



## Ruth 66

*Elizabeth Barlo*

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Buckle up and grab the ‘oh-crap!’ handle above your head as you join music-mad Charlie on a life changing road trip down Route 66.

An outsider in his family, an outcast at school, and always outdone by his own clumsiness, Charlie hides behind his passion for music whenever he can. But then the unimaginable happens and he is plunged head-first into a murky family secret and a red-hot infatuation with a rather unusual girl. Stuck on a bus going down Route 66, with his life and hormones spiraling out of control, Charlie is forced to make a choice. Will he keep hiding in the shadows forever or step into the limelight and show his true colors?

## Ruth 66 Details

Date : Published December 21st 2013 by Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

ISBN : 9781493779314

Author : Elizabeth Barlo

Format : Paperback 536 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Travel, Road Trip

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## From Reader Review Ruth 66 for online ebook

### Logan says

I received this book as part of the giveaway program and really enjoyed reading this book. I loved the musical references and spent days with the songs stuck in my head. Wonderful storyline and kept me interested to the very last page. Full credit to Elizabeth Barlo for writing such a wonderful, interesting book. I was very happy to be selected to receive it on the giveaway program.

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### Liz says

16-year-old Charlie's normally austere Dutch grandmother surprises his family when she screeches up in their front yard in a vintage 1960s VW bus. She's let down her hair, forsaken her Botox treatments, and has donated the entire family fortune to charity. An even bigger surprise? She wants Charlie to give up his summer job to accompany her on a cross-country trip. Together, they trek across America in a tale filled with rock 'n roll, family secrets, and humor.

For the most part, Ruth 66 is an enjoyable, offbeat road trip filled with an appropriate amount of quirkiness. Although the novel is a little on the long side for a YA novel, the action unfolds smoothly and consistently. On the downside, the novel sometimes resorts to crude moments of slapstick humor, which the reader (depending on his sense of humor) may or may not appreciate. In addition to this, the novel's closing act contains elements that I felt I had seen many times before in Hollywood films, and pivots on a major misunderstanding that, I feel, could have been easily cleared up had certain characters not resorted to melodrama. On the whole, though, it's a pretty solid novel, recommended for Ages 16-Up.

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### Christine says

I was lucky enough to have won this through First Reads! Thank you to the author, Elizabeth Barlo, for sending it to me. It has definitely traveled farther than any other book I've won!

I really enjoyed Charlie and Ruth. And Rosie. Their adventure was a fun one to tag along on. I don't think I've read any book quite like this one... Elizabeth has her own unique style of writing, and it was a fast read. The music references were also fun.

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### Suleyma says

Meet Charlie, he is not the ordinary teenager. His mom is pure evil, his sister doesn't really care about him and his dad is in jail. Charlie has a burning passion for music and during the book he places songs at certain events. When Charlies grandmother shows up dressed like a hippie his life turns upside down. Together with his grandmother Ruth he experiences the best roadtrip ever.

This book was so good, I couldn't put it down after I started it. There where plot twists everywhere and I am

not ashamed to say that I laughed out loud at some parts.

This was the first book I've read by Elizabeth Barlo and I'm really excited to read more of her (future)books. Her writing style kept me hooked from page one. It was also really fun to see how The Netherlands plays a role in the book.

Special thanks to Goodreads First Reads and Elizabeth Barlo for sending me this book for free. This is an honest review.

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### **Dana says**

Perhaps this book would appeal more for young boys(although the cover is rather feminine), but for me this novel just didn't hit the mark. The characters all felt like caricatures and the dialogue was awkward and clumsy. Every scenario in the book felt unrealistic and immature.

The "troubled" relationships were a joke as well, constantly calling everyone an idiot does not a badass make.

Despite all of my complaining I do appreciate the effort that the author put forth in this book. For a younger audience(12-14) this book might work. There are some mature themes in this book but the way they are handled is very mild, therefore I would shelf this book on the very young end of young adult.

Note: I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Carolyn Keel says**

I received this book through First Reads Giveaways.

It took me a long time to muddle through it because it was just... I don't know.... lacking.

It didn't really go anywhere and just ... I don't know. Maybe for a more immature reader, it might be okay, but I just didn't really get into it. It wasn't awful, by any means. I wish you could give half star ratings here, because honestly, I think it is more of a 2.5 than a two, but what are you gonna do?

...sigh...

I'm sorry. I wish I could give this a better rating, but it just really wasn't my type of book.

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### **Susan says**

I received this book as part of the Goodreads first reads program.

I really enjoyed the book, from the rich characters, to the musical references, to the road trip mishaps (many of which I've suffered myself). I related to it on so many levels. My family always traveled by car, not having the money to fly, and we often camped on vacation instead of staying in motels. Though I did not have a wild, carefree grandmother, my mother was no stranger to the art of thoroughly embarrassing her 2 teenage children on road trips. I feel Charlie's pain...and I understand the feeling of being a little off beat, and feeling afraid to stand up for yourself. And I can more than relate to the awkward feelings of first attraction/love and making a complete moron of yourself in front of the object of that attraction. I love that depiction of weirdness that comes with that first experience of lust and just wanting to crawl under a rock when someone makes a comment that calls you out on your feelings.

I also enjoyed all the Dutch references, that I now understand because I live here. But I like that there aren't a whole bunch of Dutch phrases thrown in that no one can read. I find that really difficult in reading books in which characters are from an area where a different language is often spoken...authors throw in dialog in French, or German, or Spanish, no doubt to show they have done their research or to prove their knowledge of the culture, but without a thought to the people who will be reading their book and not understand a thing that just went on because they don't speak that language. This book had a word here or there, but it always explained what it was so the reader wasn't lost.

One thing I was confused about is the Author's origin. It doesn't sound like she is American. Her English is perfect, but the main 16 year old characters don't have their drivers licenses and they keep talking about learning to drive, etc. That would almost never happen in the US. Most 16 year olds are excited for their 16th birthdays because they can go right out and get their licenses...they book their tests in advance. This sounded like the kids were waiting until they are 18. There was a reference to Rosie being 17. Living in a tiny town in the middle of nowhere, she would almost certainly have her license by that time. But that's a minor little detail and it doesn't take away from the story, just made me wonder. Also, she doesn't handle the sex in the way most Americans would when it comes to a teenage story. (i.e. it's not prude)

The story is fun, quirky, a bit out there and probably not really all that plausible, but that's why it's fiction and it's fun to read. I would recommend it to anyone who has a bit of off-beat humor, and to anyone who likes Rock and roll history. If you have issues with sexual innuendos, this book is not for you. It's light, but it's there, and if you are uncomfortable with the casual handling of sex, especially among teens, this will be out of your comfort zone.

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### **Gill says**

An interesting story, I wasn't sure at first but got to like and empathise with the characters. A young man coming of age discovers life is both more and less complicated than he thinks, young love, coming of age, and a wonderful musical thread that makes me want to pop on iTunes and download some wonderful songs I'd almost forgotten!! A fun and enjoyable book, read it!!!

Book received free via GoodReads FirstReads

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