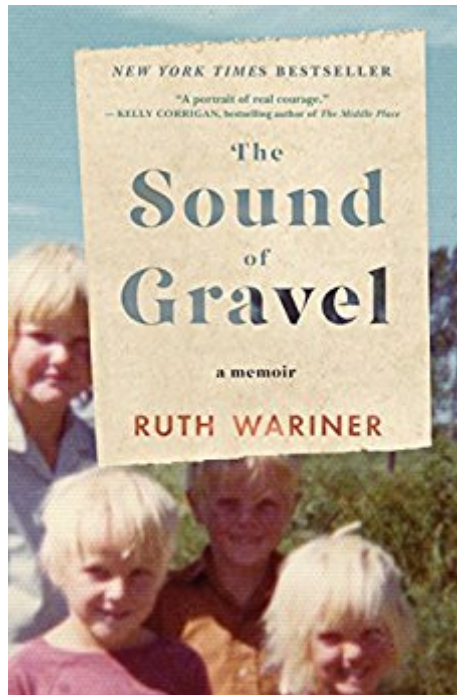


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# The Sound Of Gravel: A Memoir



## Synopsis

An instant New York Times bestseller—“A haunting, harrowing testament to survival.”  
• People Magazine—“An addictive chronicle of a polygamist community.”  
• New York Magazine—“Unforgettable.”  
• Entertainment Weekly  
The thirty-ninth of her father’s forty-two children, Ruth Wariner grew up in polygamist family on a farm in rural Mexico. In *The Sound of Gravel*, she offers an unforgettable portrait of the violence that threatened her community, her family’s fierce sense of loyalty, and her own unshakeable belief in the possibility of a better life. An intimate, gripping tale of triumph and courage, *The Sound of Gravel* is a heart-stopping true story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I hope that everyone that has experienced a troubled childhood will read this gripping and inspiring

memoir. I heard about *The Sound of Gravel* first on Twitter, when I Tweeted the author, and then later that day found out she is my cousin. Seriously. I was given an Advance Reader Copy and was riveted until I read the last page. Reading Ruth's story was so much like reading about my own life growing up in a violent, polygamist cult. My review is so personal because, even though our lives were separated by the heinous crime my father, Ervil LeBaron had committed against her father, Joel, in 1972, we survived the same type of neglect and deprivation, among other horrors. Ruth makes the shows, documentaries, news reports and other media you see on television about the fundamentalist Mormons come to life, even as you are wishing nobody ever had to experience such realities. Thank you, Ruth, for your vulnerability, bravery and courage. I applaud you! This is a photo of Ruth and I when we met for the very first time on December 3, 2015.

Ruth's story had me spellbound from the first page as I followed her every move, totally captivated by this awe inspiring memoir. When I finished the book my heart yearned to know what happened next? It just ended too soon. My heart has been touched in a way a book or story seldom has. Her courage, strength and determination saved lives and it is my humble belief that her story will continue to impact and inspire others to do the right thing.

I can't believe this is Ruth Wariner's first book. I just can't believe she's a first-time author. Her use of language to convey this gut-wrenchingly stark story is absolutely masterful. As a non-fiction lover I've read quite a few memoirs and I can think of none so captivating and utterly gripping as this one. I was given an advance reading copy. I tried not to have expectations one way or the other when I started the book. When I finished the book later that same day, what little expectations I had were far, far exceeded. I look forward to the release date in January so I can re-read. I hope she writes a sequel that picks up where she left off!

*The Sound of Gravel* is Ruth Wariner's story of growing up in a polygamous cult. Her father was killed when she was young, and her mother married another polygamous man (as the book says, she was his second second wife). Ruth tells a tale of hardship - they were impoverished, living in squalid conditions, and the children were frequently left to fend for themselves. But there were moments of beauty and joy as well, and it's a remarkable story of perseverance in the most difficult of circumstances. If I hadn't had kids who required my attention and a job that actually wanted me to work, I could have easily read this book in less than 24 hours. It's well told, engaging, and it pulled me right in. I was provided an advance reader copy for review, but all opinions are my own, and I

can't wait to have my very own copy on my shelf.

I echo the words of one of the professional reviewers. This incredible book was hard to put down. It's a powerful memoir, told in an intensely simple and straight forward way. My other highly rated memoir and a novel by a Nobel prize winning author are waiting in the dust until I finished this book.

This book is an amazing testimony of strength, courage and love! Definitely a must read!

I was privileged to have the opportunity to read an Advance Reader Copy (ARC) of *The Sound of Gravel*. Memoir is not typically my preferred genre, but I have no regrets in reading Wariner's story. It's a gripping, heartbreaking account of her early life--but not one without hope, redemption, and the power of familial connection. Ruth Wariner is a powerful storyteller; she weaves detailed scenes with gripping language. She begins by painting a vivid picture of the isolated environment of the colony, and then thrusts her readers into the mind of her five-year-old self, leading us into the world as she knew it. Once I picked this book up, I didn't put it down for nearly 250 pages and I only put it down then because it was 2 a.m. and I had to get at least a little sleep but I was up and finishing the last 100 pages a couple hours later. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**

Both a heartbreaking and inspirational story, this true story captures your attention from the beginning. While recounting a young girl's life of courage and ultimate triumph in the face of seemingly insurmountable, sometimes horrific circumstances, it also serves as a cautionary tale of what happens when seemingly intelligent people stop thinking for themselves, revealing the escalating consequences of good people making bad choices. A compelling, well written story that needed to be told. You'll be glad you met Ruth, and her grit and spirit will stay with you well after you finish the book. Highly recommend!

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