

They Called Me Red, written by Christina Kilbourne. Lobster Press, Montreal. 2008. \$10.95 paperback ages 14 and up

Powerful and frightening is this story of the international sex trade that exploits children. It begins with Devon and his father, a happy pair until Lily enters their lives. His father is enthralled while Devon is dubious. When his father falls ill and Lily suggests treatment in her native land, Vietnam, the course is set on a ride for readers that includes terror, anger, hopelessness and finally, healing. Devon's red hair is the catalyst for his stepmother selling him to Long. Red hair is highly prized and Devon will fetch a high price. It is only after an international search that he is found, and finally returned to foster care in North America. So begins his path to hope and a sense that he has something to share with others. Kilbourne does not preach...she tells a heartbreaking story while informing her young adult audience. This book will inspire much discussion and should be shared in homes and classrooms.