

# "BABES IN THE WOOD"

WRITTEN BY

PETER LONG & KEITH RAWNSLEY



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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 neær-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 æBrokers Menøroles.

### **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 æcampøcharacter 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 øFairyø role.

# "BABES IN THE WOODS"

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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 BABESø BEDCHAMBER"

.....  
**INTERVAL**  
 .....

### 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  
**"BABES IN THE WOOD"**  
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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))

Hello again dear friends of mine...  
 I told you I'd be back.  
 You've met most of the characters...  
 Along our story's track.  
 Miss Splinter yet you have to meet...  
 She's strict and that's a fact.  
 The Sheriff in comparison  
 Is a right old pussy cat.  
 With a hey and ho and a hey nonni no...  
 We can all see it now in our pantomime.

To the castle I will take you...  
 The kitchen you will see.  
 It's breakfast time for Nanny now...  
 With butter, toast and tea.  
 But Wishbone too, is also there...  
 Up to his usual tricks.  
 But Nanny will soon sort him out...  
 When she's had her Weetabix!

You're wondering why I sing such rhymes...  
 And just what use it serves.  
 And from the look upon your face...  
 I'm getting on your nerves.  
 It is the way I tell the tale...  
 Through song and rhyming verse.  
 And it won't improve as I go on...  
 In fact it gets much worse!!  
 With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no...  
 We can all see it now in our pantomime.

## MINSTREL EXITS

TABS OPEN FOR.....

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

**ACT 1...SCENE 2..."THE CASTLE KITCHEN"**

FULL STAGE...WITH CLOTH TO SUIT...USUAL KITCHEN TRAPPINGS...TABLE OVER TRAP WITH CLOTH TO FLOOR AND TWO CHAIRS.....NANNY IS SITTING AT THE TABLE IN HER DRESSING GOWN, WITH CURLERS IN HER HAIR....SHE YAWNS, STRETCHES AND SCRATCHES....

ENTER MISS SPLINTER

**MISS SPLINTER:** Good morning.

**NANNY:** Oh...good morning...you must be Miss Spinster?

**MISS SPLINTER:** Splinter!!

**NANNY:** Pardon?

**MISS SPLINTER:** Splinter...my name is Splinter!..Housekeeper to the Sheriff....and soon to be Governess to his nephew and niece.

**NANNY:** Oh I'll tell you what Miss Squinter....I didn't sleep very well last night...then, just when I was dropping off, some idiot started banging a gong at 5:30!!

**MISS SPLINTER:** That was me...I was the idio...er...the person that sounded the morning gong....this house madam, rises at 5:30 every morning!!...except Sunday!

**NANNY:** Ah good...a lie in eh?

**MISS SPLINTER:** Yes indeed...5:45!!

**NANNY:** (SARCASTIC)...By gum!..roll on Sunday.

**MISS SPLINTER:** I understand...er...Nanny, that although you have only been here a very short time...you have already...shall we say...befriended several children of the estate workers...and according to my reliable sources, you have allowed them to frequent this kitchen...is this true?

**NANNY:** Well I don't know who these reliable sorcerers are of yours Miss Stinker...but I can assure you that I have done no such thing!

**MISS SPLINTER:** I'm very glad to hear it...I shall now go and see that Master James and Miss Mary are out of their beds...I will then send them down here...where you will see that they have their breakfast, as lessons commence at 8 o'clock...have you got that?

**NANNY:** (MOCKING)...Aye aye sir!!

MISS SPLINTER EXITS

**NANNY:** (CONT/D....TO AUDIENCE)...What an old dragon!..oh well, I suppose I had better have some breakfast...although, really I shouldn't be eating much...I'm on a diet you see....it's a sea food diet...I see food then eat it!!...you know, you lot could help me....will you help me?.. (AUDIENCE REACT)...every time you see me about to eat something, I want you to wag your finger at me like this...(SHE DEMONSTRATES)...and I want you all to shout "Now now Nanny...naughty naughty"....will you do that for me....(AUDIENCE REACT)...let's have a little practice...(THEY DO)

ENTER WISHBONE YAWNING AND STRETCHING AS IF JUST BEEN AWAKENED

**WISHBONE:** Hey!!...what's all the racket about!?

**NANNY:** Oh sorry Wishbone...I didn't know you were up...(COYLY COVERS HERSELF UP)...I didn't intend you see me in my lingerie!

**WISHBONE:** You didn't know I was up?..blimey!..you were making enough noise to waken all Nottingham!!

**NANNY:** I'm sorry about that Wishbone....it's when I have anything to eat...(SHE MAKES AS IF TO EAT SOMETHING....THEN FROM AUDIENCE..."NOW NOW NANNY ETC)...Oh, by the way Wishbone... I've just met that Housekeeper or Governess what ever she is...that Miss Sprinter....(THEN SARCASTIC)...a right bundle of fun, isn't she!!?

**WISHBONE:** You can say that again...do you know, whenever she enters the castle, the rats throw themselves on to the traps!...oh well, there's no rest for the

wicked...I had better make a start on the breakfasts....then I have to prepare the banquet for tonight.

**NANNY**: Oh, very posh...and what's on the menu for tonight?

**WISHBONE**: Windmill pudding.

**NANNY**: Windmill pudding?...why windmill?

**WISHBONE**: Well, if it goes round they get some...(BOTH LAUGH)...do you know Nanny...it's nice to have somebody as daft as me to talk to.

**NANNY**: Oh thanks...I'll take that as a compliment then shall I?

ENTER BABES IN NIGHT CLOTHES

**WISHBONE**: Hello you two....a bit early for you, is it?

**NANNY**: (SYMPATHETIC)...Come her the pair of you...did that nasty old Miss Clinker make you get up early?

**MARY**: She's awful Nanny!

**JAMES**: Yes...and our Uncle the Sheriff is very cruel and evil....why can't we go back to our old house Nanny?

**MARY**: Yes...all our friends are there.

**WISHBONE**: We're your friends now...aren't we Nanny?

**NANNY**: Of course we are.

**WISHBONE**: (REFERRING TO MARY'S TEDDY BEAR)...And what's his name then?

**MARY**: His name is Edward....and he's my best friend.

**WISHBONE**: (TO JAMES)...Haven't you got a Teddy Bear, James?

**JAMES**: (INDIGNANT)...Oh no!..I'm a boy and I'm brave and strong, just like Robin Hood...(HE STICKS HIS CHEST OUT BRAVELY...A TEDDY BEAR

FALLS FROM UNDER HIS DRESSING GOWN) ...Oh!..er...his name is William.

**MARY:** Miss Splinter says that we are to eat our breakfast quickly and then we can get on with our lessons.

**NANNY:** Take no notice of that old misery...'cause I don't!..do you know, she accused me of inviting the children of the castle estate, here into the kitchen...have you ever heard of such a thing?

**WISHBONE:** As if you would!

NANNY BANGS ON TABLE

ENTER SUNBEAMS FROM UNDER THE TABLE...THEY GATHER AROUND THE BABES EXCITEDLY

**NANNY:** (TO BABES)...Now have you got enough friends?

**WISHBONE:** I think you'll both fit in here just fine!

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 4**....FEATURING BABES, SUNBEAMS, NANNY AND WISHBONE....AFTER ROUTINE....**TABS CLOSE**.... BEHIND TABS, CLOSE BLACK TABS AND QUICKLY SET DESK AND TWO CHAIRS IN FRONT OF BLACK TABS AS FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

TABS OPEN FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MISS SPLINTER IS SEATED AT THE DESK....F/X....KNOCK ON DOOR.

**MISS SPLINTER:** Enter!

ENTER HOOKLINE AND SINKER

**MISS SPLINTER:** Yes??

**HOOKLINE:** Begging your pardon Mrs....we thought this was the Sheriff's office.

**MISS SPLINTER:** (AS THEY MAKE TO LEAVE)...It is the Sheriff's office...the Sheriff had to step out for a while...can I help you in any way?...oh, and kindly don't address me as a Mrs....I'm a Miss!

**SINKER:** (ASIDE...SARCASTIC)...Surprise, surprise!

**HOOKLINE:** Oh...er...my name is Horace Hookline...and this here is my associate Stanley Sinker...we've come about the jobs as bodyguards to the Babes.

**MISS SPLINTER:** (AS IF CHECKING LIST ON DESK)...Ah yes... Hookline and Sinker...the Sheriff told me to expect you...sit down.

HOOKLINE SITS ON THE ONLY CHAIR WHILE SINKER LOOKS AROUND AIMLESSLY FOR ANOTHER CHAIR

**MISS SPLINTER:** (STERN TO MR. SINKER)...I said sit down!!

**SINKER:** (TIMID)...There is only one chair.....

**MISS SPLINTER:** (INTERRUPTING MORE STERN).... Sit!!!!

SINKER ASSUMES A SITTING POSITION AS IF SITTING ON AN IMAGINARY CHAIR...THEN CROSSES HIS LEGS AS IF COMFY... DURING THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE HE SQUEEZES ON THE EDGE OF HOOKLINE'S CHAIR

**MISS SPLINTER:** (CONT/D)...Now...what qualifications do you two gentlemen possess?

**HOOKLINE:** (LOOKS AROUND AS IF SECRET)...Actually, we are both ex S.A.S!

**MISS SPLINTER:** (SURPRISED AND IMPRESSED)...What?...you don't mean Special Air Service?...**(THEN DRAMATIC)**...whose motto is "Who Dares Wins"?

**HOOKLINE:** Er...no...actually it's S.A.S....Sherwood Archery Society...

**SINKER:** (INTERRUPTING)...Our motto is "Who Cares Who wins"!!

**MISS SPLINTER:** (DEFLATED)...I see...you do realise gentlemen, that the jobs on offer are for bodyguards for two young children, don't you?

**HOOKLINE:** Oh yes missus...don't worry on that score...protection is my middle name.

**SINKER:** (ASIDE TO HOOKLINE)...I thought it was Herbert!?

**HOOKLINE:** (PUZZLED)...You thought what was Herbert?

**SINKER:** Your middle name.

**HOOKLINE:** (ASIDE TO SINKER)...Just shut up will you?..I think I'm beginning to impress her!...(THEN TO MISS SPLINTER)...oh yes missus, we've worked for all the top agencies.

**MISS SPLINTER:** M.I.5?

**HOOKLINE:** We've never actually worked for 'em...but we got our fitted kitchen from there!...(TO AUDIENCE)...and if there's anybody who's short of seventeen drawer fronts...we've got 'em!

**MISS SPLINTER:** What about C.I.A.?

**SINKER:** I always got my cardigans there.

**HOOKLINE:** Oh yes...."Man at C.I.A."

**MISS SPLINTER:** It is quite obvious to me that you two are quite inappropriate for the job!!

**HOOKLINE:** (ASIDE TO SINKER)...I told you that I was impressing her!

ENTER SHERIFF

MISS SPLINTER JUMPS TO HER FEET AND SO DOES HOOKLINE  
...SINKER WHO HAS BEEN PERCHED ON THE EDGE OF HOOKLINE'S  
CHAIR FALLS WITH THE CHAIR ON TOP OF HIM

**SHERIFF:** Ah...Miss Splinter...I'm sorry that I was delayed...is everything under control?

**MISS SPLINTER:** (STARRY EYED)...Oh, my Lord Sheriff...you startled me...(CRAWLING)...and may I say, how handsome you look today...that colour really suits you.

**SHERIFF:** (UNIMPRESSED)...What?..oh yes....(REFERRING TO HOOKLINE AND SINKER)...and who have we here?

**MISS SPLINTER:** These are two applicants for the job as bodyguards to your nephew and niece, but I have to say that they are the most unsuitable...unqualified...ridiculous...moronic applicants that I am likely to see!

**SHERIFF:** Excellent!..they sound perfect for the job...(TO HOOKLINE AND SINKER)...you can start immediately!..now wait outside.

**SINKER:** (AS THEY MAKE TO EXIT)...Any chance of a few bob 'til pay day?

**SHERIFF:** Get out!!...

HOOKLINE AND SINKER EXIT HURRIEDLY

**SHERIFF:** (CONT/D TO MISS SPLINTER)...I don't need anyone with brains for what I have in mind....and those two....er...

**MISS SPLINTER:** Hookline and Sinker...

**SHERIFF:** Yes...quite...they will take the wretched children that fate has imposed on me, deep into the forest....and leave them there!..(EVIL LAUGH...MISS SPLINTER COPIES IT)...that way, I won't be implicated in any foul deed, but I will be rid of the brats....and a very rich man...(ANOTHER EVIL LAUGH)

**MISS SPLINTER:** (SHE COPIES LAUGH THEN STOPS CONCERNED)...Oh, but my dear Lord Sheriff...if you get rid of the Babes, as Governess, I'll have no one to govern!

**SHERIFF:** You will still have your duties as Housekeeper, Miss Splinter.

**MISS SPLINTER:** (COYLY)...I live in hope of one day being more to you than a mere housekeeper, my Lord!

**SHERIFF**: Really?

**MISS SPLINTER**: (DREAMILY)...Oh yes, how I'd love to walk at your side down the path of life...smelling the fragrance of the flowers of bliss... and picking the fruits from the orchard of happiness!

**SHERIFF**: (TAKES HER HAND)...My dear Miss Splinter...I had no idea....not only do you want to be my Housekeeper...you want to be....

**MISS SPLINTER**: (INTERRUPTS PASSIONATELY)...Yes, yes... say it!

**SHERIFF**: You want to be my.....Gardener as well!?!?

**MISS SPLINTER**: (GOB SMACKED)....Gardener!?!?

**SHERIFF**: Yes...you should have said before...that herbaceous border is in a heck of a state....you can start tomorrow!..(MISS SPLINTER IS SPEECHLESS)...but first you can see the surprise I have in store for our friend Robin Hood....(CALLS INTO WINGS)...bring in the prisoners!

TWO GUARDS ENTER WITH LITTLE JOHN AND FRIAR TUCK WHO ARE IN CHAINS

**LITTLE JOHN**: You'll pay for this!!...you pathetic excuse for a Nobleman!

**SHERIFF**: Now now Little John....temper temper....(THEN TO TUCK) ...and what about you my fine Friar?...what have you to say for yourself?

**FRIAR TUCK**: You don't happen to have anything to eat by any chance, do you?

**SHERIFF**: Indeed I do my fat friend...all the stale bread and stagnant water you could want....in the castle dungeon!!...(EVIL LAUGH)

ENTER ALICE

**ALICE**: Miss Splinter...the Babes are ready to start...(SHE SEES THE PRISONERS AND TURNS ON HER HEELS AND EXITS)

**SHERIFF**: (TO MISS SPLINTER)...Stop that girl!...she'll go and warn Robin Hood...I have to prepare a trap for him!

EXIT MISS SPLINTER AS SHE LIFTS HER SKIRTS AND RATHER UNGAINLY SET OFF IN PURSUIT OF ALICE

**SHERIFF**: (TO GUARDS)...Take them to the dungeons...I'll deal with them later!

**LITTLE JOHN**: (AS HE IS BEING TAKEN AWAY)...You do realise, don't you, that before the day is out, you will have a visit from Robin Hood.

**SHERIFF**: I look forward to it Little John...I'm planning a little reception for him...(EVIL LAUGH)

**FRIAR TUCK**: (AS HE IS BEING LED OFF)...May I sayeth something?

**SHERIFF**: Well?

**FRIAR TUCK**: This little reception thou planeth...will there be any food laid on?

**SHERIFF**: (TO GUARDS)...Get them out of here!!

AS GUARDS EXIT WITH PRISONERS TABS CLOSE

ENTER WANDERING MINSTREL ON TABS

**MINSTREL**:...(SINGS)

A serious bit is coming now...  
 The sparks begin to fly.  
 So stay awake for just a while...  
 I know it's hard...but try.  
 We're off to Sherwood Forest now...  
 To see the men that's bold.  
 I'll leave you now with Robin Hood...  
 'Cause my tea is going cold!  
 With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no...  
 And you'll all see it now in our pantomime!

MINSTREL EXITS

ENTER ROBIN HOOD ON TABS

**ROBIN:** (WHIMSICAL)...I must work out a plan to rid Nottingham of this Sheriff...he, and those around him won't stand in my way for much longer, and then my dear Marion will be part of my life for ever....

♪....**MUSICAL ITEM No 5**....FEATURING ROBIN HOOD'S SOLO  
....AFTER SOLO....

ENTER MARION AND ALICE. THEY ARE HURRYING AND LOOKING WORRIED

**ROBIN:** (SURPRISED)...Marion!...Alice!..what's the matter?

**MARION:** Oh Robin!..thank goodness we've found you...the Sheriff has captured Little John and Friar Tuck!

**ALICE:** They've put them in the castle dungeons Master Robin!

**ROBIN:** And what about the Babes...are they all right?

**MARION:** Yes, Nanny and Wishbone are with them...the Sheriff is supposed to have hired two bodyguards for the Babes...but they don't look like bodyguards to us...do they Alice?

**ALICE:** No...I overheard one of the guards say that they were hired to get rid of the Babes!

**ROBIN:** You had both better come back to my encampment where we can make plans....quickly, I'll take you a short cut.

THEY ALL EXIT.....THEN TABS OPEN FOR....

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

**ACT 1...SCENE 3..."SHERWOOD FOREST"**

SET:....FULL STAGE WITH FOREST CLOTH...A LOG IS ON STAGE

♪....**MUSICAL ITEM No 6**....FEATURING DANCERS....AFTER ROUTINE  
DANCERS EXIT

ENTER NANNY WEARILY...SHE IS CARRY A BASKET FOR THE MUSHROOMS SHE IS PICKING

**NANNY:** (SITS DOWN ON A LOG)...Oh, this mushroom picking is backbreaking!..I don't know where the Babes and Wishbone have got to...but seeing that I'm on my own...(LOOKS AROUND)...I think I'll have a sweet...(AUDIENCE BIZ "NOW NOW NANNY, NAUGHTY NAUGHTY)...oh!..you lot are spoil sports, I wasn't going to eat one anyway...(OH YES...OH NO BIZ)...I never had to diet as a girl you know?...I was very thin in those days...in fact I was so thin, one day I was sunbathing in the garden and the dog buried me twice!!..mind you, I haven't always been as beautiful as I am now...no, at one time I was just pretty!

ENTER BABES AND WISHBONE...MARY IS RIDING PIGGY BACK ON WISHBONE WHOSE LEGS ARE BUCKLING WITH FATIGUE

**JAMES:** Get off now Mary...it's my turn.

**MARY:** No it isn't...you rode the first five miles!

**JAMES:** Didn't!

**MARY:** Did!...(THEY START TO SQUABBLE)

**NANNY:** (INTERVENING)...Now now you two...spare a thought for the horse...(MEANING WISHBONE...MARY DISMOUNTS....NANNY STROKES WISHBONE'S HEAD)...the poor old nag looks worn out!

**WISHBONE:** I am worn out...I only came out to pick mushrooms...(SEES NANNY'S BAG OF SWEETS)...Hey...can I have a sweet Nanny?

**JAMES:** (TO NANNY SUSPICIOUS)...What are you doing with all those sweets anyway?

**MARY:** You weren't going to eat them all, were you Nanny?

**NANNY:** No...I wasn't going to eat any...(AUDIENCE BIZ...OH YES... OH NO)

**WISHBONE:** (TO AUDIENCE)...I bet you lot would like a sweet, wouldn't you?...(INTO SWEET THROWING BIZ)...anyway, I'm going to look for mushrooms...(TO OTHERS)...let's split up and see who can find the most.

THEY MAKE AS IF TO LOOK FOR MUSHROOMS...THE BABES STICK TOGETHER...NANNY AND WISHBONE SEPARATEÍ SUDDENLY A LARGE SPIDER DESCENDS FROM ABOVE WISHBONE...INTO SPIDER BIZ WITH AUDIENCE REACTION...AFTER SPIDER BIZ...

**NANNY:** Look...we've been out picking mushrooms for hours, and we still haven't got enough.

**JAMES:** (POINTING TO FRONT RIGHT)...I can see some over there Nanny...come on Mary, we'll go and pick them...(THEY DO)

ENTER ROBIN, MARION, WILL AND ALICE...THEY DON'T SEE THE BABES

**MARION:** (PANICKY)...Nanny, Wishbone, you haven't left the Babes alone in the castle have you!?

**ALICE:** Oh no...not alone with the wicked Sheriff and Miss Splinter!

**WILL:** And those two cut-throats Hookline and Sinkler!

**ROBIN:** Whatever were you thinking of Nanny?!..you knew the danger they were in!

**WISHBONE:** Hold on...hold on...(INDICATING TO BABES)...who do you think they are over there?..Tom and Jerry!

**MARION:** (AS THE BABES RUN TO HER)...Oh you dear children...I'm sorry Nanny, and you Wishbone...it's just that we've had news that Little John and Friar Tuck have been captured!

**ROBIN:** Yes...Will and I are going back with the ladies...then we are going to make an effort to free Little John and Friar Tuck.

**NANNY:** Well you'll never get past the guards as you are...we'll have to disguise you

**WILL:** I'll go on ahead with Alice and the others Robin.

**ALICE:** Yes, it will be better if we all don't arrive together

**ROBIN:** Marion and I will go by the West road, through Bluebell Glade... we'll meet up with you later.

BABES, NANNY, WISHBONE, WILL AND ALICE EXIT

ROBIN AND MARION COME FORWARD.....TABS CLOSE

**MARION:** Oh Robin...do you think that things around here will ever return to normal?..Will we ever be rid of the evil King John, and the wicked Sheriff, who I am ashamed to call Uncle?

**ROBIN:** I'm sure in my heart of hearts, Marion, that goodness will overcome evil....and love will triumph over hatred, you'll see.

♪....**MUSICAL ITEM No 7**....FEATURING ROBIN AND MARION IN BOY/GIRL DUET....AFTER SONG....**THEY BOTH EXIT**

ENTER MINSTREL ON TABS

**MINSTREL:**...(SINGS)

It's down into the dungeons now...  
I hope you're all prepared.  
All children hold your parents hands...  
'Cos Mum and Dad are scared.  
So hold on to your seats now...  
And don't get in a tiz.  
For after listening to my songs...  
You'll now what torture is.  
With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no...  
You're seeing it now in our pantomime.

MINSTREL EXITS

TABS OPEN FOR....

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

**ACT 1...SCENE 4..."THE CASTLE DUNGEONS"**

SET:....HALF STAGE...GLOOMY INTERIOR OF DUNGEON... THERE IS A TORTURE 'RACK' LEFT OF CENTRE WITH A SMALL TABLE WITH TWO CHAIRS TO THE RIGHT....WE SEE FRIAR TUCK HANGING IN CHAINS FROM SHACKLES ON THE WALL AND LITTLE JOHN IS LAID ON THE 'RACK' BUT FROM HIS NECK DOWN IT IS A DUMMY FOR LEG STRETCHING GAG

♪....**MUSICAL ITEM No 8**....FEATURING SUNBEAMS AS RATS (POSSIBLE UV EFFECT)....AFTER ROUTINE SUNBEAMS EXIT AND LIGHTS UP SLIGHTLY

**FRIAR TUCK:** Brother John....art thou awake?

**LITTLE JOHN:** Of course I'm awake!..I'm in agony!..this is a torture rack I'm on...not a Slumberland divan....anyway, what's the matter?

**FRIAR TUCK:** I am once again stricken with hunger...my stomach thinketh my throat hath been cutteth!

**LITTLE JOHN:** Your throat will be cutteth if I can get off this contraption...(NOISES OFF)...be quiet...there's somebody coming.

ENTER HOOKLINE AND SINKER

**HOOKLINE:** (SMUG)...I quite like this dungeon duty you know Sinker...it gives me a feeling of power!

**SINKER:** I'm not keen on it myself...(SITS AT TABLE)...especially when we've got to have our breakfast down here.

**HOOKLINE:** (GOES TO LITTLE JOHN ON RACK)...Now then little John, how do you fancy being a little bit bigger John?..(HE TURNS THE RATCHET ON THE RACK....LITTLE JOHN MOANS)

**FRIAR TUCK:** (TO HOOKLINE)...Blessings upon you my son...hast thou come to serve breakfast?

**HOOKLINE:** (CRUELLY)...No I haven't....in fact old love, we've even run out of dry bread....so all that's on the menu for you two today is the old H2.O...Duck Wine...Adam's Ale...Corporation Pop...in other words.... Water!!!

**SINKER:** (TO HOOKLINE)...Come and sit down and have your cornflakes...(HE DOES)...by the way...I found these in the cupboard... (A PAIR OF MEDIEVAL TYPE HANDCUFFS)...I wonder what they're for?

**HOOKLINE:** Do you know...you're thick you, don't you know anything?...(HE TAKES THEM)...they use these to restrain prisoners... (DEMONSTRATING)...look...say I was the guard, and you were the prisoner...I could do this...(HE SECURES HANDCUFFS AROUND SINKER RIGHT WRIST AND HIS OWN LEFT WRIST)...see, now you can't escape!

**SINKER:** And how do you get them off?

**HOOKLINE:** You unlock them with the key.

**SINKER:** What key?

**HOOKLINE:** You mean that you haven't got a key!?(SINKER SHAKES HIS HEAD)...you stupid man!..come on, let's get our breakfast...we'll look for a key later...(INTO VISUAL COMEDY ROUTINE OF THEM TRYING TO EAT WHEN HANDCUFFED TOGETHER...AND AFTER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS)...it's no good...we'll have to go and see if we can find the key.

**SINKER:** Why don't we just ask the Sheriff for one?

**HOOKLINE:** We can't ask the Sheriff...he'll think we're stupid!

**LITTLE JOHN:** (ASIDE)...He won't be far wrong!

**HOOKLINE:** (AS THEY MAKE TO EXIT)...We won't be long you two...don't go away!!

EXIT HOOKLINE AND SINKER

**FRIAR TUCK:** Art thou all right Brother John?

**LITTLE JOHN:** No, I'm not all right!..and I'm not your Brother either...I'm hatching a plan to escape...if I'm not out of here before the day is out, I'll eat my hat!

**FRIAR TUCK:** Brother John?

**LITTLE JOHN:** What?

**FRIAR TUCK:** Can I eateth some of thy hat as well?

ENTER SHERIFF AND MISS SPLINTER

**SHERIFF:** Where's Hookline and Sinker!?!...I told them not to leave the prisoners unattended!

**MISS SPLINTER:** Oh it's so creepy down here...I would feel a lot safer with the arm of a man around me.

**SHERIFF:** (IGNORES HER...THEN TO PRISONERS)...And now my friends, are you ready to tell me the whereabouts of Robin Hood's encampment?...if you do, you will be free to go.

**FRIAR TUCK:** Ah...verily...surely thou pulleth my leg?

**MISS SPLINTER:** No!...(SHE TURNS SCREW ON TORTURE RACK)...We pulleth his leg!..in fact, we pulleth both his legs!...(LITTLE JOHN GROANS)

**FRIAR TUCK:** Ignoreth them Little John...they try to windeth thee up!

**LITTLE JOHN:** (IN AGONY)...They're succeeding as well...it's all right for you Friar Tuck...you've only got a suspended sentence...I'm doing a stretch down here!

**SHERIFF:** We'll leave you now to consider you fate...come along Miss Splinter...we will go and decide what to do with the Babes...(HE GIVES AN EVIL LAUGH...SHE COPIES IT)

SHERIFF AND MISS SPLINTER EXIT

ENTER NANNY AND WISHBONE

**LITTLE JOHN:** (SEES THEM)...Oh no!..that's all we need...a visit from Bonnie and Clyde!

**NANNY:** (CONCERNED)...Now then Little John, how are you feeling?

**LITTLE JOHN:** My legs have gone numb!

**WISHBONE:** Come on now Little John...you know you'll have to pull your socks up.

**LITTLE JOHN:** You pull 'em up...you're nearer than me.

**NANNY:** Did you say your legs have gone numb?..(SHE LOOKS AROUND, SEES, THEN PICKS UP A SPIKED BALL ON A CHAIN...SHE WHACKS LITTLE JOHN'S "LEGS" WITH IT...HE SCREAMS IN PAIN)...that's a good sign...you've still got some feeling then?

**FRIAR TUCK:** Brother Wishbone...a word in thy ear, if thou hast a minute.

**WISHBONE:** What's up Friar Tuck...(LAUGHS)...apart from you, that is....(FRIAR TUCK WHISPERS SOMETHING)...you want to go where? ...just a minute...(WISHBONE GOES OFF AND RETURNS WITH A BUCKET...HE TURNS IT UPSIDE DOWN AND STANDS ON IT SO THAT HE CAN HEAR FRIAR TUCK BETTER...**THEN TO AUDIENCE**)...what did you lot think the bucket was for?..(FRIAR TUCK WHISPERS IN HIS EAR...**THEN TO AUDIENCE**)...you were right!..(THEN TO FRIAR TUCK)...you'll have to wait a bit...cross your legs...oh sorry!..you can't, can you?

ENTER TWO HOODED MONKS (ROBIN AND WILL)

**NANNY:** Hello Brothers...have you come visiting?..(THEN TO TUCK) ...there's two of your lot here Friar...well I think they're from the same order as you...what is your order?

**FRIAR TUCK:** My order?..ah verily...it is a big Mac...with large fries to goeth!!

THE MONKS TAKE OFF THEIR CLOAKS...IT IS ROBIN AND WILL

**LITTLE JOHN:** Robin!, Will!..Thank goodness you've come...you're certainly a sight for sore eyes...and sore legs...and sore arms...please get us both out of here, will you?

**WISHBONE:** How are you going to undo the manacles?

**WILL:** Well...whilst I had a little spiritual chat with the guard at the door....

**ROBIN:** I happened to casually borrow these...(HE PRODUCES A BUNCH OF KEYS AND UNLOCKS LITTLE JOHN)

VISUAL GAG HERE WHERE NANNY BENDS LITTLE JOHN'S FALSE LEGS AGAINST THE JOINT AS IF TO EASE PAIN....ROBIN THEN GOES OVER TO RELEASE FRIAR TUCK...DIRECTORS SHOULD NOTE THAT FRIAR TUCK IS NOT -TIEDø UP AS SUCH BUT HAS MERELY SLIPPED HIS WRISTS INTO TWO MANACLE TYPE HOLDERS. TO DISTRACT THE AUDIENCE FROM THE FRIAR'S -FAKEø RELEASE MECHANISM (IE. FRIAR SIMPLY SLIPS HIS HANDS OUT OF THE MANACLES)...LITTLE JOHN STANDS UP HELPED BY NANNY AND WISHBONE...HE STANDS ON A BOX ON THE BLIND SIDE OF THE RACK WHICH GIVES THE EFFECT THAT HE HAS BEEN STRETCHED....SOME "OH NO, OH YES" BIZ HERE

**NANNY:** (TO AUDIENCE)...Oh all right then...he is standing on a box!

**ROBIN:** We've no time to lose...we must make good our escape!

**WILL:** How do we get past the guards?

**WISHBONE:** Allow me...(HE LIFTS STAGE TRAP)...you can go through the sewers.

**ROBIN:** Right men...follow me. (ROBIN AND WILL GO DOWN THE TRAP FOLLOWED BY LITTLE JOHN...FRIAR TUCK HESITATES)

**LITTLE JOHN:** Come on Friar!

**FRIAR TUCK:** Nothing....and I mean nothing...would getteth me into that sewer!

**LITTLE JOHN:** There's a wild boar on the spit...and potatoes in the pot....

**FRIAR TUCK:** Oh all right...giveth me a hand...(THEY DISAPPEAR DOWN THE TRAP...WISHBONE CLOSES IT)

**NANNY:** Come on Wishbone...let's get back to the kitchen before the Sheriff and old misery guts gets back.

NANNY AND WISHBONE EXIT

TABS CLOSE

ENTER HOOKLINE AND SINKER ON TABS...THEY ARE STILL MANACLED TOGETHER

**HOOKLINE:** Come on for goodness sake.

**SINKER:** Slow down will you...my wrist is sore.

**HOOKLINE:** Is it more sore than your ear?

**SINKER:** My ear isn't sore?

**HOOKLINE:** (CLIPS HIM ROUND THE EAR)...Is it now!?...look out, the Sheriff's coming...(HE SLIPS OFF HIS COAT AND DRAPES IT OVER THE MANACLE)

SHERIFF ENTERS

**SHERIFF:** Ah...there you are...listen you two, tonight is the night!

**HOOKLINE:** Is it?

**SHERIFF:** Yes...tonight...or should I say early in the morning...when the clock strikes two to be exact...you will wake the Babes, tell them that Marion wants to see them...take them deep into the forest....

**SINKER:** (ENTHRALLED)...Yes yes...then what do we do?

**SHERIFF:** (LAUGHS)...You leave them there!

**HOOKLINE:** (PUZZLED)..What for?..I thought we were bodyguards?

**SHERIFF:** Don't ask questions!..just do as I say...I am also expecting a visit from Robin Hood...so you two had better split up and keep your eyes peeled.

**HOOKLINE:** (AS THEY TRY TO GO OFF IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS THEN REALISES THEY CAN'T BEING MANACLES TOGETHER)...Er...we had better stick together...we are trained as a team you see.

HOOKLINE AND SINKER HURRIEDLY EXIT

**SHERIFF:** What idiots they are!..still, after tonight I'll have no more use for them!

SHERIFF TURNS TO EXIT AND BUMPS INTO MINSTREL AS HE ENTERS

**SHERIFF:** (CONT/D)...Get out of my way you musical moron!!

SHERIFF EXITS

**MINSTREL:** Charming!..I'm only doing my job you know...(THEN TO AUDIENCE)...you like me, don't you?...who said no!!?...

(SINGS) We're getting near the interval...  
 Who said three cheers for that?  
 I bet the cramp is setting in...  
 For far too long you've sat.  
 But one more scene we've yet to see...  
 Inside the Babeø's bedroom.  
 From where they're whisked against their will...  
 Into the forest's gloom.  
 With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no  
 It's all happening now in our pantomime.

This is the last you'll hear of me...  
 Until the second act.  
 Look for me in the interval...  
 Let's form a friendly pact.  
 The producer will be in the bar...  
 A checking of his watch.  
 And if you see me in there too...

Mine's a double scotch!  
 With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no...  
 It's all going on in our pantomime.

MINSTREL EXITS

TABS OPEN FOR.....

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

**ACT 1....SCENE 5...."THE BABES BEDROOM"**

SET:...HALF STAGE SECOND BLACK TABS....TWO BEDS ON....  
 A ROCKING CHAIR AND SOME BEDROOM FURNITURE....THE BABES  
 ARE SITTING UP IN BED....MISS SPLINTER IS ON

**MISS SPLINTER:** (CROSS)...After the appalling results of today's arithmetic tests you two horrible children will go to bed without having any supper...maybe that will teach you to pay attention when I'm teaching you!..(THEN ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...little do they know that they have had their final lesson...(SHE LAUGHS...THEN TO BABES)... good-bye to you both....whoops, I mean goodnight!!

MISS SPLINTER EXITS

**MARY & JAMES:** (TOGETHER TEARFULLY)...Goodnight Miss Splinter.

**JAMES:** (AS MARY SOBS)...It's all right Mary...you can stop now, she's gone...(MARY STOPS....THEN CALLS OFF)...the coast is clear Marion...you can come out now.

ENTER MARION WITH A BASKET OF FOOD

**MARION:** Wishbone has made you both some supper...(THEY TUCK IN)...and don't leave crumbs in bed, or Nanny will be after you.

**MARY:** Will you tell us a bedtime story....please Marion.

**MARION:** Well, all right...but only if you promise to go to sleep straight away afterwards.

**MARY & JAMES:** (TOGETHER)...We promise!

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 9**...FEATURING MARION...BABES... AND SUNBEAMS...AFTER ROUTINE SUNBEAMS EXIT...BABES SNUGGLE DOWN IN BED

**MARION:** (KISSES BABES)...Goodnight sweet Babes...see you in the morning...

AS MARION MAKES TO EXIT....ENTER NANNY

**MARION:** (CONT/D)...They're almost asleep Nanny...I'll see you in the morning.

MARION EXITS

NANNY SITS IN ROCKING CHAIR

**MARY:** Goodnight Nanny.

**NANNY:** Goodnight my little one...sweet dreams.

**JAMES:** Nanny?...where do dreams come from?

**NANNY:** Where do dreams come from?...why, from the Dream Maker of course.

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 10**...ACT 1 FINALE...FEATURING FULL COMPANY.

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

## INTERVAL

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

### **ACT 2....SCENE 1..."SHERWOOD FOREST"**

SET:....AS PREVIOUS....BABES ARE CENTRE REAR LYING ON A GRASSY KNOLL

♪....MUSICAL ITEM No 11....FEATURING DANCERS AND SUNBEAMS....AFTER ROUTINE DANCERS AND SUNBEAMS EXIT

**SOUND F/X**....DAWN CHORUS....JAMES AWAKENS AND STRETCHES...HE STANDS UP AND HAS A LOOK AROUND....HE THEN SHAKES MARY

**JAMES**: Mary!..wake up!

**MARY**: (SLEEPILY)...James...what's happened?..where are we?

**JAMES**: Don't be frightened...we're in the forest...don't you remember?.. those two horrid men left us here, and told us to wait for Marion...and now it's morning!

**MARY**: (PANIC)...Oh no!..we're lost!..I'm frightened and so hungry.

**JAMES**: So am I...I bet you could even eat one of Wishbone's Eccles cakes now, couldn't you?

**MARY**: Well...er...no...I'm hungry...but I'm not that hungry!..but what are we going to do?

**JAMES**: (PUTTING HIS COAT AROUND HER)...Don't worry, this is where my training from the junior Sherwood Rangers comes in...(THINKING)...now let's see...the sun rises in the east...(POINTS) ...and that's over there...so Nottingham...(POINTS)...must be in that direction!

**MARY**: (IMPRESSED)...Oh James, you're so clever...I feel so safe with you.

**JAMES**: (PREENING)...Well, that's what big Brothers are for...and don't worry about feeling hungry, I know which berries to pick...come on.

JAMES AND MARY EXIT HAND IN HAND

TABS CLOSE

ENTER ROBIN AND WILL ON TABS

**WILL**: Tarry a while Robin, we seem to have lost two of our Merry men.

**ROBIN**: (CALLING OFF)...Come on you two...don't dawdle.

ENTER LITTLE JOHN AND FRIAR TUCK

**LITTLE JOHN**: Why the hurry, Robin?

**ROBIN**: There's celebrating to be done...it isn't every day that we break out prisoners from under the Sheriff's nose.

**FRIAR TUCK**: (SITS ON LOG WITH JOHN)...Ah verily Robin...Little John and I will rest awhile...for we are weary of limb.

**LITTLE JOHN**: Aye, and my legs ache as well.

**WILL**: Come on Robin...let's go ahead and prepare the feast.

**ROBIN**: All right Will...(TO OTHERS)...don't be long you two.

**FRIAR TUCK**: We won't Robin...I shall be there before the eating starteth!

ROBIN AND WILL EXIT...ENTER MINSTREL WHO DOFFS HIS HAT TO THEM AS THEY PASS.....THE MINSTREL THEN SEES TUCK AND JOHN

**MINSTREL**: Good morrow gentlemen.

**LITTLE JOHN**: (ASIDE TO FRIAR TUCK)...Oh no!..it's him... Sherwood's answer to Robbie Williams!

**MINSTREL**: Thou lookest in need of entertainment...and I feel a ballad coming on.

**FRIAR TUCK**: I was afeared of that!

**MINSTREL**: (SING) The song that I will sing you...  
Will cheer you up no end.

**JOHN**: (SING) Quite the opposite my friend...  
T'will drive us round the bend.

**MINSTREL**: (SING) I'm sorry that you feel that way...  
I'm doing of my best.

I hate to be a nuisance sir...

**JOHN/TUCK:** (SING) You're not...you're just a pest!  
With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no.  
You all see it now in our pantomime

**TUCK:** (SING) Before you start another verse...  
We must be on our way.

**MINSTREL:** (SING) Oh prey don't leave me quite so soon...  
I've plenty more to say.

**JOHN:** (SING) That's what we're afraid of...

**MINSTREL:** (SING) Why? Don't the words quite suit?  
What do I do with all the rest?..

**JOHN/TUCK:** (SING) You can stick 'em up your lute!!  
With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no...  
Let's get on with this pantomime.

ALL THREE EXIT

TABS OPEN FOR...

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

## **ACT 2....SCENE 2...."SHERWOOD CASTLE"**

SET:....AS BEFORE WITH KITCHEN CLOTH AND TRAPPINGS....  
WISHBONE IS PREPARING THE BREAKFASTS...BIT OF VISUAL BIZ  
HERE

ENTER MISS SPLINTER

**MISS SPLINTER:** Ah, there you are Wishbone...(LOOKS AT TABLE AND  
GRIMACES)...I see that the breakfast is up to its usual standard... although I  
must confess that I haven't quite recovered from last nights supper yet!

**WISHBONE:** Oh yes, I meant to ask you...how did you find your steak?

**MISS SPLINTER:** Well...I moved one of my chips, and there it was...  
burnt to a cinder!!

**WISHBONE:** (UNCONCERNED)...Oh good...just as long as you enjoyed  
it...by the way, what brings you down to the kitchen at this time in the morning?

**MISS SPLINTER:** I am the housekeeper don't forget...and your superior!..I am here to inform you that we have guests tonight for a special banquet...and I want you to prepare a meal, and I want you to make it your "Piece de Resistance".

**WISHBONE:** Now that could be a bit tricky...'cos we're right out of resistance...instead of a piece of resistance, will you settle for a piece of brisket?

**MISS SPLINTER:** Oh very well...just so long as there is a wine to complement the meal...and I don't mean your usual home brew rubbish, where you tread the grapes yourself...with your socks on!!

**WISHBONE:** Oh no...I've given all that up since I got injured making my coconut wine!

**MISS SPLINTER:** (PUZZLED)...You were injured making coconut wine!!?

**WISHBONE:** Yes...I broke both my ankles treading the coconuts!!.. anyway, I'll go down into the wine cellar to see what we've got.

**MISS SPLINTER:** (AS HE EXITS)...And don't be long!..the last time that you went down there, we didn't see you again for a month!

ENTER SHERIFF

**SHERIFF:** (LOOKING AROUND)...So this is the kitchen Miss Splinter...in all my years residing in this Castle, it is my first visit to the kitchen...and from what I see, it will probably be my last!

**MISS SPLINTER:** (CRAWLING)...Oh my Lord Sheriff...someone as important as you should never have to visit the kitchen...you can leave all the culinary matters to me...the banquet tonight is already organised.

**SHERIFF:** Excellent!..and don't forget Miss Splinter, that expense is no object, now that I am rid of those wretched children...it is simply a matter of time before I receive my inheritance!

**MISS SPLINTER:** But don't forget their Sister the Lady Marion...she still stands in your way.

**SHERIFF**: Fear not...for she will soon perish, along with her beloved Robin Hood...(LAUGHS)...but enough of that, what other plans have you made for tonight?

**MISS SPLINTER**: Well, I thought we might have some dancing...so I have engaged the services of some local musicians, the very popular Sherwood Stompers.

**SHERIFF**: Oh...I'm afraid that dancing isn't one of my strong points Miss Splinter.

**MISS SPLINTER**: Don't worry about that my Lord Sheriff...I can teach you the very latest dance.

**SHERIFF**: Oh dear...it isn't one of those new fangled dances, is it?

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 12**....FEATURING SHERIFF AND MISS SPLINTER IN DANCE ROUTINE....AT THE END OF ROUTINE THEY DANCE OFF

ENTER WISHBONE...HE IS CARRYING AN ENORMOUS BOTTLE OF WINE

**WISHBONE**: (THINKING MISS SPLINTER IS STILL THERE)...well I've got my wine Miss Spli...(LOOKS AROUND)...that's funny...I wonder where she's gone?

ENTER ALICE IN A PANIC

**ALICE**: Oh Wishbone!..what can I do?..I'm worried and desperate!!

**WISHBONE**: Now now Miss Alice...calm down...sit yourself down and have a piece of cake.

**ALICE**: Er...no it's all right...I'm not that worried and desperate!.. (THEN BACK TO A PANIC)...it's the Babes!..I can't find them anywhere!..they're not in their beds...and I can't wake Nanny...I think someone must have put a sleeping draught in her cocoa...I'm sure something is terribly wrong!

**WISHBONE**: Don't worry, the little monkeys will be playing hide and seek.

ENTER MARION HELPING A SLEEPY STAGGERING NANNY

**MARION**: I found poor Nanny wandering the corridors...I don't know what could be the matter with her?

**ALICE**: I'm glad you're here Lady Marion...it's the Babes...I can't find them anywhere...I've looked all over the Castle!

**MARION**: (WORRIED)...Oh no!..I've always had a fear that this might happen...I must tell Robin...he'll know what to do.

NANNY SLUMPS INTO A CHAIR

**WISHBONE**: I'll get Nanny a brandy!

**ALICE**: No!..a glass of water would be better.

**NANNY**: Be quiet Alice!..Wishbone knows best!..anyway, I need a brandy if what I've heard is true!..(SNIFFS...THEN HAMS IT UP DRAMATIC)...those poor Babes, alone in the forest...with all those wild animals...they won't know where to turn...there will be danger all around!

**MARION**: Don't take on so Nanny.

**NANNY**: (CALMLY TO MARION)...Just a minute...I haven't finished yet...it's my big dramatic bit is this!..(THEN DRAMATIC AGAIN)...they will be cold and starving hungry!..lost!..nay doomed forever!..can there be any hope!?..(THEY ALL LOOK AT HER OPEN MOUTHED AS SHE PAUSES FOR A SECOND...THEN CALMLY)...I've finished now...you can carry on.

ENTER WILL BREEZILY

**WILL**: What's all this?..long faces?..just when I've come all the way back to invite you all to join in our celebrations.

**ALICE**: Oh Will...we can't celebrate...the Babes are missing!..those so called bodyguards have taken them.

**MARION**: Goodness knows where they are now?..We're just about to set out to find Robin to see if he can help.

**WILL:** Then there is no time to lose...we must return to the forest immediately.

**WISHBONE:** We can't all go...the Sheriff hasn't had his lunch yet.

**MARION:** That evil man is behind all this...but we must not let him see that we're worried.

**ALICE:** You're right Lady Marion...(TO WISHBONE)...you go with the others, Wishbone...I'll see to the Sheriff's lunch.

**WILL:** Then I will stay with you Alice...Wishbone knows the way.

**WISHBONE:** (FEELING IMPORTANT)...Right Lady Marion... Nanny...follow me...(HE SETS OFF IN THE WRONG DIRECTION)

**NANNY:** (WHISTLES AFTER HIM)...It's this way you fool!!...(THEN AS THEY EXIT)...I'm starving...I'll have a piece of cake to help me on my way....("NOW NOW NANNY...NAUGHTY NAUGHTY" BIZ)

WISHBONE, MARION AND NANNY EXIT.....WILL AND ALICE COME FORWARD FOR TABS TO CLOSE

**ALICE:** Oh I do hope the Babes will be all right...I'm so glad you stayed with me Will.

**WILL:** Where you are Alice, I want to be...not just now, but every day of my life.

♪....**MUSICAL ITEM No 13**...FEATURING WILL AND ALICE  
DUET...AFTER SONG THEY EXIT

ENTER MINSTREL ON TABS

**MINSTREL:** (SINGS)

It's back to Sherwood once again...  
I'm sure you're all agog.  
To keep the story in your minds...  
Your memory I will jog.  
The Babes are wandering in the woods...  
The Sheriff is to blame.  
It's getting rather thrilling now...

I bet you're glad you came.  
 With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no  
 It's all going on in our pantomime.

Let's see what merriment there is...  
 At Robin Hood's abode.  
 Let's wander through the undergrowth...  
 And down this winding road.  
 Hark!..jollity is on the wind...  
 And laughter doth abound.  
 I won't get there too early...  
 For it might cost me a round!  
 With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no...  
 It's all boiling up in our pantomime.

MINSTREL EXITS

TABS OPEN FOR....

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

**ACT 2....SCENE 3...."ROBIN HOOD'S ENCAMPMENT"**

SET:...WOODLAND CLOTH AND CAMP TRAPPINGS

♪....**MUSICAL ITEM No 14**....FEATURING ROBIN, TUCK, JOHN AND  
 DANCERS...AFTER ROUTINE THEY ALL MIME GOOD HUMOURED  
 CHAT

ENTER HOOKLINE AND SINKER HESITANTLY...THEY ARE STILL  
 MANACLED TOGETHER

**HOOKLINE:** Come on...you heard what the Sheriff said...we have to get rid of  
 Lady Marion and Robin Hood now...how, I don't know...we'll start off by gaining  
 Robin Hood's confidence....(LOOKS AT SINKER)...well, at least try to look like  
 a merry man...(SINKER ADOPTS A SILLY POSE AND GRINS)...I said  
merry!..not gormless!!

**SINKER:** I'll have you know that all my ancestors were archers...I was told that  
 one of them ended his days in this very forest...(RECALLING)...yes, he was

lying on his death bed when he threw open the window pulled back on his trusty old bow and said "Where so ever this arrow doth land...then there, shall ye lay me to rest"...

**HOOKLINE:** Oh yes...and where did they lay him to rest then?

**SINKER:** On top of the wardrobe!!

**ROBIN:** (APPROACHES THEM)...Good day gentlemen...Robin Hood at you service...are you wishing to join our merry band?...we only use experienced men!

**SINKER:** Experienced!..I'll have you know that I was at Agincourt when the first arrow was fired.

**HOOKLINE:** (ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...Yes...and he was back at home here, under the bed, when the second arrow was fired...(THEN TO ROBIN)...er...we are, what you might call mercenaries...always ready to fight for a cause.

**ROBIN:** Then you are welcome...please feel free to help yourselves to food and drink...our table is at your disposal.

**HOOKLINE:** Why thank you kindly Robin Hood...we accept your offer (ASIDE TO SINKER)...come on, let's mingle.

**SINKER:** All right then...but let's stick together.

**HOOKLINE:** (SHOWING HANDCUFFS)...We don't have much option, do we?...come on...(THEY MAKE AS IF TO HELP THEMSELVES FROM THE TABLE)

**LITTLE JOHN:** (SUSPICIOUS TO ROBIN)...Who are the two strangers Robin?...I'm sure I've seen them somewhere before.

**FRIAR TUCK:** Ah, forsooth Robin...Brother John is right...they do look familiar.

BABES ENTER LOOKING DISHEVELLED AND LOST...THEY ARE NOT NOTICED AT FIRST

**MARY:** James, where have you brought us?...this looks like a gang of outlaws!

**JAMES:** I think you're right Mary...it certainly isn't Nottingham!...act casual, and wander back the way we came.

**ROBIN:** (SPOTS THEM)...Hey!...stop you two...(BABES FREEZE)... what are two youngsters like you doing alone deep in Sherwood Forest? ...(HE TAKES A CLOSER LOOK AT THEM)...just a minute...don't I know you?

**JAMES:** (SLIGHTLY RELIEVED)...Are you Robin Hood sir?

**ROBIN:** Indeed I am young fellow m'lad!

**JAMES:** Well we are James and Mary...brother and sister to Marion.

**ROBIN:** Well I never...come and sit down, you both look worn out!

**LITTLE JOHN:** There must be a story behind all this.

**MARY:** We were brought into the forest last night...and left to perish, by two awful...ugly...smelly...wrinkly old men wearing masks!

**HOOKLINE:** (OFFENDED AND BLOWING HIS COVER)...Hey, hold on a minute!..that description of awful...ugly...smelly...wrinkly old men, wearing masks is untrue!!

**SINKER:** Yes it is!..we didn't wear masks!

**JAMES:** (POINTING)...Those are the two men Master Robin!

**ROBIN:** Little John...Friar Tuck...seize them!...(THEY DO)...we will see how they fight on equal terms!

ENTER MARION, WILL AND ALICE

**MARION:** (SEES THE BABES)...Oh!..Mary and James, you're both safe!...(EMBRACES BABES...THEN TO ROBIN)...Thank you Robin for finding them!

**ROBIN:** (LAUGHS)...I didn't find them Marion...they found me.

**ALICE:** (TO BABES)...I bet you two are hungry, aren't you?

**MARY:** Yes...I could even eat some of Wishbone's cooking now.

**FRIAR TUCK:** Now that is hungry!

**LITTLE JOHN:** Talking of Wishbone...isn't he with you?

**WILL:** He and Nanny took a short cut, a short cut to where, I'm not sure.

ENTER NANNY AND WISHBONE...NANNY IS CARRYING WISHBONE ON HER BACK

**NANNY:** (TO WISHBONE AS SHE PUTS HIM DOWN)...A fine guide you turned out to be...we passed that old oak tree fourteen times.

**WISHBONE:** It wasn't my fault...it's this compass that I borrowed... (PUTS IT TO HIS EAR)...I think it's stopped...it needs winding up!

BABES RUN TO NANNY AND WISHBONE

**JAMES:** We're safe Nanny...the panic is over.

**NANNY:** (DELIGHTED)...Oh!...my two darlings...thank goodness you're all right...(GIVES THEM WATER FLASK)...here, have a drink... you must be spitting feathers.

**WISHBONE:** (TAKES OUT PAPER BAG)...Yes...and I've brought some of my coconut macaroons!

**MARY:** (PULLING A FACE)...Well...really we're more thirsty than hungry!

**NANNY:** (TAKES A MACAROON)...Ah well, waste not want not... (SHE MAKES AS IF TO EAT IT...ALL ON STAGE..."NOW NOW NANNY...NAUGHTY NAUGHTY" BIZ)

**ROBIN:** Now listen everybody, these two culprits Mr. Hookline and Mr. Sinker are about to defend themselves...(ROBIN MAKES AS IF TO DRAW HIS SWORD)

**HOOKLINE:** (SHOWS THAT THEY ARE FASTENED TOGETHER)

...Well, what it is you see...normally we would fight, but being manacled together as we are...I'm afraid it's out of the question!

**ROBIN:** Little John...will you do the necessary please?

MUCH TO THE SURPRISE OF HOOKLINE AND SINKER, LITTLE JOHN RIPS APART THE CHAIN THAT IS FASTENING THEIR WRISTS TOGETHER....ROBIN DRAWS HIS SWORD...WILL DRAWS HIS SWORD....HOOKLINE DRAWS HIS SWORD...THEN SINKER DRAWS HIS SWORD BUT IT IS NOT MUCH MORE THAN A HANDLE

**LITTLE JOHN:** (TO SINKER)...You seem in need of a blade sir...(HE THROWS SINKER A SWORD...SINKER CATCHES IT BY THE BLADE AND WINCES...**LIGHTING F/X**...**RUN STROBE FOR MOCK SWORD FIGHT**...STROBE STOPS WITH THE TWO VILLAINS DEFEATED

**HOOKLINE:** We surrender!!..please forgive us...we're not villains really!

**SINKER:** No...we were supposed to be bodyguards, but the Sheriff talked us into this business.

**HOOKLINE:** And that reminds me...we haven't been paid yet!

**MARION:** Oh leave them be...I think they're on our side now...but what are we going to do about the Sheriff?..he's preparing a feast in the castle grounds to celebrate his new found wealth.

**ROBIN:** Ah yes...the Sheriff...and of course Miss Splinter...we must return to Nottingham, to share in their so called celebration...for I have heard news this very day that will stop them in their tracks!

**MARION:** What news is that Robin?

**ROBIN:** I think at this stage my dear...it's enough to say that it's good news...but not for the Sheriff...(THEN TO HIS MEN)...men!..to your horses...(THEY START TO EXIT)...Wishbone, take the ladies back to Nottingham in one of the wagons...Marion and I will see you there.

**NANNY:** (AS THEY EXIT)...One of the wagons??..can't we wait for the "shopper hopper"?

THEY EXIT

ROBIN AND MARION COME FORWARD FOR THE TABS TO CLOSE

**MARION:** Oh Robin...please tell me about the news that you've received today...is it really good news at last?

**ROBIN:** The best new possible my dearest...King Richard has returned from the crusades, to reclaim the throne of England...(INDICATES TO SCROLL IN HIS BELT)...I have here a proclamation from King Richard himself...it will be read at the Sheriff's little party...a sort of surprise for him.

**MARION:** I'm so happy...not just for us...for the Babes as well...my dear Robin Hood, you always said that you would win the fight with the Sheriff, and it looks as if this time you really have...I do love you!

**ROBIN:** I love you Marion...until the end of time!

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 15**...FEATURING ROBIN AND MARION IN BOY/GIRL DUET...AFTER SONG THEY EXIT

ENTER MINSTREL ON TABS

**MINSTREL:** (SINGS)

Back to the castle once again...  
 The Babes are safe and sound.  
 But let's not be too confident...  
 For the Sheriff's on home ground.  
 And when he finds the Babes are safe...  
 The sparks will really fly.  
 Hark I hear him coming now...  
 So I wish you a fast good-bye.  
 With a hey and a ho...  
 (STOPS SINGING)...I haven't time for all that!!

MINSTREL MAKES A HURRIED EXIT

ENTER SHERIFF ON TABS...HE STRUTS ANGRILY TO CENTRE STAGE

**SHERIFF:** (SHOUTING)...Miss Splinter!!..where has she got to?..blast the woman!..(SHOUTS AGAIN)...Miss Splinter!!

ENTER MISS SPLINTER AS IF JUST OUT OF THE BATH...SHE IS WEARING A TOWEL IN A TURBAN...SHE IS WEARING A BATH ROBE...AND A MOST GRUESOME MUD-PACK ON HER FACE

**MISS SPLINTER:** You called my Lord?

**SHERIFF:** I'm looking for Miss Splinter...have you seen her anywhere?

**MISS SPLINTER:** (COY)...You will have your little jest my Lord...you caught me in the middle of my facial!..it's for the garden party this afternoon...I want to look better than I've ever done!

**SHERIFF:** In that case...I should leave the mud-pack on!!

**MISS SPLINTER:** Pardon!!?

**SHERIFF:** The garden party will have to be cancelled Miss Splinter. According to my reliable sources, the Babes are safely back in the castle again...Robin Hood has once more out-witted us!

**MISS SPLINTER:** But my dear Lord Sheriff...you can't cancel the garden party. Even as I speak, there are guests on their way from all over the country...we must go ahead with it!

**SHERIFF:** (RELENTING)...Oh very well...but I'm not finished yet with Robin Hood and his motley crew...I will speak to the Captain of the Guard, and work out a plan...(HE MAKES TO EXIT THEN TURNS BACK)...Oh and by the way Miss Splinter...please...no more Al Jolson impressions!

HE EXITS

**MISS SPLINTER:** (WISTFUL)...Oh...he's so domineering...I think at last he's started to notice me.

SHE MAKES A GIDDY EXIT.....THEN TABS OPEN FOR....

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**ACT 2....SCENE 4...."THE CASTLE KITCHEN"**

SET:....AS BEFORE BUT WITH TABLE WHICH HAS A LARGE TABLE COVER ON TO COVER TRAP FOR EVENTUAL SLAPSTICK SKETCH...

ENTER BABES...WHO LOOK AROUND...WHEN THEY SEE THERE IS NOBODY AROUND THEY BECKON ON THE SUNBEAMS

**♪....MUSICAL ITEM No 16....FEATURING THE BABES AND THE SUNBEAMS....AFTER ROUTINE....**

ENTER NANNY AND WISHBONE

**NANNY:** (TO BABES AND SUNBEAMS)...Come on you lot...sling your hooks!..Wishbone and I have some baking to do.

**JAMES:** Oh Nanny...can't we stay and watch you?

**WISHBONE:** Yes, let 'em stay Nanny.....then, when we've done some baking, this lot...(MEANING CHILDREN)...can try it out....(WHEN THE CHILDREN HEAR THIS THEY GRIMACE AND START TO LEAVE....WISHBONE SEES THEM LEAVING)...well I never....where are they going?...I know, they would probably rather wait for the baking, so that they can look forward to it!

BABES AND SUNBEAMS EXIT

**NANNY:** Right...let's get cracking with this cake.....(SHE CHECKS SOME LITTLE CAKES ALREADY MADE)...What's these?

**WISHBONE:** Oh, they are my speciality are them...I call 'em "Maid of Honour"

**NANNY:** (PICKS ONE UP...LOOKS AT IT AND THEN BOUNCES IT)... "Maid of Honour"???...They should be called "Made of Rubber"!

**WISHBONE:** Don't be cheeky!..you've got to serve them in a special way!

**NANNY:** There's only one way to serve these...(HE PICKS UP A FRYING PAN AND SERVES ONE TENNIS STYLE)

**WISHBONE:** Thank you Jennifer Capria...er...Copperiani...er...Kipperier.....thank you Venus Williams!

**NANNY**: Hey, just move over and let me do the baking...you can pass me the ingredients.

**WISHBONE**: Fair enough.

**NANNY**: We want a pound of plain flour first.

**WISHBONE**: A pound of plain flour...right...(HE GOES TO TABLE AND LOOKS AT FLOUR BAG)...this'll be no good then.

**NANNY**: Why?

**WISHBONE**: 'Cos it's self raising...(THE PRE-RIGGED BAG OF FLOUR RISES UP AND OUT OF SIGHT.....PICKS UP ANOTHER BAG)...here's your plain flour.

**NANNY**: (AS SHE EMPTIES THE FLOUR INTO THE BOWL SHE DROPS THE BAG IN)...never mind...it'll give the cake a bit of body....right, now a good measure of Brandy is called for...(SHE OPENS BRANDY BOTTLE)

**WISHBONE**: (LOOKING AT RECIPE)...Hey!..just a minute, it doesn't say anything here about putting Brandy in the cake!?

**DAME**: Who said anything about putting it into the cake?..(SHE TAKES A SWIG FROM BOTTLE....THEN SLURRED SPEECH)...right....now half a dozen eggs.

**WISHBONE**: Half a dozen eggs coming up!..(HE GETS EGG CARTON FROM TABLE)...there you are...(NANNY MAKES TO DROP THE UNOPENED CARTON OF EGGS INTO MIXING BOWL)...just a minute!..you haven't broken them yet!

**NANNY**: (SMASHES UNOPENED CARTON WITH A Mallet)...there...they're broken now!!..(SHE DROPS THE LOT INTO MIXING BOWL....THEN HAS ANOTHER SWIG OF BRANDY)

**WISHBONE**: Hey!..steady on with that Brandy!

**NANNY:** (SPEECH MORE SLURRED)...I only drink it for modici...er...medikinal...midocinal...er...'cos it does me good!... right, we'll add some fruit...(SHE DOES)

**WISHBONE:** (SLIGHTLY CONCERNED)...Oh?..Prunes, eh??

**NANNY:** (SHE THEN DROPS THREE WHOLE UNPEELED ORANGES IN)...Right, what's next?...(CHECKS RECIPE)...a pound of nuts.

**WISHBONE:** A pound of nuts!?(HE THEN HANDS NANNY A COCONUT AND A PAIR OF NUT CRACKERS)

**NANNY:** (BEWILDERED AS SHE LOOKS BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS AT THE LARGE COCONUT AND THE SMALL NUT CRACKERS...THEN TO HERSELF)...Nut....nut cracker?...nut cracker....nut?...what does it say?...a pound of nuts?

**WISHBONE:** Yes, a pound.

**NANNY:** (SHE TOSSES COCONUT FROM HAND TO HAND A FEW TIMES)...I reckon there's about a pound there...(SHE DROPS THE WHOLE COCONUT INTO BOWL....THEN HAS ANOTHER SWIG OF BRANDY)

**WISHBONE:** Steady with that brandy!!

**NANNY:** Oh don't worry!..you just go to the scullery and get the whipped cream....I'll give this a good stir.

WISHBONE EXITS

**NANNY:** (CONT/D)í (SHE TASTES MIXTURE)í I think a drop more brandyí (ANOTHER SWIG)í right, I'dl put some milk iní (SHE DOES AND IT SQUIRTS BACK INTO HER FACEí REPEAT THIS AGAIN)

ENTER MISS SPLINTER

**MISS SPLINTER:** Nanny Nuttall!!..why are you doing the baking??

**NANNY:** Oh!..hello Miss Splinter...I thought I'd do my bit you know?....I like baking.

**MISS SPLINTER:** Oh yes...well I must admit, that I am rather proficient in the kitchen...my speciality is bread...oh yes...my large bloomers are the talk of the Women's Institute!!

**NANNY:** Yes, I'll bet they are!..Oh Miss Blinker...perhaps you would like to help me put some milk into the mixture?

**MISS SPLINTER:** (FLATTERED)...Oh I see...wanting some expert advice are we?..well of course I'll help you put some milk in....(SHE DOES.....NANNY REACTS WITH AUDIENCE EXPECTING MISS SPLINTER WILL GET SQUIRTED...BUT MISS SPLINTER STIRS THE MIXTURE THEN PEERS INTO THE BOWL BUT NOTHING HAPPENS

**MISS SPLINTER:** There, that's fine!

**NANNY:** Can you just put a drop more milk in and give it another stir....and then check if it's all right!

MISS SPLINTER REPEATS THE PERFORMANCE AND STILL NOTHING HAPPENS

**NANNY:** That's funny!..(THEN LOOKS INTO BOWL AND GETS SQUIRTED)

ENTER WISHBONE

**WISHBONE:** I've got the cream, Nanny...(HE PUTS IT ONTO CHAIR)

**MISS SPLINTER:** Ah there you are Wishbone...why don't you give Nanny some expert help and put some milk into the cake mixture?

**WISHBONE:** O/K, no trouble at all...(HE DOES AND PEERS INTO BOWL AND NOTHING HAPPENS)...oh a drop more I think...(HE

DOES AND LOOKS IN AGAIN AND NOTHING HAPPENS)...just a splash....(THEN LOOKS AGAIN)....yes, that's coming on nicely!

MISS SPLINTER GOES TO HAVE A LOOK AND GETS SQUIRTED...SHE IS SO TRAUMATISED SHE SITS DOWN ON THE 'CREAM' ON THE CHAIR

**MISS SPLINTER:** Oh really!!..I didn't come here to be insulted!

**WISHBONE:** Why, where do you normally go to get insulted??!

**MISS SPLINTER:** (ANGRY)...You'll pay for this you two!

MISS SPLINTER EXITS WITH PLATES OF CREAM STUCK TO HER BOTTOM

**NANNY:** Trust Miss Clinker to get to the bottom of the problem!.. now we've got behind with the cake....do you get it?!

MISS SPLINTER RE-ENTERS CARRYING TWO PLATES OF 'CREAM'

**WISHBONE:** Ah there you are Miss Splinter....have you come for some more cream?

**MISS SPLINTER:** No...I've come for a second opinion!

MISS SPLINTER GOES BEHIND AND BETWEEN NANNY AND WISHBONE AND SPLATS THEM BOTH WITH TWO PLATES OF 'CREAM'.....MISS SPLINTER THEN EXITS

**WISHBONE:** (AS THEY BOTH WIPE OFF THE GUNGE)...You know Nanny...we're not much of a team in the kitchen...but we're still good mates aren't we?..(HE BECOMES AMOROUS)

**NANNY:** Hey!...shouldn't we leave this sort of thing to the youngsters!?

**WISHBONE:** No!!..I say, you're never too late for anything!!

♪....MUSICAL ITEM No17....FEATURING NANNY AND WISHBONE  
DUET....AFTER DUET....WISHBONE MAKES AS IF TO LEAVE....

NANNY: (TO WISHBONE)...Where are you going then?...to get some more ingredients?

WISHBONE: (AS HE EXITS)...No...I'm going to (MENTION LOCAL BAKERY HERE)...to buy a cake before they shut!

TABS CLOSE.....ENTER MINSTREL ON TABS

MINSTREL: (SINGS)

Now from the kitchen and its mess...  
To the castle grounds we'll go.  
There's Morris dancing, games and fun...  
For you to see, and so.  
There's costume changes to be done...  
Quick changes are so hard.  
And when we see the change of scene...  
We'll see the changing of the guard.

MINSTREL EXITS.....TABS OPEN FOR.....

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

ACT 2....SCENE 5...."THE CASTLE GROUNDS"

SET:...CLOTH TO SUIT....ENTER DANCERS

♪....MUSICAL ITEM No 18....FEATURING DANCERS AS THE CASTLE GUARDS IN A TAP/KICK ROUTINE....AFTER GUARDS ROUTINE THEY STAY ON.....MIX INTO A MORRIS (COMIC) DANCE ROUTINE FEATURING NANNY, WISHBONE, LITTLE JOHN, FRIAR TUCK, HOOKLINE AND SINKER...ALL DRESSED TO SUIT....DURING ROUTINE ENTER OTHER PRINCIPALS...THE BABES, ROBIN AND MARION, WILL AND ALICE AND CHORUS ....AFTER MORRIS DANCE ROUTINE...ALL STAY ON

ENTER SHERIFF AND MISS SPLINTER

**SHERIFF**: (INDICATES TO ROBIN)...Seize that man!...(TWO OF THE GUARDS MAKE AS IF TO ARREST ROBIN)

**ROBIN**: (BREAKS FREE)...Stop!!...(THEN TO WILL)...Will, please read the proclamation from the King!

**WILL**: (READS FROM SCROLL)..."I, King Richard...having returned from the crusades, and deposing my Brother Prince John, do rightfully once again claim the throne of England....I further declare, that all investitures made by the Sheriff who was appointed by my Brother are now repealed....I also declare that Robin...Earl of Loxley is hereby appointed the new Sheriff of Nottingham".....  
(ALL CHEER)

**GUARD**: (LOOKS AT SCROLL THAT WILL IS HOLDING)...'tis true, it has the King's seal!

**ROBIN**: Guards!...(INDICATES TO SHERIFF)...Arrest that man!. (THEY DO)...throw him into the dungeons!

**MARION**: No wait!..don't do that Robin...that will make you as bad as the Sheriff....surely, there must be another way?

**ALICE**: (TO WILL)...Isn't there more to the King's proclamation, Will?

**WILL**: (LOOKING)...Yes there is...it goes on to say that the fate of the old Sheriff is in the hands of the new Sheriff!

**NANNY**: I have an idea for a punishment for him Robin...(SHE TAKES A MAP FROM HER POCKET AND APPROACHES THE SHERIFF)... I think that you should study this map of the Sahara Desert...(KEEPS INDICATING TO MAP)...and start off from here, on the Western Plains.....and then walk barefoot in an Easterly direction. through the scorching heat of the day...and on through the freezing desert nights... without shelter...frequently being attacked by Touareg tribesmen...ever onward, with deadly scorpions snapping at your heels....stopping only to bandage your lacerated feet....then on and on...through shifting sands... and then, when you're in sight of the coast, you turn and retrace your stumbling steps back across the desert wastes!!....

**WISHBONE**: (INTERRUPTS AND DISTRACTS SHERIFF FROM MAP)...I've got a better punishment than that!..(TO SHERIFF)...go into the bar after the show and try and get our Producer to buy a round of drinks!!

**SHERIFF**: (PAUSES AS IF THINKING...THEN TO NANNY)...Let me just have another look at that map again.

**ROBIN**: No!..I have decided on the punishment...(TO SHERIFF)...you will be put on a ship which leaves on the morning tide...and be sent into exile... disgraced and penniless...to a far off land called Australia.

**MISS SPLINTER**: (CRAWLING)...Oh...but my new Lord Sheriff...a word in your ear if you please...(SHE WHISPERS TO ROBIN)

**ROBIN**: (TO SHERIFF)...It seems that you now have a choice...Miss Splinter seems to think that, if I decree that you must marry her, it will save you from the disgrace of being deported...so the choice is yours...it's either marriage to Miss Splinter....or disgrace in Australia!!

**SHERIFF**: (WITHOUT HESITATION PUTS ON A HAT WITH DANGLING CORKS AND STARTS TO SING)... "Waltzing Matilda" ...etc...etc...(HE GOES OVER TO GUARDS...THEN WITH AN AUSSIE ACCENT)...good day sports...take me away from these whinging poms....come on, let's have a barbi....(THEN AS HE EXITS WITH GUARDS...HE SINGS)... "Neighbours...everybody needs good neighbours" .....**SHERIFF EXITS WITH GUARDS**

**MISS SPLINTER**: SOBBING AND CALLING AFTER HIM)...Stop!. wait!..I want to be your Sheila!..at home, and away!

**WISHBONE**: She'll be lucky!..he couldn't give a XXXX for her!

**MISS SPLINTER**: (SOBBING)...Oh!..what am I to do?..I'm devastated....doesn't anybody care for me?

**HOOKLINE**: (COMFORTING HER)...Now now Miss Splinter...don't take on so...there is somebody who cares for you.

**MISS SPLINTER**: (COY)...Why Mr. Hookline...who might that be?

**HOOKLINE**: Mr. Sinker here...he's rather fond of you.

**SINKER:** (HORRIFIED)...What!?!?...(MISS SPLINTER MAKES UP TO HIM)...oh no!..I'm not the type to settle down...I would hate to be tied to anyone.

**HOOKLINE:** Yes...I see your point...you were tied to me for two hours and that was enough!

**MISS SPLINTER:** (LINKS UP WITH HOOKLINE AND SINKER)... Well I think things have worked out rather well...I now seemed to be spoiled for choice.

**MARY:** Oh I wish that there was to be a wedding...I've never been a bridesmaid.

**MARION:** Well my dear little Sister...you won't be disappointed...for there is to be a wedding...Robin and I are to be married within the week!

**ALICE:** Well...if it's the ladies that are making the announcements....I have one...Will and I are also to be married!

**ROBIN:** Good for you two!..we'll make it a double wedding.

**NANNY:** (TO WISHBONE)...Hey Wishbone...what do you think about you and me tying the knot??

**WISHBONE:** What!?!?...(THINKS...THEN WARMS TO THE IDEA)... yes...why not?..you could do all the washing and cleaning...whilst I could cook all your meals...just think...my cooking for the rest of your life!!

**NANNY:** (PAUSES AND THINKS)...Mmmm?...well, on second thoughts...let's not be too hasty and rush into anything!

**MARION:** Well, that's everyone happy...(LOOKS AT A GLUM LOOKING JAMES)...except for you, little brother?

**JAMES:** (STILL LOOKS GLUM)...All this talk of weddings...it all just means one thing to me...I'll have to be a page boy!!

**ROBIN:** On the contrary James...I have a more important task for you... you will be my best man!...(JAMES CHEERS UP)

**MARION**: And dear sweet Little John will give me away...(LITTLE JOHN REACTS)...and my dearest friend Nanny will be my Matron of Honour...(NANNY REACTS)...and Friar Tuck will officiate at the wedding.

**WISHBONE**: (UPSET)...What about me?...nobody cares about me... people make fun of me...they laugh at my cooking...(MILKS AUDIENCE)...everybody thinks I'm daft!!

**WILL**: Now hold on a minute Wishbone...I was just about to ask you if you will do me the honour of being my best man?

**WISHBONE**: (EXCITED)...What?, you mean me?, oh thank you Mr. Scarlett. Just for that I'll prepare your wedding breakfast for you, all for free!

**ALICE**: Er...thanks anyway Wishbone...but I think being best man will be enough.

**ROBIN**: Well...that's that then...all's well that ends well...I don't think that I've ever seen the town of Nottingham blessed with such happiness.

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 19**....FEATURING FULL COMPANY... AFTER ROUTINE.....**TABS CLOSE**

ENTER NANNY AND WISHBONE ON TABSÍ WISHBONE IS LOOKING AGITATED

**NANNY**: What's the matter with you now?

**WISHBONE**: I've just bumped into the producerí He said ðWhen are you going to do it then?ö

**NANNY**: When are we going to do what?

**WISHBONE**: That's exactly what I said!

**NANNY**: Look, forget what you saidí what did he say?

**WISHBONE**: He said we've missed a song out!

**NANNY**: Missed a song out?... we've still got the finale to do.

**WISHBONE:** I know, but there's another song to be sung before the finale .  
What I want to know is who's going to sing it?

**NANNY:** Well, who do we know?

FROM LOOKING AT EACH OTHER FACE ON THEY SLOWLY TURN TO  
THE AUDIENCE

**NANNY:** (TO AUDIENCE)í Heyí what about you lot?.. will you help us to  
sing it?...(AFTER A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE AUDIENCE)í I  
just knew you would help us outí anyway, we've locked the doors so you'll  
have to!

INTO SONG SHEET ROUTINE WHERE THE AUDIENCE IS ASKED TO  
COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER i.e. STALLS V CIRCLEí LEFT V  
RIGHTí . BOYS V GIRLS ETCí ENDING WITH A FULL AUDIENCE  
SING-ALONG

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 20** (SONG SHEET)...FEATURING NANNY  
AND WISHBONE INVOLVING THE AUDIENCE....AFTER SONG SHEET  
ROUTINE....NANNY AND WISHBONE EXIT  
ENTER MINSTREL ON TABS

**MINSTREL:**

I hope you've all enjoyed yourselves...  
We've done our very best.  
To please and entertain you...  
From the outset was our quest.  
When you tell your friends about the show...  
Don't talk of me and scoff.  
Or tell them of the songs I sing...  
For it might just put them off.  
With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no  
We are near to the end of our pantomime

Forget my jest, I meant it not...  
As our cast have worked so hard.  
For all their work they'd appreciate...  
Your applause in this regard.  
We've shown you how to right the wrongs...  
For it's better to be good.

So remember with affection...  
 Our two "Babes in the Wood".  
 With a hey and a ho and a hey nonni no...  
 (INDICATES TO TABS WHICH OPEN)  
This is the end of our pantomime.

TABS NOW FULLY OPEN FOR.....

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

**ACT 2....SCENE 6...."THE CASTLE BALLROOM"**

♪....**MUSICAL ITEM No 21**.....FOR.....

**WALK DOWN & GRAND FINALE**

**"BABES IN THE WOOD"**

Written by

**Peter Long & Keith Rawnsley**

**Suggested songs for musical items:**

- 1) Happy days are here again
- 2) Robin Hood (Theme from early TV series)
- 3) Me old Bamboo
- 4) Consider yourself.
- 5) Love is a many splendid thing
- 6) Grease Lightning.
- 7) If you love me (Let it happen I don't care)
- 8) Theme from Pink Panther
- 9) A Teddy Bear's for me.
- 10) Dream Maker

- 11) Forgotten Dreams
- 12) New Fangled Tango
- 13) Every day of my life
- 14) Live, laugh and love
- 15) You're my everything
- 16) A little bit of this
- 17) It's never too late
- 18) Guards on Parade
- 19) Happiness
- 20) Jolly Snowman (Song Sheet)
- 21) Back to those Happy days (Walk down and Finale)