

Transcript

Amadeus Jones

Episode three Slings and bows

By

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SCENE 1

AMADEUS Boris. Pass me that screwdriver, please?

BORIS I wish you'd stop asking me to fetch things for you.

AMADEUS What's the point of having a super-intelligent robot if it can't fetch screwdrivers and make cups of tea for you?

BORIS That is true. But I'm a wristwatch.

AMADEUS You've got two hands haven't you?

BORIS Yes. But they are... oh, I see what you did there. Very amusing.

AMADEUS I'll get my own screwdriver.

(Sound of screwdriver and clicking) There we go. All done now. That's the last screw. Just stick the batteries in and...

(Beeping sounds) It works! I've built a time tracker device.

BORIS We've built a time tracker device.

AMADEUS Well, you read Dad's instructions. But I actually put the bits together!

BORIS Does it work? Show me the display. It should be tracking your father through time.

AMADEUS Look, it's showing something not far way, heading towards us. Dad must be outside.

BORIS He's very fast.

AMADEUS He's jumped from the tree onto the roof! Maybe he's being chased?

BORIS By some time-travelling villains. Prepare for battle.

AMADEUS What with? I only have these three-day old biscuits!

BORIS You could throw them! They're hard enough!

(Boris/Amadeus both scream)

(A cat meows)

AMADEUS Have you set it to detect fur instead of time particles?

(Cat meows)

BORIS Perhaps Dad's instructions are upside down?

AMADEUS You should be upside down! In a toilet!

BORIS How very rude.

AMADEUS Boris, that cat's collar has my name on it. And it's got a note stuck to it.

BORIS Read it. What does it say?

AMADEUS It says... "Boris activate time machine. Co-ordinates sub five delta quad normative 56 58 1307. Tell Amadeus that Robin has the secret."

BORIS Robin? Robin... hmm, well could it be Robin Hood?

(Time travel noises)

AMADEUS Oh no, time travel...

(Time travel noises)

SCENE 2

SHERWOOD FOREST – IN A TREE

BORIS Sorry Amadeus.

AMADEUS What? Oh right, I see. Another tree! Why do you always land us in a tree?

BORIS I have no control over where we land.

AMADEUS I don't believe you. Right, better get down.

(Sounds of climbing down from tree)

AMADEUS *(Grunting climbing noises)* We're in a forest, I can't see anything other than trees for miles!

BORIS Sherwood Forest.

AMADEUS Okay. Should I ask what year? Don't suppose it could be one week ago or something more sensible like that, could it?

BORIS It is one week before the date we left.

AMADEUS Excellent work.

BORIS One week and 600 years.

AMADEUS Boris!!

BORIS Well this is the only way your father said that...

AMADEUS Dad said what? What did you say?

(Sound of arrows flying through the air)

AMADEUS Someone's firing arrows at us!

(From distance, walking closer)

ROBIN Hello there. Sorry about that. Completely mistook you for a deer.

AMADEUS How?

ROBIN I think it's the hose you're wearing.

AMADEUS Hose?

BORIS I think he means trousers? In the 16th century people wore leggings instead of trousers, as we call them in our time.

AMADEUS Leggings? On men? That's ridiculous.

BORIS Not entirely. The history of clothes is very complex. You should try looking it up sometime.

AMADEUS Or you could just tell me?

BORIS Remember what Sir Walter Raleigh said? Sometimes you have to find things out for yourself. A bit of research goes a long way.

ROBIN I've never seen you here in the Forest before. Are you Sheriff's men or King's men?

AMADEUS Err, I don't know. Which is best?

ROBIN Let's just have a nice chat and find out who you are first. Please?

MARIAN Swords first, questions later. It's simple military tactics, Robin.

ROBIN *(Sighing)* Sorry about this. Tell you what, why don't you come back to the camp and have a nice cup of tea? We can find out what you're up to out here in the forest. That way, if we all get along spiffingly, maybe you'd like to join us.

AMADEUS And if we don't get along?

ROBIN No need to discuss that right now is there eh? Don't want to be put off our supper!

SCENE 3

EXT. SHERWOOD FOREST, AROUND A CAMP FIRE

(Sounds of boiling water and cups being prepared for tea. Sound of people in the background doing 'forest-y' things)

ROBIN So, tell me, young Sire, what brings you to our humble forest?

AMADEUS Well it's not the tea, that's for sure. It's disgusting.

MARIAN I knew he was one of the Sheriff's men. They're always so fussy when it comes to their drinks.

ROBIN She used to work in a tavern in Nottingham. Thinks she knows all about drinks.

MARIAN More than you know.

ROBIN The tea was a gift from a... traveller. We've had a lot of strangers passing through here recently.

AMADEUS I didn't even think you had tea in your times?

ROBIN Well we didn't. Until two gentlemen turned up. A Sir Walter Raleigh. Travelling with this other chap. Come to think of it, looked a bit like you.

- AMADEUS Was his name Simon?
- ROBIN That's the chap. Nice man, really knew how to make a good cup of tea.
- MARIAN I wasn't convinced myself. He seemed a bit peculiar. A bit obsessed with what time it was.
- ROBIN She's just annoyed because he wouldn't stay and help us. Although he did leave Walter Raleigh with us.
- AMADEUS Can I speak to him?
- ROBIN Sorry, we've sent him off to gather timber with Little John.
- MARIAN It was the only way to get any peace.
- ROBIN Wants to build a big ship. Right here in the middle of the forest!
- MARIAN And we keep telling him. What do we keep saying to him, Robin?
- ROBIN We tell him: we need these trees to live in. Those trees you want to turn into masts are our living room.
- MARIAN He's completely barmy. We should have left him to the Sheriff's men.
- ROBIN Well, at least he keeps Little John amused.
- MARIAN True.
- AMADEUS What's his big project?
- ROBIN Thinks our campaign would go better if we started a navy. 'The future is in sea power,' he keeps telling anyone who'll listen.

MARIA But Walter, I said to him, Walter, while I fully accept your offer and without a doubt, welcome your enthusiasm, you have to realise we're at least seventy miles from the nearest ocean. It didn't stop him though. He's ruined the bedsheets making sails.

ROBIN Supper's ready. Who wants woodlice and forest mushroom?

MARIAN Oh joy. Third day in a row for the woodlice and mushroom. At the Inn they always served pie and mash on Tuesdays.

SCENE 4

SAME DAY, EXTERIOR OF SHERWOOD FOREST

AMADEUS So, what's going on here? Why do you live in a forest? Are you hippies?

ROBIN Errrr, don't think so? We're freedom fighters. In a chestnut's shell, we believe that the Sheriff is imposing ridiculous taxes on people.

MARIAN Ever since the Sheriff started to put huge taxes on people, they haven't been able to pay. People don't make very much money from working the land or selling their stuff on a market stall. He demands more and more each month. And he doesn't just say no and walk away.

AMADEUS I've heard about him in films and stuff. Is he really that bad?

ROBIN Films?

AMADEUS Doesn't matter. So what are you doing to help people?

MARIAN Oh we've come up with an amazing plan, haven't we, Robin?

- ROBIN Yes. It's fiendishly simple actually. You see, we've started to steal from rich people.
- MARIAN We sneak into their castles and big houses and steal all of their stuff.
- ROBIN You wouldn't believe the things we've taken. Furniture.
- MARIAN Swords and daggers.
- ROBIN Tapestries. Clothes.
- MARIAN Shields. Suits of armour.
- ROBIN Kitchen utensils!
- MARIAN All sorts of things.
- AMADEUS So you just steal from people?
- ROBIN Yes. Good isn't it?
- AMADEUS Sounds good for you, but not for anyone else.
- MARIAN Robin, you haven't told him the most important part! You see, Amadeus, we steal from the rich people and give it to the poor people.
- AMADEUS But haven't the rich people worked hard for their things?
- ROBIN Don't get me started.
- MARIAN You've got him started now.
- ROBIN We live in terrible times. Rich people getting richer from exploiting the poor people. It's just not fair.

- AMADEUS Doesn't the King stop the Sheriff?
- ROBIN Too busy. So it's up to us to help people.
- AMADEUS I read somewhere you're doing a great job.
- MARIAN It's not all fun though. You wouldn't believe how much scrollwork it takes to organise all that sharing amongst the poor. I'm up to my armpits in administration. It would be much easier if we just kept it all for ourselves.
- ROBIN You know, Marian, You've not been the same since you fell out of the lounge last summer. (*Whispers to Amadeus*) Banged her head as she fell from our tree.
- MARIAN I did not! And anyway, it was the kitchen, actually. A lower branch.
- AMADEUS Living in trees sounds cool. My mate Gary built a treehouse once. Used the roof as the floor by mistake though. He got very wet in winter.
- ROBIN We tried living in the town but the Sheriff sent his men after us. I used to be a nobleman but refused to live under his oppressive regime.
- MARIAN I was so proud of him, turning his back on his own fortune for the sake of others.
- ROBIN And we came here to the forest, where we live with our band of Merry Men.
- MARIAN So-called Merry Men. They're a bunch of miseries, I say. Always whining: 'Why can't we have better homes? Does it have to be a forest? Can't we just tell people we live in the forest but go and live at the Inn?'

ROBIN I have to remind them: you don't create a legend by staying at an Inn and eating good food. Well you don't do you?

MARIAN No darling, you don't.

ROBIN More like Miserable Men!

AMADEUS Yes. Good. That's all very interesting but I don't suppose you could tell me what's happened to my Dad, could you?

MARIAN Let's go for a walk. There's something you need to see.

SCENE 5

EXTERIOR OF SHERWOOD FOREST

(Sounds of people walking through the forest)

ROBIN Your father asked us to look after something and give it to you when you turned up.

AMADEUS That's amazing. I don't know what to say.

ROBIN He said you'd say that.

AMADEUS And did he say why he'd brought Walter Raleigh here?

ROBIN He just said he needed to hide him in another time period for a short while. Wouldn't tell us why. Or what he meant by time period. It was all very confusing. In the end we just nodded a lot, didn't we?

MARIAN Totally. We just had to nod and pretend it all made sense. Which it didn't.

ROBIN Said very soon he'd need someone who knew how to pilot a ship. Does that mean anything?

AMADEUS Nope. I've been looking for Dad for months and the closer I get the more mysterious it all seems.

ROBIN We're here now. I've covered it with some leaves but see that rope? We just need to give it a good tug.

(Tugging noises and some timber snapping; a large sheet being lifted up)

ROBIN Good thing about being me is you learn how to hide valuable things where nobody will find them. I've hidden a lot of loot around the forest.

AMADEUS Whatever it is, it's wrapped in a silver bag.

ROBIN I'll drag it up out of the hole.

(Sound of large object being dragged from hole)

AMADEUS Right, just pull this seal.

(Sound of ziplock sliding)

AMADEUS It's a spacesuit.

ROBIN Strange clothes. And what is that? I've never seen headgear with a large window before.

AMADEUS That's the helmet. There's a note: 'Amadeus, if you're reading this, then your mission is coming to an end. I've left Walter Raleigh with you, because I needed him kept safe.'

(Cross fade to...)

DAD I've left Walter Raleigh with you, because I needed him kept safe. We're going to need him in about 1200 years. For now, please take the package I've left with Robin Hood. Keep it with you and don't let it out of your sight. I hope they've looked after you. Marian's a bit crazy, but she's lovely when you get to know her. In the bag, you'll find a document. Give this to Robin. It's a plan of the Sheriff of Nottingham's house.

(Cross fade to...)

AMADEUS It's a plan of the Sheriff of Nottingham's house. He'll know what to do with it.

ROBIN How on Earth did he... This is the breakthrough we've been waiting for. Your Dad's a genius!

AMADEUS Wonder what he meant by 1200 years?

ROBIN Well you thank him when you finally find him. The people of Nottingham will be forever grateful to him. By the way...

AMADEUS Yes?

ROBIN You've gone sort of see-through!

AMADEUS I'm getting used to it! It happens when I time travel. You know, I have a feeling we're getting very close to the end now!

(Time travel noises)