



# Wolf River

*Margaret Riddell*

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## **Wolf River** Margaret Riddell

The discovery of the body of Laidie Christie sets in motion a journey of revelation for her sister, Blythe Wylie. As Blythe deals with Laidie's belongings in the aftermath of her death, she uncovers astonishing information that will rewrite her family's history. The Christie and McCorrie families of southern Manitoba are bound together by devastating tragedy and loss, unspeakable secrets, and irrevocable promises. Their story spans four generations as they meander through the twentieth century, exploring the changing social attitudes of the times and laying bare the stunning reality of their lives. The Great Depression of the 1930's is an entity in itself-bearing as much weight as any of the human characters of Wolf River-shaping and channeling their lives in ways they cannot control.

## **Wolf River Details**

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Author : Margaret Riddell

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# **From Reader Review Wolf River for online ebook**

## **Lyle Appleyard says**

I read this book for my Toastmasters Book Club. I would have read this book anyways, as the author is originally from the town of Warren, which is about 15 kms west of where I live.

The book is primarily set along the fictional Wolf River set in Manitoba. There are real towns such as Winnipeg, Brandon, Killarny and my hometown of Stonewall mentioned in the book. It is kind of neat to see your hometown mentioned in a book. This is the second time I have seen it. The first being The Stone Diaries by Carol Shields. The story starts just before the First World War and ends about 1987. It follows several generations of couple of families. Their loves, losses and secrets. The events that are described in the book probably did happen. They just might not have happened to one family.

The characters in the book were well developed. This book was more of a character driven story. There were outside events that determined the course of events, but these were real historical events. This adds credibility to the story.

There were some facts I need to check on. I am sure that the Polo Park racetrack was gone by 1964,

I enjoyed the book. It is easy to read. I would recommend it.

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## **Julie says**

I won this book for free through Goodreads First Reads contests and want to thank the author for the chance to read it.

It is a very captivating story, following several storylines and lives through generations. The characters all are so very real you can't help but hope and feel for them, what they are going through, the happiness, tears, anger and heartbreak.

And once I finished the book, which left me in tears, I absolutely LOVE the cover of the book and it holds so much more meaning to it now.

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## **Sherry says**

First of all I want to say thank you to the author for sending me this book as part of a Goodreads Giveaway.

This was a true Canadiana story with aspects that were quite personal for me. My Great Grandparents homesteaded in B.C. near Salmon Arm in the early 1900's and the farm and house are still in the family. I used to spend summers there helping my Grandparents with farming in the 70's; they are wonderful memories that I will always treasure.

You have weaved a wonderful tale Margaret; once I started reading I couldn't put the book down and finished it in a couple of days. I was saddened by so much tragedy and wished for at least one happy ending but didn't receive it. I thoroughly enjoyed the character development and desperately wanted some characters to find love and others to die a horrible painful death! In other words your writing elicited many emotions from me. A highly recommended read, thanks again.

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### **Laurel says**

My mother-in-law really didn't like the way this book and all of it's time periods were written in present tense, but I have to say I really enjoyed it.

Good story, sympathetic and compelling writing, and most important of all (not really, but it's really neat!), it's very Canadian flavor.

Give it a read! :)

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### **Margaret says**

Welcome to Wolf River.

The story encompasses four generations as Wolf River twists and turns through the lives of several southern Manitoba families.

Their stories unfold in the Wolf River area near the tiny prairie town of Millfield, and in Winnipeg. The Christies and McCorries and their neighbors are bound together by tragedies and loss, secrets and promises, and the unforgiving social expectations of the times.

The Great Depression of the 1930's is a crushing juggernaut of economic circumstance and extreme weather conditions, and no one escapes its consequences.

A young woman's future is shaped by the devastating secret she bears; her best friend is burdened for life with the shared knowledge. A lonely teacher finds herself trapped in a time and place of someone else's choosing; a woman is irreparably damaged by her psychologically and physically abusive husband. A disabled World War I veteran labors to make a life for himself and a place for his sister's family.

And through it all, an impossible love clings to hope.

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### **Paul says**

**be forewarned, there are no werewolves in this story, nor even one glittery vampire, heh**

though, there is a very brief incident (a story within the story, you could say) involving a trio of wolves, a hunter and a deer, but that's beside the point.

I have no idea whether this is based on actual events or not.

I don't know whether the characters ever existed.

I don't know whether Wolf River and the village of Millfield, Manitoba actually exist (OK, I do admit that Manitoba DOES exist)

I don't know whether the meteorological events described in this book even really happened.

I do know that I would like to think that they did.

As such, this book takes you on a little history and geographic tour of a small village and its evolution from 1915 to 1987, as well as the story of some, if not most, even maybe all, of its settlers and their descendants. A lot of the chapters are simply letters written from what starts out as the main character (view spoiler) to his sister.

It does have some clichés, somebody dies in the present, and their "children" going thru their stuff, find out some of the family secrets. An "impossible" love-story. And I did find that the beginning was a little too much charged with unnecessary descriptions. But, the story soon finds its stride and becomes very captivating. A few bits were left open, (view spoiler)

There is a large cast of characters which does sometimes make it a little difficult to follow, and so many deaths, but then again, one would expect to have a lot of deaths in the living conditions of the place and era. Also, if you need to put the story aside, say for sleep, or to go to work, getting back into it might prove a little difficult if you have a rotten memory (like moi), therefore, I would strongly suggest that you put aside the appropriate time to read the book in a single sitting, if at all possible.

Still, all in all, a very nice Canadian Prairies story.

Some characters you love, some you hate.

Some weather you love, some you hate.

And you sort of have a love-hate relationship with the village of Millfied, Manitoba and Wolf River.

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### **Erika says**

I highly enjoyed reading Wolf River! I love when stories are intertwined as I'm always intrigued to see how everything is connected. I particularly liked the usage of letters. It's fascinating how much can be gleaned from another person's life based on their response.

The harsh prairie life is definitely not something I'm familiar with but also found interesting.

Additionally, in this book of family history, I truly thought back to my own great-grandparents and grandparents. Although I may never have met all of them, I'm certain their decisions have somehow played a role in my life.

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### **LisaJan says**

It's not often a book holds my attention the way Wolf River did! The storyline hooked me right from the beginning, and although I usually read books a chapter at a time I found myself devouring several chapters at a sitting.

Three things: First of all, the plot and several intertwined subplots are just complicated enough to keep you on your toes, yet not so much that you lose track of what is going on. Secondly, there are characters in here that you can justifiably hate, or that your heart can break for. And thirdly, the author manages to weave a lot

of intelligent information and history into the story, particularly in regards to the Great Depression of the 20th century.

A very satisfying read!

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### **Deb W says**

I made it to the 52% and am sorry I didn't stop sooner.

Note to self: Look at a book's reviews. If the author rated her own book with five stars and the other reviews look suspiciously similar, it's probably her writer's group.

This is not a 4.5 star book.

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### **Ellen says**

I won this in a Goodreads First Reads giveaway...thank you Goodreads! Wolf River is an astonishingly well-written novel. Margaret Riddell is a very gifted writer. I was not expecting much from this book when I began reading it, but I was completely blown away because I soon realized that it was much more than what I expected. Actually, I really can't believe that it hasn't been snapped up by a large publishing house and on a bestseller list...it's THAT good! The story is complex, multi-layered, engrossing, tragic, beautifully written, and filled with fascinating history and characters. I found it hard to put the book down, and when I did, my mind kept wandering back to the story...I kept thinking about it and waiting for the next opportunity to pick it up and continue reading. The only criticism I can give about it is the poor choice for the cover...it really is an ugly, unexciting cover. However, the novel is exceptional and I absolutely loved it! Highly recommended!!

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