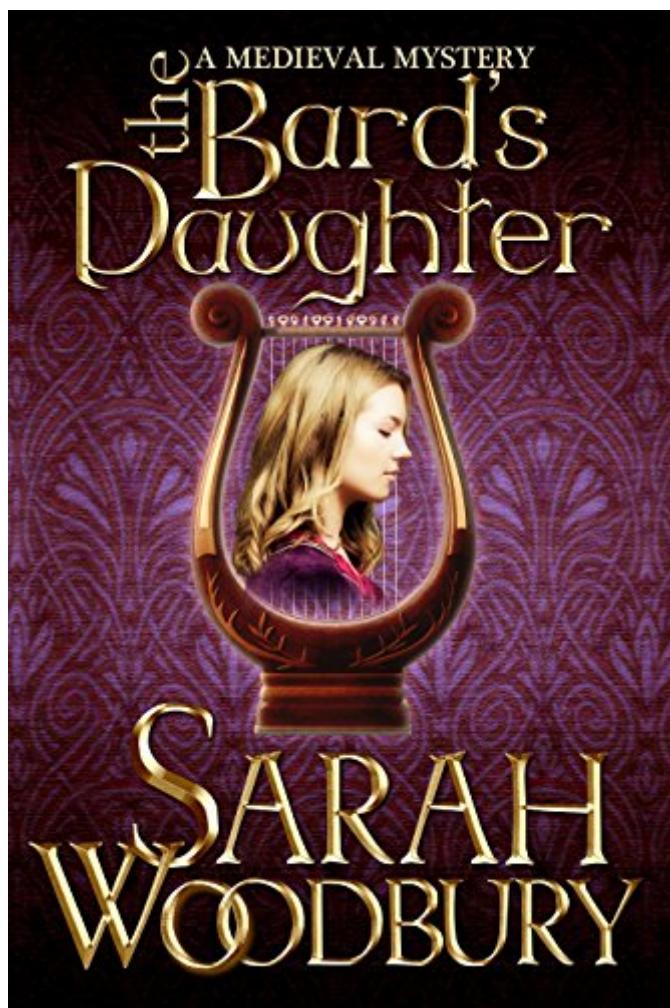


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# The Bard's Daughter (A Gareth And Gwen Medieval Mystery)



## Synopsis

The Bard's Daughter is a 22,000 word prequel to the Gareth & Gwen Medieval Mysteries: As a bard's daughter, Gwen has spent her life traveling from castle to castle and village to village with her family, following the music. In the winter of 1141, Gwen's family is contracted to provide the entertainment for the coming-of-age celebration of a lord's son. But before the celebration can begin, Gwen's father is found over the body of his friend, with a harp string as the murder weapon and blood on his hands. With the lord of the castle uninterested in finding the true killer, it is up to Gwen to clear her father's name before her father's music is silenced ... forever.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It's always interesting to learn new things about the middle ages and books on the Welsh are few so I did enjoy the legal aspects of this story, the descriptions of court protocol, etc. I also liked that the heroine has a problematic relationship with her father and I think there may be many young adults

who will identify. It was, all in all, too short and abrupt for my taste - I would have enjoyed a pace that allowed for more character development. But - if you want a fast afternoon read - this will be just the thing.

How enticing to find a new series of historically based and well-written mysteries. I love learning history the easy way, through the adventurous lives of early detectives. In this case I already admire the author's research, not only into the manners and culture of medieval Wales, but into the language as well. A pronunciation guide appears in the front of this novelette, a prequel to the series, so the reader can have the fun of trying to sound out the personal and place names in the beautiful Welsh language. The novelette introduces Gwen, her bard father and young brother, a budding soprano bard of surpassing talent, just as her father is discovered, drunk and disoriented over the body of a travelling trader of his acquaintance. The trader has been nearly decapitated by a lute string, and, obviously the bard is guilty - or is he? With the help of the castle herbalist Gwen follows the clues and, bravely, presents her findings in Council, where women are not allowed, let alone may speak. Her boyfriend Gareth doesn't appear in this novelette as he has been sent to serve another Chieftain, but, at the very end we are led to believe that the two will be reunited and go on crime-solving as the series develops. I have already ordered Book 1 and look forward to more "Cymric capers."

I am enjoying this series very much. Waiting for the next one to be released.

I really liked this book. I had not read the other books in this series, and I probably will. It is a medieval mystery and it was well written. I did find the names hard to pronounce because of the Welsh inflection but I really enjoyed the author's take on the young heroine that had to rely on her own smarts to acquit her father from a heinous deed. I liked the young woman's tenacity as she worked against all odds in a world where women had very little say, let alone if she was marked as the daughter of a murderer. My only regret was that this was a novella and I wished to be able to read more of the story. Ah, well, guess I shall just have to read the next book in the series to find out the next chapter of the life of the Bard's Daughter.

I am a Sarah Woodbury fan (especially her Calmeri series), which is why I read The Bard's Daughter. Although I enjoyed the mystery and story line, I must admit I was disappointed by the lack of character depth. But, because I am a fan of Sarah's work, I have already downloaded the next

novel in the series and I look forward to reading more about Gwen, the bard's daughter.

I'm glad I read in the forward that this is the Prequel of the other Gareth & Gwen Mystery that I have already read. The Bard's Daughter is written as well as the others and provides some background information on the characters while being a good mystery in its own standing. I still have fun trying to pronounce the Welsh names!

My first time reading a Sarah Woodbury book. Enjoyable, easy to read, and historically interesting. How nice to read something pertaining to Wales and things Welsh without having to also read about England and things English. As an aside, I viewed Ms Woodbury's web site and found it extremely well done, well thought out, thorough in its history of Wales, and overall very interesting. Looking forward to reading the next book in line.

This novel traces the first experience of Gwen as an investigator. It is not that she wants to become a crime solver; it's that her father has been accused of murder and is likely to be hung if she can't find the guilty party. Since the lord of the castle and his two chief vassals are already convinced of her father's guilt, it is up to Gwen to discover the culprit. The plot is twisty enough to keep you guessing; the characters, and primarily Gwen, are realistic and entertaining; and the Welsh setting is well described. This short, engaging novel will keep you reading!

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