

DAUGHTERS OF THE FAITH SERIES



# *The Captive Princess*

A STORY BASED ON THE LIFE  
OF YOUNG POCAHONTAS

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# Glossary of Powhatan Words

**N**ote: Most of the Powhatan language has been lost. John Smith, who recorded much of what we do know, often spelled the same word differently at different times, so alternate spellings can be found.

**Amosens.** Daughter.

**Apasoum.** Opossum. A word we get from the Powhatan.

**Apooke.** Indian tobacco.

**Arakun.** Raccoon—this is where we get our word *raccoon*.

**Cattapeuk.** Spring.

**Cohattayough.** Summer.

**Espaniuks.** Spanish people.

**Gitchee Manitou.** The God of creation, literally, the Great Spirit.

**Huskanaw.** The ceremony in which boys move from childhood into manhood.

**Maraowanchesso.** Boy.

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**Mattassin.** Copper.

**Nepinough.** The time of ears of corn forming—a season between spring and summer.

**Okeus.** The fearsome god believed by the Powhatans to govern the affairs of earth.

**Pemmenaw.** Thread made of grass fibers.

**Ponepone.** Cornbread.

**Popanow.** Winter.

**Quintans.** A dugout canoe.

**Quintansuk.** (Plural) Canoes.

**Quiyoughsokuk.** Medicine men or wise men.

**Roanoke.** Shells used for beads.

**Suckhanna.** Water.

**Taquitock.** Fall (autumn).

**Tassantassa.** A stranger or an outsider.

**Tassantassuk.** (Plural) Outsiders.

**Waugh!** Exclamation, pronounced “wow!” Linguists believe it is from the Powhatans that we get our exclamation, wow!

**Weghshaughes.** Meat.

**Weroance.** Local chief.



## Proper Names

**N**ote: Except for those characters noted as fictional, all these characters come from the pages of history.

**Alaqua.** Fictional woman who added Nokomias to her family.

**Japazeus.** Local *veroance* of the Patawomecks at the village of Passapatanzy.

**Mamanatowic.** Paramount chief, greatest one—title of Powhatan, Pocahontas's father.

**Matachanna.** Pocahontas's younger half-sister.

**Nantaquaus.** Pocahontas's older half-brother, also sometime referred to in Smith's writings as Nantaquoud or Naukaquawis.

**Nauiraus.** Appomattoc man who worked as a guide/language teacher to the English.

**Nokomias.** Fictional Chesapeake captive who becomes Pocahontas's friend.

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### **Pocahontas**

aka **Amonute** and **Matoaka**

**Powhatan.** Name of the people, but also name of the ruler of the federation of Powhatan people and name of a village as well.

**Opechancanough.** Powhatan's younger, more aggressive brother.

**Rawhunt.** Powhatan's elderly trusted advisor and older brother.

**Wahunsunakuk.** Powhatan's given name.



## Place/Tribe Names

**Note:** The names of tribes, chiefs, and places can be confusing because they often shared the same name.

**Chesapeake.** The name of the tribe that Powhatan massacred just before the English landed. Many believe the last survivors of the Roanoke Colony—the “lost colony”—had been part of this tribe. Chesapeake is also the name of the bay and the region surrounding it.

**Chickhominy River.** A tributary of the James River.

**Pamunkey River.** Now called the York River.

**Paspahegh.** The village and people nearest Jamestown. The Jamestown settlement was built on Paspahegh lands.

**Passapatanzy.** A village of the Patawomeck people.

**Patawomeck.** An independent tribe, not part of the Tsenacomoco, but connected with Powhatans, on the Patawomeck River.

**Patawomeck River.** Now called the Potomac River.

