

"BABES IN THE WOOD"

WRITTEN BY

PETER LONG & KEITH RAWNSLEY

This script is published by

NODA LTD
 15 The Metro Centre
 Peterborough PE2 7UH
 Telephone: 01733 374790
 Fax: 01733 237286
 Email: info@noda.org.uk
www.noda.org.uk

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"BABES IN THE WOOD"

Written by
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CHARACTERS

JAMES }
 }.....THE BABES
MARY }

LADY MARION.....PRINCIPAL GIRL

ROBIN HOOD.....THE OUTLAWED EARL (PRINCIPAL BOY)

NANNY NUTTALL.....THE BABES NANNY (DAME)

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM.....THE BABES WICKED UNCLE

MISS SPLINTER.....THE BABES STRICT GOVERNESS

WISHBONE.....THE CASTLE COOK

WILL SCARLET.....ROBIN HOOD'S LIEUTENANT

LITTLE JOHN }
 }.....ROBIN HOOD'S MEN
FRIAR TUCK }

MR. HOOKLINE }
 }.....THE SHERIFF'S MEN
MR. SINKER }

ALICE.....LADY MARION'S MAID

THE WANDERING MINSTREL.....SINGER OF MADRIGALS

ALSO FEATURING

SUNBEAMS
DANCERS
CHORUS

Character Descriptions

- 1 & 2: The Babes:** (1 Boy and 1 Girl) Miss Amy and Master Jamie, two innocent orphaned children. Shy and polite they are cast into a world of strict discipline. Requires good young actors.
- 3: Lady Marion:** (Female) Principal Girl. Young, good, kind and pretty, she is the elder sister of the babes. She has lived in Nottingham for some time, long enough to meet and fall in love with a local hero outlaw, much to the anger of the Sheriff.
- 4: Robin Hood:** (Female) Principal Boy. Robin is of course the outlaw mentioned earlier. He is committed to helping the less fortunate. A romantic, dashing, charming and swashbuckling character, hated by the Sheriff, but loved by Lady Marion. Robin hopes one day to reclaim his former title of Earl of Loxley.
- 5: Nanny Nuttall:** (Male) Pantomime Dame. She is the Babes trusty old nurse, always on hand to comfort the Babes and has enough spirit to give the Sheriff a run for his money.
- 6: The Sheriff of Nottingham:** (Male) The pantomime baddie. The very wicked uncle of the Babes and Marion. He is intent in robbing them out of their birthright. A real nasty piece of work if ever there was one!
- 7: Miss Splinter:** (Female) Housekeeper at Nottingham Castle and governess to the Babes. A very strict and bossy old maid, not as well educated as she makes out. She has romantic intentions toward the Sheriff.
- 8: Wishbone:** (Male) This is the comic lead. Wishbone is the cook at Nottingham Castle. A bit of a daft yet loveable comical character and between them he and Nanny Nuttall lead Miss Splinter a merry dance.
- 9: Will Scarlet:** (Female) Robin Hood's second in command. A strong adventurous rough diamond. He wears a scarlet tunic rather than the Lincoln green of the others.
- 10: Alice:** (Female) She is the maid and good friend to the Lady Marion. A young sweet and pretty girl who is romantically involved with Will Scarlet.
- 11: Little John:** (Male) A big, strong heavy man. Mostly grumpy but a big softy at heart. He usually teams up with Friar Tuck but insists he cannot abide the rotund cleric.
- 12: Friar Tuck:** (Male) A short red faced character of ample proportions. He is the spiritual friend of Robin Hood. He has just one meal per day but which lasts *all* day!
- 13 & 14 Hookline & Sinker:** (Both Male) Two ne'er-do-wells employed by the Sheriff to do his dirty work. Mr. Hookline sees himself as the brains of the duo, and Mr. Sinker is happy to go along with that, although he does not always agree. These characters take on the traditional 'Brokers Men' roles.

Character Descriptions (CONT/D)

- 15: **The Wandering Minstrel:** True to the period, this character is the purveyor of news tidings around the area. A slightly ‘camp’ character he delivers his comic rhyme in song as a good minstrel should (rather like a madrigal) whilst strumming/miming his lute. He narrates the story to the audience, thus being the “Fairy” role.

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

- Scene 1....."NOTTINGHAM FAIR"
 Scene 2....."NOTTINGHAM CASTLE"
 Scene 3....."SHERWOOD FOREST"
 Scene 4....."THE CASTLE DUNGEONS"
 Scene 5....."THE BABES' BEDCHAMBER"

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INTERVAL

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ACT 2

- Scene 1....."SHERWOOD FOREST"
 Scene 2....."NOTTINGHAM CASTLE"
 Scene 3....."ROBIN HOOD'S ENCAMPMENT"
 Scene 4....."THE CASTLE KITCHEN"
 Scene 5....."THE CASTLE GROUNDS"
 Scene 6....."SONG SHEET"
 Scene 7....."THE BALLROOM AT THE CASTLE"

WALK DOWN
&
GRAND FINALE

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OVERTURE

CURTAIN

ENTER ON TABS OUR STORY TELLER THE MINSTREL....HE STARTS
TO TELL OUR STORY IN SONG AND VERSE, MADRIGAL STYLE AS
WOULD A MINSTREL

MINSTREL:...(SINGS)

Now let me welcome all ye folk...
of this here neighbourhood.
And of our story yet untold....
Of those Babes in the wood.
This is a tale I shall relate...
To music you can hum.
And by the time we reach the end....
You'll wish you'd never come!
With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no....
And we'll all see it soon in our pantomime.

We now all go to Nottingham....
To see their annual fair.
We'll see the wicked Sheriff....
And all his henchmen there.
We'll also meet a kindly girl....
By the name of Marion.
And turned into a pantomime....
It's a right old carry on.
With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no....
And we'll all see it soon in our pantomime.

So I'll leave you for a while....
I feel I really should.
I'll leave you in the steady hands....
Of our hero Robin Hood.
Will Scarlet's there with Little John...

And dear old Friar Tuck....
 So sit back now, enjoy your night....
 And the best of British luck!!
 With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no
 And we'll all see it now in our pantomime.

MINSTREL BECKONS TO TABS WHICH OPEN AND HE MIXES INTO
 SET FOR.....

.....o O o.....

ACT 1...SCENE 1..."NOTTINGHAM FAIR"

SET:....FULL STAGE....CLOTH DEPICTING FAIR IN
 BACKGROUND....PEOPLE ARE MOVING TO AND FRO WITH
 MERCHANDISE ETC....TUMBLERS AND JESTERS PERFORM.....
 ON STAGE ARE SUNBEAMS, DANCERS AND CHORUS AS
 TOWNSFOLK....ALSO LADY MARION...ALICE...WISHBONE AND THE
 MINSTREL

**♪...MUSICAL ITEM No 1...A HAPPY AND LIVELY ROUTINE
 FEATURING ALL ON STAGE....AFTER ROUTINE ONLY DANCERS
 EXIT**

WISHBONE APPROACHES LADY MARION

WISHBONE: Begging your pardon Lady Marion....but the children are
 wanting to go and look around the fair....and they would like you to go with
 them.

MARION: Thank you Wishbone...(THEN TO COMPANY)...I will come with
 you all...It's just that I'm expecting my young brother and sister... they're
 coming to stay with us at the castle...I expected them hours ago...I do hope
 they're all right!

THERE IS A COMMOTION AT THE REAR OF THEATRE....**ENTER
 BABES AND NANNY NUTTALL** FROM REAR OF THEATRE....NANNY
 IS LADEN DOWN WITH LUGGAGE... THE BABES RUN ON AHEAD
 DOWN THE AISLE TOWARDS THE STAGE CALLING OUT TO LADY
 MARION

ALICE: (REACTING TO COMMOTION)...What's happening Lady Marion??.Who is it?

MARION: (PEERING OUT INTO THEATRE)...I don't know, Alice.

MARY: (CALLING FROM AUDIENCE)...Marion!!

JAMES: (CALLING FROM AUDIENCE)...Alice!...it's us!

ALICE: It's them milady...it's Mary and James.

MARION: (EXCITED)...Oh my darling Babes....you're here at last.

MARION AND ALICE GREET THE BABES AS THEY STEP UP ONTO THE STAGE....WHILST NANNY STILL STRUGGLES UP THE AISLE WITH LUGGAGE AND HAVING THE ODD WORD OR TWO WITH MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

MARION: (TO BABES)...Let me look at you both...my how you've grown....haven't they Alice?

ALICE: Yes...oh and it is lovely to see you both.

NANNY: (STRUGGLING ON TO STAGE)...Excuse me!...is there a welcome for a poor down-trodden children's nurse??

MARION: Oh Nanny...I'm so sorry...(TO WISHBONE)...give Nanny a hand with the luggage will you, Wishbone.

WISHBONE: Certainly Lady Marion....(GOES DOWN STEPS TO HELP)...come on Mrs, I'll give you a hand.

NANNY AND WISHBONE STRUGGLE WITH LUGGAGE ON TO STAGE

NANNY: (TO WISHBONE)...Thank you kindly, young man.

WISHBONE: Eh!..young man?...(LOOKS AROUND...THEN REALISES)....oh!..you mean me!!

NANNY: (PEERING AT HIM)...Yes, well I did mean you, but now I can see you in the light...I think you're a bit past your 'sell by' date... (SHE GIVES WISHBONE A COIN)...here's a little something for your trouble.

WISHBONE: (LOOKS AT COIN THEN PUTS IT IN HIS TOP POCKET)...Blimey!...ten groats!...that's more than my week's wage.

WHEN WISHBONE IS LOOKING AT THE OTHERS WITH DELIGHT, NANNY RETRIEVES THE COIN FROM HIS POCKET WITH THE FINE THREAD ATTACHED TO IT

NANNY: (TO AUDIENCE)...I'm not that generous!!

MARION: (MAKING INTRODUCTIONS)...Wishbone...this is Nanny Nuttall...nurse to my sister and brother....and this, Nanny...(INDICATING TO WISHBONE)...is Wishbone....he's the cook from the castle.

NANNY: (AS WISHBONE TAKES HER HAND)...Oh so you're the cook are you?

WISHBONE: Indeed I am Madam.....cordon bleu.

NANNY: (SHAKES HIS HAND VIGOROUSLY)...Well I'm pleased to meet you Gordon!!

WISHBONE: No!...my name's Wishbone!

NANNY: Eh?...what sort of a name is that?...by, there's some funny names in Nottingham!

ALICE: (INTERRUPTING)...And these two, Wishbone...(INDICATES TO BABES)...are Master James and Miss Mary.

BABES STEP FORWARD AND BOW AND CURTSY

JAMES: (VERY POLITE)...I am very pleased to meet you Mr. Wishbone.

MARY: (EQUALLY POLITE)...My brother and I look forward to our stay at the castle.

WISHBONE: Well I never...they've got manners!

NANNY: (WIPING HER NOSE WITH THE BACK OF HER HAND)... Oh yes....I taught 'em!!...oh by the way Lady Marion, when we were coming through Sherwood Forest, I thought that we were going to be set upon by

bandits....a gang of 'em, all dressed in green they were...anyway, it turns out that their leader says that he's a friend of yours milady....a certain Robin Hood...he brought us safely through the forest he did.... handsome young chap he is too.

MARION: (EXCITED)...Oh my dear Robin...how is he?...did he give you a message for me?...when will I see him?...does he miss me?...

NANNY: Hey...hey...hang on a minute!...one question at a time...(HANDS HER A NOTE)...he said that I was to give you this.

MARION TAKES NOTE AND EAGERLY READS IT

A FLUNKY ENTERS

FLUNKY: Make way for the High Sheriff of Nottingham!

ENTER SHERIFF.....MARION QUICKLY CONCEALS THE NOTE

SHERIFF: (NASTILY)...What's going on here!?(TO SUNBEAMS AND CHORUS)...be about your business you lot, or I'll put ten groats on your taxes....(THEN TO MARION)...and you Marion...I'm surprised at you....mixing with such riffraff.....(**SUNBEAMS AND CHORUS EXIT**.....**SHERIFF TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO WISHBONE**).....not only do I find my family cavorting around with peasants....important members of my staff seem to have time on their hands....(**WISHBONE LOOKS AROUND NOT REALISING THE SHERIFF MEANS HIM**)...I'm talking to you, Wishbone.....what are you doing here!!?

WISHBONE: Eh?...what?...well, it's the last day of Nottingham fair...I just wanted to see what it was like.

SHERIFF: Nottingham fair....bah!!!...an excuse for people of low breeding to get together in the pretence of merriment...I hereby declare that Nottingham fair be abolished forthwith....so you are quite right, Wishbone....it is the last day!

NANNY: Now that's not very nice.

SHERIFF: Silence!!...(THEN TO MARION)...who is this person?

MARION: It's Nanny Nuttall my Lord.

ALICE: She's the Babe's nurse.

SHERIFF: Babes??..what Babes?

MARION: My young brother and sister, sir.....your nephew and niece.

SHERIFF: (SHOWING A FALSE NICE SIDE)....Oh my dear children. step forward, let me have a look at you....(ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...they are sole heirs to my late Sisters vast fortune...(LAUGHS)....a fortune that will be mine very very soon...(THEN TO BABES)....and what do you have to say for yourselves?...(HE GRABS JAMES BY THE EAR)...come along boy....speak up!

JAMES: (TEARFULLY)...I'm very pleased to meet you sir....ouch!!.. you're hurting me!

SHERIFF: (UNCARING)...Hurting you??..nonsense!

MARY: (CONCERNED)....Please don't hurt my brother, sir!

SHERIFF: Be quiet child!.it is very obvious to me that a good dose of discipline is what you two need!!....first thing tomorrow you will meet your new governess Miss Splinter...she will teach you both academic skills, and how to conduct yourselves in the presence of your betters!

NANNY: But I can teach them your Sheriffness!...I haven't got any O levels or spirit levels or whatever you call 'em?, but I went to a good school.

SHERIFF: Really?

NANNY: Oh yes....it was approved!!

SHERIFF: The teaching of my young Nephew and Niece dear lady, will be undertaken by Miss Splinter.....you, if I decide you're suitable will tend to their everyday needs....like washing things....darning things...that sort of mundane task.....(THEN TO WISHBONE) ...Wishbone!

WISHBONE: Yes my Lord Sheriff?

SHERIFF: Take the children and their....(LOOKS DISAPPROVINGLY AT NANNY)...er....nurse back to the castle and show them their chambers....then prepare my lunch.

WISHBONE: Very good Sire...come on Master James....Miss Mary this way.

NANNY HAS BIZ WITH LUGGAGE AS THEY EXIT

SHERIFF: Now Marion, I'm a very busy man....what was it that you wanted to speak to me about?

MARION: I...er....want your permission Sire....your permission to marry!

SHERIFF: (SHOCKED)...To marry!!?...to marry whom, may I ask?

MARION: (TAKES A DEEP BREATH)...To marry Robin Hood!

SHERIFF: (ENRAGED)...What!!!...marry Robin Hood?...are you out of your mind, child!??

MARION: But Uncle...Robin and I love each other....and there's nothing you can do about it!!

SHERIFF: (GRABS MARION)...Oh isn't there??..I'll show you what I can do about it!..(ALICE TRIES TO PROTECT MARION)

ALICE: Leave my Mistress alone...you brute!!

SHERIFF: (AS HE SHOVES ALICE AWAY THEN TURNS ON MARION)...Now I'll knock all thoughts of this outlaw Robin Hood out of your head....you little vixen!!

MARION: (CRYING)...Oh please Uncle...don't hurt me!

SHERIFF: (LAUGHING)...Robin Hood indeed. Hah!!!...where is your famous Robin Hood now!!?

SOME SOUND AND POSSIBLE VISUAL F/X OF ARROWS LANDING NEAR THE SHERIFF

SHERIFF: (HE QUICKLY LETS GO OF MARION, SCARED)...Er....we will discuss this matter at a more convenient time...I have...er....other things to attend to....

SHERIFF MAKES A COWARDLY EXIT

ENTER ROBIN HOOD FOLLOWED BY WILL SCARLETT, LITTLE JOHN, FRIAR TUCK AND THE DANCERS AS HIS MERRY MEN

♪....MUSICAL ITEM No 2....FEATURING ALL ON STAGE.... AFTER ROUTINE.....

MARION: Oh Robin....thank goodness you came...(SHE LOOKS AT ALL HIS MEN)...but who are all these?....

ROBIN: (INTERRUPTING)...Oh of course...you haven't met my merry band of me, have you?...**(TO MEN)**....men, this is the lovely Lady Marion that I may just have mentioned to you casually sometimes.

WILL: (AS THEY ALL BOW)...Mentioned!..he talks of little else, my Lady.

ROBIN: Of course Will Scarlett....you have met Marion before....**(SEES WILL HOLDING HANDS WITH ALICE)**....and by the look of it... you've met Alice before!

WILL: Well...every time you sent me to the castle with a note for Lady Marion....it gave me the perfect opportunity to see Alice...my sweetheart.

MARION: Well...Well...I thought you had your head in the clouds lately Alice....anyway...I think it's wonderful!

ALICE: Oh thank you Lady Marion...I didn't know if you would approve or not.

MARION: Of course I approve....**(SHE IS INTERRUPTED BY LITTLE JOHN WHO COUGHS TO GAIN THEIR ATTENTION)**....oh I'm sorry, I didn't.....

ROBIN: Er...this of course Marion....**(MEANING LITTLE JOHN)**...is my good friend John of Ferndale....the youngest and smallest of a family of seven....so we call him Little John!

MARION: (TO ROBIN)...The smallest of seven?!..I wouldn't like to bump into his six Brothers!

LITTLE JOHN: (NASTY)...Sisters!!!..I was the only boy...yes. and every one of my six Sisters can kill a hare with a long bow at two hundred paces...skin it...and have it ready for the table within the hour!!...now that's what I call a real woman!!..none of your fancy powder and paint!!

MARION: (TO ROBIN)...Is he always like this?

ROBIN: (LAUGHING)...Oh no...sometimes he can be quite grumpy...and now meet my spiritual friend, Friar Tuck...(TURNS AND REALISES THAT FRIAR TUCK ISN'T THERE)...Friar Tuck...where are you?

ENTER FRIAR TUCK FROM REAR OF THEATRE THROUGH AUDIENCE

FRIAR TUCK: Fear not...I cometh Robin...holdeth thy horses!

LITTLE JOHN: Don't know why we bother with the old duffer...he's nothing but an eating machine!!

ROBIN: Now...now...Little John, be careful, Friar Tuck might deem you as a sinner!

LITTLE JOHN: More like see me as his dinner!...me and a plate of chips!!

ROBIN: (TO FRIAR TUCK AS HE ARRIVES ON STAGE)...Come on old friend...what kept you?

FRIAR TUCK: Ah verily!..I had to stop off at Mrs. Muggins cake shop, as I was stricken with a great hunger...even now, I could consumeth a horse!

LITTLE JOHN: Aye...then go back and consumeth the cart I shouldn't wonder!

ROBIN: (MAKING INTRODUCTIONS)...This is Lady Marion Friar Tuck.

FRIAR TUCK: (TAKES HER HAND)...Blessings upon you my dear... tell me, with you being a resident at Nottingham Castle...do you have access to the kitchens?

MARION: Why of course Friar Tuck...perhaps sometime I can introduce you to our cook Wishbone.

FRIAR TUCK: I looketh forward to it milady

LITTLE JOHN: Have a care Lady Marion...Tuck can be very cunning and crafty...he is indeed a very deep fat Friar!!

ROBIN: (CHANGING THE SUBJECT)...And now my dear Marion...what news of your young Brother and Sister?

MARION: They've gone back to the castle with Nanny...I should really like to be with them...the mood that the Sheriff is in, makes me fear for their safety!

ROBIN: (SARCASTIC)...The Sheriff in a mood?...how unusual!

MARION: I did as you said Robin, and asked the Sheriff for permission for us to marry.

ROBIN: I see...and I take it that the Sheriff didn't approve?

MARION: Didn't approve?...I'll say...he flew into a rage, and then he threatened me!..didn't he Alice?

ALICE: (STILL PRE-OCCUPIED WITH WILL)...What?...er...oh yes, yes he did...you all came just in time.

WILL: What say if we storm the castle now Robin?...and finish this Sheriff once and for all?

ROBIN: Too risky at the moment old friend...especially with the Babes being there...you're right Marion...you should go back to the castle.... Little John...Friar Tuck, escort Lady Marion and Alice back to the castle....then stay nearby and keep an eye on things.

LITTLE JOHN: Aye Robin....come along ladies...(THEN TO TUCK)... I seem to have drawn the short straw again, having to take you...come on then, don't dawdle!

FRIAR TUCK: Coming brother John...(THEN TO MARION AS THEY MAKE TO EXIT)...and what was the name of the cook at the castle?

LITTLE JOHN...FRIAR TUCK...MARION AND ALICE EXIT

ROBIN: Be patient Will....we'll take on the Sheriff all in good time...we'll see good King Richard back on the throne of England and I can once again assume my title of Earl of Loxley!

WILL: The men are ready to fight when you are Robin...(THEN TO MEN)...that right lads?!...(THE ALL SHOW THEIR AGREEMENT)

♪....MUSICAL ITEM No 3....FEATURING ROBIN...WILL...AND DANCERS....AFTER ROUTINE TABS CLOSE

ENTER MR HOOKLINE ON TABS

MR. HOOKLINE: (TALKING INTO WINGS)...Come on....our interview with the Sheriff is at nine o'clock....we're going to be late!

ENTER MR. SINKER

MR. SINKER: You know, I don't think that we're really cut out for this job as body guards.

MR. HOOKLINE: Nonsense, we're perfect for the job...the pay isn't much but we get free meals and accommodation, in the castle no less!

MR. SINKER: Yes, I know all that....but it's this interview that I'm dreading.

MR. HOOKLINE: Oh don't worry about that....it'll be a piece of cake... I'll tell you what...we'll have a little practice....I'll be the Sheriff... (COUGHS AND ASSUMES AN OFFICIAL VOICE)...right Mr. Sinker...could you tell me your last full time occupation?

MR. SINKER: (THINKING)...Er....school milk monitor!

MR. HOOKLINE: (AS IF HE IS WRITING DOWN)...School milk moni....(THEN REALISES)...what!!?..is that it?

MR. SINKER: Well, I used to collect the dinner money as well!

MR. HOOKLINE: Look...you can't tell the Sheriff that!

MR. SINKER: Why not?..It's true.

MR. HOOKLINE: It might be true...but it isn't going to help us in our quest for a job. is it?...have you got a C.V.?

MR. SINKER: Ooh no, I wouldn't touch one of them cheap cars...I came on my bike!

MR. HOOKLINE: No no....the Sheriff will want to see your Curriculum Vitae!

MR SINKER: Oh no...there's no chance of that...my Mother says that I haven't to take my clothes off in front of strangers!!

MR. HOOKLINE: (REALISES THAT HE ISN'T GETTING THROUGH)...Er...I think that you had better let me do the talking at this here interview....you just crack on that you're a bit thick....(LOOKS AT AUDIENCE)...on second thoughts...he can just be himself!

MR. SINKER: Oh...right then...(THEN LOOKS PUZZLED)...anyway, I'm getting tired...is it far to Nottingham Castle?

ENTER MINSTREL

MR. HOOKLINE: I'm not sure...(SEES MINSTREL)...come on, we'll ask that chap over there...(THEY APPROACH MINSTREL)...good morning to you sir...tell me, are we on the right road to Nottingham?

MINSTREL: Good morrow gentlemen...indeed you are...it is but an hour's walk...would you like a madrigal to help you on your way?

MR. HOOKLINE: (AS THEY MAKE TO EXIT)...No, but thanks all the same.

MR. SINKER: We're trying to give 'em up!

HOOKLINE AND SINKER EXIT

MINSTREL: (INDIGNANT)...Oh please yourselves...peasants!!.. (THEN TO AUDIENCE)...don't think that you lot are going to get away with it!...(CLEARS THROAT AND STARTS TO SING))

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