

The Adventures of Robin Hood: A Musical – Sort of

Robin opens the door and the stage goes dark. As he is speaking from backstage, the set becomes a huge living space with no fire in the fireplace, furniture turned over, cobwebs, etc.

Robin: Whoa! Why is it so dark in here? And cold. Why is there no fire, or anyone to greet me? Hello...anyone home. I'll light a candle here to see what is going on.

Robin: This place needs a cleaning crew and a serious remodel. What is going on here? (*shouting*) Father, it's Robin!...I'm home!...Father?...Where the devil can he be?

A man in tunic and tights jumps out and speaks while trying to attack Robin with several sword thrusts, but is not even near Robin. Then he turns in a different direction and repeats the following words and movements.

Alfred: You bloody bloke! Just who do you think you are breaking into this estate? I'll show you! Take that...and that...and that!!

Robin moves up behind Alfred and gently touches him on the shoulder while saying his name. Alfred turns while raising his sword to attack Robin, who ducks just in the nick of time.

Robin: Whoa! Hold on, old man! Calm down...Alfred?...is that you?

Alfred: Master Robin, sir? Robin of Locksley?

Robin: Yes, Alfred, it is I. I've returned home.

Alfred reaches out a few times in different directions, trying to hug Robin, before he finally grabs him in a bear hug.

Alfred: Oh, Master Robin! Thank God you are here at last.

Robin: But where is my father, Alfred? And why is the estate such a mess?

Alfred: I'm sorry to have to tell you this, sir, but your father is dead. That evil Prince

John tried to take your Locksley lands. Your father and his men fought Prince John's soldiers, led by that terrible Sheriff of Nottingham, (fake spit), but it was too much for my Lordship. Your dear father had a stroke and died...I'm so sorry, master Robin.

Maid Marian enters stage right and sneaks up behind Robin, carrying a big stick/frying pan, etc, as Alfred is saying the above, and as he finishes speaking, Marian hits Robin on the head. Robin falls to the floor, dazed, but not unconscious. He gets up slowly.

Robin: Who are you? And what in bloody heaven did you do that for?

Marian: Curses on you, you evil bloke! That's what you get for picking on a poor old blind man!

Alfred: Maid Marian, please stop; it's Master Robin!

Marian: Robin?...Can it be? Is it really you?...Oh Robin, we are so glad you are home!

Robin: Well, you certainly have a funny way of showing it. Now, who are you again?

Marian: Oh Robin, don't you remember me? I am Marian, your childhood playmate. We spent all of our time together when we were children...You were my hero, and I was your damsel in distress!...

Robin: You don't seem to be in "distress" to me!

Marian: Oh Robin, I'm sorry I hit you so hard. I was just coming to check on Alfred and bring him some food when I heard voices. Oh dear, are you all right?

Robin: Marian? *(looks her over)* Well, you certainly grew up quite nicely.... *(rubs his head)* and you're quite strong, too!...So, now that we are all reacquainted, can someone kindly tell me what is going on around here. And why everyone is so quick to use weapons on me?

Marian: Oh Robin, everything is just awful! When King Richard left, he put his evil, intellectually-challenged brother, Prince John in charge of the kingdom. He is not the leader Richard is. Prince John spends so much money buying jewels, having banquets, and remodeling the castle that he has put the kingdom in huge debt!

Alfred: So to pay for his greed, Prince John keeps raising taxes, and when people can't, or won't pay, he takes over their lands and puts them in jail. He has this really evil, mean, and wicked henchman, the Sheriff of Nottingham (fake spit) who, with his deputies, does all of Prince John's dirty work.

Robin: So Prince John and the Sheriff of Nottingham are responsible for my father's death **and** the destruction of this estate, huh?

Marian: And for Alfred's blindness! They knocked him from his horse, and he hit his head on a rock and lost his sight. They have destroyed homes and farms all over the kingdom. Everyone is irate...And now that creepy, old Sheriff of Nottingham (fake spit) has asked me to marry him! The nerve of that cad!

Robin: It seems I will have to do something about the Prince John and this Sherriff of Nottingham!

Alfred: Spit, Master Robin.

Robin: What?

Alfred: Spit. It is in vogue to spit after you say his name... to show your disgust with him.

Robin: Oh. Sherriff of Nottingham (fake spit). Wait...Marian, what did you tell him? About marrying him, I mean.

Marian: Well, I told him in no uncertain terms that I would never marry such a vicious, mean, nasty person...and besides that, I cannot marry him because I am **betrothed!**

Robin: You are? To whom?

Marian: Why to you, silly! Don't you remember when you asked me to marry you when we were 10 years old? We were under the beech tree behind the manor, and you gave me this engagement ring. You stole my heart, and I've waited faithfully for you all these years!

Robin: (*sputtering*) But Marian, we were only children! That ring, as you call it, was

from a pony bridle, not a real ring.

Marian: Robin, what are you saying? Don't you want to marry me? You cad! You scoundrel! Is there someone else? Oh, I shall die of shame...and a broken heart!

Robin: No, of course there is not one else; who has time for love when they are fighting heathens! I mean **marriage**; I don't know...Marian, you must understand, I am very confused right now! I have been fighting in the Crusades for years, and I was so excited to get home, only to find that my father is dead, my home is practically destroyed, the servant who practically raised me is blind, and in addition to all that, I am engaged to be married! Any man might be taken aback a little, don't you think?

Marian: Well, I suppose so...but what a way to hurt a girl's feelings! Anyway, it gets worse. When I said I wouldn't marry him since you were to be my husband...at least I thought you were...the Sheriff (fake spit) had a hissy fit, and made Prince John put out a warrant for your arrest, and told him to seize your lands for the crown...So this land is not really yours anymore...And you are a kind of an outlaw, too...Sorry about that, Robin!

Robin: Egad! Can anything else go wrong?

Marian: Well, as a matter of fact, yes. The Sheriff (all fake spit) got word that you were back in England, so he is probably already on his way here. You and Alfred need to go, right now.

Robin: Go...go where?

Marian: Well, it wouldn't be proper for you to stay at my place, since we aren't married...or maybe even engaged anymore, but many people who have lost their land or had run-ins with the Prince and Sheriff have moved to Sherwood Forest and set up sort of a community. I am sure you would be safe there. But you have to hurry!

Robin: Alfred, grab your things, and we'll be off. What about you, Marian?

Marian: Oh, he won't hurt me; I am King Richard's cousin, and he says he loves me, remember? Yuck! Now go! I will try to bring you news and food as soon as I can sneak away.

She kisses Robin. Robin is a little dazed and smiles as he rubs his cheek. She puts Alfred's arm in Robin's and starts pushing them out the exit.

Marian: Now go, go, go! Hurry!

Robin: Goodbye, dear Marian. We will see you soon... I hope.

Robin and Alfred exit stage left, and Marian sneaks off stage right. GO TO DARK.