# GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

# THE MERRY ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD

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Robin Hood and His Merry Band

## CHAPTER 1

### Robin Hood Becomes an Outlaw

In merry England in olden times, when good King Henry ruled the land, there lived in the green glades of Sherwood Forest, near Nottingham, a famous outlaw named Robin Hood. No archer ever lived who could shoot an arrow with such skill, and there never were such yeomen as his merry band of one hundred fifty men. All the band were outlaws, yet the country people loved them. No one who came to jolly Robin for help ever went away with an empty hand.

But Robin wasn't always an outlaw. This

story will tell how he became one.

When Robin was eighteen, with a strong body and bold heart, the Sheriff of Nottingham proclaimed a shooting match. A large barrel of ale would go to the best shot with a bow and arrow. When Robin heard of the match, he said, "I will go too and draw my string, not only for the barrel of ale, but to win the smile of Maid Marion as well."

The month was May and flowers covered the meadow. Apple buds blossomed, and the cuckoo and lark could be heard in the hedge. The air was sweet, and Robin whistled as he thought of Maid Marion.

As he walked through the forest at dawn, Robin suddenly came upon fifteen of the King's foresters seated beneath a great oak tree. Each man was dressed in bright green, or Lincoln green as it was called. They made a fine show, feasting on meat pie and foaming ale. One of them, with his mouth full,

Robin Comes Upon the King's Foresters.