

"I can see why the Highlanders were so angry
with the rich Lowlanders." Angus, 13



ROB ROY

WALTER SCOTT

Frank hates working in his father's office. He swaps places with his cousin Rashleigh. But what is Rashleigh up to? Who are his mysterious friends?

Frank has to find some missing papers to save his father's business. The search takes him to Scotland, where he finds that his life is in danger. But who is it that wants to kill him?

Frank meets the outlaw Rob Roy and heads for the Highlands, where he's seized by soldiers looking for Jacobite rebels.

Whose side is Rob Roy really on? And how can Frank recover the papers which will save his father?



ISBN 978-1-906230-43-2



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Walter Scott



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Published by Real Reads Ltd
Newbury, Berkshire, UK
www.realreads.co.uk

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First published in 2013
Reprinted 2013, 2014, 2016

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ISBN 978-1-906230-43-2

Printed in China by Wai Man Book Binding (China) Ltd
Designed by Lucy Guenot
Typeset by Bookcraft Ltd, Stroud, Gloucestershire



THE CHARACTERS



**Francis (Frank)
Osbaldistone**

Frank hates working in his father's office. He wants adventure. Will he make a reckless decision?

**Frank's father and
Uncle Hildebrand**

Frank's father is a merchant, Uncle Hildebrand a Jacobite rebel. Which brother is in danger?

Joseph Owen

Owen is a respectable London clerk. So how does he get to be locked up in a Scottish prison?

Rashleigh

Cousin Rashleigh replaces Frank in the family firm. Is he working for its success or downfall?



**Helen MacGregor
and her sons**

The fierce Helen thinks Frank has betrayed her husband. What surprise will her warrior sons spring on him?

Bailie Nicol Jarvie

Jarvie is a prosperous Glasgow trader. Why is he brawling in a tavern with wild highlanders?



Rob Roy MacGregor

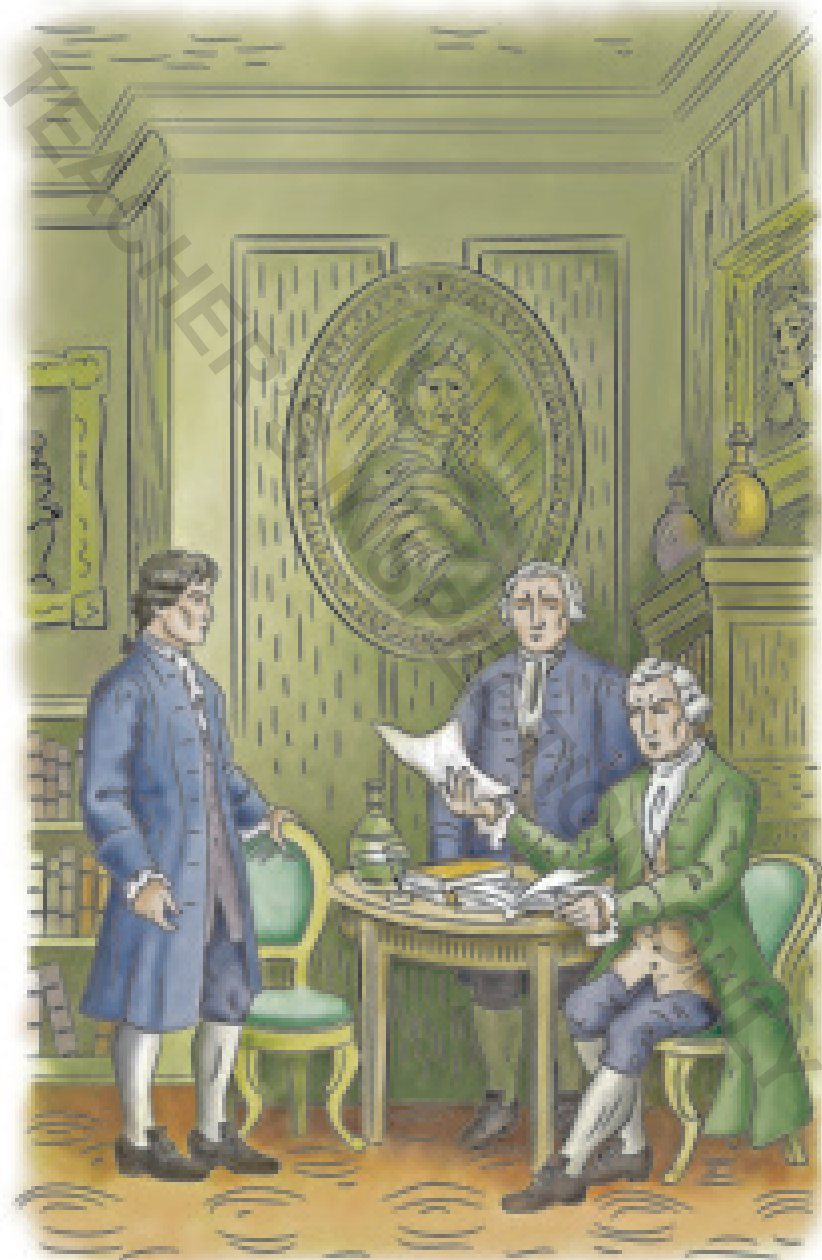
Rob Roy is a highland outlaw. Should Frank trust him to save his father's fortune?



Die Vernon

Frank is attracted to the beautiful Die. But what's in her secret letter to Rob Roy?





ROB ROY

I had been away from London for four years, and I hadn't seen my father in all that time. I dismounted from my horse and hurried to his office, where I threw myself into his arms. A tear twinkled in his eye, though only for a moment.

My heart sank when Owen appeared. I liked Owen, but he was my father's chief clerk. I feared I was in for a lecture, and I was right.

'... and another thing, Frank,' my father finished, as he leafed through the account book I'd brought home. 'You've wasted your time in France. You completely neglected my French clients, while you wandered round Bordeaux writing poems. Look at this page! And what's this? A poem! In our ledger!'

'Sir,' I said. 'I'm sorry my work in Bordeaux hasn't pleased you. But I'll never make a business man. My heart's not in it. I want to travel, write poems ...'

'Owen, the boy's mad! Frank, what if I cut you out, and take your cousin Rashleigh from Northumberland as my partner instead of you? His father says he has a turn for business. What would you say to that, young man?'

'I'd say you must do as you please,' I said sullenly.

'Dear Mr Osbaldistone!' There were tears in Owen's eyes as he turned to my father. 'Please don't be rash. Mr Francis loves you, I know.'

My father spoke sternly, 'I've invited him to be my partner, and he refuses. If he chooses to throw away his fortune, let him!'



The die was cast. I was on my way to Northumberland to stay with my Uncle Hildebrand, and meet Rashleigh before he headed south. I was already sorry I'd been obstinate, but there was no turning back. The ride north was cold and bleak, and dangerous because of highwaymen. In Darlington I dined

with a Scotch gentleman. At least, the landlord said the man was a gentleman, although he was actually a cattle dealer.

'So how were the cattle markets down south?' asked our host.

'Same as usual. Wise folks buy and sell, and fools are bought and sold.'



I'd never heard a Scotch accent before, but I'd heard many heroic tales of Scotland from my nurse. Mr Campbell intrigued me. He was a cattle trader, yet he spoke to the company round the table with cool politeness, and expressed his opinions with easy confidence. I wondered if he were a Jacobite, for I knew many Scotchmen were disloyal to King George.

and rides away into the dark. Frank then encounters Rob Roy, and they travel back to the Clachan of Aberfoyle together.

- Rashleigh is at Osbaldistone Hall when Frank returns after Hildebrand's death. He disputes Francis' claim to the Hall, and betrays Die and her father to the Hanoverian authorities. Rob Roy appears and rescues Die and her father. A fight breaks out between the Highlanders and the local troops. Rob Roy fatally wounds Rashleigh, and disappears with his band, taking Die and her father with him. Frank is left with Rashleigh, who dies after telling Frank how much he hates him.

Back in time

In 1707 the union of the parliaments of England and Scotland created one country, Great Britain, under the Act of Union. People in Scotland argued about whether or not it was a good thing, and a hundred years later Sir Walter Scott wrote a novel about this debate. Scott was the first man ever to use a

novel – a work of fiction – to explore what really happened in history. Although Scott invented some characters in his story, others were real, including Rob Roy. While he made up many of the incidents in the book, the major events actually happened, including the Act of Union and the Jacobite uprising of 1715.

People who supported the Union wanted a modern prosperous country; those against the Union wanted to keep a traditional rural way of life. Often people in the same family took opposite views. In *Rob Roy* two major characters, Rob Roy MacGregor, the Highland outlaw, and Bailie Nicol Jarvie, the Glasgow merchant, are cousins, but they totally disagree about what should happen to their country.

The Bailie, who had an important role governing the city, was one of those who thought the union with England was a good thing. He and his friends believed that trade with the rest of the world made the country wealthy. Most Unionists lived in lowland Scotland in towns such as Glasgow.