

NAXOS
AudioBooks

Benedict Flynn
ROBIN HOOD

Read by **John McAndrew**

JUNIOR
CLASSICS



NA219212D

1	Locksley's Return	4:48
2	An intruder in Locksley Castle	7:00
3	The Sheriff of Nottingham	5:39
4	Will Scarlett, Much and The Oath	8:31
5	The Prioress	4:18
6	Robin Hood	3:11
7	Little John	8:05
8	The Bishop of Hereford	8:31
9	The Lady Marion	4:16
10	Marion meets Robin in Sherwood Forest	6:49
11	Friar Tuck	7:19
12	The Silver Arrow	1:38
13	The old man	6:41

14	Dead Centre	6:28
15	Bertha's Task	3:24
16	The Abbot's treasure	6:47
17	Bertha in Sherwood Forest	3:03
18	A Butcher's Cart	7:48
19	A Trap!	2:04
20	Caught!	1:44
21	Much recovers	2:33
22	Bricked up	3:58
23	The hunting horns	5:32
24	The Execution	7:27
25	'Robert, Earl of Locksley'	3:17
26	The Death of Robin Hood	8:22

Total time: 2:19:29

Benedict Flynn

ROBIN HOOD

What does a returning crusader expect to find when he makes it home for Christmas? Not what greets Robert of Locksley, that's for sure.

England may look peaceful under its blanket of snow but things have changed since Richard the Lion-Heart left for Palestine to fight the Saracens. Prince John and his cronies, the sinister Sheriff of Nottingham and sly Guy of Guisborne rule the roost now.

And no-one opposes them for long. Robert discovers his father murdered, the Locksley lands stolen, and Locksley Castle occupied by a usurper. He swears he will have his revenge.

But outlawed and forced to hide in the great forest of Sherwood, what can he do against the power of Guisborne and the Sheriff? On his own, nothing. But Sherwood shelters more than the King's deer. Scattered among the leafless trees are the desperate men that the Sheriff's unquenchable greed has driven beyond the law. Robert is not the only one demanding

vengeance. Through them, he learns what his real task must be. Not vengeance for himself, Robert of Locksley, but vengeance for the poor and powerless, the greatest vengeance of all.

So, as plain Robin, dressed in a hood of the simple man's cloth of Lincoln green, he becomes the thorn the Sheriff cannot remove from his side – and the most famous outlaw in history.

Robin's adventures have been sung in ballads and retold in stories and poems over the last six hundred years. Little John, Friar Tuck and Will Scarlet have been his constant companions beneath Sherwood's spreading branches for all that time.

So did they exist, Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men? The answer is yes. And no. Fragments of history can be found that suggest a real Robin might have existed. Places around Sherwood and Nottingham carry his name and Little John's, and people claim from folklore the original Robin Hood for where they live.

Someone called Robyn or Robynhood

can be traced in very old Nottingham criminal records, and even in London street names. Perhaps then Robin is a legend, based on a real person.

But some of Robin's adventures are borrowed from stories even older than the first mention of his name, and over time people have added new adventures. They all tell the tale of Robin's cunning fight against an unjust authority.

So it might be that Robin is a myth, not based on anyone in particular; just a name which criminals took from a story and used when they wanted sympathy from the people. Whichever it is, whether an outlaw called Robin Hood who took to the forest of Sherwood existed once or not, what is important is what he stands for.

Notes by Benedict Flynn

The Author

Benedict Flynn has a sure touch with the re-telling of legends for younger listeners – his other works for Naxos AudioBooks include *The Tale of Troy*, *The Adventures of Odysseus* and *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*. In addition, he has translated Dante's *The Divine Comedy*.

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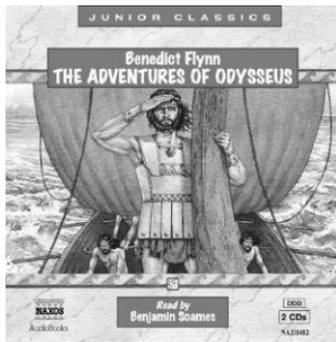
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HOLMBOE STRING QUARTETS Kontra String Quartet Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, Ole Schmidt	8.224127

Music programmed by Nicolas Soames

Benedict Flynn

ROBIN HOOD

Read by **John McAndrew**

Robin Hood, one of the great legends of England, lives again in this re-telling of the famous story. Dressed in Lincoln green, with his longbow never far from his hands, he moves through Sherwood Forest righting the wrongs done by the Sheriff of Nottingham, and his evil henchman, Guy of Gisborne.

Little John, Will Scarlett, Friar Tuck and Lady Marion are all part of the forces of good against the Sheriff and his mysterious sister, the Prioress.



John McAndrew trained at LAMDA. He has spent several seasons at the RSC where productions have included *Peter Pan*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Edward II* and *School of Night*. Seasons at Manchester Royal Exchange appearing in *The Voysey Inheritance* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. He won the Carleton Hobbs Radio Award and has since appeared in numerous radio plays, including the highly successful adaptation of *Lord of the Rings*.

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Total time
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