

ROBIN HOOD

The Legend Reborn

Written by

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FIRST DRAFT

FADE IN:

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

A dozen candles are melting down to nubs behind the bar. A BARTENDER fills a dirty glass with beer from a wooden keg and sets it in front of a dusty TRAVELLER, who sits brooding at the bar. They both speak with British accents:

TRAVELLER
Dark times ahead, my friend. Dark times. You mark my words.

BARTENDER
If you say so.

TRAVELLER
Haven't you heard? The Saracens have captured Jerusalem!

BARTENDER
I heard about it. When they come for England, then I'll worry. Those Saracens don't drink, you know.

TRAVELLER
You really think what goes on over there isn't going to affect you here?
(off bartender's look)
The King'll send the army to recapture Jerusalem and probably lead them himself.

BARTENDER
So?

TRAVELLER
So who does that leave in charge of England while he's gone? Prince John, that's who.

The bartender's sour face speaks volumes about Prince John.

BARTENDER
Hadn't thought of it like that.

STRANGER (O.S.)
Let Richard have his Crusade.

The bartender and the traveller turn to see a STRANGER slouched at a corner table. He's the only other person here.

STRANGER
(continuing)
If we're lucky, he'll get himself killed and we'll be done with him.

BARTENDER
Hold on, now! That's the King you're talking about!

STRANGER
Your king. Not mine.

TRAVELLER
(tense beat)
And that's treason.

The stranger walks over to the bar. He towers over the other men.

STRANGER
Your King Richard stole my lands, my title, and my name. And if he were here right now, I'd pay him back for what he did to me, treason be damned.

TRAVELLER
Stole your lands? And what lands were ever held by the likes of you?

The stranger leans forward into the flickering candlelight, revealing his scarred face.

STRANGER
Gisborne.

BARTENDER
Gisborne? I know you! You're Sir Guy!

TRAVELLER
The rogue knight? King Richard didn't steal your lands! You betrayed him!

The stranger, GUY OF GISBORNE, gives him a dark look.

GISBORNE
What else have you heard about me?

The bartender stammers. As Gisborne turns to him, the traveller pulls his cloak back, slowly reaching for a dagger on his belt.

BARTENDER
Y-you're an assassin. Best there is.

The traveller carefully places his hand upon the hilt of his dagger. A tense beat. Gisborne smiles.

GISBORNE
You really shouldn't believe all the rumors you hear about me.
(beat)
The truth is actually much worse.

Suddenly, Gisborne lashes out with a dagger of his own, slashing the traveller's throat! The bartender gasps. Gisborne flips the dagger and buries it to the hilt in the bartender's forehead!

The bartender staggers back, bumping into the keg. Beer starts pouring from the tap, SPLATTERING on the floor. The bartender slumps to the ground, dead before he starts to fall.

Gisborne picks up the traveller's spilled mug, fills it with beer from the keg, then shuts off the tap. He sits at the bar and nonchalantly starts to drink. Blood and beer DRIP on the floor.

EXT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Gisborne emerges from the tavern. He hears a FLUTTERING of wings and a FALCON flies from a tree to perch on Gisborne's gloved arm. He strokes its head and feeds it a treat from his pocket.

The falcon has a small cylinder tied to its leg. Gisborne removes it and the bird flies off. There's a note in the cylinder. It reads: "I AGREE TO YOUR TERMS. KILL HIM. TONIGHT."

Gisborne reaches into his pocket... and pulls out a modern metal cigarette lighter. He lights it and burns the note.

We PULL BACK and get our first good look of Guy of Gisborne. He's wearing a leather jacket made of horse hide with the mane still attached -- and a pair of guns holstered around his waist. A Japanese tachi sword hangs from his hip. He looks like a cross between a cowboy gunfighter and a samurai warrior.

He glances up as a pair of advanced military helicopters fly by. Finally, we PULL BACK further and REVEAL that the tavern he's leaving was constructed from the fuselage of a crashed jetliner.

Gisborne gets on a sleek, futuristic motorcycle and drives off.

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - NIGHT

We're flying over the twisted treetops, following Gisborne along a narrow, winding road. The trees become too dense and we lose sight of him. An OPENING PROLOGUE appears:

"A new Dark Age has fallen.

Competition for the world's dwindling natural resources has led to decades of total war.

In the ensuing chaos, countries that had been allies for centuries turned on one another. Governments that had stood for a millennium crumbled into anarchy.

Struggling to rise from the ashes, nations once again became kingdoms. Corporate dynasties became the new royal bloodlines.

And history began to repeat itself..."

As the last words fade, the TWO HELICOPTERS we saw earlier sweep into FRAME. CAMERA TILTS UP to reveal...

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - NIGHT

The choppers are flying toward a shining metropolis on the edge of the forest -- an awe-inspiring sight, made slightly ominous by the massive wall surrounding the city. A title comes up: **NOTTINGHAM.**

EXT. DOWNTOWN ROOFTOP - NIGHT

An abandoned warehouse district has been overrun by LEATHER-CLAD TEENAGERS. They're hanging out, drinking, and BLASTING MUSIC, cruising the streets in their tricked-out vehicles -- "AMERICAN GRAFFITI," 23rd century-style. Meet Generation Cyberpunk.

A GROUP is gathered on the roof of one of the warehouses, surrounding a FLAMBOYANT KID, dressed all in red leather. His name is SCARLET. He's taking cash and writing down bets.

SCARLET

Whaddaya got? Aw, let's see some real action! That's what I'm talking about!

A scrawny kid named CRANK gives Scarlet an irritated look. Standing with Crank is HUBERT, a grim-faced thug.

CRANK

Where's your man, Scarlet? Come on, it's freezing up here!

Scarlet quickly looks around. Where is his man? He spots the KID he's looking for sitting on a ledge, away from the noisy crowd -- ROBERT LOCKSLEY, 16 years old, good-looking, rakish, tattooed. Scarlet hurries over to him.

SCARLET

Bobby, what're you doing?

ROBERT

She's not here yet.

SCARLET

Why you worrying about her?

Robert hesitates, then shows him a velvet box with an engagement ring inside. The diamond is small, barely even a chip.

ROBERT

What if she says no? I've got nothing to offer her.

SCARLET

You call this nothing?

Scarlet pulls a fistful of cash from his pocket -- all the bets

he's holding. Robert eyes it anxiously.

SCARLET

You've been saving up your winnings,
right? How sweet is this gonna look in
your nest egg?

ROBERT

(smiles)

Pretty sweet.

Robert pockets the ring and Scarlet leads him back to the crowd of kids. Scarlet walks up to Crank. Robert and Hubert hang back, sizing each other up.

SCARLET

Pick a target. Lady's choice.

Crank scowls at him, then looks out at the city. He points.

CRANK

There.

Robert and Scarlet follow his look and see a meat warehouse a couple blocks away. Its sign has a picture of a cow on it and "CORN-FED BLACK ANGUS" in neon letters. Someone lets out a low whistle. It's at least a hundred yards away. Scarlet smiles.

SCARLET

Nice.

He nods to Hubert, who steps up to the ledge, reaches into a holster on his back, and pulls out what looks like a shotgun. He presses a switch -- and two bow arms spring out from the sides! It's a collapsible crossbow. Everybody takes a step back.

Hubert cocks his crossbow with a bolt from the quiver on his back. He takes careful aim at the distant neon sign, then pulls the trigger -- BANG! The bolt SLAMS into the sign, just a few inches away from the neon letter "G." Hubert curses and steps aside.

Scarlet turns to Robert and hands him something long and thin, swathed in soft cloth. Robert reverently unwraps it to reveal a polished yew longbow -- six feet of a master's craftsmanship. Robert runs his hand over it, then strings it with ease.

He slings a quiver over his shoulder. Scarlet gives him a stick of gum and Robert pops it in his mouth. He stretches his shoulders, CRACKS his neck. Crank rolls his eyes.

Robert stands at the ledge, notches an arrow, aims it at the sign... then lets it fly! The arrow hits the sign and shoots out the neon letter "G," which explodes in a shower of sparks! Without it, the sign now reads "CORN-FED BLACK ANUS."

Scarlet punches the air in victory. There are CHEERS and GROANS

from the crowd. Crank and Hubert glower at Robert, then turn away. Hubert mutters something under his breath.

HUBERT
... dumb luck.

Robert gives him a sharp look.

ROBERT
You want to see me do it again? Double
or nothing.

Scarlet's eyes widen in horror. Hubert stops, pulls out a thick wad of cash and hands it to Crank. Robert winks at Scarlet, who's frantically shaking his head. Robert ignores him.

He draws an arrow, raises his bow, and shoots. He hits the sign again... and splits his first arrow in half! The crowd gasps.

Hubert angrily walks away. Crank follows, tossing the wad of money to Scarlet. Robert breathes a sigh of relief.

ROBERT
Now that's a nest egg.

EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT - NIGHT

On the streets below, MARION FITZWALTER makes her way through the crowd of cruising teenagers. She's a 16-year-old beauty in black leather, all tattoos and piercings.

Above her, Robert and Scarlet split their winnings on the fire escape as they descend from the rooftop. Robert's face lights when he spots Marion. Scarlet smiles.

SCARLET
Good luck.

Robert shakes his hand and climbs down to the street.

Marion doesn't see him. A sleek car slows down next to her. The driver's side window lowers, revealing BLAINE DARCY -- 20 years old, good-looking, obviously rich and doesn't mind showing it off. Marion sighs when she sees him.

MARION
Go home, Blaine.

DARCY
Not until you talk to me.

The cars behind him HONK their horns. Marion groans, then waves for him to pull to the curb. He parks and gets out of the car.

MARION
Did my father send you?

DARCY

No. I just can't stop thinking about you. About us.

MARION

That shouldn't take up too much of your time, seeing as there is no "us."

She walks by him, but he follows. From the fire escape above, Scarlet sees them walk off together.

SCARLET

Uh-oh...

Back on the street, Robert sees Marion and Darcy ahead of him. He pushes through the crowd to catch up with them. Marion still hasn't seen him.

DARCY

All I'm asking is that you give me a chance. I think I deserve that much.

MARION

This isn't about what you deserve. It's about me being in love with somebody else. I don't care how badly our families want us to be together.

DARCY

I'm not doing this for our families. I'm doing this for me. I love you, Marion. I need you.

Before she can respond, Darcy offers her a little gift box. He opens it, revealing a dazzling diamond necklace that probably cost more than his car. Marion gasps, despite herself.

MARION

Blaine... I can't accept this. I --

Just then, Robert walks up. He stops short when he sees the extravagant necklace, but tries to cover with a joke.

ROBERT

(to Darcy)

Hey, nice necklace. Did your daddy pick it out or did he just pay for it?

DARCY

You mind? We're having a private conversation.

MARION

No, we're not.
(off Darcy's look)
(MORE)

MARION (CONT'D)

You wanted to talk. So we talked. I'm sorry.

She gives the necklace back to Darcy. Robert takes her hand and they turn away. Darcy watches them go, fuming.

DARCY

If he really cared about you, he'd get the hell out of your life!

Robert angrily turns on Darcy, but Marion grabs hold of him.

MARION

Robin, don't!

Darcy sees that Marion is holding Robert back and punches him in the face! Robert hits the ground hard. Marion turns to Darcy, horrified -- then lashes out with a vicious cross-body kick to Darcy's face that lands him flat on his ass!

Before the melee can escalate, they're suddenly interrupted by the sound of approaching SIRENS! The kids start scrambling and Scarlet calls out to Robert and Marion, gesturing frantically!

SCARLET

Rangers!

Helicopters suddenly appear overhead, shining searchlights down on the cruisers! Futuristic police cars called prowlers appear at both ends of the street, driven by Royal Rangers, Nottingham's police force. A VOICE BOOMS out over a loudspeaker:

RANGER VOICE (O.S.)

BY ORDER OF THE SHERIFF, SURRENDER AND
BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY! YOU ARE IN
VIOLATION OF MANDATORY CURFEW!

The kids scatter like startled cockroaches. Darcy jumps back in his car and peels out. The prowlers move in to give chase.

Robert takes Marion's hand and they run down an alley to where his motorcycle is parked -- we'll call it a "motorcycle," but it's essentially a giant engine with two wheels and a seat bolted to it. Robert REVS the engine and Marion jumps on behind him.

ROBERT

That was a good kick back there.

MARION

I've got a good teacher.

She kisses him hard on the mouth. A prowler turns down the alley after them and they take off, tires SQUEALING.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - CITY STREET - NIGHT

A DIGNIFIED COUPLE sits outside an elegant restaurant. Classical

MUSIC plays inside. Suddenly, the deafening BLAST of ROARING ENGINES startles them -- Robert and Marion blow by with Scarlet and a dozen other kids on motorcycles, pursued by two prowlers!

Robert takes the lead and directs the group to split off in three directions at the next intersection. The rangers can only follow two of the groups, so one of them escapes.

Robert's group scatters again at the next cross street and the prowler on their tail chooses to follow Scarlet and another kid. Robert and Marion are home free. Robert smiles at her and she kisses his cheek. But when he turns back around --

-- he sees that he's racing toward a ranger roadblock! Robert slams on the brakes, but not before driving right over a tire-busting spike strip! His motorcycle skids out of control, grinding to a halt in front of the roadblock.

RANGERS rush in and grab Robert and Marion, who reach out to one another as they're pulled apart. Robert is slammed against a car and frisked.

MARION

Robin!

Marion struggles and the rangers are forced to handcuff her. The ranger who's frisking Robert pulls out the little box with the engagement ring in it. He flips it open.

RANGER #1

Aw, well ain't this --

Before Marion can see what he's found, Robert whips his head back, cracking the ranger in the nose! Marion uses the distraction to try and pull one of her hands out of her handcuffs. Her thumb audibly POPS out of joint. She cringes, but doesn't make a sound.

Ranger #1 subdues Robert. Another ranger takes Robert's ID and groans as he reads it.

RANGER #2

You moron. This is the Sheriff's kid.

Robert gives Marion a sly wink. She smiles, then turns to the ranger guarding her.

MARION

Wanna see a trick?

She raises her hand, free of the handcuffs!

MARION

I can dislocate my thumb.

Then she punches him in the face! A couple of rangers give chase, but she runs down an alley, climbs a chain link fence and is gone.

Robert smiles as he's shoved into the back of a prowler.

EXT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - NIGHT

An old gated mansion in the city's most affluent district.

INT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - MARION'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The door to the balcony opens and Marion sneaks into the darkened room. She turns on a bedside lamp -- revealing a dour man in his 50's sitting in a nearby chair! His name is LORD FITZWALTER and he doesn't look pleased. Marion gasps.

FITZWALTER

You were out riding again, weren't you?

MARION

Do I look like I went ballroom dancing?

Fitzwalter sighs, overcome with anguish and frustration.

FITZWALTER

I'm not going to let you throw your life away over this schoolgirl crush.

MARION

Oh, and marrying Blaine Darcy wouldn't be throwing my life away? All you care about is how much money you can make from marrying me off.

FITZWALTER

There's only one reason why thugs like Locksley want girls like you.

MARION

Stop saying that! I love Robin and there is nothing you can do about it.

FITZWALTER

Well, you're wrong about that.

(off her look)

I'm sending you to London.

MARION

What for?

FITZWALTER

I've arranged for you to complete your schooling in the court of Queen Eleanor. It's a remarkable opportunity for a girl your age.

(beat)

You leave in the morning.

MARION

No, you can't be serious! I won't go,
I'll --

A hulking BODYGUARD appears in the doorway, blocking it.

FITZWALTER

You will go to London, you will learn
the ways of civil society, and you will
never see Robert Locksley again.

Fitzwalter leaves. Marion SLAMS the door and leans against it,
covering her mouth so that he won't hear her crying.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - NIGHT

A towering walled complex in the heart of the city. It serves as
headquarters for the rangers. Prowlers drive in and out of the
front gate and helicopters land on a rooftop pad.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

A SEVERE MAN in his 50's sits at a desk. He wears the uniform of
a high-ranking ranger. The placard on his desk reads, "HUGH
LOCKSLEY: SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM." At his side is his second-in-
command, LIEUTENANT WORMAN -- 40's with long, curly black hair.

Across from them sits SIMEON CARFAX, a sinister-looking man with a
skeletal face. With Carfax are TWO SOLDIERS in black riot armor.
Their faces are covered by gas masks and nightfinder goggles that
give their eyes a red glow. They are shockrangers.

Locksley pushes a thick envelope filled with money across the desk
toward Carfax. Carfax eyes it coolly.

CARFAX

You didn't count it.

LOCKSLEY

I don't have to. My loyalty to the
Crown is not for sale. At any price.

CARFAX

I'm sorry you choose to see it that
way. Prince John is not one to repeat
an offer once it has been refused.

LOCKSLEY

This country has suffered enough
without him starting a civil war.

CARFAX

There doesn't have to be a war. If you
accept him as king, the northern barons
will follow your lead. Blood need only
be shed if you resist us.

Locksley walks around his desk and stuffs the envelope full of money into the pocket of Carfax's trench coat.

LOCKSLEY
I will not betray King Richard. Tell
Prince John that he has sent you a long
way for nothing.

Carfax gives him a hard look, then turns and leaves with his shockrangers. Troubled, Worman closes the door behind them.

WORMAN
Hugh...

LOCKSLEY
I know. He wouldn't have been that
brazen if he hadn't already made plans
to have me silenced.

A tense beat. They both know what that means.

WORMAN
I'll increase the guard.

LOCKSLEY
I can take care of myself. Just make
sure Robert is safe.

WORMAN
(awkward beat)
He's here, actually. Curfew violation.

Locksley shakes his head and sighs.

LOCKSLEY
Of course he's here. Send him in.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - PROCESSING CENTER - NIGHT

Robert sits handcuffed to a bench. Worman approaches with an exasperated look and releases him.

WORMAN
It's getting to where I see you more
often than I see my own wife.

ROBERT
I've met your wife. You should be
thanking me.

Worman laughs and slaps him on the back. Robert smiles.

WORMAN
Don't try that smart mouth with your
father tonight. He's in no mood to
hear it.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Worman ushers Robert inside. Robert slumps in a chair and Locksley gestures for Worman to leave. An uncomfortable beat.

LOCKSLEY

I take it you just don't care anymore
what it looks like when my son gets
arrested in the street after curfew.

ROBERT

So lock me up if you're worried about
how it looks. I'm not stopping you.

LOCKSLEY

Well, you're not exactly making my life
any easier.

ROBERT

Yeah, I know. I'm a real burden.

Locksley starts to retort, but stops himself and sighs. A beat.

LOCKSLEY

Did you read the inscription above the
door here when you came in tonight?

Robert rolls his eyes. He's heard this one before.

ROBERT

"Vivit Post Funera Virtus."

LOCKSLEY

That's right. "Virtue outlives death."
It means we're remembered for the good
we do in this world. Not for the hell
we raise. Or the time we waste.

ROBERT

You know what else outlives death?
Boredom. Can I go?

LOCKSLEY

Robert, please. I'm not very good at
this, but hear me out. Just this once.

There's an urgency in his voice that makes Robert pay attention.

LOCKSLEY

(continuing)

I know I could be a better father to
you. You've been here a lot and I know
that's partly my fault. But every time
they bring you through that door, I
pray you're going to see that
inscription and it's finally going to

(MORE)

LOCKSLEY (CONT'D)

speak to you, the way it first spoke to me.

ROBERT

What do you want it to say? The whole world's coming apart at the seams. You expect me to believe that anything I say or do matters?

LOCKSLEY

I bet my life on that every day. If you want the world to change, Robert, sometimes you have to be that change.

ROBERT

Right. Well, if that's how you want to waste your life.

He stands and heads for the door.

LOCKSLEY

Where are you going?

ROBERT

I'm sorry, Dad. The world doesn't need me. Any more than I need it. Thanks for the quality time.

He walks out. Locksley follows.

LOCKSLEY

Robert --!

EXT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - NIGHT

A dark figure with a strange harpoon-like rifle sneaks across the roof. It's Gisborne. He peers over the edge of the roof and looks down to see Robert and Locksley walk outside, still arguing.

LOCKSLEY

I have not wasted my life!

ROBERT

If wiping noses and rescuing cats from trees for a living isn't wasting your life, I don't know what is.

LOCKSLEY

I help people who can't help themselves. And I do so because I can think of no nobler purpose.

ROBERT

Yeah, and all that's ever taught me is that you care more about total strangers than you do your own family.

LOCKSLEY

That's not true. The sacrifices I've made I made because I...

(beat)

Because the day you were born, I swore to live my life as an example to you. To be the man I hoped you would become.

ROBERT

So that's your big plan for my life? I follow in your footsteps? Try to change the world?

LOCKSLEY

Nothing would make me prouder.

ROBERT

Seriously. What do I look like I'm going to change?

LOCKSLEY

Anything you choose to, Robert. One man, the right man, can change everything.

Gisborne aims his rifle at Locksley's back and pulls the trigger -- KA-CHUNK! Locksley bucks forward with a steel spike sticking out of his chest! Gisborne's gun is like a harpoon gun -- the gun and its spear-like projectile are connected by a long cable.

Locksley falls to his knees. Then -- CLICK! An array of red-hot steel claws springs out of the spike in his chest! A winch in Gisborne's gun pulls the cable taut, retracting the claw, bloodlessly cauterizing the wound as it's pulled back through Locksley's chest! Locksley drops dead at Robert's feet.

Robert clutches his father's body and looks up to see the most horrifying sight of all:

Gisborne stands on the ledge above them. The gun's claw retracts into the muzzle -- clutching Locksley's smoldering heart! Gisborne puts the heart in a satchel and slips away.

Then Robert's eyes fall to the stone arch over the castle's door. And the inscription above it -- *VIVIT POST FUNERA VIRTUS.*

Rangers run to Robert's aid. Above the chaos, he hears the ROAR of an engine. He runs to the street. Gisborne is escaping on his motorcycle. Robert spots a ranger motorcycle parked nearby, jumps on, and tears out after him.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - CITY CENTRE - NIGHT

Gisborne speeds away from the castle. Robert's motorcycle appears behind him, gaining fast! Gisborne draws a massive shotgun and FIRES! The shot misses, blowing up a huge chunk of asphalt.

Robert swerves onto the sidewalk, taking cover behind a row of parked cars. Gisborne SHOTS at him again, BLOWING OUT car windows and spraying Robert with broken glass!

Gisborne runs out of ammo and turns down an alley. By the time Robert swerves in after him, Gisborne is out the other side. Robert follows him -- right into the path of an oncoming bus! He's headed the wrong way down a one-way street!

Robert skirts by the bus! Gisborne is ahead of him, escaping through the onrushing traffic. Robert dodges cars like a veteran bike racer, weaving in and out with the agility of a dragonfly.

Robert opens a compartment on his motorcycle and finds a pair of handcuffs. As Robert closes in, Gisborne reloads his shotgun and points it right at Robert's face.

GISBORNE

Sorry, kid. I ain't got time for anything subtle.

ROBERT

Neither do I.

With that, Robert handcuffs the handlebars of their motorcycles together! Then he leaps off his bike and rolls to the sidewalk, barely avoiding being crushed by traffic!

His riderless motorcycle tips over, dragging Gisborne's down with it. The handcuffed motorcycles wipe out at top speed, right in front of a semi truck! The truck clips the motorcycles, sending Gisborne ricocheting off cars like a pinball!

SIRENS are approaching and people are already gawking at the accident. Robert limps toward them, pushing his way toward Gisborne, who is a helpless, bloody mess. Robert punches him over and over. Gisborne can't even defend himself.

GISBORNE

My back is --! It's broke!

Prowlers are pulling up and rangers jump out to disperse the crowd. One of them drags Robert off Gisborne -- it's Worman.

ROBERT

Let go! I'll kill him!

WORMAN

Is that what your father would want?

Robert knows the answer to that question. CAMERA PULLS UP as he leans against Worman's shoulder and starts to cry...

FADE TO BLACK.

A title comes up: **FIVE YEARS LATER**

EXT. SCARRINGTON VILLAGE - NIGHT

Unlike the gleaming streets of Nottingham, Scarrington is a dusty, dystopian nightmare. The village's square is crowded with PEASANTS gathered around a wild young man standing atop an overturned prowler. His name is WILL OF CLOUDESLEY.

CLOUDESLEY

Under Prince John's miserable misrule,
we have lived like animals while he has
lined his pockets and bought the
loyalty of the barons.

He speaks to them with the passion of a born leader. There are CRIES of agreement from the angry crowd.

CLOUDESLEY

(continuing)

Some say he is merely an imposter, a
pretender to the throne. I say we call
him what he is -- a tyrant!

No one notices TWO MEN on motorcycles on the outskirts of the square. The men wear mirrored helmets that hide their faces.

The lead rider flips up his visor and lights a cigarette. It's still too dark to make out his face, but we see that his lighter bears an engraved seal -- two deer flanking a red shield.

CLOUDESLEY

(continuing)

And I also say that until this tyrant
abdicates the throne and returns power
to King Richard's legal justiciars, he
will not receive another farthing from
us! The village of Scarrington no
longer recognizes the regency of Prince
John -- long live King Richard!

The crowd CHEERS and raises a burning effigy of Prince John. Suddenly, a motorcycle engine ROARS. Then another! The crowd turns to see that they're surrounded by dozens of helmeted BIKERS!

Before anyone can react, a truck careens into the square, plowing through the peasants! KEENE, one of Cloudesley's rebel friends, pulls him off the overturned prowler, just as the truck CRASHES into it! The truck's rear door opens --

-- revealing a swivel-mounted heavy machine gun! The helmeted GUNNER behind it OPENS FIRE on the crowd! The square plunges into chaos! The bikers ride into the fray with machine guns, shooting down the peasants as they flee!

The driver of the truck jumps out and SHOOTs Cloudesley in the shoulder! Keene SHOOTs the driver, then turns to Cloudesley.

KEENE

We have to get you out of here!

Then Keene is CHEWED APART by bullets! Cloudesley clutches Keene's bloody corpse and crawls into the overturned prowler.

Bikers with FLAMETHROWERS pull into the square and begin incinerating the ramshackle shops and homes. A LOST CHILD CRIES out for his parents. Cloudesley watches helplessly as the peasants are massacred...

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - ESTABLISHING - DAY

The gleaming skyscrapers of the walled city. Shockrangers stand on street corners and Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) are on patrol. Banners bearing the seal of Prince John hang from streetlights. The city still shines, but it has taken a decidedly fascist turn since we were last here.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - INNER CITY - DAY

Tattered posters are pasted to the boarded windows of condemned buildings: "JOIN PRINCE JOHN! HELP KEEP BRITAIN GREAT!" A ranger prowler is parked in front of a graffiti-scored diner.

INT. DINER - DAY

A television is tuned to a newscast, where a REPORTER stands in front of the smoldering remains of Scarrington.

REPORTER #1

... officials here say they expect to find no survivors. This is only the latest atrocity blamed on a radical extremist group known as the Wolfheads.

Two patrol rangers eat their lunch at the counter. One of them is Robert Locksley -- his long hair now cropped short. The other ranger is his partner, STUTELEY.

STUTELEY

Bloody radicals.

The reporter turns to interview COMMANDER NEIL FORD, hard-faced, 30's. He cuts a dashing figure in his military dress uniform.

REPORTER #1

Commander Ford, what steps are being taken to bring the Wolfheads to justice? Why have they been so successful at eluding capture?

FORD

It's been a challenge, to be sure. The terrain of Sherwood Forest is extremely formidable. The hills are honeycombed

(MORE)

FORD (CONT'D)
with caves and the forest itself is all
but impenetrable. That said, the
Sheriff is making the apprehension of
these extremists our top priority.

Robert sadly shakes his head as he gets up.

ROBERT
Hope I'm there when they get what's
coming to them. Let's go.

STUTELEY
I'm still eating!

ROBERT
Eat faster next time. We've got work
to do.

Stuteley stuffs his mouth full of food and follows Robert out.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - INNER CITY - DAY

As Robert and Stuteley leave the diner, there's an urgent SHOUT
from a nearby shop. A teenaged STREET PUNK dashes off, clutching
a stuffed sack. The frantic STOREKEEPER runs out after him.

STOREKEEPER
That bloody ramper ripped me off!

Robert and Stuteley chase the street punk, but he's too fast.
Robert sees where the kid is headed and turns down an alley.

ROBERT
Shortcut!

Stuteley follows him down the alley, through a door --

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

-- and into the kitchen of a Chinese restaurant! They dodge MR.
HAN, the elderly proprietor, who waves to Robert.

MR. HAN
Hello, Robert!

ROBERT
Excuse me, Mister Han!

Stuteley careens into a WAITER carrying a tray loaded with plates
of food. Robert darts around them and keeps going.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - INNER CITY - DAY

Robert hits the street just as the punk turns a corner ahead of
him. He chases him down a row of ramshackle apartments, then
throws his nightstick at the kid's ankles. The kid trips and
Robert is on him in an instant.

A WOMAN in a wheelchair looks out from a nearby window. She's in her 50's, a WIDOW. She opens the door and wheels into the street.

WIDOW

Please, don't! We're starving!

Robert looks down at the sack in the punk's hand. It's fallen open, spilling bread and canned goods into the street.

WIDOW

He brings me food any way he can. It's my fault. If you have to arrest someone, arrest me.

Robert hesitates... then sighs and releases the kid.

ROBERT

Go on.

The astonished punk gets up and gathers the spilled food. The widow smiles at Robert.

WIDOW

Thank you, constable.

Robert nods, then she and her son hurry inside. Stuteley comes running up the street, but he's already missed them.

STUTELEY

What happened?

ROBERT

I lost him. Let's get out of here.

Stuteley gapes at him in angry disbelief, then follows him back down the street.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - TRAINING CENTER - NIGHT

Robert is in his gym clothes, pummeling a kung-fu training dummy. Next, he practices a series of moves with a bamboo sword. He's a skilled fighter, working out the frustrations of his day.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Robert steps out of the showers with a towel around his waist. There's an envelope with his name on it taped to his locker. He eagerly opens the envelope and reads the letter inside. Bad news. His face falls and he angrily punches his locker door.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Robert is back in his uniform, sitting anxiously on a bench. Worman turns a corner with Commander Ford, who we saw on the television. The years haven't been kind to Worman, but he's still got a full head of that curly black hair. Of course, no one calls

him Worman anymore -- now he's the SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM.

Robert stands and the Sheriff greets him warmly.

SHERIFF

Robert! What are you doing here? You remember my nephew.

ROBERT

(shakes Ford's hand)

Of course.

(to Sheriff)

Can I have a second?

The Sheriff nods to Ford, who continues down the corridor. Robert hands the letter from his locker to the Sheriff.

ROBERT

They passed me up again. Fourth year in a row. I deserved this!

SHERIFF

I know you did. Have you spoken to your sergeant?

ROBERT

I didn't bother. What's the point?

SHERIFF

You understand that patrol level promotions are given out entirely at the discretion of the sergeants. I can talk to him if you want, but I tried to explain this to you last time...

ROBERT

It's not fair.

SHERIFF

Politics usually aren't. Your father was one of the most popular Sheriffs this shire has ever had, but he also made himself some very powerful enemies. Especially toward the end.

ROBERT

That was five years ago!

SHERIFF

It doesn't matter, Robert. You're Hugh Locksley's son. And nobody wants to end up like him by helping you.

Robert sighs, frustrated. But he knows the Sheriff is right.

ROBERT

So what happens? I work a beat for the rest of my life?

SHERIFF

I've always tried to do right by your father and I'll do what I can for you. But maybe it's time to stop punishing yourself and get on with your life.

ROBERT

You mean quit? I can't do that.

SHERIFF

I know. But you're trying too hard. You set standards for yourself that nobody expects you to live up to.

ROBERT

My father would have.

SHERIFF

Your father would be proud of you. And he wouldn't blame you for what happened to him either.

The remark catches Robert off guard, but he just nods.

ROBERT

I know.

SHERIFF

So stop blaming yourself. Gisborne would've gotten him sooner or later and there's nothing you could've done to stop it.

ROBERT

No... but I could've been the man my father wanted me to be while he was still alive to see it.

He gives the Sheriff a solemn look, then turns and walks away.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Robert is buying a bouquet of white roses from a cart on the sidewalk. The FLORIST gives him a knowing smile.

FLORIST

This is some lucky girl you got. Every week, the same thing. When you gonna marry this girl, make an honest woman of her?

ROBERT
You'll be the first to know.

Robert winks at him and leaves.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM CEMETERY - NIGHT

Robert stands in front of a double gravestone. It reads, "ELEANOR & HUGH LOCKSLEY - VIVIT POST FUNERA VIRTUS." Robert places the bouquet in front of it and says a silent prayer.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

Robert is slumped at the bar, drinking a pint. Behind him, a SHADOWY FIGURE enters and approaches the BARTENDER. The bartender eyes the newcomer, then gestures toward Robert, pointing him out. The shadowy figure walks over and stands next to Robert.

SHADOWY FIGURE (O.S.)
Are you Robert Locksley?

ROBERT
Who's asking?

The figure sits next to him -- it's Will Cloudesley, last seen at the Scarrington massacre. He's gaunt, unshaven, haunted.

CLOUDESLEY
My name's Will of Cloudesley. I need your help.

ROBERT
Sorry, I'm off duty.

CLOUDESLEY
You misunderstand me. I'm not looking for a ranger. I'm looking for you.

ROBERT
(a beat)
What for?

CLOUDESLEY
I got your name from some people in the neighborhood. They said you helped --

ROBERT
(interrupting)
I'm sorry, I can't give you any money right now. I --

CLOUDESLEY
(interrupting)
I don't need your money.
(off Robert's look)
Everyone I've spoken to has said that
(MORE)

CLOUDESLEY (CONT'D)
you're an honorable man. If they have
a problem, they come to you. Sometimes
you help them. They said I could trust
you.

Robert considers it, then shakes his head.

ROBERT
Look, I've had a long day. I'm tired,
and I'm going home. You should do the
same.

CLOUDESLEY
I can't. I'm from Scarrington.

Robert pauses, moved by this revelation.

INT. PUB - NIGHT (LATER)

Robert sits with Cloudesley in an isolated booth. A WAITRESS
brings a couple of pints. They wait to speak until she is gone.

ROBERT
They said there were no survivors.

CLOUDESLEY
That's the least of the lies they've
told. I hid until the fires started.
All the smoke covered my escape.

ROBERT
Did you go to the rangers?

CLOUDESLEY
I can't.

ROBERT
Why not? They'll need you to catch the
Wolfheads who did this.

CLOUDESLEY
That's just it. It wasn't the
Wolfheads.

ROBERT
(surprised beat)
Who was it?

CLOUDESLEY
I don't know. They wore mirrored
helmets. You couldn't see their faces.

Cloudesley takes something from his pocket and hands it to Robert.
It's a crumpled bullet.

CLOUDESLEY

I had that dug out of my shoulder this morning. Maybe they can trace it, figure out who's responsible for this.

ROBERT

Wait -- a second ago you said you didn't want to go to the authorities.

CLOUDESLEY

I don't. That's why I'm here. I need you to do it for me.

ROBERT

Look, I want to help you. But if you're not willing to go to Nottingham Castle and tell someone what you saw, then there's nothing I can do.

CLOUDESLEY

You can tell them what I've told you.

ROBERT

You haven't told me anything! What makes you think it wasn't the Wolfheads you saw?

CLOUDESLEY

It wasn't.

ROBERT

How do you know?

Cloudesley gives him a hard look, then rolls up his sleeve, revealing a tattoo on his arm -- of a stylized wolf's head.

CLOUDESLEY

Because I'm one of them. That's why I couldn't go to the rangers.

A tense beat. Robert's initial shock boils into anger. Under the table, he places a hand on his holstered gun.

ROBERT

I'm a ranger.

CLOUDESLEY

But you're different.

ROBERT

I'm not that different. Even I have to draw the line at helping a traitor.

CLOUDESLEY

We're not traitors. The things you've heard about us -- they're not true.

ROBERT
Spare me the righteous freedom fighter
speech, all right?

He pulls out a pair of handcuffs and places them on the table.

ROBERT
Put them on.

CLOUDESLEY
You might as well ask me to put a noose
around my neck.

ROBERT
You'll get a fair trial.

CLOUDESLEY
And the men who committed the massacre.
They just go free.

ROBERT
That's assuming you're telling me the
truth about what happened.

CLOUDESLEY
Don't you owe it to yourself to find
out? Before you sentence me to death?

Robert hesitates. He eyes Cloudesley skeptically.

ROBERT
It's not that easy.

CLOUDESLEY
I'm not here because I thought it would
be easy. I'm here because I want
justice for the people of Scarrington.
And I want punishment for the men who
butchered them.

A tense beat. Robert reaches in his collar and pulls out a
necklace with a crucifix on it. He hands it to Cloudesley.

ROBERT
Promise me your people weren't
responsible for that massacre.

Cloudesley kisses the crucifix and hands it back.

CLOUDESLEY
I swear it. By God and his blessed
Mother. We did not kill those people.

A beat. Satisfied, Robert puts his necklace back on, wraps the
crumpled bullet in a napkin, then writes something on a coaster.

ROBERT
 Meet me at this address after ten
 o'clock.
 (off Cloudesley's look)
 I'll see what I can do.

EXT. SHERIFF'S ESTATE - NIGHT

Robert rides his motorcycle up the driveway of an enormous mansion. Dozens of cars are parked out front and the entire place is lit up for an elaborate cocktail party.

INT. SHERIFF'S ESTATE - BALLROOM - NIGHT

All the MEN and WOMEN of high society are here. Robert enters and gestures to the Sheriff's MAJOR-DOMO.

ROBERT
 I need to see the Sheriff.

The major-domo nods and walks away. Robert scans the crowd as he waits. He sees the fat BISHOP OF HEREFORD in his red robes, gaudy rings on every finger. He's with a scantily clad GIRL, barely eighteen years old. Robert gives a disapproving look.

Then he sees her -- Marion. But instead of the belly-shirted rebel we saw earlier, Marion is now the very model of respectability. And still every bit as beautiful as before.

ROBERT
 Marion.

Marion turns toward him. She can't conceal her surprise.

MARION
Robin...?

ROBERT
 (smiles)
 You're still the only person who calls
 me that.

For a moment they just look at one another -- a rush of old feelings, neither sure what to say. An awkward silence.

ROBERT
 Well, uh... what are you doing here?

MARION
 I work for the Sheriff now. Just
 started.

ROBERT
 Never thought I'd see you working
 anywhere that wouldn't let you have a
 visible tattoo.

MARION

Had 'em removed. Besides, you don't have much room to talk, Constable Locksley.

ROBERT

Yeah. Well, things changed a bit after my dad died. And you left.

(beat)

When did you get back?

MARION

A few days ago. I wanted to call you. I... I just didn't know if I should.

ROBERT

Why not?

Marion pauses. This is getting hard to talk about.

MARION

I never heard back from you.

ROBERT

I went to your house every day for months after you left. They wouldn't even tell me where you'd gone.

MARION

But I wrote to you every day.

ROBERT

I never got any letters from you. If I had, I would've --

Just then, the major-domo interrupts.

MAJOR-DOMO

The Sheriff is awaiting you in his office.

The major-domo turns to lead Robert away. Robert suddenly doesn't want to go. He gives Marion an urgent look.

ROBERT

I thought you'd left me.

MARION

Go on. We'll talk later.

Robert smiles and quickly kisses her hand, then turns to catch up with the major-domo.

As Marion watches him go, a figure appears next to her -- Blaine Darcy. Or Commander Blaine Darcy, as he's known now. He wears a

military uniform... and he's Marion's date. He hands her a glass of champagne.

DARCY
Who was that?

MARION
Just an old friend.

INT. SHERIFF'S ESTATE - OFFICE - NIGHT

Robert stands in front of the Sheriff, who sits behind his desk, studying the bullet that Cloudesley gave to Robert. Ford stands behind him.

SHERIFF
Who else knows about this?

ROBERT
I haven't told anyone.

FORD
This witness. Who is he?

ROBERT
I can't tell you that. Not unless he's promised protection.

SHERIFF
Do you believe him?

ROBERT
(thinks about it)
Yes, I do.

The Sheriff drums his fingers on his desk. A beat.

SHERIFF
Where is he now?

ROBERT
He's meeting me at my apartment tonight.

SHERIFF
See that he doesn't go anywhere. I'll want to question him about what he saw. Or thinks he saw.

ROBERT
He's not going to go for that. Not without some guarantees.

SHERIFF
This is bloody peculiar, Robert.

ROBERT
I know, sir.

SHERIFF
No, I don't think that you do.

The Sheriff opens a drawer and hands Robert a letter sealed in a plastic sleeve.

SHERIFF
This came in this afternoon. We're releasing it to the press tomorrow.
(beat)
It's a claim of responsibility for Scarrington. From the Wolfheads.

Robert gives him a shocked look.

INT. SHERIFF'S ESTATE - BALLROOM - NIGHT

Robert enters, troubled. The major-domo approaches with a note.

MAJOR-DOMO
Miss Fitzwalter has left for the evening. She asked that I give you this.

ROBERT
She left...?

Robert takes the note. It reads: "COME TO ME. TONIGHT." He folds the note into his pocket with a smile.

INT. SHERIFF'S MANSION - OFFICE - NIGHT

The Sheriff turns to Ford with an unlit cigar in his mouth.

SHERIFF
I told my sister once that if she ever had a son, I'd be a second father to him. I knew he'd be smart, like his mother. More than man enough to follow in my footsteps. The son I never had.
(beat)
Instead, she had you.

Ford lights the Sheriff's cigar. His lighter bears a seal -- two deer flanking a red shield. We've seen it before. In the hands of the dark rider who led the assault on Scarrington.

FORD
We didn't anticipate any survivors.

SHERIFF
Obviously. Is there any chance this witness could identify you?

FORD

No way. We were careful. No uniforms.
No ranks, no names...

The Sheriff reaches into his pocket and pulls out the bullet.

SHERIFF

What about this? If I actually ran a
trace on it, what would I find? Is it
military ordinance?

The look on Ford's face is all the answer the Sheriff needs. He
angrily throws the bullet across the room.

SHERIFF

If word gets out that Prince John
ordered that attack, he'll have us
executed!! It's idiots like you that
give nepotism a bad name!

FORD

I'll make it up to you.

SHERIFF

You're damn right you will. Find out
who this witness is and kill him. Not
necessarily in that order.

FORD

What about Locksley?

The Sheriff sighs. He takes a long pull on his cigar and sadly
shakes his head.

SHERIFF

Such a bright kid. Twice the leader
you'll ever be. But he's more like his
old man than I thought.
(a beat)
Kill him.

EXT. ROBERT'S APARTMENT - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

A tall Gothic building surrounded by a high wall.

INT. ROBERT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Robert enters and goes to a display case filled with archery
trophies and old photos of Robert and his father. Robert is a
child in the pictures, posing with his bow and arrow. Robert's
yew longbow is mounted above the mantle next to the display case.

He picks up a small chest. Inside is a tiny velvet box. He
brushes the dust off, then opens it to reveal the engagement ring
he wanted to give Marion five years ago. Along the inside of the
ring is an inscription: "ROBIN & MARION." He smiles.

There's a KNOCK at the door. Robert goes to answer it and slips the ring box in his pocket. It's Cloudesley.

CLOUDESLEY
Did you talk to the Sheriff?

ROBERT
Yeah. I talked to him all right.

Cloudesley enters and Robert SLAMS the door behind him.

CLOUDESLEY
What's wrong?

ROBERT
The Wolfheads have claimed responsibility.

CLOUDESLEY
(shocked)
Somebody's framing us!

ROBERT
Or maybe these Wolfheads aren't the boy scouts that you think they are.

CLOUDESLEY
You don't understand. Any message between the Wolfheads and the government goes through me.

ROBERT
The Sheriff showed me the letter.

CLOUDESLEY
I'm telling you it's not possible!
There are codes we use so they know if a message is authentic or not! I'm the only one on our end who knows them!
That letter's a fake. It has to be.
(beat)
And the Sheriff knows it.

For a moment, neither of them speaks. Then Cloudesley gives him an alarmed look. Robert realizes what he's thinking.

ROBERT
No --

Suddenly, the power goes out! Before they can react, the room explodes with a blinding white light! An attack helicopter rises into view, aiming its searchlight at Robert's apartment!

Robert gapes at it in shock and horror. Then the helicopter turns, bringing its machine guns to bear!

ROBERT
LOOK OUT!

The pilot OPENS FIRE and the window disintegrates! Cloudesley is RIPPED APART by the machine guns! Robert hits the floor and cringes as Cloudesley's body falls next to him.

Bullets chew through the walls. Robert's trophies and the photos of his father are blown to bits. The GUNFIRE stops and the searchlight goes dark --

-- just as a SHOCKRANGER shatters the front door with a battering ram! More shockrangers flood inside!

SHOCKRANGER POV - The goggles let the shockrangers see the room in blood-red night vision. One of them spots Robert --

-- and OPENS FIRE! Robert ducks behind a desk and tries to spot a way out. The walls have been shot up and some of the holes are big enough to crawl through. Robert dives into one of them and hides in a crawl space between the walls.

The shockrangers don't see him slip away. They stop shooting and move into the room. One passes right by where Robert is hiding.

Through another hole, Robert sees his gun belt hanging from a chair. He moves closer to it as the shockrangers search for him. One shockranger taps a switch on his goggles.

SHOCKRANGER #1
Switch to thermal imaging.

SHOCKRANGER POV - The room turns dark -- but Robert's body heat is suddenly plainly visible through the wall!

The shockrangers OPEN FIRE! Robert plunges through the drywall, diving for his holster, but a stray bullet HITS the gun, knocking it out of reach! Robert ducks into the next room, and hides with his back against the fireplace.

The shockrangers close in from either side. Robert grabs a poker from the fireplace, preparing for the last fight of his life. Then his foot bumps something on the floor --

A quiver of arrows from his wrecked archery display. He glances to the side and sees his longbow mounted above the mantle. He grabs it, slings the quiver over his shoulder, notches an arrow to his bow. He takes a deep breath and turns the corner shooting!

The red lights of the lead shockranger's goggles makes a perfect target. Robert's first arrow catches him right in the throat!

The shockranger falls, clutching the trigger of his gun. In the light of the muzzle flashes, Robert quickly fires two arrows at once. Two more shockrangers fall.

Robert is as fast with a bow as the shockrangers are with their machine guns. He's not bad at hand-to-hand either, and thanks to the shockrangers' bulky armor, he's more agile, too. The tide of the battle changes.

INT. FORD'S APC - NIGHT

Video monitors display images from the shockrangers' goggles. Ford watches in dismay. Robert appears on one and shoots an arrow at the screen, which instantly turns to static.

FORD
Bravo Team, move in.

INT. ROBERT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Robert grabs a dead shockranger's machine gun and nightfinder goggles. He runs for cover just as reinforcements arrive.

As the shockrangers sidle past, the muzzle of a machine gun pokes through a hole in the wall and OPENS FIRE! The shockrangers RETURN FIRE, riddling the wall with bullets, but still the machine gun BLASTS AWAY at them -- then it suddenly stops.

The lead shockranger peers around the corner and sees... no one. The gun was propped in the hole with a nightstick wedged in the trigger guard to make it fire by itself.

INT. ROBERT'S APARTMENT - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Robert slithers out of a trash chute and lands in a dumpster. When he climbs out, he's cut and bruised and looking like... well, like he just climbed out of a pile of garbage.

EXT. ROBERT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Robert slips through the parking lot, ducking low to avoid shockranger guards. He makes his way to his motorcycle and quietly rolls it out of its space. The front gate is closed and two ranger prowlers are parked inside, blocking it.

Ford is on the other side of the gate, talking with some shockrangers. Suddenly, an engine ROARS to life! Ford turns and sees Robert on his motorcycle!

FORD
There! Stop him!

The shockrangers OPEN FIRE. Robert is headed toward one of the prowlers parked at the front gate! Just before he hits it, he pops a wheelie and rides up the prowler's hood, using the car as a ramp to jump over the gate!

SLOW MOTION -- As Robert soars overhead, Ford raises his gun. Robert notches an arrow, aims it down at Ford. Bullets SPARK off his motorcycle. Robert lets the arrow fly --

-- and shoots Commander Ford in the eye, killing him instantly!

Robert's motorcycle hits the ground running and speeds off. The shockrangers are thrown into confusion by the death of their leader and Robert escapes in a hail of BULLETS.

EXT. ROBERT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (LATER)

The Sheriff arrives, escorted by a shockranger CAPTAIN and two of the Sheriff's underlings -- CHIEF WALLACE and DEPUTY CHIEF KELLEY.

Ford's body is covered with a sheet. The Sheriff lifts the sheet and looks at his nephew's corpse. He turns away, taking in the barely contained chaos around him.

SHERIFF

Locksley did all this? With a bow and arrow?

CAPTAIN

Yes, sir.

The Sheriff grabs him by the collar and shakes him furiously!

SHERIFF

A BOW AND ARROW?!

He pushes the Captain away and turns to Wallace.

SHERIFF

Close the city gates and send his picture to the television stations. I want his face on every channel and I want a price on his head so high his own mother would turn him in. I'm going to squeeze this city until that bastard squirts out between my fingers!

EXT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - NIGHT

Marion stands in the doorway of her bedroom balcony, waiting. She looks at the clock and sees that it's after three in the morning. Sadly, she goes inside and closes the door.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - INNER CITY - DAWN

It's raining and Robert is soaked. He stops his motorcycle at a corner where some PEOPLE are gathered around a video notice board. Screens flash through a series of images. One stands out to him: a picture of himself. Beneath it: "£10,000 -- DEAD OR ALIVE."

INT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - DAY

Marion is hurriedly getting ready for work. Her father, Lord Fitzwalter, is watching a television news flash. They both stop short when a photo of Robert appears behind the REPORTER.

REPORTER #2

... Patrol Ranger First-Class Robert Locksley. He is wanted in connection with the shooting deaths of three shockrangers last night...

Fitzwalter gives Marion a hard look and shakes his head. She just gapes silently at the television.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - INNER CITY - DAY

A prowler slowly drives down the street. When it's gone, Robert emerges from an alcove where he was hiding and hurries in the opposite direction. People give him strange looks as he passes. He walks a little faster. It starts to rain harder.

He spots two rangers on motorcycles at a corner and doubles back. He passes a newspaper stand and cringes. His face is on the front page. With no place to turn, Robert finds himself on a row of ramshackle apartments and knocks on a familiar door.

Someone peers out from the window next to the door -- it's the widow, whose son he let go earlier. She gives him a surprised look and shuts the curtains. A beat. She opens the door.

ROBERT

I'm sorry, we met yesterday. I'm --

WIDOW

(interrupting)

I know who you are.

ROBERT

You think I could come in for a minute?
Little wet out here.

She looks him over once, then wheels aside. Robert hurries through the door and closes it behind him.

INT. WIDOW'S HOME - DAY

Robert tentatively stands in the doorway of the squalid apartment. The widow wheels her way to the kitchen.

ROBERT

I know this probably seems strange. I was in the neighborhood and --

She gives him a wry look and gestures to the television. His face is on it, along with the reward for his capture.

ROBERT

Oh.

She wheels back into the living room with two cups of tea on a platter. She gestures to a threadbare sofa.

WIDOW
Have a seat.

Robert sits and takes the cup of tea she offers him. An awkward beat. Robert shifts nervously.

ROBERT
Is your son going to be home soon?

WIDOW
He's not coming home. The rangers came for him last night. Caught stealing food again.

ROBERT
(shocked)
Where did they take him?

WIDOW
Oh, they didn't take him. They came for him, but they didn't get him. He's safe, for now.

ROBERT
What are you going to do without him?

WIDOW
I'll get by. What are you going to do?

ROBERT
I don't know. Maybe I'll go back out and find someone who'll listen to me. Hear my side of --

WIDOW
(interrupting)
Nobody's going to listen to you. Nobody who matters, anyway. You've been outlawed.

ROBERT
Well, I don't know what else to do. I've lived in Nottingham my whole life. Where am I supposed to go?

The widow gives him a knowing smile.

WIDOW
Why don't you leave that up to me?

INT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - DAY

Chief Wallace is interviewing Marion. The Sheriff is not far away, having a quiet conversation with Lord Fitzwalter.

WALLACE

How long did you know him?

MARION

All my life. We grew up together.

WALLACE

Were you aware of his connection to the Wolfheads?

MARION

No, of course not. We hadn't talked in years.

WALLACE

So you have no idea where he might have gone? Anyone he might have turned to for help? Family here in the city?

MARION

No, his parents are both dead. He doesn't have anyone.

The thought seems to sadden her. Wallace sighs.

WALLACE

Did he mention anything that might help us? As far as we're able to tell, you're the last person he talked to.

MARION

The Sheriff talked to him after I did.

The Sheriff overhears this. He eyes her sharply.

SHERIFF

I didn't see him last night. We talked a few days ago when the promotion lists came out, but that's the last I saw of him.

MARION

But he came to see you last night. That's why he was there.

SHERIFF

I don't know why he told you that, but you're not the only person he deceived. I think it's safe to say none of us knew him as well as we thought we did.

He turns back to Lord Fitzwalter. Marion is troubled by the Sheriff's words... but not quite convinced.

INT. WIDOW'S HOME - DAY

Robert and the widow are in her little bathroom. The widow breaks leaves off of a bizarre plant and squeezes the sap onto a saucer. She dabs a cotton ball in the sap and rubs it on Robert's face.

WIDOW

We're just going to muss up these good looks for a while...

He cringes as she rubs the sap into his skin.

ROBERT

Ow, bloody hell! This stuff burns!

WIDOW

It's supposed to. It's poisonous.

(off his look)

Don't worry. The swelling will go away in a few hours.

ROBERT

The swelling?

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - NORTH GATE - DAY

TRAFFIC is lined up for blocks as rangers stop every vehicle exiting the city. RANGERS man machine gun nests in the walls.

LOUDSPEAKER VOICE (O.S.)

CITIZENS NOT DISPLAYING PROPER
IDENTIFICATION WILL NOT BE CLEARED FOR
PASSAGE IN OR OUT OF THE CITY.

CAMERA FINDS Robert and the widow in a dilapidated flat bed truck with a tarp over the back. Robert's wearing a cruddy green coat with the hood pulled up so we can't see his face.

They reach the checkpoint and a RANGER approaches them. Another RANGER with a dog checks under the tarp. The widow passes her identification card to the first ranger, who glances at her and hands the card back. He turns to Robert.

GATE RANGER

Come on, you too.

Robert glances in the rearview mirror at the dog sniffing the back of the truck. The ranger holding its leash pulls the tarp back, revealing bags filled with aluminum scrap.

GATE RANGER

Hey! You awake in there?

Robert turns to him, giving us a look at his face. His hair has been dyed black and his face is red, blistered, and swollen beyond all recognition. His eyes are bloodshot and one of them is

swollen almost completely shut.

WIDOW

Poor thing. Radiation got him.

Robert mumbles and drools. The gate ranger takes a step back and quickly waves them through.

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - DAY

The widow's truck RUMBLES away. Robert watches the city that was his home disappear in the rearview mirror. The truck drives into Sherwood Forest and is engulfed by a tunnel of twisted trees.

INT. AMIE'S HOME - DAY

AMIE, a housewife in her early 20's, leads Marion into the sitting room of a middle-class residence. It's clear she's uneasy about Marion being here. Marion regards her coolly.

AMIE

If I'd known you were coming over, I could've picked up a bit. Can I get you anything?

MARION

Just the letters, Amie. What happened to all those letters I sent to Robin?

Amie hesitates, then after a beat... she solemnly nods.

INT. AMIE'S HOME - DAY (LATER)

Amie opens up a closet and pulls out an old box tied up with ribbon. She offers the box to Marion.

MARION

I paid you to deliver these.

AMIE

Your father paid me not to. My family needed the money so badly. But I could never bring myself to throw them away. I am so sorry.

Marion opens the box, revealing hundreds of letters addressed to Robin. Marion gives Amie an angry look, fighting back tears.

MARION

It's too late now, isn't it?

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY

The widow's dilapidated truck crosses a bridge into a ramshackle village. There was once a much larger city here, but decades of catastrophes have literally buried it, until only the tops of the

tallest buildings can be seen.

Dingy shacks of wood and rusted scrap have been built around these buildings. The PEASANTS are a rough lot and they eye the truck suspiciously as it parks in front of an inn called "The Blue Boar."

Robert's face is almost back to normal. He helps the widow into her wheelchair and looks around. The streets are dirt and there are more animals than vehicles. Garbage blows through like tumbleweed. Two GIRLS cower on a corner. Teen prostitutes.

ROBERT

I had no idea people lived like this.
And so close to the city.

WIDOW

It wasn't like this under King Richard.
Prince John's only too willing to let
them starve if it lines his pockets.
That's what the Wolfheads are fighting
against.

Robert stops short and gives her an alarmed look.

ROBERT

The Wolfheads? You're taking me to the
Wolfheads?

WIDOW

They're not what you think they are.
They're outlaws with no place left to
go. Like my boys. Like you.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY (LATER)

Robert rolls his motorcycle out of the back of the truck, where it was hidden beneath the bags of aluminum scrap. He pulls out his bow and arrow too and slings them over his shoulder.

Then he pulls the engagement ring from a pocket and slips it onto his necklace next to the crucifix. As he turns, he nearly runs into MUCH, a nosy runt who eyes Robert's bow and arrow warily.

MUCH

Whoa! That's serious! Is that thing
real? You shoot people with it?

(off Robert's look)

Hey, you're right! I don't want to
know!

The widow wheels up to introduce Much.

WIDOW

This is Much the miller's son.

ROBERT
(to Much)
You a Wolfhead?

MUCH
Naw, I'm just a mule. They need something from the city, they send me 'cuz I'm not wanted for anything. Not yet, anyway.

WIDOW
He can take you to their camp.

ROBERT
You're not coming with us?

WIDOW
This chair isn't much good at off-roading. And you need to get out of here before folks get too curious about you.

Robert reaches out and clasps her hand.

ROBERT
I owe you so much. There must be something I can do for you.

WIDOW
Just look out for my boys.

ROBERT
I promise you. As long as I'm alive to prevent it, no harm will come to them.

WIDOW
(smiles)
Then you'd best live a long time.

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - SERIES OF SHOTS - DAY

Robert rides through the forest on his motorcycle with Much clinging on for dear life behind him. The road they follow narrows to a trail, and then not even that.

At one point, Much has to get off the bike and look around to find the right way. Robert gives him a skeptical look.

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - SERIES OF SHOTS - DUSK

The terrain becomes more rugged. Robert parks the bike in some bushes and they cover it with brush before continuing on foot.

EXT. WOLFHEAD CAMP - NIGHT

Much leads Robert to a secluded clearing beneath the canopy of a

truly massive oak tree, then up a hillside to the mouth of a cave, which is hidden by a black tarp. Robert follows Much inside.

INT. WOLFHEAD CAMP - NIGHT

Much and Robert enter a dimly lit cavern. Little maze-like tunnels branch off into the darkness. Much leads him into a large grotto, where THREE DOZEN MEN have made their camp.

ROBERT

These are the Wolfheads?

Robert gapes at the scene before him. It's a pretty surly-looking bunch and their lair looks like a cross between a subterranean biker bar and a den of futuristic Vikings.

They all sport wolf's head tattoos and their weapons are mainly low tech -- swords, spears, and bows. One of the Wolfheads, an enormous black man named JOHN LITTLE, eyes Robert suspiciously...

Robert starts to pull his hood back, but Much stops him.

MUCH

Not yet. And don't tell anyone your real name. Not until they accept you. They're good people, but everybody's got a price, right?

Much takes him to a group of three men huddled in a corner. One of them is the widow's son, the punk Robert busted earlier. His name is CHARLIE and his eyes widen when he sees Robert.

MUCH

Don't worry, he's one of us now.

CHARLIE

One of us? He's a bleedin' ranger!

He says it a bit loudly and turns a few heads. Much cringes.

ROBERT

I'm not here to bust you. Your mother saved my life.

MUCH

These are the widow's other sons, Lester and Lonny.

Much gestures to the other two men with Charlie -- the bespectacled LESTER and his bigger, beefier brother, LONNY. But before Robert can introduce himself --

JOHN (O.S.)

You, in the hood!

John approaches with a couple of his henchmen -- a lean man named

GILBERT, whose wolf emblem is tattooed on his face, and BETTRIS, the only woman here. She's beautiful and athletic, clearly the match of any man. A tense beat. Robert doesn't turn around.

JOHN

Hey! Mister Hood! I'm talking to you!

MUCH

The widow brought him in. He's --

JOHN

(interrupting)

He can talk, can't he?

(to Robert)

Can you talk, Mister Hood?

ROBERT

I can talk.

JOHN

So then why didn't you say hello to me when you came in here a second ago?

ROBERT

Look, I've had a rough day...

JOHN

Rough days are pretty much all we get around here. So if that's all it takes for you to decide you can disrespect me in front of my men, you and I are going to have a long, thoughtful discussion about it.

ROBERT

(beat)

I understand.

JOHN

I'm glad we communicate. My name is John Little. What do we call you, Mister Hood?

Robert hesitates, then reaches inside his jacket and touches the engagement ring around his neck.

ROBERT

Robin. Call me Robin Hood.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

The fat Bishop of Hereford sits in front of the Sheriff's desk. He and the Sheriff are drinking glasses of wine.

SHERIFF

All we're really asking you to do is accept the inevitable.

BISHOP

(chuckles)

John's ascension to the throne is hardly inevitable. Profitable, perhaps. But not quite inevitable. Richard is still King, after all.

SHERIFF

The King is whoever the people think is King. And the Church decides what the people think.

BISHOP

What you're saying is that you need me. What I'm not hearing is why I need you.

The Sheriff smiles and refills the Bishop's wine glass.

SHERIFF

You like the wine?

BISHOP

It's marvelous. I didn't realize anything this good existed anymore.

SHERIFF

There's a winery up north that makes it. We seized it a few weeks ago to resolve the owner's tax debt.

BISHOP

What's going to happen to it now?

SHERIFF

The land will probably be broken into parcels and sold to the highest bidder.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - OUTER OFFICE - DAY

In the reception area outside the Sheriff's office, Marion sits at her desk, finger on the "LISTEN" button of her intercom. She's eavesdropping on the Sheriff's conversation with the Bishop.

BISHOP (O.S.)

And if my diocese was to support John's bid for the throne?

SHERIFF (O.S.)

In that case, I might be able to persuade him to donate the winery to the Church.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

The Bishop chuckles again, but the telephone RINGS before he can respond. The Sheriff moves to answer it.

SHERIFF

(on phone)

Yes? Good. Don't start without me.

INT. THE TOWER - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

We're in a dank torture chamber. Think Spanish Inquisition with electricity and acid baths. The Sheriff paces.

SHERIFF

I think people who are offended by torture have no idea how much money it saves.

He turns to Chief Wallace, who has been strapped to a chair covered with little spikes. An INQUISITOR stands over him.

SHERIFF

(continuing)

The focused use of pain can shorten a prisoner's interrogation by weeks. Blood is a lubricant that makes the wheels of justice move more swiftly.

He turns on an electric branding iron. Then he brings a chair over, wipes it with a handkerchief, and sits down.

SHERIFF

(continuing)

I'm a bit of an efficiency freak, you see. So it makes me edgy when I'm hemorrhaging man-hours and money to find the man who murdered my nephew -- and he seemingly slips right through your fingers.

A bell on the branding iron goes off -- DING! It's ready! The Inquisitor presses a button on the torture chair. The straps tighten, pulling Wallace's body against the spikes.

WALLACE

Please... I'll find him, I swear it!
I just need a few more weeks --

The Sheriff pulls a forked poker from the branding iron, its tips glowing orange. Wallace sputters incoherently as the Sheriff holds the iron poised mere inches above his eyes.

SHERIFF

You know, I never really noticed until
just this moment what lovely eyes you
have. Pity.

And with that, he jams the iron downward. The chamber echoes with
Wallace's SCREAMS and a grotesque SIZZLING sound...

INT. WOLFHEAD CAMP - NIGHT

The Wolfheads are eating a meager dinner of nuts and roots. It's
none too appetizing and there's not much of it. A blonde-haired
man in a cowboy hat named ALLIN-A-DALE strums an old guitar and
croons a sad ballad as they eat.

Robert (or ROBIN as he is now known) sits with Much and the
widow's sons. Charlie offers him a roasted six-legged lizard on a
spit. Robin shakes his head, queasy.

CHARLIE

You a vegetarian or something?

ROBIN

Only when it comes to mutant lizard.

Robin turns away. He eyes John Little and his henchmen.

ROBIN

Nice bunch you got running things.

LONNY

Ain't been the same since Cloudesley
checked out.

ROBIN

Cloudesley? You mean Will Cloudesley?

LONNY

(nods)

He was the reason I joined the
Wolfheads. Back when being a Wolfhead
meant something.

CHARLIE

Without him, we're nothing. I don't
think Bettris has even spoken since he
died.

(off Robert's look)

She was going to marry him. He was her
whole life.

They're interrupted by a long, echoing BELCH. It's John Little,
thoroughly enjoying his mutant-lizard-on-a-stick.

ROBIN

So who left Prince Charming in charge?

LESTER

John isn't so bad. He's just trying to keep us together. None of us would make it out here on our own. Including him.

CHARLIE

Especially him.

ROBIN

Why? What'd he do?

CHARLIE

He found out the Bishop of Hereford was diddling teenage girls after Mass and tried to get the rangers to do something about it. Next thing he knows, one of the girls turns up dead and the Bishop's accusing him of killing her. Guess who the Sheriff listened to.

Robin sighs miserably and shakes his head.

ROBIN

I can't understand why I never saw what was happening.

CHARLIE

When you live in the city, you only get half the story. Out here, you see how it really is.

ROBIN

But I knew the Sheriff. I believed in him.

CHARLIE

So did Cloudesley. You think he'd have gone to you for help if he'd known what the Sheriff was up to?

ROBIN

I suppose not. But he was right about one thing.

(off their looks)

The people responsible for this need to be punished.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM PARK - NIGHT

We're atop a quiet hill overlooking the city, which is barely visible through a shroud of fog. Marion is walking with Darcy.

MARION

You think I'm being completely paranoid.

DARCY

I didn't say that. I just think... maybe you're jumping to conclusions.

MARION

He asked the Bishop to support Prince John's bid for the throne! The only way Prince John is going to be king is if he kills Richard or if he refuses to give up the throne when Richard returns. Either way, it's treason.

DARCY

If it's true. All it is now is a dangerous rumor and I suggest you keep it to yourself.

He puts a hand on her shoulder. She gives him a cold look.

MARION

Don't patronize me. He flatly lied about not seeing Robin at the party. He was hiding something. Maybe Robin figured out what was going on.

DARCY

So the Sheriff framed him for killing his nephew? Now you are being paranoid.

(a beat)

You think Locksley is innocent?

A beat. The question catches her off guard.

MARION

Well, I almost married him. I know what they say he did, but I'd like to think I knew him better than that.

DARCY

So he changed. You didn't speak to him for five years.

MARION

I know. That's the strange thing. He should've seemed different to me.

(beat)

But he didn't.

EXT. WOLFHEAD CAMP - DAY

Bettris is hard at work splitting firewood. Robin approaches, but she barely glances at him.

ROBIN

I wanted to talk to you, if you had a second. I was with Will Cloudesley the night he died.

Bettris turns and gives him a sharp look.

ROBIN

(continuing)

I know things must seem pretty hopeless, but Will wouldn't have wanted you to give up. I only knew him a short while, but I know he died doing what he believed was right. I know that doesn't help, but I thought you'd want to know.

She's crying by the time he's finished. The moment is interrupted by Charlie beckoning to them.

CHARLIE

Come on, John's brought food!

ROBIN

Real food?

He and Bettris follow Charlie back to the clearing, where they're joined by the rest of the Wolfheads.

LONNY

You know what I hope it is? I hope it's potatoes. Nothing fills a man up like a good potato.

LESTER

You always hope it's potatoes.

John shoulders his way through and opens a big sack, revealing it to be full of garden vegetables. And yes, potatoes. It's not much, but it looks like a feast to these guys. Lonny's rapturous.

ROBIN

Where did you get all this?

JOHN

Me and the boys raided some of the gardens in the village.

ROBIN

You stole it?

JOHN
Maybe you haven't noticed, but we're
starving up here.

ROBIN
Those villagers have nothing!

JOHN
We have less.

John and his crew turn to the cave, but Robin calls out:

ROBIN
Give it back.

JOHN
I beg your pardon?

ROBIN
The food. Give it back to the people
you stole it from.

John walks up to him and smirks. Then he grabs a metal baton from his belt and jams it into Robin's stomach, knocking his wind out. Robin hits the ground, gasping for air.

JOHN
That's my least painful way of saying
no. Don't make me repeat myself.

John turns back to the cave. Robin spots his bow and quiver against a nearby tree. He struggles to his feet, strings an arrow, and aims it at John's back.

ROBIN
Drop it!

John and the others stop. A couple of his men draw crossbows and aim them at Robin -- but John stops them.

ROBIN
I'm not letting you keep that food.

John turns to face him. He takes the baton from his belt and holds it out in front of him. It looks like a flashlight, but when he presses a button -- it telescopes out from both ends, turning it into an eight-foot metal quarterstaff.

JOHN
So take it from me.

Robin lowers his bow and Gilbert tosses him a baton, like the one John has. Robin presses the stud on it and it telescopes out to a quarterstaff. Lonny is looking on with increasing anxiety.

LONNY

What's he doing?! He's trying to take my potatoes!

Lester and Charlie have to hold him back. The Wolfheads spread out as Robin and John circle one another...

Suddenly, John swings his staff down at Robin's head! Robin blocks it, but the blow sends him staggering! John's brute strength is almost overwhelming! Robin is skilled with this weapon, but it's all he can do to defend himself.

Robin trips on a root and barely dodges a blow that would've split his skull. Then he sees an opening and sweeps John's legs out from under him, sending him rolling down a hillside!

Robin presses the attack and is hit in the ribs. He tumbles back, almost falling off a ledge overlooking a ROARING waterfall! John closes in, but there's nowhere for Robin to go. Then he spots a drain pipe spanning the chasm. Robin retreats out onto the pipe.

The metal is wet and Robin almost slips. John nervously edges onto the pipe. Out here, John's size is a disadvantage and his moves become slow and clumsy. Robin ducks one blow, jumps another, then stuns John with a hit between the legs.

The Wolfheads cringe. John drops to his knees in pain... and slips on the wet pipe! Robin grabs John's wrist to stop him from falling -- and winds up getting pulled over with him!

At the last instant, Robin grabs a handrail on the pipe, stopping their fall. Robin looks down at John, who dangles helplessly in his grasp. Robin smiles.

ROBIN

You say your name was John Little? You look more like a Little John from up here.

John SNARLS at him.

INT. PEASANT'S COTTAGE - NIGHT

A farmer named ULI and his WIFE are startled by a sudden KNOCK on the door. The wife ushers their LITTLE GIRL away as Uli grabs an old scythe for protection and opens the door.

LITTLE JOHN (as John is now known) stands on the doorstep with his henchmen. He holds up the sack of vegetables.

LITTLE JOHN

We stole this from your garden.

John hands the sack to the baffled farmer. Gilbert clears his throat. John shoots him a dark look, then turns back to Uli.

LITTLE JOHN
We're sorry.

Uli and his wife gape at them in astonishment.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - NIGHT

Little John and his men return to the village square where they left their vehicles -- a motley assortment of motorcycles and dirt bikes. Robin awaits them there.

ROBIN
Don't you feel better now?

LITTLE JOHN
No. I'm hungry and I'm pissed off.

ROBIN
Good. Then you're ready for the next step.

LITTLE JOHN
What next step? The deal was you beat me, I give the food back.

ROBIN
Yes, but we still have to eat.

John and his men give Robin a confused look. As Robin turns to his motorcycle, John grabs him and spins him around.

LITTLE JOHN
Now you decide you're hungry? Get it through your head -- if we don't steal, we starve!

ROBIN
So we steal. But not from them.
(off John's look)
We're grown men, almost three score of us. We have weapons and we have vehicles. So if we're forced to steal... let's steal from the men who made thieves of us.

A beat. The Wolfheads eye one another. Then:

BETTRIS
I say we do it.

Everyone turns to her in surprise. Robin gives her a smile.

ROBIN
All right. Who else is with us?

EXT. WINERY - DAY

The Bishop of Hereford waddles out of the main house, flanked by two beautiful (if barely legal) ESCORTS. His BODYGUARDS load crates into the trunk of a limousine.

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - NORTH ROAD - DAY

The Bishop's limo drives along the twisting North Road.

INT. BISHOP'S LIMO - DAY

One of the escorts has her skirt hiked up and is riding the Bishop in the backseat. The two stone-faced bodyguards sit across from them, impassively watching them go at it.

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - NORTH ROAD - DAY

The limo rounds another bend... and now we see that it's being followed by a ragtag armada of motorcycles, dirt bikes, dune buggies, rock crawlers, and ATVs.

Robin is riding point, hood pulled up and sporting the beginnings of a scruffy beard. Little John and the other Wolfheads are behind him. Allin-A-Dale rides with his guitar buckled up behind him like a passenger.

INT./EXT. BISHOP'S LIMO - DAY

The escort pushes her boobs in the Bishop's face, then opens her eyes and gasps at what she sees out the back window.

BISHOP

What --?

He turns and gapes at the onrushing pack of Wolfheads. One of his bodyguards pulls out a submachine gun and opens the sun roof.

Robin sees the bodyguard emerging and speeds toward the limo. Just as the bodyguard gets his submachine gun out --

-- Robin rams his motorcycle into the limo's rear bumper, jumps from the motorcycle to the car, and tackles the bodyguard!

The bodyguard wrenches the gun free of Robin's grasp and SMASHES him in the face with it! Robin tumbles back and the bodyguard swings the gun toward him, but just then --

-- Allin pulls up on his motorcycle, throws a rope, and lassos the bodyguard, cowboy-style! Allin SLAMS on the brakes, yanking the bodyguard out of the car!

Robin climbs into the limo through the sunroof. The other bodyguard draws his gun, but Robin kicks it out of his hand.

Meanwhile, the limo is weaving back and forth, trying to keep the

Wolfheads from passing it. Bettris draws a crossbow and shoots the limo's tires -- but nothing happens.

LITTLE JOHN
Bulletproof!

Robin and the bodyguard are brutally fighting it out in the back of the limo! Robin breaks a champagne bottle over the bodyguard's head. The bodyguard staggers back, grabs a knife from a sheath on his ankle, and lunges at Robin!

The Wolfheads flank the limo, pulling up on either side. The limo can't block both sides at once. John squeezes by, draws a huge gun and shoots -- SPLATTERING the windshield with green paint! He's fired a paint pellet at it! The DRIVER slams on the brakes!

The limo fishtails and everyone inside goes flying! The bodyguard is thrown off Robin and knocked unconscious.

The Wolfheads surround the car. John opens the back door to find Robin lying in a tangled mess with the half-naked escorts.

LITTLE JOHN
What the hell is going on in here?

Then he spots the cowering Bishop and John's face hardens to a mask of rage. The Bishop's eyes go wide with fear.

BISHOP
John Little?! What are you --? No!
Please --!

John throws him like a doll out into the street. The Bishop falls to his knees and vomits. The Wolfheads gather around him. John looms over him and draws a sword, but Robin stops him.

LITTLE JOHN
He deserves to die.

ROBIN
He does. But we won't be his killers.
Not like this.

They look at the Bishop and see that he's pissed himself in fear. John puts his sword away, but he doesn't look happy about it. Robin crouches next to the Bishop.

BISHOP
W-what do you want from me?

ROBIN
Haven't you heard? There's a new toll on the North Road. And we're here to collect it.

EXT. WOLFHEAD CAMP - NIGHT

The Wolfheads celebrate around the great oak. They've opened crates from the Bishop's winery and are feasting on the contents. Allin plays his guitar, Lonny cooks, and Charlie hams it up in the Bishop's robes, pretending to puke and piss in mock fear.

Little John sits on a hillside, watching the celebration from a distance. Robin walks up the hill to join him. A beat.

LITTLE JOHN

I've never seen them like this. Even when Cloudesley was with us.

ROBIN

I just helped put some decent food in their stomachs, that's all.

LITTLE JOHN

You did more than that. Look at them. They felt helpless and you made them feel powerful.

ROBIN

I'm not trying to steal them from you.

LITTLE JOHN

They're not mine for you to steal. I'd gladly give my life for any man down there. That's why I took over after we lost Cloudesley... And that's why I'm stepping down.

(off Robin's look)

They've been waiting for someone like you. All I ask is that you don't go filling their heads with false hopes.

ROBIN

No false hopes, my friend. Only the real thing from now on.

MONTAGE:

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - NORTH ROAD - DAY

Robin tears around a bend on his motorcycle, followed by the entire Wolfhead gang. Robin is growing his hair longer and now sports a goatee and moustache...

INT. THE BLUE BOAR - BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Behind the bar is a seedy tattoo parlour. Robin sits in the chair and takes off his shirt. EADOM, the grungy proprietor, fires up his needle and goes to work on Robin's back...

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - NORTH ROAD - DAY

Robin leads the Wolfheads in pursuit of a big delivery truck. Robin raises his bow and shoots out the truck's rear tire...

INT. WOLFHEAD CAMP - NIGHT

Robin pulls out a knife and starts carving something in the stone above the entrance to the Wolfheads' cave...

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - NORTH ROAD - DAY

Robin and his men have stopped the Bishop's limo again. The Bishop is on his knees, trying to take off one of his rings.

BISHOP

It's stuck.

Little John whips out a butterfly knife. The Bishop quickly pulls the ring off and hands it to Robin...

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The Bishop is arguing with the Sheriff, positively apoplectic. Marion can hear them in the outer office.

BISHOP

What good is my winery if I can't get to it! If you can't defend the North Road, then to hell with Prince John and our agreement!

INT. WOLFHEAD CAMP - NIGHT

Allin strums a guitar and sings a Johnny Cash-style ballad:

ALLIN

(singing)

Well, he used to be John Little, but now they call him Little John!

Just then, John walks by and grabs Allin by his hair.

LITTLE JOHN

Don't call me little.

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - NORTH ROAD - DAY

Robin and the Wolfheads have stopped another limo. In this one is a glowering BARON and his beautiful WIFE. She takes off a pair of diamond earrings and hands them to Robin with a flirtatious wink. The Baron gapes at her in disbelief.

EXT. WOLFHEAD CAMP - DAY

BALDWIN, the Wolfheads' resident mechanic, consults with Robin as

they carve up the Bishop's limousine...

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - NORTH ROAD - NIGHT

A semi truck is escorted by armed Royal Rangers in a Humvee-like truck. They're stopped by the Bishop's limo, which has been refitted into a battle wagon and parked to block the road!

The Humvee and the semi SCREECH to a halt and the Wolfheads emerge from behind the limo, guns drawn...

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - SERIES OF SHOTS - DAY

A SKETCH ARTIST tries to compile a drawing from various witnesses while a RANGER interviews them.

BARON

He was wearing a hood, so I couldn't see him too well.

BISHOP

He had this disgusting, greasy --

BARON'S WIFE

-- gorgeous long hair. And strong features. Good bone structure.

TRUCK DRIVER

He might've been Asian.

The sketch artist hastily erases something he's just drawn.

BARON

The forehead was lower. And his eyebrows almost met in the middle.

BARON'S WIFE

Strong. But not intimidating at all.

TRUCK DRIVER

I'll admit it. He scared the shit out of me.

BISHOP

It was a beard, not a goatee.

The artist sighs, throws his sketch out, and starts again.

TRUCK DRIVER

I think someone called him Robin.

BISHOP

Yes, that was his name!

BARON'S WIFE

Robin Hood.

EXT. RANGER ARMORY - NIGHT

A sign on the chain link fence reads: "HIS MAJESTY'S ROYAL RANGERS - BARNESDALE ARMORY." The semi truck the Wolfheads hijacked has been fitted with a snowplow on the front and drives right through the front gate before its GUARDS can react!

EXT. WOLFHEAD CAMP - NIGHT

The Wolfheads are opening crates of new high-powered weapons, but Robin is just waxing the string of his yew longbow. Charlie gives him a curious look and gestures to the bow.

CHARLIE

How come you still use that old thing?

ROBIN

Used to belong to my father. I think the only time he and I weren't fighting was when we were out shooting this together. Now it's all I have left of him.

(off Charlie's look)

Well, not quite all.

INT. THE BLUE BOAR - BACK ROOM - NIGHT

The tattoo artist finishes and reveals Robin's new tattoo -- across his back, a stylized image of a wolf's head, surrounded by a banner which reads "VIVIT POST FUNERA VIRTUS."

INT. WOLFHEAD CAMP - NIGHT

And in the cave, Robin finishes his carving above the entrance: "VIRTUE OUTLIVES DEATH."

END MONTAGE:

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The Sheriff is looking at a map of the North Road with Kelley, the newly promoted Chief. Marion enters.

MARION

I have the report on the weapons stolen from the armory.

She hands the Sheriff a file folder. He glares at Kelley.

MARION

(continuing)

And we received a message from Prince John. He's sending Simeon Carfax to collect the tax.

The Sheriff gives her a sharp look.

SHERIFF

Simeon Carfax is no tax collector.

MARION

Then why is he coming?

The Sheriff grabs the report Marion just handed to him and shakes it furiously in her face.

SHERIFF

Why the hell do you think he's coming?!

Marion takes a startled step back. The Sheriff sighs.

SHERIFF

When is he going to be here?

MARION

Ten days.

SHERIFF

(to Kelley)

Cancel all leaves. I want every ranger in Nottingham working double shifts and whatever the bounty is on this new Wolfhead leader, triple it. I don't care what it costs, just buy me the head of Robin Hood!

EXT. BLUE BOAR INN - ALLEY - DAY

A delivery truck pulls up to the rear entrance. Robin, Little John, and Gilbert sneak out of the truck and look around to make sure the coast is clear.

LITTLE JOHN

I can't believe this shit. We got enough goods stored up now to buy this town and here we are, sneaking around like thieves.

ROBIN

We are thieves, big guy.

INT. BLUE BOAR INN - BACK ROOM - DAY

Robin and the others enter. The room is filled with boxes and crates. Much is here, standing in front of a beaded curtain. He seems anxious, but the others don't notice.

MUCH

Hey, fellas.

ROBIN

Hey. Nice work. Looks like you turned up some deals.

Gilbert grabs a hand truck and Robin and Little John start loading boxes onto it. Much just stands there.

LITTLE JOHN
What're you waiting for, ass-munch?
Give us a hand.

MUCH
I got it in here. You and your
girlfriends can get it out, Little
John.

John shoots him a dark look.

LITTLE JOHN
Don't call me little.

MUCH
Hey, do they call you that because your
last name is Little? Or is it an
anatomical reference?

John angrily grabs Much by the collar. As Robin hurries over to intervene, Much urgently WHISPERS to them --

MUCH
Guys! Behind me!

They glance at the beaded curtain behind Much... and we RACK FOCUS to the DARK FIGURE lurking behind it!

John raises his fist, as if to punch Much -- but Much ducks and John's fist plunges through the curtain, KNOCKING the man behind it unconscious! The man drops the gun he had pointed at Much's back.

Suddenly, TWO MORE MEN with submachine guns burst into the room from the alley and ANOTHER with a pair of single-bladed Chinese axes jumps down from a hiding place in the rafters!

LITTLE JOHN
Bounty hunters!

The men with guns SPRAY BULLETS across the room! Robin and Little John draw guns and dive for cover. The axe-man comes at Gilbert. A pair of Chinese butterfly knives drop into Gilbert's hands from up his sleeves and he fights the man off!

Robin and John are pinned down at the end of a narrow alley formed by two rows of crates. The bounty hunters are at the other end of the alley, BLASTING away at them. Robin notices that the crates are stacked like steps next to him.

ROBIN
Cover me!

As Little John OPENS FIRE, Robin jumps onto the crates and runs up the stack, using them as stairs. At the top, he jumps from one row of crates to another, and while in mid-air, has a perfect shot down at one of the bounty hunters!

Robin SHOOTs him, lands atop the other stack of crates, and takes cover. The remaining gunman grabs his dead friend's weapon and keeps Robin and John pinned down with a gun in each hand!

Gilbert fights the axe-man, their blades SPARKING off one another! Gilbert connects with a kung-fu kick to the axe-man's chest -- and the axe-man falls with a bloody hole over his heart! Gilbert's raised boot has a steel spike sticking out of its heel! The spike retracts into the boot as Gilbert lowers his foot.

Still pinned down by the last bounty hunter, John circles behind a stack of crates and pushes it over! The crates tumble on top of the bounty hunter, crushing him.

Robin climbs down from atop the stack of crates. There's a slip of paper sticking out of a dead bounty hunter's pocket. He looks at it and frowns, then passes it to Little John.

ROBIN

Doesn't look anything like me.

It's an artist's sketch of a crazy-eyed, long-haired lunatic. "ROBIN HOOD - WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE - £30,000." John turns to Much, who's peeking out now that the fighting is over.

MUCH

They knew you were coming. They got here before I did!

Little John walks through the beaded curtain and stands over the bounty hunter behind it, who has regained consciousness and is trying to crawl away. John puts a gun to his head.

LITTLE JOHN

Somebody set us up. You're going to tell me who.

INT. PEASANT'S COTTAGE - DAY

It's the home of Uli, the farmer we met earlier. Suddenly, the front door is SMASHED open and Little John bursts inside!

LITTLE JOHN

Now I wish I'd kept your damn food.

Little John hauls him out by the scruff of his neck.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY

Little John drags Uli to the town square. Robin awaits them,

standing on the tailgate of the delivery truck, which is now loaded with crates. John throws Uli down at Robin's feet.

ROBIN

Are you the one who told them where to find us?

ULI

We needed the money! My daughter's got pneumonia. I would've done anything!

A small crowd has gathered around the truck. Robin looks at the frightened faces all around him.

ROBIN

I'm glad you're all here. I want everyone to see this.

Robin gets something out of the truck. Uli's wife tries to reach her husband, but the villagers restrain her. Robin turns back... and offers Uli some blankets and a medical kit.

ROBIN

It's medicine for your daughter. And some blankets. Tell her I hope she starts feeling better.

Uli looks up at him, speechless. His wife hurries in and ushers him away. Robin turns to the other villagers.

ROBIN

This is my offer to all of you. We will give you medicines when you are sick, food when you are hungry, and blankets when you are cold. The Wolfheads are not your enemies. And we're worth more to you alive than dead.

Robin turns to Gilbert, who emerges from the back of the truck, carrying a crate of food. The crowd quickly tightens around him and the impoverished villagers take the food and supplies as quickly as Gilbert can offer them.

John watches from a distance. Robin joins him.

LITTLE JOHN

You gave away our supplies.

ROBIN

You're the one who wanted to buy the town. It belongs to us now.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - NIGHT

A limousine motorcade drives through the front gate. Simeon

Carfax gazes out the window of the central limousine. If anything, he's even more intimidating than when we first saw him.

Bringing up the rear of his motorcade is a 30-foot-tall walking tank with a shark's face painted on the cockpit. This is a MANOWAR. It lumbers around on two huge legs, bristling with machine guns and missile batteries. The PILOT is visible through a viewport in the mech's "head."

A crowd of curious onlookers has gathered near the gate, gaping up at the mechanical behemoth. Much is among them.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

An elegant dinner is being served. Carfax is the Sheriff's guest of honor. Marion, Darcy, and Lord Fitzwalter are among the GUESTS. Carfax is practically staring at Marion.

CARFAX

If I'd known the scenery in Nottingham was so lovely, I'd have made the trip a long time ago.

SHERIFF

You should come back in the summer when everything is in bloom. Nottingham is famous for --

CARFAX

(interrupting)

I wasn't talking about the landscaping.

The Sheriff follows Carfax's look and smiles.

SHERIFF

I see. Well, Miss Fitzwalter is in bloom all year round.

Marion shifts uncomfortably and turns to Darcy, who pretends not to notice. She eyes him angrily.

CARFAX

Hard to believe that such a fine flower has not yet been plucked.

MARION

Who's to say I haven't been?

Fitzwalter gives an awkward laugh and intervenes.

FITZWALTER

She's courting Commander Darcy, that's all she means. She'd certainly be married by now if she weren't so focused on her career.

CARFAX

Well, if it's her career she's interested in, she should visit me in London. I can introduce her to some very important people.

MARION

I already know very important people. I don't --

FITZWALTER

(interrupting)

What an excellent idea! Perhaps she could accompany you back to London tomorrow. With the Sheriff's permission, of course.

SHERIFF

I'll assign her to the tax convoy as my official representative.

Marion glares at Darcy, but he just helplessly shrugs his shoulders -- *what am I supposed to do about it?* Marion fumes.

CARFAX

Thank you, Sheriff.

(to Fitzwalter)

I can assure you, your daughter will be quite safe with me.

SHERIFF

I should think so, with that mechanical monster you brought with you. That's quite a piece of machinery!

CARFAX

The manowar is not returning to London with me. Prince John has stationed it here. In Nottingham.

The Sheriff is suspicious, but tries to bluff through it.

SHERIFF

Well, I'm honored! It'll make a welcome addition to --

CARFAX

(interrupting)

It's not meant as a compliment. It's meant to succeed where you have failed. Namely, in the defense of the North Road.

A tense silence. The Sheriff quickly recovers.

SHERIFF

I appreciate the Prince's concern, but you can assure him that the Wolfhead threat here has been exaggerated.

CARFAX

What about this new leader of theirs? This Robin Hood.

SHERIFF

A non-issue. I've made the disposal of dissident elements something of a specialty and I can tell you from experience -- this Robin Hood is nothing special.

CARFAX

You seem quite certain.

SHERIFF

I've never been more certain of anything in my life.

Carfax goes back to his dinner. The Sheriff breathes a sigh of relief, clearly less certain than he let on. Marion notices.

INT. WOLFHEAD CAMP - NIGHT

Weapon racks and maps line the walls now. The cave has taken on the appearance of a command center. Much is breathlessly reporting back to the Wolfheads.

ROBIN

A manowar? In Nottingham?

Much nods urgently. Robin turns away, lost in thought.

GILBERT

I've seen those things in action. They're walking slaughterhouses.

A grim silence settles on the group. Suddenly, Robin smiles.

ROBIN

Now we're getting somewhere!

A surprised beat. The men exchange confused looks.

ALLIN

Sorry, chief, I'm having a "glass-is-half-empty" moment here. Why am I not as excited about our impending doom as you are?

ROBIN

That manowar could be fighting in the Crusade or defending Normandy. But it's not. It's here.
(off their looks)
They're afraid of us.

BETTRIS

It's not going to make our lives any easier.

ROBIN

But now we know we're hurting them. So we're going to keep on hurting them.
(beat)
We're going to take down the tax convoy.

The Wolfheads just gape at him in astonishment.

ALLIN

What about that manowar?

ROBIN

It'll be looking for us on the North Road. We'll hit the convoy as it's headed south on the highway.

GILBERT

So you want to hijack Simeon Carfax?
And steal the royal tax?

LITTLE JOHN

Oh, that'll send a message to Prince John, all right.

ROBIN

Not just any message. A declaration of war.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - TREASURY - DAY

Bags of money line the shelves of an enormous vault. GUARDS load the money into four armored cars.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - DAY

Marion walks down the front steps. Darcy is here to see her off.

DARCY

Call me when you get back.

MARION

How about if I don't?

She's gone before he can respond. Carfax helps her into his limo

and the motorcade pulls out, escorted this time by the armored cars we saw being filled with money. Carfax's limo is in the middle of them, surrounded by half a dozen rangers on motorcycles.

An attack helicopter takes off from the castle's rooftop helipad and trails the convoy -- their eyes in the sky.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The convoy passes a sign that reads, "LONDON: 185 KM." There is no other traffic in sight, but what they don't see is... the Wolfheads hiding at the edge of a distant forest. Robin watches the convoy approach through binoculars.

INT. CARFAX'S LIMO - DAY

Carfax is pouring Marion a glass of champagne. She eyes him suspiciously as he moves to sit next to her.

MARION

I shouldn't have to remind you that I am here in an official capacity.

CARFAX

Even a woman of your talents can't expect to advance much further without a... sponsor. Or a wealthy husband.

Marion glares at him, then turns away.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The tax convoy rises a crest in the road, revealing that the way ahead is blocked by a pair of parked semi truck trailers! Robin and his men break cover and the chase is on!

The ranger helicopter locks weapons on the roadblock and fires its missiles! The trailers EXPLODE and the convoy barrels through the fiery wreckage! Carfax and Marion gasp, but the limo comes out the other side unscathed!

Robin and the Wolfheads are quickly catching up. The helicopter starts to circle around to get behind them.

On top of the rear armored car, a guard turns a swivel-mounted machine gun on the bandits and OPENS FIRE! A couple of Wolfheads veer off the highway and use the embankment as cover, but Robin stays on the road and reaches for his bow.

The guard aims at him and Robin shoots an arrow straight down the machine gun's barrel! The guard pulls the trigger, causing the gun to backfire and EXPLODE in his face, knocking him out!

Two rangers on motorcycles at the rear of the convoy hit their brakes, let the Wolfheads pass, and start shooting! The Wolfheads are taking fire now from in front and behind!

Baldwin and Gilbert pull up to the rear armored car in a dune buggy. Gilbert jumps to the armored car and climbs atop it. He pushes the unconscious guard aside and starts cutting through the roof with a handheld arc welder.

The Wolfheads have a small truck with them. It drops back and raises its rear door, revealing a mounted flamethrower! Lonny turns it on the motorcycle rangers behind him and torches them!

Meanwhile, Gilbert has cut a hole in the roof of the armored car and drops a stun grenade inside! Gilbert jumps back to the dune buggy. There's a FLASH of light inside the armored car -- it veers off the road and flips over, money flying everywhere!

The next armored car opens fire with its MACHINE GUN. The Wolfheads split up, passing the armored car on either side. When the GUARD turns the machine gun to cover one side, Little John pulls up on the other and jumps onto the armored car!

The guard pulls out a pistol and SHOOTs! John takes a bullet, but grimaces through the pain to wrestle the guard for his gun.

Suddenly -- the helicopter swoops out of the sky, strafing the Wolfheads with a BLAZE of machine gun fire! Robin and the others duck as it flies by! It circles for another pass.

Little John is losing his battle atop the armored car. Allin pulls up on his motorcycle, hurrying to John's aid, but the motorcycle rangers OPEN FIRE, forcing Allin to back off.

The helicopter STRAFES them again. As it passes, Robin spots a ranger with a heavy machine gun standing on the chopper's landing skid. Robin talks into his radio headset:

ROBIN
Can anyone fly that thing?

BETTRIS
I can!

ROBIN
How much do you weigh? Including gear.

BETTRIS
Uh... maybe sixty-five kilos.

ROBIN
I think that'll work. I'm coming to you.

Robin grabs a coil of rope from his supply pack, drives up to Bettris, and jumps from his motorcycle onto the back of hers. As the helicopter approaches on another strafing run, Robin ties the end of the rope to one of his arrows.

ROBIN

Get ready to hold on to me.

Bettris gives him a confused look. Then he ties the other end of the rope around his waist and she starts to get the idea.

BETTRIS

Oh, shit...

The ranger on the landing skid opens up with his machine gun. Robin shoots his arrow! It races into the sky, trailing the rope behind it, and buries itself in the ranger's chest!

The ranger falls between the helicopter and the landing skid, the rope pulls taut, and Robin and Bettris are pulled into the air, the landing skid becoming the fulcrum for their makeshift pulley!

Robin grabs the landing skid and pulls them into the helicopter. The pilot gives them a stunned look and Bettris knocks him out.

Below, Allin jumps onto the armored car that Little John is on and pulls the guard off of him. The guard is no match for the two of them and John angrily hurls him over the side! Allin turns the turret on the motorcycle rangers, forcing them to seek cover.

Up ahead, the helicopter pulls to the front of the convoy, turns, and hovers just a few feet above the road! The lead armored car slams on its brakes, causing a chain reaction crash that brings the convoy to a SCREECHING halt!

Bettris is at the helicopter controls with Robin seated next to her. She flips a switch and a missile CLICKS into place. The guards hastily get out of the armored cars with their hands up.

The Wolfheads surround the stopped convoy. Gilbert pulls Carfax from his limo and Marion follows. She steps out just as Robin approaches. Robin stops short -- seeing her is like a sucker punch. Marion's jaw drops.

MARION

Robin --!?

CARFAX

You know this man?

Marion starts to answer, but Robin cuts her off.

ROBIN

Everyone in Nottingham knows who I am.

Marion gives him a questioning look, but Robin doesn't meet it. Realization dawns on Carfax.

CARFAX

Robin Hood.

ROBIN

And I, of course, know who you are. A pleasure to meet you both.

Marion is confused, but plays along. She regards him with horror and heartbreak.

MARION

So what they say about you... It's all true.

ROBIN

I doubt it. What are they saying?

MARION

That you're a killer and a thief.

ROBIN

Only out of necessity.

CARFAX

This isn't necessity. It's treason.

ROBIN

Sometimes they're the same thing.

Marion spots the ranger who got pulled out of the helicopter lying dead in the road. She gives Robin an accusing look.

MARION

I don't care who you are. How can you possibly justify this?

A beat. Robin looks her in the eye, then solemnly nods.

ROBIN

Let me show you.

EXT. ACCESS ROAD - DAY

A pair of semi trucks are parked in a secluded wood. The Wolfheads drive the armored cars up onto flatbed trailers. Carfax and Marion are blindfolded and ushered into their limo. John's wound has been tended and he pulls Robin aside.

LITTLE JOHN

What the hell are you doing?

ROBIN

She's... an old friend. I need to make her understand what we're doing here.

John can see that she's more than an old friend. He groans.

LITTLE JOHN

Oh, Jesus. So just tell her then.

ROBIN

I can't. If Carfax figures out I know her, he'll use her against me. Besides... I think it's time Simeon Carfax learns how the other half lives firsthand.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY

Robin and John ride into town on their motorcycles, followed by the limousine. A few of the villagers smile and wave to them. The town is still dusty and rundown, but things are definitely better than when since we first saw it.

The Wolfheads help Carfax and Marion out of the limo and remove their blindfolds. Despite its improvements, Marion recoils at the sight of the squalid village.

MARION

What is this place?

ROBIN

It's a village in Sherwood Forest. It's actually better off than most.

Marion is about to reply when she steps squarely in a giant steaming pile of cow shit. SQUISH.

ROBIN

Lots of animals in the streets. Gotta watch your step.
(to everyone)
All right, who's hungry?

INT. SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

Robin and the others sit down at a long table. The poorest of the villagers are here to get a free warm meal. Robin sets Carfax's lunch in front of him -- a fetid bowl of grey mush, some thin green bread, and a glass of rusty water.

CARFAX

You can't be serious.

ROBIN

It's better than most of these people have been eating until recently.

Carfax looks around. The villagers are eating a steaming meat stew with bread and clean water.

CARFAX

I want what they're having.

ROBIN

You wouldn't like that.

CARFAX

It has to be better than this.

ROBIN

It is. Unfortunately, the only way to make sure these people get decent food on their tables is to steal it.

(off Carfax's look)

You'd be accepting stolen property. You don't want to get in trouble, do you?

Carfax pushes his food away, but John jams a gun in his ribs.

LITTLE JOHN

Go on. It's good for you.

Robin dips his green bread in the grey mush and takes a bite. The Wolfheads follow his lead. Marion gives Robin a curious look, then begins eating as well. Finally, John twists the gun in Carfax's side, forcing him to take a bite of bread.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY

Robin leads them out of the soup kitchen and down the street.

MARION

What about the food people give to charity? Isn't it enough?

ROBIN

It never makes it this far. The Sheriff steals it before it reaches the villagers, then sells it back to them on the black market.

They pass the home of Uli the farmer. He's working out front with his daughter, who's picking flowers. Robin waves.

ROBIN

Keeping people poor and hungry is a very profitable business.

Uli waves back and whispers something in the little girl's ear. She shyly runs up to Robin and exclaims:

LITTLE GIRL

Thank you for the medicine.

She offers Robin the flowers she picked and runs away.

ROBIN

Of course, helping them pays out in its own way, too.

Robin gives the flowers to Marion. She smiles, but Carfax glances

at her and she quickly covers it up.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Robin and the others enter a makeshift clinic. One harried DOCTOR is attending to a roomful of PATIENTS.

MARION

Why are so many of them sick?

ROBIN

Poor nutrition. No sanitation. Most of Nottingham's refuse gets dumped into Sherwood now, maybe that has something to do with it.

MARION

But it's too much. That one doctor can't make any difference.

ROBIN

One person can change everything. Here, give me your necklace.

Marion takes off her jeweled necklace and hands it to Robin.

ROBIN

Hey, doc -- head's up!

The doctor looks over and Robin tosses the necklace to him. The doctor's face brightens when he sees it.

ROBIN

That necklace will buy us our first incubator. Come back in a year and meet the kids whose lives it's saved.

(off her look)

Congratulations. You just changed the world.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY

Robin leads everyone back to the limousine.

CARFAX

Where are you taking us?

ROBIN

Back to Nottingham. We'll be keeping the car, of course. If you consider it a charitable donation, you can write it off on your taxes.

CARFAX

I'll consider it stolen property and collect the insurance.

(MORE)

CARFAX (CONT'D)

(off Robin's look)

I'm going to let you in on a little secret -- these people were poor under King Richard, too. The only thing Prince John has taken from them is the illusion that their lives will ever amount to anything.

Carfax gets in the limo. Marion is about to follow, but Robin stops her. He gives her an urgent look.

ROBIN

What about you? Have you changed your mind about me?

MARION

No. I still feel the same way about you as I did the moment we met.

A moment of understanding passes between them, but Carfax misses it. As she gets in the limo, a slip of paper falls out of her hand. Robin sees it, but doesn't pick it up.

Gilbert starts the limo and pulls out. Marion looks out the window at Robin, their eyes locked until the limousine disappears in a cloud of dust. When it's gone, Robin picks up the folded note. It reads: "I WILL HELP YOU."

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The Sheriff is seated at his desk when the doors to his office are suddenly thrown open -- it's Carfax.

SHERIFF

Lord Carfax! I thought --

CARFAX

(interrupting)

You thought what? That I'd be back in London by now? Didn't quite happen!

SHERIFF

I'm sorry to hear --

CARFAX

(interrupting)

Do you know what else didn't happen? My motorcade wasn't stopped by Robin Hood, he didn't steal the royal tax, and he certainly didn't detain me for the duration of the afternoon, humiliating me in the godforsaken backwoods of Sherwood Forest!!

The Sheriff is stricken. He can't even speak at this point.

CARFAX
(continuing)

You know how I know that didn't happen?
It couldn't have happened, because I
have been assured by the man in charge
of this shire that Robin Hood is a non-
issue!

Carfax draws his sword and puts it to the Sheriff's neck.

CARFAX
I will be back in two weeks. You have
that long to replace the money that was
stolen. And if you don't have Robin
Hood's head for me to take to Prince
John when I return... then I will
gladly bring him yours.

INT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - MARION'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marion lies awake in bed. She stands, pulls on a thin robe, and goes to a bookshelf. Hidden there is the box of lost love letters that she took from Amie. She takes one of them and goes out on her balcony to read it in the moonlight.

Out here, she has a view over the wall surrounding Nottingham and can see Sherwood Forest beyond. She stands there, wind blowing her raven hair as she gazes out at the dark forest...

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - NIGHT

Meanwhile, Robin stands on a wooded hill, gazing longingly at the lights of Nottingham, clasping the engagement ring that hangs around his neck. The distance between Robin and Marion is far too great for the star-crossed lovers to see one another... but he knows she's out there. And that's enough for now.

INT. THE TOWER - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Barred doors CLANG open. GUARDS BUZZ the Sheriff through a series of checkpoints, each more secure than the last.

INT. THE TOWER - HOSPITAL WING - NIGHT

The Sheriff enters a sterile white room with a single traction bed, surrounded by BEEPING machinery and a HISSING respirator. And lying in the bed...

... is Guy of Gisborne! He's a shell of the man we saw at the beginning. Completely immobilized, with a cervical halo around his head, held in place by screws in his skull.

GISBORNE
What the hell are you doing here?

SHERIFF

Just thought I'd pay a visit to an old friend. You're looking... well.

GISBORNE

I ain't had a lot of opportunities to brush up on my small talk. What do you want?

SHERIFF

All right then. I have a job for you.

Gisborne laughs, thin and WHEEZING.

GISBORNE

I don't know. The last job you gave me didn't work out so well.

SHERIFF

You weren't supposed to get caught.

GISBORNE

You weren't supposed to give me a life sentence.

SHERIFF

With the enemies you've made, you wouldn't have lasted five minutes outside these walls. I saved your life.

GISBORNE

You call this saving my life? If you want to do me a favor, how about giving me my twenty millimeters back?

SHERIFF

Your what?

GISBORNE

My twenty millimeters. It's not a lot to ask for. Except for when it's the size of the gap in your spinal cord.

Gisborne's eyes flick toward the ceiling. It's covered with white foam drop ceiling tiles.

GISBORNE

You see that panel in the ceiling? How many holes do you think there are in it?

SHERIFF

I have no idea. I don't --

GISBORNE
(interrupting)
No, really, take a guess.

SHERIFF
Okay. I'd say... maybe five hundred...

GISBORNE
Three hundred and sixty-seven. Forty-eight large ones, twenty-two smalls, and two hundred and ninety-seven of various mid-ranged sizes. I've been looking at that panel for the past five years. So if you can't give me my twenty millimeters back, then you've got nothing to offer me that I want.

The Sheriff turns and walks away. But instead of leaving, he just knocks on the door. An ORDERLY enters, wheeling something on a dolly... It's a flexible alloy frame, the size and shape of a man, a metal skeleton with no head.

GISBORNE
What the hell is that?

SHERIFF
Full-mobility exoskeleton with built-in respirator. Light-weight alloy, thin enough to be worn under your clothing. You control it with your normal neural impulses. With a relatively simple operation to connect the hardware to your spinal cord, you could be back on your feet tomorrow afternoon.

GISBORNE
My body's atrophied. My legs would break if I tried to stand up now.

SHERIFF
Not with this. The exoskeleton supports your weight. And the servo motors do what your muscles can't. If you can think it, you can do it.

GISBORNE
What did you do? Memorize the sales brochure?

SHERIFF
On the way over.

He tosses a color brochure for the exoskeleton on the bed. The cover reads, "If You Can Think It, You Can Do It!!"

SHERIFF

In addition to the reward for this job,
I'm willing to grant you full amnesty.
And you can keep the exoskeleton.

(off Gisborne's look)

Turn me down and you'll be imprisoned
for the rest of your life. By these
walls and your own body. I'm offering
you a way out.

GISBORNE

There must be someone you can hire who
isn't paralyzed from the neck down.
Why me?

SHERIFF

Because you've never missed a mark.
You were the best there ever was.

Gisborne just laughs.

GISBORNE

You mean you're desperate.

SHERIFF

I'm not going to beg you. This is a
one-time-only offer.

GISBORNE

All right, don't be so touchy. What's
the job?

The Sheriff takes out a wanted poster with the horrible sketch of
Robin on it and shows it to Gisborne.

SHERIFF

I need you to catch this man. I need
him quickly and I don't care what you
have to do to get him.

INT. THE TOWER - OPERATING THEATER - DAY

Gisborne lies face down while SURGEONS insert a metal port in the
base of his skull. The Sheriff watches from the gallery...

INT. THE TOWER - HOSPITAL WING - DAY

Gisborne sits up in bed, moving for the first time in five years.
As the surgeons watch, he hesitantly puts one foot on the floor,
then the other. He's naked except for the thin metal exoskeleton,
which is connected to the port in his neck.

Gisborne stumbles, grabbing a metal bedpost to steady himself.
Regaining his balance, he lets go of the bedpost... and sees that
the metal bar has crumpled in his grasp! He gives his metal-
enmeshed hand a surprised look... then smiles...

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - NORTH GATE - NIGHT

Gisborne is dressed as we first saw him, in his horse hide jacket with the mane still attached. He blows by the guards on his motorcycle and rides out of Nottingham, a free man...

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - SERIES OF SHOTS - DAY

Gisborne begins his search, showing Robin's wanted poster around and asking questions. Stopping TRAVELLERS on the North Road, visiting different villages... talking to a host of INFORMANTS, PIMPS, and PAWNBROKERS, who lead him to...

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY

Gisborne rides into town on his motorcycle, instantly drawing suspicious looks from the villagers. He glares back at them and parks his bike in front of the Blue Boar.

INT. THE BLUE BOAR - DAY

Gisborne strides into the tavern. All eyes are instantly on him. Charlie and his brothers slump in their seats. Much is here, too. Gisborne sits at the bar and Eadom eyes him warily.

EADOM

You want something?

GISBORNE

Yeah, I'm looking for someone. Maybe you can help me.

Gisborne shows him Robin's wanted poster. Eadom glances at it, then gives Gisborne a hard look.

EADOM

We don't keep with bounty hunters in this town.

A long beat. Gisborne smiles.

GISBORNE

Don't like bounty hunters, huh? Wonder why that is.

EADOM

Just don't.

GISBORNE

You wanna know what I don't like?

EADOM

Not really.

Gisborne suddenly yanks Eadom forward by the collar and pounds a dagger through the cloth of Eadom's shirt, pinning him to the bar!

Lonny angrily starts to stand up, but Charlie and Lester stop him.

GISBORNE

I don't like having to repeat myself to monosyllabic imbeciles like yourself.

Eadom reaches under the bar for a sawed-off shotgun hidden there. Gisborne shoves the wanted poster into his face.

GISBORNE

This man. Three days ago. He brought Simeon Carfax to a village in Sherwood Forest. Carfax doesn't know which village it was, but I'm starting to narrow it down.

EADOM

I don't know anything about it! He doesn't come around here!

GISBORNE

That's not what I've heard. The people I know say that Wolfheads walk the streets here and nobody turns them in. You know what kind of town doesn't like bounty hunters? A town with a criminal it wants to protect.

He senses movement and glances at the mirror behind the bar -- in the reflection, he sees Eadom reaching for the shotgun!

Gisborne punches a hole through the bar and grabs the gun, yanking it out of Eadom's grasp! He shoves it under Eadom's chin. Lonny pushes his brothers off of him and stands up!

LONNY

We ain't seen him!

Gisborne slowly turns toward Lonny.

GISBORNE

How do you know? You haven't even looked at the picture yet.

Gisborne draws his own shotgun -- now he's got one in each hand -- and walks over to Lonny.

LONNY

We... ain't seen anybody.

Gisborne smacks him with the butt of his shotgun! Lester starts to stand, but Gisborne points the other shotgun at him.

GISBORNE

Wait your turn, Poindexter.

Much slips from his booth and scurries out the back, but Gisborne doesn't notice. Gisborne's got one shotgun pointed at Lonny, the other at Charlie and Lester. He smiles.

GISBORNE

Looks like my day just got interesting.

INT. SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

Robin is here with Little John, Allin, and Bettris. They're bringing in boxes of food from a truck in the alley. Suddenly, Much bursts in --

MUCH

There's a bounty hunter over at The Blue Boar! He's looking for you! He's gonna kill Lonny!

Robin and the others run out to help.

EXT. THE BLUE BOAR - DAY

The front window SHATTERS and Lonny flies face first out into the street! He staggers to his feet, groaning in pain.

Gisborne walks out the front door and down the steps. Lonny tries to limp away, but Gisborne takes a bullwhip from his belt and CRACKS it, grabbing Lonny by the neck!

Gisborne gives the whip a yank, pulling Lonny off his feet. Charlie and Lester and the other villagers watch helplessly as Gisborne reels Lonny in like a fish on a hook.

Gisborne hauls Lonny to his feet. Lonny chokes and sputters, his face bloody from the broken window. Gisborne starts plucking pieces of glass from Lonny's face, one at a time...

GISBORNE

He knows Robin Hood. He knows him not.
He knows him... He knows him not.
Hey, what do you know? He knows him!

Gisborne grabs Lonny by the throat and lifts him into the air. Suddenly, there's a SHOUT from behind him:

ROBIN

I'm the one you're looking for!

Gisborne tosses Lonny aside and turns to face Robin -- who stops dead in his tracks. Gisborne's jaw drops.

ROBIN

Gisborne!

GISBORNE

You?!

Robin lunges toward him, but Gisborne is faster. He raises his shotgun and points it at Robin -- just as Bettris and Allin raise their guns and point them at Gisborne! Little John grabs Robin and holds him back. It's a standoff.

ROBIN

Bastard! What are you doing here?

GISBORNE

They let me out for good behavior.
Killing you is my community service.

Gisborne starts backing toward his motorcycle. Robin and the others follow him, Bettris and Allin tracking him with their guns. Charlie starts to lunge at him from behind, but Gisborne draws his tachi sword and holds him off.

ROBIN

I should've killed you when I had the chance.

GISBORNE

I wish you had. There's not much to do when you're a quadriplegic in solitary confinement. I don't recommend it.

ROBIN

That's nothing compared to what you deserve.

GISBORNE

For what? Killing your father? At least he died quickly. That's better than you're going to get.

Gisborne gets on his motorcycle and sheathes his sword. He starts the engine, still pointing his shotgun at Robin.

ROBIN

Where are you going, Gisborne? You think you can hide from me?

GISBORNE

Hide? I don't have to hide anymore. You're the thief and I have a legal warrant for your arrest. I'm the good guy now.

Gisborne presses a button on a metal wristband and it emits a high-pitched SCREECH. Suddenly, Gisborne's falcon swoops out of nowhere and starts clawing at Bettris' face!

Gisborne hits the throttle and tears out on his bike! The falcon takes to the air and flees as well. Robin grabs Bettris' gun and runs after Gisborne. He FIRES the gun empty, but Gisborne is long gone in a cloud of dust.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The Sheriff enters his darkened office and is about to turn on the light when a VOICE startles him:

GISBORNE (O.S.)
Shut the door.

The Sheriff stops short. He can just make out Gisborne seated at the desk, feet propped up, lighting a cigarette.

GISBORNE
I ran into Robin Hood today.

SHERIFF
(a surprised beat)
Did you kill him?

GISBORNE

I'm not running a two-for-one sale. If you want him dead, you're going to pay me what he's worth.

SHERIFF
What more do you want?

Gisborne tosses two wanted posters onto the desktop. The first is for Robin Hood. The other is for Robert Locksley.

GISBORNE
I want both rewards.
(off the Sheriff's look)
Robin Hood doesn't exist. It's
Locksley. Has been all along.

The Sheriff looks at him, utterly aghast. Realization dawns on him and he's so stunned and angry that he can barely talk.

SHERIFF

God damn him. He's Robin Hood?! What the hell does he think --? How the hell did he --?

(beat)

Wait. Why didn't she tell me?!

Who? GISBORNE

SHERIFF
One of my aides, she and Locksley were
lovers. She was with Simeon Carfax.
Why didn't she tell me it was Locksley?

GISBORNE
You said they were lovers.

The Sheriff turns away, his anger simmering -- then he flies into a rage, sweeping books and papers off his desk!

SHERIFF
She's working with him!

He angrily turns and storms toward the door. He starts to open it, but Gisborne is suddenly by his side and pushes it shut.

GISBORNE
Don't. We need her alive.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - OUTER OFFICE - NIGHT

Marion is at her desk, getting ready to go home. Everyone else has already left. Her intercom BUZZES.

SHERIFF (O.S.)
Marion, come in here please.

She sighs and walks to the door of the Sheriff's office...

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

... but when she enters, Gisborne is nowhere to be seen. The room is still dark, but she can see the Sheriff standing by his desk.

SHERIFF
Oh, good. I caught you.

The contents of his desk are still scattered on the floor where he threw them. Marion sees this and shifts uneasily.

SHERIFF
I need you to contact Commander Darcy.
Tell him to meet me in the war room
immediately.

MARION
Is something wrong?

SHERIFF
On the contrary. Something is finally
going right. Our scouts have located
Robin Hood's camp. We strike at dawn.

Marion can't quite conceal her stricken look. The Sheriff's eyes narrow, scrutinizing her.

SHERIFF
By this time tomorrow, the maggots in
Robin Hood's corpse will already be
starting to hatch. Good news, don't
you think?

MARION

Yes, of course. I'll go place those calls.

She turns and leaves. He watches her go, glaring angrily.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - OUTER OFFICE - NIGHT

Marion walks back to her desk. Her hands are trembling as she picks up the phone. She glances over her shoulder to make sure she's alone, then quickly dials a number...

EXT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - NIGHT

Marion is riding home in the backseat of a town car. The DRIVER stops the car at the estate's front gate. There's a VAGRANT on the sidewalk, dressed in rags and selling roses.

Marion rolls down the rear window. The vagrant offers her a rose and she pays for it with a couple of bills. Then the gate opens and the car drives through.

The vagrant pulls back his hood -- it's Much. He looks at the bills Marion gave him -- there's a message folded in with them. We see one word on the outside of the note: "ROBIN."

Much tucks the message into his boot and gets on a little scooter... unaware of Gisborne watching him from the shadows, the falcon sitting on his shoulder. As Much rides away, the falcon takes to the air...

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - NIGHT

Much rides alone along the dark forest road. Gisborne's falcon follows him, silent and practically invisible in the night sky.

Suddenly, Much hears something -- a low, RUMBLING sound behind him. He looks back and sees that the woods seem to glow. Soon, a dark shape materializes out of the fog --

-- it's Gisborne on his motorcycle, headlight blazing, engine ROARING, fog swirling madly in his wake. Much gasps at the sight, cringing as Gisborne closes in on him.

But Gisborne blows right by. In another instant, Gisborne is gone, taillights vanishing in the fog.

Much breathes a sigh of relief, but it is short-lived. As he continues down the road, he sees the light again, ahead of him now. He rounds a turn in the road and sees Gisborne, stopped in the middle of the road. Much slams on the brakes.

Gisborne starts REVVING his engine. Much hastily turns his scooter around and takes off.

Gisborne releases the brake and races after Much like a bat out of

hell! Much is weeping as Gisborne bears down on him.

Gisborne lashes out with his bullwhip -- CRACK! The end of it coils around Much's neck! Gisborne rides by, yanking Much off his scooter and dragging him down the road. Then Gisborne lets go of the whip and Much rolls to a stop, a bloody heap.

Gisborne turns around and stops in the middle of the road. Much forces himself to his feet and hobbles away as fast as he can. Gisborne watches him flee...

... and takes out his harpoon rifle. Gisborne calmly lines Much up in his sights and pulls the trigger.

The harpoon strikes Much in the back, its point protruding from his chest! Much gives it a horrified look, then the heated prongs emerge from it and the retractor kicks in, yanking the harpoon back out and taking Much's heart with it!

Gisborne puts the heart in his satchel and walks over to Much's corpse. He takes Marion's note out of Much's boot and replaces it with a different note.

The falcon lands on Gisborne's shoulder. Gisborne gives it a treat and it takes off again. He gets back on his motorcycle and drives off.

EXT. WOLFHEAD CAMP - MOTORPOOL - DAY

Robin and Little John are helping Baldwin mount armor plates onto a stolen truck when Bettris approaches:

BETRIS

Much is dead.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY

Much's body is in the back of a VILLAGER's cart, covered with a sheet. Robin, Little John, and Bettris make their way through the CROWD that's gathered around. Robin raises the sheet. There's a scorched hole in Much's chest.

ROBIN

Gisborne.

LITTLE JOHN

But why?

Robin searches Much's clothes and finds the note Gisborne left sticking out of his boot. Robin quickly reads it.

LITTLE JOHN

What is it?

ROBIN

It's from Marion.

He drops the note and hurries back to his motorcycle. Bettris grabs the note and reads it as she and John follow him.

BETTRIS

The Sheriff's found out about her.
She's hiding at Saint Mary's Church.

Robin gets on his bike, but John stands in front of him.

LITTLE JOHN

You can't go into Nottingham. It's suicide.

ROBIN

She's dead if I don't.

LITTLE JOHN

You don't know that. It could be a trap!

ROBIN

If it is, then they know about us and she's still in trouble.

Robin starts his motorcycle. John doesn't move.

LITTLE JOHN

You're not thinking.

ROBIN

I don't have time to.

With that, he guns the engine and throws the motorcycle in reverse. He spins the bike around and peels out. John and Bettris exchange a look, then get on their bikes and follow.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - CITY CENTRE - NIGHT

Fireworks EXPLODE in the night sky and there's a carnival atmosphere in the streets. People are out in costume. A banner above it all reads "NOTTINGHAM ALL FOOL'S DAY FESTIVAL."

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - NORTH GATE - NIGHT

Costumed revelers move in and out of the city. From a forested hillside, Bettris watches the gate through a pair of binoculars. Robin and John are with her. Robin adjusts his cloak to hide his bow and quiver beneath it.

BETTRIS

They've opened the checkpoint.

LITTLE JOHN

They're making it too easy.

ROBIN
At least I'm expecting them.

Robin turns to go, but Little John stops him.

LITTLE JOHN
You can't. I'll stop you if I have to.

ROBIN
I've loved this girl since we were children. She needs me.

LITTLE JOHN
We need you too.

ROBIN
Everything happens for a reason, John. I was meant to find you, I was meant to lead you, and if I die tonight, there's a reason for that, too. Now get out of my way. You're making me nervous.

Little John nods. A beat.

LITTLE JOHN
You think you're meant to die tonight?

ROBIN
I don't know. But I do know I'm meant to love this woman.

He slips off into the night. John and Bettriss watch him go.

LITTLE JOHN
What a bunch of horseshit. I'm going to follow him. Go back and tell the others what's happened.

Bettriss nods and takes off. John starts after Robin.

INT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - NIGHT

There is a KNOCK at the front door. A SERVANT answers it, revealing the Sheriff and Chief Kelley. Fitzwalter enters from another room and gives the Sheriff a surprised look.

FITZWALTER
I wasn't expecting you.

SHERIFF
This isn't a social call.

Just then, Marion appears at the top of the stairs. The Sheriff sees her and she stops cold.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - NORTH GATE - NIGHT

There's a VENDOR'S BOOTH outside the gate selling costumes and firecrackers. Robin stops and buys a fox mask. He puts it on and pulls up his hood.

When he walks through the gate, he just looks like another costumed reveler on his way to the party. The guards don't stop him... or the gigantic man in the bear mask who follows Robin at a discreet distance. Little John, of course.

INT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - NIGHT

Marion walks down the stairs, trying to put on a brave face. But when she reaches the bottom, the Sheriff slaps her!

SHERIFF

Bitch! How long did you think you could get away with it?

FITZWALTER

What on --?!

Fitzwalter starts toward the Sheriff. Chief Kelley and another ranger have to restrain him. The Sheriff cuffs Marion's hands.

SHERIFF

Marion Fitzwalter, you're under arrest on the charge of high treason.

FITZWALTER

Are you insane? Get out of my house!

The Sheriff angrily turns toward Fitzwalter and shows him the letter than Marion wrote to warn Robin.

SHERIFF

Is this your daughter's handwriting?

Fitzwalter reads the letter and gives Marion a horrified look.

FITZWALTER

My God... Marion, what have you done?

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - CITY CENTRE - NIGHT

The celebration is in full swing. Robin makes his way through the crowd, still wearing his fox mask. He spots the steeple of St. Mary's Church in the distance and heads toward it, still unaware that Little John is following him...

INT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - NIGHT

Rangers are searching the house. Marion sits in the living room, guarded by a stern-faced ranger. Behind her back, she's quietly working her hands out of her cuffs! She gives them a pull and

dislocates her thumb. The guard doesn't notice.

EXT. SAINT MARY'S CHURCH - NIGHT

Robin sidles up an alley across from St. Mary's. The church is undergoing renovation, covered in a framework of construction scaffolding and plastic sheeting. There's no one here. Robin circles around to the back...

... just as Little John peers out from the alley behind him. Robin slips behind the church and John loses sight of him.

Robin looks up and sees a broken window high up in the steeple. The scaffolding leads straight to it. Robin climbs up, reaches the broken window, and slips inside...

INT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - NIGHT

Marion hangs her head and starts to cry. Soon her wailing is so loud that the guard can't ignore it.

GUARD
Knock it off, willya?

This only makes her cry harder. The guard gives an exasperated sigh and she tries to get herself under control.

MARION
I'm sorry, I'm really sorry. Do you have a tissue or something? I don't want my father to see me like this.

She gives him such a pathetic look that he can't resist. He pulls out a handkerchief, walks over, and is about to start wiping her eyes -- when she suddenly kicks him in the balls!

As he doubles over in pain, she grabs his shoulders and gives him a vicious head butt, knocking him out! Marion POPS her thumb back into joint, grabs the handcuff keys, and slips out of the room.

INT. SAINT MARY'S CHURCH - NIGHT

The sanctuary is dark and filled with scaffolding. Robin climbs down from the broken window, peering out through strips of plastic sheeting. Gisborne sits atop the pulpit, smoking a cigarette.

Robin quietly draws his bow. As he pulls the arrow back, his bowstring CREAKS. Gisborne hears it, but doesn't move.

Robin lets the arrow fly -- but at the last instant, Gisborne turns and catches the arrow in midair! He smiles at Robin.

GISBORNE
Right to the point. I like that.

Before Robin can move, Gisborne grabs one of the scaffolding

frames and pulls it free! Robin is thrown over the side and the scaffolding CRASHES down on top of him!

INT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - NIGHT

Marion sneaks through the house. She hears a pair of rangers approaching, doubles back -- and runs right into her father! She starts to speak, but he pulls her out of sight. The rangers walk by, but Fitzwalter doesn't raise the alarm.

MARION

I'm sorry, daddy.

FITZWALTER

Don't start with that now. Let's just get you out of here.

INT. SAINT MARY'S CHURCH - NIGHT

Gisborne walks over to the pile of fallen scaffolding. Robin crawls free and draws his gun. Gisborne lashes out with his bullwhip and yanks the gun out of Robin's hand!

GISBORNE

Seriously, kid. No bitch is worth this.

Robin scrambles to his feet and grabs his quarterstaff. He presses the button and it telescopes to its full length.

ROBIN

What have you done with her?!

Robin attacks, but Gisborne easily dodges his blows, effortlessly blocking the staff barehanded.

GISBORNE

You know, I've never had sex with a corpse before. But I think for her, I'll make an exception.

Robin angrily swings at him with the quarterstaff, but Gisborne grabs it in a vice-like grip! He yanks it out of Robin's hands and cracks him across the face with it! Robin goes flying!

Gisborne attacks with the quarterstaff. Robin grabs a sharp metal rod from the pile of fallen scaffolding. Gisborne aims a mighty blow at Robin's head. Robin ducks and Gisborne accidentally knocks the head off a statue of the Virgin Mary.

GISBORNE

Shit. I'm probably gonna go to hell for that.

INT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - NIGHT

Marion and Fitzwalter hurry down a hall. He offers her his keys.

FITZWALTER
Here, take my car.

MARION
No, they can't find out you helped me.

FITZWALTER
All right. Go up to your room and
sneak out. God knows you've done it
before.

Marion starts to head upstairs, but Fitzwalter stops her.

FITZWALTER
Marion... are you going to him?

MARION
Yes. I love him.

FITZWALTER
(sighs)
He'll take better care of you than the
Sheriff will, I know that much.

There's a SOUND behind them -- rangers approaching. Fitzwalter gives her an urgent look, tears in his eyes.

FITZWALTER
I love you, angel.

MARION
(beat)
I love you, daddy.

She gives him a quick hug, then turns and runs upstairs.

INT. HUNTINGDON MANOR - MARION'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marion enters and stuffs a few things in a bag. She's about to leave, then grabs the box of love letters and quickly climbs out over the balcony.

INT. SAINT MARY'S CHURCH - NIGHT

Gisborne has beaten Robin bloody, but Robin refuses to quit. He lunges at Gisborne, stabbing him in the stomach with the sharp metal rod! But Gisborne just pulls the rod out and swats Robin in the face with it!

GISBORNE
One of the perks of a serious spinal
injury. No pain from the neck down.

Robin spots his gun on the floor a few feet away! Gisborne is about to strike, but Robin throws a handful of sawdust in his eyes! Gisborne cringes -- Robin grabs the gun and FIRES!

EXT. SAINT MARY'S CHURCH - NIGHT

The muzzle flash of the gunshot is visible through the stained glass windows. Little John sees it -- and so do the RANGERS who have the church staked out! Across the street, a ranger lowers his binoculars and grabs his walkie-talkie:

STAKEOUT RANGER

Shots fired!

Little John starts toward the church, then ducks back as dozens of rangers come pouring from the shadows, running with guns drawn!

LITTLE JOHN

Dammit --!

Suddenly, there's a helicopter overhead, shining its light down on the church. The rangers are already setting up barricades. They're on the verge of discovering John when he reluctantly slips away and escapes.

INT. SAINT MARY'S CHURCH - NIGHT

The helicopter searchlight shines through the stained glass window. Robin is still pointing the smoking gun at Gisborne... who opens his metal-encased hand to reveal a crumpled slug sitting in his palm! He's caught the bullet!

Robin shoots again, but Gisborne snatches the gun from his hand. The doors burst open and the room is flooded with armed rangers. Robin is beaten to the ground and handcuffed.

Gisborne sees the engagement ring hanging from Robin's necklace and yanks it off.

GISBORNE

Something to remember you by.

Robin is too battered to protest. Gisborne admires the ring as Robin is dragged away.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - CITY STREET - NIGHT

A motorcycle COURIER parks his bike and runs off to deliver a package. He doesn't notice Marion peering out at him from a nearby alley. She spots his unattended motorcycle and when the courier comes back out, she's already speeding away.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - NORTH GATE - NIGHT

Marion blows by the guards on the courier's motorcycle. The dust

hasn't even settled when her picture appears on a video monitor in the guardhouse with the word "WANTED" beneath it.

INT. THE TOWER - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Robin is unconscious, strapped to the spiked torture chair. The door CREAKS open and we hear FOOTSTEPS on the concrete. A hand SLAPS Robin's face and he comes to. It's the Sheriff. He smiles.

SHERIFF

Well, here we are.

The Sheriff goes over to a hot plate and pours a cup of tea. He sips it as he looks over Robin's belongings, which have been laid out on a table. He eyes Robin's longbow.

SHERIFF

I remember when you were just a boy, your father used to take you out shooting. With a bow very much like this, as I recall. This isn't the same bow, by any chance, is it?

Robin nods weakly.

SHERIFF

It is! All those times I saw you and your father out on the archery range... and then to think that you would one day use that same bow to murder my sister's only son.

The Sheriff clutches the bow and SNAPS it in half.

SHERIFF

(continuing)
Just one of life's funny tricks, I guess.

ROBIN

If my father... could see you...

SHERIFF

Oh, I know exactly what your father would do if he were alive. Why do you think I had him killed?

Robin gives him a sharp look.

ROBIN

Gisborne murdered my father.

SHERIFF

Because I paid him to.

Robin's eyes widen with rage and horror. The Sheriff makes

himself a cup of tea.

SHERIFF

(continuing)

Your father didn't have the foresight that I did. As soon as Richard announced his Crusade, I knew Prince John would make his bid for the throne. I knew he would need to ally himself with the Sheriffs and that those Sheriffs would become very, very rich because of it.

He presses a button on the torture chair, tightening the straps and driving the spikes into Robin's flesh.

SHERIFF

(continuing)

The only thing preventing me from being one of those very rich Sheriffs was your father.

ROBIN

You bastard! He was your friend!

SHERIFF

Yes. Even before he was your father. But he never would have turned against the King. Prince John would've had us both killed.

ROBIN

At least you could've died with a shred of dignity.

SHERIFF

Is that what you think is waiting for you? Death with dignity?

He wheels a cart over to the torture chair. There's a machine on the cart with a series of dials and two thick wires dangling from it. He screws the wires to a pair of electrodes on the chair.

SHERIFF

(continuing)

I'm going to have you hanged. It's going to be broadcast live from City Centre. That's your reward for a life of honor. You get to shit yourself on national television.

The main dial on the machine has ten positions. The Sheriff turns it to the first one, flips a switch -- and thousands of volts of electricity course through Robin's body!

Robin screams and convulses in the chair. The Sheriff turns the

dial back to zero, shutting off the current. Robin gasps for breath.

SHERIFF

That was just a test, by the way.

ROBIN

You can't end this by killing me.

SHERIFF

Of course, I can.

ROBIN

Someone will replace me.

SHERIFF

So I'll kill them, too. Should be easier after word spreads about what happened to Wakefield.

ROBIN

Wakefield? What are you talking about?

SHERIFF

Did you really think Prince John would just let you steal the royal tax? He wants his money back. And that leaves it up to me to collect it all over again. Where do you think I'll get that much money on short notice?

He turns the dial to the second position and Robin's body is wracked again. The Sheriff sips his tea before he turns it off.

ROBIN

You can't tax them again. They've got nothing left to give!

SHERIFF

They still have their lives. I'll sell every last man, woman, and child into slavery and use the money to pay the tax. Liquidate my assets, so to speak.

ROBIN

They're not assets... they're people. Families. You can't --

The Sheriff turns the dial to four. Robin screams and flesh SIZZLES. Smoke rises off of Robin's body and the Sheriff waves it away. He turns the machine off. Robin shudders.

SHERIFF

Your father made the same mistake. You both wasted your lives watching out for other people when you should've been

(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
watching your backs. At least your
death should make for some decent
television.

ROBIN
That's all you'll get out of me...
You're wasting your time if you think
I'm going to talk.

SHERIFF
(smiles)
Oh, I know. This is really just for
me.

He reaches over and turns the dial up to eight.

INT. THE TOWER - DUNGEON CORRIDOR - NIGHT

We PULL BACK from the door of the interrogation room. Robin's
agonized screams echo off the stone walls.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - NIGHT

Marion rides the courier's motorcycle into town. There's an eerie
silence as she pulls up to The Blue Boar.

INT. THE BLUE BOAR - NIGHT

The bar is crowded with people gathered around a static-ridden
black-and-white television. Marion enters and looks for a
familiar face. She sees Uli and his wife.

MARION
Excuse me, I was here last week --

ULI
(interrupting)
Yeah... yeah, I remember you.

MARION
I'm sorry, I don't know anyone here and
I need to find Robin Hood.

ULI
Robin Hood...?

MARION
Your daughter gave him some flowers
when I was here. I need to find
someone who knows where he is. Now.
Tonight.

ULI
Haven't you heard?

He nods to the television and she sees what everyone is watching.
It's a news broadcast... and they're showing Robin's mug shot.

ANCHORMAN (V.O.)
 ... caught inside the city walls.
 Authorities believe he was planning an
 attack on tonight's All Fool's Day
 celebration. We will continue
 following this story until noon
 tomorrow when you'll see live coverage
 of his execution from City Centre.

Marion turns back to Uli with shocked tears in her eyes.

MARION
 Do you know Much?

ULI
 The miller's son? Well, sure, but --

MARION
 (interrupting)
 Do you know if he gave my message to
 Robin? I wrote a note and gave it to
 Much to bring here.

Eadom is nearby and overhears this. He gives Marion a look.

EADOM
 Hey! You're the woman that wrote that
 note to Robin?

MARION
 Yes, do you know if he got it?

EADOM
 Oh, he got it all right...

By now, the villagers around them have also picked up on their conversation. Uli and his wife back away from her. The villagers close in and she takes a step back from them, but Eadom grabs her.

EADOM
 And I know some folks who'd like to
 have a little talk with you.

INT. WOLFHEAD CAMP - NIGHT

Marion sits in a chair with her hands tied behind her. Bettris is going through the bag of things Marion brought with her, while the rest of the Wolfheads gather around Marion, scowling down at her.

ALLIN
 So what do we do with her?

LITTLE JOHN
 There's only one punishment for
 traitors.

MARION
I'm not a traitor.

LITTLE JOHN
You've already admitted to writing that letter. I followed Robin to Saint Mary's. It was a trap and you were the willing bait.

MARION
I don't know why he went to Saint Mary's. The Sheriff told me that he'd found your hideout. I was trying to warn you!

GILBERT
If the Sheriff knew where we were, we'd be dead by now.

MARION
So he lied to me. He must have somehow known I would warn you.

LITTLE JOHN
Or maybe he thinks we're stupid enough to fall for your lies twice. Maybe he sent you to spy on us.

BETTRIS
She's not a spy.

The others turn to Bettris, who approaches with one of the old love letters that Marion brought with her.

BETTRIS
The woman who wrote these letters wouldn't have betrayed Robin. She's telling us the truth.

She cuts Marion's bonds. John gives Bettris an incredulous look, but she ignores it. Marion rubs her wrists.

MARION
I can't let him die. Not because of me.

BETTRIS
It's not your fault.

LITTLE JOHN
Oh, it's not?

BETTRIS
She was only trying to help us.

LITTLE JOHN
Her kind of help we don't need.

MARION
You do if you still want to rescue him.
(off their looks)
I worked in the Sheriff's office. I
know his codes and I know how he'll set
up his security. I can get you in and
out of the city undetected.

A beat. Little John scowls down at her.

LITTLE JOHN
Could be another set-up.

MARION
Could be. How much more of Robin's
life do you want to waste sitting here
arguing about it?

The Wolfheads are all looking at Little John. He regards Marion skeptically, then nods his head.

LITTLE JOHN
Tell us what you have in mind.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - CITY CENTRE - DAY

A metal-frame gallows has been constructed. The noose hangs at the ready. Bleachers have been set up around it and they're already filling up.

INT. THE BLUE BOAR - DAY

The villagers are gathered around Eadom's crappy black-and-white television, watching coverage of the execution.

REPORTER #3 (O.S.)
And in just a few minutes, convicted
traitor Robert Locksley will stand on
that gallows and answer for the crimes
he committed under the alias of Robin
Hood.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - CITY CENTRE - DAY

A limousine pulls up to a VIP grandstand. The Sheriff gets out with his WIFE and DAUGHTER. He waves to the crowd.

REPORTER #3
There's Sheriff Worman of
Nottinghamshire now. He will formally
pronounce Locksley's sentence shortly.

CAMERA BOOMS from the bleachers where the REPORTER stands, down to

ground level. Allin is here, strumming his guitar and crooning a tune. His guitar case is strapped to his back and he's got a sign around his neck: "DONATIONS ACCEPTED." He sees the Sheriff and saunters closer to the gallows...

Not far away, a barricade has been set up to keep the spectators back. Gilbert stands at it, keeping an eye on the scene.

The Sheriff climbs the stairs of the grandstand. He waves to the crowd again and they CHEER for him... all except Bettris, who weaves her way through the crowd, sipping a soda.

Two motorcycle rangers drive up to the gallows, escorting a patrol wagon. They stop and the back of the patrol wagon is unlocked. Robin is pushed out in chains. He's been tortured within an inch of his life and can barely stand up. The crowd BOOS at him. Gilbert mutters into a hidden microphone.

GILBERT

He's here.

In a side alley a few blocks away, a pair of motorcycles are parked out of sight, engines idling. It's Marion and Little John. They hear Gilbert's report:

GILBERT (O.S.)

They're taking him up. Stand by.

The crowd hurls garbage and insults at Robin as he is dragged past. Bettris walks behind them and tosses her soda in a trash basket... then reaches into her jacket pocket and pulls out another soda. CAMERA PANS back...

... and SWOOPS into the trash basket, then DOWN the straw of her discarded soda to REVEAL that there's a bomb inside that cup! And it's TICKING down from three minutes!

Robin is marched up the gallows. From the alley across the way, Marion sees him. Her heart leaps at the sight of him.

Meanwhile, Allin wanders up to the barricade, singing his song in front of two rangers who are keeping the crowd back.

Bettris passes another trash basket and drops her second soda-bomb inside. She takes out another... but this time, a RANGER sees her and is suddenly suspicious. He follows her.

Robin is put into position on the gallows over the trapdoor. The EXECUTIONER places the noose around his neck and stands by the lever that will drop Robin to his death.

Allin continues to belt out his song, much to the annoyance of the rangers standing in front of him. Bettris drops her third soda-bomb in yet another trash basket. The ranger who is following her sees this...

Robin looks out at the angry crowd. A PRIEST administers last rites. Robin closes his eyes in silent prayer.

The Sheriff walks to a podium and speaks into a microphone:

SHERIFF
Robert Aaron Locksley, you have been
found guilty of assaulting an officer
of the law, assaulting a representative
of the Holy Church...

INT. CARFAX'S OFFICE - DAY

Carfax is having drinks with a few visiting DIGNITARIES, but keeps an eye on the television broadcast of the execution.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - CITY CENTRE - DAY

As the Sheriff speaks, Gilbert walks up and stands nonchalantly behind Allin, who's still singing his song.

SHERIFF
(continuing)
... highway robbery, grand larceny,
murder, conspiracy, and high treason.

Suddenly, the ranger who has been following Bettris grabs her. He has ANOTHER RANGER with him.

BETTRIS
What? What'd I do?

RANGER #3
Let's see your identification.

Bettris rummages through her things. The ranger leaves her with his partner and goes back to look in the last trash can Bettris visited...

Meanwhile, the rangers that Allin is playing for have lost their patience. One of them grabs his guitar and waves for him to move along, but Allin just sings louder. Robin glances over at the COMMOTION, but can't see who it is...

SHERIFF
By the power vested in me as the
Sheriff and Deputy Lord Mayor of
Nottingham, and in the name of his
Royal Highness, Prince John, I hereby
declare that you are to be put to death
immediately.

Marion shifts anxiously on her motorcycle.

LITTLE JOHN
Wait for it.

MARION

We can't! The fuses are too long!

On the grandstands, the Sheriff turns to Robin.

SHERIFF

Do you have anything to say before this sentence is carried out?

Before Robin can respond, Marion REVS her motorcycle engine! The sound ECHOES over the park.

Robin looks back down. This time he sees Allin arguing with the rangers and Gilbert standing behind them. Gilbert gives Robin a little salute. Robin smiles and turns to the Sheriff.

ROBIN

You were right about one thing -- this is gonna be great TV.

The ranger who's rooting around in the trash basket pulls out Bettris' soda cup, just in time to hear it go -- BEEP!

RANGER #3

Holy --!

The cup EXPLODES in his hand, shooting a jet of white smoke right in his face -- it's a STINK BOMB! The ranger falls to the ground, gagging and clutching his hand.

The other two stink bombs go off, shooting clouds of smoke out of the trash baskets and sending the crowd running! The ranger holding Bettris goes for his gun, but she kicks him in the face, knocking him out. At the same time --

-- Marion and Little John ride into the park, which has dissolved into smoke and panic!

Gilbert opens the guitar case strapped to Allin's back -- revealing a complete arsenal of pistols, machine guns, and hand grenades! He grabs two machine guns and shoots the rangers who were hassling Allin.

INT. CARFAX'S OFFICE - DAY

Carfax watches the scene of chaos on his television with shock and outrage -- then the broadcast cuts out completely.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - CITY CENTRE - DAY

Robin's rescuers all pull out gas masks, but the smoke is driving everyone else away. The Sheriff shouts to the Executioner:

SHERIFF

Kill him! Kill him now!

The Executioner goes for the lever, but Gilbert sees this and SHOTS him! The Executioner reaches out as he falls... but isn't strong enough to pull the lever before he dies.

Marion and Little John weave through the fleeing crowd on their motorcycles. Gilbert and Allin are in a pitched gun battle with the rangers guarding Robin.

The Sheriff runs up the stairs of the gallows and goes for the lever himself. Robin is helpless to stop him, but Allin spots the Sheriff and SHOTS, forcing him to take cover.

The gas is dispersing and the rangers move in. Gilbert tries to hold them off, while Allin keeps the Sheriff pinned down. Gilbert takes a hit in the shoulder, but keeps SHOOTING.

Marion and Little John race toward the gallows. John draws a samurai sword and kills the ranger who shot Gilbert.

MARION

You go over, I'll go under!

LITTLE JOHN

Got it!

The Sheriff sees the motorcycles closing in. He runs for the lever, ducking Allin's bullets. John reaches the gallows and rides his motorcycle right up the stairs, just as the Sheriff pulls the lever!

John reaches the top of the stairs with enough speed to go airborne! As the trapdoor opens under Robin's feet --

-- John cuts the rope with his sword and Robin falls right onto the back of Marion's motorcycle as she rides beneath the gallows! John's bike flies over the Sheriff's head, clears the gallows, and lands on the ground on the other side!

Marion skids to a stop and pulls down her gas mask to kiss Robin hard and long on the mouth. The kiss would last forever -- except for the BULLETS that start ricocheting all around them!

Little John races over and Gilbert gets on the back of his bike. Then Bettris appears on a third motorcycle and Allin jumps on with her. They speed off, making their escape.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - CITY STREETS - DAY

The Wolfheads race through traffic with the rangers right on their tails. Helicopters, motorcycles, and prowlers all join the chase.

ROBIN

Sure brings back memories, huh?

MARION

Just like old times.

ROBIN

You got a plan for getting us out of this one?

MARION

Same way we got in.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT - DAY

The Wolfheads ROAR through the front gate of the plant and jump their motorcycles over a safety railing. The prowlers SLAM on their brakes and skid to a stop at the railing.

The Wolfheads weave through catwalks and ride down stairs, pursued by the ranger motorcycles. The helicopter OPENS FIRE and bullets SPARK off the railings all around them.

Marion leads them toward the mouth of a huge drain covered by a metal grate. But she doesn't even slow down. Instead, she raises a remote control device, taps in a code on a numeric keypad -- and the heavy grate slowly GRINDS open!

The Wolfheads race into the drainpipe, followed by the ranger cycles. The helicopter pulls up, surrendering the chase.

INT. SEWER PIPES - DAY

The Wolfheads and the rangers speed along single-file through the drainpipe. The pipe's about ten feet in diameter with a few inches of standing water. The lead ranger SHOOTs at the Wolfheads, but Allin turns around in his seat to RETURN FIRE.

The pipe has a few sharp turns and it takes some expert riding to maneuver them. Suddenly, the pipe splits into two branches -- Marion and John take one, Bettris takes the other. The rangers divide their group to give chase.

More twists ahead. One of the rangers wipes out and tumbles off his bike, which goes spinning out of control.

Further up, the two pipes intersect -- and the two groups of motorcycles reach the cross-pipe at the same time! John passes through first, then Bettris ZIPS through, going the other way! Marion follows, just barely missing Bettris!

The rangers race through the intersection the same way, but the last two can't quite make it -- they collide and their bikes EXPLODE in a nerve-rattling FIREBALL!

The two pipes empty out into an enormous dry well. On the opposite side of it are the entrances to six more drainpipes. The Wolfheads emerge from one side and race toward the other, crossing paths to confuse their pursuers.

For a moment, all the motorcycles are in the dry well and BULLETS FLY between them! Then Marion, Bettris, and John each choose

different tunnels and the rangers have to split up further to continue the chase.

Just as Marion is about to enter one tunnel, Robin notices a control panel next to it. With his hands still manacled, he grabs Marion's gun and SHOOTs the control panel -- a steel door starts to close in front of them!

Robin and Marion barely make it into the tunnel before the door SLAMS shut -- but the ranger behind them can't stop in time! He CRASHES into it and BLOWS UP!

Now things start to get really messy, because in addition to weaving and intersecting one another, some of these pipes ascend to upper levels and some descend to lower levels, like a high-speed chase through a water slide built by a lunatic!

One of the rangers wipes out at the bottom of one of these slopes, bringing the ranger behind him down, too! Both bikes EXPLODE.

The tunnels all empty out into an even larger dry well. But this time, they don't all empty out at ground level!

Bettris is in one of the upper pipes -- she pours on a burst of speed and jumps her bike across the dry well, landing squarely in an upper level tunnel on the other side!

The ranger behind her isn't as lucky. He doesn't have enough speed to make the jump and crashes into the wall!

Marion and Little John are at ground level, followed by the last ranger. They weave back and forth, and the ranger decides to follow Little John as he enters another tunnel.

The ranger raises his gun to shoot, but he hears a sound behind him -- HONK-HONK! It's Marion, honking her motorcycle's horn! She's doubled back and gotten behind him!

Before he can turn the gun on her, Robin OPENS FIRE! The bike EXPLODES, but Marion is traveling too fast to avoid the wreck! Instead of braking, she cranks the throttle, turns toward the curved wall of the tunnel --

-- and takes the bike in an upside-down corkscrew loop over the explosion! Robin gives her a startled look.

ROBIN

Where the hell did you learn to ride like that?

MARION

You taught me, remember?

Robin looks back at the burning wreck, still rather shaken.

ROBIN

I never taught you that...

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - CITY CENTRE - DAY

The aftermath. Crowds of ONLOOKERS are held back by cordons of crime scene tape. The Sheriff overlooks it all from the grandstands. Chief Kelley approaches him.

KELLEY

They... lost him.

The Sheriff walks down the steps of the grandstands and heads to his limo. The reporter who covered the fiasco catches up to him.

REPORTER #3

Sheriff, can we have a comment? Is Nottingham no longer safe from --

The Sheriff turns, grabs the reporter's microphone from him, and beats him repeatedly over the head with it. The reporter falls to his knees and the Sheriff continues on his way.

SHERIFF

(to Kelley)

Have Commander Darcy mobilize his men for immediate deployment. It's past time I put an end to this.

INT. THE BLUE BOAR - BACK ROOM - DUSK

Marion and the other Wolfheads who rescued Robin stand by as Eadom removes Robin's manacles with a bolt cutter.

LITTLE JOHN

There. Let's go.

ROBIN

Not yet.

LITTLE JOHN

The Sheriff's men are probably already on their way here!

ROBIN

He's not just coming for us. He's going to sell the whole town into slavery to make back the money we stole from him.

Little John and the others are taken aback by this. A beat.

ALLIN

They can hide in the forest.

ROBIN

Where are they going to hide their homes? Their farms? Their whole lives are here.

GILBERT

Robin... If the Sheriff is coming here, he's coming in force.

ROBIN

I know. We'll need every man we have, armed and ready as soon as possible.

GILBERT

There are only thirty of us.

EADOM

This isn't a village of sheep, you know. We fought hard to make our lives here and we'll show them hell before we let them make slaves of us, that's for damned sure.

ALLIN

Oh, good, the farmer's are going to help us. 'Cuz for a second there, I thought we were in trouble.

ROBIN

We got them into this by asking them to protect us. Now it's our turn to protect them.

LITTLE JOHN

Even to the death?

ROBIN

If we're not men of honor, then we really are just thieves.

ALLIN

Okay, then. Just thieves it is! I liked it when we were just thieves! Those were good times, right?

The others turn to him with sober looks.

ALLIN

Okay, honor's cool, too. I can dig it. I'd just like to avoid the whole dying with honor thing, if that's all right with everyone.

ROBIN

We'll work on that.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The Sheriff enters to find Gisborne sitting with his feet kicked up on his desk again. He's watching news coverage of Robin's escape on the television.

GISBORNE
Well, that could've gone better.

SHERIFF
What do you want?

GISBORNE
Word has it you're marching on
Wakefield. I want to go with you.

SHERIFF
It's a slave raid. What do you care
about it?

GISBORNE
I don't. I just want Locksley.

SHERIFF
Locksley? He'd be insane to stay in
Wakefield.

GISBORNE
He won't abandon his people there.
He'll stay and defend them.

SHERIFF
I'm sending a full company of
shockrangers!

GISBORNE
Doesn't matter. He'll fight them.

SHERIFF
Then he'll die.

GISBORNE
And I want to be there when it happens.
Just to make sure this time.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - NIGHT

Robin and the other Wolfhead leaders are huddled around a map of the village with Eadom and some of the townsfolk. All around them, people hurry about in a barely contained panic.

ROBIN
The river will be our first line of
defense. We'll have to evacuate
everyone on the other side of it.

LITTLE JOHN
What about the bridge?

ROBIN
The river's too shallow to stop them,
but it will slow them down. We'll blow
(MORE)

ROBIN (CONT'D)
the bridge, but we'll wait until they start to cross it. Have Baldwin bring down every big truck we have. We'll park them on the riverbank here as a barricade.

GILBERT
There's no barricade we can put up that their manowar can't break down. Have you thought about that?

ROBIN
I'm trying not to.

TOWNSPERSON
Do we know how many men they're sending?

There's a moment of heavy silence before Robin answers.

ROBIN
A standard shockranger company is 150 men. Our plan is to reduce that number significantly before they break through the barrier. Hopefully our guerilla teams will pick a few off.

LITTLE JOHN
It's going to be hard for us to stay hidden with that heat vision of theirs.

ROBIN
I'm... trying not to think about that, either.

Just then, two trucks drive into the village and park near the town square. Charlie and his brothers get out and hurry over to Robin.

CHARLIE
We rode to a couple of the nearby towns and told them what was going on. They want to help!

FORTY MEN get out of the backs of the two trucks -- village folk mainly, wielding crude firearms and farm implements. The two men who drove the trucks walk up to Robin and put out their hands.

MANSFIELD MAN
The Sheriff's got no friends in Mansfield. We'll stand by you.

GUNTHORPE MAN
The men of Gunthorpe are with you, too. Where do you want us?

Robin smiles and takes both their hands in his.

ROBIN

I never thought I'd be this happy to see a bunch of men with axes. Let's get started.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - NIGHT (LATER)

Marion is helping some of the women, who are preparing to flee with their children. Robin comes up and crouches next to her.

ROBIN

Our first night together in five years. Not exactly how I imagined it.

MARION

Me neither.

Robin hesitates, not relishing what he has to say next.

ROBIN

I know you're not going to like this --

MARION

(interrupting)

Then don't say it. I'm not going with them. I'm not going to leave you again. Ever.

Robin pulls Marion aside so that they're out of earshot of the others and lowers his voice.

ROBIN

Look, I don't know what's going to happen tomorrow. I have to stay and fight with these people, but I am scared shitless and I don't want you here when we start dying.

MARION

I don't care. I --

(beat)

I've spent the last five years living a life I swore I'd never lead. I've been dead inside without you.

(off Robin's look)

I can't do that again. I'd rather live one night with you than a hundred years without you.

Robin wraps his arms around her and holds her close.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - NIGHT

The Sheriff climbs aboard an idling APC, wearing a military dress uniform. Darcy stands at the ready, commanding the troops.

DARCY

Sir, I want you to know that if I'd known Miss Fitzwalter was involved with Locksley and these extremists in any way, I would have arrested her myself.

SHERIFF

I know that, son. You feel like showing them how we deal with the rabble in Nottinghamshire?

DARCY

Yes, sir!

SHERIFF

Move out, Commander.

Darcy nods and they enter the APC. The RUMBLING engine starts to ROAR. CAMERA PULLS BACK...

... REVEALING a long line of APCs, loaded with shockrangers and flanked by dozens of shockrangers on horseback. The dark company starts to roll... with the lumbering manowar "walking tank" bringing up the rear. It is an ominous sight.

MONTAGE:

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - NIGHT

Villagers on the far side of the river are evacuating. Others are using hatchets to make bows and arrows...

The Wolfheads are helping to erect barriers along the riverbank using spiked logs... Baldwin supervises as all of the armored cars and semi trucks they've stolen are parked around the village, forming a perimeter wall.

INT. APC - NIGHT

Gisborne sits in the Sheriff's APC with the shockrangers. With his cigarette and his horse hide jacket, he doesn't quite fit in here. Darcy eyes him uncertainly.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - NIGHT

Some of the villagers dig foxholes behind the wall of vehicles, while others are receiving some fast self-defense and weapons training from the Wolfheads. Still others remove the roof of a barn toward the center of town...

Bettris and Little John wade into the river and plant a series of explosive charges underneath the bridge.

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - NIGHT

A small band of TRAVELLERS has pulled off the road to let the

Sheriff's men pass. Their eyes are filled with awe and fear.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - NIGHT

Gilbert is in a cottage. He stretches a thin wire from a doorknob to the pin of a grenade taped above the door...

Outside, villagers roll barrels of kerosene out the back of a supply truck. Those who can't fight begin leaving for the hills. Mothers and fathers make sad farewells to their children...

END MONTAGE:

Little John and the other Wolfheads approach Robin. Baldwin offers him something wrapped in a large canvas sack.

BALDWIN

We've been collecting parts for this
for a while now. I figured it was time
to finish it. It's from all of us.

Robin's eyes light when he opens the sack to find a sleek black metal compound bow with built-in quiver and laser sight. Robin admires it, then decides to test it out.

He notches an arrow, draws it back. The compound pulleys on the bow CREAK with stored energy -- then POW! Robin lets go and the arrow flies like a bullet, impaling a distant tree!

The tip of the arrow sticks out the other side -- he's shot an arrow through a tree! Robin gives an appreciative smile.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - NIGHT

Robin stands on a hillside, watching the final preparations. The humble village we saw at the beginning has been turned into a fortress. Lightning FLASHES from an approaching thunderhead.

INT. COTTAGE - NIGHT

Robin is turning in. All the lights are off, except for a dim glow coming from the back room. Robin follows it, pushing through a beaded curtain to find...

... Marion in a room full of candles, lying naked on a bed... covered with hundreds of opened love letters. They're the letters she sent to Robin, all those years ago.

MARION

I told you I wrote every day.

Robin picks up one of the letters, then another, realizing just how many of them there are. There must be a thousand.

ROBIN

I'm going to read all of these.

MARION

You don't have to. I'm going to show
you what they say.

She draws him to the bed, kisses him, and they make love...

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - DAWN

Rain has begun to fall. The Sheriff's force rolls along the muddy road... never seeing the figure huddled on a tree branch high overhead. It's Lester.

He pulls out a little laser signal. He aims it at something in the distance and starts flashing it on and off...

Some miles away, Lonny sits in another tree. He sees the flashing light through the fog. He grabs his laser signal and aims it toward town, just visible in the distance.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAWN

Charlie is standing watch in the church steeple. From here, he can see Lonny's laser flashing on the horizon. He jumps to his feet and starts ringing the church BELL.

The villagers stop what they're doing. Robin emerges from the cottage with Marion. Little John runs up and nods.

LITTLE JOHN

They're coming.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY

The rain is falling even harder now, making the day seem like night. The Wolfheads and the villagers have gathered together, some with rifles, some with bows, some with nothing more than scythes and garden hoes. Robin walks among them.

ROBIN

Once the main wall is breached, fall
back, find your teams, and fulfill your
assignments.

(beat)

We have two weapons that we must
capitalize on and which they cannot
possibly defend against. One is the
element of surprise. The other is our
will to be free.

Robin stands in front of them. All eyes are on him.

ROBIN

(continuing)

Our victory here won't just save this
village. It will tell Prince John that
we are not thieves and we are not

(MORE)

ROBIN (CONT'D)
 farmers -- we are an army. It will
 send the message that his reign of
 greed and tyranny must end. And it
 will be so loud that it will be heard
 from here to the Holy Land, where even
 King Richard will have to hear it. And
 he will know that he must return!

Little John raises his gun and leads the Wolfheads in a loud
 BATTLE CRY. The villagers, both men and women, join them.

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST - DAY

As the Sheriff's force comes within sight of the village, figures
 begin to emerge from hiding on either side of the road -- Robin on
 one side, Gilbert on the other. Each of them leads a team of two
 Wolfheads, all are armed with bows.

As the shockrangers march by -- arrows start flying out of the
 woods at them! No noise, no muzzle flash -- just the wasp-like
 HISS of the shafts! Robin's bow is so powerful that it knocks one
 shockranger off his horse and impales him on a nearby tree!

*SHOCKRANGER POV -- The shockrangers easily see the glowing shapes
 of the Wolfheads -- their body heat gives them away!*

Two groups of shockrangers on horseback split off from the convoy
 and chase after the Wolfheads, guns BLAZING! Robin, Gilbert and
 their men turn and run back through the forest toward town!

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY

Robin and Gilbert reach the outskirts of town. One of Gilbert's
 men is shot in the leg and has to be helped to his feet. The
 shockrangers are closing in!

Gilbert and his men duck behind a building. The shockrangers ride
 around the corner after them -- where Little John and another
 group of men are waiting for them! The shockrangers go down in a
 staccato blaze of gunfire!

As the Sheriff's main force nears the village, the riderless
 horses of the dead shockrangers run toward them and flee into the
 forest. Two of the lead shockrangers exchange a look.

Meanwhile, Robin and the Wolfheads sneak across the river with
 gear they've stolen from the shockrangers. A few villagers crawl
 out from under the wall of trucks to help them and they all make
 it back behind the barrier undetected.

The Sheriff's main force arrives in the outskirts. The LEADER of
 the advance team reports back via radio.

ADVANCE LEADER
 They've fortified the main part of the
 village and sandbagged the bridge.

INT. APC - DAY

Darcy and the Sheriff see what the advance leader sees on a crackling video monitor. Darcy sneers at the village's makeshift defenses and the rows of sandbags blocking the bridge.

DARCY

Pathetic.

But something the advance leader said alerts Gisborne...

GISBORNE

The bridge --?

(to Sheriff)

Stop your men! Stop them now!

SHERIFF

What --? Why?

GISBORNE

Just do it!

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY

Too late. The lead APCs plough through the sandbags and start crossing the bridge, followed by mounted shockrangers.

On the other side of the wall of trucks, Allin peers out at the advancing troops. When they've nearly crossed the bridge, Allin lowers the plunger on a detonator and -- BOOM!

The bridge EXPLODES in an enormous fireball! Men and horses are sent flying through the air! Two APCs are overturned and fall into the water! Then the Wolfheads and the villagers OPEN FIRE, blowing the shockrangers away as they try to regroup.

INT. APC - DAY

The Sheriff is beside himself as he watches the video monitors.

SHERIFF

This is Locksley's doing! He knows I need them as slaves. He's trying to force me to kill them!

GISBORNE

No, he's not. He actually thinks he can win.

Gisborne steps out of the APC and enters the battle.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY

A row of archers behind the wall sends a barrage of arrows raining down on the shockrangers. Despite their advanced weaponry, they're taking losses to the village's highly defensible position.

Then the manowar enters the fray. It STOMPS inexorably toward the frontline and down the riverbank.

ROBIN

Fall back! Go! Go!

Robin and the others jump out of their foxholes and retreat to the cover of the village as the manowar SPLASHES across the river. It easily SNAPS the palisades, climbs the riverbank -- and SMASHES through the wall of trucks!

The shockrangers come flooding through as the manowar lays down a barrage of covering FIRE. Robin and the others try to hide among the buildings, but through the shockrangers' goggles -- *each man is a glowing heat vision target!*

Robin strings up two arrows and one of the villagers lights their tips on fire. Robin shoots the flaming arrows over the shockrangers and into two strategically placed piles of refuse behind them. The piles ignite, turning into bonfires!

Other piles just like them have been set up all over the village and Robin's men start igniting them. Through the shockrangers' goggles, *the scene suddenly explodes with light! The heat from the fires obscures their heat vision!*

SHOCKRANGER LEADER

Turn off your thermal imaging!

Robin and the others try to use the distraction to knock a few more of them off, but the manowar turns on them and OPENS FIRE! It spots a group of villagers huddled together and blows them to bits with a surface-to-surface missile!

LITTLE JOHN

Spread out! Now! Find your teams and spread out!

A small group of Wolfheads forms up, equipped with demolition materials and climbing gear. They sneak up on the manowar and throw grappling hooks at it -- they're going to climb it!

The pilot of the manowar hears the grappling hooks CLANK against its hull. He flips the safety cover off of a button and presses it. SPARKING electricity courses over the hull of the manowar --

-- frying the Wolfheads who were climbing it! The dead men drop like flies off of the manowar, their bodies smoking.

GILBERT

Jesus Christ!

Suddenly, Baldwin comes tearing around a corner in a jeep with a heavy machine gun mounted in the back! The Wolfhead manning the gun starts BLASTING at the manowar!

The manowar levels its missiles at the jeep. Baldwin hits the gas and peels out, just as the missiles launch! They barely miss and Baldwin speeds away.

The manowar lumbers after him. As the shockrangers advance behind it, the villagers fall back further into the village, lighting more bonfires to cover their retreat.

Baldwin steers the jeep toward the barn we saw earlier, the one the villagers removed the roof from. Some villagers are on hand to slide the front door open and Baldwin drives inside.

The manowar rounds the corner and aims its guns... when suddenly, two missiles come SCREAMING out the front door of the barn!

The missiles strike the manowar head-on and EXPLODE! The manowar is rocked back, but manages to stay on its feet. A low ROAR begins building inside the barn... and something rises out of it!

It's the attack helicopter that the Wolfheads hijacked from Carfax's convoy! Bettris is flying it and Marion is manning its machine gun! They OPEN FIRE on the manowar!

Meanwhile, Robin and the others split into smaller and smaller groups as they retreat, forcing the shockrangers to break up in order to follow them further into the village.

The helicopter launches another pair of missiles, but the battered manowar releases exploding chaff cannisters! The BLASTS confuse the missiles, which go spiraling out of control and EXPLODE.

BETTRIS

Out of missiles!

The manowar brings its weapons to bear! Bettris dodges and Marion returns FIRE! On the ground, Little John sees the manowar turn to chase the helicopter. He follows it.

The villagers have broken into units of three or four and are sniping at the shockrangers from shadows and rooftops.

One squad of shockrangers takes FIRE from Robin and a pair of villagers holed up in a nearby cottage. The shockrangers return fire, forcing Robin and his men to take cover.

The shockrangers run toward the cottage. Robin and his men slip out the back as the shockrangers break down the front door --

-- tripping the booby trap that Gilbert wired to it! The cottage EXPLODES, taking the shockrangers with it!

As Robin and his two men flee the scene, a figure steps into the alley behind them. An instant later, Robin's men drop to the ground dead, throwing knives jutting out of their backs! Robin turns toward the figure behind him -- Gisborne.

GISBORNE
Swell party. Shall we?

Gisborne draws his guns and Robin dives for cover before the BULLETS start flying! Robin draws his guns and returns FIRE!

Meanwhile, the helicopter and the manowar are setting the night ablaze with EXPLOSIONS and TRACERS! The helicopter is flying low, using buildings as cover, swooping in and out of alleys.

Bettris swings the helicopter around, giving Marion a clear shot at the manowar, but it's no use. The bullets barely dent it. Little John sees the trouble they're having and grabs his radio.

LITTLE JOHN
Bettris, you guys watch where you're shooting! I'm gonna climb it!

BETTRIS
No way, John! It won't work!

LITTLE JOHN
Just keep him busy so he doesn't fry me!

John runs out and jumps onto one of the manowar's legs! Bettris swoops in, drawing the pilot's attention. The manowar chases the helicopter as Little John starts to climb.

Gilbert and Allin are leading small groups of men in guerilla attacks against the shockrangers. Booby traps and cunning ambushes are taking their toll on the Sheriff's forces.

Robin and Gisborne both have guns in each fist, BLASTING away at one another. Gisborne's exoskeleton gives him immense power and speed. Robin ducks behind a dumpster for cover --

-- but Gisborne runs up a nearby wall, all the way to the rooftop! From here, he has a clear shot at Robin, who blindly returns FIRE, until -- CLICK! Out of ammo! Robin escapes into the Blue Boar.

Meanwhile, Bettris is still harassing the manowar. Marion is purposefully aiming her shots wide to avoid hitting Little John, who's climbing up its back.

Suddenly, the manowar cuts a swath of bullets across the chopper's tail! Bettris loses control for a second, accidentally throwing Marion's aim off! She comes close to blowing John away and he gives her a dirty look.

INT. THE BLUE BOAR - DAY

Gisborne walks in from the back room, guns drawn. The only light comes from the fires outside. Robin crouches behind a booth, notching an arrow to his bow.

Gisborne moves slowly through the dark room. Robin silently draws back the bowstring. A flash of lightning casts Gisborne's shadow on the wall! Robin sees it and shoots!

But Gisborne is just too fast! As Robin is releasing the arrow, Gisborne whirls and shoots Robin in the shoulder! Robin's arrow misses by inches. Gisborne shoots him again, in the leg this time, knocking Robin to the ground!

Clutching his wounded leg, Robin hobbles to a nearby window and throws himself through it, SMASHING the glass! Gisborne shoots until his guns CLICK empty, but misses.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY

Allin and his men draw fire from a squad of shockrangers and lead them into a narrow alley. As Allin's team escapes out the other end --

-- a pair of armored cars pull up on either end of the alley, trapping the shockrangers inside! Eadom appears on the rooftop and aims a flaming arrow down at them. They raise their guns --

-- just as Eadom lets his arrow fly, shooting a barrel of kerosene in the alley below! The barrel EXPLODES, filling the alley with fire and incinerating the shockrangers!

INT. APC - DAY

Darcy and the Sheriff are watching the chaos on the video monitors in horror. Shockrangers are dying, burning, and retreating in a panic. Most of the monitors are filled with static.

One of the video feeds catches his eye. It's low to the ground and the helicopter is flying right over it. A moment later, the manowar appears, chasing the helicopter, and walking right toward the camera! Darcy goes pale.

SHERIFF

Whose camera is that?

DARCY

Ours!

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - DAY

The pilot of the manowar is blindly going after the helicopter and doesn't even see the Sheriff's APC until it's too late! One of the manowar's enormous feet kicks it aside, SMASHING the APC and sending it rolling into a wall.

Across town, in the village's cemetery, Robin limps among the tombstones and draws another arrow to his bow. Gisborne follows, but he's in no hurry now.

GISBORNE

Well, at least they won't have to drag your corpse far to bury you.

Robin raises his bow. Gisborne draws his tachi sword and leaps into the air!

Gisborne soars, tachi raised above his head! Lightning splits the sky behind him! Robin shoots, but Gisborne cuts the arrow in half with his sword! Robin shoots two more arrows while Gisborne is still in mid-air, but Gisborne swats them aside as well!

And then he's on Robin, sword arcing down toward Robin's head! Robin raises his bow and uses it as a shield to block the attack! Gisborne sneers and pushes Robin away.

Robin tumbles back and drops his bow. He quickly draws his sword, and turns to face Gisborne, their blades CLASHING!

Meanwhile, Bettris wrestles with the helicopter's sluggish controls. The manowar SHOOTs up her tail rotor! Alarms SHRIEK!

BETTRIS

Shit!

The helicopter spirals out of control and CRASHES into a storefront! The cabin crumples like foil and rotor blades go flying in every direction!

Back in the rain swept cemetery, Robin and Gisborne fight to the death! Gisborne is impossibly fast, leaping from tombstone to tombstone. Robin can barely fight him off. The sky above them is pure drama -- storm clouds, lightning, fire, and tracer bullets.

The manowar is lumbering toward the crashed helicopter. Marion is dazed and bleeding, but manages to wrestle out of her harness.

MARION

Bettris, come on --!

But Bettris is unconscious, bleeding from a gash in her forehead. Marion tries to drag her out of the cockpit, but Bettris' legs are pinned by the smashed instrument panel.

A shadow falls over them. Marion looks up. The manowar aims its machine guns at them. Then, just as the pilot is about to squeeze the trigger, he hears something -- TAP, TAP, TAP. He looks up --

-- and sees Little John knocking on the glass of his cockpit. The pilot's eyes widen when he sees that John's other hand is on a safety handle outside the cockpit. There's a warning written above the handle, "DANGER: EXPLOSIVE BOLTS."

The pilot hurries to press the electrocution button, but it's too late. John twists the handle -- the canopy is blown off by explosive bolts and the cockpit is launched into the air!

The pilot's a hundred feet up before the propulsion rockets FIZZLE. Parachutes open and he floats safely back to earth. Right into a crowd of angry villagers armed with farm implements.

Without its pilot, the manowar powers down and falls over. Little John jumps clear as it comes CRASHING to the ground.

Not far away, the Sheriff crawls out of his smashed APC. He's trembling and has a bloody gash over one eye.

He spots a shockranger horse without its rider, pulls himself into the saddle, and frantically spurs the horse into a gallop. He rides out of the village, fleeing down the same road he came.

In the cemetery, Robin is putting up his best fight, but he is wounded and outmatched by Gisborne's cybernetic enhancements.

Gisborne knocks the sword from Robin's hand and kicks him in the stomach! The blow sends Robin crashing into a stone obelisk with bone-crushing force. Robin is finished. Gisborne sheathes his sword and draws his big harpoon gun.

GISBORNE

You know, I do have one regret about killing your father. I had to shoot him in the back, so I didn't get to see the expression on his face when he died.

Robin glances to one side and sees his bow lying on the ground a few feet away. Gisborne raises the harpoon gun.

GISBORNE

Say cheese, kid.

He fires, but at the last instant, Robin rolls aside and the harpoon buries itself in the stone obelisk behind him!

GISBORNE

Crap.

Then CLICK! The grappling prongs emerge from the tip of the harpoon. And before Gisborne realizes what's happening --

-- the winch in his gun engages, retracting the harpoon! The stone obelisk CRACKS and the top half of it comes flying back with the harpoon, smashing Gisborne in the face!

Gisborne staggers back, his face caved in by the flying tombstone! Robin dives for his bow, draws an arrow, and shoots it into Gisborne's heart! Gisborne slumps to his knees...

GISBORNE

Didn't hurt a bit.

... then falls on his back. Robin walks over to Gisborne's body.

The engagement ring he took from Robin hangs from a chain around Gisborne's neck. Robin takes it back, then staggers away.

He doesn't see Gisborne's fingers twitch. Doesn't see him sit up. Doesn't see the knife slip into his hand from up his sleeve.

Lightning flashes. Gisborne stands up... but his battered exoskeleton begins to WHINE, its gears grinding --

-- and Robin hears it! He spins, draws an arrow, and shoots, all in one movement -- and his second arrow hits Gisborne in the heart, too. Splitting the first arrow in half.

Gisborne drops the knife and slumps to the ground, leaning against a statue of a merciful angel, heaving out his last bloody breaths.

ROBIN

Rot in hell.

GISBORNE

I'll save you a seat.

And with one last rasping gurgle... he dies. Gisborne's falcon swoops down and lands on the angel statue. It SCREECHES angrily at Robin, who turns and walks away.

EXT. WAKEFIELD VILLAGE - NIGHT

The villagers and Wolfheads celebrate together. Baldwin is setting off FIREWORKS, Eadom is handing out free beer, Allin is playing his guitar, and everyone else is dancing, singing, and drinking, just happy to be alive.

Bettris has a bloody bandage around her head, but has escaped otherwise unscathed. She's sharing a beer with Gilbert and regaling him with the story of her fight with the manowar.

Charlie and his brothers are trying to impress the local girls with some patently horrible dance moves. Little John laughs at them, then looks around.

He spots Robin and Marion, off on their own near the church. Robin is down on one knee, holding her hand. He pulls the engagement ring out of his pocket and slips it onto her finger.

ROBIN

Be my wife. Stay with me forever.

Marion cups his face with her hands, tears brimming in her eyes. He stands and they kiss. Suddenly, Little John is there, laughing and clapping them on the back. They exchange an amused look.

Soon, everyone is gathered around Robin and Marion, cheering and congratulating them as the skyrockets BURST overhead.

INT. NOTTINGHAM CASTLE - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The Sheriff hurries around, ransacking his office. The gash in his face has been stitched shut. So has his damaged eye. He's grabbing everything he can find of value and stuffing it in a bag. He opens a wall safe and clears it out.

Suddenly, the window behind him SHATTERS and an arrow buries itself in the wall by his head! There's a note attached to it. He takes the note off the arrow and starts to read:

ROBIN (V.O.)

Dear Sheriff. I have not forgiven your crimes against my father, nor have I forgotten to avenge him. My father's virtues have outlived him, and I can think of no better way to honor him than to free the people you seek to enslave. But it does not end here.

Suddenly, the door is thrown open and Simeon Carfax enters, flanked by his shockrangers!

CARFAX

Seize him.

The shockrangers descend on the Sheriff, who cringes and drops the letter. Carfax sees it and picks it up.

ROBIN (V.O.)

(continuing)

Sherwood Forest is filled tonight with word of your defeat. And the people you have persecuted for so long are united as one against you. Sherwood and the North Road belong to us now. Attempt to win them back at your own peril.

Carfax crumples the letter. He sees the broken window and looks out it, but there is no one there.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM - NIGHT

CAMERA PULLS BACK from Carfax standing in the window of Nottingham Castle and FLIES through the city, soaring over the rooftops, then swooping down into the streets...

... turning down a familiar alley, where the widow who helped Robin escape the city lives. She opens her door and finds a basket of food on the front steps.

ROBIN (V.O.)

(continuing)

Prince John may have stolen the throne. But we will fight his cruelty with

(MORE)

ROBIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
kindness and we will feed the people
that he would let starve.

The widow looks up, but whoever left the basket is gone. CAMERA
MOVES BACK to the rooftops, flying over the city.

ROBIN (V.O.)
(continuing)
But make no mistake -- we will not
hesitate to shed the blood of those who
oppose us. Consider this your one and
only notice -- we are bringing the
battle to you.

CAMERA FLIES toward the downtown skyscrapers, up to the top of the
tallest building in the city... where Robin is crouched on the
roof, bow and arrow slung over his shoulder.

ROBIN (V.O.)
(continuing)
I swear this, by my father and in the
name of King Richard. Signed... Robin
Hood.

The full moon fills the night sky behind him. He looks down at
Nottingham, a mythic figure silhouetted in silver moonlight. A
legend has been born.

FADE OUT.

THE END

ABOUT THE ARTIST

For the past twenty years, **TIM BRADSTREET** has Illustrated everything from trading cards to comic books to book covers and movie posters. In 1997 Tim was voted Best Horror Artist by the Horror Writers Guild of America. In 2001 he joined director Guillermo Del Toro as a conceptual artist to help visualize the film "Blade 2."

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