



The Last Grimm: Red's Hood

H.L. Wampler

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Abigail Grimm stopped believing in fairy tales years ago. She is a college freshman who just landed the internship of the year. Things were going great; she even met a devastatingly good-looking man, Connor, who could not seem to get enough of her.

Then she witnesses the receptionist mauled to death by a giant wolf in the middle of downtown. The skeletons in her family's closet come falling out as Abigail discovers she is actually the last in a long line of fairy tale guardians. And Connor, well he is not quite what he seems and has a few skeletons of his own.

Abigail must abandon everything she thought was real for make believe and fantasy. With Connor by her side and a forbidden love budding, she must track down the wolf and save humanity before it's too late.

The Last Grimm: Red's Hood Details

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From Reader Review The Last Grimm: Red's Hood for online ebook

Alana ~ The Book Pimp says

Review to come

but overall I enjoyed it. Spicy retelling of fairy tales. Hot Huntsman.

Wished some parts took longer

Chloe (Girl In The Woods Reviews) says

[Kinda like but not quite... (hide spoiler)]

Lauren says

Note: I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

The concept of the story was very interesting and was the thing that intrigued me most to want to read the book. The structure with the extremely short styled chapters was weird for reading and the writing style itself was choppy. With some fixes to editing issues and maybe a better look at central dialogue themes this book would translate better to a reader.

The character of Abigail was not very strong and she seemed kind of annoying throughout the whole thing. She wasn't whiny but there was just something about her that was off putting. Connor seemed like the typical romance guy hero but without a lot more depth than that. The romance aspect didn't seem very convincing. Connor and Abigail just didn't really seem to connect and it was just too easy. The relationship seemed childish and not very well developed. Also for being a best friend who knew Abigail so well, Anna seemed very selfish and easy to infuriate.

Sarah Wall says

I read this based on a friend's recommendation and I can say I enjoyed it. I'm not super into fairy tales, but this kept my attention for the most part and I loved the romance that was threaded throughout the story.

It was a fun twist on Little Red Riding Hood.

Angie ~aka Reading Machine~ says

Book exchanged for review~Per Goodreads rules~

This book takes unique look at the classic fairy tale Little Red Riding Hood. The story is so cleverly crafted in such a way that leaves you wondering what's going to happen next. I really hope the author continues with this concept. It is definitely one of my favorite reads of 2012. Here are my thoughts on the story.

Abigail or Abby Grimm is a young college student, who is applying for internship with RoseMarie's Fashions magazine, and prove that she can handle this. She gets the internship and meets the handsome guy named Connor Guy who also works at RoseMarie's Fashions. Abby witnesses an unusual event and is unsure how to explain what has happen yet she wants to deny it anyway. Connor takes Abby out to lunch and dinner where the two of them get along great. Yet Abby is sure that Connor is hiding something from her but not sure what that is. Abby's mom Elaine is hiding from the world and herself since Abby was a baby. Elaine is also hiding something from Abby but not sure how to tell Abby about it. Elaine and Connor get along just fine yet together they tell Abby that she's the last descendant of the Grimm Brothers~Jacob and Wilhelm. They tell Abby that she is the only one to send fairy tales back to where they come from. Abby at first denies this and later starts to accept this as truth. Can Abby manage her course work and internship too? What is Connor hiding? What about the unusual events? Will Elaine come out of hiding? Your answers await you in The Last Grimm: Red's Hood.

Binchic says

I enjoyed the premise of this book. A new twist on a classic can never be done too many times as the possibilities are endless. The idea that there are worlds beyond our own where something has crossed over and is wreaking havoc lends itself seamlessly to the basics of plot, arch, conflict, etc.

However, as other reviewers have mentioned, this novel was not as polished as it could have been. Often times there were typos that may be missed if self-editing (since you tend to read what is supposed to be there rather than what is actually there). On more than one occasion there was an extra letter, or one letter left off of a word that would have gotten past a spell-check but completely changed the meaning of the word (such as one instead of on, or envelop instead of envelope). At one point there was even a comma in the middle of the word (Ms. Wampler, if you are reading this, I believe it was "fai,r" if you would like to edit that for the future.)

I am not trying to nit-pick this novel, but I do find it very distracting when trying to read and there are multiple instances of unnecessary commas, unnecessary apostrophes (Grimm's instead of Grimms), typos, and other general issues that a second edit should have been able to catch. More than once, I found myself having to reread a paragraph in order to obtain the intent of the author, and as a result I found it hard to really get into the story.

Beyond the editing issues, there are some continuity concerns. At one point Abigail and Connor are relaxing on the couch in his apartment, he pulls her feet into his lap, and then suddenly they are in bed together... how did they get there?

The dialogue was lacking, the exposition read in a "first this happened, then this happened" manner. Also, the exposition surrounding some key details of the main character, such as physical description, came more than half way through the story. I applaud Ms. Wampler for her effort, however, I found that, gratuitous cursing aside, that this short novel would be better directed to a younger, 13-17 audience.

Overall, the basic premise of the book reminded me of Inkheart by Cornelia Funke, yet failed to reach Funke's level of writing.

With further character development, less predictable twists and proper editing, I believe that this series could be great. However, as it sits now, I will likely not be reading any further books in the series if I have to spend more than \$.99.

OpenBookSociety.com says

Brought to you by OBS Reviewer Dawn

Beware of spoilers!!!!

I enjoyed this book immensely. Some may consider it a rip-off, because the foundation is part of a fairy tale, but I firmly disagree. Wampler made it her own. It's as if she took an old song and jazzed it up until it's her unique creation.

Abigail sees herself as timid, but she's a foul mouthed bad ass. Her foul mouth makes her more real; she could put a truck driver to shame. I too have a foul mouth and I love that the heroine is not perfect.

Abigail Grimm has no idea what the world has in store for her until she gets her first job in the fashion industry. She meets Connor, a co-worker, and learns about her destiny. There have been a series of attacks on people wearing red hoodies. Shortly after starting her new job, Abigail sees an attack, on a co-worker, first hand. She is horrified, scared and in shock. Connor jumps in to protect Abigail when the thing comes after her.

Abigail can speak the old fairy tales to make them come to life. She is a guardian and she must protect her world since some of the fairy tales have bled over into the real world.

It's overwhelming for Abby as it should be. She has to learn to fight; to accept who she is. I like that she didn't just pick up a weapon and BAM! she knows how to use it. She gets dirty, she gets hurt but she fights with all she has within her. She shows great courage in the face of overwhelming odds.

The plot is revealed slowly but it's never boring. There is no lack of fighting ensuring there's no lull in the story.

Some romance pops up although it's not cheesy. I worry a bit about Connor. He seems too good to be true, too perfect. I'm curious to find out more about him.

Abby's mom is not much of a mother and it's sad. It's obvious Abby does the parenting between the two of them. Too bad her mom cannot be more supportive. Despite not having a father and having a disengaged mother, Abby is a great person and character. I cheered for her and cried for her.

I am in love with Wampler's characters, their vitality. She gave more depth to our favorite fairy tale characters. I think I might know who the evil queen is, but I'm not positive. I'm already anxious for more of this story. I'm hooked. I read the entire book in 2 days. What can I say? When I enjoy a book, I tear through it.

Reading The Last Grimm: Red's Hood is pure fun. I recommend The Last Grimm to all those who love fairy tales, action and characters with depth.

PS Please please more smut in the next installment!

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/th...>

Russell Bittner says

Abigail Grimm, the heroine of this novel by H. L. (Heather) Wampler, doesn't even discover she's a descendent of the famous Brothers Grimm until the middle of Chapter 10, when she first reads a letter from the father she never knew—and won't know again until the end of the story. At the same time, she learns from Connor Guy (our male protagonist and an "immaculate specimen of a man") that she's the last of the Grimm line—"the guardian of the fairytale world"—and is responsible for keeping "peace and balance" between the real world and the world of fairytales by "reading beings into and out of stories." Unfortunately, however, Abigail soon learns that Connor and Abigail's own "emotionless pit" of a mother are in league to have Abigail be the champion of this world-saving cause. Both her patience and her first blush of infatuation quickly run pale.

When Abigail next finds out that Connor is also from the fairytale world (and is, namely, the last of a line of huntsmen in *Little Red Riding Hood*—just as Abigail is the most current descendent in the line of Grimms), she doesn't know whether it's the whole world that's gone crazy, or just she herself.

Soon enough, the anonymously-sent gift of an enchanted red cloak sets Connor and Abigail on their dangerous mission—she as "bait" for the wolves; he as huntsman to do what huntsmen always do with big bad wolves: namely, shoot them. Connor suspects the cloak is not really the gift of an anonymous gift-giver at all, but rather a trap laid by what he calls "the Great Evil." The plan our two protagonists conceive, in any case, is that Connor will kill the wolves and Abigail will send them back into the story. (Little spoiler: Abigail has a surprise or two in store for both Connor and you, dear reader.)

Even huntsmen, however, can be either wolfish or tiger-like themselves. And so, it isn't long before the "wolf" named 'Connor' has the "little red riding hood" named 'Abigail' in his claws and fangs for a deliriously happy romp through the woods of his twenty-third penthouse apartment. (So much for modern-day fairytales!)

All right. Enough spoilers.

Well, except one (in Chapter 38 of a forty-chapter book)—which I felt was too good to hold back.

"Red," he growled.

"My, what a deep voice you have," I said.

"All the better to greet you with, my dear," the wolf growled while circling me.

His golden eyes were trained on me, "My, what big eyes you have."

"All the better to see you with, my dear," said the wolf.

His big paws sunk deep into the snow as he circled around me again, "My, what big paws you have!"
"All the better to hug you with," said the wolf.

He snarled and snapped at my face, "My, what a big mouth you have."

"All the better to eat you with!" growled the wolf while lunging at me, "I told you, silly girl, that nobody can stop me."

The conceit of Ms. Wampler's approach is an interesting one—namely, that characters from a fairytale can actually come and go between a world created by wordsmiths (in this case, the Brothers Grimm) and one inhabited by actual human beings. Once you, as a reader, are able to suspend disbelief long enough to accept this newer reality, you'll be able to relish the enchantment of Heather's story.

If I have one criticism of Ms. Wampler's novel, it would lie with the dialogue. With the exception of Abigail's mother (who in fact says very little), all of the principal characters in the story are somewhere between 18 and 21 years of age. The 18-21-year-olds I've known over the years have a somewhat more expansive vocabulary. At the same time, they indulge in a lot less slang and are not nearly so 'potty-mouthed' as Ms. Wampler's characters. I dunno; maybe it's just me being an old fuddy-duddy.

Oh, and the word 'amazing.' I thought if I read it one more time in connection with Connor's eyes or biceps or hair, I was going to make myself a little Connor-doll and stick pins in it. (At least Heather's choice of word wasn't 'awesome.') Now, that would *truly* be an amazing experience!

"Unbelievable," he sighed (Chapter 40). Well, I think you can believe it all you want for the space of a couple of hours.

RRB

August 22, 2012

Roxanne Kade says

I love fairy tales, so I was really excited to read a story that incorporated these elements. Although I was not blown away by this book it was still a fun read. The only way I can think of describing is that it is a mish mash of Red Riding Hood and Inkheart, with a light dusting of The Devil Wears Prada.

I didn't particularly take a liking to the MC, Abigail. She seemed all over the place with her thoughts and feelings (even before she finds out about her lineage), and I never truly got a sense of who she really was. Connor is a hottie, but again there wasn't enough depth to his character for me to really feel connected in any way. They fell for each other way too quickly, and I would have liked for their relationship to have developed a little more before they were declaring their undying love.

I enjoyed the "magical" aspects of the story. The idea that the Grimm brothers actually created a fairytale world, from which their characters have escaped into our world, was very interesting. And, although the story was quite predictable, I was still excited to see how everything would unravel, but in the end I was left

feeling a bit disappointed. I would have liked to have learned a bit more about the great queen. She just didn't seem like the huge threat she was made out to be. I can only imagine that with the few hints dropped in this book, along with the surprise ending, that there will be a second book and I'm sure all will be revealed.

So in closing, this book had all the elements to be a fantastic retelling of the fairy tales we all loved as children but in the end it fell flat. I would recommend this book to readers who are looking for a light, quick read.

Maddison says

I'm not really nit picky about grammar and what not. I read a book for the story. If I like the story, I keep reading. I really liked the story here. It was something new for me. I liked it. I hate cliff hangers, but it did leave me wanting more.

I'll be buying the next one.

SheReadsALot says

NOTE: The author provided me with a free copy of this story for an honest review.

"The Last Grimm: Red's Hood" is a story featuring 18 year old Abigail Grimm, college freshman and fashion intern. She's an only child raised in a single parent home. Her mother is a recluse and pines for a father she hasn't met or known. Her reclusive mother reads fairy tales repeatedly as a way to console herself. Yet, Abigail has no idea why. That is until she meets 21 year old Connor Guy. Connor helps Abigail put the pieces of her past, present and possible future. Together they discover her true destiny. She's the world's last Grimm and only hope.

Sounds interesting enough, right?

After reading this story, I felt there were some interesting parts, some disappointing parts and yawn factors.

PROS:

- . The fairy tale mythology H.L. Wampler introduces the reader to is interesting enough. Abigail being a Grimm and what the title entails intrigued me. Abigail can read fairy tales into real life. She's a direct descendant of the original Grimm brothers and she inherited their powers of rendering fantasy into reality.
- . Potty Mouth Abigail. I always can appreciate a heroine with a filthy mouth. Abigail *thoroughly* delivers with expletives. ;)
- . The story was *very* easy to read and follow.

CONS:

.The dialogue - It was stilted at times. But more boring than the stilted times. I like when authors give their characters believable and realistic dialogue. But when there's heavy pile of "Oh" and "Yeah" thrown into the story were actual words should have been, it became to be a yawn factor.

.The characterizations - the characters were awkward to me. Abigail is supposed to be 18 years old. I think she might have been more believable as the character presented if she were a few years older. I had to remind myself a lot that she was actually 18 and not 25. She's drinking wine like she's a pro. She's a college freshman working for an internship and not being a kid. Other than the far and in-between mentions of classes and/or homework, I forgot that she was a teenager. And I don't know a mother that would allow their 18 year old daughter to have sleepovers with a guy she new for a week. Or let said guy shack up in their home. And Connor - at times he was okay and then a little creepy.

.The delivery of the story - Abigail's only power is to read fairy tale characters back into their fairy tale world. So why didn't she just do that from the moment she met the wolf? Why didn't she just travel with the 'special' book at all times? And why wasn't more passages shown with Abigail growing into...well what is she? She's not a fighter, she didn't really train with fighting or reading passages. She was just a foul mouthed, underage wino who wants to play house and has daddy issues. And the villains? they are some of the weirdest ones that gave Abigail many passes when they could have easily ended her life right then and there. (Also when Abigail's on a date, she doesn't need to describe what food she's in eating and how she had to eat it in such detail - not necessary) There are a couple of moments written that was not necessary such as the aforementioned one.

.The climax? The wolf wants to kill Abigail. He and his created pack of wolves terrorize Abigail's mother in order to get Abigail to come home. And when Abigail is outside surrounded by the wolves...they move back into the woods to let her go into her house to comfort her mother and gather that special book mentioned to send the wolf away. Do you see my WTF moment? I'm not spending more time on that or the melodramatic death scene or the weird climax.

The ending suggests this will be a series.(HFN with a cliffhanger) I'm not cringing at the fact. I think H.L. Wampler has good ideas. Maybe Abigail might change as she becomes more...Grimm in the future?

Would I recommend this story to anyone? I guess. If you're a fan of "Once Upon A time" or "Grimm" TV shows, you might like something like this. It's a like a young adult-ish meld of the two shows with a so-so lead. I give it **TWO & 1/2 STARS**

Sue Morris says

Book exchanged for review~Per Goodreads rules~

Do you believe in fairy tales? I do and I loved this story.....

This book starts off with a normal college girl following her dream trying to get an internship job for school. Only this is no "ordinary" girl,we later find out she is the last Grimm and is the only one that can stop the plague of killing being done.

I found myself so in grossed in the story ,I didn't want to put the book down. I just can't wait for the next book, to see what will happen next....

Penumbra says

This book was given to me by the author through the *Making Connections ARR* group for an honest review, thank you.

The Last Grimm: Red's Hood is the story of Abigail Grimm who is a direct descendant of the Brothers Grimm and the last surviving Grimm. She is the only one who can read the monstrous fairytale creatures that have been brought to our world by the Evil Queen, back into their own world. This is also a story of romance between Abigail and Connor Guy as he helps Abigail in her goal to read the creatures back into the books.

(view spoiler)

Jill says

This book had an interesting premise. I love anything based around fairy tales so I was immediately interested in this book, and in that it did not disappoint. A unique twist, the heroine, Abigail, a descendant of the original brothers Grimm, has the unique ability to read fairy tales to life, or back into the world of the book. It was a unique twist, and although people may think this is similar to the tv show Grimm, it really isn't similar other than the titles.

Pros: Unique story line, unique fairy tale twist.

Cons: Shallow underdeveloped one-dimensional characters. The heroine is 18. She is a brilliant college student who was selected for the most prestigious internship in her program. Yet, she is frightfully immature. I found it hard to believe that a person with her listed accomplishments, would be quite so whiny, and quick to jealousy without proof as Abigail is shown to do. Also, if she is so together as her college career is showing, why does she blow off her work everyday mooning over her boyfriend? It just didn't add up to me. I know many 18 year-olds that would never act as immature as this girl who is portrayed as being on top of it. I wouldn't have selected such a lazy, whiny, immature student to apply for a internship that would reflect directly on my department if I were her school advisor.

A couple of other things that bothered me were the fact all other characters were stock fill-ins. No one had a separate personality or anything to add to the story (outside of Connor as the huntsman). I felt little to no emotion about anything that happened to any character.

The book had little action outside of Abby panting after Connor for three-quarters of the book. The ending was more exciting, but the last battle between Abby and the wolves was completely unbelievable. The stupid girl should have read the wolf away at the start it didn't make sense to wait, yet she didn't so the book could have a climax. Dumb.

Basically, outside of the premise, there wasn't much left to recommend this book. It was a quick and easy read and there was some romance and some action. I couldn't really recommend it for YA readers since it contains graphic sex (describes Abby's first sexual experience) and underage drinking. I guess if a Paranormal romance reader or fairy tale lover was bored, they could pick this up.

Mandy says

I received this book in return for a honest review from The Nexus group on goodreads (Here). Abby is a college freshman who is also working a internship at RoseMarie's Fashion Magazine. Even with work and school she still notices the attractive older guy Connor who can't seem to keep his eyes off her. After Abby is leaving work she sees the brutal murder of the secretary mauled by a giant wolf who then comes after her. Connor is there to save her from the silver wolf revealing to her who he really is and what's really going on.

Suddenly everything she thought was true is about to change and Abby is thrust into a fantasy world her ancestors have created. Abby learns that she's a guardian of the fairytale world and has the gift to send them back. Abby learns that she is the last in a long line of Grimms who protect the mortal realm from the fairy

tale one. The wolves are hunting her to put a end to the Grimms so that they won't be sent back to the fantasy one. Together Abby and Connor need to stop the dark evil lurking from a evil queen said to be in the human world, and stop the silver wolf.

I really liked the concept of the book. I am after all a huge fairytales junkie so this book was a instant must read for me. It was a little slow at the start as we got a little background on the story but once it gets started its a fast paced adventure filled with monsters from fairytales, a evil queen and a little romance in the mix. I like the idea of Abby and Connor as a couple he's every girls wish when it comes to a man. It's fun to watch Abby grow as a character she goes from school girl who works in the fashion business to guardian of the fantasy world. Overall it's a great story with the potential to be a great start in a series, I admit it had a few flaws with being choppy in some spots but easy to overlook as your drawn into the story and left wanting to know more.
