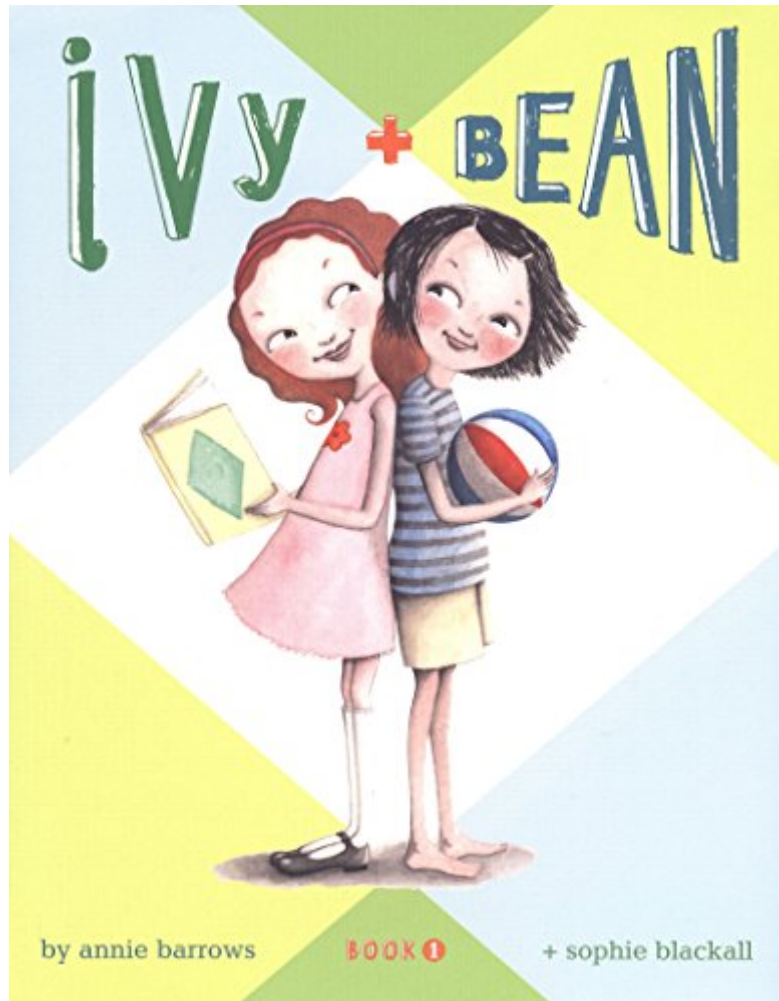




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Ivy And Bean (Book 1)



Synopsis

The moment they saw each other, Bean and Ivy knew they wouldn't be friends. But when Bean plays a joke on her sister, Nancy, and has to hide, quick! Ivy comes to the rescue, proving that sometimes the best of friends are people never meant to like each other. Vibrant characters and lots of humor make this a charming - and addictive - introduction to a new series. Includes bonus material!- Sneak peek chapter from the next book in the Ivy + Bean series Ivy and Bean and the Ghost That Had to Go by Annie Barrows, illustrated by Sophie Blackall

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Customer Reviews

*** Warning: This review contains spoilers! ***First off, I have to give this book praise because it is the first chapter book that my 7-year-old first grader read all on her own, cover to cover. She got it as a gift, and though she was at first indifferent to it, once she picked it up, she read the entire book in one sitting. She is now very excited to go back and read book one - this book is the second in the series - and the rest of the series, too. The reading level is exactly appropriate for her, and clearly she finds the content amusing. I want to say, too, that I really liked Ivy and Bean's teacher, Ms.

Aruba-Tate. I thought she was kind, yet firm, and just what an elementary school teacher should be. So, why only 3 stars? Basically, I don't like the way the two girls behave. I'm probably over-thinking it, but here goes... Sure, Ivy and Bean's antics appeal to young readers. But I just can't get over the worry that maybe my daughter will pick up some bad ideas, with disastrous results. Yes, Ramona Quimby (whose books I love) behaved badly, too, but usually, by the time she got to be school-aged, she was well-intentioned, though sometimes misguided or misunderstood. Ivy and Bean, on the other hand, cause trouble even though it seems like they should know better. Early on in the book, I was appalled that Bean physically tackled another student to the ground and then smashed plums into his hair - at school! Okay, I can see the humor in the situation, and in the book, Bean and the other student were simply told to "work it out."

My six-year-old daughter loves to read and has recently started reading chapter books. Once she got over her obsession with the Junie B. Jones series, I managed to get her interested in the Cam Jansen series of books and then I discovered the Ivy and Bean series. My daughter loves the central characters, Bean and her best friend Ivy. The girls are precocious, intelligent, and always up to some adventure (or misadventure, depending on how one looks at it!). These traits appeal to my daughter as she is quite the adventurer herself, and the chapters are relatively short, which makes it easy for her to read independently. The books average about 100-120 pages, and she manages to read up to 40 pages per sitting (around 45 minutes). What I found to be fascinating was that the plot for each story is so well-written and developed that my daughter could not stop once she started reading! I usually sit with her and supervise her reading, helping out with some difficult words, and she gets so involved with the story that she just keeps on reading. This to me is the mark of a good book, one that entices a young reader to keep reading. The language is not overly simplified, on the contrary, there are some challenging words which I help my daughter with (pronunciation and definition, if necessary). The black and white illustrations that appear in each chapter add to the appeal of these books. This boxed set is a value buy since it contains three of the Ivy and Bean books, i.e. Ivy and Bean Take Care of the Babysitter, Ivy and Bean Bound to Be Bad, and Ivy and Bean Doomed to Dance. In addition, there is a bonus in the form of 2 stand-up Ivy and Bean dolls, plus four sheets of removable plastic wardrobe stickers which provide hours of fun for young children.

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