

ROB HUGHES, THOMAS YEATES, AND MICHAEL WM. KALUTA

the OUTLAW PRINCE™



Based on *The Outlaw of Torn* by Edgar Rice Burroughs

"HEREIN IS A STORY THAT
HAS LAIN DORMANT FOR
MORE THAN **SEVEN**
HUNDRED YEARS.

"AT FIRST, IT WAS **SUPPRESSED**--
HIDDEN BY ONE OF THE PLANTAGENET
KINGS OF ENGLAND, ONLY TO BE
LOST AND FORGOTTEN LATER.

"BY GOD'S GRACE, I
HAPPENED TO DIG IT UP
BY ACCIDENT AS I WAS
LOOKING THROUGH A
QUANTITY OF MILDEWEED
AND MUSTY MANUSCRIPTS
WITHIN A VERY ANCIENT
MONASTERY LOCATED
DEEP IN THE REMOTE
JURA MOUNTAINS IN
SOUTHERN FRANCE.



"AN
ABSOLUTELY
FASCINATING
TALE.

"PARTIALLY BECAUSE IT IS A BIT OF PREVIOUSLY
UNRECORDED HISTORY, BUT PRINCIPALLY FROM
THE FACT THAT IT'S THE ACCOUNT OF A MOST
NEFARIOUS REVENGE AND REVEALS THE
REMARKABLE LIFE OF ITS INNOCENT VICTIM,
RICHARD, THE LOST PRINCE OF ENGLAND.



"NO PUBLISHED HISTORY MENTIONS
THIS LITTLE LOST PRINCE; ONLY
THE *SECRET ARCHIVES OF THE
KINGS OF ENGLAND* DARE TO
REVEAL HIS STRANGE AND
ADVENTUROUS LIFE. HIS NAME HAS
BEEN BLOTED FROM THE RECORDS
OF MEN...UNTIL NOW.



"IT ALL BEGAN IN LONDON, ENGLAND, IN THE PLUSH WESTMINSTER PALACE OF KING HENRY III, ON A BRIGHT JUNE DAY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 1243.

"HENRY HAD RECENTLY RETURNED HOME TO HIS ROYAL RESIDENCE IN *HUMILIATION* AFTER A SWEEPING AND SHAMEFUL DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF KING LOUIS IX AT THE *BATTLE OF TAILLEBOURG*, NEAR THE TOWN OF SAINTES IN FRANCE.

"AND NOW, CRUSHED UNDER THE DEBT THAT WAS A RESULT OF HIS MYRIAD OF MILITARY AND POLITICAL BLUNDERS, HIS KINGDOM TOTTERED UPON THE VERY BRINK OF TOTAL ECONOMIC COLLAPSE AND UTTER SOCIAL DISMAY.

"THE VERY LAST THING HENRY WOULD WELCOME WOULD BE ANOTHER FIERY DISPUTE WITH HIS BRAVE AND BOLD BROTHER-IN-LAW, *SIMON DE MONTFORT--EARL OF LEICESTER*--THE KING'S COMMANDING GENERAL AND THE MOST POWERFUL AND RESPECTED LORD IN ALL OF ENGLAND, SECOND ONLY TO HENRY HIMSELF."

**BLOOD
AND
THUNDER!**

I'VE NEVER
HEARD SUCH *WILD
TALK!* YOU ARE
BESIDE YOURSELF,
DE MONTFORT!

NO, MY LORD
KING! NOT AFTER THE
HORRID *BLOODBATH* AT
TAILLEBOURG--WHERE OUR
ARMIES WERE ROUTED AND
ALL BUT COMPLETELY
ANNIHILATED!

AND ALL FOR
WHAT? BECAUSE OF
YOUR CONNING MOTHER,
ISABELLA, WITH HER *CLAWS*
NEVER FULLY SHEATHED
AS SHE INCESSANTLY SPINS
SUBTLE WEB AFTER
WEB...





...AS **YOU**, THE KING OF ENGLAND, STUMBLE INTO EACH AND EVERY ONE. SHE ENTICED **YOU** TO STRIKE AT KING LOUIS, WHO HAD BEEN AT PEACE WITH US.

AND ONLY BECAUSE SHE COVETS THE FRENCH THRONE FOR HERSELF.

YOU NOW **INSULT** MY ROYAL MOTHER?

YOUR MOTHER **INSULTS HERSELF** AND ALL OF ENGLAND!

IT IS A SHAME BEFORE GOD TO SEND ENGLISH KNIGHTS TO DO THE BIDDING OF AN INSCRUTABLY **VAIN** AND **FOREIGN** PRINCESS.

NOT TO SAY ANYTHING OF THE POOR PLANNING OF THE ENTIRE CAMPAIGN.





"THE ENTIRE COURT WAS THRUST INTO A STUNNED SILENCE AFTER THE EARL'S UNRESTRAINED, YET HONEST, REBUKE. THE BARONS AND LORDS WERE SIMPLY HORRIFIED AT SUCH A GROSS AFFRONT IN THE FACE OF THEIR SWORN SOVEREIGN.





I AM
THE LORD'S
ANOINTED
KING! THE
DIVINE
ROYAL--

IF YOU
ARE TRULY THE
LORD'S ANOINTED,
THEN BY MERCIFUL
HEAVEN--**START
ACTING LIKE
IT!**

ANY SOVEREIGN WHO
IS HAUGHTY ENOUGH TO THINK
HE IS NOT ACCOUNTABLE TO HIS
OWN PEOPLE IS NOTHING MORE
THAN A **TYRANNICAL FOOL.**



TREACHERY!



IS THAT
TREACHERY?

YOUR
BLUNDERS HAVE
PUSHED ENGLAND TO
THE VERY EDGE OF
FINANCIAL RUIN.



ONLY MY
LOVE FOR MY
DEAR SISTER, WHO
YOU **BEGUILED** INTO
THE MARRIAGE-BED,
PREVENTS ME FROM
STRIKING YOU DOWN
WHERE YOU
STAND.



THAT YOU BE MY KING ALONE
PREVENTS ME FROM DEMANDING
SATISFACTION AT SWORD POINT FOR
SUCH A **GROSS INSULT!**

THAT
YOU TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF
YOUR KINGSHIP
TO SAY THAT
WHICH YOU WOULD
NEVER DARE
UTTER WERE
YOU **NOT** A
KING...

...BRANDS
ME NOT
A TRAITOR,
BUT YOU A
COWARD.



"FOR DE MONTFORT'S
DEFIANT CHALLENGE
SEEMED TO THEM BARELY
SHORT OF FULL-BLOWN
SACRILEGE.

"ANATHEMA!"