



[Red Hood](#) by Elana K. Arnold

Balzer + Bray, HarperCollins, 2020

ISBN: 9780062742360 (Paperback)

*Age Range: 14 up (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 10 up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A dark, engrossing, blood-drenched tale of the familiar threats to female power—and one girl’s journey to regain it. Five starred reviews greeted this powerful story from Elana K. Arnold, author of the Printz Honor winner *Damsel*.

You are alone in the woods, seen only by the unblinking yellow moon. Your hands are empty. You are nearly naked. And the wolf is angry.

Since her grandmother became her caretaker when she was four years old, Bisou Martel has lived a quiet life in a little house in Seattle. She’s kept mostly to herself. She’s been good.

But then comes the night of homecoming, when she finds herself running for her life over roots and between trees, a fury of claws and teeth behind her.

A wolf attacks. Bisou fights back. A new moon rises. And with it, questions.

About the blood in Bisou’s past, and on her hands as she stumbles home.

About broken boys and vicious wolves.

About girls lost in the woods—frightened, but not alone.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ “It’s unsettling how seamlessly Arnold incorporates dark fantasy elements of beastly wolves and cunning hunters into her all-too-realistic tale. A fantastic novel in the #MeToo era, empowering women to share their stories by reaching out, speaking up, and demanding a change.”

— [School Library Journal](#) (starred review)

★ “At once a sharp critique of male entitlement and a celebration of sisterhood and feminine power, this story will linger with readers long after the final page.”

— [Publishers Weekly](#) (starred review)

“Arnold uses an intriguing blend of magic realism, lyrical prose, and imagery that evokes intimate physical and emotional aspects of young womanhood. A timely and unabashedly feminist twist on a classic fairy tale.”

— [Kirkus Reviews](#)

"This will satisfy readers looking for a vengeful overthrow of the patriarchy that recasts the victims as the victors."

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— Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

★ "An ultimately empowering, and thoroughly immersive, feminist fairy tale."

— [Horn Book](#) (starred review)

★ "Deeply and darkly enticing, Red Hood isn't a modern retelling so much as it is the story we should have had all along."

— [Shelf Awareness](#) (starred review)

★ "It’s unsettling how seamlessly Arnold incorporates dark fantasy elements of beastly wolves and cunning hunters into her all-too-realistic tale. A fantastic novel in the #MeToo era, empowering women to share their stories by reaching out, speaking up, and demanding a change." (*School Library Journal*, Starred Review)

"I rarely ever write this, but in this case, I simply had no choice. With Red Hood, author Elana K. Arnold has accomplished something so important and powerful that I strongly believe everyone should read this book." (*Locus Magazine*)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Cybils Award Nominee, 2020
- Booklist Editor’s Choice, 2020
- Publisher’s Weekly Best Children’s Books, 2020
- Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Books, 2020
- New York Public Library Best Books, 2020
- YALSA Amazing Audiobooks, 2021
- RISE Feminist Book Project Top Ten Title, 2021
- Bank Street Best Children’s Books of the Year, 2021
- Rhode Island Teen Book Award, 2022

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [PEN America Member Spotlight](#)
- San Diego Union-Tribune [‘Red Hood’ author Elana K. Arnold Looks at the Wolves in our Midst](#)
- [PW Q&A with Elana K. Arnold](#)
- <https://www.tiktok.com/@penamerica/video/7247160557655117099>
- [Elana K. Arnold on Fairytales, Claiming Power, and Red Hood](#)
- [5\(ish\) Questions with Elana K. Arnold](#)
- [Q&A: Elana K. Arnold, Author of ‘Red Hood’](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

My work and the work of my fellow authors that is being targeted as a result of this current moral panic are neither obscene nor pornographic. Attempts to call them so by taking specific lines out of context and claiming they represent the works as a whole is either ignorant, intellectually dishonest, or both.

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Book bans harm the very children and teens they purport to protect. Literature gives us stories and information so that we might understand ourselves and the wider world. A reader is in a powerful place with a book: with a book in their hands, they are in charge. They can read it if they choose; equally, they have the power to set it down and walk away. When someone makes that choice for readers by banning a book that has been included in a library's collection by an educated, trained library professional, they rob readers of their freedom and cheat them of an opportunity to engage safely with information and art. Armed and empowered by the experiences and information they encounter in books, readers develop the language to understand what's happening in the great big world outside of them, and inside of themselves, as well.

Readers deserve free access to books. They have a first amendment right to freedom of press. Those who aim to take away their books, who are stripping their libraries and book collections, are thieves of art, culture, information, and liberty. I stand in solidarity with the librarians, teachers, parents, and educators who acknowledge that our duty is to the freedom of information, the art of literature, and the protection of young people's access to the full library collections to which they are entitled.

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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