Nadine Breen, age 12
St. Colm’s High School

“The River Daughter” is about a young girl called Moss who has moved to the countryside with her father and her best friend Salter. They have left a very stressful life from the Tower of London, where her father was the Executioner, to live in peace and safety. But an enemy from their past appears and Moss must return to London to try and put an end to the River Witch’s curse.

The thing I love most about these books are that they are set in the past with lots of details about Tudor London.

The storyline is quite exciting and scary in places, especially when she gets locked in a cell with a Polar bear. I had never heard of the exotic animals which were kept in The Tower of London so that was something new to bring to my history class.

I think this story would be suitable for age 10+

I rate this book 5 stars

*It was so good that I hope there will be a third one.* ‘The Executioner’s Daughter’ is the first book in the series and I think you have to read it to understand the full story.
Mary Murphy, age 14
St. Colm's High School

I loved the first book ‘The Executioner's Daughter’ which was set in Tudor London. After a very exciting but dangerous life in London Moss, her father and her friend, Salter, have settled very happily in the heart of the beautiful countryside. But their contented life is shattered when the River Witch returns. She says she will grant Moss’s release from her spell, which was to return to her when Moss was 12. Moss has been ordered by the River Witch to return to London, although it is not clear just what she has to do. Of course Salter tags along and they enlist the help of Eel-Eye, the talented musician from the Cold Country.

The story takes a twist when Moss is accidently locked up with a fierce Polar Bear in the Tower of London. But after Moss helps clean the bear’s wounded ear they become friends.

I loved the references and descriptions of Tudor London. The author really brings the sights, sounds and smells alive. Also when Moss meets and befriends Princess Elizabeth throughout the story this brought authenticity to the tale.

The story moves at a quick, exciting pace, taking us to the trading streets of London, and then to the horrible animal baiting pit. The thrilling ending to the story makes me hope there will be more adventures in the lives of Moss (Leatherboots) and Salter.

I would recommend this novel to both boys and girls age 10+. Brilliant!!!

Sam Moffat, age 12

The book ‘River Daughter’ by Jane Hardstaff is a great book. It has great humour but also lots of tension and adventure.

Emma Stephenson, age 11

‘River Daughter’ is a very gripping sequel to ‘The Executioner's Daughter’. Moss has to return to her old home, the Tower of London and faces great dangers. I recommend this book for older children.

‘River Daughter’ is a very interesting and gripping story that takes you back in time and includes historical information about Henry VIII and the Tudors. I am very glad that Jane Hardstaff has written a sequel to ‘The Executioner’s
Daughter’ and have enjoyed reading about the characters again. Salter is still my favourite and comes out with lots of amusing phrases.

In ‘River Daughter’, Moss has to return to her old home, the Tower of London and faces great dangers. You do not have to have read The Executioner’s Daughter to enjoy this book but it is best to read them in the right order as this book gives some of the previous story away.

I recommend ‘River Daughter’ to all older children who enjoy history and adventures.

Sam Harper, age 11

Scary and exciting, this is a brilliant follow-up to ‘The Executioner’s Daughter’. I loved it!

Moss is no longer the executioner’s daughter and basket girl. Now her father is a blacksmith and they live in the countryside with Salter. They have all left their old lives behind but Moss is still haunted by the Riverwitch and to earn her freedom from her clutches she must travel back to London and find the man who is causing the death of the river. She and Salter survive the dangerous journey and find themselves in the middle of a celebration for the birth of the new heir to the throne. They need Eel-Eye Jack’s help when they get there but Salter doesn’t trust him one bit and doesn’t know what he’ll ask for in return for his favours. Their search leads them to The Beast House in the Tower, the Kings personal zoo full of exotic creatures like polar bears and lions, to find the Whipmaster. A vicious, evil man, he runs pit fights where the wild animals fight for their lives against packs of dogs and a young girl called Jenny Wren is forced to risk her own life in the pit with them. The Pit is a terrible place but Moss has to go back there to follow the Whipmaster and find out how he is killing the river. Will she be able to stop him and save herself from the Riverwitch or is it too late? Can Eel-Eye Jack be trusted and will her friendship with Salter survive?

‘River Daughter’ is a brilliant follow-up to ‘The Executioner’s Daughter’. I love Moss and Salter and the way that they argue and tease each other even though they are such good friends. The pit fights were scary and the climax was really exciting. I really enjoyed this book. If you’ve read ‘The Executioner’s Daughter’ you need to read this straight away and if you haven’t read either then you should read them both now!
Lucie Harrison

‘River Daughter’ by Jane Hardstaff is a fictional story of tudor London, through the eyes of the executioner’s daughter. However gory the scene, it is always dramatic and transporting.

‘Personally, I found the book disgusting in places and sometimes very gory, and I didn't really enjoy reading it. However, Jane Hardstaff captivated me into reading the next chapter, even though the content was sometimes revolting. Overall, I think this book would appeal to tomboys, maybe even boys.

Amisha McCrysta, age 12
St. Colms high school

‘The River Daughter’ is a brilliant novel that everyone over 12 should read. It is filled with fun facts about the Tudor times in history. Once you read this novel you will never forget it.

The story is about a young girl and her best friend Salter, who engage on an epic journey back to her old home in the Tower of London. (Read ‘The Executioner’s Daughter’ first). Here she meets her long forgotten enemy who sets her a task in exchange for an evil curse which has been cast on her before she was even born.

Will she succeed or will she belong to the river witch forever????????

I would recommend this book to 12+ a really brilliant read.