



2005

Ruby Tuesday

Lillian Heil

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Heil, Lillian (2005) "Ruby Tuesday," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 26 : Iss. 2 , Article 17.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol26/iss2/17>

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Kogler, Jennifer Anne. *Ruby Tuesday*. HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN 0060739568. \$16.89. 307 pp.

Reviewer: Lillian H. Heil

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction;

Subject: Self-perception--Juvenile fiction; Gambling--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Eleven, going on twelve, year old Ruby Tuesday comes of age. She discovers that her math-whiz-father, Hollis, figures the odds for an illegal bookie in Las Vegas. When the bookie is murdered, Hollis is the chief suspect. Ruby's glamorous mother, Marlene (who Ruby thought had deserted her), arrives to whisk Ruby off to Las Vegas to be with her high living grandmother, out of a possibly dangerous situation, and to cash in on her father's bet that is worth millions. Hollis is cleared by new information in the case. Grandmother dies and sends a letter to Ruby's father to explain that she persuaded a mobster to kill the bookie because the bookie was planning to kill her son, Ruby's father. Ruby intercepts the letter, finally decides to show it to her father who then has Ruby drop the incriminating evidence into the grave with her grandmother. 'All's well that ends well' as Ruby decides all her relatives really love her even if they do live outside or on the fringes of the law.

The story was fast moving with convincing characterizations of rather unusual people. The betting language is confusing but young readers may be quicker at learning it along with Ruby. It does end on a positive note with the heroine convinced that having the love of her family is the important thing. The reviewer's initial reaction was negative because of the life style of grandmother and mother but other reviewers said they thought some children in single parent homes might feel a kinship with Ruby and the problems with which the adults in her life are faced. They might find it encouraging reading with a positive ending.