

# A Wolf for a Spell by Karah Sutton

## Illustrations by Pauliina Hannuniemi

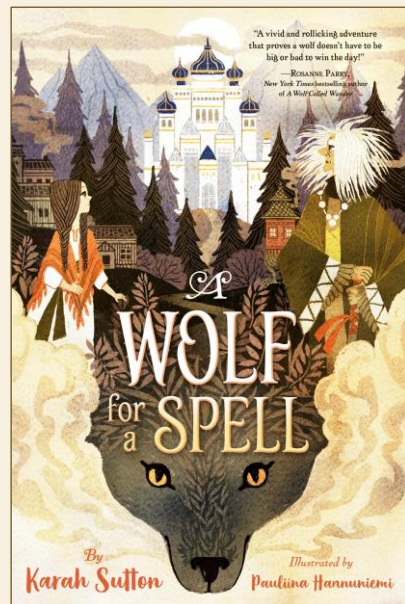
### Sell Sheet

#### About *A Wolf for a Spell*:

Since she was a pup, Zima has been taught to fear humans—especially witches—but when her family is threatened, she has no choice but to seek help from the witch Baba Yaga.

Baba Yaga never does magic for free, but it just so happens that she needs a wolf's keen nose for a secret plan she's brewing . . . Before Zima knows what's happening, the witch has cast a switching spell and run off into the woods, while Zima is left behind in Baba Yaga's hut—and Baba Yaga's body!

Meanwhile, a young village girl named Nadya is also seeking the witch's help, and when she meets Zima (in Baba Yaga's form), they discover that they face a common enemy. With danger closing in, Zima must unite the wolves, the witches and the villagers against an evil that threatens them all.



ISBN 13: 978-0593121658  
Knopf Books for Young Readers  
Ages 8-12, Grade 4-7

*The Girl Who Drank the Moon* meets *Pax* in this fantastical tale of a wolf who forms an unlikely alliance with Baba Yaga to save the forest from a wicked tsar.

A Junior Library Guild selection, American Booksellers' Association Indies Introduce selection, Indie Next Fall 2020 Top 10

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#### About the Author

Karah Sutton is a former bookseller and a current children's author. *A Wolf for a Spell* is inspired by her Russian heritage and the fairytales that have enchanted her since childhood. She splits her time between her home town in Kentucky and Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand. *A Wolf for a Spell* is her first novel.

Karah is experienced in talking to groups in person and virtually about a range of topics, including her writing as well as her experience in the video game and film industries. Karah is available for school visits, talks, and other events.



## Praise for *A Wolf for a Spell*

“Karah Sutton has crafted a vivid and rollicking adventure that proves a wolf doesn’t have to be big or bad to win the day!” — Rosanne Parry, New York Times bestselling author of *A Wolf Called Wander*

“An elegant fairy tale retelling that feels both classic and fresh, *A Wolf for a Spell* beautifully explores the power of generosity, the many ways to be brave, and the magic of finding your own pack. This book is beautiful.” — Anne Ursu, award-winning author of *The Lost Girl*

“Those who have never before ventured into the deep, dark magic of Baba Yaga’s hut will find themselves entranced by Sutton’s engaging style and imagination.” — Sofiya Pasternak, award-winning author of *Anya and the Dragon*

“This delightfully magical tale is filled with everything readers of fantasy and fairy-tale retellings adore: magic, heroism, and whimsy... A must-purchase where fairy-tale retellings and folklore are loved.” — School Library Journal, Starred Review

"A charming debut filled with magic and friendship, where a wolf in disguise can learn what it means to be human and a witch finds opportunity to redeem her greatest mistake. Fun and twisty, this fairy tale that evokes imperial Russia has a timeless air." — Publishers Weekly

### Classroom Connections:

**Russian culture and folklore** – Featuring characters known to Slavic fairytales and folklore such as Baba Yaga, Ivan Tsarevich, the Gray Wolf, and the Firebird, *A Wolf for a Spell* can serve as an introduction to these stories. The book also features mention of Russian folk art, clothes, and food.

**Animals and the environment** – Featuring a strong environmental message, the book focuses on specific facts on wolves and wolf behavior.

**Craft study** – *A Wolf for a Spell* uses literary writing and contains many examples of descriptive language, sensory detail, metaphor, simile, assonance, alliteration, and personification.

### Selling points:

**Animals and wolves** – Told from a wolf point-of-view and featuring other animals such as a raven and the fairytale firebird

**Princesses and fairytales** – The story is heavily influenced by Russian fairytales and follows a tsar and his bride-to-be

**Witches** – The Russian witch Baba Yaga is a primary character, and the story showcases many beloved witchy tropes

**Winter reads** – The story has a wintery setting and cozy/comforting tone

