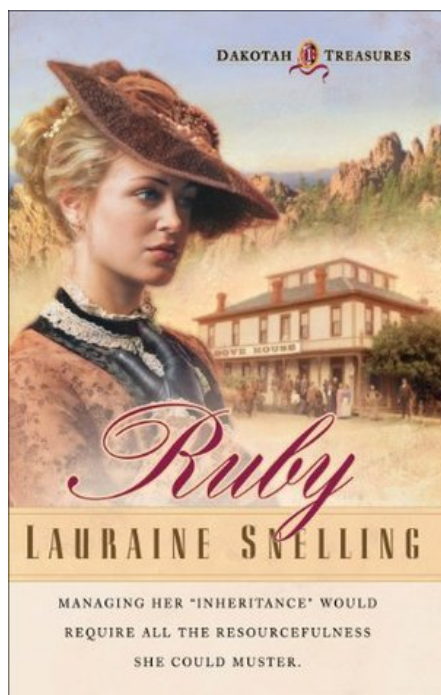




Ruby

Lauraine Snelling

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A New Dakota Territory Saga From Bestselling Author Lauraine Snelling!

Book 1 of Dakota Treasures. Author Lauraine Snelling once again takes readers west to the untamed land of Dakota Territory, introducing new characters both unique and appealing. Ruby Torvald and her young sister, Opal, have received an inheritance from their long-lost father who left home years ago to seek his fortune in the Black Hills. When they leave their comfortable situation in Chicago and arrive at the mining town of Medora to claim their inheritance, the sisters discover that rather than the legacy of gold they expected, their father has left them a shocking bequest. Ruby's bold determination in the face of scandal leads the reader on a journey both heartwarming and inspiring.

Ruby Details

Date : Published August 1st 2003 by Bethany House Publishers (first published January 1st 2003)

ISBN :

Author : Lauraine Snelling

Format : Kindle Edition 322 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Romance, Christian, Fiction, Historical Romance

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From Reader Review Ruby for online ebook

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

I stopped reading at chapter 9. Not thrilled with my first Lauraine Snelling book. Also, that building on the cover? Yeah, it's a brothel. Lovely, right? *sarcasm* So even to chapter 9 there's a lot of mentions of what goes on, "working girls", gambling, saloons, drinking, staring at a girl to see if she could work, etc. Not happy. Not happy at all.

Isabella says

I was firstly attracted to this book by the very pretty looking girl on the cover, and that should've warned me right there.

Assuming you've read the synopsis above, I will just go straight into my review.

Ruby is your typical Christian young woman in the 1800s. Wise, Patient, Sweet, Kind, Tender, excetera. And that's fine! Nothing wrong with it at all! But I just didn't like how often the author made Ruby talk too kindly in arguments and bantering. She didn't feel REAL to me; she never raised her voice, and if she did it was still sweetly. Now I'm not saying she needs to curse, but I just was looking for some realness.

Secondly, the writing was too bland. Nothing to it. Lauraine Snelling's dialog tags state the obvious over and over again after I already know how the character said something just by simply reading the words exchanged.

It is filled with tons and tons of tropes. Especially Christian tropes and makes us Believers sound like we are weak and have no backbone. I did NOT like that.

Ruby talks to herself WAY TOO MUCH. The italics are all over in every page. Plus her thoughts are so "Lord help me." and other OBVIOUS and crybaby stuff.

All in all, I had to stop when the love interest came, which I saw coming five chapter in advance. He's your typical handsome Cowboy that sounds like he walked straight outta the show Gunsmoke and Bonanza. ;)

"He was better looking than she had remembered" is where I laughed and shut the book and gave up.

Kathryn says

I wasn't sure I was going to like this series when Opal and Ruby decide to follow their absent father's request to go to the dakota territory and claim their inheritance. Their father, has left after his wife died giving birth to opal and not sent for them. He left them with his wife's mother and after her death, 20 year old Ruby worked as a goveness for the Brandon household of 4 children. She goes to Dakota only to find her father on his death bed and her inheritance a brothel and saloon. She decides to remodel into a hotel and eatery with card playing off in one room, but no brothel. The two "girl" who she promised to take care of to her dying father work as maids and waitresses appreciate the new changes although the army men, cowboys and towns people (men) don't like the changes at first. She struggles to make payments on the debts her father left on the hotel and at the mercantile, but she also struggles to appreciate all she has accomplished and the new friends and sister's that she has gained. Charlie her father's partner is a real help in getting the hotel up and running and as a support. Rand Harrison, the rancher and gentlemen that helped on the trainride out becomes her admirer at a distance because he is struggling with the desire to start a family of his own but not wanting to go about the courting process. Meanwhile Captain McHenry, is spending more time with Opal and Ruby and he wants to be more than friends with Ruby, but then he gets transferred to the Arizona territory also indian territory and hasn't written as promised. The missing money box and the norwegian box her father

referred to contains not enough money to pay off the dept, but does contain the evidence of his love her his daughters. Will the town grow enough to support the hotel and will Cimarron heal from her doubts of her new lifestyle, will Ruby take a chance on a husband, will opal get her horse, read the next book Pearl.

Bonnigene Cloud says

I really enjoyed this great story. It seemed to give a great glance into the life of a single woman who had to survive on her own in the late 1800s. It also did a good job of showing the ups and downs of the sisterhood that a group of women could have when the join together to complement the talents of one another.

In this story Ruby and her sister Opal were already surviving in a difficult situation after losing their grandmother. The two sisters had found a wonderful home in which Ruby could work and they could live together in New York. However, when a letter from their father showed up requesting their presence, the two had their lives dramatically changed.

After arriving in the Dakota territory the sisters found that their father was the proprietor of a tavern and brothel. This shocked Ruby as her memories of her father were of a god fearing Christian who took care of his family. She was further thrown when he past away and left the brothel to her. Knowing she couldn't raise Opal, who is nine in a brothel and tavern, she decided to change the nature of the business to one more suiting a lady.

Ruby enlisted the help of the women employed in the house along with their bartender, Charlie, to fix up the building and create a warm environment that would support them. Through this process she began to get to know the women and the God given talents they all possessed. They became friends and sisters in through their hard work and need for survival.

Delaney says

Lauraine Snelling is the author of the book, Ruby. It is the first book in the Dakota Treasures Series. The book mainly takes place in a town called Dakota and in New York in the 1880's. The main characters are Ruby and her sister Opal.

Ruby and Opal's mom died while giving birth to Opal. After her death their dad left them in New York to live with their grandmother and he went to live in and a town called Dakota. The two girls never heard from their dad until Ruby was 20 years old and their grandmother had passed away. They received a letter from his that informed them that their dad was dying and they needed to hurry if they wanted to see him one more time.

Ruby and Opal set out on a long trip west to Dakota. When they arrived they got to spend a little bit of time with their dad until he eventually died. They knew they would get an inheritance but they didn't know what it was going to be. They were a little upset when they found out that it was a brothel and a solon. They had no clue how to run a solon on their own. Opal had never had a job before and Ruby had only been a baby sitter for the 4 Brandon children. After struggling to run their father's business, t hey decided to remodel the building into a hotel. The town people, mainly the men, were not very happy with the changes at first.

Ruby's father had a lot of debt that he didn't pay before he died and she struggled to get the money to pay.

One of their father's friends, Charlie helped Ruby and Opal get the family business going again. While working together Charlie, Ruby, and Opal all got very close and the business started to grow.

While living in Dakota Ruby meets a man named Captain McHenry. They become very close and develop strong feelings for each other. One day Captain McHenry gets told that he is getting transferred to Arizona.

Ruby was crushed when she found out. They promised each other they would stay in touch and keep the close relationship they have created. After he moves he fails to send any letters and Ruby starts to get worried.

This book is just the first book of the Dakota Treasures Series therefore it is a good idea to read the next three books; Opal, Pearl, Amethyst, find out if Charlie, Opal, and Ruby can keep the hotel going and if Captain McHenry every gets back in touch with Ruby.

Liza says

The only reason I gave this book two stars is because I finished it. I *wanted* to know what happened, even if by 60% of the way through I'd decided that Ruby was a sanctimonious shrew who had a very tenuous grasp of reality. I really, really didn't like her.

I admit that I didn't realize this was a Christian novel before I started it. Normally I can tolerate some light soul-searching for the greater good, but the constant whining about not reading the bible really had me feeling like Ruby was just a hypocrite. Yeah, you're tired, I get it, but either pick up the book or shut up about it and deal with your guilt. You don't have to read the bible daily and spout bible quotes in order to be a good person or a good Christian. (I really disliked this book.)

So, constant bible quoting aside, I felt this was a pretty pointless story. There was build up with the Captain, and with Rand Harrison, and neither came to fruition by the end of the story. I assumed from the **wink wink nod nod** moment that McHenry had with Belle ("I'll never tell!"), that he was in cahoots with her in driving business from the hotel. Instead, the author basically just offed him from the story by giving him orders to someplace else. And then Rand with "Will you marry me? No? Okay then."

And the constant... Argh. Look, I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't use drugs, I don't gamble; heck, I don't even know how to play poker! I'm a pretty normal (if rather boring) American. I'm married, I have three kids, I'm a SAHM, but I've also worked to support my family. I'm pretty middle-of-the-road, but the constant going on about how evil drinking was, and smoking, and gambling, and the ridiculous hesitation by all sexes to use any word related to the very real profession of prostitution drove me freaking nuts. Yeah, I'd have cut out the whoring aspect of the hotel, but I'd have left the liquor. There's a difference between moral righteousness and indignation, and starving yourself and the people you have responsibilities towards in order to take that moral high ground.

If she hadn't magically found that box when she did, I sincerely don't think they'd have made it in the long term. Maybe eventually, once the "town" had an influx of people, etc, but... now I'm just hypothesizing about a fictional story.

Oh, and Charlie's magic switch to a lapsed bible reader at the very end? Lame.

Sigh. Alright, I'm done ranting. I was very irritated by this book and absolutely will not find more of her work to read. It's a shame, because for the first half of the book, the writing was ok, and the preaching was to a tolerable minimum. Towards the end, it was almost as if the author felt she needed to throw more and more in there in order to make a point (a point, I might add, that was never revealed...in my opinion).

***?❁❁ Maki ❁❁?* says**

From descriptions I'd read, I was expecting this to be a Christian Frontier romance story.

It wasn't. I was pleasantly surprised.

The main focus of the story is on Ruby trying to keep the Dove House running. The rest of the book is spent describing the differences between the "civilized" world back east, and the frontier. There's very little Christian message being shoved down your throat...just a bit at the ending, really. And even then, it's not laid on as thick as some other books I've read.

Come to think of it, this wasn't even so much a romance story.

The lack of closure bothered me. I know there's more books in this series. But absolutely nothing gets ended in this book. The story just sort of...stops.

Sverre says

== An audacious woman's life in Little Misery ==

It is 1882 and Ruby Torvald, 20, and her sister Opal, 9, have been living a charmed life in upper class New York City. Their mother died when giving birth to Opal and their grandmother raised them until her death. Their father Per took off, following the "go west young man" ethos, leaving his children with the well-to-do Brandon's where Ruby was made useful working herself up to become governess of their four young children. The Torvald girls felt loved, appreciated and secure with the Brandon's ; they were all like one happy family.

There has been scant news from per Torvald and Ruby feels he has neglected his daughters. Then one day arrives his letter, from an obscure outpost called Little Missouri, Dakota Territory. He begs forgiveness for his neglect and says he is at death's door. He encloses railroad tickets and bids them come so he can see them before his passing. He refers to an inheritance that awaits them. Ruby remembers the closeness she had with her dad while growing up and she yearns to see him while he still draws breath. Soon she boards the train with her little sister, being bound for Little Missouri.

It turns out that Little Missouri—also called Little Misery—is a tiny settlement hardly bearing any of the graces she is used to from New York. When she asks for directions to Dove House, her father's hotel, she is met with hostility by the womenfolk. She soon discovers that Dove House is a den of intemperate, brawling, raucous and lascivious mortals. Ruby reunites with her father on his deathbed. Her inheritance consists of Dove House, some money and a treasure concealed on the premises. But, to complicate matters, she has a competitor, her father's sweetheart, Belle, a bawdy, overbearing woman who is intent on maintaining her position as heir-apparent. Before drawing his last breath, Per gets Ruby's assurance that she will "take care of the girls" after his passing. That is a promise that will trouble Ruby no end in the weeks and months that follow.

The story is mostly told from the perspective of Ruby, but two other players, Captain McHenry, who commands an army battalion stationed in the town, and Rand Harrison, a rancher, also get their turn to add to the narrative. Charlie, who was Per's business partner, is a pillar of strength who figures promptly in Ruby's new frontier existence. From the start Ruby decides to change Dove House into a respectable establishment and the book recounts the vagaries of human conflict, physical hardship and financial austerity that define

her life. But Ruby is a determined, persistent and audacious young woman who lets no-one and nothing slow her down for very long.

Snelling's characterizations are excellent. She is a confident and productive writer who loves to provide detailed descriptions that transport her readers into the action of the story. Some of her books predict the ending by the middle of the books. This one has the reader wondering to the end.

Patsy says

This is the first book about the Dakotak series. Ruby Torvald is the oldest, 20, then Opal, 9 years old, in 1882 travelling by train to see their father before he passes away. He is leaving them an inheritance but they have to travel to Dakota to receive it, they expect it to be gold and they will be rich but is surprised they when arrive.

I have read several series by Lauraine Snelling, all were very good Christian books. I know these will be just as good, she is a great author and storyteller, she makes all her characters come to life and give very good personalities. Even though she is a Christian writer her stories are not pushing religion, the religion fits right in with the stories. I loved all the books that I read by this author.

Abby says

I should say "half" read. I gave it to stars because I hope this book got better later on. I love this author but I found this book to inappropriate and dull for me. It had a sweet beginning like first chapter but went off from there. Saloon? "Working girls"? Drinking? Romance? Please NO!

Randy Tramp says

Ruby Torvald and her sister, Opal have received an inheritance from their long-lost father who left the family years prior to seeking his fortune in the Black Hills.

They leave Chicago and arrive at the mining town of Medora to claim their inheritance. Ruby is shocked at what their father has left them.

I enjoy a strong protagonist, and Ruby didn't disappoint. Under opposition, she pressed into the unknown.

I got a small taste of life in early America. The lawlessness, the rawness, and the humanness all combined to make a great story. That journey started as a train ride. (Stirred memories of our train ride in the Black Hills of the Dakotas)

What a great story. I look forward to the next in this series, now that Lauraine Snelling has become one of my favorite authors.

June says

This book reminded me of old western fiction I enjoyed when I was younger. The premise here is of a twenty old lady, Ruby who looks after her little precocious sister Opal in New York whilst waiting on word from her father. One day she receives a letter to come to Little Missouri to see her dying father. When she gets there, life becomes more than she bargained for.

I'll be honest, this novel is more of a slower pace and quite unexpected topic given it is a Christian novel. It isn't of the typical mold of Christian historical fiction as you may expect. But on deeper reflection it tackled life in that time accurately. Most women arriving at a new town were one of two types. But the author seeks to show redemption in this novel for everyone. And I'm glad she did it making the characters real. There is some elements of romance but this is more about females and life in a new rugged and hardworking environment.

It doesn't wrap up in a nice bow and I want to read the next book in the series. Definitely looking forward to seeing how this settlement becomes a town.

Shoujo85 says

**** This is just a QUICK REVIEW of my thoughts on the book ****

I read this several years ago now, but I remember I wasn't impressed with it. It was fairly preachy, largely boring and the main character was sanctimonious and un-interesting. (I'd actually forgotten I'd read it until I brought it home from the library and read the blurb and skimmed through it.)

I'm not saying you shouldn't read it; just that I've ready MANY Christian Fiction books which are a lot more enjoyable than this one.

Is there a Happy Ending? I don't remember, but I do know it's part of a series so it may have been a bit open-ended, as they often are.

Content Rating: PG?

I don't remember a lot about the content level but I do remember there is a brothel and some prostitutes (granted, at least one leaves her 'wicked ways' behind her). I think one of the 'ladies of the night' was raped at some point but I don't remember the details of it.

Romance Rating:

I can't remember if there was a romance, so if there was one it must've been unimpressive.

Rebecca says

I wanted so bad to like this. But in the end, I couldn't even finish it. I felt like some exposition was greatly needed in the beginning of the novel. Perhaps I'm just dense and can't read, but I had no idea that Ruby and

her sister had Norwegian ties. They kept using words like far and mor, and when I first read them, I thought they were typos. If it was presented in the book, I missed it until well into the story. I found some of the language to be confusing. There were awkward sentences for example:

"He'd said that all children here in the West, what few there were, did not have horses but indeed some did"

I found Opal to be very frustrating. If Ruby didn't want her to misbehave so bad, then perhaps she should have...I don't know, actually disciplined the child?

After spending four or five days at the Dove House and she still couldn't figure out it was a brothel? Completely silly and frustrating for the reader. We had all figured it out a long time ago. If you want the character to be confused, fine. Have it last for a little while but it just got to the ridiculous and grating point. Once the reader has figured out the joke, had a laugh...it's not amusing anymore. It's just plain annoying.

Like I said, I read the synopsis and thought it sounded so interesting. But, I'm just really disappointed with the results. I think I'll put it away for now, and try again later. Here's hoping that I'll change my mind.

Sheila Holmes says

It's funny to me (read strange) how I read this novel the entire way through and never realized it was written by an author I enjoy very much and have read a number of her works.

I flipped back and forth throughout the entire story from "I like this" to "I really like this", back to "I like this." I'm not sure if it was the story or me.

I found myself stressed during the majority of the story, with the plot centering around the late 1800s Western growth, in this case, Dakota Territories, because it was about a father who had left his family in the East, and opened a brothel in the Dakota Territories. When he died, his daughters inherited the establishment and most of the plot was them (most specifically the elder daughter) trying to convert the brothel into a hotel and restaurant. However, the three "soiled doves" were kept on, although in a different capacity.

Although the main character, Ruby, was a lovely and moral girl, her "goodness" had little to do with her faith. I kept spending my reading time wondering when she was going to get her spiritual act together.

Well, by the time I reached the end of the story, I realized that I did truly REALLY like the novel.

I recommend it to anyone who loves stories about the settling of the West, and the moral and spiritual dilemmas the people of those times lived through.
