2015

Key to the Catalyst #1: A Riddle in Ruby

Aylea Stephens

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Stephens, Aylea (2015) "Key to the Catalyst #1: A Riddle in Ruby," Children's Book and Media Review: Vol. 36 : Iss. 7 , Article 28. Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol36/iss7/28

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
Title: Key to the Catalyst #1: A Riddle in Ruby  
Author: Kent Davis  
Reviewer: Aylea Stephens  
Publisher: Greenwillow Books  
Publication Year: 2015  
ISBN: 9780062368348  
Number of Pages: 432  
Interest Level: Intermediate  
Rating: Dependable

Review

Ruby Teach is a trained thief, a good liar, and the daughter of a fake pirate. When she meets the young lord Athen, her life changes forever. Her father’s boat is attacked by mysterious people, and Ruby learns that she has been on the run from both the Royal Navy and secret societies, both of which are now chasing her. Ruby has to learn who to trust and who not to trust as she tries to stay safe, find out who has kidnapped her father, and the secret behind why everyone seems to be after Ruby and her family.

Set in the unique fantasy setting of an alternate colonial Philadelphia, Ruby’s world is a fun mixture of chemistry, magic and science blended together to create an entirely different sort of industrial revolution. The action of the book is almost nonstop, always having Ruby and her traveling companions in some kind of danger. For some, this will make the plot advance quickly, while for others it will make the book feel dragged out. Some of the plot twists seem somewhat random, and there are some unexplained factors that hopefully will be further developed and resolved in the rest of the series. The unique setting and unusual situation might cause some confusion for the reader, but many readers will still be interested enough to eagerly look forward to the next book in the series.