

Savvy

Ingrid Law

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Mibs' family has a little secret. When someone of the Beaumont family turns thirteen, their "Savvy" or their supernatural power is revealed. Mibs' grandfather can move lands and Mibs' brother, Fish, can manipulate bodies of water. Mibs can't wait for the day of her thirteenth birthday, when she can finally discover her savvy, and leave the memories of mean rumors and annoying school bullies behind. But all of a sudden, a couple days before the big day, Mibs' father, "Poppa", gets in a severe accident and it looks like he won't recover anytime soon enough for Mibs' birthday. Luckily, on the day that Mibs finally turns thirteen, she suddenly has a plan and a hunch to how her savvy might be able to help her father. Together, with Mibs' siblings and friends, they secretly hitchhike on a bus to Salina Hope Hospital, embarking the beginning of a crazy but incredible adventure, in hopes to save Poppa's life and finally bring him home.

This book is great for kids age 7-15. Mibs is about in the middle of this age range and her experience and thoughts reflect her transition of growing from a child to a bit of the early teenage years. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend this book to people older or younger as well, because it's such a heartwarming and wonderful book for all kinds of people, regardless of age. This is definitely something that would make a wonderful gift for a friend, as well.

I really love this book. I first read it when I was about ten or so years old and I remember absolutely loving it. This is honestly one of the first books I've ever reread in my life, and I was curious to see how I would react to the story at an older age. Reading it this time was definitely quite nostalgic and heartwarming, and all the little reasons why I loved it when I first read it, came flooding back to me.

I think the biggest thing that stood out to me was Ingrid Law's writing style. I like that she put little anecdotes, bits of humor and other small but significant details here and there, that truly made Mib's voice and story animated and genuine. Unlike the narration of other protagonists in many other books, Mibs often had deep reflections about the thoughts and emotions she felt in her head. I like that aside from the main events going by, Mibs internally struggled with the idea of growing up, as well as learning that people's identities are deeper than what they may seem on the surface. I like that the author left us with the impression that Mibs struggled and felt the same emotions that any young kid may face, regardless of the fact that she had a special "savvy" power. Overall though, I loved the growth and development in all the characters. Much of them seemed moved and changed for the better at the end of the story. The plot was also always exciting and interesting. Ingrid Law never failed to make a moment dull or insignificant.

I think this is a book I will cherish as a part of my childhood, and I'm grateful I decided to pick it up and relive the story once more again. Of all things, this book is much of a comfort to me. I like how Mibs learns that it's important to take things slow and appreciate the small things in life, regardless of the passing of time. I hope that the thoughtful message in *Savvy* can also be a piece of comfort to other readers as well.

Recommended Titles:

Scumble by Ingrid Law

Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage
11 Birthdays by Wendy Mass
When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead
Ungifted by Gordon Korman