For my brilliant sister Bec. Love always – L.R.

For Laura Roberts – B.M.



First published 2018 by Macmillan Children's Books
an imprint of Pan Macmillan
20 New Wharf Road, London N1 9RR
Associated companies throughout the world
www.panmacmillan.com

ISBN 978-1-5098-2521-9 (HB)
ISBN 978-1-5098-2522-6 (PB)

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1 3 5 7 9 8 6 4 2

A CIP catalogue record for this book
is available from the British Library.

Printed in China

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Little Red Reading Hood



MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS



Little Red Reading Hood LOVED reading books,
Always curled up inside crannies and nooks.
She read in the bathroom. She read on the porch.
She read late at night by the light of a torch.
Flicking through pages, her little head bowed,
Dreaming up stories and laughing out loud.

But one day her mother said, "What a to-do!
Red, this old library book's long overdue.
You must take it back to the library today,
But listen, I've something important to say!

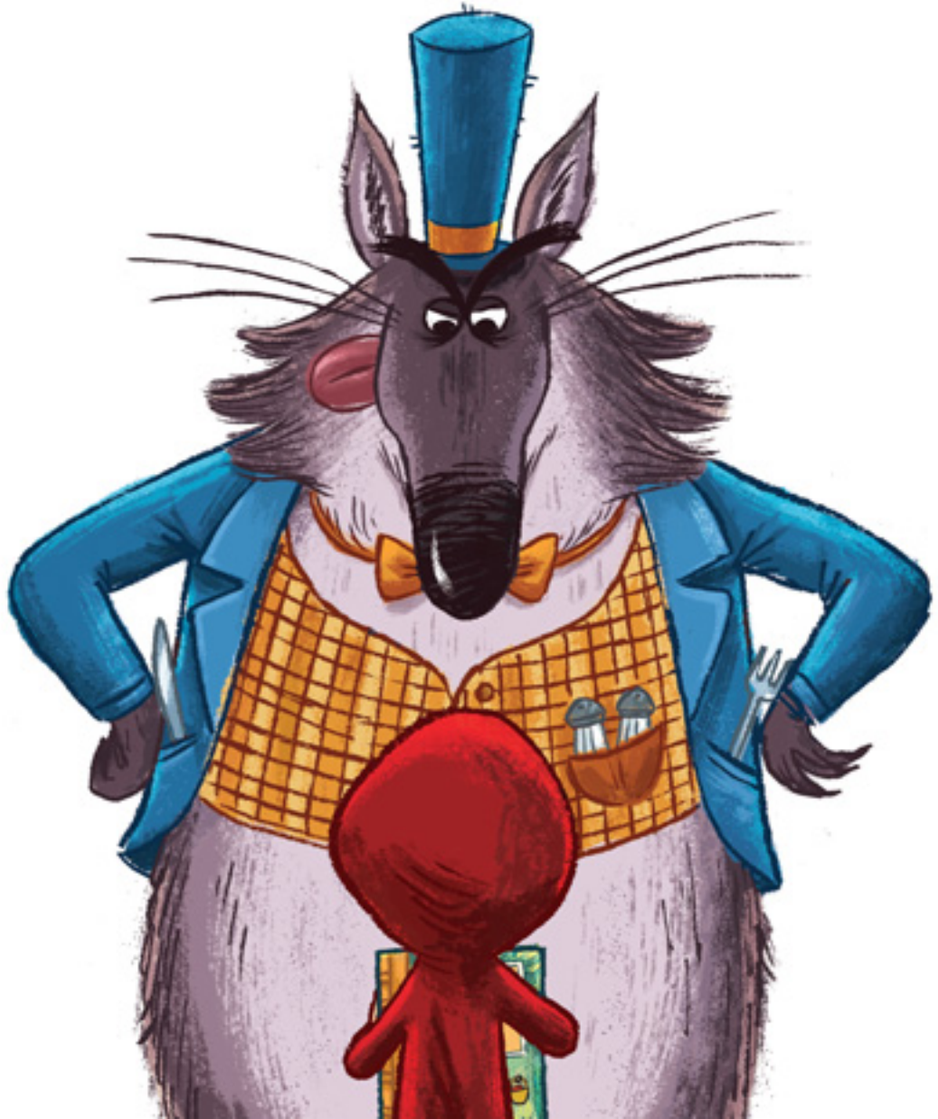




Don't ever stray from the path in the wood."
"Yes Mum," said Red, and she pulled up her hood.


As Red skipped along,
it was lovely and sunny.
But suddenly Red
felt a little bit funny.
A wolf jumped in front of her. Gruffly he said,
"Where are you taking that book, Little Red?"
"The library," she answered, "to hand it back in."
"Oh?" said the Wolf and he started to grin.

The Wolf licked his lips and he had a good hunch
That Little Red Reading Hood might do for lunch!
He thought, "She looks tasty, a flavoursome treat,
And maybe I'll read her book after I eat."





The Wolf had a plan so he said with a smile,
"But why don't you stay here and read for a while?"

Red was quite tempted.
Her book was SO good!
So she strayed from the path
and she sat in the wood.
"Ten minutes," she said,
as she started to read.



And off ran the Wolf
at a lightning-fast speed!



Now, books have all sorts
of strange magical powers,
And that afternoon Red
was reading for hours!