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### Key to the Catalyst #1: A Riddle in Ruby

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# Book Review

**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.