

Ivanhoe Study Guide

Ivanhoe by Walter Scott

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Overview

Ivanhoe is an excellent example of the historical novel, as developed by Scott and defined in his numerous prefaces and introductions to his Waverley novels. Scott reconstructs the fascinating struggle between the Normans and the Saxons. Into this cultural conflict, Scott presents fictional characters who participate in actual historical events, among actual historical figures. These characters reflect the effect that the historical events had upon individuals in medieval England.

Ivanhoe and the other Waverley novels brought a new perspective to historical writing. No longer would dull chronicles and lifeless collections of fact serve as models for historians; instead, a new kind of history was born that seriously recreated the spirit of the time. Nineteenth-century historians such as Thomas Carlyle and W. H. Prescott recognized that Scott had changed people's very awareness of history.

About the Author

Walter Scott was born on August 15, 1771, in Edinburgh, Scotland, the son of Walter Scott, an attorney, and Anne Rutherford Scott, a woman with active social and literary interests. Of the couple's twelve children, only five survived infancy, and Walter narrowly escaped an early death himself when, at two years old, he contracted polio, which left him permanently disabled. As a child, he was an avid reader of fairy tales, ballads, Shakespeare, fiction, Asian fables, and folklore. Through visits to his grandfather's farm in the valley of the Tweed River and to the homes of other relatives in the Border country and in the Highlands, Scott developed a superb memory for Scottish gossip, history, legend, song, and folklore. By the age of fourteen, he could recite Scots ballads from memory; this skill combined with his passion for medieval romances, history, and travel books formed the basis of his education.

Never completely happy with formal schooling, he spent the years 1778-1782 at the High School of Edinburgh and proceeded to Edinburgh University in 1783 but soon left because of poor health. Scott continued reading English literature at home with the help of a tutor; in the meantime, he was apprenticed to his father as a legal clerk. At various points during the next nine years, Scott attended humanities and law classes at Edinburgh University. Although he applied himself seriously to his apprenticeship, traveling the country on business for his father, he always maintained a heavy schedule of reading. In 1792 he qualified to practice law and was admitted to the Scottish Bar. With his profession apparently chosen, he married Charlotte Carpenter in 1797. Although he continued to practice law, he was made sheriff of Selkirkshire in 1799 and went to live at Ashiestiel on the Tweed, returning to Edinburgh when the law sessions opened.

Among Scott's first published works was a three-volume collection of popular ballads, *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border* (1802-1803), which revealed his strengths as a folklorist. Publication of his long poems *The Lay of the Last Minstrel* (1805), *Marmion* (1808) and *The Lady of the Lake* (1810) made Scott one of the most widely read poets in the British Isles, and although his legal practice suffered, his literary success brought fresh income. By 1812 Scott moved to the small estate of Abbotsford, where he hoped to live the life of a country gentleman. Earlier, he had become a silent partner in a bookselling business, John Ballantyne and Co., and also helped promote the founding of the Tory journal the *Quarterly Review* (1809). In 1813 he turned down an offer to assume the position of poet laureate, which was then awarded to Robert Southey, partly at Scott's suggestion.

When the public shifted its interest to Lord Byron's verse romances, Scott turned to prose writing. *Waverley*, Scott's first novel, was followed by another twenty novels in the course of ten years. Although these were written anonymously, many readers recognized Scott's popular style, and all thirty-two of Scott's anonymously published novels are still referred to as his *Waverley* novels.



In 1826 the failures of Ballantyne's printing firm and of Scott's publisher brought him financial ruin, from which he spent the rest of his life extricating himself. Suffering from bouts of apoplexy, Scott was offered free passage by the British government on a frigate voyaging to the Mediterranean, where it was hoped he would regain his health.

From this trip, he returned to Abbotsford and died there on September 21, 1832, at the age of sixty-one. He was buried next to his wife in the ruins of Dryburgh Abbey; in 1844 an intricate Gothic monument was erected to his memory in Edinburgh.



Plot Summary

Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott is a classic novel that combines history with fiction to create a truly engaging tale of chivalry and oppression. The contention between the Normans and the Saxons creates a spellbinding story that ultimately ends in the acceptance of the Norman King Richard in lieu of a Saxon ruler. Simultaneously, Ivanhoe deals with regaining his father's acceptance after his disinheritance. Ivanhoe is a tale that is memorialized as one of the greatest novels ever written.

Ivanhoe occurs in twelfth century England during the reign of King Richard the Lion-Hearted, approximately one hundred years after the Normans seize control of England, subjugating the Saxon natives. The Normans have confiscated Saxon lands and even replaced the Saxon language with their own. The remaining Saxon nobles resent this treatment, causing the country to exist in a state of perpetual unrest. Cedric, a Saxon, disinherits his son, Ivanhoe, because of Ivanhoe's loyalty to the Norman King Richard. Also, Cedric is angered by the fact that Ivanhoe falls in love with Lady Rowena, Cedric's ward who he intends to marry to Athelstane who would be the next Saxon ruler. Ivanhoe appears at his father's manor in disguise as a Palmer who befriends Isaac the Jew. Ivanhoe attends the tournament at Ashby-de-la-Zouche, fighting as the Disinherited Knight. He vanquishes all of the other knights on the first day of the tournament and presents the honor of the day to Lady Rowena. On the second day, De Bracy, Brian De Bois-Guilbert, and Athelstane simultaneously attack Ivanhoe, but the disguised Black Knight appears to assist the honorable knight; Ivanhoe wins the second day of the tournament, revealing his identity to Cedric and Lady Rowena before fainting from his battle wounds. Isaac's daughter, Rebecca, nurses the injured knight.

Cedric and Athelstane attend Prince John's banquet at Ashby Castle that night where they are insulted by several Norman knights. Afterward, they journey through the forest towards York where they encounter Isaac's party, including Ivanhoe, though Cedric is unaware of his injured son's presence. Because De Bracy loves Lady Rowena and wishes to marry her, he organizes several Norman knights, including Brian De Bois-Guilbert, to assist him in kidnapping her party. The Normans, in disguise, kidnap the Saxons and Jews and transport them to Torquilstone Castle, rightfully Ivanhoe's property which Prince John has given to Front-de-Boeuf. The only member of the Saxon party to escape is Cedric's servant, Wamba, who joins forces with Robin of Locksley and a group of outlaws, accompanied by the Black Knight and Friar Tuck, to save the Saxons.

At Torquilstone Castle, Brian De Bois-Guilbert courts Rebecca as De Bracy courts Lady Rowena, though neither woman yields to the knights' advances. Meanwhile, Robin of Locksley's men send an ultimatum to the knights, causing them to plan to kill their prisoners. Wamba, disguised as a priest to offer absolution to the Saxons, enters the castle and exchanges clothes with Cedric, who escapes and joins the invaders. The battle rages when Ulrica, an old woman held prisoner by Front-de-Boeuf and his father before him, signals the outlaws. Ulrica sets fire to the castle, killing herself simultaneously. Brian De Bois-Guilbert escapes with Rebecca, knocking Athelstane



unconscious when the Saxon tries to stop him. De Bracy is taken prisoner, but the Black Knight releases him.

De Bracy informs Prince John that King Richard, disguised as the Black Knight, has returned to England, and Prince John sends a group to attack his brother. The outlaws come to the aid of the Black Knight, who reveals his identity to Robin of Locksley. King Richard travels to Cedric's home where he reconciles Ivanhoe with his father, and Athelstane, only knocked unconscious, pledges allegiance to the rightful king of England. Meanwhile, Brian De Bois-Guilbert arrives in Templestowe with Rebecca, who is accused of being a witch and sentenced to death. Ivanhoe arrives to act as her champion against De Bois-Guilbert, who champions the Templar Knights. De Bois-Guilbert is killed, and Rebecca is proven innocent. Ivanhoe marries Lady Rowena, King Richard reassumes the throne and restores order, and Isaac and Rebecca move to Spain.



Section I, Introduction, Dedicatory Epistle and chapters 1 through 2

Section I, Introduction, Dedicatory Epistle and chapters 1 through 2 Summary

Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott is a classic novel that combines history with fiction to create a truly engaging tale of chivalry and oppression. The contention between the Normans and the Saxons creates a spellbinding story that ultimately ends in the acceptance of the Norman King Richard in lieu of a Saxon ruler. Simultaneously, Ivanhoe deals with regaining his father's acceptance after his disinheritance. Ivanhoe is a tale that is memorialized as one of the greatest novels ever written.

In the Introduction, the narrator attests to the popularity of the Waverly novels and expresses his need to explore different types of composition rather than limit himself to purely Scottish subjects. He admits his likelihood to fail if he continues attempting to add the novelty of attraction to themes about the same character and decides to attempt English subjects. In the Dedicatory Epistle to Rev. Dr. Dryasdust, FAS, the author admits the imperfections of his work, claiming that it is unworthy of patronage as it pollutes history with fiction.

In England, near the end of King Richard the Lion-Hearted's reign, he is returning from the Crusades in the Holy Land. In England, the tyrannical Norman royalty controls the Saxon population and makes French the official language. Many Saxon landowners are forced to yield their land to their oppressors. When King Richard is captured and held for ransom in Europe, Prince John, his brother, usurps power, hoping that his brother is not released so that he may rule as king. Although both King Richard and Prince John are Norman rulers, King Richard is fair, whereas John attempts to desecrate and demean the Saxons, resulting in the Saxons' dislike of Prince John and King Richard's popularity. Richard's subjects worry about seeing their fair ruler again and lash out at Prince John's greedy methods of stealing Saxon land. Two employees of the Saxon, Cedric, the swineherd Gurth and the jester Wamba, talk about the battle brewing between the Saxons and the Normans. Wamba mocks the Normans while Gurth worries about the pending visit of a Norman nobleman, Reginald Front-de-Boeuf, to Cedric. Heading home during a storm, they hear horsemen approaching them.

The horsemen reach Gurth and Wamba. Two men, Prior Aymer of Jorvaulx and Brian de Bois-Guilbert, a Knight Templar recently returned from fighting in the Holy Land, are attended by several others. These men ask for directions to Cedric the Saxon's house, intending to stay the night in his dwelling. Gurth argues with the knight because he is hesitant to give the Norman men directions to his master's home, knowing Cedric's disdain for Normans. After the prior assuages the dispute, Wamba gives the men wrong directions, causing them to reach the Sunken Cross where they luckily encounter a stranger who is also on his way to Cedric's house. This stranger is a Palmer who has



just returned from the Holy Land on a pilgrimage, and he conducts them safely to Cedric's mansion. On the way to Cedric's home, the Palmer reveals that Cedric has recently disinherited his son, Ivanhoe, and that Cedric has a beautiful Saxon ward, Lady Rowena; the Palmer is actually a disguised Ivanhoe.

Section I, Introduction, Dedicatory Epistle and chapters 1 through 2 Analysis

This book begins with Scott explaining his reasons for writing a book with topics unlike any he has written before. He also makes the obligatory dedication, claiming the insufficiency of his work. Scott begins the book by explaining the cultural and political situation of England during the story. He also provides a little bit of background concerning the Crusades and the situation that King Richard has found himself in. King Richard, fair and courageous, is contrasted sharply to Prince John, greedy and ruthless. The rift between the Saxons and Normans is seen by the Norman's unjust acquisition of Saxon property, and it is emphasized by the imposition of French as the national language. Wamba and Gurth's conversation introduces the political state that exists between the Saxons and the Normans, specifically through their discussion of the changes in their language as a result of the Norman rule; their discussion clarifies their resentment toward the Normans. Gurth and Wamba are compared and contrasted as they have very different job functions and personalities, yet they are united in their disdain toward the Normans.

In the second chapter, Brian de Bois-Guilbert and Prior Aymer of Jorvaulx are introduced. Brian de Bois-Guilbert represents the Knight Templars, an order of knights who swear a vow of chastity and poverty. Contrasting this idea of the Knight Templars, Prior Aymer of Jorvaulx is the epitome of gluttony, extravagance, and dissipation. Brian de Bois-Guilbert does not provide a positive impression of the Knights Templar, as he approaches Gurth and Wamba rudely and arrogantly, demanding directions to Cedric's home. Both men are presented as hypocrites who do not adhere to the standards of their professions. Aware of Cedric's hatred for Normans, Gurth and Wamba give the Normans incorrect directions to lead them away from their master's home. The Palmer comes along to assist the Normans and reveal Cedric's disinheritance of his son, Ivanhoe; ironically, the Palmer is Ivanhoe in disguise.



Section II, Chapters 3 through 6

Section II, Chapters 3 through 6 Summary

Cedric waits at Rotherwood for his servants to return. Rowena, Cedric's ward, displeases him by being tardy for dinner. A horn's blast is followed by the gatekeeper's announcement that Prior Aymer of Jorvaulx, Brian de Bois-Guilbert, and their attendants desire lodging for the night as they are traveling to the Ashby-de-la-Zouche tournament. Although Cedric despises the Normans, his pride will not allow him to refuse them hospitality, though he does not meet them outside to welcome them but waits reluctantly until they come to him. Cedric forbids Lady Rowena to appear before the Normans, as he does not trust Brian de Bois-Guilbert not to interfere in his plans to marry Rowena to a proper gentleman. Lady Rowena is eager to learn the news from the Holy Land from the Palmer since Ivanhoe, with whom she is in love, is still fighting in the Crusades to the best of her knowledge.

Cedric politely but coldly receives his Norman guests; he also scolds his servants for arriving late to dinner. When Lady Rowena joins the men at the dinner table, Brian de Bois-Guilbert is struck by her beauty, causing her to cover her face with a veil. These actions annoy Cedric as a stranger is announced at Cedric's gates, and Cedric grants the new visitor permission to lodge for the night at Rotherwood.

Cedric's Norman guests complain that Cedric admits this new guest, Isaac of York, who is a Jew. Although Cedric refuses to turn the man out into the storm, he does insist that the Jew sit at a different table than himself and the Normans. The Palmer takes great pity on the forlorn Jew. When Brian de Bois-Guilbert claims the superiority of the Knights Templar to the English soldiers, the Palmer discusses a tournament where five courageous English knights beat the Knights Templar, mentioning a sixth whose name he forgets. Brian de Bois-Guilbert angrily remembers the knight was Ivanhoe as he was the one beaten by Cedric's disinherited son. Brian de Bois-Guilbert swears that he will challenge Ivanhoe at the Ashby-de-la-Zouche tournament, though the Palmer reminds him that Ivanhoe is still in Palestine; the two agree that Ivanhoe will be honor-bound to accept the challenge if he returns in time for the tournament, however. When Isaac the Jew mentions his intentions to go to the tournament, Brian de Bois-Guilbert rudely insults the man.

The Palmer is invited to join Cedric's servants in the kitchen for drinks and fraternization. Lady Rowena sends the Palmer a note demanding his presence in order to ask for more news of Ivanhoe since the Palmer mentioned Ivanhoe in his previous conversation with Brian de Bois-Guilbert. The Palmer informs Lady Rowena that Ivanhoe is on his way home from the Holy Land. Before retiring for the evening, the Palmer warns Isaac the Jew that Bois-Guilbert has ordered his Muslim slaves to rob and imprison the Jew. The Palmer escorts Isaac to Sheffield where he can lodge with another Jew, Zareth. Grateful to the courteous Palmer who he suspects is a knight in disguise, Isaac the Jew promises the Palmer a favor for his assistance; Isaac writes to a



rich relative in Leicester asking him to loan the Palmer with a horse and armor so that the man can take part in the tournament at Ashby-de-la-Zouche.

Section II, Chapters 3 through 6 Analysis

Cedric's character is developed in chapter three where he shows his stern nature through the disinheritance of his son and his insistence upon choosing a proper husband for his ward. Cedric's manner of life makes his wealth and position apparent. His contempt for the Normans is clear through his refusal to greet the Normans outside, waiting instead for them to come to him. Chapter five serves to develop the antagonism between the Saxons and the Normans. Cedric's behavior to the Normans shows pride more so than courtesy. Immoral and luxurious, Brian de Bois-Guilbert serves to contrast the idea behavior of the Order of the Templars, which is to live in chastity and modesty. Cedric's annoyance at Brian de Bois-Guilbert stems from the knight's interest in Lady Rowena, who Cedric has great ambitions for. The stranger's appearance at Cedric's gates foreshadows the appearance of Isaac the Jew.

In the fifth chapter, a topic is introduced that unites the Saxons and Normans: anti-Semitism. Even the servants of both groups openly disdain Isaac for being Jewish. Only the Palmer, Ivanhoe in disguise, shows courtesy in dealing with Isaac. Historical events are fictionalized in the discussion of the tax upon the Jews. Isaac portrays the stereotypical Jew as he focuses his conversation on his money. Although Cedric and Ivanhoe, disguised as a Palmer, are at odds with one another, both dislike Brian de Bois-Guilbert nearly on sight. Ivanhoe especially resents the hypocritical Templar knight for his attentions to Lady Rowena, Ivanhoe's love. It is ironic that Lady Rowena asks the Palmer about Ivanhoe without realizing her love's identity. Scott pursues the topic of anti-Semitism in the sixth chapter, further explaining the taxes on the Jews. The Palmer does Isaac the Jew a huge favor by warning him of Brian de Bois-Guilbert's imminent attack, though even the kind-hearted Palmer is hesitant to travel with Isaac. Isaac shows his gratitude by providing the disguised Ivanhoe with the necessary means to participate in the tournament. This action shows Isaac's intelligence, since he is able to discern that the Palmer must be a knight in disguise. The Palmer's actions in this chapter lead the reader to the conclusion that the Palmer is likely Ivanhoe.



Section III, Chapters 7 through 9

Section III, Chapters 7 through 9 Summary

Everyone prepares for the tournament at Ashby-de-la-Zouche in Leicestershire. Prince John will attend, and all renowned knights plan to compete. Quarrels arise as spectators are seated according to rank. Isaac the Jew and his daughter, Rebecca, try to acquire good seats; subsequently, Isaac is abused for his intentions. Isaac remains confident since he is aware of a loan that Prince John is attempting to acquire from the Jews of York which include Isaac. Prince John enters with Prior Aymer of Jorvaulx. Prince John admires Rebecca and obtains better seats for Isaac and Rebecca by taking them from Saxons. The Saxons whose seats are taken are Cedric and Athelstane of Coningsburgh, his relative. Athelstane refuses to move, causing Prince John's knight, De Bracy, to poke at Athelstane with his lance. Cedric breaks De Bracy's lance, nearly causing a catastrophe. Prince John again gives Isaac permission to sit in the gallery with the Saxons, and though Cedric does not object, Wamba's folly causes Isaac to fall down the stairs. Abashed, Isaac returns to a less important seat, and Prince John demands that Isaac loan him money immediately.

Prince John considers voting for Rebecca to win the title of the fair Sovereign of Love and Beauty, horrifying his companions and causing the prince to claim that he is only joking. The decision is made that the champion knight will choose the lady who is rewarded the title. The knights parade and choose their arms of courtesy. The tournament begins with Brian de Bois-Guilbert, Front-de-Boeuf, and Sir Philip Malvoisin unseating their opponents and gaining early victories. Cedric laments that the tournament has turned into another means of Norman degradation towards Saxons. Brian de Bois-Guilbert continues successfully in the tournament. Suddenly, a trumpet announces a new champion riding a black horse. His shield reads "disinherited" in Spanish. This new knight challenges Brian de Bois-Guilbert to mortal combat. The spectators doubt the new knight's abilities, but the Disinherited Knight unhorses Brian de Bois-Guilbert on their second encounter before defeating Front-de-Boeuf, Malvoisin, and several other knights. The Disinherited Knight is awarded the day's award by unanimous spectator vote.

The Disinherited Knight will not raise his visor until he receives his prize. Many wonder who the mysterious knight can be, and Prince John worries that it might be King Richard. Prince John's compliments to the knight on his victory go unanswered. When the Disinherited Knight learns that he may choose the Queen of Love and Beauty who will preside over the next day's tournament, he chooses Lady Rowena. Prince John is irritated at this since he had suggested that the knight choose Alicia, his counselor Waldemar Fitzurse's daughter. Prince John nonetheless invites Lady Rowena to that night's banquet, but Cedric refuses to allow Rowena to attend, though he does grant her permission to preside over the next day's tournament.



Section III, Chapters 7 through 9 Analysis

There is a lot of descriptive scenery in these chapters during the tournament. Also, the tournament allows the reader to see the class distinctions between the Saxons and the Normans. This also allows a reprieve from the serious issues that plague the characters' daily lives. Prince John attempts to assert authority in reaction to his brother's captivity; these attempts tend to anger the Saxons as they usually are offensive. Prince John's insistence that Isaac the Jew sit in the gallery, along with his praise of Rebecca, can be seen as instigating dissension since the Normans dislike the Jews as much as the Saxons dislikes the Jews. Waldemar Fitzurse shows his intelligence in his advice to the prince not to alienate everyone from his leadership by praising the Jewess. Athelstane is introduced at the tournament, and it becomes apparent that this is the suitable gentleman that Cedric has chosen as a spouse for Lady Rowena. In disguise yet again, Ivanhoe appears at the tournament as the Disinherited Knight, winning the day and crowning his love as Queen.

Anti-Semitism is prevalent throughout these chapters as Isaac is treated poorly due to his religion. Isaac is also presented as a stereotypical Jewish character; he is a money-lender and is predisposed to conversation about financial matters. Chapter five alludes to Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" in an attempt to compare Isaac to Shakespeare's Jewish Shylock. Ivanhoe and Brian de Bois-Guilbert fight during the tournament, fulfilling the foreshadowing that occurred at Rotherwood when Ivanhoe, in disguise as a Palmer, suggested that Ivanhoe would be honor bound to answer Brian de Bois-Guilbert's challenge should he arrive in time for the tournament. The conflict between these two characters reappears throughout the book, demonstrating the dissension between the Normans and the Saxons. Ironically, the Saxon Ivanhoe shows himself to be much more honorable than the Norman Brian de Bois-Guilbert. Also, it is ironic that Ivanhoe wears a shield that identifies him as disinherited without anyone guessing his identity, especially after he crowns Lady Rowena Queen of the tournament.



Section IV, Chapters 10 through 12

Section IV, Chapters 10 through 12 Summary

The Disinherited Knight returns to his tent after the first day of the tournament, and the knights he defeated present him with armor, weapons, and their horses. He refuses these gifts and accepts a hundred zecchins as ransom instead, keeping half and distributing half among the squires and officials. He refuses to accept anything from Brian de Bois-Guilbert, challenging him to combat the next day. The Disinherited Knight then sends his messenger, Gurth, to Isaac to repay his debt. Isaac is surprised when Gurth brings him money from the Disinherited Knight and gladly accepts the money; however, Rebecca, thinking that Gurth will keep the remainder for himself, secretly returns the money and adds a tip for Gurth to dissuade him from stealing from his master.

Four men attack Gurth and steal his money, questioning him as to where he got it. Gurth explains about the tournament and the Disinherited Knight's repayment to Isaac as well as about Rebecca returning the money. They do not believe him, but as they count the money, Gurth breaks free, causing the robbers to accept his story and return the money since the knights that the Disinherited Knight defeated are the robbers' enemies. When one of the robbers still wants to rob Gurth, the captain allows them to battle. Gurth is victorious and receives an escort back to Asby-de-la-Zouche.

The crowds await the events the next day. When Athelstane, Front-de-Boeuf, and Bois-Guilbert attack ambush the Disinherited Knight, another disguised knight, the Black Knight, assists Ivanhoe, and the two overcomes the treacherous challengers. The Disinherited Knight is the victor of the day yet again, since the Black Knight mysteriously disappears after the encounter. Lady Rowena crowns the Disinherited Knight, and Ivanhoe shows his face, revealing his true identity before fainting due to his battle wounds.

Section IV, Chapters 10 through 12 Analysis

The contention between Ivanhoe and Brian de Bois-Guilbert can be compared to the battling between King Richard and Prince John. Prince John's character is further developed in this chapter, showing his cowardice when he fears that the Disinherited Knight may be a disguised Richard. Disguises are a continual theme in this novel; Ivanhoe dresses as a Palmer in the beginning of the novel and as the Disinherited Knight during the tournament. King Richard also disguises himself at the tournament as the Black Knight. Gurth also attends Ivanhoe, dressed in a disguise. In chapter ten, Ivanhoe is seen as courteous, courageous, and noble in the way that he treats the other knights, Isaac and Gurth. He exemplifies the goals of knighthood in a way that no other knight at the tournament manages. Rebecca returning the Disinherited Knight's money shows her generosity.



Chapter eleven introduces the robbers who attack Gurth. Their intent is to rob the rich and give to the poor; this introduces the idea of Robin Hood's method. These are honorable men that are considered outlaws due to the Normans' stealing their lands. The author speaks in this chapter in order to defend and approve of these outlaws, emphasizing that he wants the reader to like and respect these men. Athelstane, Front-de-Boeuf and Bois-Guilbert show their treacherous behavior in ganging up on the Disinherited Knight, who shows himself to be courageous and skilled in defeating these knights. The Black Knight is introduced in chapter twelve and becomes a topic of interest for the reader who may wonder about this stranger. The Disinherited Knight's victory is repetitious, but his identity is revealed at this point which causes quite a stir and foreshadows the revelation of the Black Knight much later in the novel.



Section V, Chapters 13 through 15

Section V, Chapters 13 through 15 Summary

Prince John becomes concerned when he learns that Ivanhoe is the Disinherited Knight because they all know that Ivanhoe will claim the honors that King Richard has bestowed on him which Prince John illegally gave to Front-de-Boeuf. Prince John learns that Ivanhoe's friends are nursing the knight, and Prince John promises to obtain Lady Rowena as De Bracy's bride. Prince John is distraught when he learns that King Richard has gained his freedom, canceling the next day's festivities and holding the archery contest immediately. Robin of Locksley, a yeoman that Prince John dislikes, shoots last and wins. Impressed, Prince John offers Robin of Locksley a position in his bodyguard which Robin of Locksley refuses, slipping away and getting lost in the crowd. Prince John sends his chamberlain to Isaac to demand two thousand crowns.

Prince John throws a banquet at the Castle of Asby-de-la-Zouche, where he greets Cedric and Athelstane courteously. Cedric and Athelstane tells Prince John that Lady Rowena cannot attend because she is indisposed. There is tension between the Normans and Saxons regarding proper table etiquette. When Prince John proposes a toast to Ivanhoe, Cedric refuses to join in because Ivanhoe joined King Richard's court against his father's wishes. Due to this, Prince John feels certain that Cedric will not object to Prince John giving Front-de-Boeuf the castle that rightfully belongs to Ivanhoe at King Richard's hand. The Saxons and Normans bicker, but Prince John pretends that it is a joke. When Prince John asks Cedric to toast a worthy Norman and Cedric toasts King Richard, Prince John is disappointed, since he expected to be the recipient of the toast. Cedric and Athelstane leave the banquet. Prince John fears that his men will desert him for King Richard.

Prince John's advisor, Waldemar Fitzurse, rouses Prince John's supporters, planning to crown Prince John as king. Waldemar Fitzurse runs into De Bracy, dressed as a yeoman carrying a longbow, and learns that De Bracy plans to attack Cedric's party and kidnap Lady Rowena in order to force her to become his bride. His disguise will cause Cedric to blame the forest outlaws for the attack. De Bracy then plans to appear in his normal clothes to rescue Lady Rowena, escort her to Front-de-Boeuf's castle, and marry her. Brian de Bois-Guilbert and his men will assist by donning the disguises of outlaws as well.

Section V, Chapters 13 through 15 Analysis

Prince John embodies the idea of the corrupt monarch who has forced his way into a ruling position. His hatred of his brother, King Richard, is apparent through the fact that he tries to encourage the kidnapers to keep King Richard imprisoned. Prince John's actions as a ruler are unjust and cause many people to suffer. His fear of the consequences of these actions cause him to continually act immorally in order to avoid

these retributions. Fitzurse is also seen as a leech who clings to Prince John in order to procure some of the power as he rallies supporters for Prince John; as long as Prince John remains in power, Fitzurse also retains power. Robin of Locksley is introduced in this section and contrasts sharply with the unknighthly knights at the tournament despite the fact that he is technically an outlaw. This character evolves into the famous Robin Hood.

This section foreshadows the reappearance of King Richard as Prince John receives a letter which states that the king has escaped. Cedric toasting King Richard shows the Saxons beginning to accept the Norman invaders. It is obvious at this point that the Normans will retain power, and the Saxons are beginning to realize that there are many different varieties of Norman rulers; perhaps, King Richard will be a more favorable ruler than Prince John. De Bracy also reveals his plan to kidnap Lady Rowena to Waldemar Fitzurse, foreshadowing his actions toward Ivanhoe's beloved.



Section VI, Chapters 16 through 20

Section VI, Chapters 16 through 20 Summary

The Black Knight leaves Ashby-de-la-Zouche after the tournament and attempts to obtain lodging in a small chapel on the way. The monk refuses to admit the knight who threatens to break the door down, causing the monk to offer him refuge for the night. The monk provides the Black Knight with a small shelter, dried pease, and water. When the knight inquires into the monk's identity, the monk names himself as the Clerk of Copmanhurst; he is Friar Tuck. The knight also asks how the monk manages to survive on this diet, and Friar Tuck explains that the saints bless his food. Since the knight is disgusted with his food, Friar Tuck brings him a pastry which was left by the keeper of the forest and which the monk cannot eat. The Knight convinces the monk to join his feast, complete with wine. The Knight suspects that the monk eats this way often by hunting deer illegally. The monk avoids the Knight's questioning and proposes a contest of arms which the Knight refuses.

The Knight plays the harp and sings a ballad. The monk rebuts with "The Barefooted Friar", a song about a friar who ambles about, enjoying food and drink with others. The friar in the song mimics the monk's behavior, though he vehemently denies the Knight's implications. The two enjoy their time together until a knock as the door interrupts their merriment.

Cedric transports Ivanhoe to Ashby-de-la-Zouche after the crowd thins out, though he still refuses to forgive his son. Even Lady Rowena is unable to persuade Cedric to forgive Ivanhoe. Cedric captures Gurth and punishes him for deserting him for Ivanhoe, but Gurth refuses to forgive his master who injured his dog. After being received at the home of a Saxon abbot, Cedric and his entourage continue their travels while Cedric considers his hope of marrying Lady Rowena to Athelstane and reviving the Saxons' fortunes. Although Cedric is aware that Lady Rowena prefers Ivanhoe and has no interest in Athelstane, he intends to change her mind; this preference is the real reason for Cedric disinheriting his son.

Cedric and his men begin traveling through the forest on their return home. They encounter Isaac and Rebecca who are stranded with a sick man; Isaac's six bodyguards deserted them. Cedric refuses at first to grant Isaac's request to travel with Cedric's party, but Lady Rowena persuades him to acquiesce. With Wamba's help, Gurth escapes from Cedric's fetters during this interlude. Brian De Bois-Guilbert and his men, disguised as outlaws, attack the Saxons' party, taking the Saxons prisoner; only Wamba manages to escape and join Gurth. Wamba and Gurth plan to return to help Cedric when they encounter Robin of Locksley who plans to rally his troops in order to free the Saxons.

Robin of Locksley gathers his men and visits the small chapel where the monk and the Black Knight are singing. Friar Tuck admits to the Black Knight that Robin of Locksley is



the keeper of the forest whom he referred to earlier in the evening. The friar dons a green cassock and hose in sympathy with the outlaws. Robin of Locksley explains to the Black Knight that the Saxons have been captured and that they plan to free the Saxons from Front-de-Boeuf's castle.

Section VI, Chapters 16 through 20 Analysis

Friar Tuck befriends the Black Knight and shows himself to be a jovial and friendly character. During this section, King Richard reveals his identity as the Black Knight. Although Friar Tuck and King Richard become friends, they also tease one another through their songs, mocking each others' roles in life. King Richard's character is further developed as a good-natured man who attempts to do well in his role as king. The knock on the chapel door during Friar Tuck and King Richard's merriment foreshadows the arrival of Robin of Locksley as does Friar Tuck's allusions to the keeper of the forest.

Cedric's frustration and pride is revealed in his concern over his son's injuries. Cedric is very angry at Gurth for deflecting his loyalties to Ivanhoe's aid. Although Cedric greatly desires to have a Saxon rule the English throne, he begins to question his choice of Athelstane as a candidate as he realizes that the man is lazy. Cedric is further irritated at Athelstane's indifference to the idea of marrying Lady Rowena. De Bracy's plot is put into action when Brian de Bois-Guilbert and his men attack and imprison the Saxons. Wamba and Gurth show their loyalty to their master and their Saxon roots by their intent to return to Cedric to help him escape his captors. Robin of Locksley's appearance further foreshadows his role in the story. Friar Tuck's green cassock demonstrates his role in Locksley's group of outlaws. Robin of Locksley's plans foreshadow the salvation of the Saxons.



Section VII, Chapters 21 through 23

Section VII, Chapters 21 through 23 Summary

The kidnapers direct their prisoners to Torquilstone, Front-de-Boeuf's castle, and Brian De Bois-Guilbert confides to De Bracy that he intends to keep Rebecca as his prize. Cedric and Athelstane are imprisoned in a hall in Torquilstone, but Lady Rowena is taken to separate chambers. The kidnapers also separate Rebecca from her father. Athelstane worries about what they will feed him as Cedric thinks about the Saxon history that the castle embodies, but both men expect that their kidnapers will request a ransom.

Isaac is thrown into the dungeon, and Front-de-Boeuf, with black slaves, visits him to demand a thousand silver pounds. Isaac claims that he does not have the much money. Front-de-Boeuf orders his slaves to light a fire and threatens to place Isaac, nude, on iron bars held over the fire grate. Isaac agrees to pay Front-de-Boeuf, but Front-de-Boeuf refuses Isaac's request to free the Saxons as well. When Isaac insists that he must send his daughter to retrieve the money in York, Front-de-Boeuf states that it is not possible since he has already given Rebecca, who he claims to have believed was Isaac's concubine, to Brian De Bois-Guilbert as a handmaiden. Isaac, distressed, begs his captor to take all of his money and kill him; Isaac only wants his captors to spare his daughter's virtue and honor. Front-de-Boeuf's momentary sympathy for Isaac is soon replaced by irritation over Isaac's defiance. Front-de-Boeuf commands his slaves to strip the Jew and chain him to the iron bars, but a bugle call sounds outside the castle before they can carry out his orders, summoning Front-de-Boeuf away from Isaac.

De Bracy visits Lady Rowena in her chambers in an attempt to convince her to accept him as her husband. She responds to his attempts at charm with contempt. His threats to hold her prisoner forever or kill her will not cause her to yield either. De Bracy reveals that Ivanhoe is also a prisoner in the castle as he was the sick man in Isaac's entourage, knowing of Lady Rowena's love for Ivanhoe. Since Front-de-Boeuf desires the lands that Prince John has given him, even though they are rightfully Ivanhoe's lands, Front-de-Boeuf plans to kill Ivanhoe; however, De Bracy promises to prevent any harm from befalling Ivanhoe if Lady Rowena agrees to marry him. De Bracy also threatens Cedric's life should she refuse him. De Bracy is confused when Lady Rowena begins to weep, but luckily this conversation is also interrupted by the bugle call.

Section VII, Chapters 21 through 23 Analysis

This section serves to gather all of the main characters and conflicts into one area. Cedric's party is joined by Isaac's party which, it is later revealed, contains Ivanhoe. De Bracy's plot is fulfilled, along with the foreshadowing thereof, when his group attacks the group of Saxons. Wamba's escape enables him to find help in the form of Robin of Locksley and his men, together with King Richard and Friar Tuck. The Norman



antagonists also join forces in this section in order to fulfill mutual ill purposes. De Bracy plans to persuade Lady Rowena to marry him, while Brian De Bois-Guilbert plots to claim Rebecca. Front-de-Bouef's property ownership is illegitimate due to the fact that it is rightfully Ivanhoe's property, but Ivanhoe's inclusion in the captives allows him the chance to obtain the property without contradiction. De Bracy's fears of Brian De Bois-Guilbert being around Lady Rowena shows his contempt for the vows of the Templar Knights.

The Normans show their greed and immorality by torturing Isaac in order to get him to agree to give them money; this also shows their anti-Semitic attitude. Isaac proves that he loves his daughter more than his money when he offers to forfeit all of his wealth and even his life if his captors will spare Rebecca. Although De Bracy threatens Lady Rowena, he shows a small side of honor by his desire to convince Lady Rowena to accept him rather than force her to do so. While he is an immoral character, he recognizes Lady Rowena's superior nature and seeks to persuade her rather than ruin her. The bugle call interrupts both scenes, saving Isaac and Lady Rowena and preventing Front-de-Boeuf and De Bracy from demonstrating even more immorality. It also foreshadows the next section.



Section VIII, Chapters 24 through 26

Section VIII, Chapters 24 through 26 Summary

Rebecca encounters Urfried, an older woman, when she is thrown into a cell. Rebecca learns that Front-de-Boeuf's father killed Urfried's father and seven brothers when she was young and has held her prisoner ever since. Urfried tells Rebecca that escape is hopeless before leaving the cell. Brian De Bois-Guilbert approaches Rebecca and makes apparent his ignoble intentions. When Rebecca chides him, he points out that she is a prisoner and therefore must yield to his will. His proposal that she convert to Christianity terrifies her, and she threatens to jump out of the window. Brian De Bois-Guilbert promises that he will not harm her, causing her to decide to trust him and step back through the window to safety. He claims that he is devoted to her but that she must agree to their union. Although he aspires to become the Grand Master of the Templar Knights, he is more concerned with the power that accompanies the title than the chivalrous and spiritual ideas of the Templars. He insists that Rebecca will be able to share his power through his role within the Templars which could be good for the Jew's standing in society. The bugle calls Brian De Bois-Guilbert away from Rebecca, but he promises to return to her shortly.

De Bracy, Front-de-Boeuf, and De Bois-Guilbert gather to discuss the letter they have received from Wamba and Gurth demanding that they surrender their prisoners within the hour and threatening dire consequence should they fail to acquiesce. This letter is also signed by the Black Knight and Robin of Locksley; therefore, the three knights are unsure how to respond to the threats. Although De Bracy mocks the men, Front-de-Boeuf realizes that their situation is potentially very dangerous since a squire informs him that there are over two hundred men backing their opposition. The knights confer and decide that they will be able to defend the castle against the intruders. Brian De Bois-Guilbert replies to the challenge, stating that they will kill their prisoners before noon and requesting a priest come to administer last rites to the prisoners. The rescuers receive this letter and discuss who to send as the priest. Friar Tuck declines when the Black Knight suggests sending him, and Wamba volunteers to act as a priest.

Brian De Bois-Guilbert suggests sending a request for De Bracy's men to come and help them. Wamba arrives at Torquilstone and goes to the hall where Cedric and Athelstane are imprisoned. When Wamba informs them that he has come to help them ready themselves for death, they initially do not believe him but decide to accept their situation courageously. Wamba admits his true identity, offering to trade clothes with Cedric in order to enable Cedric to escape. Cedric offers to allow Athelstane to take his place, but Athelstane declines even as Wamba refuses to exchange clothes with anyone else. Cedric, touched by Wamba's devotion, trades clothing with Wamba and makes his way from the castle. On his way out, he encounters Rebecca, who has been allowed a reprieve from her cell by Urfried. Rebecca informs the disguised Cedric that she has been tending a wounded prisoner and asks him to aid the man whom Cedric is



unaware is Ivanhoe, his disinherited son. Cedric refuses to assist in order to hasten his escape.

Section VIII, Chapters 24 through 26 Analysis

A parallel is drawn between the situations that Rebecca and Lady Rowena find themselves in while imprisoned at Torquilstone. Both are pursued by men they detest, and both resist these men's advances. The contrast is that Brian De Bois-Guilbert does not plan to marry the Jewess while De Bracy is very intent upon marrying Lady Rowena. Both women are interested in Ivanhoe and worry more about his well-being than any possible attempts at escape. Urfried serves as a contrast to both Rebecca and Lady Rowena since she was also courted by a man whom she detested when she was young and beautiful. She did not have the strength of will that Lady Rowena and Rebecca possess and has spent her life shamed as a result of yielding to the man's advances. The Normans' attempts to dishonor the two women further demonstrate the immorality of the ruling class of Normans.

The fact that Wamba and Gurth sign the letter to the Normans, demanding the release of their prisoners, serves as a mockery to the Normans since they are receiving an ultimatum from mere servants. It is also a very elaborate device that causes the Normans to mock the letter in order to further denigrate the offensive knights. The letter also foreshadows the ensuing battle. Wamba's repetition of Latin phrases serves to highlight the density of the Normans who do not understand the language and assumes the priest's authenticity. Wamba demonstrates his loyalty to his master in offering to trade clothes only with Cedric to enable his escape. This section allows a sharp contrast between the base and selfish Normans and the noble and altruistic Saxons, assisted by King Richard. It is ironic that Cedric refuses to see the wounded prisoner, unaware that it is his own son and could be the last chance the Saxon would get to see Ivanhoe.



Section IX, Chapters 27 through 28

Section IX, Chapters 27 through 28 Summary

Urfried leads the disguised Cedric into her apartment where she tells him her history. Cedric is shocked when he learns that her father was Torquil Wolfgang, a close friend of his father's. Urfried continues her story even after realizing that she is talking to Cedric and reveals that her real name is Ulrica. When her father's murderer forced her to become his lover, she did everything within her power to discompose the man's family, creating a hatred between the man, the elder Front-de-Boeuf, and his son, even causing his son to murder his father. Although Cedric is disgusted that Ulrica did not commit suicide to escape her shame, she dissents that at least she is able to pursue revenge with her life intact. Before leaving Cedric, Ulrica tells him that the invaders should attack when they see a red flag waving from the turret as the Normans will be distracted in the castle during that time. After Ulrica leaves, Front-de-Boeuf enters and he gives the priest, Cedric, a scroll to deliver to Philip de Malvoisin's castle which should then be sent to York. The disguised Cedric makes his escape, and Front-de-Boeuf has Cedric brought before him. Front-de-Boeuf is enraged when he learns of Wamba's deception and Cedric's escape, threatening to kill Wamba immediately. De Bracy dissuades him, wanting Wamba to join his service. Athelstane offers to ransom all of the prisoners for one thousand marks, and Front-de-Boeuf agrees, excepting Isaac, Rebecca, Lady Rowena, and Wamba. Athelstane refuses since he is to marry Lady Rowena and Wamba has just saved Cedric's life. The monk Ambrose arrives and announces that the Prior of Jorvaulx has been captured by the forest outlaws who demand a ransom. The knights refuse to help him and prepare to defend the castle against the invaders.

A flashback reveals that Ivanhoe is the injured prisoner. When Ivanhoe faints after the tournament, Rebecca convinces Isaac to convey the knight to their lodgings where she nurses him. She further persuades her father to bring the injured man with them on their journey to York since Ivanhoe is a favorite of King Richard and will be needed for the king's army when he returns since Isaac has provided Prince John with funding for his rebellion.

Section IX, Chapters 27 through 28 Analysis

It is ironic that Cedric encounters Urfried and learns that she is the daughter of his father's friend. Her revelation about her treatment at the hands of the eldest Front-de-Boeuf further highlights the immorality of the Normans. Cedric's condemnation of Urfried for refusing to commit suicide reveals the ideas of the time concerning women's dishonor. Her desire for vengeance is seen as very unfeminine behavior. Athelstane shows honor and courage in his refusal to pay the ransom under Front-de-Boeuf's conditions.



The author uses the technique of flashback in chapter twenty-eight to explain the action that occurred between the tournament and the capture of the Saxons, Isaac, and Rebecca. It also serves to inform the reader that Ivanhoe is the wounded prisoner, which foreshadows his actions before being rescued from Torquilstone. The narrator intrudes on the action again in this chapter in order to fully explain the events. This chapter can be a bit confusion due to the incongruity with time.



Section X, Chapters 29 through 31

Section X, Chapters 29 through 31 Summary

Rebecca realizes that she is becoming very attached to Ivanhoe as she nurses him. Ivanhoe is too weak to watch the battle at the window, but Rebecca recounts the action for him. The Black Knight leads the intruders toward Torquilstone. A bugle signals the attack, followed by the Normans sounding their trumpets. Both sides shoot arrows at one another before engaging in combat. Front-de-Boeuf's men drag their master back inside the castle after the Black Knight defeats him. The invaders gain control of one of the outer buildings of the castle. When Ivanhoe expresses his desire to participate in the battle, Rebecca debates the value of chivalry with the honorable knight; she sees no value in it. After Ivanhoe falls to sleep, Rebecca realizes her insensibility in worrying more for the strange knight than her own father, Isaac.

De Bracy and De Bois-Guilbert, aware of the severity of their situation, discuss their options. De Bracy wants to release the prisoners, but De Bois-Guilbert refuses to this remedy. They decide to simply do their best in defending the castle. Front-de-Boeuf is dying from his wounds. On his deathbed, Ulrica visits him to remind him of all his past sins. She torments him with the idea that the Saxons will overrun his castle before setting fire to his room and leaving him to die in the inferno.

The invaders build a raft and cross the moat to the castle, starting with the Black Knight and Cedric. Their men fire arrows at the enemy to lessen their leaders' danger. A red flag waves from the turret, and the invaders begin to attack more relentlessly. Although he knows that the castle is on fire, Brian De Bois-Guilbert has an idea to continue the battle. De Bracy surrenders after battling the Black Knight. Rebecca refuses to heed Ivanhoe's pleas for her to escape and save her life from perishing in the flames that consume the castle; Brian De Bois-Guilbert does not allow her to stand by her conviction and arrives to kidnap her yet again. The Black Knight saves Ivanhoe and returns to the castle to free the others. Cedric releases Lady Rowena and charges Gurth to escort her to safety as the battle rages on. When Brian De Bois-Guilbert leaves with Rebecca, Athelstane tries to stop him, mistaking Rebecca for Lady Rowena; De Bois-Guilbert knocks Athelstane unconscious. As the castle burns to the ground, Ulrica sings crazily from the turret until it collapses from the fire, killing her.

Section X, Chapters 29 through 31 Analysis

Through Rebecca's interactions with Ivanhoe, it becomes apparent that she has fallen in love with the man she nurses. Unfortunately, her love is sure to be unrequited since she is a Jewess and no Christian will marry her. Luckily, she loves Ivanhoe who is too chivalrous to take advantage of her love. Rebecca condemns the concept of knighthood as an excuse for violence, especially since she has seen the knights of Torquilstone who violate their vows whenever it suits them. Ivanhoe defends knighthood by



describing honor and chivalry; it is natural that Ivanhoe defends these characteristics since he is one of the only characters in the novel who possesses them.

Neither the Saxons nor the Normans fight as unified troops; both have divisions among their ranks. The bond between the treacherous knights of Torquilstone is extinguished as Front-de-Boeuf is unhappy to die alone, yet De Bracy and Brian De Bois-Guilbert concern themselves with practical matters without thinking of his death. The Saxons are unable to choose a leader, which suggests the reason that the Normans have been able to conquer their people so easily. Ulrica accomplishes her last revenge against her father's murderer by contributing to the Saxons' defeats of the Normans at Torquilstone and causing the painful death of Front-de-Bouef; possibly in reaction to Cedric's earlier condemnation, Ulrica accepts her own death, yet she does so only having achieving the ultimate revenge.



Section XI, Chapters 32 through 34

Section XI, Chapters 32 through 34 Summary

The outlaws divide the spoils from battle. Cedric mourns Athelstane's death and frees Gurth from his slavery. When Lady Rowena is escorted to the gathering, the imprisoned De Bracy requests her forgiveness. Lady Rowena hesitates because of the great amount of pain that he has caused her. Cedric agrees in advance when the Black Knight informs him that he will soon ask for a favor. The Black Knight releases De Bracy, who leaves quickly. Robin of Locksley bestows a bugle upon the Black Knight as a gift, teaching him the melody to blow should he ever find trouble while in the forest. Robin of Locksley then separates the spoils, insisting that the church receives tithes first; then it is to be distributed among the families of the deceased and among the outlaws. Arriving together later than the others, Isaac argues against Friar Tuck's proclamation that the Jew has converted to Christianity, causing Friar Tuck to attempt to strike him. The Black Knight stops Friar Tuck, which leads to a test of strength between the two to claim the prisoner; the Black Knight wins and sets Isaac free. Prior Aymer of Jorvaulx is presented as a prisoner to Robin of Locksley.

Robin of Locksley informs Prior Aymer of Jorvaulx that he will be held for ransom, asking Isaac to name the amount. Also, Prior Aymer is to name an amount that he will charge Isaac to intervene with Brian De Bois-Guilbert for Rebecca's release. Both men complain when Isaac sets the Prior's ransom at six hundred crowns and the Prior sets the fee for his assistance at a thousand crowns. Since Rebecca has tended Robin of Locksley in his past illnesses and her father also has to pay a ransom to free her, Locksley lessens Isaac's ransom to five hundred crowns. He also convinces Prior Aymer of Jorvaulx to help persuade Brian De Bois-Guilbert to release Rebecca. Isaac leaves to attempt to retrieve his daughter, and the Black Knight parts company with the outlaws without revealing his true identity.

At the castle of York, Prince John plots with his men to usurp his brother's throne. All are discomfited with the news of the defeat of Front-de-Boeuf, De Bracy, and De Bois-Guilbert at Torquilstone since they need these knights if they are to gain power. De Bracy travels to York in order to relate the events of the battle to Prince John. He informs Prince John that King Richard has returned to England; he clearly refers to the Black Knight. De Bracy has decided to relocate to Flanders; Fitzurse claims sanctuary in the church. Prince John realizes that his men are deserting him and suggests kidnapping Richard before he can gather his forces. De Bracy refuses to participate in such an underhanded act; however, Fitzurse agrees to plan the event while Prince John names De Bracy as High Marshall, though he sends spies to follow De Bracy whom he no longer trusts.



Section XI, Chapters 32 through 34 Analysis

These largely expository chapters direct the plot into its current position. King Richard's honor and nobility are emphasized through his refusal to accept any of the loot that has been recovered from Torquilstone as well as through his ability in battle. Additionally, he defeats Friar Tuck and frees Isaac. De Bracy is seen as more honorable than his co-conspirators, which results in the Black Knight freeing this enemy. Robin of Locksley demonstrates his fairness in distributing the wealth that they have acquired; the fact that no one questions his authority provides evidence of his utter supremacy. His concern for Rebecca and the reason for it further show the depth of her character. Cedric's immediate agreement to grant a boon to the Black Knight shows his loyalty as well as the fact that his resolve against the Normans is weakening.

Prince John's plotting for the crown shows his cunning, pride, and weakness. De Bracy's news throws Prince John and his men into turmoil with many of Prince John's followers abandoning him in order to escape the wrath of the rightful king. Fitzurse remains loyal to Prince John, but it is evident that he does so only because he is aware that there is no redemption for him without Prince John in power. The title that Prince John bestows upon De Bracy is an obvious attempt at winning the knight's loyalty, but Prince John shows that he does not trust this method by sending spies to follow his new High Marshall.



Section XII, Chapters 35 through 37

Section XII, Chapters 35 through 37 Summary

Isaac travels to Templestowe Castle where the Templar Knights headquarters lies. He wants to negotiate for his daughter's release. On the way, Isaac stays with his friend, Nathan, who advises him to avoid going to Templestowe since Lucas de Beaumanoir, the Grand Master of the Templars who hates Jews, is staying at Templestowe presently. Isaac ignores this warning and continues on his journey. When he arrives at Templestowe Castle, Isaac asks to speak with Brian De Bois-Guilbert, but is directed to Grand Master Lucas de Beaumanoir instead. Isaac carries a letter for De Bois-Guilbert from Prior Aymer of Jorvaulx which de Beaumanoir has a servant read to him. The Prior's letter requests that Brian De Bois-Guilbert release Rebecca to her father for a ransom. Unfortunately, the letter also refers to the lack of temperance that Prior Aymer of Jorvaulx and Brian De Bois-Guilbert have been known to display. An allusion to Rebecca as a witch causes de Beaumanoir to decide to try Rebecca as a witch, to be burned at the stake if found guilty.

Grand Master Lucas de Beaumanoir chastises the Preceptor, Albert Malvoisin, for allowing the witch, Rebecca to stay at the castle of Templestowe. Malvoisin defends his decision by stating that he hoped to convince Brian De Bois-Guilbert of her sorcery. De Beaumanoir pities De Bois-Guilbert and does not intend to punish the knight. He orders preparations for the trial as Malvoisin informs Brian De Bois-Guilbert of the situation. Despite Malvoisin's warning, De Bois-Guilbert refuses to give Rebecca up. Brian De Bois-Guilbert decides to try one more time to save her, but her rejection will lead to his vengeance. Simultaneously, Preceptor Conrade Mont-Fichet, de Beaumanoir's assistant, instructs Malvoisin to strengthen the evidence against Rebecca as a witch since he knows that it will be unconvincing. Rebecca is led to the hall for her trial.

De Beaumanoir begins Rebecca's trial with an explanation that Brian De Bois-Guilbert was incapable of making the decision to break the vows of the Templars through his interactions with Rebecca as a result of her witchcraft. Had De Bois-Guilbert been acting of his own accord, he would deserve severe penalties for his behavior; since this is not the case, his penance will restore him to purity. The punishment for the actions will be delivered to the person who practiced witchcraft against the knight, Rebecca. Several witnesses testify about De Bois-Guilbert's attachment to the Jewess. Higg, a peasant, claims that Rebecca cured him of the palsy, even producing the balm that she supposedly gave him to heal himself. Two Christian healers examine the balm and declare that it is magical and illegal for Christians to use. De Beaumanoir takes the balm and ends Higg's testimony. Malvoisin convinces two soldiers to falsify evidence against Rebecca. When allowed to argue her defense, Rebecca summons Brian De Bois-Guilbert to refute the charges brought against her. His seemingly innocuous answer confuses the court but causes Rebecca to read the message that was given to her as she came to her trial. This message instructs her to demand a champion, so Rebecca



claims her innocence and demands to have a champion fight for her innocence in combat.

Section XII, Chapters 35 through 37 Analysis

Prior Aymer of Jorvaulx trickily determines a means of destroying Rebecca and assisting Brian De Bois-Guilbert, despite his promises to Isaac and Robin of Locksley. By smearing Rebecca's reputation, he purposely leads to her trial as a witch. The Normans and Saxons of the time were superstitious, and along with the anti-Semitic nature of these peoples and their view of women as disposable items, this leads to the claims against Rebecca not even being disputed. Furthermore, the fact that Rebecca is beautiful and intelligent causes the men to be even more frightened of her and disposed to believe the worst of her. It is ironic that Rebecca is tried as an immoral witch in light of her character which has been revealed throughout the novel to be very moral and strong-willed. Brian De Bois-Guilbert partially redeems himself through his offers to run away with Rebecca or fight as her champion in order to defend her honor. Conversely, this kind act is only offered because he is still trying to persuade Rebecca to yield to him. Rebecca disdains his offers since he is the person who has sentenced her to this situation as well as the fact that she is aware of his immorality, even accusing him of breaking his vows to the Templar Knights.



Section XIII, Chapters 38 through 40

Section XIII, Chapters 38 through 40 Summary

Grand Master Lucas de Beaumanoir assigns Brian De Bois-Guilbert to be the champion of the Templars while giving Rebecca three days to find a champion, even allowing her to send a message to Isaac. Rebecca assures herself that her father will provide a champion who can defend her honor. Higg is sent as the messenger who meets Isaac and his friend, Samuel, less than a mile away from the castle. Samuel reads Rebecca's letter to Isaac aloud; the letter explains her trial and asks that Isaac contact Ivanhoe who may not be able to fight yet after his wounds from the tournament but who will at least likely be able to find someone else to defend her.

Brian De Bois-Guilbert visits Rebecca in her holding cell, where he tries to deny responsibility for the situation that he has caused Rebecca to find herself in. Although he claims that he was unaware that the Grand Master would be at Templestowe, Rebecca remains unconvinced by his pleas, especially since he did not defend her in her trial and will even be fighting to prove her guilt. De Bois-Guilbert points out that he suggested she demand combat to determine her fate, but Rebecca argues that it only buys her a little extra time. De Bois-Guilbert claims that he had planned to act as her champion in disguise in order to prove her innocence; yet again, Rebecca does not believe her captor. Brian De Bois-Guilbert explains that he must act as has been ordered or his ambitions to become the Grand Master of the Templars will be demolished. De Bois-Guilbert offers to accept this fate if Rebecca will accept him and flee to Palestine and live as his queen. Rebecca refuses his plot, and Brian De Bois-Guilbert desires to part in friendship, though there is nothing he can now do to help Rebecca. Rebecca forgives him for contributing to her death before he leaves her. In another room, Brian De Bois-Guilbert tells Malvoisin that he is considering refusing the Grand Master's proclamation to act as Rebecca's accuser in the combat, but Malvoisin advises him against this idea since he will be tried. Malvoisin also points out the futility of an attempt to flee. De Bois-Guilbert is hesitant to be responsible for Rebecca death and hopes that no one will arrive to act as her champion.

Black Knight rides to a religious house where Ivanhoe is being nursed. The Black Knight promises to return to Ivanhoe after Athelstane's funeral, mentioning his desire to patch things up between Ivanhoe and Cedric. Ivanhoe, along with his new squire Gurth, prepare to leave their current lodgings. As the Black Knight and Wamba travel through the forest, they are attacked by robbers, but the Black Knight plays his bugle and summons Robin of Locksley and his men, who soon arrive and defeat the attackers who are led by Waldemar Fitzurse. Fitzurse admits that Prince John planned the attack because they are aware that the Black Knight is King Richard. King Richard banishes Fitzurse. The Black Knight then reveals his true identity to Robin of Locksley who confesses his reputation as Robin Hood. Friar Tuck apologizes for the way he has treated the king, and King Richard quickly agrees.



Section XIII, Chapters 38 through 40 Analysis

Brian De Bois-Guilbert elaborates on his schemes to save Rebecca, demonstrating a slight remorse for his previous actions; however, Rebecca's honor and virtue prohibit her from agreeing to anything of the sort. Rebecca's appeal to Ivanhoe shows her faith in the honorable knight and foreshadows his arrival to act as her champion to defend her honor. Brian De Bois-Guilbert shows a slight redeeming quality in his desire not to be responsible for her death; however, this is counteracted by the fact that if no one appears as Rebecca's champion, she will still die. De Bois-Guilbert is not worried about Rebecca's fate so much as his direct part in it.

King Richard's visit and promise to Ivanhoe demonstrate his respect for the knight as well as his honor. Fitzurse emerges as the last man loyal to Prince John. He seeks King Richard to procure Prince John's place on the throne. Robin of Locksley shows his loyalty to the Black Knight by assisting in the fight with Fitzurse and his men. King Richard shows leniency and justness by banishing Fitzurse from England rather than having the traitor executed. The Black Knight and Robin of Locksley both reveal their true identities to one another in chapter forty, foreshadowing the actions of the concluding chapters as well as clarifying some of the preceding action.



Section XIV, Chapters 41 through 42

Section XIV, Chapters 41 through 42 Summary

Ivanhoe and Gurth join the feast in the forest. Ivanhoe informs King Richard about the current condition of his kingdom and advises him to reclaim it quickly. King Richard must wait until his reinforcements are prepared to assist him. Robin of Locksley worries about King Richard staying for too long in the forest and creates an act to make it seem that the Normans are attacking, ending the banquet abruptly. Robin of Locksley confesses his actions to King Richard, who agrees that he should continue on his journey. King Richard, Ivanhoe, Gurth, and Wamba travel toward Athelstane's castle where the servants are mourning for their lost master.

Richard and Ivanhoe arrive at Athelstane's castle and are shown to a room where Cedric sits with several other Saxons. Cedric guides them to the chapel where Athelstane's bier has been set before leading them to an oratory where they are introduced to Athelstane's mother, Edith. They then go to an apartment where twenty women are gathered. Lady Rowena and three other women sing a dirge for Athelstane's soul. Cedric leads them to yet another room where King Richard reveals his identity and requests a boon, that Cedric resolve his dispute with his son. Cedric agrees once Ivanhoe uncovers his face and reveals himself to his father. Suddenly, Athelstane, still in his burial garb, appears, stating that he was not injured, only shocked in the battle. He recovers to find himself in his open coffin and is drugged by two monks, including Friar Tuck, but manages to escape. When Cedric encourages Athelstane to claim his right to the throne of England, Athelstane refuses and pledges his allegiance to follow King Richard. He also renounces his rights to Lady Rowena in order for Ivanhoe to have her.

Section XIV, Chapters 41 through 42 Analysis

Many discoveries are unveiled in this section. The Black Knight reveals that he is King Richard, Robin of Locksley reveals that he is Robin Hood, and Ivanhoe reveals himself to his father. Also, Athelstane reveals that he was not murdered in the battle at Torquilstone. Much of the resolution of the plot takes place in these chapters. Furthermore, Athelstane shows honor by pledging allegiance to the true king of England and renouncing his claim to Lady Rowena. The Saxons decide to accept King Richard, a Norman, as their king in Athelstane's castle; this is ironic since Athelstane is supposed to be the next Saxon king. Athelstane serves to highlight the Saxons' submission to their Norman rulers. The narrator intrudes into this story at this point to reveal historical facts into his fictional novel. He tells of how King Richard died and Prince John became king, admitting his diversion from historical accuracy.



Section XV, Chapters 43 through 44

Section XV, Chapters 43 through 44 Summary

A large crowd, including some of Robin Hood's outlaws, gathers for Rebecca's trial. The stake is prepared, but Rebecca retains her dignity, though no champion appears when the time for combat is announced. Rebecca requests more time, which the Grand Master grants. Brian De Bois-Guilbert asks once again that Rebecca allow him to flee with her, but she refuses. Suddenly, Rebecca's champion appears; Ivanhoe challenges any who accuses the Jewess of witchcraft. Brian De Bois-Guilbert reluctantly acts as the Templars' champion. During the battle, Ivanhoe falls from his horse, as does Brian De Bois-Guilbert. Ivanhoe procures De Bois-Guilbert's sword and demands surrender but the knight is dead and cannot answer. Grand Master Lucas de Beaumanoir declares judgment made; Ivanhoe has saved Rebecca.

Rebecca is released as King Richard arrives with the intent to act as Rebecca's champion. King Richard orders that Malvoisin be arrested for treason before establishing the English flag over the castle rather than that of the Templar Knights. Although it seems that a battle may be brewing, the Templars retreat without battle. De Beaumanoir threatens to appeal to the Pope in Rome since Richard has negated the Templars' privileges. During the chaos, Isaac and Rebecca sneak away from the argument. Ivanhoe learns from the Earl of Essex, one of King Richard's men, that the king has sent Prince John to live with their mother until King Richard restores order in England. Shortly afterward, Cedric consents to Ivanhoe's marriage to Lady Rowena; he also begins to accept the Normans because of his friendship with King Richard. Many Normans and Saxons both attend Ivanhoe and Lady Rowena's wedding. The day after the wedding, Rebecca visits Lady Rowena to express her gratitude to Ivanhoe and present Rowena with an expensive necklace. Rebecca and Isaac are moving to Spain, and Lady Rowena's attempts to persuade the Jews to stay in England are in vain. The Jews move to Spain, but Ivanhoe and Lady Rowena live together happily for the remainder of their lives.

Section XV, Chapters 43 through 44 Analysis

The penultimate chapter details Brian De Bois-Guilbert's death, which is important because he is saved from public disgrace by his death. Also, his character is vindicated a bit by his love for Rebecca and his misguided attempts to save her, even though he endangered her in the first place. This fight also portrays Ivanhoe as truly heroic and chivalrous as he defends Rebecca's honor. The scene of the fight is very dramatic and unpredictable, though it ultimately ends with Rebecca's salvation by Ivanhoe's interference.

In the final chapter, all aspects of the plot are concluded romantically. Ivanhoe is portrayed as a hero and is enabled to marry his love. Brian De Bois-Guilbert's reputation



is not dishonored because of his death. King Richard reassumes his crown, acting mercifully by banishing rather than executing the traitors and only sending Prince John home to live with their mother for a while. The protagonists of the story prove that they earn their title by their mercy to their enemies in the ending chapter. Rebecca is the only character who does not receive a completely happy ending, but she demonstrates her superior character by expressing her gratitude for Ivanhoe's help to Lady Rowena. The Jews leave England to seek peace in another country. Every character achieves their own personal victory of some sort at the end of this novel.



Characters

Wilfred of Ivanhoe

Wilfred of Ivanhoe, better known simply as Ivanhoe, is the son of Cedric, the Saxon. Cedric disinherits his son for his loyalty to the Norman King Richard and his love for Lady Rowena, Cedric's ward who he intends to marry to Athelstane. Ivanhoe first appears at his father's home, dressed as a Palmer, in order to reassure his love that Ivanhoe is still alive. There he befriends Isaac the Jew which later proves useful. Appearing as the Disinherited Knight, Ivanhoe battles at the tournament at Ashby-de-la-Zouche where he wins the first day and crowns Lady Rowena as the Queen of Beauty and Love. The second day, he is attacked by Front-de-Boeuf, De Bois-Guilbert, and Athelstane simultaneously; however, with the help of the mysterious Black Knight, Ivanhoe manages to emerge victorious once again. Ivanhoe reveals his identity to Lady Rowena and Cedric before fainting from his wounds.

Ivanhoe receives care from Rebecca, Isaac the Jew's daughter. When Isaac's party joins with Cedric's party in the forest, they are all attacked and imprisoned by the Norman knights. In the castle at Torquilstone, Rebecca continues to nurse Ivanhoe. When the Black Knight, Robin of Locksley and his men arrive to battle the dishonorable Norman knights, Ivanhoe wishes that he could join the fray as he debates the concept of chivalry with Rebecca. After being rescued, Ivanhoe is reunited with his father and married to Lady Rowena. Ivanhoe embodies the idea of the perfect knight.

King Richard

King Richard the Lion-Hearted is a brave and honest Norman who rules over England. He fights in the Crusades in the Holy Land and is imprisoned in Europe when he tries to return home to England. In his absence, his brother, Prince John, has usurped his power and throne. Although King Richard is a Norman, even the Saxons tend to respect and like him. King Richard appears at the tournament at Ashby-de-la-Zouche, disguised as the Black Knight who assists Ivanhoe when the dishonorable knights gang up against the hero of the story.

King Richard befriends Friar Tuck and joins Robin of Locksley's men in their rescue of the Saxons whom are imprisoned by the dishonorable Norman knights. After the victory at Torquilstone, King Richard releases De Bracy from his imprisonment and wins Isaac as a prisoner from Friar Tuck in order to release him as well. When King Richard is attacked by Fitzurse, he banishes the traitor rather than have him executed, demonstrating his mercy. King Richard facilitates a reconciliation between Ivanhoe and Cedric. King Richard goes to Templestowe to act as Rebecca's champion, though Ivanhoe has already freed the Jewess. King Richard proves himself to be a just and caring monarch, eventually earning the respect even of Cedric.



Brian De Bois-Guilbert

Brian De Bois-Guilbert is a knight of the Order of the Knights Templar and one of Prince John's followers. He is arrogant and demanding despite his vows to chastity and poverty. De Bois-Guilbert is defeated by Ivanhoe at the tournament. He later assists in De Bracy's scheme to kidnap Lady Rowena and her family, claiming the Jewess, Rebecca, as his own prize. Despite his threats, De Bois-Guilbert is unable to persuade Rebecca to accept him. After being defeated at Torquilstone, he again kidnaps Rebecca, carrying her to Templestowe. At Templestowe, Rebecca is accused of witchcraft and De Bois-Guilbert is chosen to defend the Knights Templar in their accusation. He is killed by Ivanhoe in this battle.

Lady Rowena

Lady Rowena is Cedric's ward and is of noble birth. Although she is in love with Ivanhoe, Cedric intends to marry her to Athelstane, even disinheriting his son because of Rowena and Ivanhoe's love. Rowena is chaste, brave, and honorable. At the tournament of Ashby-de-la-Zouche, Ivanhoe as the Disinherited Knight bestows the title of Queen of Beauty and Love upon Rowena. After Rowena is kidnapped by De Bracy, she refuses his advances, later forgiving him after regaining her freedom. Eventually, Rowena is happily married to Ivanhoe.

Cedric

Cedric the Saxon is Ivanhoe's father who disinherits him for loving Rowena and following King Richard. Cedric is Rowena's ward and intends to marry her to Athelstane. The Saxon hates Normans and wants to restore England to Saxon leadership. Cedric is kidnapped by the Norman knights and held prisoner in Torquilstone Castle until his servant, Wamba, bravely saves him. Eventually, Cedric is persuaded to reconcile with his son, allow Ivanhoe's marriage to Rowena, and acknowledge King Richard as the rightful king.

Prince John

Prince John is King Richard's brother who usurps power while the king is fighting the Crusades. He is dishonorable and plots to rule England permanently. Prince John treats the Saxons poorly and Isaac the Jew even worse. He greatly fears King Richard's return, but luckily, his brother acts mercifully, only sending him to live with at home with their mother after learning of his betrayal.



Isaac of York

Isaac of York is a Jewish moneylender with a beautiful daughter, Rebecca. Everyone acts disrespectfully toward Isaac because of his religion, with the exception of Ivanhoe. Isaac is kidnapped by the Norman knights, then captured by Friar Tuck who King Richard defeats in order to release Isaac. Isaac works hard to free Rebecca from her continued imprisonment at the hands of De Bois-Guilbert.

Robin of Locksley

Robin of Locksley is an outlaw who lives in the forest after losing his lands and earldom to the Normans. He is honorable and leads the attack against Torquilstone to free the Saxons. Robin of Locksley admits to being the famous Robin Hood.

Athelstane

Athelstane is the next Saxon descendant to the throne; however, he is lazy and does not wish to rule. Cedric tries in vain to press the issue, even offering Lady Rowena as Athelstane's bride. Eventually, Athelstane renounces his claim to Rowena so that Ivanhoe can marry her. He also pledges allegiance to King Richard.

Urfried

Urfried is a hag that lives in Front-de-Boeuf's castle in Torquilstone. She is the daughter of Cedric's father's friend but witnessed her father and brothers' murders at the hands of the elder Front-de-Boeuf. She was then imprisoned by the monster. Urfried's real name is Ulrica, and she spends her life wreaking havoc on her captors, causing the younger Front-de-Boeuf to kill his father and eventually setting fire to the castle, killing Front-de-Boeuf.

Maurice De Bracy

Maurice De Bracy is one of Prince John's knights. Although he is brave and does not violate Lady Rowena, he kidnaps her in order to try to force her to marry him, threatening her when she refuses. De Bracy is defeated by the Saxons at Torquilstone but released by King Richard. He then reports to Prince John that King Richard has returned, causing Prince John to name De Bracy High Marshall. De Bracy refuses to act dishonorably by King Richard and flees to France.

Rebecca

Rebecca is Isaac the Jew's daughter. She is beautiful and generous. She nurses Ivanhoe after he is wounded in the tournament at Ashby-de-la-Zouche. Brian De Bois-



Guilbert yearns for Rebecca and claims her as his prize when he joins De Bracy's scheme to kidnap Lady Rowena. Rebecca refuses to yield to De Bois-Guilbert's advances at Torquilstone because of her high morality. De Bois-Guilbert flees from Torquilstone after the Saxons emerge victorious in their battle, taking Rebecca with him to Templestowe where she is accused of witchcraft. Ivanhoe acts as Rebecca's champion, clearing her name. Rebecca returns to Ivanhoe's home the day after his marriage to Lady Rowena in order to express her gratitude.

Reginald Front-de-Boeuf

Reginald Front-de-Boeuf is one of Prince John's knights. His father imprisoned Ulrica after killing her father and brothers; later Front-de-Boeuf kills his father. Prince John bestows the castle at Torquilstone upon Front-de-Boeuf though it rightfully belongs to Ivanhoe as ordained by King Richard. Front-de-Boeuf is mortally wounded by King Richard but dies when Ulrica sets fire to his room.

Waldemar Fitzurse

Waldemar Fitzurse is Prince John's dishonest adviser who attacks King Richard in the forest. Demonstrating his immense mercy, King Richard banishes Fitzurse rather than execute the traitor.

Gurth

Gurth is one of Cedric's servants. He assists Ivanhoe at the tournament and later serves as Ivanhoe's squire.

Wamba

Wamba is one of Cedric's servants. He rescues Cedric from Torquilstone castle, earning his freedom.



Objects/Places

Crusades

The Crusades, also known as the Holy War, is a war fought by the Knights Templar against the Saracens in Palestine, also known as the Holy Land.

England

The majority of the action of this novel takes place in England.

Sherwood Forest

A lot of the action in this novel occurs in Sherwood Forest, which is positioned between Sheffield and Doncaster. Many outlaws live in Sherwood Forest.

Sheffield

Sheffield is a city in Northern England which borders Sherwood Forest, along with Doncaster.

Doncaster

Doncaster is a borough in Northern England which borders Sherwood Forest, along with Sheffield.

Conquest of 1066

The Normans defeat the Saxons in the Conquest of 1066, assuming rule of England and forcing the Saxons to become their subjects.

Saxon Language

The Saxon language is considered barbaric by the Normans; this offends the Saxons of course and becomes a issue of contention between the two groups.



Norman Language

The Norman language is considered the epitome of chivalry and intelligence. The Saxons' inability to speak the Norman language causes the Normans to degrade the other people, becoming an issue of contention between the groups.

Anglo-Saxon Language

The Anglo-Saxon language is a combination of the Saxon and Norman languages. Few people from either group are willing to speak in this dialect as it signifies a lower social status.

Brass Ring

A brass ring is worn from the neck by servants, signaling their class and status.

St. Botoph

St. Botolph is the city where the convent is located. Ivanhoe is taken here when injured, and King Richard visits him.

Templestowe

Templestowe is the meeting place of the Templars.

Rotherwood

Rotherwood is Cedric's home.

Asby-de-la-Zouche

Asby-de-la-Zouche is the location of the tournament which Ivanhoe attends.

Palestine

Palestine, also known as the Holy Land, is located in the Middle East and is where the Crusades are fought.



York

York is a county in northern England, near the sea. It is here that Prince John plans to usurp his brother's throne. King Richard holds court in York after his return to England.

Toquilstone

Torquilstone is the name of Front-de-Boeuf's castle where Rebecca is held prisoner.

Castle of York

Located in the county of York, the Castle of York is where Prince John and his minions plot Richard's demise.

Order of the Templar

The Order of the Templar is a group of military and religious knights who fights for Jerusalem and against the Saracens in the Holy Land. During the Crusades, many Templars who remain in England forsake their vow of chastity.

Crown of England

The crown of England rightfully belongs to King Richard, but his brother, Prince John, attempts to usurp the throne while King Richard is fighting the Crusades in the Holy Land.

Ivanhoe's Marriage

At the end of the novel, Athelstane renounces his claim to Rowena, allowing Ivanhoe to marry her.



Setting

The story takes place in 1194, the year of King Richard I's (also known as Richard the Lion-Hearted) return to England from the Third Crusade, which was undertaken to rescue the Holy Land from the Turkish sultan, Saladin. The world of *Ivanhoe* is the picturesque Midlands and North country of England, specifically the counties of Leicestershire; Nottinghamshire, with the vast Sherwood Forest at its center; and Yorkshire. Using this time and setting enables Scott to examine the nature and role of chivalry at the height of the medieval age. He balances the reality of the twelfth century against the romantic ideal, juxtaposing knights in glittering armor, beautiful ladies, and the color and pageantry of the tournament at Ashby, against the bloody siege of Torquilstone and the mortal combat of *Ivanhoe* and de Bois-Guilbert at Templestowe.

He complicates the narrative by introducing the clash of two peoples, the Normans and the Saxons. In 1066 Duke William of Normandy (William the Conqueror) crossed the channel to England and defeated the Saxon Lord Harold.

England became a land where oppressive laws forced the Anglo-Saxons to reconcile themselves to Norman rule.

Beyond the severity of William's military government, taxes were heavy and the two peoples spoke different languages.

But neither the hatred between Normans and Saxons nor the Saxon claim to the English throne persisted into the twelfth century. This has led some scholars to criticize *Ivanhoe* as historically inaccurate, while others claim that he portrays Cedric the Saxon as a fanatic holdout nurturing a hopeless cause.



Social Sensitivity

Social Concerns

Two areas of concern may be found in Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*: the matter of chivalry and its effect on social and cultural behavior, and the subject of racial attitudes.

While Scott is often regarded as something of an advocate of the chivalric code, largely because he wrote so intensely about it and because he acted in a chivalric manner in his personal and business affairs, actually he suffered no illusions about the code. He knew that its day had passed and that a new era had no room for such a rigid and often barbaric set of standards.

However, he wanted to write a novel about a different time and place from the relatively recent Scottish settings with which he had dealt in other works. Thus, he selected the heart of England during the last years of the twelfth century and focused on the hostility between Normans and Saxons.

(Some critics have berated Scott for making this opposition more extreme than it historically was; they note that, since the Conquest was in 1066, enough time had elapsed for the two parties to accommodate to the situation).

Inasmuch as Sir Walter was not an expert on medieval English history, as he was on more recent Scottish events, he did a fair amount of research for the book. For example, he consulted relevant volumes in order to create realistic dialogue, speech that would sound like the language of the era and the characters at hand. Those who complain of Scott's anachronisms (which he cheerfully admitted, noting that he was writing historical fiction, not a textbook) may be concerned that the linguistic accuracy is not of a high level. If the language were precise for the time and place, however, all the characters would be speaking either Norman French or late Middle English (not too different from that of Chaucer).

The historical aspects of the book should not trouble readers, and they ought to be aware of Scott's actual balanced view of chivalry as presented in the text. A prime illustration is the tone of Sir Walter's comment on the tournament at Ashby-de-laZouche, the events of which have been delineated in a lively and energetic fashion: Thus ended the memorable field of Ashbyde-la-Zouche, one of the most gallantly contested tournaments of that age; for although only four knights, including one who was smothered by the heat of his armour [Scott does deserve high marks for such telling and interesting details], had died upon the field, yet upwards of thirty were desperately wounded, four or five of whom never recovered. Several more were disabled for life; and those who escaped carried the marks of the conflict to the grave with them. Hence it is always mentioned in the old records as the "gentle and joyous passage of arms at Ashby."



The sarcastic tone of the comment is unmistakable. Sir Walter held no regard for such bloody contests; he simply wished to write of them in an accurate and exciting fashion. This he did.

It is unfortunate that *Ivanhoe* has so frequently been relegated to the category of a "boys' book," as if it were simply an entertaining volume intended for young and inexperienced readers. *Ivanhoe* offers a welldeveloped image of the situation in England after most of the Crusades had been undertaken and King Richard I (the LionHearted, also Coeur de Lion) had just returned from the Holy Land. Clear as Scott was about the follies of chivalry, he displays a deep understanding of the hold that this set of beliefs had on the noblemen (and, indeed, almost all of their followers) of that day. So, the hero of the story, *Ivanhoe* himself, says to Rebecca, "Chivalry!—why, maiden, she is the nurse of pure and high affection—the stay of the oppressed, the redresser of grievances, the curb of the power of the tyrant." As this noble personage proceeds to list the virtues of the system, one sees that, taken in terms of the time and place, *Ivanhoe* has a point as to the values of the chivalric code. Nowhere in the realm of fiction will the reader discover such a balanced vision of the rule of life by which so many important and influential persons (again, as well as their attendants) conducted their lives. Perhaps the Crusades themselves are one of the best pieces of evidence of the attraction of the chivalric "ideal." And Scott presents both the positive and negative aspects of chivalry (as in the criticism of Richard's going off on a Crusade when, as many believed, he should have remained in England and ruled his somewhat troubled land).

The "trouble" that England suffers in the novel, while perhaps a bit exaggerated for literary purposes (as some readers complain), is largely the result of the irresponsible and self-seeking actions of Prince John, who took over leadership of the nation in Richard's absence, and of the natural discord between the "occupying" Normans and the native Saxons. While the Norman characters, such as Brian de Bois-Guilbert and Reginald Front-de-Boeuf, are generally represented as very proud and even arrogant, and the Saxons, like Cedric and Wilfred of *Ivanhoe*, are more restrained and admirable, it must be recalled that King Richard was a Norman and that the conquerors had been in England for almost 150 years and had done much to raise the economic and social levels of the country.

The two races do often find points of agreement and comity in the book (as in the very rules of chivalry, in which both groups believed), but the differences are what chiefly help to advance the plot. So, the two main events in the text are the tourney at Ashby and the storming of Front-de-Boeuf's castle, Torquilstone, by a small army made up chiefly of Saxons (the basis of the attack is the unlawful imprisonment of Rowena; her father, Cedric; and the Jews Isaac and his daughter, Rebecca). These two contests underscore the hostility between the races and form the liveliest scenes in the novel.

The matter of race also involves Isaac and Rebecca, of course. Given the time at which Scott wrote, his treatment of the downtrodden Jewish race is remarkably fair. While Isaac is a moneylender, he is an honorable man, and his love for his daughter, Rebecca, for which he is willing to sacrifice everything, is moving. Scott further employs



Rebecca, a person who, by virtue of race, lives outside the chivalric system, as a means to criticize and doubt the value of it: "and what is it, valiant knight, save an offering of sacrifice to a demon of vain glory...?" Thus, Sir Walter causes an "outsider" to view the prevailing "rule" by which the "insiders" lived with a more objective and, by modern standards, sane attitude.

As can be seen, Scott's presentation of racial differences (he does indicate the scorn with which many of the Christian characters perceive the Jews) is vital to the novel.

From the intense jousting between Saxons and Normans to the generous, heartfelt motives of Isaac as he tries to include Cedric in his own ransom, *Ivanhoe* deals with extensive and important racial topics. As Johnson says, "Isaac and Rebecca are in fact at the moral heart of *Ivanhoe*. Both are what they are in response to the pressures of their world." Thus, they help the author to illuminate that world in both its positive and negative aspects.

Social Sensitivity

Ivanhoe has often been identified as a work that glorifies war and revels in bloodshed and the clang of sword upon sword. But, *Ivanhoe* is about the shaping forces of history, not the superficial qualities of costume drama. The violence that permeates a good part of the book accurately portrays the atmosphere of medieval England, and physical violence in particular is roundly condemned as a method for distinguishing good from evil and justice from injustice.

While analyzing chivalry's failure to halt warfare, Scott also portrays the dangers facing a society infected by bigotry. Whether describing religious or racial prejudice, Scott stands firmly opposed to intolerance of any kind. His study of Isaac and Rebecca has become one of the most powerful statements in the English novel against the historical mistreatment of the Jews. Disinherited and forced into such occupations as moneylending by a society that manipulates them for its own purposes, Isaac and Rebecca defend themselves honorably. When the two must leave England for safer shores at the end of the novel, Scott clearly points to the injustice of this unfortunate exile.



Techniques

Since characterization holds such an important place in this book, it might be well to note the three standard methods of characterization as they apply to *Ivanhoe*: what the author says about the person, what others say about him or her (and other modes of reaction), and what the person says and does. The first of the modes of bringing a character to life is the one upon which Scott is criticized most often and most severely—he is accused of not getting into the "heart" of the character, not analyzing the inner workings of the person's mind and emotions. While *Ivanhoe* does not possess the psychological depth of some of his other works (including *The Heart of Midlothian* and *The Bride of Lammermoor*), Sir Walter does offer characters whose natures are represented clearly (it should be noted that people in that time and place and historical situation had little time or inclination for introspection or philosophical and psychological concentration). For example, early in the plot, the reasons for Isaac's fears and suspicions of Christians (all of whom populate the novel most generously) are mentioned briefly but directly: His doubts [of the honesty of his guide through the forest in Chapter VII] might have been indeed pardoned; for except, perhaps the flying-fish, there was no race existing on the earth, in the air, or the waters, who were the object of such an unremitting, general and relentless persecution as the Jews of this period.

The passage, which also demonstrates Scott's occasional stylistic fancies, explains the depredations and humiliations that the Jews suffered in England in feudal times.

The explanation goes on for a full page and closes with Scott's summation: "On these terms they lived; and their character, influenced accordingly, was watchful, suspicious and timid—yet obstinate, noncompliant, and skillful in evading the danger to which they were exposed." It would be difficult to find a more insightful and helpful summary of the bases for Isaac's (and, to some degree, Rebecca's) behavior throughout the story.

Thus, it may be seen that Scott was aware of the need for at least some detailed commentary on the personalities and reasons for actions of his characters.

As to the reactions of other characters to a given person, the foregoing speech by *Ivanhoe* to King Richard, combining as it does respect and complaint, may serve as a good example of Scott's attention to the usefulness of this method of rounding a character (and one needs very much to perceive both the positive and the negative sides of Richard's nature and activity), as well as revealing aspects of the speaker's personality.

Again, Isaac emerges as a fine example of characterization, and his speech to his captors, in which he pleads for the freedom of his fellow captives (Cedric and his company), indicates sharply the more benevolent aspects of the Jew's personality: "Grant me, at least with my own liberty, that of the companions with whom I travel. They scorned me as a Jew, yet they pitied my desolation, and because they tarried to aid me by the way, a share of my evil hath come upon them...." Here, one sees Isaac's sense of justice and responsibility, as well as his courage in making such an earnest request of



Front-de-Boeuf. This speech is soon followed by a violent expression of Isaac's outrage that his daughter has been taken by de Bois-Guilbert: "Robber and villain! I will pay thee nothing...."

The furious old man goes on for some time berating his captor in this brave fashion. Thus, Scott advances the plot of the story and also exposes the nature of a pivotal character.

The mode of Isaac's language indicates another point of Scott's technique: style. Of course, in this novel, he had to abandon the Scottish dialect for which he had become so famous. The challenge was to create dialogue that rang true to the historical setting of the plot. Although some readers find the language (especially the speeches) a bit stilted—so many "thees" and "haths," for instance—one must realize that Scott was forced to suggest what the almost ancient tongues of the real people of that early day would sound like in "modern" translation.

For example, French, the basic tongue of the Normans, has a form of the "familiar" pronouns, used for close friends, menials, and children, which is represented by the English equivalents "thee" or "thou." So Sir Walter was simply attempting to suggest the speech of the characters, and the rest of the text, in his own words, is couched in an expressive standard English, the literary language of Scott's day.

As to plot, the story line moves forward fairly directly, with the exception, found in many of Scott's works, of one situation or set of events being prepared for after they have occurred. For example, in a forthright way, Scott opens Chapter 28 by saying, "Our history must needs retrograde for the span of a few pages, to inform the reader of certain passages material to his understanding the rest of this important narrative [of events in the castle of Torquilstone]." Sir Walter then goes back in time to explain what happened to Ivanhoe after the tourney at Ashby. Also, the author employs the now popular device of having two sets of events proceeding at the same time (what today is often termed the "meanwhile back at the ranch" phenomenon), as when Chapter 24 opens with this sentence: "While the scenes we have described were passing in other parts of the castle, the Jewess Rebecca awaited her fate in a distant and sequestered turret." The rest of the chapter deals with Rebecca's travails while Cedric, Rowena, and, especially, de Bracy are arguing in the preceding chapter. This strategy on Scott's part helps to speed up the movement of the story, and to reveal the contemporaneous nature of incidents in different places.

All things considered, *Ivanhoe* should be judged for the mature work of historical fiction that it patently is. As indicated above, the often criticized presence of Robin Hood in a supposedly serious novel can be explained as the utilization of a historical phenomenon (the presence of armed "outlaws" in an oppressive political situation) for legitimate literary purposes. Otherwise, the book is worthy of respect for its fictional qualities, and, despite a handful of anachronisms, it is a painless way to learn some interesting history.



Themes

Conquest and Displacement

All characters in this novel are affected by the themes of conquest and displacement. The Normans conquer the Saxons and steal Saxon lands. The Saxons are subjected to oppression at the hands of their Norman rulers. The Saxons' language is even displaced by the Normans' language. With King Richard fighting the Crusades in the Holy Land, Prince John usurps the throne and rules cruelly, stealing money, land and power from the English subjects. Prince John even allows his knights to break their vows of chastity and poverty by living licentious and luxurious lives. Prince John displaces his brother by stealing his crown. King Richard is displaced because he is imprisoned in Europe after the Crusades.

Ivanhoe is displaced by his disinheritance due to his love for Lady Rowena and loyalty to King Richard. Robin of Locksley loses his earldom and lands as a result of the Norman oppression. As a Jew, Isaac is perpetually displaced and persecuted. De Bracy attempts to conquer Lady Rowena in vain due to the fact that she conquers his heart, making him a better man than he truly is. Simultaneously, Brian De Bois-Guilbert's attempts to conquer Rebecca prove ineffective due to the Jewess' high morality. Ulrica's life is a prime example of conquest and displacement as her father's murderer imprisoned her for her entire life; however, she gains revenge by contributing greatly to the death of Front-de-Boeuf, her captor's son. When Rebecca is accused of witchcraft, Ivanhoe conquers De Bois-Guilbert to save Rebecca's life. The dishonorable, Norman knights imprison the Saxons, conquering and displacing them. Ultimately, the Black Knight, Robin of Locksley and his men conquer the dishonorable knights.

Civil Unrest and Politics

The background upon which this narrative is placed is one of civil unrest. The politics of the region are in a great upheaval. Ivanhoe occurs barely one hundred years after the Normans obtain rule of previously Saxon England during the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The Saxons disapprove of their Norman king, wanting to see a Saxon on the throne of England. This is primarily due to the oppression to which the Normans subject the Saxons, stealing their land and mocking them mercilessly. The Normans act cruelly and unjustly toward the Saxons, creating political chaos and enmity between the two races. Even their languages create a chasm of discord. King Richard's imprisonment further creates chaos.

The forests are filled with Saxons who are now considered outlaws because the Normans have stolen their affluence through their oppression of commoners. Throughout the novel, the Saxons represent decency and morality, yet the Norman King Richard symbolizes leadership which none of the Saxons appear capable of performing. At the end of the novel, Scott makes it clear that national unity must result from



harmony between the Saxons and the Normans, rather than the reestablishment of Saxon rule. Unfortunately, there is no hope offered to the Jews, Isaac and Rebecca, who must flee to Moslem Spain in order to gain greater tolerance of their religious beliefs.

Bravery and Chivalry

The concepts of bravery and chivalry arise continually throughout *Ivanhoe*. Scott speaks disdainfully of the concept of chivalry in several places in the book. Chivalry is presented as a principle of knighthood, yet many of the Norman knights exhibit themselves as extremely dishonorable. As knights, Front-de-Boeuf, De Bracy and De Bois-Guilbert should present the emolument of chivalry, yet prove themselves corrupt time and time again. These knights steal the Saxons' lands. Ironically, the Saxon men that are considered outlaws prove themselves to be more honorable, becoming heroes throughout the novel. While the knights steal from the less fortunate, the outlaws steal from the rich and give to the poor. The outlaws are led by Robin of Locksley, who late in the story identifies himself as the legendary Robin Hood.

Ivanhoe and King Richard emerge as the only chivalrous characters in the novel. *Ivanhoe* debates with Rebecca about the importance of chivalry, since Rebecca only sees the false examples of the Norman knights. As the Disinherited Knight, *Ivanhoe* chivalrously refuses to accept the spoils of his victory. When De Bois-Guilbert, Front-de-Boeuf, and Athelstane team up against the Disinherited Knight, the Black Knight assists *Ivanhoe* in defeating the dishonorable knights. *Ivanhoe* further shows bravery through his desire to join the battle at Torquilstone despite his injuries. He later acts as Rebecca's champion when she is accused of witchcraft.

Cedric is disappointed by Athelstane's refusal to fight against the Normans in the tournament at Ashby-de-la-Zouche. Later, Athelstane shows courage in attacking De Bois-Guilbert who tries to escape with Rebecca, though Athelstane believes the damsel to be Lady Rowena. Finally, Athelstane yields the throne of England to King Richard and Lady Rowena to *Ivanhoe*. Wamba shows bravery in escaping from De Bracy as well as by rescuing Cedric. De Bracy acts as a coward by kidnapping Lady Rowena and her family rather than trying to court her in a more traditional manner; however, he slightly redeems himself by his refusal to participate in Prince John's plan to capture King Richard by surprise. Prince John continually acts in opposition with the concepts of bravery and chivalry in his underhanded methods of procuring power and wealth. Possibly two of the bravest characters in the novel are Lady Rowena and Rebecca who, though imprisoned and threatened, refuse to yield their honor to De Bracy and De Bois-Guilbert, respectively.

Significant Topics

While the political system of feudalism surrounds the action and informs much of it, the essential "message" of the novel could be interpreted as largely an indictment of that



way of life. Possibly the most significant example of this criticism is the matter of the actions of King Richard (who has been often lauded as one of England's most heroic and popular kings), which come under severe aspersion. Even Ivanhoe, who is no model of cautious, prudent behavior, stands shocked by the actions of his king: "Your kingdom is threatened with dissolution and civil war—your subjects menaced with every species of evil—why, oh why, noble Prince, will you thus vex the hearts of your faithful servants, and expose your life by lonely journeys and rash adventures."

In this critique of the king's rashness, one sees Scott's awareness of the perils of irresponsible behavior, especially by those who bear heavy duties—in this case to a nation and its people. So the chivalric ideal can be noted as severely flawed, even though many of the most admirable characters in the text adhere to it; this adherence, as shown by Scott, was, for the author, something of a historical necessity, given the era in which the novel is set.

On the other hand, some features of the code find positive expression in the novel.

Apart from the usually honorable actions of many of the characters, the leading Normans excepted (they are portrayed as little better than what today would be considered gangsters), two genuinely outstanding examples of the benevolent aspects of feudalism are the servants of Cedric, Gurth and Wamba. While these rustics are humble and sometimes (especially in Wamba's case) erratic, their loyalty to their master, and their bravery and (in Wamba's case) wit in aiding him are admirable. Cedric's gratitude for this fealty marks him as a more humane personage than does, for example, his attitude toward his own son, Wilfred.

The reader finds, then, that the ancient mores had both positive and negative qualities, but it would be a severe misreading of the novel to perceive it as a romantic praise of chivalry.

One final element in the thematic force of the book is the matter of love. Gurth and Wamba love their master, Cedric; Ivanhoe loves his country and his estranged father, also Cedric; Ivanhoe loves Rowena; Rebecca loves Ivanhoe; and Richard does love his subjects. All these types and examples of love come out strongly in the text. One strikingly powerful additional love is that of Isaac for his daughter. Against these evidences of admirable emotion is placed the harshness of the villains (among them several Knights Templars— Scott's opinion of these orders is clearly not high); herein lies the chief area of conflict in the novel.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of *Ivanhoe* is told through a limited, third person perspective. The novel is written as a summarized narrative and is highly dramatic. There is a fairly equal distribution of exposition and dialogue throughout the novel. A lot of background information is provided concerning the social atmosphere which the action of the novel takes place in. The point of view is very important to the novel because it allows the narrator to shift between scenes that occur in different places with different people. This gives the reader the chances to see all of the characters as well as the environment in which they are participating.

Large portions of the novel are expository and followed by large portions of action and dialogue. The tournaments and battles that occur throughout the novel display the exciting and dangerous mood of the Middle Ages, the time at which this story is happening. The author manages to create believable tension between the Normans and the Saxons by diverging into the lives of each group individually as well as during their interactions with one another. The novel is very unpredictable and enjoyable.

Setting

Ivanhoe is set in England in the Middle Ages, sometime during the twelfth century, about one hundred years after the Normans gain control over the Saxons in the Battle of Hastings of 1066. Many scenes occur in popular towns in real England, such as York, Sheffield, Ashby, and Coningsburgh. There are also some imaginary places, including Rotherwood, Torquilstone, and Templestowe. The actions of the novel sometimes occur in the city, sometimes in castles, and at other times in the woods. It is ironic that the violent action of the novel is often set in a scene of great natural, peaceful beauty.

Ivanhoe first travels to Rotherwood, his father's estate, before continuing his journey to Ashby where he participates in the tournament. In this beautiful town, much bloodshed takes place. The dishonorable knights attack Cedric and Isaac's combined parties in the peaceful woods. Robin of Locksley gathers his forces in the woods before reigning doom at Torquilstone. Torquilstone is an ironic setting for the imprisonment of the Saxons since it contains much Saxon history. After *Ivanhoe* saves Rebecca in Templestowe, he returns to Rotherwood where he is reconciled to his father and enabled to marry his love, Lady Rowena.

Language and Meaning

The narrator uses nineteenth century English in the novel though the story is placed in twelfth century England. In order to convince his readers of the authenticity of his work, he uses many Middle Age colloquialisms as well as provides many details about the



customs of the Middle Ages that he describes throughout the novel, such as the tournament, armor, and codes of honor. The language of the novel is very vivid, imaginative and strong, creating an atmosphere that the reader can visualize quite easily. Comprehension can be hindered by abnormally lengthy sentences as well as the use of archaic terms. At times, the language can be somewhat old-fashioned but is overall easy to understand as soon as the reader adjusts to the style of writing which remains clear despite the use of unfamiliar terms and ideas.

Scott creates his novel by combining a historical figure with fictional characters of his own creation. He sets the plots up so that the historical facts and the fictional plots align perfectly, coinciding so as to appear perfectly believable. Scott also has a tendency of following the path of certain characters to a specific stopping point before diverting his story to another group whose actions are also described to that certain point. At this point, Scott will resume his story from a more general perspective, enabling the reader to focus on the individual characters' plights as well as the overall action that is occurring. This method makes for very interesting story-telling. It also makes it easy for the reader to follow Scott's plot.

Structure

Ivanhoe is separated into forty-two, untitled chapters which range from five to seventeen pages each. Most of the chapters are fairly concise but are very descriptive and eventful. The pace of the novel is fairly quick paced due to the tournaments and battles; however, some sections of dialogue tend to drag slowly, especially in places where the narrator intervenes into the story with opinions about concepts of politics and chivalry. The story is much easier to understand than anticipated, due to Scott providing extensive background information that enables the reader to place themselves in the characters' environment more accurately.

Ivanhoe utilizes a classical plot structure which consists of an introduction, rising action, climax, falling action and denouement. In the introduction of Ivanhoe, Wamba and Gurth discuss the characters and the political events that are occurring in England at the time which provides the reader with background information that enables him to understand what is going on more clearly. The rising action is presented by the confrontation between the Normans and the Saxons, and it is furthered by the tournament at Ashby-de-la-Zouche. The climax occurs in the form of the imprisonment and subsequent victory of Cedric's party at Torquilstone Castle. The falling action consists of King Richard revealing his identity and being restored to his throne, as well as Cedric's reconciliation with his son. In the conclusion, the traitors are punished justly, Ivanhoe marries Rowena, and Rebecca and Isaac move to Spain.

The plot of the story is very engrossing. The novel ends as a typical romance or comedy with everyone happy. The protagonists achieve their desires and the antagonists are punished fairly instead of being dealt harshly with. Scott employs the use of flashbacks periodically to show what different characters are doing at the same time before bringing everyone back to the same time to resume the story. Although this may appear

disjointing in theory, in actuality, Scott maintains a unified and cohesive plot which is highly entertaining.



Quotes

"The royal policy had long been to weaken, by every means, legal or illegal, the strength of a part of the population which was justly considered as nourishing the most inveterate antipathy to their victor." Chap. 1, p. 30

"In short, French was the language of honour, chivalry, and even of justice, while the far more manly and expressive Anglo-Saxon was abandoned to the use of rustics and hinds, who knew no other." Chap. 1, p. 31

"Pride and jealousy there was in his eye, for his life had been spent in asserting rights which were constantly liable to invasion; and the prompt, fiery, and resolute disposition of the man had been kept constantly upon the alert by the circumstances of his situation." Chap. 3, p. 51

"Vows, must be unloosed, worthy franklin, or permit me rather to say, worthy thane, though the title is antiquated. Vows are the knots which tie us to Heaven—they are the cords which bind the sacrifice to the horns of the alter—and are therefore, as I said before, to be unloosed and discharged, unless our Holy Mother Church shall pronounce the contrary." Chap. 4, pp. 58-59

"Upon the slightest and most unreasonable pretenses, as well as upon accusations the most absurd and groundless, their persons and property were exposed to every turn of popular fury; for Norman, Saxon, Dane, and Briton, however adverse these races were to each other, contended which should look with greatest detestation upon a people whom it was accounted a point of religion to hate, to revile, to despise, to plunder, and to persecute." Chap. 6, p. 82

"These Gentiles, cruel and oppressive as they are, are in some sort dependent on the dispersed children of Zion, whom they despise and persecute. Without the aid of our wealth they could neither furnish forth their hosts in war nor their triumphs in peace; and the gold which we lend them returns with increase to our coffers. We are like the herb which flourisheth most when it is most trampled on." Chap. 10, p. 123

"Alas, since your son was a follower of my unhappy brother, it need not be inquired where or from whom he learned the lesson of filial disobedience." Chap. 14, p. 159

"He's expected at noon, and no wight till he comes May profane the great chair, or the porridge of plums; For the best of the cheer, and the seat by the fire, Is the undenied right of the Barefooted Friar." Chap. 17, p. 184



"I will but confess the sins of my green cloak to my grey friar's frock, and all shall be well again." Chap. 20, p. 204

"Alas! fair Rowena... you are in presence of your captive, not your jailor; and it is from your fair eyes that De Bracy must receive that doom which you fondly expect from him." Chap. 23, p. 226

"To heralds and to minstrels, then, leave thy praise, Sir Knight, more suiting for their mouths than for thine own; and tell me which of them shall record in song, or in book of tourney, the memorable conquest of this night, a conquest obtained over an old man, followed by a few timid hinds; and its booty, an unfortunate maiden transported against her will to the castle of a robber?" Chap. 23, p. 226

"Rowena, art thou, too, deceived by the common error of thy sex, who think there can be no rivalry but that respecting their own charms? Knowest thou not there is a jealousy of ambition and of wealth, as well as of love; and that this our host, Front-de-Boeuf, will push from his road him who opposes his claim to the fair barony of Ivanhoe, as readily, eagerly, and unscrupulously, as if he were preferred to him by some blue-eyed damsel? But smile on my suit, lady, and the wounded champion shall have nothing to fear from Front-de-Boeuf, whom else thou mayst mourn for, as in the hands of one who has never shown compassion." Chap. 23, p. 228

"The Templar loses, as thou hast said, his social rights, his power of free agency, but he becomes a member and a limb of a mighty body, before which thrones already tremble—even as the single drop of rain which mixes with the sea becomes an individual part of that restless ocean which undermines rocks and engulfs mighty armadas." Chap. 24, p. 241

"To act as I have acted, to think as I have thought, requires the maddening love of pleasure, mingled with the keen appetite of revenge, the proud consciousness of power—draughts too intoxicating for the human heart to bear, and yet retain the power to prevent...Well thou has said, all is possible for those who dare to die!" Chap. 27, p. 262

"Norman saw on English oak. On English neck a Norman yoke; Norman spoon to English dish, And England ruled as Normans wish; Blithe world in England never will be more, Till England's rid of all the four." Chap. 27, p. 267

"Ivanhoe was too good a Catholic to retain the same class of feelings toward a Jewess." Chap. 28, p. 280



"What remains?...Glory, maiden, glory! which gilds our sepulchre and embalms our name." Chap. 29, p. 295

"Chivalry!-why, maiden, she is the nurse of pure and high affection-the stay of the oppressed, the redresser of grievances, the curb of the power of the tyrant-Nobility were but an empty name without her, and liberty finds the best protection in her lance and her sword." Chap. 29, p. 296

"For he that does good, having the unlimited power to do evil, deserves praise not only for the good which he performs, but for the evil which he forbears." Chap. 33, p. 345

"Women are but the toys which amuse our lighter hours-ambition is the serious business of life." Chap. 36, p. 371

"If I renounce my Order, for thee alone will I renounce it—Ambition shall remain mine, if thou refuse my love; I will not be fooled on all hands.—Stoop my crest to Richard?—ask a boon of that heart of pride?—Never, Rebecca, will I place the Order of the Temple at his feet in my person. I may forsake the Order, I never will degrade or betray it." Chap. 39, p. 402

"I tell thee, proud Templar, that not in thy fiercest battles hast thou displayed more of thy vaunted courage than has been shown by woman when called upon to suffer by affection or duty." Chap. 39, p. 402

"Thou and I are but the blind instruments of some irresistible fatality, that hurries us along, like goodly vessels driving before the storm, which are dashed against each other, and so perish." Chap. 39, p. 404

"You have power, rank, command, influence; we have wealth, the source both of our strength and weakness; the value of these toys, ten times multiplied, would not influence half so much as your slightest wish. To you, therefore, the gift is of little value, —and to me, what I part with is of much less. Let me not think you deem so wretchedly ill of my nation as your commons believe. Think ye that I prize these sparkling fragments of stone above my liberty? or that my father values them in comparison to the honour of his only child? Accept them, lady—to me they are valueless. I will never wear jewels more." Chap. 42, p. 466

Adaptations

Ivanhoe is one of the thirty-two Waverley novels, so named for Scott's anonymously authored first novel, Waverley. Some present-day critics insist that all Scott's novels are romances, a criticism that ignores the diversity of his subjects and treatments. The Waverley novels contain realism and romance, the everyday world and the world of the imagination. Their settings stretch from the medieval period to the eighteenth century. The best novels, according to scholars, are those with Scottish settings that deal with religion and the relationship between Scotland and England. Scott wrote nine Scottish novels between 1814 and 1819, the best being *The Heart of Mid-Lothian*. *Ivanhoe* marked a new period in Scott's work, with a different setting, time, and style.

Two film adaptations of *Ivanhoe* have been produced in the last forty years, a lavish 1952 Hollywood production and a critically successful 1982 made-for-television movie. The earlier film maintains Scott's complex attitude toward chivalry while compressing the narrative to a 106-minute production. Director Richard Thorpe paid admirable attention to detail and assembled an excellent cast: Robert Taylor as *Ivanhoe*, Elizabeth Taylor as *Rebecca*, Joan Fontaine as *Rowena*, and George Sanders as *de Bois-Guilbert*. An uneven script and a sometimes unimaginative directorial approach to crucial scenes mars the film, but it remains an artistic success.

The 1982 television movie is also a vigorous, cohesive adaptation written by John Gay and directed by Douglas Camfield. The strength of this film is its cast: James Mason as *Isaac of York*, Anthony Andrews as *Ivanhoe*, and Olivia Hussey as *Rebecca*.



Key Questions

Since the period of this novel is much earlier than most of Scott's "Waverley" novels, and set in England rather than Scotland, some exploration of the actual history of England after the Norman Conquest would be helpful. Especial attention could be paid to the social and political situation, in order, for one thing, to judge the value of the claim that, by the close of the twelfth century, the animus between Normans and Saxons, upon which much of the plot depends, was in fact still severe. Also, a review of the Crusades and King Richard's part in them (and his imprisonment on his way home from the Holy Land) could be enlightening.

1. Which of the two events that are customarily viewed as the chief occurrences in the novel, the tourney at Ashby and the siege of Torquilstone, is related in the more exciting and realistic fashion?
2. Does the trial and the combat sparked by its result, involving the condemnation of Rebecca, stand up as an equally important and well-told passage?
3. Is it a clever device by the author to have Rebecca relate the siege of Torquilstone to Ivanhoe, who is lying wounded, instead of the author describing the occurrence directly to the reader?
4. Apart from the social, religious, and political impossibility of the event, should Ivanhoe have married Rebecca instead of Rowena, as a number of readers have claimed? Does Rebecca's appeal seem strong enough for such an outcome, if it were historically feasible?
5. Does the final scene, between Rowena and Rebecca, in which the former asks her new friend to stay and change her faith ("and I will be a sister to you"), seem appropriate as the best way to close the novel? Is Rebecca's continued resolution to leave with her father and remain in her faith valid and credible, given the generosity of Rowena's offer and what one knows of Rebecca's tribulations and character?
6. Which of the Norman characters (excepting Richard, of course) appears to be the least objectionable, the most deserving of at least a grudging admiration for courage and chivalry? Do any of them deserve this respect?
7. Is Scott's treatment of the knightly orders sufficiently objective, or does he seem to derogate them excessively?

Does the characterization of Lucas de Beaumanoir, grand master of the Templar order, cause this group of "soldiers" to be unworthy of any regard— indeed, to be condemned outright?

8. Does King Richard's previous and current behavior deserve the condemnation leveled at him by Ivanhoe and, indeed, by historians? Is he too devoted to martial



enterprises and adventure, when he should be undertaking responsible governance of his kingdom? Since Richard does offer an explanation for his actions in Chapter 41 (of the one-volume editions), can the reader excuse his "dereliction of duty," or at least understand it sympathetically?

9. Do the occasional, and sometimes lengthy, poetic insertions (usually in the epigraphs that introduce each chapter) distract one from the text? Would Sir Walter have been wise to omit these passages, in the interest of a more lively pace for the story?



Topics for Discussion

What effect does the Norman Conquest of 1066 have on the action of "Ivanhoe"?

Compare and contrast Ivanhoe to his father, Cedric.

Compare and contrast Rowena and Rebecca.

Compare and contrast Prince John and King Richard.

Explain how Ivanhoe symbolizes the perfect knight.

Describe how the Anglo-Saxon dialect is viewed.

What purpose do Wamba and Gurth serve in Ivanhoe?

Compare "Ivanhoe's" Robin of Locksley to the modern conception of Robin Hood.



Essay Topics

1. What caused the conflict between the Normans and the Saxons?
2. Discuss the importance of each of the three major settings of the novel: Ashby, Torquilstone, and Templestowe.
3. How does Scott use historical events, such as the Third Crusade and the Norman invasion of England, and historical figures, such as King Richard and Prince John, in constructing his fictional work?
4. Contrast Ivanhoe with his main antagonist, Brian de Bois-Guilbert. What do the events of the story reveal about their characters?
5. Why does Cedric forgive his disinherited son, Ivanhoe, after clinging for so long to the belief that the boy acted dishonorably?
6. Ivanhoe has two heroines, Rowena and Rebecca. Which seems more important? Why?
7. Why do Rebecca and Isaac decide to leave England at the end of the novel?
Do you agree with their decision? Why or why not?
8. What are Ivanhoe's feelings for Rebecca? Why does he not marry her?
9. How effective is Ivanhoe as a study of the virtues and defects of the feudal system and the code of chivalry?



Ideas for Reports and Papers

1. The theme of *Ivanhoe* seems to have two elements: the evils of prejudice and the compromise between heroic ideals and reality. Discuss each aspect fully.
2. The classic formula for the historical novel calls for an age when two cultures are in conflict, one dying and the other being born. Into this cultural conflict, fictional characters participate in actual historical events among actual historical persons; the interaction of these elements results in an immediate picture of a bygone age. Discuss *Ivanhoe* as an example of this form.
3. Critics have said Isaac and Rebecca are at the moral heart of *Ivanhoe*. What does this mean and to what extent is it true?
4. Richard the Lion-Hearted is a brilliant figure who is presented in the book as a redeemer, a savior of England. To what extent is this true? To what extent are the evils he promises to eradicate the result of his own irresponsible knighterrantry?
5. Discuss Scott's portrayal of the Norman conquerors in *Ivanhoe*. How do the names of some of these knights suggest their natures: Malvoisin, Front-deBoeuf, and Prior Aymer? Refer to your library's English/French dictionary for assistance. Also, consider the symbolic relevance of de Bouef's and de BoisGuilbert's deaths.
6. Does the violence in the novel occur for purposes of sensationalism or for more significant, morally compelling reasons?

Further Study

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