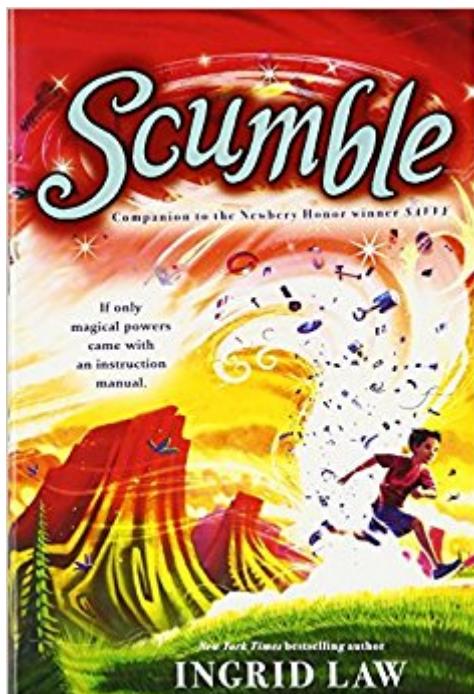


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## Scumble



## Synopsis

Read the *New York Times* bestseller and companion to Newbery Honor winner *Savvy*! It's nine years after *Savvy*, and Mibs' cousin Ledge is on the verge of turning thirteen. More than anything, he wants the power to run like the wind. But when his birthday comes, he discovers that his savvy is actually making things fall apart. It starts out with small things, but then it gets worse. To top it all off, someone outside the family has witnessed his destruction. Now, in addition to trying to figure out how to control - or scumble - his savvy, he's got to worry about how to protect the family secrets. Over the course of one amazing summer, Ledge learns a lot about himself and his family, makes a new - and very unlikely - friend, and learns to appreciate his newfound skills. "Readers will delight in the tall-tale tropes and Ledge's authentic physical, emotional, and artistic challenges." - Booklist, starred review "The title stands alone in its fast-paced plot with twists and turns galore, and readers familiar with *Savvy* will eat it up and wish for more." - School Library Journal

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0900 (What's this?)

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-7 *In this rollicking companion novel to *Savvy* (Dial, 2008), nine years have passed since Ledger Kale's cousin Mibs turned 13 and began her magical experience. Since he was a*

young boy, Ledge knew his family was unlike others, with each member gaining an unusual and often unpredictable power, called a savvy, upon turning 13. He hoped that his would enable him to be supersonically swift and race marathons with his dad. Unfortunately, it seems just to entail breaking things. When the Kales travel to Wyoming for a wedding, Ledger's newly found savvy wreaks havoc upon the ceremony and its guests and levels the barn on his Uncle Autry's farm. The disaster has an unwelcome witness, Sarah Jane Cabot, daughter of a wannabe-reporter and local businessman. As Ledge's savvy grows by monumental and ever more destructive proportions, his family decides that he needs to stay on his uncle's farm until he learns to scumble (control) it, and he fears he'll be condemned to stay there forever. Ledge's need to scumble is a race against time before Sarah Jane figures out the family's peculiar secrets, or her father follows through with foreclosing of the family farm. Law's vibrant storytelling and cast of likable characters will keep readers hooked throughout. The title stands alone in its fast-paced plot with twists and turns galore, and readers familiar with *Savvy* will eat it up and wish for more. Michele Shaw, Quail Run Elementary School, San Ramon, CA © Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

\*Starred Review\* This companion to Newbery Honor Book *Savvy* (2008) provides the same high level of satisfying plot, delightful characters, alliterative language, and rich imagery. In this story, Ledger Kale's thirteenth birthday arrives with the traditional family inheritance of a particular "savvy" — a power unique to each individual, who must then learn how to manage his or her new talent. At first it seems that Ledger's savvy is one for destruction: "I could blow stuff apart without a touch, dismantling small things in bursts of parts and pieces: a light switch here, a doorknob there, garage door opener, can opener, Dad's stop watch, his electric nose-hair trimmer too." But during a summer visit to the Flying Cattleheart, Uncle Autry's Wyoming ranch, Ledge learns to tame, train, and deploy his power to good ends as he struggles against 13-year-old Sarah Jane Cabot, an aspiring reporter looking to expose the family's secrets, whose businessman father is trying to foreclose on the ranch. Other characters include Ledger's safety-slogan-spouting seven-year-old sister Fedora, levitating twin cousins, and Grandpa Bomba, who is comforted in his last days by sweet music, preserved in old peanut-butter jars, from his long-dead wife. While adult readers will see this all as a beautiful conceptualization of the drama and metamorphosis of adolescence, younger readers will delight in the tall-tale tropes and Ledger's authentic

physical, emotional, and artistic challenges. Grades 5-8. --Francisca Goldsmith --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Let's start with the look of the thing first: I bought the hardcover edition of this book since I had received the first in hardcover and decided to continue the trend. The art of it didn't really impress me but I did like the insane, fantastical colors of it that brought back to mind the magically tinted world of the first book, *Savvy*. When I did receive the book I was more impressed than I was with the online picture- it was better once it was in my hands. Now: spoilers ahead. Lets start with *Ledger*. *Ledger* was gifted with a *savvy* that would have blown any other small 13 year old boy over with joy but instead of puffing up proud he shrinks into a ball of self pity, knotted over with an obsession to please others that felt really out of place. This didn't stop. For the majority of *Scumble* this is how *Ledger* stays. Sorry. My next big growl at this installment to the series is Sarah Jane Cabot. A more nosy, inconsiderate, unappealing and just plain pesky character I have not met. I was really upset with *Ledger*'s fumbling around when just a few words to the right person would have ended all the grief (though obviously it ended up to be for the best in the end). It didn't help that the development of her character was severely stunted with her daddy standing between her and the rest of the world. What really brought me joy in this book was the reappearance of *Rocket* and the introduction of more of the family that took the edge off of *Ledger*'s almost constant sulking. Now it's not all bad, this book ties in beautifully with *Switch* (the third in the series) and reading *Scumble* makes *Switch* all the better. This may be a weak second but the *Savvy* world has bigger, better things coming.

My kids LOVED this book. They're sister/brother, nearly 9-year-old twins. I also loved reading it with them. The characters are vivid, the use of language colorful in the way you want it to be for kids. They both can see a simile, metaphor or hyperbole coming a mile away after this one. But more important, they couldn't put the book down and the story has inspired many make-believe games and stories of their own. It's been a joy and we can't wait to ready Ingrid Law's other books.

*Ledge* and his family are not normal. *Ledge*'s mother has an awesome magical power that allows her to persuade anyone with her words. *Ledge*'s uncle Autry can manipulate bugs and insects with his commands. *Ledge*'s grandmother? She can trap radio waves inside a jar that can later be opened a tiny bit to let the music or whatever was caught in there play. *Ledge*'s mother's side of the family always had the special powers they call "savvy" and it always came to them on their 13th birthday. The event was always unique, and was never forgettable. *Ledge*, however did not get any kind of

an "obvious" power, and was kept in the dark until the family finally figured it out: taking things apart. Ledge practically blew things up. A watch, timer, lamp, and even a full sized barn house crumbled under his command. The only problems were that A: breaking and destroying things are not at all a handy talent And B: he is not able to control his savvy, which leads to unwanted catastrophes. So, after causing even major troubles, Ledge's parents leaves him behind at the summer ranch to hopefully later return to find him fully scrumbling (read the review title. Scrumbling means to be in total charge and control of you savvy), and so that is how his summer adventure begins! I really enjoyed story, and mostly because it is a good fantasy novel and it talks about growing up, and learning to control your fears. It is a really good piece for book, and I am really looking forward to digging into "savvy" the original one.

Sequel to Savvy and a romping rollick through another 13 year old's savvy. The novel stands alone yet is a wonderful companion to Savvy and has left me wishing for more. Fish gets married and Ledge, freshly 13, is coping with a destructive Savvy. Ledge and Rocket both struggle with scrumbling on the ranch for the summer while their sisters hang with the twins on their own adventures. Great read!

I read this sequel (and the first book, Savvy) to my 8 y.o. daughter and it was very enjoyable for both of us. Unlike some young adult fiction, this book is very well written, imaginative, and has great character development. My daughter says, "it was fun because it felt like it could be real."

It's from a different viewpoint then I thought it would be from, but I liked it anyway. Personally, I would have liked the main character to be someone I already was introduced to, but overall it was a good book. I liked the ending where he finally accepted his savvy. That was my favorite part.

2nd book in the series. My non-reading 4th grader is willing reading this after her class read the 1st one together. The class used the first one to teach the kids that each of them had a special gift and that they had to find it and use it to the good of everyone.

My kids are absolutely enthralled by this story and the predecessor, I read this to them at bedtime. It is kind of like Harry Potter set in the Deep South with much quirkier characters and I think very clever magic / supernatural elements. There is a teeny bit of tween / teen romance but totally age appropriate (first awkward kisses and such). My kids jump in bed eager to hear another chapter.

Great writing and story.

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Scumble

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