



# Two Destinies

*Elizabeth Musser*

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**Two Destinies** Elizabeth Musser

**The Secrets of the Cross Trilogy** by acclaimed author Elizabeth Musser, already a European bestseller, concludes with the American debut of *Two Destinies*, a story of forbidden love, passionate faith, danger, and intrigue. Now 1994, France faces unrest and rising poverty while neighbor Algeria is in the midst of a blood civil war. Risléne Namani, a French woman born to Algerian parents, converts to Christianity and falls in love with Eric Hoffmann, a Christian, committing the unpardonable sin in the eyes of her Muslim family. Eric must find a way to rescue her—from a forced marriage in Algeria, or even death. A powerful, relevant tale of social struggle, heartache, cultural conflict, and faith put to the ultimate test.

## Two Destinies Details

Date : Published September 1st 2012 by David C. Cook

ISBN : 9780781405010

Author : Elizabeth Musser

Format : Paperback 464 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction, Christian, Fiction, Novels

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# From Reader Review Two Destinies for online ebook

## Alexa says

Incroyable! Will write a review in a few days. Xmas shopping.

But, i will say, either it's me, or everybody else but where is everyone in reference to recommending this author. She is extremely talented inveigling the word of God -there is never a dull moment -not even to answer the doorbell for the FedEx man and that's bad especially during Christmas season. (He drooped it on my door step, probably waving his head).

I enjoyed all three of them but my favorite was the nun. I loved this character and she will stay with me for a long time. I found the Psalm she used-drove me nuts when she talked to God, Psalm 131. Sniff.

I absolutely adored the rest of the characters, cried at the end ( almost guttural-and my water works are not easily pricked). I will say quickly, if you are in a bad book mood and need a yummy , pj read week end- Pick up this series. Most of , if not all her books on Amazon are well priced. Never, and I am not exaggerating , a dull moment. Again, the character's in this book, if I would have to pick is mainly both character driven along with a very well braided and intense plot.

Romance, nail biting series-neatly tied up and very well written both in French and English. Btw: this book is written in English with French phrases sprinkled throughout.

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## Laura says

Title: TWO DESTINIES

Author: Elizabeth Musser

Publisher: David C. Cook

September 2012

ISBN: 978-0-7814-0501-1

Genre: historical

Forbidden Faith, Forbidden Love—a Family's Rage

When Risléne Namani meets Eric Hoffmann in 1994 France, the spark between them ignites a firestorm of trouble. An Algerian Muslim, her attraction to him, a Christian, is forbidden. Yet he captures her heart. More than that, his faith captures her soul—a faith she comes to embrace. And it all stirs up a wasps' nest of danger, mystery, and love that could cost her everything, even her life.

The risk is real, especially when Risléne's staunchly Muslim family discovers her secret. Eric must save her from a forced marriage in Algeria. As the civil war in Algeria escalates in the midst of Ramadan, and poverty and social ills in France boil over, their lives become as tumultuous and uncertain as the world around them.

Clinging to faith, they fight.

TWO DESTINIES is book three in the Secrets of the Cross series. Readers will want to read book one, Two Crosses, and book two, Two Testaments, first as this book doesn't stand alone.

You will be drawn into the lives of these richly developed characters. This book is set in 1994 (still considered a historical) and centers around the terrorist activities in Algeria's civil war as well as the homeless people in France, and those who are willing to help.

This book – and series – is a definite eye-opener. Full of details, you will be drawn in to the story, the plot, and the characters. \$14.99. 340 pages.

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### **Marie says**

(I told you so!!!)

Congrats on the 2013 Christy Award Nomination for sequels/series!

LOVED this series. Please DO NOT Read this book without reading Books 1 & 2 or you will not understand the profoundness of book 3.

Please be aware this series, beginning with Two Crosses, continuing with Two Testaments, and now ending with this title Two Destinies, is entirely focused on Algerian war which centers on Muslim ideas versus Christianity. This is not for the casual romance reader who does not have an interest in the history and plights of the religiously focused wars.

My review:

<http://www.burtonbookreview.com/2012/...>

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### **Elizabeth Buckner says**

Excellent! I recommend the whole series. I learned a lot about a country I was not familiar with and was challenged to greater appreciation of my faith and freedoms.

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### **Pat says**

Audiobook--this is the first I've read of Musser. She is a Christian writer. Two Destinies is set in France and Algeria. One gets a good perspective of Christian persecution in Muslim Algeria and what the Christian house churches must do to survive. It is also a love story--or two love stories interwoven nicely. It is hard to put down and I couldn't wait to see where the story would lead next to the final conclusion.

Now 1994, France faces unrest and rising poverty while neighbor Algeria is in the midst of a blood civil war. Risléne Namani, a French woman born to Algerian parents, converts to Christianity and falls in love with Eric Hoffmann, a Christian, committing the unpardonable sin in the eyes of her Muslim family. Eric must find a way to rescue her—from a forced marriage in Algeria, or even death.

As one reviewer wrote, "There is so much good spiritual food to feast and think upon in this book I won't even begin to try to cover it all. But I believe that Musser beautifully portrayed the issues dealing with the homeless and of those Christians living in Algeria and even in France at this time. The issues of women living in a Muslim culture and of those that become Christians, with all they face are brought to light in this well written and thoughtful novel." I agree and want to read more!

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### **Shuli says**

Probably good for Hallmark channel. Fairy tale with happy endings for all. For a teenager it might be a good and fun read.

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### **Vera says**

Exciting with culture understanding.

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### **Victor Gentile says**

Elizabeth Musser in her new book, "Two Destinies" Book Three in the Secrets of the Cross Trilogy published by David C Cook takes us into the lives of Risléne Namani and Eric Hoffmann.

From the back cover: Faith and love could cost them everything.

When Risléne Namani meets Eric Hoffmann in 1994 France, the spark between them ignites a firestorm of trouble. She fears the repercussions from her staunchly Muslim family for her attraction to a Christian. Yet Eric captures her heart. More than that, his faith captures her soul—a faith she comes to embrace. And it all stirs up a wasps' nest of danger, mystery, and love that could cost her everything, even her life.

The risk is real, especially when Risléne's family discovers her secret. Eric must save her from a forced marriage in Algeria. As the civil war in Algeria escalates in the midst of Ramadan, and poverty and social ills in France boil over, their lives become as tumultuous and uncertain as the world around them. Clinging to faith, they fight a battle as contemporary as today's headlines.

I like history and Elizabeth Musser is doing her best to increase not only my knowledge of history but political and religious freedoms as well. The Algerian war of independence officially ended on July 3 1962, when France's President Charles de Gaulle formally renounced his nation's sovereignty over Algeria and proclaimed its independence. However strife seems to be in the air in Algeria and in December of 1991 Civil War broke out between the Algerian government and various Islamist rebel groups. This war would not end until 2002 and it is into this arena that we are introduced to Risléne Namani and Eric Hoffmann. "Two Destinies" is filled with danger, suspense, thrills and romance. Once again Ms. Musser has provided us a

gripping adventure with plenty of action and memorable characters that you really care about. If you are looking for history you will find it here. If you are looking for a really good romance you will find it here. I liked this book and am really sorry that this series is over. The good news is there will be more stories from Ms. Musser that we can look forward to.

If you would like to listen to interviews with other authors and professionals please go to [www.kingdomhighlights.org](http://www.kingdomhighlights.org) where they are available On Demand.

To listen to 24 hours non-stop, commercial free Christian music please visit our internet radio station [www.kingdomairwaves.org](http://www.kingdomairwaves.org)

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## **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: Two Destinies

Author: Elizabeth Musser

Pages: 464

Year: 2012

Publisher: David C. Cook

The novel is the third in a series of historical stories set in France at the time of the Algerian Civil War. According to the author, many thousands of lives were lost. Recently, the Algerian government passed a law that all Christian groups are to declare themselves. The spread of Islam into Algeria didn't stop at the borders, and had direct impact on other bordering nations as well as beyond. With the law in place, there are Christians who knowingly meet in house churches, fervently following the Lord. Such is the backdrop in this story, which also includes in France the growing number of citizens that are homeless, jobless, and more. Ceb is at one time known as a cardiovascular surgeon. He is living life with determination and never at a slow pace. One night he has an accident that radically alters his body, lifestyle, and spiritual life. It takes many different paths, trials, and friendships to show Ceb that God is with him through all he has suffered. God is drawing Ceb back to the fold. Will he return?

Ophelie loves the Lord, and learning to follow Him without ever compromising her walk with Him is beginning to cost more. Ophelie is a playwright, teacher, and Sunday school teacher as well. Her love of literature and classical music always gives her a purpose in teaching others. Her hope is that her students will never end up on the streets, but have an excellent education. Afraid to love again and unsure of what the future holds, she becomes a volunteer at the Red Cross. What happens there changes more than just Ophelie's life. Who else?

Ophelie's brother, Eric, is in love with an Arab girl. Both are Christians, but the girl's family is steadfast followers of Allah. Eric is only 19 with more university years ahead of him, but his life's crossroads are staring him right in the face when his girlfriend is held in Algeria and being forced to wed another man. What actions will Eric take to save her?

Rislene loves Eric. She loves her family too, but the difference in faiths is about to blow up in her life. Her father takes her with the rest of the family under false pretenses to Algeria. After 10 days she awakes to find herself captive. Rislene is about to learn the reality of lessons learned while attending her study group. Will the Lord be enough for her? Can she believe that He has her in the palm of His hand and will see her through

dangers both known and unknown?

There is much more to the novel than I put here in the review. I wanted to give enough of the backdrop and storyline to entice you to read an excellent work of fiction. While reading this novel, my heart was more exposed to the reality of the underground church, the possible dangers, lives, and the faith they live daily. I was engrossed in the action and all but tugged at the heart to live more aware of the underground servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. How blessed I am! What is more important is making sure I am available to be used as a blessing to others. While you read this book, be aware of His touch on you. You will be more than glad you did!

My rating 5 stars!

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

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### **Arjan says**

Third book in trilogy. Set against the background of the challenges facing Algeria and its civil war this book continued in the same way as the other two. very predictable romance stories, all with a good end, everybody happy at the end. Still, it's good to read novels where faith in God is expressed and He being the one taking care of us in all circumstances.

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### **Kelly says**

Too much of a bible beating book for my tastes.

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### **Lois says**

This was a wonderful book to end out the year. Two Destinies is the final volume of the Secrets of the Cross trilogy by Elizabeth Musser. A mixture of historical fiction, romance and intrigue make the series an enlightening, educational and enjoyable use of reading time.

The time and setting of the first book is during the Algerian revolution to win independence from France during 1954-1962. Two Destinies is a generation later when the Algerian Civil War was in progress (1991-2002). As relationship between Christian and Muslim continue to corrode at the end of this year (2016) I was intrigued by the confluence of the various beliefs and cultures. The characters in this book are older than they were in the previous two books, and that's why I'd suggest reading each of them in order. But, each book can stand alone. Any gaps in plot are filled in through memory flashbacks of the characters. It just helps complete the circle by meeting Ophelie as a child in Two Crosses, and then in this book when she becomes marrying age.

Love, courage, war, sacrifice and devotion are all themes throughout the entire trilogy. These are all novels of people whose lives have been strongly affected through their faith in Christ, and yet it is not preachy. In "Christian" novels, frequently the author attempts to proselytize using a lame plot as literary coverage. Not

so here! It is who they are, and what they stand for. And even though this is a work of fiction, it is an accurate portrayal of what happens to young women in the Muslim community who converts to Christianity and then marries outside of the Islamic tradition.

I can't rate this series high enough. It is excellent in all ways: literary quality, historical accuracy, and character development. Superb!

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### **My Book Addiction and More MBA says**

TWO DESTINIES by Elizabeth Musser is a powerful inspirational historical. Book 3 in "The Secrets of the Cross Trilogy", but can be read as a stand alone. See, "Two Crosses", and "Two Testaments". Follow Rislene Namani, and Eric Hoffmann on a journey of faith, danger, struggle, intrigue, forbidden love, cultural conflict, social struggle, and love. Meet, Eric, a Christian and Rislene, a Muslim who to her family has committed the unpardonable sin to her Muslim faith, by falling in love with Eric. Follow their struggles, love, passion, heartache and ultimate test. What an emotional, compelling, and passionate story "Two Destinies" has been. Not only this story but the "Secrets of the Cross" Trilogy has been a uplifting trilogy for one and all. It gives its readers insight into another culture, their struggles, and their love of faith. What a powerful story! A must read for anyone who enjoys inspirational, uplifting stories with another culture, Muslim culture, and historical facts. Received for an honest review from the publisher and Wynn-Wynn Media. Details can be found at the author's website, David C. Cook, and My Book Addiction and More.

RATING: 4

HEAT RATING: SWEET

REVIEWED BY: AprilR, My Book Addiction and More/My Book Addiction Reviews

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### **Martha says**

I love the characters in this book and showing the struggle they have endured. BUT I am so disappointed that with the emphasis on basing their faith on scripture, that the author did not portray the scripture they actually would have been reading include Romans 6:3-5 and Acts 22:16. I am sorry that Ophelie and Rislene were putting value on obedience (page 361) but did not see how putting on Christ happens in baptism (Galatians 3:27).

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### **Ann says**

I lived in Algeria toward the end of 1993 when the insurgency featured in this book began. I found this novel quite accurate, not just in physical description of the country, but in the people depicted in that tragic nation.

The story is gripping in showing the terror that I saw in the beginning of the insurgency. The complete



powerlessness of the average citizen of Algeria is well depicted. One felt for the women especially and for their bravery.

Rislene is an Algerian young women living with her Muslim family in France, attending school, who becomes a Christian. Her father and a sister are incensed. Rislene is tricked into returning to Algeria to visit her grandmother and then forced to stay while her grandmother arranges a marriage for her with a Muslim man. The Christian young man in France who loves her must do what he and his family can to try to rescue her before the marriage. This includes contacting Christian friends still in Algeria who attempt to carry on worship in secret.

The other main protagonists are members of the extended family depicted in Musser's two earlier books. They include a doctor who has become homeless after a tragic accident for which he feels responsible. A young women playwright, a Christian, loved him in the past but now must decide between the fallen doctor and another man to whom she is attracted who works with the homeless street people, including the doctor.

The plot switches between Algeria and Montpellier, France, as the reader traces the maturing of the characters as they attempt to follow God's will in trying circumstances.

I appreciate this book, one of the few written for American readers, about Christians who live other than in the United States.

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