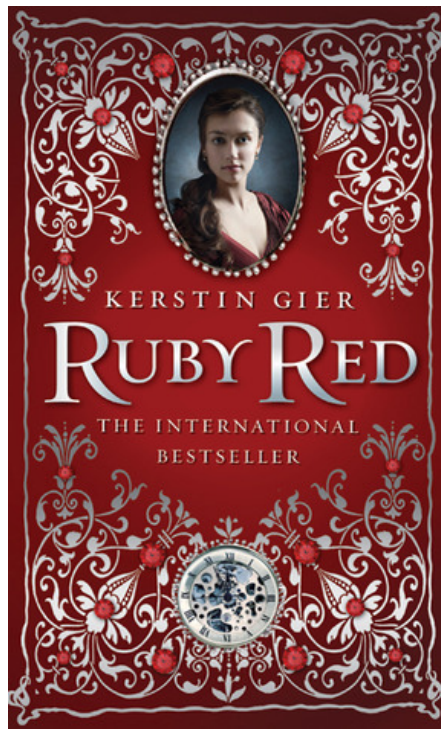




Ruby Red

Kerstin Gier , Anthea Bell (Translator)

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Gwyneth Shepherd's sophisticated, beautiful cousin Charlotte has been prepared her entire life for traveling through time. But unexpectedly, it is Gwyneth, who in the middle of class takes a sudden spin to a different era!

Gwyneth must now unearth the mystery of why her mother would lie about her birth date to ward off suspicion about her ability, brush up on her history, and work with Gideon--the time traveler from a similarly gifted family that passes the gene through its male line, and whose presence becomes, in time, less insufferable and more essential. Together, Gwyneth and Gideon journey through time to discover who, in the 18th century and in contemporary London, they can trust.

Ruby Red Details

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Author : Kerstin Gier , Anthea Bell (Translator)

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From Reader Review Ruby Red for online ebook

Suzanne says

I cannot believe how much I loved this book. I ended up reading it in one sitting because I was so engulfed in the plot. There are so many questions I have that need to be answered so I quickly put the other two books of the trilogy on hold at my library. I ended up ordering pizza from Dominos because I did not want to put the book down to cook. lol

Duchess Nicole says

Sometimes I really wonder what young adults see in certain young adult books. This series has pretty good ratings but I just don't see it. I was so bored for the first eighty percent of the book. I felt as if I had no idea who this heroine really was. I don't even think it says how old she is until late in the book, which left me feeling a little off about her character. Since each year makes a big difference when it comes to teens, not knowing if she was twelve or seventeen was weird. So much of the story was a bunch of old English people sitting around talking to each other.

The story of the guardians and the time travelers is so full of plot holes, and so many questions that I have aren't even alluded to. Or if they are answered, it's basically with a big ole question mark. As if the author didn't really know how to explain why there is an apparent "time travel" gene. She just allows the characters to say "Well, we're not really sure." Why one male, one female? No clue. It just is. What's the point of the time traveling if it's only for a few minutes to a couple of hours? It seems so pointless. There's no fantasy here, just an odd, secretive political intrigue about a secret society of once-a-generation time travelers who go back into time to...what, talk to other time travelers? I just don't see the point. They're not doing anything meaningful, just hopping back and forth and arguing about it.

I may continue the series if I get a wild hair all of a sudden. The last twenty percent was actually fairly fast paced and interesting, finally. The romance peeks out for half a second, there's some blood and guns and swords and chasing.

And then it ends extremely abruptly. So abruptly, in fact, that I thought that my audiobook had failed to finish transferring to my phone. I actually went and checked the library's website and my Overdrive account to see if the entire last part downloaded. It was weird. And frustrating.

Nicole says

Gwyneth is a 16 years old school girl. She was raised in a family full of secrets where her cousin Charlotte was the center of attention and care. After all, she was the gene carrier. She can travel back in time and thus she should be prepared. Gwyneth never envied her, though. She always helped Charlotte who was pretty much arrogant. But she was going through a lot, right? She has to learn everything about the past, learn new languages and maintain high grades. Until all her efforts were in vain and Gwyneth was the actual time traveler of the family. However, she knows nothing. She wasn't prepared. Everyone was being discreet -and still is- about the whole thing until their efforts were proven wrong. Then, she meets Gideon. The gene carrier of the de Villiers family. He's interesting and very handsome true. But also arrogant and treat our heroine like she's a useless ordinary girl. And now they have a mission to accomplish together. But who

should she trust when even her mother is not telling her everything?

Minor spoilers ahead

Let's see. First of all, time traveling and telling things about the future here and there should much more complicated. A single act can change the future (at least for the family) but not here. If they informed the count that the Gwyneth is the one who has the gene and not Charlotte and he recorded it in the Annals, that won't mean that they'll teach her instead of the other one? I could go on all day how they could change the future and how to prevent Lucy and Paul from accomplishing their goals. Nope, too many illogical things.

And what's up with Gwyneth? She's way too immature for a 16 years old girl! Why couldn't I feel anything for Gedeon? I really hope I'll like him better in the next book. Even though he treated her like trash, she still adored him. Well, at least, it was enjoyable. I was going to give it 3 stars but then noticed that the flaws were too many. And they talk about logic for God's sake! Also her mother, she wants to protect her? She has to be more convincing! How can her daughter trust her if she keeps from her all the secrets? Too many messed up things. No, the whole family is messed up, truth be told.

(view spoiler)

Lauren Elise says

Ingredients Needed:

- A time travel story.
- Set in England.
- Some scenes taking place in Victorian England.
- A fun (yet somewhat annoying) main character.
- A smart and cute love interest.
- A secret society of time travelers.

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Mix all ingredients and pour into pan. Bake until published. Serve to Lauren Elise, who will then freak out over how many elements of this book she loves.

Yeah, this book is pretty damn amazing. If you know me at all, you know I'm absolutely obsessed with time travel, the Victorian era, and England. When I figured out that this book had all of those elements, I knew that I was going to love it.

This book had its issues, especially the grammar (yes, I do know that this book was written in German and then translated to English) but I adored it nonetheless.

Cherry says

“Ready when you are.”

Ruby red, with G major, the magic of the raven, brings the Circle of Twelve home into safe haven.

This book is incredibly mind-blowing.
Time travel. Chronograph. Ghost-encounter.
With a good amount of suspense and mystery.

Reynita Maharani ★ The Night Reader ★ says

DNF @ 177

THE REVIEW IS POSTED

Before I start reviewing this book, I just wanted to say sorry for not replying the comments earlier because college has been pretty hectic and I'm kind of in stressful situation right now and **I AM CURRENTLY SUFFERING FROM READING SLUMP** and I think it's because of this book. So I wanted to tell you guys that maybe I won't be as active as I used to. (I usually checked Goodreads like 3 or 4 times in a day) but since I've been pretty busy with college and assignments, maybe I'll just check it once or twice at the most in a day and I promise to reply the comments or the messages as soon as possible.

Now, Let's talk about this book!

Actually, this book has everything that I like to read.

Time Travel ✓?

Science Fiction ✓?

Romance ✓?

Fantasy ✓?

But none of them worked for me. This book failed me. To be honest, it's confusing and the plot was boring. look, I have read the book until page 177 and **THEY KEPT TALKING AND TALKING AND I EXPECTED ACTIONS SCENES**. I started to feel bored reading it when I read around 50 pages but I kept reading and the only reason I did that because I was waiting for the problem or something to happen and when I reached page 177, I honestly did not have any patience anymore. The characters talked too much and I kind of understood the story but then I kind of did not at the same time. It was confusing and I also lost my interest in reading it.

AND GWYNETH AND GIDEON WERE SO FREAKING FLAT. I could not connect to Gwyneth AT ALL and Gideon pissed me off. I hate the way he talked to Gwyneth. I got the impression that he underestimated her or thought she was stupid ? if I were Gwyneth, I would not let him talk to me that way. Who the fuck does he think he is? and I would certainly snap at him every time he acted like an arrogant jerk.

and now about Gwyneth, I could not connect to her at all. She was flat and boring. Oh! there is this scene that I don't like at all. it happens on page 182 in my copy. I did not finish this book at page 177 but while I was flipping through the pages, I came across this scene and I did not like it. I still don't like it.

"She's definitely not

my type."

By she he meant me. It was a second or maybe two before the insult sank in. My first instinct was to say something like "Well, thank God for that! I'm not too keen on arrogant show-offs, myself." But I kept quiet.

I SWEAR IF I WERE HER, I WOULD SAY THAT OUT LOUD IN FRONT OF HIS FACE. WHO THE FUCK DOES HE THINK HE IS?
GOD, THAT GUY ANNOYS ME SO MUCH. I FEEL THE URGE TO PUNCH HIM IN THE FACE.
I just cannot agree with Gwyneth by keeping quiet while he acted like that. In real life, I'm sure Gwyneth and me would never be friends and I hope I will never meet a guy like Gideon. Ugh. No, thank you.

thank you for reading and liking this review! I really appreciate all the likes and I hope you all have a fabulous day and happy reading to you all! ♥?♥?

Why did this happen to me *again*????
~~Review to come soon~~

I have wanted to read this book since years ago and now, I'm reading it! The synopsis sounds pretty intriguing and I LOVE SCIENCE FICTION AND TIME TRAVEL. I mean, it's so cool, isn't it? But I don't want to get too excited, because I don't know whether I'll enjoy reading it or not. I hope this book doesn't disappoint me. *cross fingers*

Emily May says

DNF - 25%

Consider checking out Tatiana's review before reading this book, as I should have done. Because there's nothing terribly wrong with Ruby Red other than the fact that it feels very young and immature. I think I would have loved this about 10 years ago, but now the silliness and mental age of the narrator is off-putting.

The characters are in their mid-to-late teens but all of them feel like middle school kids. Take these two early scenes:

Mr Whitman took Gordon's test back from him, turned a page, and read out, "Elizabeth I was so ugly that she couldn't get a husband. So everyone called her the Ugly Virgin."
The class giggled.

And:

"Lesley thinks it may be a good thing that James died young. With a name like Pympoole-Bothame, how

would he ever have found a wife?" I said, after making sure James was out of hearing distance. "I mean, who'd marry a man with a name that sounds like Pimple-Bottom?"

The dialogue was all a bit inane.

Kai says

"If we were in a film, the villain would turn out to be the least-expected person. But as we aren't in a film, I'd go for the character who tried to strangle you."

I just love this trilogy! It's funny, it's witty, it's super surprising and clever. If I need something to cheer me up I just know that the *Precious Stone* trilogy is the right thing to read. I just flip through the pages and hours go by unnoticed. Which is why it's one of my favourites. The plot is so light and fast-paced, this is easily one of the most entertaining books/book series ever. Kerstin Gier's humour is laugh-out-loud material, her characters are exciting, cute, brave, and often very adorable. It never once gets boring with them. I've read (and listened to) these books multiple times and I will do it again and again in future.

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Cait • A Page with a View says

This series is so underrated! (*Update: underrated in America. Europe knows what's up*).

The story starts out in modern times with Gwyneth watching her cousin train to be a time traveler. One person in each generation in their large family is born with the ability to travel back in time (they can't control it -- they just suddenly vanish) and everyone assumes it's the cousin. But obviously it's going to be Gwyneth... who just vanishes and has to cope without all of the history lessons and training in etiquette, fencing, etc. She's able to travel back for short periods of time and then returns to the present.

Suddenly Gwyneth is swept up into the institute of "guardians" who were previously training the cousin for their plans. They put Gwyneth's blood in a chronograph device that allows her to coordinate where she ends up when she travels back in time, except... there's a second missing chronograph, two missing time travelers from previous generations, and a whole lot of people with conflicting plans. The guardians want to get the blood from each of the time-travelers registered into the chronograph so they can find out some prophecy and scheme some schemes. Gwyneth is way out of her league as bits of truth come out and she has to figure out who to trust and who to stop.

Gideon De Villers, the guy from the second time traveling family who was originally training for a mission with the cousin, has to grudgingly train with Gwyneth and a romance slowly starts there.

The plot in this first story could flow better, but a lot more information comes in in the sequels! It definitely gets better as it goes. There are a lot of plot twists, traitors, conspiracies that weave throughout hundreds of years, ghosts, and a pretty awesome historical setting!

Gwyneth's character is definitely aimed at younger crowds, though. She's 17 but sounds like she's in middle school at most. The whole thing kind of has a middle grade feeling to it at times. But this book was originally written in German, so the translation actually works well overall! It's a fast read that leads right into the sequels and I would totally recommend it to anyone who can handle some younger-sounding characters &

humor.

Anja says

4.25 TIME TRAVELING STARS

Well, this was quite interesting and unique! I haven't read anything like this yet! I didn't love it as much as other young adult books out there, but I think that's mainly because I listened to this as an audiobook, which I've never done before. It took me a while to get used to the reader's posh British accent but eventually I really got into it! The story is centered in England so it was kind of fitting anyway.

First of all, I loved the whole time traveling idea and it was thought out beautifully! I've never read a book about time travel before, and I loved that it wasn't scientific but just something that occurs in Gwyneth's family when some chosen people reach a certain age.

All the events happening in this book were really exciting, from Gwyneth discovering it's her possessing the time travel gene and not her cousin Charlotte, to all the funny and sometimes scary situations she encounters during her expected and sometimes unexpected time travels, to Gwyneth seeing dead people's ghosts... Everything had me yearning for more and I wonder how it all connects!

What I didn't like however, were practically all the major characters. The side characters, like Leslie, James, Gwyneth's mom, Lucy, Paul, and even Charlotte, were all pretty interesting and likeable. They were all unique and a big part of what made this story so good. But *oh dear gods*, I didn't like Gwyneth and Gideon at all! Gwyneth acted like a scared, whiny and clueless little girl most of the time, which annoyed me to death! I sincerely hope she'll grow some backbone soon. Gideon however is just a bossy, cocky prick and I don't trust him one bit! I really hope to see some major character development in the next books.

All in all, I liked it but I didn't love it. I'm going to listen to the next two audiobooks anyway though! They really can't leave me hanging like this after ending Ruby Red with a kissing scene, ugh! I'd love to read more about Gwyneth's supposed *magic* as well.

Christine Riccio says

I had so much fun reading this book. I love the narrator! I just posted my booktalk/discussion: <http://youtu.be/b5bTqUrWG2I> =D

Lara says

"If we were in a film, the villain would turn out to be the least-expected person. But as we aren't in a film, I'd go for the character who tried to strangle you."

It was an enjoyable read.

I liked this book. It was fast paced and a cute story. I would lie if I say I like the majority of the characters. I felt a little sad for Gwendolyn because almost everyone around her acted like spoiled brats however, I'd survive anything if I had a best friend like Leslie.

Overall it was a short and **quick** read and I really enjoyed it. Time to watch the movie!

Sarah says

Sixteen-year-olds Gwyneth Shepherd and Charlotte Montrose are cousins, born only two days apart and raised in the same house by their close-knit, comically dysfunctional family. They thoroughly resent each other. Charlotte is a multitasking model student, beautiful, graceful, and poised. Gwyneth - Gwen for short - scrapes by in school, trips on her own legs, suffers from a nervous stomach, says the wrong thing everytime, has no fashion sense, and her only talent is memorizing inane pop culture trivia. Also she sees dead people.

There are two families in this London with a secret "time travel" gene that manifests in the de Villiers men and the Montrose women. Each time-traveller's birth has been foretold. Charlotte is apparently this generation of Montrose' traveller, called the Ruby, and she has been trained since early childhood. But there's been a mistake. The Ruby is not Charlotte, but awkward, silly Gwen, who has no idea what to do. And now a threat from the past is about to enter the present, because of course it is.

Content Advisory

Violence: Gideon de Villiers and Gwen are attacked by assassins in the eighteenth century. She saves him by picking up a sword and stabbing the last remaining assailant. There's a lot of blood, and she's aghast at how easily the blade pierced flesh ("like cutting a cake!") Gideon reassures her that she missed the vitals and the man will live, but she's still deeply shaken. Their coachman got half his face shot off during the skirmish. The whole scene had a realistic, somber tone very different from the rest of the book.

Sex: A few fleeting innuendos. Gwen is embarrassed by the cleavage on her eighteenth-century gown and is given a bodice insert to cover it. On another occasion, she indignantly accuses Gideon of staring at her chest. She bumps into a young couple who look just like her and Gideon kissing behind a curtain at a party in the 1700s, and they themselves kiss at the end of the book - in the empty confessional of an abandoned church, which is not the best place for that, but then they *were* hiding from assassins...

Language: A few used of "bloody" so we know we're in England.

Substance Abuse: Racokzy is experimenting with belladonna.

Nightmare Fuel: Racokzy's drug use has made his eyes opaque like a corpse's. St. Germaine is a Sith Lord in all but name. The Circle claims that their time machine needs blood samples from all the travellers in order to run.

Conclusion

This *Ruby* is not quite perfectly cut. There are a few parts where you can tell it was written by an Anglophile rather than a real Briton, and many places where you can tell it was written by an adult rather than a teen (most of Gwen's movie star tidbits go back to the 90s). The conflict is extremely hard to follow. Gwen often reads like a much younger character - she constantly whines and panics, needs everything explained to her over and over again, and must either eat, throw up, or go to "the loo" every two pages of so.

But you can still recognize the London setting, the plot is no sillier or more convoluted than the average YA urban fantasy - and Gwen's pathetic awkwardness is actually acknowledged and played for laughs, making her a lot more relatable than many other main characters in this genre. Even the sparks between her and the much cooler Gideon are plausible enough; the book just asks us to believe that they are attracted to each other, not that they're already in love after two days of knowing each other.

A well-paced time travel thriller/comedy, quite clean overall and largely free of Insta-love, that doesn't take itself too seriously. Recommended for fans of the Selection series, the Stravaganza series, and the Secrets of Nicholas Flamel books.

Cara says

I decided I was going to take some time to percolate my ideas for this book, but it's still up in the air what I exactly think. Had some aspects I liked (i.e. time-travel), and others I didn't (i.e. the arc of the story).

All right synopsis first: Gwen is a sixteen-year-old girl who lives in London (the book was written in German originally so I'm not sure why that setting was chosen). Normal enough, but she comes from a family who can time-travel. Thankfully the gene bypassed her and was given to her perfect cousin Charlotte. Gwen can enjoy a normal life without all the drama that comes with having the "special" gene. Well can you tell what's gonna happen? Gosh darn it you got it! (I'm not usually this cynical really; I'm just kind of irritated about my feelings about the book). Gwen's got the gene instead and there is lots of mystery shrouded around why this is. Now with Gwen thrown into this whole new world she meets Gideon (who is a bit of distraction to Gwen, to her great dismay); together they have an important mission to accomplish but it's hard to tell who are the bad and good guys, and if they can even trust each other.

The workings and the history behind the society is interesting. It reminds me of setups of other secret societies actually. What kind of bothered me was how Gwen has thoughts and says things like a twelve or thirteen year old which would have been fine if that was her age. Then when she meets Gideon and gets in deep with the time-traveling stuff she shifts, which was nice to see but kind of abrupt for me. Of course it has those cool scenes of how events clash the present, past and future. I've always loved stuff like that, and that was in here. Even though I have my reservations about it, I know others will just eat this up.

I hate when I'm indecisive about a book, but you need some books like that so you can appreciate the amazing ones. What I think is bothering me so much is that I did expect to love it and for it to be epic, and it had all the pieces but it wasn't *quite* there yet. *sigh* Anyhow, at the end it leaves you in mid-stride. There is no major piece of the puzzle solved but it tantalizes you mercilessly and I will read the sequel. No matter my confusion of what I think I **have** to know what happens. **HAVE TO.**

Ariel says

Review to come.. It's 2:42am! THIS DARNED GREAT BOOK MADE ME STAY UP SO LATE!

Okay! So it's the 27th now, and I'm ready to write my review. The first thing that should be apparent is that I loved this book. I gave it 5/5 stars, and it kept me up into the ridiculous hours of the night on both of the days that I read it. I recommend it to all!

Now, let's break it up.

Firstly, plot. One of the main reasons I loved this book was because it was constantly exciting. The plot kept up at a great pace and it NEVER lulled. I never found myself thinking "I wish this would speed up!" Obviously, because this is the first book, there is a fair bit of information dropping to set up the whole world concept, but the author did this in entertaining ways by weaving it into conversations and other moments. Also, the whole concept of this world is so cool that I didn't mind slowing down for a while to know more about it! Plot gets top marks for constantly keeping me intrigued! Also, I need to add, that this book was at times HILARIOUS. Like, I have honestly not laughed out loud at a book for what feels like a year and this book had me bursting out at laughter, with tears in my eyes, like five times!

Secondly, characters. I love characters in books. They are the vessel through which the plot and world impact us. You can have a fantastic world but terrible characters and the book will be ruined. I was so lucky in this book that not only did I have a thrilling plot, but I also sad home of the best characters I've read in a while! One of the reasons that I don't like supernatural books, and this does have some supernaturalish aspects, is because the characters are usually so fake. They are in the world for maybe 2 days and BAM! They totally get it, fear nothing, understand all. Not here though! The main character grows up around this world, but she's never really in the know about it. And when she IS thrust into it she reacts in exactly the same way I would actually believe a person to act! She's scared, and frustrated, and excited! She acts kind of "dorky" about it, because it's so new to her! I thought it was so refreshing to have a character that admits that she doesn't understand her surroundings but that she's willing to give it a shot! She also had some really great moments where she took chances and was brave, and I really liked it. The other characters, although less developed, were also great. Her mother has a big role, which I love in YA novels because parents do exist! She also has a best friend who I really really loved. She isn't in on this time travelling world, but helps the main character as much as she can! They spend a lot of time looking things up on Google which I truly appreciated (how many times has a character in a book been confused and you know it could all be solved if they just went to the internet?!) and she's supportive, like telling Gwentyth to tell her mom about her situation and making sure that Gwentyth is okay. Overall, characters were fantastic!

Finally, I want to talk about theme. Because honestly, there wasn't one. I think themes and lessons are important in books, and a lot of the time, if they aren't there, I don't want to give a book 5/5 stars because it's missing such an important aspect. However, in this book, it just didn't need it. There are obviously some small ideas, being brave and taking chances, but that was okay. I enjoyed this book for the thrill ride that it was! It was an honest, exciting, fun book that kept me up until way past when I should have been asleep.

Translation Note: This is the first book I've read where I knew that it was translated. (I have probably read other books that are translated but I didn't know that while reading!) While I was reading I kept it in the back of my mind, but honestly, I didn't really notice anything! There were a couple times, admittedly, where some words were a bit too highbrow to seem natural, as if I doubted that the author had actually chosen THAT stuffy word and that the translator had not been able to find an easier translation and had had to use the "proper" word. Like, there was a moment when someone asked something mundane and the person answered "My day was outstanding!" .. it just didn't feel natural. However, this only happened like four times and it was never distracting or unsettling. It was just a thing.

I LIKED THIS BOOK. IT WAS GREAT. I RECOMMEND YOU PICK IT UP! I'll be getting my hands on the second book, Sapphire Blue, as soon as possible, and I hope it lives up to Ruby Red!

Edel says

Before I delve into this review I first want to point something out - I should NEVER have picked up this book. Why you may ask? Well, because this does not even remotely sound like a book I would enjoy. The blurb alone would be evidence enough of that, two particular sentences stand out the most:

"can spend her time hanging out with her best friend, Lesley, watching movies and talking about boys."

Oh and it gets worse...

"He's obnoxious, a know-it-all, and possibly the best-looking guy she's seen in any century..."

So, from this blurb you can easily gather that the romance is going to be pretty central to the plot and if you have to happen to like that, that is great and you may well just enjoy this book. I, however, HATE plot lines driven by romance so I should have known better than to read this book, but guess what?...I didn't even read the synopsis. I purely bought this book due to all the hype surrounding it, something I did quite a lot when I described the book blogging/booktubing communities.

So that is just pretty much just a disclaimer to say that while I had strong feeling of dislike towards this book it is not because the book promised to be something more, I was just too silly to read the synopsis and know not to read it.

Now, onto the less than glowing review.

One of the worst things about this book, for me, was how it read. Words and sentences did not flow together like they should, there were several typos in the first page alone and it felt like I was reading a book aimed at children rather than young adults in the sheer simplicity of the language. Now, don't get me wrong sometimes simple language is a great deal better than the convoluted overly metaphorical language used by some authors but this was too simplistic. Now I feel a bit harsh commenting on the writing style and language as this is a translated book, so do bear that in mind if you plan on reading it.

It was not only the writing style that appeared to be aimed more towards pre-teens but the plot as well. The protagonist of the story Gwen was supposed to be a sixteen year old girl, but read more as a twelve year old. For example her discussion of "kissing boys"...

"Kissing, said Lesley, ought really to be taught as a school subject...We often discussed what the ideal kiss would be like, and there were any number of films we'd watched over and over again just because of the good kissing scenes in them."

A twelve year old talking like that...okay fair enough but SIXTEEN...no.

Not only is Gwen really immature but she also really dense. Okay harsh I know but she genuinely knows nothing, and can't even remember a password that she has heard like ten times,

"The password?" Quark edit bisquitis. Or something like that. "Qua redit nescitis." Well, i'd had it almost right."

There are plenty more incidents just like this that make Gwen out to be a total ditz. My favourite line of all had to be this,

"When we had come in, someone had risen from a chair at the desk, nodded to Mr. George, and left the room without a word. "Was that man mute?" I asked. It was the first thing that came into my head."

Oh, but of course he is mute because what other explanation could there possibly be...

Gwen's best friend isn't much better (again, more twelve than sixteen), she was the most flat and pointless character. She had no personality except to be the friend who googled everything and finds out loads of information and is soooo excited for her friend. Booooring.

There was not one character in this story that I actually liked. Gideon was, of course, the most beautiful specimen to ever grace the earth and also a complete chauvinist along with every other male in the story. Every character was just so unoriginal - you had the crazy great aunt, the snobby aunt, the self-righteous cousin, the worried mother, the excited friend and the handsome love interest...need I say more.

Aside from all of that, the most annoying thing about this book was the complete and utter lack of a plot line. I mean, nothing happened...NOTHING. After 100 pages in I thought, okay something is going to happen now...nope...200...nope...then towards the end something happens...just nothing exciting.

I am not even going to discuss the romance...

I want to finish on a positive note so I will say I liked the idea of time-travel...

I will not be continuing this series for very obvious reasons...

Tatiana says

I knew Ruby Red wouldn't be quite my type of YA lit after reading first couple of pages of it. Even though the main character, Gwyneth, is 16 going on 17, she sounds about 12. Naturally, a quick decision-maker that I am, I made up my mind to drop it right after finishing chapter 1. After finishing chapter 1 I decided to drop it after chapter 2, and so it went...

Gwyneth is a member of the family of time-travelers. Every other generation or so her family produces a girl who starts uncontrollably travel into the past and back for short stretches of time at around the age of 16. This generation everyone thinks Gwen's cousin Charlotte is destined to be the next time-traveler. Only they are mistaken and it is Gwyneth who suddenly finds herself in the past. A lot of drama ensues and the girl is thrown into a web of old secrets and conspiracies that up to that point have been hidden from her.

Considering the fact it only took me about 4 hours to read Ruby Red in its entirety, it's safe to say it is a reasonably entertaining and fast-paced novel. The plot is moderately original and well organized, although it is obvious that this trilogy is of a kind whose books don't really have self-contained story arcs but rather are parts of one big story. So don't expect a satisfying temporary conclusion here.

I am not sure this series has an appeal to adults, like some middle-grade books do. The conflicts and relationships are fairly juvenile. The concept of time-travel is oversimplified and won't stand up to scrutiny by an adult mind - the real affect of time-travel and constant contact of people from different eras on the future is never addressed. But for a younger crowd it's not a bad reading choice. Ruby Red offers a nice mix of PG-rated adventure, mystery, romance and cursory historical details, but nothing more. Tween girls will

love the packaging too. Even my ARC is super-pretty, red and bejeweled.

Sasha Alsberg says

I'll be uploading my review to my YouTube channel abookutopia!! (I review both the book & the movie).
Loved this book!!!

Kat O'Keeffe says

Loved this book! Gwen is such a charming and funny character, her voice and personality were great! The time travel aspect was well thought out, and I'm really liking how the main mystery is developing. Definitely looking forward to finishing this trilogy! (Even though the third book doesn't come out until OCTOBER! *sigh*)

Nick says

4 SOLID STARS!

Full review to come!
