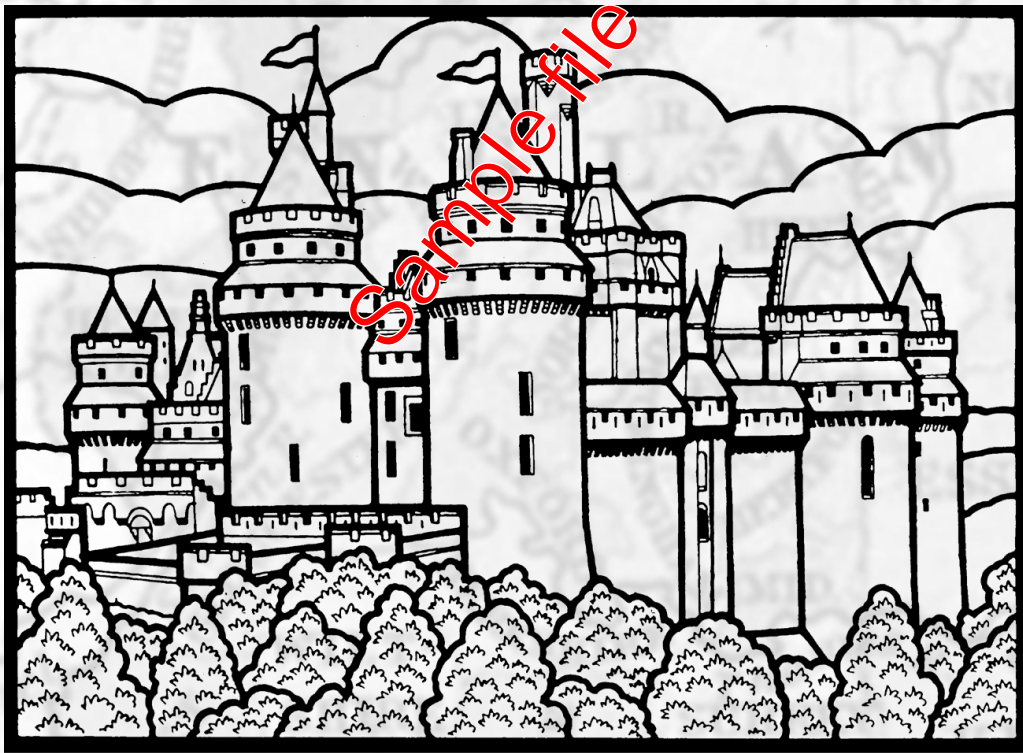



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Sherwood

The Legend of Robin Hood



by Marc Gacy and Wil Upchurch



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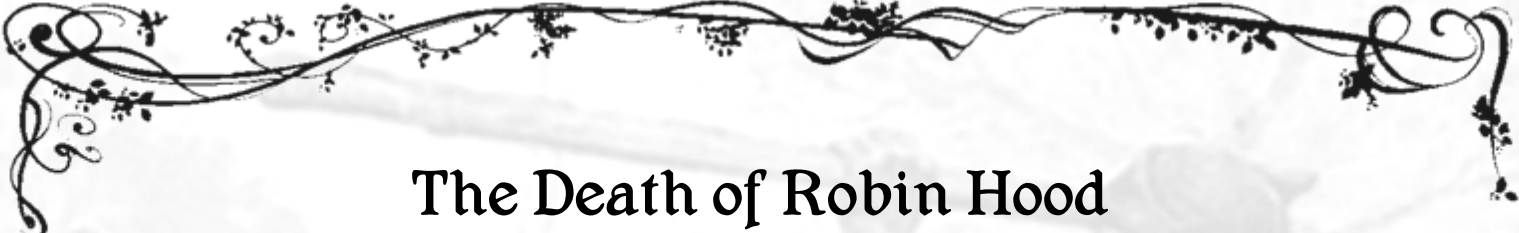
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Contents

Heroes of Sherwood	1	Types of Gear	20
Character Concepts.....	1	Melee Weapons	21
Engineer.....	1	Ranged Weapons.....	22
Knave.....	2	Armor and Shields	23
Man-at-Arms	2	Goods and Services	24
Noble.....	3	A Gazetteer of 13th Century England	27
Priest.....	4	Overview.....	27
Yeoman	5	Geography.....	28
Making Outlaws	6	Economy.....	29
Race.....	6	Government.....	31
Traits.....	6	Religion	33
Edges and Hindrances	6	Everyday Life.....	34
Gear	6	Holidays of 13th Century England.....	35
Background.....	7	Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.....	36
New Edges.....	7	Trouble in Nottingham	
Background Edges.....	7	Adventuring in Sherwood	38
Combat Edges.....	7	City Outlaws.....	39
Professional Edge.....	8	Political Rebels.....	40
Weird edge.....	8	Romantic Banditry.....	41
Arcane Backgrounds	8	Rogues Gallery.....	42
Priest.....	8	Legends of Sherwood	42
Engineer.....	9	Robin Hood	42
Inventions	9	Little John.....	43
Table of Inventions	9	Will Scarlet.....	44
Invention Trappings.....	10	Friar Tuck	45
Swashbuckling Adventure!		Maid Marian.....	45
Setting Rules	13	Sheriff of Nottingham.....	46
Knowledge skills.....	13	Abbot of St. Mary's.....	47
Languages in Sherwood.....	14	Guy of Gisborne.....	48
Swashbuckling Points.....	14	Denizens of Nottingham	49
Nonlethal Damage	15	Mythic Sherwood.....	53
Improvised Weapons	15	Conjurer	53
Acrobatic Maneuvers	16	New Edges	55
Tricks	16	Skills.....	55
Mounted Tricks.....	17	Powers.....	55
Agility Trait tests.....	17	Legends and Monsters.....	56
Archery Contests	18	Beasts.....	56
Target Shooting.....	18	Creatures of the Sea.....	57
Speed Shooting.....	19	Fairies and Fey.....	58
Gear	20	Spirits	61
Coin of the Realm	20	Talking Animals.....	62



The Death of Robin Hood

by

Bernard Barton

His pulse was faint, his eye was dim,
And pale his brow of pride;
He heeded not the monkish hymn
They chanted by his side.

He knew his parting hour was come;
And fancy wandered now
To freedom's rude and lawless home,
Beneath the forest bough.

A faithful follower, standing by,
Asked where he would be laid;
Then round the chieftain's languid eye
A lingering lustre played.

"Now raise me on my dying bed,
Bring here my trusty bow,
And ere I join the silent dead,
My arm that spot shall show."

They raised him on his couch, and set
The casement open wide;
Once more with vain and fond regret
Fair Nature's face he eyed.

With kindling glance and throbbing heart
One parting look he cast,
Sped on its way the feathered dart,
Sank back! and breathed his last!

And where it fell they dug his grave,
Beneath the greenwood tree;
Meet resting-place for one so brave,
So lawless, frank, and free

(1828)

Heroes of Sherwood

The heroes of Sherwood have many faces, from the doughty yeoman defending his family's honor to the swashbuckling rogue railing against society's injustice. The society of Robin Hood's England is one different than we are used to, and even the roles of a typical fantasy campaign setting may seem alien in the 13th century's unique milieu.

Character Concepts

The following character concepts are tailored to the swashbuckling heroics and historical background of a Sherwood campaign. The opportunities available were a bit more limited back then, so these cover most of the available possibilities.

Engineer

Engineers in medieval England learned to ply their trade for both civil and military purposes. They learned architecture both so they could build magnificent castles and other structures, but also so they could help a besieging army tear them down. Some engineers worked solely on the civil side, building the magnificent homes of the nobles and helping to irrigate fields and keep towns clean and organized. Engineers are almost all of noble stock, having had the free time as children to study all they needed to learn. Sometimes a freeman's son would apprentice under a master architect and thus work his way up the social ladder, but such stories are rare.

An engineer might join an outlaw band in order to be free from the military service his guild had negotiated with the King. Or perhaps he wished to be appreciated for his eccentric inventions and strange ways that would never see him through the rigid social climate of the upper class. He may have noble

enemies to deal with in a clandestine manner, or have been implicated in the failure of a military or civil project and stripped of his privileges. Whatever the case, an engineer can be an invaluable member of an outlaw band, providing not only gadgets and other useful technical advice, but also knowledge of the English landscape and the weaknesses in every castle and keep from Nottingham to London.

Engineers are architects, city planners, siege engineers, and learned men.

