

The Tale of

Robyn Hood

and her

Merry Band of Maids.

A Scenario for Best Friends by Jenni Sands

ROBYN HOOD AND HER MERRY MAIDS

*She robs from the rich and she gives to the poor,
except for when she needs new shoes
and then she keeps the money!
Robyn Hood Robyn Hood,
hey nonny nonny nonny no!*

Robyn Hood is a scenario for “Best Friends” the indie game written by Gregor Hutton for six players. It is a re-imagining of the classic Robin Hood fable, with all the genders reversed. This is a game that is not to be taken seriously and overacting, silliness and anachronistic jokes are encouraged.

THE SETTING:

Sherwood Forest and Medieval Nottinghamshire: The most stereotypical traditional, fifties movie realistic, cliché version you can describe. Robyn and her merry maids live in the forest.

THE CAST:

The PCs make up the merry maids and Robyn herself. Each character should be familiar enough, but each has a secret motivation that will cause conflict in the course of the story. A list of NPCs for the GM to use to create conflicts and drama follow the PCs.

PLAYER CHARACTERS:

Robyn Hood

Hero, legend, beloved of all. Well, at least in her own mind. Robyn is the charismatic leader of the troupe and the one who takes all the credit for everything. Robyn genuinely loves her companions, but isn't actually all that smart.

Whillimina Scarlett

Best friend of Robyn and slightly jealous second in command, Will is excellent with bow and sword, but is always in Robyn's shadow. Secretly, Will is very in love with Richard of Gisborne, brother to the villainous Girl of Gisborne and would sacrifice anything to be with him. Will also believes she would make a better leader than Robyn.

Sister Tuck

Sister Tuck is a jolly, violent and hard drinking nun of forest. She joined the convent because she loves the sisters. Like that. You know. She is involved in a secret affair with Fifi, the Sheriff of Nottingham and would like nothing better than to settle down in a little cottage with her and live happily ever after.

Much the Miller's Daughter

Symbol of the oppressed, Much is very much the 'little sister' of the troupe. She is shy and softly spoken, which Robyn and the others assume means she is stupid. Actually she is very intelligent. Secretly, she is in love with Richard of Gisborne, brother to the villainous Girl of Gisborne, although she is aware that he is of a higher class than herself.

Little Jane

The only woman to ever have beaten Robyn at staff fighting, Jane is the burly right arm of the band. She is very straight forward and tough as nails. Jane is fiercely loyal and looks out for Robyn. She would not stand for anyone to leave the 'family' group. She also has a bit of a crush on Man Martin.

NPCs

Princess Jenny

King Lionheart's conniving cousin who has assumed the throne in his absence. Princess Jenny is frequently targeted by Robyn, because she is both weak and rich. She has a lot of guards and soldiers at her disposal and is fond of holding balls, grand dinners and archery contests.

Man Martin

The most beautiful man in England, Man Martin is a bit of a medieval emo. He takes great care in his appearance, dresses in black and mopes around looking pretty. He loves any female attention but he is especially in love with Robyn because she is such a dashing hero.

Girl of Gisborne

Jenny's right hand woman, Girl works hard to bring Robyn down. She is very femme fatale, gorgeous and deadly. She is also manipulative and knows rather a lot about the various secrets the band hold, feel free to have her use secrets against the troupe if she is backed into a corner.

Richard of Gisborne

Richard is Girl of Gisborne's unassuming, studious and dashing handsome brother. He returns Will's feelings but rather wishes she would resume her noble bearing, stop living in the forest and generally settle down and be a lady. He is often to be found in the library, studying. He loves his sister very much and would hate to see her hurt.

Fifi, the Sheriff of Nottingham

Outwardly dastardly in the extreme, Fifi works for Princess Jenny and Girl of Gisborne. She is secretly in love with Sister Tuck and would love to stop oppressing Robyn for this reason. However she has no choice, as her station dictates she obey the Princess.

RUNNING THE GAME

Best Friends is a player driven game, but you will need to shape the narrative to make a good story. Responding to the things the players show interest in is the best way to ensure everyone has fun. Once you have distributed characters and 'friend chips' as per Best Friends set up, set the scene in Sherwood Forest with some over the top adjectives and prose.

An example of over the top prose using many adjectives: The cheerful sun is shining down on the bonny forest of Sherwood. The trees are all sparkling green in the playful sunlight and the creek is babbling merrily alongside your campsite. Why, it is just such a morning as makes you pleased to be living free from the rigors of civilization alongside your brave sisters.

Then ask the players to describe what their characters are doing this fine sunny morning. Make sure to describe any place they go in a very purple way and give any minor characters they speak to (barmaid,

cobbler, palace guard) a ridiculous rustic English accent. It adds to the fun of the game and encourages the right level of silliness.

Example of ridiculous rustic English accent:

Why if it b'aint Robyn Hood, 'as oi live and breathe! 'Ow c'n oi be of service t'ye today?

Or just talk like a hobbit from the Lord of the Rings movies.

Whenever you can you should set the characters up in conflict with each other. Having said that don't push it if it doesn't feel natural. If the PCs are happy to be getting on with each other let that flow as well. However the players want the game to go is the way you should run it.

STORY HOOKS

If the players are having trouble coming up with ideas for what they want to do use one of the following story hooks to create drama.

Story hook - Grand feast: Princess Jenny is holding a grand feast, advertising it around Sherwood and Nottingham by having servants nail the flyer to walls. The poster says "Grande feaste to be held on the morrow at the castle. The beauteous and most handsome Man Martin will attend. Definitely not a Trap for Robyn Hood." How can Robyn resist? This leads to a lot of scenes: shopping for new outfits, plans for the feast, the feast itself.

Story hook - Archery contest: Princess Jenny is organising an archery contest in Nottingham, winner gets a healthy monetary prize presented by Man Martin. Girl of Gisborne and Fifi will be competing for the title of 'best archer'. Obviously Robyn will wish to compete, but will any of the merry maids also step up? How will they disguise themselves? How will they avoid being captured when the archery contest is heavily guarded by Fifi's men at arms? Who will win the archery contest? (Toughness checks to decide if merry maids are competing against Robyn, last one standing wins.) Can Robyn get close to Man Martin? Can anyone else get close to their secret loves?

Story Hook - Captured!: One of the not-so-famous Merry Maids has been captured by Sheriff Fifi, and the PCs must get her back. Unfortunately the prison is heavily guarded and Princess Jenny is waiting for them to take the bait.

Story Hook - Kidnapping: One of the Merry Maids gets the idea to kidnap Girl of Gisborne and bring her back to the forest. That'll show Princess Jenny right? How do they pull off the kidnapping? Once they have Girl, how do they treat her? What information can they get out of her before she uses her knowledge of their secrets to tear the band apart?

Story Hook - Love is in the air: Man Martin has managed to sneak away into Sherwood Forest. Robyn would love to spend time alone with Man Martin, but that leaves the Merry Maids to their own devices. Run a series of single PC scenes focusing on each character. If they choose to go the romantic way make it as difficult as possible for the PC, having Richard insist to Will that she leave the forest, Man Martin wishing for Robyn to stop being an outlaw, etc. Get the other players involved in the scenes as minor characters or their own character gate crashing at a dramatic moment.

HOW TO WRAP UP THE GAME.

Once all the consequences of the adventure your players have had have been played out, try and come to a movie style happily-ever-after for the characters.

Here are some questions to address if relevant to the story: Does King Richard return or is Princess Jenny still in power? Does the band split up or does it remain status quo?

Finally get each player to narrate an ending moment for their character, they can make it as happy or sad as they choose. Just ensure that they don't try and make an ending for another player character. Have the love interests play along in whatever way seems best to you, given how they have been treated in the game. (e.g. If Man Martin has been ignored the whole time, he might not want to marry Robyn, etc.)

CHARACTER SHEETS

I AM ROBYN HOOD

Hero, legend, beloved of all. I am the charismatic leader of the troupe and the one who takes all the credit for everything. I love my merry maids, I take care of them like a mother hen but I always make sure they know their place as well. I'm awesome!

Pretty 2 Smart 0 Rich 2 Tough 0 Cool 1

- I hate Will Scarlet because she is prettier than me
- I hate Much because she is smarter than me
- I hate Sister Tuck because she is richer than me
- I hate Jane because she is tougher than me
- I hate Much because she is cooler than me

Secret: You have no secrets, you broadcast every single thing you do or think to everyone. Because you're Robyn Hood! You're awesome! I love Man Martin and he loves me back.

I AM WHILLIMINA SCARLET

I am Robyn's best friend, which is cool, even if she is kind of dumb and annoying. I could lead the merry maids way better than she could, you know. If I ever had the chance.

Pretty 2 Smart 1 Rich 1 Tough 0 Cool 1

- I hate Much because she is prettier than me
- I hate Sister Tuck because she is smarter than me
- I hate Robyn because she is richer than me
- I hate Little Jane because she is tougher than me
- I hate Robyn because she is cooler than me

Secret: I am very in love with Richard of Gisborne, brother to the villainous Girl of Gisborne and I would sacrifice anything to be with him.

I AM SISTER TUCK

I am a jolly, violent and hard drinking nun of forest.

I joined the convent because I love the sisters. Like that. You know.

Pretty 0 Smart 3 Rich 1 Tough 1 Cool 0

- I hate Robyn because she is prettier than me
- I hate Will Scarlet because she is smarter than me
- I hate Much because she is richer than me
- I hate Little Jane because she is tougher than me
- I hate Little Jane because she is cooler than me

Secret: You are involved romantically with Fifi, Sheriff of Nottingham and if at all possible you want to eventually leave Robyn's crew to settle down with her. If only Fifi didn't have to obey the horrible Princess Jenny.

I AM MUCH THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

I am shy and softly spoken, which Robyn kind of thinks means I'm dumb, but I'm not. For a miller's daughter I've actually read a lot of books. I am very grateful to Robyn for everything, she saved me from starvation after all and it makes me feel really cool to ride through town with her.

Pretty 1 Smart 1 Rich 1 Tough 2 Cool 1

- I hate Robyn because she is prettier than me
- I hate Sister Tuck because she is smarter than me
- I hate Will Scarlet because she is richer than me
- I hate Sister Tuck because she is tougher than me
- I hate Little Jane because she is cooler than me

Secret: I am in love with Richard of Gisborne, brother to the villainous Girl of Gisborne, although I'm aware that he is of a higher class, I just think we could really connect when it comes to books and stuff. If I ever was brave enough to speak to him.

I AM LITTLE JANE

I am the only woman to ever have beaten Robyn at staff fighting. I am the burly right arm of the band. I am fiercely loyal and look out for Robyn, girl can't watch her own back after all. Besides, she doesn't think things through. I love our merry maids troupe, it's like a family to me, and I can't think what I'd do if it ever broke apart.

Pretty 0 Smart 0 Rich 0 Tough 4 Cool 1

- I hate Will Scarlet because she is prettier than me
- I hate Sister Tuck because she is smarter than me
- I hate Robyn because she is richer than me
- I hate Much because she is tougher than me
- I hate Will Scarlet because she is cooler than me

Secret crush: Man Martin. He's so dreamy! Maybe if I showed him how strong I am, he would look at me instead of Robyn.
