



Rise of the Wolf

Steven A. McKay

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Sir Guy of Gisbourne is back!

Bent on vengeance against Robin Hood and with a turncoat new lieutenant in tow, an unlikely new hero must stand up for herself...

YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND - 1323 AD

The greenwood has been quiet and the outlaws have become complacent, but the harsh reality of life is about to hit the companions with brutal, deadly force thanks to their old foe, Prior John de Monte Martini.

From a meeting with King Edward II himself to the sheriff's tournament with its glittering prize, the final, fatal, showdown fast approaches for the legendary Wolf's Head.

New friends, shattered loyalties, and a hate-fuelled hunter that threatens to wipe out not only Robin's companions but his entire family will all play their part in the RISE OF THE WOLF.

Rise of the Wolf Details

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Author : Steven A. McKay

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From Reader Review Rise of the Wolf for online ebook

Blair Hodgkinson says

While I had already read the print edition of this novel, I also enjoy revisiting some of my favourite tales as audiobooks. I will include my review of the story below, but I wanted to take the opportunity to praise Nick Ellsworth's reading of the novel as well. Ellsworth has narrated all of McKay's novels to date, and his familiarity with the series characters gives him the advantage as he narrates the stories as his voice easily adapts to each of his characters giving each a unique sound. His Friar Tuck and Little John are particularly well trademarked and recognizable and listening to Ellsworth read their lines is like listening to some old friends talking. Keep up the good work, Nick!

Here is the review I gave of the story in its print edition:

Rise Of The Wolf is the third in Steven McKay's Forest Lord series, a cycle of Robin Hood stories that place the legendary outlaw in the time frame of King Edward II, a century later than the age of Richard and John when most writers set the story.

I have enjoyed McKay's stories to date, but this one impressed me on a new level. Without getting into spoilers, the storyline is developed out of specific incidents told in several of the old Robin Hood ballads, but McKay has put a clever twist on a number of the familiar incidents. These twists are not gratuitous, but dovetail nicely with the narratives and character development established in the previous novels, and I was left quite impressed and pleased with the manner in which he pulled this off.

McKay's straight-forward style is consistent and well-suited to his story, but I also observed that there was considerable growth in the scope of his writing with this one. For me, the development of several of the characters showed nicely here, and several characters enjoy an interesting arc here, most especially the relatively minor character of Robin's little sister, Marjorie. We continue to explore the motivations of characters as diverse as King Edward II himself, Matt Groves, Guy of Gisbourne, the young outlaw named Gareth and a cleverly-conceived young monk named Osferth. All take on actions which make sense within the context of their characters; yet however reasoned their actions, the development of their characters also makes it clear why these characters are doomed to find their way into conflict with each other, and sometimes, greatly with themselves. This is good stuff.

I particularly appreciated the growth in Robin as a character in this novel. Thinking back to the character as he appeared in the first book, it would be easy to chart the changes as he navigated the rough river he's been tossed into, growing from inexperienced novice thief to outlaw leader to family man to seasoned warrior over just a short couple of years. This story takes him to new levels which I invite other readers to see for themselves.

As ever, McKay has a firm grip on the action. There are fights and chases, robberies and ruses, murders and executions. The pace is kept steady and steaming and the pages flip past quickly.

I certainly am looking forward to the final installment with anticipation and I will also look forward to following McKay into other periods or genres as he continues to spread his wings as a storyteller.

James Rees says

FANTASTIC

Yet another tremendous read by Mr Steven A McKay, gripped from the 1st page to the last page, non stop action with well told story, intriguing plot with some very good informative chapters of other untouched characters who bring their own to this superb read, as the proud owner of the whole forest lord series to date i can hand on heart say that, this was the best to date, and that says a lot after my high opinions of the previous 2, this book as the rest of the collection is a must read for all fans of historical fiction.

Kathleen says

I was quite pleasantly surprised to find the author remembered that I had asked for more "family time" for the characters. I likely meant more character depth and I happily felt that was the case in book 3. Series often are like that, the readers grow and the characters grow.

The last chapter had a bit more violent deaths than I like but that was the times for sure. The book ended on a good and hopeful note for the family groups.

I will be expecting the sequel and perhaps the book about Friar Tuck.
Great job!

David Baird says

This is the third book in the series and i can honestly say the books go from strength to strength.

A word that springs to mind about this series is "Growth" Not only has each story line improved on the previous one but Steven has managed to grow his characters superbly throughout the series. You can really tell the author has put a lot of time and energy into his work.

In my previous review for The Wolf and the Raven i commented on how i felt some of the characters only played small parts... not in this book. Steven managed to give a lot of the character the word count they deserved and ended up with a cracking story!

This book draws a line under the fight between Robin and Sir Guy and how the story plays out was brilliant. I even had my mouth open wide as i read as the story was that good i couldn't believe what i was reading

Again Steven took risks as with the previous book, things happened i didn't see coming but everything worked and there was a very interesting tale that developed with Robin's sister that i thought brought something extra to this book. It was nice to have more of a family connection throughout this tale.

If you've read my previous reviews you know i'm not one to give away plot details but for me all the events that Steven portrayed fitted so well together i can't think of anything i didn't like. I can imagine it would have taken quite some time to plan the events of this book and i don't think Steven could improve on it one bit, he has made a story that is by far the best I've read in a long time.

I'll definitely be buying these books as a gift for my dad, they are just brilliant and i think anyone who likes Robin Hood or just even enjoys a good tale would love to read them.

My advice.. buy the books.. and keep an eye out for Steven's next book. I for one can't wait to see what he comes up with next.

Leni says

Robin and his trusty friends must face the Raven once more, but this time Gisbourne thinks he's got the upper hand despite the injuries he previously suffered at the outlaw's hand.

McKay expands on our relationship with some key characters in this book, brings previously background players to the fore, and does it all with his engaging writing style and winning protagonists. I'm hopeful this won't be the last we hear of these intriguing almost-real people, especially after the events towards the end of the book. Keep up the excellent work, man!

Jason says

So we now have a trilogy of Robin Hood stories and Rise Of The Wolf "being the third book" in the Forest Lord Series will not be the last. I'm pleased to hear we will have one more final book, but lets not get ahead of ourselves here!

What about Rise Of The Wolf? Well firstly I would like to add that not only has Robin Hood grown as a character but so has Steven A. McKay with his writing.

Robin Hood & friends are ever tested throughout the book, the relentless Sir Guy Of Gisbourne has recovered from his horrendous injuries inflicted on him by Robin and Sir Guy will do everything in his power to destroy not only Robin Hood but also Hoods family.

I loved the development of several characters in the book, there are to many to name here but whether the characters are good or evil makes no difference, they are all likeable in their own way.

The action moves at a steady pace and there are multiple story lines to keep you interested. At times I couldn't turn the pages quick enough in my excitement to find out what was happening to my favourite characters. There are fights, frantic chases across meadows, fields & woodlands, murders, double crossing and an execution to round it all off!

I wait with excitement and anticipation for the fourth and final book in the series.

Robin Carter says

Review

So... always a tough review to write; when the author has been crazy ...sorry kind enough to ask you to be part of the shaping of a book and beta read and feedback your thoughts on the book i find it quite difficult to write a review because i have more than one version swimming around in my head. I think Steven possibly deep down regretted asking me this time, i took the gloves off because it was book 3 in the series and book 4 over all and i think by the time i was done he felt like he had gone a few rounds with Gisbourne himself (sorry Steven).

For anyone who is ever lucky enough to be asked to get involved in something like this i highly recommend doing this because its very interesting and highly rewarding, especially when the author listens. I never think you can take credit for anything in the final draft, but you can feel some joy in little snippets you can see your quill dipped in.

read the rest of the review <https://parmenionbooks.wordpress.com/...>

Paul Bennett says

Just when things are such that Robin can spend time with his family, old and dangerous foes combine forces and the Wolf and his band of outlaws find themselves facing their greatest challenge to survive. This is the third volume in The Forest Lord series and it is a continuation of the excellence exhibited in the first two. The author has given us a tale that is hard to put down, filled with riveting action and tense drama. The characters shine throughout, from the ebullient Tuck, the imposing presence of John Little, the unrelenting stare of Will Scarlett, the love and devotion of Matilda (Robin's wife) and the coming of age of Marjorie (Robin's sister). There are also the dramatic twists of plot and fate of some who live and die in a hard and cruel world. I will not engage in spoilers so you'll have to believe me when I say there is some sorrow involved but like I said, it was a hard existence being an outlaw. Well, okay one spoiler, the author has promised a fourth volume. :-) 5 stars

Richard R., Martin says

Steven McKay does it again. The third book in the Forest Lord series is the best and I can't wait for the fourth and final book. The author takes the familiar Robin Hood stories and characters and then fleshes everything out. It is set during the reign of Edward II rather than Richard I. What is so great about this series but especially this third book is that the Steven McKay is giving all our main characters back stories and side stories which help us to understand their motives and actions. Three cheers for Robin Hood.

Blair Hodgkinson says

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McKay has put a clever twist on a number of the familiar incidents. These twists are not gratuitous, but dovetail nicely with the narratives and character development established in the previous novels, and I was left quite impressed and pleased with the manner in which he pulled this off.

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Heather says

There are three books so far in the Forest Lord Series - Wolf's Head, The Wolf and the Raven and Rise of the Wolf. I first found this series in 2014 and have waited patiently as each book was published. I was always interested in Robin Hood stories, starting when I was a child, so it was natural when I found these books to want to read them as well.

It is great to see Robin, Little John, Friar Tuck and all the other familiar characters come alive in these books. There is never a dull moment from the beginning of the book to the very end. Sir Guy of Gisbourne as the King's man, trying to apprehend the outlaws, always keeps you wondering what will happen next.

I was delighted that the third book in this series Rise of the Wolf was published on July 31, 2015. It was a great companion as I travelled home from a holiday. Time passed very quickly, following Robin and his merry men and their adventures.

I would definitely recommend these books by Steven A. McKay and was delighted to find that there will be one more book in the future!!

Bianca Schäfer says

Ein würdiger, dritter Teil

Robin Hood und seine Männer glauben nun ein Leben in Frieden und Freiheit führen zu können. doch dann kehrt ihr Erzfeind zurück: Guy of Gisborne. Und er hat Rache geschworen an den Wolf's Heads.

Wie bereits in den ersten beiden Bänden orientiert sich der Autor Steven A. McKay an den klassischen Geschichten über Robin Hood. Allerdings bekommen sie bei ihm einen realistischen Rahmen. Das Leben der Gesetzlosen ist geprägt von Gewalt, Armut und Furcht. In einem von Krieg und Hungersnöten zerrütteten Land kämpfen die Männer für Gerechtigkeit und ihr Überleben.

Der Schreibstil ist flüssig und auch im Original gut verständlich. Die Story ist temporeich und voller Action. Ich habe diesem Buch entgegengefiebert und konnte sein Erscheinen kaum erwarten. Der Autor hat es geschafft, sein Niveau zu halten und eine wunderbare, historische Serie geschaffen. Leider ist die Reihe nun beendet. Schade, aber schön war's.

Chris says

As a guy who shoots English Warbows for a hobby and a big fan of HF novels, every novel that has a connection with Robin Hood and medieval archery immediately sparks my interest.

Of course Robin Hood is a character that already has truckloads of films and books on his palmares, and Robin and his crew have been (alongside King arthur and his knights) Englands most popular heroes for the last 700 years, but still, a good writer can find enough angles to the Robin Hood legend to avoid the well trodden paths and cliché's.

I like Steven A. Mc Kays refreshing approach to Robin Hood in his Forest lord series

Stevens Robin Hood is not a disgraced earls son, reclaiming his heritage that was unjustly taken from him, and all of the romantic hubub that goes with that. He is Robin Hood back to basics, and the basics of the Earliest Robin Hood balads. Robin is a yeoman. Country bumpkin, farmers class... You know the kind.. the big strong guys from the outback who know the forest, and know how to poach and how to hunt. As a city slicker you don't want to get into a tavern brawl with those. Following these roots, the author gets him the local village beauty as his wife, not a countess or a rich heiress (in distress).

McKay takes the liberty to put the whole Robin Hood plot into a lancastrian rebellion setting, and thus out of the well trodden paths of evil king John and Richard the Lioheart, but instead we get – a younger- Edward II Longshanks as the king. Excellent choice I think. And, just like in the early balads we're playing out the legend not in Sherwood, but in Barnsdale forest,

Rise of the wolf is the third novel in the Forest Lord series.

After years, Robin and his gang are still out in the forest as outlaws, and that hard life in the open and the constant pressure of being on the edge all of the time slowly is taking its toll. Despite of them being lords of the forest they are not free, and they are still hunted by the Sheriff and Guy of Gisborne. Tuck cannot stand the pressure anymore and breaks free of the band. In the previous novel of the series 'The Wolf and the Raven' Robin and his gang already made a dash at a pardon to lift their outlaw status and return home to their villages, but they backed the wrong side of the Lancastrian rebellion, and ended up even worse.

Will they find a way to be free to live a normal life again in the 'Rise of the Wolf'? ". It is one of the undercurrents of this novel. Robin isn't after saving the world or pursuing high ideals. All he just wants is to be happy with his wife and kid. But he is a formidable foe. Cunning and lethal. If you attack him or anyone he holds dear, just like a Wolf, he bites, and he bites hard. To me this makes him a credible hero.

Steven A. Mc Kay is a gifted talespinner Apart from the vivid and lively action and adventure, he also paints his characters with care, goodies as well as baddies. Rise of the Wolf has some very nice individual sideplots to the general storyline that Steven cleverly interlocks into the major events .

And of course there is the stuff of the legend.

We have the early balad of Robin and the Monk here. Steven A. Mc Kay combines that with the fairly late ballad of Robin Hood and the Golden Arrow, and blends it all seamlessly into the rest of the narrative fabric that unfolds before the eyes of reader in that pretty straight-forward style I like in Steven A. Mc Kays writing. The pace is kept steady and steaming and the pages flip past quickly, which made it nigh impossible for me to put down once I started it.

I really devoured `Rise of the Wolf' to the last crumb, and am already looking forward to the next one l. On the extensive Robin Hood menu chart, the Forest Lord series is a very welcome addition. I think that with this third consecutive superb writing preformance in the series Steven A. Mc Kay has firmly cemented his own ` no nonsense- back to basics Robin Hood' into position on the board.

As a fellow archer, this Robin Hood is a guy I would rather happily drink a few pints with after a shoot.

which of course he wins

Simon Howard says

Robin and his men once again face the Raven, who due to his injuries has become not only more unhinged but also more determined to stop Robin and with the appearance of an old adversary of the The outlaw gang this time he might just do it!

The classic tale of Robin Hood gets a breath of fresh and original air as the story is told from different perspectives. Fast paced, great action scenes, laugh out loud funny in places and making me cheer out loud in at least one place...this is truly a great read, that gives you not only a real sense of the time period but also of the man behind the legend!

Pat G. says

I absolutely loved RISE OF THE WOLF.

Robin Hood is wishing he could live a normal life with his wife Matilda and his son Arthur. But he is still a Wolf's Head, an outlaw who still has to return to the forest after visits with his family. Sir Guy of Gisbourne was still pursuing Robin and his men. Gisbourne also known as the Raven had lost an eye and had the side of his face scarred from his last skirmish with Robin and would never give up pursuing Robin. He definitely wanted revenge.

At the same time Tuck decides to return to the monastery for a quieter life. He would take with him a priceless relic which he hoped would make him welcome there.

This book moves at a fast pace and is exciting and fun. Fantastic read!!!
