

Wrapped in Red

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Thanksgiving is almost here and Christmas is almost a month away, so what better time to post a Jesslitt Christmas story? This little ficlet, inspired by Kelly Clarkson's song, tells how Jessica's favorite color says a lot about her - and how much Seth loves to see her in it, especially at Christmas. And, of course, we all know how beautiful Angela looks in red!

Red.

It's no surprise to Seth Hazlitt that red is his wife's favorite color. It's the color that looks the most beautiful on her, but knowing Jessica, the color means so much more to her than just beauty. Red, after all, is the color of adventure, and has Jessica ever had her share of adventures. As mystery writer J.B. Fletcher, she jets around the world on book tours, signing her novels and giving talks... and solving the mysteries that come her way. She's relaxed on tropical white sand beaches by blue oceans, explored ancient ruins in countries steeped in history, and ridden horses out in what was once called the Old West, yet still manages to find great adventure in little Cabot Cove. How she does, though... well, that's another mystery. Red is also the color of danger. For some reason only God knows, danger seems to follow Jessica like a stalker, forever tangling her up in murder, intrigue, espionage, and everything else that potentially puts her life at risk. Yet she always emerges triumphant, with only a scratch or two for her troubles. As much as it pains Seth to know that she is dogged by danger and even willingly puts herself in such situations, he has faith that she will always be all right. That's just how Jessica is.

On the heels of danger, red symbolizes anger, fire, and blood. Seth knows better than anyone that Jessica has a temper, but only when she is provoked and pushed too far. If someone harms a dear friend or a member of her family, she becomes a mother bear protecting her cubs, ready to fight to keep them safe. Blood... thick scarlet leached from veins by a cold killer, blood pumping through her own veins to give her the life that keeps her energized and strong. And fire... one wouldn't think of Jessica as a fiery woman, but again, Seth knows better. Fire burns within her soul, igniting her passion for writing, for solving mysteries, for loving and protecting the ones she holds dearest to her heart.

But more than anything, red is the color of passionate love. The color of Seth's feelings for Jessica for many years, a love that went unrequited until she returned it at last. The color of the roses she carried in her wedding bouquet. The color of the Yuletide season they both cherish so deeply, and of so many more things. The beautiful dress she wears to Cabot Cove's annual Christmas party, the one that hugs her curves and makes her hair look like pure gold. The berries in the holly and mistletoe he loves to kiss her under each year. The satin nightgown she wears every Christmas Eve, and the sheets they both snuggle, kiss, and love each other in on that magical night. Christmas is always magical when she is wrapped in his arms, wrapped in love... wrapped in red.