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cozy mystery with a fairy tale twist

Beauty and the Alchemist

Book One in The Alchemical Tales series

what if "once upon a time"
ended with murder most foul?



Elle Hartford
The Alchemical Tales

Behind each fairy tale there's a deadly truth.

In this magical mix-up of fairy tales and murder, Little Red Riding Hood solves the mystery at the heart of Beauty and the Beast . . .

What does it take to overcome a curse?

Traveling alchemist Red settles into life as a shopkeeper in rural Belville and expects to focus on her potions. But crime stops for no woman. Neither does Red's friend, police officer Thorn! When a beastly criminal escapes to a nearby abandoned castle and is found murdered, Thorn immediately suspects Luca, a meek-mannered bookseller—not to mention Red's best friend.

Red knows that there's more to the castle—and the murder—than meets the eye. But as she rushes to prove Luca's innocence, she's beset by a not-dead-yet ghost, a beautiful and ill-tempered suspect, and a horde of mysterious mist creatures that terrify the town. Oh, and then there's the series of lost books that hold the key to the castle's curse! If Red and her friends can't find the books and solve the mystery, Luca might not be the only one in trouble. But in idyllic Belville, appearances can be deceiving. Red will need all of her alchemical prowess and all the help she can get in order to uncover the truth behind this twisted tale.

About Elle Hartford

Elle adores cozy mysteries, fairy tales, and above all, learning new things. As a historian and educator, she believes in the value of stories as a mirror for complicated realities. She currently lives in New Jersey with a grumpy tortoise and a three-legged cat.



"This first-in-series will enchant readers and merrily lead them along the path deeper into Red's world."

--paranormal mystery author T.L. Brown

Contact Me for More:

info@ellehartford.com
ellehartford.com

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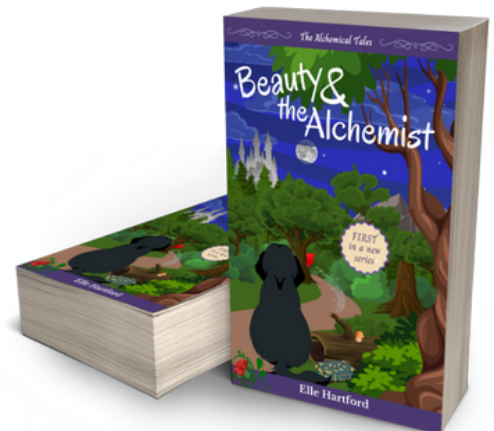
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