



Isabel Dryburgh



Name: Isabel Dryburgh

In 1629 there was a surge of panic about witches, which spread across the region. The harvest was coming to an end in Penicuik, and Autumn was just arriving, when Isabel, Christian and Margaret were brought to trial.. Could they have been friends, relatives, neighbours.. 'frenemies'? We can only wonder about what misfortune they were said to have caused...

*Ah am Isobel Dryburgh...
Burned on the seventeenth o' September, 1629.
Folk kent me,
They whispered.
As though sorrow lingered in ma shadow.
Ah prayed for them,
But silence was my answer.
They said I sought spirits.
I sought only comfort.
At the stake
Ah raised ma chin,
Though fear trembled through ma bones.
Let it be kent:
my only witchcraft was grief,
and in that,
Ah was never alone.*

