



## **Puha (Master of the Wild) (Volume 1)**

*J. Bradley Van Tighem*

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Many Wolves, a 12-year-old boy adopted by Lipan Apaches, is haunted by memories of mounted men with painted faces killing his white-skinned parents. When Laughing Crow, the powerful leader of the Nokoni Comanche band responsible for the killings, discovers his Lipan village and asks for the white-skinned boy in exchange for peace, Many Wolves flees. In the harsh desert wilderness, nourished by the salty waters of the Pecos River, he learns to survive alone with his trained wolf hawks.

Five years later, the Nokoni leader's son is killed by a Lipan arrow, which sets Laughing Crow on a trail of blood and vengeance. Many Wolves, now hardened by nature and empowered with a gift to walk with the spirits of his animals, is forced out of seclusion to confront his nightmare and protect his Lipan village.

Puha, the Comanche word for "spiritual power," is an unconventional western story set in the late 1700s, before Texas was settled with Colt revolvers and Winchester rifles: a time when vast herds of buffalo roamed the Southern Plains, grizzly bears and wolves thrived, and the Comanche rode unchallenged on painted ponies.

## **Puha (Master of the Wild) (Volume 1) Details**

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Author : J. Bradley Van Tighem

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## **From Reader Review Puha (Master of the Wild) (Volume 1) for online ebook**

### **Christine Ditzel says**

Hollow Leg is a white boy being raised by a Lipan family following his parents' brutal death at the hands of the "Buffalo Men" who now plague his dreams. Not long after being given his official Lipan name, Many Wolves, he is forced to flee from the village to avoid being given over to a Nokomi tribe as a peace offering. With only three wolf hawks he rescued and a village dog, he sets off to find a place to live and survive. After five years on his own, Many Wolves' past comes back to haunt him and he must face his greatest fears.

Puha is a true coming-of-age story for Many Wolves as he grows from a young trying to fit in with the Lipan tribe that raised him, to a self-reliant man providing food and shelter for himself and his animal companions, and ultimately to when he feels ready to stand up to Laughing Crow. However, it is also something of a coming-of-age story for Laughing Crow as well. While the Nokomi war leader always seems to lust for power, blood, and revenge, he comes to realize at different intervals that other things matter as well, even if he doesn't react in what is considered to be the correct way.

There is violence and blood in this story, though it all serves a purpose to the story and is not just thrown in to add to the page count. There were a few times I had to take a break because of it, but I always managed to continue on with the story because I was already so invested in the characters, their lives, and needed to know what was going to happen to them. Without going into too much depth, there are, aside from animals being killed to feed people, there are fights between tribes, and scalpings - among other things. One scene that ranked amongst the more upsetting ones for me was not about any of the fights or scalpings, but featured a rattlesnake. Then again, I do have a great fear of snakes so it is not surprising.

J. Bradley Van Tighem did a wonderful job creating well-developed and multilayered characters. While Many Wolves is the character I connected with the most, I also found myself being able to relate to Laughing Crow despite his arrogant and bloodthirsty personality.

Many Wolves' animal friends and companions are depicted like human characters with their different personalities and relationships with him. Chiquito, one of the wolf hawks, was my favorite of the animals, not just because his small size and slower learning curve very much resembled Many Wolves' state before he went off on his own, but the duo's bond was truly like that of someone and a beloved pet, more so than some of the other animal companions. Nature as a whole was depicted as a character in itself in addition to being a setting and it worked really well. In fact, had nature not played as large of a part as it did, Puha would not have been as enjoyable.

You can read the rest of my review at my blog: <http://readerlymusings.com/2014/04/14...>

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### **Gayle Pace says**

MY THOUGHTS: SPIRITUAL POWER the meaning of PUHA! If you're looking for your typical shoot 'em up cowboy, Indian story, then this isn't for you. This isn't your typical vision of tents with Indians going on the war path. It's about how nature, animals and the lost history of the Native Americans comes to life. It is a fictional read, but as you read, it becomes more. It becomes a part of your present. You picture yourself

there. This genre is one of my very favorite. I haven't found many historical fiction books about the Native Americans. IT is often a subject that isn't talked or written about. When I got the chance to read this book, I jumped at it.

The book did bring about some emotions , Hollow Leg was a white young boy. After his parents' death carried out by "Buffalo Men", he sees men with paint on their faces and is haunted day and night by them. He was adopted soon after by the Lipan Apaches.)I did wonder about how the Lipan's found him and how did they go about adopting him, was it assumed, was there a ceremony of some kind?) His new name is Many Wolves. But the haunting of the painted faces becomes more than just a nightmare in his mind. It becomes a reality when the Nokomi tribe find Many Wolves with the Lipan Apaches. They want him and demand the Apaches to turn him over. In order to save his village and new family he runs. Now he is out there, no longer in a safe place with his Apache tribe. Survival is now the name of the game, so he searches for a safe place. He finds a place near the Pecos Rivers. He has animal friends that the author gives you the feeling they were more than animals to Many Wolves. They were each, in their own way, a special part of Many Wolves' life. There is still that haunting, those faces and after five years of being without the protection of his Lipan family, the past emerges and he will either have to come to grips with it or flee, once again. Will Many Wolves be able to face those haunting memories? Who will win? The ones who haunt or the haunted?

I found the pages turning quickly as I followed Many Wolves from a young boy seeing his parents murdered to his new sheltered life with the Lipan Apaches. Then I watched Many Wolves become a man who learned how to survive, dependent only on himself. What put the icing on the cake was when Many Wolves comes face to face with Laughing Crow, the Nokomi leader. This wasn't an easy thing to do. Laughing Crow was mean, loved the blood fight, thrived on it. He was a heartless man, who killed sometimes just for the sake of killing. No REAL reason, except for the lust of blood. I found it so hard to see that some of the other Indians looked up to him. I don't know if it was a fear of him or did they see something in him that they wanted to be like? Did they, possible, look at him as him as having mystical powers?

As the years pass, Many Wolves encounters different men, some with sound advice, some with tales to tell and some he made lasting friendships with. Get this book and follow the lives of the characters.

There must be hours and hours of research put into this book. The author doesn't skim over the realities of the story. There was blood to be shed, there were lives to be lost. You become a part of the character's lives, the way they felt, the way they lived and the struggles they faced. The plot and the characters are well developed, with the characters being interesting. I wanted to know more about Many Wolves, Laughing Crow and their lives. This is rather a historical coming of age story. I don't believe I've ever read a story about Native Americans that I found so interesting and so touching, in a way. Many Wolves leaves a lasting impression on you as does Laughing Crow, two different impressions. I was interested to learn that PUHA means spiritual power. Many Wolves, I believe, carried PUHA with him through his growth from a young boy to a man. A good solid plot with good solid characters. So much in this book to keep you attached, to keep you reading and when you're at the end, you'll want more. I always feel if you want more at the end, you've gained so much by reading it. I can't recommend this book enough. It's different but after a few pages you become invested in the book. It's like none I've read before. So try it, there's so much to delve into. (It is a rather lengthy book, but well worth the time.

I was given a copy of this book from the author and voluntarily decided to review it.

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### **Karina Ann says**

I have never been much of a reader in this genre, but the cover of Puha (Master of the Wild) (Volume 1) by J. Bradley Van Tighem captured my attention; I couldn't stop staring at it. From the beginning of the book, I was enthralled with the characters and story. The author commented that this book was a 6 year journey for him to complete. I felt he deserved my attention after pouring so much of himself into the words.

The author detailed each character and situation in detail without being tedious or monotonous. The story was well developed and moved quickly and smoothly through the events. It was exciting to read and I enjoyed the mixture of friendship with people and animals, to the hatred of the Buffalo People. It wasn't a 'feel good' story, but felt like more of a realistic historical fiction type of story. A few times I thought I could read between the lines at what the author was going to say, and I was totally wrong! I enjoyed this book thoroughly and even if this is not your genre, give it a read, I don't think you will be disappointed.

I give this book a rating of 5 stars, and I cannot wait for Volume II by Mr. Van Tighem.

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### **Deba says**

A compelling story of love, honor, fear, pain and the strength of the characters we read about in this book, including the animals. Puha, the Comanche word for "spiritual power," is an unconventional western story set in the late 1700s. A time when vast herds of buffalo roamed the Southern Plains, grizzly bears and wolves thrived, and the Comanche rode unchallenged on painted ponies. This book kept me riveted to the characters so deftly portrayed by this writer. I enjoyed being completely swept up in the wonderful totality of this poignant story and look forward to reading more of the books written by this author. I think she has such a way with words and expressing simple thoughts and ideas, she can make the most mundane circumstances sound charming and poetic. This story has all of the things that I love so much about a good novel. I was given this book for my honest review, and honestly I thought that it was a great read. Thank you J Bradley Van Tighem for sharing your work.

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### **Kristi Hudecek-Ashwill says**

I have to give this book five stars just because the story was captivating and it was well-written.

The story starts out with a boy named Hollow Leg who is a white boy that is living in a Lipan Indian village, being raised as a Lipan Indian. It's never really revealed as to how he got there other than he was found. He has dreams about the Buffalo People and their identity is a mystery until you're well into the story.

A naming ceremony takes place and Hollow Leg gets the name of Many Wolves. Meanwhile, this kid had found some baby hawks that had been blown out of their nest and the parents had abandoned them and the crows were after them so he picks them up and takes them to a secret place where he raises them until he is forced out of the village by no doings of his own. He was twelve then and his parents didn't want to let him go but they had to for the safety of the village and for himself.

Laughing Crow was the leader of a battling tribe, the Nokoni, and had extorted some horses and the white-skinned boy from the Lipan. In return, he wouldn't wage a war with them. A war they would surely lose

which is why Many Wolves was forced to leave. He had a better chance of survival in the wilderness than he would have had with Laughing Crow who was going to trade him to the French traders or make him a slave.

Laughing Crow had a story unto himself. He was ruthless and showed no mercy. He slashed a man's throat for coming at a buffalo at a hunt from the left side when they were supposed to do it from the right. The guy was left-handed and for that, he paid with his life. Laughing Crow was diabolical yet at the same time, he was spiritual. It was almost like an oxymoron. It was weird but it worked. I'm sure there were some Indians out there like that. He was feared yet respected. You don't get to be a great leader by staying home and baking cookies all day.

Fast forward a few years because that's what the story did with just a few lines. Many Wolves has an encounter with a bear who earns him the friendship of a Penateka, named Ten Arrows. I won't go into that because I don't want to ruin the story. Before that, he'd encountered another man, Hadakai, who offered him some spiritual guidance that served him well.

The ending was as it should be although I wished for a different one. I was also hoping that Malone would come back for some reason I don't understand. I liked him, I guess.

A lot happens in this book that kept it rolling. I never dreaded having to go back to reading it when I had to put it down for whatever reason. It had some of my favorite things in it. It had Indians, wildlife and true friendship.

It really was an incredible story.

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### **Joan says**

A tale of Indian tribes that is spiritual and magical.

This is one of the most impressive Indian stories I have ever read. I assume that the author researched this story so that the historical facts and lifestyles of these tribes are factual. Puha means spiritual power and an orphaned white boy, adopted by the Lipan tribe is named Many Wolves after a vision. Many Wolves always has deep, foretelling dreams and his tribe is under the thumb of Laughing Crow, a powerful leader of a tribe of Nokoni Comanches. When Laughing Crow sees the white boy, he demands that the Lipan tribe give him the boy in return for peace, as it is the style of Laughing Crow to continuously invade weaker Indian tribes, take slaves and slaughter the rest.

Many Wolves runs away to live near the Pecos River, but he is very lonely. He finds three tiny Wolf Hawks whose parents must have died since the babies just stay in this hole in a stump. Many Wolves spends months feeding them and teaching them to come to him to get their food. Eventually he is able to psychically tune into one of them who is more attuned to Many Wolves and he can go into a trance and join the Wolf Hawk and through his commands, the Wolf Hawk flies where the boy wants him to go and Many Wolves can see through his eyes. Several years later, Many Wolves comes upon a family of wolves, who are aware of him but allow him to observe them as long as he doesn't get too close. Eventually two members of Laughing Crow's tribes kill two wolves just for sport and in defense of them, Many Wolves kills Laughing Crow's favorite son with an arrow. The large male wolf of this family is hit by an arrow, but Many Wolves manages to treat the wound when the wolf is unconscious. From then on the wolf stays with him and acts as a guard and on occasion kills a man to protect Many Wolves.

This is the magic of the story, but the story is very complex as it covers many actions and reactions of

violence and warring between several tribes and even tangling with grizzly bears and other wild predators.. This story will be fascinating to many readers and I heartily recommend it. This story was given to me free for an honest review.

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### **Tara says**

I received an e copy of Puha by J. Bradley Van Tighem from storycartel.com in exchange for an honest review.

I haven't read a good Indian/Native American tale in many years. I loved how the author showed the growth of Hollow Leg/Many Wolves/Wild Man/. There was plenty of action and adventure. I loved the relationships between Many Wolves, his hawks, the wolf Rojo and his friend Ten Arrows. The character Laughing Crow was well fleshed out. In the beginning, he was a cruel man who cared only about power. Throughout the story, he became more humanized. He was still cruel, but he did care for those close to him, especially his sons. There is violence in the story, but I think it enhanced the story and was a necessary part of the plot.

Overall, Puha was an entertaining read that I would highly recommend and I look forward to reading the next book.

Pros: very detailed, interesting characters

Cons: Some of the hunting scenes were a bit repetitive and there are a lot of characters to keep up with.

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### **Merissa (Archaeolibrarian) says**

I received this book from Story Cartel in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Enter a world of long ago, when the plains were very different to how they are today. This story tells the life of Many Wolves with its twists and turns. It shows you how he makes the friends he does and his own personal code of honour and respect that he has.

This story is quiet violent (as you would expect) but in no way gratuitous. Everything in here you can fully understand and expect. It is all woven together in a masterful fashion and in a way that you will lose yourself in the world of Many Wolves.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, would highly recommend it to all fans of the Historical Fiction/Native American genres and definitely will be reading book 2 when it is available.

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### **Heather Langston says**

I used to read books centered around Native Americans like crazy when I was younger. Not sure why I moved away from them but this book reminded me of my love for them. So thank you Mr. Tighem! It was an

awesome read! Absolutely loved the bond between Many Wolves and his animal brothers. I smiled, I cried. I highly recommend this for those who love reading books centered on Native Americans - and to those who have not yet tried it, I believe this would be an awesome one to start with! I see this is book 1 so will definitely be adding this author to my "watch" list for the next one!

I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Nicua says**

Puha (Master of the Wild; Volume 1) by J. Bradley Van Tighem

This book was such an exciting adventure into another world and another culture. I was intrigued by the blurb and didn't regret driving straight into the book after it arrived in the post. Skillfully written with smooth flow and realistic portrayal, I appreciated the author's attention to detail and how he created a story that is unlike one I have come across before.

The author manages to keep a firm hold of the story while intertwining different storylines and connecting them where appropriate. I enjoyed the variety of different characters and also how they stayed true to themselves.

The story covers one boy's journey from childhood into manhood. After seeing his parents brutally murdered by the 'buffalo-headed' warriors, Many Wolves is adopted into a family in the Lipan Tribe where he grows up surrounded by love and wisdom. A time comes when Many Wolves must flee and taking to the desert with his three wolf hawks and a faithful dog, he must quickly learn the rules of the wild.

The cover of the book is gorgeous and the layout is clean, neat and enjoyable.

Altogether a pleasant read which took me on a journey and transported me to a time long ago amongst the fascinating tribes of Native Americans and across vast, breathtaking landscapes.

One of the main things I enjoyed about this book was the relationship Many Wolves shared with his animal friends. Having had many animal friends myself, I know how precious this bond is.

Looking forward to the next volume in this series.

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### **Misty says**

Puha (Master of the Wild Book 1) by J. Bradley Van Tighem was an enjoyable book to read. I liked how the author kept the book historically accurate, while also adding his own twists and characters to the time period. I loved the author's portrayal of the Native Americans and the way the Native American culture was portrayed in this book. I felt like this book actually taught me about what the Native Americans were like both as people and as a culture. However, it was not some boring history book instead the author worked the Native American cultural elements into the story line in such a way that I did not realize how much I was

learning about them until I stopped and thought about it. I personally feel that this would be a great book to assign to students in English classes as not only would be the perfect book for a book report or project, but it would also serve as a nice lead in to the Native American history that students would explore in their history classes.

See the Full Review and Author Interview at: <https://hubpages.com/literature/PUHA-...>

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### **Danni says**

Superb would be the quickest way to summarize PUHA. It is vaguely reminiscent of *Dances With Wolves*, which I think is a compliment, but shouldn't detract from what is an excellent book. The writing is evocative and the author captures the untamed wilderness of his chosen setting in a way that makes his story highly visual. I loved the characters and the spiritual aspects of the story. I had no doubt when giving it 5 stars.

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### **Jim Morris says**

Puha is terrific. It's original, well-plotted, has strong characterizations, and almost everything that happens is a surprise.

The story takes place in the area of Texas known as Comancheria, in the late 1700s, early 1800s. There were things about it that I expected not to like that, in the end, turned out to be strengths. The "good guys" in this novel are Lipan Apaches, and the protagonist is a white kid whose parents were killed by Nokoni Comanches that the Lipans had adopted. At first I was slightly irritated that the hero was not an actual Indian. But, as it turned out his being White was key to the plot, and such adoptions were in no way an anomaly. They actually happened, and were not, in fact, rare.

Another thing I thought would be a problem, but was not, was that the dialogue was in that kind of stilted, no contractions, speech that writers use to indicate primitive talk. But Van Tighem made it work. After the first chapter I forgot all about it.

I'm not going to outline the plot, because I don't want to spoil it. But I will say that it was very strong, and almost everything that happened was a surprise, and one that worked.

This book could be described as a textbook example of why ebooks and POD are making better literature than traditional publishing. It is original, and there is nothing traditional publishing fears so much as originality. If you like action, or history, or just a good tale well told this is a book for you.

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### **Tammy says**

This story was so captivating, It held my interest throughout. Some parts were just so sad that you know as you read it that these things actually could have happened as brutally as the story tells.

Many Wolves had so many struggles and Mountains to climb as a young white man trying to survive in Indian Territory.

Many Wolves parents were both brutally slaughtered by Laughing Crow when he was very young. He had nightmares for years, having flashbacks of this brutal attack. An Indian village took him in and raised him as their own and taught him the Indian way of life. All was going well til Laughing Crow paid a visit to their camp demanding the best horses and the white boy for their safety, without the horses and white boy there

would be a raid with many casualties.

Many Wolf comes face to face with Laughing Crow years later and his hatred for him has festered over time. Will he get revenge? Will he finally have peace in his life?

I won this story on Goodreads Giveaways. It was a Very Good Read! Well written! Thank you for choosing me to be one of your first readers of this story.

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### **Ashley says**

Puha submerges the reader in a forgotten time of American History when indigenous people lived free and in harmony with nature.

Native American historical fiction is not one of the more popular genres however it is one of my favorites. When presented with the opportunity to read Puha by J Bradley Van Tighem I immediately accepted the book offer. The story within Puha is riveting although the execution of the story could use a bit more finesse. At times Van Tighem surrenders to the trap of “telling” the reader what happens rather than “showing” the reader. During specific scenes (like the events of the introductory Buffalo hunt) I desperately craved details and expansion of events. I wanted more from Van Tighem and more of the story of Many Wolves and the Lipan Apache tribe. I wanted to see and feel the intricacies of the story and at times it was too general.

This isn’t intended to be an attack on the book at all instead it speaks to my enjoyment of the book. I loved the story of Many Wolves and I wanted to be completely enveloped in his world. Puha is certainly a good book but it doesn’t quite live up to the incredible book it could be if a bit more detail was added to some of the scenes.

I did indeed become very invested in the story of Many Wolves. As a young boy he was adopted by Lipan Apaches and remains haunted by memories of mounted men with painted faces. When these men discover his Lipan village and demand that they turn over the boy he flees. After many years in seclusion he is eventually forced out of isolation in order to protect his Lipan village. He is a character that is easy to invest in and whose story will make a reader want to continue reading.

I enjoyed that Puha is a Native American historical fiction that shared the conflict between various Native American tribes instead of the more common “Cowboys and Indians” stories. Puha is a good book and I would be interested in more of Van Tighem’s works although I do hope that he elaborates on the details of future works.

Review by Ashley LaMar  
Closed the Cover

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