



# Gretel: A Fairytale Retold

*Niamh Murphy*

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## **Gretel: A Fairytale Retold** Niamh Murphy

Starving and lost, Hans, and his sister Gretel, are saved from a pack of bloodthirsty wolves by a woman, who seems to ask for nothing in return. Seduced by her kindness and beauty, Gretel grows closer to her, while Hans becomes ever more suspicious of her motives. Torn between her brother and a woman she has just met, Gretel soon learns she must make a choice between long held loyalty and newfound love.

‘Gretel: A Fairytale Retold’ is a six chapter novella of over 12,400 words. Retold as a fast paced, lesbian love story, this novella contains some explicit passages.

## **Gretel: A Fairytale Retold Details**

Date : Published July 5th 2013 by NIM Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Niamh Murphy

Format : Kindle Edition 76 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Romance, Lgbt, Short Stories, Glbt, Lesbian, Queer



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# From Reader Review Gretel: A Fairytale Retold for online ebook

**lov2laf says**

RTC

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**Lisa Marie Gabriel says**

An entertaining adult F/F retelling of Hansel and Gretel. I enjoy Niamh's writing and I thoroughly enjoyed this story but I have just the one regret - it was too short. Otherwise I would have given it five! I would have liked a little more character development, and a little more of Maeve and Gretel at the end as they embark on their new paranormal life together. I confess I would have liked the wolves to sort out that controlling brother of hers too. As a bonus you get a three chapter teaser of Mask of the Highwaywoman.

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**CR Daylex says**

Utterly wonderful. Y'all know what a sucker I am for gay retellings of any kind. I'd never heard of a Hansel and Gretel f/f, so when I saw this I one-clicked it.

So happy I did! My last short f/f read was really disappointing, but this has rebuilt some of my faith in the short form romance. Filled with conflict, a carefully built world, lesbians making hard choices. The prose is great!

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**Katie.dorny says**

This was a really cute read.

I highly recommend for a reading slump or a quick read.

Hansel and Gretel has been re-worked wonderfully- it felt really natural when reading.

And for once, the lesbians got a happy ending!!!

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**Gerd says**

Gretel is an interesting take on the old fairy tale.

The brother and sister are older than in the original, though it's never disclosed how old they are, not abandoned in the forest but forced to leave their village in hope to find work. Attacked by wolves they get saved by a mysterious woman who offers them shelter.

The story has a good flow, it's an entertaining read filled with adventure, some romance, and sex, and with just the right dollop of drama towards the end. The tale is nicely wrapped up, leaving just enough questions left for us to ponder, for the story to continue in our head without feeling unfinished.

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### **Justina Johnson says**

This is an exquisite rendering of 'Hansel and Gretel'. It isn't difficult to see the similarities, but the wondrous re-working of that classic fairy tale moves it into a class of its own. The harsh and unrelenting rigidities and small-mindedness as depicted by Hans and probably the 'other villagers' who banished Maeve from her home community, only heighten the extraordinary love and closeness that develops between Gretel and Maeve. This story is really not to be missed!

Within this telling, Hans and Gretel have been sent away from their suffering village farther north, now barely surviving after three failed harvests. Hans and Gretel need to find work and food then hopefully return to their village and help it rebuild and prosper. Initially, the brother and sister they are cold to their bones, weakened from days with inadequate nourishment, and now facing a wolf pack preparing to take both of them down. Pretty scary stuff until an unknown woman brings down the wolf that attacked Hans with her axe and disperses the pack. She offers them shelter, if they can keep up with her as she shoulders the fallen wolf and heads back to her homestead.

Maeve, Hans and Gretel's savior, is magnificent, mysterious, and an angel in Gretel's eyes. Hans sees the devil at work here and brands Maeve a witch for no substantial reason. I adored Maeve. She hints at the reason she was banished to Gretel, possibly sowing the seed for Gretel's growing affection. Are we witnessing a witch's magic or a strong, lonely woman offering help and shelter?

This is a truly imaginative, inventive, and ingenious re-telling of such a beloved classic. I felt completely immersed as if I shared Gretel's mind and body. I became enthralled by Maeve and yes, possibly bewitched. I applaud the brilliance of this short story and completely recommend it!

NOTE: This book was provided by the author for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

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### **Jill says**

3.5 Stars!

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### **Corrie says**

Very nice re-telling of the Hans and Gretel fairytale and it certainly is different from the tale we remember reading as a child. It's a short read but very entertaining. I give it 4.5 stars.

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### **Gemma Collins says**

So, this was a super short but really enjoyable novella based on the story of Hansel and Gretel, a dark tale in

its own right. Although there is a great deal of difference between this story and the original fairytale, there are enough elements and darkness in common to make it feel like a Grimm story.

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### **Sam says**

Ever since I read *Kissing the Witch: Old Tales in New Skins* years ago I've had a special love for queer retellings of fairytales. This one did not disappoint. I definitely wish it was longer, but I still loved it.

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### **Hollow Well says**

3.75 stars means that I really (pretty much) liked it. It's a short, quick read for a nice bit of romance.

Hans and Gretel are just about to be eaten by wolves when Maeve shows up in the nick of time to save them. Maeve, in the role traditionally assigned to the evil witch, is, in this retelling, an outcast of the neighboring village. Apparently, she had fallen in love with someone she should not have. This is a lesbian retelling of a fairy tale, so it takes little imagination to understand the nature of the unnatural relationship that earned her banishment. And, of course, Gretel is hungry not just for food, but also for a taste of "unnatural". Unfortunately, Hans sees the situation from a traditional het male perspective and proceeds to act in a way that he feels is utterly justified in his little male mind. He must do what he can to save his sister from being bewitched by the unnaturally capable woman.

The story is short so there is little time for exciting twists and turns. Instead, what you get is a fine, straight-forward, extremely competent fairytale retelling.

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### **Lynn says**

#### **Beautifully imagined**

I wish it wasn't a novella. It draws you in from the beginning and drags you to the end at a steady pace. I loved it. I recommend this quick read for those relaxing in a warm bath. It will heat you up.

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### **Kathy - Books & Munches says**

I wanted a short read and with 76 pages, *Gretel* is exactly that. Throw in how this is a retelling of Hans and Gretel but with a lesbian aspect and a bit of smut, and I was sold. Definitely a good option if you want about an hour / an hour and a half of reading pleasure.

Of course, the characters aren't fleshed out properly but that's hardly something you can expect with a short novel like this. It didn't even bother me either since their characteristics were made very clear from the start and that helped.

The built-up towards the romantic / sexual scene was done very nicely. *Gretel* might be described as fast-

paced, but I still felt like it wasn't over-the-top fast. A pleasure to read, really!

I was different... I had the misfortune of falling in love with the wrong person.. I was loved back, but sometimes love isn't enough. You need courage as well.

4.5 / 5

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### **Terry Baker says**

Hans and his sister Gretel are alone in the woods. Lost and starving, they are set upon by a pack of bloodthirsty wolves. They are saved from their fate by a beautiful woman, Maeve. Maeve invites Hans and Gretel into her home to recover from their ordeal. Although she doesn't want recompense, Hans is suspicious of her. Gretel however, is bowled over by her beauty and kind heartedness and becomes close to Maeve.

Gretel finds out all too soon that she will have to choose between her brother and Maeve who is a stranger. Will loyalty win over love?

This is a well written page turner with twists and turns along the way from an up and coming UK lesbian fiction author. It's a beautiful lesfic variation on the timeless fairy tale, Hansel and Gretel, that has held the attention of millions of children and adults over the years.

All three characters are well formed and easy to get to know. Although this is a novella, Niamh Murphy has packed a lot into it, including the age old subject, homophobia and the outcome of that hatred. At the heart of this story though, is a beautiful and tender sweet romance.

I'm looking forward to reading more from Niamh Murphy. I like her easy flowing writing style.

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### **Bri says**

I wasn't a huge fan of the writing, but this was just so cute and lovely to read.

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