

Ruby, the Chicken Fashionista



Written by Claire Myatt

Many years ago, in the village of Ember, there lived a spunky little chicken named Ruby. Ruby was a beautiful chicken with silky red feathers and a golden beak. She had a compassionate heart and a listening ear, but Ruby felt as if something was missing. Ruby's entire family had amazing talents, but she wasn't even sure what hers was, or that she even had one. Her brother, Hubie, ran races. He could zoom through a race as fast as the wind. Her mother owned a bakery where you could purchase the most delicious treats. Her father was a highly successful real estate agent who sold homes to the most exclusive clients. Ruby had never done anything amazing. Ruby felt more than left out.

One day, while daydreaming in room 22 of chicken school, Ruby had an idea – a wonderfully, splendid idea. She made a decision that she was going to be the most creative chick in the entire village. She would become so fashionable that the current cool chicks would look at her and be inspired. She was going to design her very own clothes, but how?

At that moment, Ruby's teacher, Mrs. Henrietta Peck, asked her, "Ruby, what is the square root of 16?"

Ruby, still day dreaming, replied, "Fashionista?" This did not please Mrs. Peck.

"Ruby, the correct answer is 4. Are you feeling okay today?"

"Um, yes," were the only words Ruby could mutter.

"Ruby, you must pay attention," crooned Mrs. Peck.

"I understand," stated a quiet and startled Ruby, as the other chicks cackled, but Ruby could not contain her excitement. She was on a mission to express her creativity!

"Class dismissed!" cried Mrs. Peck and school was over.

Later, after a snack of corn and beans, Ruby set out to work. She pulled out her pencil, sketchbook, and coloring pencils and started to design. She drew deep into the calm, yet heavy darkness of the night. Ruby sketched wildly and added fancy details to her heart's desire. She incorporated color schemes that were inspired by the colors of nature in Springtime; invigorating blues and greens were paired with soft pinks and purples to create her masterpieces. When she finally stopped, she had three pairs of earrings, two dresses, and a pair of flats. Ruby was wildly proud of her work and felt more accomplished than any other time in her life.

The next day, she rushed her designs to the fabricator. The fabricator happily cried, "Oh, wow! These are amazing designs, Ruby!" Ruby blushed but got down to business. They discussed timelines, materials, and the prices of manufacturing her designs, as well as the process of bringing them to life. Ruby beamed as she left the shop. She knew in her heart that she was living her dream.

A few days later, Ruby went to the fabricator to face a terrible surprise. Her new design was missing from her satchel! The day before, she had created a wonderful new design to put with her previous sketches. About 10 minutes after the design was recognized as missing, Ruby found a clue. The clue was a single dark brown, sinister looking, feather. She took this feather to the feather dresser immediately to see if she recognized it from one of her customers. The feather dresser informed Ruby that the feather belonged to Winifred McPeckins, editor of *The Cracked Egg Weekly*. Ruby quickly set off to pay a visit to Mrs. McPeckins.

When Ruby arrived, she quickly and confidently questioned McPeckins about the design. The editor confessed and was found with Ruby's design on her kitchen table. Ruby took it to the fabricator and asked "Can you make this as well? I'll be back in a week to pick everything up." The fabricator quickly agreed and began working.

A week later when she went back to the fabricator, she was astounded. Her designs were in the window of the store and they were even more beautiful than she could have ever imagined. They were as if the designs had jumped off the paper and onto a manikin. That was Ruby's jumpstart. She named her brand 4 Square and began to sell her wear globally. Her designs were fabricated in nylon, a light and breathable material. Finally, Ruby felt as though she had found her talent.

From then on out, Ruby was on cloud 9. She felt more confident and accepted knowing that she had found her special talent. She made a lot of caring friends, including her new best friend, Iris, who had a love for fashion, also. Although the attention was great, she was happy knowing she was comfortable being herself. Ruby was forever grateful for the opportunity she was given to shine like she knew she could.

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