



## The Weaver's Tale

*Kate Sedley*

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When the disreputable brother of a respected nobleman is hanged for murdering a man who later turns up alive, Roger, a fifteenth-century English peddler, senses foul play among the gentry.

## **The Weaver's Tale Details**

Date : Published May 1st 1995 by HarperPrism (first published 1993)

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Author : Kate Sedley

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## From Reader Review The Weaver's Tale for online ebook

### **Marian says**

A tragic turn of events that brings to Roger's attention a woman who is to be the love of his life until her own death. An innocent man is hanged and Roger, in his inimitable style sets about finding the truth of the matter.

This book is also known at "The Weaver's Tale"

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### **Joan says**

Engaging story. The plot was rather contrived and some of the solutions seemed a bit too convenient. But I enjoyed the book despite the weakness in the story. The premise was unique and the characters were interesting.

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### **Lisa says**

Enjoyed this late medieval mystery. I'd read the first two books in the Roger the Chapman series ages and ages ago, so this was a nice return. I had a good idea of who-done-it and part of the how by mid-book, but that didn't quell my enjoyment. Robert is an interesting young man, the story is vividly written and just pulled me in. I'll read more in this series.

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### **Jane says**

15th century, Bristol. A chapman, who has a knack for mysteries, finds himself down with a cold. He receives care by two ladies, who acquire his services to make sense of a puzzling series of events.

This story is a light mystery, focused on reconstructing an impression of the everyday life of commoners in the 15th century and less carefully worked on its crime-mystery elements.

I give it a 3.6 stars (4 rounded) for I found it to be an enjoyable and easy read.

Things to love:

- 1) the historical elements are well researched and something to savour throughout the book. They are in the right amount to enable readers to get the feeling that they are sucked in that era, yet not quite as prominent as to feel that you are reading anything else but a novel.
- 2) believable, complex character
- 3) taking the risk to make one of the main characters (Myrtle) flawed and downright dislikeable from some aspects, yet giving you reasons to empathize with her.
- 4) good writing style (for this reason I'm decidedly going to read this book again)

Things to dislike (this might be slightly, just slightly SPOILERY!):

- 1) If you want a story with a twist then this book is not for you! The-who-did-what is predictable. But to be honest I think that is how it was meant to be with this book. The mystery is more about how exactly did all the events occur and this information is brought bit by bit.
- 2) the pace: though enjoyable in terms of the story, in terms of mystery resolution it could be considered slow. And everything gets a little rushed in the final pages.
- 3) the romance - if I can call it that - seems forced. Chapman's whole approach to that seems rather "convenient" and so does its resolution.
- 4) while the Chapman is quite methodical for his era, when he brings all the pieces together he makes several assumptions. We then learn that the assumptions were correct.

Overall not a priority read, but something really enjoyable to read in the bus, or in little breaks you do from other heavier reads.

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### **Sandra Strange says**

These medieval mysteries show life the way it probably was during the early middle ages in England. The clever "detective" is a Chapman, a skilled peddler and mender of all things who travels from town to town. This episode begins when he stumbles with fever and ends up in the arms of a weaver's daughter--and has to unravel the mystery of the weaver's death. The puzzle is engaging, and the characters will involve the reader. The book's a bit PG 13, with an only marginally positive ending.

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### **Mimi says**

Third entry in the medieval series in which Roger the Chapman (peddler) solves strange mysteries. Great period detail! Roger stops in Bristol on his way to Wells for the winter and ends up helping a woman and her daughter solve the mystery of the older woman's father's disappearance and reappearance a year later, after a Bristol man had already been hanged for the older man's murder! Roger never gets out of Bristol.

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### **Yomi Mi Ri says**

Otro libro de Kate donde acompañamos a Roger a través de un nuevo misterio.

Robert fue condenado a la horca y muerto, por un crimen que cometió, es cosa de Roger descifrar lo que pasó la noche en que William desapareció y así desvelar una intriga insospechada.  
Envidia y muerte con una pista de amor.

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### **Anubischick says**

I have mixed feelings about this instalment in the Chapman series. Whilst it does contain my hoped and looked for development in that Roger, now that he has a few years of travel under his belt is world wary enough to recognise the evil that men (and women) do, it also has some dubious consent issues and the out and out fridging of an inconvenient young woman.

I was pleased with the fact that Roger as an amateur sleuth is now at the point where he can decipher the clues well enough to sometimes get there a few pages before I do, and in this case to use knowledge which would have been common at the time, but is not so now, to fit together the final piece of the puzzle. I also appreciate that he no longer assumes guilt or innocence based on a pretty face, pleasant demeanour or standing in the community. All of which speak well for the rest of the series and his growing standing as a solver of mysteries. One assumes they will get more complicated as the series progresses and will require more thought on the part of the reader, something I welcome.

However as indicated earlier, the dubious consent scene does give me pause. It is not rape, <(view spoiler)> but the circumstances are less than ideal and portray the very young woman in question in a fairly unflattering light, when in truth she is in some ways responding to the world in which she lives and the mores of her time which place such an emphasis on marriage and fecundity for a woman. <(view spoiler)>

Nevertheless, even with that act as the start of their connection, the fact that Roger reconciled himself to the future as it unfolded gave me hope that it would be taken in context for their future together. So the fridging of the character as almost an afterthought in the last paragraph of the novel was somewhat of a disappointment. <(view spoiler)>

Still on a detective front there is much to be pleased about, I just hope that Roger becomes less of a callous youth as the novels progress.

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### **Rebekkila says**

This book came highly recommended by another bookcrosser. I really enjoyed it, I love mysteries and it was a nice change from the settings of the mysteries that I usually read. I will bring this to the next meet-up.

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### **Betty says**

Well-researched, plausible mystery. This volume takes place in or around Bristol. The protagonist is a travelling salesman in the late 15th century: a chapman, carrying goods in a pack. Looking for a place to winter over, he is taken in by a spinner and her daughter who nurse him back to health. In repayment for their kindness, he agrees to investigate the mysterious disappearance and reappearance of the Mistress's father. The author clearly knows her social history of the period and the book is made more interesting by the inclusion of a myriad of details of daily life. Not quite as good as the Ellis Peters' Brother Cadfael series, but still quite enjoyable.

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### **Eric says**

I read this book without reading the first 2 books featuring Roger the Chapman. I did feel that this worked fine as a standalone novel though. I will admit it took me a couple of tries to get through the book because the writing style just isn't what I typically read. Once I got into however, I had no problem devouring it. I enjoy the character of Roger and will keep an eye out for more of the books in the future. I kind of saw him

as a medieval Sherlock Holmes. The author did well creating the world and keeping events and characters true to the time period. The inconsistency I have found in many books set in this period is that while they keep the obvious things like technology true to the era, they fail to realize that societal interaction and culture was different as well. I felt the author did well avoiding that pitfall.

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### **Katie says**

Not a bad little mystery. Roger is a peddler in 15th-century England who keeps stumbling into mysteries no one else can solve, in this case the murder of someone who later turns up alive, although the local scapegrace has already been hanged for it.

The setting's more realistic, more warts-and-all than in Ellis Peters' Brother Cadfael series. But oh, how it makes me miss Peters' evocation of character and place.

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### **Maura says**

essentially, this is in the "fine but forgettable" category. tho there's a whole bit with a girl forcing herself on the protagonist which is really bothering me a lot (the characters probably wouldn't think of it as rape, but I can't get past that assessment of the situation). So, um, yeah, I'm glad I'm done.

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### **Jesús Cardeña Morales says**

Otra novela en la que el asesino se ve quién es desde casi el inicio de la historia. El problema de estos libros es que en los años 90 hubo un boom de estas historias detectivescas en la Edad Media, y la mayoría llevadas a cabo por sacerdotes o ex sacerdotes, así que el tema ya está muy usado y he leído pocos libros que me hayan llamado la atención después de *El nombre de la rosa*, que fue la que originó todo.

Aún así, estas novelas son cortitas y no se hacen pesadas de leer, cosa que se le agradece a la autora, aunque el protagonista para mi gusto es bastante simplón...

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### **Hugues says**

Après le décevant *Cape de Plymouth*, ce Corde au cou relance mon intérêt pour les enquêtes de Roger le colporteur. Outre une intrigue bien ficelée et bien inscrite dans son contexte historique et religieux, se déroulant toujours dans l'Ouest de l'Angleterre, chose peu courante, cette enquête donne du relief au personnage principal et incite à lire la suite de ses aventures.

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