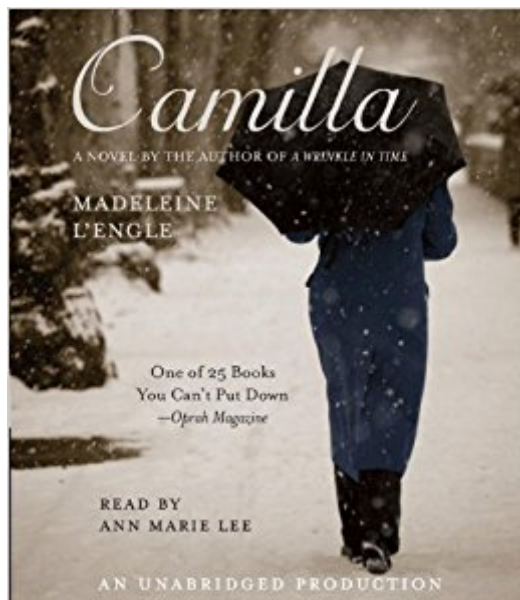


The book was found

Camilla



Synopsis

Life had always been easy for fifteen-year-old Camilla Dickinson. But now her parents, whom she had always loved and trusted, are behaving like strangers to each other and vying for her allegiance. Camilla is torn between her love for them and her disapproval of their actions. Then she meets Frank, her best friend's brother, who helps her to feel that she is not alone. Can Camilla learn to accept her parents for what they are and step toward her own independence? From the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #5,880,432 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (L) > L'Engle, Madeleine #355 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Marriage & Divorce #1673 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Struggling to make sense of all that conflict, walking the snowy city streets with a boy named Frank, Camilla tries to fathom the sweet, slow progress of desire. "O, The Oprah Magazine" A thought-provoking story about a young girl's first romance, her devastation over her own parents' marital problems, and the growth of her own sense of self is back in print and should find a wide audience among old and new L'Engle fans. Perceptive and timely. "Booklist" Its themes and perceptions make it timeless. . . . Tender, understanding treatment of a difficult situation. "Bestsellers" There is a remarkable similarity between this book and J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*. Both are told in the first person, and both are concerned with the problems of a sensitive adolescent faced suddenly with the necessity of

crossing the dividing line between childhood and maturity. Ms. L'Engle's Camilla has more innate strength and stability than Salinger's Holden Caulfield. "Saturday Review" This is an ambitious book that explores a range of techniques . . . and character. "School Library Journal" --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Life had always been easy for fifteen-year-old Camilla Dickinson. But now her parents, whom she had always loved and trusted, are behaving like strangers to each other and vying for her allegiance. Camilla is torn between her love for them and her disapproval of their actions. Then she meets Frank, her best friend's brother, who helps her to feel that she is not alone. Can Camilla learn to accept her parents for what they are and step toward her own independence? --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Camilla" is actually between 3 and 4 stars for me. I had never heard of this L'Engle book before so I was interested to read it. "Camilla" was different from the other L'Engle books I've read (ie: "Wrinkle in Time" series). Not surprisingly the main character is named Camilla. The book deals with her emotions as she witnesses her mother's attraction to a man that's not her father, her friendship with her girlfriend, and her first attraction to a young man. L'Engle did a good job describing the conflicting emotions that we all harbor when we are young. I don't know what it's like to live in a home where a marriage has been in trouble, but I had no problem relating to Camilla's thoughts and emotions as described in a book. Although the book was first published in 1951, the feelings the characters in the book had are still relevant for today. I have to say I loved the "Wrinkle in Time" series better than this book, but they really are entirely different.

Unlike, Ms. L'Engle's other books, this one starts dark and stays dark. It felt as if it had less of a plot line, and it was more of an adult plot line, so not what I was expecting. It's well written and interesting, but I ultimately found it depressing.

Having only known her books written for youth, I was not ready for this reminder of my anguishing moments growing up. Although it is a little hard to see her point at the beginning, by the end I had slipped with her into my own sad, joyful memories of high school.

great

Timely story about young adults and challenges with parents. Good life lessons. There is an excellent new film based on this story. Director -Cornelia Moore.

I thought that Camilla was not up to Madeleine L'Engle's standards. I love all of her "Wrinkle in Time" books as well as the Austin series. I was missing the integration of magic and science so appealing in her other fiction.

This is one of L'Engle's earliest novels and is realism, rather than fantasy. As is characteristic of her, it focuses closely on the internal life of an adolescent girl going through emotional turmoil. It is very well done and also offers a glimpse of a particular kind of bourgeois life in New York in the 1940s.

Madeleine L'Engle has never been one to mince her words or define her relationship with God in superficial terms. CS Lewis often had a didactic tone when speaking of spiritual matters whereas Madeleine L'Engle beautifully weaves prose that is simplistically deep. Despite her skills, she has been overlooked within the Christian world mostly because she probes her faith and makes some very reasonable, but controversial inquiries about her faith overall. Camilla, one of her earliest novels, is designed as a classical romance that is very philosophical in its nature. Anyone who has ever felt excessively quirky within the world will relate with Camilla and her realistic problems. She is the daughter of two parents within a deeply unhappy marriage. This discord causes Camilla to have very sharp doubts about romance as a whole. Nearly all teens feel uncomfortable with the chaotic pace of romance and the unrestrained quality to passion. Camilla's experience is further complicated by the unpleasant reality of her parent's marriage. Many Christians novels feature these unhappy marriages as some unfavorable image of marriage that is antithetical to the entire vision of a blissful marriage. It is meant to perfectly match St. Paul's rendering of the thriving two-fold relationship between the church and Christ. Yet, Madeleine L'Engle realistically documents the inherent complication which all seemingly happy marriages face internally. Camilla realizes this and is excessively anxious about her own romantic prospects. The portion of the novel that is dedicated to the depth and philosophical nature of her first love showcases the robustness of emotive love. Oftentimes, we are confronted with images of transitory sexual love that mostly skims the surface of a deeply developed love that is constructed on the base of delving into another person's heart and learning to love the dichotomy between their faults and strengths. In many ways, Madeleine L'Engle accurately shows the fundamental quality of love that does not need to translate to anything nuptial. True love can persist in the art of rhetoric or the efforts humans make to penetrate the surface level

of others and learn to marvel every person's interior mystery that reflects the enigma of God. By the end of the novel, we are left with a story that transcends the shallow layer of many romantic tales and offered a story that is far more than a romance novel alone. In many ways, Madeleine L'Engle ended up writing a poignant tale that reflect Aristotle's formula of love that is intrinsically spiritual and not vacuous. It presents love that mirrors our own relationship with the intangible essence of the divine that has inspired many prophets and artists for ages. (She evocatively writes of this relationship with the divine and the artist within her wonderful novel "Walking on Water: On Faith and Art.") By plumbing the mystery of another human and learning to appreciate their mystery, we are learning to love God in the same manner. Our love with God is forged when we accept his enigmatic qualities and embrace that search for him that refines our self throughout our lives.

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Camilla

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