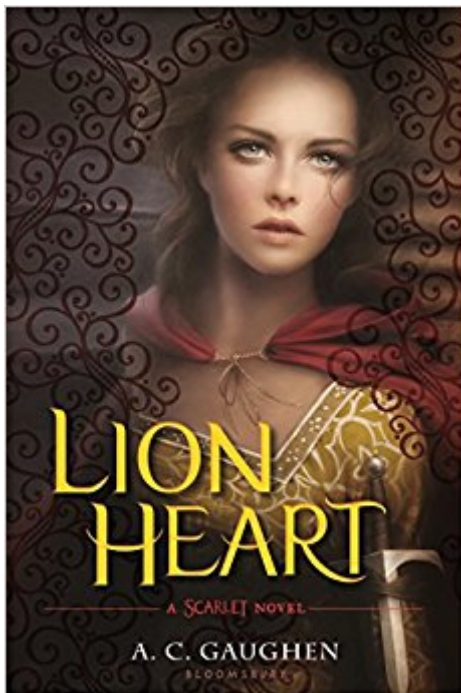


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Lion Heart: A Scarlet Novel



Synopsis

Scarlet has captured the hearts of readers as well as the heart of Robin Hood, and after ceaseless obstacles and countless threats, readers will finally find out the fate of the Lady Thief. Imprisoned by Prince John for months, Scarlet finds herself a long way from Nottinghamshire. After a daring escape from the Prince's clutches, she learns that King Richard's life is in jeopardy, and Eleanor of Aquitaine demands a service Scarlet can't refuse: spy for her and help bring Richard home safe. But fate--and her heart--won't allow her to stay away from Nottinghamshire for long, and together, Scarlet and Rob must stop Prince John from going through with his dark plans for England. They can not rest until he's stopped, but will their love be enough to save them once and for all?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 670 (What's this?)

Series: Scarlet

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA Childrens; Reprint edition (May 31, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1619639289

ISBN-13: 978-1619639287

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 50 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #547,667 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #139 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval](#) #166 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Medieval](#) #487 in [Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Adaptations](#)

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up—In this finale to the "Scarlet" trilogy (Bloomsbury), Marian (aka Scarlet), imprisoned for months by her ruthless uncle Prince John, dares to escape, only to learn that her father's life is in jeopardy. Her grandmother, Eleanor of Aquitaine, asks her to serve as her knife-wielding spy in order to bring King Richard home safely, but Scarlet, now the recently titled Lady Huntingdon, decides that she must return to Nottinghamshire to face her fate and reunite with her true love,

Robin Hood. As with *Scarlet* (2012) and *Lady Thief* (2014), this volume is replete with action and romance, each chapter adding just enough tension to continually engage teens. *Scarlet* once again emerges as a complex, well-developed protagonist, while Rob, Eleanor, and David (her knight protector) are quite well-rounded secondary characters. The action is fast-moving, the dialogue realistic, and the historical details accurately portrayed. While Gaughen admits to having tampered with King Richard's time line in the author's note, she clearly explains how the tale's events and personages fit into their historical context. Potentially difficult vocabulary is elucidated within the prose, and the subplots are masterfully interwoven with the action of the principal story. VERDICT An must-read series conclusion, sure to spark interest in the life and times of Richard the Lionhearted. — Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan, formerly at LaSalle Academy, Providence, RI --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Debut novelist Gaughen does more than offer a rip-roaring tale, though it is that. The story, told in Scar's distinctive first-person voice, captivates and gets readers as deeply into the heart of a troubled girl . . . has plenty for both the romantic and the adventure lover." --"Booklist "on "Scarlet," starred review "A reimagined Robin Hood tale with a distinctive twist." --"RT Book Reviews "on "Scarlet" "Plenty of swashbuckling adventure and a hearty dose of romance power this re-imagining of the legend of Robin Hood." --"School Library Journal "on "Scarlet" Debut novelist Gaughen does more than offer a rip-roaring tale, though it is that. The story, told in Scar's distinctive first-person voice, captivates and gets readers as deeply into the heart of a troubled girl . . . has plenty for both the romantic and the adventure lover.--starred review "Booklist on SCARLET "

I wasn't ready to say goodbye to the friends I had found in these pages. Whether it was the side characters, who I surprisingly teared up for more than once, or Rob and Scar, they all stood out and became unforgettable. Each of them helped make this trilogy my favorite retelling of Robin Hood ever! But I do have a warning, that ending left me wanting so much more! But regardless of the ending, if you're looking for a series that is filled with action, adventure, love, honor, and friendship then this is your book! We started out the story with Scar in prison, guarded by a new character David. Let it be known, that I absolutely adored David! He accompanied Scar on her journey, after her escape from Prince John's imprisonment, and his interaction with another character had he laughing so hard! The banter between David and this other character, who shall not be named, made me feel as though they were falling for each other. But their conflicts, banter, and secret moments were left unanswered. And I so wish that it would have been explained and touched

upon. But as their journey progressed, something was blatantly missing. Rob. My heart ached for Rob and Scar to meet up and be back together again! I just wanted them to have another kiss, another stolen moment, another time where they could be happy. And ohhhhhh what I got was SO much more than I ever could have wanted. I was beyond ecstatic with how Scar and Rob's love transformed and those scenes were definitely my favorite moments in this book. Both of them were brave, fearless when needed, and brought so much good into the world that they deserved each other. They were the best pairing I have ever seen in a Robin Hood story! But even though this is my favorite Robin Hood retelling, and I loved Rob and Scar together, that ending left so much to be desired for. It felt as though it was rushed, and I was left wanting more resolutions. Repercussions I wanted handed out didn't exist, and I was left feeling a little nervous over Rob and Scar's future. And then there was a death that was lost in the shuffle, which made me so very sad. So I closed this book feeling utterly conflicted. Because Lion Heart was a solid 5 until those last few chapters. Saying all of that, this series was still phenomenal. It had a kick ass heroine, a sexy as sin hero, and action that dropped my stomach! These books were so much fun! Yet if you're like me and prefer your endings a little bit more tied up, then just proceed cautiously. Because knowing what I know now, I'd still read this series all over again!

I really love the Scarlet trilogy! However, the ending of this book was disappointing. While I loved that Scarlet and Rob get married, that's not the end. In the end of the book they are having a huge argument with Prince John (again) and then boom. Its over. One minute there's action and then you think a new chapter will start, but it just ends. There's no epilogue to say anything about King Richard coming home, Scarlet getting to meet her father, the town of Nottingham becoming a happy and prosperous place, or even something about Scarlet and Robin living happily ever after without Prince John ruining their lives. I also wanted to see more of Margery and Winchester after they apparently ran off together to get married (which is a whole plot line that was under developed) I feel like a lot of stuff was just left hanging. It was a very disappointing end to a series I loved.

<http://www.theingobbler.wordpress.com/Think> first impressions are important? You might want to rethink that notion. Endings can make or break you. After all, it's the final, overall impression that you're left with upon leaving the movie theater, or saying goodbye to someone you met for the first time. Sometimes, a terribly boring play can turn out to be not as bad as you thought if it has a crazy good ending, or, conversely, you find out that the guy who seemed nice and charming at first is actually a total weirdo. The same can be said about a book

series. I really enjoyed reading A.C. Gaughen's "Scarlet" trilogy, with its clever retelling of Robin Hood and its unique narrative voice. Unfortunately, the finale was a bit of a let-down, dropping the ball on the original thrill that pervaded the first two installments, and ultimately dampening the trilogy as a whole. The plot was really what brought the whole thing down for me. While it was fast-paced, picking up almost right where we left off at the ending of the second book, "Lady Thief," the storyline was a little too fast-paced. It glances over and speeds through events too quickly, like when Scarlet escapes way too easily within the first chapter or so. By doing so, it renders what would otherwise have been exciting, heart-in-your-throat adventures as inconsequential, leaving readers feeling like not a lot of things of consequence are occurring. The same can be said of the way in which the potential suspense created by Scarlet's secrets (I won't say too much so this remains spoiler-free!) is let up too quickly, stripping the reader of the thrill of being on the knowing side of dramatic irony. In the end, the storyline felt too stagnant and boring, especially toward the middle of the novel, despite the fact that, as a finale, it does wrap things up a little too sweetly, I suppose. That being said, Scarlet's narrative voice remains unique and engaging throughout the novel. The most distinctive characteristic of her voice is its colloquial nature, dropping any pretenses of formality and allowing the reader to get truly up close and personal with our heroine. This, I think, is particularly important with "Lion Heart" given the fact that it's the finale, and so must capture how Scarlet ultimately defeats not only the bad guy, but also the intensely personal fears and insecurities that plagued her throughout the entire series. Being made privy to her thoughts and emotions during this process continues to foster a strong bond between the protagonist and the reader, and I was rooting for a happy ending for her until the very end. As for the other characters in the series, there wasn't much to surprise readers. There were no exciting twists or developments, and instead, they remained reliably themselves till the ending. Rob remains Rob, gallant and devoted to Scarlet and the people, and the really annoying Prince John stays the, well, really annoying, childish Prince John. If there had been more variety within the characters themselves, some change or complexity that makes them even more dynamic, it would've been a much more exciting finale. I suppose given the developments that had occurred over the course of the previous two installments, it's more convenient to let the characters stay as they were, but, as they always say, there's always room for change. All in all, "Lion Heart" was a decent ending to an otherwise thrilling, clever trilogy that's a retelling of Robin Hood. While the

finale did succumb to the potential dangers of stagnation that comes with being the
“wrap-up” novel in any series, I’d certainly
recommend the “Scarlet” trilogy to fans of historical fiction or
retellings. Rating: 2.5/5

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