

# IVY, HOMELESS IN SAN FRANCISCO

**Summer Brenner**

**Illustrations by Brian Bowes**

In this empathetic tale of hope, understanding, and the importance of family, young readers confront the difficult issues of poverty and the hardships of homelessness. Its inspiring young heroine is Ivy, who finds herself homeless on the streets of San Francisco when she and her father, Poppy, are evicted from their artist loft.

Struggling to survive day to day, Ivy and Poppy befriend a dog who leads them to the ramshackle home of octogenarian siblings, Eugenia and Oscar Orr. This marks the start of a series of desperate and joyful adventures that blend a spoonful of Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* with a dash of Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* and a few pinches of the *Adventures of Lassie*. Ivy's tale will appeal to young readers and adults, providing much material for discussion between generations.

## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Summer Brenner** was raised in Georgia and migrated west, first to New Mexico and eventually to northern California where she has been a long-time resident. She has published books of poetry and fiction. Her novels for youth include *Ivy, Homeless in San Francisco* and *Richmond Tales, Lost Secrets of the Iron Triangle*, winner of the Historic Preservation award from the City of Richmond.

**Brian Bowes** is an illustrator-designer living and working in San Francisco. Brian is developing a working style in watercolor and is inspired by a range of artists from Wyeth to Asian ink paintings. Alternately, this is mixed with his long love for science fiction, fantasy, and a healthy fascination with shiny old-time machinery.

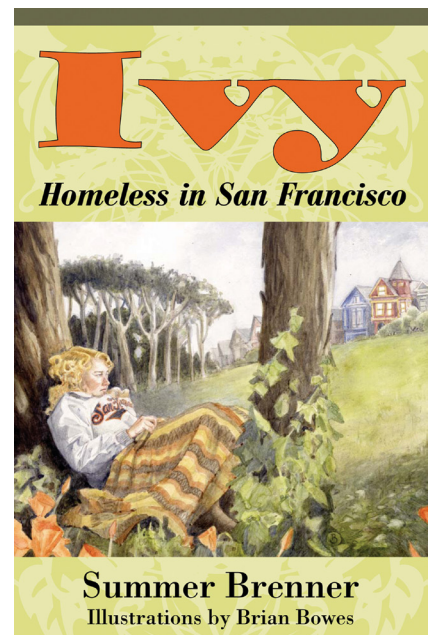
## ACCOLADES

**Recipient of the Children's Literary Classics and MOONBEAM awards**

"Ivy is an engaging, educational experience, with emotional range, density of characters, a cinematic visual imagination, and a heroine wild at heart. We have a lot to learn about homelessness, and Summer Brenner's saga of fractured family and redeeming friendship takes us deep inside the experience, while agitating our broader concern with social justice. All this in a lucid, poetic prose. She not only will get young people to read but make them want to write as well." —John Broughton, associate professor of psychology & education, Teachers College, Columbia University



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