



Reluctant Hood

Kendrai Meeks

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A rebellious descendant. A werewolf on the prowl. With her friends in danger, can she become the red-cloaked hood the world needs?

Gerwalta “Geri” Kline has just thrown out generations of tradition. As a descendant of the mythical Little Red Riding Hood, Geri refuses to suffer the fate of a woman who tried to find her fairy tale ending... and ended up dead. Despite possessing the powers of a “hood,” she resolves to head off to college and the big city, and live life as a human...

As she attempts to create a new future in Chicago, her old life starts to creep in. Her lab professor turns out to be a vampire and the half-mad werewolf stalking campus is desperate for her help. No matter how much she wants to leave her lupine-lurking days behind, the world of night proves uncooperative. Soon enough, Geri is knee-deep in a terrifying vampire conspiracy. Her only hope to get out is to agree to help the werewolf, and act like the hood she doesn't want to be...

Reluctant Hood is an imaginative urban fantasy tale that reinvents the classic Little Red Riding Hood legend. If you like headstrong heroines, original fantasy worlds, and fresh takes on Grimm’s fairy tales, then you’ll love Kendrai Meeks’ bewitching tale.

[Buy *Reluctant Hood* to uncover a dark twist on a legendary story today!](#)

Reluctant Hood Details

Date : Published June 10th 2017

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Author : Kendrai Meeks

Format : Kindle Edition 278 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Shapeshifters, Werewolves

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From Reader Review Reluctant Hood for online ebook

Dana Faulkner says

A great new Urban fantasy

I really enjoyed this new version of an ancient tale. This is very different take on Werewolves & vampires, and now we meet the Hoods, a sect dedicated to controlling the weres.

Audrey Sharpe says

Fabulous beginning to this series! Can't wait for book two.

Susan says

Fresh Concept

A fresh new concept on an old fairytale. Like other reviewers have said, there are some plot holes and world building issues. Those weren't enough to discourage me and I will definitely be checking into book 2.

Mandy Haggard says

I thought for sure this was one of those new fairy-tail retellings, which I love, really, but, it is so much more! The story line was phenomenally done; something old, something new! And Gerwalta?! What an original name! As I was once a young 20something, I found Geri's character relatable: knew more than my parents, first heartbreak is hard, werewolves and vamps lurking on my college campus... uh... The mystery and action was amazing throughout and I loved the side characters. The ending left me panting for more. I'm one of Ms. Meek's newest fans and recommend my new favorite book, Reluctant Hood, to all fantasy-loving ages.

Christina Sdao schmidt says

If 6 stars was an option I would give it.

This series takes the fairy tale of Little Red Riding Hood and updates it into a gritty, magical secret world. Geri is hilarious, smart and snarky, all while trying to stay out of a battle that has been going on for centuries that she wants no part of. The writing is superb, the emotions real. I can't wait for book 2. Total book hangover wondering what will happen next.

Suzi (Obsessive Reading Disorder) says

This was a nice twist on both the fairy tale and on what we typically know/assume about wolves and vamps. Wonderful urban setting with just enough intrigue to keep the reader interested. This is the first book of the series and although it appears to rap up the main events of the story, the bad guys are still coming. The good guys--Geri and the wolves--are still trying to come in to their own. And the romantic tension is bouncing all over the place. I'm not sure how that will all play out.

Good action, suspense, angst and world building. Looking forward to more of the story!

Carla says

Good read

Really liked the characters, they were well thought out. The plot was unique and i look forward to reading more from Kendrai Meeks

Helen Chesno says

I received a free ARC in return for an impartial review.

The Grimm Brothers got the story of Red Riding Hood all wrong.

If you got a chance to read the prequel novella Requited Hood, which gave the backstory of the Red Hood Chronicles, or even if you haven't, you'll definitely want to read Book One - Reluctant Hood. Slayers keep vampires in check (except that no one has seen a slayer for many years - they may be extinct), and Hoods keep werewolves in check. Geri is a nascent Hood of the prestigious House of Red, who has run away from home before her rite of fire that would make her a full Hood, to attend college in Chicago. Her mother, the Matron of Red, has extensive documents of where the vampires and werewolves are located, and since Chicago appears to be vamp and were free, Geri feels Chicago is the ideal location for her.

One of her professors, seeing how well she is doing scholastically, submits her name to another professor as a potential member of his research team for the summer, with a modest stipend. She accepts, relieved that she will have a place to stay over the summer and won't have to go home. It turns out that Chicago isn't quite vamp or were free, after all.

A fast-moving, exciting re-examining of an old favorite fairy tale.

Angela Whitmore says

Page Turner

Page Turner, who's she? This book, that's who.

I wasn't sure what to expect as I haven't read Kendrai's work before. But I had a LOT of recommendations from other readers and authors too. So that's always a good sign.

The story was well-written with characters and threads that actually made me say out loud "I wasn't expecting that to happen".

This is the first book in a series and it doesn't fully wrap up all of the loose ends although I wouldn't class it as a full-blown cliffhanger, which I liked because cliffhangers are my mortal enemy.

Kim Howard says

This has been on my TBR for awhile now. I'm so glad I was finally able to sit down and read it. This is the first book in the series (there is a prequel but I didn't know about it when I read this book). As the first book, there was some world building to get through but it worked out for me and made sense. The characters are fleshed out enough for now. Since the story is told from Geri (the Reluctant Hood) we are only getting her perspective of the characters. We find out as she finds out if they are nefarious or not. I enjoyed the bits of humor and snark. I also enjoyed that Geri is not perfect and makes mistakes. For a fantasy story, it makes her more real. Well recommended! I'm off to read the next one in the series.

Amy says

I unreservedly loved this book. The writing style perfectly matched with Geri's character and the story unfolded beautifully and brilliantly. Urban fantasy is one of my favorite genres to read (probably my very favorite fiction genre) and is obviously my favorite to write.

The world-building in this book was unique without being unbelievable (or at least any more unbelievable than an urban fantasy novel featuring werewolves, vampires, and hoods could possibly be). The characters are well-developed without being predictable. There were surprises throughout the novel and uncertain alliances and motivations that seemed in-character, believable, and in one very memorable circumstance, extremely upsetting.

The arc was well-paced, action-packed, and fast enough to leave me breathless (and unable to put the book down) without feeling like I'd been hit by a runaway were-train. After finishing, I accused the author of disrupting my sleep patterns and making me paranoid about being locked in my doctor's office after hours on a Saturday. I'm sure she repented quietly and feels terrible.

Read it. Now. You won't be sorry! And then pester the author unrelentingly until she gives you book #2. (Seriously, this is a fantastic read and a great start to what I'm hoping is a very, very long series.)

This Literary Life says

****I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review****

Fellow PNR and UF bibliophiles!! You NEED to read this book! After reading ACOTAR by Sarah J Maas

and getting sucked in to the Beauty and the Beast retelling, I found myself looking for other fairy tale retellings. And when this one was recommended to me by a friend I jumped at the chance! Boy am I glad I did. This story was fan-fricken-tastic (is that a word? it is now!) I do love a good shifter romance, but this is WAY more than that. Reluctant Hood is a Red Riding Hood tale, the real one. If you are looking for that easy peasy beach read where a wolf sees a woman and *BAM* they are all over each other and mated for life in 3.2 seconds, then look somewhere else. I do sometimes like those, and however enjoyable they are, I always feel like they are missing something. And that something is what I found when reading this book.

Reluctant Hood is about a young woman named Geri who is running from her family legacy as a Hood, one who governs the wolves, keeping them in line and under thumb. But before her special abilities can be fully manifested and used in ways she can not support she takes off and tries to begin a life on her own in the normal human world. Geri has the weight of the world on her shoulders, and it seems that no amount of running can truly help her leave her old life behind. While at school she runs into a lone wolf, Tobias in trouble. Being that she isn't a normal Hunter, one that would rather see a dead wolf than to ever help one, she finds herself torn between trying to maintain her new life, and helping Tobias (possibly even having to face the fate of her lineage that she has worked so hard to avoid). Even if that means exposing herself and putting her life on the line. It is sexy, without being explicit, and compelling, as well as action packed! I will be recommending this book obnoxiously, to every one I know. It does not end in a horrible cliff hanger, but rather in an intriguing 'what next?' way. Geri and Tobias' story is far from over, and where does Geri's ex and the new Alpha Cody fit into all of this? I have no idea where it will go but I will be highly anticipating the next book in the Red Hood Chronicles!

Sunny says

2.5 stars.

This book has lots of good bones, but the execution is problematic. I liked the world-building but it takes a very long time before the story takes off and it does not deliver enough to keep my interest for another book. The ending is quite abrupt and deters from the current storyline.

Emily says

This was so good!!!! I was excited about this book, but I had no clue I'd like it this much. Fairy tale reimagining as an urban fantasy? Yes, please! (Also, Vampires who are scientists) I devoured this book in one day. Perfect for my plane trip home! 4 stars because I think some of the world building and character development could be stronger (particularly for the supporting characters) but everything else was great!

Anna (Bobs Her Hair) says

2.5ish Stars

I heard about this book through an author's blog. "The Reluctant Hood" sounded good and the price (99¢, at the time) was perfect for trying a new author. Unfortunately, what seemed a promising story had flaws that diminished the plot and characters.

This book reads like New Adult as the heroine is in college and she's naive and, at times, immature. She also suffers from a serious case of TSTL while also irrationally denies she needs help. The fantasy elements are somewhat new but not properly explained. Instead the reader is left with plot holes and a connect-the-dot plot that is fairly obvious to the reader. Despite my issues with the book I'm curious about the next book following this story and, hopefully; the execution will improve.
