



The Beat on Ruby's Street

Jenna Zark

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The last thing eleven-year-old Ruby Tabeata expected to happen on her way to a Jack Kerouac reading was to be hauled to the police station.

It's 1958 and Ruby is the opposite of a 1950s stereotype: fierce, funny and strong willed, she is only just starting to chart her course in a family of Beat Generation artists in Greenwich Village. Ruby dreams of meeting famous poets while becoming one herself; instead, she's accused of trying to steal fruit from a local vendor and is forced to live in a children's home. As Ruby struggles to return to family and friends, she learns her only choice is to follow her heart.

Join Ruby's journey as she finds unexpected friendships, the courage to rebel against unjust authority and the healing power of art in this inspiring middle-grade novel by Jenna Zark.

Suitable for ages 10+

The Beat on Ruby's Street Details

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Author : Jenna Zark

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From Reader Review The Beat on Ruby's Street for online ebook

K.D. Reed says

Oh man, this was SO great. (I did receive a copy in exchange for an honest review)

Writing/Style: 4/4

Characters: 4/4

Story: 4/4

Pacing: 3/4

Ending: 2/4

Total: 17/20

I loved this so much. The author's style really brought Ruby to life. Amazing characters. Fantastic story.

Unique voice. Just all around wonderful. The pacing seemed to shift about 2/3 of the way through the book, not in a distracting way, just slightly noticeable for me. And the ending, while GREAT, did seem to wrap up a tiny bit too fast for my preferences. But, none of those little things take away from the incredible message and story. I will be raving about this book for awhile...

Full review here: <https://youtu.be/Hxyt7yaJWgY>

Francine Maessen says

This wasn't my cup of tea, but mostly because I didn't have the right expectations. I was hoping to find a kind of literary introduction to the Beat poets, but they play such a minor role in this book. It also turned out to be a kind of Young Adult book, a genre I normally don't like that much. You can find my full review here: <https://booksien.com/2017/06/12/about...>

Keksisbaby says

Ruby ist elf und eigentlich auf dem Weg eine Lesung von Jack Kerouac zu hören, als sie sich auf der Polizeistation wiederfindet, weil sie einen Apfel gestohlen hat. Nun hatte man herumstreunende Teenager in den 50er Jahren in Amerika nicht so gern. Außerdem bemerken die Behörden widerwillig, dass Ruby aus einer Beatniks Familie kommt, die so gar nichts von gesellschaftlichen Konventionen hält. Also landet Ruby in staatlicher Obhut. Da vermisst sie jedoch das freie Leben, dass ihre Eltern führten und sie tritt in einen Hungerstreik. Ihre Mutter heiratet, um Ruby wieder zu bekommen, doch leider nicht ihren Vater und Ruby muss erkennen, dass das Leben nicht immer so läuft, wie man es sich wünscht.

Eine wunderbare Geschichte über die Beatniks Ära 1958 in Amerika. Ich habe die freche, eigenständig denkende Ruby, die später einmal eine Poetin werden will, sofort in mein Herz geschlossen. Sie hat mich zurückversetzt in die Teenagerzeit, wo man sein Umfeld revolutionieren möchte, und denkt wenn man groß ist, macht man alles anders als die Eltern. Es war auch schwer für mich zu beobachten, wie sie sich gegen die Veränderung wehrt und nicht verstehen kann, wie ihre künstlerische Mom zu ihrem Wohl einen Fremden heiratet und plötzlich zum Establishment gehört und ihr Vater sein Leid in Alkohol ertränkt. Erst als sie ihren

Dichtervorbildern begegnet, findet sie zu sich selbst und einen Weg das Leben zu akzeptieren. Dieses Freebie hat mich aufmerksam gemacht auf eine Epoche, von der ich nicht einmal wusste dass sie existiert hat.

Oft falle ich ja mit Freebies auf die Nase, aber diese kleine Geschichte zeigt mir, dass man hin und wieder kleine Edelsteine unter dem Müll entdecken kann.

Dianne says

Greenwich Village, 1958, a place and time where free spirits congregated to express themselves, make far-reaching statements and live under the radar of authority. This is the life young Ruby has known, think on your feet, be suspect of authority and always give yourself an out. Growing up with inattentive parental figures, yet in a community who cares for its own, Ruby knows the value of a good eat, a good piece of poetry, and she has the street-smarts to survive, until the day she is chased by the Child Welfare agency, who are only trying to “better her living” conditions. To Ruby’s way of thinking, her life is pretty grand, home schooling, artists all around, and that vibe on the streets, that everything is alive and shaking. Follow Ruby as her own decisions and free-thinking could be the cause of her own downfall as she comes under the scrutiny of “The Man.”

Fun, fast and furious, Ruby plays “catch me if you can” with the authorities as she tries to stay one step away from foster homes and losing the ones she loves. You might think that without bad luck, she may have no luck at all, because if it can go wrong for Ruby, it usually does. **The Beat on Ruby’s Street** by Jenna Zark is a faced paced, humorous take on life for one girl living in a world far removed from the norm. Jenna Zark has captured the essence of youth with all of its idealistic energy and lack of life experiences. Ruby is a delight, and her mental gymnastics will bring more than one chuckle to your lips! Ms. Zark creates the feel of the era and the neighborhood with great attention to the all-important attitude that zaps the air. A fun and entertaining way to give kids the chance to learn a little history without the boring maps and dates. Ms. Zark has just the right beat going to create a hit!

I received this copy from Jenna Zark in exchange for my honest review.

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Available from: Amazon

For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Vera mallard says

THE BEAT ON RUBY'S STREET STORY-LINE:

In *The Beat On Ruby's Street* we find Ruby, a child of the 50's and the beatnik era. Ruby lives free and somewhat wild while mom and dad beatniks do their thing. Ruby's growing up and finding who she is. However, accused of stealing, Ruby's life implodes.

Never fear, Ruby's strong, determined, and coming of age. Ruby has dreams of poetry, meeting the famous Jack Kerouac, and becoming a poet. Challenges will be met, confronted, and conquered.

Come along with Ruby as she grows up on beat street. My children's novel review of *The Beat On Ruby's Street* follows.

CHARACTERS, PLOTTING, DEVELOPMENT:

Author Jenna Zark explores the counter-culture of the beatniks, their philosophy, and lifestyle. Known as the beat generation, the 1950's were a time of change and restlessness. Exploring Ruby's growth from child to young adult, Zark gives the reader a real feel for this time period.

Giving Ruby a strong personality, Zark demonstrates the determination of the era. With excellent plotting, skillful character development, and pacing which will hold the reader's attention, Zark crafted a one of kind story.

Finally, in concluding my children's novel review of *The Beat On Ruby's Street*, I found a well-developed story-line, with engaging characters, and skillful plotting. I would not hesitate to buy this book for my self or a friend with proper age children as Zark explores a generation seen only in movies

THE BEAT ON RUBY'S STREET RECOMMENDATION: STARS 4

Recommended for grade levels 5-12

FINALLY, PLEASE NOTE:

Additionally, I received this book from the author and chose to voluntarily review the book with an honest children's novel/book review. Lastly, book reviews of any novel are dependent on the book review author's opinion. Consequently, all book reviews on-line and on my blog, are my opinions. In addition, the ARC did not affect my children's novel/book review.

Ash †Reviews of a FearStreetZombie† says

I received this book for an honest review.

In all honesty, this book wasn't my cup of tea. Which is where the missing final star comes in. I give it four stars because even though it wasn't my kind of story, it was still a really good story. Man, this story also raised my blood pressure like something fierce but I knew I couldn't stop reading because I just had to know

what happens. It was also written very well yet I also feel like there was something missing. I felt like the story was incomplete. I hit the final page and was a bit lost because I really thought there was more to it. This book left me with a lot of questions like:
(view spoiler)

See what I mean?

Elizabeth (Stuffed Shelves) says

Ruby Tabeata is an eleven year old who lives in Greenwich Village during 1958. This is during the time when people wrote about their unhappiness towards society. Despair was expressed through works of writing and music.

Ruby was on her way to a reading by her favorite poet, when she was accused of stealing and was taken off to the police department. Since she is a minor, things get out of hand when a social worker is assigned to her and her case because she does not have two parents living with her. This eventually ends in a disaster and Ruby must figure out how to get herself out of a horrible situation.

The author writes a lot of back story to each character, so you really get to know everyone on a personal level. I was especially interested in learning more about the children in Greenwich Village during the late nineteen fifty's. I was a little confused when the social worker comes into the picture. I couldn't tell if she is a negative character or someone who's intentions are only to help a young girl.

Overall I found this to be a beautiful story with amazing history, background and emotion. At moments, tears came to my eyes, and other moments I was biting my nails in anticipation of what was to come next. There were some slow moments while reading this book, but it quickly became interesting and exciting. I give this book a 5/5.

Rachel (never_too_many_books) says

This book is about the "Beat" generation from the 1940's. As I wasn't previously familiar with this part of American history, I found this book to be especially interesting! The Beat on Ruby's Street is primarily geared towards middle grade readers, but it can definitely be enjoyed by book-lovers of all ages.

One thing in particular I love about this book is Jenna Zark's writing style. She perfectly channels the thought process of a 12-year-old child. The writing is structured and well thought out, but it flows with more childlike direction. For instance, Ruby can be talking about school and mention her cat, but then she gives you the whole story behind her cat before returning to her previous topic. This writing style makes Ruby feel a lot more real and relatable.

This book also deals with issues that many children deal with--school, friends, independence, relationship with parents, parents' relationship with each other, etc. Although some of these topics may seem a little dark for the younger middle grade reader to handle, Zark is appropriately sensitive with her stories and descriptions. In my opinion, a 9 or 10-year-old could easily read, understand, and enjoy this book.

The only reason I marked this book down at all is because I feel that the end was somewhat lacking. I was left with a sort of "that's it?" feeling after finishing it. I feel that an epilogue would have really helped this story, just so that we could see where Ruby ends up and how she feels about it. Other than that, this story was fantastic and highly enjoyable!

(This book is being rated in comparison to other Middle Grade books, as opposed to Young Adult books.)

Content (10= extremely high focus; 0=non existent)

Adventure content: 5

Creepiness content: 1

Grief content: 3

Language content: 0

Religion content: 1

Romance content: 2

Sexual content: 1

Violence content: 3

Lydia Thomas says

I give *The Beat on Ruby's Street* by Jenna Zark 5 out of 5 stars.

Ruby Tabeata is an old soul living in a 1950s Beat community with her family. Because of her unconventional upbringing, Ruby is torn from her family and placed in a group home, not to be returned unless her parents agree to conform to society's expectations. Refusing to accept this turn of events, Ruby carries out a plan of her own.

Ruby's voice is thoughtful and engaging throughout the story; poetic, yet very much what an eleven-almost-twelve year old voice should be – interested in things like leotards and golden birthdays. Her fear of “the man” and guilt over “his” entrance to her life, family, and community are completely relatable.

The Beat culture and '50s pop culture are woven into the story through Ruby's eyes and avoids feeling like a history lesson or game of trivia. Vocabulary and other references are presented the same way.

Overall, *The Beat on Ruby's Street* is a charming and uplifting read. It's easy to settle into and relate to, and I highly recommend it for preteen girls.

Anna Lane says

11-year-old Ruby grows up in Greenwich Village. The story is set in 1958, but I didn't feel the historical significance. The strength of the book is in the writing style. The author has captured Ruby's particular voice, and it is this that kept my interest.

It is a short story for middle-grade readers. She has an unusual upbringing with informal home education, and she's happy to get along on her own. That is, until, when arranging fruits on a stand, she is accused of stealing.

A slow, albeit interesting, beginning. It is only by a third of the book that we learn the stakes/consequences

of her getting caught stealing. I doubt at her age she understood them too. Social services get involved in her peaceful life.

I enjoyed the book and, after the last page, I went out to find whether it was part of a series. Which, unfortunately, it wasn't. I wanted to read more after the book ended with her joining a poetry group. Ruby's mother decision and sacrifice for her daughter's sake were left... hanging. I wanted Ruby to fight for her mother's happiness. But the tween's disregard for her responsibility in this decision, her failure to admit her actions led to them, dropped the book a notch. All Ruby feels is anger. What about accountability? I guess one can't expect such from an 11-year-old. So not a very satisfying ending for me.

I received an e-copy of this book courtesy of KidLitExchange with no obligation to review. All opinions are my own.

Olivia says

I would like to thank the author, Jenna Zark, for sending me a copy in exchange for an honest review.

This was a read completely out of my comfort zone. I don't often read children's fiction and I'm not particularly interested in the 1950s... but, I ended up falling a bit in love with this one. It's a sweet story told in an unique and charming way.

Ruby grows up as part of the "Beat Generation" and I wasn't at all familiar with this part of American history. I found that aspect of the book particularly interesting and enjoyed learning about the culture through Ruby's eyes.

It is an easy read, told in first person and is definitely geared towards a young reader, and while I think a 9 or 10 year old could easily read this one, I also believe it can be thoroughly enjoyed by adults.

Jenna Zark has a unique writing style and I love how well she captures the voice of a young girl growing up in Greenwich Village during the 50s. Ruby feels real at all times. Ruby also wants to be a poet and her voice is actually very poetic but still feels like the voice of a 12 year old.

The book deals with lots of issues and some of them might be a step above Middle-Grade but Jenna Zark brings those subjects across in a sensitive and heartwarming way that can easily be understood by a young reader.

Julia Sapphire says

I was sent this book in exchange for an honest review

This book takes place in 1958 and our protagonist- an eleven year old girl named Ruby must fight to get back to the people she loves. She was caught supposedly stealing fruit and was later put into a group home and taken away from her mother.

I believe that the premise of this book is super interesting because it is a middle-grade historical fiction, but I

don't think the execution of the story was up to par with its synopsis. The story felt very jumbled and could have been better if it was longer and more fleshed out.

The characters in this story were just okay for me, some felt very one-dimensional. Our protagonist Ruby was very naive, which is expected due to her age. She acted like she knew everything and treated people in abnormal ways. Also some quotes that she said really irked me such as:

So you were yelling for help and a dude is breaking down the door to get to you... but now he's a pervert like umm noo....

The writing was also not the greatest. I noticed some spelling errors and the story was overall really messy. The organization of the story lacked as well as the overall point of the novel. By the end of it, I honestly didn't feel much it was kind of just like a "meh" book for me overall.

Something that I did like though was that this was a super fast read and a page turner. Even though most parts of the story lacked for me, I still was interested in knowing where this story was going to go. It was entertaining and a very fast and easy read.

For middle grade readers I think this sets a poor example, to assume adult men are perverts is wrong, especially as she was calling for help... Also showing a young girl getting into fights and going on a hunger strike can be very hazardous to young readers who can be easily persuaded. I'm all for fighting for what you believe in and for what is right but the hunger strike aspect was a bit much.

Britt says

The Beat on Ruby's Street was an interesting novel about a young girl in that "tween" stage of life. Ruby is a rebel with a cause and poetic soul. I think she thinks she is misunderstood throughout the novel by her peers, parents and other adult figures. But this is the view of a child. Zark keeps true to this period peace, when protests of war are high and the arts (poetry and painting) are taboo. In The Beat on Ruby's street we follow young Ruby through many acts of childhood rebelliousness. Everything Ruby does is for "the cause." At times I thought Ruby was being way disrespectful, but Zark reminds us of the time period and gives up parental clues of who raised Ruby. Ruby is a product of the streets and not meaning this in a harsh or bad way. She was well cared for by her parents but not in a way that the majority of society would approve, but she was not from a bad home. In my opinion this book shows that it does take a village to raise a child who could think for herself and fight for what she truly believed in.

Zark gives us a view from a child's perspective but this is no childish book. I appreciate the way she makes the novel flow and tells the story as if it were a movie or play in front of our eyes. This could easily be turned into a Ruby series and I hope Zark continues to write with such feeling and abandonment. I really dug this novel and look forward to reading many more by Jenna Zark.

Andrea L. says

3.5/5 stars

A copy of this book was provided to me in exchange for an honest review

This is a solid read. I liked it but it didn't stand out to me.

This book is a historical fiction book that takes place in the 1950's and we follow the story from the point of view from Ruby. Ruby is an 11 year old and absolutely loves poetry. One thing I like about is that we see Ruby's hobby throughout the story. In some books they mention that a character likes something and will never acknowledge it again. In this story however the hobby is shown and it is very believable that Ruby does like poetry.

In the beginning of the book Ruby is accused of stealing fruit which leads to her adventure.

One thing I wanted was more background to the characters. I wanted some flashbacks to see more of her past. I feel like that could of added to the story. Another thing too is the ending. I was like "that's it?" I wanted a little more of an explanation of what happens. I felt like the story just stopped and I wanted more of a conclusion.

I will say I loved the writing. It was very easy to read and should be easy for a young reader to understand. The Beat on Ruby's Street is told in first person and it is very easy for me to tell that a 11 year old, almost 12 is telling the story.

This is a very short book I will admit and I feel like it could of been slightly longer. I would of liked a little more world building because I only new it took place in the 1950's because the story said so and there was one line they said which I cannot find.

Overall I would recommend this book to 11 or 12 year olds. I honestly do not have that much to say about it.

Siobhan says

The Beat on Ruby's Street is the first book in Jenna Zark's Beat Street series, and it's a unique young adult historical fiction that had me hooked throughout.

Although I enjoy a good historical fiction, I find most of my reads can be categorised into two categories. We have the regency reads and we have the World War reads. I sometimes step out of these two boxes – I've read a few Cold War espionage novels, for example – but it is rare. Thus, my knowledge of the time period in which The Beat on Ruby's Street is set is rather lacking.

Nevertheless, despite my lack of knowledge, The Beat on Ruby's Street had me hooked throughout. It was both a great historical fiction novel and a great young adult novel. It brought the time period to life, sucking us into the time and providing information to make everything seem real. It included a lot of issues central to young adult novels, ensuring you're sucked in for the journey.

Without a doubt, the first Beat Street book hooks you and leaves you willing to read more.
