

THE WEAVER'S DAUGHTER

No fairy stories nor longed-for dreams;
life is exactly as it seems – hard.
More an employee than a daughter
she fetches water, cleans as best she can,
needs to help her tired Mam.
Father's word is law and once the floor
is swept, she climbs the stairs
to the room where the loom dictates
her life. Strife is all she knows; long hours
and the smell of dust. Not for her flowers
on a Spring morning but a day dawning,
filled with intricate detail, back-breaking
movements and aching legs. But there was
food on the table, just, and the knowledge
that she must learn her trade well.
Selling Bombazine their goal.
She is unaware that a different world
exists outside her door, not one where
the poor perish, but where the rich relish
the skills they never see.

Maggie Doyle
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inspired by Donna Baker's "The Weaver's Daughter"