

Scumble

Ingrid Law

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Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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As he comes into his Savvy on his thirteenth birthday, Ledger has high hopes for a wondrous and exciting ability. However, he soon discovers that the reality doesn't quite add up to his dreams. Instead of the athletic Savvy he and his dad had hoped for, Ledge now has an affinity for... breaking things apart. After his talent proves volatile and destructive, Ledger is dropped off at a family ranch to learn more self-control. Mastering his Savvy without disappointing his family is already a lot to manage. But when he finds out that Sarah, an aspiring reporter, was a witness to his power, things take a turn for the worse.

This was a light and charming read, with a mix of new characters, as well as popular ones from the previous book. However, it's probably best to read Savvy (book 1) first, as some of the terminology and references may be difficult to understand. One of the main things I enjoyed about this story were the vibrant and interesting personalities that Law brings out in each character. The main character, Ledge, shows a realistically rendered and conflicting blend of impulsive excitement and thoughtful maturity. As he transforms and grows into an older character, he develops more independence and responsibility, creating an inspirational and positive read. The setting was also well constructed and described, providing just enough information for context, without overburdening the story with excessive detail.

However, some of the character interactions, as well as Ledge's internal thoughts felt a bit stiff and unnatural. Many of the lines exaggerated a wild-west theme for a humorous effect, but came off as over-the-top and unnecessary in some situations. The characters often made irrational decisions that did not fit with their described personalities, creating frustration and confusion. Although it has some shortcomings, the novel still represents Ingrid Law's classic coming-of-age theme with a perfect dash of Beaumont family magic. This book contains some suggestions of tween romance, but no mature content. It would be best suited to readers aged 9 and older.

Recommended Titles:

A Tale Dark & Grimm by Adam Gidwitz

The Taken (Foxcraft, #1) by Inbali Iserles

A Year Without Autumn by Liz Kessler

The Familiars (The Familiars #1) by Adam Jay Epstein

Troubletwisters (Troubletwisters #1) by Garth Nix