

= Ruby (Supernatural) =

Ruby is a fictional character on The CW Television Network 's Supernatural portrayed mainly by actresses Katie Cassidy and Genevieve Cortese . Created by the writers to expand on the characterization of demons within the series , she first appears in the third season , wherein she assists series protagonists Sam and Dean Winchester in fighting her fellow demons . By the fourth season , she has won Sam 's trust and begins training him to kill demons with his psychic powers , though Dean remains fearful of ulterior motives . The character departs the series at the end of the fourth season . Though the fans at first reacted negatively towards Cortese replacing Cassidy after the third season , Cortese and creator Eric Kripke felt that they became more accepting as the fourth season progressed . While fan response to the character was mixed overall , critical reception was generally negative . A common criticism was underwhelming performances by Cassidy and Cortese .

= = Plot = =

Debuting in the third season premiere " The Magnificent Seven " , Ruby (Katie Cassidy) trails Sam Winchester ? a hunter of supernatural creatures ? and eventually rescues him from a group of demons , whom she kills with her unique demon @-@ killing knife . She reveals her identity to Sam in " The Kids Are Alright " , but claims to be different from other demons and wants to help Sam fight them . In return for his cooperation , she promises to save his brother Dean from the Faustian deal he had made to resurrect Sam in the second season finale " All Hell Breaks Loose : Part 2 " . However , she refuses to tell Sam her motives . Though he distrusts her and Dean wants to kill her before she can harm them , Sam decides to let her continue to help him with both saving Dean and fighting the hundreds of other demons who ? like Ruby ? escaped Hell in the second season finale .

Ruby 's credibility builds throughout Season 3 . In " Sin City " , she restores power to the Colt for the Winchesters to use in their war against demons . The episode " Malleus Maleficarum " provides her backstory , revealing that she had been a witch during the Plague who sold her soul to a demon . She confides in Dean that , unlike other demons , she still remembers what it is like to be human , citing this trait as the reason she is helping the brothers against other demons . She returns in " Jus in Bello " to save the brothers from an attacking horde of demons . Upon learning that they have lost the Colt , she decides to perform a spell that will destroy all the demons in the area , including herself . However , because the spell requires a human virgin 's heart , Dean does not allow her to perform it . Although the plan he comes up with instead saves himself and his brother , the people they leave behind get killed by demons pursuing Sam and Dean , which Ruby uses to rebuke the brothers for not listening to her .

Contrary to her promise to Sam , Ruby tells Dean that she cannot actually save him from Hell and that she had lied to Sam to get him to listen to her . However , in the season finale " No Rest for the Wicked " , she tells Sam that she had lied to Dean and that she truly can help Sam save him . Her plan is to train Sam to harness his latent demonic abilities so that he can use them to kill Lilith , the demon who holds the contract for Dean 's soul . Believing that Ruby is trying to manipulate Sam into giving in to his dark side , Dean tricks her into a devil 's trap ? a mystical symbol capable of rendering demons powerless ? and leaves with Sam to face Lilith . Ruby frees herself and tracks the brothers down during their campaign , but gets expelled from her host body by Lilith and thus is not present at the confrontation between Lilith and the brothers , with her whereabouts at the time unclear . The fourth season episode " I Know What You Did Last Summer " states that she had been sent back to Hell . Eventually , Ruby returns and offers Sam her help in taking revenge on Lilith for Dean 's death in " No Rest for the Wicked " as well as in stopping Lilith 's apocalyptic plans . To appease Sam , who dislikes her using a living host against the host 's will , Ruby takes possession of a body recently declared to be dead (Genevieve Cortese) . They have sex together at least once , and she brings him out of his downward spiral towards self @-@ destruction . Consequently , Sam now trusts Ruby implicitly .

Ruby begins training Sam in using his demonic abilities to exorcise (and later , kill) demons , and

continues to do so in secret following Dean 's resurrection by the angel Castiel in the fourth season premiere . The episode " On the Head of a Pin " reveals that she is feeding Sam her demonic blood to boost his powers , and by " The Rapture " , he has become addicted to drinking her blood . In the following episode " When the Levee Breaks " , Sam and Dean have a heated confrontation over Sam 's trust in her and the negative influence she has on him , leading to a vicious fight which ends in Sam strangling Dean and Dean severing ties with Sam . In the season finale " Lucifer Rising " , Ruby insists that she and Sam must murder a demonically @-@ possessed woman despite the woman being alive and pleading for them to let her go , as Ruby argues that Sam needs to also drink the woman 's blood in order to be able to kill Lilith ; Sam eventually agrees . In the episode 's climax , Ruby keeps Dean from interfering while Sam succeeds in killing Lilith . Afterward , Ruby reveals that she is a double @-@ agent working for Lilith who has just tricked Sam into setting the demons ' revered god Lucifer free with Lilith 's death . With Sam 's help , she is killed by Dean with her own knife .

= = Characterization = =

Prior to Ruby 's introduction in the third season , series creator Eric Kripke summarized the character as " ruthless and a little crazy and rough around the edges " , calling her " [a] little unhinged " because she lacks the " moral conscience " that Sam and Dean have . Katie Cassidy , the actress who portrayed Ruby in the third season , described her as a " kick @-@ ass , bad @-@ ass " ally of Sam and Dean 's who " also likes to stir up a little trouble . " According to Cassidy , Ruby is " mysterious " , " manipulative " , and in control of her situation , being " always 10 steps ahead of everybody else " . On this , Cassidy proclaimed that Ruby " knows what she wants , and she 's out to get it " . Actress Genevieve Cortese , who played the character in the fourth season , deemed Cassidy 's incarnation " very tough " and " hard to get close to " .

In taking over the role , Cortese felt " conflicted over where Ruby is now versus where she 's come from " and explained that her own portrayal of the character was a " total 180 from [how she was] last season " , being calmer and " more fear @-@ driven " ; after a discussion with Kripke on the character 's mindset , Cortese saw Ruby as being in a " lonely , desperate " situation . She tried to make Ruby seem " as innocent as possible " to make viewers question her true allegiance , and to " bring more of a humanity " to Ruby than Cassidy had . For example , taking from the third season finale in which Dean is sent to Hell , Cortese portrayed the character as having some guilt over his death , even though Ruby was not responsible for it . The actress also acknowledged that Ruby was likely manipulating Sam when she claimed to remember how it felt to be human , but suggested that there was also an element of truth to her character 's words .

Cortese believed that Ruby fell in love with Sam over the course of the season , though she questioned whether this was " true love " or her being " in love with what he can do " . As Cortese noted , " He has something she can nurture . It 's almost like a mother bear and her cub [in terms of] how protective she is ... Sam 's all [Ruby has] , so it 's almost like giving birth , in a weird , messed @-@ up way . " She stated that the sex scene between her character and Sam was " about two people who are so broken and sad " and compared it to similar sex scenes from the film *Monster 's Ball* . Although Ruby eventually reveals herself as a traitor , Kripke wrote her final scene with the intention of depicting Ruby as " the opposite of evil " and to show that Ruby does care about Sam , despite her manipulation of him to free Lucifer ; Kripke explained that , in Ruby 's mind , she had to lead Sam down that path because " it was for his own good " .

= = Development = =

Ruby was described as a " demon hunter " in press releases prior to her debut so that her true demonic nature would surprise the audience . The writers created Ruby to change the perception of demons into more of a grey area , rather than the " black and white " , " They 're evil , we 're good " approach previously used in the series . However , the writers also planned for Ruby to impact the brothers negatively by facilitating the story arc of Sam falling into evil ? which had been set up in the

second season , but without follow @-@ through ? and causing a fracture in their relationship . Knowing this , the writers were amused by fans questioning why they were " trying to make [Ruby] likable " . Despite Ruby 's overall betrayal of the brothers , writer Sera Gamble commented , " [Ruby] brought the idea that you can 't just dismiss demons as things that need to be killed right away . They could be useful , and while fundamentally untrustworthy , there might be cause to trust them in a given situation . "

Fearing that introducing the character as an " [accessory] to the boys " would hinder their chances of successfully integrating her into the series , the writers intended that Ruby should be " a character in [her] own right " and deemed her an antagonist " with [her] own interests and [her] own motives " rather than a love interest to Sam or Dean , which they felt had been their mistake in their introduction of the widely disliked Jo Harvelle in the second season . While they were not planning on a romance between Ruby and either of the Winchesters in the third season , however , they were open to the possibility in the future , with Kripke saying , " If the chemistry is there , and we see the sparks , and we want it to happen , and the fans want it to happen , it 'll happen . " Due to " protective and occasionally nervous " fans , Kripke meant to introduce Ruby in " small doses " . Wanting fans to know the show would always be about Sam and Dean , and nothing else , he stated , " [Ruby and Bela are] there for important plot elements , but it 's not the Ruby and Bela show , nor is it about the four of them cruising around in the Impala together . It 's about the guys . "

Cassidy originally auditioned for the role of Bela Talbot , but ultimately received the part of Ruby . As opposed to using traditional demonic abilities such as telekinesis , Ruby instead relies on conventional martial arts and her demon @-@ killing knife . Cassidy trained in kickboxing alongside Bela 's actress Lauren Cohan to be able to perform Ruby 's martial arts skills , prompting her to attempt as many of the fight scenes as she could rather than rely on her stunt double . Before filming for the third season began , she and Cohan decided to watch previous seasons together to catch up on the show . Cassidy also prepared by looking to Sharon Stone 's performance in the film Basic Instinct for inspiration due to Ruby 's manipulative ways . As Cassidy explained , " [Stone 's character] always has the power , and there 's this mystery about her . " Costume designer Diane Widas had Ruby dressed in dark colors so that she would blend into shadows , also giving her pleather jackets and narrow jeans to allow Cassidy to be more active . Because of Cassidy 's height difference with the lead actors ? she is 5 ' 7 " while Sam 's actor , Jared Padalecki , is 6 ' 4 " ? she had to wear tall , spiky high heels that at times made her lose balance .

Kripke cited budgetary reasons for Cassidy 's departure after the third season . According to Cassidy , however , Warner Bros. ' s uncertainty about what direction to take Ruby in prompted her to leave when the opportunity to star in the series Harper 's Island arose . To " make the best out of a bad situation " , Kripke and the writers planned for Ruby to take on a new host every few episodes for the fourth season . They believed this would " keep [viewers] guessing " , and provide a " cool character that most shows don 't have the ability to do " . Auditions for an unnamed " love interest " were held to recast Ruby with a new actress , and Cortese was hired for the part . She was then informed that she would actually be playing Ruby . Before the first episode she was in aired , however , she was said to be playing " a small @-@ town waitress " named Kristy who had become " romantically involved " with Sam after Dean 's death . Cortese played the first of what was expected to be many incarnations of Ruby , but an impressed Kripke ultimately chose to keep her in the role because she " brought a lot of the different colors and vulnerabilities to Ruby that [he] was really looking for " . Although Cortese viewed DVDs of Cassidy 's portrayal , she tried to make the character her own at the producers ' request rather than emulate Cassidy . She was not as concerned with how Ruby was received by the audience ? stating " if people don 't like her , they don 't like her " ? as much as she was with using her performance to " answer questions " about Ruby and her relationship with the Winchester brothers , such as why Sam and Dean were continuing to work with Ruby in the fourth season .

= = Reception = =

BuddyTV staff columnist Don Williams felt the addition of Ruby was a " cheap ploy " to attract teen

male viewers , that the character distracted viewers from the " brotherly bond that made the show so special in the first place " , and that Cassidy " was cast more for her looks than her acting prowess " . However , he later admitted Ruby " remains one of the more interesting and ambiguous evildoers on the series " . Although IGN 's Diana Steenbergen had looked forward to Ruby 's introduction , she ultimately found the third @-@ season incarnation a " wasted " character who did little to improve the series . Her main concerns consisted of Ruby 's " unlikable and manipulative " qualities and her tendency to make the Winchesters " look stupid " . Cassidy " never quite [pulled off] " the " tough chick " persona of Buffy the Vampire Slayer 's Faith or Battlestar Galactica 's Six . TV Guide 's Tina Charles , however , liked Ruby 's action @-@ packed introduction in " The Magnificent Seven " . She was " intrigued " by the character in " The Kids Are Alright " , and felt Cassidy was " doing a good job " . Ruby made a " plausible addition " to " Malleus Maleficarum " , with Charles finding it " cool " to learn Ruby 's backstory due to its implications for Dean 's storyline . Karla Peterson of The San Diego Union @-@ Tribune thought Cassidy " wasn 't awful " in " The Magnificent Seven " . Though " not great enough for Ackles to really play off of " in " Malleus Maleficarum " , the actress was " good enough to make her weaker acting chops kind of work for her " . While under the impression that Ruby had been killed off in " No Rest for the Wicked " , Peterson wrote that the character " got gone just as [she was] getting interesting " and deemed her a " decent traveling [companion] " .

In her debut , Cortese impressed Peterson " even less than the old Ruby " . While Peterson was accepting of the sexual relationship between Ruby and Sam , she felt the " seduction came out of nowhere " in " I Know What You Did Last Summer " . Contributing to this problem was Cortese 's inability to " pull it off " , making the " whole thing [feel] gratuitous and clumsy " . Conversely , Peterson enjoyed the performances of actresses Anna Williams and Michelle Hewitt @-@ Williams as Ruby 's temporary hosts in the episode ; the former was " great " , while she found the latter " sassy " and " [missed] her already " . She " loved " Ruby 's death in the finale , describing it as " a beautiful thing " . Similar to Peterson , BuddyTV 's Williams considered Cortese 's acting " a bit distracting " , but noted she improved over time . Steenbergen considered Cortese an " acceptable Ruby " , but wrote that the actress ' portrayal was often " too girlish to connect with the previous incarnations of the character " . In contrast to Williams , Steenbergen felt that Cortese " seemed out of her depth in the acting department " towards the end of the season . Ruby 's seeming betrayal of Anna Milton in " Heaven and Hell " would " have added some welcome layers to her character " in Steenbergen 's opinion , but the character 's true intentions made the character development " less exciting " . However , Steenbergen deemed Ruby 's overall deceit of Sam a " great revelation " .

Like BuddyTV 's Don Williams , fans were very wary at first of bringing in female characters to the male @-@ dominated show . To make matters worse , Kripke wrote a lackluster scene intended solely for the audition process . Fans quickly came across it on casting sites , and developed the feeling that the character " really [looks like she sucks] " . However , Kripke believed that fans would change their minds about Ruby after learning that she was a demon . By the middle of the third season , Kripke felt enough fans were " responding positively to vindicate the character " , and that most were " finally embracing her " by the third season finale , with Cassidy 's version of Ruby even being dubbed a " fan favorite " later on . When the character returns in the fourth season , she is much different than her third season counterpart . Cortese felt that while the drastic change made fans angry , the flashbacks provided in " I Know What You Did Last Summer " shed some light on Ruby 's new mindset and made fans more accepting of the character . However , the overall criticisms towards Cortese 's performance made her reluctant to return for an episode in the sixth season , although she eventually accepted when she learned she would be portraying herself .

Despite the generally negative reception to Cortese in the role , fans voted her version of Ruby the 32nd sexiest female character in fantasy and science fiction film and television in a 2012 poll by SFX for the Top 200 Sexiest Characters In Sci @-@ Fi , making her the highest @-@ placing female Supernatural character in the list , beating out Jo Harvelle at number 53 and Ellen Harvelle at number 77 .