

ACT ONESCENE ONE - OUTLAW REVEALED

*Note: The Bard should be onstage prior to the show's beginning. This could be a five minute pre-show or a longer one depending on what's right for your show and cast.*

Lights up on The Bard. They fiddle with their lute, unable to find the right words or the right notes. The Bard sighs, sitting down. Then, they notice the audience.

## THE BARD

Well, hello there. How long have you been watching me? No matter... I suppose you all are quite the audience aren't you. An audience must always demand to be entertained. But Bards, even noble ones such as myself, don't play for free. I have many stories to tell, I promise you won't be disappointed! Stories of kings, outlaws, adventurers and thieves!

(beat, as if the audience has begun to leave)

No, no! Wait, nothing boring I promise you! If you might, toss a coin? Perhaps I will tell you the best story I have.

(A coin is tossed, either from someone in the audience or backstage)

Why thank you, you are very generous. If you all should be searching for adventure, chivalry, and bravery. Well, my friends, you have come to the right spot. Tonight I will tell you the story of a thief and a maid.

The lights shift.

## THE BARD

Long ago, in great Britain there was a mighty king,

Enter King Richard.

The story the bard describes should play out behind them as they go on.

## THE BARD

King Richard the first. He was beloved by his subjects, and served as a fair and just ruler. But one day, King Richard

(MORE)

## THE BARD (cont'd)

left on a crusade. Leaving the Bishop of Ely to rule in his stead. But the King's wicked brother, John, had the Bishop committed of treason and usurped the throne. King John was nothing like his brother, a greedy and powerful ruler who had no care for the people. King John imposed unfair taxes on the people, and with the help of the Sheriff of Nottingham, stole the peoples' wealth for himself. Yet, there was hope for the people of Britain. For a faceless hero had arisen from the Sherwood Forest. A man named Robin Hood. King John detested Robin Hood, despite the fact that no one had ever seen him. He ordered his two most loyal men, the Sheriff of Nottingham and Sir Guy of Gisborne to find and oust Robin Hood's true identity. But...I'm getting ahead of myself. Why don't I let them tell the story?

The setting shifts and the bard disappears. We are in a great hall. Many people are gathered, laughing and celebrating with drink and food. Present is Robin Hood (AKA Robert Fitzooth), Maid Marian, Robin Hood's Merry Band, including; Friar Tuck, Will Scarlet, Much (the Miller's daughter), George-a-Greene, Gilly Whitehand, Reynolde Greenleafe and Bettris. Also present is Marian's father Lord Fitzwalter.

WILL SCARLET

(raising a glass)

To Earl Robert and Lady Marian!

ALL

Huzzah!

ROBIN HOOD

Please, please- let's not just cheer to our marriage but also to the hope of the true King's return. All hail King Richard!

ALL

(except Lord  
Fizwalter)

All hail King Richard! Long live the King!

WILL SCARLET

And to Robin Hood,

Robin and Will cheers their  
glasses.

MAID MARIAN

Shh, not too loudly. Not all here are friends of Robin Hood.

ROBIN HOOD

Your father?

MAID MARIAN

Yes,

ROBIN HOOD

Well, when we are married he will be father to Robin Hood, so he'd better get used to it.

MAID MARIAN

We are not wed just yet, don't forget that.

ROBIN HOOD

How can I? It's as if the day keeps dragging on.

WILL SCARLET

Besides I think one toast to our hidden hero shouldn't cause much trouble.

MAID MARIAN

Then you do not know my father Will Scarlet. If you think he would hesitate to turn in Robin Hood for a sack of gold you would be mistaken.

ROBIN HOOD

But what I do shouldn't even be considered-

MAID MARIAN

I know my love, you're a very noble man. One day we will be able to celebrate your exploits publicly but for now-

FRIAR TUCK

The happy couple! Keeping secrets are we?

MAID MARIAN

Never from you Friar Tuck.

ROBIN HOOD

We are conspiring our escape from this party. Can you not marry us now? I'm not sure I can wait another minute.

FRIAR TUCK

Patience is key good Robert, it is a virtue.

MAID MARIAN

You're too good.

FRIAR TUCK

How is Much faring? She seems rather happy here.

MAID MARIAN

I think she is doing well, of course everything that happened is just so dreadful.

FRIAR TUCK

You're noble for taking her in.

ROBIN HOOD

People say that a lot, truly, it's the least I could do after her father passed.

MAID MARIAN

She has been through a lot, I am just glad to see her happy.

ROBIN HOOD

Wicked and corrupt people they are, I don't understand how King John has the heart for it.

WILL SCARLET

That's if he has a heart at all.

ROBIN HOOD

He's just a greedy tyrant, that's all. One day when King Richard returns-

FRIAR TUCK

Enough talk of all that. You two should be celebrating your happy union soon to come. Tonight is for you, not King John.

MAID MARIAN

You're right as always Friar Tuck.

(calling out)

Music! Music please! Let's have once last dance before I become the Lady of the Sherwood forest.

Music begins to play. The two dance together happily. The scene is cheery and full of joy.

Then...

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

(off)

Everyone! Freeze right where you are!

With a slam of the door enters the Sheriff of Nottingham and Sir Guy of Gisborne.

LORD FITZWALTER

Sheriff! What is the meaning of this intrusion?

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

I hate to break up this night of celebration, but we've reason to believe that the outlaw and thief called Robin Hood is in this very room.

ALL

What?//No!//You're wrong,//What do you mean?//etc...

ROBIN HOOD

On what grounds do you bring this accusation into my home?

LORD FITZWALTER

It's outrageous!

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

Well, Sir Guy and myself were tasked by King John to do one simple thing. Find and bring to justice Robin Hood.

SIR GUY

That's right! So once we caught that Miller hunting the King's deer we were sure Robin Hood would come to his aid.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

Of course, Robin Hood dared not show his face. But we found that someone else did, Will Scarlet.

LORD FITZWALTER

Is this true?

SIR GUY

That's not all, we followed Will Scarlet, who'd rescued the young Miller's daughter. And found that he'd brought her here, to Locksley.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

Why bring her here if not to live under the care of the beloved outlaw them self?

ROBIN HOOD

Can you get to the point already? Say who it is, who is Robin Hood?

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

Why none other than the one being wed tonight?

LORD FITZWALTER

Are you implying that my daughter-

SIR GUY

Wait a minute--Maid Marian?

MAID MARIAN  
(somewhat amused)

You think it's me?

SIR GUY

Wait- no, I thought that we'd decided that it was-

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

No you idiots! Not the girl, Robin Hood is Earl Robert of Locksley.

ROBIN HOOD

Me? On what evidence?

SIR GUY

We just explained it to you. The girl, who's very poorly hiding behind the Friar right now?

ROBIN HOOD

Yes, I heard your explanation. But how does that convict me? There is no real evidence other than your words. Bring forward one piece of real, physical evidence and I will happily turn myself over to you.

MAID MARIAN

Robert, be sensible. Please, Sheriff, Robert is a noble man you can't think him to be an outlaw.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

Well, there is also this.

The Sheriff holds up a ring on a chain. Robin grabs his neck.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

See,

LORD FITZWALTER

But what does that mean? If you're going to accuse my daughter of being betrothed to an outlaw--you'll ruin my name!

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

The ring has an inscription; *'My dear Robin'* with the initials M.F. And I happen to notice now that it exactly matches the ring that Marian wears on her hand.

SIR GUY

We found it stuck in the bushes near Robin Hood's last robbery.

LORD FITZWALTER

So, Robert, it is you...

ROBIN HOOD

But- there's no proof! Maybe I dropped it on my afternoon stroll, how do I know you're not lying?

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

Enough of this nonsense! Earl Robert of Locksley you are being charged with treason against King John, as well as many counts of burglary and being the outlaw known as Robin Hood.

ROBIN HOOD

Well...I suppose...if that's the case-

Robin makes a break for it.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

Hey! Stop!

(to Sir Guy)

Well, don't just stand there! Get him!

The stage breaks out into chaos as Robin Hood tries to escape. Lord Fitzwalter joins on the side of the Sheriff and Sir Guy.

The Sheriff grabs Maid Marian, preventing her from following. Robin turns back.

ROBIN HOOD

Marian!

MAID MARIAN

Go! Run my sweet Robin! And do not tell a soul where you've gone!

ROBIN HOOD

But I can't just leave you here!

MAID MARIAN

I will be alright! Now quickly go!

Robin Hood escapes, the lights shift. Everyone freezes.

The Bard enters.

THE BARD

Quite a dreary way to start the story, no? The lovers separated, the outlaw revealed. Why should I have started with all already lost? Well, don't blame me I didn't write the thing!

The scene begins to change behind  
the Bard as they continue.

THE BARD

So, Robin Hood and his band stowed away, hidden deep in the  
Sherwood forest. While the Sheriff of Nottingham and Sir Guy  
returned to King John to deliver the news.

SCENE TWO - THE GREEDY KING

We are in King John's castle. King  
John sits on his throne, bored. He  
counts coins, throwing them as he  
does. His servant, Clement,  
scrambles to catch them and put  
them away.

KING JOHN

Ten-thousand and one, ten-thousand and two, ten-thousand and  
three, ten-thousand and five...

CLEMENT

Your majesty-

KING JOHN

Ten-thousand and six, ten-thousand and seven-

CLEMENT

Your majesty, you skipped-

KING JOHN

HUSH! Now where was I?

CLEMENT

Ten-thousand and-

KING JOHN

Now you've made me lose count you fool!

CLEMENT

Well, sir you were at ten-thousand and-

KING JOHN

Give it here I must recount!

King John snatches the bag from  
Clement, pouring it on the floor.  
He begins his count at one again.  
Clement scrambles to catch them  
again.

Enter, Sheriff of Nottingham and  
Sir Guy of Gisborne.

KING JOHN

Oh, finally, you've returned! Clement! Away with all this.

CLEMENT

Yes your highness.

Clement scrambles to clean the rest  
of the coins. Then they exits.

KING JOHN

What's the news with Robin Hood?

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

We did discover the true identity of the outlaw.

KING JOHN

Yes! Now who is it?

SIR GUY

It is Maid Marian-

The Sheriff smacks Sir Guy.

SIR GUY

Earl Robert of Locksley!

KING JOHN

Good, good! He will be easy enough to capture. Who would've  
thought, an earl besting me!?

(beat)

Well? Off with you then! Go to his estate and capture him.  
Clement!

Clement rushes in with the bag of  
coins.

SIR GUY

The thing is...we've just been there last night.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

Yes, we have already paid Robin Hood a visit and-

KING JOHN

(to Clement)

Away with you.

(to the others)

And? Where is this fiendish outlaw? I think I shall have him  
gloriously executed.

SIR GUY

He sort of--kind of--got away.

KING JOHN

What? What do you mean he got away?

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

You see, there was only two of us and Robin Hood has many allies and-

KING JOHN

All I hear are excuses for your own incompetence! I want that outlaw in my grasp, you understand?

SIR GUY

Well yes, your highness, but we did gain something of value-

KING JOHN

Is it gold?

SIR GUY

No but-

KING JOHN

Is it Robin Hood?

SIR GUY

No, if you would just-

KING JOHN

Then why should I care? Off with you! And find Robin Hood this time! Clement!

Clement rushes back in. Pouring the bag out.

KING JOHN

Now where were we?

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

King John we have in our grasp one of Robin Hood's closest allies.

KING JOHN

What?! Why didn't you start with that? Bring him here!  
(to Clement)

Clean this up!

Enter Lord Fitzwalter, with an angry Maid Marian. Friar Tuck trails behind, a faithful servant.

MAID MARIAN

Father let go! I told you before I've no clue-

KING JOHN

A maid?!

MAID MARIAN

Yes, and what of it?

LORD FITZWALTER

My daughter was to be married to the fiend. I believe she knows where he's gone, and she refuses to tell me.

KING JOHN

Maid Marian, I've heard talk of your temperament, but I would never think a noble Maid such as yourself should conspire with outlaws.

MAID MARIAN

He's not an outlaw. He's a noble man.

KING JOHN

If he's so noble then why should he run from the law? You know I only want the best for Great Britain.

MAID MARIAN

Is that what you call it?

KING JOHN

Temper, temper.

MAID MARIAN

I cannot tell you where he is, I have no clue where he is hidden.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

No, but you must have an idea?

MAID MARIAN

I will not be the reason my love is executed, if you should think I would betray him so-

LORD FITZWALTER

Such a waste of a wedding,

KING JOHN

You're quite right Lord Fitzwalter. Marian is an eligible young woman, and now she has ruined your family name. You seem to be a smart girl, I'm sure you'll come to your senses. I'm sure you wouldn't like to be tied up in all that outlaw nonsense. Now Clement!