

the black arrow robert louis stevenson

The Enduring Allure of The Black Arrow by Robert Louis Stevenson

the black arrow robert louis stevenson is a captivating historical adventure novel that continues to enchant readers more than a century after its publication. Unlike some of Stevenson's other more famous works like *Treasure Island* or *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *The Black Arrow* offers a unique blend of medieval romance, political intrigue, and swashbuckling action set against the backdrop of the Wars of the Roses in 15th century England. This lesser-known gem showcases Stevenson's mastery of storytelling and his ability to transport readers into a vividly imagined past filled with honor, betrayal, and heroism.

The Historical Setting of The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson

The Black Arrow is set during one of England's most tumultuous periods, the Wars of the Roses, a series of dynastic conflicts between the houses of Lancaster and York that shaped the future of the nation. Stevenson's choice of this era provides a rich tapestry for exploring themes of loyalty, justice, and the struggle for power. The novel's protagonist, Richard Shelton, is a young nobleman caught in the middle of these violent political upheavals. Through Richard's eyes, readers experience the tension and uncertainty of the time, as well as the personal dilemmas faced by those trying to navigate shifting alliances.

Stevenson's meticulous attention to historical detail lends authenticity to the story. From descriptions of medieval castles and battles to the social customs of the period, *The Black Arrow* immerses readers in a world that feels both distant and immediate. This historical grounding enhances the drama and makes the novel more than just an adventure tale—it becomes a window into a fascinating chapter of English history.

Why Historical Accuracy Matters in The Black Arrow

Historical accuracy in historical fiction like *The Black Arrow* is crucial not only for believability but also for educational value. Stevenson's use of real historical events and figures, albeit fictionalized, helps readers gain insights into the complexities of medieval England. It also sparks interest in history among young readers and adults alike, encouraging further exploration beyond the novel itself.

Plot and Themes: What Makes The Black Arrow Stand Out

At its core, *The Black Arrow* is a story of revenge and redemption. Richard Shelton's

journey begins when his family estate is seized by the treacherous Sir Daniel Brackley. Driven by a desire to reclaim his inheritance and restore his honor, Richard joins a band of outlaws led by the mysterious “Black Arrow,” who resist tyranny and fight for justice. Along the way, he encounters love, danger, and moral challenges that test his courage and integrity.

The novel explores several enduring themes:

- **Honor and Chivalry:** Richard embodies the chivalric ideals of bravery, loyalty, and fairness, which are constantly challenged by the harsh realities of war and politics.
- **Betrayal and Loyalty:** The shifting allegiances and secret schemes highlight the fragile nature of trust in a world ruled by ambition.
- **Justice and Revenge:** The quest for justice drives much of the narrative, raising questions about the cost of vengeance and the possibility of forgiveness.

These themes resonate with readers because they reflect universal human struggles, making the story timeless and relatable.

Character Development in The Black Arrow

One of the novel’s strengths lies in its well-drawn characters. Richard Shelton is not just a heroic figure; he is portrayed with depth and humanity, grappling with fear, doubt, and love. Supporting characters like Joanna Sedley, the strong-willed heroine, and the enigmatic Black Arrow add layers of complexity and intrigue to the narrative. This character-driven approach ensures that the adventures and battles are not just exciting but emotionally engaging.

The Literary Style and Impact of The Black Arrow

Robert Louis Stevenson

Stevenson’s writing style in *The Black Arrow* combines clarity with vivid imagery, making the novel accessible to readers of all ages. His descriptive passages conjure up atmospheric settings—from dense forests to gloomy castles—while his fast-paced dialogue and action scenes keep the momentum brisk. The balance between detailed narrative and suspenseful plotting is a hallmark of Stevenson’s literary talent.

The Influence of Stevenson’s Adventure Novels

The Black Arrow fits neatly within Stevenson’s legacy as a pioneer of the adventure genre. His novels have inspired countless authors and filmmakers, contributing to the popular

imagination of heroic quests and historical adventures. The Black Arrow, although not as widely adapted as Treasure Island, has been translated into multiple languages and adapted for stage and screen, underscoring its enduring popularity.

Reading The Black Arrow Today: Tips and Insights

For modern readers interested in historical fiction or classic adventure tales, The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson offers a rewarding experience. Here are some tips to enhance your reading:

1. **Familiarize Yourself with the Wars of the Roses:** A brief overview of this historical period can deepen your appreciation of the novel's context.
2. **Pay Attention to Character Motivations:** Understanding the complex loyalties and personal stakes enriches the story's emotional impact.
3. **Enjoy the Language:** While the prose is relatively straightforward, some older expressions reflect the Victorian era; reading aloud or discussing with others can bring the text to life.
4. **Explore Adaptations:** Watching film or stage versions can provide new perspectives on the story and its themes.

Engaging with The Black Arrow as both an adventure and a historical narrative allows readers to appreciate Stevenson's craft and the novel's place in literary history.

Where to Find The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson

Thanks to its public domain status, The Black Arrow is freely available through many online platforms such as Project Gutenberg, Google Books, and various eBook retailers. Physical copies remain in print, often included in collections of Stevenson's works or classic literature anthologies. This accessibility ensures that new generations can discover this thrilling tale of medieval England.

The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson remains a shining example of historical adventure fiction, blending action, romance, and history into a narrative that continues to captivate. Whether you are a longtime fan of Stevenson or new to his work, this novel offers an engaging journey back to a time of knights, castles, and daring exploits.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Black Arrow' by Robert Louis Stevenson about?

'The Black Arrow' is a historical adventure novel by Robert Louis Stevenson set during the Wars of the Roses in 15th-century England. It follows the story of a young nobleman, Richard Shelton, who becomes involved with a group of outlaws known as the Black Arrow as he seeks justice and navigates political intrigue.

When was 'The Black Arrow' by Robert Louis Stevenson published?

'The Black Arrow' was first published in 1888 as a serialized story before being released as a complete novel.

Who is the main protagonist in 'The Black Arrow'?

The main protagonist of 'The Black Arrow' is Richard Shelton, a young nobleman who is disinherited and later joins the outlaws to reclaim his rights and seek justice.

What historical period does 'The Black Arrow' depict?

'The Black Arrow' is set during the Wars of the Roses, a series of civil wars for the English throne fought between the houses of Lancaster and York in the 15th century.

How does 'The Black Arrow' reflect Robert Louis Stevenson's writing style?

The novel showcases Stevenson's signature adventurous storytelling, vivid character development, and fast-paced narrative, blending historical detail with thrilling action and moral themes.

Has 'The Black Arrow' been adapted into films or other media?

Yes, 'The Black Arrow' has been adapted into several films and television productions, including a 1948 Hollywood movie and various stage adaptations, highlighting its enduring popularity.

What themes are explored in 'The Black Arrow' by Robert Louis Stevenson?

The novel explores themes such as loyalty, justice, revenge, honor, and the struggle between good and evil, set against a backdrop of political conflict and social upheaval.

Additional Resources

The Enduring Legacy of *The Black Arrow* by Robert Louis Stevenson

the black arrow robert louis stevenson remains a lesser-known yet fascinating work attributed to one of the most celebrated authors of Victorian literature. While Robert Louis Stevenson is primarily famed for classics such as *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *The Black Arrow* occupies a unique niche in his literary corpus. It offers readers a historical adventure set during the tumultuous period of the Wars of the Roses in 15th-century England. This article delves into the nuances of *The Black Arrow*, exploring its thematic depth, historical context, literary significance, and the reasons it has maintained a dedicated readership over time.

Historical Context and Setting

The Black Arrow, published posthumously in 1888, is a historical novel that centers around the English civil conflict between the Houses of Lancaster and York. Stevenson situates his narrative amidst the chaos of the Wars of the Roses, a series of dynastic battles that shaped England's political landscape in the late Middle Ages. This period setting is crucial to understanding the novel's thematic concerns and character motivations.

Unlike many historical novels of the 19th century that romanticize medieval chivalry, *The Black Arrow* presents a grittier, more complex depiction of loyalty, betrayal, and ambition. Stevenson's portrayal of this epoch reflects a nuanced grasp of its political intrigue and social upheaval. The story's backdrop enriches the adventure, grounding it in a realistic portrayal of medieval England's fractured loyalties.

The Novel's Place in Stevenson's Oeuvre

While Stevenson's *Treasure Island* revolutionized the adventure genre with its swashbuckling excitement and memorable characters, *The Black Arrow* adopts a somewhat more serious tone. It combines elements of a historical romance with a coming-of-age narrative, tracing the journey of its protagonist, Richard Shelton. The young man's evolution from a naïve nobleman to a seasoned survivor encapsulates the broader themes of identity and morality.

The Black Arrow is often overshadowed by Stevenson's more commercially successful works. However, literary critics acknowledge its significance in showcasing Stevenson's versatility as a writer. The novel's structure and pacing demonstrate his skill in weaving suspenseful plots while maintaining a reflective exploration of human nature.

Themes and Literary Devices

One of the central themes in *The Black Arrow* is the conflict between personal honor and

political allegiance. Richard Shelton's struggles mirror the larger turmoil engulfing England, highlighting the tension between individual ethics and societal expectations. Stevenson employs this theme to question the true nature of loyalty, especially in times of civil war.

The motif of the black arrow itself symbolizes both vengeance and justice, serving as a narrative device to drive much of the plot's action. It is emblematic of the shadowy forces at play—secret societies, hidden agendas, and the blurred lines between heroism and villainy.

Stevenson's use of language is another notable aspect. His descriptive passages bring medieval landscapes and battles to vivid life, while dialogue reveals the complexity of his characters. The narrative's pacing balances moments of high adventure with introspective episodes, ensuring reader engagement without sacrificing depth.

Character Development and Interpersonal Dynamics

Richard Shelton's character arc is central to the novel's impact. Initially caught between loyalty to his family and a desire for justice, he embodies the moral ambiguity prevalent in the Wars of the Roses. Through encounters with various figures—including the enigmatic Sir Daniel Brackley and the courageous Joanna Sedley—Richard's worldview expands, reflecting themes of trust, betrayal, and redemption.

Supporting characters are crafted with attention to psychological realism, avoiding simplistic archetypes. For instance, Sir Daniel Brackley is portrayed not merely as a villain but as a man driven by his own code of honor and ambition. This complexity enriches the narrative and invites readers to ponder the multifaceted nature of power and morality.

Comparative Insights: The Black Arrow vs. Other Historical Novels

In the landscape of 19th-century historical fiction, *The Black Arrow* stands alongside works by authors such as Sir Walter Scott and George MacDonald Fraser. Compared to Scott's sweeping epics, Stevenson's novel is more concise and focused on personal transformation amid political chaos. Its blend of adventure and historical accuracy situates it as an engaging yet thoughtful read.

Moreover, *The Black Arrow* predates and arguably influences later historical adventure novels. Its nuanced portrayal of medieval conflict and the moral dilemmas faced by its characters set a precedent for more psychologically complex storytelling within the genre.

Strengths and Limitations

- **Strengths:** The Black Arrow benefits from Stevenson's vivid storytelling, well-researched historical setting, and complex characters. The novel's exploration of loyalty and justice resonates beyond its temporal setting, providing timeless insights.
- **Limitations:** Some readers may find the pacing uneven, with certain chapters laden with exposition that slows the narrative momentum. Additionally, the novel's relative obscurity means it lacks the popular cultural footprint enjoyed by Stevenson's other works, potentially limiting its reach.

The Black Arrow in Modern Adaptations and Reception

While The Black Arrow has not achieved the iconic status of Treasure Island, it has inspired various adaptations, including stage plays and film versions. These adaptations often emphasize the novel's action and romantic elements, sometimes at the expense of its more subtle thematic layers.

Critical reception over the decades has varied. Early reviewers were divided between praising its adventurous spirit and critiquing its historical liberties. Contemporary scholarship, however, tends to appreciate The Black Arrow for its narrative complexity and contribution to historical fiction.

SEO Keywords Integration

For readers exploring historical adventure novels or Robert Louis Stevenson's lesser-known works, searching terms like "The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson analysis," "historical fiction Wars of the Roses," or "medieval adventure novels" will often lead to discussions of this novel's significance. Its combination of historical detail and thrilling storytelling makes it a relevant subject in literary studies focused on Victorian adventure literature.

The Black Arrow also features in comparative literary analyses examining the evolution of adventure narratives and the portrayal of medieval England in fiction. These discussions highlight Stevenson's role in shaping genre conventions, emphasizing the book's enduring literary value.

Exploring "Robert Louis Stevenson historical novels" or "The Black Arrow character analysis" can yield deeper insights into the novel's themes, plot structure, and character development. Such targeted searches are useful for students, scholars, or enthusiasts seeking a comprehensive understanding of the text.

Through these organic keyword integrations, The Black Arrow continues to attract interest from diverse audiences, ensuring its place within the broader discourse on classic literature and historical storytelling.

The Black Arrow, though not as universally recognized as some of Stevenson's other creations, stands as a testament to his narrative craft and historical imagination. Its intricate interplay of adventure, history, and moral inquiry invites readers to revisit a pivotal era through the lens of a compelling personal journey.

The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson

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the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow: A Tale of Two Roses Robert Louis Stevenson, 2022-09-15 Set against the tumultuous backdrop of the Wars of the Roses, Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Black Arrow: A Tale of Two Roses* weaves a rich narrative that explores themes of loyalty, betrayal, and the harsh realities of war. Written in a vivid, engaging style, the novel employs a mix of adventure and historical fiction, showcasing Stevenson's ardent skill in creating compelling characters and intricate plots. It delves into the life of a young man, Richard, who becomes embroiled in the struggles between the noble houses of Lancaster and York, engaging readers in a tale that captures the dynamism of medieval England with both precision and imagination. Robert Louis Stevenson, a Scottish novelist known for classics such as *Treasure Island* and *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, penned *The Black Arrow* during a period when he was exploring the depths of human experience and moral complexity. His fascination with historical narratives, coupled with personal experiences and a profound understanding of character psychology, contributes to the nuanced portrayal of heroism and treachery found within this work. This captivating tale is highly recommended for readers who appreciate historical fiction interlaced with adventure and moral inquiry. *The Black Arrow* not only entertains but also invites reflection on the intricacies of human relationships in times of conflict, making it a timeless addition to the literary canon.

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson, 2019-12-23 - This version of *The Black Arrow: A Tale of Two Roses* includes a biography of the author Robert Louis Stevenson at the end of the book - This includes life before and after the release of the book *The Black Arrow* tells the story of Richard (Dick) Shelton during the Wars of the Roses: how he becomes a knight, rescues his lady Joanna Sedley, and obtains justice for the murder of his father, Sir Harry Shelton. Outlaws in Tunstall Forest organized by Ellis Duckworth, whose weapon and calling card is a black arrow, cause Dick to suspect that his guardian Sir Daniel Brackley and his retainers are responsible for his father's murder. Dick's suspicions are enough to turn Sir Daniel against him, so he has no recourse but to escape from Sir Daniel and join the outlaws of the Black Arrow against him. This struggle sweeps him up into the greater conflict surrounding them all. The story of the Wars of the Roses is told in miniature by *The Black Arrow*.

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: *Robert Louis Stevenson - The Black Arrow, A Tale of the Two Roses* Robert Louis Stevenson, 2020-10-09 *The Black Arrow* tells the story of Richard (Dick) Shelton during the Wars of the Roses: how he becomes a knight, rescues his lady Joanna Sedley, and obtains justice for the murder of his father, Sir Harry Shelton. Outlaws in Tunstall Forest organized by Ellis Duckworth, whose weapon and calling card is a black arrow, cause Dick to suspect that his

guardian Sir Daniel Brackley and his retainers are responsible for his father's murder. Dick's suspicions are enough to turn Sir Daniel against him, so he has no recourse but to escape from Sir Daniel and join the outlaws of the Black Arrow against him. This struggle sweeps him up into the greater conflict surrounding them all. The story of the Wars of the Roses is told in miniature by The Black Arrow. Includes a biography of the author.

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson, 2015-12-14 The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses is an 1888 novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. The Black Arrow tells the story of Richard (Dick) Shelton during the Wars of the Roses: how he becomes a knight, rescues his lady Joanna Sedley, and obtains justice for the murder of his father, Sir Harry Shelton. Outlaws in Tunstall Forest organized by Ellis Duckworth, whose weapon and calling card is a black arrow, cause Dick to suspect that his guardian Sir Daniel Brackley and his retainers are responsible for his father's murder. Dick's suspicions are enough to turn Sir Daniel against him, so he has no recourse but to escape from Sir Daniel and join the outlaws of the Black Arrow against him. This struggle sweeps him up into the greater conflict surrounding them all.

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson Robert Stevenson, 2017 In fifteenth-century England, when his father's murderer is revealed to be his guardian, seventeen-year-old Richard Shelton joins the fellowship of the Black Arrow in avenging the death, rescuing the woman he loves, and participating in the struggle between the Yorks and Lancasters in the War of the Roses.

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson, 2011-04 The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses is an 1888 novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. It is both an historical adventure novel and a romance. The Black Arrow tells the story of Richard (Dick) Shelton during the Wars of the Roses: how he becomes a knight, rescues his lady Joanna Sedley, and obtains justice for the murder of his father, Sir Harry Shelton. Outlaws in Tunstall Forest organized by Ellis Duckworth, whose weapon and calling card is a black arrow, cause Dick to suspect that his guardian Sir Daniel Brackley and his retainers are responsible for his father's murder. Dick's suspicions are enough to turn Sir Daniel against him, so he has no recourse but to escape from Sir Daniel and join the outlaws of the Black Arrow against him. This struggle sweeps him up into the greater conflict surrounding them all. The story of the Wars of the Roses is told in miniature by The Black Arrow. (wikipedia.org)

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow Annotated Robert Louis Stevenson, 2021-04-20 The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses is an 1888 novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. It is both a historical adventure novel and a romance novel. Set in the 15th Century, during the War of the Roses, the book follows seventeen-year-old Richard Shelton as he joins the fellowship of the Black Arrow. Intrigue, danger, romance and all the usual suspects in this classic battle adventure. The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses is an 1888 novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. It is both a historical adventure novel and a romance novel. Set in the 15th Century, during the War of the Roses, the book follows seventeen-year-old Richard Shelton as he joins the fellowship of the Black Arrow. Intrigue, danger, romance and all the usual suspects in this classic battle adventure

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow: a Tale of the Two Roses: with Colored Classic Illustrations Robert Louis Stevenson, 2020-07-22 The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses is an 1888 novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. It is both a historical adventure novel and a romance novel. It first appeared as a serial in 1883 with the subtitle A Tale of Tunstall Forest beginning in Young Folks; A Boys' and Girls' Paper of Instructive and Entertaining Literature, vol. XXII, no. 656 (Saturday, 30 June 1883) and ending in vol. XXIII, no. 672 (Saturday, 20 October 1883)--Stevenson had finished writing it by the end of summer. It was printed under the pseudonym Captain George North. He alludes to the time gap between the serialisation and the publication as one volume in 1888 in his preface Critic on the Hearth: The tale was written years ago for a particular audience... The Paston Letters were Stevenson's main literary source for The Black Arrow. The Black Arrow tells the story of Richard (Dick) Shelton during the Wars of the Roses: how

he becomes a knight, rescues his lady Joanna Sedley, and obtains justice for the murder of his father, Sir Harry Shelton. Outlaws in Tunstall Forest organised by Ellis Duckworth, whose weapon and calling card is a black arrow, cause Dick to suspect that his guardian Sir Daniel Brackley and his retainers are responsible for his father's murder. Dick's suspicions are enough to turn Sir Daniel against him, so he has no recourse but to escape from Sir Daniel and join the outlaws of the Black Arrow against him. This struggle sweeps him up into the greater conflict surrounding them all.

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson, 1998-07-15 Tor Classics are affordably-priced editions designed to attract the young reader. Original dynamic cover art enthusiastically represents the excitement of each story. Appropriate reader friendly type sizes have been chosen for each title--offering clear, accurate, and readable text. All editions are complete and unabridged, and feature Introductions and Afterwords. This edition of The Black Arrow includes a Foreword, Biographical Note, and Afterword from the Publisher. A fierce war rages between two powerful and bitter rivals: on one side the House of Lancaster; on the other the House of York. The prize? The crown of England! Young Richard Shelton finds himself torn in his loyalties. Should he serve the interests of his villainous master. or throw in his lot with the dashing outlaw Ellis Duckworth and his band known as the Black Arrow? Richard must decide wisely, for his fate--and the fate of England--hangs in the balance.... An exciting portrait of England during the War of the Roses, The Black Arrow is a breathless adventure of battle, intrigue, deception, kidnapping, spies, rogues, heroes, and villains.

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow, A Tale of the Two Roses. (Annotated) Robert Louis Stevenson, 2020-05-29 Differentiated book- It has a historical context with research of the time-The Black Arrow, A Tale of the Two Roses. by Robert Louis Stevenson. It is a historical novel written by Robert Louis Stevenson in 1888. Its original title in English is The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses (The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses). Its first publication was in booklet format and under the pseudonym Captain George North. The story takes place during the War of the Two Roses, a civil war in which the House of Lancaster and the House of York faced each other for the throne of England. Richard Dick Shelton is the protagonist; the novel tells how he becomes a knight, rescues Joanna Sedley and obtains justice for the death of her father. Outlaws from the Tunstall Forest organized by Ellis Duckworth raise suspicions to Richard about the involvement of his guardian Sir Daniel Brackley in the murder of his father. This distrust of his guardian leads him to turn against him.. Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson (Edinburgh, Scotland, November 13, 1850-Vailima, near Apia, Samoa, December 3, 1894) was a British novelist, poet, and essayist. His legacy is a vast work that includes travel chronicles, adventure and historical novels, as well as lyrics and essays. He is mainly known for being the author of some of the most classic adventure and fantasy stories in youth literature, such as Treasure Island, the adventure novel Kidnapped, the historical novel The Black Arrow,

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson, 2015-10-08 The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses is an 1888 novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. It is both an historical adventure novel and a romance novel. It first appeared as a serial in 1883 with the subtitle A Tale of Tunstall Forest beginning in Young Folks; A Boys' and Girls' Paper of Instructive and Entertaining Literature, vol. XXII, no. 656 (Saturday, June 30, 1883) and ending in the issue for Saturday, October 20, 1883—Stevenson had finished writing it by the end of summer. It was printed under the pseudonym Captain George North. He alludes to the time gap between the serialization and the publication as one volume in 1888 in his preface on the Hearth: The tale was written years ago for a particular audience... The Paston Letters were Stevenson's main literary source for The Black Arrow.

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow (Annotated Edition) Robert Louis Stevenson, 2021-08-14 The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses is an 1888 novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. It is both a historical adventure novel and a romance novel. Set in the 15th Century, during the War of the Roses, the book follows seventeen-year-old Richard Shelton as he joins the fellowship of the Black Arrow. Intrigue, danger, romance and all the usual suspects in this classic

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the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson, 2016-08-04 **The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses** is an 1888 novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. It is both an historical adventure novel and a romance novel. It first appeared as a serial in 1883 with the subtitle *A Tale of Tunstall Forest* beginning in *Young Folks; A Boys' and Girls' Paper of Instructive and Entertaining Literature*, vol. XXII, no. 656 (Saturday, June 30, 1883) and ending in the issue for Saturday, October 20, 1883—Stevenson had finished writing it by the end of summer. It was printed under the pseudonym Captain George North. He alludes to the time gap between the serialization and the publication as one volume in 1888 in his preface *Critic* [parodying Dickens's 'Cricket'] on the *Hearth*: The tale was written years ago for a particular audience... The Paston Letters were Stevenson's main literary source for *The Black Arrow*. Plot introduction—The Black Arrow tells the story of Richard (Dick) Shelton during the Wars of the Roses: how he becomes a knight, rescues his lady Joanna Sedley, and obtains justice for the murder of his father, Sir Harry Shelton. Outlaws in Tunstall Forest organized by Ellis Duckworth, whose weapon and calling card is a black arrow, cause Dick to suspect that his guardian Sir Daniel Brackley and his retainers are responsible for his father's murder. Dick's suspicions are enough to turn Sir Daniel against him, so he has no recourse but to escape from Sir Daniel and join the outlaws of the Black Arrow against him. This struggle sweeps him up into the greater conflict surrounding them all. Plot summary—The novel is set in the reign of old King Henry VI (1422-1461, 1470-1471) and during the Wars of the Roses (1455-1487). The story begins with the Tunstall Moat House alarm bell, rung to summon recruits for its absent lord Sir Daniel Brackley, to join the Battle of Risingham; at which the outlaw fellowship known as the Black Arrow begins to strike with its four black arrows for the four black hearts of Brackley and three of his retainers: Nicholas Appleyard, Bennet Hatch, and Sir Oliver Oates, the parson. The rhyme posted in explanation of this attack, makes the protagonist Richard ('Dick') Shelton, ward of Sir Daniel, curious about the death of his father Sir Harry Shelton. Having been dispatched to Kettley, where Sir Daniel was quartered, and sent to Tunstall Moat House by return dispatch, he falls in with a fugitive, Joanna Sedley, disguised as a boy with the alias of John Matcham: an heiress kidnapped by Sir Daniel to obtain guardianship over her and to retain his control over Richard by marrying her to him. As they travel through Tunstall Forest, Joanna tries to persuade Dick to turn against Sir Daniel in sympathy with the Black Arrow outlaws, whose camp they discover near the ruins of Grimstone manor. The next day they are met in the forest by Sir Daniel himself, disguised as a leper and returning to the Moat House after his side was defeated at Risingham. Dick and Joanna then follow Sir Daniel to the Moat House. ... Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson (13 November 1850 - 3 December 1894) was a Scottish novelist, poet, essayist, and travel writer. His most famous works are *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *A Child's Garden of Verses*.....

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the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson, 2017-10-07 Originally serialized in a periodical of boys' adventure fiction, *The Black Arrow* is a swashbuckling portrait of a young man's journey to discover the heroism within himself. Young Dick Shelton, caught in the midst of England's War of the Roses, finds his loyalties torn between the guardian who will ultimately betray him and the leader of a secret fellowship, *The Black Arrow*. As Shelton is drawn deeper into this conspiracy, he must distinguish friend from foe and confront war, shipwreck, revenge, murder, and forbidden love, as England's crown threatens to topple around him.

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow: Romance Novel Robert Louis Stevenson, 2018-10-11 Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson (13 November 1850

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson, 2017-04-19 *The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses* is an 1888 novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. The novel is set in the reign of old King Henry VI (1422-1461, 1470-1471) and during the Wars of the Roses (1455-1487). The story begins with the Tunstall Moat House alarm bell, rung to summon recruits for its absent lord Sir Daniel Brackley, to join the Battle of Risingham; at which the outlaw fellowship known as the Black Arrow begins to strike with its four black arrows for the four black hearts of Brackley and three of his retainers: Nicholas Appleyard, Bennet Hatch, and Sir Oliver Oates, the parson. The rhyme posted in explanation of this attack, makes the protagonist Richard ('Dick') Shelton, ward of Sir Daniel, curious about the death of his father Sir Harry Shelton. Having been dispatched to Kettley, where Sir Daniel was quartered, and sent to Tunstall Moat House by return dispatch, he falls in with a fugitive, Joanna Sedley, disguised as a boy with the alias of John Matcham: an heiress kidnapped by Sir Daniel to obtain guardianship over her and to retain his control over Richard by marrying her to him. As they travel through Tunstall Forest, Joanna tries to persuade Dick to turn against Sir Daniel in sympathy with the Black Arrow outlaws, whose camp they discover near the ruins of Grimstone manor. The next day they are met in the forest by Sir Daniel himself, disguised as a leper and returning to the Moat House after his side was defeated at Risingham. Dick and Joanna then follow Sir Daniel to the Moat House. Here Dick confirms that Sir Daniel is the murderer of his father, and escapes injured from the Moat House. He is rescued by the outlaws of the Black Arrow. The second half of the novel, Books 3-5, tells how Dick rescues Joanna from Sir Daniel with the help of both the Black Arrow fellowship and the Yorkist army led by Richard Crookback, the future Richard III of England. It centers on Shoreby, where the Lancastrian forces are entrenched. Robert Louis Stevenson inserts seafaring adventure in chapters 4-6 of Book 3, wherein Dick and the outlaws steal a ship and attempt a seaside rescue of Joanna. They are unsuccessful, and after Joanna is moved to Sir Daniel's main quarters in Shoreby, Dick visits her in the guise of a Franciscan friar. Stevenson, the popularizer of the tales of the Arabian nights, has Dick tell the tale of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves in Book 4, chapter 6 to help him escape from the ruined sea captain Arblaster, whose ship Dick and the outlaws had stolen. While shadowing Sir

Daniel, Dick and the outlaws encounter another group of spies interested in Joanna. After a skirmish in which the outlaws prevail, Dick finds that he has conquered Joanna's lawful guardian, Lord Foxham, who promises to give Joanna to Dick in marriage after contemplated seaside rescue. There is irony in Foxham scolding Dick, who is nobly born, for consorting with outlaws when the outlaws are recruited in Dick and Foxham's plans to rescue Joanna. Wounded in the failed seaside rescue, Foxham writes letters of recommendation for Dick to Richard Crookback, whom Dick must find on the outskirts of Shoreby.....Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson (13 November 1850 - 3 December 1894) was a Scottish novelist, poet, essayist, and travel writer. His most famous works are *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, and *A Child's Garden of Verses*.

the black arrow robert louis stevenson: The Black Arrow Robert Louis Stevenson, 2020-11-29 *The Black Arrow*, first serialized in 1883, was eventually published as a novel by Robert Louis Stevenson in 1888. Although it was initially written for children, and has since remained relatively undervalued by critics, *The Black Arrow* has garnered praise from such figures as John Galsworthy for its richly imagined setting and vibrant dialogue. Set in fifteenth-century England during the infamous War of the Roses, *The Black Arrow* follows the young Richard "Dick" Shelton's journey of growth and discovery in a time of violence and terror. When the outlaws known as The Black Arrow attack his home, a strange rhyme discovered at the scene leaves Dick curious as to the true nature of his father's death. Sent to warn Sir Daniel—who has been chosen to care for Tunstall until Dick comes of age—the hero meets the heiress Joanna. The two follow Sir Daniel back to Tunstall, where Dick discovers that his father was murdered by the man appointed to protect him. In order to get revenge, and to rescue Joanna from captivity, Dick joins the outlaws of The Black Arrow and is knighted for his service in battle to the Duke of Gloucester. A classic of adventure and romance, *The Black Arrow* is a novel in which a young man faces down danger in order to protect what he loves. Published amid what is arguably Stevenson's most productive decade, *The Black Arrow* is often overshadowed by such works as *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped*. What makes it worth reading, however, is its timeless tale of perseverance and growth that transports the reader to one of England's darkest periods. It is both historical and romantic, a story for children and adults alike. To read Stevenson is to enter a world unlike any other, and yet so strangely familiar it might be our own. With a beautifully designed cover and professionally typeset manuscript, this new edition of Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Black Arrow* is a classic of literature reimagined for modern readers.

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