



Robin: Lady of Legend (The Classic Adventures of the Girl Who Became Robin Hood)

R.M. ArceJaeger

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ArceJaeger

What if Robin Hood wasn't the man you thought him to be—what if he wasn't a man at all?

Robin of Locksley is young, headstrong, and about to receive the worst birthday present of her life. Still struggling to define herself in a society that believes women are fit for little more than governing a household and bearing children, she balks at her father's plans for her future, but the consequences of her rebellion prove deadly. Hunted by both her father and the Sheriff, Robin is forced to hide her identity and seek refuge as an outlaw in Sherwood Forest.

Disguised as a lad for protection, Robin maintains a careful isolation from the world around her...until she chances upon a young boy being beaten to death by the Sheriff's soldiers. Her rescue of the youth marks the beginning of her leadership in Sherwood forest and of the unfortunates who seek refuge therein. Robin's endeavors to provide a life of honor and purpose for her people while aiding the land's downtrodden win her high esteem, but enrage the Sheriff of Nottingham, who plots a deadly fate for her and her band.

As the Sheriff's traps close in around her and assassins seek to bring her down, Robin must risk losing love, leadership, and life if she is to save her people and fulfill her destiny as one of history's greatest heroes.

Alive with adventure and danger, sword fights and heists, hatred and love, Robin: Lady of Legend is the never-before-told tale of the girl who became Robin Hood.

Robin: Lady of Legend (The Classic Adventures of the Girl Who Became Robin Hood) Details

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From Reader Review Robin: Lady of Legend (The Classic Adventures of the Girl Who Became Robin Hood) for online ebook

Matt Schiariti says

I'm glad I came across this book a day or two ago because it's a delightfully clever and fresh twist on an old classic tale.

Take everything you know about Robin Hood and his Merry Men and turn it on its ear. What if Robin weren't a young man, but an 18 year old girl?

In order to maintain and strengthen his position in the land, Lord Robert Locksley arranges a marriage between his eldest daughter Robin Ann to one Phillip Darniel, the sheriff of Nottingham! Robin, who's always been headstrong and much more interested in male pursuits such as going out into the woods and archery, will have none of it and would rather leave everything she knows and loves, including her younger sister maid Marian, behind and fend for herself in the woods. Slowly but surely her sense of honor and natural leadership has outlaws and the downtrodden of Nottingham flocking to her like moths to flame. They don't know Robin is a young girl though, as she's disguised her voice and is never seen without her hood.

This is such an interesting twist on the old tale, and told in such a great way that it's like being introduced to these classic characters for the first time. Twists on Will Scarlet and Little John as well as Robin herself makes this a fun and exciting read from the first word to the last. It also introduced a world of possibilities and problems for the characters. Will Robin ever reveal her secret, her true identity? Will she ever see her family again? When she starts developing feelings for one of her Merry Men who still thinks she's a boy, how will she handle this? These are the types of clever alterations that make this novel fresh and new even though most people are already pretty familiar with the legend of Robin Hood whether it be from the literature or the score of films that have been made over the years.

The only complaint I have is that it has to end! Getting into the characters that ArceJeager has breathed new life into, I would love to see what other adventures they get into as they get older and get into more hijinks.

A great and fun work that's exciting, entertaining and heartfelt, I would love for this to be a series but if not, I'm still glad I got a chance to read this fantastic new take on well established characters. This author is now on my radar!

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Duckie says

“Robin: Lady of Legend” is an entertaining, textually well-crafted novel unfortunately undermined by weaknesses in narration and other literary elements. To begin with, the narration spends most of the time in third-person limited but there are sudden, frequent shifts to third-person omniscient that bump the reader out of the flow, as in the following example:

“Ducking into an alleyway, Robin pulled out a dress from her waist sack and donned her woman’s disguise, too intent on her mission to register the irony that she now thought of women’s garb as the guise, and not men’s. If she had considered it, the thought would have disturbed her, but all her attention was focused on

Nottingham Castle.” Highlight Location (2205-9)

The narration also sometimes jumps between characters in the same scene, as when Robin meets Little John; this is especially distracting when Robin thinks of herself as “she” and then in the next paragraph another character thinks of her as “he.” This is going to be an issue in any novel dealing with concealed gender roles, but it can be managed - Scott Westerfeld, for example, handles it with particular deftness in his “Leviathan” series, and with a little work it could have been handled better here.

The narration and interspersed use of song are both faithful imitations of those in Howard Pyle’s classic version. However, their use here serves to mimic rather than evoke - there aren’t any new insights gained from their inclusion. This is the equivalent of remaking a classic Hollywood film by just reshooting it shot for shot. It might have been more effective to evoke Pyle’s writing style as a nod to earlier works, and then to update it for modern readers. For example, keep the same writing style but shorten the sentence length during action or comedy scenes, as these in particular seem a bit slow. Or use Pyle’s flowery prose as a contrast to describe a bloody battle scene.

There’s also a noticeable lack of character arcs, which means plot elements are strung together like individual episodes but there is little overall cohesion. Robin herself does not appear to change much throughout the novel; there are references at the beginning to her behavior being “selfish” and toward the end there are mentions of her accepting her leadership role and caring for others, but we are told this rather than allowed to watch her develop over the course of the story. Her adventures in Sherwood are related with an engaging sense of fun and whimsy, but without a character arc to underpin them the novel as a whole wavers in its sense of purpose.

Perhaps the biggest issue with the novel is its lack of depth. There’s little weaving of plot, symbolism and other literary elements to create a rich tapestry of a novel - there’s only one thread here (the plot), and everything takes place on the surface. Interestingly, this seems to be common to authors with a strong STEM background; Naomi Novik does it, and to an extent so does Neal Stephenson. There is some symbolism, as in the references to a red hart in the forest that no one can catch, but this is spliced in rather than woven seamlessly into the story fabric; in the second reference to the red hart the author explicitly states that the hart represents Robin’s sense of freedom, instead of trusting to her readers’ perspicacity and leaving that in the background for them to find. The main issue is that these elements are logically sequential but are all hit with exactly the same force, which is distracting with the use of such a rich writing style - it’s like expecting to see the London Symphony Orchestra and instead watching a talented soloist play bass guitar (edited because I’m not a great writer and I never liked how I originally phrased that). Regardless of how good the soloist is (and there should be no question, the author really can write), there is still only one stream of music instead of many interweaving melodies. Relying predominantly on plot rather than incorporating multiple literary elements means the novel begins to buckle under the weight of such ornate prose.

In spite of this, ArceJaeger is a more than capable author, and I was more satisfied spending \$2.99 for this than I was spending upwards of \$10 for other Robin Hood novels. Unlike many professional authors she shows a solid understanding of the main elements of story construction, even if her execution is bit imperfect, and she has an obvious passion for her subject. The novel could have used some professional editing assistance, true, but for a self-published work it’s not bad, and I look forward to seeing if the author continues this story in a sequel.

Teno Q. says

[Gisbo

Jodie Louise says

I really do love re-tellings, from fairy tales to different twists on the story of King Arthur and Robin Hood and his or in this case her Merry Men. So when I realized that I'd had this little gem sat on my Kindle for months I decided to give it a bash. Luckily for me I liked it, it pulled my sorry ass out of a four month long reading slump gave me a kick up the arse to get my nose back in a book.

Robin: Lady of Legend is a retelling of Robin Hood where in this case Robin is an eighteen year old girl of noble birth, it tells the tale of how Robin became the outlaw and leader of a band of Merry Men living in the depths of Sherwood forest. The adventures and all the troubles she and her men went through, their battles with the Sheriff and more in-between.

Generally these retellings have the same basic plot line, well obviously it is a re-telling but the thing that always draws me back to these kinds of books is each author's own personal twists and which relationships they choose to develop between well known and well loved characters, so any opportunity to read a retelling I'm more than likely going to take it.

This was a good book, it was enjoyable and an easy read not my favourite Robin Hood re-telling I've ever read but for fans of the Hood, or someone just looking for a likeable heroine or the chance to see some familiar characters in a different light this book is an enjoyable read, though I only gave this book three stars I did enjoy it there's just a lot of competition where re-tellings of the Hood are concerned, Scarlet by A.C. Gaughen is possibly my favourite book of all time and earlier in the year I read K.M Shea's version of the Hood in her duology Robyn Hood both of which I enjoyed immensely.

So if you're a fan of the Hood or feel like giving retellings a go this is a sound place to start, it's light and enjoyable and will give you a taste for more tales of Robin Hood and his (or her) band of Merry Men.

Ginger says

I love retellings. It is like you get to re-read a story that you enjoyed, but it is new again. It just makes me happy.

So, what if Robin Hood was a woman?

It's got everything that makes a story enjoyable: sword fights, survival, friendships that span even the greatest divides, betrayal, a bitter sweet love story and a perfect HEA.

Robin could not go through an arranged marriage with the dreaded Sheriff of Nottingham. She 'borrows' her cousin's (Will Scarlet's) clothing and heads out on her own. In self defense she ends up killing a man and becomes an outlaw. Soon she starts to attract others like herself. Their outlaw status, earned when doing what was needed to survive, has taken away their lives so they decide to take something back.

Through some trial and error, Robin gets a handle on her band of 'merry' men. She does not want them to steal just for the sake of being bullies or having riches but to better the world around them. So begins the legend.

I love Robin's bravery, honesty and her sense of humor. She is in no way perfect and she has troubles staying up on the pedestal that her friends have put her on.

A great book to take with you camping. Or, if you are more of an indoor type, you can feel like you are camping while you read it in your comfy chair at home ;)

Thank you to my good friend Deb that loaned this book to me because she knew I would enjoy it.

Greg says

What a thoroughly enjoyable re-imagining of the Robin Hood tale! I'm a lifelong fan of Robin Hood, and have enjoyed most incarnations, from children's versions, to Howard Pyle's venerable stories, to Errol Flynn in the movies. There is just something about the liner who flees to the woods, makes a life for himself (or in the present case, herself), and then becomes a social do-gooder. As a child, I can recall going out to the big field and woods behind our house and spending hours every summer imagining myself as Robin Hood.

Now, in this new version, like-minded people of the opposite gender have their own Robin Hood to emulate. On the surface, it's simply a rousing good tale, but there is more to it than meets the eye. Serious issues of gender equality, social responsibility, personal ethics, leadership, and so forth are simultaneously brought to light for those of a mind to consider them. If a parent and child were to read it together, it would make an interesting vehicle for discussion. For most, though, it will simply be a wonderful re-telling of a familiar tale, with some interesting twists. If I had any complaints about it at all, it is only that some of my favorites sub-plots of the Robin Hood story have been given little or no attention...Friar Tuck, Allan-a-Dale, etc. Perhaps the author will give us a sequel...

Katelyn (Lost as Alice, Mad as the Hatter) says

BLAND

In a word.

A young woman dodges a terrible arranged marriage by running away and accidentally becoming the leader of a band of thieves who just happen to hassle the evil tyrant she was supposed to marry and ultimately finding true love...

If she did not have to pretend to be a man and end up also destroying her family in her act of rebellion, well I would say the entire affair was quite serendipitous. In fact, how it all comes together in the end is nothing short of engineered. As I said... **BLAND**

So on the one hand we have our heroine Robin Lockely. She is the daughter of a grief stricken father, sister

to maid Marian, cousin to Will Scarlet, and overall tomboy. In an effort to secure her future (being tall, a straight shot with a long bow, and opinionated are apparently not good for a girl's prospects), her father decides to arrange a marriage between her and the only man who will have her: the vile Sheriff of Nottingham **que the abject "hissing" and "boooing"**.

To escape she decides to run away leaving her father in debt, her sister with the controlling housekeeper, and her cousin holding the guilt bag. She runs into John Little whilst faking being a man. From here a series of events cause her to become an outlaw and leader.

The problems? Her sister is now the next in line to marry the Sheriff. Her Merry Men and community believe she is a man. She has humiliated a series of dangerous men. Her father will lose the manor for her deeds. And she is also falling in love with her second in command.

But no worries because she works it all out by constantly questioning her decisions and making a series of pride driven mistakes. Her father even realizes the error of selling his daughters after meeting the outlaw with more honor than his daughter's would be husband.

I would go into details, but they are predictable and **dues ex freaking machina** time and again. The high points have been hit. You do not even need to worry about her criminal behaviors because **dues ex machina** will come to her rescue again right at the end...to the last sentence...JOY!

All sarcasm aside, my disappointment is astounding. I enjoy a good retelling and was interested to see how a female Robin Hood turned out. In the end our Robin gave up everything for a man and was rescued by royalty. How droll.

I would skip this one if you are interested staying engaged. You cannot even get angry because the boredom will prevent any strong emotion. On the bright side, everyone had the Disney happy ending complete with marriages and the smiting of evil.

Zoe and the Edge says

Robin is a confident and determined girl. She's fierce and capable and doesn't have much room for sentimentality. Her leadership is strong and her values are etched in stone. She wants to be known as a gallant highwayman not just any old robber so she exhibits plenty of charm to the people she steals from. She has many fun successes and I really enjoyed seeing her flourish as Robin Hood of the Sherwood Forest. I liked this alternate version of Robin and his Merry Men. Robin is very reluctant to take on people into her forest home. But her compassion gets the better of her. It's really a book about growth. Robin faces new challenges all the time but she's brave enough to face them head on. She finds that obstacles aren't so bad when you actually get to fighting them.

I don't want to give away anything so I won't say much. There are several moments that link back to Robin Hood folklore but the author puts a unique twist to each one.

There isn't really one driving plot, but little adventures that happen from day to day.

The ending is a weak wrap up and I wouldn't quite call this a romance. At least not my kind. I didn't find the hero attractive at all. Still, a good read that I enjoyed.

Misfit says

Hmmm. Free on Kindle today.

Sanette says

When I started Robin: Lady of Legend I was skeptical but excited. I LOVE Robin Hood stories and I was excited to read a version with a female Robin Hood but this was the author's first book and I wasn't sure of this was going to be kind of a stepping stone for the author. But I was pleasantly surprised because this was a fantastic story, a little slow moving near the end but overall a very fun adventure.

Robin was a fun character to follow through her growth and adventures. The eldest of Lord Locksley's two daughters, the younger one being Marian, she is betrothed to the Sheriff of Nottingham at the age of 18, which is fairly old for that time period. An adventurous and head strong girl, Robin wants nothing to do with the evil sheriff and a few nights before her wedding she finally makes her escape, with the help of her cousin, Will Gamwell (view spoiler). As she ventures to London to seek an audience with the King and beg to be released from her marriage to the sheriff she ends up in Sherwood Forest. On her second night alone a traveler passes by, after striking up a conversation with this handsome John Little, the two decide to travel together. But along the way they are ambushed in the forest by some of the Sheriffs men and after a fight and a horrible accident, Robin flees into the woods to escape the deed she committed. And thus truly begins her journey as she develops her talent as a master archer, teaches herself to survive on her own and her inner talent as a born leader. As more and more outlaws turn to her for help Robin becomes the legend we have all grown up on and finds a love she never thought possible.

This was an absolutely all out fun story for me. Robin was infectious with her huge heart and her wild sense of adventure you just can't help but smile right along with her. Little John (who he is "christened" as later in the story) was fantastic as her right hand man (view spoiler) and Will Stutley was downright hilarious as her first outlaw follower and dear friend who just couldn't stop himself from getting in trouble with the sheriff by chasing after his daughter. I thought ArceJaeger did a fantastic job of weaving together all the characters we loved from the Classic Robin Hood but with a different twist. It was fun seeing these characters through a female Robin's eyes.

The adventures were so much fun and the underlying message of freedom and class segregation was perfectly weaved throughout the story. I only had two real complaints that kept this from being a 5 star read for me. First, ArceJaeger would sometimes switch between character's POV's mid paragraph and it was sometimes hard to figure out exactly who you were following. There was rarely a distinction in the structure of the writing that would indicate you had suddenly changed to Little John or Lord Locksley's POV. But after a while you kind of get into the rhythm of the writing and can figure out who your following. Granted 90% of the book is from Robin's POV so it's not a constant change but still a little jarring once you realize it has happened.

My second issue, and it was not a big deal, was that about 2/3 of the way through the story I felt it started to drag a little and could have been cut down a little bit more. I felt it could have been wrapped up a little sooner than it was and I did find myself skimming some of the chapters hoping to get to the big climax and of course the romance.

But overall this was still a fun and extremely adventurous story and I miss my little Merry Men and of course Robin and Little John. Definitely a read I recommend for anyone who is a fan of Robin Hood and looking for a fun and uplifting read.

Selena Yukino (The Lioness: hear me roar) says

This book started off well enough. It slowly started getting better, but then of course we got to some shit that started pissing me off.

Problem #1. Our main character Robin has some self conscious issues that were never cleared up or anything. Robin constantly compares herself to her 14 year old petite(short) sister and while Robin was comparing her "manly" height I felt like Robin was saying "**fuck all tall girls, short petite girls are way more attractive.**" Which really pissed me off. I'm not saying it was the initial message, and I highly doubt it was. I'm just saying I feel like the author ~~elusively~~ poorly handled the topic.

Problem #2. Robin is a dumbass. On level 9 and 99.99.00%. Example: She didn't cut her hair off when she was planning to run away. The only disguise she had was a hood and men's clothing. I get it, you want to keep some femininity with you...but you're in a dangerous society where men wouldn't hesitate to kill a woman in a second. Just think. What if someone pulled down your hood, or if it accidentally slipped in battle? **YOU'RE DEAD. I DON'T EVEN CARE IF YOUR HAIR GLOWS WHEN YOU SING AND HEALS SHIT!** Cut off your fucking hair. Thankfully, she did. Because one of the following above happened.

Problem #3 *Robin gave up her male identity for a penis, like every other failed heroine does.*

Lanie says

So this took me WAY longer to get through than i thought it would. :(and i waited EVER so patiently for it to come out in paperback so i could order it from amazon.com and it could joined ranks with my other 50 something Fictional Robin Hood books. (i'm only slightly obsessed. but i just can't help myself. there's just something wonderfully appealing a handsome outlaw stealing from corrupt rich and give his loot to the poor.) This one just didn't do it for me.

Not to say it was horribly bad book. i just didn't think it was great. :(

I love the ballads and the classic stories as much as the next fan. they have this certain old-timiness that i adore. the original stories, like Howard Pyle's "The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood", are pretty much the building block of the whole deal. like the "Lord of the Rings" is the foundation of epic fantasy. but when i'm reading a book written 2013, i sort of expect a little more than a rewritten copy of those stories. i'm serious, like 80% of the plot was stolen from Pyle's pages. and while i can appreciate the call back to the classics, and can understand the author was influenced by Pyle's work, there's a point were it borders on plagiarism.

another thing i found off-putting was the dialog. half the time it seemed modern, the other times it seemed to be trying to hard to copy the olden day speech, and it gotten kind of confusing. Not to mention the character development. it was just . . .meh. there really wasn't any. Robin never really grew over the course of the story. it never felt like she matured. :(honestly, she's sort of an idiot. being vain about your long, pretty hair is not a good enough reason to risk having you secret exposed! she just doesn't think about things, she just runs of with these dangerous half-plans. luck can only get one so far. having such a rash and careless leader is a much bigger issue than having said leader be a girl disguised as a man. (that's another issue! we don't get to actually see her telling her men that she's a woman. we just get to see her remembering it!) the other characters were all just these boring, flat cardboard cutout of characters. almost all of them were all either perfectly good or cartoonishly evil with no clear motivations beyond the standard greediness of nobles. the few side characters who's stories could have been really interesting - like the sheriff, lord loxesly, gisbourne, and johnny - were all just glossed over because the story was so focused on Robin trying not to make doe eyes at John and running off to random adventures that us die hard hoodies have all seen before.

the ending was also just. . . .meh. the climatic part of the story seemed to short and the BIG FIGHT/ESCAPE just wasn't that exciting. what little romance was also there in the end story just seemed forced. (i REALLY don't think men talk the way he was talking there. "i need you like the stars need the sky?" please. that just sounds like a bad pick up line.)

now, there were some good parts to "Robin: Lady of Legend", which why my official rating is actually 2.5 stars. i liked the writing style. it was pretty. and i loved the beginning part of the book where Robin's still at home, then plans to run away, then gets outlawed. (it only started getting REALLY copy-catish after that point.) i liked Will Stutely, despite him being a flat character. :) he's adorable. and, or course, i love the idea of Robin Hood being a girl. Most Hood stories today have a girl dressing up as a boy and joining the Merry Men. extra points for choosing it to be Robin Hood. i'm a modern girl, and i totally agree with girls being able to fight just as well as men. i just think a lot more could have been done with this idea. "Robin: Lady of legend" sort of reminds me of "twilight". the story's a great IDEA in theory, but when it's actually been executed it just falls flat.

i think a more original plot line would have been the most helpful. sure, we can have the classic elements sprinkled in for fun, just not the whole damn thing!

Hollie says

A really sweet retelling of Robin Hood.

This was defiantly a unique spin on a classic fairytale. I loved that Robin Hood was a girl. I also enjoyed the fast moving plot and characters. It was a sweet young adult (easily PG rating) read. No profanity, sex, etc. A charming but fast paced read to be adored by readers of all ages. It was also offered as a kindleunlimited. This was the first time I have read any of this writers work but I will be checking out more in the future.

Erika says

Popcorn book. Clever re-telling of the Robin Hood story. But can you really read any Robin Hood story without still thinking of foxes, a bear, a rooster, a tiger?

Robin says

I found the dialogue was often painfully fake or modern feeling, some scenes were rather hokey, and the characters very one dimensional and unrealistic. For example, Robin's attempt to reason with her father that Phillip was not a good marriage match for her because he has a daughter about the same age as her was moot - in that day and age, such a union was commonplace and not even the bride would think it unusual. Even if Robin found the idea repugnant, she should have been smart enough to realize that no one else would consider it a reason not to marry him.

I realise that in order to fill this role, Robin had to be an extraordinarily strong and wilful woman but instead, she came across to me as too modern, not very bright, and immature. More examples occurred further into the book as well - such as when Robin sounds her bugle, forgetting that her Merry Men would assume it's a call of distress. Or when she doesn't stop to think at first that information provided by a guard could be false. I just don't see how such lack of forethought can be characteristic of a successful leader like Robin Hood.

So not surprisingly, I really struggled to get into it and only finished it because it was so short.
