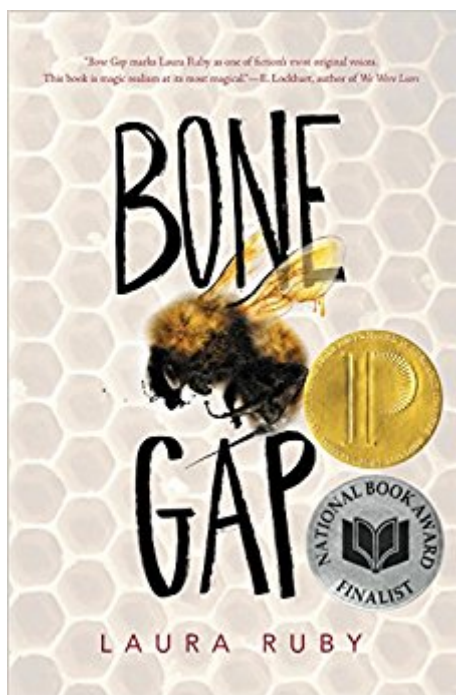


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# Bone Gap



## Synopsis

National Book Award Finalist \* Printz Award Winner for Best Young Adult Book of the Year  
“Ruby’s novel deserves to be read and reread. It is powerful, beautiful, extraordinary.”  
• School Library Journal  
Everyone knows Bone Gap is full of gaps. So when young, beautiful Roza went missing, the people of Bone Gap weren’t surprised. But Finn knows what really happened to Roza. He knows she was kidnapped by a dangerous man whose face he cannot remember. As we follow the stories of Finn, Roza, and the people of Bone Gap, acclaimed author Laura Ruby weaves a tale of the ways in which the face the world sees is never the sum of who we are.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 10 Up • It is a rare book that sits comfortably on the shelf with the works of Twain, McCullers, Conroy, Stephen King, and D'Aulaires' Greek Myths-rarer still that a novel combines elements of these authors together. Bone Gap does just this, to superb effect. We start with a boy named Finn and his brother, Sean. Sean is the classic hero: strong, silent, great at everything he does. Finn is a pretty boy whose otherworldly goofiness has earned him the nicknames Spaceman, Sidetrack, and Moonface. Along comes Rosza, a beautiful and damaged young woman, fleeing from some unknown evil. When she disappears, only Finn witnesses her abduction and he is unable to describe her captor. He is also unsure whether she left by force or choice. The author defies readers' expectations at every turn. In this world, the evidence of one's senses counts for little; appearances, even less. Heroism isn't born of muscle, competence, and desire, but of the ability to

look beyond the surface and embrace otherworldliness and kindred spirits. Sex happens, but almost incidentally. Evil happens, embodied in a timeless, nameless horror that survives on the mere idea of beauty. A powerful novel. —Nina Sachs, Walker Memorial Library, Westbrook, ME --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

“It’s a novel about actual changes in worldview, and all its science and myth and realism and magic are marshaled, finally, to answer crucial questions about empathy and difference, and the way we see people we love.” (New York Times Book Review) “BONE GAP marks Laura Ruby as one of fiction’s most original voices. She is capable of moving you to tears, terrifying you on deep and dreamlike levels, and making your heart shout with happiness. This book is magic realism at its most magical.” (E. Lockhart, author of WE WERE LIARS) “Ruby’s novel deserves to be read and reread. It is powerful, beautiful, extraordinary.” (SLJ) “With rich characters, captivating world building, and a stunning secret at its heart, BONE GAP is utterly bewitching.” (ALA Booklist (starred review)) “Cleverly conceived, and lusciously written.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) “The real magic in Bone Gap is the discovery of love, an idea many stories misrepresent but Bone Gap explores with the utmost honesty and truth.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) (starred review))

In the small town of Bone Gap where the corn whispers almost as much as the people do, there is a mysterious man who walks between the worlds. It is no surprise when people suddenly leave town, as Finn and Sean’s mom and boyfriend did a few years back. So when the beautiful Roza disappeared one night, no one from town was surprised. Young Finn saw the whole thing, the man in the black SUV took her away, but no one believed him. The beautiful Roza who he had found battered and beaten laying on a pile of hay in the old red barn was gone. His brother Sean had nursed her back to health while she stayed in the unrented room of their house. The beautiful Roza who baked the most delicious cookies, who made Sean smile again, was gone. Just like his mom was gone. Roza is a foreign exchange student from Poland who finds herself the object of a cruel man’s world, the object of the dark man’s affection. He can give her anything she wants, a castle with servants and beautiful clothes, her own personal chef — just love him, just love him. But she does not, she loves Sean and longs for his rescue. She longs to go home to her “babcia,” her grandma in Poland. In the meantime, Finn finds summer love and someone who finally believes in him. Priscilla,

(don't call me that!), Petey Willis lived with her mom and the bees. They made the sweet honey cakes for the café, and Petey made sweet honey kisses in the light of the moon. Finn snuck away every night on the black mare (which appeared in the barn just as suddenly as Roza did) and the two rode in between the worlds and back again. Then Finn saw that man again, only this time he was across the street at old man Valentine's house. That dark man knew everything, he knew about Petey and Sean, and where was Roza? What did Valentine know? He knew enough to confirm to Finn that he was the only one who could go after her, he was the only one who could see her. No one in the town believed him, not even Sean. He was too blinded by his pain, his anger at having been left by everyone he loved. Finn had to do it, he had to save Roza. He left that night in search of the gap, the place where the two worlds collide, where the corn whispers "here, here, here." The mare couldn't take him, he had to do this alone. How will he ever find Roza? Will he find his way home again, or be lost to the other world forever? I know how it ends, but I would not want to ruin it for you. You will have to read it yourself, and I would recommend you read it. This book was full of surprises, although it took until the second chapter of the first section before I got into the flow of the way the book was going to go. It jumps back and forth between characters, which is good for a young audience with a short attention span. Two things I really liked about this book. First of all, it was not a typical, scripted, predictable, cliché fantasy teen romance. Secondly, it was full of little metaphors within the writing which gave the story a deeper, twofold meaning as just like the two worlds presented in the story. For example, "least, that's what it looked like. A roped-off room in a castle somewhere, a room made entirely of blocks of stone, icy and cold, even though a fire burned low in the hearth. A room where doomed queens went to die" (Ruby, 2015). This book is a great read for teens and adults!

Bone Gap doesn't really have a real gap..but maybe a magical one. Two brothers Finn and Sean are having growing pains after they were left to take care of each other on their farm. One day a beautiful girl shows up in their barn.. she stays but one day Finn sees her taken captive by a mysterious man. While searching for her, Finn falls in love with the beekeepers daughter who everyone thinks is ugly..except for Finn. She figures out why Finn can't remember the man who stole away the pretty girl from the barn and her faith in love is shaken. But due to Charlie Valentine and a magical Black Horse, the mystery unravels and love prevails. Some concepts like the magic..

weren't explored in any depth.. I know the story's main focus was on love but I think that there were many things that could have been explained better without ruining the plot. The ending.. left me hanging.. like happily ever after..but will they stay or travel?? Other than that I thought it was a curious, and mysterious story and melted my heart!

This is one strange story, and I loved every bit of it. Another reviewer compared it to the works of Neil Gaiman, which is an apt comparison. The nexus of ordinary small-town people with magical horses, incarnated evil and worlds beyond our world is gorgeously and convincingly portrayed. I read it in one evening, yet I could hardly bear to finish it. I wanted it to go on, and on, and on. In short, I was just blown away.

A coming of age story. A fantasy. A story of healing. All told in such a way that draws the reader in because it's not entirely clear how all the pieces fit together until the story's concluding chapter, and even then a few elements aren't completely obvious until the afterward chapter. Still, a good read, and a nice change of pace from linear story telling that makes up the bulk of most contemporary novels.

I bought this book by accident, because contemporary fantasy is not my favorite genre, but I'm glad I did! The characters are fresh, multidimensional and memorable. The town is itself a key character. The richness of detail places the reader squarely within Bone Gap, its fields, houses, and gathering places; the setting is both ordinary and magical. At the center are relationships--between Finn and his older brother Sean, between Finn and Petey (who cannot understand why any boy would be interested in her), and between the two orphan brothers and the mysterious Roza, who comes into their lives and just as quickly vanishes.

Bone Gap is a quiet and masterful tale of two brothers living in a small town whose lives are changed by the mysterious appearance of a beautiful Polish immigrant. Roza is a friend and beacon of hope to 18 year old Finn, known for his dreamy, absentminded behavior. She is a spark in the heart to older brother Sean, who gave up his dreams long ago after their mother abandoned them. Just as suddenly, Roza is gone again, abducted by a stranger Finn can't describe. The town of Bone Gap puts its head together and murmurs, "Was it foul play? Did she abandon them too, fly away as fast and thoughtlessly as their mother? Does Finn know more than he's letting on? I

don't want to spoil it but let's just say this book was not what I expected. It was wonderful, which I did expect, but totally unusual and spell-casting in a way I've not experienced in another book. Simplistic moments merge easily into surrealistic moments. The two brothers are memorably brought to life the barn animals, the goats and horses and chickens the eccentric neighbors, the beekeepers daughter, the best friend, the bullies. The writing was lyrical and yet sparse, never lingering too long anywhere, always moving the plot steadily forward through the corn fields. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED - A MEMORABLE READ - MAGICAL REALISM AT ITS FINEST.

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