
RUBY:

A BRIDE FOR COAL MINER MARCUS

Bride Adventures of MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2) the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2

by Ellie Haywood

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Introduction

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Chapter 1

Ruby Matthews watched as the scenery flew past. She was distancing herself from her suffocating life in Maryland and heading for Oakland Springs, a small mining town in Colorado, to become the bride for a man named Marcus Ackerson.

She smiled to herself as she thought back to MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2) when she'd told her family her plans. Her elder sister, Emma, had been visiting from Utah, where she was a doctor, along with her husband, Aaron Davis, and their young son. Emma had become a mail order MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2) bride a little over two years ago, which was what gave Ruby the MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2) idea to become one herself, only she'd taken a different route.

Ruby had contacted the woman who ran the mail order bride agency to ask of her help to expedite the process. The woman had personally paired her up with a man whom she felt would be her best match, and had sent the man a letter notifying him of Ruby's eagerness to meet him as soon as possible. She knew nothing about the man other than his name, that he was a miner, and that due to the sudden death of his siblings, he now was the guardian of his nieces and nephews. According to the description the woman at the agency had given her, he was twenty-six years old and six feet tall, with blond hair and blue eyes. All she had to do was wait for his reply.

She had been so excited when she'd received the notification from the agency confirming his acceptance and request to meet him hastily. She closed her eyes as her mind drifted back to that day when she'd toted her bags downstairs and informed everyone MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2) of her newest unfolding adventure...

"Ruby, what are you doing?" her father, Harry Matthews, demanded.

Ruby shrugged with a smirk and brought her bags to the door. "I'm going on the adventure of a lifetime!"

Her mother, Margaret MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2) shook her head. "What on earth do you mean, Ruby? Where are you going?"

"I'm going to Colorado to become a bride."

"What!?"

“Emma did it, MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2) so why can't I?”

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Emma laughed nervously, shaking her head. “Ruby...are you sure you know what you're doing? Marrying a stranger isn't a game.”

“Well, you've played that game and won.” Ruby shrugged her shoulders and grabbed her jacket from the coat tree. “Anyway, it sounds fun and daring. And besides, I didn't do it *exactly* like you did. I asked the woman who ran the mail bride agency to help find my perfect match.”

Margaret all but fainted as she MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2) sat down hard in a nearby chair. MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2)

“Ruby, wait!” Emma waved her hands in the air. “You went through an *agency*? Have you even corresponded with this man?”

“No. MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2) But I know all I need to. He's two years older than me, he's a

miner, and he's the guardian to a few of his siblings' children. It sounds like a fantastic adventure."

Emma shook her head quickly. "Ruby, you don't know what you're getting yourself into. Being a mother isn't a passive job. And neither is being a wife."

"Well you seem to be doing just fine." She placed her hands on her hips and sent her older sister a belligerent stare.

"Do you even know how many children he has?"

"No, but I don't believe it would be more than two or three..." With that she turned to face her other two sisters who were staring at her dumbstruck. "Goodbye girls...Mother...Father." With that, she picked up her bags and marched confidently MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2) out the door.

Margaret and MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2) Harry slowly turned their heads, fixing their gazes on Emma, who smiled nervously then quickly exited the room.

Ruby laughed quietly. Their reactions had been like icing on a cake for MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2) her. She'd show them she knew what she was doing. After all, being twenty-one, she didn't need everyone telling her how and when to do things. She could make it on her own, and she would prove it to them all.

* * *

Marcus Ackerson listened as a rooster down the road crowed loudly, letting the whole area know that morning had come.

The sun was just starting to peek over the horizon, but already he could hear the sounds of his fellow miners as they walked down the street whistling and talking.

When he finished tying up his boots, he looked up to see all eight of his nieces and nephews staring at him. "What are y'all doing up so early?"

"Wanted to say goodbye," four-year-old Joy said, her thumb stuck in her mouth.

Jay, who was five years old, nodded. "Be careful Uncle Marcus."

Standing, Marcus smiled and ruffled the boy's head. "I will." Turning to Julia, who was sixteen and the eldest of the lot, he said with a serious look, "You're in charge while I'm gone. No running off and leaving them unattended...again. You don't need to be running around with those other girls anyway."

She released an exasperated sigh. "But, Uncle Marcus!"

"Young lady, I am serious."

She huffed and looked away from him, crossing her arms over her chest. "If Papa were still alive..."

"He'd have bent you over his knee by now." He leaned over to look at her face. MAIL ORDER BRIDE: Ruby: A Bride for Coal Miner Marcus (Bride Adventures of the Wealthy Matthews Sisters Book 2) "I am *serious*, Julia. You are needed *here*. I have to go to work now. You all behave." He grabbed his hat off of a nearby table and walked out the door, releasing a long sigh as he did. It had been a year since the accident had claimed the lives of his brother and two sisters, making him an instant father to their combined eight children. Julia had become increasingly more stubborn and rebellious since then, and to be honest, he didn't know what he was going to do with her, or how much longer he could put up with it.

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