

外教社—克萊特學生英語分級讀物

B級 傳奇故事

# Robin Hood and the Magic Trick

## 羅賓漢的魔術

Alice Beile-Bowes



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SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

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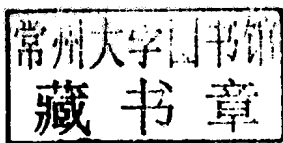
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注釋 韓天霖



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## 简 介

《外教社—克莱特学生英语分级读物》由上海外语教育出版社从德国最大的教育出版机构克莱特出版社精选引进出版。本系列读物由英美专家用浅显的英语撰写,供以英语为外国语的学生阅读,以培养学生用英语直接获取文化信息的能力。故事多以青少年为主角,精彩生动,扣人心弦。全套读物按文字难度分 A、B、C 三级,A 级供初中学生阅读,B 级供高一、高二学生阅读,C 级供高三和更高水平的学生阅读。

本书为 B 级的传奇故事专集,由 *The Adventures of King Arthur*, *Robin Hood and the Magic Trick*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *From Slavery to Freedom* 和 *The Life of an American Slave* 等 5 个故事组成。

你听说过侠盗罗宾汉的故事吗?想知道他这次又是如何率领部下戏弄贪婪的诺丁汉郡行政司法长官的吗? B 级传奇故事 *Robin Hood and the Magic Trick* 将告诉你想知道的一切。

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## Introduction

Robin Hood was an outlaw<sup>①</sup>. The old stories tell us that he lived with his men and their families in Sherwood Forest, outside the town of Nottingham in England. We don't know when he lived, we don't even know if there really was a Robin Hood, but everybody in England knows stories about him.

Two of his best men were Little John and Will Scarlet. Maid Marian lived with them, too. Her father wanted her to marry, but she loved only Robin, so she ran away from home to live in the forest with the outlaws.

The Sheriff<sup>②</sup> of Nottingham was Robin's enemy. He wanted to catch Robin, and he often sent his soldiers to look for him. The stories tell us that many people hated the Sheriff because he was cruel, and because he took too much money from the poor people. But stories also tell us that Robin was the friend of the poor, and he robbed the rich to help the poor.

Sherwood Forest was much bigger then than it is today. There were only a few roads through it, and they were dark and narrow. Robin's men watched ev-

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① outlaw 反叛者      ② sheriff 行政司法长官

ery road, so that Robin always knew who went through the forest — a group of soldiers, a rich man with a bag of gold, a poor family, or perhaps a trader<sup>①</sup>.

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① trader 商人

# 1. The Horse Trader

One day at Robin Hood's camp<sup>①</sup>, they heard that there was a horse trader on the road through the forest. He was on the way to Nottingham market with his horses.

“You know, Little John needs a stronger horse,” said Will Scarlet to Robin. “He is far too heavy for our horses. They soon become tired when they are carrying him.”

“You're right,” said Robin. “Go and find this horse trader. If he is an honest trader, and if he has a good strong horse — and if it doesn't cost too much, of course — buy the horse from him.”

“And if he isn't an honest trader?” asked Will.

“Well, if he has a good strong horse but if he *isn't* an honest trader, perhaps the horse will just follow you off into the forest,” said Robin.

Everybody laughed.

So Will Scarlet and Little John walked off into the forest to find the horse trader. When they reached the road through the forest, they waited. Soon they could hear horses' hooves<sup>②</sup>. They moved out into the road to

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① camp 营地      ② hoof (pl. hooves) (马)蹄



meet the horse trader. But when the horse trader suddenly saw two men in the middle of the road, he was very frightened. He didn't stop, but shouted to them, "Here, take this and leave me alone."

Then he threw a little bag at their feet and rode away as fast as he could with his horses.

Will and Little John looked at each other and laughed.

"Well, well! He must have a bad conscience<sup>①</sup>!" said Little John. "And look, there are

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① conscience 良心,道德心

one hundred pounds in gold in this bag! Robin will be pleased!”

“I think I recognized<sup>①</sup> that man,” said Will Scarlet. “He isn’t an honest trader. Do you know what he does?”

“No, I don’t. Tell me.”

“Well, his own horse is a very good horse. And it is very clever, too. A lot of people want to buy it. But the horse trader always asks for too much money, of course, because he doesn’t really want to sell it. But sometimes he meets a man from another part of the country. He doesn’t ask much for the horse. The man is very pleased, and buys the horse. After that they have a drink together. The horse trader pays, of course. He wants to find out where the man is going to and which road he is going to take. Then the horse trader hides in the forest near the road. When the new owner of the horse rides past, the horse trader whistles. Then his horse throws off its new owner, he falls to the ground, and the horse runs into the forest back to the horse trader. But the new owner doesn’t know that. He just thinks that he has lost his new horse.”

“Well, the horse trader isn’t a very honest man at all,” said Little John. “Come on, let’s go back to the camp and give the money to Robin.”

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① to recognize 认出,认识

“What do you think he will do with it this time?” said Will.

“I don’t know,” said Little John. “But he always uses it well.” So they turned and began to walk back to the camp.

### **Questions**

1. Why did Little John need a stronger horse?
2. What did the horse trader do when Little John and Will Scarlet moved out into the road to meet him?
3. Why do you think the horse trader did this?
4. Why did the horse trader always ask too much money for his own horse?
5. Why did he have a drink with the new owner of his horse?
6. How did he get his horse back?

## 2. Will and Little John Meet the Pot-and-pan Man

On their way through the forest to the camp, Little



John and Will suddenly heard a strange noise. It came from behind a group of trees. They knew the noise somehow. It sounded like some small animal, but it wasn't an animal. What could it be? Then Will recognized the noise. He turned to Little John and smiled.

“It's a baby!” he said. “It's crying!”

But it didn't sound like a strong, healthy baby. It sounded ill. Little John and Will came out of the trees. They saw a man with his wife and child and their cart<sup>①</sup>. On the cart were lots of pots and pans<sup>②</sup>. It was a pot-and-pan man with his family on his way to market. But something was wrong. The man's face was white and he held his head in both hands. The woman had the baby in her arms.

The pot-and-pan man and his family were frightened when they saw Will and Little John. The woman shouted, “Are you Robin Hood's men? Don't hurt us! We are only poor people. We have no money.”

“You needn't be afraid, we won't hurt you,” said Little John.

“And we don't take money from the poor,” added Will. “But tell us, why have you stopped here in the middle of the forest?”

“I don't know what to do,” said the woman. “We have to go to the market with our pots and pans because we need the money. We had to pay the

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① cart 手推车      ② pot and pan 厨房炊具, 锅碗瓢盆

Sheriff's new tax on carts, and that took all our money. We have nothing. And now my husband and our baby are ill. And I can't push the cart alone. "

Little John turned to Will. "A tax on carts? I've never heard of that before! The Sheriff can't do that!" he said.

"They can tell us about that later," said Will. He turned back to the woman. "You must come with us to our camp," said Will. "We have a fire and warm food there. You can stay until your husband and baby are better. "

"And when your husband is better," said Little John, "he can mend some of our pots, or even sell us some new pots and pans. "

The pot-and-pan man and his family were very glad. "Thank you for your help, thank you," said the woman. "My name is Anna, and my husband is called Peter. "

"My friend is called John Little," said Will, "but we call him Little John — because he is so big. "

And Little John put his hand on Will's arm. "And this is Will Scarlet — we call him that because his clothes are red. He has another name, but we have all forgotten it!"

Then Little John lifted the pot-and-pan man onto the cart, and he pushed the cart to the camp, while Will and Anna with her baby followed.

## **Questions**

1. How did Will and Little John find the pot-and-pan man and his family?
2. The pot-and-pan man and his family were frightened. But they didn't need to be frightened. Why not?
3. Why did the family have no money?
4. Why couldn't they go to market?
5. How did Little John and Will help?
6. How did Little John and Will Scarlet get their names?

### **3. At Robin Hood's Camp**

When they reached the camp, Little John explained to the others about the sick pot-and-pan man and his family. Everyone made the family welcome, and soon they felt better. Little John gave the horse trader's bag of gold to Robin. Robin was very pleased.

"I'm sure we can use this well," he said. Then he asked Anna some more questions about the Sheriff's new tax on carts. He was sure that this tax must be the Sheriff's idea, and that the money was for him alone.

Later that evening, when it was dark, they all sat round the fire. The pots and pans on the cart shone in the light of the fire.

Maid Marian said, "Look at the light on the pans! They look like gold!"

"You're right! If only we could turn them into gold," answered Robin. "Eh, Marian?"

But there was no answer from Marian.

"Marian, are you dreaming?" said Robin.

"Mm? Oh! Oh, sorry, I've just had an idea ..." answered Marian.

"Well then, tell us about your idea."

“Well, I think I know how we could turn the pots and pans into gold.” She whispered for a long time in Robin’s ear. Robin was quiet for a time.

“Well, what do you think?” said Marian.

“Well, it might work,” said Robin.

“Of course it’ll work! You know how greedy<sup>①</sup> he is!” said Marian.



“He? Who?” said the pot-and-pan man.

“You’ll see,” said Robin. “Now, here’s a bag of gold. It’s from a horse trader with a bad conscience. I think I have found a very good use for it. Will you sell me all your new pots and pans?”

“All my pots and pans? But you don’t need so many!” The pot-and-pan man was surprised.

“Yes, I do,” said Robin. “And will you lend me your cart, too?”

“Well, yes, of course,” said the pot-and-pan man. “But why do you need my cart?” he asked.

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① greedy 贪婪