



***One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies* by Sonya Sones**

ISBN: 9781442493834 (Trade Paperback)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2013

*Age Range: 12+ (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

When Ruby's mother dies, she's dragged three thousand miles away from her gorgeous boyfriend, Ray, to live in LA with her father, who she's only ever seen in movies. He's a mega-famous actor who divorced her mom before Ruby was even born, and while the rest of the world may love him, Ruby definitely does not.

But as time passes and pages turn, Ruby comes to understand that circumstances are far more complicated than they seem, and sometimes forgiveness is found where you least expect it.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Sones' novel is an unusual combination of over-the-top Hollywood fairy tale and sharp, honest story about overcoming grief ... It's Ruby's first-person voice—acrimonious, raw, and very funny—that pulls everything together, whether she is writing e-mails to her deceased mother or attending Dream Analysis class at a private L.A. high school... A satisfying, moving novel that will be a winner for both eager and reluctant readers." — [Booklist](#), **starred review**

★ "This is not just another one of those gimmicky novels written in poetry. It's solid and well written, and Sones has a lot to say about the importance of carefully assessing people and situations and about opening the door to one's own happiness." — [School Library Journal](#), **starred review**

"Short stream-of-consciousness free-verse poems make up most of the narrative, by turns bathing readers in Ruby's emotions and treating them to very sharp, very funny observations about L.A. ... Ruby's eventual adjustment and her rapprochement with her father (cue the violins) will come as no surprise to readers but, hey—this is Hollywood after all, and sometimes a happy ending is exactly what we need." — [Kirkus Reviews](#)

"Sones's sparse, carefully chosen prose is the star here, conveying Ruby's conflicts of home, friendship and family in a sympathetic, thoroughly believable manner. Ruby's grieving for her mother is heartbreaking, but also humorous and never overwrought. Without being preachy, Sones addressed stereotyping, variations of friendship, betrayal by loved ones, and parent-child relationships." —Carlisle K. Webber, [VOYA](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- South Carolina Picture Book Award Nominee
- ALA Best Books For Young Adults

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Contact: Education.library@simonandschuster.com

- ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
- ILA Young Adults' Choices
- Iowa Teen Award Nominee
- Charlotte Award Suggested Reading List (NY)
- PSLA Fiction List
- Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best
- Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award Master List
- Texas Tayshas High School Reading List
- Garden State Teen Book Award Nominee (NJ)
- Maine Student Book Award Reading List
- Arizona Young Reader Book Award Nominee
- NYPL Best Books for Teens
- Rhode Island Teen Book Award Nominee
- YASIG Best of the Best (MO)
- Florida Teens Read Master List
- SSLI Book Award Honor Book
- Pennsylvania School Librarian Association (PSLA) "Top Ten (Or So)" Young Adult Books
- Westchester's Choice
- Gateway Readers Award Final Nominee (MO)
- Volunteer State Book Award Nominee (TN)
- Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award Nominee
- Kansas NEA Reading Circle List Starred High School Title
- Isinglass Award (NH)

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [*You Can't Say That! Writers for Young People to Talk About Censorship, Free Expression, and the Stories They Have to Tell*](#)
- [Sonya Sones, Interviewed by Roz Weisberg](#)
- [Musings of a "Sexually-Explicit" Author](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

In 2012, Sonya Sones wrote a [letter to Superintendent Serbert](#) in response to a mother's banned book request:

- "If [she] thinks the book is inappropriate for her own child, then by all means she should not allow her child to read it. But it **would be unfair and inappropriate for her to try to force her own personal beliefs on every other family with children** attending Theisen Middle School, or any other school in the district."
- "Sophie steadfastly refuses to let Dylan push her to go further than she wants. I included this in my book to suggest to girls that they should never allow boys to pressure them into doing anything that they don't want to do... **so many books make it seem like the norm for teens to be having sexual intercourse, and mine does just the opposite.**"
- "The only reason I have the boy use [a slang expression for masturbation] is to warn young girls that internet relationships can be highly dangerous."
- "[The lead character, Sophie, responds] to [the older boy on the street corner's] molestation is to chase him down and kick and hit him. This hopefully shows girls that they shouldn't sit silently by if, God forbid, they are ever attacked themselves."

AUTHOR STATEMENTS

"I love it when my books are banned because it gives me the chance to speak out about why I think books shouldn't be banned." —Sonya Sones, sonyasones.com

"I can understand the desire for a parent to want to protect their child, but the best possible thing would be is if the parent and child both read the book and read it together and then had a discussion about what they felt when they read it and how they could work together to make sure something like that doesn't happen to the child." —Sonya Sones, KSL.com

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***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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