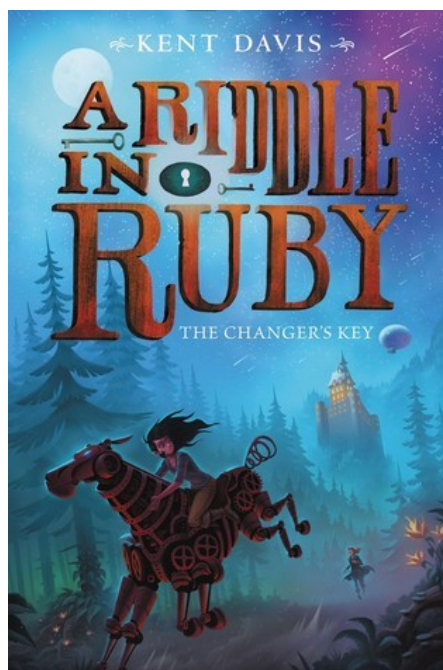




The Changer's Key

Kent Davis

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The Changer's Key

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The Changer's Key Kent Davis

The second book in the fantasy-adventure trilogy. In an alternate colonial America, young thief Ruby Teach trains to become the greatest weapon in the coming war.

To save her friends and family, apprentice thief Ruby Teach bargained with the man who chased her across the sea and through an alternate version of colonial Philadelphia. Now she's training to become a soldier in the war he foresees and being experimented on by the army's scientists. Ruby's blood holds a secret, if only someone can unlock it.

Meanwhile, Captain Teach and Ruby's friends—a motley crew made up of a young aristocrat, a servant, an alchemist, and mysterious woodswoman—are racing against time to find and liberate Ruby.

Kent Davis's imagining of a colonial America powered by alchemy is fascinating and wholly original. The heroes are swept through cities and unsettled territories with imagination, humor, and magic.

The Changer's Key Details

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Author : Kent Davis

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Genre : Fantasy, Childrens, Middle Grade, Fiction, Young Adult, Adventure, Science Fiction, Steampunk, Alternate History

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From Reader Review The Changer's Key for online ebook

Samantha says

After the events of A RIDDLE IN RUBY, Ruby Teach is now in the custody of the man she was running from. He's placed her in a strange group with young men and women training to become soldiers. While Ruby struggles alone, her father, Athena, and friends are doing their best to find and rescue her, but they face hang-ups of their own. Along the way, both groups find clues to a mystery bigger than they ever expected.

What I Loved:

Once again, Kent Davis amazes with the incredible world building of an alternate colonial Philadelphia. Ruby discovers more about her special skills, and her father and friends are trying to unravel the secrets of a coded journal. This world is a guaranteed delight for young readers who love science and history. Ruby's characterization shines. Where she was easily bold and brave before, she now faces tougher challenges and is introduced to her own dark side in unexpected ways. She begins to confront her own definitions of good and bad actions, setting up beautiful potential for the next installment.

What Left Me Wanting More:

While the first book was a continuous stream of fast paced action, THE CHANGER'S KEY takes a slower approach. While this allows for top notch character development for Ruby, the pacing ultimately suffers for it, and portions of the story tend to drag.

As is the case in many sequels, the main characters are separated for the majority of the story, and readers who enjoyed Ruby's banter with Athena and the overall comradery with her friends won't find a similar dynamic in this follow up. However, there are several interesting new characters, including one major figure that I hope to see more of in the final book.

Final Verdict:

While THE CHANGER'S KEY is a bit lackluster compared to the first book, the series continues to be complex, engaging, and adventurous. Fans of the series will want the conclusion to Ruby Teach's story as soon as possible after the breathtaking final scene ends in THE CHANGER'S KEY.

Originally posted at YABC: <http://www.yabookscentral.com/kidsfic...>

Annavita says

Unlike the usual downward spiral of trilogies, this book is even better than the first in the Riddle in Ruby series. We get to learn more about Ruby Teach, her family history, and her band of misfit buddies. I love how Kent Davis creates characters that are fully three dimensional, with genuine feelings, flaws and motivations - and then puts those characters through the wringer to bring out the best (and worst) in them. He deftly incorporates strong, smart and interesting women, people of color, and others who are rarely represented (especially in a non-stereotypical way) in the fantasy genre, without it feeling like a prim, politically correct diversity checklist. I love that this is a middle grade book with a strong female lead that is interesting for both boys and girls - another thing that is hard to find in fantasy novels. What more can I say - I'm a fan! Can't wait for the final book in the series.

Jason Cole says

Lives up to the promise of the first book

This book picks up where the first one left off, grabbing readers by the neck and not letting them go until the last page. Mr. Davis has honed his craft, tightening the pace and deepening the characterizations to make his second book even more enjoyable than the first. I can't wait to dive to the finale.

Teresa Osgood says

Brave Ruby's adventure, and that of her hurt but persistent friends, continues in really surprising ways. These are complex characters, and weird situations, and it is all so well written. I guess I'll have to wait longer for the next episode. Sigh.

Grant says

This is a fun book. It is fast paced without feeling forced. The characters feel nuanced and realistic. I enjoyed it.

Sarah Kim says

This book is a good book, but it's a little scarier than the first. It has more adventure, though, and really engaging.

Maria Tag says

Oh my goodness! :D The changer's key was soooo good! Waaaay more easy to understand/follow than the first one, enough action, and last but not least TONS of character development in Ruby! :D :D :D Great job Kent!

Terresa says

A tremendous sequel in what is proving to be an outstanding series. Can't wait for book #3. Bravo, Kent Davis!

Saruuh Kelsey says

I remember really liking the first book, but I just did connect with this at all. The Ruby plot, I liked but I didn't really care about it, and the other plot didn't interest me at all. But I still like Athena a whole lot, and kinda wish the book was all from her POV. By the end of this, I was just reading so I could finish it, and I'm not sure why because I really loved the first book.

Wren says

Even better than the first installment in the series, picking right back up with the same driving pace we reached and the always higher than high stakes, I was immediately absorbed once again! We get a deeper understanding of the characters we already know and love (or fear) and are introduced to a new host of very real people. Even the smaller characters who speak hardly at all are full of depth, leaving me rooting for everyone. I smiled a lot, I cried just a little, I found myself trying to match facial expressions described in the book, I did the classic "It's 1am, just one more chapter," and NOW I have to wait impatiently for book three! Do yourself and the smart kids you know a favor; read and share this book!

(I especially loved Catherine and Farnsworth)

Hannah Jayne says

"Is that all you ever do? Draw your sword? Does this strike you as a dangerous moment?"

"All moments are dangerous if you give them enough time," she said.

He blinked. "What does that even mean?"

Cram, *his lady*, and the *professor*. Their banter is the best. Their growth in friendship is the best. Their growth as individuals is the best. They're only missing... Ruby.

"And so we are bound, the four of us. We are bound together by fire and blood."

And while the trusty three are galavanting through the wild, Ruby is stuck with some weirdos. By choice. She's very much in limbo. It was a little frustrating/confusing. Her character development was almost... digression. Granted, she was never a perfectly honorable and kind person—but after the bonds of "fire and blood" that came through the last book, she lost herself. She went back to being the thief who lives to survive alone and locks her feelings in a box in her soul. And it showed, and she questioned it, but we didn't get to see her resolve it.

Book three. Book three will have all of the answers. Haha. Let's gooo!

Codex says

Picks up where the first book left off. Still good, but parts were a bit flat and dragged out. The world built in the first book is maintained (thank goodness), though perhaps with somewhat less emphasis. More focus on the story with less "length" would have served better.

Hopefully the third book will regain some of the core substance and balance. The author has what it takes and has demonstrated it. In a world filled with carbon-copy attempts of what everyone else is writing about, it is that much more difficult to come up with something that is truly fresh and has edge. This writing can be in league with Stephen Hunt and D.M. Cornish. Let's see.

Quotes:

"Negotiation is the marriage of a fierce purpose to a useful lever. My favorite type of lever is a cannon."

—Precious Nel, scourge of the Seven Seas”

“Prison is not a place for formality.”

“. . . she was alone with her thoughts. And the failing candle of her hope. She nursed it until it burned her fingers.”

“We are the stories we tell ourselves about ourselves.
—Wayland Teach”

Rena says

I must admit, that I forgot what happened in Book 1 and Book 2 did little remind me.

Mark Austin says

★ - Most books with this rating I never finish and so don't make this list. This one I probably started speed-reading to get it over with.

★★ - Average. Wasn't terrible, but not a lot to recommend it. Probably skimmed parts of it.

★★★ - Decent. A few good ideas, well-written passages, interesting characters, or the like.

★★★★ - Good. This one had parts that inspired me, impressed me, made me laugh out loud, made me think - it got positive reactions and most of the rest of it was pretty decent too.

★★★★★ - Amazing. This is the best I've read of its genre, the ones I hold on to so I can re-read them and/or loan them out to people looking for a great book. The best of these change the way I look at the world and operate within it.
