

# The History of Red

four excerpts from the full work

poem by  
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Reena Esmail

**E**

54 **Flowing** (♩=48)

1.

*mp*

56 *mp*

A wild - ness swam in - side our mo - thers,

58

de - sire through closed eyes, a

60

new child wea - ring the

ESMAIL: The History of Red -- vocal excerpts

2 62

red, wet mask of birth,

64 **F**

de - li - vered in - to this land al - rea - dy woun - ded sto - len and

67 **quickly** rit. . . . .

burned. . . . . be - yond rec - kon - ing.

**G**

70 **Majestic** (♩=58)

2.

Red\_ is this yiel - ding land turned in-side out by a coun - try of hun - ters\_

*f*

(harmonic outline)

74

with i - ron, flint, and fire. Red\_ is the fear that turns a

**H**

78

knife back a-gainst men, holds\_ it at their throats, and they can-not see the claw\_

82

on the han - dle, the a-ni-mal hand that haunts them from some - place in-side their blood.

*f* *mp*

150 **P** **Grounded** (♩=48)

as for the a-ni-mal hand on death's knife,

3. *mf* *p* *poco a poc cresc.*

155 *poco a poco cresc* *f*

knives have\_ as ma-ny sides as the red fa - ther of war\_ who signs his name\_ in the blood\_

*mf*

159 **Q**

\_ of o-ther men. And red\_ was the sol-dier

*f* *arco*

162

who crawled through a ditch of hu-man blood in or-der to live. \_\_\_\_\_ It was the ca

**R**

166

nal of his de - li - ve - rance. \_\_\_\_\_

*fmp* *ff*

221 **Y**

We are all \_\_\_\_\_ bur - ning, red, \_\_\_\_\_ in - sepe-ra-ble fires the

4.

**Faster** (♩=60)

**accel. .**

225

li-ving have crawled and climbed through \_\_\_\_\_ in or-der to live \_\_\_\_\_ so \_\_\_\_\_

**Z** **Faster** (♩=69)

229

no - thing \_\_\_\_\_ will be left \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

233

death \_\_\_\_\_ at the end \_\_\_\_\_