

## SCENE ONE: THE FOREST

Richard 1: My Lords, Ladies and Gentlefolk, my faithful knights and I are ready to fight for the Crusade.

*Cheers*

We set off on our journey to Jerusalem this very day but I give you my promise: We will fight the good fight!

*Cheers*

## SONG: FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Chorus

Fight the good fight!  
Fight with all our might!  
For God and our country,  
We'll fight the enemy.  
We'll fight day and night.  
We'll fight the good fight.

We will fight for the Holy Land.  
Our Crusade has been carefully planned.  
Our journey's long and our task is hard  
But we are firmly on our guard.

CHORUS

Horses and our ships prepared.  
Barons, Knights and Squires declared.  
Archers, mariners, Men at arms,  
Will make sure that we're safe from harm.

Chorus

Carpenters will make repair.  
Cooks the food and stores prepare.  
Banner's raised. So heed our call!  
Our God is one and one for all!

Chorus

Richard: There! That's the spirit.  
I promise I will return once more to rule this land we all love so dearly.

*Turns to the Sheriff*

S OF N: Sire?

King: Sheriff of Nottingham, my good man, I entrust you with my  
Ward of court, the lovely Maid Marian.

*He calls Marian over and introduces the Sheriff to her*

S OF N: Mm! She is in deed lovely, Sire.  
I give you my word I will look after her well in your absence.

M Marian: *(Aside)* You'd better.

Richard1: I trust you to be true.  
*(Aside)* There will be a handsome reward from the King's purse should you find a suitor for the girl.

*Maid Marian eavesdrops and looks appalled*

S OF N: You can trust me to find a suitable man to marry this fine lady.

Richard: Thanks!  
*To crowd:* Now, I must bid you farewell.

*Crowd cheers*  
*Exit King Richard*

S OF N: My home is at your disposal, Maid Marian. That is, until I can arrange a suitable marriage for you.

Maid Marian: *(To S OF N)* So I am to be married off am I?  
Is this to any idiot that comes along, I wonder.

*Maid Marian storms off*

S OF N: Oh dear! She's got the hump already and she's barely moved in. Why do I care, well, apart from the King's reward that is, about such a trivial matter where there is so much to be done in the King's absence. Why? *(rubbing his hands with glee)* As we speak, the King's brother John, whom King Richard has put in charge in his absence, is preparing to take over the throne himself. How do I know this, you might ask? Because the acting King John has told me of his plans. Ha ha ha! We will be making sure that everyone pays their taxes and if they can't afford to pay them we'll take away everything they own. When the cat's away the mice will play. Ohhh! I will be rich! Rich! Yes, and when the acting King John is actually made king I will be proud to serve. Where's my bailiff?  
*Calls out* Gisborne! Come here!

*Enter Guy Gisborne*

Good news Gisborne! The King's brother John has been put in charge of the country.

Gisborne: Really, I am sorry King Richard is not in charge.

S OF N: Well he's not.

Gisborne: Aaah but I like him. He is nice.

S OF N: Nice!  
Who cares about nice, when there's money to be had?  
Gisborne, we are going to be richer than our wildest dreams  
under the rule of the ruthless John.

Gisborne: Are we?  
Ooooh!  
(*News sinks in*) Wow!

S OF N: But first we have to get the money.

Gisborne: (*To the audience*) I knew there'd be a catch in it.  
How do we get the money?

S OF N: How do you get the money Gisborne? You!

Gisborne: Me?

S OF N: Yes you, Gisborne, my strong and trusty man.

*Gisborne flexes his muscles*

There, see! Just the man!  
You will go to the villages and demand extra taxes from them.  
Here! Take this decree that the acting King John and I prepared earlier  
and read it to the Villagers.

Gisborne: Errr read it?

S OF N: Can't you read, Gisborne?

Gisborne: Err yeah! Er (*He opens it and starts to sound out what it says*)

S OF N: Give it to me you fool.

*ST reads it out in a forceful voice.*

Mmm! (*Impressed with himself*) Read it like that!  
*To audience* It's all my Shakespearean acting, you know!  
Read it in a forceful, threatening voice.

Gisborne: But, what about the poor people in the village Sheriff?  
Won't they be upset?

S OF N: Of course they'll be upset, stupid.  
Do you want to get rich or not?

Gisborne: Errr yeah!

S OF N: Then do it!

Gisborne: Can we go through it one more time?

S OF N: Urggggh!

## SCENE TWO: THE VILLAGE

*Enter Bailiff Gisborne*

Gisborne: Villagers, lend me your ear!

Excited noise from the villagers

King Richard's brother John is in charge of England.

*Groans from the villagers and tears*

Yeah, I was upset as well. Anyway,  
I have a decree from the acting King John himself. It reads:  
I, acting King John,  
Not me, I'm Bailiff Gisborne  
Err! I do (*mumbles through lines*) declare that from this day you will  
pay huge taxes.  
(*Clears his throat and resays it all in a forceful and threatening voice*)  
declare that from this day you will pay huge taxes  
So pay up or else. Give us yer money

*We have no money*

Oh! Mmm!  
All right then (*ahems until he is forceful again*)  
Then give me all your possessions

*This is all we have to live on*

(*Quietly*) Sorry,  
but these are acting King John's orders. Pay up!

*The villager give up their goods*

There you go!  
Mmm! Wasn't that difficult.  
Thanks very much!  
Ta ra then.  
See you later

*Cries from the villagers.*

*Gisborne takes the possessions and exits*