



NEBRASKA'S MAP

A Novel by Roger Ladd Memmott

Rating: 5.0 stars

A Readers' Favorite Book

Reviewed by K T Bowes



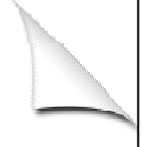
Nebraska's Map is a treasure of its own. Roger Ladd Memmott has created a world of uncertainty to surround his volatile, over-thinking characters, whose intricately woven existence is both insular and dangerous. Rubi and Wyatt share a common love, birthed during primary school and blossoming into an honest and compatible friendship. They are best friends turned lovers, but confused by a familial affection which points an incestuous finger at their relationship. Both have separately pressed the self-destruct button in younger lives and the detritus has and will carry forward now, threatening to stain their future irrevocably.

The presence of the unnamed and unknown man and child in the barn adds an incredible dimension to the storyline—as a simple act of kindness during a cold Christmas, which Rubi clings to as an act of redemption—and has the power to change everything. Each of these delightful characters will find in each other something they never recalled losing.

The little girl with no name is so well drawn that the reader falls in love with her from the start. She has innocence and vulnerability with a realistic feistiness, which makes her both endearing and scary.

Memmott makes a perceptive parallel between the child and Rubi, demonstrating how the search for redemption is best found through the act of redeeming. Desperate to save herself, Rubi ends up saving the loveless little girl. I loved her quaint colloquial speech, which was both genius and very hard to pull off. The character portrayal is the most skillful and endearing part of the novel, introspective enough to stand confidently alongside D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*. The powerful descriptions are intricate and frequent. The storyline is effective and gripping enough to keep the reader fast-pedaling through the pages, but it is the involvement in the soup of human emotions that is most rewarding.

I would definitely recommend this novel to anyone wanting more than your average story.



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Rubi, racked with guilt and looking for redemption, has let a man and his daughter stay in the barn. While Wyatt, perhaps feeling ambivalent about sending them away, lets three suspicious characters stay on the edge of their land. He doesn't think to report them until he sees a wanted poster for one of them. Is it just a coincidence that these men and the father and daughter are on their land at conveniently the same time? Or do they want something from the child? It is nearing Christmas and Rubi and Wyatt are getting a little attached to the child, so when the three men kidnap her, Wyatt rides off to try to save her. *Nebraska's Map* is a complex story with a lot of emotion.

Memmott's style of writing makes *Nebraska's Map* a very extraordinary novel. It's dramatic and almost lyrical; it is very expressive, deep, and at times, romantic. The narrative is seamless and the characters are lovable. Rubi and Wyatt are especially good characters and Nebraska is an intuitive one. The author writes in a purposeful way, as if every simple and common phrase means something else and all will eventually lead to a significant revelation. He even makes "the fish" sound important and vital to the story. Every statement is a riddle. I just couldn't wait to get to the resolution and what a wonderful ending it was. This novel is gripping from the title page to the very last word.

NABRASKA'S MAP

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Rating: 5.0 stars

A Readers' Favorite Book

Reviewed by Mamta Madhavan

Nebraska's Map by Roger Ladd Memmott is set in a small town in Southern Utah. Rubi McAllister does not

have a clean past. She accidentally burned her parents to death when she was six. Now she is nineteen. It is Christmas time, snowing and cold, and Rubi has let a man and his daughter stay in her barn. But this act of goodwill leads to a lot of complications. Before Rubi realizes it, she finds herself trapped in a web of confusion and deceit. Will Rubi's lover save Rubi and the child of the man in the barn? This is a story of love and redemption, laced with desire and passion.

The book has a lot of twists and turns that will keep readers glued to the pages. It is a compelling story with all the emotional ingredients peppered throughout in the right doses. The narration is descriptive and lends the right amount of authenticity to the characters and scenes. There is a certain amount of crudeness and violence in the emotions and some explicit scenes which make the story both compelling and action packed.

Though the story has excitement, thrills, twists, and turns, the story and the pace are fluid. Certain parts of the story will captivate readers with some good imagery, giving it a dreamy quality and adding a tinge of softness to the harsh theme. The theme is original and all the characters have been portrayed powerfully.