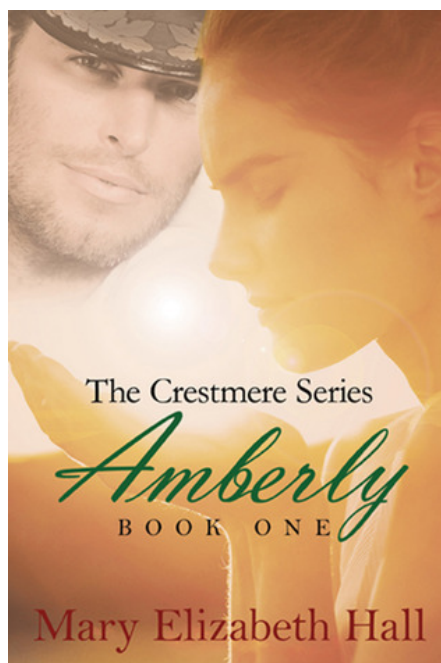




Amberly

Mary E. Hall

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In a world that might have been...

Snatched by coldblooded enemies as a declaration of war, Eleanor Williamston finds herself caught in a deadly snare—miles from home and lost in the wilderness. Her heart is drawn to the handsome guardsman who rescues her, but is torn when he challenges her political ideals. Then he reveals something devastating, which will make her choice even more difficult.

Marsten longs for a God-fearing wife, but cannot marry the lady he desires. The sassy young schoolteacher he rescues catches his eye, yet he fears she'll turn out to be like the beautiful women who've broken his trust in the past.

Journey with them through the spectacular but treacherous Aspian Mountains while they evade enemy pursuit and wrestle through the challenges of wilderness and budding love, only to run headlong into Ellie's anti-royalist family—and a whole new onslaught of foes.

Amberly Details

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Author : Mary E. Hall

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Genre : Christian Fiction

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From Reader Review Amberly for online ebook

Lianne Simon says

This is one of those sagas that leaves you hungering for the next book in the series. Mary's Godliness, vivid imagination, and understanding of what the word romance really means translate well onto paper. Being one of her critique partners was an honor I hope to continue. Especially since I'm eager to find out where she takes the story and how romance blossoms into family.

Kristen Stieffel says

Amberly is the most fun I've had with a novel in a long time.

This is a light fantasy set in a storyworld modeled after 18th-century Europe. The greater storyworld conflict between Royalists and Anti-Monarchists is mirrored in the relationship between Marsten, a Royalist, and Eleanor, whose father leads the Anti-Monarchists. But both factions are united when their nation is invaded by enemy forces.

Hall has created a rich storyworld full of engaging characters. Each person is a well-rounded yet multifaceted individual. Her dialogue and narrative are beautifully written, with snappy banter and vivid sensory detail.

After a rousing opening sequence in which Marsten heroically rescues Eleanor from a band of invaders, the beginning slows down a bit as they travel cross-country to get her home. Romance blooms, and sparks fly when they reach her hometown of Amberly and her Royalist sweetheart meets the Anti-Monarchist family.

I enjoy the Monarchy/democracy debate, an element rarely seen in fantasy fiction, which is usually staunchly monarchist. Hall accepts no easy answers, mainly because there are none and partly because, well, there's Book 2...which I eagerly anticipate.

Jasmine says

I really enjoyed this beautifully written tale of love and adventure. Mary has a way of connecting you to characters and bringing you inside the story itself. This novel was filled with many wonderful twists and turns and laughs and tears. The biblical truths and foundations throughout made the story so much richer and gratifying. So thankful that it will be a series -- cannot wait for the next one!

Madalyn says

This book is one of my all time favorites! The perfect blend of dystopian and romance. The primary characters are developed as beautifully as the story. I COULD NOT PUT THIS BOOK DOWN! If you only read one book this year it should be this one! Because of Mary Hall's detailed writing style I felt connected to the characters, as if they were my own family. I constantly found my self sucked into the story as if I was actually there, not just wishing I was. Amberly is a beautiful piece of literature and I can not wait to get my hands on the sequel! If the sequel is anything like Amberly was it will be one of the best books I will ever

have the privilege of reading.

Dora Hiers says

Sharing my thoughts~

"I'm beginning to wonder if you were truly abducted," he chided again, "or just given away."

Fast-paced, flirty dialogue and wonderfully vivid descriptions will whirl you away into the world of Bretalia.

"Behind them, pale violet mountains marched toward the distant horizon, and crows cawed while they circled. Mist rose in swirling ribbons from the water. Wildflowers swayed in a gentle breeze which stirred along the rocky bank, sending forth a fresh, earthy scent."

When Marsten rescues Eleanor Williamston from an evil Norlander's clutches, Eleanor can't help but fall in love with the handsome royal guardsman. But as the daughter of Amberly's mayor, an anti-royalist and Freedom Falcon leader, she'd grown up believing Bretalia would be better off without the Crown's rule. Marsten strives to convince her that God ordained monarchy for her beloved country. She debates revealing her identity, and Marsten is keeping a few secrets of his own.

"Honor God through adversity--He'll bless you for it...Life is but a breath--preparation for the next."

Simple spiritual sentiments weaved throughout the story, not overbearing or preachy, but with gentleness and love, even as Marsten and Eleanor debate politics.

Although I felt the declaration of love occurred a bit too soon, that didn't mean the conflict ended or that the romance resolved. No, the author just ramped up the conflict, all the way to the last page!

Fast and furious, with a compelling plot to keep your turning pages, Amberly is a great read for anytime of the day or year!

Disclosure: I purchased this book. All opinions in this review are my own, and I received no compensation.

Voni Harris says

You will not breeze through Mary Hall's Amberly. No. You will savor it slowly as she draws you into the world she has built and you will enjoy your time befriending the characters who live there. It is a historical romance set in a fictional Anglo country very much like Britain.

When Royal Guardsman Marriston, a staunch monarchist, rescues a young lady from the clutches of the evil, land-grubbing Norlanders, he has no idea Eleanor is the daughter of the Mayor of Amberly, who founded the anti-Royalist Freedom Falcons. Marriston and Eleanor face such things as wild boars and worse on the way to Amberly, but it's nothing compared to what they face when they finally enter Freedom Falcon territory determined to be married.

My favorite part of the book is how Hall makes the Twin Kings (fascinating idea!) of Bretalia come to life as they face the Freedom Falcons. They are real, hot-blooded 36-year-old men. They trust each other to hold

one another accountable in the leadership of their country and for their Christian walk. She is deft with her writing, making each twin a separate and unique and lovable individual in his own right, yet still there is that twin bond.

Okay, I have a second favorite part as well: the tension between the Freedom Falcons (especially Eleanor's father) and the Twin Kings...all sincere Christians who sincerely disagree with one another politically. This tension flows over into virtually all of the relationships in the book in some way or another.

Yes, even the non-action parts of Hall's novel sizzle with debate and discussion, so the characters are real.

And wait till you read the Epilogue...Book 2 can't come soon enough!

Blessings,

Voni

(fair disclosure: I received a free review copy from the author)

deb says

Oh my what a wonderful book. I loved every minute of it and I can't wait for book 2. I can't wait to see what happens with the royal twins and their wives.

John says

It was more than thirty years ago that Mary Hall ignited my passion for adventure by introducing me to the books of Tolkien and Terry Brooks. When she shared her love for these magical tales with me, I was just an impressionable young boy.

I'm proud to say that the fire she helped ignite still burns within me to this day. I just never imagined that it would be Mary Hall's own words that would continue to feed that fire all these years later.

Amberly embodies so much of what she taught me to love about a good fantasy/adventure story. There is love and honor. Heroic deeds and gallantry. But most of all, there are multi-dimensional characters who grow, fail and succeed along the way. The author draws you into the world she has created by making you care about her characters and drives the story with a need to know what will become of them.

As with Tolkien and Brooks, Mary Hall's Crestmere Series promises to be a tale of many parts. I'm more than excited to see where she will take us next!

Susan L. Tuttle says

I had the immense pleasure of reading Amberly since it's infancy. Through name changes. Through landscape changes. And even through ending changes. But one thing never changed. The heart of this story.

Amberly is an epic saga. Truly. I cannot think of any other way to explain it. It sweeps you into another world and simply carries you away. And while Amberly is in another world, a world that Mary Elizabeth Hall fully created, it still feels familiar. It's one you can curl up and lose yourself in for an entire night.

With battles between good and evil, and full of heart-stopping action and romance, I am in love with this book!

And there is a sequel coming. So keep watch and enjoy!
