
ADAM I saw a face. Didn't you see it? It was sort of glowing.
WILL Don't be ridiculous, Adam. You're letting your imagination run away with you.
ADAM I'm not imagining it. Look, there it is again. Did you see it?
THEOBALD My goodness, I saw it that time, a sort of spooky face.
EGBERT I don't like this, let's get out of here.
ROBIN Not so fast! Gather round men. We need a plan of action.
They gather round.
ROBIN Look men, you know the forest is not really haunted. It's only a legend started by outlaws to keep the Sheriff's men out of the forest.
ADAM We know that, Robin, but I'm telling you, I know what I saw and there are spooky faces around here. *Another face lights up.*
JOHN You don't think there are ghosts here do you, boys and girls?
Reaction
JOHN There's no such thing as ghosts. You know that.
One of the trees moves closer, little by little, soon to be joined by the other.
ROBIN Look men, either you stick with me and John or you can go home to your mummies. Now which is it to be?
FRIAR Robin, that tree - it moved. Look! It's getting closer.
JOHN Now this is getting silly. Who ever heard of trees moving? You're crazy.
The trees move closer.
ALL Aaaargh! *They all grab one-another in fright.*
FRIAR Robin, there's only one thing to do in situations like this.
ROBIN What's that Friar Tuck, say a prayer?
FRIAR No, sing a song!
JOHN Great idea!
ROBIN Why not? Here we go, then. Cue the music.

SONG 6: Ghostbusters

During the song, the men bravely dance while glowing faces appear, ghosts dance across the stage and the trees join in the dance. The elves eventually join in.

After the song:

MEN *Aaargh! They jump in fright.*
ELVES *Aaargh! Now they jump.*
ROBIN Who on earth are you, little people?
CHUCKLE I was about to ask you the same question, big person.
JOHN This - is Robin Hood, a noble-man of merry England.
CHUCKLE And I am Chuckle, elf of the forest. These are my cousins, Giggle, Snigger and Po; and our friends Ip, Dip, Sky, Blue, Who's, It, Not and and.... I forget his name.
ELVES You! *Chuckle jumps. Elves all giggle loudly, except Po.*
JOHN Just think, we thought there were ghosts in the forest and it turns out to be you harmless little fellows.
THEOBALD Why, you're so small, You should try some **elf-raising flour** to make you grow. *Groans.*
ADAM Hey, Po, why do you keep scratching yourself like that?
PO No-one else knows where I itch, do they! *Elves fall about with laughter.*
CEDRIC Just look at all these leaves on the forest floor. You need a litter collector. Have you ever done it before?
SNIGGER Why no, I don't believe we have.
CEDRIC That's alright. You'll pick it up as you go along. *Laughter. Not Po.*
SNIGGER Do you know, I went to market yesterday to buy a new tunic. The shopkeeper told me it was in mint condition. When I got home I found it had a hole in the middle. *Laughter. Not Po.*
CHUCKLE Hey, I've got a good one; what do get if you cross the atlantic with the Titanic.
EGBERT Uh, Atlantic...with the Titanic....Uh, dunno!
CHUCKLE About half way. *More laughter.*
GIGGLE I bet you don't know what Chief Running Water called his two sons.
THEOBALD No, we don't, but I've a feeling you're about to tell us.
GIGGLE Hot and Cold! *More giggles.*
PO Here's one Chuckle told me yesterday: did you know Davy Crocket had three ears.
WILL Never!
PO He did, his left ear, his right ear and a wild front ear. *They all laugh but Po.*
EGBERT *Laughs loudly.* I get it, THE TITANIC. Halfway across the atlantic, very good joke!
ALL Shut up, Egbert!
ROBIN You elves certainly are a chuckle a minute.
CHUCKLE Chuckle, that's my name, folks!
JOHN Look, we'd like to stay longer with you but we have to find Grog and we don't have much time.
CHUCKLE Gee, Mr Hood, we'd help you if we could but we ain't going near that

Grog. He's fearsome.
GIGGLE He's ferocious.
SNIGGER He knows no mercy.
PO He eats little elves like us for dinner.
WILL We understand, little fellows, but won't you point us in the right direction.
CHUCK/GIG Sure, it's that way.....*Point opposite ways.* It's that way.
Opposite ways again.
THEOBALD Fine! Then we'll split up and go both ways. So long dwarves.
PO We're NOT dwarves, we're elves.
SNIGGER Dwarves don't have magical powers, do they.
ELVES So long humans, and good luck! *They exit, waving wildly.*
EVERYONE Bye elves!
ROBIN John, you go that way with half the men and I'll take this path with the rest.
JOHN But Robin, how will we recognise Grog if we see him.
ROBIN Well, I guess there aren't too many creatures with sixteen eyes in the forest, John. You'll know him when you see him.
Music. They tiptoe off in opposite directions.
Reprise: If You Go Down in the Woods. (chorus off)
Exit and dim lights. Wizards enter and sit in a circle.
Enter Robin, Adam, Thoebald, Cedric, Will and Egbert.
ROBIN Good day to you three...er....
WIZARD 1 Wizards, and it's the middle of the night, you fool. That's why its dark.
ROBIN Oh sorry. Silly billy, aren't I.
WIZARD 2 Why have you fools come here into the forest at night? Don't you know of the dangers it holds for you.
WILL Why, sure we do, but we are brave...
THEOBALD Fearless...
ADAM Intrepid...
WIZARD 3 FOOLS! You will never escape alive.
ROBIN Well, actually we wondered if you might help us.
W 1 Why should we mystics help mere mortals.
EGBERT *(Mumbling)* We want to find Grog, you see....
W 2 WHO?
EGBERT Gggggggg...Grog....Sir!
W 3 **Who** dares to utter the name of the mighty Oracle. You will be cast into the eternal hellfires and left to rot.
EGBERT Pardon me Sir, but you don't rot in a fire.
W3 WHAT?
EGBERT You ddddon't rot in a fire, you burn.
W3 What's the difference, your skin falls off either way.
EGBERT Ooer. *They all feel their skin in disgust.*
W2 You want to meet the Oracle....and you shall. But he will only appear if you sing for him.
WILL Ssssing?
W2 *Shouts.* Yes, sing! The Oracle likes a good song.
W1 We want the Panto song.

ALL Oh no, not the Panto song.
 W1 Yes, yes, we want the Panto song.
 WIZARDS We want the Panto song...repeat as a chant.
 CEDRIC Oh, alright. We'll do the Panto Song.
 ROBIN Come on then boys and girls, you can help with the chorus. We'll sing it once for you then you can join in. Here we go.

SONG 7: The Panto Song

At the end of the song the lights dim, thunder and wind is heard and Grog appears.

DANCE: GROG (with all his sixteen legs)

GROG Who is asking for the Great Oracle, The Mighty Grog, Ruler of the Forest and Supporter of Manchester United.
 ROBIN It is I, Robin Hood, Heir of Locksley, Loyal Subject of King Richard...
 GROG Silence, when you're talking to me, mortal. *Robin looks at Cedric.*
 CEDRIC You see, we need help to rescue Maid Marion from the clutches of the evil Sheriff of Nottingham.
 GROG Maid Marion? Why didn't you say so before? Oh, she is so gorgeous - of course I'll help you to rescue her.
 CEDRIC Thank you, Snog.
 GROG *Growls* - GROG! And then, I'll eat you one by one.
 THEOBALD *Aside.* This lends a new meaning to being put in the stocks.
 ROBIN We wouldn't make much of a meal, Grog, we're just bone and gristle. You'd get indigestion, you know.
 GROG I must have you for dinner when this is all over, Robin.
 ROBIN Why that's very kind.
 GROG I can't decide whether to eat you for the main course or dessert.
 ROBIN I'll be the dessert...I'm quite sweet really.
 GROG Do you cook for yourself, Egbert?
 EGBERT Do I cook for myself? You should see me when I'm cooking.
 GROG Yes, I hope I shall. Now enough of this tittle-tattle. Let me look into the future in the pool of pontefractius to see what the Sheriff plans. I see ... an ugly creature with no teeth dribbling into a cooking pot.
 ADAM That doesn't sound like the Sheriff.
 GROG Doh, Which one of you Wizards has left this on the wrong channel? I have got Dame Hood instead. Ah, this is better. I see the Lady signing a covenant in the presence of lawyers, giving her lands and titles to the Sheriff.
 ROBIN Here let me see that covenant. *He looks into the pool.*
 I, the undersigned on this day 14th February in the year of our Lord 1282 do give all my lands and titles unreservedly to dot dot dot.
 THEOBALD Why, there's no names on that document!
 ROBIN That's it...we've got him.
 WILL What do you mean, Robin?
 ROBIN That imbecile of a Sheriff has left the names blank, to be filled in at

the signing.

ADAM Well?

ROBIN Don't you see? All we have to do is to get the Sheriff to sign in Marion's place and she for him.

THEOBALD I see, then he will be signing all his powers over to her.

ADAM She will be the Sheriff and be in command of the army.

WILL Brilliant....but the Sheriff is not that stupid. He will never fall for it.

GROG Oh yes he will. You forget my magic!

W1 We will muster all our mystical efforts to produce a mighty spell.

EGBERT Better hold your noses boys and girls.

W2 He said SPELL, idiot.

W3 We have the power to make time stand still, for a short while.

W1 We shall freeze time just when the Sheriff is about to sign.

W2 All you have to do is forge the Sheriff's signature and Hey Presto...
He waves his arms, there is a flash and Cedric disappears.

W3 You fool you have made the boy Cedric disappear. Do you not know your own powers.

W2 Fear not, he is but temporarily a donkey. *Cedric appears with donkey's ears.*

THEOBALD Cedric!

CEDRIC Ee-aw!

ROBIN In your plans, wizards, you must allow for me and the Maid Marion to be unfrozen to execute the signings.

W1 It shall be done.

ROBIN How can we ever thank you Grog, for your help.

GROG Well, perhaps you could drop by sometime with a meal for me. *All laugh.* Ah, ah, ahah, ah, ah.....

THEOBALD Why, what on earth is the matter, Grog.

GROG I'm sorry, but I seem to have a bit of a cold.

THEOBALD Oh dear.

GROG In all of my eight noses. Ah, ah, atchoooo. *8 times, once for each head. The others dive on the floor and block their ears to escape the blast.*

WILL Look yonder, dawn is breaking! *Points. All look up.*
We must away without further ado and make haste to Nottingham to see the thing done at last.

GROG Well, don't just stand there, get on with it.. *Sneezes another 8 times.*

BLACKOUT

Reprise: Ghostbusters.

Scene 6, The Castle at Nottingham

Sir Henry, Lord Robert, the Captain, sergeant and soldiers are just finishing their evening meal.

ROBERT Did I ever tell you, My Lord Sheriff, about the time when Prince John broke his tooth.

SHERIFF No, I don't believe you did.

ROBERT Well, in fact, his crown came off.
Cackles of laughter from Henry, Robert and Sheriff. Others groan.

HENRY What about the time he went to get his hair cut. The barber ended up in jail.

CAPTAIN Did he? Why was that?

HENRY He told Prince John his hair was abdicating - giving up the crown.
More laughter and groans.

SERGEANT Hey, talking of hair, did you know that Moses wore a wig?

CAPTAIN No, how do you know that?

SERGEANT Well he was sometimes seen with Aaron and sometimes without.

SHERIFF Enough of this tomfoolery. It is time!
Bring out the girl and the witches.

CAPTAIN Bring out the girl and the witches.

SERGEANT *Into the wings:* Bring out the girl and the witches..

VOICE 1 *Off* Bring out the pearl and the peaches

VOICE 2 *Off* Bring out the Earl and some stitches

VOICE 3 *Off* Bring out his oil and the teachers

VOICE 4 *Off* Bring out his curls and some breeches
A wig and breeches are brought on.

SHERIFF You fools, I said the girl and the witches.

CAPTAIN Never mind, I'll go myself.
He immediately produces them for the wings with ladies in waiting in tow.

ROBERT My goodness that was quick.

CAPTAIN Yes, they just happened to be waiting in the wings.
Enter the three wizards, F.O.H.

WIZARD 1 This must be the place. Look at those soldiers, it must be the Sheriff's guard.

WIZARD 2 And that man in black must be the Sheriff.

WIZARD 3 Yuk, isn't he just the ugliest person you've ever seen.
Isn't he ugly boys and girls?

WIZARD 1 Quick, the spell book, Marion is about to sign the deed of covenant.

SHERIFF The sands of time have run out, my dearest Marion. What is your decision.

MARION I'm not your dearest Marion, you toad-faced blackmailer. And I don't intend to marry you, you heap of compost!

SHERIFF So be it! Then your governess shall be tried as a witch and burned at the stake. *They bring Harfleur forward, struggling.*

MARION You Norman Dog. How can you stoop so low. If Robin were here he would never let you get away with this.

SHERIFF If your precious Robin were here he would go on the bonfire too, and those merry men of his.

ROBIN *Entering F.O.H. with merry men.* Hello boys and girls, have we arrived in time. *(Wait for reaction)* The Sheriff's hour of reckoning has come.
Going up onto the stage.
Hello, Sheriff Baby, you namby pamby newt-face you!
Pinches Sheriff's cheek!

SHERIFF Guards, seize him. Seize all of them.
The guards grab Robin and several of the men.

WIZARD 2 Helam, shelam, wibble-wobble belam,
WIZARDS Dibble-dobble, pilly-pobble, whim bam boom.
Flash goes off and everyone is frozen. Marion is still.

ROBIN Marion. MARION you're not supposed to be frozen, you can move now.

MARION Sorry, Robin, but that thing gave me a fright when it went off like that. What's happened to all these people, it's as if they are turned to stone?

ROBIN Never mind about that, we have a job to do. Quickly, the scroll. Here we are. You must sign the bottom and the Sheriff will sign away all his powers and wealth to you. *She signs.*

MARION But, Robin, he'll never agree to that.

ROBIN Oh yes he will. *Robin takes the Sheriff's hand and makes him sign.*
On the dotted line, Sheriff, you old bag of wind!
There we are. The Sheriff is stripped of all his powers and you are the new Sheriff.

MARION Oh Robin, you are so clever.

ROBIN And now, before we bring these people back to life, a bit of fun.
Robin starts to move people around on stage. For example, in his place he puts the sheriff between the two guards. Henry and Robert are left in a ballroom dance position. Harfleur is slapping the Captain's face. Ladies in waiting are kicking soldiers backsides etc.

ROBIN There we are - all done.

MARION Oh, Robin, you are so clever, how can I ever live without you.

ROBIN I'll tell you what: why don't you marry me and we can live happily ever after. *Prompt the audience to ah.*

MARION Of course I'll marry you, Robin. *(aside)* I have to anyway 'cos it says so in the script.

ROBIN Oh, Marion.

MARION Oh, Robin.
They are about to kiss when

WIZARD Hey, you two, this is a family show. We can't have any of that lovey-dovey stuff, you know. Quick, the spell.

WIZARD 3 Dibble-dobble, pilly-pobble,
WIZARDS Whim bam boom.
Kicking, slapping etc follows and uproar.

ALL *Much noise, complaints and fighting.*
 SHERIFF Silence, silence, S I L E N C E, all of you. *(Silence!)* Guards, let me go - and arrest that man.

MARION No, wait! **I** am your Sheriff now and **I** give the orders around here.
 SHERIFF This is proposterous. How can she claim to be the Sheriff?
 ROBIN It's true, Baby-face...read the document. *He throws the scroll at the former Sheriff.*

SHERIFF You scheming scoundrels! I don't know how you managed this but it's not fair. *Stamps his foot.* NOT FAIR!, NOT FAIR! NOT FAIR!
Henry, tell them! *Henry inspects the document and passes it to Captain.*

CAPTAIN It does appear to be legal, Sire... *(Pause)* I mean.... you sad old boot face.
 Na, na, na, na, na....serves you right you old bat. *Thumbs his nose.*

MARION Guards, take him away. Now, there are going to be a few changes around here. *Soldiers escort Sheriff off.* You two - come here!

HENRY/ROB Yes, Ma'am.

MARION You can go and clean the kitchens for a start. And you, Captain, can go and empty the latrines. *These three exit.*

THEOBALD Three cheers for Maid Marion. Hip, hip...etc.
 ROBIN And while we're celebrating, Marion and I have some news for you.
 MARION Robin and I are to be wed in the spring.
 ALL Hurray!
 JOHN Why wait until the spring? Why not get married today?
 ROBIN But how?
 JOHN Where's the friar? He's a priest isn't he?
 ROBIN Friar Tuck, come on, show yourself.
Friar Tuck appears from under a table, slightly tipsy.

FRIAR Yes, Robin, what is it.
 ROBIN Do you remember the wedding vows without your prayer book, Friar?
 FRIAR Why, yes, Robin, I believe I do. *He falls over and the men pick him up.*
 ROBIN Then what are you waiting for? Let's get on with the wedding.

SONG 8: The Age of Not Believing

OPTIONAL DANCE

During the song they improvise a veil from a table-cloth, candles from the table, a ring from a curtain etc...

PRODUCTION NOTES

Songs

The following songs may be found in the Disney Illustrated Treasury of Songs (published by the Hal Leonard Corporation and available in most music shops):

Now it's Always Once Upon a Time in New York City (change the words New York City to Nottingham, with a slur on 'ham').

Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf (change the word wolf to sheriff).

Oo-de-Lally (Robin Hood and Little John)

The Age of Not Believing.

Love is a Song That Never Ends

If You Go Down To The Woods can be sung to the well-known tune.

Suitable lyrics are supplied free with your performance licence.

The Ghostbusters Song can be spoken as a rap to any drum beat you may wish to use. It should be performed more as a chant than a song. Lyrics are supplied with performance licence.

Play in Panto (lyrics by John Davies, music by David Barrett) Is available free with your performance licence.

Staging Hints:

In the original production the part of Grog was taken by eight children speaking in chorus.

In the archery contest in scene 1, the problem of firing arrows on stage is solved by the appearance of the mischievous sprites. With their magical powers they slow down time so that the audience can witness their mischief in determining the result of the competition. In the original production a dramatic lighting change highlighted their appearance and signified the slowing of time.

Synopsis of Scenes:

Scene 1: In the Forest

Scene 2: The Castle at Nottingham

Scene 3: In the Village

Scene 4: Maid Marion's Quarters, the Castle

Scene 5: The Dark Wood

Scene 6: The Castle