

the ruby in her navel

The Ruby in Her Navel: A Symbol of Beauty, Culture, and Intrigue

the ruby in her navel is more than just a poetic phrase; it evokes an image of exotic charm, mystery, and timeless allure. Throughout history and across various cultures, the navel has been considered a sensual and significant part of the human body, and adorning it with a ruby or other gemstones adds layers of symbolism and aesthetic appeal. In this article, we will explore the cultural significance, historical background, fashion trends, and the mystique surrounding the ruby in her navel, while also delving into the practical aspects of navel jewelry and gemstone symbolism.

The Cultural Significance of Navel Adornments

The navel, often called the belly button, is a unique part of the human anatomy. It marks the connection between a mother and child before birth and often symbolizes life, origin, and femininity. Across many cultures, adorning the navel with jewelry has been a form of expression, identity, and beauty.

Historical Perspectives

In ancient civilizations such as India and Egypt, navel decorations were common among women of status and power. The ruby, known for its vibrant red hue, was especially prized. In Indian culture, for example, the navel is considered a chakra point—a center of energy and creativity. Wearing a ruby in the navel was believed to enhance vitality and passion.

Similarly, in ancient Egypt, gemstones like rubies were associated with protection and life force. Women sometimes wore elaborate jewelry, including pieces that highlighted the midriff and navel, as a sign of fertility and allure.

Modern Cultural Influences

Fast forward to contemporary times, the trend of navel piercings and decorative jewelry has become popular worldwide, especially in Western fashion circles. The ruby in her navel is often seen not only as a beautiful accessory but also as a statement of individuality and confidence. Celebrities and fashion icons have popularized navel jewelry, making it a mainstream fashion trend.

The Symbolism Behind the Ruby in Her Navel

Rubies have long been revered for their rich symbolism. Known as the “king of gemstones,” the ruby is associated with passion, love, courage, and vitality. When placed in such an intimate and visible position as the navel, the stone’s meaning is amplified.

Passion and Vitality

The ruby’s deep red color represents intense emotions and life energy. Wearing a ruby in the navel is said to stimulate passion and boost confidence. Many believe that such an adornment can rekindle the wearer’s zest for life and inspire creativity.

Protection and Healing

Throughout history, rubies have been thought to possess protective and healing properties. In some cultures, the ruby in her navel is believed to safeguard against negative energies or illnesses. It is even said to improve circulation and strengthen the heart, metaphorically connecting the wearer to physical and emotional well-being.

Fashion and Styling Tips for Ruby Navel Jewelry

If the idea of a ruby in her navel intrigues you, there are plenty of ways to incorporate this dazzling look into your personal style. Whether you’re considering a ruby navel piercing or simply want to wear a ruby-studded belly chain, here are some tips to keep in mind.

Choosing the Right Ruby Jewelry

Not all rubies are created equal. When selecting ruby navel jewelry, consider the following:

- **Quality:** Look for natural rubies with vibrant color and minimal inclusions for the best appearance.
- **Setting:** Choose settings that securely hold the ruby, such as bezel or prong settings, especially for piercings where comfort and durability matter.

- **Metal Type:** Hypoallergenic metals like surgical steel, titanium, or gold are ideal for navel jewelry to prevent irritation.

Styling Ideas

The ruby's fiery red lends itself well to various fashion styles. Consider pairing ruby navel jewelry with:

- Bohemian or ethnic-inspired outfits that highlight midriff-baring styles.
- Formal evening wear with cut-outs or sheer panels to subtly reveal the jewel.
- Beachwear and swimsuits where the ruby can catch the sunlight and create a captivating sparkle.

Practicalities and Care of Navel Jewelry with Rubies

Wearing a ruby in her navel requires some care to maintain both the jewelry's beauty and your skin's health.

Aftercare for Navel Piercings

If you are getting a navel piercing with a ruby stud, proper aftercare is crucial:

1. Clean the piercing with saline solution twice daily.
2. Avoid touching the piercing with dirty hands.
3. Wear loose clothing to prevent irritation.
4. Avoid swimming in pools or hot tubs for the first few weeks.

Cleaning Ruby Jewelry

Rubies are relatively hard, but they can still be damaged by harsh chemicals. To keep your ruby navel jewelry sparkling:

- Clean with warm soapy water and a soft brush.
- Rinse thoroughly and dry with a soft cloth.
- Avoid ultrasonic cleaners if the ruby is set with delicate materials.

The Allure of the Ruby in Her Navel in Art and Literature

The image of the ruby in her navel has inspired artists, poets, and writers for centuries. It often symbolizes forbidden desire, beauty, and the mystery of femininity.

Literary References

In poetry and prose, the phrase “the ruby in her navel” conjures a vivid picture of exotic beauty and sensuality. Writers use it to evoke a sense of passion and mystique, often describing a character whose allure is enhanced by this striking adornment.

Visual Arts and Cinematic Depictions

Paintings and films set in exotic locales frequently feature women adorned with striking navel jewelry, including rubies. This visual motif signifies both cultural richness and an intimate glimpse into personal identity and expression.

Exploring the ruby in her navel reveals a fascinating blend of history, symbolism, and modern fashion. Whether admired for its cultural roots or embraced as a bold style statement, this captivating adornment continues to enchant and inspire. Its fiery glow and the sensual placement make it a timeless emblem of beauty and vitality, inviting admiration and curiosity wherever it gleams.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Ruby in Her Navel' about?

'The Ruby in Her Navel' is a novel by Kamila Shamsie that explores the intertwined lives of two families in Pakistan, delving into themes of political unrest, personal identity, and the impact of history on individual lives.

Who is the author of 'The Ruby in Her Navel'?

The author of 'The Ruby in Her Navel' is Kamila Shamsie, a British-Pakistani writer known for her compelling storytelling and exploration of cultural and political issues.

When was 'The Ruby in Her Navel' published?

'The Ruby in Her Navel' was published in 2006.

What are the main themes of 'The Ruby in Her Navel'?

The main themes include political conflict, family dynamics, identity, memory, and the socio-political history of Pakistan.

Is 'The Ruby in Her Navel' based on real events?

While 'The Ruby in Her Navel' is a work of fiction, it is set against the backdrop of real political events and turmoil in Pakistan, providing a realistic context for the story.

Has 'The Ruby in Her Navel' received any literary awards?

Yes, 'The Ruby in Her Navel' has been critically acclaimed and was shortlisted for the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize.

What narrative style is used in 'The Ruby in Her Navel'?

The novel employs multiple perspectives, shifting between different characters to provide a multifaceted view of the story.

How does 'The Ruby in Her Navel' portray Pakistan's political history?

The novel portrays Pakistan's political history through personal stories and family experiences, highlighting the effects of dictatorship, military coups,

and social upheaval.

Why is the book titled 'The Ruby in Her Navel'?

The title 'The Ruby in Her Navel' symbolizes something precious and hidden, reflecting the novel's themes of inner strength, secrets, and the core of personal and political identity.

Additional Resources

The Ruby in Her Navel: An In-Depth Exploration of Symbolism, Culture, and Artistic Interpretation

the ruby in her navel is a phrase that evokes vivid imagery, blending mystique with cultural depth. This evocative expression has captured the imagination of artists, writers, and cultural historians alike, symbolizing more than just a precious gem placed on an unconventional spot of the human body. From literary metaphors to traditional jewelry, the concept of a ruby adorning the navel intertwines with themes of beauty, sensuality, and identity.

Understanding the significance of the ruby in her navel requires an exploration that spans jewelry history, cultural symbolism, and artistic representation. This article takes an investigative approach, dissecting the layers of meaning associated with this motif, while also analyzing its impact on contemporary fashion and narrative art.

The Symbolic Resonance of the Ruby in Her Navel

Rubies have long been prized for their rich red hue and rarity, often associated with passion, vitality, and power. When positioned in the navel, a body part central both anatomically and symbolically, the ruby transcends its role as a gemstone to become a focal point of personal and cultural expression.

Historical and Cultural Context

In many cultures, the navel is perceived as a symbol of life and origin, being the physical reminder of the umbilical connection between mother and child. Jewelry placed on or around the navel has been a practice in various societies, often tied to rites of passage, fertility, or status.

- ****South Asian Traditions:**** In India and neighboring regions, navel piercings adorned with precious stones, including rubies, are not uncommon. They are sometimes linked to beliefs about enhancing feminine allure and

energy.

- **Ancient Symbolism:** The navel as the "center of the universe" appears in ancient art and mythology, making the placement of a ruby—a stone symbolizing the heart and fire—particularly potent.

Literary and Artistic Interpretations

The phrase "the ruby in her navel" is not solely a literal reference but often a metaphor used in poetry, prose, and visual art. It conjures images of hidden treasures and intimate beauty, blending corporeal reality with allegorical depth.

- **Metaphorical Use:** Writers have employed this imagery to depict a character's inner vitality or secret allure. The ruby, glowing warmly against the skin, suggests an inner flame or passion.

- **Artistic Depictions:** Paintings and sculptures have occasionally featured navel adornments to highlight themes of fertility, femininity, and sensuality, with the ruby acting as a symbol of concentrated energy or desire.

Contemporary Fashion and the Navel Ruby

In modern times, the ruby in her navel has taken on new dimensions within fashion and body art. The rise of navel piercings since the late 20th century has propelled this form of adornment into global popularity.

Popularity of Navel Piercing with Gemstones

Navel piercings became a widespread fashion statement in the 1990s and continue to be popular among various age groups. The choice of gemstone, including rubies, adds an element of luxury and personalization.

- **Aesthetic Appeal:** The deep red color of rubies contrasts strikingly with skin tones, making it a favored choice for those seeking a bold yet elegant look.

- **Symbolic Personalization:** Some wearers choose rubies for their supposed metaphysical properties—such as promoting passion and vitality—giving the jewelry a dual role as adornment and talisman.

Pros and Cons of Ruby Navel Jewelry

- **Pros:** High aesthetic value, symbolic richness, durability of ruby

stones, and the ability to elevate navel piercings into statement pieces.

- **Cons:** Rubies can be expensive, requiring careful maintenance. Additionally, the weight of larger stones may cause discomfort or complications with healing piercings.

Scientific and Material Considerations of Rubies in Body Jewelry

A practical look at rubies as materials used in navel jewelry reveals considerations about their suitability, safety, and longevity.

Gemstone Properties Relevant to Body Jewelry

Rubies are a variety of the mineral corundum, ranking 9 on the Mohs hardness scale, making them highly resistant to scratching and abrasion.

- **Durability:** This hardness ensures that ruby jewelry can withstand daily wear, an important factor for navel piercings exposed to clothing and movement.
- **Color Stability:** Unlike some gemstones, rubies maintain their vibrant red hue over time, unaffected by sunlight, which is beneficial for body jewelry exposed to various environmental conditions.

Material Safety and Hypoallergenic Considerations

When placed in close contact with skin, materials must be non-toxic and hypoallergenic to prevent irritation or infection.

- **Setting and Metal Choice:** While the ruby itself is inert, it is typically set in metals such as surgical steel, titanium, or gold to ensure compatibility with the skin.
- **Hygiene and Maintenance:** Proper care is essential to prevent the buildup of bacteria around the piercing and gemstone, which underscores the importance of professional piercing and high-quality jewelry.

The Ruby in Her Navel in Popular Culture

Beyond its literal and symbolic meanings, the image of the ruby in her navel

has permeated popular culture, influencing music, film, and advertising.

Music and Lyrics

Several songs and albums reference gemstones and body adornments metaphorically to express themes of desire, mystery, or personal empowerment. The ruby in particular evokes a sense of fiery passion and rare beauty.

Film and Visual Media

In cinematic depictions, close-ups of navel jewelry, especially with rubies, are often employed to convey sensuality or highlight a character's exotic allure. This visual motif serves as a storytelling device, adding layers to character development.

Advertising and Fashion Campaigns

Luxury brands have occasionally used the concept of the ruby in her navel to market jewelry lines aimed at younger, fashion-forward demographics. These campaigns blend traditional symbolism with contemporary aesthetics to appeal to a wide audience.

Conclusion: The Enduring Allure of the Ruby in Her Navel

The ruby in her navel represents a fascinating intersection of cultural tradition, personal expression, and material elegance. Whether viewed as a literal piece of jewelry, a poetic metaphor, or a cultural symbol, it resonates deeply across multiple contexts. Its continued prominence in fashion and art underscores the timeless human fascination with adornment and meaning, situated in the intimate and central space of the body. As trends evolve, the ruby in her navel remains a compelling emblem of beauty, vitality, and individuality.

[The Ruby In Her Navel](#)

the ruby in her navel: [The Ruby in Her Navel](#) Barry Unsworth, 2017-11-14 In twelfth-century Norman Sicily, King Roger presides over Palermo in the aftermath of the Second Crusade. For the time being, Latins and Greeks, Arabs and Jews are living together in uneasy harmony. Within this milieu, young Thurstan Beauchamp serves faithfully as a civil servant of the king, his daily

environment filled with tiny accountings, schemes, machinations, and bribes. When he is dispatched to investigate a conspiracy against the king, he will find his loyalties tested—and, when he encounters both his childhood sweetheart and a seductive dancer, his heart torn. An extraordinary tale of ambition, politics, and the loss of innocence, set against the glittering backdrop of medieval Europe, *The Ruby in Her Navel* powerfully traces the clash of civilizations from its historical origins, with deep resonances for today.

the ruby in her navel: *The Ruby in Her Navel* Barry Unsworth, 2014-12

the ruby in her navel: *The Ruby in Her Navel* Barry Unsworth, 2009-02-04 Set in the Middle Ages during the brief yet glittering rule of the Norman kings, *The Ruby in Her Navel* is a tale in which the conflicts of the past portend the present. The novel opens in Palermo, in which Latin and Greek, Arab and Jew live together in precarious harmony. Thurstan Beauchamp, the Christian son of a Norman knight, works for Yusuf, a Muslim Arab, in the palace's central finance office, a job which includes the management of blackmail and bribes, and the gathering of secret information for the king. But the peace and prosperity of the kingdom is being threatened, internally as well as externally. Known for his loyalty but divided between the ideals of chivalry and the harsh political realities of his tumultuous times, Thurstan is dispatched to uncover the conspiracies brewing against his king. During his journeys, he encounters the woman he loved as a youth; and the renewed promise of her love, as well as the mysterious presence of an itinerant dancing girl, sends him on a spiritual odyssey that forces him to question the nature of his ambition and the folly of uncritical reverence for authority. With the exquisite prose and masterful narrative drive that have earned him widespread acclaim, Barry Unsworth transports the reader to a distant past filled with deception and mystery, and whose racial, tribal, and religious tensions are still with us today.

the ruby in her navel: *The Man of Maybe Half-a-Dozen Faces* Ray Vukceovich, 2025-09-23 *The Man of Maybe Half-a-Dozen Faces* by Ray Vukceovich The first victim is found dead with a number painted all over his body. The second victim is also murdered by strangulation with a computer printer cable. And there seems to be something fishy about beautiful Prudence Deerfield, the woman who brings the case to Skylight Howells. Skylight confers with Dennis, and they both discuss the case with Scarface, Dieter, and Brian Dobson's other personalities before taking the case. Once they do, we're in for one of the wildest, wackiest mysteries to come down the pipe in years. You won't need six heads to crack this case, but they probably wouldn't hurt.

the ruby in her navel: *Reckoning of Fallen Gods* R. A. Salvatore, 2024-09-04 The New York Times- bestselling author's medieval fantasy adventure continues with this swift-moving tale of sword and sorcery (Publishers Weekly). The winds of change are blowing upon Fireach Speur. When the orphaned witch Aoelyn risked her life to save the trader Talmadge, it cost her everything that is dear to her. But Talmadge survived and can't forget the amazing woman that killed a god. Little do they realize, war is coming to the mountain. Far to the west, a fallen empire stirs. One that sees a solar eclipse as a call to war. Their empire once dominated the known world . . . and now they want to reclaim it.

the ruby in her navel: *A Shimmering, Serrated Monster!* Mark Leyner, 2024-12-03 An all-access ticket to the celebrated and wholly original mind of Mark Leyner, “one of the smartest and funniest humans since Aristophanes” (Jay McInerney) Praised as “chaotic and vibrant” (Charles Yu), “visionary” (Sam Lipsyte), and “supremely original” (John Cusack), the work of Mark Leyner has inspired a generation of contemporary novelists and has long deserved its place of recognition among the literary superstars of the seismic postmodernism-influenced movement of the early 21st century. *A Shimmering, Serrated Monster!:* The Mark Leyner Reader samples the staggering highlights from Leyner's extraordinary career in all of its bizarre and infatuating glory, with excerpts spanning from his groundbreaking early novels *My Cousin*, *My Gastroenterologist* (1990) and *Et Tu, Babe* (1992) to his modern masterpieces *The Sugar-Frosted Nutsack* (2012) and *The Last Orgy of the Divine Hermit* (2021). Appreciations from modern masters introduce each novel and the book includes original pieces in Leyner's irrepressible voice, including a timeline (“The Story So Far”) and a new Afterword (“The Highlighted Passages”). This comprehensive volume is the perfect entry point

for readers attracted to mind-expanding prose, and a bouquet of delights for those who have loved any of his past works.

the ruby in her navel: *Blue Fire* E.C. Blake, 1901 From the author of the acclaimed fantasy trilogy *The Masks of Agryma*, published by DAW Books, comes another epic YA fantasy adventure. Centuries ago, the people of Nevyana were forced to leave their old kingdom across the sea after it was devastated by the War of the Twelve Gods. The only three Gods to survive that war, Vekrin of the Earth, Arrica of the Sun, and Ell of the Moon, agreed to leave the affairs of men alone--but not until they gave their followers a few final magical Gifts. Vekrin and Arrica gave their followers the gift of Blue Fire, a powerful force that could provide light, heat, and protection--or be turned into a powerful weapon. But Ell chose instead to utterly transform her followers into the almost feline Nightdwellers, nocturnal creatures with fur, teeth, and claws. Enmity quickly arose among the three groups, and now the Nightdwellers rule the night, killing any ordinary humans they catch out after sunset. Vekrin's followers became the Citydwellers, retreating behind stout walls of stone, protected by the Blue Fire-powered firelances of the Priests. And Arrica's followers became the Freefolk, able to travel through the wilderness protected by a Fence of Blue Fire, but always in danger of Nightdweller attack. When sacred objects for channelling Blue Fire are stolen, three sworn enemies, Petra of the Citydwellers, Amlinn of the Freefolk, and Jin of the Nightdwellers, set out to find them, and their paths converge on a collision course with the truth. Can they bridge the centuries-old divisions among their communities? Or will their search for the truth and the explosive power of Blue Fire signal the end of Nevyana?

the ruby in her navel: *On the Edge* Edward St. Aubyn, 2014-10-14 FROM THE MAN BOOKER-SHORTLISTED AUTHOR OF THE PATRICK MELROSE NOVELS Called the most brilliant novelist of his generation (Alan Hollinghurst), Edward St. Aubyn captivated and astonished readers and critics alike with his mesmerizing quintet, the Patrick Melrose novels. Its publication introduced one of the most complex and fascinating protagonists in modern fiction. Now being published for the first time in America, *On the Edge* is an uproarious and sharply rendered satire of the New Age, which shows St. Aubyn at his finest. Peter Thorpe is disillusioned with his conventional life as a merchant banker until he meets Sabine, the most enchanting and enigmatic woman he's ever encountered. His desire for her reaches such a pitch that he overturns his whole life, leaving everything behind to follow her into the stronghold of the New Age movement among the stunning peaks and valleys of Big Sur, California. There he meets an eccentric cast of spiritual seekers, joining them in pursuit of that elusive something (happiness?), which he never before dared to imagine possible.

the ruby in her navel: *Masked in Paradise* Charley Marsh, 2020-05-01 Amateur sleuth Harriet Monroe's new job as PR director for the exclusive Island Resort is a dream come true. Except for the dead bodies that keep turning up. Working in public relations means Harriet needs to experience everything the resort has to offer. She takes her closest friend with her to check out the resort's amazing spa--only to have a woman collapse and die at their feet before they even make it past the reception area. According to the granddaughter, the dead woman had no known enemies. So who wanted her dead? Harriet needs to help the island's security director find the answer before word of the murder gets picked up by the ever-hungry news media. News of another murder would destroy the newly opened resort's reputation. When a wealthy woman dies unexpectedly the cops always look at who will benefit. The dependent granddaughter? The granddaughter's struggling boyfriend? Another guest? The more answers they find, the more questions they have--until nothing makes any sense. Who killed Alice Haggard and why? A cozy mystery series set on a tropical isle with female amateur sleuth Harriet Monroe.

the ruby in her navel: *The Carlucci Betrayal* Robert B. Wilkins, Sarah Cortez, 2021-10-05 *The Carlucci Betrayal* takes readers deep into the Mississippi Delta during Prohibition to witness the founding of a criminal empire, and not since *The Godfather* has a Mafia family captivated readers the way the Carlucci brothers do in Robert Wilkins' and Sarah Cortez's rollicking novel of love, lust, and naked ambition. —Michael Bracken Anthony Award-nominated editor of *The Eyes of Texas* The

Carlucci Betrayal is a fast-paced, thriller-diller of a crime ride. Newcomer Robert Wilkins and mistress of mystery Sarah Cortez team up to bring fresh action to the crime family novel. Love, lust, and lucre make an explosive combination between two brothers—best friends and best enemies. An extra? The unexpected touches of humor. —Stephanie Jaye Evans Author of Faithful Unto Death, A Sugar Land Mystery It's the 1920s in an America dizzy with hot music, loose morals, and dangerous opportunities to make money. Two small-town brothers, Vince and Frank Carlucci, cash in on their knowledge of the bootlegging business by targeting an island already controlled by two rival crime syndicates. Little do they realize that soon they will be embroiled in more gunfights, intrigue, and searing romance than either one of them had anticipated. As they juggle violent takeover attempts, local animosity, and uneasy political alliances, each of them experiences love and loyalty in unanticipated ways. Accelerating conflicts propel the two brothers into a desperate confrontation under the turbulent winds of a deadly hurricane. Only then, is the Carlucci betrayal finally concluded.

the ruby in her navel: Destination Death Collection Books 1 - 7 Charley Marsh, 2023-04-07 Sunny days and starlit nights. Sugar-fine sand. Palm trees, turquoise water, and the best-equipped marina in the world. An amusement park and circus. The finest dining. All set on a private island. The only spoiler? Murder. Get transported to the amazing Island Resort, the planet's top-rated vacation spot, where the guests have more than fun and relaxation on their minds. Filled with twists, turns, and romance, the Destination Death mysteries deliver unputdownable reads. Now you can get the entire seven book series in one volume.

the ruby in her navel: Spatial Politics in the Postcolonial Novel Sara Upstone, 2016-04-01 In her innovative study of spatial locations in postcolonial texts, Sara Upstone adopts a transnational and comparative approach that challenges the tendency to engage with authors in isolation or in relation to other writers from a single geographical setting. Suggesting that isolating authors in terms of geography reinforces the primacy of the nation, Upstone instead illuminates the power of spatial locales such as the journey, city, home, and body to enable personal or communal statements of resistance against colonial prejudice and its neo-colonial legacies. While focusing on the major texts of Wilson Harris, Toni Morrison, and Salman Rushdie in relation to particular spatial locations, Upstone offers a wide range of examples from other postcolonial authors, including Michael Ondaatje, Keri Hulme, J. M. Coetzee, Arundhati Roy, Tsitsi Dangarembga, and Abdulrazak Gurnah. The result is a strong case for what Upstone terms the 'postcolonial spatial imagination', independent of geography though always fully contextualised. Written in accessible and unhurried prose, Upstone's study is marked by its respect for the ways in which the writers themselves resist not only geographical boundaries but academic categorisation.

the ruby in her navel: Wanting Radiance Karen Salyer McElmurray, 2020-04-21 "An incantatory Appalachian gothic tale of love, murder, and restless souls, populated with unforgettable flesh-and-blood characters . . . [a] masterpiece." —Amy Greene, national bestselling author Miracelle Loving's world comes crashing down when her mother, Ruby, is murdered during a fortune-telling session gone wrong. Without the guidance of her mother, Miracelle grows up following the only path she knows, traveling from town to town, sometimes fortune-telling, picking up odd jobs to fill the time and escape the ever-present lostness she can't seem to run far enough away from. Uncertain of what she wants and, indeed, whether she wants anything or anyone at all, the now thirty-something-year-old finds herself working as a card reader in a Knoxville dive bar, selling fictions as futures, when she is confronted with her mother's ghost voice promising to reveal the truth about her shadowy past. Desperate for answers, Miracelle sets out on a magical road trip unlike any other, in search of her own story and a father she's never known. Following snowy highways and backroads, Miracelle stumbles across a museum of oddities and a hole-in-the-road town called Radiant, ultimately wandering into the town of Smyte, where she begins waitressing at the Black Cat Diner. Here, she befriends card-playing has-been Russell Wallen, whom she joins for a series of nighttime adventures, long drives, and after-dark visits to a Holy Roller church. This mythical journey uncovers family secrets and forgotten truths, transforming a familiar story of love

and betrayal to reveal the binding power of magic and memory. “A poetic tale of a daughter’s quiet exploration of her past and how it pushes her forward.” —The Rumpus

the ruby in her navel: Redemption Falls Joseph O'Connor, 2007-10-09 From the bestselling author of *Star of the Sea* and *Shadowplay*, a novel of epic power, ferocious grit, indomitable resolve, and shattering romance, set in a savage and lawless Western Territory in the aftermath of the Civil War. 1865—the Civil War is ending. Eighteen years after the Irish famine-ship *Star of the Sea* docked at New York, a daughter of its journey, Eliza Duane Mooney, sets out on foot from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, crossing a ravaged continent on a quest. Eliza is searching for a young boy she has not seen in four years, one of the hundred thousand children drawn into the war. His fate has been mysterious and will prove extraordinary. It is a walk that will have consequences for many seemingly unconnected survivors: the stunning intellectual Lucia-Cruz McLelland, who deserts New York City to cast her fate with mercurial hero James Con O’Keeffe—convict, revolutionary, and commander of a brigade of Irish immigrants in the Union Army turned governor of the desolate Western township of Redemption Falls; rebel guerilla Cole McLaurenson, who fuels his own gruesome Westward mission with the blind rage of an outlaw; and runaway slave Elizabeth Longstreet, who turns resentment into grace in a Western wilderness where nothing is as it seems. *Redemption Falls* is a Dickensian tale of war and forgiveness, of strangers in a strange land, of love put to the ultimate test. Packed with music, poetry, and storytelling, this is a vivid mosaic of a vast country driven wild by war (Irish Independent) and a riveting tale of urgent contemporary resonance.

the ruby in her navel: The Complete Rulebooks Cara Malone, 2025-07-01 Max Saddler doesn’t believe in love—not for herself, anyway. With her sharp mind, blunt honesty, and autism diagnosis, she’s spent her life on the outside looking in, studying connection instead of pursuing it. But everything changes when she meets Ruby Satterwhite—charming, confident, and everything Max isn’t. What starts as a tense academic rivalry sparks into something far more powerful... and far more complicated. The *Rulebooks* series follows Max and Ruby across three unforgettable stages of love: falling, staying, and growing together. From first sparks and messy miscommunications to career changes, family pressure, and the question of parenthood, their story is one of navigating life—and each other—on their own terms. Smart, funny, and full of heart, this sapphic romance trilogy explores what it really takes to build a lasting relationship when love doesn’t follow a script. Perfect for fans of character-driven romance, neurodiverse rep, and slow-burn emotional payoffs that stick with you long after the final chapter.

the ruby in her navel: Fire Light J. Abram Barneck, 2013-10-04 Jake is a geek—part jock, part geek—who finds out he’s an unwitting target of genocide against a secret society known as the Druids—a society he didn’t even know he belonged to. O’Brien, one of the last druids, is his mentor. Unfortunately, he is a dud when it comes to magic, but at least he is ex-military. As for picking his girlfriend . . . well, that’s a split decision. Alexis and Kendra are opposites in almost every way. Now, if he can just survive the nightwalker—an obsidian-skinned creature with a thirst for blood and a banshee’s mind-destroying scream, who wears a cloak black enough to make the grim reaper jealous—then he might have a chance. Ultimately, protecting his loved ones, and himself if possible, becomes his priority.

the ruby in her navel: Promise Rachel Eliza Griffiths, 2024-08-06 Two Black sisters growing up in small-town New England fight to protect their home, their bodies, and their dreams as the Civil Rights Movement sweeps the nation in *Promise*, a “magical, magnificent novel” (Marlon James) from “a startlingly fresh voice” (Jacqueline Woodson). A KIRKUS REVIEWS AND CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR The people of Salt Point could indeed be fearful about the world beyond themselves; most of them would be born and die without ever having gone more than twenty or thirty miles from houses that were crammed with generations of their families. . . . But something was shifting at the end of summer 1957. The Kindred sisters—Ezra and Cinthy—have grown up with an abundance of love. Love from their parents, who let them believe that the stories they tell on stars can come true. Love from their neighbors, the Junketts, the only other Black family

in town, whose home is filled with spice-rubbed ribs and ground-shaking hugs. And love for their adopted hometown of Salt Point, a beautiful Maine village perched high up on coastal bluffs. But as the girls hit adolescence, their white neighbors, including Ezra's best friend, Ruby, start to see their maturing bodies and minds in a different way. And as the news from distant parts of the country fills with calls for freedom, equality, and justice for Black Americans, the white villagers of Salt Point begin to view the Kindreds and the Junketts as threats to their way of life. Amid escalating violence, prejudice, and fear, bold Ezra and watchful Cinthy must reach deep inside the wells of love they've built to commit great acts of heroism and grace on the path to survival. In luminous, richly descriptive writing, Promise celebrates one family's story of resistance. It's a book that will break your heart—and then rebuild it with courage, hope, and love.

the ruby in her navel: *Brenna and the Horses of Lusayana* ,

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