

**BABES IN THE WOOD**  
BY  
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# BABES IN THE WOOD

By Mark Llewelin

## Characters:

Robin Hood

Maid Marian

Sir Lancelot Prancelot

The Sheriff of Nottingham

Nurse Nelly

Polly

Peter

Friar Tuck

Fetchit

Carrie

Chorus: Villagers, Guards, Merry Men, Ghost, Animals.

## Scenes:

### Act One:

1. The Fair.

2. Castle Corridor.

3. The Nursery.

4. Castle Corridor.

5. The Woods.

### Act Two:

1. The Woods.

2. Castle Corridor.

3. The Fair.

4. The Woods.

5. The Fair.

# BABES IN THE WOOD

By Mark Llewelin

## ACT ONE:

### Scene 1: THE FAIR

THE STAGE IS SET WITH STALLS.

NUMBER Chorus
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ENTER SIR LANCELOT WITH POLLY AND PETER.

SIR L:           What a wonderful day for the fair ó everyone seems to be having so much fun.

POLLY:          Father, can we have a go on the penny shove?

PETER:          Yes, please ó please!

SIR L:           LAUGHS Very well, although in my day it was just a haøpenny! I canø keep up with all these new things ó everything changes so fast. I suppose Iøm just getting older.

THEY TURN UPSTAGE TOWARDS THE STALLS. THE CHORUS MAKE SOME RHUBARB RHUBARBø COMMENTS.  
ENTER NURSE NELLY, CARRYING LARGE BASKET.

NURSE:          Iøm sorry Iøm late!

NO ONE REACTS.

I said ó Iøm sorry Iøm late!!

NOTHING.

Oh really! LOUDER ó I said, Iøm here now!!!

THE CHORUS GO SILENT.

SIR L:           Ah, Nurse Nelly ó youøre late.

NURSE:          Iøve been trying to tell you that.

SIR L:           Well, weøre all having so much fun.

NELLY:          Thatø as maybe your knightliness but I was waylaid ó and I havenø been waylaid for many a year ó SNIFFS I was waylaid by a young page on my way here. He has news for me to impart.

- SIR L: Well, impart away.
- NELLY: VAGUE Well, it was very important ó it was í .. oh, lumey, Iøve forgotten it all now.
- POLLY: Oh Nurse Nelly, you are forgetful.
- NURSE: So would you be if youød had the journey I had to get here. Itø market day and the butcher and bakers are so rough on a young lady. PATS HER HAIR I was pushed and pulled and ó
- SIR L: It still doesnø take that long to cross the market.
- NURSE: It does if you go round three times. Well, they arenø half beefy those fellas. A girlø got to get it where she can. You donø understand ó since my husband, Placemat, passed on ó
- SIR L: Yes, why was he called Placemat?
- NURSE: Well, I only ever saw him at mealtimes. PUTS DOWN BASKET.
- SIR L: I knew I shouldnø have asked.
- NURSE: So where were we - ooh yes, that message. Let me think ó I came out of the castle and I SHE ACTS OUT THE JOURNEY ACROSS THE STAGE came over the drawbridge and past the statue of the great soothsayer ó Mysticus Megus ó and I came past the bank and old Mr Crinkle the bank manager shouted out: -Whatø five inches long and wrinkly and drives women wild?ø
- POLLY: A five pound note.
- NURSE: ASIDE: Old before her time. Thatø right ó and I turned left at the Copper Bottom tea rooms and right at the Methodist Hall. I looked up at the door ó where it says -Love Thy Neighbour but make sure her husband doesnø find outø and thatø when the page poked me in the posterior.
- SIR L: Poked you in the posterior?
- NURSE: Yes, grabbed me glutimus maximus.
- SIR L: Your glutimousí í ?
- NURSE: Yes, smacked me seat.
- SIR L: Iøm lost!
- NURSE: Belted me backside. RUBS IT Ooh, and it ainø half numb chum! Me bum! Have a feel.

SIR L: No thank you! He gave you something ó

NURSE: Hey! Whoø been talking?

SIR L: A message.

NURSE: And he saidí í . Your brotherø back from his holidays and coming to stay ó with his daughter Marian. Thatø it!!

POLLY: Aunt Marian!

SIR L: And my brother?

PETER: Uncle Daphne?

NURSE: Uncle Daphne!

SIR L: Yes, the black sheep of the family. TAKES NURSE TO ONE SIDE Heø not been on holiday, heø been in prison.

NURSE: Ooh, a jailbird. How exciting. I love a bit of rough.

SIR L: Iød better get back to the castle to prepare for his arrival. Come on children.

SIR L AND POLLY AND PETER EXIT. BEHIND HER, THE CHORUS PACK UP THEIR GOODS AND EXIT.

NURSE: Ooh, a visitor ó how lovely. Now, Iøm being rude, I havenø introduced myself yet, have I? REACTION Iøm Nurse Nelly and I work at Prancelot Castle. That was Sir Lancelot Prancelot and his two children Polly and Peter ó they like to dance a lot. Yes, we all dance a lot (PAUSE) at Sir Lancelot Prancelots. And I look after things for him you see. Iøm on call night and day ó one cry from him and Iøm off like a rat up a drainpipe, oh yes ó

SIR L: (OFF) Nurse Nelly!

NURSE: SHE DOESNØT HEAR HIM: I trained with the SAS ó Iøm like a coiled spring ready to leap into action. Well, I used to be a humble cook you know and one day I thought ó Nelly old love, you know what they say. Where thereø a will ó make sure youøre in it. Thatø right ó and so I tried to better myself, yes. Took ages you know ó itø quite right that old adage: if at first you donø succeed make sure you hide the evidence. Who said that? A politician I should think!í .

SIR L: (OFF) Nurse Nelly!

NURSE: I'm self educated you know ó well, they wouldn't have me at school. I'm going to let you into a secret ó yes, you wouldn't .and this is going to shock you! you wouldn't believe it now but when I was younger, I was right ugly looking. Yes, me mother had to tie a pork chop round me neck to get the dog to play with me. Yes! í ..

SIR LANCELOT ENTERS.

SIR L: Nurse Nelly ó there you are!

NURSE: Don't panic! Don't panic! JUMPS ABOUT. ASIDE: You see, reflexes like a cat. What is it sir?

SIR L: My brother ó Daphne. He's here.

NURSE: You should have said. There's me twittering on and ó

SIR L: I'll tell him you're on your way.

NURSE: Don't worry ó I'll tell him meself.

SIR L AND NURSE EXIT. ENTER ROBIN AND FRIAR.

FRIAR: Robin, I'm not sure this is such a good idea.

ROBIN: We need to get some provisions ó anyway, Sir Lancelot Prancelot is a pussycat. What can he do to stop me?

FRIAR: Even so ó

ROBIN: You wait here and I'll see what's lying about.

ROBIN EXITS AS NURSE ON.

NURSE: TO AUDIENCE: I'd forget me head if it wasn't screwed on. I forgot me basket full of provisions ó SEES FRIAR Ooh I say, who the dickens is that?

FRIAR: Ah, my good lady! .

NURSE: ASIDE: He knows quality when he sees it.

FRIAR: I do indeed ó I am Friar Tuck.

NURSE: And I'm Nurse Nelly. PICKS UP BASKET.

FRIAR: Did I hear you say that this basket was full of provisions? You see my friend and I are looking to buy a few choice groceries.

NURSE: You are? You and your LOOKS AROUND friend?

FRIAR: Yes ó heø a legend in these parts. Steals from the rich ó

NURSE: *(Name of the Chancellor of the Exchequer)?*

FRIAR: No, no, no, he steals from the rich and *gives* to the poor.

NURSE: You donø meaní .

ROBIN ENTERS.

ROBIN: Robin Hood. At your service maøam.

NURSE: A legend indeed. I canø believe it ó actually talking to Robin Hood. I havenø been so excited since Poundland *(or cheap store)* had a two for one sale. ASIDE They have some lovely things.

ROBIN: And you are?

NURSE: Nurse Nelly Nora Nancy Natasha Nefertiti Nitting Needle.

FRIAR: What an unusual name.

NURSE: Yes, me mum came up with it on her N night.

ROBIN: And you work round here do you?

NURSE: Yes, up at Prancelot Castle.

ROBIN: For Sir Lancelot Prancelot?

NURSE: The very same. Ooh, I canø believe itø really you!

ARM ROUND HER, HE GUIDES HER DOWNSTAGE.

ROBIN: Dear lady ó

NURSE: Iøm not that dear.

ROBIN: I was speaking figuratively ó

NURSE: Hold what you like love.

ROBIN: You could be a very useful contact ó someone on the inside. A mole.

NURSE: You mean I could be your grass, your snout ó so to speak.

ROBIN: Correct.

NURSE: Well, I don't know what to say. You could do something for me if you couldn't let me have a signed photo could you?

ROBIN: Yes, of course! CLICKS FINGERS AND FRIAR PRODUCES A PHOTO AND PEN. Who shall I put it to?

NURSE: If you just write it HE DOES SO it -To Nelly, thank you for some wild times, love Robin. They'll be so jealous at the wash house!

HE HANDS HER THE PICTURE.

ROBIN: Do we have a deal?

NURSE: Oh, go on then.

ROBIN: Very well.

SIR L: (OFF) Nurse Nancy!

NURSE: Ooh, that's Sir Lancelot if I must fly. Here, take these provisions if HANDS THEM THE BASKET I'm busy enough. We've got guests you see if Lancelot's brother Daphne and his daughter Marian.

ROBIN: Not Maid Marian if the fairest young girl in the Kingdom?

NURSE: No, not the fairest if WINKS TO AUDIENCE if that's me! No, to tell the truth she's nothing to write home about. GOSSIPY: She's had a lot done I think. A tuck here, a tuck there! Ooh sorry, not you Friar Tuck.

ROBIN: But I've seen her in the papers if

NURSE: Yeah, but up close she's like a bag of spanners.

NURSE EXITS.

FRIAR: Well done if supper, and another new member of your merry band.

ROBIN: She couldn't resist my charms. Wait a minute! Sir Lancelot's brother Daphne? That's the Sheriff of Nottingham!

FRIAR: Fresh from York Gaol? The most wicked man in England is in Prancelot Castle?

ROBIN: Come Friar, we have work to do.

FRIAR: Work? After supper surely?

ROBIN: Very well if we must plot the downfall of Daphne Prancelot.

THEY EXIT. ENTER FETCHIT AND CARRIE.

FETCHIT: How much further is it?

CARRIE: I don't know ó hand me the map.

FETCHIT: The map?

CARRIE: The map!

FETCHIT: You know, I wish I'd brought our piano.

CARRIE: The piano? Why?

FETCHIT: Because the map's on top of it.

CARRIE: The map???? You ignoramus. You're one step away from an idiot.

FETCHIT: HOLDING OUT HAND Pleased to meet you.

CARRIE: Not me! Not me! I knew this was a bad idea. I should have got another sidekick.

FETCHIT: Ooh, come on ó we're friends, aren't we? I mean, I'm the best brother you've got.

CARRIE: You're the only brother I've got.

NUMBER Fetchit and Carrie
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TRUMPET FANFARE. THE CHORUS RUSH ON TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING. ENTER SIR LANCELOT, MARIAN, NURSE, POLLY, PETER AND SHERIFF.

SHERIFF: Ah, the old place hasn't changed a jot.

NURSE: Yes, as quaint as ever.

SHERIFF: I meant it was still a dirty old hole.

NURSE: ASIDE Like your mouth!

SHERIFF: Brother, I don't know why you still live here, in this old flea pit.

SIR L: Because it's home. And home is where the heart is.

SHERIFF: Home?? Well, when you've been away as long as I have ó on holiday you understand ó

NURSE: Yes, yes, how is Broadmoor at this time of year?

SHERIFF: Silence! I've seen ó and heard ó enough!

PETER: Uncle Daphne, come back to the castle ó and play.

POLLY: Yes, the toy room is packed with all kinds of games.

SHERIFF: You two run along then ó I'll be there shortly.

NURSE: Wait for me children.

NURSE, POLLY AND PETER EXIT.

FETCHIT: Oh Sheriff, if we could have a word with you ó we bring news.

SHERIFF: Do you indeed? Then walk this way ó

HE CROSSES THE STAGE DOING A SILLY WALK. THEY COPY.

FETCHIT, SHERIFF AND CARRIE EXIT.

SIR L: Marian, you know your father far better than I do.

MARIAN: Yes, Uncle Lancelot?

SIR L: Is it me ó or is he as bad tempered today as he's always been?

MARIAN: He can be ó well ó difficult.

SIR L: You're telling me. I do try and get along with him but ó

MARIAN: He'll thaw out I'm sure. Polly and Peter will bring the best out of him.

SIR L: Yes, I'm sure you're right ó they are wonderful children.

MARIAN: Tell me Uncle ó is it true what they say ó that Robin Hood lives in Sherwood Forest?

SIR L: I've never actually met him ó but yes, he and his band of followers are reputed to inhabit the green woods.

MARIAN: Such adventures!

SIR L: Don't let your father hear you talking of such things. Come.

THEY EXIT.

NUMBER Chorus
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**Scene 2: CASTLE CORRIDOR****ENTER SHERIFF, FETCHIT AND CARRIE.**

SHERIFF: I wondered when you two might turn up.

CARRIE: The gentleman who booked us said 4 o'clock at Prancelot Castle.

SHERIFF: That was no gentleman ó that was me! I am the Sheriff of Nottingham.

FETCHIT: I heard someone call you Daphne!

SHERIFF: People only call me that the once. My mother wanted a daughter. You can call me sire.

FETCHIT: Well, I am Fetchit ó and this is my sister, Carrie.

CARRIE: Fetchit and Carrie, at your service sire.

SHERIFF: Your advertisement in Rogues Weekly says you are tough and ruthless.

FETCHIT: Ah yes, now that should have read rough and toothless.

CARRIE: Don't pay any attention sire ó if it's rogues and crooks you want ó look no further. We are the toughest and most murderous villains in these parts.

FETCHIT: As long as there's no fighting.

SHERIFF: No fighting?

FETCHIT: And no blood.

SHERIFF: No blood?

FETCHIT: And no scratching or kicking.

SHERIFF: No kicking?

FETCHIT: Other than that, we are the most villainous villains in these parts.

SHERIFF: Really??

CARRIE: Don't listen to him sire ó whatever you say goes.

SHERIFF: Good. I certainly have plenty of work for you here.

CARRIE: Is this your castle sire?

SHERIFF: At the moment it's my sappy brothers' but soon, with your help, all this will be mine! LAUGHS

NUMBER Sheriff, Fetchit and Carrie

**Scene 3: THE NURSERY**

THERE ARE TWO BEDS ó POLLY AND PETER ARE CLIMBING INTO THEM.  
ENTER NURSE NELLY.

NURSE: That's a good pair of children ó into bed you get. I'll read you a story in a mo.

PETER: Not the Conservative (*or Labour!*) Manifesto again.

NURSE: I thought you liked a good fairy story.

POLLY: I don't know why we can't stay up late.

NURSE: Because your uncle wants to talk to your father. It's men's business. And believe you me, we girls ó and honorary girls ó steer clear of men at all costs at these kind of dos.

PETER: What's wrong with men?

NURSE: What's right with 'em? When I first got married my mother said to me ó you'd be better off with a dog. After 10 years he'd still be pleased to see you! Yes, I mean, my husband ó god rest his soul, if I ever find him ó he said to me on my wedding night, he said did I fancy a seven course meal. You know what it was? A hot dog and a six pack of lagers. His idea of foreplay ó half an hour of begging. I tell you Polly, husbands are like children ó they're fine if they're someone else's.

POLLY: What happened to Mr Nelly?

NURSE: Oh no love, he wasn't called Mr Nelly. His name was Cliff. Well, he always had a seagull on his head.

PETER: Did he leave you?

NURSE: Wash your mouth out with carbolic young man ó who in their right mind would leave someone like me? No love, he went out for a tin of carrots and never came home.

POLLY: What did you do?

NURSE: Opened a packet of peas. Now, as always you've got me mind all befuddled, what were we doing? Ah yes, getting you two into bed.

SHE TUCKS THEM IN.

Don't have nightmares and stay in tight and make sure the bed bugs don't bite. I want to get back downstairs to the party.

PETER: Aren't you going to read us a bedtime story?

NURSE: I told you ó Iøve got to get back to the party. Thereø a lot of hot fellas down there you know.

POLLY: Please.

NURSE: Oh, alright ó but itø quick. PICKS UP BOOK AND READS VERY FAST: There was a woman who lived in a shoe and she had lots of kids and didnø know what to do so she just left them. The End.

PETER: The End?

NURSE: What do you expect at these prices!

POLLY: Please Nurse Nelly ó canø you tell us one about Robin Hood?

NURSE: Ssh! Walls have ears you know. Robin Hood is an outlaw! SOFTER: But oh, you should see him ó all muscles and hard toned body packed into a little green wrapper.

POLLY: Have you met him?

NURSE: How many times! Keep your voice down. SOFTER: Yes I have actually. And I think he fancies me.

PETER: Thereø fairy stories and fairy stories!

POLLY: Good night.

NURSE: He does! Oh, good night then. EXITS. BLACK OUT.

PETER: Nurse Nancy!

LIGHTS UP. SHE ENTERS.

NURSE: What is it now?

PETER: We love you!

NURSE: I love you too. Nighty nighty.

EXITS. BLACK OUT.

POLLY: Oh, Nurse Nancy!

LIGHTS UP. SHE ENTERS.

NURSE: Yeahhhhs?

POLLY: Enjoy the party.

NURSE: Thank you. Nighty nighty.

EXITS. BLACK OUT.

PETER: Nurse! Nurse!

NURSE: What is it now?

LIGHTS UP. SHE ENTERS. FETCHIT STANDS BY THE BEDS. SHE JUMPS.

What are you doing in here?

FETCHIT: I'm new here ó I'm just finding my way around the castle.

NURSE: Are you? Oh yes, you're the Sheriff's new henchman. Not listening in on people's conversations are you?

FETCHIT: Certainly not. So, you've met Robin Hood have you?

NURSE: You see! Never trust a man. Diamonds are a girl's best friend; a man's best friend is his dog. Now, which is the dumber sex?

FETCHIT: I wasn't snooping, honest. I was admiring you from afar.

NURSE: How far?

FETCHIT: Afar.

PETER: You've got another one fancies you now.

NURSE: Have they put something in the water or what? It must be my new perfume ó it's from France: Toilette Canard.

POLLY: That means Toilet Duck.

NURSE: I'd kill that salesman.

FETCHIT: Just look at you. The legs of a 17 year old, the arms of a 21 year old, the skin of a 32 year old and the smile of a 40 year old ó

NURSE: Hang on ó 17, 21, 32, 40 ó that's 110.

FETCHIT: Believe me ó I find you irresistible.

NUMBER Fetchit and Nurse
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FETCHIT: You see Nurse Nelly, I think you're one cool chick.

NURSE: Do you indeed?

SHE PATS HER SIDES.

Hang on a mo! All that jiggling about ó Iøve gone and lost me 10p.

FETCHIT: Your 10p?

NURSE: Oh yes ó you have to pay to go to the lavvy in this castle.

POLLY: Fatherø cost cutting.

FETCHIT: Youøre not accusing me of half inching your bog money?

NURSE: Well, if it wasnø you ó who was it?

FETCHIT: Donø worry young lady, I shall find it for you. It wasnø me and it wasnø them POINTS AT KIDS so - HOUSE LIGHTS UP I know where to look, donø I.

FETCHIT INTO AUDIENCE.

NURSE: Ooh, isnø he manly when you see him in the light. PEERS INTO AUDIENCE Well, this lot look guilty to me.

FETCHIT: Yes, I was going to ask the shifty ones to move to the front but they already have.

NURSE: Exactly. Well, itøll be these front ones had the opportunity. When I was jiggling me bits I should think one of this lot had their hands in me pockets. And I didnø feel a thing. Right, everyone up. Not just the front row ó everybody. All stand up please.

THE AUDIENCE STANDS. FETCHIT WORKS HIS WAY ALONG THE FRONT ROW.

NURSE: FROM THE STAGE: Not her, sheø been on the telly. Crimewatch wasnø it love? No, not him ó give us a smile sir. Thatø it ó no, donø actually take your teeth out. Moving on ó hello dear, did you make that dress yourself? Well, you wouldnø buy it, would you! Him!

FETCHIT STOPS AT MAN NEAR CENTRE OF ROW.

Everybody else can sit down now please!

AUDIENCE SITS APART FROM MAN WITH FETCHIT.

He looks the most shifty to me ó search him Fetchit.

FETCHIT PRETENDS TO PAT THE MAN DOWN. HE PRODUCES A BRA OR CORSET, WHICH HE ALREADY HAS HIDDEN ON HIM. HE TELLS THE

MAN TO SIT.

What on earth?

FETCHIT: He hasn't got your 10p but I found this in his pocket.

THROWS ITEM UP TO NURSE.

NURSE: That's mine alright ó it's my lucky American underwear ó one yank and it's off. What I want to know is how did he get it? PEERS AT MAN: Did I give it to you? Yes? You're a lucky lad. Do you always try and get a bit when you come into town? TO FETCHIT: He's just a fan, one of those obsessive stalkers. I shall deal with him personally. In my dressing room during the interval.

FETCHIT: We still haven't got your money back.

NURSE: I'd forgotten all about that. That's right ó it's a penny a go to use the facilities here. Shocking isn't it? So my 10p gets me ten í í .. p's that's right.

PETER: Nurse Nelly!

NURSE: Why haven't you gone to sleep?

PETER: It's a bit noisy in here.

NURSE: Noisy? This is nothing love ó you should have been around in the war. Now that was noisy ó and we had nothing. Did we girls? Nothing. I learnt so much siphoning petrol from tanks.

POLLY: Nurse Nelly! It's about your foot.

NURSE: What's about a foot? Twelve inches. Kids today ó I mean when I was at school we couldn't afford shoes. My mother painted me feet black.

PETER: No, Nurse Nelly ó the 10p, it's by your foot.

NURSE LOOKS DOWN ó THERE IT IS.

NURSE: Oh, I do feel a fool. Accusing you all like that. But you see you all look so ó criminal. And I mean that in the nicest possible way.

FETCHIT RETURNS TO THE STAGE. HOUSE LIGHTS DOWN. NURSE PICKS UP THE 10p.

FETCHIT: Thank goodness that's sorted out.

NURSE: Absolutely, now ó off to the party. They'dl be wondering where I am.

SHE GOES TO EXIT AS SIR L, SHERIFF AND CARRIE ENTER.

I'm on my way ó did you want me to do my hip-hop version of 'Climb Every Mountain' using the ferrets?

SIR L: Uh, no.

SHERIFF: The party's over.

NURSE: Over? I haven't even revved up yet.

SIR L: Yes, I bring good news children ó my dear brother here has offered to treat us to a holiday.

SHERIFF: Yes, a little weekend superbreak to *(local run down resort)*.

SIR L: Aren't we lucky?

NURSE: For the same money couldn't we have gone to Ibiza *(Eye-bit-sa)?*

PETER: I can't wait.

SHERIFF: Good ó get ready then ó you go immediately. Carrie and Fetchit will make all the arrangements.

NUMBER Sheriff, Sir L, Carrie, Fetchit, Nurse, Polly, Peter.
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SHERIFF: Carrie, go and fuel the horses.

CARRIE: Of course sire.

CARRIE AND FETCHIT EXIT.

SIR L: Come with me children ó

SIR L LEADS PETER AND POLLY OFF

NURSE: Oh, a mini-break ó just what the doctor ordered. Now, what shall I take? Oh, I know ó that see-through thong I got in Millets' sale.

SHERIFF: You won't be needing a thing where you're going.

NURSE: I wasn't taking me thing, I was taking me thong.

SHERIFF: Quiet!

NURSE: Oh but just visualise it ó me lying on a lilo in me thing thong.

SHERIFF: I'm going to puke.

NURSE: Iøve got to get an all over tan you know.

SHERIFF: Youød look like a leather sofa.

NURSE: You men donøt know the half of it ó I mean, you probably think I wake up looking this ravishing but no, I have to punish myself to look like this. Thereø the tweaking and teasing, the pulling and pushing, the puffing and buffing, the plucking and the ó

SHERIFF: Thank you! Well, Iøve got some great news then ó youøre *not* going.

NURSE: Not going?? But I always go on holiday with the kiddie winkles.

SHERIFF: Well not this year.

SHERIFF EXITS.

NURSE: Ooh, Iøm going off him. And I like a good holiday anø all ó donøt you? Last year we had two weeks in Spain, I said to Sir Lancelot that I fancied going to Jerez (PRONOUNCES WITH A -Jø) and he said that wasnøt how the Spanish said it ó itø Jerez (PRONOUNCES WITH A -Hø) Well, you live and learn, donøt you. So we went for the last week of Hune and the first week of Huly. My brother ó what a dim-wit. He went to the travel agents and booked a very expensive holiday to the Maldives and when he came back his wife was pregnant. The next year he booked a week in Paris and when he got back the wife was pregnant again. Well, last year he splashed out on two weeks in Australia and the same thing happened ó pregers again. So last week he went to that travel agent and asked if he could book somewhere cheaper for next year. Well, heø going to have to start taking her with him.

NUMBER Nurse reprise.
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**Scene 4: CASTLE CORRIDOR**ENTER PETER, POLLY AND SIR LANCELOT WITH THEIR CASES.

PETER: Father, why isn't Nurse Nelly allowed to come with us?

SIR L: My brother wishes her to stay here and look after him.

POLLY: I'm not sure I want to leave her.

SIR L: He's a good enough chap is Uncle Daphne ó misunderstood that's all.

PETER: Really?

ENTER SHERIFF.

SHERIFF: What's all the snivelling?

SIR L: The children were wondering why Nurse Nelly can't come.

SHERIFF: While you're away she'll be having a lark here with me. Oh, the laughs we'll have. (VERY FALSE CHUCKLE)

PETER: You're not planning to hurt her, are you?

SHERIFF: Hurt her? Moi?

SIR L: Of course he's not.

SHERIFF: All I want is to see you all happy.

POLLY: And why are we leaving in the middle of the night?

SHERIFF: Budget prices you see ó yes, it's a no frills horse and carriage ó no seat numbers and no in-travel meal I'm afraid. Easy-Trot.

HORSES HOOVES OFF.

Ah! I can hear your carriage arriving.

SIR L: Yes, well, thank you again brother.

SIR L HUGS THE SHERIFF.CARRIE ENTERS.

CARRIE: Your carriage awaits you children.

PETER: Aren't we travelling together?

SHERIFF: Ah no, for security reasons it's better to split you up. There are some creepy highwaymen in the woods don't you know?

POLLY: Robin Hood? He won't hurt us.

SHERIFF: He might. Never trust a man in tights! Run along so you'll all meet up at the holiday camp.

SIR L: Yes, do as your uncle says.

SIR L HUGS THE CHILDREN.

I'll see you there.

CARRIE BUNDLES THE CHILDREN OUT.

SHERIFF: So brother, the castle will be in safe hands until you return.

SIR L: Nurse Nelly knows where everything is so oh, and be sure to pay the milkman on Thursday.

SHERIFF: SIGHS Of course.

HORSE HOOVES OFF INTO THE DISTANCE.

SIR L: Is my carriage due soon?

SHERIFF: Carriage? What carriage?

SIR L: So that I may join the children?

SHERIFF: You stupid fool. Guards!

TWO GUARDS ENTER.

Seize him!

SIR L: What are you doing? I trusted you!

SHERIFF: You never were a good judge of character were you? These guards will take you to the castle dungeons where you will rot for ever.

SIR L: But the childrení ..?

SHERIFF: Carrie and Fetchit are taking them into the woods. Oh dear me so I only booked them one-way tickets! Their last ever journey! LAUGHS.

THE GUARDS BUNDLE SIR L OFF.

Oh, I make a wonderful Sheriff. Now, the last part of my plan ó finish off that loathsome Nurse Nelly.

HE EXITS LAUGHING. ENTER MARIAN.

MARIAN: Oh, my father has gone too far this time. If Fetchit and Carrie are taking the children into the woods, there's only one person who can help ó Robin Hood. But, how do I get word to him? Who knows Robin Hood?

ENTER NURSE NELLY.

NURSE: Did somebody call?

MARIAN: No, not I. I was just wondering aloud who knew the outlaw Robin Hood.

NURSE: Robin Hí ..well, I do.

MARIAN: You do?

NURSE: I do.

MARIAN: Do you?

NURSE: Do I!

MARIAN: Really? You do?

NURSE: Yes!!!! I've said that, haven't I? TO AUDIENCE: If brains were gunpowder she couldn't blow her hat off.

MARIAN: My father has imprisoned Sir Lancelot.

NURSE: What??

MARIAN: And sent Fetchit and Carrie into the woods with the children ó to murder them.

NURSE: What??? I've only been gone five minutes.

MARIAN: So we need to enlist the help of Robin Hood and his merry men.

NURSE: We do. I'll get them merry alright. Here's what we're going to do ó I'm going to go into the woods and find him.

MARIAN: Can't I come too?

NURSE: But he's my fella, it's me he's desperately in lust with.

MARIAN: Is he?

NURSE: Yes. So you can come with me but don't you get any ideas lady. Keep your hands off. Right?

MARIAN: Right.

NURSE: Well, what are you waiting for? Come on ó

THEY RUSH OFF.

**Scene 5: THE WOODS**

NUMBER Chorus as woodland animals
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ENTER CARRIE, FETCHIT AND PETER AND POLLY, WHO HAVE THEIR HANDS TIED BEFORE THEM.

FETCHIT: I'm not sure about this Carrie.

CARRIE: Here we go again. Break open the cheese, here comes the wine.

FETCHIT: I know it's a good job and everything but - doing in little children.

CARRIE: Our job is to do everything the Sheriff says. Everything.

PETER: This doesn't look like Butlins.

POLLY: No, this is the green wood ó this is where Robin Hood lives.

CARRIE: Robin Hood?

FETCHIT: Sworn enemy of the Sheriff of Nottingham?

PETER: That's the one.

CARRIE: Now that would be a prize.

FETCHIT: What are you thinking?

CARRIE: If we could take back Robin Hood's head on a platter ó the Sheriff would be sure to give us a rise.

PETER: You're too stupid to catch Robin Hood.

POLLY: Yes, he'd put *your* head on a platter.

CARRIE: Would he now? Fetchit, you finish these impertinent dwarves off and I'll go on the trail of Robin Hood.

FETCHIT: And when it's done, where shall I meet you?

CARRIE: By the horse and carriage numbskull.

CARRIE EXITS.

PETER: You're not really going to do as she says, are you?

FETCHIT: Of course not. Here ó

HE UNTIES THEM.

I'll leave you here, I have no choice. But I'll go back and tell her the deed is done.

POLLY: Thank you.

FETCHIT: Lie down here and get some rest.

THE CHILDREN LIE DOWN.

Have some sleep and then head off deeper into the woods. But this must be our secret.

THE CHILDREN SETTLE AS TO SLEEP. FETCHIT TAKES ONE LAST LOOK AND EXITS. THE CHILDREN YAWN AND DOZE. ONE OF THE ANIMALS SCAMPERS ACROSS. STOPS AND INVESTIGATES THE SLEEPING CHILDREN. IT EXITS AND RETURNS WITH TWO MORE ANIMALS WHO PLACE A BLANKET OF LEAVES OVER THE CHILDREN. THEY STAND AND WATCH THEM AS ó

CURTAIN.

**ACT TWO****Scene 1: THE WOODS**

IT IS DAWN. THE CHILDREN ARE STILL ASLEEP. ENTER NURSE NELLY AND MARIAN.

NURSE: I don't know if I can go any further.

MARIAN: Just another mile.

NURSE: Oh, it's alright for you 'I'm getting on, love.

MARIAN: Yes.

NURSE: You weren't supposed to agree. No, at my age my back goes out more than I do. When I bend down to tie me shoelaces I try and think of something else to do while I'm down there 'o make it more worthwhile. Mind you, I haven't lost it TO MAN ON FRONT ROW FROM BEFORE have I love? He knows 'o should have seen him in the interval! You're only as old as the man you feel and my beau, Robin, he 'o

ROBIN AND FRIAR HAVE ENTERED BEHIND THEM.

ROBIN: What is this radiant beauty I see before me?

NURSE: Ah 'o just me!! SHE WAVES COYLY.

ROBIN WALKS TOWARDS MARIAN.

ROBIN: I don't think we've met.

MARIAN: I'm Maid Marian.

FRIAR: Well, you've made his day.

NURSE: Fast cat! Hey, hey, I'm not over the hill yet 'o

FRIAR: But you can see the valley.

ROBIN: Ah yes, Nurse Nelly. TO HER.

NURSE: Robiní í .. SHE GOES TO KISS HIM BUT HE MOVES AND SHE MISSES.

ROBIN: What are you two girls doing here in the heart of the green wood?

NURSE: Looking for you, that's what. There's been a taradiddle up the castle and no mistake.

ROBIN: Go on ó

NURSE: As you predicted, that evil Sheriff ó her father! Heø locked Sir Lancelot up in the dungeons and sent his henchmen here into the woods with the children to HAND ACROSS THROAT. And remember what I said ó her father! Hers. Runs in the genes does that. Sheøll be made of the same material, mark my words. So, you stay here with me PULLS HIM TO HER. A leopard doesnø change her spots.

FRIAR: Iøm sure Marian wouldnø have come here if it wasnø to help.

ROBIN: Indeed.

MARIAN: Iøm a great fan of yours Robin ó

NURSE: But he has pledged himself to me. Why, I even have his photo on my bedroom ceiling.

ROBIN: I think we need to find the children ó before itø too late. Where are my band of followers?

NURSE: See ó heø even got his own band. Like Ronan Keating (*or other former lead singer*). Before they all split up.

ENTER A FEW CHORUS AS MERRY MEN.

Green ó itø the new black.

ROBIN: Men ó two children have been brought into the woods ó we need to find them.

THE CHORUS AGREE AND BEGIN TO EXIT WHEN THE CHILDREN THROW OFF THE LEAF BLANKET AND SIT UP.

NURSE: Well, heaven preserve us. Polly, Peter.

PETER: Nurse Nelly!

ROBIN: That was easier than it seemed.

FRIAR: What are you doing down there?

ROBIN AND FRIAR HELP THEM TO THEIR FEET.

POLLY: Fetchit let us live ó he told us to stay in the woods and he would tell the Sheriff that he had done the evil deed.

ROBIN: Ah, the Sheriffø henchmen are crumbling already.

NURSE PULLS THE CHILDREN TO HER.

NURSE: You gave me a right scare.

FRIAR: What we need is a plan.

ROBIN: Yes, we need to release Sir Lancelot from the dungeon.

NURSE: If only we could smuggle one of you into the castle.

ROBIN: Indeed. Well, I have a cunning plan! Are we all in? CHEERS

NUMBER Robin, Marian, Nurse, Peter, Polly, Friar and Merry Men.
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DURING THE NUMBER THE FRIAR CHANGES INTO DRAG.

NURSE: I'm not sure about this ó I mean, a man dressed as a woman. It's not nice. ASIDE: It's dirty.

FRIAR: Why is it that I always have to look the fool?

ROBIN: Nonsense Friar, you look ó well, passable.

FRIAR: Passable as what?

ROBIN: Nurse Nancy's sister.

NURSE: But I don't have a sister.

ROBIN: You do now. I want you both to return to the castle forthwith, post haste and immediately ó if not sooner.

FRIAR: And my mission?

ROBIN: Locate the keys to open the dungeon cells.

PETER: To rescue father?

ROBIN: That's the plan.

NURSE: Oh, come on Friar. Is Marian returning with us?

ROBIN: No, she'll have to stay with me ó to care for the children.

NURSE: CROSS I see!

NURSE AND FRIAR EXIT.

PETER: Can we become merry men too?

ROBIN: Aye, why not!

THE MERRY MEN CHEER. THE CHILDREN JOIN THEM AS THEY EXIT  
LEAVING ROBIN AND MARIAN.

MARIAN: I have read of your heroic deeds Robin.

ROBIN: I have read of you too.

MARIAN: Then you know that I am no supporter of my father.

ROBIN: That's what they say.

MARIAN: My father is a despicable man and you must stop him.

ROBIN: I will. Once and for all.

NUMBER Robin and Marian
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**Scene 2: CASTLE CORRIDOR**

SOUND OF CREAKING DOOR OPENING. ENTER FRIAR AND NURSE.

NURSE: This is the servant's corridor. We won't bump into anyone here.

FRIAR: That's good.

ENTER SHERIFF.

SHERIFF: What's all the whispering? Ah, Nurse Nelly, I've been looking for you.

NURSE: I've been down the beauty parlour getting me tan topped up.

SHERIFF: I thought it was dirt. And who is this?

FRIAR: I'm Nurse Nelly's sister ó Doctor Dolly.

SHERIFF: Sisters eh?

BOTH: Yes.

SHERIFF: So where's Cinderella? LAUGHS

NURSE: She's come to stay with me for a few days.

SHERIFF: And you're a doctor huh?

FRIAR: Yes ó Doctor Dolly. CURTSEYS Is there anything I can help you with? Are you feeling peaky?

SHERIFF: I think it's the stress ó taking over the castle and all that. PULLS AT HIS HAIR My hair keeps falling out ó can you give me anything to keep it in?

FRIAR: Have you tried a box?

NURSE: You *are* looking grey at the gills sire. You're like an old clock ó too wound up.

SHERIFF: Last night I couldn't sleep at all ó I kept seeing Indians and a pair of wig-wams.

NURSE: Ah well, you're too tense. You know what you should do ó take all your clothes off and hang out of the back window with your tongue out.

SHERIFF: Will that calm me down?

- NURSE: No, but I hate that woman who lives next door. LAUGHS
- SHERIFF: Given my state of health, I think it might fair me well to keep you two on hand as my personal physicians. ASIDE Yes, I had planned to do the old dame in but let's give her a few more days yet.
- FRIAR: You can count on us.
- SHERIFF: Of course, if you're going to join my staff, you need to learn the basics.
- NURSE: Basics?
- SHERIFF: Indeed ó firstly, intelligence.
- NURSE: You see, we're on dodgy ground already.
- SHERIFF: What was Ghandi's first name?
- FRIAR: Goosey Goosey?
- SHERIFF: I'll keep score. What do you shout when you drop a piano down a mine shaft?
- NURSE: C sharp or B flat. Minor.
- SHERIFF: A red ship collides with a blue ship ó what happens?
- FRIAR: Everyone is marooned.
- SHERIFF: What do you get when you cross a vampire with a snowman?
- NURSE: Frostbite.
- SHERIFF: Place these words in sentences. Climate.
- FRIAR: We have a tree in our garden and one day I'll climate.
- SHERIFF: Attitude.
- NURSE: When I went home I saw our dog had my brother's cap in his mouth ó I'm glad it wasn't my attitude.
- SHERIFF: Last one. Contrite.
- FRIAR: She writes great stories but I contrite a thing.
- SHERIFF: Things are worse than I thought. Now, manoeuvres.
- NURSE: Now, that I am good at ó I go every day regular as clockwork. I eat enough fibre to make me own doormats.

SHERIFF: Military Manoeuvres. Get fell in. NOTHING Fall in!

THEY FALL TO THE FLOOR.

SHERIFF: This is desperate.

THEY GET UP.

SHERIFF: Slope arms!

THEY WAVE THEIR ARMS ABOUT.

SHERIFF: Present arms.

NURSE: But I haven't brought you anything.

FRIAR: I didn't even know it was your birthday.

SHERIFF: Well, this is a fine how's your father.

BOTH: Well, thank you.

SHERIFF: Who?

BOTH: Our father.

FRIAR: TO NURSE: He's a very nice man.

NURSE: A very, very nice man.

SHERIFF: Enough! I don't think you two are quite up to the mark.

LIGHTS FLICKER.

NURSE: Hey, what was that?

SHERIFF: Didn't you know? This corridor is haunted.

FRIAR: By ghosts and ghoulies?

SHERIFF: Yes, and you don't want to be grabbed by the ghosties.

NURSE: And the ghoulies aren't much fun either.

LIGHTS FLICKER.

SHERIFF: Is it me ó or has it gone cold in here?

NURSE: Oh TO AUDIENCE If you lot see a ghost, will you warn me please?

A GHOST ENTERS, CROSSES STAGE AND EXITS.

There was? A ghost? In here?

SHERIFF: I can't see anything!

THE GHOST ENTERS, TAPS SHERIFF ON THE SHOULDER. THEY EXIT.

NURSE: What are you all screaming at? A ghost? Is there?

NURSE TURNS. NOTHING.

No, there's no ghost here. Any way, the Sheriff will look after us.  
Sheriff! .Sheriff!

FRIAR: He's gone.

NURSE: Don't say the ghoulies got him.

FRIAR: And just when things were going so well and all.

NURSE: It's just us now Friar and sisters together.

GHOST ENTERS. TAPS FRIAR ON THE SHOULDER AND THEY EXIT.

Ooh, you are very excitable. Where? Where?

SHE TURNS AND NOTHING.

You be telling me the ghosty has taken Friar Tuck with him next! Hey  
Friar! .Friar! .SCREAMS They have, I'm all alone! A weak and  
stunningly beautiful girl all alone in the haunted corridor. ASIDE Who  
writes this rubbish?

ENTER GHOST. IT AND THE NURSE CIRCLE EACH OTHER. THE GHOST  
TAPS HER ON THE SHOULDER. THE GHOST SCREAMS AND RUNS OFF.

NURSE: Charming!

BLACK OUT.

### Scene 3: THE FAIR

AS BEFORE, THE STALL HOLDERS ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS.ENTER FETCHIT AND CARRIE.

CARRIE: UNFURLS PROCLAMATION AND READS Hear ye, hear ye. By the order of his Lordship, the most wonderful and magnificent and intelligent ó

FETCHIT: ASIDE Guess who wrote this.

CARRIE: - utterly fantastic Sheriff of Nottingham, it is decreed that this will be the last ever fair to be held in the castle grounds.

THE CHORUS JEER.

And anyone caught jeering will answer to his imperial, most gorgeous aforementioned Sheriff of Nottingham.

SHE ROLLS THE PROCLAMATION UP.

FETCHIT: Canø we move on Carrie? Find somewhere else to work?

CARRIE: Why would we want to?

FETCHIT: Because the Sheriff is nothing but an evil dictator who is ruining everyoneø lives. And because heø bound to get his comeuppance sometime soon.

CARRIE: Comeuppance? Rubbish. Thereø only one man the Sheriff fears and thatø Robin Hood. I donø see him round and about. Do you?

CARRIE EXITS.

FETCHIT: No, I donø. Moreø the pity.

ENTER ROBIN AND THE MERRY MEN. ROBINøS GREEN CLOTHING IS COVERED BY A CLOAK AND HOOD.

ROBIN: The band of players coming through. Band of players.

FETCHIT: Ah, the theatre group.

ROBIN: Thatø it. Sir Fortescue Fotherington at your service.

HE GIVES AN ELABORATE BOW.THE MERRY MEN LAY A BLANKET ON THE FLOOR.

ROBIN: Perfect ó this will be our stage.

FETCHIT: And what is the name of the play you will be giving today?

ROBIN: We have several productions in our repertoire. We have an hilarious farce entitled "Where Did I Leave My Wimple?" Or a classic archery show entitled "She Had Me All A Quiver"

FETCHIT: I'll tell the Sheriff that you have arrived.

FETCHIT EXITS.

ROBIN THROWS HIS HOOD BACK.

ROBIN: TO AUDIENCE It is I ó Robin Hood.

THE CROWD CHEER. ENTER FETCHIT, CARRIE AND THE SHERIFF.

ROBIN PUTS HIS HOOD BACK ON.

SHERIFF: So you are the players I've heard so much about.

ROBIN: Sire. And you are the great Sheriff of Nottingham I have heard so much about.

SHERIFF: Ah, they talk of me in the shires.

ROBIN: Indeed sire.

SHERIFF: They know what I am.

ROBIN: Yes, we all know what you are alright.

SHERIFF: Before you begin your play ó do you have some taster of your talents?

ROBIN: Why, indeed. This is Mystical Merlin, one of our band of merry players.

CHORUS 6 STEPS FORWARD.

He is mute.

SHERIFF: I wish my wife had been. We might still be married.

CHORUS 6 MYSTICALLY WAVES HANDS IN FRONT OF FACE.

ROBIN: Merlin is going into a trance ó he sees a vision ó pianos.

SHERIFF: Pianos?

ROBIN: Ah no, other keys ó not piano keys but a set of keys.

CHORUS 6 NODS.

Do you have some keys on you?

SHERIFF: I do. PRODUCES KEYS What does he want with them?

CHORUS 6 BECKONS THE SHERIFF CLOSER.

ROBIN: He bids you give him the keys and he will make them vanish before your eyes and appear again back in your pocket.

SHERIFF: Of course he can't, that's impossible.

ROBIN: Try him.

SHERIFF: Very well.

HANDS HIM THE KEYS. CHORUS 6 PRODUCES A BAG INTO WHICH HE APPEARS TO PLACE THE KEYS. IN FACT, HE KEEPS THEM IN HIS HAND. HE WAFTS HIS HAND OVER THE BAG.

SHERIFF: What's he doing?

ROBIN: Making your keys vanish into thin air sire.

CHORUS 6 HANDS ROBIN THE BAG.

Your keys went into here.

SHERIFF: Yes, yes.

ROBIN: And now ó

ROBIN SHOWS HIM THE BAG.

- they have gone.

SHERIFF: But I want those keys back ó they should be in my pocket again you said.

ROBIN: Yes sire, please ó take a look.

SHERIFF SEARCHES HIS POCKETS IN VAIN.

SHERIFF: They're not here.

ROBIN: Half right's not bad!

SHERIFF: Get me those keys back. Guards!

DURING THIS WE SEE THE KEYS BEING PASSED FROM CHORUS MEMBER TO CHORUS MEMBER AND OFF STAGE. GUARDS ENTER.

You will regret what you have just done. Guards, seize this Mystical Merlin!

THE GUARDS SEIZE HIM.

And you, Sir Fartington Fotherington or whatever your name is ó youø better pray that this wretch finds those keys!

THE GUARDS BEGIN TO BUNDLE CHORUS 6 OFF.

ENTER NURSE AND FRIAR.

NURSE: Stop! Stop!

SHERIFF: Oh hello ó itø the Cheeky Girls.

NURSE: Unhand that magical man.

SHERIFF: Who do you think you are? Thereø only two people these guards take orders from ó me or my brother and given Lancelotø absence.

SARCASTIC: Oh dear, never mind. I think theyøll have to listen to me.

NURSE: Oh really?

ENTER SIR L.

SIR L: Brother, what have you done?

SHERIFF: Who opened his cage? FURIOUS: My keys!

ROBIN THROWS THE HOOD BACK.

Robin Hood! I should have known!

ROBIN: Yes Sheriff, you should.

ROBIN PRODUCES BOW AND ARROW AND AIMS AT THE SHERIFF.

SHERIFF: Well ó TO CROWD ó what are you waiting for? Defend me! Stop this vile criminal!

THE CROWD MUTTER.

NURSE: What?? Will no one defend my honour?  
I will!

SHERIFF: What? You?

NURSE: Oh go on Robin ó let me grab a smacker!

SHERIFF: No! Anything but that.

ROBIN: Marian?

MARIAN: Father you disgust me ó go on Nurse Nelly, do your worse.

NURSE: And I had Shredded Wheat and Garlic for breakfast too.

SHE GIVES THE SHERIFF A BIG SMACKER.

SHERIFF: Oh no! You could have shaved!

NURSE: Charming.

ROBIN: Sheriff, you are not wanted in these parts ó you can live, but you must leave us all alone.

SHERIFF: Don't worry ó with old dog breath having the hots for me I'm getting out of here fast. Come on Marian, we'll pack this minute.

MARIAN: No father, you can leave alone.

SHERIFF: Alone?

MARIAN: Yes. I'm staying here with Robin.

THE MERRY MEN CHEER.

ROBIN: Do you mean that?

MARIAN: Of course ó THEY KISS.

SHERIFF: Good lord!

THE SHERIFF EXITS, FOLLOWED BY CARRIE.

FETCHIT: TO NURSE: You know Nurse Nelly, I rather like garlic.

NURSE: You do? Well, if Robin's running off with her ó in for a penny, in for a pound.

NURSE SNOGS FETCHIT.

FETCHIT: Oh Nurse Nelly!

THEY EXIT TOGETHER FOLLOWED BY SIR L AND THE CHILDREN.

ROBIN AND MARIAN WALK FORWARD. THE WOOD CLOTH IS BROUGHT IN BEHIND THEM SO THEY ARE ALONE.

ROBIN: Would you really forsake your father's wealth to live here in the forest - with me?

MARIAN: Of course I will Robin. My father is nothing but a vile crook whereas you love the people who live in these parts and they love you.

NUMBER Robin and Marian.
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FETCHIT RUNS ON.

FETCHIT: I have exciting news!

MARIAN: What is it Fetchit?

FETCHIT: It's Nurse Nelly and me - we're to be married.

ROBIN: Well that's wonderful news - you are a quick worker.

FETCHIT: Yes, but you know what they say - marriage is like a tornado, it begins with a whirlwind and ends up with you losing your house.

ROBIN: Well I hope you know what you're doing then.

ROBIN AND MARIAN EXIT.

FETCHIT: Isn't it wonderful news! But if we're to be married, I have so many things to do - there's the invites, the cake, the flowers, the church, the guests, the vicar - í í í

ENTER NURSE NELLY.

NURSE: And the wedding ring - eight carats or more remember.

FETCHIT: I've already got it!

FETCHIT OFF TO BRING ON TROLLEY. ON IT ARE THE VARIOUS PROPS NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING.

NURSE: You've already got it?

FETCHIT PRESENTS HER WITH A STRING ON WHICH ARE TIED EIGHT CARROTS.

FETCHIT: There you are my turtledove - eight carrots.

NURSE: We're getting off to a shaky start. Now, the wedding buffet.

FETCHIT: Do you want a running buffet?

NURSE: You'd never catch it. No, with our friends a dozen sausage rolls and a vol-u-vent'do. I prepared some earlier!

FETCHIT PRODUCES A TRAY OF SAUSAGES.

NURSE: That's it. Now, you go and put that in the castle ovens.

FETCHIT CROSSES THE STAGE WITH THE TRAY HELD OUT BEFORE HIM. THE SAUSAGE STANDS UP. HE NOTICES. DOUBLE TAKE. IT LAYS DOWN.

FETCHIT: Hey, these sausages ó there's something odd here.

NURSE: It's not the sausages. What's up?

FETCHIT: I was walking over there and one of those sausages - it stood up.

NURSE: What a silly sausage! Of course it didn't stand up. Go on ó away with you.

FETCHIT CROSSES THE STAGE WITH THE TRAY HELD OUT BEFORE HIM. THE SAUSAGE STANDS UP. HE NOTICES. DOUBLE TAKE. WAIT FOR AUDIENCE TO START SHOUTING. IT LAYS DOWN.

FETCHIT: It just did it again!

NURSE: Oh, you are daft. Did it children? Did the sausage stand up?  
REACTION. It did?

FETCHIT: I told you!

NURSE: Well, I'm going to keep a sharp eye on it this time. Go on ó take the tray to the castle.

FETCHIT CROSSES THE STAGE WITH THE TRAY HELD OUT BEFORE HIM. THE SAUSAGE STANDS UP. HE AND NURSE BOTH NOTICE. DOUBLE TAKE. WAIT FOR AUDIENCE TO START SHOUTING. IT LAYS DOWN.

NURSE: I saw that with me own eyes! You were right. I've changed me mind ó we'd better not have sausages TRAY GOES BACK ON THE TROLLEY We'd have tongue sandwiches instead.

FETCHIT: Tongue? Uh! No ó I couldn't eat anything that had come out of an animal's mouth.

NURSE: Well you have egg then.

FETCHIT: Yes! DOUBLE TAKE

NURSE: Go on then - you'd better go and get things ready.

FETCHIT: I'd see you later then.

FETCHIT OFF.

NURSE: I don't know about you boys and girls, I'm wondering if I'm doing the right thing? I mean, should I marry Fetchit? It's all been so fast you see. I'm beginning to think he's a bit tight fisted & you know, arms shorter than his pockets. Before, he said to me -I'm going down to the pub for a drink & put your coat on! I thought he was taking me with him but he was just turning the heating off. Marriage is a wonderful institution & but who wants to live in an institution!

PETER AND POLLY RUN ON.

PETER: Is it true Nurse Nelly & are you really getting married?

NURSE: I think so.

POLLY: That's wonderful.

PETER: But you won't be leaving us?

NURSE: Oh no, of course not. You two are like family to me.

POLLY: Oh good & because we love you so very much.

NURSE: You do?

PETER: Of course.

NURSE: Ah! HUGS THEM.

PETER: Will you sing us a song Nurse Nelly?

NURSE: Well why not & perhaps everyone in the audience would like to join in too? Would you? REACTION Good & (either: You'd find the words in your programmes or: Let's have the words on.)

NUMBER Nurse, Polly, Peter.
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NURSE: That was lovely & now how about a selection from The Merry Widow.

PETER: Not a good idea on your wedding day.

NURSE: My wedding's in .Oh of course! Come on, we'd be late!

THEY RUSH OFF. THE CLOTH GOES OUT TO REVEAL:

**Scene 5: THE FAIR**

THE CHORUS ENTER AND EITHER SING OR DANCE.

NUMBER Chorus
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AT THE CONCLUSION THEY BOW AND MOVE TO THE SIDES. THE PRINCIPALS ENTER AND BOW IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: Carrie, Friar Tuck, Sir Lancelot Prancelot, Fetchit, Polly and Peter, The Sheriff of Nottingham, Nurse Nelly.

NURSE: It may be my wedding day but we also have a wonderful announcement. Yes, Robin and Marian have become engaged!

ENTER ROBIN AND MARIAN WHO BOW. EVERYONE MOVES IN AROUND THEM.

ROBIN: Thank you one and all! Our tale is told, over for another year.

FETCHIT: And if you take but just one message away from here ó

NURSE: Be honest and true - and then life won't get no worse ó

SHERIFF: And you won't have to snog that *dreadful* old nurse.

THEY BOW.

CURTAIN.

### INTRODUCTION

This is a funny old subject ó the tale is based on a true story and was first published in

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1595 although not in the form we know it. Disney made a short film version in the 30s and mixed in some elements of a Brothers Grimm tale and then, years later Robin Hood was added for good measure. I think it works very well but you do have to be careful in the playing of the Sheriff these days ó he does order the murder of two small children so I think it takes the edge off this horror if he's played in a high camp way with lots of eyebrow acting and sideways glances to the audience ó there has to be a nod to the fact that he's only acting.

### **TECHNICAL:**

#### **Act One:**

##### **Scene 1:**

Stalls: Depending on the size of the stage and chorus ó you'll want some folding tables covering in colourful cloths and dressed with baskets of goods.

Large basket: Covered in a cloth this is for Nurse to bring on.

Photo and pen: The Friar has this for Robin to give to Nurse.

Trumpet fanfare: Either live or a recording. Not too long.

##### **Scene 3:**

2x made up beds: For the children to lie in.

Book: For Nelly to read from.

Bra or corset: Fetchit has this on him to produce in the audience.

10p: A cardboard coin for Nurse to find.

##### **Scene 4:**

Cases: One each for Sir L and the children.

Horses hooves: Easily made from two halves of coconuts.

##### **Scene 5:**

2x rope: To have the children's hands tied with.

Blanket of leaves: Cut out some leaves from paper and stitch onto a green net base.

#### **Act Two:**

##### **Scene 2:**

Creaking door: Live or recorded sound effect.

##### **Scene 3/4:**

Proclamation: A roll of paper with an elaborate seal at the bottom.

Cloak with hood: For Robin to wear on as the actor.

Blanket: For the Merry Men to place on the floor.

Chain of keys: Large old keys on a ring for the Sheriff.

Bag: Chorus 6 uses this in his magic trick.

Bow and arrow: For Robin to threaten the Sheriff with.

Trolley: A hostess trolley on wheels.

Carrot necklace: 8 plastic, or real, carrots threaded onto string.

Sausages on tray: You'll need a wooden tray (baking tray size) which you paint silver. Make some large sausage shapes out of cotton wool shaped and covered in old tights or brown fabric. Sew at each end. Stick some onto the tray but keep one back. Make a hole in the side of the tray and thread a piece of wire through it. Turn the end outside the tray to make a small handle and then twist the metal just inside the tray to ensure it can't slide back through the hole. Now thread the sausage onto the length of metal inside the tray. Turn the small handle and the sausage stands up!

#### **MUSIC:**

Some suggestions for songs and music you may like to consider using:

**Act One:****Scene 1:**

Chorus: *Good Morning, Good Morning!* or *Got The Sun in the Morning*.

Fetchit and Carrie: *If you're Ever in a Jam* or *We're A Couple of Swells*.

Chorus: *Working 9 to 5* or reprise of opening number.

**Scene 2:**

Sheriff, Fetchit and Carrie: *Don't Rain On My Parade* (from *Funny Girl*) or *Let The Good Times Roll*.

**Scene 3:**

Fetchit and Nurse: *Love Is In the Air* or *You and Me* (from *Victor Victoria*).

Sheriff, Sir L, Carrie, Fetchit, Nurse, Polly and Peter: *Summer Holiday*,

Nurse: Reprise of *Summer Holiday*.

**Scene 5:**

Chorus as woodland animals: *Yesterday*.

**Act Two:****Scene 1:**

Robin, Marian, Nurse, Peter, Polly, Friar and Merry Men: *Get Happy* or *Everybody* (from *The Blues Brothers*)

Robin and Marian: *The Look Of Love* or *You're Getting To Be A Habit* (from *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*).

**Scene 3/4:**

Robin and Marian: *Take a Chance On Me* or *Follow Me* (from *Camelot*).

Nurse, Peter and Polly: *On Mother Kelly's Doorstep* (change to *Nurse Nellyø on Prancelot Way*)

**Scene 5:**

Chorus: *Get Me To The Church On Time* or *The Bells Are Ringing*.

**COSTUMES:**

Here are some ideas for those on limited budgets on how to costume the show with the minimum expense:

Robin Hood: Boots, green tights with a green jerkin tied at the waist and maybe a green waistcoat over that. He should have a traditional Robin Hood hat in green with a feather.

Maid Marian: A long flowing gown tied at the waist with a jewel encrusted or gold belt.

Sir Lancelot Prancelot: Boots, coloured tights and a brightly coloured jerkin tied at the waist. He needs a hat ó a stuffed donut shape with some feathers attached.

The Sheriff of Nottingham: As Sir Lancelot but in black or dark colours.

Nurse Nelly: A bright coloured dress with white pinny and hat (maybe with a red cross on it). She could wear the same clothes throughout or change at intervals.

Polly: A long dress with her hair in a bow.

Peter: A miniature version of his fathers.

Friar Tuck: Ideally, a wig with a pudding bowl haircut and a bald circle at the crown. He has long brown Friarø robes tied at the waist. He also changes into a dress, ladies wig and bonnet in act two.

Fetchit: Again, boots, tights and a jerkin but in loud colours. He could wear a conical hat.

Carrie: She could dress identically to her brother or maybe in corresponding colours.

Chorus: Villagers, Guards, Merry Men, Ghost, Animals: As villagers they were dresses or tights and jerkins. The Merry Men (about 5) wear browns or greens. The

ghost will be a white sheet with eye holes. The Guards (no more than 4) wear boots, tights and jerkins or tabards bearing the Prancelot coat of arms. The animal costumes can be bought in animal masks with corresponding coloured tights and tops with tails attached.

### **PLAYING:**

Some thoughts on playing the parts:

Robin Hood: Can be played by a male or female. Robin is of course an historical figure and should be played seriously and with a swash-buckling swagger and confidence. All the women fancy him!

Maid Marian: She's not a sappy girl ó she gives up her family wealth and leaves her father to join Robin so she should be confident rather than simpering. She knows what she wants!

Sir Lancelot Prancelot: He's a bit of a daft old stick really ó too trusting by half. Everyone likes him though, including Robin, so he can't be too idiotic. He's basically too nice for his own good.

The Sheriff of Nottingham: Sir L's evil brother, freshly released from prison and out to take control of the castle. One of the few panto villains who resorts to murder so he's pretty horrid although he also gets some comedy moments ó play him arch rather than evil.

Nurse Nelly: Your usual dame ó she loves the children, is sex mad and as daft as a brush. She should be played with a heart of gold.

Polly and Peter: Sir L's children. They have quite a bit of dialogue and are central to the tale so good casting is key. This panto can easily be spoilt by children lacking in confidence, pace and projection.

Friar Tuck: A good comedy part ó he should be the red faced, rotund Friar we all know from the fairy story. He also gets into drag in the second half.

Fetchit and Carrie: The brother and sister -Bad and Good Robbers- Fetchit is the kindly one and Carrie his tough sister. Fetchit falls in love during the story.

### **SETTINGS:**

Obviously, if you have a lovely venue and are able to stage the panto with proper scenery you won't need these notes, however, if the space and budget is limited here's what you might be able to do:

#### **Act One:**

1. The Fair: A full stage with tables for stalls.

2. On The Road To The Castle: Use a cloth or the tabs to provide a small amount of space at the front of the stage.

3. The Nursery: Back to full stage ó you'll need two beds plus access from the stage into the auditorium. You could build this on a truck.

4. Castle Corridor: Again, in front of a cloth or tabs.

5. The Woods: Full stage using green curtains, cut-out trees and bushes, green lighting or bird sounds to suggest the setting.

#### **Act Two:**

1. The Woods: As before.

2. Castle Corridor: As before.

3. The Fair: Full stage again with the stalls.

4. The Woods: This setting was added to allow larger companies to dress up the fair set for the walk-down so you could cut this setting and use the Fair set for scenes 3, 4 and 5.

5. The Fair: As before but you could move the stalls and add some bunting or decorations for the wedding.

**TOPICALITY:**

Throughout the script you'll find chances to add in local references & audiences always enjoy a mention of the local pub, football team and so on and it's usually a guaranteed laugh. You'll also find the occasional topical reference to TV personalities and so on & obviously, as time passes since this script was written the topicality of these references will wane. However, the same jokes have been used for decades with the current Prime Minister's name or the current famous TV chef's name added in & jokes about Fanny Craddock gave way to Delia Smith then to Jamie Oliver & but the gag stayed the same so please, simply update the reference.