



Hawksmaid: The Untold Story of Robin Hood and Maid Marian

By Kathryn Lasky

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Before she was Maid Marian, Robin Hood's legendary love, she was simply known as Matty. . . .

Daughter of one of England's most famous falconers, Matty knows her destiny lies with her father's magnificent birds even before she begins to hear their thoughts and speak their language. As tragedy strikes close to home and the sinister sheriff of Nottingham rises to power, Matty's friend Fynn is forced to become Robin Hood and she herself becomes Maid Marian.

In a world of kidnapping, royalty, daring adventure, and deadly peril, Robin needs Matty and her beautiful merlin Marigold to help save a kingdom.

Bestselling author Kathryn Lasky soars to magnificent new heights here, giving us a bold tale of bravery and romance.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-9 After her mother is murdered and the family's castle is looted by followers of Prince John, Matty takes over the management of her father's hawks, learning their language and coming to share their consciousness. Half-orphaned and often hungry, she grows to be Maid Marian, friend and coconspirator with her childhood companion Fynn, renamed Robin Hood. In Lasky's reimagining of this legend, Marian is chief strategist of the band of boys who rob the rich, harass Prince John's evil supporters, and hope to ransom captive King Richard. There is a gentle but thoroughly modern love story, too. Matty may have been her father's jewel, but her growing affection for Robin does not turn her back into a decorative object she is the heroine of her successful quest, leading both birds and boys. Her five hawks are distinctive, and for them, the author of the owl fantasy series *Guardians of Ga'hoole*, has created a language and a convincing, if anachronistic, falconer. Lasky nicely weaves details of 12th-century life into this suspenseful adventure whose fantasy ending may surprise but will certainly please readers. *Kathleen Isaacs, Children's Literature Specialist, Pasadena, MD*

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From [Booklist](#)

Lasky's latest novel focuses on the woman behind the legendary outlaw Robin Hood. Maid Marian, born Matilda Fitzwalter in the late twelfth century, is the daughter of Lord William and Lady Suzanne. After Matty's mother is slain by the order of Prince John, Lord William is stripped of his wealth. To survive, Lord William teaches Matty the difficult skill of taming and caring for wild birds (at one point, Lasky even narrates dialogue among hawks). Matty is a natural and uses her birds to hunt for food in Sherwood Forest. As Prince John's cruelty mounts, Matty and her friends begin to scheme up ways to help their starving neighbors. They reinvent themselves as the well-known legendary figures of Maid Marian, Robin Hood, and his Merry Men. Although some readers may itch for more romance and thievery, they will admire Matty's courage and tenacity as she, not Robin Hood, cleverly uses her hawks to steal from the rich in this blend of history, legend, and fantasy. Grades 5-8. --Kimberly Garnick

About the Author

Kathryn Lasky is the nationally bestselling author of many books for children and adults, including the Newbery Honor Book *Sugaring Time*; *Elizabeth I* and other popular books in the Royal Diaries series; and the bestselling epic fantasy series *Guardians of Ga'hoole*, which became a major motion picture. In *Guardians of Ga'hoole*, Lasky explores the behavior of owls. Now she uses her extensive research on hawks and the sport of falconry to again render a world that seamlessly blends natural history with fantasy.

The author and her husband, Christopher Knight, live in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and summer on an island off the coast of Maine. There she enjoys watching peregrine falcons soar on the thermal drafts above the cove where she swims.

Users Review

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