



Sherwood by Meagan Spooner
Reviewed by Amelie



Stand Alone
Fantasy retelling

Give a summary without spoilers!

Robin of Locksley is gone, dead in the king's war. Marian, his betrothed, is left with nothing but her memories of him and the duty of protecting his people. So when her maid's brother Will Scarlet is to be executed by the decree of Sir Guy of Gisborne, the new Lord of Locksley, what else can Marian do but go out and save him. But without meaning to, she does more than save Will's life: Armed with nothing more than determination, Robin's green cloak, and his mother's ring, she raises Robin from the dead: the whole of Nottingham hears of the mysterious outlaw who masquerades as Robin, the hero of the people. How can Marion live her double life as both refined Lady of Edwinstowe, with her suitor Sir Guy and also the cavalier archer who is endlessly pursued by Gisborne?

What drew you to this book?

I was first drawn to this media because of my previous love for and familiarity with the Robin Hood stories. The storyline itself is so gripping and enthralling, the first time I read this book it took me less than a day, I was so interested. The setting of Nottingham and Sherwood forest are familiar, but the author has put her own spin on the famous fictional locations. She has also done a phenomenal job fleshing out the characters, especially Gisborne, as well as Robin's band of merry men.

Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?

The story is based on the many tales of Robin Hood, but also has the feel for the more recent young adult fantasy novels that create strong female protagonists.

To whom would you recommend this book?

This book might be a great read for someone who enjoys classic fairy tales and grew up with a love of Disney movies. It features romance, a little action, and an intelligent and creative female heroine who has to outsmart her enemies at every turn. The plot is enthralling and a reader who enjoys a twist on a well known story will definitely enjoy this book.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?

I loved this book and would definitely recommend it to others. It is a spin on a classic tale that also fleshes out the characters, gives them more dimension, emotion, and motivation. Marion struggles with her emotions throughout the book and deals with loss, and I think that can be a very powerful thing for some readers. And though there is romance in the book, it is not often the central point of the story, more something that develops as Marion heals from her grief and gives herself a new purpose in the world.

Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?

This book was picked up for me as a gift and I really loved it. The plot sounded intriguing to me, and the cover art with Marion in Robin's cloak with her bow was a striking image. It remains to be one of my favorite books.