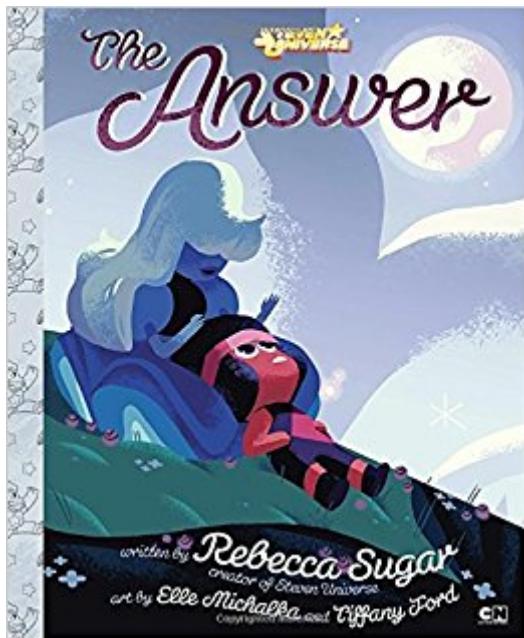


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The Answer (Steven Universe)



Synopsis

This New York Times best-selling storybook by Steven Universe creator Rebecca Sugar explores the meaning of love as Ruby and Sapphire look to build a new life on a strange planet called Earth. Dazzling illustrations from show artists Elle Michalka and Tiffany Ford capture Ruby and Sapphire's wonder and surprise as their story takes a course that fate never planned for them. The Answer is not only a charming love story, but also tells the origin of Garnet, leader of the Crystal Gems. Garnet's story of self-discovery will be treasured by Steven Universe fans of all ages.

Book Information

Series: Steven Universe

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Cartoon Network Books (September 6, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399541705

ISBN-13: 978-0399541704

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.3 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (33 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #419 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings #9 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction #37 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

I'm one of those embarrassingly huge fans of this show so it was kind of a given that I was going to love this book. But let me tell y'all why it's good and why it's important. This is Ruby and Sapphire's story of love and freedom. I think we all know that a children's storybook that's about a "she" falling in love with a "she" is bound to get some raised eyebrows in a world that thinks relationships like theirs can never be innocent, but I would prefer not to focus on that much at all. I just want to say that it's so vital that children see these relationships in the same context that they see cross-sex relationships--and it's not JUST so kids who have same-sex crushes and attractions can see

themselves and know they can get fairy tale endings too. It's also for the rest of you--and if those of you who aren't queer can imagine growing up with no books about people like you, you might start to get the idea. But you might not be able to really understand, because you probably CAN'T imagine how devastating it is--when there don't seem to be nice words that describe you, or when futures for people like you don't seem to exist, or when you want to know where you are in the literature people get upset, or when people talk to you like it either doesn't matter that you're invisible or that you're disgusting for wanting that. We want to be in stories because stories are how humanity talks to itself. If we aren't in them, we also learn very young that we don't truly get to participate in human life. So I want to say thank you to everyone who made it possible for something like this to exist.

This is a perfectly adequate book, but I can't help feeling it needed a few more rounds of editing before going to press. There's an attempt to explain the mechanics of the world to readers who haven't seen the show, but it's a bit jumbled. The art is highly stylized, which is pretty if you already understand what's going on but doesn't help explain things if you don't. (It also has the side effect of making Sapphire look like a Muppet, which is rather funny.) The main gimmick is Sapphire commenting on the book from above and Ruby from below. This is an interesting idea, but because of the layout makes it difficult to decide which words you're supposed to read first, especially when there's a spread covering both pages. This is a problem if you're reading out loud to someone. It works much better at the end when the two abandon talking about the story and just talk to each other and start climbing up and down. The main text is awkwardly structured. Rebecca Sugar seems especially fond of the word "and," which she uses to start quite a few sentences and splice together others. (It's even on the back cover.) I'm not a grammar stickler, especially when the grammar rule is being broken for emphasis or effect, but these really seem like just a lack of editing instead of purposeful. Children's books have only a few sentences per page, so those sentences need to flow and be easy to read.

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