



## **Robin Hood**

**Laura Dockrill, adapted from the novel by Howard Pyle**

*Robin returns home and finds that the Sheriff of Nottingham is starving the people of Sherwood Forest. The courageous Robin vows to stand up for the suffering people. In this speech, Robin speaks to the 'Merry Many', a group of outlaws who steal from rich people and give to the poor.*

**ROBIN:** RIGHT! There appears to be some confusion in our camp. Let me clarify. As it appears some of us here need reminding... Our home has been confiscated by a tyrant. Since King Richard the Lionheart has left for his crusade we are under the thumb, lock and key of a merciless and barbaric man. The Sheriff has no empathy and there's no reasoning with him. Please do not EVER think for a second that living in the extremities of today's ruthless tax and penalty charges that there is wiggle room for selfishness. Forget what you had before. Because that is not a life outside of these woods anymore.

We live for now! We are The Merry Many and we fight for now! We can help! We are young, fit and able. And wanted, yes. We are wanted but there is freedom in that too. I mean, we're already in deep trouble- how much deeper can we get? We can help those the same way we would like to help ourselves and each other. We take from those that have enough to spare, we share and we reward ourselves for our hard work with food and wine and the company of our friends. The things that money can't buy.

The forest pays us, richly, beautifully, with the golden warmth of the smiling orange sun every morning, the clean clear fresh spring of the stream that washes us, our skin, our clothes and quenches our thirst. The way the trees and bushes provide us with shelter, beds, places to hide, to keep safe. The fruits from branches that are sweet and ripe that you can pluck from your bedside. The ground gives us wheat. Corn. The air is ours, the harmony of birdsong that lullabies us to sleep, the pearl torch of a moon that protects us each and every night. That keeps us sound. Fearless. Brave. This forest gives us everything.

And if you don't like that, Will, you don't have to stick with us. You can go back to town where your hands will be tied and you'll be captured and strung up. Guttered. Then, you'll see how much you think you deserve.

*Act 1, Scene 3 'The Real Robin'*