

ROBIN HOOD and ALLIN A DALE

A Play

by
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The Cast: (6) plus archers

Narrator

Robin Hood

Allin A Dale

The Bishop

Old Man (bridegroom)

Fair Maid (bride)

Group of Archers (number in accord with players available)

Scene I.—*In the Greenwood.*

[Robin Hood standing in the woods listening to the birds sing.]

Narrator. In the rude days of King Richard and King John there were many great woods in England. The most famous of these was Sherwood Forest, where the king often went to hunt deer. In this forest there lived a band of daring men called outlaws.

Having done deeds against the laws of the land, they were forced to hide themselves in the woods to save their lives. There they spent their time roaming about among the trees, hunting the king's deer, and robbing rich travelers that came their way.

There were nearly a hundred of these outlaws, and their leader was a bold fellow called Robin Hood. They were dressed in suits of green, and armed with bows and arrows. Whenever they had taken anything, it was brought and laid at the feet of Robin Hood,

whom they called their king. He then divided it fairly among them, giving to each man his just share.

Robin never allowed his men to harm anybody but the rich men who lived in great houses and did no work. He was always kind to the poor, and he often sent help to them; and for that reason the common people looked upon him as their friend.

Men still talk about his deeds. Some praise him, and some blame him. He was, indeed, a rude, lawless fellow; but at that time, people did not think of right and wrong as we do now.

Our story begins as Robin Hood relaxes in the woods one beautiful afternoon under a great green tree by the roadside. A young man finely dressed in a suit of bright red passes by.

Robin Hood. I will not trouble him, for he surely must be on his way to his wedding.

Narrator. Night and day passes and we find our selves the next day with Robin standing in the same place, having not been there long when he sees the same young man coming down the road. The man is not so happy this time. Without his scarlet coat, he sighs and groans with every step.

Young Man (Allin A Dale). Ah the sad day, the sad day!

Robin Hood. I say, young man! Have you any money to spare for my merry men and me?

Allin A Dale. I have nothing at all, but five shillings and a ring.

Robin Hood. A gold ring?

Allin A Dale. Yes? It is a gold ring. Here it is.

Robin Hood. Ah, I see! It is a wedding ring.

Allin A Dale. I have kept it these seven years. I have kept it to give to my bride on our wedding day. We were going to be married yesterday. But her father has promised her to a rich old man whom she never saw. And now my heart is broken.

Robin Hood. What is your name?

Allin A Dale. My name is Allin A Dale.

Robin Hood. What will you give me, in gold or fee, if I will help you win your bride again in spite of the rich old man to whom she has been promised?

Allin A Dale. I have no money, but I will promise to be your servant.

Robin Hood. How many miles is it to the place where the maiden lives?

Allin A Dale. It is not far, five miles. But she is to be married this very day.

Scene II.— At the Church.

[Robin Hood dressed as a harper, stands at the door of the church.]

The Bishop. Who are you and what are you doing here?

Robin Hood. I am a bold harper, the best in the north country.

The Bishop. I am glad you have come. There is no music that I like so well as that of the harp. Come in, and play for us.

Robin Hood. I will go in, but I will not give you any music until I see the bride and bridegroom.

The Bishop. *[extending his arms to an unlikely couple passing by.]* They are here.

Robin Hood. This is the bride and groom? This is no match! Why this man, though obviously very rich, is old and bent with age. This young maid is beautiful and fair, yet wrought with tears. Let the bride choose her bridegroom for herself.

[Robin Hood puts his horn to his lips and blows three notes.]

[Group of archers, all dressed in green, carrying long bows run across the field toward the church. With them is Allin A Dale.]

Robin Hood. Now whom do you choose?

The Maiden. I choose Allin A Dale.

Robin Hood. And Allin A Dale you shall have, and he that takes you from Allin A Dale shall find that he has Robin Hood to deal with. Bishop, shall we have a wedding?

[Old man storms off.]

Narrator. And thus having ended this merry wedding,
The bride looked like a queen:
And so they returned to the merry green wood,
Amongst the leaves of green.