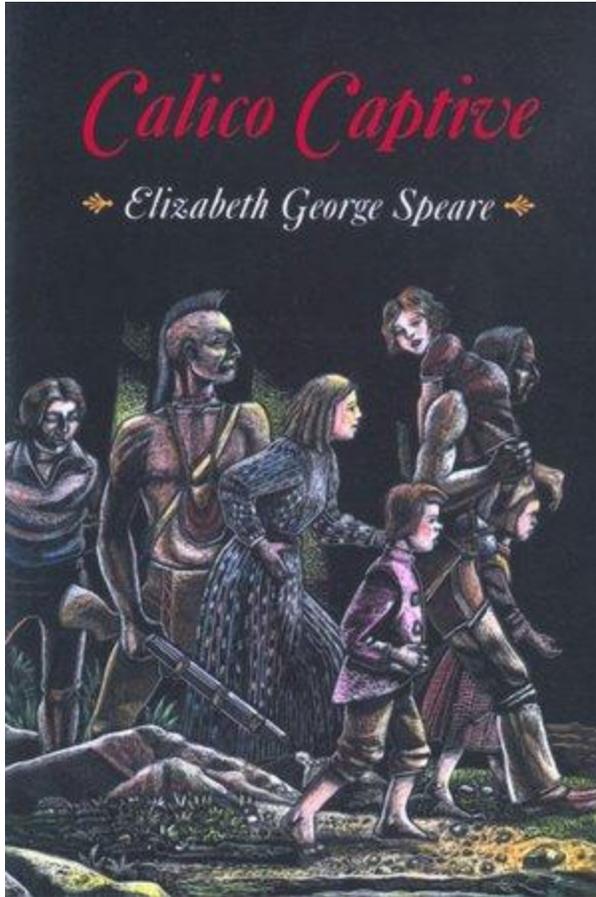


Book Review



Elizabeth George Speare – *Calico Captive*



Age Appropriateness

6 10 14 16 18+ All **None**

Reading Level

6 10 14 16 18+

Genre historical fiction

Historical Timeframe/Setting 1754; French and Indian War

Language (Col 3:8; Eph 4:29; Matt 5:37; Titus 2:8)

! ! ! ! ! One instance of the word "Drat"

Mature Themes

! ! ! ! ! mature themes content

False Teaching (Titus 1:10-11)

! ! ! ! ! There were two places where the book seemed to embrace Catholicism.

Violence (1 Tim 3:3; Prov 16 29)

! ! ! ! ! Indian raid, Indian gauntlet

Impurity (Eph 5:5; Isa 64:6; 1 Thes 4:7-8)

! ! ! ! ! None

Bad Characters (1 Cor 15:33)

! ! ! ! ! None

Foolishness (Prov 15:2; Prov 15:14; Ecc 10:13)

! ! ! ! ! None

“The knocking startled Miriam wide awake. Pulling herself up to her knees, she knelt and peered down the loft hole. In the pale light she could see her brother-in-law James struggling into his jacket as he lurched, still half asleep, across the cabin floor.

‘Confound you, Labaree,’ he muttered. ‘Do you have to be as early as all this?’ He drew back the bolt and swung open the door.

Neighbor Labaree’s solid figure filled the doorway, and his hearty voice boomed through the cabin. ‘Still abed, all of you? Thought you aimed to start on the south field before daybreak.’ Without warning it happened. James Johnson’s answer was drowned in such dreadful shrieks that Miriam’s whole body turned to stone. She had heard them before, but far away, in the depths of the forest. Now they were close, close upon them. Indians!...”

In August, 1754, on the brink of the French and Indian War, James Johnson, his wife Susanna, and their children were captured in an Indian raid on Charlestown, New Hampshire. They were taken from their home, forced to march through the wilderness to the north, and sold to the French in Montreal, where they were held for ransom. Years later, when she was nearly seventy years old, Susanna Johnson wrote an account of this journey, and it is from her narrative that the main events of this story are taken. Captured with Susanna and her family was a younger sister, Miriam Willard. Her imagined adventures, as they might have happened, are recounted here.¹

Calico Captive is another great book by Elizabeth George Speare!

Major Book Themes

Pride, Love, Adventure, Sacrifice

Recommended books by same author:

The Bronze Bow, The Sign of the Beaver, The Witch of Blackbird Pond

¹ Foreword to book by Author