

Introduction

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The Doctor can go anywhere in his time machine, the TARDIS. In this story he moves back in time to the year 1190; the place is Sherwood Forest, near the city of Nottingham. Clara Oswald is the Doctor's companion on the journey, and she is very excited.

They go to Sherwood Forest because Clara wants to meet Robin Hood. When she was a child, she read stories about him. He was one of her heroes. But was Robin Hood a real person – and was he really a hero? Will the Doctor and Clara find him and his friends in the forest? Let's climb into the TARDIS and begin our journey.



You can watch *Doctor Who* on television in Britain and in many other countries. William Hartnell played the First Doctor in 1963 – in black and white! In this story, Peter Capaldi plays the Twelfth Doctor. Jenna Coleman is Clara, his companion.

People watch *Doctor Who* on television because they love the exciting journeys to dangerous places, and the Doctor's clever tricks. They learn about people's lives in earlier times, and see possible futures. Many people follow his journeys for years and years.

A lot of different writers work on the *Doctor Who* stories. Mark Gatiss is the writer of this story and many other stories for film and television. Perhaps you also know his face: he played Mycroft Holmes in *Sherlock* and Tycho Nestoris in *Game of Thrones*.



To Sherwood Forest

'Robin Hood! I want to meet Robin Hood!' shouts Clara.

She and the Doctor are in the TARDIS, the Doctor's time machine and the centre for his planning and thinking.

'Robin Hood? A hero from children's storybooks? We all know the stories. He takes money from rich people and gives it to poor people. But we can only visit *real* people,' the Doctor says.

'But I love those stories. I want to meet him – in the famous Sherwood Forest!' says Clara.

'Robin Hood never lived in Sherwood Forest, Clara. He never lived anywhere! He was only a hero in books,' the Doctor tells his young companion. 'Your hero's not real.'

'But *you're* real,' Clara says.

'Excuse me?' The Doctor doesn't understand.

'Well, you help people every minute of every day. You're a hero, too, and I like heroes,' says Clara.

The Doctor smiles. 'I have to do *something* with my time.' He tries again. 'Clara, think of a *real* hero and a *real* place. Don't you want to meet Gandhi or Winston Churchill? They were very interesting. Or we could go to China, or Mars.'



'No, please try to find Robin Hood,' Clara says again.

'Well, I'll try,' the Doctor says. 'Please remember: the TARDIS goes to *real* places, in *real* times.'

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Suddenly the TARDIS is sitting in a sunny green forest, next to a small river. The Doctor looks outside.

'Hmm. I can see a small river with a bridge across it,' he tells Clara. 'But I can't see any pretty castles, happy villagers or strong knights. And I can't see the famous Robin Hood. I told you. He's not real.'

An arrow hits the TARDIS and the Doctor jumps. A man comes out



An arrow hits the Tardis and the Doctor jumps.

from behind a tree with a bow in his hand. He is wearing green clothes from head to foot.

'Are you looking for Robin Hood? That's me!' shouts the man.

'Ha-ha-ha! That was a good trick with your box, sir. How did you do it?'

'No trick! You're looking at the TARDIS,' says the Doctor.

'Hmm. Its name isn't important, old man, and now it's mine,' cries Robin. 'I take things from people like you.'

'And I feel sorry for people like you,' answers the Doctor.

'But today I'll take your box. Ha-ha-ha!' laughs Robin.

'Why do you laugh so much? Don't people get angry when you laugh all the time?' the Doctor asks.

He doesn't like the young man.

'Perhaps they do,' Robin says. He thinks about it for a minute. But he forgets about the question when the door to the TARDIS suddenly opens. 'Excuse me! What's this?' he asks the Doctor.

Clara is coming out of the TARDIS. She is wearing a beautiful red dress from an earlier age, perhaps from about 1190.

'Are there any more young women in there?' Robin asks.

'Doctor!' shouts Clara. 'You found him!'

'That is *not* Robin Hood,' the Doctor says. 'Robin



Hood is *not* real.'

'Not real?' shouts Robin. 'But I'm going to fight you for your box. *That's* real!'

'Nobody can take the TARDIS!' the Doctor shouts.

'Well, I'll try,' Robin says. He pulls out his sword. 'Where's your sword, old man?'

The Doctor takes a spoon from inside his jacket. He always has his spoon with him. He uses it when he fights. He usually wins his fights because he is cleverer than people with guns or swords.

'I can win without a sword because I'm the Doctor,' he answers. 'Are you ready? Let's fight!'

The Doctor hits Robin on the back of his head with his spoon.

'Doctor, you're wonderful!' shouts Clara.

'This isn't my first fight, Clara. And, remember, he isn't real,' the Doctor tells his young companion.

Then Robin runs to the Doctor and cuts the older man's jacket with his sword. The Doctor is angry now. With his arms above his head, he turns quickly. He is now back to back with Robin, and with a quick push he sends the younger man into the river.

'You see, Clara. It's *my* box. *My* TARDIS,' the Doctor says.

'But where's Robin Hood?' Clara asks unhappily.

She and the Doctor look into the water, but they can't see anybody or anything. Then suddenly Robin is behind them and pushes the Doctor into the water. He and Clara look down at the wet, angry Doctor and laugh.

'Ha-ha-ha!'



'A little water won't hurt you or me,' says Robin Hood to the Doctor when the Doctor is on dry ground again. The Doctor is wet from head to foot. 'This is an exciting day for me. Two new friends! A doctor and, of course, his lovely companion.'

They walk through the trees and come to a pretty place in the forest. A number of men are sitting or standing there.