

*Hawksmaid*

Kathryn Lasky

Reviewed by: Courtney Cheng, 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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After Sir Guy of Gisborne attacked Lord William Fitzwalter's castle, the daughter of the lord, Matty, is left without a mother. With the castle and their previous lives in shambles, Matty and her father learn to get by with help from Lord Fitzwalter's falcons. In these times of poverty and terror, Matty learns the noble art of falconry from her father and finds solace through spending time with their falcons. As the sheriff of Nottingham continues to take power, Matty and her friend, Fynn, become more and more determined to restore the rightful king to the throne. The two teens form their group of Merry Men complete with alternate identities, Maid Marian and Robin Hood, to sneak about without getting caught. The Merry Men rob from the rich, give to the poor, and work towards saving the king, even when one of their own becomes a captive to the enemy.

*Hawksmaid* is a wonderfully written novel aimed at 7<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade readers. For anyone interested in historical fiction books, this book would be the perfect gift. *Hawksmaid* incorporates an intimate knowledge of falcons and falconry in such a way as to not hinder the plot development, but to allow for optimal understanding of each event that takes place. The fictional parts of the novel are interwoven so well with the historical facts that it becomes believable that everything in history happened the way Lasky wrote it. The story has a bit of interest for everyone; there's adventure, suspense, history, and romance. *Hawksmaid* is definitely a book I would purchase for myself and suggest to friends, especially girls who have always been a bit more of a tomboy than a princess.