

## **They Call Me Red** by Christina Kilbourne

Life was pretty good until Lily came along. My dad and I have always done just great by ourselves. My dad told me about my mom. She was a drug addict and walked out on us when I was just a baby. We did great, just the two of us. We didn't have that much money but my dad always made everything fun. Then he got interested in Lily. Lily was from Vietnam and worked in the office at the slaughterhouse where my dad had a job. She was pretty and petite and just fawned over my dad. He was obsessed with her. They started to date, and then she moved in with us. Then they got married. Nobody asked me even once what I thought. I did not like Lily. The next thing that happened is she brought over her twin boys Quan and Sang from Vietnam. We had to buy a different house, and I was expected to make them feel welcome. The twins were really weird. They seemed really spaced out and it seemed to me they were trying to hide most of their feelings. Even my friend Eric who can see the good in everyone thought they were strange. It was soon after their arrival that my dad got sick. Lily fed him her special medicinal teas but he did not get better. He had tests done at the hospital and it showed both of his kidneys were badly damaged. They said there was not much they could do. I was sick with worry. Lily decided that she would take my dad to Vietnam. Her uncle was a famous herbal doctor and she was sure he could help him with an ancient cure. Dad thought it was worth a try. So the three of us went to Vietnam. I had to live in a cramped house with some of Lily's relatives. My dad got even sicker. Nothing seemed to help. My dad died. Before he died he said something very strange.

Read page 67 "You're a good kid Devon... to haven't seen her in years."

I was grief stricken. Lily's uncle gave me this horrible tasting tea to make me feel better. This is what happened when I woke up.

Read page 75 "The next time I woke up to "wait and see"

Read page 76 "Come" to "slammed the door"

I had been sold into slavery. Nobody knows where I am. My dad was dead. I possibly have a mother I knew nothing about. Then it came to me. Lily had killed my dad. What was I going to do?

Eric's red hair has made him a valuable commodity. What will happen to him in his life as a slave? Will he ever get away? Will he find his mother? Why did Lily do such a terrible thing? To find out what happens to Devon read [They Call Me Red](#) by Christina Kilbourne. Christina Kilbourne is the author of [Dear Jo](#), which won the Shining Willow Award in 2010.