

# Robin Hood

## Tales of Ye Merry Woode

*Book by Anna Murdock*  
*Lyrics by Anna Murdock and Catharina Jensen*  
*Music by Catharina Jensen*

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## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

In this fun retelling of the Robin Hood story, the greedy Prince John is joined by his evil sister, Lady Kate. They plan to catch Robin Hood, defender of the poor, by forcing Maid Marian to marry the prince. Not only will John and Kate gain Marian's riches, but trap Robin Hood when he tries to rescue her. Marian and her friend Lady Beatrice disguise themselves in men's clothing to find Robin to warn him of the scheme. But when Robin and his friend Will Scarlet encounter these two "men," a swordfight ensues!

Meanwhile, the sheriff's men, Gilbert and Goose, are ordered to spy on Robin Hood, and they disguise themselves using Marian and Beatrice's discarded shawls and hats to great comic effect.

Action, romance and lots of laughs make this the merriest version of Robin Hood ever. Numerous actors can participate as Merry Men, ladies-in-waiting, guards, servants and villagers. Opportunities for solo parts within the group songs.

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(Flexible, approx. 21 males, 16 females, extras. Doubling possible.)*

**ALAN-A-DALE:** Minstrel, Robin's spy.  
**WILL SCARLET:** Merry man.  
**LITTLE JOHN:** Robin's right-hand man.  
**ROBIN HOOD:** Merry outlaw of Sherwood Forest.  
**FRIAR TUCK:** Merry man.  
**ARTHUR:** Merry man.  
**SHERIFF:** The Sheriff of Nottingham town.  
**GILBERT:** The Sheriff's bumbling guard.  
**GOOSE:** The other bumbling guard.  
**MAID MARIAN:** Robin's friend, ward of King Richard.  
**LADY BEATRICE:** Lady of court, Marian's friend.  
**LADY ANNE:** Lady of court, Marian's friend.  
**NURSE BETH:** Marian's caretaker and confidant.  
**PRINCE JOHN:** King Richard's wicked brother.  
**LADY KATE:** Richard and John's evil sister.  
**PAGE:** Prince John's page.  
**COOK:** Prince John's servant.  
**MARY:** Cook's assistant.  
**MATHILDA:** Cook's assistant.  
**RON:** Prince John's guard.  
**JOSH:** Another guard.  
**MERVIN:** Prince John's tax collector.  
**MARVIN:** The other tax collector.  
**HERALD:** Court servant.  
**POTTER:** Village merchant.  
**ISABEL:** Sheriff's wife.  
**SARA:** Peasant.  
**SADIE:** Peasant.  
**SUZANNE:** Peasant.  
**WIDOW:** Poor villager.  
**HEIDI:** Widow's child.

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**HILDA:** Widow's child.

**BISHOP OF HEREFORD:** Vain, greedy supporter of John.

**GEORGE:** Bishop's servant.

**TIMMY:** Child.

**TAMMY:** Child.

**KING RICHARD:** The true king of England.

*Several parts such as the Herald, Cook, Alan-a-Dale, the Guards and the Children can be either gender. Any number of additional parts can be added to either the Merry Men, Ladies-in-Waiting, Guards and the Villagers.*

**SET**

This play can be portrayed with one basic set. The woods are on stage right and the castle is on stage left. This set can be as simple as a cardboard tree and a painted castle or as elaborate as a full-sized, three-dimensional tree with ropes and climbing apparatus and a castle with stairs, platforms, towers and walls that fly in. The story will do well in any setting as long as there are no long pauses for scene changes and the movement flows smoothly from one scene into the next. Beside the basic set, the dining room, the Widow's cottage, and the church altar move in and out. These can be small set pieces on wheels or they can be carried by the cast. Again, it can be as simple as a small cardboard house for the widow, or a peasant cottage all furnished with a thatched roof and an inside and outside. The dining room can be a table, chairs and a window or a platform complete with castle walls, doors, windows, drapes, armor, furniture and other riches. The church is placed center upstage and need only be a tall thin box, or it can be an elaborate altar with candelabra and a giant stained glass (*plastic*) window flown in.

*(See end of script for other Production Notes.)*

### **MUSIC SYNOPSIS**

*(Note: Solos can be added in several songs as "The Loving Youth," "Taxes," "Injustice," and "Market Song," etc. Track notations within the script refer to the performance CD available from the publisher.)*

#### **ACT I**

- #1: OPENING - *Alan-a-Dale*
- #2: THE LOVING YOUTH - *Robin Hood, Merry Men, Merry Man solo*
- #3: PLOT, PLOT - *Prince John and Lady Kate*
- #4: TAXES - *Townspeople, Villagers 1 & 2, Prince John, Lady Kate, Sheriff, Isabel*
- #5: THE LITTLE BIRD - *Maid Marian, Lady Beatrice, Lady Anne, Nurse Beth*
- #6: INJUSTICE - *Robin Hood, Merry Men*

#### **ACT II**

- #7: FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE - *Sheriff, Gilbert, Goose, Prince John, Robin Hood, Guards*
- #8: THE MARKET SONG - *Isabel, Widow, Children, Villagers*
- #9: WHEN WINDS BLOW - *Maid Marian, Robin Hood*
- #10: SANCTUS - *Robin Hood, Merry Men*
- #11: MERRY OLD ENGLAND - *All*

*(In addition to the songs listed above, Alan-A-Dale has several narrative-style interlude songs which move the action forward.)*

*(TRACK #1: Overture)*

**ACT I**  
**SCENE 1 - SHERWOOD FOREST**

*(TRACK #2: Opening)*

*(AT RISE: Rosy lights slowly fade up on ALAN-A-DALE sleeping against a tree. SFX: A rooster crows and the music plays as he stretches and begins strumming his lute. He sings narrator style.)*

**MUSICAL #1: OPENING**

**ALAN-A-DALE:**

OH, YE BONNY LADS AND LASSES,  
A TALE I'M BOUND TO TELL,  
HOW ROBIN AND HIS MERRY MEN  
IN SHERWOOD FOREST DWELL.  
BOLD ROBIN IS AN OUTLAW  
AS ARE HIS FAITHFUL MEN.  
THE SHERIFF HAS SWORN TO HANG THEM  
BUT THEY'RE ELUDING HIM AGAIN!

*(Music continues as underscore. ROBIN HOOD and MERRY MEN enter at the back of the theater and run down the aisle onto the stage. As they approach, more merry men including ARTHUR enter from stage right, with swords drawn to protect Robin.)*

**LITTLE JOHN:** Quickly, Robin, run! The sheriff is close at hand!

**ROBIN HOOD:** We will be out of his reach in a moment, Little John. The faint-hearted peasant will not dare enter Sherwood Forest.

*(ROBIN and L. JOHN jump up on stage. WILL SCARLET is pushing the fat FRIAR TUCK.)*

**WILL SCARLET:** Run, Friar Tuck, before they run us through!

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**FRIAR TUCK:** By my faith, these old bones were not made for such punishment.

**ARTHUR:** *(Motioning to them from the trees.)* Hurry, make haste, ye merry men! Into the forest!

**WILL SCARLET:** *(Looking up the aisle.)* I see the sheriff! Quickly! Hurry, Friar Tuck!

**FRIAR TUCK:** I'm coming! I'm coming! Robin, lend me your arm.

**ROBIN:** *(Helping FRIAR TUCK onto the stage.)* The sheriff will not have his hanging today!

**ARTHUR:** You have outsmarted him again, Master Robin.

*(The MEN laugh as they disappear into the trees stage right. The SHERIFF, GILBERT and GOOSE run down the aisle with swords drawn.)*

**GILBERT:** Hurry, hurry! He's getting away!

**GOOSE:** We've got to catch them before they dash into the forest!

**GILBERT:** Oh, alas, we're too late, there they go.

**SHERIFF:** *(Jumping up onto the stage.)* Curses on that outlaw! He has escaped us again!

**GILBERT:** Should we pursue them, Your Lordship?

**SHERIFF:** *(Fearful.)* No! .... I mean, it would not be wise to track them into the forest. We would doubtless lose good men.

**GOOSE:** Aye, that you would, Your Excellency. *(Looking off into the trees.)* It is a marvel how they appear to vanish into the trees.

**GILBERT:** Some say the Sherwood Forest is enchanted.

**SHERIFF:** *(Nervous.)* Nonsense. We will capture that outlaw. There must be some way to outsmart him. We must send out more spies. I want that rogue hung, dead or alive! Retreat men, back to the castle.

*(As THEY exit behind the castle SL, MAID MARIAN, LADY ANNE, LADY BEATRICE and NURSE BETH enter the castle balcony.)*

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