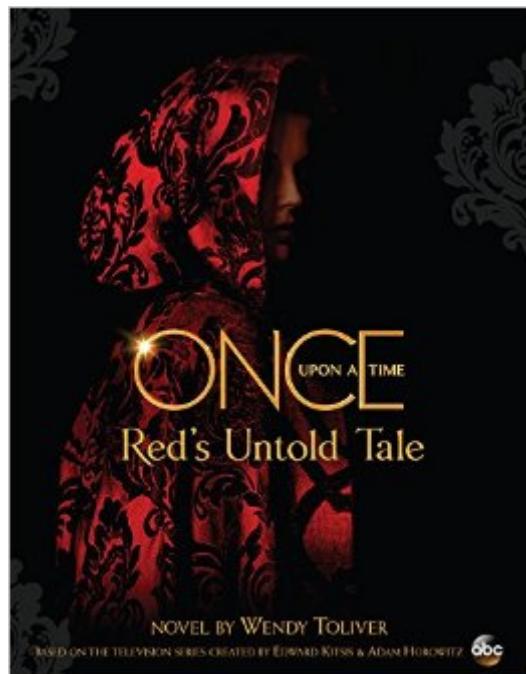


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# Once Upon A Time: Red's Untold Tale



## Synopsis

Red is 16 and lives with Granny in a cottage in the village, where boarding up the house and hiding during Wolfstime is a means of survival. Red helps Granny with Granny's baked good business, catering as well as door-to-door sales. Red has a constant internal battle between her wild side and her strict, overprotective upbringing, and the issue of "control" as she discovers she has a hot temper when the "mean girls" push her too far. ("When we learn to control it, we needn't fear it," Rumpelstiltskin says in the series.) She has flashbacks to her 13th year when she received her cloak and the nickname "Red." Plagued by nightmares she doesn't understand and a temper she can't control, Red struggles to save Granny's troubled business and to nurture her budding romance with Peter, even as the betrayal of her classmates awakens the wolf within.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Review originally posted @ <http://feelyourbooks.blogspot.com> This book serves as a companion to the hit TV show all about fairy tale retellings, Once Upon a Time, while giving us a peek into Red's life as a young girl. I haven't rewatched Season 1 in quite a while, so the timing of this book as a refresher was perfect. I remembered loving Red's story in the Enchanted Forest as told on the show, but I had forgotten nearly all of it over these past few years. Red is an empathetic girl whose life is built upon tragedy. Her parents died before she ever got to know them at the claws of a horrible beast which plagues her dreams every month around the time of the full moon (which the villagers refer to as "Wolfstime"). The other girls at school bully her relentlessly for everything from

her clothing to her overprotective Granny. Every time she starts to pick herself up and move forward, something always manages to beat her right back down. So, naturally, she has developed a bit of a temper which causes her to make mistakes in her reflexive attempts to fight back. The one small speck of light in her life is her childhood friend, Peter. Their slow-building love is believable for their young ages and the pressures laid upon them by their families. Red has to remember to put her widowed Granny first as there is nobody else in the family alive to help with her baked goods business which requires extra hands for making deliveries, purchasing ingredients, tending to the chickens, and so on. Peter is apprentice to the family blacksmith business with a lot to learn about the trade, keeping him just as busy. Red dreams of someday leaving the village and finally going out into the world, but it doesn't seem like that could ever be a possibility with everything going on at this time in her life. To those who have not yet started watching the show, I'd say this book is perfectly safe to read as far as spoilers go. This book borrows elements from Red's story, but it is detached enough from the "future" so that old and new fans alike can enjoy it. Unfortunately, it leaves off on an incomplete ending, and I can't for the life of me remember if it ends up being resolved in the show. I may be due for another rewatch. One thing I was especially disappointed in was the lack of characters outside the traditional tales of Red Riding Hood. Those familiar with the show may feel let down by the total lack of crossover characters--as was the case with me. Also, I went into this book thinking it was supposed to be directed at a YA audience, but it read a lot more like middle grade. It wasn't bad, and I rarely felt totally bored while reading it. Some parts just felt particularly juvenile and watered down.

Red's Untold Tale follows Red and her Granny hiding in fear at night due to wolfstime. The story goes back in flashbacks on how Red received her red cloak and why they must live in fear for a couple days out of a month due to monster wolfs coming out and killing everything in their path. Along the way, Red discovers why Granny is so protective of her and Red finds who she is when things get a little crazy. I found this book to be great in the sense that I watch Once Upon A Time and love to see Red & her Granny bickering in the background and always thought they deserved a bigger part in that series so I'm happy they have a book to tell their story. Thank You to Wendy Toliver for telling this story and I'm looking forward to see if there will be anymore Once Upon A Time series books come out!! I received this book from the Publisher via NetGalley in exchange for a honest review.

Red's Untold Story was a delight to read. To find the back-story behind one of my favorite childhood

fairy tales made me smile, laugh and really appreciate the author's art of story telling. It was clever and I loved the tie-in with the Once Upon a Time TV show. I can't wait to share it with my grandchildren as I have bought them their very own copies,

Red's story is as enchanting and beautiful as the book cover! I read it in two days, whenever I had time, between daily errands and chores...and could not wait to get back to the book. Ms Toliver's writing is very descriptive and at times really poetic, and pulls one right into the story. It felt as I was there, in Granny's little house, in the enchanted forest and in the town. The characters are very well developed and I felt that I knew them all by the end of the book. I loved Red, and Granny and especially the wizard! I could see the wizard in my mind's eye and could hear him talk. I smiled continuously during Red's encounter with the wizard. The story made me laugh and dab at a tear or two and I was scared for the townspeople during Wolfstime and also horrified at times. I've read books where flashbacks do not work... this book wasn't one of them. It worked perfectly. Red's Untold Tale is one of those books that made me read slower toward the end because I did not want it to end. I think this book is a fun read for all ages.

This book sheds new light on an old tale. A great story line with well developed characters. The book itself is a piece of art - normally I read a book and pass it on, but this book will be a keeper because of it's content as well as the cover. I plan to buy extra copies to give for Christmas gifts.

I love, love, love Red's Untold Tale! My favorite character is Red and with her sweet yet spicy demeanor, and her hunt for adventure. I can't wait for the next book from author Wendy Toliver!

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