

John, Donatella, Sheriff, Sid, Stan

### **SCENE 3 Riff Raff Alley**

#### **Front of curtain**

**Enter John and Donatella through audience.**

**John:** Donatella, how far now?

**Donatella:** Not far, Sir.

**John:** Couldn't we have just used the royal coach? And why did we need to come through Riff Raff Alley? It's disgusting!

**Donatella:** It's not wide enough for a coach, Sir - and it's quicker to walk. The Sheriff said we had to hurry -, it's urgent! Besides, the Riff Raff aren't that bad? Look. **(indicating audience)**

**John:** I don't know, Donatella, look at that one there **(pointing at someone)** Look at **(his/her)** hair? Look at **(his/her)** clothes. Eeww!

**Donatella:** Just because they are Riff Raff, Sir, it doesn't mean they aren't nice. Try talking to one of them.

**John:** Really???

**Donatella:** Yes. You are the King – *temporary King* – you should make the effort.

**John:** What do I say?

**Donatella:** Anything. Go on...

**John:** **(approaching member of audience reluctantly)** Greetings lowly Riff Raff, I am the King. You can now bow or courtesy. So, Riff Raff, what brings you here? **(continuing conversation with one or two audience members)**

**We see the Sheriff enter on stage.**

**Donatella:** Sir, the Sheriff is here. Quickly!

**They make their way onto stage.**

**John:** Ah! Brutus Botox, Sheriff of Burghclere, what news?

**Sheriff:** Your majesty, I call you here to be the bearer of bad news, I'm afraid.

**John:** **(jumping up and down)** Oh goody, goody, goody.

**Sheriff:** Yes, Sir, your niece and nephew are gone. Dead. Your brother, King Ricky should be dead just about **(looks at watch)** ...now!

**John:** Oh, what a shame! Look at me grieve! **(Does an over the top grieve pose)**

**Donatella:** Oh Bravo, Sir.

**Sheriff:** I'm not finished yet, Sir. More bad news. I'm afraid the time has come for you to be dea...

**Voices off stage mid-curtain**    **Sid:**    *But Stan, what do we tell him?*    **Stan:** *That it's done, Sid.*

**(aside)** Typical! Just as I was about to announce his death! Just a moment, Sir, I think someone is coming. Quickly, we must hide.

**They hide down in front of stage apron. Enter Sid and Stan through middle curtain.**

**Stan:** Come on Sid, let's go get our money.

**Sid:** But Stan....

**Stan:** What Sid?

**Sid:** He won't like it when he finds out.

**Sheriff stands and comes onto stage with John and Donatella following.**

**Sheriff:** Ah! It's the halfwits! When he finds out what?

**Stan:** **(Sid and Stan are startled to see the Sheriff)** N..n..nothing, Sire.

**Sheriff:** Then, I take it the *deed* is done?

**Sid:** Well...not done exact...**(Stan elbows him)**...Oi! What did you do that for?

**Stan:** What Sid is trying to say is, it's done, and now we've come for our cash, Sire.

**Sheriff:** **(Going around Sid)** Sid, my sweet little dimwit, birdbrain, simpleton...tell me...

**Stan:** (leaning into Stan) Don't say the Babes are still alive, Sid.

**Sid:** I won't.

**Sheriff:** (grabbing Sid's ear) Is the deed done?

**Sid:** Ow! That hurts! But pinching my ear won't make me tell you that the Babes are still alive, cos I said I wouldn't!

**Sheriff:** (grabbing Sid's other ear too) What did you say?

**Stan:** He said, the Babes haven't thrived.

**John:** (coming forward) No, I heard him say the Babes are still alive.

**Donatella:** Yes, he definitely said that, Sir.

**Sheriff:** Quiet! Are you telling me that you haven't done as I asked? You haven't slain the Babes?

**Sid:** Well, it was dark, and scary and there were lots of voices and things moving.

**Stan:** Yeah, then Mo said, you never get out of there alive! So, we thought we'd get out while we could and leave them for the fiend things to deal with. Well, we couldn't kill them, could we? They are just cute little children, Sire.

**Sheriff:** (sarcastic) Oh how thoughtful of you. Isn't that lovely King John? Such compassion, such kindness, such concern. (raising his voice) Such complete and utter PEA-BRAINED CHOWDERHEADS!!! (raising his hands in frustration) You will both be...

**Voices offstage:** *Grub: How long till we get there? Bigeyes: Not long*

**John:** Someone's coming, Brutus. We must hide. Isn't it exciting, Donatella?

**Sheriff:** Oh, not again! Very well....