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Wolf (Animal)



Synopsis

Feared and revered, the wolf has been admired as a powerful hunter and symbol of the wild and reviled for its danger to humans and livestock. Garry Marvin reveals in *Wolf* how the ways in which wolves are imagined has had far-reaching implications for how actual wolves are treated by humans. Indigenous hunting societies originally respected the wolf as a fellow hunter, but with the domestication of animals the wolf became regarded as an enemy due to its attacks on livestock. Wolves, as a result, developed a reputation as creatures of evil. In children's literature, they were depicted as the intruder from the wild who preys on the innocent. And in popular culture, the wolf became the creature that evil humans can transform into the dreaded werewolf. Fear of this enigmatic creature, Marvin shows, led to an attempt to eradicate it as a species. However, with the development of scientific understanding of wolves and their place in ecological systems and the growth of popular environmentalism, the wolf has been rethought and reimagined. The wolf now has a legion of new supporters who regard it as a charismatic creature of the newly valued wild and wilderness. Marvin investigates the latest scientific understanding of the wolf, as well as its place in literature, history, and folklore, offering insights into our changing attitudes towards wolves.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Garry Marvin is professor of human-animal studies in the Department of Life Sciences at the University of Roehampton. He has published widely in the field of animal studies and is one of

the founding editors of *Journeys: The International Journal of Travel and Travel Writing*. His other books include *Zoo Culture* and *Killing Animals*.

Reaktion animal books have set up a high benchmark for their publications and this latest edition on the *WOLF* continues that tradition. This is not a wolf biology book, but an important overview of the history of wolf/human relationships through out history as seen in folklore, fairytales, literature and all aspects where the wolves and humans meet in conflict on this planet. History, politics, religion, culture and conservation all take a role in this most complex story of the survival of two separate species, *canis lupus* and *homo sapiens*. Beautifully illustrated with book covers, paintings, historical posters and documents this is an extraordinary non-fiction story of man's complex relationship with what can only be described as his natural equal. It is perhaps that inability for humans to recognise this equality that makes this historically endless wolf/human conflict so volatile. 199 pages, 93 illustrations, 63 in colour

This account of the complex and changing attitude of humans toward wolves is very well written and packed with beautiful and fascinating illustrations. Marvin supplies some zoological information about wolves, then examines human "lupophobia," "lupicide," and "lupophilia," before giving a brief account of recent moves to reintroduce wolves into areas in which they had been ruthlessly exterminated by humans. This book is fascinating about wolves and very suggestive about the relation of human beings over the centuries toward wild nature and the animals dwelling there. It's also concise, well focused, vividly written, and filled with interesting details, quotations, and anecdotes. Highly recommended.

An in depth look at the wolf. Readable and not too long.

really breaks down the history of the wolf. very interesting. kept me hooked. a must for wolf or animal lovers.

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