

***Little John, Alan A Dale have been captured by the Sherriff. They are in a cell with another old prisoner (Nana Willow)
There is a prison guard sat watching the prisoners.***

ALAN Locked up in a prison cell
Things are looking bleak
Living on bread and water
Looks like we're up the creek

ALL Shut up

ALAN Everyone's a critic. I wonder if Robin got away.

JOHN Dunno. Hope so. Hey Guard, It's boring in here. Can we have some entertainment?

GUARD *(grumbles)* phfff, oh very well. Hang on.

Guard gets an old style radio and puts it on the table.

JOHN What's that?

GUARD It's a radio.

ALAN A what?

GUARD A radio, it's a new thing. In fact it is so new that it hasn't actually been invented yet.

JOHN Let's hear it then.

Guard turns on the radio. 'Please Release Me' (Engelbert Humperdinck) comes on. He changes channel. 'I Want To Break Free' (Queen) comes on. He changes channel again and the Intro to 'Everything I Do' (Bryan Adams) comes on. He quickly changes the channel and commentary for the Archery Competition comes on. The Merry Men react to the action.

RADIO (VO) RADIO (VO) If you have just joined us here on Radio Nottingham we are coming to the end of the first ever Nottingham Archery contest, held here in the beautiful surroundings of Nottingham castle. The final two contestants are stepping up to the line. Our very own sheriff, dressed in all the finery of office, black tunic, silk hose and a fabulous leather waistcoat, looking splendid and dignified in the midday sun.

His opponent, Jedward Jones, a young squire i believe from the town of Robinhampton. A late entry but a fine bowman non the less. Not dressed quite as fine, a hood over his face but holding his head high as he takes an arrow out of his quiver and nods politely to the his rival. The Sheriff loads his bow, takes aim, release and it's a bull. Dead centre. My word, what a shot! Young Jedward will have to do something rather special to beat that. The young man loads his bow, takes a deep breath, release and oh my god another bulls eye. These have to be two of the finest bowmen in the county. No doubt about it. What will The Sheriff do to respond? He takes his loaded bow, aims at the target, and wow!! Another bullseye. Jedward will have to pull something special out of the bag now. He too loads his bow, takes aim and oh, our good sheriff sneezes, now that's bad timing, what a shame. The arrow has just skimmed the off target. That has to be most disappointing for the young

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SAMPLE SCENE

athlete... but wait, the arrow had ricocheted off the brick wall behind, it's flying through the air, hits one of the trumpeters on the balcony, bounces up and over the hedge, bounces off the sheriffs coat of arms and wait, what's this, it's flying back towards the target. It is, yes it is. It's in the target. And it's a bull's eye. Quite remarkable. It's in the bull. The crowd are going wild but it appears the Sheriff is not a happy man. He calls the guards over and they drag the poor young man away. This is a turn up for the books. It looks like the Sheriff has won the contest.

Leech (Sherriffs henchman) enters.

LEECH What is going on here?

The Guard stands up quickly and turns the radio off.

GUARD Nothing, just listening to the Archers.

Kipper (another henchman) enters with Robin who lunges onto the stage as if being thrown. His hands are tired

JOHN Arh, Robin, good to see you. Heard you on the radio. Well done.

ROBIN Hello Little John my friend. Thank you. Whatever are you doing in here?

JOHN Waiting to be rescued. Can you help with that?

ROBIN Afraid not. My hands are tied.

LEECH Open the door Guard. Let's get him locked up before he tries anything stupid.

ROBIN I don't think there is any stupid left. You have taken it all.

LEECH What does he mean?

KIPPER I have no idea.

Robin is pushed into the cell. John unties him. Kipper and Leech join the Guard at the table – and play cards or something

ROBIN Thanks John. *(looks at Nana Willow, the old woman in the cell)* Who's your friend?

JOHN Not sure. She says she's been here for years.

NANA Many years. Many many years.

ROBIN How many years?

NANA Many many years. I've lost count.

ROBIN That's not all you've lost. What are you in here for?

NANA What am I in here for. I'm in here for ... many years, many, many many years. I know you don't I?

ROBIN I don't think so.

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NANA Yes. I never forget a smile. You are Robin of Loxley.

ROBIN Yes I am.

NANA I knew it. No doubt about it. Little Robin, I haven't seen you for ...

ROBIN Let me guess ... many years.

NANA Many many years.

ROBIN Thought so.

NANA You don't recognize me do you?

ROBIN Give me a clue.

NANA Well, you used to enjoy sucking on my Wimple.

ROBIN Nana Willow? You were my babysitter.

NANA You were such a cute baby. You used to love walking round the castle with no nappy on.
You had a lovely little birthmark on your...

ROBIN Anyway, let's move on.

ALAN Things don't seem to be much better.
It's turning into quite a farce
But we learnt that Robin was cute
With a birthmark on his ...

ROBIN Shut up.

WILL So what do we do now?

ROBIN I don't know. Our plans are not really working out are they? Marion is going to be married to the Sheriff tonight, we still haven't retrieved the stolen Gold for the people of Nottingham, we're stuck in jail with no chance of release and are probably going to be executed in the morning and to top it all off, you all now know that I have an embarrassing birthmark on my bottom. Could things get any worse?

LEECH It's nearly time for lunch

ROBIN What is it?

KIPPER Pot Noodle.

ALL No!!!!

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