

Samuel French Acting Edition

Ken Ludwig's
Sherwood

The Adventures of Robin Hood

|| SAMUEL FRENCH ||

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CHARACTERS

ROBIN HOOD

MAID MARIAN

FRIAR TUCK

LITTLE JOHN

DEORWYNN (pronounced “*Deer-win*”)

SIR GUY OF GISBOURNE

THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

PRINCE JOHN

The following characters were doubled in the original production and can be doubled in subsequent productions. Alternatively, each of these roles can be played by a separate actor:

HELOISE, MIDWIFE, ROBERT, MASTER BLADEN, MASTER GODWIN, ALIZE, RODERICK, FAWKES, MARGERY, BLIND MAN, MONKS, TANKRED, FATHER GOPH, BAJKA, GÁSPÁR, MUCH THE MILLER, SIMON, ANSGOT, SOLDIERS, FORESTERS, JACQUES, ETIENNE, MATEO, DIEGO, MAXIMILIAN, MATTHIAS, ARCHERS, and EXECUTIONERS.

SETTING

Sherwood Forest and the town of Nottingham, England

TIME

The year 1194

Excerpt From Scene Seven, *Sherwood Forest*

ROBIN. Marian!

MARIAN. Hello, Robin.

ROBIN. Look at you. You're glorious! Are you well? How have you been? When did you get back? How were your travels? Were they exciting, frightening, dangerous, difficult, amusing, tremendous? Answer me in one word!

MARIAN. (*Laughing.*) I would need the mouths of every woman you've ever kissed to do that.

FRIAR TUCK. Ha!

ROBIN. You embarrass me.

MARIAN. Do I? Good. When we were young, he had eyes for every girl in the shire but me.

LITTLE JOHN. He must have been blind.

ROBIN. I must have been.

(Their mutual attraction is palpable.)

(Snap! DEORWYNN snaps a twig she's holding. She's bristling with jealousy.)

(Sensing it, MARIAN reaches out to DEORWYNN, to help her to her feet.)

MARIAN. Hello. Are you all right?

DEORWYNN. I am, but I could have done it myself.

ROBIN. Manners. This is Deorwynn Miller. We seek her father. This is Lady Marian Fitzwalter.

MARIAN. It's a pleasure.

ROBIN. And this is John Little and Friar Tuck. One just gave me a beating and the other threatened to.

MARIAN. I like them both already.

ROBIN. Marian and I grew up on neighboring estates but

she was snatched away by her parents.

MARIAN. They thought he'd corrupt me.

LITTLE JOHN. And did he?

MARIAN. Just a little.

LITTLE JOHN. Hoho.

FRIAR TUCK. Ha!

(DEORWYNN snaps another twig in half.)

ROBIN. And how were your travels?

MARIAN. Brave, Robin. The world is filled with wonder and delight. I studied music, mathematics, philosophy –

(GÁSPÁR staggers on, the arrow still in his chest. Without missing a beat, MARIAN shoots another arrow into his chest and he staggers back off.)

And combat.

FRIAR TUCK. Remind me to remain on your good side, m'lady.

LITTLE JOHN. You should join our band. Robin here is facing down the authorities and the people love him for it.

MARIAN. They tell a different story at the castle.

FRIAR TUCK. I'm not surprised.

MARIAN. *(Concerned.)* Robin, they say you're causing nothing but trouble here in the shire. They say you're breaking the laws and stealing property. They say you're an outlaw.

FRIAR TUCK. He is.

LITTLE JOHN. He is!

MARIAN. Well it's nothing to be proud of. There's a price on his head!

ROBIN. You don't understand.

MARIAN. Apparently not, but I've been asked to speak to you about it.

ROBIN. By whom?

MARIAN. By my uncle, Prince John.

LITTLE JOHN. Your uncle?

ROBIN. Marian is a ward of King Richard. Their families date back to the Conqueror.

MARIAN. Uncle John calls you a common thief. He says that the foresters hate you now and that you're stealing gold from anyone who passes through Sherwood.

ROBIN. Do you believe it?

MARIAN. The Prince of the Realm wouldn't lie about it.

DEORWYNN. The Prince of the Realm is robbing us blind! And his men arrested my father for trying to feed his family and they tried to cut out his tongue and blind him and *he's the bravest man that ever lived*, and they did it to put money into their own pockets because they're *cowards*!

MARIAN. That's treason you know.

DEORWYNN. It's the truth! *Tell her!*

MARIAN. I think you'll find that Prince John is misunderstood. And Robin, he'd like to meet with you. He's coming to Nottingham next month for the celebrations.

ROBIN. What is he celebrating? A new hanging?

MARIAN. No, it's a wedding.

ROBIN. Whose?

MARIAN. Mine.

I'm sorry.

It will seal the alliance between north and south, and my family feels that...it's what I was raised for.

ROBIN. And you're going along with it? Who are you marrying? The Prince himself?

MARIAN. *The Prince is my uncle!*

ROBIN. By marriage. It is allowed.

MARIAN. *Well I'm not!*

ROBIN. Who is it then?

MARIAN. You won't know him. But you will like him. He's a Norman who's in charge of administration for this part of the shire. And he's young and up and coming and some day could have the whole north of England under him. His name is Guy of Gisbourne.

SIR GUY. (*Offstage, sounding pleasant.*) Marian, are you there? You've got to be careful out here in the woods

because of all the –

(SIR GUY enters, sees ROBIN, and freezes. ROBIN, TUCK, and LITTLE JOHN all reach for their swords.)

SIR GUY. Good God.

MARIAN. Guy. I'd like you to meet some friends of mine.
This is Robin of Locksley, John Little, Friar Tuck and...

(DEORWYNN turns away.)

MARIAN. A friend of theirs.

(Silence.)

SIR GUY. *(To ROBIN.)* How do you do.

(Silence.)

ROBIN. Hello.

MARIAN. ...Well, that went well. Shall we go inside? It's feeling chilly out here.

(Nods as she exits.)

Robin.

(She's gone.)

ROBIN. *(To SIR GUY.)* Until next time, Gisbourne.