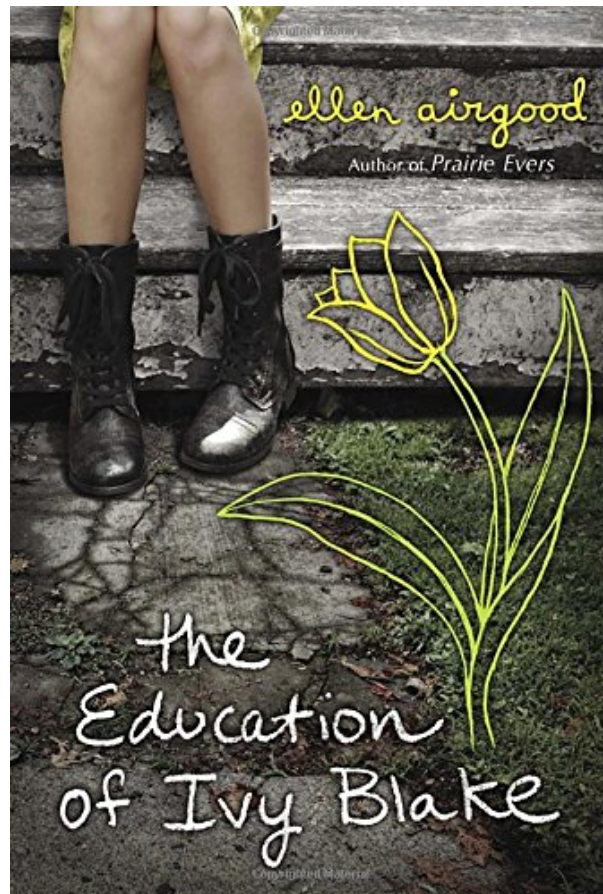
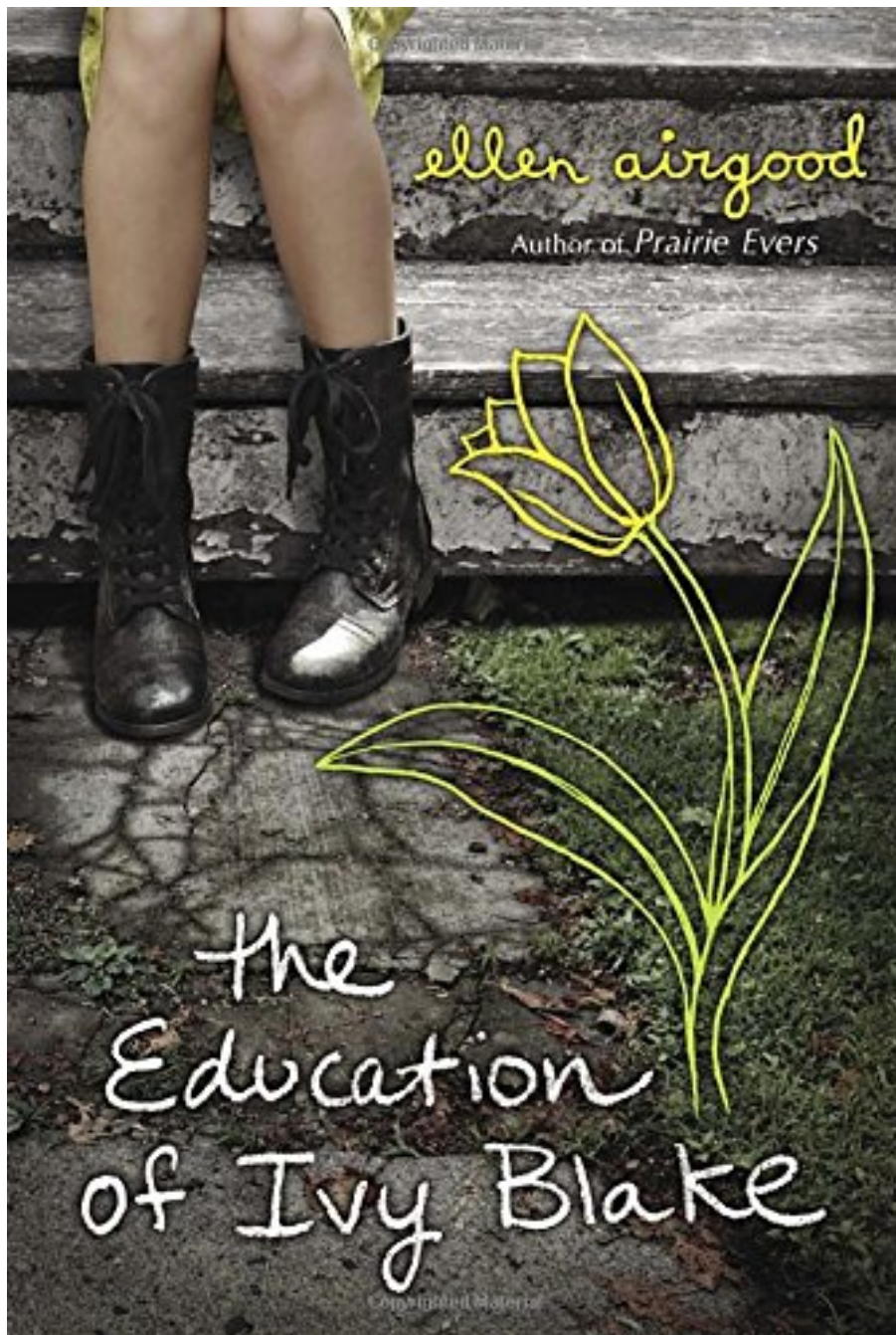


THE EDUCATION OF IVY BLAKE BY ELLEN AIRGOOD



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From School Library Journal

Gr 4–6—Eleven-year-old Ivy Blake has spent most of a wonderful year with the Evers family. She loves Mom, Dad, Grammy, and especially her best friend, Prairie, and she knows that they love her too, but she can't quite feel like she belongs with them. When her mother asks Ivy to come back to live with her, the girl is conflicted but decides to go. Living with her mother again isn't easy—it means a new school, conflicting loyalties, borderline neglect, and the constant strain of her mother's negative outlook and dangerously uncertain temper. Ivy copes and creates through her sketchbook; drawing and writing about her days, the people she loves, and her dreams of making movies. Having dealt with a lot of tough situations in her short life, Ivy is mature and self-aware, but also realistically confused and emotionally awkward. As the title suggests, Ivy's character development is the core of the story, and its strength is Ivy's need to find her own identity and figure her problems out herself. Even the people who love her dearly and believe in her can't give her the answers—she has to find out for herself who she is and who she wants to be. With the exception of Ivy's mother, who is difficult but not a caricature, the people in Ivy's world are almost impossibly warm, intuitive, creative, and kind. This leaves the ending more in the realm of wish fulfillment than harsh reality, but Ivy's insistence on relying on herself ensures that readers will feel that she's earned it. Like Anne of Green Gables and many other neglected creative girls before her, Ivy is irresistible, and readers will be rooting for her all the way. VERDICT A thoughtful and sweet story about finding the family you need in order to be your best self.—Katya Schapiro, Brooklyn Public Library

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THE EDUCATION OF IVY BLAKE BY ELLEN AIRGOOD PDF

In this uplifting companion to *Prairie Evers*, shy, introverted Ivy must find her footing when her reckless mom turns her world upside down.

Ivy has loved living with her best friend, Prairie, and being part of Prairie's lively, happy family. But now Ivy's mom has decided to take her back. Ivy tries to pretend everything is fine, but her mom's neglect and embarrassing public tantrums often make Ivy feel ashamed and alone. Fortunately, Ivy is able to find solace in art, in movies, and from the pleasure she finds in observing and appreciating life's small, beautiful moments. And when things with her mom reach the tipping point, this ability gives her the strength and power to push on and shape her own future.

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- 240 pages

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About the Author

Ellen Airgood (www.ellenairgood.com) is the author of *Prairie Evers*, which was a Bank Street Best Book and has won numerous state awards, and the adult novel *South of Superior*. She lives in Grand Marais, Michigan.

Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Life Lessons

By McGuffy Ann Morris

This heartfelt middle-school novel is the companion to *Prairie Evers*. In the original book, we met Prairie Evers and her wonderful family. They lived on a farm in the country. Ivy was new to Prairie’s school, but they became very close friends. Due to her own family situation, Ivy eventually went to live with the Evers’ family.

Now, Ivy has been reunited with her mother. They have moved back to the city where they hope to start a new life together. Ivy struggles to maintain her friendship with Prairie though long distance phone talks and weekend sleepovers. As she begins to get settled into her new school, she does make new friends, though. Her artwork seems to be taking a new exciting direction, too.

However, to her shock and disappointment, Ivy realizes that her mother has not changed. In fact, her irrational behavior, impulsiveness, and immaturity present very serious problems for both of them. As things change again for Ivy, she learns lasting lessons about friends, family, love, and above all: herself.

Ivy Blake is a hero for all ages. I think that author Ellen Airgood may be, too.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Book Review: *The Education Of Ivy Blake*

By Junming Guan

After living with her best friend, Ivy's mother comes to take her back. They move into a rented home but things go downward quickly. Ivy wants to believe her mother has changed. Ivy also wants to make her own movie, but her mother couldn't care more. She works for a lady injured in an accident to earn money to buy a video camera. Later, with friends and her secondary family, Ivy couldn't be more happy.

The Education of Ivy Blake is a beautiful novel of how one girl can accomplish what she wants to -- if she tries.

This was also posted on San Francisco Times. View it on this link: <http://sanfranciscotimes.blogspot.com/2015/09/book-review-education-of-ivy-blake.html>

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

My 10-year-old granddaughter liked it very much

By MI Bookbinder

My 10-year-old granddaughter liked it very much, perhaps even more than *Prairie Evers* which she liked also. She thought the story was more "intense." She enjoyed the plot and thought the ending was "perfect."

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