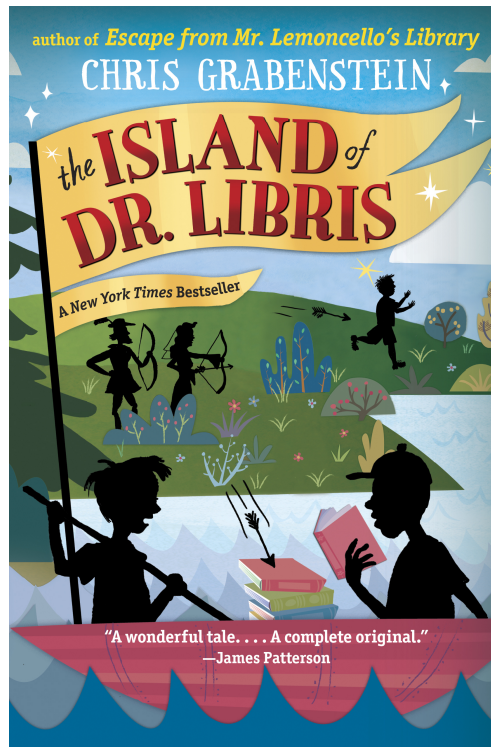


THE ISLAND OF DR. LIBRIS
A Readers Theater Script
by
Ronny Venable, B.A. Theater



Cast of Characters

NARRATOR
BILLY GILLFOYLE
ROBIN HOOD
MAID MARIAN
HERCULES
SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

NARRATOR

Billy Gillfoyle wasn't thrilled to be spending the summer in the weird house on the shore of Lake Katrine that his mother had rented from Dr. Libris. First of all, his father wouldn't be there. And his mother was spending so much time writing her dissertation that he was pretty much on his own. AND THERE WAS NO TV!! Billy was left alone, with nothing but a bookcase filled with musty, dusty old books. But then something really weird happened. When Billy started to read one of the books, he could hear voices coming from an island in the middle of the lake! Voices of characters from the very book he was holding in his lap!! He had to investigate. So he hopped in a canoe and paddled across the water to visit The Island of Dr. Libris.

BILLY

This is nuts. It can't be real...Hercules is just a character in a book. But he was here! Right here in front of me! One minute I was reading about him, the next minute he's talking to me. I know...I'll pinch myself, like they do in cartoons.

NARRATOR

But before Billy could pinch himself, Robin Hood and Maid Marian leapt into the clearing. Robin Hood aimed his bow at Billy's chest. Maid Marian raised her broadsword, prepared to strike.

ROBIN HOOD

Art thou yet another bounty hunter sent forth by the foul Sheriff of Nottingham? Speak, good fellow. WHAT BE THY NAME?

BILLY

Um, Billy. You know—like the goats?

ROBIN HOOD

Billy? Goats?

BILLY

It's short for William.

NARRATOR

Robin and Marian slowly lowered their weapons.

MAID MARIAN

Ah-ah! Thou, then, art Sir William of Goat?

BILLY

Sir....Okay, sure. Works for me.

MAID MARIAN

Merrily, good sir. What brings thee to this, the secret hiding place of the most renowned outlaw in all of England?

NARRATOR

Billy thought for a second. The fact was, he'd been bored and his mom had suggested he read one of the books in Dr. Libris's library.

BILLY

Uh....My mother sent me?

ROBIN HOOD
(skeptically)

Thy mother?

BILLY

Sure! You two are her favorites. She *loves* you guys!

ROBIN HOOD
(bowing low and twirling his cap)

Then for thy mother's sake, thou art most welcome here, Sir William of Goat.

BILLY

Thanks. (looks nervously into the forest behind Robin and Marian) So, you were talking about a bounty hunter? Where is he?

MAID MARIAN
(cheerfully)

That worthless varlet? Dispatched!!!

BILLY

Dispatched? Does that mean he's, you know, dead?

ROBIN HOOD
(laughs heartily)

Ah-ha-ha-ha! No, it means Marian scared him off with her sword.

MAID MARIAN

And I wouldst do it again. For the scoundrel was sent here by that vile villain the Sheriff of Nottingham.

ROBIN HOOD

Aye, the blackguard that hath placed a price on my head, and on Maid Marian's. Methinks there shalt be others out there eager to claim it.

BILLY

Well then, maybe, just in case, you two should go hide in Sherwood Forest or something?

ROBIN HOOD

Thou art wise beyond thy years, Sir William of Goat. Come. Sherwood is over yonder.

NARRATOR

Robin marched toward the forest. Marian and Billy followed him.

MAID MARIAN

The Sheriff of Nottingham will not dare to follow us hither. He fears the harm that might befall him deep in the shadows of Sherwood.

NARRATOR

The stalwart trio quickly entered the cool darkness of Sherwood Forest and approached a log bridge that crossed a bubbling stream...

BILLY

(nervously)

....So....we're safe?

ROBIN HOOD

Aye, marry.

BILLY

You're getting married?

ROBIN HOOD

What?

BILLY

You said, 'I marry'.

ROBIN HOOD

(slowly, as if explaining to a simpleton)

Aye....Marry.

BILLY

Oh, I think I get it. Does 'Aye, marry' mean 'yes'?

ROBIN HOOD

Ah-ha-ha-ha! Verily it doth! And now, my good young friend....

NARRATOR

Just then, Hercules tromped noisily out of the forest, dragging his club. He stopped at the far side of the log bridge to straighten his lion-fur cape.

ROBIN HOOD

What ho! Who be this lad of such might and girth?

BILLY

He be Hercules. He just defeated a monster made out of rocks and mud.

ROBIN HOOD

(impressed, even slightly envious)

Did he indeed? Well done, good sir.

HERCULES

Billy of the Goats That Are Gruff did help me complete my quest! (to Robin) Usually, I like children not. They maketh me crazy. (to all) But Billy is different. He is bold and courageous.

BILLY

No, I'm not. I'm just a kid who—

NARRATOR

(interrupting Billy)

Robin saw a wooden staff on the ground near his end of the bridge. He snatched it up and faced Hercules, and prodded him in the chest with the staff.

ROBIN HOOD

Tell me, my fine fellow – do you seek adventure this day?

MAID MARIAN

Honestly Robin. Must thou challenge each and every man thou meetest upon the road to goodly combat?

ROBIN HOOD

Aye, marry.

HERCULES

Eh? Didst thee call me Mary?

ROBIN HOOD

What?

HERCULES

By Apollo's armband, I heard thee call me Mary!!

BILLY

(explaining to Hercules)

Easy, Herk. 'Aye, marry' is how he says 'yes'....(Hercules looks baffled)...It's a thing.

HERCULES

Ah. And methought only his leggings were odd. (to Robin Hood) No. I seek only to complete my labors for my lord, the good King Eurystheus. I was on the twelfth – or thirteenth - I have lost count. I'm not very good with numbers.

ROBIN HOOD

Well, then, what art thou good at, pray tell?

HERCULES

Oh, thou knowest, the usual. Slaying monsters. Capturing bulls. Feats of superhuman strength.

NARRATOR

Robin Hood placed one foot upon the bridge.

ROBIN HOOD

Ah ha ha!! I say thy feats stinketh. Stand aside and let a better man pass.

NARRATOR

Never one to turn aside a challenge, Hercules thrust his chest forward, stepped onto the other side of the bridge and prepared for battle.

HERCULES

No! *You* stand aside!

BILLY

Great! Now these two guys are gonna fight. What kinda crazy island is this?

NARRATOR

Although the log bridge was only about ten inches wide, Hercules and Robin Hood stormed across it from either side and met in the middle.

ROBIN HOOD

I will baste thy hide right merrily!

HERCULES

Ha! You may baste me but cannot best me. No mere mortal can defeat Hercules!

NARRATOR

(ROBIN and HERCULES mime fighting as the NARRATOR speaks)
Robin faked like he was about to lead with his left, then *whacked* Hercules with his staff from the right.....Hercules didn't flinch....He *swung* at Robin Hood with his club. It landed hard, but Robin held his ground....Robin *swung* and hit while Hercules *clubbed* him again. They seemed pretty evenly matched. *Swing*

HERCULES

Oof!!

NARRATOR

Club.

ROBIN HOOD

Ouch!!!

NARRATOR

Swing.

HERCULES

Gluffph!!

NARRATOR

Club.

ROBIN HOOD

Eeeyowie!!

NARRATOR

Swing! Club! Swing! Club!

ROBIN HOOD and HERCULES

Oof!! Eeeyowie!! Gluffph!! Ouch!!

NARRATOR

Get the picture? It went on and on like this. The men exchanged blows, grunting and grumbling, neither of them giving an inch. (We hear them continue to fight.) Finally, Maid Marian grew tired and looked for a place to sit down.

MAID MARIAN

Ah, me! This might go on all day. In fact, it usually doth.

BILLY

(as the fight continues)

Um, you guys? Yoo hoo! Fellas!!!

NARRATOR

Both heroes stopped fighting and looked at Billy.

BILLY

Ya know, the Sheriff of Nottingham might hear you if you keep whacking and thwacking each other like that.

NARRATOR

Taking advantage of the distraction, Hercules caught Robin's oaken staff in his free hand and flipped him head over heels off the bridge and into the river.

HERCULES

Ha! Where art thou now, boastful mortal?

MAID MARIAN

Why, he is in the river!

ROBIN HOOD

(cheerfully)

I am also quite wet. Good sir, thou didst beat me fair and square.

HERCULES

Ah, but you are a good fighter. My head is still buzzing from your many manly blows. Give me your hand.

NARRATOR

With barely an effort, Hercules reached down and pulled Robin out of the water and onto the river bank.

ROBIN HOOD

ForSOOTH thou art a stouthearted lad! Nay, make that FIVEsooth!

BILLY

Hey Robin, I've got an idea! Why don't you ask Hercules to join your band of merry men?

MAID MARIAN

Merry *people*, Sir William of Goat. Speak, Hercules. Wouldst thou throw in with us?

HERCULES

(he looks to Billy for approval. Billy nods enthusiastically)
Very well, Robin. Today I shall become one of your merry people!

MAID MARIAN

And thou, Sir William of Goat? Wilt thou join us as well?

NARRATOR

Billy was shocked. In gym class, nobody ever wanted him on their team.

BILLY

Me? Really? You guys want *me*?

MAID MARIAN

Please join our merry band.

ROBIN HOOD

Aye, marry, marry, be merry.

(They all stare at Robin Hood)

MAID MARIAN

(disdainfully)

Okay, now you're just saying it to be annoying.

ROBIN HOOD

Sorry, got carried away. What sayest thou Sir William?

BILLY

Well, gosh...Sure...Cool...I'd *love* to be on your team!!

NARRATOR

And that was when the Sheriff of Nottingham rode in on a giant black horse.

SHERIFF
(bellowing)

AH-HAAAA!!!! I have found thee!!

NARRATOR

The sheriff was a bony, sour-looking grouch dressed all in black. He sat slumped in his saddle making a face like he hadn't enjoyed whatever he'd just eaten for lunch.

SHERIFF
(to Narrator, irritated)

Ahem! If you don't mind.

(Narrator bows slightly to Sheriff)

SHERIFF
Now where was I...Oh yes....AH HAAAAA!!! I have found thee!!

ROBIN HOOD
(whispering to Billy)

Thou spoketh most true. Our whacking and thwacking hath revealed our hiding place.

NARRATOR
But Marian only propped her hands on her hips and stared the Sheriff down.

MAID MARIAN
Thou wouldst *dare* to enter Sherwood Forest alone?

SHERIFF
(haughtily)
Wouldst. Didst. Hath. In truth, I wouldst travel to the very ends of the earth to see you two lawless scoundrels brought to justice!

(Sheriff glares at Billy)
You there! Boy! What be thy name?

BILLY
(gulps)
Uh...Who...me?

NARRATOR

Hercules quickly strode forward and put his mammoth body between Billy and the sheriff while Robin slid an arrow out of his quiver and held it ready. Marian placed her right hand over her dagger.

HERCULES

This be Billy of the Goats That Are Gruff!

ROBIN HOOD

Also known far and wide as the noble Sir William of Goat.

SHERIFF

I see. And didst my ears deceive me, Sir William of Goat, or didst thou just now declare thyself to be an ally of these scurrilous outlaws?

BILLY

Uhhh...Well, I...uh...maybe?

ROBIN HOOD

Ah-ha-ha! Of course he did! This stalwart lad is a great friend and boon companion to Robin Hood and all his Merry Men!

MAID MARIAN
(interrupting)

Ah, ah, ah! Merry Which?

ROBIN HOOD

Oh, sorry...Merry People!

SHERIFF

Take care, Goat Boy! Tis treason to join this band of thieves. Treason, I say!

NARRATOR

For some reason, Billy wasn't afraid. Instead, he just nodded.

BILLY

Okay. Thanks for the heads-up, sir.

SHERIFF

So you confess to being a traitor? Then in the name of His Majesty King John, I hereby sentence thee to DEATH!

NARRATOR

With that, the sheriff swiftly pulled his sword out of its scabbard as Robin Hood cried...

ROBIN HOOD

Flee, Sir William!

NARRATOR

Billy was frozen in terror. Quickly, Marian whipped out her dagger and hurled it, end over end, straight at the sheriff. The blade hit its mark, spearing the black hearted villain in the leg.

SHERIFF

Curses and foul language!! I am stabbed!! All those under the age of twenty-one cover thy ears whilst I utter every bad word in ye book!! OUCH, Oh, Verily, OUCH I SAY!!

MAID MARIAN

Run, Billy! Run! Take thy leave before thou diest!!

BILLY

Diest?

NARRATOR

She didn't have to say that twice. Billy took off like he had rockets in his shoes.