

ROBIN HOOD

Written by

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FADE IN:

ON BLACK:

Saladin's army marched on Jerusalem. In July 1187, Saladin's forces defeated the Crusader army at the Battle of Hattin. Shortly thereafter, Saladin captured the Holy City of Jerusalem. Pope Gregory VIII issued an Audita Tremendae in October 1187, calling for a new crusade.

Dissolve to:

ACT ONE

EXT. MEDIEVAL ENCAMPMENT. -NIGHT

Super: 1189 AD Normandy, France

A large military encampment is stationed on the shores of Normandy.

Tents and banners of different countries, and their Kings, FLAP in the wind on this rainy night.

Medieval soldiers and Knights trained, ate, and gambled.

Blacksmiths sharpen swords or make arrowheads.

HORNS blow.

Six KNIGHTS TEMPLAR on horseback gallop towards the encampment in the distance.

They are draped in white. A large red cross is sewn to the white tunics on their chests. Everything is trimmed in gold.

The Templars ride through the encampment towards the center, where a large tent is erected. People look in awe as they pass by.

Dismounting their horses, they tie them to a hitching post in front of the large tent.

Removing their weapons, they place them on a large wooden table by the tent's entrance.

Four of the Templars stay outside while the other two enter.

INT. LARGE TENT. -NIGHT

Two Templars enter the tent. In the middle of the tent is a large wooden table with four chairs around it.

Sprawled on the table is a deer skin, painted on it is a world map as it was known in 1189 AD.

Plates of food and pitchers of wine surround the map.

Nobody is in the tent; it is just the sound of fire crackling in a brazier.

The HEAD TEMPLAR removes his helmet and his riding gloves.

HEAD TEMPLAR
Fetch me three squires.

The other Templar leaves the tent.

The Head Templar walks over to the table placing his helmet and gloves down.

He snatches some grapes off a plate while focusing on the map.

Looking down at the map, a chess piece-like figurine with a crescent moon sits on the word Jerusalem.

He sits in one of the chairs, a satchel slung over his shoulder. Opening the satchel, he pulls out a leather-bound bible.

Opening the bible and waiting.

INT. KING RICHARD'S TENT. -NIGHT

King Richard "The Lionheart" (30s), a tall, muscular man with curly blond hair and sharp blue eyes, stands naked, drinking wine.

A NAKED WOMAN (20s) performs fellatio on the King.

ENGLISH SQUIRE enters the tent.

ENGLISH SQUIRE
Your Majesty...

The Squire quickly covers his eyes.

King Richard, with a slight French accent, turns to the Squire.

KING RICHARD

Yes, lad.

The Squire keeps his eyes covered.

ENGLISH SQUIRE

The Pope's emissaries have arrived.

King Richard looks down at the woman.

ENGLISH SQUIRE (CONT'D)

Your Majesty. They are Templars.

King Richard looks back at the Squire.

KING RICHARD

Shit okay. Darling, we will do this another time.

The Naked Woman stands and wipes her mouth.

The Squire peeks between his fingers. Seeing the naked woman covering up.

She spots the squire looking, plays with her breasts, and gives him a wave with her fingers.

The Squire blushes and runs out of the tent.

King Richard lets out a large LAUGH.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)

The boy will sleep well tonight.
Now, where is my tunic?

INT. KING PHILLIP'S TENT. -NIGHT

KING PHILLIP (30s), the French King, drinks wine while looking over a scroll.

ISABELLA (20s), a beautiful French aristocrat, is at the table doing needlework.

ISABELLA

Uncle, this is so boring. Why did Mother insist I come with you?

King Phillip looks up from his scroll.

KING PHILLIP

To help a future husband rule, you need to learn how to rule.

Isabella sighs. She throws down her needlework.

She stands and walks away from the table. She pouring herself some wine, looking away from Phillip.

KING PHILLIP (CONT'D)
Your mother also found out you have
been fucking one of the knights at
the palace.

Isabella turns quickly in shock and looks at Phillip.

KING PHILLIP (CONT'D)
Oh, she knows. There is always
someone watching or listening at
the palace.

ISABELLA
What...

KING PHILLIP
Knowing your Mother, he was drawn
and quartered before you were out
of Marseille.

CUT TO:

EXT. MARSEILLE COURTYARD. -DAY

A NAKED MAN (20s) lies on the ground. A rope tied to his wrists and ankles, and on the other end of each rope, a horse.

ALICE of COURTENAY (40s) stands on a balcony overlooking the scene. She nods to the horsemen.

The horses all rear back and gallop forward. Ripping the limbs off the Naked Man, slowly dies an agonizing death.

Alice of Courtenay leaves the balcony through two doors.

CUT TO:

INT. KING PHILLIPS TENT. -NIGHT

Isabella's eyes start watering.

KING PHILLIP
No point in crying, my dear. After
all, your lust condemned him to
die.

Isabella runs out of the tent. She almost runs into the FRENCH SQUIRE, who is coming to the tent.

FRENCH SQUIRE
Your Majesty...

The Squire bows.

FRENCH SQUIRE (CONT'D)
Pope Gregory's emissaries have arrived. They wish to have your audience.

King Phillip throws the scroll on the table.

KING PHILLIP
It's about time. I want to get out of this dreadful weather and back to the south of France.

The Squire is still bowed.

KING PHILLIP (CONT'D)
Anything else?

FRENCH SQUIRE
Yes, Your Majesty. They are Templars.

King Phillip's demeanour changes.

KING PHILLIP
Thank you. You may go.

The Squire leaves the tent.

King Phillip gulps down his wine. Throwing on an overcoat, he rushes out of the tent.

INT. EMPEROR BARBAROSSA. -NIGHT

A small table and a large bed are in the tent.

The sound of heavy SNORING fills the tent.

EMPEROR BARBAROSSA (60s), with balding grey hair and a large grey beard, sleeps soundly in the tent.

A HOLY ROMAN SQUIRE* enters the tent.

He quietly tiptoes to the snoring Emperor.

HOLY ROMAN SQUIRE
Sire? Sire?

The Squire shakes the old man.

Emperor Barbarossa springs like a cat flashing a gem-encrusted dagger, the edge landing close to the boy's jugular.

The Holy Roman Squire, wide-eyed, as the blade lands near his neck.

BARBAROSSA
Boy! Never sneak up on me.

HOLY ROMAN SQUIRE
I'm sorry sire. The Pope's emissaries are here. They wish your audience.

BARBAROSSA
This couldn't have waited until morning. What hour is it?

HOLY ROMAN SQUIRE
The hour is nine sire. The emissaries are Templars.

Barbarossa removes the blade from the boy's throat. A tiny line of blood remains.

BARBAROSSA
I see. I shall get dressed then.

The Squire runs out of the tent. A urine stain on the front of his pants.

**Holy Roman Empire is modern-day Germany*

EXT. LARGE TENT. -NIGHT

The four Templars still stand guard by the entrance of the tent. Their hands always on the hilts of their swords.

INT. LARGE TENT. -NIGHT

The Head Templar is sitting in a chair, reading the Bible.

The QUR'AN on the table.

The other Templar stands guard in the corner.

Each King enters the tent. They each walk up to the Templar and kiss the ring, with the Pope's Seal of the Fisherman.

Sitting down one by one at the table.

The Three Squires for each King pour wine into their cups, and the Templar pours for the Head Templar.

The Three Squires leave the tent.

The three Kings shift uncomfortably in their chairs.

HEAD TEMPLAR

Before we start, let us pray.

They all bow their heads to pray.

HEAD TEMPLAR (CONT'D)

Let us pray. Lord Almighty, may you pass your word and wisdom down through our Pope Gregory the Third in these dark times.

ALL

Our Father, hallowed be thy name,
your kingdom come, you will be
done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses, and
forgive those who trespass against
us. Lead us not into temptation but
deliver us from the evil one. For
yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

They raise their heads.

HEAD TEMPLAR

I am Gerard de Ridefort,
Grandmaster Templar, and I
represent his holiness the Pope.

Gerard removes three scrolls from the satchel in which his bible was.

He hands each King a scroll. They break the seal and begin reading them.

The three Kings each look at the crescent moon over the word Jerusalem on the map as they finish reading.

GERARD DE RIDEFORT
Sultan Saladin took Jerusalem from
King Baldwin the Fourth two years
ago. The Pope wants Jerusalem back
under Christian control.

KING PHILLIP
I thought Sultan Saladin was
peaceful towards Christians.

GERARD DE RIDEFORT
For the time being, they are
peaceful towards us, but we cannot
allow those savages to hold
Jerusalem.

Barbarossa throws his scroll down on the table.

BARBAROSSA
I am too old to embark on a
crusade. I want to spend my last
years in peace.

GERARD DE RIDEFORT
What about Constantinople? While on
your crusades, you can keep any
lands and territories you take,
with the blessing of the Pope.

The Emperor sits back in his chair and ponders this.

KING RICHARD
I took up the cross a few years
ago. So the Pope and God have my
sword.

Richard looks up from the scroll.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)
Although. I'm not going unless
France goes. I don't trust them to
start usurping my French
territories.

Phillip glares at Richard.

KING PHILLIP
Do you think I'll go if you don't?
You would do the same thing!

GERARD DE RIDEFORT
Settled. You both go.

Phillip and Richard stare at each other.

GERARD DE RIDEFORT (CONT'D)
 What about you, Barbarossa? Does
 the Pope have the Holy Roman
 Empire's support?

BARBAROSSA
 As long as I can sack
 Constantinople.

Gerard nods his head.

GERARD DE RIDEFORT
 What about you two? Can you set
 your differences aside in the
 meantime?

KING PHILLIP
 I can.

KING RICHARD
 I can.

GERARD DE RIDEFORT
 Good. The Templars will start
 positioning to take back the Holy
 Land. We will begin with the city
 of Acre, meet there, and work our
 way South.

The four men raise their cups. They drink.

BARBAROSSA
 What's that book you have there?

Barbarossa points to the QUR'AN in front of Gerard de Ridefort.

GERARD DE RIDEFORT
 This is the holy book of the
 barbarians. The sacred book of the
 Islamic religion.

Gerard picks up the book, he flips the gold-gilded pages..

KING PHILLIP
 Why do you have it?

GERARD DE RIDEFORT
 To know the mind of the enemy.

KING RICHARD
 I don't care what God they pray to
 when I stick them with my sword in
 their bellies.

INT. KING RICHARD'S TENT. -NIGHT

King Richard is sitting at the table. He is eating some pheasant.

The Naked Woman from earlier was sleeping in his bed.

King Phillip enters the tent. Sitting down at the table, he leans, looks around King Richard, and spots the girl in the bed.

KING PHILLIP
So you're going to meet me in
Marseille?

KING RICHARD
That's my plan. I will need to
raise an army first.

King Phillip pours himself some wine. He takes a sip.

KING PHILLIP
At least you have good taste in
wine. Old man Barbarossa is going
to go through the land to the
North.

The English Squire prepares King Phillip a plate of food.

KING PHILLIP (CONT'D)
How are you travelling to
Marseille?

KING RICHARD
By sea. Then, after that, we attack
Acre.

KING PHILLIP
Why don't you meet me in Messina? I
will march through the Alps through
Genoa to Messina, where we can rest
and resupply.

King Richard nods.

KING RICHARD
Good as it stands I have business
in Messina to take care of.

KING PHILLIP
I have a favour to ask.

KING RICHARD
You're asking me for a favour?

KING PHILLIP
My niece Isabella. She has become quite the handful, she is fucking everything in sight. Probably has a cock in her right now.

King Richard chokes on his wine.

KING RICHARD
How can I help?

KING PHILLIP
I want to send her to stay in London. Maybe the cold, damp climate will temper her libido.

KING RICHARD
I will have to ask the Queen Mother. She would probably enjoy some French blood around.

EXT. MEDIEVAL ENCAMPMENT. -DAY

The three armies are breaking camp. King Richard is outside having breakfast. Barbarossa and King Phillip approach him.

KING RICHARD
Good Morning, gentleman.

They ignore his pleasantries.

BARBAROSSA
The Templars are gone.

KING PHILLIP
I think they left right away after our meeting.

KING RICHARD
Good riddance. There was something strange about them anyway. We need to watch our backs when they are around.

KING PHILLIP
Agreed

BARBAROSSA
Agreed

BARBAROSSA (CONT'D)
Gentlemen! It's been a pleasure as always. Next time I see you two, it will be at the gates of Acre.

Barbarossa walks off.

KING PHILLIP
So I will see you in a few months?

KING RICHARD
Yes, you will.

KING PHILLIP
Don't forget about my request.

KING RICHARD
I will send word as soon as I know
anything.

King Phillip walks off.

EXT. ENGLISH CHANNEL. -DAY

The English boats sail back towards London, while the other
two armies march back to their countries.

ACT TWO

On Black

Title card: ROBIN HOOD

INT. LAMBETH PALACE. -DAY

Super: Lambeth Palace, England

King Richard walks into a room where BALDWIN OF FORDE (60s)
sits at a table looking over documents.

Baldwin of Forde spots King Richard enter. Standing, he bows.

BALDWIN OF FORDE
Your majesty.

KING RICHARD
Old friends do not need to bow.

BALDWIN OF FORDE
I will always bow to your grace.

King Richard sits in a chair at the table.

KING RICHARD
Sit...sit...

Baldwin of Forde signals to a YOUNG BOY and then sits.

The Young Boy brings over two cups and a decanter of wine.

BALDWIN OF FORDE
So, what do I owe the pleasure of
this visit?

KING RICHARD
I'm sure the palace tongues have
been wagging.

BALDWIN OF FORDE
Just that you had a secret meeting
with Phillip and Barbarossa.

KING RICHARD
As well as the Templar order.

Baldwin Of Forde reacts to the Templar name.

BALDWIN OF FORDE
Are they looking for more recruits
to fill their ranks?

KING RICHARD
Not in the sense that you think.
The Pope wants Jerusalem back under
Christian control from the Muslims.

BALDWIN OF FORDE
So what can I do to help?

KING RICHARD
You served my father well. I need
your help to raise an army. Will
you go around England and convince
young men to take up the cross and
go to Jerusalem?

King Richard puts his hand on Baldwin de Forde's hand.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)
As the Archbishop of Canterbury, I
think you can get young men to take
up the cross and go on a holy
crusade more than I can.

BALDWIN OF FORDE
I will try.

KING RICHARD

One more thing. Come with me. If the men know you are coming, it may be easier for you to convince them.

BALDWIN OF FORDE

I can't, I have my duties here to the church.

KING RICHARD

Take up the cross and come with me on this Crusade. Doing so will guarantee your place by God's side.

Baldwin of Forde sits back in his chair.

EXT. UNKNOWN FOREST. -DAY

ROBIN OF LOXLEY (20) sits in a hunting blind made of logs and brush.

Watching a deer eat apples under an apple tree. Quietly, he removes an arrow from his quiver, slowly drawing back his bowstring.

He slowly takes a deep breath and lets it out through his nose, releasing the arrow.

The arrow plunges into the side of the deer. Taking a few steps, it collapses.

Robin slings his bow over his shoulder, he walks up to the deer. Standing over it, he yanks the arrow out of the deer.

Robin of Loxley picks the deer up and throws it on his shoulders.

EXT. LOXLEY MANOR. -DAY

Robin approaches the manor with the deer slung over his shoulders.

ROBIN'S FATHER (40s) and some workers are preparing a field for planting.

ROBINS FATHER

I see it was a successful hunt!

ROBIN OF LOXLEY

It was! I will dress it after I have something to eat! It might be big enough for a good roast!

Robin's father CRACKS the oxen with a whip, he continues farrowing the field.

Robin of Loxley enters a shack that is close to the Manor.

INT. SLAUGHTERHOUSE. -DAY

Two ropes with a noose on each end hang from a pulley. Robin places the deer's hind feet in each noose and then tightens the noose. Hauling on a rope, he raises the deer so its head is about a foot off the floor.

He places a wooden bucket under the deer's head. After slicing the deer's neck, the blood starts draining into the bucket.

INT. LOXLEY MANOR. -DAY

Robin saunters into the kitchen, where his MOTHER (40s), and SISTER (15) are doing kitchen chores. His Sister cuts vegetables, and Mother prepares bread.

A pot of soup/stew is hanging over the fire in the kitchen.

ROBIN OF LOXLEY

Mother!

He kisses his Mother on the cheek. His Sister walks with a handful of potatoes.

ROBIN OF LOXLEY (CONT'D)

Hello sister...

Robin pretends to hug her but wipes deer blood on her cheek.

She screams and then throws a potato at him.

ROBINS MOTHER

Now you two stop it! I will tan both your hides with a switch!

AVA LOXLEY

He started it!

ROBINS MOTHER

I will finish it!

Robin washes his face and hands in a wash bucket. Ripping a piece of bread from a loaf, he dips it in the soup/stew hanging over the fire.

ROBINS MOTHER (CONT'D)
Robin! Get a bowl!

ROBIN OF LOXLEY
I don't have time. I have a deer
bleeding out in the slaughterhouse.
Need to dress it before the rats
and bugs get at it.

ROBINS MOTHER
Make sure you try to get a roast.

ROBIN OF LOXLEY
Yes, mother.

EXT. LOXLEY MANOR. -DAY

Robin's father and his workers are still furrowing the
fields.

A covered wagon is seen in the distance, travelling down the
dirt road that leads to the manor.

Robin's father stops working and watches the covered wagon
approach. It stops in front of him.

Out of the covered wagon steps Baldwin of Forde.

All the workers dropped to their knees at the site of the
Archbishop of Canterbury.

BALDWIN OF FORDE
Loxley rise.

Robin's father rises.

ROBINS FATHER
Good day, Archbishop.

He walks up and kisses the ring on his finger.

BALDWIN OF FORDE
Unfortunately, I do not have time
for pleasantries. Is Robin around?

Robin walks out of the slaughterhouse. His sleeves rolled up,
hands covered in blood.

Baldwin sees Robin.

BALDWIN OF FORDE (CONT'D)
Robin, dear lad. Wow, you have
grown.

ROBIN OF LOXLEY
I would come greet you, but I am
covered in blood.

BALDWIN OF FORDE
That's quite all right. I don't
have much time, so I will cut to
the chase.

Baldwin opens a compartment on the side of the wagon,
retrieving a wax-sealed scroll.

He hands the scroll to Robin's father.

BALDWIN OF FORDE (CONT'D)
The Pope has tasked King Richard to
take back the Holy City of
Jerusalem. We are asking able-
bodied young men to take up the
cross and come fight, earning their
place in Heaven beside the almighty
Lord.

Hearing this news, Robin's father closes his eyes trying to
hide his anguish.

ROBIN OF LOXLEY
I cannot say no to the King or the
Pope now, can I?

BALDWIN OF FORDE
A good Christian soldier, no. You
have a week to prepare and make
your way to Portsmouth.

Baldwin returns to his covered wagon, and the driver snaps
the horse's reins. The wagon jerks forward and starts heading
to the next stop.

Robin's father can only look at him.

INT. TOWER OF LONDON. -DAY

Super: Tower of London

King Richard eats and plans with his Knights.

QUEEN MOTHER ELEANOR (50s) enters the room and approaches the
table of Knights and Richard.

The Knights all stand and bow to the Queen Mother.

KING RICHARD
Hello Mother.

The Queen Mother walks right up to Richard.

QUEEN MOTHER
What is all this talk of going off
on a foolish Crusade?

KING RICHARD
The Pope personally asked me.

QUEEN MOTHER
Fuck the Pope. Your place is here
to rule England, take a wife, and
have heirs to the throne.

KING RICHARD
I had a wife, remember, but you let
Father take that from me!

QUEEN MOTHER
Your Father was a shit husband, and
a shit King.

KING RICHARD
Don't forget... shit Father.
Gentlemen, leave us.

The Knights all leave.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)
Mother! Don't you ever undermine me
again in front of anyone! I am not
a little boy anymore. Next time, I
will lock you in a tower and leave
you to die.

The Queen Mother recoils.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)
Now sit down.

She sits down.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)
I am going to the Holy City with or
without your blessing.

King Richard continues eating.

QUEEN MOTHER
If you leave, you will leave your
throne ripe for the taking.

KING RICHARD
What do you suggest?

QUEEN MOTHER
Send for John. Let him stay here so
there is a family member in London.

KING RICHARD
He's a whiny man-child. You want
him here?

QUEEN MOTHER
Maybe he will impregnate his wife
and have some children running
around the castle. Instead of
Knights and whores.

KING RICHARD
He will be given no authority. He
will be here as a figurehead only.

QUEEN MOTHER
He will not be pleased.

KING RICHARD
I don't give a fuck if he is
pleased. If he doesn't agree to the
terms, he can stay in Ireland. I
will send for him in the morning.

EXT. LIMERICK CASTLE. -DAY

Super: LIMERICK CASTLE, IRELAND

PRINCE JOHN (20s) is in the courtyard of his castle, training
in sword combat with the castle QUARTERMASTER.

ISABELLE OF GLOUCESTER (20s) trains as well in the archery
yard.

IRISH SOLDIER #1 is on the rampart watching the horizon. He
spots a horse and rider in the distance.

IRISH SOLDIER #1
Horse and rider!

Other IRISH SOLDIERS come running to his side.

IRISH SOLDIER #2
One rider. Must be a messenger.

Prince John stops training.

The HORSE MESSENGER makes his way to the courtyard of Limerick Castle.

The Horse Messenger dismounts, holding the reins of his horse.

HORSE MESSENGER
Prince John, Lord of Ireland.

The Horse Messenger bows and presents a scroll to Prince John.

HORSE MESSENGER (CONT'D)
A message from King Richard.

The Quartermaster takes the scroll and then hands it to Prince John.

Isabelle walks over as John reads the scroll.

ISABELLE OF GLOUCESTER
What does it say?

PRINCE JOHN
My brother is going to Jerusalem,
he wants us to come to London in
his stead.

They both smile.

PRINCE JOHN (CONT'D)
We're finally getting off this
fucking rock.

The Quartermaster hands the messenger a coin.

ISABELLE OF GLOUCESTER
You had a long journey, stay the
night and dine with us.

EXT. PORTSMOUTH. -DAY

Super: PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND

Robin of Loxley rides into Portsmouth on horseback. He makes his way towards the docks.

Robin ducks into a tent.

CLERK
Name?

ROBIN OF LOXLEY
Robin of Loxley, Archer.

The Clerk opens a book.

CLERK
You will report to the ship The
Lion's Head.

ROBIN OF LOXLEY
Which one is that?

CLERK
The one with the Lion on the bow.

EXT. PORTSMOUTH. -DAY

Robin is walking along the docks, which are a hub of activity.

-Crates are being loaded in cargo nets.

-Drunk soldiers and soldiers vomiting

-Dry goods are being loaded

-Men boarding ships.

Robin pauses in front of a ship. Looking at the ship's bow, there is a figurehead of an attacking lion.

The English flag and King Richard's colours flap in the wind.

Robin climbs up the gangway to the ship.

EXT. LIONS HEAD. -DAY

Robin stands on the deck of the Lion's Head. Leaning on the rail, he looks down at the activity on the dock.

He spots an area set up for archers to train.

EXT. PORTSMOUTH. -DAY

ARCHERY TRAINING AREA

WILL SCARLETT (20), with flaming red hair and brown eyes, practices his archery skills.

Robin sneaks up and grabs a bow.

Will Scarlett shoots an arrow.

Everyone is looking at the hay target with an arrow near the center. Suddenly, another arrow hits closer to the center.

Robin stands behind Will, smiling wryly at him.

WILL SCARLETT
What the fuck!

Will spins around and sees Robin smirking, then gives a wink to Will.

JOHN LITTLE (25) towers behind Robin with his arms crossed.

WILL SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Some balls on you, nice shot
though.

Will walks up to Robin. He shot his hand out to shake his hand.

WILL SCARLETT (CONT'D)
My name is Will Scarlett, and my
mate behind you is John Little.

Robin turns around and comes face to face with John's chest.

LITTLE JOHN
My friends call me Little John.

Robin looks up at the bear of a man.

ROBIN OF LOXLEY
I think we should be friends.

Little John laughs.

WILL SCARLETT
We're going to the pub. Who knows
when our next pint is going to be?

LITTLE JOHN
One though. I have to get back to
load crates.

WILL SCARLETT
Yeah. One.

Will winks back at Robin.

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. -DUSK

Super: SHERWOOD FOREST, ENGLAND

A caravan of wagons and covered wagons travels through a heavily wooded area.

DARK FIGURES are moving in the bushes on either side of the road.

INT. COVERED WAGON. -DUSK

Isabelle is on top of John, her breasts exposed and is gyrating on top of his lap. They are both moaning in pleasure.

John lets out a final LOUD MOAN as Isabelle keeps grinding on top of him.

PRINCE JOHN
That was amazing, but we'll soon be
in Nottingham for the night.

ISABELLE OF GLOUCESTER
Yes, but I know what happens when
you get into the wine.

Isabelle sits across from John.

PRINCE JOHN
How is it that you are not with a
child yet? We fuck like rabbits,
yet nothing.

ISABELLE OF GLOUCESTER
I could be pregnant right now, who
knows?

PRINCE JOHN
Let's...

The conversation is interrupted by a loud THWAP of an arrow piercing the inside of the wagon.

Isabelle SCREAMS.

PRINCE JOHN (CONT'D)
Get down!

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. -DUSK

The HIGHWAYMEN wear hoods and cloth masks to protect their identities as they attack the caravan.

The small contingent of JOHN'S SOLDIERS is quickly overwhelmed by the surprise attack.

Once all the Soldiers are defeated, the HEAD HIGHWAYMAN walks up to the wagon with Prince John and Isabelle.

He opens the door.

INT/EXT. COVERED WAGON. -DUSK

HEAD HIGHWAYMAN
Well, well, well, look what we have
here. Smells like sex in here.

The Highwaymen all laugh.

HEAD ROGUE
I'm sure you know what's next.

The Head Highwayman reaches for a jewelled necklace that Isabelle is wearing.

John stabs his hand with a dagger and punches the man, sending him reeling backwards.

The Head Rogue SCREAMS in pain holding his injured hand.

HEAD HIGHWAYMAN
Fucking get them!

The doors on the other side swing open, and TWO HIGHWAYMEN pull the couple out of the wagon.

The Head Rogue walks over to where Isabelle and John are being held.

Blood dripping from his injured hand into the leaves on the forest floor.

HEAD HIGHWAYMAN (CONT'D)
Fucking hold her down!

The Head Highwayman points at Isabelle with a dagger.

Isabelle is thrown to the ground. Two Highwaymen pounce on her, pinning her down by her wrists. She is struggling but getting nowhere.

John fights, trying to break free.

HEAD HIGHWAYMAN (CONT'D)
Make him watch.

The Highwaymen holding John grab him by his face and make him look towards Isabelle and the Head Rogue.

HEAD ROGUE
Been a long time since I've been
with a lady. I won't be gentle.

The Head Highwayman begins to undo his pants when an arrow strikes him in the leg.

Two groups of SOLDIERS led by the SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM (28) and GUY OF GISBORNE (29) flank the attackers on horseback.

They, in turn, quickly capture most of them, a few can escape into the woods.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
Bind them all! We will take them to
Nottingham to hang!

The Guy of Gisborne rides up to the Sheriff.

GUY OF GISBORNE
Let's hang them here and be done
with it! There is a lovely, strong
oak right there.

The Sheriff rides up to where John is holding his wife.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
What, not give the townsfolk and
our guests a show? This will send a
message to these bandits.

The Sheriff gets off his horse while Guy goes and helps deal with the prisoners.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM (CONT'D)
I'm the Sheriff of Nottingham. Over
there is my second in command, Guy
of Gisborne.

PRINCE JOHN
I'm Prince John of England, Lord of
Ireland. This is my wife, Isabelle
of Gloucester.

The Sheriff bows.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
We were expecting you, so we rode
out to greet you. It's a good thing
we did. We will escort you the rest
of the way to Nottingham.

INT. NOTTINGHAM. -NIGHT

Super: NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND

DINING ROOM

The Sheriff, Guy, John, and Isabelle eat at a table in the
Sheriff's castle.

PRINCE JOHN
Are you not married, gentlemen?

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
Our duty of keeping the peace has
kept us too busy to wed.

GUY OF GISBORNE
Yes. Let alone raise a family.

PRINCE JOHN
I'm sure my brother appreciates
your sacrifice.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
I'm not so sure.

They all continue eating.

PRINCE JOHN
Well, I appreciate what you did for
us today. It won't go unnoticed.

ISABELLE OF GLOUCESTER
John will be ruling while the King
is away fighting the Crusades.

GUY OF GISBORNE
Is that so, interesting...

The sounds of DRUMS are heard coming from the terrace doors.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
Ah. The show is about to begin.

COURTYARD

The gallows loom over a crowd in the middle of the courtyard. There are large braziers lit to light up the scene.

The prisoners are being led to the gallows with their hands tied behind their backs. They are all bloodied and bruised.

The four walk out onto the balcony.

ISABELLE OF GLOUCESTER

What makes men do such things to
end up on the other side of the
noose?

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

Poor and desperate.

PRINCE JOHN

I thought England was prospering.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

May I speak frankly without
reprisals, Your Highness?

They watch as the prisoners have nooses placed around their necks by an EXECUTIONER in a black hood.

PRINCE JOHN

Yes, please.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

Since the announcement of the
Crusades, your brother has emptied
the treasury. To help pay for it,
he has imposed what has been called
the Saladin tax.

The Sheriff signals to the Executioner, who pulls a lever and the men are hanged.

Some necks break instantly, and others have a slow strangling death.

The group goes back inside.

DINING ROOM

The group sits back down at the table.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

This tax is not only hard on the common folk. Lords and Barons also feel it, and they are not happy. Rumour has it King Richard was heard saying if he could find a buyer, he would sell London.

John seems concerned.

PRINCE JOHN

Thank you for this information.

BEDROOM

John and Isabelle are in their sleeping quarters getting ready for the night. John is sitting in a chair looking out at the night.

PRINCE JOHN

What am I walking into, Isabelle?

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. -NIGHT

A large bonfire is CRACKLING in a clearing in the woods. Men, Women, and Children have gathered to share in a celebration. Children are running around playing, everyone is eating and drinking.

THREE WOMEN in black cloaks walk amongst the people towards the bonfire.

The children see the Three Women and run away scared.

HIGHWAYMAN #1

Are you sure about this?

HIGHWAYMAN #2

Yes. We need to do something, the country is suffering. Our forces took a substantial hit tonight in Nottingham.

The Three Women in black start speaking in tongues/Latin, the Three Women join hands, the flames burst even higher.

HIGHWAYMAN #1
I hope this works. If we are
caught, we all burn at the stake.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM. -DAY

John is walking with the Sheriff towards a covered wagon.

PRINCE JOHN
I appreciate everything you did for
me and my wife last night.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
It was our pleasure to help.

PRINCE JOHN
I mean what I said, I will repay
you for what you did.

John gets into the wagon.

INT. TOWER OF LONDON. -DAY

John and Isabelle walk through the Tower of London. The Queen Mother greets them before arriving at King Richard's chambers.

PRINCE JOHN
Mother.

QUEEN MOTHER
John.

They bow to each other and then hug each other.

PRINCE JOHN
I am so glad to be back. I assume
you convinced Richard to allow me
back.

QUEEN MOTHER
Yes, he does want to meet with you,
he wants to be off as soon as he
can. He is meeting with his war
council at this moment.

The Queen Mother looks at Isabelle.

QUEEN MOTHER (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, my dear. I'm not
ignoring you on purpose. Just a lot
on my mind.

Isabelle bows to the Queen Mother.

The War Councilmen of four men walk out of the room.

PRINCE JOHN
I'm going to talk to my brother.

QUEEN MOTHER
Come, dear, let me show you to your
quarters.

The Queen Mother and Isabelle leave.

INT. TOWER OF LONDON. -DAY

King Richard looks at a map, his brow furrowed, then picks up
some documents.

Prince John enters the room.

PRINCE JOHN
Your Highness.

John bows.

KING RICHARD
Hello brother, sit. We have much to
discuss.

John comes and sits at the table. He looks at the map.

PRINCE JOHN
I see you are setting your
differences aside with Phillip.

Richard leans back in his chair.

KING RICHARD
Yes, for now. I mean Father did
start it by fucking Phillips
sister.

PRINCE JOHN
And you're supposed to be, wife.

KING RICHARD
Yes, but our father did me a favour
on that one.

John looks at the map of the KINGDOM OF SICILY.

PRINCE JOHN
You're taking care of our sister's
little problem.

KING RICHARD
Yes, well, the Kingdom could use
the money.

PRINCE JOHN
So I've heard. You have imposed a
tithe to support your war.

KING RICHARD
I had to. Crusades are not cheap.
The Pope should be paying for this,
he wanted us to do it.

Richard looks at John.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)
I'm leaving in the morning now that
you are here. I'm leaving control
of the country to the Bishop of
Durham and William Longchamp. You
will be a family representative,
and that's it.

John stands up.

PRINCE JOHN
What the fuck are you talking
about?

KING RICHARD
You sit down, I'm still your King.
Unless you want to spend the night
in the dungeons.

John sits down.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)
Your job will be to wave and smile
that's all, represent the crown,
and make sure nobody tries to usurp
the throne. Got it..good.

John seethes in his chair.

King Richard stands up, and John stands and bows.

Richard leaves the room.

John ROARS, grabbing a cup, hurling it across the room.

INT. TOWER OF LONDON. -DAY

King Richard spots the Queen Mother and approaches her.

QUEEN MOTHER
How did he take it?

KING RICHARD
As good as to be expected, please
keep an eye on him. If he tries
anything, send word to me.

QUEEN MOTHER
I will do that for the sake of the
monarchy.

KING RICHARD
Also, I need you to keep an eye on
Isabella.

QUEEN MOTHER
Who is this?

KING RICHARD
Phillip is sending his niece to
stay in London. Her sexual appetite
is getting his knights drawn and
quartered.

QUEEN MOTHER
Oh.

KING RICHARD
Take her under your wing, teach her
how to be a proper French lady of
the courts.

QUEEN MOTHER
I will try.

KING RICHARD
Thank you, mother. In the morning,
I will be off to Portsmouth to join
the Armada to sail to Marseille.

Richard hugs his mother and leaves.

The Queen Mother enters the room where John lingers.

John is looking out a window.

Hearing the door creak open, he turns and sees the Queen
Mother enter.

PRINCE JOHN
How could he do this to me?

QUEEN MOTHER
Do what?

PRINCE JOHN
I'm just a window dressing.

QUEEN MOTHER
Oh, grow the fuck up. Be a man, do something about it. Stop your sulking, you're acting like a child.

INT. PORTSMOUTH PUB. -DAY

Robin, Will, and John sit in a pub drinking ale or mead. A bard is playing a song on a lyre, Prostitutes flirt with drunken men, and soldiers sit around talking.

ROBIN OF LOXLEY
This is my first time out of Nottingham, let alone leaving England.

WILL SCARLETT
I think the same can be said for a lot of us.

ROBIN OF LOXLEY
I know my family wasn't too happy when the Archbishop came to the house, but I couldn't say no to the church though.

LITTLE JOHN
Yeah, they have a way to guilt you into doing things.

WILL SCARLETT
Chances are, we won't return, either Saladin's army or disease will get us.

The three suddenly realize what could happen. An OLD MAN (50s) listens to the conversation. He walks over.

OLD MAN
May I join you lads?

ROBIN OF LOXLEY
Of course, sit.

OLD MAN
I was in Jerusalem when Saladin
seized control. You will only have
to worry about disease.

LITTLE JOHN
What do you mean?

OLD MAN
He is not your typical Islamic
leader. He is merciful and kind, he
will try to negotiate before
engaging in battle. It will be up
to King Richard whether he wants to
fight or talk.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)
You will probably die of boredom or
syphilis before you die in battle.

A Large Prostitute with large breasts waves at the old man.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)
Speaking of which, I guess it is my
turn!

WILL SCARLETT
Go get her!

The three finish up their drinks.

LITTLE JOHN
I need to get back and help load
the ships. You little boys can stay
here.

Little John leaves.

WILL SCARLETT
Robin. I will be honest, I'm
scared.

ROBIN OF LOXLEY
If you're not scared, then I would
be worried. Let's make sure we have
each other's backs. If nothing else
we will meet again at the pearly
gates.

WILL SCARLETT

Let's get back to the ship. Don't
want to be hanged for being a
deserter.

Robin and Will leave.

The Old Man comes from a back room dishevelled and sweaty.

INT. TOWER OF LONDON. -DAY

King Richard stands in his quarters getting ready. He has two
Servants helping him put on his armour.

Adorned on his chest plate is a red lion rearing back.

A Servant walks over with a helmet adorned with a crown. He
places it on Richard's head.

EXT. TOWER OF LONDON. -DAY

King Richard sits atop a white stallion.

Leading a procession out of London with wagons, knights on
horses, spearmen, archers, and other people.

Banners FLAP in the wind as they start making their way.
Trumpets BLARE as they set off.

John, Isabelle, and the Queen Mother are on a balcony to
watch them go off.

John glares at Richard. Richard sees him.

Once the procession is out of sight, the three walk back
inside.

INT. TOWER OF LONDON. -DAY

John is inside, sitting at the table that once held the war
council.

He looks at a ROYAL PAIGE standing in a corner.

PRINCE JOHN

Have someone fetch me a scribe.

The Paige leaves.

BISHOP OF DURHAM (50s) and WILLIAM LONGCHAMP (30s) enter the
room, and bow.

BISHOP OF DURHAM

Good morning, Sire. We were told King Richard spoke to you about our handling the kingdom's day-to-day operations.

PRINCE JOHN

Yes, I did, and from what I heard about our coffers, you will have a challenging task.

WILLIAM LONGCHAMP

Yes. We will keep you updated on everything that happens.

PRINCE JOHN

Yes, of course. Thank you, gentlemen.

The two men leave the room, the ROYAL SCRIBE enters the room.

PRINCE JOHN (CONT'D)

Please send a letter to the Sheriff of Nottingham to come to London as soon as he can. Tell him to bring Guy with him.

ROYAL SCRIBE

Yes, Your Highness.

The scribe leaves the room.

John sits in the room thinking.

EXT. PORTSMOUTH. -DAY

King Richard and his procession arrive in PORTSMOUTH.

Robin, Will, and Little John watch from the deck of the Lion's Head.

LITTLE JOHN

Well, back to work loading the cargo.

ROBIN OF LOXLEY

Let's help.

WILL SCARLETT

Getting tired of sitting around waiting to die anyway.

The three men are hauling crates on a rope to be hoisted onto one of the ships.

King Richard and members of his war council walk by them. They board the Lion's Head.

WILL SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Wish I were on a different ship
now.

LITTLE JOHN
Yep.

Soldiers of different types are boarding the ships. The three men continue to work.

INT. NOTTINGHAM. -NIGHT

The Sheriff of Nottingham is sitting in a chair in the corner of a room, drinking wine.

Across from him is the Guy of Gisborne, sitting on a bench, partially undressed.

One of the Witches watches with intense eyes out of a dark corner, the Sheriff and Guy are unaware of her presence.

Walking over to the Guy of Gisborne, the Sheriff grabs a single candle and starts dripping hot wax on his chest. The Sheriff starts kissing his neck.

The Witch watches with interest. A noise only she can hear alerts her.

The Witch turns, snaps her head to the source of the noise, and walks to the window, her eyes almost glowing cat-like from the moon's glow.

Out of the courtyard, a voice yells.

UNKNOWN VOICE (O.S.)
Messenger!

The Sheriff of Nottingham stands up and rushes out of the room.

The Messenger finds the Sheriff in the dining room.

MESSENGER
A letter from Prince John, sir.

He hands the Sheriff the scroll and leaves.

The Sheriff breaks the wax seal and reads the scroll.

The Guy of Gisborne walks to the table and pours a glass of wine.

GUY OF GISBORNE
What is it, my Lord?

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
Prince John wishes us to come to London to discuss something.

GUY OF GISBORNE
Does he say what? This is bad timing as we finally found an in with the Highwaymen.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
We will have to pause our plans on dealing with them for the time being... maybe our absence will lull them into a poor sense of security. This could work to our advantage.

EXT. LIONS HEAD. -DUSK

King Richard walks out onto the ship's deck to watch the sunset. The sunset is full of oranges and reds.

The Captain smokes his pipe by the wheel.

CAPTAIN OF LIONS HEAD
Red sky at night is a good omen for sailors, Your Highness.

KING RICHARD
That is good. We could use all the good fortune we can get. (pause)
Have you spoken to my war council?

CAPTAIN OF LIONS HEAD
They have. Have they spoken of my concerns?

KING RICHARD
No, they haven't.

The Captain's smoke billows into the cool air.

CAPTAIN OF LIONS HEAD
When we pass through the Strait of
Gibraltar, we will be go through
Almohad Caliphate-controlled
territory on both sides.

KING RICHARD
Muslims. They are everywhere, it
seems.

CAPTAIN OF LIONS HEAD
Yes sir. We will stay as far off
the coast as we can to avoid any
trouble.

KING RICHARD
So what are your concerns?

CAPTAIN OF LIONS HEAD
I'm mostly worried about the
Mediterranean. When we leave
Marseille, it will be the stormy
season.

King Richard watches the sun slowly creep behind the horizon.

KING RICHARD
Thank you, Captain. I trust in your
seamanship and will get us to Acre
safely.

The Captain looks up at the sky.

CAPTAIN OF LIONS HEAD
God willing.

EXT. LIONS HEAD. -DAY

The Captain and King Richard are standing by the ship's wheel
more formally at this time.

A Pilot stands at the wheel awaiting orders.

The deck and all the ships are full of soldiers and sailors.

King Richard's armada consists of two hundred ships of
varying sizes and purposes.

KING RICHARD
Take us to sea, Captain.

CAPTAIN OF LIONS HEAD
Full Sail!

The Lion's Head sails unfurl.

Three large red lions are painted on the main sail. The wind catches the sail and they puff taught against the wind. The ship lurches forward.

Robin, Will, and Little John are standing on the deck with the rest of the soldiers and sailors of the Lion's Head.

ROBIN OF LOXLEY

I hope we see the shores of England
again, my friends.

Robin looks up to where Richard and the Captain are standing.

EXT. PORTSMOUTH. -DAY

Panoramic view of Portsmouth as the Armada leaves England.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM. -DAY

The Sheriff and Guy are on horseback, a small contingent of soldiers surrounds them.

They start through the gates of Nottingham.

INT. NOTTINGHAM. -DAY

The three witches watch from a window as they leave.

WITCH #1

When the cat is away...

WITCH #2

Mmmmmm, yes, sister.

WITCH #1

They think they have control over
us when it is they under our
control.

WITCH #3

We will accomplish more without
them.

WITCH #2

How long will they be gone?

WITCH #1

A fortnight.

They all smile as the procession is out of view.

ACT THREE

EXT. COLOGNE. -DAY

Super: COLOGNE, HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

Barbarossa, on horseback, leads his army out of the city. The black eagle on a golden background is flying on banners and flags.

People have gathered on the streets to watch them leave. Women and Teenage girls are throwing flowers. Boys are playing with their wooden swords, pretending to fight.

An ADVISOR on a horse rides up to Barbarossa.

ADVISOR

Are we going to march on
Constantinople?

BARBAROSSA

We shall see. I want to get to Acre
before England and France. If we
can capture Jerusalem.

ADVISOR

Then we can expand the empire and
gain favour with the Pope.

BARBAROSSA

I may put my wants over something
grander.

The Advisor smiles. They march away from Cologne.

EXT. VEZELAY. -DAY

Super: Vezelay, France

Phillip and his Council are dining in a garden.

KING PHILLIP

Richard and I decided to meet in
Marseille, though.

ADVISOR #1

The most prudent thing to do is to march our armies to Lyon, then through the Alps to Genoa.

KING PHILLIP

Then, meet with Richard in Messina as planned. Then go by sea to Acre.

ADVISOR #2

Yes, we will send word to our Navy to await King Richard's arrival and then sail with him to Messina.

KING PHILLIP

Send word by messenger to get word to Richard about our new plans.

ADVISOR #1

Yes, Your Highness.

KING PHILLIP

Oh, and please also send word to my sister. Isabella will be staying in England with the Queen Mother.

ADVISOR #2

It will be done.

The three sit and finish eating in the garden.

INT. TOWER OF LONDON. -NIGHT

John, Isabelle, and Queen Mother are quietly eating dinner.

A Paige arrives and whispers in John's ear.

PRINCE JOHN

Thank you. I will meet with them downstairs... If you will excuse me, I have something to attend to.

The Sheriff of Nottingham and Guy of Gisborne are waiting in another room when Prince John enters.

The Sheriff and Guy both stand and bow.

PRINCE JOHN (CONT'D)

Thank you for coming so quickly. I hope I didn't take you away from anything.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
Not at all, your grace.

PRINCE JOHN
Good, let's sit.

GUY OF GISBORNE
You said you would like some help
with a few matters.

The Queen Mother has snuck down and is listening from an
alcove close by.

PRINCE JOHN
Yes. I was wondering if you would
help me get rid of some people,
would you help me?

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
We know of people who could help,
but what would be in it for us?

PRINCE JOHN
Why you would take their place of
course.

GUY OF GISBORNE
Wouldn't it look very suspect if
they disappeared, and we are
suddenly in their role?

PRINCE JOHN
Yes. That's why you would do it
from Nottingham, away from the
prying eyes of Richard's
sympathizers.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
This would also make you look like
a great ruler, us working behind
the scenes.

PRINCE JOHN
I never thought of that. But it
would, yes.

They all sit in silence for a moment.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM
What about the treasury? We hear
the Kingdom is bankrupt?

PRINCE JOHN

I'm going to start increasing tax collection. If you can't pay, your property will be seized. I want you to start as soon as possible. I will send word to the other Sheriffs in the morning.

Prince John picks up a cup.

PRINCE JOHN (CONT'D)

A toast first. To a new allegiance.

They all pick up a cup and toast.

PRINCE JOHN (CONT'D)

Now we will discuss matters further tomorrow. I must get back to dinner with my wife and mother. Enjoy yourselves in London, on me.

Prince John sets down a small purse of coins. The Queen Mother hears this and leaves to return to the dining room.

EXT. LIONS HEAD. -DAY

The Lion's Head sails in the open ocean along with the two hundred other ships.

Little John vomits over the side of the ship.

Robin and Will console Little John in the open sea air.

WILL SCARLETT

You alright, big fella? Feeding the fish?

Little John vomits once again.

ROBIN OF LOXLEY

My first time at sea. I feel nothing.

LITTLE JOHN

Fuck you guys.

Little John vomits again.

The Captain of the ship comes out to chat with the Pilot.

CAPTAIN OF LIONS HEAD

It's a bit of a swell today.

PILOT OF LIONS HEAD
Yup, big fella down there has been
throwing up for the last hour.
There shouldn't be much left in
him.

CAPTAIN OF LIONS HEAD
It will pass, or it won't. It might
calm when we pass from the Atlantic
to the Mediterranean when we go
through the Strait.

PILOT OF LIONS HEAD
I like sailing through there, going
from the black, cold water of the
Atlantic to the crystal blue of the
Mediterranean.

CAPTAIN OF LIONS HEAD
Go get some rest, I will take the
helm for a bit.

PILOT OF LIONS HEAD
Aye Captain.

The Pilot leaves to go down below for a rest.

INT. LIONS HEAD. -DAY

King Richard meets with his Advisors.

KING RICHARD
When we get to Marseille, I want
everyone to be alert for anything
suspicious either from Phillip or
John.

ADVISORS
Yes, Your Highness.

KING RICHARD
All right, let's get some rest.
This is when we can get it.

King Richard walks out to the helm and sees the Captain
steering the ship.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)
I think we should stop in Bordeaux
so we can resupply and I can get
some messages out.

CAPTAIN OF LIONS HEAD
 Yes, Your Highness. I will send
 word to the other ships.

The two watch the horizon for a few moments.

EXT. VEZELAY. -DAY

King Phillip leads a large mass of soldiers out of the gates
 of Vezelay.

The flags of France and King Phillip are flying. The tri-
 color flag and flag with blue field and three gold fleur-de-
 lis.

King Phillip is riding with his Advisors.

KING PHILLIP
 Have the messages been sent to
 Marseille and Paris?

ADVISOR
 They have Your Majesty.

KING PHILLIP
 Perfect, let's head to Lyon.

The Advisors turn their horses and go back to their place in
 the procession.

King Phillip rides on.

INT. TOWER OF LONDON. -DAY

Prince John walks the grounds of the Tower of London when the
 Queen Mother approaches him.

QUEEN MOTHER
 Walk with me, son.

PRINCE JOHN
 What is on your mind, Mother?

They walk to where nobody can see or hear them.

QUEEN MOTHER
 I know what you are up to with
 Durham and Longchamp.

PRINCE JOHN
 I have no idea what you're talking
 about.

QUEEN MOTHER

I've been doing this a lot longer than you have. Remember, I was around when your brothers tried to take the throne from your Father.

PRINCE JOHN

What was I supposed to do, sit by and be a window decoration until Richard gets back?

QUEEN MOTHER

No, that's why I am going to tell you to be careful. I'm proud of you, you're not the little cowardly boy that got sent off to Ireland.

PRINCE JOHN

I want what is deservedly mine.

QUEEN MOTHER

Then take it! Just remember your head may end up on a spike or a crown.

The Queen Mother walks away.

INT. VATICAN.

The newly elected Pope Clement the Third sits in his chambers when Gerard De Ridefort enters.

The Templar kisses the Pope's ring.

GERARD DE RIDEFORT

I came as soon as I heard Your Excellency.

POPE CLEMENT

Yes, unfortunate the passing of Gregory in Pisa.

GERARD DE RIDEFORT

The Cardinals chose wisely, and congratulations on your ascension.

POPE CLEMENT

Thank you...of course. How are the plans to take Jerusalem?

GERARD DE RIDEFORT

All have taken up the cross, my knights have told me that all three Kings have left for the Holy Land with their armies.

POPE CLEMENT

How do they plan to attack?

GERARD DE RIDEFORT

Phillip and Richard are going to attack from the rear by sea, and Barbarossa from land through the North.

POPE CLEMENT

Good, we need to take Jerusalem from Saladin. We only held the Holy Land for one hundred years.

GERARD DE RIDEFORT

If we lose, this could look bad for the church if we lose. Saladin's reputation is very good, and he respects all religious faiths to come.

POPE CLEMENT

Yes, this is why we need to win this battle.

EXT. TOWER OF LONDON. -NIGHT

The Sheriff of Nottingham, Guy of Gisborne, and Prince John meet outside under the cover of darkness.

PRINCE JOHN

We are going to go forward with what we talked about.

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

Are you sure, once things are set in motion, it cannot be stopped?

PRINCE JOHN

I'm sure. We need to make it look like an accident, though.

GUY OF GISBORNE

We know of people who can do that.

PRINCE JOHN

Good. Let's get this done, then.

INT. NOTTINGHAM. -NIGHT

The Three Witches are in the dungeon of Nottingham.

A man (20s) chained half-naked to a rack. His body was bloody with lash marks.

One of the witches holds a silver chalice under his arm.

The other Two Witches approach the man, he is in and out of consciousness. He wakes for a moment to see them all smiling at him. One holding the chalice under his arm, the other holding a ceremonial dagger.

The Witch with the dagger lunges forward and slices his arm. He SCREAMS in agony.

Blood drips down, filling the chalice.

The Witch with the dagger licks the blade, before plunging it deep into his chest, pulling the blade out, blood gushes from the wound.

The Third Witch sticks her hand in the wound, ripping the man's heart out.

They all take turns biting off pieces of the heart like an apple.

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST. -DAY

Two of the Highwaymen are talking by a stream.

HIGHWAYMAN #1

The witches... are we sure about this?

HIGHWAYMAN #2

We're already in it, these Lords and Kings need to stop using us like pawns in their sick and twisted games. This is the only way we can stop it.

HIGHWAYMAN #1

I hope it does.

HIGHWAYMAN #2

When we get what we want, I have a way out.

INT. TOWER OF LONDON. -DAY

Prince John, Bishop of Durham, and William Longchamp meet.

PRINCE JOHN

What is the state of affairs of the treasury?

BISHOP OF DURHAM

Not very good. This crusade prep drained the coffers pretty much empty.

PRINCE JOHN

Do you have any ideas?

WILLIAM LONGCHAMP

We are thinking of increasing the Saladin Tithe.

PRINCE JOHN

That would be a slow trickle, would it not?

BISHOP OF DURHAM

The kingdom is already at its breaking point, Your Highness.

PRINCE JOHN

Maybe the church can start giving its share.

The Bishop looks shocked.

BISHOP OF DURHAM

Rome is taking from us as well for the crusade effort.

PRINCE JOHN

Well, I have already started the go-ahead. All the Sheriff's will start seizing the land of men who are gone fighting in the crusades. Also, will be increasing taxes on all the Barons down to the common folk.

WILLIAM LONGCHAMP

But Richard...

PRINCE JOHN

I don't care what Richard said. He isn't here, is he? Do as I say, or you will be replaced.

The Bishop and Longchamp just look at each other.

INT. PALAIS-ROYAL -DAY

Super: Paris, France

ISABELLA'S QUARTERS

A female SCREAMS in anger.

Isabella forcefully opens two large ornate doors.

ISABELLA
Why do I have to go to that
miserable, cold country?

ALICE OF COURTENAY
You will do as your King commands.

Isabella glares at her mother.

ISABELLA
You are behind this... I know it!

ALICE OF COURTENAY
Pack, or I will have your ladies in
waiting pack for you. Let's just
hope you're not pregnant.

ISABELLA
I'm not, I started bleeding
yesterday.

ALICE OF COURTENAY
Thank goodness for small miracles.
Won't have to drown a bastard in
the Seine. Pack, you leave Monday.

Alice of Courtenay exits Isabella's quarters.

Isabella lets out a guttural SCREAM.

ARMOURY

Alice of Courtenay enters the armoury.

In the room is MAID MARIAN (20s), selecting and packing
weapons.

ALICE OF COURTENAY
Are you ready?

MAID MARIAN

I will be.

ALICE OF COURTENAY

Keep an eye on her, Phillip also
wants you to keep an eye on John.
Make sure the English are not up to
anything.

MAID MARIAN

Yes ma'am.

ALICE OF COURTENAY

Make sure nobody discovers your
intentions, especially my daughter.

Maid Marion unsheathes a lightweight sword.

Her brown eyes reflected on the blade.

FADE OUT:

FIN.