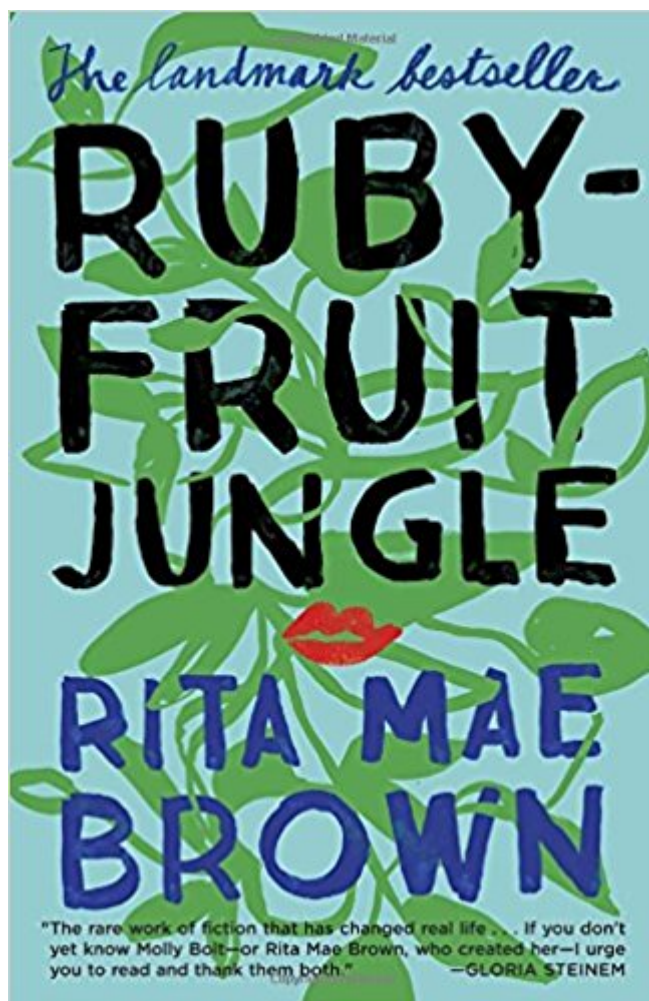




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# Rubyfruit Jungle



## Synopsis

“The rare work of fiction that has changed real life . . . If you don’t yet know Molly Bolt or Rita Mae Brown, who created her, I urge you to read and thank them both.” —Gloria Steinem

Winner of the Lambda Literary Pioneer Award | Winner of the Lee Lynch Classic Book Award

A landmark coming-of-age novel that launched the career of one of this country’s most distinctive voices, *Rubyfruit Jungle* remains a transformative work more than forty years after its original publication. In bawdy, moving prose, Rita Mae Brown tells the story of Molly Bolt, the adoptive daughter of a dirt-poor Southern couple who boldly forges her own path in America. With her startling beauty and crackling wit, Molly finds that women are drawn to her wherever she goes—and she refuses to apologize for loving them back. This literary milestone continues to resonate with its message about being true to yourself and, against the odds, living happily ever after.

Praise for *Rubyfruit Jungle*

“Groundbreaking.” —The New York Times

“Powerful . . . a truly incredible book . . . I found myself laughing hysterically, then sobbing uncontrollably just moments later.” —The Boston Globe

“You can’t fully know or enjoy how much the world has changed without reading this truly wonderful book.” —Andrew Tobias, author of *The Best Little Boy in the World*

“A crass and hilarious slice of growing up—different, as fun to read today as it was in 1973.” —The Rumpus

“Molly Bolt is a genuine descendant of Huckleberry Finn. And Rita Mae Brown is, like Mark Twain, a serious writer who gets her messages across through laughter.” —Donna E. Shalala

“A trailblazing literary coup at publication . . . It was the right book at the right time.” —Lee Lynch, author of *Beggar of Love*

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Bantam; Reprint edition (June 23, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1101965126

ISBN-13: 978-1101965122

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 163 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #45,270 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #154 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Fiction > Lesbian #1315 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Family Life #3874 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

## Customer Reviews

"The rare work of fiction that has changed real life . . . Because its heroine dares to be her unique and spirited self, despite society's biases about class and sexuality, Rubyfruit Jungle has helped generations of readers to do the same. If you don't yet know Molly Bolt or Rita Mae Brown, who created her, I urge you to read and thank them both. Gloria Steinem calls it "Groundbreaking." The New York Times calls it "Powerful . . . a truly incredible book . . . I found myself laughing hysterically, then sobbing uncontrollably just moments later." The Boston Globe calls it "You can't fully know or enjoy how much the world has changed without reading this truly wonderful book." Andrew Tobias, author of The Best Little Boy in the World calls it "A crass and hilarious slice of growing up -- different, as fun to read today as it was in 1973." The Rumpus calls it "Molly Bolt is a genuine descendant of a genuine female descendant of Huckleberry Finn. And Rita Mae Brown is, like Mark Twain, a serious writer who gets her messages across through laughter." Donna E. Shalala calls it "A trailblazing literary coup at publication . . . It was the right book at the right time." Lee Lynch, author of A Beggar of Love

Rubyfruit Jungle is the first milestone novel in the extraordinary career of one of this country's most distinctive writers. Bawdy and moving, the ultimate word-of-mouth bestseller, Rubyfruit Jungle is about growing up a lesbian in America--and living happily ever after. Born a bastard, Molly Bolt is adopted by a dirt-poor southern couple who want something better for their daughter. Molly plays doctor with the boys, beats up Leroy and loses her virginity to her girlfriend. Molly decides not to apologize for that. In no time she mesmerizes the head cheerleader of Ft. Lauderdale heiress. But the world is not tolerant. Booted out of college for moral turpitude, an unrepentant, penniless Molly takes New York by storm, sending not a few female hearts aflutter with her startling beauty, crackling wit and fierce determination to become the when first published, Rubyfruit Jungle has only grown in reputation as it has reached new generations of readers who respond to its feisty and inspiring heroine. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I first heard of this book & author from one of my all-time fave movies, " Educating Rita". It was written in the early 70's and for those times would not be in a high school library, nowadays probably considered quite tame, even the norm. Molly is an illegitimate child raised by her vindictive aunt Carrie & kind uncle Carl. It chronicles her from 7 y.o. Until early adulthood when she lands in New York City. Molly is a lesbian as is real-life author, Rita Mae Brown. Molly is a force to be reckoned with she has all the odds stacked against her & every reason to fail, but through her fierce determination & hard times she always seems to survive & beat the odds . She speaks her mind, even to the point of getting a beating for it. She isn't a pleaser and lives life on her own terms. It was so good I literally finished half the book the first day. Definitely a piece of history & in some courses, required reading. Do yourself a favor & buy this gem & be ready to be sweetly surprised. Very progressive for it's time, too!

Definitely radical when it was first published. The book was recommended, and it was kind of what I expected. It took real bravery to write this type of book, and Molly is an incredible character. She is a little adult, completely herself, absolutely fearless, and I think it's amazing. She does the impossible because of her indomitable spirit. Her father, Carl, truly loves her, and encourages her, despite her mother's fear and ignorance. Molly will not be defeated, regardless of being challenged at a nativity play, or confronted by a principal, or the dean of women. She soars - breezing through high school, thriving in college despite her lackadaisical roommate, forcing her way through New York. I like the end. It's not her mother, Carrie's revelation, so much as Molly's recognition of what Carrie went through that is most poignant, and despite all that toughness and meanness, Carrie loves Molly. I like this book, and though Molly is admirable, I didn't always like her. Still, it was a pleasure to read.

Truly enjoyed this book. Molly is a dynamic character who is inspiring at times aggravating at times and always unapologetically herself. I found the book captivating. Did not want to put it down once I started. It tackles some tough subjects poverty, sexuality, women's rights and still entertains.

Read this when it was first published and adored it. At the time I was asked how I could like a lesbian book and was asked if I was secretly gay. REALLY. I don't know what made me think of it again but as a 65y/o I believe I got even more from it this time. I loved molly then and now. I wished then and I was more like her and now happy that I have more of molly in me. Still not gay but still a

lover of fabulous women. Fiction or non fiction. Thank you Rita Mae for Molly and Dolly. Can't wait to start six of one, bingo and loose lips.

I have a lot of novels over the years, and I have to say this 1973 novel by Rita Mae Brown is one of the best written pieces of modern literature that I've ever seen. I like a straightforward writing style, which she excels at. I also enjoy characters that stay with you long after you read the book. Molly Bolt is a woman few people can forget once they are introduced. Molly starts life with overwhelming disadvantages and overcomes them with desire to succeed and a wonderful sense of humor. Central to Molly's character is the fact that she discovers early on that she is a lesbian. She keeps this information almost exclusively to herself because she knows others won't accept it, (especially her narrow minded, ignorant, controlling mother). The wonderful thing about Molly, however, is that she never sees anything wrong with it. It's part of who she is and she embraces it fully. This was a landmark novel when it was written, because many lesbian novels of the time had characters who hated themselves because of their lesbianism and had unhappy lives because of this perceived flaw. Meeting a character like Molly in the 70's was truly groundbreaking. It's one of the reasons Rita Mae Brown has such a huge following. ã Â Rubyfruit Jungle Please note that this is not just a "gay novel" it has much broader appeal. Molly is a strong character who overcomes her disadvantaged background to follow her dreams of becoming a flim maker and getting a degree. This is a modern, confident, self possessed woman that would serve as role model to any young woman, gay or straight. Her adventures along the way are hilarious, touching, disturbing and life affirming. It's a book you can read straight through because the fast paced wit and writing style make it hard to put down. If you've never read this book, you're missing a treat!

this book changed my life. at first I was skeptical because it was written during a different time period so I was unsure if I would be able to relate or not, but I was pleasantly surprised. It tells the story of a woman experiencing the world, fearlessly being true to herself. Since coming out to myself, I've been in search of lesbian role models. Well, folks, I've found one in Molly.

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