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The Girl Who Wrote In Silk



Synopsis

The smallest items can hold centuries of secrets. Inara Erickson is exploring her deceased aunt's island estate when she finds an elaborately stitched piece of fabric hidden in the house. As she peels back layer upon layer of the secrets it holds, Inara's life becomes interwoven with that of Mei Lein, a young Chinese girl mysteriously driven from her home a century before. Through the stories Mei Lein tells in silk, Inara uncovers a tragic truth that will shake her family to its core - and force her to make an impossible choice. Inspired by true events, Kelli Estes' brilliant and atmospheric debut serves as a poignant tale of two women determined to do the right thing and the power of our own stories.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Original Post:[...]**A copy of this book was provided by the publisher through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.**Wow! That's my review of "The Girl Who Wrote in Silk" by Kelli Estes. This is one of the best books I have read in a very long time, and I have read a lot of great books. Estes tells an incredible story filled with history, love, angst, and pure pain."The Girl Who Wrote in Silk" follows Inara Erickson as she discovers a piece of history and follows its trail. It also shows the story of Mei Lein, a Chinese girl's heroic story of survival and life. I was skeptical about this book when I first read the synopsis. Historical fiction is not really my go to reading choice. Estes has made me a fan! This book is incredible. I don't admit it easily, but I literally sobbed. A book hasn't made me cry in so long. I was bawling. The raw emotional Estes is able to pull out of a reader is unlike anything

I've ever felt. I felt the sadness, the angst, the fear... I felt it all as if I was going through it. Anyone who likes reading will love this book. In fact, if you hate reading, this might change your mind. There are not enough words of praise I can say for Estes. "The Girl Who Wrote in Silk" left me raw, emotional, and impressed with the writing, characters, and obvious love that went into this piece of work. It could not have been an easy task. Bravo to Estes. I cannot wait to get my hands on more of her work. I'd give it six if I could, but five out of five stars.

I am ambivalent about this book. The parts about Mei Lien and her family 100 years ago are gripping and very well written. The modern-day events often made me think I was reading something slightly above a harlequin novel. The characters felt flat and the modern-day plot would have been at home in a romance novel (minus the bodice-ripping.) Inara's agonizing that she cannot tell Daniel and his family about her ancestor's actions seemed especially contrived. This could have been a great novel if Estes had just stuck with the long-ago story. Such great characters to build on! How about telling us the life story of the child instead of the Inara story - that could have been riveting! A great editor could have coaxed a great novel out of this, because the raw material and skill is clearly there. Instead, we got great history and - forgive me - sappy presence. I really would like to give 3.5 stars, but that is not possible, so I'm going with three - because in my book, it does not rise to the level of 4 stars because of the modern-day part. I appreciate Estes shining a bright light on the way the Chinese were treated in the late 19th century.

I just finished a marvelous novel from Kelli Estes. It is called *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk*. I just loved this book and did not want it to end. The book starts out in February 1886 in Puget Sound, Washington Territory. Liu Mei Lien (Liu is her surname) works with her father in his shop in what is now Seattle in Washington Territory. The white people in the area are not happy with the Chinese. They do not like them coming in and taking their jobs. Mei Lien dresses like a boy as protection when she is out in the city (a girl could be attacked). One morning just after Mei Lien awakened there are white men outside their homes with weapons. All the Chinese are being escorted out of the city to a ship called the *Prince of the Pacific*. Mei Lien, her father, Liu Huang Fu, and her grandmother (who is frail) are forced onto the ship (and have to pay for passage). The ship is to take them to San Francisco. Once the ship is underway Mei Lien overhears Duncan Campbell (owner of ship) talking about the Chinese on the ship. Campbell has no intention of allowing the Chinese to stay on his ship. He is going to dump them into the water when they get far enough out. When Mei Lien tells her father what is going to happen, he gives her his money bag and, when they

are near the last island before open water, he pushes her off the ship. Inara Erickson has just inherited her Aunt Dahlia's estate on Orca Island called Rothesay (near Seattle, Washington). Inara loved going there when she was younger before the death of her mother. Inara has just graduated from graduate school (majored in business) and has a job lined up at Starbucks. Inara is a descendant of Duncan Campbell. Her family runs the business Campbell started. It was originally called Campbell Lines but is now called Premier Maritime Group. PMG is run by Charles Erickson (Inara's father). Charles has high expectations for his daughter. He expects her to sell the estate and return to Seattle. Inara is exploring the house when she discovers a loose step in Aunt Dahlia's house (she lived in a little house behind Rothesay). There is a cloth wrapped bundle in the step. When Inara unwraps it she finds a beautifully embroidered blue silk sleeve. It has lovely silk embroidery picturing scenes. Inara would like to discover more about the sleeve. She feels that it is important. Inara calls Dr. Daniel Chin who teaches China studies. This sleeve leads Inara and Daniel on a journey into the past. We get to find out what happened to Liu Mei Lien after she was shoved into the water near Orcas Island. It is amazing how the past can affect the present. This is a moving book that will captivate you from the very first page. I give *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* 5 out of 5 stars. This is one of the best books I have read this year. *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* is superbly composed. It is one of those books that you will continue to think about for days after you have finished reading it. This is Kelli Estes first novel and I impatiently await her next book. I received a complimentary copy of *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. The review and opinions expressed are my own.

Have you ever read a book where the coincidences were just too convenient? Things fell into place too easily? Where you could predict the outcome, secretly hoping to be wrong, only to be disappointed with the writer's laziness and lack of imagination? Where the dialogue was forced and dull? Where you wanted to put the book back on the shelf, but having invested enough time to reach the midway point you forced yourself to finish, not with enjoyment, or even curiosity, but because you were stuck on a five hour flight and had already flipped through the airline magazine and were unable to nap? For me, purchasing this book was a mistake. If Daniel's lock of hair fell into his eye one more time I was going to scream. A regrettable purchase.

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