

SCARLET

THE OUTLAWS OF NOTTINGHAM

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ACT I - SCENE VI

SETTING: Village of Nottingham. Daytime.

AT RISE: TOWNSPEOPLE are gathered in the town square. GUY, GUARDS, & SHERIFF enter. ROBIN, JOHN, YOUNG ALAN, & WILL sneak onto stage. AGATHA, LAURA, SIMON & BITSY are on the opposite side of the stage.

GUY

Tax day! Have your taxes ready or you'll spend a night in jail!

SHERIFF

Ah, tax day. My favorite day of the week.

(SHERIFF & GUY approach the first group of TOWNSPEOPLE - TREVOR, GERTRUDE, and child - as GUARDS stand by. TREVOR gives the SHERIFF a small bag of coins. ROBIN, JOHN, YOUNG ALAN, & WILL begin to sneak towards AGATHA)

SHERIFF, contd.

Oh, come now. This can't be all!

GUY

Three mouths to feed means three times as much.

SHERIFF

What will it be? A night with the rats in a cell...or maybe your lovely wife's wedding band here...

(inspects GERTRUDE's hand)

TREVOR HOLLY

I have a bit more, but, please, we don't have any food left and-

SHERIFF

Give what is Caesar's to Caesar, my dear man. Surely God will provide for you.

(TREVOR takes out a second bag of coins & reluctantly gives it to the SHERIFF)

SHERIFF

Now, that wasn't so hard. See you next week.

(laughs)

(ROBIN, JOHN, YOUNG ALAN, & WILL are now half-way across the stage, standing just behind ISABELLE holding her baby. SHERIFF continues to make his rounds)

ISABELLE

What am I going to do? The Sheriff took every single penny I had left last week. Friar Tuck was so good to feed us but- oh dear, if I don't have any taxes to give! What will happen to you, my darling, if I am arrested-?

(begins to cry)

ROBIN

(to JOHN)

Give me your bridge money!

YOUNG ALAN

What!?

ROBIN

This woman, she will be thrown in jail unless she has something to give the Sheriff. We must help her and her child. Please you will have no need for money once we get your family to safety.

YOUNG ALAN

(sniffles)

Goodbye money...

(JOHN hands over the bag of coins. YOUNG ALAN is distraught but doesn't complain)

ROBIN

Here! Take this.

(places the bag of coins in ISABELLE's hand)

ISABELLE

What-?

(ISABELLE is shocked. ROBIN, JOHN, YOUNG ALAN, & WILL hide as the SHERIFF approaches)

SHERIFF

How is your baby, there? Prince John loves children, you know, because it means more taxes! But as I recall...

(pause)
You barely had enough last week.

ISABELLE
And, praise the Lord, I have enough this week as well.
(hands over the money)

SHERIFF
(to TOWNSPEOPLE)
See! Your God does provide!
(laughs mockingly)

(ROBIN, JOHN, YOUNG ALAN, & WILL reach
AGATHA, LAURA, SIMON & BITSY)

JOHN
Agatha!

(JOHN & AGATHA embrace. ISABELLE begins
to tell those around her of the
miraculous gift. The TOWNSPEOPLE are
amazed. SHERIFF continues his rounds.
JOHN embraces LAURA, SIMON & BITSY in
one big hug)

AGATHA
John! You came just in time. The Sheriff-

JOHN
We aren't paying any taxes today, Aggie.

AGATHA
So, you're going to prison again?

JOHN
No. God has given us a chance to leave and, I believe, a chance
to help the village.

AGATHA
If you think we can, I will follow you.

(SHERIFF approaches, unaware)

NOTTINGHAM SQUARE

ROBIN
*Here we are, Nottingham square, so many memories
Here we are, let us recover family and friends*

*I assure you they will be safe, they will be cared for
So make haste, let us away, before we are found*

(SHERIFF sees ROBIN. GUY & GUARDS
surround ROBIN, WILL, YOUNG ALAN, JOHN,
AGATHA & CHILDREN)

SHERIFF

Stop right there, criminal scum, you are surrounded

GUARDS

*Stop right there, traitorous thieves
Stay where you are
You have nowhere left to run, you'll be arrested*

SHERIFF

*You will be jailed, you will be charged
You will be hung*

YOUNG ALAN

*What is this, guards all around, what a conundrum
Little John, what shall we do, where will we run?
But perhaps, if we could say, clear out this road here
We would be safe on our way home, we-Oh*

(JOHN yells & knocks the GAURDS to the
guard in one fell swoop. EVERYONE
stares for a moment)

YOUNG ALAN

Now I hope you learned something today, gentlemen.

*If you stand in Little John's way
You will get...smooshed*

ROBIN

Now dear friends, make our escape, off to the forests

YOUNG ALAN

We are noble heroes for sure, just look around

WILL

*What a mess, oh well I guess, this counts as a rescue
After this, an outlaw I am, no turning back*

ROBIN, WILL, YOUNG ALAN, JOHN & AGATHA

No turning back, no turning back

(ROBIN, WILL, YOUNG ALAN, JOHN, AGATHA
& CHILDREN exit)

SHERIFF

Don't just lie there, you imbeciles. Get after them!

GUY

But which way did they go, sir?

SHERIFF

Oh, confound it, Gisbourne! Can you do nothing right?!

GUY

I'm sorry sir! I will begin the search right away!

(GUY & GUARDS begin to search)

SHERIFF

(shouting to GUY & GUARDS)

Yes. See that you do. I want that traitor in the stocks by
nightfall!

TOWNSPEOPLE

Did you see, who were those men, opposing the sheriff?

SOLOIST

Oh, did you see!

TOWNSPEOPLE

Did you see, who were those men, helping the poor?

SOLOIST

Our hero!

TOWNSPEOPLE

Someone new, here to fight back, standing for freedom

SOLOIST

Standing for freedom!

TOWNSPEOPLE

*Could it be, our God has heard, our hero has come?
Our hero!*

(GUY runs back to the SHERIFF, out of
breath)

GUY

Sir, we lost them.

ALAN A'DALE

Robin's heart was lifted as he escaped into Sherwood Forest with his newly formed gang: Alan A'Dale, the most handsome lad in the bunch, without a doubt; Little John, the gentle giant, Agatha, the wise, brave mother, along with their three large offspring; and Will Scarlet, an awkward fellow in need of purpose. All of them were quite merry, finally out from underneath the Sheriff's heel. Together, they worked to create a home there in the forest. Although they didn't have the typical comforts, they had something much more valuable: fellowship. Friends with which to share woes, encourage hearts, and to tell tales around a camp fire.