

APPENDICES

Synopsis of Ivanhoe

This story is set in England in the 12th century. It tells of a nobleman, Wilfred of Ivanhoe, who fights to restore his name and the crown of England. At that time, King Richard (the Lion-hearted) had become prisoner in Austria after his return from Crusade abroad. In his absence, his brother Prince John assumed the country's duties, and schemes to seize the throne for himself.

The Saxon noble Cedric, the father of Ivanhoe, is a strong supporter of Saxon heritage and rights. He throws out his son when he falls in love with Cedric's ward, the Lady Rowena. Cedric hopes to give her in marriage to Athelstane to form a powerful Saxon alliance. Ivanhoe goes to fight with King Richard, and is next seen as the masked victor at Ashby-de-la-Zhouche tournament. He is wounded during the tournament, but the Jewess Rebecca and her father Isaac take him in. Rebecca is a practicing healer, and she takes good care of him. She also falls in love with him, but he resists her urges.

Among Prince John's men are Maurice De Bracy, the mercenary knight; Front-de-Boeuf, vassal of Prince John; and Brian de Bois-Guilbert, the knight Templar. De Bracy is interested in Lady Rowena, so he and his men take her and her family

prisoner. Bois-Guilbert aids De Bracy in this evil endeavor because he wants to capture Rebecca, who is also with them. They take the cavalcade, which consists of Cedric, Athelstane, Rowena, Rebecca and the wounded Ivanhoe to Torquilstone, Front-de-Boeuf's castle.

King Richard, who appears at the tournament under the name of Black Knight, meets up with Friar Tuck and Robin Hood's men, and he aids them in their plan to take Torquilstone castle and free the prisoners. Torquilstone is besieged, and after a long and hard struggle, the castle is finally captured. Front-de-Boeuf's meets his death in the burning castle, De Bracy is taken prisoner, and Bois-Guilbert escapes with Rebecca. During a scuffle over Rebecca (whom he mistakes for Rowena), Athelstane is killed. Later, King Richard spares De Bracy and De Bracy goes to France after ending his alliance with Prince John.

Bois-Guilbert takes Rebecca to Templestowe, the headquarters of the Templars. Unfortunately, the group's Grand Master returns, and is very angry about the Templar's sinful behavior. He accuses Rebecca of sorcery, and sentences her to death. Her only hope is that a knight will challenge the Templars and Bois-Guilbert, who has agreed to testify and fight opposite her cause. Rebecca gets a message out to Ivanhoe, who is attending Athelstane's funeral. King Richard tells Cedric that he should be reconciled to his son, and just after Cedric agrees that Ivanhoe and Rowena may marry, Athelstane appears. He is not dead, but nearly buried alive by priests greedy for the funeral money. Fortunately for Ivanhoe, Athelstane does not fight for Rowena, moreover he also renounces his interest in Rowena in favor of Ivanhoe. Shortly after, Ivanhoe leaves to save Rebecca.

At the Templars' headquarters, Ivanhoe fights Bois-Guilbert. The Templar dies, not from battle, but from his own wild passions. Rebecca is free, and Ivanhoe and Rowena marry. Rebecca expresses her gratitude to the happy Lady Ivanhoe before leaving with her father for Grenada. Ivanhoe lives a happy life with his wife, and goes on to do more of the King's work. Richard arrests many of Prince John's men, and has some put to death but he does nothing to his brother, who eventually comes into power after Richard dies in battle.

Biography of Sir Walter Scott

Sir Walter Scott was born in 1771 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was born into a middle-class family, and soon took sick at the age of two. To help cure what is thought to have been infantile paralysis, Scott and his family moved into the country. In the picturesque countryside of his forefathers, Scott learned Scottish legends, ballads, and stories from his grandfather. These glimpses of the past would be a tool for Scott's fiction later in life.

An avid reader, Scott loved Pope, Dryden, Swift, Johnson, Spenser, and Cervantes. He was affected by stories of knights and castles, even venturing to explore the ruins of ancient castles himself. While intensifying his interest in stories about the past, Scott also studied to become a lawyer. But he would soon be a published writer, and that would occupy nearly the rest of his life.

Scott's first published work was a translation of a German poet in 1796. Three years later he made a translation of Goethe, but it was The Lay of the Last Minstrel in 1805 which was his first original book of poems. The year it was published he

became a secret partner in the Border Press, which would allow him to keep more of the profit from his books. His first novel, Waverly, which was published in 1814, gained big profit. The anonymous publication was an immediate success, and Scott decided to keep his identity as author secret, both to secure his reputation as a poet, and to delight his mysterious side. His next novels were published under a pen name “the Great Unknown”. This included Ivanhoe, which is published in 1820. Scott kept mostly to Scotland for inspiration, but with Ivanhoe he shifted his focus to thirteenth-century England and a possible conflict between the ruling and ruled classes there. This novel became one of his masterpieces.

Scott's good fortune was to end in 1825 with the bankruptcy of the Border Press because of his financial problem which had begun since 1813. Still, his popularity remained as great as ever until his death in 1832. Unwilling to sell off his home to help pay the debt, Scott decided instead to write. He wrote to help pay off the debt, writing thirty pages a day and spending nearly all the rest of his life in labor. By 1831, the debt was nearly all paid.

Sir Walter Scott's influence in literature has been profound. He was a poet, critic, historian, biographer, and editor. Although best known for his historical novel, Scott really was the brilliant man of letters he aspired to be.