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Scumble

By Ingrid Law



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Scumble By Ingrid Law

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*



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5–7—The Beaumont family is unique. When they turn 13, they develop savvy—an unusual talent or power. IN Ingrid Law's sequel (2010) to *Savvy* (2008, both Dial), it's been nine years since Mib discovered her savvy, and her cousin Ledge is keeping her troubled tale in mind as he approaches his own 13th birthday. Dreams of a great running career are quickly dashed when the day comes and Ledge discovers his talent...for breaking things. Though Ledge's savvy is problematic, the family decides to head out west for a family gathering anyway, a decision they regret when Ledge manages to destroy the wedding. Ledge's parents decide to leave him on the remote ranch for the summer, hoping that he'll learn to scumble (control) his talent. As the boy's talent continues to spiral out of control, he also accidentally exposes himself to the biggest mouth in town, Sarah Jane Cabot. David Kremenitzer brings Ledger's voice to life, giving listeners both moments of great levity and strong sympathy as his life tumbles around him. Ledge's highly emotional tones are balanced with the soothing western keel of his Uncle Autry and his even toned, calming father. Although this lyrically paced story about a teen learning to love himself, hidden talents and all, can stand on it's own, it's best suited for library collections already circulating *Savvy*.—*Jessica Miller, New Britain Public Library, CT*

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From [Booklist](#)

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 Ledge'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 Ledge'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 Ledge's authentic physical, emotional, and artistic challenges. Grades 5-8. --Francisca Goldsmith

Review

"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.

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