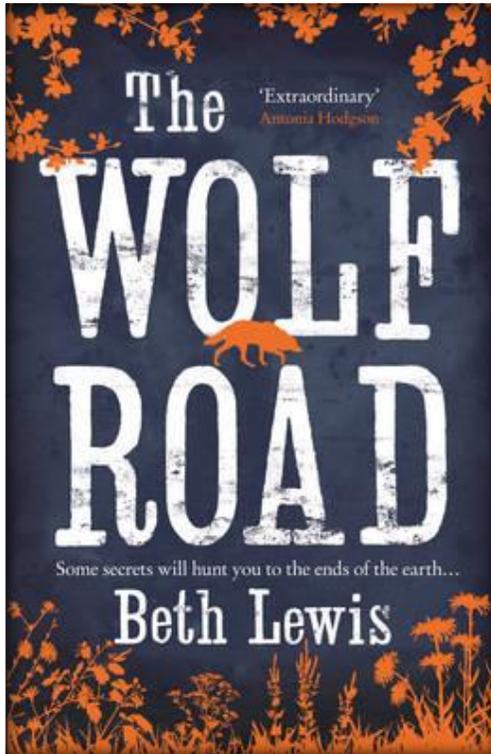


LoveReading Reader reviews of **The Wolf Road** by Beth Lewis

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Catherine Price

A compelling read, with a strong yet innocent female lead character, whose journey through a post-apocalyptic wilderness to find her parents is as exciting and strange as anything I have read. The strange dialect and bloody brutality of the first few pages pitches you into this raw, violent world where a young woman needs to use every piece of intelligence and instinct to survive. Elka's journey across post-apocalyptic North American wilderness to escape the 'big bad' and find her parents is almost cinematic in its vividness, and teaches her that the only person you can trust is yourself. Comparisons have been

*made to 'The Revenant' and Cormac McCarthy's 'The Road', but **this is a unique voice: strong, dark and witty, and full of truth.***

Glenda Worth

'Wolf Road' - realistic characters and an unusual setting. Although post-apocalyptic it could be set way back. Murder, survival and hope of peace all covered, Elka's journey leaves you breathless.

'Wolf Road' by Beth Lewis is an unusual read about the life of a girl struggling to survive in a world that has been through a global apocalyptic disaster (Elka calls it the big stupid) setting the country back hundreds of years. Elka is taken in by a hunter who she calls Trapper when she is seven years old.

Her life is shattered when she sees a Wanted poster as he is wanted for murder. Elka flees and hides in the wilderness determined to find her parents who left

her years before to make their fortune. The ensuing tale has you following her survival, the people she meets along the way and the continual trying to keep one step ahead of both the law who think she is involved with the murders and Trapper himself.

An emotional, realistic novel which has you holding your breath waiting for her to be safe and knowing Trapper is behind her most of the way. She deals with the bad guys and the good with the life skills she has honed out in the wilderness, living on her wits.

Although this is technically a post-apocalyptic novel it could in fact be from history, of days before industrialisation, of gold rush days and the Wild West.

I loved the way the novel was written in the first person with Elka's descriptions being unusual at times but very apt.

I am looking forward to seeing more novels by this accomplished author.

Sheila Johnson

Dystopian novel but bleak.

I could not get into this book at all. Normally I am a fan of apocryphal science fiction but the style of writing was too off-putting for me. It was written as if it were a seven year old girl speaking but it did not ring true at all and sounded more like a man. Maybe it will be more readable for an American readership but I felt it just seemed like a dressed down Western. I became more involved in the story when Wolf made an appearance but really found it far too bleak a story to enjoy.

Sue Burton

It took me quite a while to decide to read this book. I wasn't interested in books about a trapper, but this was seriously NOT what I was thinking, not one bit.

I found 'The Wolf Road' to have a compelling and easy to read style. The protagonist is one of the strongest females that I've read, and I found how she survived several early traumas to be mostly believable. If you are looking for strong female characters, and a variety of them, you will enjoy this book.

This was a book that was hard to put down, even if it strained my 'willful suspension of disbelief' in several important places. Grounding a story in reality is very important to me, even when it's a fantasy or a futuristic tale. A bit more of that grounding, and this would have been a five star read for me. I know a lot

*of readers will be able to coast past the things that bothered me. **For a fast and adventurous read, with unusual characters, this will be a good summer read for you.***

Jan Kirkcaldy

Definitely different is what springs to mind and not a genre (whatever it might be) with which I am familiar, which at first made it interesting. After Elka's home blew away in a storm when she was a child, her Nana died and she began a life with her saviour, a man called Trapper, who she thought of as Dad, the "Wizard of Oz" sprang to mind. But this was an evil version and certainly not set in Kansas. In fact I never really knew where or when the story took place but I continued to the rather bitter end trying to make sense of it all.

I am not sure I cared about Elka and those she subsequently encountered throughout this strange tale. The use of words and style of writing was not amazing and I can't say I enjoyed it. Still, having decided it must be meant as a fantasy in a strange parallel world, I am sure there are many readers out there who will connect with it and enjoy it. Sorry I am not one of them, perhaps I just don't have the imagination.

Catherine Bryce

A thrilling and superb read - a must for your Reading List! This is one of those books which comes along every so often which has the reader's attention riveted to the book from the first page to the last page. A different and unusual storyline describing Elka's story which is dark in places and thought provoking regarding her relationship with the man who raised her, Kreager Hallet, a wanted man by the law.

*This is a book which will fulfill many reading genres as it takes the reader on a hunt with all the thrills, excitement and suspense which this book is full of. **The reader's emotions are on a roller coaster with the action that is packed within the story.***

A must read and a brilliant ending.

Victoria Emerson

I was excited to read 'The Wolf Road' by Beth Lewis but sadly I just

didn't like it. *I didn't like the writing style, main character or content of the story.*

Victoria Goldman

'The Wolf Road' is intelligent and unique and filled with raw emotion. It's very dark, with beautiful vivid writing. Simply stunning! 'The Wolf Road' totally 'wowed' me, and not many books do that. It's intelligent and unique and filled with raw emotion.

Set in a post-apocalyptic Canada, after what seems to be a nuclear war, it's about a girl's epic journey searching for her parents, who abandoned her as a young child. While this is a dystopian novel, it also has a 'Western' feel to it and reads as a thriller in places too, with a mystery at its heart. Definitely a 'cross-genre' book.

The story is narrated in the first person, through the eyes of Elka - in her own language, her own voice, all of her thoughts, feelings and emotions spilling onto the page. A man (Trapper) rescued her after her grandmother died. He taught her how to hunt and survive in the harsh climate and stark surroundings, yet he never became a father to her, remaining distant and aloof over the years. When she discovers something terrible about him, she runs away, realising that maybe Trapper, and their life together, wasn't what it seemed.

'The Wolf Road' is about Elka discovering who she is and what she believes in and trying to make sense of her past and present. It's very dark, although there are some lighter moments. The writing is beautiful, with highly vivid descriptions of the wilds. This is a fight for survival in a place where food is scarce and danger lurks around each corner.

'The Wolf Road' is a book that will linger with you for days after finishing it - simply stunning!

<http://off-the-shelfbooks.blogspot.co.uk>

Nikki Whitmore

Bleak but brilliant.

Typically, when you find a book you really want to read, the world conspires against you and prevents you from doing just that. I shouldn't complain - the conspiracies were nice things - but I really wanted to read The Wolf Road and now I'm finally at the end, I'm happy to say the wait was worth it.

'The Wolf Road' is a dystopian tale follows a girl called Elka as she tries to survive in a world destroyed by the 'Damn Stupid'; a world with lakes that can poison you and people that should never be trusted. Elka sets off into the wilderness to try and find her parents who went off in search of their fortune when she was just a baby. But Elka isn't just running towards something, she's also trying to outrun her past, a past that's shaped very much like the man who raised her, a man who is now wanted for murder...

*It's difficult to say more without giving the game away but **I thought this book was brilliant, thanks in large part to the fact that it got stronger as it went on** - it didn't lose momentum for a second and the last quarter of the book will leave you reeling from the revelations Lewis has deftly been working up to. It's grim in parts but it's a satisfying read.*

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Lisa Redmond

*'The Wolf Road' by Beth Lewis is **a powerful debut from a talented new writer. A blend of dystopia, western, mystery and a coming of age saga.** Set in a post apocalyptic Canadian wilderness, this is the story of Elka an intriguing character with a powerful voice and a dark story to tell. Lost in the woods at the age of seven after losing her grandmother to a powerful storm she is found and taken in by a man she calls Trapper and occasionally Daddy. Over the next ten years she survives in the wild with this man; learning to shoot, hunt and kill. Finally she visits a nearby town and sees Trapper's face on a wanted poster and realises that she has been raised by a murderer. Setting off through the wilderness and through the seasons Elka explores the new realities of North America in the shadow of a nuclear war. Life is held cheaply and people are desperate for food, money and gold. Elka finds deception, betrayal, friendship and family and comes face to face not only with the darkness of the man she now knows as Kreager Hallet but with the darkness inside herself. A powerful coming of age tale with a number of strong and interesting female characters at its heart, this book has echoes of *The Road* and *Station Eleven* but while it deals with dark and often bleak events *The Wolf Road* has a powerful friendship at its core, giving it a greater sense of hope.*

Debbie Patrick

I tried very hard to like this book but for some reason I just couldn't

get into it. The idea is good but it just didn't keep my attention as well as I had hoped.

Elka learns all she knows of the world from Trapper, the solitary hunter who took her under his wing when she was just seven years old.

But Elka sees a wanted poster in town Trapper is wanted for murder. And Magistrate Lyon is hot on his trail, and she wants to talk to Elka.

Elka flees into the vast wilderness, determined to find her parents. But Lyon is never far behind – and she's not the only one following Elka's every move. There will be a reckoning, one that will push friendships to the limit and force Elka to confront the dark memories of her past.