

" THE PROPHECY "

CHARACTERS

ROBIN
HERNE
LITTLE JOHN
MARION
TUCK
SCARLET
MUCH
NASIR
GISBURNE
MARK
DE LEON
TODD THE POTTER
PRINCE JOHN
ABBOT HUGO
SIR RICHARD OF LEAFORD

Non Speaking

FISHERMEN
MONKS
GUARDS
SOLDIERS
SERVANTS
PRINCE JOHN'S NOBLEMEN

FADE IN

D.1 INT.

HERNE'S CAVE

DAY D.1

Light from a fire throws shadows on the cave walls of the figures of HERNE and ROBIN standing together as ROBIN hands the chalice to him. TILT DOWN to discover them. Slowly, HERNE - his tangled hair giving him a wild appearance - drinks from the chalice. ROBIN waits as HERNE seats himself in front of the fire and begins to breathe heavily. ROBIN crouches down beside him. HERNE'S eyes close. He begins muttering incoherently.

ROBIN
(quietly)
Herne?

HERNE begins shaking as if feverish but his eyes remain shut. His muttering continues. He becomes increasingly agitated.

HERNE
Who - who - strikes....him
down?

HERNE's voice dies away into muttering again. ROBIN watches him and waits patiently. Again HERNE struggles to speak.

HERNE
From the Devil they came...
To the Devil they will
return... (loudly) The lion!

ROBIN
(to himself)
The lion....?

Once again, HERNE's voice dies away to a dull muttering.

ROBIN
D'you mean the king?

HERNE
He falls....dies...

ROBIN
King Richard?

Again, HERNE ignores ROBIN's question but suddenly he is shaken by another bout of violent trembling and grips ROBIN fiercely. ROBIN tries to calm him. After a further pause, HERNE begins again as fresh images race through his drugged mind.

HERNE

Lackland - some call him
Softsword - He comes...

ROBIN

Prince John!

HERNE

...a prisoner...from the dead
- a prisoner! One close to
you - save him!

HERNE twitches uncontrollably and ROBIN restrains him.

ROBIN

Who is this prisoner?

HERNE remains silent.

ROBIN

Who is he?

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

MAIN TITLE SEQUENCE

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

D.2 INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY D.2

GISBURNE is standing on the Sheriff's dais looking down at LITTLE JOHN who is bound. After a moment, GISBURNE throws a small bag of coins to the CAPTAIN. Then he comes down the steps to LITTLE JOHN.

GISBURNE
It was only a matter of time
before I caught one of you.
Where is Robin Hood?

LITTLE JOHN
Sherwood

GISBURNE
Very funny. Where in
Sherwood?

LITTLE JOHN remains silent.

GISBURNE
You're going to die anyway.
I'll make it quick if you tell
me -

LITTLE JOHN
And slow if I don't

GISBURNE
That's it

LITTLE JOHN
Take your time then.

GISBURNE
Get this scum out of my sight!

D.3 EXT. SHERWOOD BY THE STREAM DAY D.3

ROBIN and the OUTLAWS are by the stream looking around at the trampled grass. ROBIN holds LITTLE JOHN's fishing rod.

ROBIN
(quietly)
"One close to me." So Little
John was the prisoner...

MARION
Robin?

ROBIN
(slowly)
Something Herne said ... I
didn't understand it then.

SCARLET
He put up a fight.

ROBIN
There were too many of 'em.
Even for John.

D.4 INT. CELL. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY D.4

LITTLE JOHN is sitting on the floor of the cell with a group of prisoners when they hear the sound of struggling from above. The grille is hurled back and a young man - MARK - is thrown down into the cell. He jumps to his feet immediately. He is a tall well-made man with a tough and cheerful manner which inspires confidence.

MARK
Hey, you! This floor a'int
been swept for weeks!

The grille clangs shut.

MARK
I'm talking to you, you ugly
swine!

The OLD PRISONER comes forward with his rat.

OLD PRISONER
Say hello to Arthur -

The MEN AT ARMS take no notice of MARK who stands watching them
leave.

LITTLE JOHN
What's your name lad?

MARK
What's yours?

LITTLE JOHN
(Amused)
Little John.

OLD PRISONER
You'll never get out of here.

MARK
You're with Robin Hood.

LITTLE JOHN
I was.

OLD PRISONER
Feet first - it's the only
way.

MARK
My name's Mark. I didn't
think they'd ever catch any of
you.

OLD PRISONER

Arthur knows - don't you Arthur.

MARK

I tried to join you once. Searched for three days all over Sherwood - not a sign of you. And I thought I knew the forest.

LITTLE JOHN

What are you in here for?

MARK

Caught carrying a bow. And I didn't even have any arrows (a wink) I'd shoved 'em down a rabbit hole, hadn't I?

OLD PRISONER

Never get out of here.

LITTLE JOHN

The bow'd be enough.

MARK

It was.

OLD PRISONER

Feet first.

MARK

What'll they do to you?

LITTLE JOHN

Hang me - when they've finished.

OLD PRISONER

Only way out of here.

LITTLE JOHN

Gisburne wants the lot of us. And all the people who help us.

MARK

Think Robin'll try to get you out?

LITTLE JOHN
I know he will.

D.5 INT. HALL. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY D.5

GISBURNE is dictating a letter to a MONK who sits at a table with a quill pen which scratches noisily over the parchment.

GISBURNE
Guy of Gisburne to Robert de Rainault High Sherrif of Nottingham, greetings. Know that this day, John Little of Hathersage called by others Little John -

A SERVANT appears. GISBURNE is angry he has been interrupted.

GISBURNE
What is it, man?

PETER de LEON, PRINCE JOHN's Seneschal, comes in. Like his master, he is a young man, very smooth and charming. To him, GISBURNE is unsophisticated, but he is polite to him. PETER is a courtier and makes himself agreeable to everyone.

PETER de LEON
(bowing)
My master's at Newark and commands that you prepare for his arrival here, tomorrow.

GISBURNE
Commands?

PETER de LEON
I'm Peter de Leon, my Lord. Seneschal to the most noble prince, John - Count of Mortain and Lord of Gloucester.

GISBURNE
Prince John? But - but I thought -
GISBURNE'S manner changes abruptly on learning who his guest is. The pace of the scene is brisk.

PETER de LEON

That he was with the king in Normandy? He's his father's son, Sir Guy - and we all know King Henry took some keeping up with don't we?

GISBURNE

But - but the High Sherrif's at Westminster -

PETER de LEON

Aren't you acting for him?

GISBURNE

Yes but I'm a soldier - not a courtier - and I've no -

PETER de LEON

The Prince is also a soldier -

GISBURNE

Yes, I know, but - don't misunderstand me - I'm honoured to receive him it's just - well - all the details of - of - you know -

PETER de LEON

That's why he sent me. - Although I'm sure you'd manage perfectly well on your own. Nevertheless -

GISBURNE

Exactly. Its - the personal things. Er - what he eats for example -

PETER de LEON

His cook travels with him. Prepares everything. (pause) And tastes it first.

GISBURNE

Of course. Er - does the Prince like music?

PETER de LEON

Not particularly. He has other diversions. But they'll be coming with him.

GISBURNE
Why is he visiting Nottingham?

PETER de LEON
I expect he'll tell you that.
And if he doesn't, don't ask.
Oh - he has a bath every two
days.

GISBURNE is staggered.

GISBURNE
- whatever for?

PETER de LEON
It's his custom.

GISBURNE
How extraordinary.

PETER de LEON
He's an extraordinary man. By
the way - if - if he - how
shall I put it - if he becomes
irritated - leave him.

GISBURNE
Leave him?

PETER de LEON
Immediately. Simply bow - and
go.

GISBURNE
But why?

PETER de LEON smiles.

PETER de LEON
It's safer.

D.6 EXT. COURTYARD. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY D.6

GISBURNE is with PETER de LEON as he mounts up and prepares to
leave.

PETER de LEON
One final thing, Sir Guy.
The castle walls -

GISBURNE
The walls?

PETER de LEON
Parts appear to be crumbling
away. It would be politic to
begin repairing them when
Prince John arrives. He tends
to notice things like that.
I'll see you tomorrow then -

PETER de LEON rides out of the castle. GISBURNE stands
indecisively for a moment. Then he turns to where the CAPTAIN
is crossing the courtyard.

GISBURNE
Captain!

D.7 EXT.

SHERWOOD FOREST

DAY D.7

The OUTLAWS are sitting round in a circle. A small fire is
burning and they are eating. Each of them is thinking about
LITTLE JOHN.

ROBIN
We'll go into Nottingham
in daylight.

MARION
Why not tonight?

There is vocal support for MARION from the others.

ROBIN
Gisburne knows we'll try for
John. He'll expect us at
night. He'll mount extra
patrols, he'll double the
guard. It's market day
tomorrow. The town'll be full
of people.

ROBIN gets to his feet and moves away. MARION follows him.

MARION
Have we a chance?

ROBIN shrugs. He doesn't know.

ROBIN
That's something we'll find
out when we've got into
Nottingham.

D.8 EXT. COURTYARD. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE MORNING D.8

Most of the PRISONERS have been chained in pairs with a long central chain making them into a column. THE CAPTAIN is mounted and there is an escort of TWO RIDERS and FOUR FOOT SOLDIERS with cross bows.

CUT TO:

LITTLE JOHN and-MARK

MARK
Where are they taking us?

LITTLE JOHN
I dunno. Could be anywhere.

D.9 EXT. GATEHOUSE. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY D.9

DE LEON rides in under the arch and into the courtyard. Behind him come FOUR NOBLES and PRINCE JOHN and behind them comes a group of MEN AT ARMS with a hooded PRISONER (SIR RICHARD) in their midst. The PRISONER is bound and staggers along at the point of exhaustion. The hood he wears is of black velvet with two eye holes. It completely covers his face and neck.

D.10 EXT. COURTYARD. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY D.10

LITTLE JOHN looks towards the gate-house as DE LEON appears followed by the rest of the procession. The hooded PRISONER collapses.

DE LEON
Take him to the West Tower!

The PRISONER is led away. PRINCE JOHN looks across to the prisoners. He dismounts and DE LEON and the NOBLES follow suit. PRINCE JOHN goes into the castle hall, followed closely by DE LEON and the NOBLES.

LITTLE JOHN
Who was that?

The CAPTAIN's whip cracks round his shoulders.

CAPTAIN
That was Prince John you
villain! (To ALL THE
PRISONERS)
FORWARD!

The PRISONERS are herded towards the gate-house with the CAPTAIN watching from horseback.

D.11 INT. MAIN HALL NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY D.11

OPEN CLOSE ON PETER DE LEON.

PETER de LEON
The most noble and valiant
prince - John, Count of
Mortain and Lord of
Gloucester!

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE'

PETER de LEON is standing by the entrance to the hall. GISBURNE - in his best armour, is waiting to receive PRINCE JOHN. There are several castle servants and clerics in attendance together with a guard of MEN AT ARMS. After a moment PRINCE JOHN appears. GISBURNE signals to a TRUMPETER who begins a fanfare. However either through nerves or lack of practice, he doesn't play it very well. GISBURNE winces. PRINCE JOHN waits for the trumpeter to finish and then moves into the hall. Despite his lack of stature, JOHN is an impressive figure, richly dressed in a predominance of black and scarlet. He is attended by FOUR NOBLES and TWO KNIGHTS. JOHN wears several magnificent rings on his hands and a magnificent jewelled collar. He moves slowly towards GISBURNE who kneels and lowers his head in obeisance. JOHN reaches GISBURNE and holds out his hand to be kissed. Then JOHN moves past GISBURNE and up the steps to the Sherrif's dais and

sits in the chair. Thus GISBURNE who is still kneeling, finds himself facing away from PRINCE JOHN so he has to swivel round and gets to his feet at the precise moment that everyone behind him, kneels in unison. PETER DE LEON coughs and GISBURNE glances behind him to see everyone kneeling. Acutely embarrassed, he kneels quickly. PRINCE JOHN looks at the little group. There is a long pause.

PRINCE JOHN
(quietly)
Des Roches -

PETER DES ROCHES - one of Johns most trusted financial agents - comes up the steps past GISBURNE to his master. He kneels. PRINCE JOHN leans forward to him and whispers for several moments. DES ROCHES nods several times. Finally JOHN leans back in his chair again and with the slightest gesture, indicates that he may go. DES ROCHES gets to his feet and backs away down the steps and past GISBURNE to kneel again behind him. JOHN turns his attention on GISBURNE. When he speaks PRINCE JOHN always speaks quietly; despite this, his voice has a curious and somewhat unpleasant penetrating power.

PRINCE JOHN
You will send an escort to meet my baggage wagons now on their way from Newark. Yes?

GISBURNE
Yes, my lord.

PRINCE JOHN
And a messenger to St. Mary's summoning Abbot Hugo. Yes?

GISBURNE
Yes, my lord.

PRINCE JOHN
Here!

PRINCE JOHN beckons GISBURNE. GISBURNE gets to his feet and hurries to PRINCE JOHN who looks coldly at him. GISBURNE kneels. PRINCE JOHN leans forward.

CUT TO;

B.C.U. PRINCE JOHN
He speaks in little more than a whisper into GISBURNES ear.

PRINCE JOHN

I've brought a prisoner to Nottingham. No one must speak to him.

GISBURNE

I understand, my lord.

PRINCE JOHN

Shall I tell you who he is?

GISBURNE

As you wish, my lord.

PRINCE JOHN whispers in GISBURNE's ear. GISBURNE reacts with great surprise.

PRINCE JOHN

Yes. The guards will admit no one to see him. Except me. Yes?

GISBURNE

Yes, my lord.

CUT TO:

WIDER ANGLE

PRINCE JOHN leans back and makes the tiniest gesture to dismiss GISBURNE. GISBURNE rises, backs down the steps and kneels again at the precise moment that PRINCE JOHN gestures for everyone to rise at the same time rising himself. This leaves GISBURNE kneeling alone again. He gets to his feet.

PRINCE JOHN

I'll eat alone. (To de Leon)
De Leon!

De Leon leads PRINCE JOHN towards his chambers. As PRINCE JOHN passes the kneeling servants he notices a very pretty one. He goes past her and then stops in the doorway and whispers to De LEON before going out. De LEON beckons to the GIRL who nervously follows. EVERYONE else remains rooted to the spot until JOHN has gone, then they begin talking animatedly among themselves. GISBURNE remains alone staring after PRINCE JOHN and very worried at the thought of having him in Nottingham for any length of time.

D.12 EXT. VILLAGE DAY D.12

The CAPTAIN and his MEN escort their PRISONERS through the village. The VILLAGERS watch. A murmur goes up "It's Little John!"

CUT TO:

GROUP OF VILLAGERS.

Among a small group is a SMALL BOY. He recognises LITTLE JOHN

CUT TO:

SMALL BOY'S P.O.V.

LITTLE JOHN marches past chained to MARK.

CUT TO:

RESUME ON SMALL BOY

He reacts.

D.13 EXT. OUTLAWS CAMP DAY D.13

OPEN on ROBIN witht he OUTLAWS behind him talking to the SMALL BOY.

ROBIN
Sedgeham Quarry?

SMALL BOY nods.

SMALL BOY
I followed them there.

D.14 EXT. SEDGEHAM QUARRY DAY D.14

LITTLE JOHN and MARK and the PRISONERS are hard at work in the quarry. They are passing heavy stones along a line to load them onto a cart. The CAPTAIN is overseeing the PRISONERS and the GUARDS have been posted round the quarry in positions where they are able to watch the men as they work.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN, MARION and the OUTLAWS are creeping up above the quarry and look down at the figures working below. ROBIN catches sight of LITTLE JOHN and indicates him to MARION.

ROBIN
There!

MARION nods.

ROBIN
Will - take the guard by the
cart - Nasir that one - Marion
- (indicates a GUARD). Much -
the one over there. Tuck -

ROBIN moves towards the edge of the quarry. He has an arrow on his bowstring.

MARION
Be careful -

ROBIN
We're out of their range. (he
calls) Lay down your weapons!

CAPTAIN'S P.O.V.

He swings round in his saddle to look up at ROBIN standing on the edge of the quarry. ROBIN has contrived to attack with the sun behind the OUTLAWS.

ROBIN
Did you hear me?

CAPTAIN
I heard you!

ROBIN
Release the prisoners!

The CAPTAIN hesitates. He is aware of the OUTLAWS skill and he knows he is vulnerable. He also knows his job's on the line. He looks at the nearest GUARD and points at LITTLE JOHN.

CAPTAIN
Kill him!

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The GUARD brings up his crossbow to level it at LITTLE JOHN.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

MARK hurls the large stone he is holding, with deadly accuracy.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The GUARD is hit full in the chest and crashes backwards as the bolt from his crossbow shoots harmlessly into the air.

CUT TO:

ROBIN and the OUTLAWS

ROBIN
Now!

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOTS OF EACH OUTLAW RELEASING AN ARROW

CUT TO:

CAPTAIN'S P.O.V. of his MEN

Each of them is hit by an arrow as he looks round at them. Only one remains alive and runs for cover with an arrow through his arm until a second arrow takes him between the shoulders pitching him forward. Only the CAPTAIN remains alive.

ROBIN
(To CAPTAIN)
You were warned. Tell
Gisburne!

The CAPTAIN turns his horse and gallops from the quarry.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The OUTLAWS scramble down into the quarry and run to where the chained PRISONERS are standing.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

The OUTLAWS led by ROBIN run up to LITTLE JOHN and MARK.

ROBIN
Sometimes, you're more trouble
than you're worth!

LITTLE JOHN
Ay, but not often.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

SCARLET is removing the manacles from LITTLE JOHN using a hammer and chisel. After several blows, the chain breaks. MARK steps up to have his chain broken.

SCARLET strikes the manacles from MARK.

LITTLE JOHN
His names's Mark. He wants to
join us -

END OF PART ONE

FADE IN

PART TWO

D. 15 INT.

NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

DAY D. 15

GISBURNE stands before PRINCE JOHN who sits examining his collection of jewels, holding them to the light to admire them.

GISBURNE

He - must have spies in Nottingham my lord. How else could he have known the prisoners were at Sedgely?

PRINCE JOHN puts down an emerald ring and picks up one with a magnificent ruby.

GISBURNE

My men were taken by surprise. Killed in cold blood with no chance to -

GISBURNE's voice dies away as PRINCE JOHN looks directly up from the ruby at him. He still speaks quietly.

PRINCE JOHN

Are you excusing what happened?

GISBURNE remains silent.

PRINCE JOHN

I have heard of this wolfshhead Gisburne - and your pathetic attempts to catch him -

GISBURNE

(eagerly)

But my lord, I shall catch him. Even now -

PRINCE JOHN looks at him so chillingly that GISBURNE shuts up immediately.

PRINCE JOHN

The king pardoned him. Yes?

GISBURNE

Yes my lord. But Robin Hood broke faith. He tried to murder me, my lord.

PRINCE JOHN

I'm really not interested in your personal feud. And the fact that you're de Rainault's protegee - if that's all you are - means nothing to me. Nothing. But because of your incompetence you've lost prisoners from the dungeons of a royal castle. (indicates CAPTAIN) And he is the only survivor from the men supposed to guard them. Now you may think your position protects you from the consequences of this fiasco, but I am the king's brother and one day - who knows what I may be? So learn this. I forgive nothing! I pardon no man! Guards!

TWO MEN AT ARMS hurry in. PRINCE JOHN rises and points at GISBURNE.

PRINCE JOHN

Take him away and put him in the dungeons he emptied so successfully!

GISBURNE

But my lord - the plan - my plan - Even now there is -

PRINCE JOHN trembles with anger.

PRINCE JOHN
(screaming with rage)
God's teeth, I'll have you
whipped!

GISBURNE
You must listen to me my lord!

PRINCE JOHN
(another scream)
Out! Out!

GISBURNE is dragged away. The CAPTAIN bows and beats a hasty retreat after the MEN AT ARMS. JOHN regains control of himself and calmly resumes his chair taking another ring from his box. He takes one of the rings from his finger and changes it with the one from the box.

PRINCE JOHN
(quietly)
De Leon -

DE LEON who has been in hiding during the scene comes out to his master.

De LEON
My lord?

PRINCE JOHN
Till I leave Nottingham you'll
serve as Sherrif.

D.16 EXT.

SHERWOOD

DAY D.16

LITTLE JOHN and MARK are eating. The rest of the OUTLAWS are gathered round them.

MARION
But why was he masked?

ROBIN
He's no ordinary prisoner.
He's to do with Prince John

SCARLET

What's it matter to us then?

ROBIN

Because Herne said we were to save him.

TUCK

But we don't know who he is.

SCARLET

Why should we save him?

ROBIN (To LITTLE JOHN)

In the West Tower?

LITTLE JOHN

That's where they took him
(to MARK) wasn't it?

MARK

Ay. He could hardly stand.

D.17 EXT.

SHERWOOD

DAY D.17

ROBIN

There must be a way.

SCARLET

You're mad!

A long pause. MARK stops eating. He's had an idea.

MARK

I betray you.

LITTLE JOHN who is just about to drink splutters as he coughs with surprise. The rest of the OUTLAWS stare at MARK.

MARK

I go to Gisburne see? Tell him I'm in with you. That I can lead him and his men here if he'll pay me and give me a pardon. That way I bring him and his men into Sherwood while you get into the castle.

The OUTLAWS think about it.

SCARLET

It ain't bad.

LITTLE JOHN

They won't leave the castle unguarded.

ROBIN

Yes, but with Gisburne out of the way we'd have a real chance.

MARION (to MARK)

But what about you?

MARK

I'm a poacher don't forget. I'll bring 'em deep into the forest and then just disappear.

SCARLET

And by then we'll be out of Nottingham again.

MARION

With the prisoner.

TUCK

But what if Gisburne doesn't go for it.

MARK

He's got to. His name's mud after this morning. The thought of catching all of you will be too much for him.

ROBIN

You're right. But it's a risk for you.

MARK

That's why I want to do it.

ROBIN

How will we know if Gisburne's taken the bait.

MARK

Because I'll come back and tell you. And anything else I've learnt.

ROBIN

When'll that be?

MARK

First light tomorrow. I can get out of Nottingham.

ROBIN

All right. We'll be waiting. Is it agreed?

SCARLET

Why not.

LITTLE JOHN

Let's try it.

MARION

Yes.

TUCK

Ageed.

NASIR

Yes.

TOGETHER

MUCH doesn't know what's going on.

MUCH

D.18 INT. DUNGEON. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY D.18

GISBURNE is standing looking up at the grille overhead. He is in a furious temper.

GISBURNE
Guard! Guard! Listen to me!
I command you to listen! Do
you hear me you miserable scum!
Where's the Captain of the Guard?
Fetch him. Fetch him you dogs!

A bucket of slops pours down on top of him and he is drenched.

OLD PRISONER
Look Arthur. Its raining!

D.19 INT. HALL NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY D.19

PRINCE JOHN sits at a table on the dais. His companions are with him, as is PETER DE LEON his Seneschal. ABBOT HUGO is advancing to the steps leading to the dais. JOHN looks moodily at him. he is late.

PRINCE JOHN
Welcome Abbot.

ABBOT HUGO
Your Highness. My lords -

PRINCE JOHN
Be seated.

ABBOT HUGO sits at the far end of the table furthest from PRINCE JOHN. ABBOT HUGO looks at the men seated round the table. he is puzzled. He addresses the LORD nearest to him, but PRINCE JOHN's keen ears pick up his words.

ABBOT HUGO
Where's Gisburne?

PRINCE JOHN
I've had him removed.

ABBOT HUGO
Removed?

PRINCE JOHN
Not from this world, Abbot.
Though I confess I was tempted!

This brings a few sycophantic and uneasy laughs from PRINCE JOHN's supporters.

PRINCE JOHN
Until I leave Nottingham he's
better where he is.

From now on PRINCE JOHN is business like precise and matter of fact. Very much the chairman of the board. He speaks quietly but with enormous authority.

PRINCE JOHN
Now, my lords. The security of this Kingdom and of its crown has brought me from Normandy. As you know, each province of the Angevin Empire has its own laws with regard to the succession. It's a very complicated matter - the hereditary principle has never been clearly established, and many of the English barons are at best - undecided. Quite frankly I'm worried that, should the king fall in battle through his own recklessness - and lately the risks he takes are absurd - should he fall I say - without naming his successor, this country could face another civil war. And that would split the Empire. (Suddenly turning to face ABBOT HUGO) Which is why I've sent for you, Abbot. The Church has great influence with the barons. Yes?

ABBOT HUGO
(uneasily)
Sometimes, my lord.

Everyone is looking at him.

PRINCE JOHN
Sometimes? You don't sound
very - convinced.

HUGO is sweating. He knows he is being driven into a corner.

PRINCE JOHN
Then I'll convince you.

D.20 INT. ROOM IN WEST TOWER DAY D.20

JOHN and HUGO enter room.

ABBOT HUGO stares. Sitting facing PRINCE JOHN - his hands manacled - is the masked prisoner. There is a long silence.

PRINCE JOHN
We could play a guessing game
couldn't we Abbot?

ABBOT HUGO simply stares.

PRISONER
(A whisper)
Hugo

ABBOT HUGO
Who is he? Who is he?

PRINCE JOHN walks round until he is behind the PRISONER.

PRINCE JOHN
Someone who'll ensure your
support in persuading certain
barons that I am Richard's heir.

PRINCE JOHN pulls off the hood.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP ABBOT HUGO

ABBOT HUGO stares in amazement.

ABBOT HUGO
By Heaven!

D.21 INT. HALL NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY D.21

A meal is being served for PRINCE JOHN. ABBOT HUGO sits next to him on one side - on the other sits one of the LORDS. De LEON sits near and makes sure that the SERVANTS are attending to everyone's wants. ABBOT HUGO has been shattered by his meeting with the PRISONER and has lost his appetite. PRINCE JOHN on the other hand is eating contentedly. During the next speech we see the CAPTAIN approach.

PRINCE JOHN
There's David, earl of
Huntingdon. The earls of
Derby and Warwick - and
William de Mowbray. They're
the main dissidents. None of
them like me and they've all
got an eye to the main chance.
You will enlighten them won't
you Abbot? ...

MARK
Sir Guy!

OLD PRISONER
Say hello to Arthur -

MARK
By Christ - it's all gone
wrong! All of it.

OLD PRISONER
Never get out of here -

GISBURNE
Shut up! What happened to
you, Henry?

OLD PRISONER
I know when I'm not wanted.

MARK
I learnt nothing from Little
John, my lord. But I saved
his life when Robin Hood
rescued us - I've joined 'em,
my lord.

OLD PRISONER
Feet first - it's the only way
-

GISBURNE
Have you now?

MARK
I know where they are. Had
you been free - we could've
caught them all.

GISBURNE
Then blame Prince John. When
the mood takes him - he'll
listen to no one.

OLD PRISONER
(stroking his rat)
Arthur knows - don't you
Arthur?

MARK
He'll wish he had.

GISBURNE

MARK
They're planning to get his
prisoner.

GISBURNE
They know who he is?

MARK
No, my lord.

GISBURNE
They must. Listen, Henry - if
they come for him, they'll
come for you. You're one of
them, remember?

MARK nods.

GISBURNE
Now then - if they succeed and
with me locked up they may -
you must wait your chance and
- when you can - silence him.

MARK looks puzzled.

GISBURNE
D'you want to be rich, Henry?
D'you want power? Prince John
would reward us both. He
can't afford to let that man
reach the King.

MARK
Who is it?

D. 23 EXT.

SHERWOOD

NIGHT D. 23

The OUTLAWS are preparing their weapons. SCARLET and MUCH are sharpening the swords. TUCK is preparing goose feathers for arrows which are being made by LITTLE JOHN and NASIR. ROBIN and MARION are re-stringing the bows.

SCARLET
First light tomorrow, eh?

LITTLE JOHN
If Gisburne believes him.

MUCH
Mark'll fool him - won't he
Robin?

ROBIN
(nods)
With a bit of luck.

TUCK
Ay. But what if he doesn't?

ROBIN
That's the chance he took,
isn't it?

MARION
He wanted to go. It was his
idea.

SCARLET looks up from the grindstone. MUCH stops turning the
handle.

SCARLET
(slowly)
Yes - it was wasn't it?

MARION
What d'you mean?

) SCARLET shrugs.

SCARLET
We don't know much about him -
do we.

LITTLE JOHN
You don't trust anyone do you?

SCARLET
I trust all of you. Because I
know you. There's a nice fat
price on our heads ain't
there? Easy for him to tell
Gisburne where we are, ain't
it? His soldiers could be on
their way now.

MUCH looks nervously round.

ROBIN
Not at night.

D.24 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE DAWN D.24

ABBOT HUGO and his monks are leaving Nottingham in the early morning. The Abbot's cart rattles out of the gateway. The monks walk alongside it.

D.25 EXT. SHERWOOD DAWN D.25

ROBIN stands overlooking the valley. The birds are shrilling the dawn chorus. He is waiting for MARK. MARION comes to join him. He puts an arm round her.

MARION
The wind's cold....

ROBIN nods.

MARION
So Gisburne wasn't fooled.

ROBIN
Unless Scarlet's right. And
we've been the fools.

D.26 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE DAY D.26

OPEN on LONG SHOT of ABBOT HUGO and his monks on their way back to St. Mary's. The ABBOT is inside a covered cart.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT ABBOT HUGO

He looks nervously round and then ruefully at his ringless finger.

ABBOT HUGO
God curse him!

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN and the OUTLAWS watching the little procession. Slowly ROBIN and LITTLE JOHN turn to look at each other. Then they both nod in unison.

D.27 EXT.

FORD

DAY D.27

ABBOT HUGO is crossing the ford when ROBIN and MARION leap down in front of the procession.

ABBOT HUGO
You villain! Have you no
respect for the Church?

ROBIN
Not while you're in it!

MARION
Break your journey Abbot Hugo!

The other OUTLAWS appear as if from nowhere.

TUCK
Game pie? Jugged hare?
Venison?

ABBOT HUGO
And then I pay through the
nose, for it!

MUCH
Why not? You've got the right
nose.

ABBOT HUGO
You'll all burn in hell!

D.28 EXT.

OUTLAWS CAMP

DAY D.28

OPEN on flames to tie in with ABBOT HUGO's last line from the

previous scene. WIDEN to see the pieces of venison being cooked over a primitive spit which is being turned by MUCH. ABBOT HUGO sits uncomfortably on a log together with his TWO MONKS who look very frightened indeed. The OUTLAWS are gathered round, all except NASIR who is keeping watch.

ROBIN

Aren't you going to bless the meat?

ABBOT HUGO

Listen to me, wolfshead - when Prince John learns that I'm your prisoner -

SCARLET leans closer to ABBOT HUGO and cuts in sharply.

SCARLET

- It'll be too late.

ABBOT HUGO's anger turns to cowardice as he looks at SCARLET.

ABBOT HUGO

Too - late?

SCARLET

That's what I said.

SCARLET makes a sudden threatening move. ABBOT HUGO draws back.

ABBOT HUGO (to ROBIN)

Keep him away from me!

The OUTLAWS laugh. ROBIN comes closer.

ROBIN

We'll tell Gisburne we've got you? Shoot a message over the castle wall.

ABBOT HUGO
(contemptuously)
It won't get to Gisburne! Not
while he's -

ABBOT HUGO stops suddenly but ROBIN is on to his slip in a moment.

ROBIN
Not while he's what? What's
happened to him?

ABBOT HUGO remains silent. SCARLET bends close and draws his dagger.

SCARLET
What's happened to Gisburne?

ABBOT HUGO is terrified.

SCARLET
I'll give you one more chance.
What's happened to Gisburne?

ABBOT HUGO
He's been dismissed!

) Silence. The OUTLAWS can't believe it.

SCARLET
Gisburne has?

ABBOT HUGO nods frantically.

SCARLET
Where is he then? (pause)
I said, where is he?

ABBOT HUGO stares at SCARLET. He is really scared of him.

ABBOT HUGO
In the dungeons!

The OUTLAWS are stunned. SCARLET remains menacing ABBOT HUGO.

ABBOT HUGO
He is! He is! - Please -

SCARLET takes the dagger away from HUGO'S chest.

LITTLE JOHN
It's too good to be true!

TUCK
It's a miracle!

MARION
It's Prince John. He doesn't
trust anyone.

SCARLET
But why would he lock up
Gisburne?

ROBIN
Because of what happened at
the quarry!

MARION turns ROBIN away from ABBOT HUGO.

MARION
What about Mark?

ROBIN
I don't know. Anything
could've happened to him.

MARION
D'you think he's dead?

ROBIN
He could be. Or they're
holding him prisoner. He
could be with Gisburne.

ROBIN turns back to ABBOT HUGO.

ROBIN
Prince John has a prisoner
too, hasn't he?

ABBOT HUGO stares at ROBIN. The OUTLAW seems to know everything.

ROBIN
Who is he?

ABBOT HUGO
I don't know of any prisoner -

LITTLE JOHN
I've seem him.

ROBIN
Did Prince John send for you?
Was it to show you his
prisoner?

ABBOT HUGO's eyes give him away.

MARION
That's it. Why, Abbot? What
does he mean to you? Why do
they hide his face?

SCARLET
Leave him to me.

SCARLET winks at ROBIN and MARION and draws his dagger.

SCARLET (to ABBOT HUGO)
All right I'll ask you a
question. Which ear's your
favorite? The right or the
left?

ABBOT HUGO
Keep away you villain!

SCARLET
Don't you call me a villain,
you swivel-eyed old hypocrite!
Hold him John!

LITTLE JOHN grabs ABBOT HUGO and pins his arms to his sides.

SCARLET
Who's the prisoner?

ABBOT HUGO
No! No!

SCARLET grabs HUGO by the ear. He holds his dagger as if he is about to slice off the ears.

SCARLET
Who is he?

ABBOT HUGO
(looking at MARION)
Her father! Her father!
Sir Richard of Leaford!

There is stunned silence. MARION stares at HUGO.

MARION
My father's dead!

ROBIN jumps forward and pulls ABBOT HUGO to him. The ABBOT falls on his knees. ABBOT HUGO screams in fear.

ABBOT HUGO
It's the truth! I swear it!

MARION
He's dead!

She bursts into tears. ROBIN takes her gently in his arms. She sobs uncontrollably.

ABBOT HUGO
No. The Saracens captured
him. He's alive.

CUT TO:

B.C.U. ROBIN

HERNE (O.O.V. DISTORT)
A prisoner....from the dead...a
prisoner...

RESUME ON GROUP

MARION controls herself and turns to ABBOT HUGO.

MARION
Get up!

ABBOT HUGO struggles to his feet.

MARION
How long have you known?

ABBOT HUGO
Since yesterday.

MARION
You liar! You've always
known!

MARION goes for him but is stopped by ROBIN.

ABBOT HUGO
No. I swear it! When Saladin
died they released him. By
then the king was hostage in
Austria. When your father
reached England, John took
him prisoner.

MARION
Five years! For five years
I've thought him to be dead!

ROBIN turns her to him.

ROBIN
We'll free him! I promise
you!

END OF PART TWO.

FADE IN

D.29 EXT NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY D.29

ESTABLISHING SHOT

D.30 EXT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE GATE DAY D.30

ROBIN - now wearing the uniform of one of ABBOT HUGO's GUARDS comes staggering up to the GUARDS. He collapses as they come to him.

ROBIN
Take - take me to - Prince
John!

D.31 INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE HALL DAY D.31

PRINCE JOHN, who is drinking with his companions, rises as ROBIN - supported by TWO GUARDS - is brought in. He is filthy and there is blood on his face and neck. He looks as if he has been in a desperate fight.

ROBIN
My lord - my lord! Abbot
Hugo, my lord - !

PRINCE JOHN
What's happened?

ROBIN
(gasping with pain)
Ambushed - we were ambushed my
lord, by Robin Hood. The
Abbot - he has the Abbot!

ROBIN sways and almost collapses. PRINCE JOHN explodes in a fury. He screams with rage.

PRINCE JOHN
God's teeth - I've heard
nothing but Robin Hood since I
came to Nottingham!

Everyone keeps out of PRINCE JOHN's way.

PRINCE JOHN
What's wrong with everyone in
this miserable county! Are
they all sheep? De Leon!

De LEON who is edging away stops dead.

DE LEON
My lord?

PRINCE JOHN
(wildly)
You're Sherrif! Hunt him
down!

DE LEON
But - but, my lord -

PRINCE JOHN
You're beginning to sound like
Gisburne! D'you want to join
him?

DE LEON
No, my lord - but at night my
lord!

PRINCE JOHN
Yes - at night de Leon - when
they least expect you! Show
me some spirit! Prove
yourself! Catch him or kill
him! Kill them all!

DE LEON
Yes, my lord!

PRINCE JOHN's rage is temporarily spent. He leans over a chair trying to recover. DE LEON hurries to where ROBIN is now slumped on the floor, supported by the TWO GUARDS.

DE LEON
Where was the ambush?

ROBIN
Close by - Dark Mere -

DE LEON
Captain!

The CAPTAIN comes forward.

DE LEON
D'you know the place?

CAPTAIN
Yes, my lord - but -

DE LEON
Get your men ready.

DE LEON looks across to where TWO MONKS are standing.

DE LEON
See to his wounds!

DE LEON bows to PRINCE JOHN and follows the CAPTAIN at the double. The MONKS lead the way and ROBIN is half carried out of the hall. PRINCE JOHN's rage returns. He screams after de Leon.

PRINCE JOHN
Don't fail me de Leon!

D. 32 EXT. COURTYARD NOTTINGHAM CASTLE NIGHT D. 32

SOLDIERS hurry to form up behind the CAPTAIN and DE LEON whose horse is brought to him. He now wears a hauberk. He mounts his horse and his PAGE hands him his helmet which he puts on. then the war party moves of and out through the gateway.

D. 33 EXT GATEWAY NOTTINGHAM CASTLE NIGHT D. 33

DE LEON and the CAPTAIN lead the SOLDIERS out of the gateway. As they move off we PAN to where SCARLET, NASIR and LITTLE JOHN are watching from cover.

D. 34 INT. ROOM IN CASTLE NIGHT D. 34

ROBIN is brought in by the TWO SOLDIERS, followed by the TWO MONKS and SERVANT GIRLS with water and towels. They put them

down and one of the MONKS dismisses her impatiently. The SERVANT GIRLS go out and shut the door. A MONK bends over ROBIN and wipes the mud and blood from his face with a dampened towel. ROBIN gasps with pain. The MONK is puzzled. There appears to be no wound. Gently, he pushes back the cowl of chain-mail from ROBIN's head. There is no wound. As the MONK looks round at his companions, ROBIN slides off the pallet and draws his sword. The MONKS stare at him in shocked bewilderment.

D.35 EXT. GATEWAY NOTTINGHAM CASTLE NIGHT D.35

NASIR, LITTLE JOHN and SCARLET rise from their concealment and shoot towards the gateway.

CUT TO:

MID SHOT

The THREE GUARDS are hit in quick succession and fall to the ground as the OUTLAWS can be seen running towards them.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The OUTLAWS drag the bodies out of sight.

D.36 EXT. COURTYARD NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY D.36

NASIR, LITTLE JOHN and SCARLET race across the courtyard.

CUT TO;

ANOTHER ANGLE

The THREE OUTLAWS reach a doorway and pass through it into the castle.

SCARLET
We've got to get Mark!

D.37 INT. ROOM IN CASTLE DAY D.37

ONE OF THE MONKS is finishing tying up his companions using the rope girdles from their robes. He keeps glancing anxiously round at ROBIN who has his sword perilously close to his rear. ROBIN picks up the napkins brought by the SERVANT GIRLS.

ROBIN
Gag them!

The terrified MONK nods. ROBIN opens the door and the MONK preceeds him. The door shuts.

D.38 INT. PASSAGEWAY IN CASTLE DAY D.38

The MONK hurries along the passage with ROBIN close behind him.

D.39 INT. STEPS TO DUNGEON DAY D.39

SCARLET - who knows the way - leads NASIR and LITTLE JOHN down the steps to the dungeons. NASIR has his twin swords at the ready. SCARLET has his. LITTLE JOHN is unarmed apart from his bow.

D.40 INT. PASSAGE ABOVE DUNGEON DAY D.40

TWO GUARDS lounge against the wall. The THREE OUTLAWS appear at the end of the passage and leap to the attack. The fight is in silence and the GUARDS are soon overpowered.

D.41 INT. DUNGEON DAY INTERCUT D.41

GISBURNE and MARK watching from below.

GISBURNE
They've come for you!

CUT TO:

RESUME ON PASSAGE ABOVE DUNGEON.

SCARLET and LITTLE JOHN heave back the grille while NASIR picks up the ladder.

LITTLE JOHN
Are you there Mark?

CUT TO:

THE DUNGEON
MARK turns to GISBURNE gesturing to him to remain silent. GISBURNE nods. MARK steps forward into the light from above

- 45 -

MARK
Little John?

LITTLE JOHN
Ay - Where's Gisburne?

MARK
I've laid him out

OLD PRISONER
Feet first - it's the only
way!

As the ladder comes down GISBURNE whispers to MARK. His voice covered by the noise of the ladder.

GISBURNE
You know what to do!

MARK nods. The ladder reaches the floor.

LITTLE JOHN
Come on lad - come on!

GISBUREN watches from the shadows as MARK shins up the ladder.

D.42 INT. STAIRS. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE NIGHT D.42

ROBIN being led by the MONK up the main stairway of the castle.

D.43 INT. THE HALL OF NOTTINGHAM CASTLE NIGHT D.43

PRINCE JOHN is playing chess with one of his companions. The rest watch in silence. He moves. The sycophantic nobles applaud.

PRINCE JOHN
The Abbot must be telling his
beads for all he's worth.
He's had a very disturbing
week.

The Princes's opponent moves.

PRINCE JOHN
(He moves) That damned
wolfshhead's upset everything.
I'm bored with this -

PRINCE JOHN knocks over the pieces. He gets to his feet.

PRINCE JOHN
Has my - guest - been fed?

SERVANT
Yes, my lord.

PRINCE JOHN
Then its time to -

The alarm bell begins. PRINCE JOHN reacts.

D.44 INT. ROOM IN WEST TOWER DAY D.44

ROBIN kicks open the door. TWO GUARDS see his sword and go for him. ROBIN takes them both on while MONK cowers in the corner. ROBIN kills one GUARD and disarms the second, and smashes him to the floor.

SIR RICHARD rises as ROBIN enters. ROBIN stares at him. SIR RICHARD is gaunt and his face shows the suffering he has endured.

ROBIN
Sir Richard?

SIR RICHARD
Who are you?

ROBIN
A friend!

D.45 INT. STAIRS NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY D.45

The FOUR OUTLAWS racing up the main stairway of the castle. ROBIN and SIR RICHARD appear at the top. The OUTLAWS stop. ROBIN comes down to meet them. SIR RICHARD now carries one of the GUARD's swords. The alarm bell is echoing through the castle.

LITTLE JOHN
Quickly!

ROBIN and SIR RICHARD come down the stairs to join the FOUR OUTLAWS. Then together they head down towards the passage.

D.46 EXT. COURTYARD DAY D.46

ROBIN and the OUTLAWS with SIR RICHARD clash with a group of GUARDS as they make for the main gate. They reach it in a series of running fights. MARK can do nothing. He is forced to follow. SCARLET and ROBIN stay close to SIR RICHARD. SCARLET is wounded.

CUT TO:

PRINCE JOHN's P.O.V.

PRINCE JOHN together with his COMPANIONS runs into the courtyard in time to see a fierce fight taking place in the gateway. The OUTLAWS break through and race out of the castle. PRINCE JOHN strides into the middle of the courtyard and begins kicking one of the dead GUARDS.

PRINCE JOHN
Fools! Fools! Fools! Fools!

FADE OUT.

FADE UP

D. 47 EXT.

OUTLAWS CAMP

DAY D. 47

MUCH - who is watching for their return, sees them coming. TUCK and MARION leave their prisoners - who are bound - and stand waiting expectantly. As they enter the clearing, the OUTLAWS stop. SIR RICHARD releases himself from LITTLE JOHN and stares at MARION.

CUT TO:

C.U. MARION

Tears are running down her cheeks.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

MARION runs to her father and they embrace.

SIR RICHARD
Don't cry - I could never bear
to see you cry!

MARION
(sobbing)
I thought you were dead!

SIR RICHARD
There were times when I was
sure I was dead. And you were
just a dream and so was
England.

ROBIN
Rest, Sir Richard.

SIR RICHARD
I will, fellow. (To MARION)
These serfs of yours fought
like lions!

MARION
Father, they -

SIR RICHARD
You must free them Marion.
They deserve it. All of them
-

SIR RICHARD's eyes go to NASIR. He turns back to MARION and
whispers to her.

SIR RICHARD
You'll think I'm mad - perhaps
I am - but that one looks like
a Saracen.

MARION
Father -

SIR RICHARD
Five years in their prisons
and I still see them. But
John was more cruel than any
Saracen. I knew too much
about his treachery to the
King.

MARION **makes** SIR RICHARD sit. As he does so, he sees ABBOT HUGO.

SIR RICHARD
Another traitor!

ROBIN
He's our prisoner.

SIR RICHARD
You robbed my daughter of her
inheritance!

ABBOT HUGO
I made her my ward!

SIR RICHARD

Yes, that was clever of you, Hugo. Put her in a nunnery and take the lands. And now you'll do anything to keep them won't you? Even help John get the Crown!

SIR RICHARD turns away from HUGO in contempt and once more addresses MARION.

SIR RICHARD

They tortured me with lies! John, most of all. Told me you were living with outlaws - married to one of them!

There is a pause, then MARION goes to him and kneels, taking his hands in hers.

MARION

Father - it's true.

Another pause. SIR RICHARD can't take it in.

SIR RICHARD

True?

MARION nods.

MARION

I - I tried to tell you -

ROBIN comes and kneels beside her. SIR RICHARD stares at him.

ABBOT HUGO

A fine son-in-law - Sir Richard. Son-out-of-law - more like. The bloody-handed Robin Hood!

SIR RICHARD looks at ROBIN for a long moment.

SIR RICHARD

But you're not a cruel man.
Your eyes are kind. You saved
me. You take no pleasure in
killing. Who are you?

ROBIN

The son of Ailric - of
Locksley. (To HUGO) Murdered
by his brother.

SIR RICHARD

I knew your father. He was
headstrong. I warned him.

SIR RICHARD nods and looks back at MARION.

SIR RICHARD

(He looks at MARION)

And you so rebellious - always
a tiresome child.

SIR RICHARD looks at them both and sighs.

SIR RICHARD

What can I do but give
you my blessing.

MARION kisses him. The OUTLAWS gather round.

CUT TO:

SINGLE ON MARK

He looks at SIR RICHARD. His eyes are cold.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ABBOT HUGO looks at MARK. He recognises him!

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE (TIME LAPSE)

SCARLET's wound is being dressed by MARION and MARK. MARION puts
moss and herbs on the gash.

MARION

It's healing well.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ABBOT HUGO and his MEN watch as ROBIN, SIR RICHARD and NASII mount horses. There are two horses for MARION and MARK.

ABBOT HUGO
How long are you keeping me here?

ROBIN
Until Sir Richard's safe in Normandy!

ABBOT HUGO
(terrified)
You're going to the King?

SIR RICHARD
Oh yes Hugo I'm going to him. I've much to tell him.

LITTLE JOHN pats him on the head.

LITTLE JOHN
Don't worry. We'll look after you!

SCARLET
Like you was gold!

TUCK
With any luck he will be! If they pay the ransom!

MUCH
I'll play to you!

TUCK
You won't want to leave in the end.

ABBOT HUGO
(threateningly)
One day - one day, I'll -

TUCK
Now you don't want to be nasty after all that venison!

DURING the above dialogue, MARION and MARK join the rest of the riders. They begin to move off, waving farewell to the others.

TUCK
(blessing them)
Dominus vobiscum!
And watch out for Prince John!

ROBIN and the other riders leave the clearing.

D. 48 EXT. SHERWOOD DAY D. 48

L.S. ROBIN, MARION, NASIR, SIR RICHARD and MARK riding fast through Sherwood.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The FIVE RIDERS come out of the forest and begin moving down into the valley.

D 49 EXT SHERWOOD DAY D. 49

ABBOT HUGO is sitting glumly while MUCH plays his pipe.

ABBOT HUGO
(slowly)
Tell me - when was Henry outlawed?

SCARLET
Who?

ABBOT HUGO
Henry of Skipton. When was he outlawed?

SCARLET becomes very alert. He looks at LITTLE JOHN. Then he looks back at ABBOT HUGO.

SCARLET
Mark?

ABBOT HUGO
Is that what he calls himself now? It was Henry when he worked for me -

SCARLET
He worked for you?

SCARLET gets to his feet.

SCARLET
He's tricked us all!

MUCH gets up. He dithers - not knowing what to do. Then he runs and vaults onto a horse and gallops out of the clearing.

LITTLE JOHN
Much! Much!

D.50 EXT.

COASTLINE

DAY D.50

ROBIN, SIR RICHARD, MARION, NASIR and MARK ride up to a pool and dismount. SIR RICHARD is tired. NASIR looks around - ever watchful. ROBIN is splashing his face with water. MARK crouches beside him and does the same.

MARK
Who'll take Sir Richard across to Normandy? He's still very weak.

ROBIN looks at MARK.

MARK
You can't leave Marion - and they'd kill Nasir. It's got to be me. Anyhow I owe it to you.

ROBIN
You don't owe me anything.

MARK
Only freedom. He'll be safe. When I've got him to the king I'll make my way back to you.

ROBIN clasps his hand in thanks.

MARK
It's the least I can do - He's a fine man.

D.51 EXT.

A ROCKY INBLET

SUNSET D.51

In the distance a large dinghy-type boat with a large square sail can be seen. ROBIN comes up the path on his horse to where the others are waiting.

ROBIN
(to SIR RICHARD)
He'll take you. But we have
to wait for the tide.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT MARK

He nods, but he is tense.

D. 52 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE SUNSET D. 52

L.S. A SINGLE RIDER (MUCH) against the skyline. The horse is at the gallop and both horse and rider are silhouetted against the red - scarlet - sky.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

MUCH is bent over in the saddle.

MUCH
Come on! Come on!

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

The hooves pounding against the ground.

D. 53 EXT. ROCKY INLET SUNSET D. 53

ROBIN, MARION, SIR RICHARD, NASIR and MARK sit huddled in the shelter of some rocks. From where they are, the boat can be seen. THE FISHERMAN waves to them.

ROBIN
Its time.

SIR RICHARD gets up. MARION embraces him. SIR RICHARD turns to ROBIN.

SIR RICHARD
Take care of her -

ROBIN
I will. Safe voyage, Sir
Richard!

SIR RICHARD nods and walks towards the boat with MARK. ROBIN puts his arm round MARION. NASIR watches with them.

ROBIN
May Herne protect them both.

CLOSE SHOT THE BOAT

MARK and SIR RICHARD reach the boat and climb aboard. The sail is hoisted by the FISHERMAN whose TWO FRIENDS push the boat away from the shallows.

SIR RICHARD
A calm sea!

MARK
Ay, my lord!

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN, MARION and NASIR continue to watch as the boat moves away from the shore.

CUT TO:

THE CLIFF ABOVE THE BEACH. (HIGH ANGLE)

MUCH races along. He can see the boat with MARK and SIR RICHARD, THE TWO FISHERMEN and further away, ROBIN, MARION and NASIR. Behind them are the horses. MUCH reins his horse.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT MUCH

MUCH
Robin!!

CUT TO:

ROBIN, MARION and NASIR

They look up to where MUCH can be seen.

ROBIN
It's Much!

CUT TO:

ROBIN, MARION and NASIR

MUCH
Stop Mark!

ROBIN looks to where the boat is. It is now a little way from the shore.

CUT TO;

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN begins running towards the boat. He sprints along the beach NASIR follows about eight feet behind.

CUT TO:

THE BOAT

MARK sees ROBIN coming and turns on SIR RICHARD, drawing a dagger and attempting to stab him. SIR RICHARD grabs his arm as the dagger curves down at him and they struggle in the boat.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN runs into the water and begins swimming towards the boat. NASIR remains on the beach.

RAW BOW ARE NOT AIM

CUT TO:

THE BOAT

The FISHERMAN swings the tiller round and the sail flaps wildly. MARK continues to struggle with SIR RICHARD, finally throwing him from him. SIR RICHARD falls back into the bottom of the boat. MARK hurls himself on him with the dagger, but somehow SIR RICHARD fends him off, again grabbing his arm.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

ROBIN reaches the boat and hauls himself inboard.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

MARK sees him coming and turns, stabbing at him with the dagger. ROBIN closes with him and the two of them sway for a moment before crashing sideways into the sea. MARK loses his dagger.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

MARION runs to join NASIR and together they watch the fight in the water.

CUT TO:

MUCH'S P.O.V.

The boat below with ROBIN and MARK fighting and MARION and NASIR and the TWO FISHERMEN watching.

CUT TO:

ROBIN and MARK

Each tries to drown the other. But eventually, ROBIN holds MARK under the water. There is a tremendous thrashing in the water as MARK struggles to free himself from ROBIN's grip but at length the thrashing ceases. MARK is dead. Slowly ROBIN releases his grip and the body floats face down to the surface.

D. 54 INT HALL. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE NIGHT D. 54

PRINCE JOHN is in one of his tantrums. DE LEON stands before him.

PRINCE JOHN

D'you think this would've happened in my father's time de Leon? Where's Abbot Hugo? With Robin Hood! With Robin Hood! Robin Hood! He's laughing at me! The whole of Nottingham's laughing! I should never have sent you, de Leon. You're a talker!

GISBURNE is brought in by TWO GUARDS.

PRINCE JOHN

I'm giving you another chance - Gisburne. If Sir Richard reaches the King -

GISBURNE

He won't, my lord.

PRINCE JOHN checks in mid flight. He walks swiftly to GISBURNE.

PRINCE JOHN
Won't? Why won't he?

GISBURNE
Because I've told my man to
silence him!

PRINCE JOHN
Your man? Your man?

GISBURNE
The man who came with news of
Robin Hood. The man you
imprisoned with me. He'd
joined the outlaws - he'd come
to tell me that they meant to
rescue Sir Richard. Had my
lord de Leon listened to him -

GISBURNE has provided JOHN with a get out and he now rounds on de
LEON.

PRINCE JOHN
Answer that de Leon!

DE LEON
My my lord - it - it was you
who - you who - who

PRINCE JOHN
Lock him up! Lock him up!

De LEON is dragged out.

PRINCE JOHN
(to GISBURNE)
So even in prison you stayed
loyal. This man of yours -

A MESSENGER runs in.

MESSENGER
News. News from Normandy!

The MESSENGER drops to his knees with a parchment which he holds
out to the prince. There is a moment of silence.

MESSENGER
(deliberately)
My leige!

PRINCE JOHN looks at him..

PRINCE JOHN
(very quietly)
What did you say?

He tears open the parchment. He reads. Everyone waits. JOHN looks up. He is now hysterical with grief.

PRINCE JOHN
Killed by an arrow - fighting
for Chalus. He named me his
heir! He named me his heir!
His heir! His heir!

He laughs wildly.

GISBURNE
God save King John!

EVERYONE
God save King John!

PRINCE JOHN
(To GISBURNE)
Nothing matters now - Yes?

D.55 EXT THE ROCKY INLET SUNSET D55

SIR RICHARD is in the boat with the FISHERMAN. ROBIN, MARION and MUCH and NASIR watch from the beach.

SIR RICHARD
Twice you saved me! I shan't
forget!

MARION
Take care father!

SIR RICHARD
I will! We shall meet again!

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

LONG SHOT

The boat moves away from the inlet and out into the open sea.

D. 56 EXT

SHERWOOD

NIGHT D. 56

HERNE stands high above the forest, silhouetted against the sky.

HERNE
(a great cry)
The lion is dead!

'Dead' 'Dead' 'Dead" - echoes round the forest.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP HERNE

HERNE
And the prophecy fulfilled!

FREEZE FRAME

END TITLES

FADE OUT.