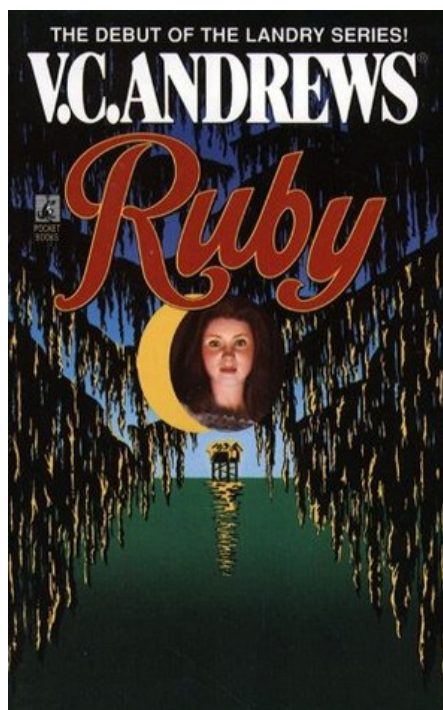




## Ruby

*V.C. Andrews*

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# Ruby

*V.C. Andrews*

## Ruby V.C. Andrews

In the heart of the bayou, Ruby Landry lives a simple, happy life. But innocence can't last forever...

The only family Ruby Landry has ever known are her loving guardian, Grandmère Catherine, a Cajun spiritual healer, and her drunken, outcast Grandpère Jack. Although thinking about her dead mother and mysterious father sometimes makes her feel as mournful as the wind sighing through the Spanish moss, Ruby is grateful for all she has. Her life is filled with hope and promise...especially when her attraction for handsome Paul Tate blossoms into a mysterious, wonderful love. But Paul's wealthy parents forbid him to associate with a poor Landry, and Grandmère urges her to follow her dream of becoming a great painter, foreseeing a time when Ruby will be surrounded with riches in the dazzling city of New Orleans! Yet she cannot know how close that uncertain future looms....

In a faded photograph, Ruby glimpses for the first time the image of her father -- and learns of a shameful deception and a shocking scheme of blackmail that now must come to light. Stunned by these revelations, she is devastated when Grandmère dies, leaving her to seek out her father in his vast New Orleans mansion. There, in a house of lies, madness, and cruel torment, Ruby clings to her memories of Paul to keep her heart alive. For only their love can save her now....

## Ruby Details

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Author : V.C. Andrews

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## From Reader Review Ruby for online ebook

### Sarah Mac says

This was a fun bit of trash.

Our heroine, Ruby, is living a happy life in the bayou with her *traiteur* grandmere. She believes her father was a passing stranger who knocked up her mama & never knew of her existence...but she finds out the truth when Grandmere passes away from an untreated heart condition. Obeying a deathbed request, Ruby slips away from her drunken grandfather & runs off to New Orleans, eventually ending up on her father's doorstep. Pierre is rich as sin & living the Creole life with a huge house, successful business, etc. He's also a Sensitive Beta Male who's thrilled to discover that he's got another daughter...but Pierre's wife (Daphne) hates Ruby on sight & her long-lost twin (Gisselle) immediately sets out to make her new sister miserable. The trainwreck really hits the fan when Ruby decides to consult a voodoo priestess & get some relief from Gisselle's bitchitude.

Dun-dun-DUN. :P

WTFery addicts, don't fear; there's plenty of the random crap that makes VCA novels so addictive. This book includes (but isn't limited to) incestuous half-sibling makeouts, visits to Storyville sex-toy shops (where Gisselle is thrilled to point out the dildos :P), references to prostitution & nymphomania, attempted rape, nude sketching of the opposite sex, arranged teenage marriages in the bayou, periodic appearances of voodoo, incarceration in asylums, crippling car accidents, & smoking joints. Unlike most, there's an actual timeline for this one -- 1962, if my math is correct -- and the slightly tacky, old-fashioned details re: clothes, cocktails, music, & rebellion of spoiled white kids fit that period pretty well.

Unfortunately, Ruby's narration lacks the emotional punch of Cathy or Heaven. She's an extreme Mary Sue: sweet to the max, highly sensitive, eager to please, & possessing prodigy-like artistic skills. She's also stupidly trusting, repeatedly wounded by Gisselle's schemes, & has no backbone whatsoever. The worst of the Sue disease is how Ruby allows Gisselle & Daphne to take advantage of her, & that gets old really fast because it happens almost every chapter. Okay, I know Ruby's only 16; it's not surprising that she's still intimidated by a sophisticated stepmom. But the way she lets Gisselle walk over her, taunt her, & treat her like shit? DOORMAT CENTRAL. Stand up for yourself, girl! How many times does it need to happen before you get a clue?! Cathy & Heaven were also victims of circumstance & adulthood, but they would never have allowed that kind of crap from someone on an equal footing.

...So, yeah. Ruby is a dim bulb, but you can't help feeling sorry for the poor kid. And despite her repeatedly protesting against the inbred Cajun stereotypes, at the end of the book she's still trying to squash those *improper feelings* for (view spoiler)...who, like Chris in *Flowers*, continues to press his case for a HEA despite the blood relationship. So there's that much to besmirch her pristine Sue status. :D

Random: This book has a lot of duality, which is one of my favorite gothic tropes. It's not a pure gothic novel, per se, but it does hover on the fringes of the genre, much like *Flowers*.

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### Christi Nash says

V.C. Andrews books as a general rule are an acquired taste and are likely best loved by melodramatic teenagers even though they are always sold as adult fiction, all of the series start with an adolescent girl as

the main character, then with each subsequent book she grows a decade or so older.

Ruby is my second favorite after the classic *Flowers in the Attic*. I read the entire *Flowers in the Attic* series between 13-17 like many women my age, and I also read *My Sweet Audrina*, and the *Heaven* series in my teens. However I read *Ruby* as an adult as a sort of nostalgic thing, and really prefer the setting and characters over the *Heaven* series ...and every other "ghost written" VC Andrews series after 2000 is complete and utter garbage. I tried reading something called *The Secret Brother* or some other nonsense and it was so incredibly bad I gave it to Goodwill without finishing it.

But *Ruby* is worth reading, especially if you liked *Flowers in the Attic*. This one is set in the Louisiana bayou, not New Orleans, and it has a great deal of historic and cultural charm. I would even say that the emphasis on culture is superior in *Ruby* to Andrews' other "Southern gothic lite" novels.

If you are too busy or stressed out to read Faulkner, and you just a nice light read about child abuse and incest, this is the book for you.

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## **Misty Dawn Thrash says**

V.C. Andrews has this absurd way of taking a completely unbelievable situation and spinning a story that sucks you in and spits you out at the end. I'm not sure how she does it, I think it may have to do with the fact that all of her books have a mystic or spiritual element and it puts a spell on her readers. You think? No? Okay, but it's not more far fetched than the idea of bayou babies split up at birth and thrust back together in a myriad of betrayal, deceit, and sex.

There is something about the writing of V.C. Andrews that leaves me turning the pages. All of her stories have the same conflict of moral vs immoral values. Blood ties vs family ties. Good vs Evil. There is always a very clear line that is drawn within the pages and then those lines get crossed. You would think that since all of her stories are similar in nature that I would tire of them, but in fact, when I pick up a V.C. Andrews novel I always dig right in. I flip through those pages just waiting for the jaw drop.. "What?" or "No Way!" moment. It's always there, I know it's coming, and yet I still groan...Noooooooooooo!

While waiting for that epic moment of the book I am always entertained with great descriptive writing, full of clear details and a straight storyline. No matter how many times I shake my head at the audacity of one of her books I never get lost within the pages. Her stories may be wicked and they may be shocking but they are always easy to follow and keep up with. There are not twists and turns that leave you confused, in fact, the twists and turns along the way actually help spell out the story instead of muddle it. I appreciate that, there are many a novels I have read only to get lost in all the craziness that an author can throw at us poor readers thinking that they are fooling us but in reality are just being fools. Another thing I appreciate is the dialect of her characters. This book, having a cajun and creole feel to it could have been buried under the writing accent of her characters. Nothing is more of a turn off than a book I have to re-read the sentences a few times trying to make sense of what they were saying.

Grab this book for a good read. Hell, grab any V.C. Andrews novel for a good read. Don't expect an in depth plot. Don't expect thought provoking writing. Don't expect memorable story lines as I can forget one of her books as soon as I close it shut. You will find, however, an entertaining story. You will find a few pages that might make you squirm. You can find a new author to love and hate at the same time.

Thrashdthoughts.com

## Erin says

I remember enjoying this book when I read it as a teenager. I'm not upset I re-read it, but it's definitely a different variety of salacious than it was when I was 14. Then, I was scandalized there was a \*sex scene\*. Now, I cannot believe any of these people are allowed to exist and function in society because they are all terrible and make such stupid decisions.

Apparently, VC Andrews doesn't hold up well. Who'd have thought.

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## Erin ? \*Proud Book Hoarder\* says

Ruby was never an exceptional story - most of the Andrews magic died with her. The continued stories with the ghostwriter worked slightly but not well enough for me. By now its getting generic and a little too melodramatic, even though the changes of scenery are fascinating.

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## Abby says

If you've ever read Flowers In The Attic or any other of V.C. Andrews' books and liked/enjoyed it, then you'll enjoy this one.

I honestly was a bit skeptical about reading this cause I hadn't read the blurb or anything and honestly, V.C. Andrews has written A LOT of books and series about teenage girls so I expected something similar.

While some of the themes and events are a bit familiar, it was a very nice read and once I got into it, I couldn't put it down. Don't skip ahead or read spoilers or anything of the sort (as highly tempting as it may be, believe me...) but just keep reading on as it gets better in my opinion.

It did start off a bit slow and the book is just a tad lengthy but again, it's a very interesting, drama-filled read and while some parts again, are predictable there are a few surprises here and there and despite caving and reading the Wiki article on what happens in the rest of the series, I really want to read the rest of them. I read most of the Dollanganger series but I have to say the Landry series is now my new favourite (:

Writing wise, it's not too heavy but it's not a walk-in-the park either. You might need your dictionary one or two times and some parts are a little heavy with the description of the bayou but I liked Ruby (even though she was a little dumb sometimes) and found her a lot different from the main protagonist in Flowers In The Attic, Cathy.

Even if you don't like old books, this was a very nice read and I recommend it.

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## Redfox5 says

Ruby was one of the first Andrews books that I read and I thought it was a time to give an old favorite a re-

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read. Out of all the family saga's, The Landry family has got to be one of the best of them. I had forgotten so much of this book. I couldn't remember what happened to Ruby after she met her father and evil twin sister. So that part was like reading it all for the first time. I think now I'm no longer a naive teenage girl, I have maybe a little less sympathy for Ruby. She does tend to get herself into some stupid situations she should have just walked away from. My opinions about Gisselle have not changed. She is still a nasty bitch. However my opinions have Beau have, I used to like him but actually he's not really very nice. He rushed Ruby into sex and he's already banged her sister which is just wrong! He sounds like the kinda guy who would brag about sleeping with twins. I think Ruby should have turned him down. I'm really excited to read the next one, if I remember rightly, Gisselle has some horrible things in store for Ruby.

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### **Megs ♥ says**

Ruby's story and the Landry series is my all-time second favorite series behind the Dollanganger series. I love everything about Ruby. This series has so many twists and turns it made my head spin. The twin aspect made Ruby's story stand out from all others in my opinion. I adored Giselle. I know she was a b with an itch, but still she always kept things interesting. Beau was another reason I really enjoyed the Ruby series so much. He was an awesome love interest.

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### **Emily Kerr says**

Vivid imagery and excellent characters. Another classic by the "original" V.C Andrews.

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### **nila says**

horrifying and captivating at the same time

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### **Joshua says**

Pseudo incest, evil twins, family secrets, lies and betrayal, complete with an evil stepmother. What more could you want?

Trashylicious mess. I also love the gothic and dark aspects of it aswell. Will be reading the rest of the series.

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### **Lindsey says**

Back in the day when I was a Y.A. myself I absolutely DEVoured everything by V.C. Andrews. Looking back and re-reading, I'm not sure it was such a good idea for my mom to let me get my hands on these books when I was about 6th grade age.

Re-reading the series was a little disappointing. I expected to be swept away in the drama and the epic family histories that I remember from when I was a child. I know I had always sympathized with the characters and loved every second.

With age comes wisdom, and now I found Ruby Landry, the focus of this book a little bit infuriating. Her wide-eyed innocence was cute at first but then extremely forced once every single person in her life took advantage of her. Every. Single. Person.

These books are soap operas on a page, and that is enjoyable. However, I'd like to see a character that, while not world-weary, isn't so stupid that they make the same mistakes again, and again, and again.

Although the novel was very flawed, it doesn't mean I'm going to give up. It was good nostalgia and I already have the second in the series (Pearl in the Mist) cued up on my Kindle.

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## **Rosey says**

Ruby Landry Dumas's life was based on nothing but lies after lies. She was raised by her Cajun grandmere who had special healing powers and lived across the swamp from her drunk grandpere. Life was ordinary for her and her grandpmere, weaving fabrics for travelers to earn money and Ruby's painting talent, which Grandmere predicted was going to take her far.

At fifteen, Ruby's life, the way she knew it, began to fall apart when Ruby fell in love with a boy, Paul, but to be discouraged of the relationship by her Grandmere. Near Grandmere's death, the truth came out - which another truth followed. At her death-bed, Ruby made a promise to her Grandmere that she would go to New Orleans for a better future and to seek the truth of her past.

Battling loyalty between her Cajun-background and her up-raising in the swamp with her new Creole family proved to be difficult for Ruby, especially when everyone around her were lying and making life hard for her, especially causing her so much trouble and problems.

This book was the first in a series of five. I definitely am starting the next book after submitting this review! I also have to add that I think this is probably the best V.C. Andrews book I've read so far. (I'm a NEW fan of hers..)

"..the good and the bad, they are sisters, too. Sometimes they twist each other like strands of ropes and make knots in our hearts. Unravel the knots in your own heart first; then help your sister unravel hers." - page 382.

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## **Dion Ribeiro says**

Primeiro volume de uma série que adorei! Recordo-me que fiquei ansiosa para que saísse o segundo...

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## **Alissa says**

I really liked some aspects of this book, but there were other parts that I didn't like. Ruby, the main character

is a young 15 year old artist living with her grandmother in the beginning of the book. Ruby was a likable character for me because she's a curious, artistic, and sweet girl. The story was really drawn out and some of the plot twists incorporated into the plot were too weird for my taste. But I really enjoyed the dark, eerie mood and mystery within the book. The author's language in the story was very beautiful. She described scenes with a really strong voice, making some parts really interesting where I didn't want to put the book down. There were many twists within Ruby's family, making it seem like a soap opera. Overall, the story was really interesting and full of mystery.

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### **Emma says**

Reading Virginia Andrews' books when I was 15, they were kind of exciting. Reading them at 25, they were not.

Flowers in the Attic and the subsequent series were some of my favourite books to read during my teen years, and after being given a pile of books from a friend recently which included the Landry series I was looking forward to starting them. Unfortunately I was sorely disappointed. The writing style is simplistic, the description is nothing more than a list of features and the plot is tired.

I've been informed that all of Andrews' books feature this beautiful, hard done by girl, experiencing forbidden love then finding out she is part of a rich powerful family formula, but there's only so many times you can read about a girl falling in love with her brother. The first time it's an interesting taboo. The second time it's one big yawn.

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### **Michelle says**

The books by this author are like reading a soap opera - totally addicting and a guilty pleasure.

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### **Tess says**

In the summer between seventh and eighth grade, I read every V.C. Andrews novel that I could get my hands on. Ruby is the one I remember the most, so I decided to look it up.

It's pretty steamy...at least from my recollection as a middle school innocent.

There are all the classic Andrews plot points: Incest, dark family secrets, young hot damsel as protagonist, a rich man whom she loves, and a poor one who loves her (secret brother? anyone care to refresh my memory?)

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### **Tatyana Naumova says**

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## Rob says

This was the beginning of my slow wall slide for VC Andrews books. I ultimately stopped with the third book in this series, once I realized I had read this before. . .

These are not classic literature by any stretch of the imagination, so, I am not going to waste anyone's time with characterization or anything like that. These are trashy books, and were meant to be taken as such. They do come up with some magnificent names (Gisselle Dumas is a pretty badass name), but, that's about it.

The first two series (Dollanganger and Casteel) were shocking and entertaining. The Cutler series moved quickly, but was definitely soapier than the previous two series. This one was pretty much highlights from those three series thrown together into one new series.

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