

Excerpt from RED

The characters are RED, female 11 year-old, and WOLF, a male in his late 20s. Wolf's apartment, two chairs facing each other. RED wears a red cape.

WOLF stands near RED, who is seated.

WOLF I'm not a stranger! I'm a grandmother!

RED You don't look like a grandmother.

WOLF The funny thing is you don't even know what a grandmother's like, cause you don't have one! So how can you know?

RED I do know.

WOLF Oh?

RED How they sit.

WOLF looks back at his empty chair.

WOLF What's wrong with—?

RED And they don't have beards!

WOLF picks up RED'S hand; places it on his beard. WOLF is all mouth and teeth.

WOLF I don't have a beard. Well, not a big beard. A shadow. I have a shadow. But I don't have big teeth, and I don't have a big mouth. What about my eyes? Do you think they're big?

RED They're blue.

WOLF Yeah.

RED And you smell bad!

WOLF Hey, you can't say that. That hurts my feelings. And anyway, how would you know how grandmothers smell?

RED They tell us on TV.

WOLF And what does TV say about their smell?

RED Baby powder.

WOLF Oh yuk! Gross! You know where they put baby powder?

RED On their bodies.

WOLF On babies' bums.

RED covers her ears. WOLF points to his bum.

Bums! Bums! Bums!

RED slides off chair. Runs off.

RED I hafta go.

WOLF Okay, I won't say it. Do I scare you?

RED stops.

RED I'm not supposed to talk to strangers.

WOLF Well, you are, aren't you?

RED Yes.

WOLF And –

RED turns around, looks at WOLF.

WOLF Is it okay? I mean, is anything bad happening?

RED No.

WOLF You're just a bit scared.

RED nods 'yes.'

My big feet scare you.

RED giggles. Takes step toward WOLF.

My hairy legs scare you.

RED shakes her head 'no.'

My big blue eyes scare you.

RED No, silly. They don't scare me.

WOLF Well—

RED walks over to WOLF, who widens his knees. RED leans in between the WOLF'S opened legs and looks up into WOLF'S face.

RED Are you really a grandmother?