



THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM LEARNS KINDNESS

A PRESCHOOL STORY IN THE 21ST CENTURY



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IN THE BUSY TOWN OF NOTTINGHAM, THERE LIVED A GRUMPY MAN CALLED THE SHERIFF. HE FROWNS ALL DAY AND DIDN'T LIKE TO SHARE ANYTHING. EVERYONE IN TOWN WAS SCARED OF HIS LOUD VOICE AND SHINY BOOTS.



THE SHERIFF MADE MANY STRICT RULES: "NO LAUGHING TOO LOUD! NO RUNNING IN THE SQUARE! NO GIVING AWAY FOOD!" HE SHOUTED EVERY MORNING. THE PEOPLE SIGHED BUT FOLLOWED HIS RULES.



ONE SUNNY AFTERNOON, ROBIN HOOD RODE INTO TOWN. HE SAW HOW UNHAPPY EVERYONE LOOKED. "WHAT'S WRONG, GOOD PEOPLE?" HE ASKED KINDLY. "IT'S THE SHERIFF," WHISPERED A BAKER. "HE FORGOT HOW TO BE KIND."



THE SHERIFF CROSSED HIS ARMS. "KINDNESS DOESN'T FILL THE TREASURE CHEST!" HE SAID. ROBIN HOOD SMILED, "MAYBE NOT COINS, BUT IT FILLS THE HEART." THE SHERIFF SNORTED. "HEARTS CAN'T BUY CASTLES!"



ROBIN HOOD THOUGHT OF A PLAN. "LET'S PLAY A KINDNESS GAME!" HE SAID. "IF YOU DO FIVE KIND THINGS, I'LL TEACH YOU MY SECRET ARROW TRICK." THE SHERIFF'S EYES WIDENED HE LOVED WINNING GAMES.



THE SHERIFF SAW THE BAKER DROP A HEAVY FLOUR SACK. USUALLY, HE WOULD WALK PAST. BUT TODAY, HE BENT DOWN AND HELPED LIFT IT. "THANK YOU, SHERIFF!" THE BAKER SMILED. THE SHERIFF FELT... STRANGE, BUT GOOD!



A LITTLE BOY STOOD STARING AT SHINY RED APPLES. THE SHERIFF HAD ONE IN HIS HAND. HE HESITATED, THEN GAVE IT TO THE BOY. "FOR YOU," HE SAID QUIETLY. THE BOY'S FACE LIT UP.



THE SHERIFF HEARD "MEOW! MEOW!" FROM A TALL TREE. A KITTEN WAS STUCK! WITHOUT THINKING, HE CLIMBED UP AND BROUGHT THE KITTEN DOWN GENTLY. "HERE YOU GO," HE SAID TO ITS CRYING OWNER.



**THE WOODEN BRIDGE OUTSIDE TOWN WAS
BROKEN. "NO ONE WILL FIX IT!" COMPLAINED
THE FARMERS. THE SHERIFF ROLLED UP HIS
SLEEVES AND HELPED HAMMER NEW BOARDS.
EVERYONE CLAPPED!**



THAT EVENING, THE SHERIFF SAW A POOR TRAVELER SITTING ALONE. HE INVITED HIM TO SHARE SOUP AND BREAD. "IT FEELS NICE TO SHARE," THE SHERIFF SAID SOFTLY. ROBIN HOOD SMILED NEARBY.



“NOW, YOU’VE DONE FIVE KIND THINGS!” ROBIN HOOD SAID. “HERE’S YOUR REWARD.” HE TAUGHT THE SHERIFF HOW TO SHOOT AN ARROW THAT ALWAYS HITS ITS MARK BY FOCUSING WITH A KIND HEART.



**THE SHERIFF TRIED THE ARROW TRICK. WHOOSH!
THE ARROW FLEW STRAIGHT AND TRUE RIGHT
INTO THE CENTER OF THE HEART. "IT WORKED!"
HE SHOUTED WITH JOY. EVERYONE CHEERED FOR
THEIR KIND SHERIFF.**



THE NEXT DAY, THE SHERIFF HELD A BIG PICNIC FOR EVERYONE IN NOTTINGHAM. THERE WAS LAUGHTER, MUSIC, AND DANCING. "KINDNESS MAKES OUR TOWN HAPPY AGAIN!" ROBIN HOOD SAID.



**THE SHERIFF WROTE A NEW RULE ON THE TOWN
WALL:
"RULE #1: BE KIND EVERY DAY!"
EVERYONE CHEERED AND PAINTED HEARTS
AROUND IT.**



FROM THAT DAY ON, THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM WAS KNOWN NOT FOR HIS SHINY BOOTS, BUT FOR HIS SHINY HEART. HE LEARNED THAT KINDNESS IS THE GREATEST TREASURE OF ALL.