



Pick Your Poison

Lauren Child

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Meet Ruby Redfort: supercool secret agent, code-cracker... and thirteen-year-old girl, created by award-winning author Lauren Child.

The penultimate book in the scarily awesome Ruby Redfort series, by multi-million-copy bestselling author Lauren Child.

Pick Your Poison Details

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Author : Lauren Child

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From Reader Review Pick Your Poison for online ebook

Lydia says

Always so intriguing! Some of the best books to lose yourself in are light-hearted mysteries/spy novels. And I always enjoy the codes throughout the book and the little informational section at the end (this time about tesseracts and four dimensional shapes being "drawn" in 2D.)

Paul E. Morph says

I love the Ruby Redfort books. They're just so much fun and, if there's any justice in the world, they will go on to become all-time classics of children's literature.

That being said, I had to drop a star on this one due to the **huge** amount of time spent re-capping the previous four books. I don't have a lot of patience for re-caps at the best of times ('Previously on The Flash...' 'Oh, \$#* off! I remember already!') but to spend the first quarter of a novel reminding readers what's come before is completely excessive, in my opinion.

Despite this, once the story finally gets going, it's a good 'un! Oh... and *that reveal* at the very end of the book? WOW. I cannot wait for the next (and, rumour has it, final) book in this series to come out!

Buddy read with Sunshine Seaspray.

Jacinta says

What a great novel! A perfect read for any age :)

In the penultimate novel of this gripping and fascinating series, Child manages to answer many of her readers' questions but intrigue them even more with a dramatic cliffhanger in the last line of the book.

The story seems to flow effortlessly, but perhaps some of the deliberate add-in's to aid the plot could be slightly more subtle.

I can't wait for the final book- I think this series would be extremely successful as a film.

4.5 stars!

Ella says

[Baby-face Marshall (hide spoiler)]

Kike Ogundipe says

I decided to read this book because I own and have read every other book in the series and I got this book as a present.

A quote I liked was one of Ruby's rules : "Even the mundane can tell a story." I liked this quote because I thought it was a very useful rule. I thought that maybe I should pay more attention to mundane things and piece them together to make a story like Ruby does.

I liked the way the book had lots of bold text and diagrams. The bold text drew my interest to them and made the book seem more exciting and at times, witty. In this book there is a lot of math and code in this book so the diagrams helped me understand some of the most important parts of the mystery Ruby was solving, and didn't leave me feeling extremely confused.

I thought Hitch was an interesting character because although a lot was known about him, he still remained mysterious. He always manages to have perfect timing and save Ruby in the nick of time and almost perfectly understands her, which is rather mysterious. He also seems to know everything about an event without being at the event which unless he is psychic is very interesting. I hope in the last book more about Hitch will be revealed.

I really enjoyed this book and cannot wait for the last book in this series to be released.

By Kike Ogundipe 09DUN

Sunshine says

This book is as cool as banana milk!

The 'previously on Ruby' bit at the beginning? I'm like "MAN, I'm not a bozo you bozo! Just tell me what's going on *this* time!"

What's going on this time? All the scrapes and capers you expect with Ruby and her rebellious, risky, run-ins with the bad guys with a generous heap of Clance, a dash of Hitch and a tiny bit of Bug.

Rhondda Powling says

This is another intriguing instalment to the light-hearted spy novels that make up the Ruby Redfort series. It can be read as a stand-alone as although, references previous stories, it fills in the gaps for the reader. (This may make these books less suspenseful if a reader wants to go back to read them for the first time.) The story this time picks up seven months after ruby has joined Spectrum. There are all the scrapes and capers you expect from Ruby. She remains rebellious and although has some risky run-ins with numerous villains, she is

starting to consider the risks before she jumps in. Ruby remains troubled by the idea that there might be a mole in Spectrum and this storyline is developed further. Hitch has only a small part in this story and there is a lot more of best friend Clancy, who is becoming more resourceful.

There are again codes to crack and an explanation about them at the end of the book, this time they involve tesseracts and four-dimensional shapes being converted into 2D drawings.

The fifth Ruby Redfort book will not disappoint fans with plenty of mystery, suspense and humour and is a great novel for young readers.

Bethany says

Another great instalment to the Ruby Redfort series! To think that it is the supposed second-to-last novel!

As with all the other books in the series I thoroughly enjoyed this; as usual Lauren Child doesn't disappoint with plenty of mystery, suspense and humour. This book is where the previous four cases Ruby has featured in really come into play; if you haven't read them recently and have them to hand I recommend flicking to the back of each one to the 'Things I know' and 'Things I don't know' bullet point recap page to help remind you of what happened if you are interested in trying to make the links between the mysteries yourself. Otherwise the book itself gives a sufficient recap of them within the story for basic understanding.

My only criticism of this book would be how Ruby's attitude is presented. For all those who were hoping it would improve it doesn't seem to have changed!

Although obviously intended for humour most of the time she seems to get away with having very bad-manners. For example (unlike in the other books in the series) in this book she is said to have sworn at a neighbour. Although of course her language isn't actually quoted it doesn't really put her high on any children's fictional character role-model chart since she doesn't seem to ever feel sorry for it or learn her lesson. I found it being advertised as being cool rather than disrespectful and rude. Nevertheless I am hoping that this will be addressed in the next book. I can't wait for the conclusion!

Kaitlin Stiven says

This was a really good book??the plot was planned out very well. It is about a teenage girl who is secretly is secret agent and cracks codes . Sadly I read one of the last one (I never like reading a book and reading the first one) they talked about resent cases and kinda spoil it a bit so I would give it a 4.5, maybe?

Jacinda says

Biggest. Cliffhanger. Ever.

15BottomsJ says

I thought that the style of writing in which this book was written was very interesting, and i enjoyed how the character of this book was portrayed in this way. The storyline was interesting, but i think it could have been a little more different to the other books in this series, as they all surround the same sort of situation. However, i really enjoyed the general mood and tone of this book, as it was light, yet had a lot of depth at the same time.

Jessica says

I don't want to say too much about this book but that plot twist at the end!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
SPOILER ALERT What would LB gain from that??!!! Killing her fiancée I mean. That's messed up. But can I just say I sort of like The Count in his villainous ways. When you think about it he does help Ruby quite often. I honestly thought that I would have to abandon this series after Feel The Fear but after that plot twist I have to find out what happened. Anyway the next book is the last one. 3 stars

Mehsi says

My first Ruby Redfort book, but certainly it won't be the last one! I will be getting this whole series. Maybe, I will wait until summer and my vacation, so I can eat, um read, these while relaxing in the sun (at least I hope it will be sunny :P).

When I visited Hebban (a Dutch book site) and went to the giveaway page I spotted a giveaway for this book. It was for a reading club. 10 people would be chosen to participate. Discussions, reviews, and much more. Then a few days ago I picked up a big package at my neighbor's (since I wasn't home), all surprised, and then it turned out to be this book! Of course I squealed, which startled my boyfriend.

I have to say, that while a lot of sites, also including Hebban, say that this book can be read separately and the same goes for every book, that I wasn't agreeing with it that much. On the one hand they do spoil/give away what happened in previous cases, but there is a lot that I feel could have been better had I read these in order. Now often I just didn't get why everyone was so afraid of x or y villain, some of the relationships seemed to exist for years and it feels like I missed some important bonding events, some of the characters I still don't get (Quent), how she got into Spectrum and how Spectrum works exactly (we do see some stuff, but still it is pretty much clear that one has to have read the other books to know more).

The plan was to read 100 pages each day, but um, yeah, that failed on the third day, today. I wanted to read 150 pages, because then I could finish the book tomorrow, instead of Sunday, but well... the book just got even more fun and I just flew through it. Every moment I had free, I read.

I really loved this book, I am giving extra points for the fact that this takes place in a time before we had cellphones, before internet, before anything really fancy actually. The kids use pay phones, or the landline, Ruby and Clancy have a secret code and leave notes. If they want to research something they use their brains, and in Ruby's case lots of books. It was something that I loved. So many detective stuff these days are full of people just googling stuff and figuring it out within the blink of an eye, while with this one you actually had fun seeing the characters struggle and think about the answers.

Not only that the language also fitted that time perfectly.

Ruby was my favourite character in the entire book. She is smart, sweet, kick-ass, and will definitely figure out things way before anyone else but isn't stuck up about it. She will defend her friends, her family. She won't rat anyone out. Her skills vary a lot, it isn't that she is interested in one subject, oh no, this girl reads everything it seems. And that is the next thing, she loves reading and has books everywhere. Sorry, I just got a weak spot for people who read, who are bookworms like me!

Ruby is also brave, and I can clearly see how she got into Spectrum.

But she is also a good friend, sticking up for her friends, and making friends with even the unlikeliest people. Then again, she is seemingly also good at making enemies left and right. :P

Clancy and Hitch both share the second spot for great character. I really liked them both. Clancy for how great of a friend he is, for how he is always there for Ruby. Of course at times he gets angry, which is logical given Ruby's consistent record of getting somewhere late. But he and Ruby often discuss cases, or puzzles, and together they find out what is going on. I really liked how Clancy didn't immediately thought it was Ruby when he was called to the principal. Instead he went on to find who did all those things to make Ruby a suspect. Even later when things start to get heated, he doesn't wait and cower, he just jumps right in.

Hitch was awesome, I loved how he was a secret agent, but also a butler/house keeper. He really reminded me of Sebastian from Kuroshitsuji. He is a perfect butler with a double agenda. I loved how caring and protective he was about Ruby. I would see him not only as a butler, or a house keeper, but also as one of her friends.

Then there is a whole cast of other characters, from Blacker (the agent from Spectrum) to Del (who I at times liked and at other times just wanted to throw in a pool) to baby Lemon (who plays quite a big role, and is a real help to Ruby (well if he shuts his trap).

I loved how everything came together in the end. How even some things I didn't expect had something to do with the bigger picture! It was definitely a moment that made me go AH!! and look startled. I won't spoil what all those things are of course or what the bigger picture is in the end, you will have to read on your own.

I had a laugh many times at the situations that Ruby gets into. She really gets into a lot of trouble at times, doesn't she?

I love how the title from the book is also explained and you can clearly see the correlation, with my book's edition it was even better since there is also an apple included on the cover!

The villains names are all cheesy and corny. Count von Viscount, Lorelei von Leyden, Babyface Marshall. I am definitely curious to other criminals, do they all have such cheesy names?

There was one thing I didn't particularly like and that was how some of the conversations suddenly went italic. It was a bit confusing, one moment you would be reading normal and then italics. And it didn't happen with each conversation, so eh.

Well, I could go on and on some more about the book, but I will keep it at this. I really enjoyed the book, the pacing was really fantastic (though a bit slow at some points, but then it picks up and you have to hold on for a good ride), there were countless of hilarious quotes that I will savour, Ruby is awesome. I am definitely happy I was picked to participate in this reading club!

Matilda says

Ruby Redfort is one of those series which has grown up with me. I read the first book when I was twelve and each one every year after at Christmas. I am probably too old for this series but I still love it and read it every year.

This is the second to last book and I just want the next book now because it is so awesome and action packed.

Chloe Sinclair says

PROS

- Easy to read, liked the writing style.
- The plot and storyline were interesting and left on a huge cliffhanger!
- I really liked Clance and Red and Archie - he was so cute.

CONS

- A lot of characters were mentioned, especially in Spectrem. I couldn't keep up.
- I wasn't a total fan of Ruby, it annoyed me how she kinda had no faults like she knew everything.
- A trope where the parents are kinda outta the picture. At the start they grounded her and stuff but towards the end they were barely mentioned and Ruby went around skipping school and getting all beaten up and no one really cared.
