

## The Boyfriend List: 15 Guys, 11 Shrink Appointments, 4 Ceramic Frogs and Me, Ruby Oliver (Ruby Oliver Quartet)

By E. Lockhart

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From E. Lockhart, author of the highly acclaimed, *New York Times* bestseller *We Were Liars*, which John Green called "utterly unforgettable," comes *The Boyfriend List*, the first book in the uproarious and heartwarming Ruby Oliver novels.

Ruby Oliver is 15 and has a shrink. She knows it's unusual, but give her a break—she's had a rough 10 days. In the past 10 days she:

*lost her boyfriend (#13 on the list),*

*lost her best friend (Kim),*

*lost all her other friends (Nora, Cricket),*

*did something suspicious with a boy (#10),*

*did something advanced with a boy (#15),*

*had an argument with a boy (#14),*

*drank her first beer (someone handed it to her),*

*got caught by her mom (ag!),*

*had a panic attack (scary),*

*lost a lacrosse game (she's the goalie),*

*failed a math test (she'll make it up),*


*hurt Meghan's feelings (even though they aren't really friends),*

*became a social outcast (no one to sit with at lunch)*

*and had graffiti written about her in the girls' bathroom (who knows what was in the boys'!?!).*

But don't worry—Ruby lives to tell the tale. And make more lists.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Siegfried makes a believable 15-year-old narrator as she slips into the role of Ruby Oliver, a spirited girl struggling with identity and self-esteem after suffering the kind of social crisis that sets high schoolers reeling. Ruby's boyfriend of six months, Jackson, has dumped her in favor of her best friend, Kim. Ruby's resulting panic attacks land her in the office of a shrink, Dr. Z, and part of her therapy involves writing a complete list of the boys with whom she's ever had a crush, kiss, relationship or "little any-kind-of-anything." As listeners learn about each entry on the boyfriend list (including lots of authentic-sounding dialogue and asides, which appear in the book as footnotes to the list), they hear the Jackson drama and every painful, truthful detail about the clique land mines Ruby must maneuver when it comes to her former friends, to whom she's now a "leper." Via Siegfried's sharp delivery and expert teen inflection, one can almost envision the eye-rolling and other gestures that might accompany Ruby's smart-aleck, I can't-believe-this-humiliating-thing-is-happening-to-me attitude. Ages 12-up. (Mar.)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—Fifteen-year-old Ruby "Roo" Oliver is having a tough year at Tate Prep. Through a series of social debacles, she loses her best friends, her boyfriend, her dignity, and the respect of her fellow Taters in less than two weeks' time. Following nearly half a dozen panic attacks, Roo starts to spend some quality time on Doctor Z.'s couch, where she makes (at her shrink's urging) a list of boyfriends past and present, official and unofficial, and starts on a journey of self-discovery. Along the way, Ruby begins to think about patterns in her life and ways that she might be more like her mother than she'd care to admit. Fortunately, Ruby survives her traumatic exile and lives to tell the tale. Lockhart has created a fun character in the spirit of Louise Rennison's Georgia Nicholson and Helen Fielding's Bridget Jones. Ruby is a likable and empathetic character whose quirks and behaviors will strike a chord with many readers. The snappy dialogue makes this story a winner, though the language and discussion of sexually charged situations are frank. The scenarios all ring true, as does Roo's inner voice. Though the novel starts off a bit slowly, and it takes a while to get used to the funny footnotes, it gains speed, and the comedy of errors will have readers laughing out loud. Teens will soon be listing the reasons they want another Ruby adventure.—*Elaine Baran Black, Gwinnett County Public Library, Lawrenceville, GA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 8-11. Fifteen-year-old Ruby Oliver's life is full of challenges. She lives on a houseboat; attends private school--on scholarship; and her boyfriend has dumped her for her best friend. Nothing, however, is worse than having her "boyfriend list" (homework from her shrink) passed around school and being branded a "slut." It's her therapy, during which she examines current and past events--including feelings about boys--that helps put Ruby back on track, allowing her to gain insight into her relationships and the importance of self-worth. Ruby's character is sympathetic, witty, and sometimes frustrating, and it shines through her introspective, occasionally funny narrative, which incorporates such familiar teen issues as coping with peer pressure and a broken heart. The time line is somewhat confusing, and the abundant, often lengthy footnoted asides occasionally distract from the story's flow, but readers will find many of Ruby's experiences familiar, and they'll appreciate the story as a lively, often entertaining read. *Shelle Rosenfeld*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jose Carr:**

The book *The Boyfriend List: 15 Guys, 11 Shrink Appointments, 4 Ceramic Frogs and Me*, Ruby Oliver (Ruby Oliver Quartet) gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable much more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem with the subject. If you can make reading a book *The Boyfriend List: 15 Guys, 11 Shrink Appointments, 4 Ceramic Frogs and Me*, Ruby Oliver (Ruby Oliver Quartet) to get your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like open and read a guide *The Boyfriend List: 15 Guys, 11 Shrink Appointments, 4 Ceramic Frogs and Me*, Ruby Oliver (Ruby Oliver Quartet). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this publication?

#### **Cynthia Bryant:**

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