

Poetry
in
PURPLE
& RED

CELEBRATING THE VOICES
OF OUR SISTERHOOD





Earlier this year, we invited Red Hatters from around the world to share original poems inspired by friendship, laughter, aging boldly, adventure, sisterhood, and the joy of life in red and purple.

What followed was an extraordinary collection of voices. Some poems are playful, some heartfelt, some whimsical, and some deeply reflective. Together, they capture the spirit of the Red Hat Society and the many ways it touches our lives.

These poems were written by members from across the globe, each bringing her own experiences, memories, humor, and Hattitude to the page. Some celebrate friendship and fun, others honor those we've loved and lost, and many remind us that life after 50 is meant to be lived with joy, courage, and a fabulous hat.

Whether you read them one at a time with a cup of tea or enjoy the entire collection in one sitting, we hope these pages make you smile, laugh, reminisce, and perhaps even inspire you to put pen to paper and share your own story.

So settle in, adjust your brim, and enjoy this celebration of creativity, friendship, and the power of sisterhood.

Happy Hatting!

The Red Hat Society
Summer 2026

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I BECAME HER

By Queen Pearlina Grace

I didn't just enter this contest—
I entered with a memory.

A memory of a woman I
once saw from afar,
Wearing red and purple like she
already knew who she was.

Because where I'm from...
Red Hatters didn't matter.

Or maybe...
We just didn't understand
what mattered about them.

So I watched.
I wondered.
And deep down... I wanted.

Then fifty came.
And I stepped in.

I joined a chapter thinking joy
would greet me at the door—
But instead, I stood there...
Smiling on the outside,
Still searching on the inside.

Because wearing the hat...
Is not the same as becoming her.

Then I met a Queen.
Mum Pearl.

She didn't just wear the crown—
She carried it with grace.

She taught me that sisterhood
isn't surface... it's spirit.
That kindness is power.
And that a Queen never has to
be a mean girl to be seen.

She showed me the regalia—
Not just what to wear...
But how to be.

How to laugh freely.
How to stand boldly.
How to belong... without losing myself.

And something shifted.

Not overnight—
But on purpose.

So to my Pink Hat sisters, I see you—
With lavender resting on your shoulders
And possibility resting in your spirit.

Because this journey doesn't
begin at fifty—
It begins the moment you say,
"I'm ready to grow."

And now...

I don't just wear purple on my shoulders
Or a red hat on my head—

I wear confidence.
I wear grace.
I wear the lesson that changed me.

I am proud.
I am present.
I am a Red Hatter Queen.

And one thing you will never see...

Is me wearing mean.

Because I didn't just join.

I became.

TODAY

By Suzette Newman

I will rejoice, for today is a wonderful day.
I have a great feeling that special
things will come my way.

Yesterday has passed, but
today is here to stay.
I am happy, overwhelmed that this is so.
I will get things done today
That were not fulfilled yesterday.
I am on top, thank God, not below.

Yesterday I cried, today I smile.
I hold my head up with pride and dignity.
For today, God has made known to me
That I am loved without uncertainty.

Today is spelled "GREATNESS."
That is what I will achieve.
I've made my mark and will make my move.
In myself, I do believe.

WHAT RED HATTING MEANS TO ME

By Camille Hudson

I am a lady of leisure,
Not idle... but intentional.
Retired from the rush,
Yet awakened to life's finest treasures.

I travel not just miles,
But into hearts,
Into stories stitched with laughter,
Woven from women across the world.

Each Red Hat gathering,
A royal reunion of spirits,
Where crimson crowns
And violet dreams dance in unity,
Not in sameness... but in celebration.

I meet Queens of every culture,
Each one a masterpiece,
Their voices rich with journeys,
Their wisdom wrapped in experience,
Their presence... a gift.

And oh, how I listen.
How I learn.
How I grow...

Gathering jewels of knowledge
No currency could ever buy.

THIS KID'S A QUEEN

By Queen Pearl Magnolia, aka Queen Andrea F., Georgia, USA

This Kid's a Queen, just admire her bling.
Wherever she goes,
People wanna know,
Who's that Queen sportin' all that bling?

She rockin' that fancy red hat
With jewels and gems and feathers, too...
Her love of pearls and magnolias
Enchanted and inspired her royal name.

This Kid's a Queen,
Her threads of purple royally spread
Across her shoulders and even her legs.

Red on top, purple on the shoulders,
You better believe it.
As you grow older, you will grow bolder.

This Kid's a Queen in the Red Hat Society,
Given the privilege to rule
Her own QUEENDOM.

Her Royal Chapter, R3MB of the Land of
Precious Gems of Seasoned Ladies,
Is the epitome of the Power of Fun.

This Kid's a Queen.

FOR MY .15 CENTS A DAY

By Queen Mum Pearl Magnolia, Ambassador

For my .15 cents a day,
I can reign as Queen.

For my .15 cents a day,
I can showcase my bling.

For my .15 cents a day,
I can play with my Red and Pink
Hatter Sisters all across the land.

For my .15 cents a day,
I can create a plan.

For my .15 cents a day,
I can wear the colors of royalty and regalia:
Red and Purple, Pink and Lavender.

For my .15 cents a day,
I wear a BIG RED HAT.
I adorn it with jewels, feathers,
and flowers, too.

For my .15 cents a day,
I choose my own royal name,
With a title that reflects my total game.

For my .15 cents a day,
I choose to wear a purple hat,
So the world shall know it's
my birthday month...

For my .15 cents a day,
You see, I'm a registered member
Of the Red Hat Society.

A Queen Ambassador, to be exact.
My paid membership keeps me intact.

For my .15 cents a day,
With red on top,
Purple on the shoulders.

For my .15 cents a day,
I will wear my crown,
My robe, and my sword,
For all to admire and desire.

For my .15 cents a day,
I will gather with Sisters,
Sisters and mo' Sisters,
Near and far.

For my .15 cents a day,
The Red Hat Society is an essential lifestyle,
One I choose for fun, fulfillment, friendship,
And a sisterhood like no other.

They're all worth my
.15 cents a day...

COLORS

By Jesmermaid Hawkins

no... i don't hear old
i just think... bold... RED... PURPLE
change? no... i won't... thx...

happy to B... Red...
Purple... so bold... not sorry
don't do what i'm told

it's Purple & Red
BAM... Red... how do U like that?
can U feel ME... NOW

THE RED HAT SOCIETY LADIES

By Latina Stubblefield

We strut in red and purple flair,
With laughter loud and not a care.
Our hats are bold, our spirits free,
We age with style and dignity... well, mostly!

We've earned each wrinkle, laugh, and line,
Each one a badge of "feeling fine."
We've raised our kids, we've paid our dues,
Now we just wear outrageous shoes!

We lunch, we chat, we giggle loud,
We stand out brightly in a crowd.
No shrinking violets here, oh no,
We put on quite the joyful show!

Our motto's simple: live it up,
With cake in hand and a full teacup.
Or maybe wine, let's not pretend,
We know how every good day ends!

So here's to sisters dressed in red,
With purple dreams inside each head.
We may grow older, but we are not mad,
We're Red Hat Ladies, and boy are we bad!

WOMEN

By Linda Rhinebolt

We are women, kind and loving.
We are women who help
where we are needed.
We are women who take care
of families and friends.
We are women who work and have careers.
We are women who support one another.
We are women who have extended
sisterhood all over the world.

We are Women
OF THE RED HAT SOCIETY.

ROSIE RED ROWDIES' CREED

By Ellen, Queen Mum, Rosie Red Rowdies, RHS Ambassador, Social Butterfly

We understand that this is a social disorganization. We understand that “no rules” means having fun and being free to pursue fun in every stage of life. We are all for welcoming new friends. We are all about laughter.

Having compassion for and respecting each other as individuals is of great importance to us. We strive to strengthen our friendships through silliness. We understand that we are equal in spreading light and love and in holding each other up through life's ups and downs.

We also understand that we are all here to keep each other sane.

UNITY IN VARIETY

By Lady K

People say, "What's all the laughter
and chitter-chatter coming from
all those Red Hatters?"
Elders clothed in purple and red,
Young in pink and lavender,
Can be found around the globe.

They are seen on trains and planes,
In sunshine and rain,
Taking a snooze,
Or simply on a cruise.

Whether at a movie, dinner,
concert, or bowling alley,
It seems they gather for a pep rally.
The truth of the matter
Is we're simply Red Hatters!

We find unity in variety,
Being 50 years or older,
Or a "Pinky" younger than 50,
Looking for fun and laughter
In a social group of sisterhood
Called "The Red Hat Society."

CIRCLE OF SISTERHOOD

By Maelene Williams

The Red Hat Society is a never-ending circle
of sisterhood, friendship, and fun.
An organization of bold and spirited
women in elaborate formal dress.
Freedom to live everyday lives with enjoyment,
pleasure, zest, and enthusiasm.
Red Hat Chapter Queens celebrate non-
rule activities and choose elaborate
celebrations over silence.

Frolicking around dressed in glamorous, glitzy
red-and-purple regalia and adoring red hats.
Drawing attention with their colorful
red and purple while showcasing their
cheerful, energetic, and carefree spirit.
Frolicking around with a cheerful, energetic, and
carefree spirit, presenting the Red Hat Society's
SISTERHOOD, FRIENDSHIP, LOVE, and FUN.

A RED HAT SISTER

*By Queen Ambassador Diamond Beverly Lucas
Chapter Majestic Purple Passion
Rockers, Conyers, Georgia*

I'm a Red Hatter of the Red Hat Society.
I'm a Red Hat Queen Ambassador.

I wear my hats both big and small,
Standing straight and tall.
My sisters and I always have a ball.

We travel near and far.
We craft and explore it all.
It's all in fun during our journey through life,
Sharing with all.

I'm a Red Hat Sister,
And that says it all.

A BLESSING

By Virginia Ortega

My Red Hat Society chapter, the Bling Queens of Lompoc, is a blessing to many of us here.

We care for each other. Why, you ask? Many of us are retired ladies who just want to have some fun, some friends, and something to do.

We are here for each other. We are family.

What better way to celebrate being a Red Hatter than by wearing red and purple? Don't forget to smile. We are so worth it.

PASTEL DREAMS AND LAVENDER STREAMS

By Martha B. Stone

Pink Hatters in lavender hats
Dance along the garden flats.
Sunlight twirls on silky boas
While breezes make the flowers stir.

They leap through fields of pastel dreams,
By sparkling brooks and lavender streams,
Looking to become
A Red Hatter soon.

SALUTE TO PINK HATTERS

*Originally created at the request of
former PINK Queen Diana Parks,
Pink & Spicy Butterflies, Sophia, North Carolina*

The Red Hat Society started
for ladies at least 50.
Then younger women noticed
and thought it was so nifty.
Queen Mother Sue Ellen thought
carefully and decided
That younger women could join
and share in the pride.

While young ones are in training
for hats in brilliant RED,
They are proud to garner diluted
shades of PINK instead.
Also, it was considered that PURPLE
garments were too bright,
So they shall wear a muted
shade, LAVENDER just right.

PINK Hatters, beautiful in PINK
and LAVENDER attire,
And like us, there are many
others you will inspire.

So when that magical age
of 50 is obtained,
You'll REDUATE, and the bright
RED hat will be gained!

We will celebrate with you,
your "coming of age,"
And the true understanding
of life's next stage....

Over the years of much
laughter and some tears,
Don't worry about aging, IT
HAPPENS, no fears.
Think of tea parties, sisterhood,
lace gloves, feathers,
And all of our "so much
FUN" get-togethers.

For it is our wish that you will ALWAYS be
SUPPORTING MEMBERS OF
THE RED HAT SOCIETY.

SUBLIME SHENANIGANS

By Ann Dixon

I tip my hat to you, Little Sister.
When you get home, say hello to Mister.
We had a ball, did we not,
Being so silly and looking so elegant?

Can't wait until next time,
No matter if it's your house or mine.
I know our shenanigans
Will truly be sublime!

THE QUEEN AWAITS

By Tami Watson, Countess of Creativity

Social media is where you're going to find
Me and my girls having a good time.
Now you and I know
A picture is all you will see,
Because the real fun is in person,
And that's just how it has to be.

I met my best friend at a Red Hat Hoot.
She had on a purple vest
And a hat she dragged out
of Grandma's loot.

Now don't be jealous and
please don't judge,
But I have a closet full of that red stuff.

And when you see me drive
by all decked out,
Don't look the other way,
just give me a shout.

I'm all about fun, even at my age,
So put on a purple boa and
join me on the stage.

Life is short and sweet,
And I'll be darned if I'll sit at home
Just to stay out of the heat.

Red or purple, pink or lavender,
Whatever color is yours,
I promise you will be happier.

So let's go now, the Queen awaits.
She'll show us how to celebrate.
Food and fun are to be had...
Even if the kids think
We are all just a little mad.

FUNVENTURES WITH HATTITUDE

By Felecia Garvin

Lived, learned, retired
Fun just started!

HAPPY 28TH BIRTHDAY

By Queen Beverly Jackson Hopwood

Happy Birthday to You!
Happy Birthday to You!
We're celebrating you today.
Fun and friendship after 50,
Let the joy come your way.

Your red hat shining bright,
You're a woman on the move.
At every stage of life,
You're living with a beautiful groove.

Queen Bee and your Red Hat Sisters
Say, "Happy Birthday to You!"
We lift our hats high and celebrate...
Happy Birthday to You!

THE POWER OF PURPLE IS RED

By Frances Ohanenye

Give us your trite, your bland and blue.
They lack adventure; they lack passion,
Like a sad, discarded afterthought.
We'll shower them with purple power.

Give us your trite, your dragging colors,
As tedious as brown-is-the-new-black.
Yellow tops that demand
black bottoms are
Like last year's Paris Fashion Week.

Give us a Red Hat and purple lipstick.
Now we're talking of clashes and flashes,
Refined and blended partners in crime,
Refusing to be tamed by good ol' danger.

Give us high red boots with glam and glitz.
Watch us grace the shores
with purple panache.

From the Bering Strait to Mexico's Gulf,
We crisscross lands as we
jet to coronations.

We are mighty women of noble wisdom,
Cradled in luxury, shrouded in mystery.
We're the libations we pour on each other,
The secret strength in the
power of purple and red.

We are mighty women,
like fine wine, aged,
But quick to stepdance and
roll into laughter.
Be ready and not tempest-tossed, for
One day soon, we shall be at your port.

HER

By Angela Boyd

Beautiful, bold lady in purple and red,
What is that ornament upon your head?

It appears to garner attention
Whenever it's mentioned.
Why does this mysterious decoration
Draw in so much adoration?

This worldwide sign,
Started by two friends,
Has grown and matured over time.

The movement gained symbolism
And gave women everywhere
A significant sense of wholeness.

THE DIVINE DIVAS OF MEMPHIS SOCIETY

By Sheila C. McDuffie

In Memphis, where the Mississippi River flows,
The Divine Divas are well known.
Having grace and charm, their sisterhood grows,
A bond unbroken, as everyone knows.

Their red and purple hats are a symbol of their pride,
With wisdom gained from life's long journey's ride.
Wearing their red and purple attire, they love to parade,
And sisterhood and friendship somehow never fade.

Through trials, tears, and times of good cheer,
The Divine Divas have a special bond that's crystal clear.
Supporting and loving each other hand in hand,
Together they firmly stand.

Years will pass and seasons will change,
But the Divine Divas make sure their bond remains the same.
Through the joy and even the pain,
The Divas' legacy lives on, time and time again.

Here's to the Memphis Divine Divas, steadfast and kind,
With hearts full of grace and wisdom refined.
Through laughter and trials, their bond holds tight,
A beacon of strength, a radiant light.

Forever united, their spirits align,
The Mighty Memphis Divine Divas, truly divine.

RED HOT RUBIES

By Vickie Rushing

Red Hot Rubies are gems of radiant fire,
Each one rare, each one bright.
Foremost shines Queenie Wahini,
A golden heart with boundless light.
Her passion fuels the joy we mine,
Her spirit sets our days aglow.

Then come the jewels of laughter-red;
Robin, sparkling with zest for life,
And Linda with her modest rarity and desirability,
Signing our Red Ruby humor.

Judy glows in deep, rich tones,
A ruby of love, both bold and true.
Her beauty of style with knowing eyes
Is grounded in ruby-red passion
For clarity, cut, and carat weight.

Melissa rises, crystal pure,
A vibrant light, serene and strong.
Her gift to give, her heart to help,
Bless others with her divine gift of kindness.

Lynn stands firm, a flawless stone,
A premier, solid three-carat ruby,
Exceptional and extremely rare.
Grounded in strength and steady warmth,
She brings happiness to us all.

Alicen projects enthusiasm for life,
With a smile that outshines diamonds
And a conviction that is a bright light.
Vice Queen, crowned in clarity,
She brings order to our variety of beautiful rubies.

Vanessa, with her subtle glow and steady spark,
And the perfect balance of red,
Truly is our "Red Sapphire,"
Making us all intense and fiery gemstones.

Teresa completes our collection of gems,
A natural ruby with different hues and tones.
A spectrum rich with love and life,
A gift unbound for the Red Hot Rubies.

And Tami Kay adds joy and
sparkle wherever she goes.
Her red ruby talent for travel, gathering light,
Brings countenance and joy to all.

At center gleams our treasured Flea,
A crystal gem of warmth with the depth of grace.
With a vibrancy matchless in the crown,
She holds our hearts as the most valued clown,
A bundle of love matched with wit.

Kathy and Sue, not crafted
stones but natural gems.
Unlike synthetics that mimic natural rubies,
Under magnification they show
the inclusions of love,
With perfect balance of hue and tone.

Jo may be small, yet superior in cut.
Unlike diamonds measured in carat weight,
She is like a pigeon-blood ruby that burns bright,
A tiny gem of enhanced brilliance,
Measured by size, not weight.

Shirley, the pinnacle of flowers and plants,
Is a gem of rare beauty and desirability.
Her green thumb is matched only by her
Vibrant, pure love that shines
in our hats and hearts.

We honor our beloved 103-year-old Miss Molly.
Her memory shines as a reminder
of her joy and laughter.
With the grace of a royal aurora,
She symbolized the ravishing
beauty of a true ruby.

And still, more treasures wait unseen,
Unmined, unnamed, yet shining true.
In the Franklin hills, where gems are born,
Natural beauties are yet to be discovered
In the Gem Capital of the World.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

By Rachel Jones

The day we are born is a day to remember,
To our mothers and fathers,
in their hearts forever.
We may keep in touch, but we
must stretch our wings
To find in this world the
most beautiful things.

We may get lonely, lost or found,
But don't lose hope or get worn down.
Life has many surprises, that you will see,
And at last, when discovered,
you will be free.

May you find your place in life
and where you belong,
In a sisterhood, where it was all along.
You will love, laugh, and enjoy it all,
And in bad times, have somewhere to fall.

You may love all the luxurious bling,
Gaudy, colorful, and flashy things.
But one thing will always remain,
The love, laughs, and memories made.

When you are at the end, I hope you smile,
Sit there with glee and relive for a while.
But the truth we must face is that
death is not "never," but "when."
And when you look back,
It'll be a day to remember.

ANGELS IN HEAVEN

By Queen Plumerix

Will life still be as sweet
Now that you're not here?
Gone, but never forgotten,
Your laughter in my ear.

Who will we have fun with now?
Small, brave things you did so casually.
Will anyone remember your legacy?

The weeping angel mourns
For each special lady.
We cherish those memories, soft as lace,
Hands that held our hearts so close.
Close friends, sharing feelings and love,
Ladies of wisdom untold.
You live in the stories we hold.

You were the friend everyone
could count on,
First to show up, last one to go home.
Endlessly full of joy,
You lit the room, then passed it on.

Your lovely voice and infectious laugh,
You took every chance to live life out loud.
Every small moment, you turned around.
When we stumble, when
the dark feels cold,
We hear your voices in our soul.

Always full of positive energy,
They were all unique,
Fierce, but loving and kind.
They were what royalty is meant to be.
How do we thank them
For all the days they gave?

All dressed up, fancy hat and shoes,
Now they've slipped off for a little fun
With the Girlfriends Forever,
The Angels in Red Hat Heaven,
The Angels,
True Royalty.