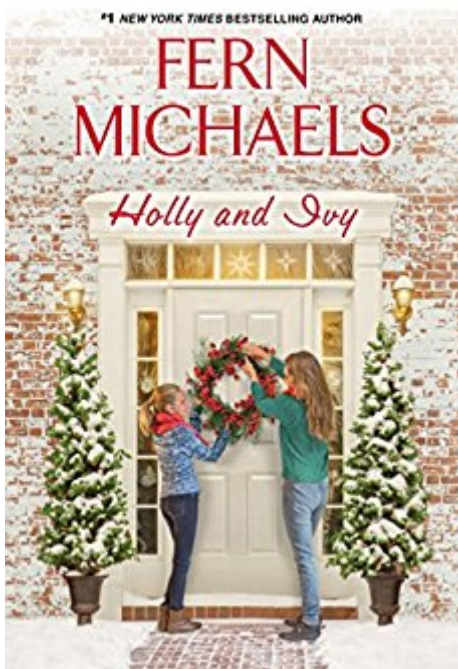


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Holly And Ivy



Synopsis

In a heartwarming novel of secret wishes and family lost and found, acclaimed New York Times bestselling author Fern Michaels creates a timeless Christmas story to cherish . . . The flames of memory always seem to glow a little brighter during the holidays. Perhaps that's why this time of year is so difficult for airline heiress Ivy Macintosh, as she faces thoughts of yet another festive season alone. Since the plane crash that claimed the lives of her husband and two children eight years ago, she's been submerged in grief. When eleven-year-old Holly Greenwood knocks on her door, lost and frightened after a forbidden visit to her singing teacher, Ivy's self-imposed exile is shattered. Holly has an extraordinary voice, and wants nothing more than to perform in an upcoming Christmas musical. Holly's father, Daniel, doesn't allow music in their home, refusing to give a good reason why—just as he refuses to talk about Holly's mother. Ivy has no idea how closely she and Daniel are linked by their tragic pasts, yet she's drawn to the warmth she senses beneath his gruff exterior. And as Christmas nears, their shared concern for Holly begins to draw Ivy back into the world again . . . and toward a family who may need her just as much as she needs them . . .

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Customer Reviews

Holly Greenwood is eleven years old and lives with her father, Daniel. Life is never fun or happy at her home and she really does not know why. Her mom died when she was young and her father is very strict and does not seem to be happy. Luckily Holly has two good friends but that is just not enough as her home life is awful, no music or computers or cell phones for her. Her dad hardly ever cooks so it is a lot of frozen things that are micro waved. Holly is really a good child, much more mature than her friends as she has to help clean, cook, make lunches and do lots of chores around the house. Ivy Macintosh has hardly left her house in almost eight years since the tragic death of her three year old twins and her husband. When her father visits and tells her he is planning on retiring and wants to know if she would like to take over the business? Ivy could never think of taking over the business when in fact her own family died in one of the plane. What she does do is have an awakening and realizes she must put one foot forward and try to move on. This is not easy as she will never be able to forget her children and her husband. Can one night be the start of a new chapter in her life? Holly is lost and knocks on her door and is afraid and cold. Ivy welcomes her into her home and tells her to call her father to pick her up. Holly has the voice of an angel but her father will not let her listen to music or get involved as it reminds him too much of his wife and how she died. One afternoon when Daniel offers to take his daughter to lunch (something he hardly ever does) they bump into her teacher and Ivy. They are invited to join them for lunch and this is the start of many new and exciting things that will change all of their lives and help them to move on. A quick read and very enjoyable. Will be wonderful for a holiday gift

Ivy Macintosh Fine's life was shattered eight years ago when the plane carrying her husband and two children crashed. Since then she is barely getting through the days and drinking at night to dull the pain. That begins to change, however, when eleven year old Holly Greenwood knocks on her door. Her father Daniel has kept it hidden from her but Holly's mother also died in the plane crash that killed Ivy's family - all Holly knows is that she longs to sing but her father won't let her. Ivy finds herself increasingly drawn to both Holly and her father and begins to realize life may be worth living after all. Although it is set at Christmas time, "Holly and Ivy" is not the happiest Christmas romance I have ever read - at least not at the beginning which starts with Ivy losing her family in the plane crash. Author Fern Michael's takes her time showing how Ivy has handled the disaster (not well) - my heart both ached at times for Ivy and at other times I was a bit frustrated with her wanting her to get her life back together. Michael's also takes her time telling Daniel's story but since this book is called "Holly and Ivy" the story is more about Holly than

Daniel. Because of this, I found Ivy's story and character to be much more developed compared to Daniel. Both families' tragedy is heartbreakingly real but I felt it was a bit too drawn out. Compared to the back stories - the romance in the book is incredibly rushed, taking place over a few days. I enjoyed the romance - and the fact that it took place over Christmas - but compared to the early part of the book it wasn't really developed. I would rather Michael's had put a little more effort into the romance aspects like she did the early part of the book instead of wrapping everything up so neatly in a bow - that way that both Ivy and Daniel's changes took place so quickly that it didn't seem all too realistic! "Holly and Ivy" is a cute but flawed romance.

Great story that will keep you interested throughout. It is written about two different families that suffered tragic events, where chapters alternate making you think it is two different stories. I love how the author brought the characters together to help them heal. Fern Michaels writes a sweet love story that can be read by all ages. It is like reading a story that is written for the Hallmark Channel, so refreshing that the author spends her time on helping you learn about the characters and grow to love them. I really appreciate stories that are written with clean language. It's nice to read about the Blue Ridge Mountains, one of our favorite places in the United States. We especially love driving along the Blue Ridge Parkway and can't imagine living there. The author shares the location and beautiful town that sounds like a perfect setting for a love story! Another great story for Fern Michaels.

This is a fast and easy book to read that will leave you not wanting to put the book down. The story line evolves around a child, Holly Greenwood, who lives with her widowed father. In the course of the story, Holly and her father meet Ivy, a widow who suffered the loss of her husband and 3 year old twins in a plane accident. Together Holly and Ivy, after a chance meeting, begin to chart a new beginning for her father and Ivy with happiness and hope for the future. If you typically love Hallmark movies, this book is similar and will uplift your hope for love and happiness for Holly's father and Ivy.

Holly and Ivy is an uplifting read about two families who have suffered tragedies and how they get on with life and finally how they start to heal. The characters are engaging from the eleven year old Holly to the widow Ivy. I don't read a lot of Fern Michaels, but reading this makes me wonder why. Michaels is a good writer who makes her characters come alive. Her stories have very human components that have you relating to the characters and the story even if you haven't the

experiences that the characters do. This book is no exception. This is a great Christmas read full of love and healing.

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