



Will in Scarlet

By Matthew Cody

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This reimagining of the Robin Hood legend tells the story of the young boy behind the bandit hero's rise to fame.

Will Shackley is the son of a lord, and though just thirteen, he's led a charmed, protected life and is the heir to Shackley House, while his father is away on the Third Crusade with King Richard the Lionheart.

But with King Richard's absence, the winds of treason are blowing across England, and soon Shackley House becomes caught up in a dangerous power struggle that drives Will out of the only home he's ever known. Alone, he flees into the dangerous Sherwood Forest, where he joins an elusive gang of bandits readers will immediately recognize.

How Will helps a drunkard named Rob become one of the most feared and revered criminals in history is a swashbuckling ride perfect for anyone who loves heroes, villains, and adventure.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6–8—Cody's novel (Knopf, 2013) is a vivid reimagining of the Robin Hood legend. Most notably, Will Scarlet is not a grown man but a teen from a privileged background. Also new is a clever teenage girl who goes by Much the Miller's Son because she's passing herself off as a boy. Will's manor house is taken over when his uncle is murdered by the cold-blooded Guy of Gisborne. Will's mother escapes to France, and Will is taken hostage by the merry men. Persuaded to invade the manor for treasure, the merry men are unaware Will is bent on revenge. The attempted heist leads to a series of adventures and capers with a wonderful cast of characters including Milo the stable boy and Crooked, the leader of a rival gang of outlaws. Maxwell Caulfield fully voices the characters, doing a fine job with Will's French-accented mother and a toothless member of the merry men. As a bonus, Caulfield's conversational style helps smooth over some places where the author repeats or overemphasizes points to ensure the audience is following the plot. Though traditionalists may take issue with the retelling—Will Scarlet gets the credit for giving to the poor—overall this is a good adventure story with a colorful cast.—C.A. Fehmel, St. Louis County Library, MO

From [Booklist](#)

It's 1192, and 13-year-old Will Shackley wants to leave his mischievous boyhood behind and prove himself. His father, the lord of Shackley Manor, followed King Richard to the Crusades. Now the manor is threatened by Sir Guy, Prince John's representative. After wounding Sir Guy's manservant with a sword, Will becomes an outlaw and flees to Sherwood Forest, taking the name Will Scarlet. He joins a ragtag band of thieves and, bent on revenge, throws himself into adventures that force him to face hard truths and figure out where his path lies. Cody gradually draws Will's story into the framework of Robin Hood lore, but he lets the characters develop as individuals, with their own backstories and concerns, rather than figures playing stock roles on the stage of legend. The cartoonlike simplicity of the jacket art is at odds with the darker, more nuanced tenor of the writing. As the narrative progresses, the pace and dramatic intensity pick up. Cody offers a rewarding historical novel with the appealing possibility of more to come featuring Will and his companions. Grades 4–7. --Carolyn Phelan

Review

School Library Journal, October 2013:

"Where the story really shines is in the fully developed characters... [an] action-packed and thoughtful adventure story."

Booklist, October 15, 2013:

"Cody offers a rewarding historical novel with the appealing possibility of more to come featuring Will and his companions."

Starred Review, The Bulletin, November 2013:

"Rich characterization..."

The Horn Book, January/February 2014:

"Fans of John Flanagan's Ranger's Apprentice series will find plenty to like here: lots of action, witty repartee, and an immediate style that will draw readers into the story."

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Matthew Ibarra:

As people who live in often the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or data even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is certainly always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe may update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which you should start with. This Will in Scarlet is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Filiberto Dacosta:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information presently can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a problem. What people must be consider while those information which is inside the former life are challenging be find than now could be taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you get it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen in you if you take Will in Scarlet as the daily resource information.

Michael Wheeler:

This Will in Scarlet is great guide for you because the content that is full of information for you who also always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it info accurately using great arrange word or we can claim no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Will in Scarlet in your hand like having the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no guide that offer you world with ten or fifteen moment right but this publication already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt that?

David Fern:

Is it you who having spare time in that case spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just resting on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Will in Scarlet can be the reply, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

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