

GETTING THE POINT

By Jeff Dunne

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CHARACTERS

QUARTERMASTER A frustrated quartermaster for Robin Hood dealing with supply chain problems.

SETTING

Somewhere in an anachronistic Sherwood Forest.

(A not-particularly-merry man is on the phone with a supplier.)

QUARTERMASTER

Hello? This is Brother Tim. No, I'm not with Prince John. In fact... Yes, I do realize that my name is one syllable, but... No, we don't organize that way in Britain.... Can I speak with Margaret, please? It's about our latest order of munitions... Yes, I mean arrows. Do you sell anything else? I mean, I'd hardly ring up a fletcher to discuss an order of whoopie cushions, would I? ... No... Yes... It was partially a joke. Anyway... We have a problem.... Well, I placed an order last week for three hundred arrows. And when your shipment arrived today, I found that it contained only three arrows... Yes, I did see the card... Yes, it was very nicely written, but it doesn't change... Yes, much better than the manifests that Roberto used to send... No, I did not think to sniff it. I'll do that later. Anyway, about the shipment. As I said, we ordered three hundred arrows, and you only sent three... No, it's *not* enough. Mr. Hood goes through rather a lot of arrows and... No, I don't think it's practical to ask him to "just use them again"... Picking them up afterwards is often not practical, and frankly would be remarkably inconvenient... No, in the circumstances that *he's* using them, you can't just call a time out... No, I won't ask him to give it a try, that could be... no, it's *not* about impatience. It's about a little thing we like to call "fatality". As in, it would fatal in the middle of a fight to hope everyone will take a breather while you go and collect them... Also an interesting suggestion, but sometimes the Prince comes out of his castle with more than two guard, so... Look, it doesn't work that way. Even making the request could have a rather deteriorating effect on... Look, can you just send more of them? Yes, right away! Thank you. Yes, same address. Yes, next day shipping would be preferable.

Bloody corporations...

(Lights out.)