



# Nadya

*Pat Murphy*

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Nadya embodies the 19th century idea of the Other: she is a woman, and she is an animal. Comfortable in her skin(s), a child of nature in many ways, she cannot fit into the artificial structure and mores of 19th century America. Although Nadya responds without artifice or duplicity to others (Rufus Jones, Elizabeth Metcalf), the priceless honesty she offers is undervalued and rejected. Nadya's search for a place in which she can safely be herself, woman and wolf, takes her across the plains, deserts, and mountains of western America. Fleeing to the utmost extremity of the continent, she stops and stands her ground on the Oregon shore.

## **Nadya Details**

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Author : Pat Murphy

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## **From Reader Review Nadya for online ebook**

### **Elizabeth says**

Nadya  
by Pat Murphy

Don't actually remember reading this the first time but before recycling, reading again to review. My talk is that it is a sort of rambling tale with plenty of detail about life on the prairie. It would probably appeal to some but I obviously forgot it after the first reading.

Told in third person past tense by a omniscient narrator POV, Nadia is seen from the outside. The tone is cool and distant and her life is described. First growing up, becoming a crack shot, romance with a man (Rufus) who her mother warns her against, her first Change to wolf (her mother and father are both werewolves as well), and her first experience with sex (with Rufus) are told rather clinically in descriptive but not very immersive way.

(view spoiler)

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### **Deirdre says**

Definitely entertaining - Werewolves, American History, Lesbians, what more could you want;-)

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### **Kate says**

Why did I only discover Pat Murphy right before I left the US? I am continually impressed by her writing. Each book is very different from all the others. This one was no exception. A beautiful book about being different and belonging. Nadya herself is an amazing, flexible character, and I was continually fascinated with her life and inner struggle.

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### **Akiva says**

I went looking for non-disappointing werewolf novels because I couldn't remember many. I don't remember much about this---I should reread it.

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### **RJ says**

This is a wonderful story! I haven't seen many reviews on this book, perhaps it is one of those unnoticed pearls you happen upon. This is not your run-of-the-mill werewolf yarn. I found it to be a very interesting, adventurous, and romantic tale mixed with history, fantasy and lore. Based on a shape-shifter girl who lost her parents when young, then traveled west across the America to California in the 1840's. You travel with her as she encounters hardships, danger, Indians, trappers, and a pair of orphaned white girls who join with her. It's sort of a coming of age story, but of a girl dealing with being a young woman and a wolf, living on her own and traveling across America in a very turbulent and dangerous time. Well-written and narrated; a great story!

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### **kvon says**

Although I like her other books, I just couldn't get into this one. It's going on the shelf.

Themes include tolerance: racial, religious, sexual, and lycanthropic. Set in the Wild West.

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### **KOMET says**

In this novel the reader sees Nadya living in a world of fear, loathing and intolerance for what is deemed unseemly and inexplicable, learning to live and thrive, both as a Woman and as a Wolf. In the process, she finds acceptance in a new life she is able to establish for herself out on the frontier.

The author provides vivid descriptions of the experiences Nadya faced in making the trek westward in the 1840s. You feel yourself being carried across an arid landscape on a rickety wagon and on through the snowy Rockies (facing all kinds of hazards and overcoming them) with Nadya, Elizabeth, and Jenny.

One touching scene in the book is when Nadya as a Wolf (having been spurned earlier in the day by Elizabeth, who has never felt right about her romantic attachment to Nadya) allows herself to be mated with a male Wolf. In that moment, you experience Nadya's joy at that moment of orgasmic release as she howls ecstatically to the skies.

For those readers seeking a werewolf novel full of gore and gratuitous violence, you won't find it here. But if you want to read a well-told tale about the life and experiences of a female werewolf in 19th century America, you've come to the right place.

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## **Kathryn says**

Good Points:

No one gets raped!

Nadya is bisexual, finding love with both men and women, but the bulk of the novel focuses on her relationship with Elizabeth.

Reads a bit like lesbian fanfic of the Oregon trail NOT THAT I AM COMPLAINING!

Not a new take on werewolves but there are no sparkly vampires present.

Unsure of how true to life the encounter with the Cheyenne tribe is but they are treated respectfully by Nadya. Jacob Lowell's tribe and status as half-white are also treated respectfully.

The cast is very well rounded, each PoV used to perfection.

Multi-racial community founded at the end.

Fun sex scenes!

Bad Points:

Unsure of how true to life the portrayal of the Cheyenne and Massuam are, as well as the Jacob's experience with the Klukwalle.

Just prior to them reaching California the story starts to drag, losing my interest for pages at a time.

Triggers:

No one gets raped but a rape attempt is mentioned.

Bestiality – although it depends on how you qualify it? As a wolf, Nadya retains some human thoughts and emotions but does not think like a human. One sex scene where she is mounted by a male wolf.

Murrrrrrrder

Racial slurs, largely regarding Native American tribes but one or two applied to African Americans.

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## **Machelle says**

This was a book that had such great potential and could have been expounded upon greatly. Some parts were long and drawn out and others left you wanting for more to fill in the characters.

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## **Amy says**

I'm always on the lookout for werewolf books. While this one was entertaining, there were a lot of issues in it that bugged me. I thought Nadya's personality kept changing throughout the book. Her relationship with

Elizabeth was the most disappointing part. There was like.... no emotion.

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### **Zaz says**

A long journey in the wild US west, with some moments spent as a wolf, others as a strong female heroine, but overall with flat characters.

The book showed in a detailed way the perilous conditions that the colons suffered during their conquest of America. The hate for the Native Americans and the wildness was also well presented with the various selfish and very annoying secondary characters who threatened more or less the main character or the wolves (however it was fine to kill the rest of the wild life). Nadya was interesting because she was independent and strong, a strange thing for her time. The werewolf part didn't really add to her personality and, as for the other characters, I didn't find her fleshed enough, especially with a 500 pages book. All the characters were defined by relationships (loves or friendships) and seemed to exist very little around them, the emotions being dominated by love or fear. The journey was long and I lost my interest for it after a time, probably because I didn't care about the characters and the events were rarely true action. I liked more the beginning and the ending than the huge middle part. Overall, a mitigated read, with some good things but nothing told lively enough to keep me involved in the story.

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