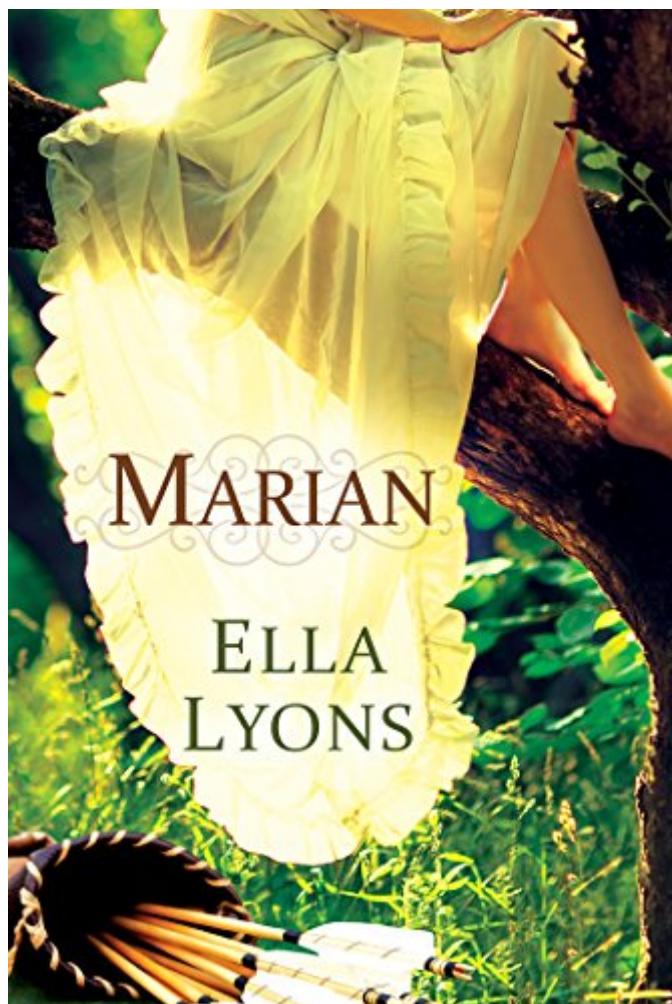


The book was found

Marian



Synopsis

Life changes for Marian Banner when she leaves the countryside for the big city of Nottingham with her father, Sir Erik the Fortunate, and Marian doesn't think it's an improvement. She must trade braids and leggings for jewelry and dresses, and hunting and wandering the woods for dancing and a life at court. But into Marian's dull new world comes someone exciting—a girl named Robin Hood who is as courageous and dedicated as she is small. Robin is determined to become a knight, and she won't let her gender stand in her way. The two girls quickly become inseparable. Their friendship changes as time passes and becomes something much more serious—and more magical. When Marian's father is killed and the king takes an interest in her, she'll need Robin to prove she's the hero she always wanted to be.

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Customer Reviews

(Originally posted on my blog) So, I was lucky enough to get my copy early (this is why you preorder, folks!), and it is just as pretty in person as I thought it would be. Really, if you know me,

probably all I need to say about this book is that it's an F/F Robin Hood retelling centered on Marian as she journeys with her father to become a member of the King's court. We all know I'm a definite fan of retellings, and this one is done so well, you call. It doesn't keep to the exact history of the legend, though considering how many versions of the legend there are, that still works for me LOL. In any case, it absolutely does keep to the spirit of the tale, with Marian trying to subtly maneuver around King John's mistreatment of his people while a redheaded lady Robin is off training to be a knight in the king's army prior to the big moment which sets her up as the "criminal" we all know and love to cheer on. Marian in particular held my heart so tight, you call. She's doing the best she can with the limitations of her birth, sex, and station in life, and even when she thinks it might not be enough, she keeps striving onwards and upwards to help other people. I just heart her so much. So so much! I'm sure I could babble on about this book for another 500 words or more, but really, you just need to read it. It is just utterly darling. Looking forward to the sequel!!

This feels silly to say, but this book changed my life. I love Robin Hood. Have tracked down every version of the story I can, researched the historical origins of the legend (my favorites involve the ones where Robin was a pagan and a witch), dreamt of writing my own modern adaptation, and have written papers about the relevance of the Robin Hood story as long as we live in a culture where the rich oppress and exploit the poor, written about why it's such an enduring and important myth. I'm also a bisexual woman who never finds enough queer fiction, especially historical, and this book is everything I have ever wanted. And then it was better. It's excellently and engagingly written, with characters that resonate so deeply with the reader that you can't help but be caught up, unable to put it down. It's an amazing perspective on Robin Hood, one that could only be told from the view of a woman and one I haven't seen before. It's very well done historical fiction, and it's absolutely wonderful as a story of two girls finding themselves and falling in love. It's ragingly feminist in the best possible way, showing how women defy gender roles and expectations no matter the era, but also how they use and weaponize the roles forced upon them by society. I read it on the kindle and didn't realize it was ending and then felt like I couldn't breathe until I found the author's twitter and saw that she was working on the sequel. Please read this book. You don't need to be a giant Robin Hood nerd like me to love every single thing about it and it, and the author, deserve legions of fans supporting them.

Originally posted on my blog (reviewsreadathons.wordpress.com). This novella is a retelling, but it's also an origin story. The book follows Marian, the much fabled love of Robin Hood. When the story begins, she's only fourteen and through tragic circumstances, is rushed to the court of Nottingham, where she becomes a favorite of King John. While in Nottingham, she meets another young girl, the daughter of farmers, with amazing red hair and a fiery spirit. This girl's name is Robin Hood. Thus begins one of the greatest stories of love and adventure ever told. Other beloved characters from the original legend also make appearances, including Little John, Marian's childhood friend, and Friar Tuck makes a small appearance (or is at least spoken of). I really enjoyed reading this novella. The characters are well-developed from Marian's yearning to be an independent woman, to Robin's spirit and desire to grow up to be a knight. Turning Robin into a woman, and turning their love story into a lesbian romance, was also a welcome change. Being inside Marian's head (told from her point of view in the third person) as she initially questions her feelings for Robin, then gives into them, provided some beautiful passages of prose. Their relationship isn't perfect or easy, but it is beautiful and sweet in its own right, and refreshingly realistic. This book also really made me think about the role of women in this time period and our society today, and how little it's really changed. Marian is attacked multiple times throughout the novel by men (trigger warnings), and her inability to defend herself is a theme for a short while (though I do wish it would've been explored more). She also has no desire to marry, which wouldn't have been allowed in this time period, and she wants so badly to rebel against her place in society, and does in interesting ways. Overall, this novella was a quick, interesting read. I loved the strong female characters and the romance. Be forewarned, though, that the book ends just as you feel like the "real" story is beginning. I'm very hopeful that this is the first in a series, as I would definitely read about any adventures that Robin and Marian undertake from here, especially as they build the band of merry men (or women?) and take on King John.

As a sapphic woman, I'm constantly on the look out for f/f fiction, and in my perpetual cruising, I've noticed a trend that drives me up a wall. In so many cases, authors seem to think that two girls that are into each other are only going to stutter and be awkward and let a lot of long silences stretch on while blushing happens and it makes me want to DIE. This book, bless its every refreshing page, actually writes Marian and Robin as people that get along FLUIDLY without any WEIRDNESS and it's just SUCH a relief. I enjoyed this book SO much and found myself pining for more once I was finished. I really hope the next installment comes out soon!!

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