

PAGES 14-17 — ROBIN, SHERIFF, MARIAN, MERRY MEN

14 THE SOMEWHAT TRUE TALE OF Act I

Robin came upon one of the richest and most powerful men in the country.

(Lights up. SHERIFF enters with LADY MARIAN. He is carrying a large pouch of money and she is carrying a small chest of jewels.)

SHERIFF. I can't believe our carriage is stuck in the mud. I am sorry to make you carry that chest, Marian, my dear, but with the recent series of robberies, I thought it best not to leave it where it may encounter unwanted hands. But, fear not! I shall find the way out of this dark and creepy forest.

MARIAN. I think it's quite a warm and friendly place.

(ROBIN enters.)

ROBIN. Halt! Surrender your money to me, please!

SHERIFF. I do say, we're being mugged. How warm and friendly.

MARIAN. Well, at least he said please. I do think manners count for something.

ROBIN. Thank you, my lady.

SHERIFF. Marian, I believe we are in the company of the notorious outlaw, Robin Hood.

ROBIN. In the flesh.

SHERIFF. And you alone plan on ridding me of my riches?

(MEN enter running, screaming at the top of their lungs.)

MEN. AHHHHHH! *(Note: The spoons should not be seen until this moment. In unison, they draw their spoons as if*

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they were drawing their swords. When the "swords" are revealed, we see that they are actually large mixing spoons. They point their spoons at the SHERIFF.) AH HA!

ROBIN. You seem to be outnumbered, sir.

MARIAN. Why, Sheriff, this must be Robin Hood's band of married men.

ROBIN. That's Merry Men, my lady. *(MERRY MEN quickly and in unison, smile and wave to MARIAN, then return to pointing their spoons at the SHERIFF.)* Let me assure, charming lady, we are all quite single gentlemen.

LITTLE *(scratching under his arm with his spoon)*. Why, I don't even got meself a girlfriend. *(Wipes his nose on his sleeve.)*

MARIAN *(matter-of-factly)*. And what a shock that is.

ROBIN. Now, if you don't mind, dear guests, your treasures, please.

* TOWN'S GUY. And with that, Robin snatched the bag of gold from the Sheriff.

ROBIN. AH HA! *(Grabs the bag.)*

TOWN'S GUY. And then he grabbed Marian's chest.* *(All stop dead and look at the TOWN'S GUY.)* THE ONE SHE IS HOLDING IN HER HANDS THAT CONTAINS THE JEWELS.

MEN. Oh! *(MARIAN smiles nervously and hands ROBIN the chest of jewels.)*

ROBIN *(uneasy)*. Ah... Thank you.

*The chest joke is only a play on words. Neither Robin nor the Merry Men should glare at Marian's chest. Marian should not heave her chest, etc. This is for young audiences, so there should be no other references to Marian's physical chest whatsoever. Should the line be questionable to be performed by a school or a young cast, it may be changed to: "And then he grabbed the chest of jewels from Marian." Then, cut to Sheriff's line, "You won't get away with this, you scoundrel!"

* OR TOWN'S GAL

MARIAN. Of course. *(Out of the corner of her mouth to the SHERIFF.)* Next time, I carry the pouch.

SHERIFF. You won't get away with this, you scoundrel!
This gold belongs to none other than His Royal Highness!

ROBIN. Are you speaking of... THE EVIL PRINCE JOHN?

MEN *(to AUDIENCE, quickly in unison)*. BOO, HISS! BOO, HISS!

SHERIFF. That's your opinion. Yes, it is his gold you rob!

ROBIN. Then, it is with all the more pleasure that I lighten your load of this tarnished gold.

MARIAN. Hasn't anyone ever taught you that stealing is wrong?

ROBIN. I don't consider this stealing, dear lady. I am merely returning it to those from whom it was taken. Because of sheer greed from ones like the Prince and Sheriff, people, young and old, are starving. Children cry at night, frightened, cold and hungry. This gold will feed them, clothe them and ease their pain.

MARIAN. Sheriff, does Robin Hood speak the truth?

SHERIFF. Marian, my dear, someday you will learn that good money is wasted on the poor.

MARIAN *(appalled)*. Oh! You gross little fever blister! I loathe and despise you! *(To ROBIN.)* Sir, forgive me, will you? I knew not of the vast suffering in my country. And rest assured that upon my return to the kingdom, I shall set forth to contact the King. I will tell him of these unspeakable acts against his people! This, I promise you with all my heart.

SHERIFF. Marian! Do you realize what you're saying is treason against the Prince!

MARIAN. It is not I who have committed treason! *(To ROBIN.)* Do not keep the poor waiting any longer, gallant fugitive. Go, now! But before you do, I have one more treasure for your coffers. *(The MERRY MEN quickly gather closely around ROBIN and MARIAN to ensure they will be a part of this magic moment. They look over ROBIN's and MARIAN's shoulders. MARIAN takes a jeweled ring from her finger and gives it to ROBIN.)* My mother gave me this ring before she died. It will serve her memory well if you use it for your just and noble cause.

MEN *(almost in tears, sighing in unison)*. OHHHHHH!

TOWN'S GUY. And it was at this very moment that Robin Hood and the Lady Marian fell in love.

ROBIN *(to AUDIENCE, completely smitten and almost speechless)*. Wow!

MARIAN. Now, off with you all! Don't keep those in need waiting a moment longer!

ROBIN. You are the most gracious lady of the land! And I promise you, dear lady, we shall meet again. *(Kisses her hand.)*

MARIAN. I most certainly hope so!

ROBIN. It is time to set forth on our mission! Would you like to join me in my quest to aid the needy, men of Sherwood?

MEN. SURE WOULD!

ROBIN. Very well then... SCATTER! *(Exits, running L.)*

~~*(MEN, screaming, with arms flailing in the air, scatter about, running like maniacs, exiting off L, except for LITTLE JOHN, who exits R.)*~~