

The Wurtherington Diary

Robin Hood & the Magna Carta

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The Wurtherington Diary:

Robin Hood and the Magna Carta

Book Eight in the Series

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People who appear in Robin Hood & the Magna Carta

Baron Robert Fitzwalter: Banished and later became known as Robin Hood.
Arch rival of King John

Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church

Queen Ermengarde: Wife of King William of Scotland and mother of Alexander II (14 year old son)

Sir Mandeville: A knight for King William (Chapter 2)

King John: King of England who lived in the Tower of London

King William: Scottish. William the Lion. With him is Queen Ermengarde, his young son, Prince Alexander II, (chapter 2)

Prince Henry: 6 year old, son of King John and became King Henry III at the age of nine

Prince Richard: 4 year old, brother of Prince Henry

Prince Llewelyn ab Iowerth: Welch prince and Joan (Sister of King John)

Pope Innocent III: Pope who resided in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy

St. Francis: Famous monk who believed and practiced living in poverty.
Renounced worldly goods

Matilda: Fitzwalter's daughter

Eustace de Vesci: Baron and friend of Fitzwalter: Banished for not providing a hostage

Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex: helped rebuild London

Cardinal Bishop of Sabina: meets Tammy at St. Peters and forbids her to see Pope Innocent, III

Gruffydd: illegitimate son of Gilbert, held as a hostage in the Tower of London

Gilbert and Alice Peche (Robin Hood's sister) : traveled to Tower of London to deliver Little Alice as a hostage.

Little Alice: Daughter of Gilbert and Alice Peche

Hagen and Leif: Former Austrian soldiers who became freemen in Switzerland

William Tell: Swiss legend who shot an arrow off his son's head.

Walter: Son of William Tell

Ingrid : William Tell's wife

Dates and Places:

Baynard's Castle: Robert Fitzwalter's castle in London (Chapter 5)

Northampton Castle: First town attacked in April 27, 1215 by the Army of God and the Holy Church (led by Fitzwalter) AKA Brackley in Northamptonshire

Bedford: Second town attacked in 1215 by the Army of God and the Holy Church

London: May 17, 1215. Fitzwalter's army entered London.

June 15, 1215: King John's seal attached to the Articles of the Barons, AKA, Great Charter, AKA, Magna Carta

June 19, 1215: The Barons take the oath of fealty to King John

Runnymede: Twenty miles west of London. A place where important documents were sealed.

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Chapter One

October 20, 1883



Dear Diary,

I awoke to the sound of a rooster crowing in the back yard! Now that may not sound like much of a concern for farm folks; however I am a town girl. I had never awoken to that sound in my life!

Through the window I could see the Sun peeking ever so slightly over a scarlet horizon at the crack of dawn. Cedric, Zeke, and Polly bolted out of their tiny beds. Zeke ran over to the window. He inquired, "What in the world is that horrible noise?" He pulled back the curtain and we could see a rooster sitting on the fence crowing his head off.

"Akkkk!" screamed Cedric. "Mistress Tammy, you must see this!"

I ran over to the window and I could see rolling fields that led upward to a towering castle!

Zeke clutched my ankle and shivered in terror. "I'm scared, Mistress Tammy!"

Polly took one look and hid under the bed, "Caw, caw, caw!" Later that morn we stood in the backyard near the shed all gazing at the largest castle one could ever imagine. Knights in shining armor rode down the rambling road on white steeds waving red banners. Peasants rode upon donkey carts bearing fruits and vegetables.

Aunt May peeked out the back door. She said, "Tammy, you are late. Come eat your breakfast and



then off you go to the castle."

Zeke wondered, "Where are we?"

Cedric said, "Methinks, we are in the Dark Ages."

I told them to get dressed and play in the backyard while I ate my breakfast. I did notice that our house was quite tiny and we had dirt floors. Aunt May served Mark and me steaming porridge and cabbage. Ugg! Lord Wixby dressed in rags and the usual newspaper was nowhere to be found. I was certain the space-time continuum had gone far astray and my best course of action was to see where all this was leading. Aunt May sent the pair of us off to the castle to sell pumpkins and radishes. Lord Wixby worked in the backyard cultivating the crops.

While Mark and I loaded the donkey cart in the barn, I saw that my associates were busy playing *King of the Hill*. Cedric commanded the hill most of the time as he was the strongest. He would proclaim, "I am the King of the hill!" while he beat his tiny chest. That was followed by Zeke sneaking up behind him while Polly charged up the hill. Zeke would crouch down and Polly would push Cedric tumbling backward. Polly and Zeke now claimed the hill and then the pair would battle for supremacy.

I could see it was all in good fun and then called them to me. I admonished them. "I don't like your game at all. Someone could get hurt."

"We are sorry, mum," they said.

I scolded, "Look at all of you. You are covered with mud. I must get you cleaned up and we will all go together to sell vegetables in the castle." I gave them all a good scrubbing in a tin tub and found some clean clothes to wear. I asked Mark if we would be going to school later that day.

He scratched his head. "School? I never heard of that, Tammy."

Soon we were headed down the road in a donkey cart. Knights mounted on white steeds pushed us aside each time they approached. "Make way!" they shouted as they raced by raising clouds of dust.

Mark told me this was common as the road was so narrow and the knights were highly respected. We stopped at the gate and the guards checked our cart and took notes.

"Move on!" said one while another cart pulled up behind us. I saw that it was my friend, Nancy Finklebinder and chatted with her as we found our way to the market. I figured it was best to let her talk and maybe I would learn what was going on. I asked a few questions and she told me that we were serfs ruled by Baron Roger de Huntingfield. "This is his castle, silly girl," she said. While we sold our wares, I found that the world was ruled by English ruler, King Eustace de Lacy.

Cedric, Zeke, and Polly sat with children who were being entertained by a puppet show. The puppets were fighting knights and everyone laughed when they hit one another over the head with clubs. My little trio did not completely understand that it was a show and soon they were up front hurling insults at the puppets. "Hey, Mr. Black Knight!" shouted Zeke. "You can't steal the maiden from the white knight!"

Cedric chimed in. "It's not fair sneakin' up from behind like that!"

Polly agreed. "Caw, caw, caw!"

Zeke said, "Yeah, it's not fair!"

Soon, the puppets hurled insults of their own. The Black Knight peered down at Zeke. "I can hit anyone I want, Shorty! You got nothin' to say about it."

Zeke brought out his Super Duper slingshot and loaded it up. "I got nothin' to say? We'll see about that!"

Fortunately I ran over to them in time before pandemonium broke loose. I explained that it was an act and was meant to be funny.

"Oh, oh," said Zeke, "I'm sorry, Mistress Tammy."

The puppeteer peeked over the stage. "Let them go with this," he said. "The children are lovin' this!"

Zeke and Cedric could see the young audience was squealing with delight and decided to ham it up. Cedric addressed



the Black Knight. "You aren't that tough. I'm comin' up there and teach you a lesson!" He danced around waving his little paws all about while he raised up a cloud of dust. "Come on! I dare ya!"

Polly dared him too. "Caw, caw, caw!" She danced in circles.



The Black Knight exclaimed, "You better bring your mama with you 'cause I could lick you with one hand tied behind my back!"

On and on it went. They decided to do a grand finale with a song and dance. Zeke had found a pan flute and Cedric brought out his lute. Polly scratched on a washboard.

They sang,

"I like Sir White Knight, he's a good guy!

He's out to save the maiden, do or die!

He'll do whatever it takes, come what may.

We all know he is here to save the day!

And –

If a dragon should come for us this day,

Sir White Knight would chase him away.

I expect he would cut off his head,

And leave the poor dragon for dead!"

Zeke played a beautiful pan flute solo! He said, "You can throw in a lute solo right here, Cedric!"

Cedric said, "That works for me, Zeke. Here we go!"

While the lute solo was taking off, Zeke said, "Polly, you could follow up with a washboard solo and steal the entire show!"

Polly waited her turn and double pecked the washboard. It was quite amazing!

Cedric said, "If I had known she was this good I would have brought her into

the act years ago! Come on kids; give her a big hand!"

Zeke said, Let's give them the big double whammy finale!"

They sang,

"Sir White Knight, Sir White Knight

He is so brave!

The maidens for him do crave.

Sir White Knight, Sir White Knight,

Watch out children, if you misbehave!"

Later we closed down our booth and followed Nancy to a field where knights were busy jousting. They raced toward one another on their steeds with long lances. I could see they had rounded off the tips and it was all in good fun. They took turns knocking one another off their horses while Baron Roger de Huntingfield sat with his friends perched in a grandstand. Nancy explained that they did this all the time.

As we passed through the gate to go home the guards checked our cart and said I needed to pay them seventy-four pence. Nancy said it was a tax. She gave them most of her money too. I did see that the entire village was gone. In its place were tiny houses with straw roofs. When I arrived home, I handed Aunt May the ten pence in my pocket. She said, "You are a good girl, Tammy." She patted me on the head. "You did well today." She smiled; but I could see she wished there was more.

Out in the shed, I got out my sewing machine and sewed new outfits for Zeke and Cedric. All of us figured that we would need Dark Ages clothing soon. I told them I felt very sorry for everyone that their lives were quite wretched. To think that the space-time continuum had been altered like this was an unparalleled disaster. I could only wonder what tragic event had brought the world to such a sorry state.



A space-time vortex opened up and Alfred the Great Mouse appeared in a cloud of sprinkle dust. "Hurry, hurry!" he exclaimed. "Princess Lucinda says this is the worst ever!" He pointed to the hourglass. "We must go now!" I could see the grains of sand were nearly spent. I grabbed my sewing kit and gathered Zeke, Cedric, and Polly in my arms.

Alfred said the incantation, "Magic sands of time, hear our words today, and whisk us back to Capira, up and away!"

The last grain of sand fell and the vortex opened up and sucked the entire shed into it. We spun around crazily. I looked out the window and could see a large army attacking a castle with large war machines. Fiery arrows flew in all directions and soldiers fell from the wall like rain.

Thunk! Thunk! Thud! Clunk, clunk, tinkle....

We crash landed in the Capira palace garden and ended up sidewise when

we struck a gobble berry tree. It was five minutes to crawl out as the door was far above us. Kakuna elves brought ladders. Soon we sat half-dazed under the shade of scarlet parasols at copper-topped tables. Princess Lucinda smiled. "I hope your trip went better than your landing."

Princess Catherine, the Queen of the Bees, gave us all hugs and kisses and made sure we were comfortable.

Alfred said, (who returned to his human form) "If you have any way at all of upgrading these trips, it would be appreciated."

Princess Lucinda said, "I assure you that I am doing the very best I can, Father."

Queen Betty held his hand. "If there is anything I can do dear, let me know."

Alfred said, "Me dost protest too much." He drank a glass of gumpa and was soon feeling much better.

We took turns telling Lucinda and Catherine of our day at the castle. Lucinda said, "It confirms my suspicions that something occurred during the Dark Ages. You were told that an English Baron ruled the land and the King of England ruled the world. Those are important clues."

Alfred brought out his Dark Ages history book and began leafing through it. He said, "It says that many of the Kings were ruthless and out of control for hundreds of years. They had a feudal system in which Barons and Kings were in a constant state of war in a never-ending power struggle until—" he turned the page.

I was on the edge of my seat. "Yes?"

"Ah—here it is," he pointed to a drawing. "...the Magna Carta was signed by King John. No, that is not correct. It seems he had his Royal Seal affixed to it. Apparently no one signed anything then. They called it the *Articles of the Barons*."

Zeke said, "I remember that Thomas Jefferson based the Declaration of Independence upon it."

Alfred said, "It says that over forty-five versions of it were reaffirmed over the centuries. Very often a newly elected King would proclaim that he intended to follow the laws contained within it. It would be fair to say that Kira follows the

dictates of the Magna Carta."

Lucinda brought out her crystal ball. "That could very well be it. Does it say when it became the law of the land?"

Alfred said, "Yes – check for June fifteenth, 1215 at a place called Runnymede in England."

Lucinda waved her hands around the ball.



She said,

"Magic crystal of time and place
Hear the words, hear what I say.

Wisk us to June 15, 1215 at Runnymede,
So that we may see the events of the day."

Zeke and Cedric gazed at the crystal and became dizzy. Both whirled around and fell to the ground in a daze.

Lucinda, Catherine, Alfred, Polly, and I gazed into the crystal. I saw a

beautiful English landscape and that was all. The field was empty.

The Kukuna tended to Zeke and Cedric and helped them to sit upright. They warned them not to look into the crystal. "Nope," said Zeke, "I learned my lesson today. I won't be lookin' at all."

"Me, neither!" Cedric agreed while he sipped on more gumpa and helped himself to a piece of pebble berry pie.

Lucinda said, "We must ask the crystal where the space-time continuum began to go off course."



She waved her hands over the crystal,

"Crystal ball, we ask you which day
Did time begin to go astray?"

The crystal showed us a watch that was dated August 12, 1212.

Lucinda asked,

"I ask you, crystal where do we go —

To end the woe?
Please show us the gate,
That will set things straight!"

A mist appeared within the ball and we could see a Scottish castle on a great hill. A sign along the roadside told us this was the castle of William I, the King of Scots.

I said, "That is where we will go. Hopefully we will figure out what we must do to nudge the space-time continuum."

Lucinda said, "It may be your most dangerous trip to date. There will be much to do as I see you must begin your journey nearly three years before the seal is affixed to the Magna Carta."

We decided to disguise ourselves as wandering troubadours and quickly found some outfits in a little shop in Capira. We gathered our musical instruments, a traveling bag, and were soon ready to travel on our next great adventure.

The Kakuna up-righted our shed. They waved to us as Lucinda said the magic words.

"Magic sands of time, hear our words today,
And whisk us back to the Scottish castle on August 12, 1212 up and away!"

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End of Sample