



Series 8, Ep 3

"ROBOTS OF SHERWOOD"

By
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Producer NIKKI WILSON

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DURATION: 47' 17"

25FPS

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10:00:00 INT. TARDIS - DAY 1

THE DOCTOR

Take a punt!

THE DOCTOR is in the upper gallery of the TARDIS, eating a yoghurt and scribbling impossible equations on his blackboards. CLARA is below, by the console.

CLARA (OS)

Right.

THE DOCTOR

Your choice. Wherever. Whenever.
Anywhere in space and time.

CLARA

(shyly)

Well. There is something. *Someone...*
I've always wanted to meet. But I know
what you'll say.

THE DOCTOR stops writing, looks down.

THE DOCTOR

Try me.

CLARA

You'll say he's made up. That there's
no such thing...it's...it's Robin
Hood!

Beat.

THE DOCTOR

Robin Hood?

CLARA

Yeah!

CLARA (CONT'D)

I love that story. Always loved it. Ever
since I was little.

THE DOCTOR

Robin Hood, the heroic outlaw who
robbed from the rich to give to the poor?

CLARA
(giggles)
Yeah!

THE DOCTOR
He's made up. There's no such thing.

He scrapes out the last of the yoghurt, pockets the spoon and carries on scribbling.

CLARA
You see!

THE DOCTOR
Old fashioned heroes only exist in old fashioned story books, Clara.

CLARA
What about you?

THE DOCTOR
Me?

CLARA
Yeah, you. You stop bad things happening. Every minute of every day. That sounds pretty heroic to me.

THE DOCTOR
(shrugs)
I'm just passing the time.
Hey, what about Mars?

CLARA
What?

He flips the blackboard. There's a chalk drawing of a vast honeycombed structure.

THE DOCTOR
The Ice Warrior Hives!

CLARA
You said it was my choice.

THE DOCTOR
Or the Tumescant Arrows of the Half-Light! Those girls can hold their drink!

CLARA

Doctor -

THE DOCTOR

...and fracture fifteen different levels of reality simultaneously. I think I've got a Polaroid somewhere.

He rifles through his pockets.

CLARA

Doctor! My choice. *Robin Hood*. Show me.

THE DOCTOR stops, heads down the stairs from the gallery down to the console.

THE DOCTOR

(shrugs)

Very well. Earth.

(flicks switch)

England.

(flick)

Sherwood Forest.

(flick)

1190 AD. *Ish*.

He flicks a switch.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

But you'll only be disappointed...

DISSOLVE TO:

10:01:49 EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. GLADE - DAY 1

A babbling stream with a 'bridge' across it - in fact little more than a log connecting each bank. On the far side, a beautiful, sylvan glade, bathed in Hollywood sunshine. Everything is a saturated, Technicolour green.

Suddenly, the TARDIS materialises in the shade of a huge oak tree. The deer bolts.

THE DOCTOR (O.S.)

No damsels in distress.

The TARDIS door opens.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

No pretty castles. And no such thing
as Robin Hood!

Thwakkkk!

FX: The arrow thuds into the TARDIS door, missing THE DOCTOR's
face by an inch.

He whips round.

Standing on the other side of the glade, quivering bow in hand
is a strapping, handsome, devastatingly sexy young man in
beautifully cut Lincoln Green tunic, feathered hat and tights.
He smiles a winning smile and winks.

ROBIN (OS)

You called?

10:02:21 TITLES SEQUENCE IN

CUT TO:

10:02:54 EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. GLADE - DAY 1

From the other side of the log bridge - a conversation yelled
across the river.

ROBIN

Very, very nicely done with the box,
my friend! I saw something of the sort
performed by a Turk in Nottingham Fayre.
A trick with mirrors, no doubt?

THE DOCTOR

(offended)

A *trick!*

ROBIN

A good jest.

THE DOCTOR

It's not a trick, it's a TARDIS. Why
are you dressed like that??

ROBIN

(laughs)

Whatever it is, you bony rascal, I'm afraid I must relieve you of it.

THE DOCTOR angrily plucks the arrow from the TARDIS door and throws it to the ground.

THE DOCTOR

It's my property, that's what it is!

ROBIN stops half way across the log bridge.

ROBIN

Don't you know that all property is theft to Robin Hood?

THE DOCTOR

You're not serious.

ROBIN

I am many things but never that. Robin Hood laughs in the face of all. ha, ha, haa!

He lets loose his hearty, signature laugh.

THE DOCTOR

And do people ever punch you in the face when you do that?

ROBIN

Not as yet.

THE DOCTOR

Then lucky I'm here then isn't it!

CLARA (O.S.)

Ok, might be a little bit much but what do you reckon, Doctor- ?

CLARA appears from the TARDIS, dressed in a lovely medieval frock.

ROBIN

By all the saints!

ROBIN beams, his white teeth almost sparkling.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Are there any more in there?

CLARA, staring - *oh my God!!*

CLARA
Doctor. Is that...?

THE DOCTOR
No.

CLARA
My god - oh my god, it **is**, isn't it?

CLARA (OS) (CONT'D)
You found him. You actually found Robin Hood.

THE DOCTOR
That is not Robin Hood!

ROBIN
Well then who, sir, is about to relieve you of your magic box.

ROBIN draws his sword.

On THE DOCTOR - his yes flash. Now it's personal. He leaps up on the log, confronting ROBIN.

THE DOCTOR
Nobody, sir! Not in this universe, or the next!

ROBIN
Well then draw your sword, and prove your words.

THE DOCTOR
I don't have a sword. I don't *need* a sword.

THE DOCTOR, with great ceremony, produces something from his coat. A gauntlet.

THE DOCTOR has slipped on the gauntlet, now fishes something else from his pocket.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Because I'm the Doctor. And this is my spoon!!

He advances to the middle of the log bridge.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

En garde!

ROBIN laughs - and they set to.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Sword hits spoon. Back and forth they go over the log bridge. ROBIN lunges, THE DOCTOR parries. He's coolly, casually absolutely brilliant at it.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

CLARA

(impressed)

You're...amazing.

THE DOCTOR

I've had some experience.

(shrugs)

Richard the Lionheart...

Clang!

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Cyrano de Bergerac...

Clang!

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Errol Flynn.

Clang!

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Had the most enormous -

Clang!

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

- ego.

CLARA

Takes one to know one.

THE DOCTOR executes a neat move, trips up ROBIN and sends him into the stream with a huge splash!

CLARA (CONT'D)

Doctor...

Then THE DOCTOR flips his spoon like a gunslinger and pops it back into his pocket.

THE DOCTOR
Like I said. **My box.**

CLARA
Doctor?...

There's no sign of ROBIN in the stream.

CLARA looks down concernedly. THE DOCTOR peers over the logbridge, too.

Nothing. No air bubbles. *Nothing.*

Then ROBIN's hand snakes out of the water behind them and -

- *whoosh!*

- unbalances THE DOCTOR who falls headlong into the stream too. CLARA laughs.

ROBIN emerges onto the bank, hands on hips, laughing his head off. THE DOCTOR drags himself out of the stream, looking furious.

CUT TO:

10:05:45 EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. VILLAGE - DAY 1

A scream!

A village green. In stark contrast to Sherwood Forest, this is a filthy, muddy, Gilliam-esque place of crook-backed medieval houses. Skinny dogs and ducks roam everywhere.

From out of a guildhall troop three KNIGHTS, followed by a fat, distressed man, QUAYLE. The KNIGHTS are dressed in the classic chain mail and tabard of the Knights Templar with bucket-like helmets which totally obscure their faces. Between them, they've taken prisoner a young woman, QUAYLE's WARD - and are carrying wooden boxes.

QUAYLE
I beg you! Stop! Stop this! Please! By all that's holy. Take our monies. Our treasure. But spare my ward!

WARD

Nay, do not fuss! All will be well -
The KNIGHTS clap her in chains.

QUAYLE

This is the Sheriff's doing! If he were
here now, I'd tear out his black heart,
God forgive me!

SHERIFF (O.S.)

Would you now?

QUAYLE whirls round. Seated on a magnificent horse is a magnificent man. Tall, dark and moodily handsome, he's dressed all in black. This is THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Or are you as milk-livered as your name
suggests, Master Quayle?

QUAYLE

Then take me! Spare this dear child.

SHERIFF

You? A lardy lack-wit like you? It is
labour we require up at the castle!

One of the KNIGHTS flips open the casket he's carrying. It's full of jewels and gold coins. Oddly, the SHERIFF throws aside the jewels and runs his fingers through the coins.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Labour and -- *gold*.
(chuckles)
This will be a great help, Master Quayle.
Believe me.

He gazes down appreciatively at QUAYLE's WARD and strokes his moustache.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

A newcomer to Sherwood, are we?

WARD

Yes, my Lord.

SHERIFF

You will also prove...useful.

He nods to the KNIGHTS.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
Bring her.

QUAYLE
Your days are numbered, you cur!

QUAYLE spits in the SHERIFF's face. Slowly, the SHERIFF wipes it from his beard.

SHERIFF
You will live to regret that.

Beat.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
Actually, no.

Without pause, he draws his sword and runs QUAYLE through! The merchant collapses dead in the mud.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
You won't.

WARD
No! *Nooooooooo!*

The SHERIFF nods to the KNIGHTS and they drag the horrified WARD away through the mud. The SHERIFF gallops off ahead.

CUT TO:

10:07:08 EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. ENCAMPMENT - DAY 1

A hog roasts on a spit. THE DOCTOR is in amongst the greenery, ripping down branches and scanning them with the sonic. ROBIN is introducing CLARA to a group of MEN. They're all in Lincoln Green and very... *MERRY*.

ROBIN (OS)
Let me introduce you to my men.

First, a strapping blond man in red, WILL SCARLET.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
This Will Scarlet. A cheeky rogue with a good swordhand and a slippery tongue.

WILL

My Lady.

Snip!

He whirls round. THE DOCTOR has snipped off a lock of his hair.

WILL (CONT'D)

What do you want with my hair?

THE DOCTOR waves his sonic over it. Dissatisfied, he chucks it away.

THE DOCTOR

Well it's realistic, I'll give you that.

Next a portly monk with a tonsure steps forward.

ROBIN

Friar Tuck. Aptly named for the quantity of grub he tucks into!

FRIAR TUCK

You skinny blackguard!

He also cuffs ROBIN. They all laugh. Then TUCK trips forward. THE DOCTOR has grabbed his sandal and is examining it.

FRIAR TUCK (CONT'D)

What are you *doing*??

THE DOCTOR

This isn't a real sandal!

FRIAR TUCK

Yes, it is.

THE DOCTOR

(Sonicing; frustrated)
Yes! It is!

He throws it away, furious.

Next a slightly fey man with a lute steps forward.

ROBIN

Er, this is Alan-a-Dale. A master of the lute and with the voice of an angel.

He beams and plays a sweet chord on his lute.

ALAN-A-DALE

(sings)

"Fair stranger you are welcome here,
in Sherwood's bonny glade and..." -
oww!

He jumps. THE DOCTOR is busy extracting a little gizmo from ALAN's arm, examining the results.

THE DOCTOR

Sorry, sorry, blood analysis. Oh, all those diseases - if you were real, you'd be dead in six months.

ALAN-A-DALE

I *am* real.

THE DOCTOR

Bye!

ROBIN

And this is John Little. Called Little John. My loyal companion in many an adventure.

CLARA stares at a huge, BEARDED MAN. Then, from between his legs, appears a very much smaller man - LITTLE JOHN.

LITTLE JOHN

Hahaha! Works every time!

CLARA

I can not believe it's you. You really are...Robin Hood and his Merry Men!

ROBIN

Aye! 'Tis an apt description. What say you, lads?

They all cheer and roar with laughter. THE DOCTOR scowls at them.

THE DOCTOR

Stop *laughing*! Why are you always doing that? Are you all *simple or something*??
(Proffers a cup to Robin)
I'm going to need a sample.

ROBIN

... of what?

CLARA snatches THE DOCTOR away from ROBIN -

CLARA

Excuse me!

(Pulls the Doctor aside)

What are you *doing*?

THE DOCTOR

Well they're not holograms, that much is obvious. Could be a theme park from the future. Or maybe we're inside a Miniscope!

CLARA

Oh, *shut up!*

THE DOCTOR

(Stalking off, muttering)

Aminiscope! yes, *could* be a miniscope, why not.

CLARA watches him go, despairing. ROBIN joins her.

ROBIN

Your friend seems not quite of the real world.

CLARA

No, not most of the time.

(Looks at him)

Dark days?

ROBIN

My Lady?

CLARA

You said these were dark days. What did you mean?

ROBIN's face clouds.

WILL

King Richard is away on Crusade, my Lady, and his tyrant of a brother rules instead.

CLARA

(excited)

And the Sheriff? Cos there *is* a Sheriff,
right?

ALAN-A-DALE

Aye. It is indeed this jackal of the
Prince's who aims to oppress us for
evermore.

THE DOCTOR

(Passing behind him)

Or six months, in your case.

ROBIN

(smiles at Clara)

It is a shame to dwell on murky thoughts
when there's such beauty here.

He looks deep into CLARA's eyes. She looks back.

CLARA

Why are you so sad?

ROBIN

Why would you think me sad?

CLARA

Because the Doctor's right. You laugh
too much.

ROBIN

I do not live this outlaw life by choice,
my Lady. You see before you Robert, Earl

-

CLARA

Earl of Loxley!

ROBIN

(puzzled)

Yes.

CLARA

Sorry. Do go on.

ROBIN

I have my lands and titles were stripped from me when I dared to speak out against Prince John.

(sighs)

But I spoke too late. And lost the thing most dear to me...

CLARA

What was she called?

ROBIN

So very quick! How does the Doctor stand it?

CLARA

Marian?

ROBIN

You know her?

CLARA

(Smiles, so happy - it's all true)

Oh, yes, I have always known her.

ROBIN

It was Marian who told me that I must stand up and be counted. But I was afraid. Now this green canopy is my palace and the rough ground my feather bed. One day, perhaps I can return home. Until then, until that day it is beholden on me to be the man Marian wanted.

(His hand strays to the locket round his neck)

To be a hero for those this tyrant Sheriff slaughters.

Suddenly THE DOCTOR looms up in between them.

THE DOCTOR

What time is it, Mr Hood?

ROBIN

Somewhat after noon -

THE DOCTOR

(snaps)

No, no. Time of year! The season.

ROBIN

Dame Autumn has draped her mellow skirts about the forest, Doctor. The time of mists and harvest approaches -

THE DOCTOR

Yes, yes. All very poetic. But it's very green hereabouts, though, isn't it? And, like I said, very sunny.

CLARA

So?

THE DOCTOR

Have you ever *been* to Nottingham?

CLARA

Climate change?

THE DOCTOR

1190.

ROBIN

(brightening)

Well, you must excuse me! The Sheriff has issued a proclamation. Tomorrow, there's to be a contest to find the best archer in the land! And the bounty: an arrow of pure gold!

CLARA

NO, no, don't go! It's a trap!

ROBIN

Of course it is! But I can never resist a challenge! A contest to find the best archer in the land?

(To his men)

Why, there *is* no contest!

Everyone laughs.

THE DOCTOR

Right! That wasn't even funny, that was
bantering. I am totally *against*
bantering!

But ROBIN is already gathering with his men, planning the next day.

On CLARA and THE DOCTOR, watching.

CLARA

How are you sure he's not the real thing?

THE DOCTOR

Because he can't be.

CLARA

When did you stop believing in
everything??

THE DOCTOR

When did you start believing in
impossible heroes?

CLARA looks at him. Smiles.

CLARA

Don't you know?

She's talking about him, but he really doesn't get it. Just frowns.

CLARA (CONT'D)

In a way, that's rather sweet.

She moves away, leaving him disgusted at the word "sweet".

CUT TO:

10:12:38 EXT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - DAY 1

FX: Nestled in a valley is a huge, fairy-tale castle with four distinct towers at its corners. Colourful pennants flutter in the breeze.

10:12:43 EXT. CASTLE. COURTYARD - DAY 2

Thwakkk! An arrow hits home in a straw target, one of many in a row inside the castle courtyard.

HERALD (OS)

(calls)

In the contest for the golden arrow...

He holds up a beautiful, shimmering arrow. It's made of a fine filigree of gold.

HERALD (CONT'D)

After ten rounds, the battle is betwixt our Lord Sheriff...

The SHERIFF stands and takes begrudging applause.

HERALD (CONT'D)

And the stranger known as Tom the Tinker!

ROBIN bows.

CLARA is with ROBIN who's dressed as normal except for a big brown felt hat and cloak.

SHERIFF

(to himself)

Perhaps not such a stranger, after all?

HERALD

(calling)

Take your places!

ROBIN steps forward. He and the SHERIFF size each other up.

ROBIN

Let us make this match a little more interesting, my Lord. Surely the targets are too close? What say you? Another twenty paces?

SHERIFF

(shrugs)

Why not?

CUT TO:

The target is shifted quite a way back.

The SHERIFF takes out an arrow and expertly threads it into his long bow. He pulls back the bowstring and aims, narrowing his eye. The crowd are hushed, expectant.

He fires. And hits the bullseye first time! The crowd cheer.

ROBIN steps forward. There are murmurs from the crowd. Surely he doesn't stand a chance?

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Now, tinker. Let's see your true face...

ROBIN takes out an arrow from his quiver and prepares to fire. In the crowd, CLARA looks on anxiously.

CUT TO:

The bowstring creaks. ROBIN's eye narrows.

CUT TO:

Whoosh!

FX: We follow the arrow as it shoots through the summery air -
- and it splits the SHERIFF's arrow in two!

CLARA spontaneously applauds.

The SHERIFF scowls.

ROBIN turns to CLARA and winks, devastatingly.

CUT TO:

HERALD

Ye Gads! He has split the arrow! Truly,
he is the finest archer in all England!

The crowd cheer.

HERALD (CONT'D)

Come forward, tinker. And claim your
prize.

ROBIN steps forward. He and the SHERIFF look at each other. The HERALD begins to hand ROBIN the golden arrow.

Suddenly -

Thwakkk!

Another arrow thuds into the target, splitting ROBIN's arrow in two!

Everyone whirls round. There's a third archer standing there.

THE DOCTOR!

CUT TO:

The MERRY MEN look on in awe.

LITTLE JOHN
He's full of surprises, isn't he?

CUT TO:

THE DOCTOR lowers his bow.

CLARA's jaw drops. ROBIN glares at him. The SHERIFF smiles.

THE DOCTOR clears his throat.

THE DOCTOR
(calling)
I am The Doctor. My skills as a bowman
speak for themselves.
I claim my reward.

The HERALD steps forward and hands him the golden arrow. THE DOCTOR tosses it aside. FRIAR TUCK spots it. He looks a little shifty.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
A mere bauble. I want something else.

SHERIFF
Name it.

THE DOCTOR
Enlightenment.

The Sheriff smiles. Suddenly --

Thwakkkk!

Behind him, ROBIN has split THE DOCTOR's arrow!

The crowd cheer wildly. ROBIN grins at THE DOCTOR with infuriating cheerfulness. Follow *that*.

THE DOCTOR sighs and, almost without looking, prepares another arrow, aims and fires.

FX: The arrow shoots through the air, ricochets off a KNIGHT's shield and -

Thwakkk!

- splits ROBIN's arrow!

CUT TO:

The crowd go insane!

CUT TO:

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Now -

Thwakkk!

Everyone turns. ROBIN's done it again. Splitting THE DOCTOR's arrow.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

This is getting silly.

He points the sonic at the archery target and -

Boom!

- it explodes into fragments!

The HERALD shrieks and ducks. The SHERIFF's eyes light up.

SHERIFF

(sotto)

Fascinating.

(to Knights)

Seize him.

THE DOCTOR gives a pleased smile.

The KNIGHTS clomp towards him. Suddenly, CLARA dashes out and grabs a pikestaff. It's weight immediately drags her down.

THE DOCTOR

(hissing)

What are you *doing*? Put that down!

CLARA

I'm fine! I take Year Seven for after school Taekwondo.

ROBIN bounds into view, sword raised!

ROBIN

Don't worry, Doctor! I'll save you!

THE DOCTOR

I don't need saving!

ROBIN

Your honour is safe!

THE DOCTOR

I know it is!

ROBIN

For I am Robin!

He throws off his 'disguise'.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Robin Hood!

The crowd go *mental*. Cries of 'ROBIN!' 'Tis ROBIN Hood!'

ROBIN and the nearest KNIGHT clash, their swords flashing in the sunshine.

ROBIN parries, brings round his sword in one massive blow and --

Whoomph!

- chops off the KNIGHT's arm!

Masses of intestine-like wiring spill from the Knight's shoulder, sparking and fizzing!

The crowd gasp! A stunned silence.

THE DOCTOR

Robot!

(grins)

Now we're getting somewhere!

The SHERIFF scowls - and takes out a small control device from his tunic.

SHERIFF

Kill them! Kill them now. Kill them all!

He stabs at the buttons -

FX: - and the KNIGHTS suddenly change. Their helmets shift, Transformer-like, revealing blank, scary faces like tomb effigies. A gleaming purple light glows into life within, projecting across, like a sniper's sight onto the PEASANTS.

FX: Purple lasers streak out - *boom! boom! boom!*

FX: Archery targets burst into flame as the lasers strafe the courtyard. Screams. Panic.

FX: The HERALD dashes for cover - but one of the KNIGHT's weapons finds him and - *whoomph* - he vanishes in a blaze of fire!

ROBIN raises his sword to attack but, quick as a flash, THE DOCTOR knocks it from his hand.

THE DOCTOR

He surrenders.

ROBIN

What??

The KNIGHTS surround ROBIN and CLARA and they hold up their hands.

CLARA

Ok, ok!

He looks desperately round.

ROBIN

Run, flee, lads, flee! Live to fight another day!

FRIAR TUCK

Aye!

The PEASANTS and MERRY MEN flee.

The SHERIFF snaps his fingers.

SHERIFF

To the dungeons with all of them!

The KNIGHTS hustle them away.

CLARA

(sotto, to THE DOCTOR)

What're you up to?

THE DOCTOR

Quickest way to find out anybody's
plans - get yourself captured!

CUT TO:

10:16:32 INT. CASTLE. VAULT - NIGHT 2

QUAYLE's WARD and the other PEASANTS are still hard at work, loading gold of all kinds. Mirrors, shields, coins.

WALTER suddenly collapses under the weight of the gold he's carrying on his back. The WARD races to his side.

WARD

Here...let me help you.

WALTER

Th...thank you, Lady.

A robot KNIGHT swings towards them, its blank robot face now revealed.

The WARD draws back in horror.

WARD

What are you, gargoyles? What are you?

It clanks towards them.

KNIGHT

Leave it.

WARD

He only needs to rest. We all need to rest -

KNIGHT

Analysis shows that peasant creature is spent. Usefulness expired. Usefulness expired.

WARD

No! Please -

FX: The purple light builds in intensity.

WALTER

No, no, no!

FX: The cross-shaped purple beam shoots out and WALTER is obliterated. The WARD turns away, horrified.

WARD

Damn you! Damn you and that villain the Sheriff!

She drops to the stone floor, sobbing.

CUT TO:

10:10:17 INT. CASTLE. DUNGEON - NIGHT 2

THE DOCTOR, ROBIN and CLARA are manacled together in a filthy dungeon.

ROBIN

Splendid! *Enchained!*

CLARA

Yup.

ROBIN

Trussed up like turkey-cocks! Thanks to your friend.

THE DOCTOR

Shut it, Hoodie. I saved your life.

ROBIN

I had the situation well in hand.

THE DOCTOR

Long haired ninny versus killer robot knights, I know where I'd put my money.

ROBIN

If you had not betrayed me, then I would have been triumphant!

THE DOCTOR

You'd have been a little puff of smoke and ashes!

ROBIN

Ha!

THE DOCTOR

You'd have been floating around in tiny little laughing bits in people's goblets -

ROBIN

Balderdash! Ha!

THE DOCTOR

Right here we go, it's laughing time!

ROBIN

You amuse me, grey old man!!

He gives a deliberately annoying Ha, Ha, Ha!!!

THE DOCTOR

(Yelling to the Guard)
Guard!! He's laughing again!! You can't lock me in here with a laughing person.

ROBIN

(Yelling to the Guard)
Oh, that's funny too. Do you know I feel another *laugh* coming on! Ha, ha, ha!

THE DOCTOR

(Yelling to the Guard)
Guard, I *cannot* remain in this cell! Execute me now!

ROBIN

(Yelling to the Guard)
You heard him - execute the old fool!

THE DOCTOR

(Yelling to the Guard)
No, hang on, execute *him*!!

ROBIN

(Yelling to the Guard)
I do not fear death, execute away!!

THE DOCTOR

(Yelling to the Guard)
Yeah, execute him! I want to see if his head keeps laughing when you chop it off.

ROBIN

(Yelling to the Guard)
Robin Hood always laughs in the face of death!!

THE DOCTOR

(Yelling to the Guard)
Rolling round the floor laughing - I'd pay good money to see that!! Guard!

ROBIN

Guard!

THE DOCTOR

Guard!!

On CLARA: at frustration boiling point!! The words now rip from her - full on schoolteacher!

CLARA

(Roaring)
Will. You two. *SHUT!!! UP!!!!!!*

They both fall into startled silence. Look at her.

CLARA (CONT'D)

Do either of you understand, in any way at all, that there *isn't actually a guard out there??*

THE DOCTOR

... Oh.

ROBIN

I did, in fact.

THE DOCTOR

No, you didn't.

CLARA

I said, shut up.

CLARA (CONT'D)

The Doctor... and Robin Hood... locked up in a cell. Is this the best you can do? Are you both determined to starve to death in here, *squabbling*?

ROBIN

Well I'll tell you one thing - I'd last a lot longer than that desiccated man-crone.

THE DOCTOR

Really? Well you know what - I think you'll find I have a certain genetic advantage -

CLARA

It's not a competition about who can die slower!!

THE DOCTOR

It would definitely be me, though wouldn't it.

CLARA

There was supposed to be a plan. Do either of you have a plan?

THE DOCTOR

Yeah, of course I have.

ROBIN

I too have a plan.

CLARA

Okay, Robin, you first.

THE DOCTOR

Why him?

CLARA

Doctor, shut up. Robin, what's your plan?

ROBIN

I am ... biding my time.

CLARA

(Rolls her eyes)

Thank you, Prince of Thieves.

(Turns to the Doctor)

Last of the Time Lords?

THE DOCTOR

Yes, I have a plan.

CLARA

Can you explain your plan without using the words "sonic screwdriver"?

CLARA (CONT'D)

Because you might have forgotten, the Sheriff of Nottingham, has *taken* your sonic screwdriver - just saying.

THE DOCTOR

I know! I *know*!

CLARA

.. Your plan was basically the screwdriver, wasn't it? It's always the screwdriver.

THE DOCTOR

... Let's hear Robin's plan first.

CLARA

Oh for God's sake!

The turn of a key in the door. The GUARD now coming through.

ROBIN

You see, there was a guard. There was guard listening the whole time, I knew it. Ha, ha, ha, ha!

GUARD

The sheriff himself commanded me to listen, to find out which of you is the true ringleader.

THE DOCTOR

Ah, so he can do the interrogating. Very wise.

ROBIN

Excellent. He will get nothing from me!

THE DOCTOR

No, he will get nothing from *me* - interrogation is always where I turn the tables.

(to Clara)

That's my plan!

ROBIN

(Raising his manacles to be unlocked)

Well, hurry up, take me to him.

THE DOCTOR

(Also raising his manacles)

Chop chop...

CLARA looks between them, almost pityingly.

CLARA

Seriously?

And the GUARD steps forward to un-manacle CLARA!

THE DOCTOR

No!

ROBIN

What are you *doing*??

THE DOCTOR

Don't be *ridiculous*!!

CUT TO:

10:21:03 EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT 2

The MERRY MEN sit around a crackling fire.

The glint of gold. FRIAR TUCK is examining the golden arrow by the light of the fire.

LITTLE JOHN

'Tis a thing of beauty indeed.

WILL

And will feed a family for a twelvemonth
when melted down!

They laugh.

FRIAR TUCK

Tonight we rest. But tomorrow we must
draw up our plans to rescue Robin. We
shall soon see how those Mechanicals
feel about the taste of Nottingham
steel!

He puts the arrow into his quiver and crosses himself.

FRIAR TUCK (CONT'D)

Lord forgive me.

ALAN picks up the arrow.

ALAN-A-DALE

Strange, though, is it not?

LITTLE JOHN

What?

ALAN-A-DALE

All this looting that the Sheriff is
doing. 'Tis only ever gold that he takes.
Pearls, rubies, all the precious
jewels of the realm seem to be of no
consequence to him. Only gold...

He strums his lute.

ALAN-A-DALE (V.O.)

(sings)

"Poor Robin and the stranger lay, in
the dungeon all the live-long day..."

CUT TO:

10:21:52 INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE. VAULT - NIGHT 2

ALAN-A-DALE (V.O.)

"...the Merry Men might pine away, upon
a Sherwood morning..."

FX: Another of the robot KNIGHTS pulls on a lever and liquid gold flows down from the ceiling into a massive black slab,

FX: spreading over its surface into a network of filigree patterns, like a circuit board...

CUT TO:

10:22:18 INT. CASTLE. SHERIFF'S QUARTERS - NIGHT 2

CLARA is seated at the far end of a huge refectory table in a sumptuous chamber. It's decorated with tapestries and various nasty-looking weapons on the walls.

The SHERIFF sits at the opposite end, stuffing his face.

SHERIFF

Eat, my Lady, eat! Let it not be said
that the Sheriff of Nottingham is a poor
host!

CLARA

Had a bag of crisps this morning,
thanks.

SHERIFF

Your words are strange, fair one.

CLARA

I should think they are.

SHERIFF

But I like you. You are
refreshingly...direct.

CLARA

(shrugs)

You can take the girl out of Blackpool.

The SHERIFF gestures to the table where there's a pile of objects. THE DOCTOR's spoon, the gauntlet, a cheese sandwich, a paperback and the sonic screwdriver.

SHERIFF

Taken from your friend's strange tunic.
An intriguing gallimaufry.

He picks up the sonic.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Including this wand. Evidently a thing
of awesome power. Tell me...are you
from beyond the stars?

CLARA

You're the one with the robot army. You
tell me.

The SHERIFF picks his teeth, smiles.

CUT TO:

10:23:12 INT. CASTLE. DUNGEON - NIGHT 2

THE DOCTOR

I'm sorry?

ROBIN

Moan! Beat your breast! Moan, groan as
though twenty devils possessed your
guts!

THE DOCTOR

What for?

ROBIN

So as to attract the attentions of that
gargoyle-faced guard.

THE DOCTOR

It's your plan - you moan.

ROBIN

No, no, no, that won't work.

THE DOCTOR

Why?

ROBIN

Because clearly you are more advanced
in years and have a sickly aspect to
you.

THE DOCTOR

I have a *what??*

ROBIN

You are as pale as milk. It's the way
with the Scots. Strangers to
vegetables.

THE DOCTOR

I'm not moaning!! *You* moan!

THE DOCTOR looks furious and crosses his arms.

ROBIN

Oh really. If you want something
doing...

He starts moaning loudly, as if in pain.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Can I rely upon you to do the rest?

THE DOCTOR

Yes, yes, I know the drill.

The ugly GUARD's face appears at the barred window in the door.

GUARD

What is this din?

THE DOCTOR

No business of yours, cur!

ROBIN mutters in his ear. The GUARD strains to listen in.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

(to Robin)

Speak up! I can't hear you.

GUARD

What ails him?

THE DOCTOR

None of your business.

The GUARD throws open the door and steps inside.

GUARD

I said, what ails him?

THE DOCTOR

Well, if you must know, he's ... he's having a nervous breakdown.

GUARD

A what??

THE DOCTOR

He's like this when he's in any kind of danger. He just can't seem to cope, gets so completely afraid, he goes into a kind of fit.

Quick cut-away of ROBIN shooting a venomous look at THE DOCTOR.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I honestly think me might die of sheer fright. Like a tiny, shivering little mouse.

ROBIN gives a mutinous growl as part of his moaning, an attempt to warn THE DOCTOR.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Oh dear, I think he's soiled himself.

GUARD

Let him die then! It will save us the trouble of executing him!

THE DOCTOR

But what will happen to the reward?

GUARD

Reward?

THE DOCTOR

Oh God! I shouldn't have said that!

The GUARD grabs THE DOCTOR by his lapels.

GUARD

Tell me!

THE DOCTOR

He carries a vital message! The Prince
has promised a bounty!

GUARD

A big one?

THE DOCTOR

An enormous one!

The GUARD hurls THE DOCTOR aside and tries to lean closer to ROBIN.
ROBIN mutters.

GUARD

What's that? Say again?

ROBIN flicks open one eye, smiles --

ROBIN

You breath stinks like a serpent, has
anyone ever told you?

-- and nuts the GUARD, who collapses in a heap! His keys fall
free and clatter to the floor.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Soiled myself??

THE DOCTOR

Did you?? Well *that's* getting into
character! Okay, keys!

ROBIN

I'll get them.

THE DOCTOR

No, I'll get them.

They move as one towards the keys - but manage to knock them across
the floor.

They try again - both men's boots banging into the keys - which
skitter over the grating of a drain!

The keys are balanced precariously over oblivion -

- and then fall.

There is a distant *plop* of the keys landing in water.

The two men: aghast.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Well there is a bright side.

ROBIN
Which is?

THE DOCTOR
Clara didn't see that.

CUT TO:

10:25:26 INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE. SHERIFF'S QUARTERS - NIGHT 2

SHERIFF
But enough of tawdry matters. Let us
talk of softer...sweeter things.

He gets up and moves towards CLARA.

CLARA
Ah, good, I was hoping we'd get round
to that.

SHERIFF
... You were?

CLARA
For I have known I was destined to draw
the eye of a great and powerful man for
a long time - ever since I saw those
mysterious lights in the sky.

SHERIFF
You saw them too?

CLARA
And those strange mechanical men, with
their promises...

SHERIFF
I too have experienced these things.

CLARA
Really? Well I would never have guessed.
Tell me your story.

SHERIFF

Tell me yours!

CLARA

Oh, but you have to go first.

SHERIFF

Why so?

She leans into him, a little flirtatious. Perhaps runs a finger round his jaw.

CLARA

Because great men always precede.

SHERIFF

... You have a point.

CLARA

Your story then...

SHERIFF

Once upon a time there was a brave and clever and handsome man -

CLARA

I can almost picture him. I don't even have to close my eyes.

SHERIFF

- unappreciated by his Royal master.

CLARA

Prince John?

SHERIFF

The very same.

CLARA

Then came the lights in the skies, and everything changed.

SHERIFF

The skyship came to earth in a fury of fire!

CLARA

I'd almost call it a crash. I remember it well.

SHERIFF

A craft from the heavenly spheres,
bedight with twinkling lights and
miracles beyond imagining! The most
beautiful thing the brave and handsome
man had ever seen...

CLARA

I suppose the mechanical men saw you
as their natural leader.

SHERIFF

It was to I, and *I alone*, to whom the
Mechanical Men within imparted their
secrets! Shortly I will become the most
powerful man in the realm. King in all
but name! For Nottingham is not enough!

CLARA

It isn't?

SHERIFF

After this...*Derby!*

CLARA

Right.

SHERIFF

Then...Lincoln! And after Lincoln...

CLARA

Workshop?

SHERIFF

The world!

CUT TO:

10:27:43 INT. CASTLE. CORRIDOR - NIGHT 2

The dungeon door opens and THE DOCTOR and ROBIN shuffle out into the draughty stone corridor. They're still manacled and dragging the big stone block with them.

ROBIN

Now what?

THE DOCTOR

First, a blacksmith's forge.

ROBIN

So as to remove our chains?

THE DOCTOR

No, so I can knock up an ornamental plant stand. *Of course* so we can get rid of our chains! I don't want to be manacled to you all night.

ROBIN laughs.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Oh don't do that.

ROBIN

"Ornamental plant stand."

THE DOCTOR

It wasn't even that funny.

ROBIN

(Laughing)

You are an amusing fellow, Doctor!

THE DOCTOR

Please can you just stop.

CUT TO:

10:28:12 INT. CASTLE. SHERIFF'S QUARTERS - NIGHT 2

The SHERIFF continues his pursuit of CLARA.

CLARA

So what are you hanging around here for then, *your Majesty*? Why are you bothering to squeeze the pips out of the peasants if you've got a *skyship* on standby?

SHERIFF

Enough questions! I am impatient to hear of *your* story.

CLARA

Oh, but I do not have one, I was lying.

SHERIFF

Lying??

CLARA

Yeah. People are much better at sharing information if they think the other person has already got it.

SHERIFF

Oh, that was clever. You'll do very well.

CLARA

For what?

SHERIFF

Does not every King need a consort?

He leans in to kiss CLARA - but she ducks out of his way.

CLARA

Right you do that again and you'll regret that.

CUT TO:

10:28:59 INT. CASTLE. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT 2

Now free of their chains, THE DOCTOR and ROBIN are exploring the castle. They're in a long passageway, decorated with tapestries.

At the end of the corridor is a big circular door. It's ajar. THE DOCTOR and ROBIN exchange a look, then step inside --

CUT TO:

10:29:12 INT. CASTLE. 'BRIDGE' - NIGHT 2

-- into -

The bridge of a spaceship! Instrument consoles glitter and hum. At the centre of the room, a vast sphere like a Sun. It's cracked and leaking steam.

ROBIN

By all the saints! What is this place?

THE DOCTOR

Data banks, data banks, data banks,
data banks...

He's suddenly all over the instrumentation at once. Fiddling with dials, pressing buttons.

A torrent of information scrolls across the screens, reflected over THE DOCTOR's face.

THE DOCTOR's long fingers dance over the consoles.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Where were you heading, hm? Where was
this ship heading?

On the readout: Destination: THE PROMISED LAND.

THE DOCTOR's face falls.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

The Promised Land. The Promised Land
again. Like the Half-Face Man.
But more...more sophisticated.
Disguised itself as a Twelfth century
castle!

FX: On the screen, a schematic of an impressive-looking starship,
morphing into the keep of Nottingham Castle.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

It merges into the *culture*. Tries to
keep a low profile so it doesn't get
noticed. That would explain the robot
knights.

He checks the read out again.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

But the engines...The engines are
damaged.

More schematics come up.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

They're leaking radiation into the
local atmosphere creating a temporary
micro-climate of staggering
benevolence.

ROBIN

Beg pardon?

THE DOCTOR

I told you! It's too sunny, it's too green. And there's even an evil Sheriff to oppress the locals! This explains everything. Even you.

ROBIN

It does?

THE DOCTOR looks ROBIN up and down.

THE DOCTOR

Well, what does every oppressed peasant workforce need? The illusion of hope! Some silly story to get them through the day, lull them into docility and keep them working.

FX: His fingers dance again and the screens before them are suddenly filled with images of ROBIN HOOD. Storybooks, (non-copyright) movies, engravings, paintings. On and on and on they go.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Ship's data banks. Full of every myth and legend you could hope for. Including...**Robin Hood!** Friend of the poor!

He turns to ROBIN.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Isn't it time you came clean with me?

ROBIN

I do not understand your words.

THE DOCTOR

You're not real, and you know it! Look at you. Perfect eyes, perfect teeth! And *nobody* has a jawline like that! You're as much a part of what's going on here as the Sheriff

ROBIN

(furious)

You dare to accuse me of collusion with
that villain the Sheriff?

THE DOCTOR

I dare!

ROBIN

You false-tongued knave! I should have
skewered you when I had the chance.

THE DOCTOR

I'd like to see you try!

BOOOOM!

Suddenly the 'bridge' door is blown off its hinges.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Yeah, yeah.

Framed in the doorway are the SHERIFF and CLARA, flanked by robot
KNIGHTS.

SHERIFF

Surrender, outlaw!

THE DOCTOR does a slow hand-clap.

THE DOCTOR

Very good.

CLARA

What's going on?

SHERIFF

Kill him! Kill Robin Hood!!

THE DOCTOR

You can drop all that, Sheriff.

The KNIGHTS take aim at ROBIN. THE DOCTOR doesn't move to help.

CLARA

Doctor?

THE DOCTOR

He's not what you think he is, Clara.
It's all just play-acting.

FX: The purple cross hovers over ROBIN's face.

ROBIN darts out of the way just as the KNIGHT's purple lasers fire, blasting away metal shutters and revealing a window.

ROBIN jumps onto the window ledge.

CLARA

We can't just let them kill him!

FX: The KNIGHT takes aim again. CLARA jumps up after ROBIN, blocking the KNIGHT's aim. The purple cross hovers over *her* face now.

FX: Suddenly, ROBIN throws his arms around CLARA and backs towards the window.

CLARA (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing?

ROBIN's face is expressionless.

ROBIN

Surviving.

FX: And he tips backwards out of the window, CLARA in his arms!

CLARA

Noooo!

The KNIGHT fires and destroys the window.

THE DOCTOR

No!....

Splash!!

The SHERIFF and THE DOCTOR race to the window and look down into the moat.

SHERIFF

Yeah sorry, about the girl - such a pretty thing. What a queen she would have made.

CUT TO:

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE. 'BRIDGE' / EXT. MOAT - NIGHT 2

THE DOCTOR risks another glance out of the window. ROBIN is now pulling the unconscious CLARA to the side of the moat. The SHERIFF doesn't see this.

THE DOCTOR turns back into the room.

THE DOCTOR
Stop pretending. You and your fancy robots. I get it, I understand.

SHERIFF
Oh, so you too know my plans?

THE DOCTOR
Spaceship disguised as a castle. Very neat. You and your robots are plundering the surrounding countryside for all its worth.

He glances quickly round at the technology.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Of course! *Gold!* Of course! *Gold!* You're creating a matrix of gold to repair the engine circuitry!

SHERIFF
This is the scheme the Mechanicals have devised. Soon this skyship will depart. Destination: London! There I shall obliterate the King and take my rightful place as ruler of this sceptered isle!

THE DOCTOR
Won't work. There's not a chance. I've seen the instruments. There's been too much damage, you're stoking up a gigantic bomb!

He looks up as the KNIGHT raises its chain-mailed fist high in the air.

Then brings it down on the back of THE DOCTOR's neck.

BLACKOUT

CUT TO:

10:33:03 EXT. CASTLE - NIGHT

Full moon over the castle.

KNIGHT (V.O.)
Engine capacity at forty eight per cent.

CUT TO:

10:33:06 INT. CASTLE. VAULT - DAY 3

THE DOCTOR is tied to a pillar in the corner, head sunk on his chest.

Production has gone into overdrive. Liquid gold spurts into from the great spout high above their heads. Giant circuit boards are being stacked up.

KNIGHT (V.O.)
Engine capacity at forty eight per cent.

THE DOCTOR wakes up with a start.

THE DOCTOR
Not enough. That's not enough. It'll never make orbit.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
That's the engines! Building in power.
StupidSheriff. Stupid, stupidSheriff.
Stupid, stupid things.

QUAYLE's WARD sits by him, eating her meagre rations.

He looks round and see QUAYLE's WARD staring at him.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
What are you looking at.

CUT TO:

10:33:37 EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. ENCAMPMENT - DAY 3

CLARA's blurred POV.

At last she comes round. ROBIN is towards her, toying with the golden arrow from the tournament, his face expressionless.

CLARA manages a weak smile.

CLARA

Hi.

ROBIN

The time for games is over.

CLARA looks worried.

CUT TO:

10:33:48 INT. CASTLE. VAULT - DAY 3

WARD

I think I understand you. The Sheriff is using the gold to repair something?

THE DOCTOR

That's the principle. But he's a moron. If he tries to fly his ship, it'll explode and wipe out half the country.

He looks round.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

What we need is a little riot.

The WARD starts to untie THE DOCTOR's bonds.

He whispers in her ear.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

(sotto)

Spread the word.

CUT TO:

10:34:12 EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. ENCAMPMENT - DAY 3

ROBIN is now surrounded by the rest of the MERRY MEN. They all look equally grim.

ROBIN

You will tell me everything that this Doctor knows about Robin Hood and his Merry Men.

CLARA

What is this? Why are you interrogating me?

ROBIN

And then you will tell me exactly who this Doctor is and what are his plans.

CUT TO:

10:34:28 INT. CASTLE. VAULT - DAY 3

THE DOCTOR still seems to be tied to the pillar. A KNIGHT stomps up to him and QUAYLE's WARD. It scans THE DOCTOR.

KNIGHT

You are fit for labour.

It turns its head to the WARD.

KNIGHT (CONT'D)

Stand aside while this peasant unit is freed.

THE DOCTOR

I'm afraid you're a little late.

KNIGHT

Explain.

THE DOCTOR

I'm already free!

He swings his arms round from behind the pillar and grabs a gold plate from the pile of treasure at his feet.

FX: The KNIGHT's crossed purple lasers shoot out. But THE DOCTOR deflects them with the plate!

The beams shoot off into the shadows. Instant panic!

FX: The KNIGHT fires again. This time, the WARD deflects the beams with a gold framed mirror. The laser beam hits another of the KNIGHTS, blowing its head off and sending it spinning into oblivion.

The other KNIGHTS immediately prepare for an assault.

But the PEASANTS are prepared. As one, they lift up all the reflective treasure they can find. Shields, mirrors, golden plates.

Battle commences!

CUT TO:

10:35:00 INT. CASTLE. 'BRIDGE' - DAY 3

The SHERIFF, flanked by his KNIGHTS has a map of England spread out over the table. Like a child, he's busily colouring in the various counties and has scrawled in the spaces the word *MINE*.

SHERIFF

Mine, mine, mine.

He chuckles to himself.

KNIGHT

Engine capacity at seventy five percent. Building.

FX: The SHERIFF glances down at a monitor. And his face falls. The Vault is in turmoil as THE DOCTOR leads the riot against the KNIGHTS.

SHERIFF

'Sblood! Who will rid me of this turbulent Doctor?!

He stalks out of the room.

CUT TO:

10:35:25 INT. CASTLE. VAULT - DAY 3

Zappppp!

THE DOCTOR and the PEASANTS line the walls, holding their reflective gold objects.

THE DOCTOR
Everyone, it's the last one!

FX: The last of the KNIGHTS fires - and its lasers blast criss-crosses the vault, ricocheting round and round, then rebounding on itself. The KNIGHT explodes in fragments.

The PEASANTS cheer!

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Right, out! Everybody out! Quickly!

He flings open the door of the vault and the PEASANTS stream out into the sunshine.

QUAYLE's WARD stops on the threshold.

WARD
You've saved us all, clever one. Thank you.

She kisses him on the cheek - and dashes out.

THE DOCTOR puts a hand to his cheek. His face falls.

KNIGHT (V.O.)
Engine capacity at eighty per cent.

The robot voice galvanises him. But suddenly -

SHERIFF (O.S.)
You are indeed an ingenious fellow, Doctor.

THE DOCTOR turns. The SHERIFF is in the doorway, flanked by two KNIGHTS.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
But do you really think your peasants' revolt can stop me?

THE DOCTOR

I rather think you're the revolting one around here..

(to himself, appalled)

Bantering! I'm *bantering!*

(to Sheriff)

Listen to me! You don't have enough gold content to seal the engine breach. If you try and take off, you'll wipe out half of England.

SHERIFF

Liar! From my sky-vessel I shall rule omnipotent.

The vault vibrates wildly.

THE DOCTOR

You pudding-brained primitive, *shut down the engines!*

The SHERIFF clicks his fingers and the KNIGHTS stomp towards THE DOCTOR.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

What you're doing will alter the course of history!

SHERIFF

I sincerely hope so. Or I wouldn't be bothering!

FX: The purple laser fire begins to build. The crosses hover over THE DOCTOR's face.

THE DOCTOR

Listen to me! It doesn't have to end like this. Shut it all down. Return Clara to me and I'll do what I can to help you -

SHERIFF

Return Clara?? I do not have her.

THE DOCTOR

Robin's one of yours!

The SHERIFF suddenly holds up his hand and the KNIGHTS don't fire.

SHERIFF

What did you say?

THE DOCTOR

He's one of your tin-headed puppets,
just like these brutes here.

SHERIFF

(laughs)

Robin Hood is not one of mine.

THE DOCTOR

Of course he is! He's a robot! Created
by one of your mechanical mates!

SHERIFF

Why would they do that?

THE DOCTOR

To pacify the locals! Give them false
hope! He's the opiate of the masses...

He tails off. It suddenly sounds...

SHERIFF

Why would we create an enemy to fight
us? What sense would that make. That
would be a *terrible* idea.

THE DOCTOR

Yes. Yes, it would, wouldn't it? That's
a rubbish idea. Why would you do that.
But he can't be.

(It's starting to dawn on him
- the terrible, terrible
truth)

No! No, He *can't* be, he's not real, he's
a legend!

ROBIN (O.S.)

Too kind!

They all look up.

HERO CLOSE UP. In the minstrels' gallery at the top of the huge
banner stands - ROBIN!

ROBIN (CONT'D)

And this legend does not come alone!

CLARA peeks round from behind him.

CLARA

Hiya!

She grabs ROBIN, as he plunges a dagger into the boar's head banner and --

- ziiiiiiip! -

- slices through the material, sliding them both down to floor level as though on a lift!

ROBIN casually dusts himself down, then hurls the dagger at the SHERIFF - who bats it away.

ROBIN

You alright?

CLARA

Oh yeah!

The robot KNIGHTS clomp forward.

SHERIFF

No! This one's all mine!

He pulls out his control device and jabs at it. The Knights power down, their helmeted heads sinking onto their chests.

The SHERIFF swishes his sword and squares up to ROBIN.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

What do you say outlaw! A final reckoning!

ROBIN smiles and draws his sword.

THE DOCTOR smiles at CLARA.

THE DOCTOR

You ok?

CLARA

Fine., yeah

THE DOCTOR

Good. We don't have long.

CLARA

Doctor...

THE DOCTOR

(nods)

I know. The whole castle's going to
blow.

He looks over towards the tapestry on the wall. He and CLARA exchange a look.

The SHERIFF's sword whistles over ROBIN's head and he manages to back ROBIN towards the wall. He smashes ROBIN's sword from his hand. ROBIN is totally defenceless.

SHERIFF

You have long been a thorn in my side.

ROBIN

Well everyone should have needs a hobby,
mine's annoying you.

SHERIFF

I'll have you boiled in oil at the
castle...

ROBIN

Can you make it a bit earlier, that's
a little past my bedtime.

SHERIFF

The end draws near for you.

ROBIN

No. I rather think it's you that's
facing the final curtain!

The SHERIFF turns to see THE DOCTOR tearing down the tapestry. In one elegant gesture, he flings it over the SHERIFF. He flails helplessly around.

ROBIN seizes the SHERIFF's sword and, swinging it round in an enormous arc, decapitates the SHERIFF!

His head, wrapped in the tapestry, rolls across the floor.

The SHERIFF drops to his knees -

CLARA
Brilliant, Robin, Brilli -

FX: - and then the SHERIFF's headless body gets up again!!

CLARA (CONT'D)
Oh, *come on*.

FX: The SHERIFF's severed head rolls from under the tapestry and speaks!

SHERIFF
I forgot to mention, my Lady, that the skyship fell **on** me. And my rude Mechanicals took good care of me. Very. Good. *Care*.

CLARA
You're a robot, too??

SHERIFF
Half of me, my Lady. The rest is talent and pure flair!

FX: The headless body grabs CLARA and points its sword at her throat.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
Surrender! Or the wench dies!

THE DOCTOR and ROBIN exchange glances, then -

FX: ROBIN scoops up the SHERIFF's severed head and tosses it to the headless body - which promptly lets go of CLARA and clicks its head back on!

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
Thank you!

ROBIN
Call it a sporting gesture!

SHERIFF
And one which will cost you your neck!

He swishes his sword.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
I am too much for you, outlaw! The first of a new breed. Half man, half engine!

ROBIN slices through a rope, grabs it and shoots upwards into the ceiling of the vault. The SHERIFF does the same and rockets upwards until they're both on one of the wooden gantries high above THE DOCTOR and CLARA.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
Never ageing, never tiring -

ROBIN
Are you *still* talking?

SHERIFF
Bow down before your new King, you
Prince of Knaves!

THE DOCTOR and CLARA look up as ROBIN attacks, forcing the SHERIFF towards the end of the gantry and then, exactly mirroring the complicated trip up THE DOCTOR used against him in the log bridge, ROBIN up-ends the SHERIFF, kicks him in the rear and -

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
Nooooooooooooo!!!!

The SHERIFF is instantly consumed.

ROBIN slides down the rope back to ground level. His arm is bleeding.

ROBIN
Sorry. Was that er, was that showing
off?

CLARA
That was amazing!

THE DOCTOR
Run!! Come on run!

They all start racing for the exit!!

CUT TO:

10:40:48 EXT. CASTLE - DAY 3

The remaining PEASANTS and the MERRY MEN race from the castle gateway.

FX: They look back to see the keep of the castle rising into the air. Steam gushes from a gouge in the blazing yellow of its engine pods.

THE DOCTOR
There's not enough gold, it'll never
make it to orbit.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Where is it? Where did it go?

CLARA
Where did what go?

THE DOCTOR
The golden arrow!!

ROBIN smiles, turns to TUCK.

ROBIN
Tuck?

TUCK produces the Golden Arrow.

THE DOCTOR
You took it?

ROBIN
Of course we took it.

TUCK
We're robbers.

THE DOCTOR
I love you boys!

CLARA
Doctor, what are you suggesting?

THE DOCTOR
The Golden Arrow, Clara! It might just
be enough gold content to get the ship
into orbit and out of harm's way.

ROBIN
It has to be you. My arm is injured.

THE DOCTOR places the arrow on the string but it falls off. Tries again. Once again it falls.

CLARA

But you're good at this! I saw you! You won the tournament!

THE DOCTOR

I cheated.

CLARA

What?

THE DOCTOR

I made a special arrow with a homing device.

CLARA

Oh *brilliant!* Right, let me have a go.

THE DOCTOR

You? You do Taekwondo! It's not the same thing!

ROBIN

My friends. Surely we can manage it together?

CUT TO:

10:41:49 INT. CASTLE. 'BRIDGE' - DAY 3

KNIGHT (V.O.)

Engine capacity at 90 Per cent.

CUT TO:

10:41:55 EXT. CASTLE - DAY 3

CLARA and THE DOCTOR helps ROBIN pull back the bow string. He winces at the pain from his injured arm.

CUT TO:

The ship begins to rise into the air.

CUT TO:

CLOSE on ROBIN's green eyes, narrowing.

CUT TO:

CLOSE on the Golden Arrow head, glinting in the sunshine.

CUT TO:

WHOOSH!

FX: ROBIN fires the arrow and it shoots up - up - up into the sky, disappearing into the ruptured engine pod.

10:42:02 EXT. CASTLE - DAY 3

FX: The ship shoots up into the atmosphere - with the arrow following.

CUT TO:

10:42:04 INT. CASTLE. 'BRIDGE' - DAY 3

KNIGHT (V.O.)
Maximum power surge.

CUT TO:

10:42:06 EXT. SPACE - DAY 3

FX: - and limps out of Earth orbit, spinning wildly.

CUT TO:

10:42:09 EXT. CASTLE - DAY

The three fall back on to the floor as the ship exits the atmosphere.

10:42:13 EXT. SPACE - DAY 3

BOOOOOOOM!!!

FX: The ship explodes into a billion fragments.

CUT TO:

10:42:22 EXT. CASTLE - DAY 3

In the sky above the castle, a sudden burst of colour, like fireworks.

A huge crowd has gathered to witness this wonder of the age.

ALAN-A-DALE strums a chord.

ALAN-A-DALE

"One Autumn day in Nottingham, bold
Robin Hood was in a jam. His arrows flew,
with truest flight, the Sheriff fought
with all his might..."

WILL

Oh, give it a rest, Alan.

ROBIN bursts out laughing. The rest of the MERRY MEN join in.

THE DOCTOR manages a smile.

CLARA

Still not keen on the laughing thing?

THE DOCTOR

Noooooooo...

CUT TO:

10:42:46 EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. GLADE - DAY 3

Thwakkk!

The arrow hits the target. Bullseye! CLARA cheers - and kisses him on the cheek.

CLARA

I'm going to miss you.
(smiles)
You're very naughty.

ROBIN

I know. Whoever he is, he's a very lucky fellow.

CLARA

Marian is very lucky, too.

ROBIN

I fear not.

CLARA

Don't give up. Not ever, not for one single day.

(Kisses him on the cheek)

Be safe, if you can be. But always be amazing. Goodbye, Robin Hood.

ROBIN

Goodbye, Clara Oswald.

CLARA then smiles, and goes into the TARDIS.

THE DOCTOR is with the rest of the MERRY MEN, saying goodbye.

ROBIN approaches.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

So is it true?

THE DOCTOR

Is what true?

ROBIN

That in the future I am forgotten as a real man. I am but a legend.

THE DOCTOR

I'm afraid so.

ROBIN

Good. History is a burden. But stories can make us fly.

THE DOCTOR

I'm still having a little trouble believing your's I'm afraid.

ROBIN

Is it so hard to credit, that a man born to wealth and privilege should find the plight of the weak and the oppressed too much to bear ...

THE DOCTOR

I know -

ROBIN

... till one night he is moved to steal
a TARDIS and fly among the stars to join
the good fight.

THE DOCTOR stares at him - what??

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Clara told me your stories.

THE DOCTOR, taken aback. Almost floundering.

THE DOCTOR

Well ... she shouldn't have told you
any of that ...

ROBIN

Once the stories began, I could hardly
stop her. You are her hero, I think.

THE DOCTOR

I'm not a hero.

ROBIN

Well, neither am I. But if we keep
pretending to be, perhaps others will
be heroes in our name. Perhaps we will
both be stories.

(Extends his hand to shake
the Doctor's)

May those stories never end.

THE DOCTOR shakes ROBIN's hand.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Goodbye, Doctor, Time Lord of
Gallifrey.

THE DOCTOR

Goodbye, Robin Hood, Earl of Loxley.

ROBIN

And remember, Doctor. I'm just as real
as you are.

A smile between them. Almost complicity.

And THE DOCTOR turns, steps into his TARDIS closes the door.

10:45:28 INT. TARDIS. DAY

CLARA

Wait a minute, you like him.

THE DOCTOR

Well, I'm leaving him a present aren't I?

DISSOLVE TO:

10:45:43 EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. DAY.

ROBIN steps back as, with a grinding roar, it vanishes.

He takes the locket from around his neck and clicks it open. Inside is a tiny, exquisite miniature portrait of a beautiful young woman. A very familiar young woman.

WARD (O.S.)

Robin?

ROBIN looks up.

QUAYLE's WARD is standing on the other side of the glade, smiling at him. She's the girl in the portrait.

WARD (CONT'D)

I've found you at last.

ROBIN

Marian?

ROBIN races towards her and they kiss.

Then ROBIN breaks away, laughing in his hearty way.

He jumps up onto a rock, hands on hips. Then he threads an arrow into his bow and fires it. We zoom along its length as he shoots it towards the camera.

THWAKKKK!!

CUT TO:

10:46:17 NEXT TIME

CUT TO:

10:46:47 END TITLES

CUT TO:

10:47:17 END OF PROGRAMME