

Episode 3 - THE WITCH OF ELSDON

CAST

ROBIN

MARION

GUY OF GISBURNE

THOMAS OF ELSDON

JENNET - THOMAS' WIFE

ABBOT HUGO

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

LITTLE JOHN

WILL SCARLET

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

TUCK

GREGORY (TAX COLLECTOR)

HERNE THE HUNTER

MARTIN)

JAMES)

OUTLAWS (Non-speaking)

Non-speaking Parts/Extras:

Turnkey

2 Abbey Guards

Prisoners (male and female)

3 Clerks

8/9 Mounted Soldiers (Sheriff's men)

Grooms

Castle Guards

Villagers

2 Jews

Outlaws

FADE IN

C.1 MONTAGE DREAM SEQUENCE

From the CAMERA'S P.O.V. TRACK IN through branches to where - enshrouded in mist - HERNE stands motionless. Slowly his image melts away and is replaced with hands imploring - begging. As they in turn melt away, a large sack of grain is revealed. Slowly the sack tips forward and grain begins spilling towards CAMERA. The grain rains down and as it does so it becomes transformed into small silver coins. Again the image vanishes to be replaced by that of a girl standing in shadow. She holds a simple pewter chalice towards CAMERA which PUSHES IN until the chalice fills the screen. As it does so, it is transformed into a human skull.

C.2 INT.

HUT.

DAWN.

ROBIN wakes suddenly and sits up gasping with the shock of his vision. He sits for a moment - his mind going over what he has seen and trying to find a meaning for his dream. At his side, MARION wakes and looks up at him.

MARION
Robin?

ROBIN doesn't answer her. MARION sits up and sleepily puts her arms round him.

MARION
What is it?

ROBIN
Nothing...

C.3 EXT.

FOREST COURT THE VILLAGE

DAY.

A course is being held in the village outside the Moot Hall. ABBOT HUGO and his CLERKS sit on a dais. The ABBOT is whispering to the nearest CLERK. The other two are writing. Their quills scratch busily across the parchment. Slightly to one side of this group the SHERRIF of NOTTINGHAM - HUGO's brother - watches with bored amusement. After a few seconds GISBURNE comes forward followed by JENNET and THOMAS led by GUARDS. GISBURNE bows to the ABBOT who nods a grumpy acknowledgement and then to the SHERRIF who returns the bow with an air of mockery. The VILLAGERS stand around watching the proceedings sullenly.

ABBOT
Proceed.

C.4 EXT.

ROBIN HOOD'S STRONGHOLD.

DAY.

The outlaws are busy arming themselves. LITTLE JOHN, WILL SCARLET, MUCH and TUCK. They are bewildered.

TUCK
Which road?

ROBIN
Towards Rufford.

SCARLET
Why?

ROBIN doesn't answer.

TUCK
A wild goose chase -

SCARLET
On account of a dream!

TUCK
It's daft.

LITTLE JOHN
We don't even know what we're looking
for.

ROBIN
We will when we find it -

ROBIN breaks off as MARION joins them. She carries a bow.

ROBIN
No - I want you to stay.

MARION
Why? Because of the danger? But I -

ROBIN takes her to one side.

ROBIN
Please.

MARION gives up. But she isn't happy about it. But she kisses him.

ROBIN rejoins the others as MARION watches.

ROBIN
Towards Rufford then.

The OUTLAWS set off on foot. MARION turns to watch them go. She is disappointed. She turns to look across at a target. She raises her bow and shoots. The arrow goes into the black.

C.5 EXT.

FOREST COURT.

DAY.

C.U. GISBURNE.

GISBURNE
Witchcraft.

ANOTHER ANGLE

We see GISBURNE and JENNET. He points at JENNET and THOMAS. JENNET is angry rather than scared.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT THE SHERRIF

He watches intently.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE FAVOURING THE ABBOT

ABBOT HUGO and his CLERKS cross themselves in unison.

ABBOT
Are you sure?

GISBURNE
I can prove it, my lord. Jennet of Elsdon and her husband Thomas are devil worshippers.

CUT TO:

REACTION ON SHERRIF

GISBURNE
These people are in their power. They're terrified of them. She even tried to bewitch me my lord Abbot.

JENNET
Rubbish!

ABBOT
(furious)
Hold your tongue, woman, or I'll have it removed!

C.6. EXT. FOREST TRACK. DAY.

A farm cart is approaching quite slowly. it is loaded with several sacks of grain. The driver is GREGORY - one of the SHERRIF'S tax-collectors. He is disguised as a carter.

C.7 EXT. FOREST TRACK. DAY.

ROBIN - leading the others - comes to a stop. The others look at him expectantly.

LITTLE JOHN
Now where?

ROBIN doesn't know. PUSH IN to B.C.U.

CUT TO:

INSERT:

For a second an image of GREGORY and his cart flashes onto screen.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON B.C.U. ROBIN

He reacts to his 'vision'.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

The OUTLAWS watch him. ROBIN moves off at an angle. TUCK reacts as they follow him. Long suffering.

C.8 INT.

MAIN HALL ST MARY'S ABBEY

DAY.

GISBURNE is reading from a parchment.

GISBURNE

(reading)

I swear by Almighty God that Jennet of Elsdon is an evil and malicious witch. She cursed fields to the east of Sauls Wood and the corn became mildewed and rotten. Hugh of Elsdon. I swear by Almighty God that Jennet and Thomas are in league with devils who took my baby and put a changeling in its place. Margaret of Elsdon. I swear by Almighty God -

ABBOT

All right, Gisburne - that'll do -

GISBURNE holds up the parchment.

GISBURNE

Ten such testimonies, my lord.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT THE SHERRIF

He watches intently - cynically.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON ANGLE FAVOURING THE ABBOT.

ABBOT

We'll take 'em as read.

The ABBOT turns to THOMAS and JENNET.

ABBOT
Well?

THOMAS
Ask him who wrote those lies.

ABBOT
Lies villain?

THOMAS
It's not us they're frightened of.

JENNET
(To the VILLAGERS)
We've never harmed any of you!

JENNET singles out one of the village women.

JENNET
Meg. We took away your fever when you
were near to death.

MEG turns away from her.

JENNET
He forced you all to testify - didn't he?
Why don't you speak.

JENNET sees another woman she has helped.

JENNET
Have you forgotten how your child was cured
Alison?
(to ABBOT) They come to us for help. They're
our friends! We heal them!

ABBOT
(with menace)
Oh, so you heal them do you? You
interfere with God's purposes do you?
You've condemned yourself woman.
That's blasphemy.

JENNET
Then shall I tell you the real reason
we're here, my lord Abbot? Because he
wanted me and I refused him!

GISBURNE
You strumpet!

CUT TO:

REACTION ON THE SHERRIF

CUT TO:

RESUME ON GROUP

GISBURNE is furious that the truth has been revealed.

GISBURNE

The devil speaks through her my lord!
She's possessed! What more proof do you
need?

JENNET

Look at his face! There's the real proof!

ABBOT

(shouting with anger)
Be silent!

A pause.

ABBOT

I've heard enough.
The matter is proven. Death by hanging
in four days.

THOMAS goes on his knees to the ABBOT

THOMAS

(weeping)
Not Jennet my lord. I beg you!

ABBOT

You're both witches. (Pointing at
JENNET) You tried to seduce my
Steward. 'Thou shalt not suffer a witch
to live". Exodus. Neither shall ye use
enchantment' Leviticus? Leviticus. Take
them to Nottingham.

GISBURNE makes a sign to the GUARDS and JENNET and THOMAS are bound. JENNET is weeping silently but is otherwise calm. The ABBOT rises. The CLERKS collect their documents and books and begin leaving.

ABBOT

By God, I'm hungry.

He looks over to the SHERRIF who hasn't moved.

ABBOT

Brother...?

The SHERRIF nods and rises. He crosses to GISBURNE.

CUT TO:

TWO SHOT GISBURNE AND SHERRIF.

SHERRIF

What a paragon of virtue you are
Gisburne. I'm really most impressed. If
she'd tried to bewitch me I think I'd be
inclined to let her.

C.9. EXT. VICINITY OF FOREST TRACK. DAY.

ROBIN and THE OUTLAWS move through the trees. Suddenly they see the cart through the trees ahead.

CUT TO:

C.10 EXT. FOREST TRACK. DAY.

GREGORY'S P.O.V. Suddenly ROBIN and the OUTLAWS step out in front of the cart. ROBIN has his hood up over his head.

ROBIN

Good day, friend.

CUT TO:

REVERSE ANGLE

GREGORY

Outlaws!

SCARLET

Aye.

GREGORY looks toward TUCK, who still looks vaguely like a monk.

GREGORY

Why are you with them, Brother?

TUCK

I like 'em.

GREGORY looks at the OUTLAWS. It begins to dawn on him who they are. He looks at LITTLE JOHN. Then at SCARLET.

SCARLET

Scarlet's my name.

GREGORY has heard the name. He knows who they are now. He looks at ROBIN.

GREGORY

You're Robin Hood.

MUCH
(gleefully)
That he is, Aye - that he is! Robin Hood!
Hood! Hood!

GREGORY
You wouldn't rob me, would you? I've
only a few sacks of grain. And they ain't
mine.

LITTLE JOHN
We won't harm you, friend. On your
way.

LITTLE JOHN and the others stand to one side. But ROBIN still stands directly in front of
the cart looking hard at GREGORY.

ROBIN
Is it yours?

GREGORY
Eh?

ROBIN
The grain.

GREGORY
No. Neighbours of mine at Barnley.
Bondsmen scratching a living from bits
of land, our masters don't want.

LITTLE JOHN
Come on, Robin. Let him go.

ROBIN
(ignoring Little John)
What's your name?

GREGORY
James

ROBIN looks hard at GREGORY

ROBIN
Is it?

ROBIN draws his sword. GREGORY is alarmed. The rest of THE OUTLAWS look at ROBIN
as if he has taken leave of his senses. ROBIN walks to the side of the cart.

GREGORY
Here -!

The sword point travels along the sacks, wavers, moves back, and stops. ROBIN plunges the
sword into the sack, ripping it open. Grain pours out mixed with money just as in his dream.

ROBIN
Now, Master carter. I'll have the truth.

GREGORY looks scared.

ROBIN
Get down.

GREGORY scrambles from the cart. Meanwhile the OUTLAWS have fished all the money bags from the sack. ROBIN points his sword at GREGORY's throat.

ROBIN
Speak.

GREGORY
You won't kill me?

ROBIN
Your name.

GREGORY
Gregory - Gregory of Bedford.

TUCK
Hey - I've heard of him. He's a tax-collector!

SCARLET
Is he by God!

TUCK
Aye. Works for the Sherrif.

GREGORY
(desperately)
Yes - but I never wanted to.

ROBIN
Didn't you?

GREGORY
No - I was forced into it. I was you know.

A chorus of ironically sympathetic Ah's.

LITTLE JOHN
Poor little chap.

GREGORY
I hate taking money from people. I do really.

SCARLET draws his sword.

SCARLET
Then I'll put you out of your misery.

GREGORY
Mercy!

TUCK
A fat lot you've shown.

GREGORY

Wait! Listen - listen. I've some money - money of my own. Look! (He produces a little money bag). It's yours. Go on - take it!

LITTLE JOHN

What can we spend it on in Sherwood?

ROBIN

But he can't pass through without being taxed.

SCARLET

Then let's tax him.. a hand.

GREGORY looks terrified.

LITTLE JOHN

Not enough. Make it an arm.

MUCH

Two arms! Two arms!

SCARLET

A poll tax!

GREGORY

A poll tax?

SCARLET

Ay. Your head - you blood sucking leech.

GREGORY collapses in a blubbering heap.

ROBIN

Which should it be, Gregory? Come on. You're the tax collector.

Suddenly LITTLE JOHN points into the distance.

LITTLE JOHN

Robin!

CUT TO:

OUTLAWS P.O.V.

In the distance, riding towards them is a group of eight or nine mounted soldiers.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON OUTLAWS

SCARLET unslings his bow and sets an arrow to it. LITTLE JOHN pulls at the horses bridle turning the cart to straddle the track. Using the cart as cover, the OUTLAWS shoot arrows at the oncoming riders. Two of them crash to the ground. The others dismount and charge forward. The OUTLAWS drop their bows and attack round and over the cart. We see flashes of individual combat. Robin and SCARLET fighting with swords. TUCK with a hefty cudgel. LITTLE JOHN with a huge quarter staff and MUCH with a smaller one. It is a scene of whirling confusion. The OUTLAWS fight in silence, turning and twisting and gradually reducing the odds against them. LITTLE JOHN is wounded in the thigh but fights on, knocking his opponents flying. ROBIN is cut on his shoulder before hacking down his man. Tuck knocks two of them unconscious. The rest run off. During this, GREGORY manages to crawl away unseen. As the fight ends, the OUTLAWS look around. They are the only ones on their feet. SCARLET - his sword bloody comes over to ROBIN. They are both gasping for breath. TUCK, MUCH and LITTLE JOHN join them.

ROBIN
Where's Gregory?

TUCK
Ran off. I reckon.

One of the SOLDIERS raises his head. LITTLE JOHN gives it another bonk with his quarter staff. The head sinks again.

LITTLE JOHN
How did you know about the money?

ROBIN
A little bird told me.

MUCH
(with a sly grin)
Was he a robin?

C. 11 EXT.

FOREST

DAY.

The SHERRIF and GISBURNE are RIDING WITH THE GUARDS marching behind with JENNET and THOMAS.

SHERRIF
I'll have to be careful in the future.

GISBURNE
Careful my lord Sherrif?

SHERRIF
Of you, Gisburne.

GISBURNE
My lord?

SHERRIF
Especially when you don't get what you want.

GISBURNE
I don't understand.

SHERRIF
Don't you?

The SHERRIF looks at him.

GISBURNE
The woman is a witch.

SHERRIF
Yes, of course she is.

The SHERRIF rides on. GISBURNE joins him.

SHERRIF
And a very pretty witch...

C.12 EXT: THE OUTLAWS STRONGHOLD. DAY

The OUTLAWS drive the cart into the stronghold. MARION runs up as ROBIN jumps down and embraces her. TUCK and SCARLET help LITTLE JOHN off the cart. MARION sees LITTLE JOHN's wound and goes to help.

C.13 EXT. FOREST DAY.

The SHERRIF and GISBURNE are riding slowly through the forest with their prisoners and escort behind them. TRACK.

SHERRIF
Shall I tell you why I came to the Court today, Gisburne? To persuade my brother to find another Steward.

GISBURNE stops. He reacts indignantly.

SHERRIF
So that you could work for me.

GISBURNE
And - er - did the Abbot agree?

SHERRIF
In the end I decided not to ask him. This business with the girl has made me think again. You're always making trouble, Gisburne: you provoke people. The killing of the miller for example -

GISBURNE
He knew where Robin Hood was hiding -

SHERRIF
And you lost your temper.

GISBURNE
The Wolfshead must be caught!

SHERRIF
(coldly)
Are you telling me, Gisburne?

For the first time the SHERRIF is chillingly powerful and GISBURNE realises he has gone too far.

GISBURNE
Forgive me, my lord.

The SHERRIF looks at him.

SHERRIF
Don't be too ambitious.

C.14 EXT.

ROBIN HOODS STRONGHOLD

DAY.

MARION is applying mosses to LITTLE JOHN's wound. LITTLE JOHN is drinking a potion. He makes a face.

LITTLE JOHN
What's in this?

MARION
Marjoram, bay and fennel.

LITTLE JOHN
It's foul.

C15 EXT.

FOREST

DAY.

The SHERRIF and GISBURNE continue their journey. Behind them are the GUARDS with JENNET and THOMAS.

SHERRIF
If Robin Hood wants to prance about in Sherwood and worship Herne the Hunter - or any other bogey man - why not let him? He can paint himself bright blue for all I care. There's a price on his head and sooner or later, someone's going to earn it. One of his gang I should think...

They ride on by.

ANOTHER ANGLE

GISBURNE
And the Lady Marion?

CUT TO:

SHERRIF

What about her? The poor girl's gone native. He'll tire of her. It's only a matter of time. One woman and half a dozen men. The perfect recipe for disaster.

CUT TO:

C.16 EXT.

THE OUTLAWS STRONGHOLD.

DAY

MUCH is making a fuss of the horse from GREGORY's cart. He is delighted with it. In back of shot the OUTLAWS are drinking. MARION watches. She is very much out of things. The four of them are fooling around and a bit drunk and clearly very pleased with themselves. MARION watches for a moment or two and then angrily moves off into the forest.

CUT TO:

TUCK

(imitating GREGORY)

"I never wanted to be a tax collector!"

SCARLET

Lying pig!

LITTLE JOHN

I thought he'd die of fright.

ROBIN

He'll die of something else when he gets back to Nottingham.

SCARLET

He won't go!

LITTLE JOHN

Not if he's any sense.

TUCK

He'll have to though won't he? Otherwise they'll think he's gone off with the money!

ROBIN

He's in real trouble is our Gregory.

SCARLET

With any luck they'll hang him

ROBIN's goblet is empty. He looks round for MARION.

ROBIN

Marion!

But she has gone.

ROBIN

Marion?

ROBIN is bewildered. He looks at the others. LITTLE JOHN shrugs. ROBIN gets up a bit unsteadily and goes looking for her. The others continue to fool about.

C.17 EXT.

FOREST POOL

DAY.

LONG SHOT. MARION is swimming.

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN'S P.O.V.

ROBIN arrives at the waters edge. MARION takes no notice.

ROBIN
(calling)
Marion! (pause) - What's wrong?

MARION
(swimming)
Nothing.

ROBIN strips off and dives in. He swims to MARION who tries to swim away. finally he catches her and she turns.

ROBIN
This is daft.

MARION
Oh, I'm daft now, am I?

Again she turns away. ROBIN grabs her arm.

ROBIN
I didn't say that.

MARION
(cutting in)
What am I to you?

ROBIN - still a bit drunk - opens his arms wide.

ROBIN
(expansively)
Everything -

ROBIN tries to embrace her but MARION splashes him and backs away.

MARION
Everything. You're right. Wife, cook,
and nurse.

ROBIN tries to embrace her again. He is getting increasingly amorous.

ROBIN
Come on, Marion - don't be angry -

MARION
Leave off! I had more freedom in
Kirklees Abbey!

She swims off. ROBIN watches her go.

C.18 INT.

HUT.

NIGHT.

ROBIN and MARION lie together under the covering of skins. The moonlight shines on them. They talk very softly.

MARION

I came to Sherwood because I love you. Whatever happens - whatever the danger - I want to be with you.

ROBIN strokes her hair.

ROBIN

We could've been killed today. And if you'd been there -

MARION props herself up on one elbow and looks at him.

MARION

D'you think I'd want to go on living without you?

ROBIN

Marion -

MARION

I'm one of you. I have to be. (a pause)
The boy fights with you -

ROBIN

That's different. He -

MARION

Why? You've taught me to shoot. I can outide any of you.

ROBIN says nothing.

MARION

D'you think they'll spare me if they catch us? (a pause) You know what would

happen to me.

ROBIN pulls her into his arms as if trying to protect her from future danger.

ROBIN

(intensely)

No!

They remain embracing each other. MARION speaks very quietly without looking at ROBIN.

MARION
We're outlaws. All of us. Bound
together by the Powers of Light and
Darkness. Our fate must be shared,
Robin, it must.

0.19 INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE NIGHT.

OPEN CLOSE ON GREGORY. The SHERRIF has him by the throat.

GREGORY
He knew! He knew, my lord!

PULL OUT to see the SHERRIF with his hands round GREGORY's neck. The SHERRIF is beside himself with anger.

SHERRIF
He knew because you told him!

The SHERRIF hurls GREGORY to the floor. GREGORY crawls out of range of the SHERRIF's boot.

GREGORY
No no! I swear by all the -

The SHERRIF has reached him again and hauled the wretched little man to his feet.

SHERRIF
You were terrified, weren't you,
Gregory? So to save your cowardly hide
you gave him the tax money.

GREGORY is being shaken like a terrier shakes a rat.

GREGORY
He knew where it was! He went straight
to it!

The SHERRIF releases GREGORY who collapses to the floor gasping for breath.

SHERRIF
Smell money - can he? See through sack
cloth?

He aims a kick at GREGORY who just manages to avoid it.

SHERRIF
Guards!

The two GUARDS by the door come forward. The SHERRIF struggles to control himself and eventually succeeds.

SHERRIF
Take this villain out and rack him.

GREGORY
(howling with fear)
Mercy my lord! Mercy! Mercy!

The SHERRIF turns away as the GUARDS drag GREGORY out, still crying and pleading incoherently. The SHERRIF picks up a goblet and is about to drink when he catches sight of GISBURNE looking at him.

SHERRIF
Don't look so smug.

GISBURNE
No my lord.

SHERRIF
I was wrong about Robin Hood.

GISBURNE
Yes my lord.

The SHERRIF's insane rage bursts out again.

SHERRIF
Six hundred and eighty silver marks! I
want his head!

GISBURNE
I'll get it for you.

Again the SHERRIF controls himself.

SHERRIF
Don't be stupid. If you go into Sherwood
all you'll get's an arrow in your back. A
damn long one.

SHERRIF drinks.

GISBURNE
Then how my lord? We'll never get him
out - we'd need a ferret.

SHERRIF
I know we'll never get -

There is a long pause.

SHERRIF
What did you say?

GISBURNE
My lord?

SHERRIF
(slowly)
Of course... But that's brilliant
Gisburne... brilliant. Inspired.

He pats GISBURNE on the shoulder.

SHERRIF
A ferret. That's the answer.

COMMERCIAL BREAK.

C20 INT.

CELL. ST. MARY'S ABBEY.

DAY

The cell door is thrown open violently and a group of prisoners - male and female - are revealed. We see GISBURNE with the TURNKEY and TWO ABBEY GUARDS.

GISBURNE

Jennet - wife of Thomas of Elsdon.

THOMAS and his wife JENNET get to their feet.

THOMAS

Where are you taking her?

GISBURNE

Hurry!

THOMAS

By God - Gisburne -

GISBURNE strikes THOMAS to the Ground. The GUARDS pull JENNET from him and drag her out of the cell. The TURNKEY slams the door on THOMAS as he rushes forward. The TURNKEY locks the door again.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT

JENNET looks at GISBURNE with undisguised hatred and contempt. He avoids her eyes.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

GISBURNE turns on his heel and leads the way. The TWO GUARDS close round either side of JENNET and the little party sets off after GISBURNE with the TURNKEY bringing up the rear.

C.21 INT.

COUNCIL CHAMBER

DAY

GISBURNE enters the council chamber where the SHERRIF sits writing. Behind GISBURNE come the TWO GUARDS with JENNET. The SHERRIF looks up.

SHERRIF

Thank you, Gisburne.

It is a dismissal. GISBURNE is furious but he bows stiffly and turns on his heel and marches out. The TWO MEN AT ARMS hesitate. The SHERRIF orders them out with a nod. They turn and go. The SHERRIF looks at JENNET.

SHERRIF

Sit.

JENNET sits on a stool that has been placed in front of the SHERRIF's table. The SHERRIF returns to his writing for a moment. JENNET's eyes take in the council chamber. She is more curious than frightened. The SHERRIF stops writing and looks at her. He folds his hands and props his chin - elbows on the table.

SHERRIF (quietly)

I'm going to save your lives - yours and your man's.

JENNET stares with disbelief. This is the last thing she is expecting to hear.

SHERRIF

You don't believe me - do you?

JENNET

Why should I?

The SHERRIF laughs. then he picks up a goblet and drinks. He laughs again and quite casually throws the remainder of the wine in her face. JENNET remains motionless.

SHERRIF

Have you heard of Robin Hood?

JENNET doesn't answer but her eyes tell the Sherrif that she had.

SHERRIF

I can see that you have. The people's hero, isn't he? You're going to help me catch him.

JENNET

You can burn in hell first.

SHERRIF

Really? And you could burn a good deal sooner. Hanging's a comparatively painless death. I'm sure we could think of something far more imaginative for Thomas. Something you could watch for hours. You might even regret you didn't listen to me.

The SHERRIF throws her a napkin. she wipes her face. He gets up and comes round the table to her.

SHERRIF

Everyone suffers because of these fanatics. Curfew, questionings - imprisonment. And they sit in Sherwood gorging themselves on royal meat. What do you owe them? Did they lift a finger to save you from Gisburne?

A pause.

SHERRIF

I'm offering both of you your lives. In return for you - skill. Don't take too long making your mind up. Or I could change mine.

JENNET

What d'you mean? How could I help you?

The Sherrif is amused.

SHERRIF

Oh, I'm not expecting you to turn them into frogs. You claim to heal people - using plants and berries for your innocent country miracles. With a bit of mumbo jumbo thrown in to impress the yokels.

He comes close to her. He speaks quietly.

SHERRIF

But what about the plans that harm? the poisons growing beside the cures? You know them, don't you? You must. They can take away a man's will can't they? Drive him mad - or render him senseless.

He moves away.

SHERRIF

You're going to prepare such a drug. Nothing fatal. Just something to make them helpless. Then when you are ready -

C. 22 EXT.

SHERWOOD FOREST. (A)

DAY.

JENNET is running through the forest.

SHERRIF (V.O.)

You will escape into the forest pursued by my guards.

C. 23 EXT.

SHERWOOD FOREST. (B)

DAY.

MEN AT ARMS moving cautiously forward as if searching for JENNET. We see GISBURNE behind them, mounted, directing them forward. He and his men are deliberately making a great deal of noise. One of them has a blood-hound on a leash. PULL BACK to see SCARLET and MUCH watching them.

MUCH
What they doin' Will?

SCARLET
Hunting.

MUCH
Like us.

SCARLET
No. Not like us.

SCARLET begins to move away. MUCH follows him. They move fast and in silence.

C.24 EXT.

SHERWOOD FOREST. (C)

DAY.

JENNET moving forward through the undergrowth. Suddenly SCARLET rises from cover and pulls her into hiding. JENNET looks at him in fear, and then at MUCH who grins at her. The sound of GISBURNE and his men can be heard approaching.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

GISBURNE and his MEN moving forward. The angle favours one man in particular. Suddenly an arrow hums through the air and hits him with great force in the chest, knocking him backwards to the ground. GISBURNE and his men freeze. They cover up with their shields. GISBURNE looks around. No one can be seen.

SCARLET (O.V.)
Who's next?

The MEN AT ARMS look anxiously at GISBURNE and then at the trees.

GISBURNE
Show yourselves!

SCARLET (O.V.)
You've come too far, Gisburne.
You're surrounded.

The MEN AT ARMS look anxiously at GISBURNE. He is still looking for the invisible outlaws.

SCARLET (O.V.)
Ten seconds, Gisburne.

GISBURNE (To his MEN)
Pull back.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

SCARLET watches the 'hunting party' from his hiding place, as GISBURNE turns his horse and the MEN AT ARMS pick up their dead comrade. Then he too moves back to where we see MUCH crouched down with JENNET.

JENNET
Are you Robin Hood?

MUCH laughs.

SCARLET
No. Will Scarlet. Why were they after you?

JENNET
They were taking me to be hanged.

SCARLET
Hanged? What for?

JENNET
(bitterly)
Do they need a reason?

SCARLET looks at her. She looks back. SCARLET is attracted to her and JENNET pretends to return the signals. SCARLET straightens up. He pulls her to her feet. He doesn't release her hand immediately. He nods.

SCARLET
Come on.

SCARLET leads the way, followed by JENNET and MUCH.

C.25 EXT. VILLAGE. DAY.

The village is a collection of huts in a clearing. Very primitive. ROBIN together with TUCK and MARION are unloading the grain from the cart, helped by the VILLAGES.

ROBIN
Thank the Sherrif, friends. It's his grain!

C.26 EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. (D) DAY.

SCARLET leading the way. JENNET at his side. MUCH bringing up the rear, talking to himself under his breath, and occasionally chuckling.

SCARLET
Elsdon?

JENNET
Its to the south. I was born there.

Again a look passes between them.

C.27 EXT. VILLAGE. DAY.

The last of the grain has been unloaded.

ROBIN
Don't let the Sherrif's men find it.

TUCK
That's the lot!

MARION takes the reins and the cart begins to turn.

ROBIN
And remember - we may ask you for help
next time!

A woman comes up to ROBIN and kissed his hand.

WOMAN
Bless you Robin. Bless you.

The grateful villagers crowd round the cart as it leaves the village. The villagers affirm their friendship; 'We'll help', 'That we will', etc.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The cart begins to leave the village.

CUT TO:

ROBIN'S P.O.V.

LITTLE JOHN appears striding towards the cart. He has two men with him. One under each arm. They are young and ragged. They look tough. One has a black eye - the other a cut lip. Their faces are bruised.

LITTLE JOHN
They want to join us.

MARION stops the cart.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN
Where d'you find 'em?

LITTLE JOHN
They found me. Asleep. Tried to rob
me.

ROBIN (To MEN)
Are you serfs?

LITTLE JOHN
(nodding)
Bondsmen to the Manor of Sedgely.

He drops them.

ROBIN
Well now you're free.

TUCK (reassuringly)
Free to hang.

ROBIN
(To MEN)
Get on the cart!

The two MEN - their names are MARTIN and JAMES - climb onto the cart groaning in pain. LITTLE JOHN follows. The cart moves on.

LITTLE JOHN
He's Martin and he's James.
Or is it the other way round?

CUT TO:

C. 28 EXT.

FOREST

DAY.

LS. The cart making a slow progress through the forest.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT (TRACK)

LITTLE JOHN
There's a bishop - on his way back to
Lincoln - broken his journey at St.
Mary's.

ROBIN
Think he's worth stopping?

TUCK
The Bishop of Lincoln? You want to see his
palace!

ROBIN
How many men's he got?

LITTLE JOHN
Thirty odd.

ROBIN
Thats too many.

TUCK
Get away!

ROBIN
Seven against thirty?

MARION
Eight.

ROBIN, TUCK and LITTLE JOHN exchange glances. LITTLE JOHN pulls a face. The cart continues on its way.

C. 29 EXT.

OUTLAWS STRONGHOLD.

DAY.

SCARLET, MUCH and JENNET are building a fire when they see ROBIN and the rest of the outlaws approaching on the cart at the other side of the clearing. As the cart stops, JENNET looks across to it. She is curious to see ROBIN and is surprised to see MARION. She didn't know there was a woman with the gang. Her manner is nervous and strained but SCARLET puts this down to her recent ordeal. He gives her a look of reassurance and goes swiftly over to the cart with MUCH at his side.

CUT TO:

THE CART

SCARLET and MUCH come up to it. MUCH begins making a great fuss of the horse as ROBIN, LITTLE JOHN, MARION, TUCK, MUCH, JAMES AND MARTIN jump down.

MARION
Who is she, Will?

SCARLET
She's from Elsdon - her name's Jennet.
Gisburne and his men were after her.

MARION looks compassionately to JENNET and goes over to her during MUCH's speech.

MUCH
Ay, but Will sent 'em packing - didn't
you, Will? Sent 'em packing!

CUT TO:

MARION AND JENNET

MARION comes up to JENNET.

MARION
You're safe with us.

JENNET's guilty tension cracks - and she weeps. MARION tries to comfort her.

C. 30 EXT.

OUTLAWS STRONGHOLD.

NIGHT

OPEN on a chalice-like cup being held up by ROBIN. PULL BACK to see the outlaws in a rough circle round a table.

ROBIN
(quietly and matter of fact)
Herne protect us -

OUTLAWS
Herne protect us.

ROBIN drinks and the cup goes round the table in the following order. MARION, TUCK, SCARLET, JENNET, MUCH, MARTIN, JAMES, and finally LITTLE JOHN who hands it back to ROBIN. As ROBIN puts it down everybody begins talking at once and reaching forward for the food.

C.U. JENNETS P.O.V.

We see JENNET looking at the chalice.

C. 31 EXT.

OUTLAWS STRONGHOLD.

DAY.

It is the following morning and the outlaws are watching the two new recruits wrestling. TUCK acts as unofficial referee, occasionally joining in. It is all very good humoured. SCARLET sits near JENNET who watches everyone carefully. She has regained her resolve to go through with the SHERRIF's plan. MARION sits with ROBIN enjoying the wrestling. Everyone shouts encouragement. MUCH is getting hopelessly over-excited. LITTLE JOHN comes and squats down beside ROBIN.

LITTLE JOHN
Think they'll do?

ROBIN nods. MUCH hurls JAMES to the ground.

ROBIN
When they can shoot a longbow.

MUCH hurls MARTIN to the ground.

LITTLE JOHN
What about the Bishop of Lincoln?

ROBIN shakes his head and laughs.

ROBIN
You never give up do you?

CUT TO:

B.C.U. ROBIN

ROBIN
When will he leave the Abbey?

PULL BACK We realise we are in a different scene. The outlaws are in a group. All are quiet and intent. A raid is being planned.

TUCK
Not much before noon if he's anything
like the rest of 'em.

ROBIN thinks hard. Everyone watches him in silence.

ROBIN
Dark Mere.

LITTLE JOHN
You're right!

SCARLET
Plenty of cover. Its perfect.

TUCK
They won't get there until sunset.

ROBIN
And that's the best time to hit 'em.

SCARLET
Ay. They won't follow us then. Not
after dark!

ROBIN
Then we go. Its settled.

The group begins to break up. ROBIN looks to MARION who is excited by the prospect of action.

MARION comes over to him.

CUT TO:

TWO SHOT

MARION
Will we need the horses?

This is the moment ROBIN has been dreading.

ROBIN
Look. You'll have to stay.

MARION stares at him in disbelief.

ROBIN
Because of the girl. Nothing else.

MARION becomes angry.

MARION
Then let Will stay with her!

ROBIN
Will?

MARION
Why not? He brought her here.

ROBIN
That's nothing to do with it!

MARION's anger grows.

MARION
You promised me!

ROBIN
I can't ask Will to stay. That'd be daft!

MARION is furious. She hacks ROBIN on the shins. It hurts and he grabs his leg and hops in pain.

MARION
You promised!

MARION comes for him, fists swinging. ROBIN retreats, very surprised by the sudden attack. He blocks the blows but doesn't retaliate.

ROBIN
Hey - leave off will you!

The OUTLAWS gather round and begin to laugh. Finally ROBIN grabs MARION and lifts her off her feet. He dumps her on some sacks. An ironic cheer goes up from the OUTLAWS and ROBIN turns away from MARION with a grin, raising his arms like a champion boxer. But MARION hasn't finished. She jumps up and springs onto his back pummeling his head with her fist. ROBIN tries to get her off as the OUTLAWS laugh again. Finally he loses his balance and tumbles to the ground. MARION jumps clear. She grabs a piece of wood and as ROBIN begins to get up - thwacks him across the behind sending him sprawling again. The OUTLAWS continue to laugh.

LITTLE JOHN
Go on Marion- Give him another-

MARION
You keep out of this!

MARION menages LITTLE JOHN who retreats in mock horror causing more laughter from the OUTLAWS. ROBIN gets to his feet. He is laughing with the others. This gets MARION even wilder.

MARION
You grinning great cow pat!

She charges at him and ROBIN grabs her. She trips him, falling on top of him. They roll over and over, finally rolling apart. ROBIN remains on his back postively hooting with laughter. MARION gets to her feet and glares at the OUTLAWS. Then she leaps on her horse and gallops off into the forest. ROBIN gets to his feet, still laughing.

SCARLET
You must be in love!

LITTLE JOHN
A draw! It was a draw!

ROBIN makes to follow her but SCARLET stops him.

SCARLET
Let her go - she'll be back!

LITTLE JOHN
Thats it! Show her whose master!

SCARLET
Let her cool down!

ROBIN
I'm going to.

TUCK
Always been headstrong, has Marion.

ROBIN
Headstrong!

TUCK
Told me once, she wished she was a boy!

ROBIN
I'm glad she isn't!

CUT TO:

ROBIN AND LITTLE JOHN are teaching MARTIN and JAMES to use a long-bow. ROBIN glances round as MARION leaves.

EXT. C.32 FOREST DAY.

LONG SHOT. MARION riding through the forest.

EXT. C.33 ROBIN HOOD'S STRONGHOLD DAY.

JENNET watching SCARLET who is sharpening his sword on a grind-stone operated by a primitive treadle. He staightens up and looks at her.

CUT TO:

LITTLE JOHN AND ROBIN.

MARTIN pulls the long-bow. It takes effort. He releases the arrow. It misses the target completely.

ROBIN
Don't hold your breath.
(To LITTLE JOHN)
Much'll stay with the girl.

LITTLE JOHN moves ROBIN away from JAMES and MARTIN.

TRACK

LITTLE JOHN
So we're down to six.

ROBIN

And two of them couldn't hit a barn door.

LITTLE JOHN

Call it off.

ROBIN

No. (pause) Are six enough?

LITTLE JOHN

Maybe.

ROBIN

And maybe not, eh?

LITTLE JOHN

No. They could kill the lot of us.

ROBIN

They could. And all because you want to rob a bishop.

LITTLE JOHN

I can wait. There'll be other bishops.

ROBIN

We're going for this one.

CUT TO:

SCARLET is giving JAMES a lesson in swordsmanship. They are both fighting two-handed. SCARLET keeps stopping and demonstrating. MARTIN watches.

CUT TO:

JENNET is now helping TUCK and MUCH with the meal. She leaves them and hurries to the entrance to a cave, carrying a large earthen ware pitcher.

C. 34 INT.

CAVE

DAY.

The cave is small - little more than a natural pantry and store-room for the outlaws. JENNET comes into it and goes to a barrel on a stillage. She kneels down and draws off a pitcherful of mead. Crouching over the pitcher, she takes a pouch from her skirt and sprinkles a quantity of dried herbs into the pitcher. She mutters her invocation quickly.

JENNET

(hardly audible)

Eko Arada Eko Eko Arada

Bagabi lacha bachabe lamac

Samahac atha sabalyas!

EXT. C. 35

VICINITY FOREST POOL.

DAY.

MARION rides up to the pool and dismounts. She is still angry. She kneels down and scoops up water to wash her face. Gradually she becomes calm, although she is still thinking about her fight with ROBIN. Finally, she begins to see the ridiculous side of it. She giggles. The giggles grow to laughter and the laughter grows as she re-lives the quarrel. finally she calms down and sits back. The whole experience leaves her at peace with her surroundings.

C.36 EXT.

OUTLAWS STRONGHOLD.

DAY.

The outlaws are gathering for their meal. As they seat themselves, TUCK and MUCH pile the food onto the table. JENNET comes with the pitcher and fills the chalice which is on the table in front of ROBIN. SCARLET grins at her but she avoids his eyes. ROBIN holds up the chalice.

ROBIN

Herne protect us!

OUTLAWS

Herne protect us!

ROBIN drinks and passes it round. He is slightly puzzled by the taste. JENNET watches carefully. The chalice returns to ROBIN and he puts it down. The outlaws begin to cut at the meat on the table in front of them. Every one talks at once. SCARLET looks over to JENNET.

SCARLET

Come and eat!

JENNET

I'm not hungry.

CUT TO:

ROBIN

(To LITTLE JOHN)

We'll block the road with a couple of trees.

LITTLE JOHN

Ay - its narrow enough. And if we -

LITTLE JOHN breaks off as ROBIN's face contorts as the poison reaches his stomach.

LITTLE JOHN

What is it?

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The scene becomes unreal as one by one the outlaws react to the potion.

ROBIN makes a grab for the chalice as he gets to his feet. He is rapidly losing full consciousness. The chalice falls from his hand. The outlaws rise from the table as if drunk except their faces reveal that they are in pain. It is a scene of confusion as they clutch at their throats. breathing is agony for them and they begin to collapse. The scene becomes one of slow motion. SCARLET is one of the last to fall and JENNET can't look at him. ROBIN makes a tremendous effort to reach JENNET.

CUT TO:

ROBIN'S P.O.V.

JENNET's image is distorted. For a moment the image of the mysterious girl offering the chalice which turns into a death's head appears. Then the distorted image of JENNET returns.

CUT TO:

B.C.U. ROBIN

Sweat pours off him as he struggles to speak.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN collapses. All the outlaws remain conscious but cannot move. Their fingers twitch involuntarily and it is a tremendous effort to breath. Their eyes are glazed with pain. JENNET looks at ROBIN. There is no triumph in what she has done. If anything she is saddened by it. She runs from the clearing.

EXT. C. 37

VICINITY FOREST POOL.

DAY.

MARION becomes aware of a strange sound building up around her. It seems to come from the forest. Her horse grows restive. It rears, neighing in fear its nostrils spread wide - it's eyes staring. The mysterious sound peaks with the horses neigh and then there is silence. Total silence. It could be midnight in the forest.

CUT TO:

MARION'S P.O.V.

The light slants through the trees and, in the distance, almost in silhouette the antlered figure of HERNE can be seen.

CUT TO:

C.U. MARION

She looks towards HERNE.

CUT TO:

MARION'S P.O.V.

As she continues to observe HERNE, his image amongst the trees begins to flicker as in a heat haze. The whole picture begins to go out of focus and there is a sound of whispering mingled with a rustling wind.

MIX TO:

C.38 INT. CAVE DAY.

JENNET crouches over the pitcher and sprinkles the potion into it. The image goes out of focus.

EXT. 0.39 OUTLAWS STRONGHOLD. DAY.

ROBIN collapses.

C.40 EXT. FOREST DAY.

MARION'S P.O.V.

HERNE's image returns.

CUT TO:

C.U. MARION

She stares at HERNE.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE HERNE'S P.O.V.

HERNE moves forward slowly a few paces. MARION remains motionless.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP MARION

MARION is bewildered by her vision but frightened by it at the same time. HERNE seems to speak inside her head.

HERNE (O.V. DISTORT)
The Powers of Light and Darkness are
with you. Use them. Act quickly.

FADE OUT

END OF PART TWO.

C.41 INT. STEPS TO COUNCIL CHAMBER DAY.

GISBURNE - in armour - hurries up the steps to the council chamber.

C.42 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER DAY.

The SHERRIF stands in front of two Jews who stand between GUARDS.

SHERRIF

I won't have Jews in Nottingham. Whip them to the gates.

The GUARDS drag them out in Silence. As they do so, GISBURNE enters.

SHERRIF

Well if it isn't the flower of chivalry himself.

The SHERRIF moves back to his table and sits down.

SHERRIF

What can I do for you?

GISBURNE

It's the third day, my lord.

SHERRIF

I know what day it is, Gisburne. You don't have to ride ten miles to tell me.

GISBURNE

The Abbot is angry

SHERRIF

The Abbot's always angry. He was angry as a child. I've still got the scars.

The SHERRIF writes.

GISBURE

He says - (he hesitates)

The SHERRIF looks up.

SHERRIF

He says what?

GISBURNE

He says that the woman's made a fool of (he hastily corrects himself) - made fools of us all and that -

SHERRIF

(coldly)

You're doing it again Gisburne aren't you?

The SHERRIF leans back.

GISBURNE

My lord?

SHERRIF

Oh never mind.

The SHERRIF looks at GISBURNE. He is amused by the arrogant young man.

SHERRIF

D'you really think she'd betray us? With her precious husband under sentence? I promise you - when she's led you to Robin Hood you'll be able to watch her die as well.

GISBURNE

If she returns my lord.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

SHERRIF

What a worrier you are Gisburne! You must learn patience if you're to take service with me. And tact. You're very short on tact.

GISBURNE

I believe in action, my lord.

SHERRIF

Ah yes action. The eternal excuse for not stopping to think.

GISBURNE

I'm a soldier, sir.

SHERRIF

Exactly. (Calling) Guard!

A GUARD hurries in.

GUARD

My lord.

SHERRIF

Bring in the woman.

The GUARD exits. GISBURNE is astonished. He looks at the SHERRIF.

GISBURNE

What's this my lord?

SHERRIF

(almost casually)

Jennet returned at dawn. The outlaws lie in Sherwood. Powerless to move.

GISBURNE is dumbfounded. The GUARD returns with JENNET. She is tense.

JENNET
My lord Sherrif.

SHERRIF (to JENNET)
You will lead Sir Guy. (To GISBURNE)
As many men as you need, Gisburne.
Don't mess it up this time.

GISBURNE
(angry)
My lord I -
(politely)
Thank you, my lord.

SHERRIF
Very good.

GISBURNE PUSHES JENNET ahead of him and leaves the chamber.

C. 43 EXT. GATEWAY TO NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY.

GISBURNE at the head of a column of men at arms. JENNET rides with him. She doesn't look at him.

C. 44 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER WINDOW DAY.

The SHERRIF holding a goblet, watches from the window as GISBURNE, JENNET and his men head for the distant forest. He turns from the window and raises his goblet in a toast.

SHERRIF
Je bi a vu!

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

We see he is toasting his own reflection.

C. 45 EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST DAY.

JENNET leads the way down one of the forest tracks. She is closely followed by GISBURNE and his men. GISBURNE is still wary and keeps his eye on JENNET ready for any treachery.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

GISBURNE doesn't hurry. His horse is at the walk. The column moves deeper into the forest.

C. 46 EXT. VICINITY OF VILLAGE DAY.

JENNET still leading, begins to approach the village.

C. 47 EXT. THE VILLAGE DAY.

The villagers see JENNET, GISBURNE and his men approaching. Hastily, they collect their things together and make for the safety of their huts. GISBURNE, JENNET and the MEN enter the village and begin to pass through. The place looks deserted. JENNET points ahead.

C.48 EXT. VICINITY OF OUTLAWS STRONGHOLD DAY.

JENNET, GISBURNE and his MEN are nearing the stronghold. JENNET stops. GISBURNE silently signals his men. The MEN come to a halt. JENNET dismounts. GISBURNE does likewise.

JENNET

There!

GISBURNE nods and signals his men forward. JENNET goes with them.

C.49 EXT. OUTLAWS STRONGHOLD DAY.

The outlaws are lying around the clearing apparently drugged. But they are all very strategically placed.

C.50 EXT. VICINITY OF OUTLAWS STRONGHOLD DAY.

GISBURNE with JENNET and his MEN at arms comes into the clearing. He looks around at the outlaws and goes towards ROBIN who is lying near the table, his sword drawn within reach.

GISBURNE

Do you know me, Loxley?

ROBIN'S breathing is tortured. His eyes register fear as GISBURNE bends over him. He pulls ROBIN to him.

GISBURNE

You're a dead man.

But suddenly the drugged man comes to life. Simultaneously, so do all the outlaws. The men at arms are taken completely by surprise. ROBIN throws GISBURNE from him and grabs his sword. LITTLE JOHN stumbles to his feet picking up a quarter staff and braining one of the men at arms. MUCH scrambles to his knees and sends a stone from a sling-shot concealed in his fist, straight at another soldier. WILL SCARLET scythes down another with his sword. TUCK hurls a pitcher at another. MARTIN and JAMES leap on two more, dragging them down. MARION who has been in hiding with her hunting bow, now reveals herself and shoots another of the soldiers in the thigh. JENNET whirls round and takes to her heels. The fight becomes general with LITTLE JOHN setting about the remaining soldiers with his staff and TUCK joining him so that they fight back to back. ROBIN and GISBURNE hack at each other. Several soldiers throw down their arms. As some of them attempt to run, MUCH brings down another. MARTIN and JAMES are into a rough house with four soldiers. The clearing becomes littered with wounded and unconscious men. The remaining men at arms are no match for the outlaws. They have not been trained for this type of fighting. ROBIN loses his sword but gets inside GISBURNE'S guard and wrestles his sword from his grasp. He throws GISBURNE, who crashes down winded. ROBIN regains his sword and stands over him. The remaining men at arms still fighting, see that their leader is beaten and throw down their swords. MARTIN and JAMES are bleeding - so is TUCK. But GISBURNE'S men are beaten.

EXT. C.51

VICINITY OF OUTLAWS STRONGHOLD

DAY.

JENNET - in a panic - is running through the forest.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

MARION running through the forest. She is fast and very determined.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON JENNET

JENNET tears through a shallow stream. The water sprays up round her.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON MARION

She continues to give chase.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON JENNET

JENNET stops for a moment - indecisive - not sure of the way.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON MARION

She splashes through the stream and catches sight of JENNET galncing back. JENNET begins running again and pushes her way through the undergrowth and disappears from MARIONS views.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

MARION reaches the spot where she saw JENNET. She sees some threads on the bushes and one or two broken twigs.

MARION tears through the undergrowth and stops. There is no sign of JENNET. She unslings her bow and sets an arrow to the string. She moves forward slowly.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

JENNET crouches down a few yards from MARION. She watches her. Finally she can bear it no longer and bursting from cover makes a run for it.

CUT TO:

MARION'S P.O.V.

As JENNET runs towards the trees she lifts her hunting bow quickly. She shouts a warning.

MARION
Jennet!

JENNET checks. She looks back at MARION for a moment. The trees are only a couple of yards away. She makes a sudden dash for them. MARION shoots.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT

JENNET is passing by a tree as the arrow pins her to it through her clothing, throwing her against the tree.

EXT. C.52 OUTLAWS STRONGHOLD DAY.

MUCH is busy helping LITTLE JOHN rope together the SOLDIERS. TUCK stands guard over GISBURNE. ROBIN is with him. SCARLET approaches.

SCARLET
Finish the pig.

LITTLE JOHN
Yes - finish him.

ROBIN
What d'you say to that?

GISBURNE
Animals!

TUCK
But I like animals.

ROBIN
Animals are we? Who took away our rights as men?

GISBURNE
Your rights! You've no rights, Wolfshead.

SCARLET
String him up.

ROBIN goes very close to GISBURNE.

ROBIN
What's your life worth?

GISBURNE
Not a single penny.

CUT TO:

MARIOND and JENNETS P.O.V.

MARION approaches the clearing with JENNET, whose head is bowed. She is weeping. The OUTLAWS turn and stare as MARION brings her to the central group. SCARLET turns from GISBURNE to face JENNET. He is very bitter.

SCARLET

And what about this one?

"Taking you to be hanged" were they?

And I believed it!

MARION

She was to be hanged. And her husband with her.

SCARLET

Husband! Ah, so you bargained did you? Our lives for yours - eh? You're a sweet one aren't you?

MARION

(quietly)

Leave her be.

SCARLET

We'd all be dead because of her if you hadn't saved us.

JENNET

I had no choice! D'you think I could stand by and watch them torture him? Oh, Thomas -Thomas!

SCARLET turns away. ROBIN looks at the weeping girl. MARION looks at him. ROBIN turns to look at GISBURNE.

ROBIN

Not worth a penny eh? Let's see if you're worth another man's life.

C. 53 EXT.

NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

DAY.

L.S. We see what appears to be GISBURNE riding towards the castle. (It is in fact ROBIN dressed in GISBURNE'S helmet and armour.)

C. 54 EXT.

GATEHOUSE TO NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

DAY.

ROBIN rides in under the gate. The GUARDS only recognise the armour and heraldry of Sir Guy of Gisburne and let him pass.

C. 55 EXT.

STEPS LEADING TO COUNCIL CHAMBER

DAY.

ROBIN (we still don't see his face) mounts the steps to the council chamber.

C. 56 EXT.

COUNCIL CHAMBER

DAY.

ABBOT HUGO has arrived in NOTTINGHAM. The De RAINAULT brothers are already celebrating. The ABBOT is getting very drunk. The SHERRIF puts up with it but finds his brother boorish at the best of times.

HUGO

Why don't you stick their heads over the main gate. That's what I'd do! A permanent reminder to the rest of the Nottingham rabble.

SHERRIF

I'm not a gamekeeper, Hugo. And aren't you forgetting the prevailing wind blows from that direction? I'd like them forgotten as quickly as possible.

HUGO

And what do we do with Marion?

SHERRIF

I'm inclined to think we should pardon her - don't you?

HUGO

Ah yes. Why not? We'll be magnanimous. Then we can get her out of the country. Tiresome creature.

SHERRIF

Exactly. Marry her to the highest bidder.

They drink. The door opens and ROBIN comes into the council chamber.

SHERRIF

Well? - where's the villains head?

ROBIN steps forward taking off Gisburne's helmet, which he throws unceremoniously to one side.

CUT TO:

C.U. ROBIN

ROBIN

On the villains shoulders.

ANOTHER ANGLE

There is a moment of stunned silence. Then the SHERRIF calls for help.

SHERRIF

Guards!

TWO GUARDS come in. They stare at ROBIN in bewilderment.

SHERRIF

Kill him!

ROBIN meets them half way. He smashes one across the face with his mailed fist, ducks under the second guards sword as it slices through the air to decapitate him, jams the man's sword arm against his throat and rams him against a pillar knocking him unconscious. It is all done with great speed and skill. Then he spins round to face the SHERRIF who has drawn his sword. He walks forward. The SHERRIF retreats still holding his sword. ROBIN makes a sudden move as if about to attack and the SHERRIF leaps back. ROBIN looks at him.

ROBIN

(quietly)

Put up your sword man. I'm here to talk.

The ABBOT who has sobered up very quickly and like all bullies is a dreadful coward has taken refuge behind a high-backed chair over which he nows peers.

ABBOT

Talk. Yes, yes. No swords - no swords
Robert!

SHERRIF

Where's Gisburne?

ROBIN

Where d'you think?

SHERRIF

Murdered?

ROBIN

Alive.

ABBOT

(to SHERRIF)

You see. You see. The girl betrayed you
after all!

SHERRIF

(the light dawns)

So Gisburne's your hostage?

ROBIN nods.

SHERRIF

What d'you want?

ROBIN

Thomas of Elsdon.

SHERRIF

(ironically)

But he's been sentenced to death.
Suppose I tell you I don't care what
happens to Gisburne?

ROBIN

And your men?

SHERRIF
(with a shrug)
Soldiers have a habit of dying. Its an occupational hazard. So you have nothing to bargain with, have you?

ROBIN
Haven't I?

ROBIN draws his sword. The SHERRIF raises his.

ABBOT
No Robert. He'll kill both of us!

The SHERRIF comes at ROBIN. He is out of practise but it is clear the has been a swordsman. But ROBIN is angry and attacks hard disarming his opponent fairly quickly, catching the sword in his left hand as it arcs through the air. Then he puts a sword each side of the ABBOT'S neck. The ABBOT sweats and trembles. He cannot speak for fear.

ROBIN
You'd - like - Gisburne back wouldn't you Abbot?

ABBOT
(faintly)
Yes.

ROBIN
Can't hear you.

ABBOT
(roaring)

I'd like him back!

ROBIN
Good. (To the SHERRIF) He'd like him back.

ROBIN takes the swords away from the ABBOT'S neck. ROBIN hurls the SHERRIF'S sword away from him and puts his own at the SHERRIF'S throat. He moves him back until the SHERRIF is forced to sit at his table. Then he points at a quill pen.

ROBIN
You can kill a man with that feather - can't you? Or you can save his life.

The SHERRIF picks up the quill. He looks at the ABBOT who nods frantically. He dips the quill into ink and begins to write.

CUT TO:

ROBIN watches him.

c. 57 EXT. VICINITY OUTLAWS STRONGHOLD. DAY.

The OUTLAWS are having a rough game with GISBURNE. The MEN AT ARMS are all roped together in a kind of pen which is being guarded by MUCH.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

JENNET waits anxiously with MARION.

ANOTHER ANGLE

GISBURNE has been suspended over a trench filled with water. He is upside down and being swung to and fro like a pendulum so that at the lowest point, his head just hits the water. Each time the pendulum swings, there is a suitable roar of approval from the outlaws. It is basically good-humoured and yet there is an underlying cruelty.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT

LITTLE JOHN is up in one tree pushing GISBURNE.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT

TUCK is in the other.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN - still wearing GISBURNE's armour - appears through the trees. With him - also mounted - is JENNET's husband THOMAS.

CUT TO:

MARION, JENNET AND MUCH's P.O.V.

Marion sees ROBIN, followed by JENNET and MUCH. JENNET is overjoyed. She runs towards the two riders as they rein their horses and dismount. MARION follows.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

JENNET reaches THOMAS and they embrace. JENNET is sobbing with emotion as THOMAS holds her. We see SCARLET watching. He turns away. ROBIN comes to MARION - he holds her by the shoulders and looks at her for a long moment before gently bringing her to him and kissing her.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

LITTLE JOHN jumps down from his tree and TUCK does the same. SCARLET, JAMES and MARTIN run over to ROBIN and the others and GISBURNE's pendulum starts to decrease.

ROBIN
(holding the SHERRIF's pardon)
They're safe.

LITTLE JOHN
What is it?

ROBIN

A gift from the Sherrif and his brother.

TUCK

Eh up, look at this! The seal of Nottingham. And the Abbey of St. Mary's.

LITTLE JOHN

So Gisburne's worth something after all!

TUCK remembers GISBURNE.

TUCK

Gisburne!

He looks towards him

CUT TO:

TUCK'S P.O.V. of GISBURNE

The pendulum has stopped swinging leaving GISBURNE upside down in the trench of water with his head just under water. He is taking in rather a lot and is in danger of drowning.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON GROUP

LITTLE JOHN leads everyone as they run back to where GISBURNE hands suspended. LITTLE JOHN unties the rope and drops the exhausted man into the trench. GISBURNE crawls out and collapses on the ground. TUCK makes a blessing over him.

TUCK

Bless you my son.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN and MARION watching.

ROBIN

It wasn't Gisburne's life I bargained with.

MARION looks questioningly at him.

ROBIN

It was the Sherrif's.

CUT TO:

B.C.U. ROBIN

ROBIN

And now he'll hunt me till one of us is dead.

EXT. C.58

VILLAGE

DAY.

ROBIN and the rest of the OUTLAWS comes into the village. With them are THOMAS and JENNET. The VILLAGERS who are working turn and stare and gradually the rest of the VILLAGERS come out to join them. But distance separates them from THOMAS and JENNET. There is a murmur of surprise at the sight of THOMAS AND JENNET. But the VILLAGERS also feel ashamed - remembering how their fear of GISBURNE caused them to betray them. ROBIN looks at the VILLAGERS and then THOMAS and JENNET separate themselves from the group of OUTLAWS and walk forward until they stand alone between the two groups.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The VILLAGERS find it hard to face THOMAS and JENNET.

CUT TO:

SINGLE ON JENNET

She holds out her arms.

CUT TO:

ROBIN and the OUTLAWS watch.

CUT TO:

THE VILLAGERS

They stand uncertainly - still feeling ashamed. Nobody moves.

Then suddenly a child runs from the group of VILLAGERS.

CHILD
Jennet! Thomas!

The CHILD reaches JENNET and hugs her. JENNET crouches down and kisses the CHILD, finally picking her up in her arms. The tension has been broken and the VILLAGERS surge forward. In a moment THOMAS and JENNET are surrounded by welcoming friends.

WOMAN
Can you forgive us.

JENNET
There's nothing to forgive.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON TUCK AND LITTLE JOHN. TUCK is standing in front of LITTLE JOHN.

TUCK
Brings tears to your eyes, doesn't it?

Still with his eyes on the reconciliation taking place in front of him, TUCK takes a step back.

LITTLE JOHN
It will if you don't get off my foot!

CUT TO:

ROBIN and MARION

MARION
So Gisburne goes free.

ROBIN
To face the Sherrif. And for a while
we'll be left in peace.

MARION
But not for long.

ROBIN
No - they'll try again.

SCARLET
And we'll be ready for 'em.

ROBIN
We'll be ready (He looks at MARION) All
of us!

MARION kisses him. She feels she has finally been accepted as part of the outlaws group.
PULL BACK as the VILLAGERS begin welcoming the OUTLAWS who mingle with them as
we -

FADE OUT

END OF EPISODE.