

Salvation.

Ruth was born in 1947. The first song that she became familiar with was 'I Believe' by Frankie Laine. Because she first heard the lyrics as a young child, they would echo around her head as she grew older, increasing in meaning with each passing year.

'I believe that everyone who goes astray, someone will come to show the way. I believe,' sang Frankie.

Ruth desperately wanted to believe, but what should she believe in?

On that fateful day in early August 1969, her friend, Patricia, was to provide her with the answer. 'Just what is the meaning of life?' Ruth had said, apparently *apropos* nothing.

This question, delivered in complete innocence, opened a doorway, and Patricia told Ruth a secret, one that she had kept hidden from her until that moment.

'Ruth, you know that you have not seen me for a little while. Now I am going to tell you why. It is because I have met someone who has understood that you would ask that question. He will answer it. You must meet him. He will give you meaning and purpose in your life, as he has done for me. You have a special quality, Ruth, and he will see that when you meet him. Not everyone has that quality, but you do.'

Ruth stared into Patricia's eyes, desperately wanting to believe her and, at that moment, she did.

'I understand,' Ruth said, her head slightly bowed, almost as if she were preparing herself in supplication for what was to follow later that day.

The two women walked towards Patricia's car, not saying any more, and Patricia opened the car door to let Ruth in.

Patricia started the car engine and the car began its journey, negotiating the smooth, straight roads of the city before moving towards the narrow, winding mountainous bends of the country, which hid from view the ensuing episodes of their journey.

The car journey echoed the spiritual journey that Ruth was to embark on, as she moved from straight and narrow paths to those which deviated from 'the beaten track'.

They arrived at a solitary ranch and Patricia brought the car's journey to an end.

'Do I look good in this?' said Ruth as she got out of the car, smoothing down the white blouse that hugged her slim figure. Of course, it made no sense to ask the question now, when they had left their wardrobes far behind, but, at that moment, Ruth needed reassurance.

'You look perfect, just perfect,' came Patricia's reply.

A ranch door opened and a man with a full beard and intoxicating eyes walked towards them, his eyes fixed directly on Ruth. 'You must be Ruth,' he said. 'Let me kiss your feet, before you kiss mine. My name is Charles.'

Ruth did not know it at that time, but this man was to change her life forever, as, tragically, he also changed the lives of many others, most notably a woman by the name of Sharon Tate.

Song: 'I Believe' by Frankie Laine. Lyrics from the song that became a number one hit for Frankie Lane in 1953:

'I believe for every drop of rain that falls a flower grows

I believe that somewhere in the darkest night a candle glows

I believe that everyone who goes astray, someone will come to show the way.

I believe'.