



Ivy and Bean and the Ghost That Had to Go

Annie Barrows , Sophie Blackall (Illustrator)

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Best friends Ivy and Bean are back and looking for adventure in the second installment of this engaging new series. This time they've made an amazing discovery a ghost in the school bathroom! Ivy and Bean can see its cloudy form and its glowing eyes. They can hear its moaning voice. This is the best thing that ever happened at school until the teachers find out. Now Ivy and Bean have to figure out how to get the ghost out of the bathroom. Will they succeed? Maybe. Will they have fun? Of course!

Ivy and Bean and the Ghost That Had to Go Details

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From Reader Review Ivy and Bean and the Ghost That Had to Go for online ebook

Jennifer says

Neither the character development nor the illustrations were quite as compelling as in the first book, but it remains head and shoulders better than those beginning-chapter book standbys, Magic Tree House and Junie B. Jones. Volume 2 does benefit from having a boy character appearing periodically, but the series probably remains too feminine with the partially pink cover to convince many boys to try it, which will certainly be their loss. Ivy and Bean remain two wonderful kids who overflow with imagination and friendship and errors in judgment, a winning combination for any reader.

Jackie says

so far I like it but I dont have enough information to tell you about it.

Alice says

I don't think their was really a ghost haunting the girls bathroom. It was probably just a cool gust of wind or a breeze. Who knows, it could be haunted.?

Maryam says

I hated this book! Like i said in my other review, i hate it because of WITCHCRAFT!!

Kimberly Ward says

I thought this book was inappropriate for the 1st and 2nd grade reader. In this book Ivy and Bean think there is a ghost in the school bathroom and the spot on floor is a portal to the underworld. I think that this book could scare some younger kids because the book never addresses that there really was not a ghost in the bathroom. Didn't like this one.

Irene says

*** Warning: This review contains spoilers! ***

Two stars seems too low, but in Goodreads it's labeled as "it was ok", and that is how I feel about the book. (On Amazon, "It's OK" translates to 3 stars.)

First off, I have to give this book praise because it is the first chapter book that Isabelle 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 do I think it was "just okay"? 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 Isabelle 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." Yet, in these days of hyper-awareness regarding bullying, most schools have a zero tolerance policy, and if something like that happened in real life, Bean would be sent to the principal's office for sure, maybe even suspended. Bean also uses phrases like "shut up" - which I work hard to get my kids NOT to say - and she cuts her sister's hair in her sleep. Ivy, though sweet and quiet on the outside, misuses her active imagination and tells a tall tale at school about a ghost in the bathroom, eventually leading to another girl literally being scared to tears. She does end up feeling bad about getting in trouble, yet she doesn't learn the lesson about not spreading false stories. She continues to adhere to her ghost story, causing even more trouble. In the end, she basically gets away with her antics, never having to take responsibility for the mess she made in the bathroom.

Another issue I have with this book is that I think it unnecessarily exposes young readers to ideas they may not be ready for. First of all, there is this talk of ghosts and death and graves. I actually didn't mind it so much, personally - I know Isabelle can handle that kind of talk - but I can imagine that maybe there are other first graders who might not be ready for a book about ghosts and the underworld. Second, the girls at one point want to make a blood oath. Even though they didn't go through with it, I'm not sure I'm entirely comfortable with the idea that my young daughter now knows that some people will actually consider purposely making themselves bleed just for fun. Finally, when Ivy makes her ghost-begone potion, she finds that "ponie" is an ingredient, but she doesn't have a "pony", so she glosses over it. Now, I am a mother who encourages my daughter to look up words she doesn't know. Luckily, Isabelle doesn't use Google on her own yet, but one quick search tells me that "ponie" is slang for a "sexual female being that dances in a weird yet shexual [sic] manner". "Shexual" is apparently another slang word that means especially sexual. Not exactly the types of words I want my first grader exposed to...

I ended up spending a lot of time talking with my daughter about the difference between "book life" and "real life", and how things that happen in book life are entertaining and funny, partly because they are things we would NEVER do ourselves in real life, or else we'd get in REALLY big trouble.

In the end, I am allowing Isabelle to read the rest of the books in this series, but I plan to read the books, too, so I can talk to her about specific concerns, if any more should arise.

Andrea Medina says

This book is about these girls that think that the school bathroom is haunted. They do all these crazy things just to prove that there's a ghost in the bathroom. I recommend this book to girls that like funny stories. I liked the part when she spilled the beans about the ghost and she started crying and told the teacher. Her friends weren't mad, she just thought that they were. I recommend this book to kids that like funny books.

Joy Lee says

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Carmen says

The title is a pun. The ghost does need to go (be expelled) but he or she is also living in the girls' bathroom, and therefore might have to go. GET IT?!?! LOL

Ivy and Bean, best friends, face a new challenge when a ghost appears in the girls' bathroom of Emerson School.

Haha, not really. Ivy just doesn't want to admit that she doesn't know how to do a cartwheel, so she makes up a ghost to distract everyone. It's believable because there is a mist outside the bathroom sometimes, and it feels cold in there.

Unfortunately, Ivy's story spreads like wildfire and starts freaking out some of her less brave classmates. Ivy's beloved teacher scolds her and that makes Ivy very sad. So she and Bean come up with a plan to 'expel' the ghost. Of course that involves going to Ivy's secret lab to make a potion!!! I love how Ivy divides her

bedroom into four or five separate "rooms" by drawing chalk lines on the floor and putting similar stuff into one area. She even has a "sink" in her secret potion lab, which is really a tub of water! She's so creative.

There's a rather frightening picture of Bean, scissors in hand, leaning down over Nancy's sleeping form. I won't tell you why!

One of the funniest parts is when Ivy and Bean decide to make a blood oath. Ivy is scared, but instead of admitting it, she claims that drawing blood will attract vampire bats. So they decide that any fluid will do, and have a great deal of fun spitting on a piece of paper.

There's also an interesting subtext (to me) about a boy named Leo. He ends up being interested in all the ghosts business and offers to help Ivy and Bean out. I enjoy this time in childhood when boys and girls are equal...before the whole 'boys/girls have cooties stay away from them' phase that divides the sexes. Remember when you could play with the little girl AND the little boy down the street? Remember when a group of children (mixed-sex) roamed the neighborhood looking for adventure and getting into all sorts of shenanigans? No? Well, I do. My best friends (up until age 9, when the sex-division was absolute) were BOTH male and female. I'll always remember the amazing, non-sexual male-female friendships of childhood. :)

Again, I feel that Barrows writes in a clear, very 7-year-old voice that is both amusing and spot-on. Her books aren't as "jokey" as Junie B. Jones and she obeys grammar rules, unlike the Junie B. Jones books. (Not dissing JBJ, I love those books!) My only complaint with this book was that the "ghost" was never explained. With the little hints Barrows was dropping, I thought there would be a new cooling system, air-freshening system or something to explain the "mist" and "cold" and "better smell" of the bathroom, but I guess the "ghost" was a pure manifestation of children's imagination.

Yolanda says

I was very disturbed about the story discussing graves under schools and ghosts that were miserable, sad, etc. Not exactly what I would call uplifting and appropriate reading for a my daughter who is 7 years old. Call me old fashioned (which is an oxymoron because I tend to be quite progressive) but this is just not something I want my little girl reading and I just threw it in the trash. Next time maybe I should read each book I buy for her ahead of time.

Diane says

Ivy and Bean spread the rumor that there is a ghost in the girl's bathroom. After it gets back to the teacher, she tells them that while imagination is important "some stories can be harmful to others and that means we have to use our imaginations responsibly and respectfully." So Ivy and Bean decide to expel the ghost with a potion. Their final touch is to give the ghost presents for its trip back. They decide to flush them down the toilet. The toilet overflows and they lie to a teacher about what happened. They do not get caught and the final words of the book are: "A really great day, thought Bean."

This is not a good message in a kid's book and I would not recommend this book to students. These girls make a series of bad choices without retribution whatsoever: they cut Nancy's hair while she's sleeping;

persist in their story after they've been told to stop; make a general mess of the bathroom, including overflowing the toilet. I don't mind when the characters in a story create a little mischief in a book. What I do mind is the author making it seem like it's no big deal when, in fact, any of these offenses could get a student in big trouble.

Kathleen Dixon says

James and Zenobia and Ivy very much enjoyed the first book in this series, so what else should we do but read the second. They enjoyed this just as much, if not more. I think the haunted bathroom had much to do with how much the story was liked. For example, when I asked them what they liked about the book, these were the responses:

Ivy - I liked the haunted bathroom, and when Bean cut Nancy's hair.

Zenobia - I liked the haunted bathroom the best, and when Bean snipped Nancy's hair. I like the spooky bits most of all.

James - I liked the haunted bathroom the best, because it was funny. I like when they threw the presents for the spirits into the toilet, and the water overflowed. And I liked when Nancy's hair was being cut off.

A clear consensus! And Nancy's hair (and we don't need to worry about them getting any ideas because they've already done the the cutting-of-each-other's-hair naughtiness) was another clear hit.

This book was great to read aloud. There are pictures (black and white) on every page so there's plenty to keep the attention of the younger children, and I have no doubt they'll all be reading it again when they're fully independent readers. Ivy and Bean are fun characters, and the story is such that the adult reading can enjoy the humorous viewpoint of the kids all getting caught up in the ghost aspect, while the children can quite happily believe that the bathroom really was haunted.

A pleasure for all of us.

Dorothy LaBar says

Although Heidi enjoys the stories for the most part, we have way too many conversations about the poor behavior (e.g. cutting her sleeping sister's hair) and language ("shut-up!", etc) coming from Bean. These should be entitled "Ivy & Bean Can Be Quite Mean!". I think there are much better books out there if you want mystery that still manage to set a good example for kids (the original Boxcar Children set for one...warning: we find the "new" prequel to come short of the originals).

Barbara Williams says

I have to say, I am definitely lacking in my knowledge of easy chapter books, I honestly think the last time I read a book like this was first grade. This wasn't to say that I wasn't a big fan of these kind of books back then. Oh no, I remember hiding from my ridiculous brothers in my closet with the classic flashlight scenario, just so I could get some quiet THANK YOU VERY MUCH. But I was a fickle child. Once I moved up a

reading level, I was all like, FUCK YOU, *Ramona and Beezus*, I'm too good for you now (I was a tiny-hispter in my time.) That's been my life long tendency, and I often get quite bored with a book if it does not challenge me in any way.

But now things have changed, and the man is requiring me to read books like these for my job.

So I decided on *Ivy and Bean*, cause let's face it, all the book covers seem damn pretty adorable.

So what exactly is the verdict on *Ivy and Bean*?

It's a sweet story about two girls who were in your second grade class, that only wanted to be friends with each other. And they always made all others feel left out.

Now don't get me wrong, my life long friend Nicole and I were those people. And similarly, we made up a story about a ghost that lived inside an magic eight ball and predicted the future with scary details. It terrified us so bad, when ended up burying it in the backyard behind her shed. That way the ghost could return to the ground and be put to rest (child logic is flawless.)

And I have to give credit to Barrows, she captures childhood logic quite fabulously.

Obviously the book is a little boring for adults, but it was actually quite entertaining for an hour to read *what all the kids are into*.

I guess I can say with confidence to second graders that these books are a good choice. Unless, you know, they are tiny pretentious hispters like I was.

Those children are on their own. There is nothing child-hispters like that hate more than not discovering a book themselves.

Blair Herron says

Transitional Reader Book:

I read the first book in the series for fun over the summer and since I enjoyed it so much I chose to read the second installment as my transitional reader book. The series follows two girls who are very different but still best friends, Ivy and Bean. They do have one very similar interest though and that is their love for mischief. In this book Ivy discovers a ghost in the girls bathroom at their school. She of course immediately tells Bean so that they can find a way to expel the ghost from school and send it back to its grave. Through plotting together they decide that the best thing to do is to have Ivy whip up a magic potion, since she is practicing to become a witch, and give it a traditional Egyptian Ceremony including gifts to make the parting easier on the ghost. The morning that Bean and Ivy go into the bathroom to expell the ghost they a half dollar and fossil rock to give to the ghost as they spread the potion around the bathroom floor and perform a ceremonial dance along with a chant to send the ghost back to the grave. Just as they are flushing their gifts down the toilet (so that the ghost can take them with him to the grave) the mean teacher from the 5th grade decides to find out what is going on in the bathroom since all the children on the playground are standing around it during recess. Luckily, just as they are about to have to confess what they are doing the toilet overflows giving the two girls something to blame their mischievous behavior on.

This would be a wonderful book for adolescent girls grades 2nd to 5th grade. The book follows Ivy and Bean who are in the 2nd grade, and though at first I felt that 2nd grade might be too young for readers to comprehend the word structure and sentences, I really feel that this fact would make the story easy for them to relate to since they are the same age as the main characters. The type is large and the book is set up in chapters where the title gives a general idea of what the entire chapter is about.

The illustrations is another component that would make this a great book for children who are learning to read books that based more on words then pictures. At the beginning of each chapter right under the heading, or on the reverse side of the page, is a picture that explains what Ivy and Bean are doing in the book at that time. These detailed illustrations are also scattered throughout the book and they explain whatever is happening in the book at that time as well. For example when Ivy and Bean are talking to the mean 5th grade teacher about why they were in the bathroom, on the opposite page it shows a drawing of the toilet over flowing.
