

THAT PUNK, ROBIN HOOD

A musical

SYNOPSIS

Down with fascist King John!

It's 1215 AD and punk rock rebellion is bubbling up in feudal England. Robin Hood becomes a folk hero by robbing from the rich and giving to the poor, but a newly powerful Maid Marian doubts his motives and methods as she works to change the system from the inside. Can these two ex-lovers work together to get what they want? Is change even possible? And can they pay the dangerously high price to get it?

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Note: the actors play their own instruments. Who plays what can be flexible as long as there is at least guitar, bass, drums, and keys. Also, there needs to be a wide variety of genders, races, and ethnicities represented in the cast. Pronouns can be changed! Songs can be transposed! Essence is king.

ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY, dashing outlaw. Pure tear-it-all-down, anarchist punk. Cocky SOB. Rock baritenor.

MAID MARIAN, former wild child turned chessmaster revolutionary. Former lover of Robin. It didn't end well. New wave rocker. High rock belt.

LITTLE JOAN, Marian's muscle, bodyguard, confidant, and friend. Like all great Little Johns of legend, she is anything but little. It's probably pure muscle mass. Grew up a serf. Disco alto voice with a bodyguard's style.

GUY OF GISBORNE, the noblest nobleman that ever nobled. Like a nerd who was inspired to get swole from watching Dragon Ball Z. Yarl tenor, early 90's corporate rocker.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM, slimy schemer. May outmatch Marian in plotting. Rose through the ranks thanks to their amorality and ability to turn situations to their favor. Folk/light rocker, baritone.

KING JOHN, the fucking King of England. Like a tech billionaire who thinks he's beloved for his personality. Glam rocker with prog rock scope. Very high rock tenor, like Geddy Lee of Rush.

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON/KID, one of the Merry Men. Just happy to be here. Friendly, kind, a cinnamon roll. But punk. Rock baritenor.

WILLA SCARLET, another of the Merry Men. Doesn't say much usually, but still waters run deep. Punk. Rock alto.

TRACK LISTING FOR DEMOS

1. Let's Go!
2. Guy of Gisborne's Song
3. I Am Robin Hood
4. King Johnny is Coming to Town
5. I Can Work With You
6. I Can Work With You reprise
7. Not My Life
8. The Kings of England
9. Little Miss Centrist
10. Follow a Fucking Order
11. Little Joan's Dog
12. Poverty Tourist
13. Simple Country Peasant
14. You Bring Out the Worst in Me
15. Southwell Minster
16. Pub Fight
17. The Ravine
18. A Compassionate Person part 1
- 18a. A Compassionate Person part 2
- 18b. A Compassionate Person part 3
19. Conclusions part 1
- 19a. Conclusions part 2
20. You Bring Out the Worst in Me reprise
21. I Am Friar Tuck
22. The Festival part 1
- 22a. The Festival part 2
- 22b. The Festival part 2
23. Guy's Speech
24. Robin's Reply to Guy
25. The Sheriff's Speech
26. Break It
27. The Dragon
28. I Will Defy
29. Revolution part 1
- 29a. Revolution part 2
- 29b. Revolution part 3
- 29c. Revolution part 4
- 29d. Revolution part 5
- 29e. Revolution part 6
30. Marian Alone
31. Revolution reprise
32. Robin's Last Stand part 1
- 32a. Robin's Last Stand part 2
33. What a Way to Go part 1
- 33a. What a Way to Go part 2

ACT I

SCENE 1

SHERWOOD FOREST, CIRCA 1218 AD.

...but punk rock. These characters are Robin Hood and the Merry Men, but they're also a punk band from the late 1970's who sing about 21st century problems, like how Alexander Hamilton is a rapper and Andrew Jackson is an emo rock star.

All the actors play their own instruments, which are set up on a tiny stage. Their equipment was born dented and the crumbling walls around them are held up by graffiti paint and band posters.

ROBIN struts center, to the mic. He's a devastatingly hot agent of chaos. You can tell by his perfectly torn, ratty clothes that this guy comes from money. Is he a government plant? Otherwise, how could someone this pure, this wild possibly exist. In a later life, he's probably reborn as Lord Byron or something.

WILLA SCARLET and MUCH THE MILLER'S SON take their places. WILLA is cool, calm, and collected. A lesser-noble woman of few words, she'd rather let a well-placed knife do the talking. MUCH on the other hand is gregarious, open, and just happy to be here.

Everyone else in the cast takes their places and gets ready to play.

ROBIN

Oy! We're Robin Hood and the Merry Men. We're gonna sing for you tonight. So sit down and shut the fuck up.

(1. LET'S GO!) << Track 1 >>

ONE TWO THREE FOUR!

YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT PUNK, ROBIN HOOD.

WELL YOU DON'T KNOW HIM IN THE WAY THAT YOU SHOULD.

HE ISN'T REAL. HE'S A STORY YOU TELL.

AND WE DON'T THINK HIS STORY'S TOLD VERY WELL. LET'S GO!

WE'RE GONNA SHOW SOME BRAND NEW ROBIN HOOD LORE.
WE GUARANTEE YOU'VE NEVER HEARD THIS BEFORE.
WE'RE GONNA SHOUT IT OUT WITH ALL OF OUR MIGHT.
JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER CRIED MY NAME LAST NIGHT. LET'S GO!

TONIGHT OUR ROBIN HOOD'S GONNA STRUM.
MUCH THE MILLER'S SON IS BEATING THE DRUMS.

And not beating off, I hope!

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

Fuck you!

ROBIN

WILLA SCARLET'S BASS MAKES HER FINGERS NUMB.

ALL

WE'RE ROBIN HOOD AND THE MERRY MEN
STEALING FROM THE RICH THEN STEALING AGAIN
GIVING TO THE POOR AND FORMING A BAND!

LIVIN' IN THE FOREST DOIN' CRIME.
FIGHTING ALL MOTHER FUCKERS ONE DAY AT A TIME.
TAKING DOWN THE SYSTEM THAT'S ROBBING YOU BLIND.

ROBIN

Alright you rock and rollers, listen up!
Tonight, we're Robin Hood and the Merry Men.
Everything is shitty and it's only getting
worse. But here in Sherwood Forest? We fight
back! Hey Much, do you have anything to say to
our brethren back in Nottingham?

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

Sure do, Robin!
SICK OF NOTTINGHAM'S WALLS?
GET AWAY FROM IT ALL!
I GOT A WAGON.
YOU BRING YOUR FLAGON.
WE'LL DITCH THIS GENTRIFYING SPRAWL.

LET'S DO CRIME IN SHERWOOD FOREST.
LET'S DO CRIME IN SHERWOOD FOREST.
LET'S DO CRIME IN SHERWOOD FOREST.
IT'S A DUMP, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTTINGHAM.

SHERIFF ON YOUR TAIL?
ALL YOUR FRIENDS IN JAIL?
LEAVE THIS TOWN.
BURN IT DOWN.
AND MAKE THOSE GREEDY FUCKERS PAY.

ALL

LET'S DO CRIME IN SHERWOOD FOREST.
LET'S DO CRIME IN SHERWOOD FOREST.
LET'S DO CRIME IN SHERWOOD FOREST.

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

IT'S A DUMP, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING-HAM.

THE RIVER IS POLLUTED
THERE'S GRAFFITI ON THE TREES.
THOSE AREN'T NETTLES IN THE BUSHES
AND THAT'S NOT THAT KIND OF WEED.
AND THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE
TO TAKE DOWN THE FASCIST STATE.

ALL

HEY NONNI NONNI NONNI,
HEY NONNI NONNI NONNI,
HEY NONNI, HEY NONNI, NONNI NONNI HEY!

LET'S DO CRIME IN SHERWOOD FOREST
LET'S DO CRIME IN SHERWOOD FOREST
LET'S DO CRIME IN SHERWOOD FOREST

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

IT'S A DUMP, BUT IT'S BETTER, MUCH BETTER...

ALL

LET'S DO CRIME IN SHERWOOD FOREST
LET'S DO CRIME IN SHERWOOD FOREST
LET'S DO CRIME IN SHERWOOD FOREST

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

IT'S A DUMP, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN THIS.

ALL

ROBIN HOOD IS THE STORY WE PLAY.
NO RELEVANCE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY.
WHY YOU READING INTO THIS IN SUCH A WEIRD WAY???

WILLA SCARLET

Everyone. Look. We've been saying a lot of shit
about the rich.

ROBIN

They deserve it!

WILLA SCARLET

But no! Rich people are great! (whispered)
They're totally listening in. (spoken) So
remember...

KINGS ARE PEOPLE TOO!
THEY MAY NOT SEEM LIKE IT TO YOU.

THEY MAY NOT WORRY 'BOUT
HUNGER OR DISEASE,
OR OTHER PEOPLE'S NEEDS,
BUT KINGS ARE PEOPLE TOO!

AND ALL THE PEOPLE SAY:

ALL

WHOA!

WILLA SCARLET

Do they have compassion?

ALL

No they don't!

WILLA SCARLET

Do they have empathy?

ALL

No they don't!

WILLA SCARLET

Do they have a care?

ALL

No they don't!

WILLA SCARLET

Do they have love?

ALL

No they don't!

WILLA SCARLET

BUT KINGS ARE PEOPLE TOO!
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE BUT TRUE!
SO THEN, HOW CAN THIS BE SO?
HOW DO WE KNOW?

ROBIN

Get to the fucking point!

WILLA SCARLET

KINGS CAN BLEED.
AND THEY CAN DIE.
LET'S REMIND THEM THAT THEY'RE HUMAN!

ALL

WHOA!

(end of song)

GUY OF GISBORNE interrupts. He's one of those rich assholes who lives by a strict set of rules for himself that he believes is the one 'right' way to live, and he can't understand why everyone can't live his way. He exercises every day, is vegan, and believes politeness and gentility are more important than the content of what you say. He feels very deeply & agonizingly, but thinks very little. He's a knight who talks for hours about obscure codes of chivalry, or an anime weeb who got swole because he wanted to be like Goku in Dragon Ball Z. A great leader, he loves nothing more than to follow blindly. He loves to brag about his humility. He speaks and sings with a thick yarl, like an early 90's corporate rock star.

GUY OF GISBORNE

Whoa whoa, what are you doing? Crime in Sherwood Forest? Are you not ashamed! What ridiculous talk! You don't like how things are run? You want change? Then appeal to your representative in parliament! Doing literally anything else just hurts your cause.

WILLA SCARLET

Who the fuck are you?

GUY OF GISBORNE

Ah! I'm pleased you asked. I am Guy of Gisborne!

WILLA SCARLET

Guy of Gisborne?

ROBIN

Hey man, can I give you a nickname?

GUY OF GISBORNE

Um, I suppose so.

ROBIN

Okay then, Jizzborne.

GUY OF GISBORNE

...that's not what I would have gone for...

ROBIN

What are you doing out here? Don't you know it's dangerous in these woods?

GUY OF GISBORNE

Don't despair, my strange new friend. For it is indeed Danger that I seek. I have been sent by the Sheriff of Nottingham to get rid of the public menace, Robin Hood.

(2. GUY OF GISBORNE'S SONG) << Track 2 >>

(at some point during the number, WILLA steals GUY's knife, wallet, and a letter from KING JOHN. She hands the wallet to MUCH.)

I MAY NOT BE THE SMARTEST.
I MAY NOT BE THE STRONGEST.
BUT I WILL LOCK THAT ROBIN IN A CAGE.
OOH.
THAT MAN IS AN OUTLAW.
HIS BAND CONSISTS OF DIRTY HOODLUMS.
SO I WILL LOCK THAT ROBIN IN A...

A PRISON IS TOO GOOD
FOR THOSE WHO ROB WEALTH CREATORS.
HIS HANDOUTS HURT THE POOR.
NOW THEY'RE RELIANT ON CRIME AND TRAITORS.
THE NOBLES LOSE POWER
AND HAVE TO FIRE ALL THEIR HOUSE STAFF.
THEN RAISE TERRIFIS ON YOUR GOODS.
YOU REALLY WANT THIS WORLD? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

I MAY NOT BE THE SMARTEST.
I MAY NOT BE THE STRONGEST.
BUT THIS GUY WILL CATCH THAT ROBIN.

I THOUGHT WE HAD FREEDOM
TO LIVE IN A FEUDAL SYSTEM.
BUT THESE HANDOUTS TO THE POOR
GO AGAINST OUR HOLY CHRISTN'DOM
GO TO FRANCE OR TO SPAIN
IF YOU WANT A SHITHOLE COUNTRY
BUT HERE IN MY ENGLAND
I WON'T BECOME A WELFARE JUNKY.

I MAY NOT BE THE SMARTEST.
(end of song)

So have any of you good people seen him?

ROBIN
Seen 'im? I AM him!

GUY OF GISBORNE
What? How can this be? That I've already encountered that famous outlaw! What luck! Now, I shall apprehend him post-haste!
(reaches for a knife, comes up empty)
Where did I put that?

ROBIN

That what? Your knife?
(WILLA pulls out a knife.)

GUY OF GISBORNE

Give that back! Right now!

WILLA SCARLET

Oh no, I don't think so.

GUY OF GISBORNE

Alas and alack! I thought my wealth and
privilege would naturally shield me from the
consequences of my own reckless actions! When
the sheriff hears of this...

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

Ooh! The sheriff!

WILLA SCARLET

No! Not the sheriff!

ROBIN

Hey, Jizzborne, we don't give a fuck about the
sheriff. Or about you.

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

(reading the letter) Hey, it looks like King
John is coming to town soon! He says he's
coming in person to 'be tough on criminals'.

ROBIN

Is he talking about us? Nice! Should we rob the
King when he's in town?

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

Oh yeah, that'll go over great!

WILLA SCARLET

Much, what's in the wallet?

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

(leafing through GUY's wallet, finding a tiny
portrait) Ooh, Asshole of Gisborne, is this
your ugly kid?

GUY OF GISBORNE

(tantrum) No! No, no, no! Give that back!

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

Hey, now that I met your family, allow me to
introduce myself! I'm Much the Miller's Son.

ROBIN

Hey Much, how's the milling business? Makin'
any dough?

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

Not Much. (maybe a comedic drum hit here?)

WILLA SCARLET

I'm Willa Scarlet. I like your knife. It's mine now. (pause) I like my knife.

GUY OF GISBORNE

Oh, my poor knife. Alack and alas!

ROBIN

Hey dude, calm down. They're the "Merry" Men. You don't want to make them mad.

GUY OF GISBORNE

Why are you doing this? Why are you so mean? Can't we all just get along while I arrest you?

(3. I AM ROBIN HOOD) << Track 3 >>

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!

I AM ROBIN HOOD

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND DOING GOOD

WHAT DO I STAND FOR?

ROBBING FROM THE RICH AND GIVING, GIVING TO THE POOR.

I COULDN'T SIT DOWN AT LOCKSLEY HALL

READING THE PAPER AND STARING AT WALLS.

PEOPLE LIKE YOU ACTING HOW THEY LIKE

I GRABBED MY BOW, IT WAS TIME TO STRIKE.

YOU SAY SERFS MATTER

THEN YOU'LL BEAT THEM JUST FOR BREATHING.

YOU SAY HUMAN RIGHTS

BUT FORCE GIRLS BREEDING.

YOU SAY I'M A TERRORIST,

WELL, THERE WE'RE AGREEING.

I AM ROBIN HOOD.

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND DOING GOOD.

WHAT DO I STAND FOR?

ROBBING FROM THE RICH AND GIVING, GIVING TO THE LESS FORTUNATE.

WE TRIED TO CHANGE THINGS IN PEACEFUL WAYS.

BUT MAGNA CARTER WAS JUST A PHASE.

WE TRIED TO SCREAM AND WE TRIED TO PROTEST

BUT IT'S BEEN YEARS, NOTHING'S BEEN ADDRESSED.

PROTECT OUR LAND!

YEAH, PROTECT IT FROM YOU.

GO AND YEET YOURSELF

OUT TO THE MOON.

OR MAYBE MARS.

BLOOD RED AND LOTS OF ROOM.

I AM ROBIN HOOD
FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND DOING GOOD.
WHAT DO I STAND FOR?
ROBBING FROM THE RICH AND GIVING, GIVING TO LITERALLY ANYBODY
BUT THE RICHEST MEN IN THE WORLD.

MAYBE IF YOU EXPERIENCES ONE HALF OF ONE PERCENT
OF THE MISERY AND TORTURE OF THE FOLK THAT YOU TORMENT
YOU WOULD FIN'LLY GET A CLUE ABOUT THE WORLD BEYOND YOUR
PRESENCE
SO WE'LL BEAT YOU 'TIL WE TEACH YOU A LESSON.

SO I'LL STEAL YOUR EXPENSIVE SHIT.
GIVE IT TO SERFS AND OTHER GITS.
EVEN THE ODDS, MAKE THE WORLD MORE FAIR.
MAYBE BY THEN YOU'LL FUCKING CARE!

I AM ROBIN HOOD.
FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND DOING GOOD.
WHAT DO I STAND FOR?
ROBBING FROM THE RICH AND GIVING, GIVING TO THE...
(they bodily escort GUY off the stage)

I AM ROBIN HOOD.
FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND DOING GOOD.
WHAT DO I STAND FOR?
ROBBING FROM THE RICH AND GIVING, GIVING TO THE POOR.
(end of song)

KING JOHN makes an entrance. He's
dressed like a glam rocker crossed
with a chief corporate officer.
Elon Musk wearing Grimes' clothes.
One of the richest men in the
world, branding himself as a folk
hero of the people while doing
everything he can to oppress them.
He won the game.

KING JOHN

Scenes like this are exactly why you need Our
Royal Presence more than ever! That's right, it
is I! King John! The Great! And I have heard
your cries for Justice! Safety! Security! Yes,
We are a caring monarch. Aww, but fuck that.
I'm coming to town to bust some shit up! Let's
do this!

(4. King Johnny Is Coming to Town)
<< Track 4 >>

I HEAR THAT CRIME'S ON THE RISE.
IT HAPPENS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, AND NO DISGUISE.
LOOTINGS AND MUGGINS ABOUND.
YOUR CRIES HAVE BEEN HEARD ALL THE WAY TO THE CROWN.

AND NOW I'M COMING TO MAKE IT ALL RIGHT.
I'M GONNA SHOW OFF MY POWER AND MIGHT!

KING JOHNNY IS COMING TO TOWN.
YOUR MONARCH IS COMING TO TOWN,
AND LOYAL SUBJECTS ALL SHOULD BOW.
KING JOHNNY IS COMING TO TOWN.

AND IN THE MIDST OF THESE CRIMES,
BOTH THE EARL AND THE HEIR OF NOTINGHAM DIED.
THERE IS NO LEADERSHIP THERE.
THE EARL LEFT A DAUGHTER BUT SHE'S UNPREPARED.

I'M GONNA SHOW UP THERE AND SEE WHAT'S WHAT.
I'M GONNA FIND THE PROBLEMS, KICK THEIR BUTTS!

KING JOHNNY IS COMING TO TOWN.
YOUR MASTER IS COMING TO TOWN.
YEAH, HE'S A KING WHO GETS AROUND.
KING JOHNNY IS COMING TO TOWN.

I'M GONNA THROW A PARTY, TOO!
LOTS OF FOOD AND LOTS OF BOOZE.
CELEBRATE MY PRESENCE HERE.
LOTS OF FUN AND LOTS OF BEER!

KING JOHNNY IS COMING TO TOWN.
YOUR SOVEREIGN IS COMING TO TOWN,
AND HE IS GONNA PARTY DOWN.
I. Am coming. (pause) To town.
(end of song)

SCENE 2

NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

Enter MAID MARIAN. If ROBIN HOOD is the tear-it-all-down kind of punk, MAID MARIAN is the DIY build-outside-the-system kind of punk. She knows everyone and has connections everywhere. She's newly wealthy and very uncomfortable with that fact. She used to be practically feral, a wild child, and forced to grow up very quickly.

She's hobbling onstage, trying to move quickly and lace up a pair of Doc Martens at the same time. She is being helped by LITTLE JOAN who, in the great tradition of all Robin Hood stories, is not little at all. She is officially MARIAN's maidservant, but unofficially she's MARIAN's muscle and bestie.

She may not be getting in bar fights anymore, but she definitely could. And she would absolutely murder your face.

Nottingham Castle is still decorated from the old administration -- MARIAN's dad, who passed away about six months prior. The room is rich, dark paneled. There's a portrait with some darts in it and a general sense of organized chaos around the luxury. MARIAN's biggest contribution was putting in a mini fridge filled with cans of beer. She plans to do more when she has the time, but it just isn't a high priority for her.

MARIAN

Why the fuck is the Sheriff coming?

JOAN

I don't like it.

MARIAN

He's alone, does that mean he's not going to arrest me? At least not again? Or right away? Maybe?

JOAN

Since he's alone, maybe some accident would happen to him. That would solve a lot of problems.

MARIAN

No violence. Seriously. We do this without violence.

JOAN

Who said anything about violence? People get lost in the castle's caves all the time!

MARIAN

Okay, no. Just, don't do that. Be less murderous.

JOAN

I make no promises.

MARIAN

We need to find out what he knows. And what he thinks he knows. I need to find out what kind of leverage he has over me. He doesn't have to arrest me again to make my life miserable.

JOAN

Okay, fine. But you're in a very different place now than when he arrested you. Then, you were a rebellious kid stupidly breaking the law. Now, you're the fucking Earl. If anyone's untouchable, it's you.

MARIAN

Ugh. That doesn't exactly comfort me. Well, let's let him in.

JOAN

(opening the door) Right this way, sir. (She lets the Sheriff in and exits. She's totally listening in by the door, though.)

The SHERIFF of Nottingham enters. He is a schemer. Sure, on the outside he may seem folksy. And it's true he's perfectly comfortable tromping through the ancient forests of England if it means getting shit done right. But underneath his gruff exterior is someone with 15 plots going at once. This has worked out very well for him so far, as he is wealthy and has a great degree of power in Nottingham. Friendly and totally dangerous.

SHERIFF

(bowing) Earl of Nottingham! Congratulations on your promotion! Best wishes and may you have a long, fruitful administration.

MARIAN

Welcome to my castle. You know, I can't say I'm entirely pleased to see you, considering the circumstances we met under last time.

SHERIFF

Oh, come now. That was years ago! Last time we met I was a lowly deputy, just doing my job.

MARIAN

And doing very well at it from what I see.

SHERIFF

Well, yes. My 'work ethic' has raised me up to a Sheriff. Just as yours, I'm sure, raised you up to Earl. Right? Hey, let's have a toast. (grabs a couple of Pabst Blue Ribbons from a mini fridge, handing one to Marian) Here's to the two of us moving up in the world.

MARIAN

...yes. Cheers.

SHERIFF

Very good. (they drink) Glad we can share a beer together. After all, we have a lot in common. A shared history. We've both been through trials and gotten ahead.

MARIAN

Glad you can see it that way.

SHERIFF

Hah! Look. I have a little project that I'm working on, but I think it'll take the two of us to get it done. If we can work together then we'd both benefit.

MARIAN

You want to work with me? Really? Um, if I can be frank, what the hell are you thinking? I honestly see no way that the two of us can work together.

SHERIFF

You think just because we hate each other, we can't help each other too.

MARIAN

Um, yes. Yes I do.

(5. I Can Work With You) << Track 5 >>

SHERIFF

I'm sorry you feel that way. But, really, that doesn't matter.

WELL, I'M SURE THAT YOU DON'T LIKE ME.
AND THE REASON'S CLEAR TO SEE.
YOU MAY THINK THAT I'M
GRIMIER THAN SLIME
GIVEN ALL OUR HISTORY.
BUT I HONESTLY DON'T MIND IT.
IN YOUR SHOES, THAT'S HOW I'D FIND IT.
SO ALTHOUGH, TRUE, YOU DON'T LIKE ME,
KNOW THAT I CAN WORK WITH YOU.
YOU ARE DISINCLINED
NOW TO TREAT ME KIND,
BUT I HOPE YOU ALSO FIND
TO GET THE THINGS WE NEED,
IT'S NECESSITY
THAT I CAN WORK WITH YOU.

MARIAN

Alright. Tell me this. Why would I try to help someone I don't like to get ahead?

SHERIFF

Because it doesn't matter whether you like me
or not. Look, I don't like you very much
either, but I have no problem watching you get
ahead if I get what I want.

YOU SHOULDN'T CARE HOW I FEEL.
BUT LISTEN, HERE'S THE DEAL.
YOU ARE TOO NAIVE
TRYING TO ACHIEVE
YOUR LOFTIEST IDEAL.
THOUGH I THINK YOU'RE JUST A CHILD,
IN MY MIND YOU AREN'T REVILED.
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T CARE HOW I FEEL,
BECAUSE I CAN WORK WITH YOU.
I MAY PATRONIZE,
BUT YOU KNOW I'M WISE
WHEN MY EYE IS ON THE PRIZE.
SINCE I'VE DANCED THIS DANCE,
GIVE ME HALF A CHANCE,
'CAUSE I CAN WORK WITH YOU.

IN THIS LIFE WE NEED TO WORK
WITH PEOPLE WE MAY HATE.
WHETHER IT'S BECAUSE WE DON'T GET ALONG
OR 'CAUSE THEY'RE A REPROBATE.
AND SOMETIMES IT MEANS LETTING THOSE WHO'VE DONE
ABHORRENT THINGS GET OFF SCOT-FREE.
IF THEY HELP OUR CAUSE, THEN THE GUILTIEST
ARE SOMETIMES WHO WE NEED.
IS IT RIGHT?
IS IT FAIR?
NO, OF COURSE IT ISN'T THAT.
DOES IT WORK?
YES IT DOES.
THIS IS HOW WE GET SHIT DONE.

Yes, it is a matter of justice to hold people
accountable for their actions. But if I had to
chose between justice and accomplishment, I
chose to win. Every. Goddamn. Time. And so
should you.

YOU MAY DISAGREE
BUT I GUARANTEE
YOU CAN GET THINGS DONE WITH ME.
DROP YOUR DISDAIN
YOU'VE MUCH TO GAIN
'CAUSE I CAN WORK WITH YOU.

(end of song)

MARIAN

Fine, then. Tell me what you got.

SHERIFF

King John is very concerned about the rebels.
So he's coming to town to throw a festival. He
plans to lure the rebels out of hiding with a
speech making contest.

MARIAN

It's a trap.

SHERIFF

Damn right it is. Once he's brought the rebels together with the promise that the winning speech will be read across England, they'll all be arrested.

MARIAN

That's a terrible idea. No rebel with half a brain will go anywhere near that festival.

SHERIFF

What about Robin Hood?

MARIAN

He would definitely be there.

SHERIFF

Yes, but only if he knows the contest is happening. I can't very well just waltz into Sherwood Forest and hand him an invite.

MARIAN

Oh. Right. But I can.

SHERIFF

Yes. Yes you can. I'm pretty sure he still has feelings for you too.

MARIAN

I don't know about that. But I don't think he'd shoot me on sight at least.

SHERIFF

There you go. See? We CAN work together! If I can bring Robin Hood to the King, I will advance so far. And you...

MARIAN

I get to see my ex-boyfriend rot in jail. Robin of Locksley in chains. A very appealing thought.

SHERIFF

Yes! Exactly. So you'll do it?

MARIAN

You make a tempting offer. Let me think about it.

SHERIFF

I thought so. Let me just lock in the deal, then. See, I know all about your seemingly innocent activities.

(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

The extra funds going into monasteries and inns. Your avoiding tariffs. Hell, are you stockpiling weapons? All of these are mostly innocent on their own, but together, damning. No, I don't know exactly what you're planning. But none of it's good. A coup, maybe? And Robin Hood is a threat to whatever your plans are. He's getting noisy. That's a lot of unwanted attention in Nottingham. Have Robin arrested, then continue your plans safely. Oh, and maybe I'll look the other way the next time I see one of your men hauling goods along back roads. What do you think?

MARIAN

...I don't know what you're talking about.

(6. I Can Work With You reprise)

<< Track 6 >>

SHERIFF

Very good.
YOU MAY DISAGREE,
BUT I GUARANTEE
YOU CAN GET THINGS DONE WITH ME.
DROP YOUR DISDAIN,
YOU'VE MUCH TO GAIN
'CAUSE I CAN WORK WITH YOU.
(song ends)
(SHERIFF exits. JOAN enters)

MARIAN

Shit.

JOAN

That little fuck knows too much.

MARIAN

Yes he does. Damn it. I hoped we could stay hidden longer.

JOAN

Is it time to act?

MARIAN

No. Not yet. I wish it were just a coup. That would be simpler. It'd be easy to stick a knife in a king, but so much harder to change the world that makes the knife necessary. We're not there yet.

JOAN

But we're close. We'll be ready soon.

MARIAN

...maybe.

JOAN

In the meantime, what do you want me to do about Robin?

MARIAN

Fuck Locksley. I should turn him over to the Sheriff myself.

JOAN

Let me help you!

MARIAN

No, no, we shouldn't do that. I can't give that smug Sheriff a victory. But Robin's probably going to hear about the festival anyway. And he's definitely going to want to go. Hey, yeah, why don't you go down to Sherwood Forest. Tell him not to go to the festival. Thoroughly convince him. Make a STRONG argument.

JOAN

Yeah, I can do that. That'll be fun! Maybe I'll break his legs or something while I'm there. As a treat. There's a supply wagon heading out today. I can hitch along with them.

MARIAN

Great. Let's do it. (JOAN starts to leave) Ugh. "I can work with you." Fucking Sheriff.

JOAN

Yeah, he's the worst.

MARIAN

Terrible. Letting men like that have even a whiff of power is a disaster.

JOAN

Well, when you're in charge, they won't! (she exits)

(7. Not My Life) << Track 7 >>

MARIAN

But, I don't want to be in charge. (MARIAN steps up to the mic and sings to the audience.)

I WAS RAISED AS A WILD CHILD.
RUNNING THROUGH THE WOODS.
HANGING OUT WITH PEASANTS
DRINKING RUM AND SHOOTING PHEASANTS,
I COULD DO WHATEVER SHIT I COULD.

DADDY WASN'T TOO OLD.
MY BROTHER'S HEALTH WAS FINE.
I COULD NOT INHERIT
SO NOBODY REALLY CARED IF
ALL THE TIME I SPENT WAS ONLY MINE.

WHY AM I NOW SUBJECTED TO ALL THESE RULES?
TALKING LAW AND BUSINESS WITH ALL THESE FOOLS?
AS I'M TAKING OFF MY MAKEUP
ALL I WANNA DO IS WAKEUP
'CAUSE A THOUGHT IS HITITNG SOMETHING CRUEL.

THAT THIS IS NOT MY LIFE,
I DO NOT KNOW WHY I'M HERE.
I SHOULDN'T BE HOLDING SUCH SWAY.
I HAVE POWER NOW,
AND I'M NOT PREPARED FOR THIS.
WITH PLANS BEING MADE, ALL I SAY;
THIS IS NOT MY LIFE.

I ALSO GREW UP WITH NUNS.
MY SUPERVISION WAS, NONE.
EVERYONE WAS EQUAL
WE'D SHARE FOOD WITH ALL THE PEOPLE
NO ONE BOTHERED US OR ANYONE.

I WROTE LETTERS A LOT
TO ANYONE WHO COULD READ.
CORRESPONDING FAR AND WIDE
TO BUILD COMMUNITY ALLIED
WITH WAYS TO HELP WITH EVERYTHING WE'D NEED.

NOW THESE ASSHOLES WANT ME PUTTING ON AIRS.
LIKE MY LIFE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THEIRS.
I REJECT THE PROPOSITION
THAT I'M CAUGHT UP IN THEIR SYSTEM,
SO I'LL SCREAM TO ANYONE WHO CARES.

THIS IS NOT MY LIFE,
I DON'T WANT TO LIVE THIS WAY.
I NEVER WANTED PRIVILEGE AND CLOUT.
COULD I RUN AWAY,
AND JUST LEAVE IT ALL BEHIND?
I'M STILL FREAKING OUT AT THE THOUGHT;
THIS IS NOT MY LIFE.

MY FAMILY'S DEATHS WERE SO QUICK
NO OTHER HEIRS COULD BE PICKED.
SO THEY LIFTED THIS SEMI-FERAL GIRL.
NOW I ENTERTAIN GUESTS.
EVERY ASSHOLE AND PEST.
I'M GIVEN POWER AND LOADED DOWN WITH PEARLS.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF IT ALL?
DOES THIS HELP ANYONE?
ALL I DO IS MEET THE RICH,
MAYBE WE SHOULD EAT THE RICH.
THIS WEALTH IS A CRIME.

THIS SHOULD NOT BE MY LIFE,
NOR ANYBODY ELSE'S.

NO ONE SHOULD LIVE IN THIS WAY.
'LONG AS I HAVE BREATH
I WILL FIGHT TO MAKE IT RIGHT.
I'LL SHOUT 'TIL YOU HEAR ME SAY,

NOT MY LIFE!!!
I'LL FIND A BETTER WAY
TO MAKE THIS SYSTEM OBSOLETE.
I'LL WRITE FAR AND WIDE,
I'LL CONTACT THE NUNS,
I'LL KEEP UP WITH PEASANTS,
AND ROUSE EVERYONE
UNTIL I CAN SAY FOR A FACT;
THIS IS NOT MY LIFE.

(end of song)

SCENE 3

SHERWOOD FOREST

We're hanging out in Sherwood with
Robin Hood the Merry Men. They're
loitering in a public space. The
scandal!

WILLA SCARLET

Ladies and Gentlemen, for your edification, The
Kings of England and important facts about
them.

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

A-one, two, three, four!

(8. The Kings of England) << Track 8 >>

WILLA SCARLET

EGBERT WAS A DICK AND
AETHELWULF A DICK AND
AETHELBALD A DICK AND
AETHELBERT A DICK AND
AETHELRED A DICK AND
ALREAD WAS A DICK, DICK, DICK.

EDWARD WAS AN OLD DICK.
AETHELSTAN A BLOODY DICK.
EDMUND WAS A PIERCED DICK.
EADRED WAS A PUKEY DICK.
EADWIG WAS OKAY.

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

Wait, what? Why does that asshole get a pass?

WILLA SCARLET

Okay, we only know one thing about him. He was late for his own coronation because he was in bed with a "strumpet." Then he exiled the archbishop who dragged him out of bed.

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

...alright, yeah, he sounds okay.
A-ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!

WILLA SCARLET

EDGAR WAS A WET DICK.
EDWARD WAS A DEAD DICK.
AETHELRED A SOFT DICK.
EDMUND TWO A HARD DICK.
CANUTE WAS ANOTHER OF THE
GREAT BIG DICK, DICK,
DICK, DICK, DICK, DICK, DICK, DICK, DICK, DICKS.

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON

All these "Great" kings trying to advertise their size. Heh. "Canute the Great." What a great Canute you got there.

WILLA SCARLET

HAROLD WAS A HAIRY DICK.
HARTHACANUTE WAS A
FUCKING COLONIZER AND
EDWARD WAS A HOLY DICK BUT
LET'S SAY EVERY ED IS A DICK, DICK, DICK, DICK, DICK.

WHATEVER LAND OR NATION THAT YOU PICK,
EVERY SINGLE RULER IS A DICK.

HAROLD TWO A CUCK DICK.
WILLIAM WAS A WILLY.
RUFUS WAS A FIERY DICK.
HENRY WAS A DONKEY DICK.
STEPHEN WAS A TINY DICK.
MATLIDA WAS THE BIGGEST DICK.
HENRY TWO ANOTHER DICK.
RICHARD WAS A LION DICK.
AND JOHN...
KING JOHNNY?!
AND JOHN?!?!
C'MON!!!

(end of song)

JOAN enters. She's dressed to
literally kill in the best that
money can buy.

JOAN

Hey! Smart and subtle. I like it. Got some college graduates here! Hey PhD's, your school supplies have arrived.