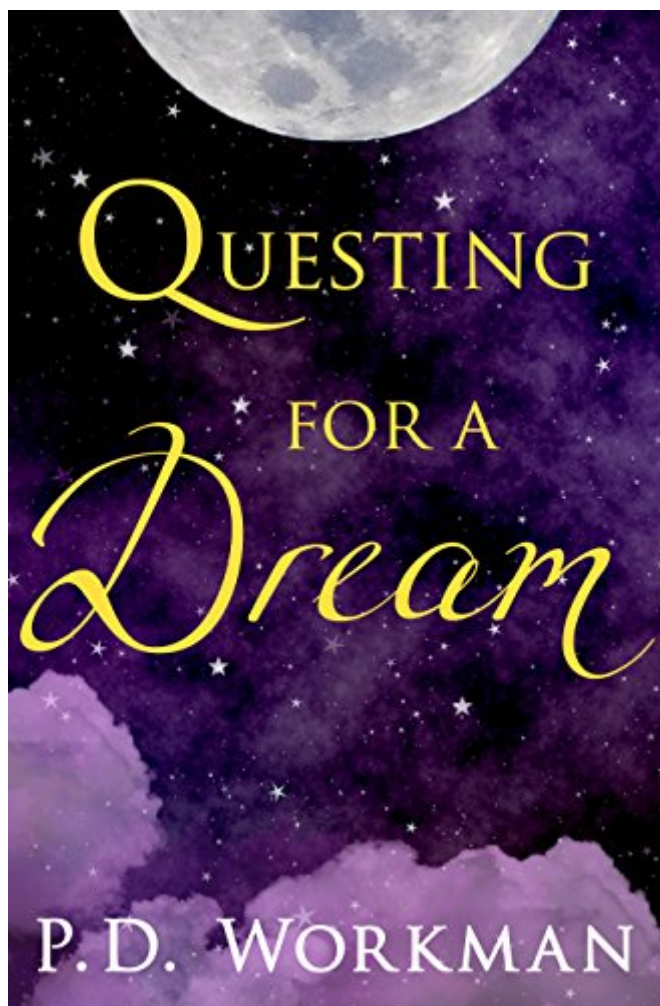


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# Questing For A Dream



## Synopsis

Nadie is a bright, caring teen growing up Manitoba Cree growing up in abject poverty. She tries to balance school attendance, caring for her younger cousin Luyu, and spending time with handsome, impish Mouse, her best friend and confidante. Together, they strive to find the path to happiness on the reservation. But tragedy strikes and Nadie is devastated by Luyu's accidental death. Unable to find comfort in Mouse's arms or Grandfather's traditional mourning rites, Nadie leaves the band and strikes off on her own, searching for meaning and a new life in the outside world. Can Nadie find happiness and a place of her own in a foreign world where she is abused and discriminated against? Completely alone for the first time in her life, it is a challenge such as Nadie has never before faced. By the author of the award-winning *Ruby, Between the Cracks* and *Tattooed Teardrops*, this engaging and unforgettable story of Nadie's journey to find joy and peace amidst heartache and hopelessness will inspire you to face your challenges with courage and become a happier and stronger person. Praise for *Questing for a Dream*"P.D. Workman's skilled narrative of Nadie and her poignant journey to wholeness is a thoughtful exposé of shattered dreams and tragic youth sure to resonate with every reader." "An inspiring book which can encourage the reader to face the challenges in life's journey and to accept the lessons that come as a result." Praise for P.D. Workman "Every single one of [P.D. Workman's] books has spoken to me in ways no one or almost anything else has. And I have found strength in the books I've read." "The way that P.D. Workman writes just flows amazingly and allows the reader to get really invested in a book."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An amazing book, very well written; a heartbreaking story of loss, suffering, and self-realization. Pam D. Workman draws clear and vivid pictures in readers' minds with her measured, detailed, writing. She describes a precocious teenage girl, Nadie, learning both of her First Nations culture and of the now-dominant European culture at school, struggling at the same time to be a mother to her baby sister and a caretaker, in a joint home inhabited by adults beset by alcoholism and irresponsibility. Finding little help from the elders of her community, or her close friend and schoolmate - a boy who prefers natural ways of living - who too suffers as she does from a lack of devoted mentors, Nadie faces an unbearable loss of the ghastly death of the one that gave her purpose and identity. Unable to overcome this tragedy, and troubled by the numbing, destructive ways her peers and elders cope with their personal and cultural loss, she runs away from home and its safety on a lonely, rather aimless journey. Nadie faces untold suffering on this path...and though she does find empathy and compassion amidst selfishness and exploitation, both she, and those who attempt to help, realize that only Nadie herself can address the wounds within, with fuller comprehension of all that leads to such wounds, and rediscover her sense of purpose in ways that are fundamental to her life. 'Questing for a Dream' is easy to read, flows linearly and seamlessly, and gives a stark view of the realities of life for First Nations people in their world now dominated by another people and culture. A story of great loss and survival, there are instances in the narrative where a sensitive reader may dread what comes next...and instances where one may be overcome with emotion, as I was. The clash between the dominant and the oppressed cultures is clearly portrayed, and so are bridges of communication between the two through human sentiment and compassion. It is a book after my own heart, very similar to my own work, that I recommend to the young and the old alike without reservation. I am glad I picked this up on a promotion, and will look for more of Pam's work...

It was a GREAT read! I could hardly put it down. Very insightful. Will definitely read more of PD Workman's books.

This is a very good book. I can honestly say that I enjoyed this from the bottom of my heart. I'm all admit, I'm a pretty lenient reviewer at times but I'm not playing this up. P.D. Workman takes a set of very plain, very typical characters and gives them much depth and meaning within a very simple world. *Questing for a Dream* takes place on a Native American reservation with teenagers Nadie and her best friend Mouse as the main characters. Nadie is a kind, compassionate girl and Mouse is a spunky young man both looking for their place in the reservation as well as the rest of the world. Both teens have their own struggles, Nadie witnesses a terrible loss in her family. Her mother leaves shortly after and during her mourning she makes the terrible mistake of abusing substances which disappoints her grandfather. Mouse, on the other hand, struggles with being the youngest in the family. Always having his older siblings to look after him, Mouse isn't used to having to do things on his own. It doesn't help that his mother frequently falls into depression either. We have the setup for one tragedy after another but P.D. does a wonderful job at highlighting the good in the lives of these teens. This story could have easily become dreadful and difficult to get through but I found it as intriguing as many of the action and fantasy books I've read. My most favorite thing about this book is that it's all about minority characters. We just don't have enough of them in the literary realm, in my opinion. As I mentioned before, the story takes place on a Native reservation so I had a good look at life in another culture. I myself am part Native American, Lakota Sioux from my father's side and Chickasaw from my mother's to be exact. So I was pleasantly surprised to see characters that I could relate to. Reservations pepper the US but not many Americans get such a close look at their lifestyle and culture. I greatly appreciated that aspect of this book which deserves five-stars all on its own. P.D. walks us through Nadie's tragedy of losing a relative. I really can't imagine going through such an event in my life but I think this author truly captures the importance of family and the toll a sudden death can have on it. Our characters are far from perfect in this story, they struggle at almost every turn but their reactions to the events and the way they handle themselves is very believable and realistic. Each character stays in line with their personalities and brings the proper emotion to each scene. I thought the development of Mouse's and Nadie's characters was great. I

liked Mouse a little more than Nadie but that's because I'm a sucker for struggling teen boys lol. I thought his struggles and his journey to manhood were well explained and excellently written. Mouse's part in the book, particularly his desire to be seen as a man, is something that stems directly from his Native roots so for me it was more of a personal enjoyment. Nadie's desire to leave the reservation was something I struggled with as a reader. Being Native myself, I never got the chance to live on a reservation like this character so her entire ordeal tugged on the strings of my heart. P.D. did a wonderful job highlighting the ups and downs of a Native's decision to leave the reservation. For people whose lives are so closely intertwined with their tribe, this decision isn't as easy as it sounds. It's not like moving out of mom's and dad's basement and finding your own apartment. It's abandoning everything and everyone you know. Your family is left behind, your language, your food, your religion, your entire culture is wiped away. I think P.D. did an excellent job at bringing these struggles to light in a way any reader could understand and relate to no matter their ethnicity or culture. My hat goes off to P.D. Workman for bringing such an amazing story to the market with emotional detail and intriguing characters. I would recommend this book to absolutely anyone.

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