



Ivy and Abe

Elizabeth Enfield

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'A moving and thought-provoking novel in the tradition of Sliding Doors and The Versions of Us. One for anyone who's ever wondered if things might have turned out differently' Alison Mercer

Two people. One love story. A million possibilities.

They're soulmates.

Ivy and Abe were inseparable as children until an accident tore them apart. Several decades later, when both are in their seventies, a chance encounter reunites them. But time is not on their side.

What if they'd met in a different time and place?

In another life, Ivy and Abe meet in their forties, when both are married already. Unable to resist the attraction between them, they embark on a passionate affair.

In yet another, they marry young, with a bright future ahead of them - only for a dark shadow to threaten their happiness.

Throughout various incarnations of their lives, they come together and go their separate ways, fall in and out of love, make or break promises.

In every universe, Ivy and Abe are meant to meet. But are they meant to be?

Ivy and Abe Details

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Author : Elizabeth Enfield

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From Reader Review Ivy and Abe for online ebook

Joanne Robertson says

One Day by David Nicholls is one of my very favourite books so I was attracted to Ivy and Abe by the comparisons to that book. Ivy and Abe is rather unique though in that it's not a continuing storyline, rather a series of intriguing vignettes. When is the right time to meet your soulmate? Now, I am a huge believer in fate and how one little change of direction can affect the ripples of time that spread out from that point but Elizabeth Enfield puts a totally different slant on this belief and each chapter has Ivy and Abe meeting for the first time at different points in their lives. The resulting relationships are all believable and with often unexpected outcomes.

It did take me a couple of chapters to feel comfortable with this unusual narrative and I would definitely recommend that you make sure you have time to read each complete chapter as each is a short story within itself and it's definitely easier to follow one at a time. Each follows a different path, showing how age and circumstances come together to create believable and poignant snapshots of their love story. Sometimes things work and other times life and other mountains get in the way. I liked how it worked backwards starting with Ivy and Abe as pensioners and I think that the first story was possibly my favourite.

Elizabeth Enfield has crafted a mature love story that is full of emotion, using the "what if" scenario in a unique and timely manner. Her characters become unexpectedly familiar yet out of reach at the same time. There's no predictability about any of realities explored with each one sharing a different path until we are back at the start and get to witness them meeting as children.

This is a moving and poignant love story between two wonderful characters that swept me away. Elizabeth Enfield writes beautifully with a true understanding of love, loss and friendship. Ivy and Abe will capture your heart in this unforgettable series of encounters that will make you think about lost opportunities, past loves and confirm that nothing in life is ever guaranteed so the time to grab your happiness is NOW!

Zoë Marie says

I thought it was good; the characters were well developed and well written, and I thought the ending was lovely. It was a bit arty and somewhat lacked a plot, which meant it bored me a bit at times - a book based on a premise can only hold my interest for so long! Overall, though, not a bad read at all

Heather Withington says

5 stars - a beautiful book that is well written with brilliant characters. The story centres on Ivy and Abe, and how their relationship develops and changes depending on when and how they meet. It shows that certain people are meant to be in our lives, and are meant to have an impact. It takes a bit of time to understand what is going on (basically there are a load of different timelines that take place in this book, its a bit sciency at the beginning but tries to explain what is going on, but think Sliding Doors). I loved the different stories that took place, and I fell in love with the two lead characters and their stories. I also loved the consistency points that happened throughout (the hay bales) giving a good grounding point for each story. The ending is

amazing and made me smile and well up at the same time. I had to take a break.

I feel that I am not giving this book justice in this review, is a beautifully complex book that tells us that there are certain people we are destined to meet, and who will impact our lives, regardless of the decisions we make. Its amazing, the characters are well written and it is a purely character driven book, and I loved it.

Paulinlong says

It was very interesting to follow the various timelines and alternative versions of Ivy and Abe. I found the last two, the young Ivy and Abe and later life Ivy and Abe the most touching, the others I felt were written to play with the idea, with the hay bales, Fred the tortoise, the Van der Zees swimming pool and the hereditary illness and were more of a technical exercise to make a point about the multiverse, I didn't find them as involving. Having said that as I gradually noticed the repetitions I did think it would be interesting to re-read the book and spot them from the start, to appreciate the nuances, however, there are too many other books waiting to be read to actually embark on that.

Elise says

A sweet story told in quite an original way. Ivy and Abe's love story is told and retold to show what would have happened if they had met at different times in their lives. Would they have survived as a couple had they met as children, as teenagers, as 20 somethings, etc.

My only criticism would be that in the later years narratives there is a lot more telling than doing and it gets a little slow and boring but as the years go back and into the earlier years of their lives the narrative is a lot more dynamic.

An enjoyable read.

Laura Wilkinson says

Tender, touching, clever. Enjoyed some versions more than others, but overall thought this a gorgeous read.

Sheri says

Time forks perpetually towards innumerable futures...

"Ivy and Abe" takes the theory of the multiverse and uses it to tell the story - the many stories - of two people destined to meet in many different timelines. Sometimes Ivy and Abe meet as children, sometimes as adults, at different ages. They're friends, or lovers, or a married couple - sometimes, they're just passing strangers. But there's always a connection of some kind. Their story - stories - are told through a series of narratives by Ivy which are self contained yet interconnected.

Some things echo throughout: a lorry load of hay bales, a family shadowed by hereditary disease. The words "I'm so glad I found you." From time to time Ivy experiences a sense of déjà vu, that what she's experiencing is somehow familiar.

I very much enjoyed the book, which takes an original concept and executes it very well. I was afraid it would feel ultimately unresolved, but in fact the end is satisfying. I did at times, when I had put the book down and returned to it later, find it difficult to recall - due to the similarities between the timelines - what the relationships were in the current timeline and had to flick back to remind myself.

Incidentally, thinking about the book yesterday while driving to a meeting, I suddenly found myself stuck behind a lorry piled with hay bales, small pieces of hay flying off and hitting my windscreen. It was a little bit unnerving....

Louise Wilson says

Ivy and Abe were inseparable as children until an accident tore them apart. Several decades later, when they are both in their seventies, a chance encounter reunites them.

This is a well written book, but unfortunately it was not for me. The book centres round Ivy and Abe and how their relationship developed. There is a lot of different timelines to this story. I did enjoy some of the scenarios, but sadly not them all. Each scenario/chapter needs a new setting and a lot of explaining. I'm sure there will be many readers who will enjoy this book.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Penguin UK, Michael Joseph and the author Elizabeth Enfield for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Jenny says

<https://snowy13.wordpress.com/2017/1...>

Dieses Buch ist etwas ganz anderes. Als ich den Klappentext gelesen hatte, hatte ich mit einer Geschichte wie „Love, Rosie“ gerechnet. Dieses Buch ähnelt diesem nur ein wenig, aber das Interessante eigentlich ist, dass es nicht in der chronologischen Reihenfolge erzählt wurde. Wir lernen Ivy und Abe als 70-Jährige kennen bis hin wo sie noch Kinder sind. Und es erzählt keine Lebensgeschichte der beiden, sondern was passiert wäre, wenn sie sich zu diesem Zeitpunkt kennengelernt hätten. Schade, dass mir dies erst nach der Hälfte klar wurde, da ich anfangs sichtlich irritiert war und mir das etwas den Spaß am Lesen nahm, da es für mich unlogisch war. Weil mir bewusst war, dass ich etwas übersah.

Davon mal abgesehen mochte ich die Hauptprotagonistin Ivy sehr. Wir lesen alles aus ihrer Sicht der Dinge über all die Jahre, wie sich jedes einzige Mal wieder in Abe verliebt. Es war immer schön anzusehen, wie zwischen den beiden ein unsichtbares Band war, welches sie zueinander brachte. All diese Geschichten, wie sie ausgingen. Und dieses Buch zeigte, dass es auch den falschen Zeitpunkt gab.

Das Leben ist nicht einfach. Besonders nicht das von Ivy, da es in ihrer Familie ein Gendefekt gibt, so dass sogar ihre Mutter und ihr Bruder nicht das 50. Lebensjahr erreichten. Ivy plagt ständig diese Unsicherheit, ob sie auch dieses Gen mit sich trägt, da die Wahrscheinlichkeit bei 50% liegt. So erleben wir in den

verschiedenen Jahren, welches Stadium ihre Mutter hat, wie sie erfuhren, dass sie krank war und das es nicht die Menopause war, so wie anfänglich vermutet. Und auch wie diese Unsicherheit ihre Liebesbeziehungen beeinflusst.

Abe war mir auch sehr sympathisch. Wir lernen immer wieder einen liebevollen Mann kennen, der in Ivy seine Seelenverwandte findet. Doch es gibt immer andere Variablen vorhanden, in einer, wo er auch verheiratet ist. Doch trotzdem findet er einen Weg zu Ivy, was auch nicht unbedingt gut ausging.

Die Idee hatte mich sehr begeistert, doch wie gesagt, wurde mir das erst nach der Hälfte klar. Wäre das auf dem Klappentext geschrieben, so dass ich mich darauf einstellen hätte können, hätte mir das Buch definitiv besser gefallen.

Der Schreibstil war sehr angenehm. Auch wenn die Idee an sich mir gefallen hat, sowie die Charaktere, musste ich mich öfter selbst dazu motivieren weiter zu lesen, da es mich nicht all zu sehr gefesselt hatte. Dennoch flogen die Seiten davon, da der Schreibstil grandios war.

Zu dem Ende kann ich nicht all zu viel sagen, da an sich das Buch eine Sammlung aus vielen verschiedenen Geschichten ist. Es gab welche, die mir sehr gut gefallen hatten und andere, die etwas abrupt endeten, so dass ich hin und wieder auch schockiert war.

Fazit:

Ivy und Abe ist eine interessante Reise durch viele „Was wenn?“. Wie verschiedene Ausgangszustände sich auf eine Beziehung auswirken können. Das es doch manchmal nicht den richtigen Zeitpunkt gibt. Es ist eine sehr schöne Liebesgeschichte, die sich darin von anderen unterscheidet, dass es nicht in der chronologischen Reihenfolge erzählt wird und auf parallele Universen hindeutet. Wäre mir von Anfang an dies bewusst gewesen, hätte es mir definitiv besser gefallen, aber bis zur ersten Hälfte war ich verwirrt davon, dass sie sich in jedem neuem Jahr, in der eine neue Geschichte startete, nicht kannten. Dennoch ist es ein tolles Buch!

3 von 5 Sternen!

Judith says

Thanks to netgalley and the publisher for allowing me to read this ARC in return for an honest review.

A charming and beautifully written compilation of short stories all about the relationship between Ivy and Abe in a multiverse where they meet at varying times in their lives but always find themselves drawn to each other.

The only thing I found confusing was trying to remember which Ivy and Abe I was dealing with when I had a break in reading. Still a very enjoyable read.

Swati says

I was attracted by the blurb and the cover of Ivy and Abe, which is why I chose this book. It started off very well with the first story being about how Ivy and Abe are childhood friends who meet each other after many years.

But as I read on, the charm started wearing off. The short stories have a few constants, like Ivy, Abe, and Richard, some of the children, a truck with bales of hay, and being architects and fountain designers, among other others. The stories didn't seem very complete, and they felt very rushed. For example, in the first story, it seemed like it was all too facile for Ivy and Abe to sort out things and get married. I am not disgruntled that things went very smoothly for them but the fact that all decisions by everyone there seemed too fast.

I liked the concept of the book, and I did like a few passages here and there. But I could not read on halfway through the book. The repetitive 'what if's' without too much going for them did not give me incentive to continue.

Sophie Childs says

Effectively, this is nothing more than a string of romance short stories (and in some instances, there isn't even any romance), so if you're expecting some kind of mystical or magical theme to explain all the different ways in which Ivy and Abe meet, you'll be disappointing.

Unfortunately, the vignettes don't really establish the characters strongly enough for you to care about them or root for Ivy and Abe. Lots of details across the multiverses change, presumably to reflect the theory behind what's supposed to be happening, but it only serves to make the novel more pointless - it would have been more interesting to keep all the details the same, simply changing the ages at which Ivy and Abe meet.

Underlying all of this is an interesting concept. It is an intriguing question to ask, whether someone is Mr Right, regardless of the circumstances or nature of meeting, but in some of the stories, Abe and/or Ivy are so unpleasant as to not be the same person at all, which very much defeats the purpose.

Overall, it's very disappointing.

Julia says

Ivy And Abe by Elizabeth Enfield is a most unusual story with a unique plotline that I really enjoyed. It was very different from anything I had ever read.

"Life is a series of moments." It seems like a game of chance as we interact with different people at different times. Our lives intersect but just a minute of difference in time and it could be a whole new story. The novel follows Ivy and Abe as they meet at different times, different scenarios play out. It was all very cleverly done.

The characters were extremely likable. Their unique bond was visible throughout.

I certainly had my favourite scenario. I wonder which one yours will be?

A very unique idea, cleverly executed.

I will leave you with what I found the most poignant and beautiful lines:

"All you were ever really looking for was someone to hold your hand through life."

I received this book for free from Net Galley. A favourable review was not required and all views expressed are my own.

booksofallkinds says

Beautiful. Powerful. Stunning. Superb. These are all words that I would use to describe IVY & ABE by Elizabeth Enfield and I still don't feel that they do this story justice. Ivy and Abe's story moved me in ways that I have never been moved before and showed the power of love and timing to perfection.

This is the story of one love story: Ivy and Abe. Their love is that magical kind of love, that once in a lifetime kind of love that takes your breath away when you read it. But what would happen if Ivy and Abe met at different times of their lives when they are different people in different circumstances - would their deep connection be enough to overcome wrong timing and obstacles that would block their path in these alternate realities? Can love overcome everything?

IVY & ABE by Elizabeth Enfield makes you look at love and life in a new way and I could not put it down. I fell in love with Ivy and Abe myself and invested so much in them as a couple that I laughed and cried alongside each of their possible love stories. The writing in this book is simply stunning and the ebbs and flows of life, loss, and heartbreak are portrayed expertly and in such a way that it really hits home to the reader. There are drama and adventure, grief and desperation, hope and inspiration throughout this magnificent story and at the centre of it all will always be Ivy and Abe, just the way it should be.

IVY & ABE by Elizabeth is destined to become a huge success and in my opinion, would make a perfect fit for the silver screen. So waste no time and buy your copy now!

*I voluntarily reviewed this book from the Publisher

Karen Barber says

This reminded me very much of Versions of Us, and though it didn't grab me in the way I'd hoped it was certainly a charming story.

Part of me expected there would be an element of cohesion to the novel, but it really is made up of a series of stories featuring Ivy and Abe. We see them at different times and in different circumstances; sometimes they are friends, sometimes they are lovers and sometimes they are nothing more than passing acquaintances. Whatever the situation, they have some form of bond. There are recurring motifs throughout the stories, but it was a little confusing to establish exactly how they all fitted together.

This isn't particularly fast-moving, and though it captured my interest as I read I don't feel either of the characters or the scenarios will remain in my mind. Though not really what I expected I did enjoy it, and can see it striking a chord with many readers. Thank you to NetGalley for allowing me to read this prior to publication.
