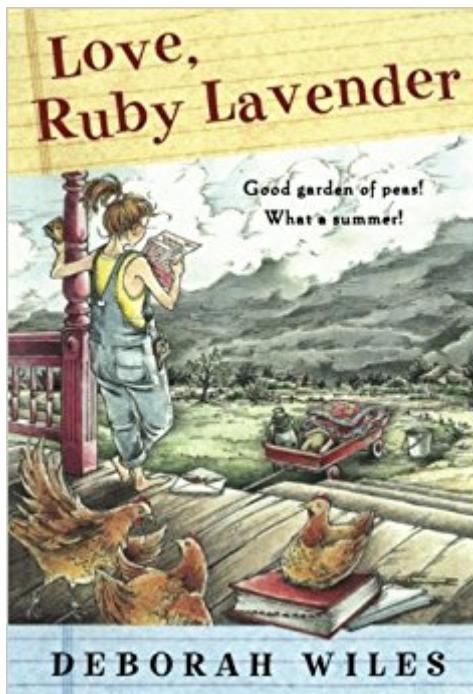


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# Love, Ruby Lavender



## **Synopsis**

Ruby Lavender and Miss Eula are a pretty good team, for a couple of chicken thieves. What other granddaughter-grandmother duo could successfully drive the getaway car for chickens rescued from a journey to the slaughterhouse, paint a whole house shocking pink, and operate their own personal secret-letter post office? So, when Miss Eula leaves for Hawaii to visit her new grandbaby, Ruby is sure that she will have a lonely, empty, horrible summer in boring old Hallelulia, Mississippi. What happens instead? She makes a new friend, saves the school play, writes plenty of letters to her favorite (and only) grandmother . . . and finally learns to stop blaming herself for her grandfather's death. Not too bad, for a nine-year-old.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 240 pages

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Best Sellers Rank: #52,742 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #152 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #358 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 3-6 Talented Tony award-winner Judith Ivey is the narrator of this inventive title. An exceptional story in its own right, author Deborah Wiles (Harcourt, 2001) has created an irresistible character in Ruby Lavender, the most precocious resident of Hallelulia, Mississippi. Ruby is the only grandchild of Miss Eula Dapplevine, and the two are definitely "kindred spirits." Partners in crime - they steal ready-to-be-slaughtered chickens - the two share their thoughts and feelings by leaving daily missives in the knothole of a silver maple. Ruby, adventurous and opinionated, is devastated

when her grandmother announces her plans to visit a new grandchild ("I hope they name her Hortense," Ruby offers) in Hawaii. Miss Eula and Ruby continue their correspondence throughout the summer, as Ruby offers "free advice," like "Always jiggle babies after they eat." Miss Eula consoles Ruby as she faces challenges and tries her best to combat the jealousy she feels toward her new cousin. Ruby's arch rival, Melba Jane, irritates Ruby, tells secrets, and generally upstages her until the day she really needs help, and Ruby comes to her rescue. Proving her theory that "life does go on," Miss Eula returns to Hallelulia to find that Ruby has, to her own surprise, made new friends and matured a bit in her absence. A rewarding read that perfectly blends the culture and the humor of the south, this not-to-be-missed title will be welcome in all collections that circulate audiobooks for children. -Kirsten Martindale, Buford Academy, GA Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 4-6. Ruby Lavender is a nine-year-old charmer, in love with life and her adoring grandmother. She and Miss Eula keep in touch daily by leaving letters for each other in the knothole of a silver maple in Hallelulia, Mississippi--that is, until Miss Eula goes to Hawaii to visit her son and his wife and her new granddaughter, Leilani. Ruby is crushed, forced to spend a hot summer on her own, and jealous, too, of a new little girl she fears will steal her grandmother's heart. But the summer is a maturing one as Ruby nurtures hatching chickens, makes a new friend, Dove, and finally comes to terms with her grandfather's death. Wiles has painted a picture of a time long past when communities were small and close-knit, people wrote letters, and chickens escaped only to create havoc at play practice. Yet she has also created a timeless story of life and death, the bond between grandparent and grandchild, and the reality that, regardless, "life does go on." Frances BradburnCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This isn't really a summary. It's more of a life lesson that can be learned from the two main characters. I read this to my 3rd and 4th grade class. In the story, two young girls, Melba and Ruby, are dealing with death. Melba has lost her father and Ruby has lost her grandfather. Melba can talk about the accident that led to her father's death, though with anger. She can even ride by the site where it happened. Ruby doesn't like to talk about the accident and takes the long way into town so she doesn't have to go by the site of the accident. I spoke to my students about grief and that, for Ruby, not seeing the accident site was a form of denial or at least a way to postpone the pain. We talked about how the children were doing what was best for them and that neither way was right or

wrong. We also talked about how Ruby was postponing her pain to a time when she would have the tools and ability to feel it. Melba apparently could handle the pain and was willing to feel it. Ruby's pain was waiting for her "on a shelf", I told them. And when she was ready and decided to visit that site, all the pain would be waiting for her, but she would show up with tools to handle it now. Many students related to the notion of postponing pain. One student had a younger brother who was still born. She said her mother had a box of his belongings and pictures of him in a drawer and that she was told whenever she was ready, she could look at them. She hasn't taken her mom up on the offer yet, but says when she's ready she will ask her mom to see it.

This was a wonderful book that my Granddaughter and I enjoyed reading together . My Granddaughter doesn't particularly like to read . However, she couldn't put the book down . She read it with her mother and then insisted that she and I read it together as well . Wonderful story line and great time as well as memories that it brought her and I . ABSOLUTLEY a good read !

It was interesting I love it read the reviews this book is good I will read it 4evl also give Deborah wiles a <sup>high</sup> rating and hopes she rights a sequal to this book also I am going to thank the people who said the good rates this book is amazing thank u <sup>high</sup> rating and <sup>high</sup> rating and <sup>high</sup> rating so thanks and just read this book I like the different emotion and feelings and how it works out in the end

Ruby reminds me of the spirit of Junie B. Jones. She has great relationships with her family. She also learns a huge lesson in forgiveness!

Great book for kids to read

As I've been known to repeat on occasion, a really good book is good for every age reader, and this is one. I recommend this for a read-aloud for families to enjoy together, and for classrooms, as well. I won't summarize, because you can read the summary anywhere, but I must tell you I was so deeply touched by this book, I had to run right out the next day to find someone to loan it to. Ms. Wiles writes in such a unique and uniquely Southern voice, but about universal truths appealing to everyone. I had this cast as a movie before I was into the second chapter, so be sure to call me, Ms. Wiles, for casting tips!

LOVE, RUBY LAVENDER BY DEBORAH WILES Ruby is a wonderful little girl. I had a parent/child book group with some 3rd grade students and there was not a parent who did not love this story. Ruby has been the only grandchild of a loving grandmother up until a new baby cousin is born in Hawaii and gram feels that she must go and welcome this new baby into the family....the story is full of angst and laughter as Ruby copes with a summer without gram....a story that you will never forget and will make you want to read Wiles' next book: Each Little Bird that Sings! Betty Collins

Read this with a book club of girls. They loved the story and were hooked right from the very beginning. We wish it had a different ending of a sequel but it was still enjoyable!

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