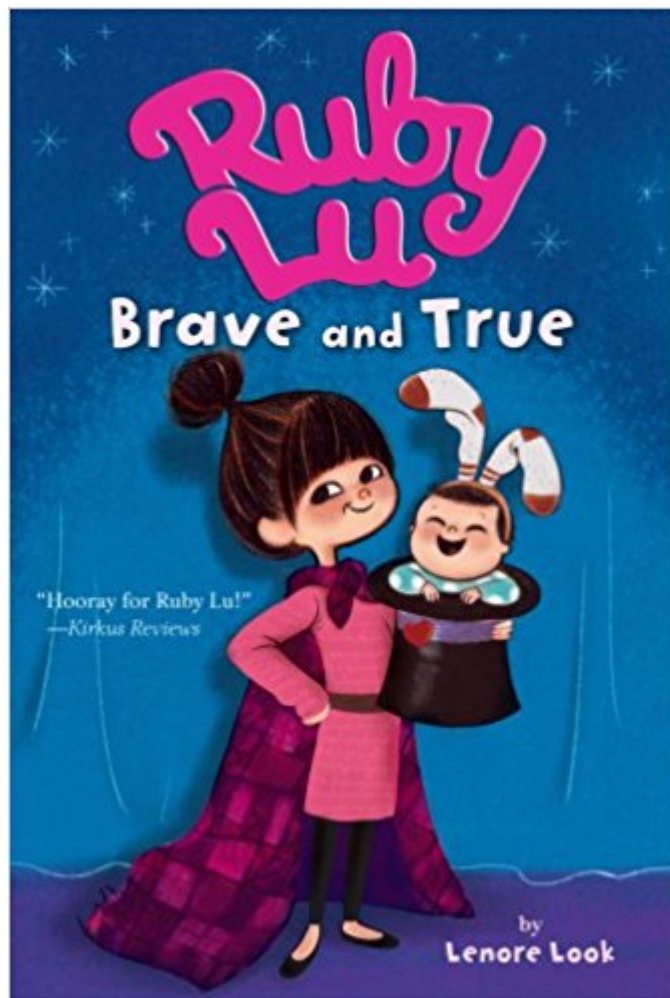


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Ruby Lu, Brave And True



Synopsis

Most days the best thing about being Ruby is everything. Like when she's the star of her own backyard magic show. Or when she gives a talk at the school safety assembly on the benefits of reflective tape. Or when she rides the No. 3 bus all the way to Chinatown to visit GungGung and PohPoh. And then there are the days when it's very hard to be Ruby. Like when her mom suggests Chinese school on Saturdays. Or when her little brother, Oscar, spills all of Ruby's best magician secrets. Or when her parents don't think she's old enough to drive! Join Ruby Lu on her first adventure and discover your own best things about her!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640 (What's this?)

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (January 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416913890

ISBN-13: 978-1416913894

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.3 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #45,805 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American](#) #300 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings](#) #470 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Chapter Books](#)

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

Customer Reviews

Grade 1-3--Ruby Lu makes her debut in this funny and charming chapter book. Full of joie de vivre, the eight-year-old loves her family, particularly her baby brother, Oscar; wearing reflective tape; and performing in her own backyard magic show. Plot development is episodic but steady as Ruby musters up her courage to attend Chinese school; she confronts mean Christina from California; and she decides to drive herself to school. (Her parents are frantic when their children and car are missing, but Ruby thinks that her biggest mistake was parking in the principal's spot.) Looming large is the fact that her cousin, Flying Duck, is emigrating from China and Ruby will have to share her

bedroom. All is well, however, when Flying Duck gets off the airplane wearing reflective tape. Clever book design includes a playful copyright page and a small flip book of one of Ruby's magic tricks on the lower right-hand corner of each page. "Ruby's Fantastic Glossary and Pronunciation Guide" explains unfamiliar terms related to Chinese culture. Generous font, ample white space, and animated and active illustrations rendered in India ink make this a perfect choice for readers who are looking for alternatives to Barbara Park's "Junie B. Jones" books (Random).--Debbie Stewart, Grand Rapids Public Library, MI Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 1-3. Look's Asian American perspective is always like a breath of fresh air in picture books. With Ruby Lu, she ventures for the first time into chapter-book territory, and the results are mixed. Her chapters are oddly disjointed, and the narrative doesn't flow from one chapter into the next. Rather it reads like a collection of nine short stories in which Ruby worries about going to Chinese school (Do they really serve snacks of roasted snakes?), the arrival of a cousin from China whom she's never met, and more. In addition, because the book is billed as the first in a series, Look introduces a load of details to establish character and setting, which threaten to overwhelm what little continuity there is. Still, there's some sparkle here, and Look certainly addresses the need for a recurring Asian American character. A little tightening may give future books the extra punch they need. Terry GloverCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great

Cute book for an elementary school age kid!

It was in really good condition and it shipped quickly. Thank you! My niece loved it.

I like Ruby Lu because she's Chinese and has a gung gung and pohpoh just like me and she's goes to Chinese school too!

Being an Asian American, I was excited to find a chapter book featuring an Asian American girl to read to my daughter (age 5). Ruby Lu was definitely a fun book to read, but it was not one of the more intriguing chapter books that we read. We also didn't feel that we need to continue to follow

Ruby Lu with her adventures. I guess maybe it was because our expectations were too high.

My eight-year-old Asian-American daughter loves this book - Ruby Lu is a lot like her - spunky, likes magic, and is proud of her heritage. It's a plus that the setting is Seattle - where many of our relatives live.

My library is divided into five different reading levels. In the first are the baby books, next come picture books, and after that easy readers for kids who are just beginning to read on their own. After that come the young reader books (early chapter books in laymen's terms) and finally full-out chapter books. The younger readers contain the widest assortment of reading levels. All of them are for kids who are past "Cat In the Hat" but aren't yet reading, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince". Writing early chapter titles is therefore a monumental and infinitely difficult task. The so-so writers come out with countless sci-fi spooky books and the like. The better writers are able to synthesize their writing into a delicate balance between real life issues and situations that kids are going to find interesting. Paul Danzinger's, "Amber Brown" books do this brilliantly. And now "Ruby Lu, Brave and True" does too. Ruby Lu likes her life. Who wouldn't? She has lots of friends, a teacher who's a magician, and now a brand new baby brother, Oscar. Ruby has problems too, though. She gets into a competition with her friend Emma. Emma has a little brother named Sam, and she and Lily constantly compare their brother's developmental processes. Then there's the fact that Lily's going to Chinese school to learn her family's language and she doesn't pick it up immediately. There's Christina, the mean girl on the street who makes fun of everyone for wearing Lily's dad's knitting. And then there was that time that Lily parked the family car in the principal's parking spot... Well, it just adds up to a lot of problems but also a lot of fine fine solutions too. In the end, Lily meets her cousin from China, Flying Duck, and the book finishes off with a highly satisfactory (not to mention touching) ending. Recently I was at a meeting where some librarians were discussing books for an upcoming Summer Reading Program. We needed to make a list of titles. Because "Ruby Lu, Brave and True" is now in paperback, someone thought it might make a good choice. Across from me a librarian commented, "It's a great book. But then there's that scene where Ruby drives her little baby brother to school...". This is "Ruby Lu"'s unfortunate and almost fatal flaw. For reasons that only Lenore Look herself could explain, there's a car driving sequence in this book that is jaw-droppingly bad. Not "bad" as in "badly written". It's written beautifully. No, I mean "bad" as in "thoughtless, irresponsible, and completely unnecessary". Here's the scoop: Lily gets to sit on her grandpa's lap to drive after watching her grandmother learn on the same car.

Later, she puts her little brother in his carseat and drives the two of them to Chinese school. The chapter actually offers step-by-step instructions on how to get away with this. "The way to start a car is this: Get the car keys...Open the garage door...Put your baby brother in his car seat and buckle his belt fast...Move the driver's seat all the way forward...Move the steering wheel all the way down...Check your lipstick...Buckle seat belt...Insert key...Vroom!". About the time the instructions say, "Can't reach the gas pedal? Use a snow shovel", this otherwise fine book had lost me. I've left out the amusing side-comments that come between the instructions, but I think you get the general gist here. Now I'm not so naïve as to think that hundreds of little kids are going to follow Ruby's lead and start driving their parents' cars hither and thither. But let's look at the consequences of Ruby's actions. She's caught when she parks in the school principal's parking spot. Her punishment? Her father yells briefly and Ruby cries. So she gets a big hug and is asked if she learned her lesson. " 'I learned,' she whispered, her voice slipping into dreams, 'never to park in the principal's space' ". Now kids do all sorts of irresponsible things in books. Pippi Longstocking, for example, single-handedly defeats armed robbers. But Pippi is a fantasy character. Ruby Lu is a very realistic character in a very realistic (if fun) book. This chapter has her place herself and her little sibling in very real danger, get yelled at a little (the yelling consists entirely of her father informing Ruby that a car is not a magic trick), and then doesn't learn ANYTHING after all. So what's the result? The result is that when librarians around the country consider adding "Ruby Lu" to their summer reading lists, their recommended reads, and their favorite book catalogs, they'll remember this scene in the book and think twice about recommending it to ANYONE. I was so happy when I saw this book because I constantly get requests from parents saying that they want a book for their children about a "real" little girl. Do I recommend Ruby or not? How damaging is this chapter? The truth of the matter is that this book is still remarkable in many ways. The writing is superb. As an author, Look has a dry wit that both kids and parents will adore. When, for example, Oscar fails to produce his first word for his beloved older sister, "Ruby felt her love for him getting thin around the edges". Knitters will adore the sections that talk of how Ruby's father was adept at the garter stitch, the cable stitch, the fisherman's knot, the basket weave and, "He even created his own stitch: the tofu block". Then let's consider the fact that much of this book is how small kids deal with their own cultural heritage. Ruby's Chinese background is so seamlessly woven into this story that it adds a great deal to the already amusing stories. Finally, there's the book's ending. I don't tear up reading books and I CERTAINLY don't tear up during young reader titles. Sure, I may have sniffled a little during, "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse", but "Ruby Lu" completely won me over with Ruby's meeting with her cousin Flying Duck. I will give nothing away except to say that it's so well done it almost

makes me forget the ar-cay. But not completely. I do recommend, "Ruby Lu" and I do recommend it to my library patrons. It's just painful to read such a nice book with such a jagged jarring flaw stuck smack dab in its middle. My dearest wish is that right now Leonore Look is working and slaving over a "Ruby Lu" sequel. One that has all the genius of its predecessor and none of its juvenile driving sequences. I apologize for getting all fuddy-duddy on you here and I still think this is a wonderful addition to any library. Just don't get surprised by irate parents who clutch their car keys just a little tighter to their chests when the kiddies are about.

Hello, all you folks out there! You can call me StoryMaker (notice the capital M) and, well...I usually just start my reviews with "Hi, you can call me StoryMaker" or something but that doesn't matter. Onto the review already. The book Ruby Lu, Brave and True by Lenore Look is, well...great! We checked it out from the library and I didn't want to read it because I heard that Ruby drove a car even though she's, like...maybe not even 8 years old! But my mom made me, and I'm sure glad she did! Ruby Lu lives on 20th Avenue South, and she has a baby brother named Oscar. As the story progresses, new characters will appear - very interesting characters indeed, that make the story really interesting! Lots of new characters are added when Ruby goes to Chinese school, suggested by her mom so she can understand her grandparents who only speak the languages of China. Ruby doesn't want to - she hears really nasty things about Chinese school! But soon she does, and she meets lots of cool people! Other people are also met, and the story just keeps getting better! Here's some lists to give you more info: PROS / Good things: Very cool and interesting characters Good lessons Good reading level (about grades 2-4) Little flip-book sort of in right-page corners (if you flip pages quickly) Cool guide about pronunciation & definitions at back CONS / Bad things: Some of the illustrations could be better The right-page corners isn't the best place for a flip-book A little too quick-moving (Some problems are solved too quickly) Well, that's about it...if I thought I could come up with a more descriptive review, probably...but overall, get Ruby Lu, Brave and True! Signed, StoryMaker. "Gotta trust the kid's review!"

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