



# The Silk Weaver's Daughter

*Elizabeth Kales*

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## **The Silk Weaver's Daughter** Elizabeth Kales

The year is 1685 and when King Louis XIV of France, threatens death to all Huguenots, a silk weaver and his family flee the country only to discover that nowhere is life without danger. Pierre and Jacques Garneau are cousins, brought up together by their grandfather in a small Huguenot village. At a family reunion, Jacques warns the devout Pierre that he must soon make the decision to revoke his religion or risk death. Pierre decides that, with Jacques' help, he will try to get his family to England. But Pierre's beautiful daughter, Louise and Jacques' son, Marc are in love, and they have their own ideas of what their future will hold. Set in this turbulent time in French history, how will the choices each family member makes, weave the tapestry of their lives? "The Silk Weaver's Daughter" is partially based on the author's twenty years of Family History research, as well as her travels to France and England investigating her Huguenot Heritage.

## **The Silk Weaver's Daughter Details**

Date : Published December 19th 2011 (first published March 23rd 2010)

ISBN : 9781453802571

Author : Elizabeth Kales

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# From Reader Review The Silk Weaver's Daughter for online ebook

## Betty says

I wrote "The Silk Weaver's Daughter" because my ancestors were Huguenots who fled to England and I wanted to immerse myself in what I thought their life might be like. While based on the facts I have on my own family, as well as my research on the experiences of other Huguenots, the characters in this novel are all fictitious. Particularly naughty Marc, who is my 'prodigal son.'

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## Holly says

this is a historic fiction book taking place in the 1600s to a family of Huguenots who escape France and flee to England. has a little bit of everything in the book.

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## Joan says

### An Historical Romance Involving Huguenots

The author has a Huguenot family background, which she utilized to further her story plus extensive research into the political and societal norms of that era. The extremely beautiful daughter of Pierre Garneau, Louise, age sixteen, madly in love with her twenty-two year old second Cousin, Marc Garneau, is around whom the story revolved. Pierre and his wife, Claudine, had several children besides Louise: Jean Guy, Catherine, Claude, and baby Andre. This was a strictly Huguenot family whereas Marc's father, Jacques, who was a cousin to Pierre, was lukewarm about any religion and was willing to acknowledge Catholicism and his wife, Marie, was a Catholic. Marc and Louise always believed that they will one day marry, but Pierre was totally against it because Jacques was not a faithful husband and he and Marc traveled away from home often two years at a time, going as far as China. Pierre did not believe Marc would make a good husband. Although Louise was closely chaperoned, as young people can do, she managed to sneak away with Marc for a couple of trysts, and after he sailed for China, she found herself to be pregnant.

In the meantime, in order to save their lives due to the French King's intention to rid France of all Huguenots, Jacques helped Pierre and his family escape to England. Upon settling in England, Pierre met Paul Thibault, a rich widower who acted like a bank, holding vaults of gold, which he exchanged for the proper documentation, like a check. Pierre had a letter of credit by Jacques to help set up his silk weaving business in England. Upon seeing Louise, Paul was fascinated by her and when Pierre found out that Louise was pregnant by Marc, he did the necessary to save his family's reputation by telling Paul that Louise had been raped by a dragoon and Paul married Louise, accepting the baby as his own.

The story has many interesting subplots, which intertwine one way or another around Louise, which furthered the story and although the author gave good physical descriptions of her characters, there was a lack of in-depth insight into their psyches and, consequently, with more than enough descriptions, there lacked drama and emotions that would have been broiling when you have this religious fervor, love, fear, death and such to expound upon. The beginning lags but as the tale further developed, then it picked up. There is enough interesting material, however, that I give it four stars. I enjoyed it overall and I found few

typos as another reviewer remarked.

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### **Moye says**

I loved this book. Such a tale of leaving France under dire conditions! My Huguenot ancestors were in the same situation, although I do not know their personal story. Love and loss, and finding "home" again, wherever and whomever it turns out to be. Satisfying!

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### **Cathy says**

The year is 1685 and when King Louis XIV of France, threatens death to all Huguenots, a silk weaver and his family flee the country only to discover that nowhere is life without danger.

Pierre and Jacques Garneau are cousins, brought up together by their grandfather in a small Huguenot village. At a family reunion, Jacques warns the devout Pierre that he must soon make the decision to revoke his religion or risk death. Pierre decides that, with Jacques' help, he will try to get his family to England. But Pierre's beautiful daughter, Louise and Jacques' son, Marc are in love, and they have their own ideas of what their future will hold.

Set in this turbulent time in French history, how will the choices each family member makes, weave the tapestry of their lives?

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I thought this would be an interesting book, however the writing style was very stilted - as if written from a family journal that pieced facts together, but is not fleshed out to make a really good story; it just outlined the storyline. The author, Elizabeth Kales, started researching this book at age seventy and based it loosely on her French Huguenots Family History - which explains a lot (IMHO). It was very predictable; the foreshadowing was so overt that it could have been in neon lights - so there were no surprises - no suspense - just announcements of an event or adventure. Rather bland; so much so that before the halfway point of the way through the book I just wanted to be done with it. The final chapter deals with the moral conflict of the Huguenots Calvinist beliefs regarding predestination vs free will and compares it to the weavings of a tapestry - clever idea, but too little, too late.

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### **Judy Bullard says**

This was a very interesting Historical Fiction novel. Mid 1600's France and England and the difficulties of the French Huguenots - the protestant faith (Calvanism) - and their plight for religious freedom. Very touching story.

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### **Patricia says**

A historical novel set in France and England in the late 17th century. I read so many mysteries that this gentle story was a nice change of pace.

Very limited sex (not graphic)

No foul language

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### **Kathie says**

This story had so much potential....but there were too many problems. Was there an editor's strike? There were so many, extra commas, plastered throughout each and every sentence, that I thought I would hyperventilate, because I was taking a breath at each one.

The section on China seemed out of nowhere. And while the author did a nice job of researching the political and economic situation of China, she apparently spent no time researching the culture, language and modes/manners. She instead relied on offensive stereotypes that were especially heartbreaking since I'd just finished reading a novel written by a Chinese native who loved and respected the culture rather than mocking it. Again, the story itself had so much potential.

I usually don't write this much in a book review, but these issues were so glaring that I had to point them out.

It was a disappointing read.

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### **Maxine Billings says**

I loved this book! If you're a lover of history, as I am, you will really enjoy it as well. While taking the reader back in time, Mrs. Kales paints a very vivid and colorful picture of the times. And at the same time, she does an extraordinary job of bringing life to her characters in this extremely powerful and poignant story of faith, love, and relationships with family and friends that are enduring and stand the tests of time. A MUST READ!!! :)

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### **Sherry says**

Louise the Silk Weaver's daughter is a French Huguenot who must run with her family to England to escape persecution by King Louis XIV'S dragoons. The story is a good one and held my interest. It's tale weaves through the Silk road to East India and beyond. Kindle subscription.

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### **Ana Mardoll says**

Destiny's Weave / B003CV7RM8

A tale of romance and familial loyalties set in 1685, "Destiny's Weave" chronicles the hardships and tribulations of the Huguenot families, as the French royal court persecutes and murders them in droves for holding non-Catholic beliefs. As young Louise and Marc struggle with their mutual passion and affection, their families must decide what to do in the face of the coming storm - do they uproot the homes and lives they have worked so hard to build, or do they flee with their lives into potential poverty and ruin?

The vivid writing on display here really takes the reader into the countryside of 17th century France, as the farmers and merchants work to improve their simple fortunes and live their lives devoutly to their chosen beliefs, all while the ugly threat of violence and persecution hangs over their heads. The author has done a wonderful job of humanizing the conflict in the persons of Louise and Marc, as they struggle to live the peaceful life they should have had available to them.

If I could make one suggestion, it would be that sometimes the perspective dives into the characters' thoughts can be a little confusing. I suspect this is because the thoughts were probably formatted in italics (the usual formatting choice for thoughts), but in the conversion to this format, the italics must have been lost - as a result, without special formatting or "he thought" or "she thought", the context can be confusing. A little bit of editing can clear this right up, however, and should not be taken as criticism of the novel as a whole.

NOTE: This review is based on a sample excerpt of this book provided through the ABNA contest.

~ Ana Mardoll

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### **L.A. Rikand says**

Louise Garneau and her family are at the center of this novel about 17th century France and England. What a fantastic period of history to write within when so many interesting events were shaping the future for all of us. Louise and her Huguenot (Protestant) family flee to England rather than convert to Catholicism and their story takes off from there, touching on the formation of the Bank of England, the beginnings of tea in Europe and how sailing merchants make their way from shore to shore to spread news and goods.

I enjoyed the episodic nature of the chapters, where long periods of time might have passed from one chapter to the next. As a reader, I appreciate the author giving me some credit to imagine all that might have taken place in between. There were a fair number of editing mistakes and extra commas throughout the text. Character's internal thoughts were not in quotes or italicized as I would expect, yet I had no trouble following the story.

The relationship between Louise and her second cousin Marc will satisfy the romance fans in addition to the historical aspects of the story. Marc is a swashbuckling tea merchant who is 'more sinner than saint' and Louise marries a London goldsmith who takes her on a ride upward into 17th century English society. Yet, happy endings abound in this fun story, and I am looking forward to the sequel which promises a voyage back to the Garneau's beloved France.

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### **Marti says**

This was an ok book but not much more than that. I actually do like historical fiction and that aspect of the

book worked well for me. However, even though the book wasn't too long, it moved a bit slowly for me. Also, there were too many different problems encountered along the way. For me, at least, it's better when a book centers around one major problem. If you REALLY like historical romances, give this book a try. Otherwise, find something else to do with your time.

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### **Megan says**

The historical aspect of this book is interesting without being tedious. Because the book was such an "easy" read, I was surprised by how much I cared about the characters in the story. The messages in this book are clear, but not self-righteous. I felt at times that the book could have gone more into depth with some of the characters. Overall, I liked it.

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### **Lisa Powers says**

A woven tapestry following a young brides rise in a mans world of trade and commerce. She is one smart cookie. Excellent read

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