

Handle With Care

Author: Louisa Reid

Age: 14 + Genre: Fiction - novel in prose and verse



This is the book for you if you like ...

- Moving, shocking and truthful stories.
- Raw emotions captured vividly and accurately.
- Dual perspective narratives.
- Exploring themes of family, friendship, teen pregnancy, abandonment and empathy.
- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo.



Summary: No one knows Ruby is pregnant - not even Ruby herself. So when she gives birth at school on a miserable February morning, her world is thrown into chaos. Keeping the baby isn't an option, but keeping quiet about who the father of her child definitely is; because if Ruby's best friend Ashley finds out the truth, then she'll lose her too. When Ruby finally realises what she and her baby need, somehow that doesn't seem to matter any more. So Ruby must take matters into her own hands, with tragic consequences....

Extracts: *Today, Ruby's Mum, looks rattled. Grabs my hands, speaking fast. Maybe she does care a bit. Maybe I got it wrong.*
'Ashley? What's happened? Where's Ruby? Is she OK?'
And I'm trying to come up with the words. To compute the situation and make it make sense. I can only shrug. Stare at her like an idiot. Because my best friend just had a baby. A real life baby. And I have no idea how I didn't know. (Page 19)

The look on my mother's face tells me what I am before she even opens her mouth to say my name.
Disaster.
Disappointment.
Disgrace. (Page 20)

STUNNING - HEART BREAKING - VISCERAL