

Sheriff Oh, hush! With Robin out of the way there'll be no one to stop me... Marian will be mine, her father will never return, and soon I'll rule everything! Oh, it's so good being bad!

MUSIC #7 : SHERIFF, BULLSEYE, MORGANA

Scene 6

The Heart of the Forest. Robin, Alan and Bill are discovered onstage with the rest of the men.

Robin Well then, chaps, how are you both settling in?
Alan Great, thanks Robin, the men have helped us settle in just fine. I haven't quite got used to Friar Tuck's experimental menu, and I'm not saying he's a bad cook, but I understand why we say our prayers after the meal here. I've started writing a song about my time here, would you like to hear it?
Robin Maybe some other time, Alan? Everything fine for you too, Bill?
Bill Yeah, all the men have been lovely, and Little John is so handsome...
Robin Sorry, Bill?
Bill Err, I said Little John's hands are strong... we were arm wrestling last night see... and erm...

Little John has started walking over and Bill runs away in embarrassment.

Robin Ah, Little John, Bill was just telling us about your arm wrestling last night. Oh, wait a minute, where has he gone?
Little John What, one whole minute?
Robin Sorry?
Little John You want me to wait here one whole minute?
Robin You've lost me John...
Little John No, I haven't, you're right in front of me.
Robin No, John, you don't understand. I was talking about Bill; now bear with me and...
Little John Where's the bear!?!? I'll save you, Mr Robin!
Robin Calm down, Little John, please! There is no bear, you haven't lost me and I don't want you to wait a minute. Let's just forget about all this and call it a day shall we?
Little John OK, Robin... Wednesday?
Friar Tuck Hear ye! Hear ye! Here ye can have tonight's menu. *(The men gather, hoping that Tuck has finally made something edible).* For starters, there will be a choice of Sparrow and Slug Paté, or Brussel Sprout, Broccoli and Bogey Soup. For the main course, there is Squirrel and Rat Pie... mmmmmm pie!, and for desert there is a selection of Sherwood Forest's finest fruits picked fresh this morning. *(The Merry Men finally think something is going to be nice).* I found a nice bunch of 'em behind the lavatories!

The men groan. Will enters with a note in his hand. In the background the old lady appears again, still lost, and looking for Cinderella.

Will Scarlett Watcha gang! I've just got back from the village and...
Little John Watcha Will!
Will Scarlett I've got some great news for Robin. *(To the audience).* Have you seen him, gang? Ah, there he is, thanks gang! Robin, I've got some good news.
Robin What would that be then, Will?
Will Scarlett Well, I found this poster in the village. Take a look, I'm sure you'll be interested.

The Merry Men gather around Robin while he is reading the poster.

Robin "The Sheriff of Nottingham is proud to announce a contest to find the finest archer in the land. The winner will be presented with five-hundred groats, a brand new bow and a hamster called Kevin".
Will Scarlett Ooh, Robin, why don't you enter? You're bound to win!
Little John And Kevin would be saved!

Tuck Hang on a minute, something smells fishy to me...

Alan You sure that's not your cooking?

Friar Tuck No, I mean it, Robin. I think you should think about this a little more carefully, what if it's a trap?

Robin Yes, but think of the prize! Just think how much good we could do with all that money.

Friar Tuck Oh, yes, you're right, master Robin! (*Dropping down on his knees*). Thank you Lord, for giving us this opportunity! (*Once down on his knees he gets stuck again*). John, John! Will you help me up please?

John pulls him back up.

Bill Robin, I think Friar Tuck did make a good point... it does sound a little too good to be true, don't you think? I'm not sure it's such a good idea.

Robin Never fear, men, I shan't just give myself up to the Sheriff.

Men: No?

Robin No! I shall go to the contest in disguise!

Men Oooh / Very clever / Great idea / I can wear my special hat! ... etc etc

Robin We shall all go in disguise. Well men, now that that's sorted, there's only one thing left to do. Sing!

MUSIC #8 : ROBIN AND THE MERRY MEN

Scene 7

The Castle Courtyard.

Bullseye Everyone make way for his highness, the Sheriff of Nottingham.

The Sheriff enters and sits on his throne in a prime position to see the target.

Sheriff Bullseye, is everything in place?

Bullseye Yes, Sire!

Sheriff Good. Make sure the guards stay alert! I want nothing to spoil this opportunity. Oh, and Bullseye, don't let me down, either. I haven't spent all that money on archery lessons for you to lose. Clear?

Bullseye Don't worry sire I've trained with the SAS!

Sheriff The SAS, whose motto is: 'Who Dares Wins'?

Bullseye No, the Sherwood Archery Society whose motto is: 'Who Cares Who Wins'.

Nurse Nora, Marian and Sarah enter.

Nora Now, Marian, remember what I told you about the Sheriff and finding a man. My mother used to always say the most important thing about a man is that he has a big... wallet, and the Sheriff will never be short of a few bob working for your father.

Maid Marian Thanks, Nora, I'll bear that in mind.

Sarah Marian, I heard a rumor that Robin was coming here today.

Maid Marian Really? I hope so, he's bound to win.

Sarah The Sheriff won't be happy if he does. I overheard one of the guards saying the contest is a trap to catch Robin. You don't think the Sheriff will pop the question today do you.

Maid Marian The Sheriff isn't smart enough to catch Robin and I don't want to think about him popping the question. There's only one man I want to be with, and that's Robin.

Nora Right! Marian, the Sheriff wants you to sit next to him during the contest so you had better go up there. Sarah, go and make yourself useful, instead of cluttering up the place.

Robin, Will, Tuck and the men enter. They are all disguised.

Will Scarlett Watcha gang! Shhhh, it's me!

Robin Will, be quiet or you'll blow our cover. We didn't spend hours on our costumes to be caught straight away.

Little John enters dressed as a large fish (or some other silly costume). He looks proud with himself.

Robin Little John, what are you doing?
Little John Well, you said come in disguise... I'm a fishy!
Robin Look, go and get changed you'll blow our cover! (*Little John exits*). Right men! Spread yourselves around a bit and mingle with the others. Try to blend in.

Nora notices Friar Tuck and makes a beeline for him.

Nora Hello, big boy, I don't think I've seen you before. Do you come here often?
Friar Tuck Erm no. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm afraid I must be going.
Nora Oh, that's a shame, I was thinking you might like a guided tour of the castle kitchens?
Friar Tuck The kitchens?
Nora Yes, I've just had the latest delivery from Waitrose and I need someone to help me get rid of all the old pies, cakes and sweeties...
Friar Tuck Well, why didn't you say so? What are we waiting for!

They exit together as Little John enters, now in a better disguise.

Sheriff Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls. Could I have your attention please, the archery contest is about to start. Would you all please take your places. I'm sure none of you need reminding that the prize money stands at five-hundred groats! The archer whose arrow is closest to the centre will be crowned champion. First to take aim is, erm, that man there! (*The unsuspecting villager steps up and tries to fire his arrow, it goes horribly wrong and a rubber chicken impaled on an arrow drops from above*). Well, that was a waste of time... Next up, is Bullseye! (*There is a little reaction from the crowd. Bullseye takes aim and fires his arrow straight into the center of the target and everyone cheers*). Splendid! Good work, Bullseye! Well, it seems that we have a winner! What a shame there won't be a chance for anyone else to try and win the money.

The crowd react with disapproval.

Robin Wait! I believe I can better that shot!
Sheriff What are you talking about? It's dead center!
Robin I can see that, sir, but I still say I can better that shot.
Crowd Let him shoot / Give him a chance etc etc...
Sheriff Oh, alright then, you can have a shot. Wait a minute, you don't look very familiar, who are you?
Robin I am merely a traveler from the far off realms of [*Nearby Town*] I go by the name John Mitten.
Sheriff Very well, Mr Mitten, take aim. (*Robin takes aim as the crowd gasp in anticipation. Robin fires his arrow and it splits Bullseye's arrow in two. The crowd cheer and the Sheriff realises that the archer must be Robin*). Holy Cowell! Mitten's got Talent! (*Everyone cheers*). Hang on! There's only one man who could have made that shot. Bullseye, unmask that man!

Bullseye removes Robin's disguise.

Maid Marian Oh, Robin!
Sheriff Guards! Seize that man and throw him in the dungeons, where he'll rot!!
Maid Marian No!
Little John OMG! Robin what are we going to do? He's got us surrounded!
Robin Never fear men, we've been in worse situations than this.

MUSIC #9 : FULL COMPANY

During the song, the guards capture Robin, and prepare him for the dungeons. Marian is in tears, and the Sheriff is triumphant.

Robin I'll figure out a way of escape and meet you back in the forest as soon as possible.
Will Scarlett Are you sure, Robin?
Robin Of course I am, now get back to Sherwood Forest!
Will Scarlett Goodbye, Robin.