

## Ruined

Ruth Everhart

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**Ruth Everhart : Ruined** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ruined:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Not ruined, but restored...By BAKI finished this book in tears, not only from an emotional tear in my heart for the horrific violence that the author endured, but also in honor of the formidable strength and grace-filled wisdom she found in her struggle to reclaim herself as a worthy, valuable child of God. Ruth's journey from horror to healing is raw, honest and inspiring, and the epilogue written to her two daughters is a final testimony of how she reconciled her rage against God by overcoming her fear with forgiveness.10 of 11

people found the following review helpful. the writing is intense and brilliant. But my favorite part of the book is ...By Ashley O. H.I grew up in the church. And it wasn't until I was 29 years old that I saw a woman preach for the first time. That woman was Ruth, author of the powerful new memoir, *Ruined*. The central event of the memoir is unimaginable trauma. Robbed at gunpoint, held hostage for 4 hours, and raped, Ruth, who grew up in a solidly conservative, loving faith tradition, finds herself ruined or so she thinks. Her memoir takes us unflinchingly through the crime, the trial, and the traumas aftermath. Her faith is torn apart and then rebuilt with more emotional and intellectual honesty than I have read in quite some time. The memoir itself is incredibly brave; the writing is intense and brilliant. But my favorite part of the book is the epilogue, *A Letter to My Daughters*, in which Ruth pulls it all together, and the emotion lets loose. Because, well, DAUGHTERS. Here, she calls for the language and belief of sexual purity and if you're raised in the church, you know damn well what she's talking about to be cast into the grave of extinct beliefs (p. 306). Let's all take a moment and stand up and clap for that one. I pondered Ruth's memoir after finishing it, because that's the sort of book it is, while watching my two girls frolic and play on the beach. What could ruin these precious girls? Nothing. NOTHING. They are cherished, no matter what is done to them, or what they themselves do. They are cherished, cherished, cherished, by their mother, their father, their creator, and others. No. Matter. What. How terrifying that they could ever think otherwise. How heartbreaking that their faith could drag them there. There are a thousand take-aways from Ruth's book, and I strongly encourage everyone to read it and glean whatever wisdom speaks to them. But for me, as I type this review (probably a too personal review) with my girls my perfect, cherished, never-to-be-ruined girls are hanging off of me and whining for a snack it's this shriek from the pages: There's more to living in a woman's skin than staying a virgin (p. 303). After all, nothing is more washable than human skin (p. 306). 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. done for love and for faith By Customer Presbyterian Pastor Ruth Everhart wrote this book for all of us, but mostly I think, for those of us who have drunk deeply of the shaming culture that women endure from the moment we realize we aren't men. Now, more than ever, these stories must be told, in order to counter the false narratives that women have internalized for millennia--that women are themselves responsible for the harm and violence done to our bodies. Ruth has bravely confronted those demonic stories for our benefit. A college colleague of mine was the "Central Park jogger," whose full story and identity couldn't be told for many years after that incident. It's an act of tremendous courage, done for love and for faith, for Ruth to have written this book. Ruth is a clear and accessible writer, and who makes it clear that her Christian identity is fully employed in her truthful writing. Eat this book!

2017 Christianity Today Book Award winner (CT Women category) It happened on a Sunday night, even though I'd been a good girl and gone to church that morning. One brisk November evening during her senior year at a small Midwestern Christian college, two armed intruders broke into the house Ruth Everhart shared with her roommates, held all five girls hostage, and took turns raping them at gunpoint. Reeling with fear, insecurity, and guilt, Ruth believed she was ruined, both physically and in the eyes of God. In the days and weeks that followed, Ruth struggled to come to grips with not only what happened that night but why. The same questions raced through her mind in an unrelenting loop: questions that would continue to haunt her for years to come: Why me? Where was God? Why did God allow this to happen? What am I being punished for? Told with candor and unflinching honesty, *Ruined* is an extraordinary emotional and spiritual journey that begins with an unspeakable act of violence but ends with tremendous healing and profound spiritual insights about faith, forgiveness, and the will of God.

Riveting. . . . Forthright, compassionate, and expertly crafted--everything readers should want from a memoir.