

List of Characters in *Isabela's Way*

1. Isabela de Castro Nuñez — a 14-year-old embroideress, is the main character. Her mother Mariem has died of the plague in their town of Abrantes, Portugal and her father is in Hamburg looking to reestablish his family in a place safer for New Christians, or Conversos. Shy and tentative at the beginning of the story, Isabela gradually learns the purpose of her embroidery assignments as she travels far from home to escape the Inquisition. She strengthens and gains confidence as her journey continues.
2. Gabril de Castro Nunez— Isabela's father, and a textile merchant
3. David de Sousa— 18 years old. He is Isabela's friend, supporter, and eventually husband. He is in charge of the New Christian (Conversos or converted Jews) community in Abrantes until he learns they must all escape. He is responsible for his mother and sisters and must take a different path of escape from Isabela.
4. Beatriz and Roshina de Sousa- David's sisters
5. Adriana Gomez de Sousa— David's mother
6. Ana Martel Gerondi- protectress and guide to Isabela and David. Along with Isabela's father Gabril, and Ana's lover Eduardo, she is part of a secret escape network to conduct persecuted Conversos from Portugal to Hamburg Germany. She is a dye maker and herbal healer.
7. Eduardo Carel— A colleague of Gabril de Castro Nuñez, he is a colleague and lover of Ana Martel Gerondi.
8. Padre Alvaro— priest in Abrantes dedicated to imposing the Inquisition and thwarting Isabela and David.
9. Alfonso Mendes and Dina Mendes— Faith keepers, mystics, advisors to Ana Martel Gerondi, part of the escape network, providers of embroidery codes.
10. The Leon Family— Christian guides for escaping Jews and New Christians. Simone leads Isabela, her brother Enrique leads David, and Enrique's son Diego leads Ana Martel Gerondi on their different routes to France.
11. Dr. Francisco Sanchez— physician, Ana's employer in Toulouse and a member of the escape network.
12. Jacques de Bernuy— dye dealer and provider of a safe house for the escape network.
13. The Mercados— Raphael is a wealthy landowner in Irouleguy who hires Isabela to embroider his daughter Miren's trousseau. Miren's mother is Alaia and their housemaid, a hidden Jew, is Sophia Pardo.
14. Pedro de Martins—a courier and member of the escape network.
15. Claudio— Simone Leon's lover who lives in the Camargue and tends the famed white wild white horses there.