



English Ivy

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.

English Ivy Details

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Author : Catherine Palmer

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Historical Fiction, European Literature, British Literature

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From Reader Review English Ivy for online ebook

Debbie says

"English Ivy" is a historical romance set in 1815 England. The romance was a "sweet" romance, and the story mainly focused on the romance. Historical details were woven into the story, but there weren't a great deal of them--mostly setting, but some speech, manners, and clothing. The characters were engaging, and the main characters were earnest and wanted to do what was right.

It was obvious how the story would end, but Ivy was so innocent and willing to sacrifice for the good of others that I wasn't sure how we'd get to that ending. The suspense was created by seeing how the legalities of the marriage tangle would turn out.

The main characters were Christians who wanted to do God's will and so struggled with figuring out what God's will was. I agreed with the conclusion they came to. The characters searched the Bible for answers, and some Bible verses were quoted during their study. I liked this.

There was a very minor amount of British mild bad language. There was no sex (though past unmarried sex was implied for several of the men). Overall, I would recommend this novel as enjoyable, clean reading.

Kw says

A sweet story, fun to read, if a bit mushy at times. Does anyone really think in such extravagant adjectives?

Brett says

Love story christian fiction really isn't my genre, I am trying to read all of the books on my shelf and this was one of the few I had not read. I thought it was okay.

April Suter says

Ivy finds out in 1815 Yorkshire, England that she has roots in India, a new handsome neighbor, that she is promised to marry an angry man, a family anxious about change, and the specific requirements of a will--right before her 21st birthday. She wants to follow the will of God, but which way is it?

308 pg

Jolene says

Well, to be honest, this is a read I will not be thinking about in five minutes, let alone a week from now. That being said, it is a quick, light read and entertaining in its way. I would not exactly actively recommend this

book to someone (because, again, I will have forgotten it shortly after completing this review), but I can see its charm and I had that "pleasant diversion" reading experience that hovers rather mysteriously between "waste of time" and "what a fun book." I already have copies of the sequels at hand, thanks to cheap used books and some pocket change, so I will likely finish the series and shift them along to be read by the next person...hmmm, hopefully that won't be me picking them up again, having forgotten I read them. D'oh!

Tracy says

A simple, clean Christian romance. As another reviewer said, it was reminiscent of Pride and Prejudice, with four daughters during the Regency era. I really liked the story line, though I thought all of the characters talked a little too grandly.

Donia says

First let me say that I was raised in a Christian home and went to Christian school but this is one of the dumbest books I have ever read. The main character Ivy consulted her God about every single thing she did. If she thought God told her to jump in a river and drown she would have done it. This book had more preaching in it than the bible. There was potential in the original plot that Palmer came up with but Palmer got lost when she climbed into her pulpit. She is clearly more interested in preaching than she is about writing a good story line.

Carolyn says

Very interesting plot, fine characterizations. Romance novel language and Christian themes. Placed in Otley Yorkshire England as are several in the series.

Sheri Salatin says

Promised to one...
Betrothed to another...
Swept away by the one man she can never have...

Ivy Bowden is the oldest daughter of 4 girls. Or at least that is what she was led to believe her whole life. When she finds herself in the arms of a stranger, her life and world as she knows it changes. She is then faced with unbelievable decisions and the consequences of her choice will not only effect her, but the very life of her family.

Will she follow the choice of her family, her heart, her stubborn nature or her Father's will?

I was definitely wondering how in the world this book was going to end. Palmer wraps it up very nicely.

Mandy says

This Book was my very first of Catherine Palmer's. Its a great love story for anyone who is looking for a romance novel. Its very well written and is worth your time reading. Enjoy!

Melissa Linn says

I really loved this book & am so glad I found it when I did! I was in such a book rut, nothing could spark my interest enough to keep reading after the first few chapters. English Ivy was the perfect book to pique my curiosity enough to see how the end turned out! I really enjoy the story telling of Catherine Palmer, the history she adds, the small details of what daily life was like in this time. Such an wonderful tale of love & hope & courage. :)

Alice says

Oh how I adore Catherine Palmer. Her novels always have so much heart and soul in them. Great (real-feeling) characters, unique and page-turning plots, and inspiring spiritual themes that are woven naturally into the story, and never fail to encourage me, and -of course- a sweet romance that actually has depth and foundation and not just fluff and cupcakes. Definitely a favourite.

Kristy says

I think this book could have been shorter. It seemed to go on and on and on. The plot was well established in the beginning, and not until the VERY end did everything work itself out. It seemed a bit repetitive, because there was a constant review of Ivy's situation. She was torn between what she felt she should do, and what she felt her heart wanted her to do. Then she would decide to let it all go and give it to God and do God's will. Except, she never really did let it all go. She continued to worry and not until the very end, after God had revealed to her what he had planned for her did she stop worrying. Which, I guess, is human nature, it just got a little annoying to read.

I liked the love story. I loved how Mr. Richmond (which, by the way, I kept reading as Mr. Rochester because of Jane Eyre) had no qualms about pouring his feelings out to Ivy, even if it was a bit unfair to her. But the one thing I kept looking forward to, was that same outpouring of feelings on her part. We had the internal thoughts, but even right up until the very end she never actual told him how much she loved him in return. The most he had to go on at the end was her turning her head to kiss his hand. Until that point she never really gave much of an indication as to how she felt. I was really disappointed when I turned the last page and realized that I wasn't going to get that from her.

But despite all the negative things I have said, I still enjoyed the book enough to give this 4 stars. :)

Darlene says

I loved this book! I found myself desiring to pick it up at times I did not have the time to sit and read. I am looking forward to reading more of Ms. Palmer's books! Set in England, Ivy finds her self in a precarious situation as she must choose between the will of those in authority over her, her own will...or the will of the Father.

An excellent example of when we choose to follow the will of our Heavenly Father, He will often give us the desires of our heart.

Massanutten Regional Library says

Rebecca, North River patron, June 2015, 4 stars:

English Ivy is about a young lady approaching her 21st birthday. It seems that her future is all set - she is betrothed to a man she does not care for. When the shocking news comes that Ivy is actually an heiress - and she can only inherit her money if she marries a certain charming, handsome playboy - Ivy's life is turned upside down. Will she turn down her inheritance to marry the man she truly loves? A good Christian, historical fiction book.
