



Ivy and Bean No News Is Good News

Annie Barrows

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Ivy and Bean need some money. Ten dollars, to be exact. Never mind what for. Okay, it's for low-fat Belldeloon cheese in a special just-for you serving size. Don't ask why. How are Ivy and Bean going to make ten dollars? Hey, maybe they should write a newspaper about Pancake Court and sell it! Great idea! And easy, too. All they have to do is snoop around the neighborhood. Wow...It's very interesting what they can find out. It's even more interesting when the neighbors read about it in the newspaper.

Ivy and Bean No News Is Good News Details

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AlexaB says

In this story, Ivy and Bean wanted to get the cheese that everyone had, lowfat Belldeloon cheese. But they didn't want it for the cheese, they wanted it for the red wax that covered the cheese. The wax was fun to squish or make a wax mustache or a unicorn horn. But their parents refused to buy them the cheese. So Ivy and Bean decided to think of ways to earn money to buy the cheese. They tried to sell a flying potion, but nobody would drink it because there were flies in the jar. Then they had an idea to write a newspaper, The Flipping Pancake. Bean's dad wanted the girls to earn something, so he purchased a pack of the cheese they wanted, and he told them they'd get their cheese after they finished writing their newspaper. They talked friends and neighbors into pre purchasing a copy of the newspaper. At first, they didn't write much so Bean's dad refused to give them the cheese. Then they went out into the neighborhood and found funny and entertaining stories to write about what they saw their neighbors doing in their homes. Bean's dad laughed so much he gave the girls their cheese. The Flipping Pancake was a success.

Penni Russon says

This was a hoot! This is the second one we've read, and we loved it, more than the first (which was the first). Lots of laugh out loud moments, and some truly great dialogue. I love the suburban setting, the ordinariness, and that the colour and richness and humour come from gentle, credible set ups.

Carmen says

Ivy and Bean are best friends. They may seem like opposites at first glance: Bean is small and dark, Ivy is a tall redhead. Bean uses bad language, plays practical jokes on people, loves to be outside, and isn't afraid of getting dirty. Ivy loves to read, is soft-spoken, and plans to be a witch when she grows up. Together they can accomplish anything.

Ivy and Bean have a problem. They are the only kids at school who don't get Mini Babybel cheese in their lunchbox. (In the book it is called Belldeloon instead of Babybel.) Why do they want this so bad? Well, it isn't for the cheese - it's for the wax the cheese comes in. Apparently it's a "thing" to squish the wax, mold it into funny shapes, stick it on your face, etc. Ivy and Bean feel very left out.

No matter how much they beg their parents, they will not buy them the cheese, which they claim is "too expensive." Isn't that just like a grown-up? Don't they know what's IMPORTANT?

How can Ivy and Bean earn money? Ivy suggests Bean sell her beloved animal/food/etc.-shaped erasers. Bean doesn't like that idea. Then perhaps they can sell some of Nancy's stuff? (Nancy is Bean's older sister.) No, that's stealing. Then they remember that Ivy is training to be a witch. Of course! They will sell magic potions.

They decide flying potion is their best bet, so they whip up a batch. Then they approach people on the

playground but find no one willing to drink a yellow potion with dead flies floating in it.

Bean's dad says they should earn money doing chores, but then quickly backpedals when he remembers how Bean doing chores usually turns out. (It's not pretty.) Then he remembers how when he was a kid, he made a newspaper about what was happening on the block and sold subscriptions for a quarter.

The girls are very excited about this "subscription" idea. The idea that he got money without giving people a product first intrigues them. They decide to do the same: make a local newspaper and sell subscriptions for a dollar (inflation, you know).

The girls easily sell a plethora of subscriptions and happily make off to the store with the money to buy cheese. It's a cold shock when Bean's dad informs them they have to actually write a newspaper, and a good one at that.

The book goes on from there, becoming a sort of watered-down version of *IN A PIG'S EYE* for the younger set. I won't spoil what happens for you, but it's pretty funny.

This book didn't seem as laugh-out-loud funny to me as *BOUND TO BE BAD* or *DOOMED TO DANCE*. It's also a little one-note, not covering as many subjects and scenarios as I like. But those are just personal preferences. As usual, Barrows provides a great story from a 7-year-old's viewpoint and Blackall provides fresh and creative illustrations that are perfect for the text.

Quince Winstyn says

I listened to this on disk during a long car ride. It was boring in the extreme. But at least it passed the time.

Leslie says

Natalya was 6 or 7 when we picked up the first Ivy+Bean book by Annie Barrows. N has since moved onto Teen shelves, but I still try to keep up on "the two friends who never meant to like each other" and their adventures. First, the books are just that delightful. Second, Sophie Blackall is one of my favorite Illustrators (as many of you know). There are a lot of fun chapter books for the 6-10 age group. If you need to narrow it down: Ivy + Bean has and continues-to-be brilliant. Check them out.

No News is Good News was an especially fun read for me. I remember my mom packing "cheese in a special just-for-you serving size" wrapped in a red wax to play with; though I doubt mine were lowfat. The trip down memory lane was fun. Ivy and Bean are also out to create a local newspaper as a fundraiser, and we are in the early stages of zine project 2.0. May it reassure neighbors and family and friends, we will not be looking in windows and record the odd observation. With FaceBook, Google+, or Twitter, do I need to?

There are some things people do not want to share or have revealed. They certainly wouldn't care for the exaggerations made to spice up the story. Ivy and Bean narrowly escape all-out disaster. It helps that despite their (innocent) mischief they are still little girls and that their observations were fairly mild. But when the girls remark upon their finished newspaper, *The Flipping Pancake*, with: "It looks so real." (109) how can the adult reader disagree? Points are made and lessons are learned—but not in a message-y way. A

marvelous aspect to the Ivy + Bean books are the deft handling of learning opportunities via the girls' interactions and adventures. These are fun reads with creative stories and solutions.

Since you are going to get your dear 6-10 year old girl (and dear 33 year old L) the boxed sets for a gift, throw in that brand new Paper Doll Set! Shameless, I know, but I adore these books. Barrows has a fantastic sense of humor and story, and her characters are wonderful. It is yummy icing that Blackall illustrates their adventures (and their dolls!).

L @ omphaloskepsis

<http://contemplatrix.wordpress.com/20...>

Sheri says

This is a cute book from a series of early readers or first chapter books. It is an interesting story about cheese and how to make money to buy some. On the theme of earning money and honoring your subscriptions. They write a neighborhood newsletter. Cute and good for first and second grade to suggest reading chapter book series.

Cathe Olson says

The Ivy + Bean series is so popular with the 2nd grade girls at my elementary school so I finally decided to read one myself. In this book, Ivy and Bean are desperate to get some lowfat Belldeloon cheese in a special just-for-you-serving size that's all the rage at their school. They don't care about the cheese, it's the wax coating that all the kids playing with that they covet. Since their parents refuse to buy the expensive snack, they decide to raise the money by selling newspaper subscriptions and they easily get enough money for a bag of cheese each. Unfortunately, Beans father said they couldn't have the cheese until they actually wrote and distributed said newspaper . . . and that's where things get interesting!

The book is perfect for 1st and 2nd grade girls looking for easy chapter books. Ivy and Bean are funny and the trouble they get into is fun . . . the book really brought me back to that age.

nicole says

Sometimes I can't believe what these girls get away with.

Loved Bean's Dad's reaction to their very unflattering neighborhood newspaper... until he realized the neighbors had read it too. Meanwhile Ivy & Bean are a couple satisfied hellions, chomping on their cheese. I also love that the entire premise of a book can revolve around a childhood obsession with cheese wax. Ah, elementary school trends, how you mystify and delight.

Elisha Condie says

Oh, how we love Ivy & Bean. Ivy is quiet, smart, well dressed, and has a potions lab in her room. Bean is loud, impatient, and so so funny. We all love these two girls. This is the latest Ivy & Bean book out and it took just a couple nights to get through - which was SAD because we all wanted it to last longer.

In this book the girls want to earn money to buy the little wax wrapped cheeses -they need that wax and their parents won't buy it. So they write a newspaper about their street and sell it to the neighbors. And it's pretty awesome. I laughed. The 7 year old laughed. The 4 year old laughed.

Only complaint is that it's short. It's not that Annie Barrows phoned this one in, it just seems like she had other things to do and could have written a few more chapters, in our opinion. But overall, we love Ivy & Bean!

Anna says

I have been reading the *Ivy + Bean* books to my girls at bedtime since October (roughly one a week). This was the last in the series that we read and I'm kind of sad there aren't any more to read. I have had so much fun reading these out loud. I've let Ruby read pages here and there but I selfishly want to read because the dialogue is fun for me to read. I have voices for the different characters and I love the writing.

This is the first chapter book series where Ruby has really related to the characters. Ivy and Bean are second grade girls and she has personality traits in common with both of them. (Although I think Ruby relates more to Bean.) It has been a treat to watch Ruby laugh and get into the stories. I hope we can find another series that we like as much to read soon.

Arja says

Eka Isa+Beani ja kokeilin, voiko sarjaa lukea missä järjestyksessä tahansa. Kyllä voi. Kiva kirja.

Irene says

After reading the first four books in this series more or less in order, it occurred to me that after you read the first book, in which Ivy and Bean meet, there really is no need to read the rest of the books in order. The girls are second graders in all the books, and each book describes a stand-alone incident spanning no more than a few days. So, even though I haven't read all the books through Book 7 yet, I picked up Book 8 because it was available at the library. I don't think I'm missing out by reading the books out of order.

As usual, my concerns about this book boil down to the fact that the girls engage in inappropriate behavior (all in fun), but they don't suffer any consequences for their bad decisions.

I like that the girls were willing to do some work to earn money. With a suggestion from Bean's father, they decided to sell subscriptions to a neighborhood newsletter. Unfortunately, I was quickly disappointed when

they tried to weasel out of actually writing the newsletter - after already having collected the money!

Bean's father gets them back on track, but in order for them to collect "news" for their newsletter, they basically trespass and spy on people in their own homes. They completely violate the privacy of others, and when the neighbors see the newsletter, adults and children come to Bean's house to complain.

Yes, I can see the humor in the resulting newsletter, but I would have preferred having a satisfying moral ending along with the funny outcome. The girls weren't acting maliciously, so maybe punishment wasn't necessary, but they still should have had to apologize to the neighbors for spying, making up stories, exaggerating, and violating their privacy. They didn't, and there was no lesson learned, no remorse. Instead, they actually got rewarded with more money.

Like other books in this series, this one also includes name-calling.

Morgan says

I want to be friends with Ivy and Bean! They are hilarious and I was laughing so hard at their magazine. This one was a win!

Gail Gauthier says

I love Ivy and Bean.

"Bean could be described as a Junie B. and Clementine type of child in that she tends to go her own way. Her creator describes her as "loud and wild." The difference between Bean and the other leads in the big, girl series is that Bean is comfortable with who she is. She isn't always anxiously interacting with adult characters who reassure her in some way or are involved in helping her learn a reassuring lesson. Most of Bean's interaction is with another child and not adults. She interacts with Ivy, her co-lead, who, superficially, is your stereotypical quiet little girl.

Yeah, your quiet little girl who is into magic and potions, and who is sharp as a tack. Talk about still waters running deep."

Excerpt from Original Content

Donna Bills says

Break out your favorite mini cheese snack encased in red wax and spend a few minutes with the latest Ivy and Bean adventure. When i was about 8, I thought I "discovered" the awesomeness of soft red wax from Gouda cheese as a modeling compound. I can totally sympathize with the two friends' obsession with obtaining the wonderful substance! Of course their thrifty parents see the small overpriced cheese balls as a luxury item a family on a budget can do without. So the girls set out to earn their own money. Eventually, they use Bean's Dad's idea of a neighborhood newspaper. of course that opens up a whole new ball of wax.... ivy and Bean fans will not be disappointed with their favorite early chapter book characters.

There is only one problem I have with these titles. Coming from a rather conservative religious demographic, I kind of wish Ivy would give up her obsession with spells and witchcraft.
