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They Called Me Red

Christina Kilbourne
Lobster Press (Sep 30, 2008)
Unknown $9.95 (191pp)
978-1-897073-88-9

Christina Kilbourne's *They Called Me Red* (Lobster Press, 978-1-897073-88-9) reveals what's worse than a thirteen-year-old's first job of washing gory slaughterhouse floors. When Devon's father falls for Lily, a Vietnamese immi-grant with a devious plot, the hero's second job is even less promising: sex slavery in Cambodia. Kilbourne gets the dread across when the protagonist realizes the restaurant he's forced to work in is a cover business. Devon watches customers and learns, "These men were bidding for the first chance to be with me, and I knew I had only a few more days…" The sex necessary to advance the storyline is handled tactfully; fear and circumstances of imprisonment are the main focuses. A question raised is whether one should fight or acquiesce in an apparently hopeless situation. (August 18, 2009)

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