



English Ivy: English Ivy Series #1 (HeartQuest)

By Catherine Palmer

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On the eve of her 21st birthday, Ivy Bowden has much to anticipate. Engaged to be married to the man her father has chosen for her, Ivy dreams of a secure, contented future. But when she finds herself in the arms of her roguish neighbor, her world is thrown into complete disarray. Ivy must choose to submit to her family's choice, follow the leading of her willful heart--or obey her Father's will.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

On the heels of Palmer's soul-searching, competent autobiographical novel, *The Happy Room*, comes this unsatisfying, lightweight romance set in rural England in the early 19th century. Pretty, bookish Ivy Bowden is pledged by her adoptive father to marry the despicable Nigel Creeve. When Ivy and her three young cousins are robbed en route to the local village on an errand, Ivy is rescued by the dashing Colin Richmond, newly arrived from India. While she recuperates at his home, Colin informs Ivy of her true parentage and the conditions surrounding her lavish inheritance. Ivy must choose among three men: a worthless fop, John Frith; her betrothed, Nigel; or her true love, Colin. In their romantic confusion, Ivy and Colin turn to often-bewildering Scriptures both to find God's will for their lives and to determine how to keep Ivy's beloved adoptive family from financial ruin. From a less talented writer, this trite tale might be passable, but it's a major disappointment that Palmer, a Christy Award-winning author of 30 books, who possesses all the tools to produce novels of substance, has taken this distressing step backward. It's not wholly bad; her writing is basically sound (apart from some exhausting attempts at Yorkshire dialect), and her descriptions often superb. However, at a time when Christian fiction fans are clamoring for depth in their novels, this offering serves only as an escapist romance for those readers content to wade in the shallow end of the inspirational literary pool.

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From the Back Cover

Promised to one . . .

Betrothed to another . . .

Swept away by the one man she can never have

On the eve of her 21st birthday, Ivy Bowden has much to anticipate. Engaged to be married to the man her father has chosen for her, Ivy dreams of a secure, contented future. But when she finds herself in the arms of the mysterious Colin Richmond, recently returned from India, her world is thrown into complete disarray. Nothing is as it should be, and suddenly Ivy's future, and even her very identity, are in question.

Ivy must choose to submit to her family's choice, obey her Father's will . . . or follow the leading of her willful heart.

About the Author

Catherine Palmer lives in Missouri with her husband, Tim, and sons Geoffrey and Andrei. She is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University and holds a master's degree in English from Baylor University. Her first book was published in 1988. Since then she has published nearly forty novels, many of them national bestsellers. Catherine has won numerous awards for her writing, including the Christy Award, the highest honor in Christian fiction. Twice she has been nominated for the Romantic Times Career Achievement Award. Total sales of her novels number nearly two million copies.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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