



## Ruby

By Francesca Lia Block  
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### Introduction

After growing up in an abusive family where she learns she can take nothing for granted, Ruby escapes to Los Angeles to work as a nanny for the Martins, a well-connected family with two young children. Through her employers, Ruby learns of the existence of her soulmate—Orion Woolf—a handsome British actor whose mysterious disappearance is the talk of the entertainment industry.

In an effort to draw closer to Orion's world, Ruby travels to his rural home in England, where she finds work at a potions and herbs shop owned by his mother, Isabelle. Through a series of coincidences, Ruby winds up nursing Orion back to health without confessing the true reason for her presence in his town. But just when she thinks her dream is becoming a reality, Ruby is stopped in her tracks by the violent demons of her past. Only by facing the darkness together can she and Orion finally fulfill their destiny.

### Questions for Discussion

1. What does the opening scene of the novel suggest about the boy's relationship with his mother, and how does this scene become more significant later on when his identity is revealed?
2. How does Ruby's victimization in childhood by her father affect her development as a young woman?
3. To what extent does Ruby's awareness of the world around her shift back and forth between reality and fantasy, and how did you experience these shifts as a reader?
4. How would you describe Ruby's relationship with Steven, and how significant to their relationship is his having been a part of her life when she was abused as a child?
5. Why do Orion's biological parents conceal the truth of his parentage until he is thirteen, and how does that knowledge ultimately affect him?
6. What propels Ruby to search out Orion's childhood home? Why does she feel he is her soulmate before she has even met him?
7. What enables Ruby to heal Orion, and how does her transformation of him change the nature of their relationship?
8. To what extent is Isabelle Woolf responsible for her son's involvement with Ruby? How would you characterize her powers as an herbalist?
9. Why does Ruby remain terrified of her father after his death, and how does Orion enable her to overcome that fear?
10. *Ruby* closes with a scene involving Ruby and her older sister, Opal. How does Opal connect Ruby to the magic that has protected her since childhood?

### About the Authors

Francesca Lia Block is the author of the *Los Angeles Times* bestsellers *Guarding the Moon*, *The Rose and the Beast*, *Violet & Claire*, and *Dangerous Angels: The Weetzie Bat Books*, as well as *Necklace of Kisses* and many other books. She lives in Los Angeles.

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