



League of Archers

Eva Howard

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A girl on the run after being accused of killing Robin Hood learns what it really means to be a hero in this exciting adventure story.

“That’s the girl who killed Robin Hood!” Those words send Ellie Dray racing for the forest and the chance to clear her name.

Twelve-year-old novice nun Elinor Dray has always idolized Robin Hood. She and her friends try to be like him by sneaking out to hunt on the lands belonging to the village Baron, stealing from him to feed their poor neighbors. They call themselves the League of Archers.

While returning from a hunting trip late one night, Ellie meets a man in the forest—a hunter like herself. But suddenly the man is shot with a poisoned arrow. She manages to help him back to the abbey, but it’s too late and he dies. Only in his final moments, does Ellie realize that the hunter *is* Robin Hood, and that the abbess of the nunnery is Maid Marian.

With her secret revealed, the Baron immediately arrests Marian. But he needs a scapegoat for the murder of Robin Hood, and who better than a young novice nun? Ellie is proclaimed a hero—the person who killed the famous outlaw Robin Hood—but the villagers don’t agree. A mob forms, vowing to hunt Ellie down and exact their own vengeance.

Will Ellie and her League of Archers be able to find the real killer, free Maid Marian, and keep Robin Hood’s legacy alive?

League of Archers Details

Date : Published December 6th 2016 by Aladdin

ISBN : 9781481460378

Author : Eva Howard

Format : Hardcover 288 pages

Genre : Childrens, Middle Grade, Retellings, Fantasy, Historical

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From Reader Review League of Archers for online ebook

Kathleen says

Ellie and her friends have grown up hearing stories of Robin Hood and playing out the legends as their own League of Archers. But it all gets real the night Ellie meets the real Robin Hood, witnesses his murder, and becomes an outlaw in her own right.

Janet Riegel says

If you enjoy the Robin Hood Legend you will enjoy this book! The book gives you a very Human side of Robin and his Merry Men.

Allison Tebo says

DNF

Nola says

This book was really good, though I felt like it was kind of slow in the middle. They were pretty much just going on a wild goose chase. But it really picked up in the end, and the person they were looking for ended up being the last person you would think it was. I also really liked the main character, Ellie. I got really attached to her, and it was pretty scary when some of the big things happened to her. I also liked Sister Mary Ursala. Even though she was kind of a villain, I thought she was pretty funny. The fact that all the characters from Robin Hood and all the places made it even better.

Amanda says

4 1/2 stars

Strong female lead, loved the premise, and so very glad that it carried all the way through to the end. Cannot wait for the sequel! Love that there was NO love interest--thank you! (Far too many books that are only interested in developing that...even as our MC fights for survival she must fight for love *sigh* Really?) Also glad that things did NOT wrap up neatly all the way around; life doesn't always have clear answers or work out the way we want. Thank you.

Hollis says

I don't read a lot of middle grade (so little I didn't even have a shelf, I guess the early *Percy Jackson* books are still considered YA..? whatever, tangent) because sometimes even reading YA makes me feel old. So naturally I'm not the best judge of this story. It was cute.. mostly. I don't think I've read any Robin Hood retellings but I'm a huge fan of the Disney (shut up) and, of course, *Men in Tights* (the only version worth watching) so I was predisposed to liking this or at least knowing enough to keep going.

"There are two choices only that a man can make. Or a girl, of course. To shut your eyes and help only yourself, or to keep them open and shoulder the needs of the world."

Howard's version is Robin Hood after the glory days and a group, who call themselves the League of Archers, who basically through an assortment of events end up taking up the mantle of the outlaw and his group of merry men. I enjoyed that the author opened up a dialogue of how even heroes aren't immune to doing the wrong thing, that they make mistakes, choose poorly, and how often rumour isn't the truth.. or at least not all of it. It was really well done, especially as a message for children, but for me I only really enjoyed the story near the end after a certain reveal/confession.

I have an ARC of book two (sigh, cover-beauty click) and am curious to see where the story goes next.

Katrina Jenkins says

Ellie Dray is both a nun-in-training and leader of the League of Archers, a group she created with her friends to poach of the Baron's land and modeled after their hero Robin Hood's group. While returning home on night, Ellie meets her hero Robin Hood and moments later watches as he is shot with a poison arrow. After the Baron pins his death Ellie, she and her friends set off to clear her name and find Robin's true killer, while also trying to save Maid Marion from being executed.

I would recommend this book to upper level elementary school children who enjoy fantasy and action filled stories.

Elizabeth Dragina says

That was a captivating adventure! For whoever likes Robin hood, Adventure, Archery, and multiple loveable characters needs to read this book!

Elinor Dray : An outlaw who has been blamed for Robin Hood's murder now must choose if she will run or rescue Maid Marrian. Was Robin Hood the person she thought him to be? Who is behind his murder? Will the League of Archers stick with her or must she do this alone?

Find out in the first book of Eva Howard's new series!

Shifa K. says

One of my middle grade read favorites! If you're looking for a brave and strong female protagonist, this book has got it. Can't wait for more adventures with the League of Archers!

Lanie says

This IS NOT historical fiction. Ok? It's just not. This is historical fantasy. It's a fun story. But it's definitely not even ATTEMPTING to be historically accurate. :/ plus, the kids have such good luck, that it's magic and the book practically confirms it when Tuck tells them they could only find the merry men's hideout if they were meant to find it.

Very vague, limited magic? Yeah, not historical fiction. Definitely historical fantasy. There's a difference.

Still, Enjoyable enough, but some definitely some flaws.

First off, it's a very exciting story.

It will definitely appeal to younger readers. And I'm definitely liking this "after death" kinda vibe. You usually only see what happens during Robin Hood's life, not an aftermath of his death. And rarely see people trying to keep up his legacy.

I also like that there's a bit about the sheriff's men. We don't often think about them. And when we do, it's usually only as faceless, nameless challenges for Robin & company. The man in the tavern brought up an excellent point about how they were just regular men doing their jobs.

The action was fun. Definitely some bloodshed, but nothing too terribly dark for a middle grade novel. And I've read some fucked up shit in middle grade books, let me tell you! This was actually pretty mild compared to the darkness I've seen in other series.

The pacing was good, the story moving along at a good pace. I never felt bored while reading this. Extra important for middle grade reading.

Some of the settings were very creative. I absolutely loved the major oak. :)

The characters were pretty good, even if most the League was kinda flat. I loved Tuck & Ellie was a decent main character. Definitely dealing with some moral dilemmas, there, aren't you? Robin Hood? I loved the mixed emotions everyone has about him. As Tuck put it, (I'm paraphrasing) "you know the legend. I knew the man." Such a complex character, even in death. I hope we get to learn more about him in book 2.

It could have been a 4 star review. But the author got some very basic things wrong and it bugged me, so only 3 stars.

1. There are not fucking potatoes in King John's England. Potatoes are a NEW WORLD FOOD. It takes two fucking seconds to google that. Writers, stop putting potatoes in Hood stories. It is just not ok.

2. A young teen like Ellie could not use Robin Hood's long bow. And she certainly couldn't plant an arrow all the way to the feathers in a tree. Sorry to burst your little girl power bubble. It's not sexist it's fucking fact. Grown man stronger than teenage girl. You know how hard it is for a grown man to pull back a longbow? It takes LOTS of muscle and lots of skill. Look it up. I'm all for girl power, but don't insult my intelligence as a reader.

3. Ok, so we state that peasants can't wear purple. Cause it's a royal color? 'Kay. I'll buy that. But no one freaks out that girls (particularly an ex-novice nun) are running in pants? People couldn't dress above or below their social class in this time. And women certainly weren't allowed to dress like the men. :/

Ok. Done ranting. Some facts were gotten wrong but it was still a good story. I will be reading book 2 when it comes out. I just wish author's cared just a little bit more about facts. Just because it's "a kid's book" doesn't mean we should ignore research.

Recommended to fans of middle grade and Robin Hood books

Amy Graham says

I was prepared to love this. Female archer, set in Sherwood Forest? What an awesome starting point. I did enjoy the story, but longed for more descriptive details from the author's research. I needed more convincing that the character knew what it was like to really feel hungry, to walk for days, to hunt animals for food. Read a bit like fan-fiction at times, which I suppose it is in a way.

Lindy MacLaine says

Loved the clever spin-off—especially the girl hero in this classic world of Robin Hood and His Merry Men! Filled with courageous kids ready to take a stand for good against evil, and to take the difficult path even when an easier one is available.

Chandler Jechura says

I originally began reading this book since I made the new years resolution to read more middle grade fiction. I noticed that most of the books I've read in the middle grade genre are made up of either Harry Potter or Percy Jackson, so this needed to change. However, it is clear to me that this book will not be on the same level as those books, and I doubt I will come to remember this story in a few months time.

This book tells the story of novice nun Ellie Dry, a girl who idolizes Robin Hood and his Merry Men. One day while out hunting, she comes across the very man himself, and helps him to the abbess when he is shot in her presence with a poisoned arrow. He dies from his wound, and Ellie is blamed for the murder by the local barron. Now her and her friends, who call themselves The League of Archers, must fight to clear Ellie's name and find the real killer, before the towns people hang her for it.

This is a story that middle schoolers may like as it contains a lot of action and it moves at a fast pace. I also like the theme of knowing the man versus the legend, and seeing how someone you admire can fall from grace so easily. This is something that a middle school student can learn and find interesting.

Yet, sadly this is the kind of book that, as an adult, I find simply lacking the rest of the time. We spend a lot of time with the League of Archers, but they all blend together. Ellie herself is a bit of a blank slate. I do not remember many of the characters in this book because they are all used for one purpose or another, and little else. Then, the idea of Robin Hood being more of a fallible man than a hero is an idea that is introduced and

then dropped until the very end of the book, when it comes back up again. It just seems like it is something that, like everything else is used as a plot device, as opposed to anything substantial.

It is for these reasons that I am giving this book a two out of five. It may be nice for middle school readers, but for me, it was just lacking in so many areas.

Mackay says

A nifty story for older "middle grade" readers - fun idea, with a new take on Robin Hood. But also, full of stuff that drives me nuts in too much of today's fiction ... the writer couldn't be bothered with research, and it shows. She has a tin ear for language, but worse, she has her characters eating tons of potatoes (a new world food) in the England of King John, who reigned well before Columbus sailed, and calling each other "kids" (baby goats only at that time) and various other anachronisms. More, she doesn't understand forest ecology at all.

Okay, you say - it's meant for kids. Who cares? The writer should - don't write historical fiction and fail to pay heed to history. It takes two minutes on Google to confirm one's facts. Her Sherwood never grew anywhere. Sigh. Kids might not care but the carelessness soured me on an otherwise fun story.

R. G. Nairam says

urrrrrgh this is so frustrating.

1) As mentioned multiple times while reading, the adult part of the story was really what I was interested in, not a bunch of kids mysteriously holding their own against adult soldiers and adult villagers in MULTIPLE fight and chase scenes that all kind of rolled together.

2) In the end, the adult side of the story sidestepped out of really throwing the punch, which was disappointing. It's not that I WANT Robin Hood to turn out to have some bad aspects to him, necessarily, but if you say he does it can't just all be a misunderstanding in the end. One or the other are both fine options. Promising one and delivering the other just felt like a cheat.

3) So little research seems to have been done, it hurts me. Robin Hood doesn't need to be completely historically accurate and rarely is. But. gah.

4) Nothing about the baron's plan with Ellie seemed believable to me at any point. And why did he even feel the need to frame anyone? It doesn't make sense, and so many other plot points lean on it. It also requires (view spoiler)

5) Overall I liked a lot of the IDEAS of the book better than the execution of it--things like having the lead character be in a nunnery and fairly okay with that, or wondering what happens when Robin's band gets old, and what if the band split over some huge problem, what would people who have adored Robin for years do with this situation? What happens when everyone gets a bit disillusioned and finds out that their heroes (and friends, leaders) are ordinary men and women who make mistakes?

Cool ideas, but overall a very mediocre reading experience for me.
