



## Red

*Warren Ellis , Cully Hamner (Illustrator)*

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In the explosive espionage-thriller RED, Warren Ellis and artist Cully Hamner create a stark tale of revenge, as retired CIA killer Paul Moses finds himself forced back into the game to gain revenge on the agency that trained him.[top](#)

## Red Details

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Author : Warren Ellis , Cully Hamner (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review Red for online ebook

### David Dalton says

I liked this very much. Only complaint? It was too short. Different from the movie as this story was only about Frank. The movie did incorporate elements from this story and expanded on those elements. This Frank is a stone killer, but like the movie version, he JUST wanted to be left alone. I would have loved to have seen this 3 part story arc extended to five or six parts. It was really pretty straight to the point. So do not expect the movie version of Frank, but this is the story that laid the foundation for who Frank Moses is/was.

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### Andrew says

Okay I will admit that I was led to this from the two films which I thoroughly enjoyed. I sort of knew they were taken from a comic book I just didn't know much more than that.

Well now I do

first of all it was a limited run so it is quite interesting to see two films and a suggested TV series coming off the back of such little source material.

The second fact was that it was from the pen of Warren Ellis who I seemed to have been inadvertently following recently. Honest I was not planning it that way and I will say as much in court.

But what of the book - well it is only really tenuously linked to the films and that is no spoiler. Also the level of violence is totally poles apart which for Warren Ellis and his work is not surprising but again considering the approach of the film quite a surprise.

But what of the story - its pretty straight forward which you would expect since it was a limited run but at the same time quite insightful in to both the genesis of the film and reflection of MR Ellis's back catalogue (Punisher anyone?).

So what do I think - an interesting read and one to add to the Warren Ellis pile rather than the film tie in. IT was fun while it lasted but once its done its done I guess

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### Gert says

RED is a short story comic about a retired agent. I'd read the book before the movie and it was a great and fun little thing.

Don't, however, go in with the movie in mind. You will be sorely disappointed and unable to appreciate the simple elegance.

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### Scott S. says

Paul Moses, a former 'wet boy' (assassin-agent for the CIA), has been retired for years and is living a quiet life on a country estate. Beesley, the agency's latest bureaucrat director, decides Moses is too dangerous to be walking the earth and orders his immediate death -- that was the first mistake. A competent but inexperienced young team is sent to do the job -- that was the next mistake. Beesley thinks his headquarters will be impenetrable if guarded by a heavily armed force -- that was the last mistake he'll ever make. As Toby Keith warbled "This big dog will fight when you rattle his cage."

The hyper-violent *RED* (which I thought was an acronym for 'Retired, Extremely Dangerous,' but that's not used here) was the basis for the 2011 action-comedy film with Bruce Willis and a great all-star supporting cast. However, this original incarnation is a bloody, sadistic little number (only 70-odd pages) that pares down the characters but increases the body count. Not for the squeamish or easily offended, as this is a story with a cynical heartbeat and a consistent mean streak.

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### **Bry says**

Not what I was expecting I'll admit, but come on?! Where was Helen in the ball gown with the machine gun??

I guess I was just expecting the movie that I saw to be a bit more in line with this since this is the original story....I know, I know what the hell was I thinking. Since when are movies all that faithful to their books?

The story focuses only on Paul Moses - no geriatric sidekicks for him this time round - as he is sucked from his retirement when the CIA suddenly wants their golden boy of yesteryear unable to spill any of his past deeds.

I liked the story (even without Helen's character) but it got pretty preachy. It also ~~subtly hinted~~ blatantly accused the CIA or assassinating JFK and MLK Jr. among others. But the preachy-ness does really help to characterize Mr. Moses and gives him a lot more depth and emotion than you would expect a man who has been murdering people for the last 40 years would have.

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### **Mitchel Broussard says**

Fleshed out, it could achieve greatness. However, what we get is a 70 page splatter fest of a wholly unlikeable old guy killing mostly-innocent people for the mere fact that they kinda made him angry. Thank god it seems the movie is adding a cast of diverse characters, and Bruce Willis seems to be bringing comedy into it. Because this was way too serious and way too short to be anything enjoyable. If a 90 minute movie can pull off a solid action movie out of this material, I think congratulations will be in order.

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### **Stephen says**

A dick sandwich. Avoid. You get about \$3.00 worth of ideas and stories in this piece 'o shit GN, but you have to pay \$15 for it. Avoid. Avoid. Avoid. I strongly advise all potential purchasers to spend their hard-earned money on something else. This is not a worthwhile read, and the art is far below expectations.

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## **Sam Quixote says**

A retired CIA operative called Paul Moses is suddenly being targeted by a new CIA director for the things he did in his past. He suddenly finds himself fending off assassins as he goes from retired (Green) to active (Red).

The fantastic Warren Ellis does a tremendous job of writing an enthralling revenge tale. Moses shows that despite being old that he is far from useless as he kills his way to the top to take down the CIA Director who ordered his retirement be called off.

It's a very short read as it was only a 3 issue run originally but even so you can see why Hollywood read it and thought there was a film there. In the book it's just one retired hitman Paul Moses (Bruce Willis in the film) but in the movie there's a whole team. The book does a far more compelling job of telling the revenge story and does it in style with Cully Hamner's excellent art. With Hamner's work you feel the bullet snap back the head as it hits, his work is tremendous.

A great comic book from Ellis and Hamner and a great read. Better than the film and one of Ellis' best, highly recommended.

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## **Dru says**

a former-cia operative is forced to come out of retirement when the government decides they dont want him alive. awesome, short and sweet.

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## **Luke Kondor says**

A quick bish bash bosh of a read. Quick and dirty and full of violence.

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## **Lolly's Library says**

Short, violent and to the point. Not much character development and what story there is serves only to move the action along, nothing more. For those looking to expand on their movie experience, move along, there's nothing to see here. In fact, it was the movie which expanded on the book, which only focuses on the tale of Paul Moses and his reactivation to the world of assassination. Other than that, the layout is crisp and focused, and the animation is vivid and well-done. I would say not much bang for your buck with this slim novel, but with the number of gunshots portrayed in the story, I'd be lying. I will say, unless you intend to pass this book among your friends to share its value, get it from the library first and then decide if you'd like to add it to your permanent collection.

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## Gavin says

Nice to see when a short little story gets done by a writer who isn't going to compromise or flinch. Too many would take this story and do what Hollywood did to it (in fact, so different to the book, there's no humour in Paul Moses at all, there's no sidekicks, just one pissed off man.)

The art is brutal, in a good way, just strong colours, red obviously being the base, and a lot of bullet motion, heads snapping back, and angry man face.

Also nice that Ellis didn't take an idea and try to stretch it out for more issues, because it keeps it pure and visceral.

My edition had Tokyo Storm on the reverse pages, and that book was terrible. God was it the polar opposite to this...

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## graveyardgremlin (formerly faeriemyst) says

Judging by thickness of the book, I thought there might be more story than there ended up being (74 pages, the rest sketches and the script). While the plot was decent, it seemed more like a prelude than a finished story. Though it had a beginning and middle, there was no end, just another beginning. I would have liked more. The artwork serves the story well and I had no trouble following the layout, though it is the color schemes that stood out to me. They were fantastic. From the subdued blues of darkened rooms to the sunnier colors when Paul is having a more carefree moment, they really brought the panels to life. Overall, a fine story but not something I'd care to read again.

This might just be me, but every time the C.I.A. Director, Michael Beesely, popped up, I thought "*Principal Flutie!*" (Ken Lerner) from Buffy the Vampire Slayer TV series. :D

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## Steyn says

Quite enjoyed the movie, and as a result tried the graphic novel (maybe that was my mistake - the movie caused some preconceptions in my head). Was to say the least quite dissapointed. Firstly, it appeared to be a slightly thinner than normal graphic novel, but not too bad. Until i found that the actual graphic novel was less than half the content of the book! Storyboard sketches etc made up most of the book! What ended up in the movie, was pretty much "inspired" by the book, but if a direct comparison had to be done, i would estimate that the movie contains about 20% material from the book, 80% newly written material (if the book had to be filmed "as is", it would result in a 15 to 20 minute shortfilm). And the irony is that the "newly written" material (and characters) is what made the movie for me.

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## Arthur says

Belíssimo graficamente, pena que a história é mais do mesmo -- "eles mexeram com o cara errado e agora todo mundo vai morrer".

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