

Red Shift: Bravery Without Boundaries

Logline: In Redwood City, a city based on freedom of identity, Heroine Red Shift must not only find the confidence in her identity as a superhero in the eyes of the city, but to gain the confidence and courage to live her life as her most authentic self.

Thematic Concept: In a city with heroes of magic and mythos, where identity comes in many forms of both super and regular forms and where the actions of the past are never buried for long. Luke or Red Shift, his female alter ego, must strive to not only be the hero others look to, but for them to find the courage to be themselves, even in the face of their fear.

Project Sum-up:

1. To introduce a more LGBTQ+ positive and varied cast and to help those in the community find the strength and courage to be themselves, no matter what they may fear or what challenges come of it, to be proud of who they are and there is no shame in being yourself.
2. To focus on a Flash-like heroine and to introduce various mythology/legendary artifacts (real or made-up for the comic) to provide variety and to produce a good range of villains for Red Shift to face that also deal with how the actions of others' judgment has driven them to villainy, to make Red Shift question if she should really out herself as transgender, but also having a support group of friends/allies/fellow superheroes that help her decide for herself that for her to be happy as both her secret identity and as Red Shift, she must face her fears and find the courage to live the life she wants without fear of judgment.
3. Establish the Collector as a long standing villain who seeks the collection of all magical items and artifacts across the world with at first plans to simply own all magical items in the world.

In other words: Bringing in a heroine who can act as a positive influence on the LGBTQ+ community and show that we all deserve to be happy, no matter who we are or how we identify and the only thing that should really matter is having the courage to live as who you are.

Book 1: Origins

Brief Prologue:

Redwood City Rooftops - Red shift is standing on top of a skyscraper in the near futuristic city of Redwood city, an artificially made island city off the coast of Canada. She is looking out towards the ocean, with a thoughtful look on her face.

RED SHIFT: Was it truly a week since it all happened?

She looks down to her well-manicured hands.

RED SHIFT: Was it only so short a time when I was about to bring this life to an end?

MAKER/NARRATOR VO: Indeed, only a short span of time in a mortal eye where this young heroine's journey was due to meet a cruel fate and, as she has witnessed, a lot can change in a week. But let us wheel back the hands of time to see how this journey began.

ACT 1:

The scene shifts to a week ago, maintaining a visual view of where Red Shift had been looking at her hands, but now, the scene is over a bridge connecting Redwood City with mainland Canada (Imagine something akin to the Golden Gate Bridge, but white and silver with a more semi-futuristic style). We see more normal looking hands under the cover of night, during a heavy storm that makes the waters choppy underneath, reflecting the dark, chaotic mood of the POV, who cutting back, is revealed to be a depressed looking male in his late 20s, with short brown hair that is being blown around in the breeze. Wearing a simple jacket, a gamer shirt, lounge pants and slip-on shoes.

He looks down through his hands to the stormy waters below with a pained look in his eyes.

LUKE: Is this where this story ends? Maybe...maybe this way, this pain in my heart can finally be at peace...

He stands to get up onto the railing in order to jump, but is interrupted as a hooded figure approaches him, dressed in a long flowing black robe with red lining, a knee-length skirt and heeled boots, her face covered in shadows (some visual inspiration: [here](#)). This is, in truth, an angel-like entity called the Maker.

MAKER: Yet the story has yet to begin, especially one with such promise.

LUKE: Who are you? Don't try to stop me, it's...better this way.

MAKER: For now, a concerned observer. As for stopping you, I won't try to, I only wish to make you an offer.

LUKE: Which is?

The Maker takes from her robe a red and silver steel collar, with a lightning bolt etched into the front in gold as it hummed with an otherworldly magical power.

MAKER: A choice, nothing more or less.

Luke huffs at this.

LUKE: A choice? When did I ever have a choice?

MAKER: Right now, you do.

LUKE: Ok, I'll humor you, what is this "choice"?

MAKER: The choice is simple: Put on this collar, let it show you another way to live. If after a day has passed that you still find that hole in your heart to be unfilled, then return here at the same time tomorrow night. I will take back the collar and I will let you be. No strings attached.

Luke pauses, taking it all in as he stood at the precipice between this new way to live or his death. He feels the torment of his own despair, how he yearned to be something...more, something other than...this. He gets down from the railing and comes over to the Maker and takes the collar.

LUKE: Only a day...very well, let's see what path lays open to me.

He takes the collar and places it around his neck, where it magically locks into place as the lightning bolt symbol on the front glows, cosmic mystical energies flowing around Luke in a red lightning pattern and, as a crackle of thunder is seen overhead, Luke is transformed from his regular male form into a woman with long, black hair and bright blue eyes; her clothes changing from the casual streetwear into a costume befitting a super heroine from the comic books; all in red and silver spandex, involving a leotard, fingerless, shoulder-length gloves, stylized stockings and heels. Across her face was an eye mask as she rose, crackling with red lightning.

ACT 2:

She staggers to her feet as she looks at her body and looks around to see the Maker is no longer there, having disappeared during Luke's transformation. She gasps, feeling all sorts of emotions from euphoria to confusion to feeling like she was going to pass out from anxiety. She walks and finds a traffic mirror to get a good look at herself, taking off the eye mask to see her new face. She gets so emotionally overwhelmed that she begins to cry looking at herself.

???: It's real...I'm...the real me...I finally feel...like a girl.

She says to herself as she comes to the realization that she has become a real woman in every sense and, after a good cry, she tries to run around when she suddenly goes a lot faster than she was used to where she now comes to her second realization is that this collar not only transformed her into a woman, she had gained powers too.

???: I'm so fast now...am I like a speedster now?

She questions herself, wondering to what purpose this all holds and, after making sure she was walking right in the heels, she puts her eye mask back on and runs off down the bridge, leaving streaks of red lightning behind her, her body shifting as if it had always run like this as she headed back into Redwood city.

She zips around from store to store, getting odd looks from the passers-by as they did not recognise her, whispering if she was an unregistered heroine or even a villain. The mistrustful passers-by decide it best to move away from her, disheartening her, making her think that, even as her ideal self, people hated her.

These thoughts are interrupted by a nearby jewelry store's windows explode, not by explosions, but by murder of crows bursting out as a man walks out, carrying a bag of gems, jewelry and money. This man looks ragged, although wearing a japanese-style straw hat ([Kasa](#)) and what appeared to be a cloak made out of raven feathers, with three-toe ornaments attached at the tips of the cloak as well as in the middle, which hummed with divine magical energies.

CROW MASTER: Tsk, Tsk, Tsk, who is this? I don't recognise you. No matter, I won't let a would-be heroine get in my way. The Collector demands his due and I, Crow Master, shall ensure its delivery.

Crow master extends his arms as the Cloak of Yatagarasu glows with a black aura as Crow master channels its magic.

CROW MASTER: Strike my foes, O' Great Yatagarasu!

He speaks the incantation as the cloak shimmers before, coming out from the billowing cloak came a murder of crows, who at closer inspection, each possessed three feet with three toes as they came at her, forcing her to move away as she was yet unsure of what she could really do with this body and with her new powers. Crow Master gets frustrated with his crows not able to land a proper hit on her and decides to take his frustrations out at a nearby male couple with a young girl, presumably their adoptive daughter.

ACT 3:

Forced to choose and with no other way, she dives in the way of the oncoming murder of crows, blocking them from attacking the couple and the girl, who she tells them to run. She begins to bleed from the sharpness of their claws as crow master brings them back as the girl asks if she is alright, only to see Crow Master having his crows prepare to fire channels of sunlight from their three feet.

The little girl tugs on her sleeve with a pleading look on her face as she asks her to help her and her dads, that she wants to keep those she's close to safe. As Crow Master fires his Crow lazars at her, she sparks a storm of red lightning around her as a surge of heroic resolve pulses

through her as the explosion hits where they were, only to reveal an empty crater as she got the little girl and her dads away from them a good distance away as one of the dads thanks her, asking her what her name was. As her injuries begin to heal, she just smiles at them.

RED SHIFT: Call me...Red Shift.

She tells them before she zooms towards Crow Master as he fires his crow lasers at her, only for her to easily dodge around, punching down crows left and right as she looks around to find something to handle Crow Master, seeing some chains around on the ground from the jewelry store's door and knows what she has to do.

RED SHIFT: This time, you're not hurting anyone else, not when I'm around!

She calls out as she delivers a lightning punch to Crow Master, knocking him to the ground, dazed and near unconscious as he staggers up.

CROW MASTER: This cannot be! I am one of the Collector's chosen, I won't be beaten by a wannabe!

He calls forth more crows to attack Red Shift, but she slips into the store, grabbing the chains before she knocks him out completely and ties him up to a nearby streetlamp. All the while, police cars were on the way. She decides not to involve herself with the police just yet as she has yet to discover who she really is or her role now, but she super speeds into the store, speed writing a note on a loose piece of paper and left it tucked into the chains that bound Crow Master that simply read, "One more ready for the Coo-coo's nest, from: Red Shift".

She then speeds away from the scene while the Maker, standing above it all on a nearby rooftop, stands by and watches, waiting to see what next unfolds. Ending here with a "TO BE CONTINUED"