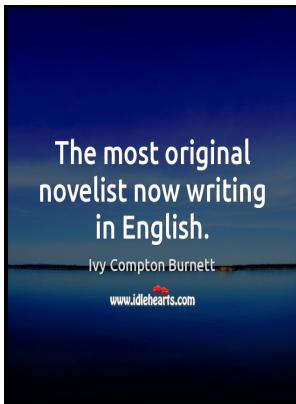


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Compton-Burnett, I. -- 1884-1969.novels of I. Compton-Burnett.

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Notes: Facsimile reprint of 1st ed., London: Victor Gollancz Ltd., 1955.

This edition was published in 1975



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So many bad things happen when I get curious two marriages, two children, oh-so-many disastrous car trips that you'd think I'd've learned not to scratch that bump. This self-effacement went on until Margaret died, at which point Ivy gathered literary friends about her and became a public figure, her novels by then having become popular, if only among a small group of highbrow readers. This book sheds light on the original Mary Poppins, Myth, Symbol, and Meaning in Mary Poppins is the only full-length study that covers all the Mary Poppins books, exposing just how subversive the pre-Disney Mary Poppins character truly was.

Ivy, The Life Of I. Compton Burnett by Hilary Spurling

She reveals a devastating microcosm of human society, in which the elders are by no means always the betters, in which no character is totally scrupulous, but none without their appeal. Women, contrary to what most men and their female converts seem to think, have intense erotic urges that in my experience, at least they very very badly want to satisfy.

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Age, relationship to other characters, hopes, fears - all of it must be dug out by the reader.

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Clarke: Life and Work of James Compton Burnett, M. They said they didn't, protests Spurling! There are anecdotes of Icky saying she'd never made love, and then going on to have quite thoroughly informed and detailed conversations with married women about sex and desire. For a secret switching of wills causes the most genteel pursuit of self-interest to threaten good relations and even good manners.

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And quite a lot about ICB's brother's friends too. They consist almost entirely of dialog. So then she meets an older woman, more established than she as an independent professional writer and historian of furniture, called Margaret Jourdain.

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They are full of melodrama lost wills found again, tyranny within the family, missing people returning after many years, children trying to escape their awful parents, adultery with attractive women within the household with the ingelegde of the family. They are unique - almost no description, no narrative, no stage directions. The biography is very readable, very interesting, in fact, fascinating, mesmerizing.

Ivy Compton

Burnett is one of those writers whose work is best enjoyed in snippets provided by others and Spurling uses those snippets brilliantly to create both the author and her surroundings. When Pastors and Masters appeared in 1925, Jourdain said she had been unaware that her friend was writing a novel.

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