

LIST OF CHARACTERS

ROBIN HOOD
MARION
MUCH
WILL SCARLET
LITTLE JOHN
PRIAR TUCK
NASIR
THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
SIR GUY OF GISBURNE
KING JOHN
SIR ROGER DE CARNAC
WOMAN VILLAGER (ASHLEY)
MAN VILLAGER (DUXFORD)
FIRST MONK
MAN AT ARMS
GUARD AT GATE

NON SPEAKING PARTS:

VILLAGERS
TOWNSPEOPLE
SHERIFF'S SOLDIERS
THREE MONKS
DE CARNAC'S FOUR ACCOMPLICES
SERVANTS
LADIES IN WAITING

PROGLOGUE

FADE IN

1. EXT. ASHLEY VILLAGE DAY 1

It is very early dawn. The mist swirls in the grey light around the tiny Saxon village of Ashley.

CUT TO:

A kneeling WOMAN is milking a goat. A MAN is chopping wood for a fire. Another MAN steps out of a hut, yawns and stretches. He picks up a bucket of oats and walks towards a pen containing four or five pigs.

CUT TO:

Close on the sleepy eyed MAN as he reaches the pen. He lifts the bucket and suddenly we hear the whirr and thud of an arrow. His eyes widen and he lurches forward.

CUT TO:

From behind we see him fall into the pig pen, a long bow arrow in his back. The pigs squeal in alarm.

CUT TO:

The WOMAN stops milking the goat and looks up in fear. The MAN chopping the wood drops his axe and runs toward the pig pen. Before he reaches it he too is brought down by an arrow. The WOMAN screams.

CUT TO:

A hail of burning arrows thud into the huts setting them on fire. The waking VILLAGERS scream and come staggering out into the grey dawn light as FIVE HOODED MEN burst into the village, swords drawn and begin to slaughter the defenceless VILLAGERS.

2. EXT. FOREST TRACK NEAR ASHLEY VILLAGE DAY 2

MARION and MUCH are making their way along the track. MARION suddenly stops.

MARION

What's that?

They strain to listen. We hear the distant sounds of screams from the village. MUCH pulls aside some foliage.

CUT TO:

From their P.O.V. we see the burning village and the RAIDERS, their grisly work done, beginning to leave.

3. EXT. ASHLEY VILLAGE DAY 3

Bodies are strewn around the smouldering village. The livestock wander loose amongst the dead and dying. We hear the moans and groans of wounded VILLAGERS.

CUT TO:

MARION and MUCH run into the village and stop aghast as they take in what has happened.

CUT TO:

The WOMAN who was milking the goats lies groaning in pain.
MARION moves to her and cradles her in her arms.

MARION

What's happened here? Who did this?

WOMAN (bitterly)

It was that murderous gang of outlaws.
Robin Hood and his men.

She points in the direction the RAIDERS left. A shocked MARION looks that way in disbelief.

CUT TO:

From MARION'S P.O.V. through the trees we see a shaft of light break through the mist. In the distance, silhouetted against the trees, the shapes of FIVE MEN. One huge carrying a squealing pig on his shoulder, another short and fat dressed like a firar. The mist obscures them once more.

CUT TO:

The wounded WOMAN moans in MARION'S arms.

WOMAN (savagely)

A curse on him! A curse on Robin Hood!

MARION and MUCH look at each other in amazement.

4. EXT. ROBIN HOOD'S CAMP. SHERWOOD DAY 4

A fire crackles. A pig is roasting on a spit being turned by a smiling TUCK.

CUT TO:

ROBIN, SCARLET, LITTLE JOHN and NASIR sit with empty plates and sharpened knives in keen anticipation of the meal.

LITTLE JOHN

If you don't hurry up,
we'll start without you!

There is general ribald laughter.

ROBIN

Come on Tuck we're hungry.

He begins to bang his metal plate with his knife. The others join in and a rhythmic beat builds up as the knives hit the plates.

CUT TO:

Close on the roasting pig spitting and crackling over the roaring fire.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLE SEQUENCE

FADE OUT

FADE IN

5. INT. A CELL. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY 5

Deep inside the castle near the dungeon area one of the cells is being used as a strongroom. Through the open door can be seen a large number of sacks of gold and silver coins. The SHERIFF completes a count of the number of sacks then steps outside and addresses TWO MEN AT ARMS who guard the cell.

SHERIFF

lock the door.

One of the MEN AT ARMS draws a large bolt across the door and padlocks it into position.

SHERIFF

Sixty thousand marks. The King will be collecting these taxes himself. Until then no one, goes through that door. No one - you understand?

The MEN AT ARMS acknowledge the order as the SHERIFF hurries away.

6. INT. MAIN HALL. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY 6

Frantic activity. A large banqueting table is being prepared. A small army of SERVANTS are dashing hither and thither carrying mounds of food. Plates laden with chickens, capons, pigs, sides of beef etc. Cutlery is being polished and laid out. Flagons of wine and mead are borne in. GISEBURNE is in the centre of things, barking out orders.

The SHERIFF arrives at the top of the stairs in the main hall. He looks breathless and panicked and is still buttoning up his best robes of office. His attention is caught by a nearby GUARD standing nonchalantly, pike in hand.

SHERIFF (screaming)
Stand up straight man!

The GUARD straightens up as the SHERIFF starts to descend into the hall.

CUT TO:

GISBURNE is holding a goblet from the table and berating a SERVING WENCH.

GISBURNE

You dare to call this clean! Replace it
at once!

He flings the goblet at the GIRL who grabs it and terrified,
turns to rush away only to bump into the SHERIFF.

SHERIFF

Out of my way!

The GIRL bobs and hurries away.

SHERIFF

Gisburne, this is chaos!

GISBURNE

Everything's under control My Lord. We'll
soon be ready.

SHERIFF

Soon^ Soon isn't soon enough. I want it now!
The King is almost at the gates of Nottingham.

SHERIFF

. He'll be in a black
enough mood as it is, having to
collect his own taxes!

GISBURNE

I'm not to blame for that.

SHERIFF

Aren't you? Who was in charge of the
last two shipments?

GISBURNE (protesting)

If I'd had enough men.....

SHERIFF

You had more than enough, and you still let
Robin Hood steal the silver. Your incompetence
will hang us both.

GISBURNE

There's no need for panic!

SHERIFF

Then why do you think the
King's brought Roger de Carnac with him?

GISBURNE looks shocked and turns pale.

GISBURNE

De Carnac!

SHERIFF

Exactly. De Carnage would be a better name for him.
A fanfare of trumpets is heard outside.

SHERIFF

They're here!

7. SCENE DELETED

8. SCENE DELETED

9. EXT. THE STREETS. NOTTINGHAM DAY 9

Close on the KING who has dismounted and is, surprisingly, walking through the streets, smiling benignly and waving to the CROWD.

CUT TO:

A wide shot of the KING'S ENTOURAGE progressing through the town. DE CARNAC still mounted, leading the way, has a bag of coins which he is liberally distributing to the CROWD. The townsfolk scramble for the money and on receiving a coin, urged on by DE CARNAC, cheer the KING enthusiastically. The KING responds by graciously nodding his head.

CUT TO:

A PEASANT WOMAN, carrying a BABY in dirty rags, moves to the front of the CROWD. The KING holds up his hand to stop the procession and beckons the WOMAN and CHILD to him. The WOMAN approaches and vaguely curtsies. The KING takes the CHILD from her arms, kisses it on the forehead and holds it aloft.

KING

God bless this child and all my loyal
subjects of Nottingham!

There is a roar of approval from the CROWD. The KING hands
back the CHILD and continues on his way. Pausing only briefly
to wipe his lips with the back of his hand. For a man obsessed
with hygiene this magnanimous gesture has cost him dearly.

10. EXT. COURTYARD CLOSE BY NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY 10

In the courtyard at the foot of the steps leading into the
castle is the SHERIFF. As the KING and his entourage approaches
the SHERIFF falls to one knee.

SHERIFF

Nottingham is honoured by your presence
my liege. You are indeed most welcome.

KING

Thankyou Robert.

The KING beckons the SHERIFF up.

SHERIFF (rising)

Everything is ready, my liege.

KING (smiling)

I'm sure it is. Lead on.

A suprised but relieved SHERIFF moves up the steps. The KING, DE CARNAC and other ATTENDANTS following, as he reaches the top of the steps the KING turns and gives a final wave to the CROWD who cheer once more.

11. INT. MAIN HALL. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY 11

The banqueting table is now fully prepared. SERVANTS and GUESTS stand in neatly appropriate places. GISBURNE pacing nervously in front of half a dozen or so attractive WOMEN falls to one knee as the KING'S party arrives.

CUT TO:

The KING followed by DE CARNAC and the SHERIFF, have reached the foot of the entrance stairs. The KING sweeps across the hall still smiling. The other follow.

SHERIFF

Will your majesty eat now? Though
I say it myself, my cooks have
surpassed themselves.

KING

Give it all to the poor.

SHERIFF

To the poor?

KING

I'm on a fast.

SHERIFF gapes and then turns to GISBURNE.

SHERIFF (barking)

You heard the King, Gisburne. Give it
to the poor!

GISBURNE

The poor?.....of course. Of course. The poor.

KING

Thankyou Gisburne.

He sweeps past. The KING pauses as the women curtsey.

SHERIFF

I thought perhaps some company, my liege.

KING

How thoughtful of you Robert. Another
time perhaps.

The KING moves on. Reaching the stairs leading out of the main hall
(and to his chambers) he pauses to address the SHERIFF.

KING (smiling)

We would be most grateful, my lord Sheriff,
if you and your steward Sir Guy of Gisburne
would join us in our chambers directly.
Yes?

The KING leaves, followed by DE CARNAC.

CUT TO:

The SHERIFF and GISBURNE stand together. They look slightly bemused.

GISBURNE (whispering)

Is he ill?

SHERIFF

He seems quite rational.

The SHERIFF draws a long breath.

SHERIFF

Come on Gisburne. And keep your mouth shut.

They move off following the KING.

12. INT. KING'S CHAMBER. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

DAY 12

The KING sits in a large chair smiling and drumming his fingers. DE CARNAC stands leaning nochalantly against the wall nearby. There is a knock on the door.

KING

Come.

The door opens and the SHERIFF and GISBURNE enter unctiously and approach the KING. DE CARNAC moves ominously behind them and closes the door.

SHERIFF (tentatively)

Lord King. Is..is..everything as..as
you would wish it?

KING (conversationally)

As we would wish it? (pause) The war
in Normandy. Is that as we would wish it?
The money to fight it. Is that as we
would wish it? The delivery of the tax
money from Nottingham. Is that as we
would wish it? The Sheriff's competence!
Is that as we would wish it?

The SHERIFF and GISBURNE are stunned.

KING

On your knees de Rainault! You let this
wolfshead run roit! Your swore he was
dead! Yet nothing came from Nottingham
to our Exchequer. Nothing at Easter,
nothing at Michaelmas. Where is that
money? Sheriff?

SHERIFF

Gisburne.

GISBURNE

My liege.....I.....that is we....I
mean.....

KING

Don't babble!

SHERIFF

This session's taxes are safe,
my liege.

KING

But your heads are not!

There is an icy pause. The SHERIFF and GISBURNE stand terrified.
The KING slowly rises and looks straight into the SHERIFF'S
face with deep and bitter loathing.

KING (very quietly)

Well? Shall I ask De Carnac here
to lop them off?

DE CARNAC closes in menacingly.

13. SCENE DELETED

LITTLE JOHN and SCARLET walk through the village. There is no apparent sign of life.

LITTLE JOHN

Very quiet. Where's everyone got to?

They walk on a few paces and are suddenly stopped by a voice.

TOM

No further Will Scarlet.

CUT TO:

From behind the various huts come several VILLAGERS armed with a variety of rustic weapons, pitchforks, sickles, quarterstaves etc. The VILLAGER who has just spoken steps forward.

VILLAGER

You're not welcome. Go on your way.

SCARLET

What's all this, Tom?

VILLAGER

You heard me, we're not having you here.

LITTLE JOHN

We only want water.

VILLAGER

Get it somewhere else. Go on, clear off.

SCARLET (angrily)

What's got into you?

The VILLAGERS raise their weapons.

SCARLET

You ungrateful swine. After all we've done.
Well don't expect any help from us again, 'cos
you won't get it.

They turn and start to go.

The VILLAGERS move in threateningly as SCARLET looks to LITTLE JOHN
puzzled.

15. INT. KING'S CHAMBER NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

DAY 15

The KING is pacing back and forth.

KING

What you, De Rainault, have failed to do in
a number of years, De Carnac and I will
accomplish in a matter of days. Yes?

SHERIFF

Yes, your majesty.

KING

Even such a pair of imbeciles must realise
that Robin Hood flourishes because the people
trust him. He'd never survive without their
support. We mean to undermine that support.
Explain, De Carnac.

DE CARNAC tightens his grip on the SHERIFF and GISBURNE and talks
deliberately as if to children.

DE CARNAC.

By getting the people on our side, Sheriff.
Generous and caring, that will be the new
image of the King and his servants. Do you
follow me?

SHERIFF

Yes.

DE CARNAC

An era of tolerance and justice. Even
charity.

KING (sharply)

For the moment. As for Robin Hood, the
people's hero, De Carnac will soon tarnish
that image, won't you De Carnac?

The KING indicates to DE CARNAC to release the SHERIFF and GISBURNE.
DE CARNAC does so, bows to the KING, and leaves. The KING smiles
broadly at the released pair.

KING

Now I will dine, De Rainault, and with
diverting company. You understand me?
I trust you will satisfy my considerable
appetite. Yes?

16. EXT. ROBIN HOOD'S CAMP. SHERWOOD DAY 16

MARION stands at the fire looking at the remains of the roasted pig and the
pile of dirty plates. ROBIN stands rather sullenly with his arms folded,
his back turned to her. MUCH sits looking embarrassed on a log nearby.

ROBIN

That's ridiculous.

MARION

I'm only saying what I saw. Half the village
had been slaughtered, and a pig was stolen.
They swore it was you.

ROBIN

And you believe them!

MARION

Just tell me where you got this meat.

ROBIN

Are you accusing us?

MARION

Answer my question.

ROBIN

No I won't. Think what you like.

LITTLE JOHN carrying a sheaf of the freshly cut arrow shafts, enters the camp with SCARLET.

LITTLE JOHN

Here we are. New arrow shafts. Should be enough.

MARION (angrily)

Enough for what, Robin?

MARION turns on her heels and walks angrily off into the forest. MUCH jumps up and follows her.

MUCH

Marion!

He leaves.

SCARLET

What's up with her?

ROBIN doesn't answer. He is furious, and bewildered.

LITTLE JOHN

We've just been driven out of Duxford.

SCARLET

All we wanted was water. They were all over us when we gave them back their tax money. Ungrateful swine.

ROBIN

Ashley village was raided this morning.
People were killed. They're saying it
was us.

SCARLET

What's going on?

ROBIN

I don't know but I mean to find out.
If the villagers turn against us, we're
in trouble.

ROBIN moves to look off in the direction MARION left, a troubled look on his face.

17. EXT. A ROAD THROUGH SHERWOOD DAY 17

A mule and cart are trundling along a track through the forest. A MONK on foot leads the mule. Two more MONKS sit on the cart. A fourth MONK, staff in hand, follows behind. The contents of the cart are covered by rough hewn sacking. There is no sound of bird or animal life. It is all very quiet. Perhaps too quiet.

CUT TO:

Further down the track stand FIVE HOODED FIGURES, similar in height, clothing and build to Robin Hood and his men. The cart is heard approaching.

CUT TO:

Close on the MONK driving the cart. He looks up and sees the FIGURES in the road ahead. A look of concern crosses his face for a moment. He then relaxes into a smile of recognition.

CUT TO:

The P.O.V. from the road where the FIGURES stand. The cart draws near. The MONKS smiling.

1ST MONK (driving the cart)

Good day, Robin. Good day Brother Tuck.

An arrow thuds into the 2ND MONK sitting beside the driver. He topples off the cart. The 1ST MONK looks in horror. The MONK leading the mule takes to his heels.

CUT TO:

The MONK at the rear of the cart throws down his staff and also makes off. 1ST MONK sits on the cart, frozen in fear.

1ST MONK (pleading)

Spare me, spare me Robin Hood.

DE CARNAC's men send arrows thudding into the wood beside him. The MONK lets out a scream, leaps from the cart and runs towards the trees, tripping and scrambling all the way.

1ST MONK

Mercy! Mercy!

CUT TO:

The FIVE HOODED FIGURES stand laughing raucously. The one dressed like Robin slowly pulls back his hood revealing the harsh brutal face of ROGER DE CARNAC.

DE CARNAC

They'll have a tale to tell the Abbot,
won't they?

18. EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST DAY 18

MARION stands leaning against a tree, she still looks angry. MUCH stands nearby.

MUCH

That old woman was mad; Robin would never
kill innocent people.

MARION

Then why wouldn't he answer me?

MUCH

You think he's possessed don't you?
That the demons of the dark powers have
got into him?

MARION

I don't know what to think. Why was he so angry?

MUCH

Unless you were right. Is that what you're saying?

MARION

He's got to explain. He's got to talk to me.

MARION leads the way as they move off.

19. EXT. A ROAD THROUGH SHERWOOD DAY 19

ROBIN, LITTLE JOHN, SCARLET, NASIR and TUCK have discovered the cart and the badly wounded MONK. We start close on SCARLET.

Widening out we see the whole grisly scene. TUCK kneels by one of the dead MONK'S in prayer. LITTLE JOHN is gently carrying another MONK to lay his body on the cart. ROBIN has taken a silver chalice from beneath the sacking on the cart. SCARLET moves to ROBIN.

SCARLET

I'll lay you anything this is Gisburne's work.
The thieving swine. Defenceless monks, I ask
you.

ROBIN holds up a chalice from the cart.

ROBIN

They haven't been robbed, Will.
And it wasn't Gisburne.

He indicates an arrow sticking into the cart.

SCARLET

Why not? So he's using longbows!

ROBIN

Why?

SCARLET angrily pulls an arrow from the cart and moves a few paces to where
TUCK is helping the wounded MONK.

MONK

He's lost a lot of blood.

SCARLET

Not as much as Gisburne'll los when I catch
up with him.

CUT TO:

NASIR appears from the forest at the side of the track and beckons ROBIN.

NASIR

Robin.

ROBIN moves to him.

ROBIN

Well?

NASIR

Look. Four to six men.

SCARLET has crossed to join them. He examines the trail.

SCARLET

What are we waiting for?

He starts to move to the undergrowth.

ROBIN

No Will. I want you and Tuck to take
the Monk back to the monastery.

SCARLET

Me?

ROBIN

I don't want any mistakes.

SCARLET

What d'you mean.

ROBIN

Your blood's too hot at the moment,
Will.

WILL glares at him.

ROBIN

Get him back safely. And warn Abbot Michael.

WILL continues to glare at him.

ROBIN

We'll get them.

WILL finally nods and moves reluctantly back to the cart.

SCARLET (eventually)

Alright, one leader I suppose.

SCARLET moves reluctantly back to the cart.

20. SCENE DELETED.

21. EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST ABOVE THE ROAD

DAY 21

Alerted by the voices, MARION and MUCH have made their way towards the track. Pulling back a piece of foliage, they see the unattended cart below them.

CUT TO:

Their P.O.V. The cart stands alone. We see the bodies of two dead MONKS lying on the top.

CUT TO:

Close on MARION and MUCH.

MUCH

What's happened?

MARION

Shh, someone's coming.

Their P.O.V. WILL and TUCK are lifting the MONK on to the cart. He looks very dead.

MUCH's VOICE O.O.V.

It's Will and Tuck.

MARION's VOICE O.O.V

Shh.

TUCK climbs into the driving seat and gives an order to WILL which we hear distantly.

TUCK

The chalice Will.

TUCK indicates the silver chalice which ROBIN left on the ground by the cart. WILL picks it up.

WILL

Be worth a bit this.

He places it in the cart, then moves off to lead the mule.

MARION and MUCH. MUCH looks to MARION in disbelief.

MARION looks to him but doesn't answer.

22. EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST EVENING 22

On a wooded hillside overlooking a valley ROBIN, NASIR and LITTLE JOHN seem to have lost DE CARNAC's trail. NASIR is kneeling on the ground searching for clues. LITTLE JOHN and ROBIN stand nearby.

NASIR

They could have been this way, hard to say.

LITTLE JOHN

It'll be dark soon, we'll never find them then.

NASIR (tetchily)

I know.

ROBIN

Look!

He points across the valley to the opposite hillside.

CUT TO:

From their P.O.V. we see a glade lit by the last rays of the setting sun. Passing through the glade and moving up the hillside we see DE CARNAC and his men in single file. For the watching heroes it is like seeing themselves in a disturbing and distant dream. At this range, the likeness is uncanny.

LITTLE JOHN O.O.V.

I'm seeing things!

ROBIN

That's what you're meant to see.

DE CARNAC and his MEN have crossed the glade and disappear into a clump of trees.

CUT TO:

The three watching.

NASIR

Cunning.

ROBIN

Yes, someone's out to blacken our names.

LITTLE JOHN

The Sheriff.

ROBIN

Maybe.

LITTLE JOHN

Shall we go after them?

ROBIN

Not yet.

LITTLE JOHN

Come on. There's only five. We can soon deal with them.

ROBIN

I said not yet.

NASIR

Robin!

NASIR points across the valley in DE CARNAC's direction.

CUT TO:

Their P.O.V. DE CARNAC and his men have re-appeared from the trees. They are leading horses and are now out of their outlaw costumes and wearing the livery of the KING'S GUARD. They stuff their disguises in saddle bags before mounting and riding off.

LITTLE JOHN O.O.V.
They're soldiers!

ROBIN
The King's Guard!

CUT TO:

Close on ROBIN.

ROBIN
So John must be in Nottingham.
We must have upset him!

23. INT. MAIN HALL. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY 23

On a raised rostrum at one end of the hall sits KING JOHN. On one side, close to him, stands DE CARNAC. The SHERIFF and GISBURNE stand on the other, a little further away. Below the rostrum, filling the well of the hall, are Saxon VILLAGERS from in and around Sherwood. They are clamouring for the KING'S attention and begging for protection from Robin Hood. The noise builds to a crescendo as the KING turns in his seat and beckons GISBURNE.

KING
Gisburne!

GISBURNE scurries over.

KING (quietly)

I'll address these scum.

GISBURNE steps forward and roars at the crowd.

GISBURNE

Quiet! Quiet! You scum!

The CROWD fall silent. The KING looks at GISBURNE with gimlet eyes, then out of the corner of his mouth

KING

Idiot.

The KING now rises to address the CROWD.

KING

Good and gentle people of Sherwood. We share your horror at these evil crimes and shall do all in our power to bring this Robin Hood to justice. I vow I'll not leave Nottingham until his head adorns the City walls.

There is a murmur of approval from the CROWD.

KING

However, to accomplish this, your
Sheriff needs your help. De Rainault?

The SHERIFF nods to the KING and steps forward.

SHERIFF

Many among you know the forest. Some of you
know Robin Hood himself.

The CROWD murmur.

SHERIFF

Come forward, tell us what you know.
You could be well rewarded.

The CROWD press forward all talking at once, the SHERIFF and
GISBURNE crouch down on the rostrum in front of them. SERVANTS
stand by with quills and parchment at the ready to take down
information.

CUT TO:

The KING turns in his seat to talk quietly with DE CARNAC.

KING

You've loosened their tongues De Carnac, but
we need to set them wagging. Yes?

A further outrage by Robin Hood?

KING

Exactly.

DE CARNAC bows and leaves.

24. SCENE DELETED

25. SCENE DELETED

26. SCENE DELETED

27. EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST DAY 27

A fourth track on the edge of the forest. This is an empty winding road out in the open. We hear the growing sound of drumming hoofbeats which build until suddenly, around a corner come FIVE HORSEMEN at a slow menacing canter.

CUT TO:

Close on the FIVE RIDERS. They are DE CARNAC and his MEN. DE CARNAC is still dressed in the livery of the King's Guard. He wears a helmet and carries his shield. The others, also helmeted, are also in the livery of the King's Guard. They move purposefully through our shot.

CUT TO:

A clearing as the road enters the forest. DE CARNAC raises one hand as he reins in his horse.

DE CARNAC (removing his helmet)
Dismount and change quickly.

The RIDERS dismount, start to tether the horses and from saddle bags take out their outlaw clothing. They begin to change.

CUT TO:

In a nearby tree, sprawled on a large bough, lies TUCK. He is fast asleep with a contented smile on his face. Oblivious to everything.

MIX TO:

The MEN have changed and have their weapons to hand.

DE CARNAC
Hoods up. Move.

The MEN pull up their hoods and led by DE CARNAC melt away into the forest.

CUT TO:

TUCK, still asleep, adjusts his position for greater comfort. We hear a whinny from one of the horses. TUCK murmurs, yawns and slowly opens his eyes. The horse whinnies again. Suddenly TUCK is wide awake.

CUT TO:

From TUCK'S P.O.V. the five tethered horses.

CUT TO:

TUCK almost falls out of the tree as a look of panic comes over his face. He scrambles down in a desperate rush and hurries away.

28. EXT. DUXFORD VILLAGE DAY 28

DE CARNAC and his MEN, swords drawn are entering the village. It appears to be deserted.

DE CARNAC

Search every hut. Kill anyone you find.
Then we'll burn this rubbish heap to the
ground.

CUT TO:

Inside a largish hut we see a group of VILLAGERS crowded together and
cowering in terror.

CUT TO:

DE CARNAC and his MEN as five abreast they move ominously down the track.

ROBIN'S VOICE O.O.V.

That's far enough "Robin Hood".

DE CARNAC and his MEN spin round and look back up the track.

CUT TO:

From their P.O.V., also five abreast, stand ROBIN, LITTLE JOHN, TUCK, NASIR
and WILL.

ROBIN

Nothing like me?

WILL

Older. Even uglier.

LITTLE JOHN (pointing at "Will Scarlet")

But he's better looking than you.

ROBIN

Who are you?

Close on DE CARNAC.

DE CARNAC

You insolent boy! Lay down your weapons!
I'm Roger De Carnac!

ROBIN

We don't like what you've done,
De Carnac.

WILL

Ruined our good name, ain't he?

LITTLE JOHN

Aye. Dragged us down to his level.

TUCK

And you can't get lower than that.

DE CARNAC

I swore to destroy you all.

Close on ROBIN.

ROBIN

By killing monks and unarmed villagers?

LITTLE JOHN

You must be very brave.

CUT TO:

Close on DE CARNAC.

DE CARNAC

And you very foolish. You've saved me a lot
of trouble. There's no need for our deception
now. No need for the people's help in finding
you. You're here, come like pigs to the slaughterhouse.

ROBIN

You're the pigs, De Carnac.

WILL

That's an insult to pigs!

ROBIN

Let's finish it!

CUT TO:

ROBIN and his MEN.

CUT TO:

A wide shot of DE CARNAC and his MEN. DE CARNAC lets out a yell and, sword drawn, leads the charge towards ROBIN and his MEN who move in to meet them. There now follows a pitched battle in which each of ROBIN'S MEN takes on his double (though close to, of course, the differences are obvious).

CUT TO:

ROBIN clashes with DE CARNAC in a fierce sword fight. Whilst ROBIN is quicker, DE CARNAC is the more experienced warrior. DE CARNAC'S brute force begins to tell.

CUT TO:

LITTLE JOHN is engaged in a quarterstaff fight. His "double" is, if anything, even larger than JOHN. With one massive blow he takes JOHN'S feet from under him and leaves him sprawling in the mud.

CUT TO:

TUCK and his OPPONENT both lose their swords in the first clash and grabbing one another fall to the ground wrestling in an ungainly fashion.

CUT TO:

SCARLET, eyes blazing, drives back his MAN some ten to fifteen yards in the first few exchanges. It looks as though he will finish the encounter quickly. He takes a huge double handed slash at his OPPONENT who ducks and avoids it. SCARLET'S sword sticks in the timber of a hut. The OPPONENT regains his ground as SCARLET retrieves his sword and goes at him once more.

CUT TO:

NASIR and his OPPONENT are engaged in a double dagger fight. Their eyes are locked together in intensity as they feint, parry and slash at each other. Neither is giving any ground.

CUT TO:

ROBIN is now completely on the defensive against DE CARNAC. A flurry of blows, ROBIN staggers back and falls to the ground panting and exhausted.

DE CARNAC

I'm going to stick your head on the
castle walls myself.

ROBIN scrambles to his feet and lunges at DE CARNAC. DE CARNAC easily evades the thrust and with a counter stroke sends ROBIN'S sword flying from his hand.

CUT TO:

A group of terrified VILLAGERS stand crowded in the doorway of a hut. ROBIN'S sword (Albion) lands in front of them.

CUT TO:

A defenceless ROBIN on one knee looks up to DE CARNAC.

CUT TO:

DE CARNAC as he raises his sword for the kill.

CUT TO:

A VILLAGER (1ST VILLAGER from Scene 14) picks up ROBIN'S sword. He looks to ROBIN then to DE CARNAC then back to ROBIN again.

1ST VILLAGER
Robin!

He throws ROBIN the sword.

CUT TO:

Still on one knee ROBIN catches the sword one handed. Carrying the momentum through, he comes up under DE CARNAC'S descending sword and carves through his stomach. DE CARNAC pitches and falls forward, dead.

CUT TO:

LITTLE JOHN'S quarterstaff comes down on his OPPONENT'S skull with a sickening thump.

CUT TO:

TUCK sits astride his OPPONENT and a massive blow from his right hand knocks the OPPONENT senseless.

CUT TO:

NASIR'S OPPONENT seeing what is happening turns and runs. NASIR flicks both his daggers which thud into his back. The OPPONENT falls dead.

CUT TO:

SCARLET'S OPPONENT stands exhausted, his sword trailing from one hand.

SCARLET'S OPPONENT (breathlessly)
Mercy, mercy.

SCARLET
The mercy you showed those villagers?

His eyes filled anger, SCARLET kicks him in the face?

CUT TO:

A wide shot of the village. It is over.
DE CARNAC'S MEN are bound.

The VILLAGERS are looking at them. They cheer ROBIN HOOD and his MEN.

^{TOM}
You're always welcome to share what little we have. And that's not much since the Sheriff's bled us dry to pay the King's taxes.

BREAK29. INT. MAIN HALL. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE DAY 29

The main hall is now almost deserted. The villagers have given their evidence and left. The KING sits in his chair reading a parchment, a sullen look on his face. GISBURNE sits crossed legged on the floor beside him sifting through mounds of parchments. The SHERIFF stands close by ~~practically~~^{frantically} leafing through a sheaf of parchments.

KING

De Rainault, your clerks have taken down almost more evidence than in the Domesday Book.

GISBURNE (excitedly)

Incredible!

KING

Yes. Utterly incredible! A conflicting mass of misinformation. Robin Hood is tall, short, stocky, slight, dark, fair, bearded, clean-shaven. This one insists he's a dwarf! And where do we find him? In a cave, down a well, up a tree! Near Wickham, Duxford, Ashley, Caverton etc., etc., etc.

He hits GISBURNE over the head with the parchment.

KING (shouting)

Imbeciles! Is there no one in this god forsaken Shire that can lend me to him!

CUT TO:

At the top of the stairs leading into the hall, a hooded woman pushes her way past the GUARDS and throws back her hood. It is MARION.

MARION

I can my liege. I will take you to Robin
Hood!

30. SCENE DELETED

31. INT. MAIN HALL. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE EVENING 31

MARION stands before the KING. The SHERIFF, GISBURNE and TWO
MEN AT ARMS are nearby.

SHERIFF

My liege, She is not to be trusted.
be trusted.

GISBURNE

She should be hanged at once.

KING (wearily)

Be silent, Gisburne, you imbecile!

SHERIFF

Clown! Your majesty I urge you to be wary.

KING

I understand your caution, De Rainault. Leave this to me. Now wench, explain to me exactly why this miraculous conversion has happened to you.

MARION

Your majesty. I've seen the things he's done. Villages massacred. Innocent monks robbed and murdered.

SHERIFF

But you've been with him. You've always known he's a robber. The King's taxes for instance.

MARION

I know that was a crime, my liege, but we took that money to give back to the poor. You ask too much from them. But now he robs for himself and kills for pleasure.

KING (beadily)

Hum. Go on.

MARION

I thought he was a good man, chosen by Herne the Hunter, but now it seems I was wrong.

The KING looks to the SHERIFF.

KING

Herne the Hunter?

SHERIFF

A forest god, my liege. An ancient superstition

The KING moves to a seat closer to MARION.

KING

Hmm. How quaint. And now, my dear, you say you are prepared to lead us to Robin Hood.

MARION

Yes, my liege.

KING

Good. And for your part in these robberies, are you truly penitent.

MARION

I am, my liege. And I beg your forgiveness.

The KING beckons her close to him.

KING

Come closer.

MARION kneels in front of him. The KING's eyes light with pleasure. He strokes her hair and caresses the back of her neck.

KING (softly)

Mnn. Penitence can be very appealing, especially when the penitent isso eager.....

MARION smiles nervously. The KING turns sharply away from her and addresses the SHERIFF and GISBURNE.

KING (briskly)

This woman will lead us to him and she will do it tonight. Make all the preparations Gisburne.

32. EXT. COURTYARD OUTSIDE NOTTINGHAM CASTLE EVENING 32.

A large force of horse and foot soldiers have assembled in the courtyard, some the SHERIFF's MEN and some the KING'S GUARD. Several of the MOUNTED SOLDIERS carry lighted torches. The SHERIFF hurries down the steps leading from the Castle, Below him. GISBURNE waits on his horse, MARION also mounted, is beside

SHERIFF

As De Carnac still hasn't returned, unfortunately you'll be in charge, Gisburne.

GISBURNE (angrily)

I know what I'm doing, my lord, provided this woman can lead me there.

MARION

We've used that camp for months. I could find it blindfold.

SHERIFF

You've enough men this time, Gisburne. The King wants their heads on the Castle battlements by dawn. Get on with it Gisburne.

GISBURNE looks at the SHERIFF with contempt, then wheels away. The SHERIFF turns to MARION.

SHERIFF

You'd better be telling the truth, Lady Marion, because either Robin Hood's as good as dead, or you are.

GISBURNE

March on!

The ASSEMBLED RANKS move off. The SHERIFF turns and hurries back into the castle

33 EXT. ROBIN HOOD'S CAMP NIGHT 33

A flickering fire. ROBIN, LITTLE JOHN, SCARLET, TUCK and NASIR move around setting up camp for the night. Wood is carried in. Food is being prepared. The action takes place quietly and purposefully.

34. EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST NIGHT 34

Along a road into Sherwood come GISBURNE and MARION still mounted, followed by the SOLDIERS. Lighted torches flicker in the dark as they push on into the forest.

CUT TO:

Close on GISBURNE and MARION as they reach a fork in the road. GISBURNE peers into the gloom.

GISBURNE

Which way, woman?

MARION

To the right.

They move on.

35. SCENE DELETED

36. EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST NIGHT 36

GISBURNE, MARION and the SOLDIERS are now deep in the forest.

GISBURNE

How much further?

MARION

Sssh, we're very close.

MARION points.

MARION

There!

CUT TO:

From their P.O.V. in the distance we see Robin's camp lit up by a flickering fire. Around it can be seen, sitting and standing, the shapes of five shadowy figures.

CUT TO:

GISBURNE, MARION and the SOLDIERS. GISBURNE has a glint of triumph in his eyes.

GISBURNE

The MOUNTED SOLDIERS begin to dismount as does MARION but GISBURNE restrains her.

GISBURNE

Not you. You've done your part. You're to return to the castle. The King has other plans for you.

MARION

Other plans?

GISBURNE

Other.....amusements. Take her back to Nottingham.

TWO MOUNTED SOLDIERS move alongside MARION and the three of them return in the direction they came. MARION looking extremely worried.

37. EXT. ROBIN HOOD'S CAMP NIGHT 37

Around the camp fire, seated on logs and leaning against trees, are FIVE HOODED MEN wearing identical clothing to Robin and his men. None of them move.

(N.B. They are in fact DE CARNAC's MEN bound and gagged, tied into position.

At this stage, we believe them to be Robin and his men)

38. EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST NIGHT 38

All the SOLDIERS are now on foot, the horses are tethered nearby. GISBURNE addresses the men. Some still carry lighted torches.

GISBURNE

Put out those torches, you fools! You, guard the horses.

One SOLDIER moves to the horses. GISBURNE beckons TWO senior ranked SOLDIERS to him.

GISBURNE

You, take the King's soldiers to the right of the camp. You, take the rest of the men to the left. I want the outlaws encircled.

TWO lines of SOLDIERS move off towards the camp, one to the left, one to the right.

39. EXT. ROBIN HOOD'S CAMP NIGHT 39

The FIVE HOODED FIGURES remain in the same position. Beyond them in the undergrowth lit by the flickering fire we see the glint of soldier's helmets as they move into position.

CUT TO:

Close on the line of SOLDIERS that moved to the right. They are now in position, crossbows at the ready.

CUT TO:

The second line of SOLDIERS also in position lift up their crossbows and take aim.

CUT TO:

Close on GISBURNE.

GISBURNE

This is Guy of Gisburne.

You are surrounded. Throw down your weapons and stand up.

CUT TO:

The FIVE FIGURES make no move at all.

GISBURNE O.O.V

Stand up I say!

CUT TO:

GISBURNE and his men charge in to the camp. GISBURNE stops. He gasps when he sees that the five men are bound and gagged.

GISBURNE

Find them.

GISBURNE stands for a moment in horror then, desperately, looks round.

GISBURNE

That woman will die for this!

40. EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST NIGHT 40

The one SOLDIER that Gisburne left to guard the horses is held at knife point by TOM (1st villager, Duxford). There are several other VILLAGERS standing nearby. All armed with their

pitchforks, sickles etc. A breathless MUCH arrives.

MUCH

Gisburne's fallen for it.
Where's Marion?

1ST VILLAGER

This fellar says she's already
been sent back to the castle,

MUCH

Deal with him. Then make yourselves scarce.

MUCH jumps on a horse and rides off as the 1ST VILLAGER knocks the GUARD senseless and he and the other VILLAGERS begin to drive the horses into the undergrowth.

41. EXT. A CLEARING BY SHERWOOD FOREST NIGHT 41

In the clearing where De Carnac's men left their horses are ROBIN, LITTLE JOHN, SCARLET, TUCK and NASIR. They are in the final stages of putting on the uniforms of De Carnac and his men.

ROBIN has completed dressing in De Carnac's livery.

ROBIN

If De Carnac can pass himself
off as me, I can pass myself off as him.

TUCK

What about Gisburne?

ROBIN

In the dark as usual.

They all laugh as they mount the horses.

42. SCENE DELETED

43. INT. KING'S CHAMBER. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE NIGHT 43.

MARION stands with TWO LADIES IN WAITING who hold a selection of gowns. The KING, eyes twinkling, paces nearby. The SHERIFF looks on. The MANDOLIN PLAYERS are playing.

KING

So Gisburne has him trapped. I'm sorry you weren't in at the kill, my dear, but had you been harmed, I would have been desolate. Now to more pleasurable things. You shall be bathed, scented, and dressed in.....let me see....

The KING examines the robes.

KING

Mmn. This. Finest Byzantine silk.
dear. How well the colour matches your eyes.

MARION smiles apprehensively.

KING

Then De Rainault , you will bring her to me. Yes?

SHERIFF

Yes my liege.

The KING takes MARION'S hand and kisses it and looks into her eyes.

KING

MARION turns to go, the smile fades from her face.

44. EXT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE. OUTER GATES NIGHT 44

ROBIN and his MEN helmets on, ride up to the gates. The gates are manned by TWO MEN AT ARMS.

ROBIN (gruffly)

Roger De Carnac. Open the gates!

The MEN AT ARMS jump to it, open the gates and let them in. The horses canter through.

45. INT. A CELL. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE NIGHT 45

The cell which holds the King's taxes is being guarded by TWO MEN AT ARMS. ROBIN, LITTLE JOHN and SCARLET, wearing helmets, stride in authoratively.

ROBIN (gruffly)

I am here to take the tax money to London.

MAN AT ARMS

On whose authority?

ROBIN

The King's! I am Roger De Carnac.

MAN AT ARMS

I take my orders from the Sheriff.

51.

He turns to leave. SCARLET steps in his way.

With lightening speed SCARLET hits the MAN AT ARMS in the stomach. As he doubles up SCARLET thumps him on the back of the neck. LITTLE JOHN simultaneously deals with the other MAN in identical fashion. ROBIN picks up the keys from one of the MEN and moves swiftly to unlock the door.

46. INT. KING'S CHAMBER. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE NIGHT 46

The MANDOLIN PLAYERS are still playing. They look a little tired by now. The KING paces impatiently around the room. The SHERIFF stands apologetically by the door.

SHERIFF

She's still being...being prepared, my liege.

KING

God's legs, De Rainault. The Queen doesn't keep me waiting this long. Fetch her to me, this instant!

The SHERIFF bows and leaves.

47. EXT. COURTYARD BY SIDE ENTRANCE. CASTLE NIGHT 47

Standing in the shadows close to a door is a cart and horse. TUCK sits on the driving seat holding the reins. The cart is high sided and open topped. The door to the castle opens and LITTLE JOHN appears carrying two sacks of money. He crosses to the back of the cart and throws the sacks in to a waiting NASIR.

48. EXT. OUTSIDE CASTLE WALLS NIGHT 48

By a wall outside the castle is MUCH, the horse he rode off on is nearby. MUCH has a length of rope with a weighted end which he is attempting to throw up and hook over the castle wall. He does this twice without success and leans down to pick up the rope a third time.

CUT TO:

Close on the rope on the ground. As MUCH'S hands go to pick it up a large boot treads on the rope.

CUT TO:

MUCH looks up to see the looming face of one of the Sheriff's GUARDS. The GUARD puts out a hand and yanks MUCH to him by the scruff of the neck.

49. INT. A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE NIGHT 49

MARION now dressed in the robe the king selected is being pulled along the corridor by the SHERRIF.

SHERIFF

Hurry. The King grows impatient.

MARION indicates where the SHERIFF'S hand is digging into the sleeve of her dress.

MARION

Take care my lord! This is the finest Byzantine silk.

The SHERIFF glowers and yanks her along.

50. EXT. COURTYARD BY THE STEPS TO CASTLE NIGHT 50

Across the deserted courtyard ROBIN on horseback leads the now loaded cart. NASIR and TUCK are seated on the cart. LITTLE JOHN and SCARLET both mounted, bring up the rear.

CUT TO:

Close on NASIR and TUCK on the cart.

56 /
CUT TO:

From their P.O.V. we see MUCH being frogmarched towards them by the GUARD.

CUT TO:

ROBIN holds up his hand to stop the cart. He then addresses the GUARD.

ROBIN (gruffly)
Where are you taking that boy?

The GUARD and MUCH approach ROBIN.

GUARD
To the Sheriff.

ROBIN
On your way then.

The GUARD takes MUCH past ROBIN alongside the cart. As he passes, NASIR leans from his seat and with a gloved fist fells the GUARD from behind. ROBIN has dismounted. He hurries to MUCH.

ROBIN
What's happened? Where's Gisburne?

MUCH
Lost in Sherwood. But he sent Marion back before we could rescue her. The King's got her!

The KING is waiting impatiently. The MANDOLIN players (or whatever) play on in the background. The SHERIFF enters with MARION.

SHERIFF

The girl, my lége.

The KING looks lecherously at MARION who is wonderin' how long she can hold him off.

KING

Excellent. Excellent. Pour us
some fine De Rainault.

The SHERIFF glares at the KING but does as he's told. MARION and the KING take the wine from him. The KING gazes into her eyes and they both drink.

KING

To warm the blood.

MARION grimaces

KING

What's wrong ?

MARION

Too heavy for my taste, my lége.

KING

That can be remedied. De Rainault
bring us your best claret.

The SHERIFF is furious at being treated as a waiter.

KING

Hurry, man !

The SHERIFF goes and the KING immediately advances on MARION. He opens his arms.

KING

Come, Marion !

MARION

(thinking fast)

But - but - you are the king !

KING

Think of me (he pounces)
~~THINKS~~
as a man !

MARION breaks free.

MARION

How can I, my lége ?

KING

(losing his temper)

Because I command you to !

(MARION
playing for time)
Majesty - I hold you in such awe
I'm not at ease. Perhaps though ..

KING

Well ?

MARION

There s a game that warms the
blood better than any wine.

The KING is puzzled.

KING

A game ?

MARION

From Anjou, my lord king.
That country lovers play.

KING

(intrigued)

What game ?

MARION

Conquest, my lord. The girl
pretends to loathe her suitor
and resist him. In turn, he must
stay calm - wooing her with gentle
words - whatever she says - or does.

MARION is being very seductive. The KING is hooked.

MARION

(very softly)

Will you play, my lord ?

KING

Why not ? Be in.

MARION

Why You loathesome little toad -
you make my flesh creep !

The MANDOLIN players stop playing in shocked horror. The KING is equally taken
aback. MARION smiles sweetly at him.

MARION

Your turn, my lord.

The KING recovers his surprise and takes her in his arms.

My dearest, I find you irresistible.

MARION

And I find you repulsive !

She stamps on his foot and struggles free. The KING loses his temper.

KING

You - (he remembers) How sweet -
how enchanting , how bewitching -

He comes after her and she dodges round the bed.

KING

Marion - Marion my love..

52. INT. A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE NIGHT 52

Disguised by De Carnac's helmet and clothes, ROBIN has bluffed his way into the castle. He has progressed to a corridor around the corner from the KING'S chamber. He approaches a GUARD who stands barring his way.

ROBIN (gruffly)

Roger De Carnac to see the King.

The GUARD smartly moves aside, ROBIN passes him and reaches the corner of the corridor and looks around it.

CUT TO:

From ROBIN'S P.O.V. we see the SHERIFF leave the KING'S chamber and address another GUARD who stands outside the chamber.

SHERIFF

The King

is not to be
disturbed. Let no one enter.

The SHERIFF moves off away from ROBIN.

53. INT. KING'S CHAMBER NOTTINGHAM CASTLE NIGHT 53

MARION dodges away from the KING.

MARION

Keep away from me you insignificant satyr!

KING

My jewel! Queen of my heart!

More dodging. The KING - is getting out of breath and overheated. MARION gets behind the MANDOLIN players who keep going.

54. INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE KING'S CHAMBER NIGHT 54

ROBIN walks purposefully up to the GUARD outside the door. The GUARD steps forward to bar his way.

ROBIN

I'm Roger De Carnac.

He removes his helmet with both hands and in one movement brings it down on the GUARD'S head. The GUARD crumples to the floor.

The KING finally catches MARION by the bed.

KING

My goddess - sweetheart -
darling - !

They fall together through the curtains. All we can see is their feet. ROBIN enters.

MARION (O.V.)

Let me go, you lecherous goat !

KING (O.V.)

What rapture !

The MANDOLIN players stop when they see ROBIN.

KING (O.V.)

Play on ! Play on !

The MANDOLIN PLAYERS resume the music. ROBIN conducts them with his sword while moving silently towards the bed. He finds a chink in the curtains on one side of the bed and delicately opens it a little.

CUT TO:

From his P.O.V. we see the KING and MARION in an embrace. MARION is looking at ROBIN over the KING'S shoulder. There is a moment of recognition. She breaks the embrace slightly and holds the KING by his shoulders.

MARION

You've won, my liege! I am yours.

KING

Ahh.

The KING lies back, eyes closed.

ROBIN steps away from the bed and signals with his sword to the MANDOLIN PLAYERS to play on. They do so with fearful gusto. MARION having slipped out of the bed joins ROBIN and they move to the door.

MARION

I thought you were never coming!

ROBIN and MARION run down the corridor towards a window. They leap up onto the sill and look down onto the courtyard below.

From ROBIN and MARION'S P.O.V. we see the cart and the rest of the gang looking anxiously up.

CUT TO:

ROBIN and MARION on the ledge.

ROBIN

I always knew we'd fall for each other.

He takes her hand and together they jump from the window.

From the window up in the castle, we see ROBIN and MARION jump down towards the cart.

Inside the cart ROBIN and MARION land safely on the straw covered money sacks close to a startled MUCH.

ROBIN

Alright?

MARION

Fine.

TUCK cracks his whip and the cart moves off. WILL and LITTLE JOHN ride in front.

50. The SHERIFF comes in with the claret. The MANOLIN players are still going fl out.

KING (O.V.)

Hurry, my dearest !

The SHERIFF reacts. Looks around.

KING

~~Give me my reward !~~

Give me my reward !

The SHERIFF doesn't know what to do.

KING

Come back to me !

Now the SHERIFF is alarmed. He goes to the curtain and opens it.

CUT TO:

REV LSE ANGLE

The KING who is lying dreamily on his back hears the curtain open .

KING

Marion -

He turns and sees the terrified face of the SHERIFF looking down at him.

59. EXT. OUTER GATES. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE NIGHT 59

The solitary GUARD at the gate having seen the cart pass through the inner gates has opened the outer ones in anticipation. SCARLET and LITTLE JOHN on horseback lead the way past the GUARD. SCARLET turns and smiles at him.

SCARLET

Thank you very much. We're taking the King's taxes. See you next year.

He waves cheerfully at the GUARD who nods in acknowledgement.

CUT TO:

Inside the cart as it trundles along ROBIN, MARION and MUCH are making themselves comfortable.

ROBIN

That dress becomes you. Goes with your eyes.

MARION (with mock pride)

That's what the King said.

ROBIN (smiling)

Did he?

They both laugh.

60. INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE KING'S CHAMBER NIGHT 60

The mandolin music is still playing. It abruptly stops. There is a pause followed by a loud crash and the sound of splintering wood and twanging strings.

61. INT. THE KING'S CHAMBER IN CASTLE NIGHT 61

Close on the KING, his face blazing with apoplectic rage as he speaks through clenched teeth.

KING

Would you repeat that De Rainault?
I must have misheard you.