



## Red

*Belinda McBride*

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## **Red** Belinda McBride

After a decade, Stephan is back in town, his brutal hunter's gaze searching for prey. When he runs into Red in a bar, Stephan is mesmerized. Years ago, Red had been a skinny boy, doing his best to protect himself from the big bad creatures of the city. Now, he's all grown up and has been waiting a very long time... for Stephan.

### **Photo Description:**

A muscular young man in a bright red hoodie makes a tempting target. He may be far more dangerous than he seems!

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love Has No Boundaries**" event. Group members were asked to write a story prompt inspired by a photo of their choice. Authors of the group selected a photo and prompt that spoke to them and wrote a short story.

## **Red Details**

Date : Published July 14th 2013 by M/M Romance Group @ goodreads

ISBN :

Author : Belinda McBride

Format : ebook 50 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, M M Romance, Shapeshifters, Science Fiction, Dystopia

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## From Reader Review Red for online ebook

### Raj says

I think I need 'part' 2 to sustain the high I got from reading this 'little' one. The only downside is that these offerings are too minute, small, tiny and I have a huge appetite for the word.

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### Jade says

I got to the end and was like-oh no it finished :( This read like the beginning of a novel-an interesting one that I really want to finish! More please-pretty please! Oh and thank you!

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### mw138 says

#### 3.5 stars

Interesting take on the *Little Red Riding Hood* fairytale. The story kept me interested and the dystopian setting (and the backstory regarding women) was quite intriguing. My only complaint is that the story seemed to be set in the United States, but there were some references to things that were clearly British: pubs, Shepherd's Pie and bangers and mash. Granted, those things can be found in the States, but they're not as common.

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### Sandra says

[cuz he got all big and beastly (hide spoiler)]

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### Mandy\*reads obsessively\* says

The sexy picture that inspired this story was what made me to decide to read this contribution to the LHNB event.

I read the tags and wasn't really going to read it, post apocalyptic setting and some of the other tags weren't my usual reading material, but the picture was very cool and I do try to use these group events to broaden my reading horizon.

I don't really want to give much away, but I will say boy am I very glad I read this one. It literally grabbed me after the first paragraph and it got even better after that. The world building in this short was so very good, the author gave just enough to keep me guessing but enough to follow along and not feel lost. The ending is hopeful and I usually hate the way this one ended but somehow it worked for this story and I

have a feeling she is going to give us more about these two men. At least I'm really really hoping she will.

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### **Julesmarie says**

I've made no secret of how much I just absolutely adore these m/m retellings of fairy tales, so when I saw the prompt and summary for this one, it immediately jumped to the top of my tbr list.

Reading it was an interesting experience. We jump right into the story in Red's head and get to see through his eyes for a while what this dystopian world is like before we're told any of the back story. I actually found myself totally enjoying this approach, as it allowed me to try to guess and draw conclusions of my own rather than being fed the information through the typical info-dump.

The most delightful part of the experience of reading this, though, was that for maybe 70% of the story, I still wasn't entirely clear on who was what and how the pieces fit together. I was just about to reach the point where I sighed in frustration and decided that there was simply too much here trying to be stuffed into a novella and that the dots simply hadn't all been connected. And then poof! Red makes one comment, and suddenly all the pieces fit together, all the dots connect, and I'm left a little stunned with awe at how brilliantly it was all done.

A very, very fun reading experience. (view spoiler) 4.5 stars rounded up for being free.

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### **Ofelia Gränd says**

### **Ayanna says**

Re-read:

Definitely a lot better than the first read, prolly cuz I have more info now/context/whatever. On the reread, I liked it a lot more, and I wasn't too caught up in trying to figure out what all these obscure things and universe points meant. I was actually able to enjoy the "budding romance" that happened in the last couple of pages (before it cuts off unceremoniously with a bombshell xe dropped), and this time, it was hot. I enjoyed the dynamics, although maybe it's telling that I had to wait until the second time before I could start enjoying it...

For that, it only gets 3 stars and not 4.

Original review:

The exposition isn't laid out nicely. It's got that pseudo-suspense manufactured by the author purposefully withholding shit-ton of information and then dangling the fact that so much is missing in front of our faces.

The sex was awkward.

It was stilted and awkward. I was kind of happy when I got to the end...

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### **K says**

LHNB story released 14.7.13

just over 4 stars

Really well written paranormal story set in a post apocalyptic type world where a bio-war has virtually wiped out women and caused genetic mutations leading to the creation of "beasts" - similar to three form werewolves. Red is a scrawny kid who is first spotted by Stephan, a hunter, working in the gym. Ten years later Red is a detective and Stephan is still hunting, and an out of control beast is in the area and has killed several times. There is a very intense attraction between the two men, but this is a story without a traditional HEA, though it reads as though that will be the ultimate conclusion of their relationship, the time just isn't right yet. Enjoyed this one a lot.

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### **?? Michaelle ?? says**

4.1 Stars

WOW! I'm actually quite impressed with this interesting re-telling of the Little Red Riding Hood story. Inventive, different...sexy as hell with an unexpected twist.

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### **MostlyDelores says**

Very good. Eerie and dark and romantic. I hope there is more to come in this universe.

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### **Teresa says**

Dark tale that borrows from little red riding hood with some big twists. Though the world they live in is dark and terrible, I liked both mcs and would like to read more of their story.

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### **A??ela W. says**

This was a short quick read that I liked. This book was set in a post-apocalyptic world with the deserts flooded the rain forests died and sickness that ravaged the population, when the women died and when babies were born they were mutated into beasts or hunters. Stephan is a Hunter he is back in town to hunt and beast when he runs into Detective Colin "Red" Redington in a bar. Turns out they a hunting the same beast these two have history and a lot of attractions. This was my first time reading this author. This book was well written with no errors in grammar or spelling. I am looking forward to reading book 2.

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**Eli Easton says**

Very nicely done. Good world-building, some hot sex, and a creative little twist.

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**Ami says****3.75 stars rounded up**

I admit, the world/dystopian setting was a bit difficult for me to understand at first. It was like I was being pushed into this world without any background information or preparation. However, after awhile, I got sucked into the story -- Red being a shifter and Stephan being a hunter who killed beasts (or shifters) were a delicious set-up for a romance. But this one was more than just paranormal romance set in dystopian world. There was a mystery on the works as well, about a serial killer who was on the loose.

I loved how Red knew Stephan (and vice versa) from years back and then they met again when Stephan crossed Red's path (Red was a detective now) hunting the killer. I definitely LOVED the twist -- (view spoiler) -- and BOY, what a HOT sex that was \*roar\*.

The ending was tagged as "hopefully-ever-after" ((view spoiler)). Belinda McBride wrote in the comment section, that her agent was thinking of expanding the story. Well, I would definitely be there for the expanded story! This was a world that I definitely would like to read more...

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