

NAXOS
AudioBooks

**JUNIOR
CLASSICS**

H.E. Marshall

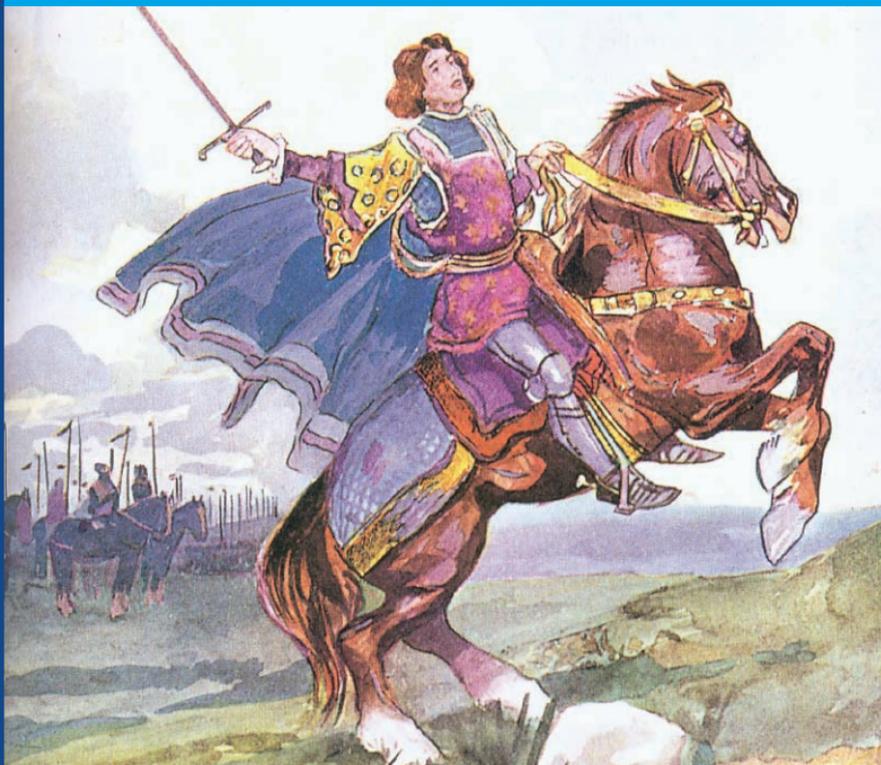
OUR ISLAND STORY VOLUME 1

from the Romans to Richard the Lionheart

Read by **Anna Bentinck** and **Daniel Philpott**

THE
COMPLETE
TEXT

UNABRIDGED



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1	Chapter I	The Stories of Albion and Brutus	6:55
2	Chapter II	The Coming of the Romans	8:36
3	Chapter III	The Romans Come Again	4:29
4	Chapter IV	How Caligula Conquered Britain	8:01
5	Chapter V	The Story of a Warrior Queen (Boadicea)	8:22
6	Chapter VI	The Last of the Romans	7:50
7	Chapter VII	The Story of St. Alban	9:37
8	Chapter VIII	Vortigern and King Constans	8:42
9	Chapter IX	The Story of the Coming of Hengist and Horsa	9:18
10	Chapter X	Hengist's Treachery	7:48
11	Chapter XI	How the Giant's Dance was Brought to Britain	11:36
12	Chapter XII	The Coming of Arthur	6:21
13	Chapter XIII	The Founding of the Round Table	7:26
14	Chapter XIV	The Story of Gregory and the Pretty Children	12:06
15	Chapter XV	How King Alfred Learned to Read	6:20
16	Chapter XVI	King Alfred in the Cowherd's Cottage	9:48
17	Chapter XVII	More About Alfred the Great	7:53
18	Chapter XVIII	Ethelred the Unready	7:42

19	Chapter XIX	How Edmund Ironside Fought for the Crown	7:46
20	Chapter XX	Canute and the Waves	5:03
21	Chapter XXI	Edward the Confessor	10:43
22	Chapter XXII	Harold	12:32
23	Chapter XXIII	The Battle of Stamford Bridge	11:24
24	Chapter XXIV	The Battle of Hastings	11:12
25	Chapter XXV	William the Conqueror – Hereward the Wake	11:54
26	Chapter XXVI	William the Conqueror – Death of the King	7:50
27	Chapter XXVII	The Story of William the Red	6:37
28	Chapter XXVIII	Henry I – The Story of the ‘White Ship’	16:22
29	Chapter XXIX	The Story of King Stephen	8:26
30	Chapter XXX	Henry Plantagenet – Gilbert and Rohesia	7:04
31	Chapter XXXI	Henry Plantagenet – The Conquest of Ireland	11:56
32	Chapter XXXII	Henry Plantagenet – Thomas à Becket	5:30
33	Chapter XXXIII	The Story of Richard Coeur de Lion	12:11
34	Chapter XXXIV	The Story of How Blondel Found the King	10:14

Total time: 5:07:30

H.E. Marshall

OUR ISLAND STORY

Our Island Story is a remarkable history book. It was written at the beginning of the 20th century by H. E. Marshall – her full name was Henrietta Elizabeth Marshall – and she wrote a number of books for younger readers (boys and girls, she called them in the gracious manner of the time). They included *Scotland's Story: A History of Scotland for Boys and Girls* (1906), *Beowulf: Translations* (1908), *The Child's English Literature* (1909), *A History of France* (1912), *This Country of Ours* (1917), *The Story of the United States* (1919), and *Kings and Things* (1937).

History fascinated her, and she liked nothing better than to re-tell history through the personalities of the people who made it. *Our Island Story for Boys and Girls* to give it the full original title, tells the story of Britain by shining a friendly spotlight on the major figures – the rulers, the heroes, the villains and even the weak and the vanquished.

Addressing her readers, H. E. Marshall wrote:

'I must tell you that this is not a history lesson, but a story-book. There are many facts in school histories that seem to children to

belong to lessons only. Some of these you will not find here.

But you will find some stories that are not to be found in your school books – stories which wise people say are only fairy tales and not history. But it seems to me that they are part of *Our Island Story*, and ought not to be forgotten, any more than those stories about which there is no doubt.

So, although I hope you will not put this book beside your school books, but quite at the other end of the shelf, beside *Robinson Crusoe* and *A Noah's Ark Geography*, I hope, too, that it will help you to like your school history books better than ever, and that, when you grow up, you will want to read for yourselves the beautiful big histories which have helped me to write this little book for little people.

Then, when you find out how much has been left untold in this little book, do not be cross, but remember that, when you were very small, you would not have been able to understand things that seem quite simple and very interesting to you as you grow older.

Remember, too, that I was not trying to

teach you, but only to tell a story.'

And the stories are fascinating. Generations of young readers first encountered St Alban, King Alfred, King Harold, William the Conqueror, Thomas à Beckett, Edward I, Robert the Bruce, Henry V, Sir Francis Drake, and Queen Elizabeth I for the first time in *Our Island Story*.

These accessible life stories stayed with the young readers because the accounts are well-told – in a lively and colourful fashion. The fact that legend mixes with history doesn't seem to matter. Wat Tyler rebelled and was slain – this is true. King John was forced to sign Magna Carta, the bowman of England won the Battle of Agincourt against exceptional odds, and the Wars of the Roses – the red and the white – divided England and civil war raged. All this did happen.

But the stories of Albion and Brutus, the legendary beginnings of England, Robin Hood, and perhaps the greatest story of them all, King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, are the stuff of myth. Does it matter that fact and fiction interweave seamlessly? Not really, because fiction can influence history, as it has done so powerfully in the case of King Arthur. Knightly chivalry has affected the behaviour, thought and art of many following centuries – including our own.

H. E. Marshall was writing at a time when the British Empire cast its rule over a quarter of the globe. Now, in the 21st century, Britain plays a very different role in world affairs. And within itself, it is a very different place, having much more of a multi-ethnic populace with broader horizons and more versatile attitudes towards life and the way to live it than when *Our Island Story* was written

Yet there is no reason to ignore the rich and thrilling history that made England and, more widely still, Britain. There may be times when H. E. Marshall speaks in a tone which seems dated; that is inevitable. Nevertheless, it is not surprising that many of our current prominent historians say it was this book that started them on the historical road, that awoke in them a love for the past, the characters and the events.

She takes her story to the beginning of the 20th century, the death of Queen Victoria and the gathering clouds of the First World War. Since then another century has passed, and the world has changed in ways that not even she could have imagined. But her book lives on.

Notes by Nicolas Soames

Our Island Story has been republished
by Galore Park

List of kings from Edward the Confessor

SAXON KINGS

Edward the Confessor reigned 24 years, from 1042 to 1066 A.D.

Harold II reigned a little more than nine months, from January 5th to October 14th, 1066 A.D.

NORMAN KINGS

William I reigned 21 years, from 1066 to 1087 A.D.

William II reigned 13 years, from 1087 to 1100 A.D.

Henry I reigned 35 years, from 1100 to 1135 A.D.

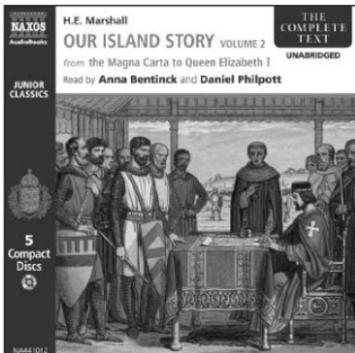
Stephen reigned 19 years, from 1135 to 1154 A.D.

PLANTAGENET KINGS

Henry II reigned 35 years, from 1154 to 1189 A.D.

Richard I reigned 10 years, from 1189 to 1199 A.D.

The companion volumes are:



Our Island Story VOLUME 2
The Magna Carta to Queen Elizabeth I
Read by: Anna Bentinck and Daniel Philpott
ISBN 9789626344101



Our Island Story VOLUME 3
James I and Guy Fawkes to Queen Victoria
Read by: Anna Bentinck and Daniel Philpott
ISBN 9789626344118



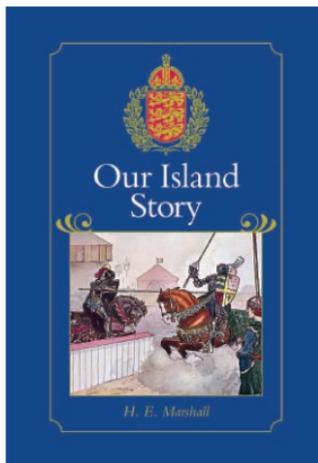
Anna Bentinck was trained at The Arts Educational School and has made over 800 broadcasts for BBC radio. Animation voices include the series *64 Zoo Lane*, and on TV she has played Mary Dickens in *Charles Dickens* and Mary Rutherford in the *Marie Curie* series. Her many audio books range from *Lyra's Oxford* by Philip Pullman and *A Little Death* by Laura Wilson to Queen Victoria by Evelyn Anthony. She has also recorded *Five Children and It* and *The Phoenix and the Carpet* for Naxos AudioBooks.



Daniel Philpott trained at LAMDA and, after success in the prestigious Carleton Hobbs Award for Radio Drama, has been prolific in BBC Radio and the Spoken Word industry. His theatre work includes numerous productions on the London fringe. For Naxos AudioBooks he has recorded *A Life of Shakespeare*, *Famous People in History – II*, *Dracula*, *Frankenstein* and *Pygmalion*.

Cover picture:

'It seemed as if he rode alone to defeat the whole English army' by A.S. Forrest



The centenary edition of *Our Island Story*
is available from www.galorepark.co.uk
ISBN: 1902984749



H.E. Marshall

OUR ISLAND STORY VOLUME 1

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Our Island Story is a remarkable history book. It tells the history of Britain from its legendary beginnings to the death of Queen Victoria, through the principal personalities. This means the kings and queens, of course, but also those adventurous and enterprising men and women who explored, defended, rebelled, innovated, took risks and made their mark on history. It was first published in 1905 and its Edwardian tone is unmistakable, yet it remains one of the most engaging historical introductions, even though myth is freely mixed with fact.

Volume 1 covers *St Alban, Boadicea, King Alfred, Canute, William the Conqueror, Thomas à Beckett, Richard the Lionheart* and many more. It is a thrilling sequence of stories. It has recently been republished by Galore Park.



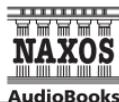
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