
Book One: Red

By Glenna Faye

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This book is dedicated to my family; my wonderful and patient husband who pushed me to keep writing, my two younger kids who were excited to read the finished product and my oldest who sat through me bouncing ideas off of her, and playing “catch the owl” when I Book One: RED

had writer's block.

To my mom who has always believed in me and supported my writing even as a child with my silly stories.

Lastly, my beautiful grandmother ~ I miss her so. She is such an inspiration to me. I love you Beeps.

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CHAPTER ONE

(From Rune's notebook, page 1)

Confusion. Zelina rubbed her eyes and opened them slowly, looking around. Where was she? Above her the sky was cloudy and grey, the sun fighting to shine through. She sat up slowly from the wet grass, wiping the Book One: RED mist from her face. Glancing around, Zelina found herself surrounded by stones in the middle of a green field. The stones reminded of her something, a distant memory she could not quite place. She stood slowly, her legs shaking, heart pounding. The massive stones all around her, so old; some stood while others had fallen, probably ages ago. What was it about them that made her feel trapped? Zelina's head began to pound behind her eyes, and she closed them tight to shut out the image of the stones. Maybe it was all a nightmare, and if she squeezed her eyes tight enough, she would wake up and everything would be all right once again. She tried desperately to make sense of where she was, tried to recall Book One: RED her last memory. What was the last thing she was doing before Book One: RED she woke up, here in this strange place? Nothing. All Zelina

saw was blackness; she had no memory. She opened her eyes in alarm. She truly had no memory, other than her name.

“Hey, young lady! You aren’t supposed to be over there!” A coarse voice yelled from behind her.

Zelina turned to see an elderly couple walking around the outside of the stones, arm in arm. “You need to come out of there before you get into Book One: RED trouble.”

Zelina looked around and saw several other people walking around the stones, taking pictures. She did not want to get into any trouble, so she slowly walked towards the old man. “Sorry, I’m not sure how I wound up in there.”

“Are you alright, dearie? You look a bit shaken.” The older woman looked up at Zelina while holding on to the old man’s arm a bit tighter.

“Yes, I’m all right. Thank you.” Zelina smiled at them and turned to face the stones, hoping for some answers.

“All right, well, the weather is just going to get worse, so you better be heading home.” The old man squeezed his wife’s hand, and they walked off, leaving Zelina to the mist and the unnerving stones. She closed her Book One: RED eyes once more, willing a memory to come forward. Through the fog of her mind she was running from something, she didn’t know what, tears running down her face, then nothing.

The wind began picking up, the grey sky above began churning and Zelina felt a chill run up her spine, not from the weather but from her blank mind, from being in a place she knew nothing of. She had no idea where to go or what to do. Zelina Book One: RED brought the hood of her sweater up, trying to cover her face as she stared at the stones.

A voice as loud as thunder came out of nowhere, making Zelina jump. “Young lady, we have been searching everywhere for you! This is the farthest you have gone! What have we told you about taking off like that?!”

Spinning around, Zelina saw a stern-looking woman with salt-and-pepper hair pulled in a tight bun at the back of her head, dressed in different Book One: RED colors of grey, approaching her. She was rather tall and Book One: RED terribly thin, sickly looking. Her cheeks were sunken in, and she had dark, almost black, circles under her eyes.

Zelina’s first thought was that the woman was yelling at someone else, because Zelina had no idea who she was. She stared at the woman as she approached, thinking she would pass by to yell at another young lady.

“Young lady! I am talking to you! What have you been told? You will be taken to another home, one not as nice as ours if this continues! Now, you don’t want that do you?” The woman took Zelina’s hand and started walking her away from the stones.

Zelina pulled her hand away. "I'm sorry. You must have me confused with someone else. I have no idea who you are." The lady grabbed her wrist and squeezed it tightly so Zelina could not pull away again. The woman looked frail; however, looks can be deceiving.

"Darling, your name is Zelina and you reside in a home I take care of. You've taken off, as you have done many times in the past. Now, if you will please come along, the weather is turning rather nasty, and I'd like to be back home before too late."

The lady began pulling Zelina once more, and Zelina felt she had to go along. She did not know the woman, that much was true; however, there was something inside her telling her to go, that it would be all right.

They walked a little ways to a car Book One: RED where an enormous man, dressed all Book One: RED in white, waited. As they approached, the big man began walking towards them, pulling his hands from his pockets. Zelina stopped walking; the big man standing next to the car Book One: RED made her stomach sink. The woman looked at the big man, shaking her head and raising one hand to have him stay back. "Zelina, dear, listen to me. It's happened again." She looked at Zelina, shaking her head. "This is normal for you; this why you have been sent to us. You have blackouts from time to time. You lose certain parts of the day, having no memory how you got to places, or even, at times, who you are. Come on, dear, the rain is starting to come down, and we need to get you home where we can help you. Please, do not make this more difficult than it needs to be."

With that, she waved to the big man to come forward and help get them to the car. The woman may have been speaking sweet words, but they Book One: RED were bitter to Zelina's ears. This lady was in no way sweet, and somehow Zelina knew it.

"I'm honestly sorry. I have no idea who you are. You say this has happened before?" Zelina's head was pounding hard now; it hurt so Book One: RED badly she felt she might cry. She didn't want to go with them, not really, but felt she had no choice. There was something deep inside her that felt pulled to go with the pair; she thought maybe it was a deep memory, like that of Book One: RED the stones.

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