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ROBIN HOOD

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No. 7



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ROBIN HOOD



RECORDED BY
LOUIS ZANSKY

WHEN KING RICHARD THE LION-HEARTED OF ENGLAND WENT OFF TO THE CRUSADES, HE LEFT A REGENCY TO RULE IN HIS PLACE. THE HEAD OF THIS REGENCY WAS HIS CRUEL HALF-BROTHER JOHN. UNDER JOHN'S LEADERSHIP, DESPOTISM REACHED A PEAK... POOR MEN BECAME SLAVES TO THE WHIP OF THE RICH. OUT OF THIS UNBALANCED SCALE OF JUSTICE ROSE A CHAMPION OF THE DOWN-TRODDEN THE GREAT OUTLAW ROBIN HOOD. HIS VIVID HAIR-RAISING ADVENTURES AND THOSE OF HIS MERRY MEN BECAME LEGEND, HANDED ON FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.

AND SO TODAY, WE ARE ABLE TO RECOUNT THE EXCITING TALE OF ROBIN HOOD... HOW HE CAME TO BE, AND WHAT HE DID.....

THE STORY HAS ITS BEGINNINGS IN SHERWOOD FOREST, WITH A PEASANT AND HIS HUNGRY CHILD.

DON'T CRY, MY SON, SOON WE SHALL HAVE MEAT ON OUR TABLE... ENOUGH FOR YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS....LOOK! A DEER!

STRAIGHT TO HIS HEART...

BUT—AS THE ARROW ZOOMS TO ITS MARK.....

ARREST HIM! HE SLEW THE KING'S DEER!

THOUGHT NO ONE WAS LOOKING, SH? YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!

MERCY PLEASE! GET UP SHERIFF! MY CHILDREN ARE STARVING!

YOU SAID DOG! BIND HIS HANDS AND FEET!

I'LL SQUEEZE THEM TIGHT, SHERIFF!

NONE OF THEM SEE A LEAN, SINEMY ARM, REACHING OUT OF THE UNDERBUSH

THE DEVIL!

WHO DID THAT?

!! ROBIN OF LOCKLEY! IT WAS MY ARROW, TOO, THAT SLEW THE DEER. THIS POOR FELLOW'S SHOT WENT FAR OFF IT'S MARK!

MIAM MON'T!

THE GAMEKEEPER SHOOTS...

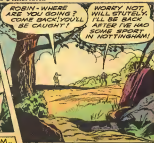
MISSED.. AND NOW IT IS MY TURN AGAIN





THE LAW WAS NEWLY PASSED BY KING JOHN. ALL NOTTINGHAM IS TALKING - IT MAKES YOU SUBJECT TO IT!

IF I AM, WHY STOP AT ONE? I'LL SHOW THEM REAL SPORT!



ROBIN - WHERE ARE YOU GOING? COME BACK! YOU'LL BE CAUGHT!

WORRY NOT, WILL STUTELY. I'LL BE BACK AFTER I'VE HAD SOME SPORT IN NOTTINGHAM!

IN THE NEARBY TOWN OF NOTTINGHAM...



Death Penalty
FOR ANY ONE WHO SLAYS THE KING'S GAME

HA! GOOD KING JOHN THINKS OF EVERYTHING. WE'LL HANG THAT SCOUNDREL ROBIN FROM THE HIGHEST TREE... COME, IT'S TIME TO DINE!

AND WINE, TOO, BY, SHERIFF!



LITTLE DO THE PAIR SUSPECT WHO WALKS BEHIND THEM...

IF HE DOESN'T COME OUT OF THE FOREST SOON, SEND ARMED MEN AFTER HIM!

HE'S BOUND TO COME OUT SIR STEPHAN. HE'S BOUND TO!

THE SHERIFF PRESIDES OVER A GREAT FEASTING HALL.



WE DRINK TO THE WISE KING JOHN WHO LETS US THRIVE ON THE BACKS OF THE POOR - WHO ARE POOR BECAUSE WE THRIVE - HA - HA!

HA - HA - HA!



TRAITORS!

THE DEER TAUBS IN FRONT OF THE NOW SPEECHLESS SHERIFF.



THIS WANTONNESS WILL ALL BE OVER-TURNED, I PLEDGE MYSELF TO FIGHT IT.....IN THE NAME OF KING RICHARD OF ENGLAND!



ARREST HIM!
KILL HIM!



AS SOLDIERS BLOCK ROBIN'S DASH TO SAFETY.....



OUT OF MY WAY, BUFFOONS!

HE THINKS I ALSO HAVE FRIENDS OUTSIDE THE DOOR.



A TRAITOR'S BEEN FOUND INSIDE. HE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE. THE SHERIFF'S ORDERS ARE TO LATCH THE DOOR FIRMLY



WE DO HIS BID, MEN!



OPEN THE DOOR!

ARE WE FOOLS!



THE DOOR IS HACKED DOWN.

FOOLS! YOU LET HIM GET AWAY! I'LL STRETCH YOUR NECKS!

WHICH WAY DID THE KNAVE GO?

THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW..... I DON'T THINK HE'D GO BACK TO THE FOREST AGAIN.

WHEREVER HE'S GONE, SHERIFF, YOUR 'HORSE' IS GONE WITH HIM!



SPEEDING INTO SHERWOOD FOREST.

IF I SAW THE SHERIFF, BUT DID THE SHERIFF SEE ME?!



YOU'RE SAFE! I WAS READY TO GO TO NOTTINGHAM. WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT DID YOU DO?

ENOUGH TO MAKE ME SOUGHT AFTER IN REAL FINE STYLE. THE FOREST IS MY FRIEND, I'LL STAY HERE.



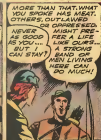
SO WILL I. I WANT TO BE WITH YOU!

WHAT NONSENSE! THE FOREST DOES NOT HAVE TO BE YOUR HOME. YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE!



FREE? IS IT FREEDOM TO LIVE AMONG THE CRUELTY OF OVERLORDS? BETTER A LIFE LIKE THIS!

YOU'RE A GOOD YEOMAN... AND I CAN MAKE YOU A BETTER SHOT!



MORE THAN THAT. WHAT YOU SPOKE HAS MEAT. OTHERS, OUTLAWED OR OPPRESSED,

NEVER AS GOOD AS YOU... BUT I CAN STAY! MIGHT PREFER A LIFE LIKE OURS... A STRONG BAND OF MEN LIVING HERE CAN DO MUCH!



SO SPREAD THE WORD AMONG THE SUFFERING. LET THEM MEET ME HERE... TONIGHT, NINE O'CLOCK!

AY, I'LL GO!

ROBIN HOOD



BUT - AS ROBIN NEARS A NARROW BRIDGE.....

HO - THERE IS A TALL STRANGER - I SHOULD SAY SEVEN FEET HIGH - NOT EIGHT



HE'S QUICKENING HIS PACE.....

DO YOU THINK TO CROSS FIRST, LITTLE MAN?

THAT DO!



I SAY - OUT OF MY WAY, STUPLING, OR I'LL PUT AN ARROW BETWEEN YOUR RIBS!

TOUGH ONE ARROW OF THAT BOW - AND I'LL LEATHER YOUR HIDE - THOUGH I ONLY HAVE A WOODEN STAFF FOR A WEAPON!



THOUGH OVER-MATCHED IN SIZE, ROBIN, UNDAUNTED, MEETS THE TOWERING STRANGER.....

THEN I'LL CUT ME A STAFF - LET THAT BE MY WEAPON, TOO.

AH! I'M WAITING TO SLAUGHTER YOU!



WHAT SAY YE NOW, SHORT ONE?

THE STRANGER REMAINS HIS BALANCE.....

MISSED



I CAN PARRY THEM, TOO!



THEY FIGHT ON, NEITHER BUDGING AN INCH - UNTIL.....

LET THIS TICKLE YOUR RIBS!



SOON YOU'LL BE SWIMMING!



STILL AGAIN, THE TALL MAN RECOVERS - AND GIVES ROBIN A SURPRISE!



NOW - NOW!



WHERE ARE YOU NOW, GOOD LAD?



SWIMMING A BIT ...WAIT THERE, I HAVE SOMETHING MORE TO SAY TO YOU WHEN I GET OUT!



IT'S THIS, YOU'RE A BRAVE FELLOW AND CAN FIGHT, I'M ORGANIZING A BAND OF MEN WHO OPPOSE THE TRAITOR JOHN. WILL YOU JOIN US?



I KNOW WHO YOU ARE - ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY. THERE'S NO BETTER YEO-MAN IN ALL ENGLAND - AND NO BOWMAN'S MAN. AY, I'LL JOIN YOU GLADLY!

GOOD! WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

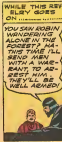


WHENCE I COME FROM. MEN CALL ME JOHN LITTLE!

WELL, AN INFANT LIKE YOU SHOULD BE CALLED LITTLE!

JOHN... IT'S TIME WE GET TO THE MEETING, LITTLE JOHN!

CLASSICS Illustrated



ROBIN HOOD

YOU THINK, SERVE THE WARRANT AS HE READS IT, YOU OTHER BLUR-ROUND HIM, GO NOW, BRING BACK THE ROGUE!

AY!

ON THE ROAD TO SHEPHERD WOOD FOREST...

THE WAY IS LONG AND DUSTY, AND I'VE ACQUIRED A THIRST... AND THERE'S AN INN!

WE'LL TARRY FOR A MINUTE OR TWO

MEANWHILE, THE FOREST OUTLAWS DROW SAYER AND SAYER...

WHY KEEP SUCH MERITMENT TO OURSELVES? I HAVE A PLAN BY WHICH WE'LL VENTURE OUT, LADS!

DISGUISED AS MINSTRELS, A GROUP STEPS OUT.

HOW QUICKLY, AND OUR VOICES OUR SONGS WERE LIKE THE LARK BECOMES UNTIL WE SANG OURSELVES DRY!

AY, YOU SLY BASTARD, INTO THE INN WE GO!

WE CAN'T TARRY LONG, WE'VE A GREAT MISSION IN SHEPHERD FOREST!

METHINKS THE MISSION CONCERNS US, LADS!

WHAT'S NEWS HERE? I AND MY MINSTRELS HAVE LOST TOUCH IN OUR TRAVELS!

THEN YOU DON'T KNOW OF ROBIN, THE OUTLAW?... IN ANY DOUGH IS A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST!

A WORTHY LANDLORD! BRING THESE FELLOWS MORE ALE... THEY CAN SPARE ONE MORE MOMENT!

BUT ROBIN HOOD FLIES THEM WITH MORE AND MORE ALE... AND PUTS THEM TO SLEEP!

I'LL LEAVE THIS SLEEPING BEAUTY A SWEETER NOTE!

WHEN THEY AWAKEN.....

THIS ISN'T THE WAR-DANT...! MY MISTRESS AND I ARE WAITING WITH ARROWS INSTEAD OF HASS... ROBIN HOOD, THE OUTLAW!

THAT WAS HE WITH MANY MEN. WE MUST TELL THE SHERIFF - BUT NOT THAT WE DRANK!



HE'S IN THE FOREST WITH A BAND OF MEN!

AY, THEY OVERCAME US, AND STOLE THE WARRANT. WE BARELY ESCAPED WITH OUR LIVES!



I MUST PLAN ANOTHER WAY TO TAKE HIM, THEN. BUT FIRST, WE SHALL SEE WHAT HE IS UP TO. HE MIGHT SHOW HIS HAND!



SOONER THAN THE SHERIFF IMAGINES, ROBIN HOOD AND HIS BAND STRIKE THEIR FIRST BLOW..... AT A HANGING THE NEXT DAY.....



HANG HIM WELL. HE HELD FROM US A BUSHEL OF BRAIN!

SUDDENLY, A GAFF IS HURLED.



A VOLLEY OF ARROWS SWIFTLY FOLLOWS.



WE'RE SHOWERED!

HELP !!

DUCK!

WHEN THE ARROW-STORM CEASES..



OUR MAN - HE'S ESCAPED THE GALLOWE!

LISTEN TO THIS NOTE. "GREETINGS FROM ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY MEN!"



THE SHERIFF CONTINUES HIS TERRORIZING.

NO- NO- NOT THE BRANDING IRON!

THIS WILL TEACH YOU TO PAY YOUR TAXES!



ROBIN HOOD!



ROBIN HOOD! EVERYWHERE THE NAME IS SPOKEN — WITH PRAISE BY THE POOR AND IN TERROR BY THE RICH.

SIR STEPHAN! — ARE YOU GOING TO A MASQUERADE?

I AM NOT! ROBIN HOOD DID THIS TO ME!



GET DOWN, YOU ARE MY GUEST!

GUEST? WHAT MOCKERY IS THIS?

I WAS STOPPED ON THE HIGHWAY.



WE OFTEN WEARY OF OUR OWN COMPANY, SO 'TIS OUR CUSTOM TO INVITE GUESTS TO FEAST WITH US. WE KEEP A TASTY INN, IN SHERWOOD FOREST!



MORE VENISON FOR OUR GUEST!

"DESPITE MYSELF, I ATE... THE FOOD WAS GOOD"



WE ENTERTAIN OUR GUESTS TOO, WITH HOOGLAND SPORTS!

"AFTER THE FEAST, CAME FROLIC — THE MEN WERE SO MERRY I HAD TO LAUGH... BUT THEN



EVERY INN CHARGES FOR ITS FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT OUR PRICE IS YOUR PURSE AND YOUR CLOTHES!

THIEVERY! MOCKERY!



I REPEAT IT, SHERIFF IT'S THIEVERY! MOCKERY! ROBIN HOOD AND HIS BAND MUST BE STOPPED WITHOUT DELAY!

I'LL GO TO KING JOHN, FOR AID AGAINST THEM!



THE SHERIFF RIDES TO LONDON TOWN TO VISIT A MAN WHOSE MIND IS EVER RESTLESS WITH BLACK SCHEMES. JOHN.....

RICHARD MUST NEVER GET BACK ON THE THRONE. HE MUST PREVENT HIS RETURN TO ENGLAND FROM THE CRUSADES!



A MOMENT LATER..... YOUR MAJESTY... A MESSAGE JUST REACHED HERE FROM A FOREIGN LAND!



RICHARD HAS BEEN CAPTURED IN AUSTRIA! A RANSOM OF 300,000 MARKS IS DEMANDED FOR HIS RELEASE!



I AM ASKED TO RAISE THE RANSOM, HA-HA! HE WILL ROT IN PRISON BEFORE I LIFT A FINGER FOR HIM, RATE HAS PLAYED WELL INTO MY HANDS!



I HAVE ANOTHER PLAN WHEREBY WE PROFIT... BUT, PARDON WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU BRING ME NOW?

YOUR MAJESTY, THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM WISHES AN AUDIENCE!



YOUR MAJESTY, THE OUTLAW ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MEN MOCK OUR LAWS. I ASK HELP IN PUTTING DOWN THEIR THIEVERY!

WHY ASK ME? A SHERIFF'S WORK IS TO CAPTURE LAW-BREAKERS!



YOU HAVE MEN - AT-ARMS, CAN'T THEY TAKE A BAND OF KNAVES ARMED WITH ONLY BOWS AND ARROWS?

HA - THIS BAND IS LIKE NOTHING THAT EVER EXISTED



THAT CAN'T BE. I CHARGE YOU TO CAPTURE ROBIN HOOD. IF NOT, THERE WILL BE ANOTHER SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM!

I BEG YOU - I - I'LL DO MY BEST TO TAKE HIM!



WAIT! THE FOOLISH ROBE STILL LONG FOR RICHARD, DON'T THEY? IF A LARGE SUM OF MONEY WOULD BRING HIM BACK, WOULD THEY NOT PAY?

EVEN IF THEY HAD TO SELL THEIR SKIN!



BEHOLD! - THAT MONEY WILL BE COLLECTED IN EVERY TOWN. YOU ARE THE FIRST SHERIFF I ORDER TO GET IT!

BUT WHY, YOUR MAJESTY, WHY FREE RICHARD WITH IT?



EXACTLY... YOU HAVE A WISE BUSINESS MIND. WE WILL FATTEN ON THE RANSOM!

HOW CAN WE? - ROBIN HOOD SWears BY RICHARD. HE WILL SEE THAT THE MONEY GOES TO HIM!



IF YOU SAY YOU NEED HELP, PERHAPS YOU PROPOSE TO CAPTURE ROBIN HOOD?

WITH TROOPS... INTO THE FOREST AND TAKE THEM ALL!

CLASSICS Illustrated

UNWARE OF THE ARMY MARCHING AGAINST THEM, ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MEN CONTINUE ON THEIR MESSY WAY TO ANOTHER ADVENTURE.



METHINKS WE SHOULD FIND A GUEST TO FEAST WITH US!

AY, ONE WITH A FAT PURSE!



LOOK THESE! THE LAD SEEMS TO BE WEEPING!



WHY DO YOU WEED? THE FOUNTAIN DOES NOT NEED YOUR SALT-WATER TEARS! WHO ARE YOU?

I AM A MIASTEEL... ALLAN-A-DALE!

FOR SHAME - A STOUT FELLOW LIKE YOU ENVIELLING!



NEVER HAVE I BEFORE BUT NOW MY WORLD HAS ENDED! THE LASS I LOVE IS TO MARRY ANOTHER TO-MORROW MORNING IN NOTTINGHAM!

THEN FORGET HER! SHE COULD NOT CARE A COCKSCOMB FOR YOU!



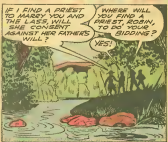
SHE LOVES ME BUT HER FATHER IS FORCING HER TO MARRY A RICH OLD SQUIRE, SIR STEPHAN OF TRENT!

WHAT? THAT OLD GOAT? HE WAS ONE FEAST GUEST, AND NO PRIZE FOR A LASS TO WED!



WHAT SAY YOU, ROBIN. DO WE TAKE THE MATTER IN HAND?

ROBIN! YOU ARE THE NAMED ROBIN HOOD? YOU'LL HELP ME?



IF I FIND A PRIEST TO MARRY YOU AND THE LASS, WILL SHE CONSENT AGAINST HER FATHER'S WILL?

WHERE WILL YOU FIND A PRIEST, ROBIN, TO DO YOUR BIDDING?

YES!



TRUE, THE RICH PREYERS LOVE ME LITTLE, AND THE POOR ONES ARE TOO AFRAID OF THE RICH!

I KNOW ONE WHO WILL DO YOUR BID BROTHER - NO, IF YOU GET ON HIS BEST SIDE!



HE IS FINE TUCK, OF MOUNTAIN DALE!

I'LL FETCH HIM. MOUNTAIN DALE IS NOT FAR FROM HERE!



WE WILL GO WITH YOU!

ONE'S ENOUGH, IT'S A SIMPLE MISSION!

OH, LUCKY DAY - MY MEETING WITH ROBIN HOOD!

ROBIN HOOD WALKS RAPIDLY ACROSS SUN-LIT ROADS AND FOREST PATHS UNTIL HE REACHES THE BANK OF A RIVER...



FOUNTAIN DALE'S ON THE OTHER SIDE. I MUST FIND A WAY TO GET ACROSS!

SUDDENLY, ROBIN HOOD HEARS BOISTEROUS TUNING...



WHEN THE STOUT ALE IS ALL FLOWING SO FAST, OUR SORROWS AND TROUBLES ARE THINGS OF THE PAST. TRA LA LA LA LA LA, TRA LA LA LA LA LA.

WHO'S DOING THAT?

SUCH IS THE LIFE OF A FRIAR, YEA LA, THERE'S PLENTY TO EAT AND TO DRINK, FOR THE GOOD WIFE WILL KEEP HIM A SEAT BY THE FIRE, AND THE PRETTY GIRLS SMILE AT HIS WINK.



HA-HA HA!



WHO'S THIS SRYING ON ME? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I SEEK ONE FRIAR TUCK, WHO DWELLS AT FOUNTAIN DALE. DO YOU KNOW HIM?



SOMEWHAT. - FOUNTAIN DALES ACROSS THE RIVER...

YEA, FATHER, BUT I DO NOT WANT TO GET MY FINE CLOTHES WET. YOUR SHOULDER'S ABE BROAD, WOULD YOU BE GOOD ENOUGH TO CARRY ME ACROSS?

CLASSICS Illustrated

THE FRIAR BLASTS OUT AN ANGRY OATH, THEN HIS EYES TWINKLE, AND HE CALMS DOWN...

IT IS MY DUTY TO HELP A STRANGER. HOP ON MY BACK AND GIVE ME YOUR SWORD SO IT WON'T GET WET!



THE RIVER IS CROSSED. NOW CARRY ME BACK. THE POINT OF YOUR SWORD SAYS YOU SHOULD. AND I WEAR A SWORD TOO!

CUNNING FRIAR! YOU HAVE ME. I'LL CARRY YOU BACK, BUT RETURN MY SWORD!



ROBIN HOOD QUIETLY UNBUCKLES THE FRIAR'S SWORD.

TRAVEL FASTER!

YOU ARE A GREAT WEIGHT. I HAVE THE WORST OF THE BARGAIN!



I HAVE YOUR SWORD AND AMNE, TOO. NOW CARRY ME BACK!

IT LOOKS LIKE I MUST — BUT FIRST GIVE ME BACK MY SWORD!



BUT THIS TIME — IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREAM...



ROBIN HOOD CHASES THE FRIAR.

TAKE ONE STEP NEARER ME AND I'LL SMITE HARD!

BETTER LOOK TO PROTECT YOUR SEVEN THICK LAYERS OF SKIN. I'M COMING FOR YOU!



ROBIN HOOD! FRIAR TUCK! HOW, NOW! DON'T FIGHT!



FRIAR TUCK! THE ROSQUISH FRIAR IS NONE OTHER —

I WILL MARRY THE PAIR AND WHAT'S MORE I SHALL JOIN YOUR BAND!

WE COULD USE A STOUT FRIAR — BUT FIRST, THAT MARRIAGE. I HAVE A PLAN.

ROBIN HOOD DRESSES AS A MINSTREL — AND.....

GET IN THE CHURCH THROUGH THE SIDE ENTRANCE, IF ANYONE COMES BY, I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!

ROBIN HOOD DISTRACTS A PASSERBY'S ATTENTION.

WHAT A LOVELY TOWN YOUR NOTTINGHAM IS, THE SHERIFF MUST BE VERY PROUD!

NAY, HE HAS TROUBLE WITH ROBIN HOOD HE'S GONE TO KING JOHN FOR HELP AND HAS NOT YET RETURNED!

POOR SHERIFF, AN, A BRIDAL PARTY APPROACHES — A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN WITH TWO ELDERLY MEN, FATHER AND GRAND-FATHER?

WHY, ONE'S THE BRIDE, SECOND — A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN WITH TWO ELDERLY MEN, FATHER AND GRAND-FATHER?

STEPHAN, THEY SAY SHE LOVES HIM NOT!

LET ME SING AT YOUR WEDDING. I HAVE A SONG THAT WILL MAKE THE BRIDE LOVE THE MAN SHE MARRIES — FOR ALWAYS!

GOOD FELLOW! RIGHT AFTER THE CEREMONY, SING TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!



DO YOU, ELLEN OF DERBYOLD, TAKE THIS MAN...

MAY, HOW COULD SHE, WHEN HE IS THREE TIMES HER AGE? LET HER MARRY HER TRUE LOVE!

ROGUE! IS THAT YOUR SONG?

NO - THIS!



ROBIN HOOD - AND HIS MEN!

THOSE TWO SHOULD MARRY TOGETHER!

NEVER! SHE'LL MARRY SIR STEPHAN!

NOT AFTER WHAT I'VE SEEN! IF SHE PREFERS A MINSTREL TO A HIGH-BORN KNIGHT!



SHE CAN HAVE HIM... AS FOR YOU, ROGUE ROBIN, THE RECKONING IS HIGH. I HAVE WORD THE KING'S TROOPS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO TAKE YOU AND YOUR VILLAINS!

KING'S TROOPS? WE MUST GET BACK TO THE FOREST!

FIRST THIS BUSINESS... WILL YOU BLESS YOUR DAUGHTER'S WEDDING TO ALLAN A DALE!

AND SO THE MINSTREL AND HIS LASS WERE WED BY PRIAR TUCK.

NOW, MY LADY! BACK TO SHEP-WOOD, WE MUST PLAN HOW TO GREET THE KING'S TROOPS!

SHE HAS MY BLESSING, SIR STEPHAN FORCED ME TO GO AGAINST HER WISHES!

ROBIN HOOD

AT HIGH NOON, THE FOREST
BLAZES WITH SHINING ARMOR.
WE ENTER! NOW! SO FAR NOT
TO CATCH THE A SIGN OF
KNIVES IN THEM!
THEIR DEN!



BUT SUDDENLY - OUT OF EVERY TREE.....



WELCOME TO
SHERWOOD!



I'LL SLAY YOU,
VARMINT!



THE FALLEN KNIGHT SPIES
THE SHERIFF'S SWORD



BUT IN A FLASH...

NEXT TIME, SOLDIER,
I'LL USE MY BOW!



ON ALL SIDES DUST AND EARTH
FLY.

WHAT A LIGHT-
WEIGHT YOU ARE!



LITTLE
JOHN,
LOOK!



HE LIFTED
THAT HORSE
BODILY!

RUN FOR YOUR
LIVES, MEN!!!
YOU CAN'T
DEFEAT THE
DEVIL!





THIS DAY ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MEN HAVE MANY GUESTS.

NO, SHERIFF, WHAT SAY YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO A FEAST?

I'M NOT HUNGRY!



THEN YOU SURELY HAVE A THIRST. YOU MUST PARTAKE OF SOMETHING FOR YOU'RE TO BE OUR GUEST OF HONOR!



YOU SHOULD HAVE AN APPETITE, SHERIFF, LIKE OUR JOLLY FROD!

BY THE PIOUS SAINT CHRIS-TOPHER, I HAVE NO APPETITE. I EAT ONLY TO FILL UP MY EMPTY SPACES!



THAT YOUNG FELLOW, HE DIDN'T LOSE HIS HUMOR WHEN HE LEAPED OUT OF THE TREES!



AFTER THE FEAST COME THE SPORTS.

TO SHOW OUR SKILL AS YEDMAN IS PART OF THE POINT, SO THAT YOU WON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF ANOTHER ATTACK!



HERRY MEN TAKE TURNS AT THE TARGETS.

ANOTHER BULL'S EYE! IN TRUTH, IT IS KING SHOOTING!

WE'RE FLEDGLINGS COMPARED TO ROBIN... SHOW HIM WHAT YOU CAN DO, MASTER!



AT FOUR SCORE YARDS, I'LL SPLIT THIS WAND!



OUR ROBINS THE BEST IN THE LAND!



FINALLY, WHAT THE SHERIFF DREADS COMES ABOUT. IT'S BAD ENOUGH YOU'VE LIFTED OUR PURSES — BUT GIVE ME BACK MY CLOTHES. I'LL BE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF NOTTINGHAM! LET THEM HAVE THEIR LAUGH!



AS THE "GUESTS" ARE RELEASED, THE YOUNG KING'S MAN WHO LAUGHED SO LOUD, SUDDENLY TURNS BACK. I BESSECH YOU, LET ME STAY HERE... BY THE GRACE OF KING RICHARD WHOM YOU MUST SAVE!



I NEVER WANTED TO SERVE UNDER JOHN. — ESPECIALLY NOW THAT HE IS GOING TO TRICK RICHARD OUT OF THE RANSOM!

SHUT UP FOOL!

WHAT RANSOM?



I HEARD IT AT JOHN'S COURT. HE WANTS TO COLLECT FROM THE POOR — BUT NOT TO SEND THE RANSOM!

EVIL MIND! I SWEAR RICHARD WILL BE BACK ON THE THRONE! AS FOR THE RANSOM.....



I'LL TAKE CHARGE OF THE COLLECTION. THE PURSES I TOOK TODAY WILL BE THE FIRST OF IT. THANK YOU, FELLOW FOR THE NEWS. IF YOU ENJOY OUR COMPANY HERE, STAY!

GLADLY!



LATER, JOHN RECEIVES A MESSAGE THAT ENRAGES HIM. IT'S FROM ROBIN HOOD! HE SAYS HE IS RAISING THE RANSOM MONEY!

NORSE YET! IT WAS BAD ENOUGH HE WASN'T TAKEN. MAKE READY! I'M GOING TO NOTTINGHAM!



IT MUST BE
SERIOUS TO
BRING JOHN
HERE!

THE SHERIFFS
GREATLY OBT
OF FAVOR
WITH HIM...

NO WONDER.
HE WAS SENT
TO CAPTURE
ROBIN HOOD,
AND CAME BACK
IN RAGS!



ROBIN HOOD MUST BE
CAPTURED BEFORE HE
COLLECTS ALL THE MONEY
FOR RICHARD. I'LL GIVE
YOU A FORTNIGHT.
SUCCEED, AND YOU'LL
BE RICHLY REWARDED

I'LL THINK OF
A NEW WAY
TO TAKE HIM,
YOUR MAJESTY!



IN THE MEANTIME, THE
BANSOM FUND SWELLS.

YOUR PURSES NOBLE-
MEN, FOR THE KING'S
BANSOM!



WE HAVE NOTHING
TO GIVE FOR
RICHARD'S
BANSOM!

NOTHING?
ARE DIAMONDS
NOTHING?



BUT THE PEASANTS GIVE
WILLINGLY.

IT ISN'T MUCH,
BUT IT TOOK A
WHOLE LIFETIME
TO SAVE. I WANT
IT TO HELP
FREE
RICHARD

WELL, NEED
YOUR
MONEY,
MAN. I'LL GET
ENOUGH
WHERE IT
WON'T BE
MISSED!



IN LESS THAN A FORTNIGHT

145,000 MARKS... NEARLY
HALF THE BANSOM MONEY
ALREADY!



WHILE THE SHERIFF PONDERES...

WE MUST FIND
A WAY TO TRAP
ROBIN HOOD!

I HAVE IT!
I'LL PROCLAIM A
GREAT SHOOTING
MATCH. ROBIN HOOD
TAKES SUCH PRIDE
IN HIS ARCHERY
SKILL, HE'LL COME
TO IT... AND THEN
WE'LL GET HIM!

HERALDS ARE SENT FOR MILES AROUND... HEAR YE! ALL SKILLED YEOMEN! ENTER THE NOTTINGHAM TOURNAMENT IN TWO DAYS' TIME. SHOOT FOR A PRIZE ARROW OF PURE BEATEN GOLD!



SURELY IT IS A TRAP THE SHERIFF SETS FOR YOU, GO NOT, ROBIN!



AND LET IT BE SAID ROBIN HOOD WAS NOT BOLD ENOUGH TO TRY FOR THE PRIZE? I'LL SHOOT AND WIN - AND HANG THE GOLDEN ARROW TO OUR GREEN-WOOD TREE!

THE DAY OF THE SHOOTING MATCH...

AS A TINKER, I'LL WIN YOU MEN, BE THESE AS SPECTATORS, GESS LIKE BERRIES, BUSTLE, ANYTHING BUT CARRY YOUR STOUT BOWS UNDER YOUR GARBS!



NOTTINGHAM IS GAY, YET TENSE WITH EXCITEMENT. THE SHERIFF ENTERS HIS BOY AT THE FIELD.



ARE THE ARCHERS ALL ASSEMBLED IN THE TENT?

THEY ARE MAKING READY!



IF THIS WHERE TO SHOOT THE ARCHERS TINKER? HOW CAN YOU DARE ENTER A CONTEST WITH EXPERT YEOMEN?

LISTEN! THE HERALD TELLS US OUR ENTRY COME!

FIRST, ALL ARCHERS WILL SHOOT FROM THEM, THE TEN BEST WILL BE PICKED OUT OF THOSE, THE BEST THREE WILL BE CHOSEN TO SHOOT FOR THE PRIZE!



I SEE ROBIN HOOD NOWHERE. DO YOU SEE HIM?



NO, SO HE WAS AFRAID AFTER ALL!

ROBIN HOOD



10 FACE FRANK! A SALVAGE OF ARCHERS FROM ROBIN HOOD'S ARMY COMPLETES THE CROWD, WHILE ROBIN HOOD MAKES HIS DASH FOR THE HILL!



ROBIN HOOD

ROBIN HOOD HAS CLEARED THE FIELD..... HIS MEN SWIFTLY FOLLOW.

THE SOLDIERS THINK WE'RE RUNNING TO CATCH HIM!



THEY GOT AWAY... RIDE WITH SPEED TO SHERWOOD FOREST AND BLOCK ALL ENTRANCES. THEY MUST NOT GET BACK INTO THE FOREST.



YOU HEARD, ROBIN? AY, BUT THEY CAN'T BLOCK ALL OF SO MANY ENTRANCES. THEY DON'T KNOW THEM ALL!

WHICH ONE'S WOULD THEY NOT KNOW?



THAT WE CAN'T JUDGE... SO WE'LL SEPARATE. IF ONE WAY IS GUARDED, PERCHANCE ANOTHER WILL BE FREE. SOME OF US WILL GET BACK FOR SURE!



ROBIN HOOD DIVIDES HIS MEN-LITTLE JOHN'S GROUP TO THE EAST, WILL'S TO THE WEST.

YOU TAKE THE NORTH WAY ROBIN? THAT'S THE LONGEST AND MOST DEVISUS!



IF I'M TRIPPED UP, ONE GONE IS BETTER THAN SEVERAL... BUT WHY SPEAK OF ILL? PERCHANCE I'LL BE AT SHERWOOD SOONER THAN YOU... GOOD LUCK!

AY, AND TO YOU!



HOURS LATER...

WE WERE LUCKY TO GET SAFELY INTO THE FOREST, BUT WHERE IS ROBIN?

IF THE SOLDIERS WERENT EAST OR WEST, THEY MUST HAVE GONE TO THE NORTHERN ROADS... I FEAR ROBIN HOOD HAS FALLEN INTO THEIR HANDS!



WHAT HAPPENED TO ROBIN HOOD? THE TRUTH OF IT IS THAT HE NEARLY REACHED SHERWOOD FOREST WITHOUT MISHAP AND AHEAD OF HIS MEN.

AND ROBIN HOOD RIDES, NEARLY TO THE ENTRANCE OF SHERWOOD FOREST. THEN SUDDENLY...

SIR STEPHAN'S ESTATE. SURELY THAT GENTLE KNIGHT WOULD NOT MISS A HORSE

SHERIFF'S MEN! METHINKS I'LL GET DOWN AND GIVE THEM AN ANSWER!

ROBIN HOOD REACHES FOR HIS ARROW CASE, FOR THE FIRST TIME HE IS AWARE IT IS EMPTY.

THEY'VE SURROUNDED THE THICKET!

BUT ROBIN HOOD KNOWS THE GROUND BETTER THAN HIS PURSUERS.

WHAT GOOD IS THAT TO ME? I MUST CUTWIT THEM SOME OTHER WAY!

CAN'T FIND HIM IN HERE!

SOME OF US BETTER WAIT, JUST IN CASE!

NOW, IF I CAN GET TO THE FOREST ENTRANCE BEFORE THEY DO...

THE POUNDING OF HOOF-BEATS CRUSHES THAT HOPE.

A PLAGUE ON THEM! THEY ARE TAKING UP POSITIONS AT THE ENTRANCE. PRETTILY I'M FIXED... I CANNOT MOVE AHEAD AND I CANNOT GO BACK!

STYMED, ROBIN HOOD SITS BEHIND A HEDGE, WATCHING FOR A POSSIBLE CHANCE TO MAKE A BREAK-THROUGH-A VOICE BEHIND HIM STARTLES HIM.

SHOOH, SHOOH!
WHAT THEN I HAD BETTER HIDE



A COOBLER! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, MY PRETTY FELLOW?

I WAS ASLEEP IN YON GRASS. WHAT DO YOU HERE BENEATH YON HEDGE?



ROBIN HAS AN IDEA, WORKABLE IF THE FELLOWS WITS MATCH HIS DULL FACE.

I SIT HERE TO DROP SALT ON THE TAILS OF GOLDEN BIRDS!

I WOULD LIKE SOME GOLDEN BIRDS, TOO. YOU CAN CATCH THEM WITH SALT!



YES, BUT I'M TIRED OF IT. I WOULD RATHER FIX SHOES. I WILL GIVE YOU TEN SHILLINGS AND MY CLOTHES FOR YOUR CLOTHES AND REPAIR BOY!

BUT YOUR CLOTHES ARE SO MUCH PRETTIER AND COSTLY!



NO MATTER, I AM WEARIED OF THEM, EVEN THOUGH THE GOLDEN BIRDS LIKE THE COLORING!

THE BIRDS LIKE IT? I'LL NOT WAIT A MOMENT LONGER!



ALACK, ALACK! I HAVE NO SALT!

I'VE NO MORE LEFT, BUT IF YOU GO WITH ME TO MY HOUSE ACROSS THE PATH....



THE SHERIFF'S MEN SEE THEM-AND...

WE GOT YOU, ROBIN HOOD!

ROBIN HOOD! WHO IS ROBIN HOOD?

YOU WASTE EFFORT TRYING TO HUNDELE US. COME NOW, THE SHERIFF WILL BE PLEASED WITH YOU!





THE SHERIFF? COME WITH US AND FEAST WITHOUT CHARGE. TELL US WHAT THE SHERIFF DEMANDS OF YOUR RESERVANCE WE MAY HELP YOU!



MY SON, A GOODLY LAD WAS WRONGFULLY ACCUSED OF A SLAYING. THEY SAID MONEY WOULD KEEP HIM FROM GOING TO PRISON. THEY TOOK ALL I HAD AND DEMANDED 400 POUNDS MORE SO I HAD TO RAN MY ESTATE TO THE SHERIFF FOR 400 POUNDS



FOR ONLY 400 POUNDS YOU LOSE A FINE ESTATE WORTH THOUSANDS!

IT WILL BREAK MY GOOD WIFE'S HEART NOT TO HAVE A HOME ANY MORE

THAT BLOOD-SUCKING SHREVELLING SHERIFF!



HE'S EVEN TAKEN OVER THE COLLECTIONS ON MY LAND. TONIGHT HE'LL GET 1500 POUNDS FOR TITHES AND PRODUCE SOLD AT MARKET!

METHINKS THE SHERIFF NEEDS SOME BUSINESS, EH, ROBIN?

WE'LL SERVE TWO ARCHERS YOURSELF AND THE KING!

1500 POUNDS IN THE BAG - AND TOMORROW IT WILL ALL BE MINE. YOU HAVE THE NECESSARY PAPERS DRAWN UP BY A LAWYER?

ALL OF THEM. HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RAISE THE 400 POUNDS!



I'LL TAKE THAT BAG YOU HOLD IT GOES WITH MY SUIT!

ROBIN HOOD!

SHH... NOT SO LOUD! WE KNOW HIS NAME!

THIS WILL QUIET THEM!

STOP THIEVES!

LAWYER! GET YOUR FOOT OUT OF MY FACE!

NO GUARDS. QUICK JOHN TAKE THE MONEY WHILE I DEAL WITH THEM!



IF THERE IS A WAY
TO KEEP FROM
SPILLING BLOOD...



HALT

OR I'LL RUN
YOU THROUGH!



ROBIN HOOD ACTS WITH
LIGHTNING SPEED!



THAT WILL WHITEN
THEIR CHARGES!

TRULY, THE
BLACK GUARD
SHERIFF
NEEDS IT
MOST!

SIR RICHARD,
TOMORROW
NOON YOU
WILL RECLAIM
YOUR ESTATE.
IN THIS BAG
IS 400
POUNDS!

I CANNOT
THANK YOU
ENOUGH!



THE OTHER 100 POUNDS IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS, TOO. BUT 1000 OF IT WOULD COMPLETE THE RANSOM OF KING RICHARD!

YEA - MY ALLEGIANCE IS TO HIM!

SO WAS MY SON! AFTER THE TROUBLE HE LEFT TO JOIN RICHARD IN THE CRUSADES. MY SON DIED ON THE BATTLE FIELD UNDER OUR GREAT KING'S BANNER. HIS HEART, TOO, WOULD CRY FOR RICHARD'S FREEDOM!

SO - ROBIN HOOD MAKES PREPARATIONS FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE MONEY.

I CAN'T TRUST ITS SAFE DELIVERY TO ANY OFFICIALS HERE!

THE SUREST WAY WOULD BE TO TAKE IT OURSELVES TO A SHIP AT A CHANNEL PORT. I DON'T KNOW OF A BOAT GOING THROUGH THE BALTIC!



IT LEAVES FROM SOUTH-INGTON. THE CAPTAIN CAN BE TRUSTED. I'LL PLACE THIS MONEY IN A STRONG BOX WITH A MESSAGE, AND TAKE IT TO HIM!



IS THIS FITTING? FROM ROBIN HOOD AND THE FREEMEN OF SHEPWOOD FOREST AND FREEMEN EVERYWHERE, FOR THEIR BELOVED KING, MAY GOD PROTECT HIM FROM HIS ENEMIES AT HOME AND IN FOREIGN LANDS."



AY!! - A MASTERPIECE

BY SAINT CHRISTOPHER, BLESSINGS ON IT, AND NOW, LET US WASH DOWN A BOTTLE OF GOOD ALE TO SEND IT SWIMMINGLY ON ITS WAY!



WE HAVE SUCH AN ASSORTMENT OF COSTUMES FROM OUR GUESTS, I THINK. THE TIME, I WILL BE A MONK CARRYING A SACRAMENTAL BOX!



YOU MAKE A HOLY MAN WITHOUT DOUBT, AND A HOLY MISSION YOU'VE GOT ON! GOD SPEAKS!



STEP LID FATHER?



MEANWHILE, A MESSENGER FROM JOHN ARRIVES IN NOTTINGHAM.

1800 POUNDS SNATCHED OUT OF MY HANDS AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

YEA - FOR THE RANSOM COLLECTION, ROBIN HOOD MUST HAVE NEARLY ENOUGH BY NOW!



NEARLY? BY FAITH, HE HAS ENOUGH, THIS PAPER IS A LIST OF THOSE WHO REPORTED TO ME WHAT HE TOOK FROM THEM, I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT TO CONSULT IT BEFORE!



NO ONE WITH AUTHORITY HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE RANSOM. YET WOULD ROBIN HOOD DELAY THE DELIVERY? IF HE WANTS SOMETHING DONE, HE WOULD DO IT HIMSELF!

WHAT PASSES THROUGH YOUR MIND, SERENIF?



I'M A DESPERATE MAN, TOMORROW THE FORT-NIGHTS UP JOHN WILL WANT A RECKONING. I MUST MAKE ONE MORE ATTEMPT TO TAKE ROBIN HOOD OR TAKE THE RANSOM MONEY.



RIDE WITH ALL HASTE TO SOUTHWINGTON, A BOAT THROUGH THE BALTIC LEAVES FROM THERE, I SUSPECT ROBIN HOOD WILL BOARD ONE OR TRY TO GET THE MONEY ABOARD. SEARCH EVERYONE!



SPRITED STEEDS SHORT-CUT AHEAD OF THE LUMBERING COACH, WHEN ROBIN HOOD ALIGHTS AT THE CHANNEL POST...



I RECOGNIZE THOSE FELLOWS. THEY'RE THE SHERIFF'S MEN. BUT THINK I'D BEST BE ON GUARD.

CAUTIOUSLY, ROBIN HOOD QUESTION'S THE INNKEEPER.

BUSINESS MUST BE GOOD, THOSE SOLDIERS DRINK MUCH!



NO, THESE HAD LITTLE TO DRINK. THEY FEARED GETTING MUGGED FOR THEY ARE ON A SERIOUS MISSION—THE RECOVERY OF STOLEN MONEY!



STOLEN MONEY? FROM WHERE?

THEY CONFIDED NOTHING'S MOSE TO ME EXCEPT THAT THEY WILL SEARCH FOR IT AT THE BOATS. NO ONE, NOTHING WILL GET PAST THEM, GOOD FATHER, BUT DON'T FORGET IT IS A SECRET BETWEEN OURSELVES!

A FEW MINUTES LATER ROBIN HOOD FINDS A SECLUDED SPOT. QUICKLY, HE EMPTIES THE MONEY FROM THE STRONG BOX INTO A SACK, REFILLS THE STRONG BOX WITH STONES, AND LOCKS IT SECURELY.

HE STOPS A PASSENGER ON THE WAY TO THE BOAT.



WOULD YOU DO A BROTHER A KINDNESS? THIS BOX MUST BE PLACED IN CERTAIN HANDS WHEN THE BOAT REACHES PORT. I MUST RETURN TO LONDON TOWN—WILL YOU TAKE IT?



WHOM SHALL I DELIVER IT TO? CAPTAIN OF THE BOAT. GIVE HIM THIS SEALED ENVELOPE, IN IT ARE HIS DIRECTIONS.



STOPPED AT THE BOAT! THIS IS IT!... TO THE CAPTAIN... SEND THE BOX TO YOUR EMPEROR, FOR THE RELEASE OF KING RICHARD OF ENGLAND THERE IS ONLY ONE WHO COULD NOT AT ME! COME FROM, A MAN IN ROBIN HOOD'S MAKE ME TO TAKE IT ABOARD!



HE SAID WE'LL GO AFTER HIM! HE WAS GOING TO LONDON TOWN!

THE MOMENT THE SOLDIERS DEPART, ROBIN HOOD BOARDS THE BOAT.

THE MONEY IN HERE IS FROM THE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND, FOR THE RANSOM OF THEIR SOVEREIGN, RICHARD!

IT WILL BE SAFELY DELIVERED. YOU HAVE MY PROMISE, HOLY FATHER!

RICHARD HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS LIBERATION.

FRED! I HAD NOT THOUGHT THAT MY BROTHER JOHN WOULD FURNISH THE RANSOM. I DID MISJUDGE THE MAN!

FINALLY THE MONEY IS PLACED IN THE BAG. ONE OF THE SOLDIERS SIGNS THE ORDER, BUT THE BAG IS EMPTIED SO MISTAKENLY THAT A MESSAGE FROM ROBIN HOOD STILL REMAINS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BAG. THE EMPEROR SIGNS AN ORDER FOR RICHARD'S RELEASE.

MEANWHILE, THE SOLDIERS, WHEN THEY FIND NO TRAIL OF ROBIN HOOD, BRING THE STRONG-BOX TO THE SHERIFF.

ROCKS! WHAT JEST IS THIS?

ALAS! THE VILLAIN ROBIN HOOD HAS TRICKED US!



THE NEXT DAY IS THE SHERIFF'S DAY OF RECKONING. HIS FORT-NIGHT HAS EXPIRED!

I CHARGED YOU WITH A DUTY. YOU FAILED ME!

I HAVE DONE ALL IN MY POWER, BUT ROBIN HOOD IS NO ORDINARY KNAVE!



PERHAPS NOT TO YOU, BUT I HAVE GIVEN THE MATTER MUCH THOUGHT. WHY DO I NOT TRY MY HAND AT CAPTURING HIM? I WILL ENSNARE HIM AT A TOURNAMENT!

A TOURNAMENT? I TRIED THAT. HE CAME IN DISGUISE!



HE WILL COME TO THIS ONE UNDECEASED. I CAN MAKE MY HAND WRITING LOOK LIKE SOMEONE ELSE'S, WHOSE CALL ROBIN HOOD WILL HEED!



SEVERAL DAYS LATER A TRUMPET SOUNDS LOUDLY IN SHERWOOD FOREST.

WHAT WAS THAT? THE ONLY HORN I EVER HEARD IN THESE WOODS IS THE ONE I BLOW!

A HERALD APPROACHES



WHOSE MESSAGE IS THIS?

I DON'T KNOW, A MAN STEPPED FROM A BOAT AND SAID HE'LL TO BELIEVE THIS. I COULD NOT SEE HIS FACE, HE WORE A COWL OVER IT!



MY MASTER CALLS, I WILL BE THERE!

BUT, ROBIN, I DO NOT LIKE YOUR GOING OUT UNPROTECTED. WHAT IF HE CANNOT PROVIDE YOUR SAFETY?



RICHARD'S WORD IS THAT WILL HAVE TO BE ENOUGH FOR ME!

IS SO, HE IS OUR KING!



ROBIN HOOD SETS OUT FOR ASHEY.

COULD IT BE SOME TRICK THAT WILE JOHN ARRANGES?

AND IF IT IS NOT AND I DO NOT DO? WILL I NOT LOOK LIKE A COWARD AND DIS-BELIEVER IN MY KING'S WORD?



RICHARD HAS REACHED ENGLAND, OF THAT I AM SURE. I HAVE A TRUE FEELING THAT HE WILL BE AT ASHEY, AND THAT EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT WELL!





SUDDENLY, RICHARD'S EYE IS CAUGHT BY THE FIGURE IN LINCOLN GREEN.

WHO ARE YOU? NOT AS BRAZEN YOU THAT AM I AS THE DOGS STAMP ONE WHO BRAZENLY? QUERIES HE BUT IF YOU TRULY WANT TO KNOW, I AM ROBIN, ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY.



I KNOW NO ROBIN, OR ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY, OR INSOLENT ONE!

THE SILLY FELLOW, WHEN I TAKE MY THROWE I'LL SHOW HIS WHIP-TONGUE A THING OR TWO!



THE TOURNAMENT IS RESUMED WITH ANOTHER COMBAT. TWO PARTIES OF KNIGHTS CLASH, ONE THE DISINHERITED KNIGHT.



NEW OPPONENTS RUSH IN AND BY UNFAIR TACTICS SEEM TO BE OVERCOMING HIM, BUT RICHARD...

TO THE RESCUE! THOSE VILLAINS ARE USING BATTLE-AXES.



SEIZING A BATTLE-AXE FROM AN ATTACKER, RICHARD SAVES THE DISINHERITED KNIGHT.



THEN SWIFTLY RIDES AWAY...

BY FAITH, HE IS NOT A DULL ONE AFTER ALL - EVEN IF HE NEVER HEARD OF ROBIN, NO MATTER!



MEANWHILE, THE DISINHERITED KNIGHT IS AWARDED THE PRIZE AND IS UNMASKED AS INANHOS!

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK A BRAVE LAD LIKE INANHOS TO JOIN MY BAND, BUT AM HE, TODAY I DO NOT FEEL LIKE ROBIN HOOD!



NO ONE APPROACHES ME. IS RICHARD HERE? IS MY SAFETY REALLY GUARANTEED? I THINK I WILL BREAK WITH JOHN—AND UNCOVER HIS HAND!



AS ROBIN NEARS JOHN'S BOY AND NOW FOR SOME SPORT WITH ROBIN HOOD



YOU THERE IN GREEN! WHAT IS YOUR NAME? ARE YOU TOO THIN TO SHOOT FOR THE PRIZE OF A SILVER BUGLE HORN?

I'M LOCKSLEY, YOUR GRACE. YOU HEARD OF ME AS ROBIN HOOD AND WOULD HAVE MY HIDE!

DO YOU ARE LOCKSLEY MY BROTHER RICHARD PROMISED YOU SAFE CONDUCT AND I PROMISED HIM I WOULD NOT Molest YOU!



WHERE IS RICHARD? AFTER THE CONTEST YOU WILL SEE HIM. FIRST, SHOOT!



IF I DO, I WILL SURELY WIN. WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?



MAY, BUT YOU WILL NOT WIN. ASSEMBLED HERE ARE THE BEST ARCHERS IN THE COUNTRY!

ROBIN HOOD STRIDES TOWARD THE FIELD. WAIT! NO ONE SHOULD BE SO SURE OF HIMSELF. YOU WILL ENTER LAST TO MEET THE WINNER. HOW SICK YOU WILL LOOK WHEN YOU LOSE!



OUT OF THE FORESCORE YEOMEN THREE BEST ARE CHOSEN. THESE ARE MY BEST ARCHERS. ROBIN HOOD CANNOT POSSIBLY BEAT ANY OF THEM!





AN HUBERT OF SUFFOLK OUT-SCORES THE OTHER TWO...

NOW, SHOOT AGAINST THE WINNER. I COUNT ON YOU TO SHAME HIM, HUBERT.

I WON'T FAIL, YOUR MAJESTY!

HUBERT SHOOTS FIRST!



YOU CANNOT BEAT THAT, KNAVE!

YOUR MEN OUGHT TO COME TO SHERWOOD FOREST.



...AND TRAIN BY SHOOTING DEER!



IS IT POSSIBLE? HE AIMED ALMOST WITHOUT LOOKING! AND SPLIT THE OTHER ARROW!



YOU DID IT! NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH REMARKABLE SHOOTING. I SHALL RETURN TO THE BOY. COME FOR THE PRIZE!



NOW TO GIVE THE KNAVE A SURPRISE, WHEN YOUR MEN TAKE HIM PRISONER!

HAY I'VE CHANGED MY MIND. I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS SO HONOROUS A SHOT. I SHALL ASK HIM TO JOIN MY COURT!

CLASSICS Illustrated



ROBIN HOOD RUNS TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE TENT BUT AS HE STEPS OUT HE IS SURROUNDED BY SOLDIERS



ROBIN HOOD IS THROWN INTO A DUNGEON UNDERNEATH THE ROYAL COURT

YOU'VE ESCAPED DEATH SO MANY TIMES, WE'LL TAKE NO CHANCES NOW!



DID I NOT TELL YOU I WOULD GET HIM? TOMORROW AT SUNRISE HE WILL DIE, AND IT WON'T BE A SWEET DEATH!



A MOMENT LATER A NOTE ARRIVES... AND TURNS JOHN'S THOUGHTS TO ANOTHER CRIME.



HE SUMMONS HIS MEN.

DIVIDE YOURSELVES IN GROUPS. TAKE SEPARATE ROADS. MY ORDERS ARE TO KILL RICHARD ON SIGHT... WHOEVER COMES UPON HIM FIRST, HE MUST BE REMOVED FROM MY PATH!

WE START AT ONCE!



WITH RICHARD OUT OF THE WAY, I SHALL HAVE THE CORONATION, AND BE DECLARED THE LEGAL KING!

WITH RICHARD AND ROBIN HOOD OUT OF YOUR WAY, YOUR ENEMIES WILL BE NO MORE!



MEANWHILE, ON THE ROAD TO ASHBY

WHAT WILL ROBIN SAY TO OUR FOLLOWING HIM?

HE WILL SAY AY, IF HE'S IN TROUBLE.



CLASSICS Illustrated



LOOK THOSE PEOPLE COMING FROM ASHBY! THE TOURNA-MENT MUST BE OVER!

LET'S TURN OUR COURSE TO LONDON TOWN, AND THE ROYAL COURT!

AY, WELL WE'VE JOHN A TIGGLE UNDER HIS CHIN!



IN LONDON TOWN THINGS ARE STRANGELY QUIET.

WOULDN'T THE TOWN BE CELEBRATING RICHARDS' RETURN?

SWEET FRIEND, WE'RE STRANGERS HERE, IS THERE SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE IN THE TOWN?



MAYBE AY - MAYBE NAY, ALL IN THE WAY YOU LOOK AT IT. IF YOU'RE A SILKEN DANDY, AY - BUT AN HONEST MAN WITH A LOAD ON HIS BACK WOULD WEEP THAT ROBIN'S TAKEN!



BY SAINT CHRISTOPHER, IF YOU LIE I'LL HAVE YOUR EARS!

ROBIN HOOD CAME AS BOLD AS CAN BE TO ASHBY AND WENT OUT AS JOHN'S PRISONER. ITS DUNKED HE DIES AT DAWN!



THEY SAY HE'S HELD IN THE DUNGEON. WE COULD STORM THE PALACE!

THREE OF US AGAINST ALL THE ARMED GUARDS INSIDE?

YOUR SEVEN FEET WOULD BE LIKE NONE - AND NEITHER WOULD MY TOO POUNDS OF WEIGHT!



I HAVE IT! WE'LL TAKE HIM OFF THE GALLONS JUST AS HE'S SAVED OTHERS, AN ARROW SPICING THE ROPE WILL FREE HIM!

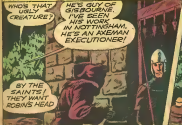
TO WHAT GALLONS WILL THEY TAKE HIM?



NO DADDYB! SEEMS TO KNOW WE'LL HAVE TO WATCH UNTIL THEY BRING HIM OUT - THEN FOLLOW!

AY, BUT STAY BACK! LEST GUARDS SEE US!

HOURS OF VIGILANCE... AS THE SKY TURNS GRAY, AN ANIMAL-LIKE FIGURE ENTERS THE CASTLE!



WHO'S THAT UGLY CREATURE?

HE'S GUY OF GISBOURNE. I'VE SEEN HIS WORK IN NOTTINGHAM. HE'S AN AXEMAN EXECUTIONER!

BY THE SAINTS! THEY WANT ROBIN'S HEAD

THAT MEANS NO GALLONS FOR ROBIN. THEY'LL SHED HIS BLOOD IN THERE!

THAT SMALL BARRED WINDOW... COULD IT BE?



CAUTIOUSLY, LITTLE JOHN SIDLES TO THE WINDOW



ROBIN... MAY HE DOESN'T HEAR MY WHISPER...

THEN...



I HAVE IT!

THIS BLACK STONE WILL SERVE AS PEN AND INK TO WRITE ANY NOTE!



THEN, BREAKING OFF A BRANCH OF A NEARBY TREE...





ROBIN HOOD





THIS WILL HOLD THEM!



HALT!



STOP THEM!

BUT ONCE OUTSIDE - ROBIN HOOD IS REINFORCED!



...AS THEY REACH THE CREST OF A HILL...

KING'S MEN ALREADY?

AND AHEAD OF US! HOW CAN THAT BE, UNLESS THEY ARE SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE ELSE!



INTO THE SUNRISE THEY GALLOP.

THAT WAS THE BEST PRAYER YOU EVER SAID, HOLY ONE, BUT WE ARE NOT YET OUT OF DANGER! THEY'LL BE AFTER US!



ROBIN HOOD

ROBIN HOOD ONLY KNOWS THAT THE MEN ARE CHASING HIS BELOVED KING...

ANY SIGN OF HIM?

I SEE NOTHING AT ALL!



SO FAR RICHARD IS SAFE, LEAVING THE TOURNAMENT HE KEPT ON RIDING - NOT YET CONVINCED THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO REVEAL HIMSELF BY A TRICK OF FATE HE HAS NOT ENCOUNTERED ANY KING'S MEN WHO MIGHT QUESTION HIS DISGUISE

AFTER HOURS OF RIDING HE STOPS AT AN INN...

I HEAR HORSES' HOOPS OUTSIDE.

AY FOUR MEN DESCOUNT!



ONE HORSE MEANS ONE RIDER FOR FOUR STRAPPING FELLOWS THAT'S ENOUGH!

IT HAS TO BE! MY STOMACH YEARNS FOR FOOD AND DRINK!



ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MEN SCARCELY GLANCE AT THE KNIGHT BY THE FIRE.

HERE'S TWENTY SHILLINGS - BRINGS VENISON AND ALE.

I COULD EAT FOR EVERYBODY!

WELL EAT FOR OURSELVES!



SUDDENLY ROBIN HOOD FEELS WATCHING EYES ON HIM.

HO - THE BLACK KNIGHT OF THE TOURNAMENT HAVE THE EDGES OF YOUR TONGUE SOFTENED A LITTLE?

MY TONGUE SHOULD NEVER BE AS TENDER AS YOURS!



YOU MAY NOT BE A BAD FELLOW AT THAT, YOU HAVE A HUMOR, AND I SAW YOUR BRAVERY ON THE TOURNAMENT FIELD - BUT ARE YOU FRIEND OR FOE?





IN MY TEENAGE I SAID TOO MUCH, BUT NOW CHANCE IS TIME TO REVEAL MYSELF. THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THIS LAND CALLED MISSEY ENGLAND!



FIRST I'D LIKE TO VISITURE INTO SHERWOOD FOREST FOR A REST. IF THE OUTLAW HAS NOT BEEN CAPTURED YET.



ON ANOTHER ROAD THE KING'S MEN GIVE UP THE CHASE. WHY FLEE ANY MORE OVER HIM WHEN WE HAVE BIGGER GAME TO HUNT IN RICHARD?

WE LOST THE OUTLAW. NO DOUBT HE'S IN THE FOREST BY NOW!



THIS IS WHERE WE CAME ACROSS ROBIN HOOD.

LET US GO IN— THIS TIME PER- CHANCE TO EAT



FOOL! YOU NEARLY BRILLED THE ROOD ON ME!

MY HAND STILL TREMBLES WITH EXCITEMENT. KING RICHARD WAS HERE IN THE GUISSE OF A KNIGHT IN BLACK!



YES— THE MARCH IN WHICH HE BROKE UP HIS COUNTRY— AND... HE CAME FROM THE CRUSADES.

RICHARD? ARE YOU SURE?

WHEN WAS HE HERE? AND WHERE WAS HE HEADED?



IF RICHARD IS IN SHERWOOD FOREST, NOW CAN WE KILL HIM? THE FOREST IS TOO THICK WITH ROBIN HOOD.

WE WILL GET THE OTHER KING'S MEN AND THE SHERIFF'S MEN TO JOIN WITH US— THIS TIME HE MUST STRIKE THE BLOW. THINK NOW JOHN WILL REWARD US!







THEY EVEN FOUND THE NAME OF RICHARD THE KNAVE... TRAITORS TO ME...



THE GARLAND IS YOUR MARK, LADS. YOU ARE TO SHOOT THREE ARROWS AT SIX SCORE PAGES. WHOEVER MISSES AS MUCH AS ONE ARROW SHALL BE CUFFED BY WILL SCARLET!



AFTER THE FEAST THE MERRY MEN ENTERTAIN.

NOW WE SHALL SHOW YOU REAL SPORT FOR YOUR 100 POUNDS—MORE THAN WE EVER OFFERED OUR OTHER GUESTS!



THE SHOOTING BEGINS, EVER SO OFTEN AN ARCHER MISSES AND GETS A SUPPETING, WHILE HIS COMPANIONS HOWL THEIR AMUSEMENT... EVEN RICHARD GUF-SAWES, THOUGH HE BELIEVES HE IS IN THE LAIR OF ROGUES



AT LAST, ROBIN HOOD'S TURN... HIS FIRST ARROW STREAKS TO THE GARLAND.



THE SECOND LODGES WITHIN AN INCH OF THE FIRST....

THE OUTLAW CAN SHOOT!



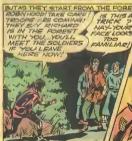
BUT, THE THIRD ARROW IS BADLY FEATHERED AND MISSES ITS MARK!

COME, LAD, BOX MY EAR!

IN TRUTH I CAN'T, YOU'RE KING HERE, AND NO ONE DARES TO CUFF A KING!









THESE PIECES OF CLOTH WILL SURPRISE THEM!



LOOK! THEY'RE UP THERE!

THEY THINK TO LEAP ON US AGAIN!

WE'LL CHARGE FIRST!

THIS TIME WHEN THE ATTACKERS ENTER THEY LOOK ABOUT GUARDEDLY, CAUTIOUSLY.



ROGUE! I HAVE YOU!

DIE!



THEY FENCE WITH GHOSTS AND BREAK THEIR BLADES.



WHAT FIGHT NO MORE! LOOK!

YOU'VE CUT INTO ONE OF THE ROGUES!



NAY! I FELT NOTHING WHEN I THROUST! WE'VE BEEN FOOLED. THERE IS NO ONE IN THESE TREES!

LOOK!



BROKEN BLADES ARE ABANDONED AS SOLDIERS FLEE

COWARDS! THEY CAN ONLY FIGHT WITH SPEARS! -NO- BUT OTHERS COME!



A TORNADO OF ARROWS! — THE REMAINING ATTACKERS, CONFUSED AND WEARY, SURRENDER.

DID YOU THINK TO UNSEAT ME FROM MY THRONE WHEN I HAVE SUCH FOLLOWERS AS ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MEN?

JOHN URGED US ON!



IF YOU CAN BE SO TEMPTED! CANNOT TRUST YOU! BANISH YOU FROM ENGLAND FOR EVER.



HOW FIRMLY I SPEAK WHEN I HAVE NOT YET DEALT WITH JOHN AND HIS CORONATION. WE MUST START FOR LONDON FOR LONDON TOWN!

MY LORD, I WILL ENJOY THIS!



IN FRONT OF THE PALACE A CROWD HAS GATHERED.

IS THIS THE WAY TO AVOID THE CORONATION OF THE KING? SO UNHAPPY LOOKING!

HE IS NOT THE KING WE WANT, ALAS!



SUDDENLY, RICHARD DOFFS HIS HOOD, AND THE THINGS JOYOUSLY RECOGNIZE THEIR RIGHTFUL KING.



IT'S RICHARD! OUR KING! GOD SAVE THE KING!

JOHN ARRIVES UNAWARE THAT RICHARD HAS JOINED HIS PROCESSION.

HA — THE PEOPLE WELCOME ME!



THE CROWD GETS A NEW THRILL AS OUTLAW JOINS KING!

WHEN JOHN FINES OUT... HA!



THE PROCESSION MOVES TO THE ALTAR.



PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE ANOINTMENT!



WHEN... SUDDENLY...



THE BISHOP GASPS... JOHN WHIRLS AROUND...



RICHARD!
YOU!!!

AY - I AM YET
ALIVE... AND I
CLAIM MY THRONE!

TO THEM JOHN IS STILL KING.



NO! NO! YOU
WOHN'T GET
IT BACK!
MEN! MEN!



EVERYWHERE IN THE PALACE, MAN ARRESTS MAN IN DESPERATE FIGHT.



THE PEOPLE'S WEAPONS - ANYTHING THEY CAN THROW!



IN THE CHAOS ROBIN SPES A FACE THAT HAS HOUNDED HIM...



HO - MY SWEETEST FRIEND!

I'LL SLAY YOU!

ROBIN HOOD SIDE-STEPS THE BLADE, AND LUNGES FORWARD, BUT THE SHERIFF



ELUDE. COME BACK, AND LET ME FINISH WHAT YOU BEGAN!



BACK, OR I'LL THROW THE TORCH!



AS A SHAFI SPEEDS FROM ROBIN'S BOY...



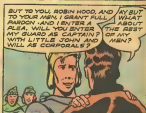
THE TERRIFIED SHERIFF LOSES HIS BALANCE

YEEEOOOO

THE FIGHT IS OVER... AND WITH IT THE END OF JOHN'S RUTHLESS REIGN.



AH, I AM KING AGAIN... AND LIKE I HAVE BANISHED YOUR FOLLOWERS, I BANISH YOU. IF YOU ARE NOT OUT OF ENGLAND IN TWO DAYS, YOU DIE!



BUT TO YOU, ROBIN HOOD, AND TO YOUR MEN, I GRANT FULL PARDON AND I ENTER A PLEA. WILL YOU ENTER MY GUARD AS CAPTAIN? WITH LITTLE JOHN AND WILL AS CORPORAL?

AY BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF MY MEN?



I WILL MAKE THEM LEGAL CARETAKERS OF THE KING'S DEER!

THEY WILL BE PLEASED, FOR THEY LOVE SO TO FEED ON VENISON... WHAT SAY YOU TO THAT, ABBY MEN?



AYE!!! - AYE!!! AYE!!!
GOD SAVE THE KING!

THE END

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