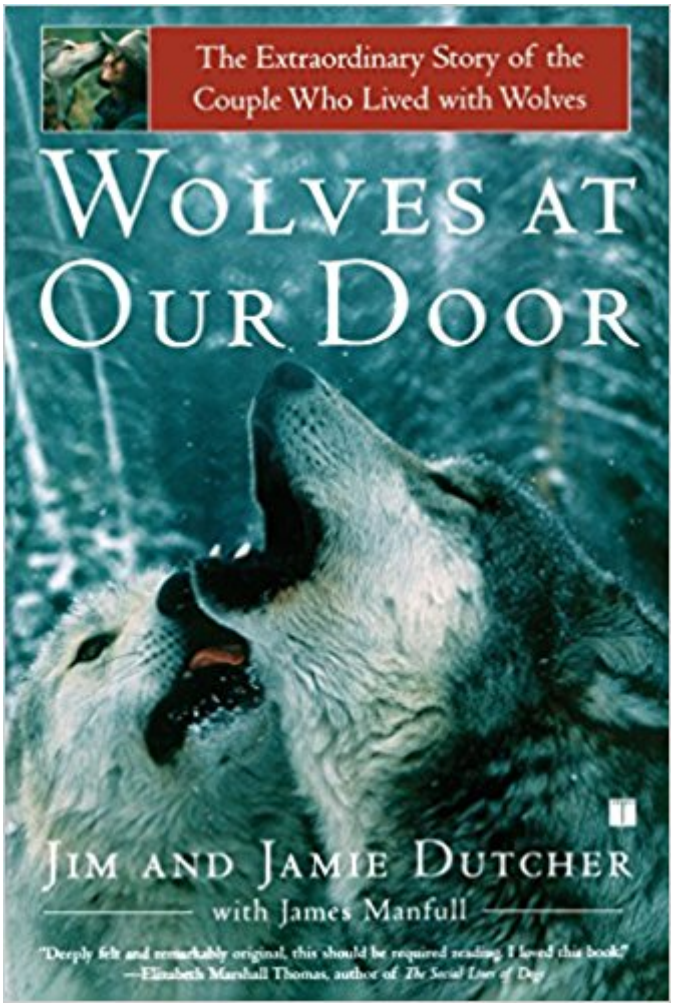
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Wolves At Our Door: The Extraordinary Story Of The Couple Who Lived With Wolves



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Synopsis

For centuries, wolves have haunted the human imagination. It has been accepted as conventional wisdom that they are savage predators, creatures of nightmare. Determined to overcome such misconceptions, Jim and Jamie Dutcher spent six years in a tented camp on the edge of Idaho's wilderness, living with and filming a pack of wolves. Now, in this lyrical memoir, the Dutchers share their experience of life among these intelligent and elusive animals. By socializing with the pack from the time they were pups, the Dutchers were able to gain the wolves' trust and observe their behavior in a way that few people ever have. What they witnessed was remarkable: a complex nature oriented toward family life and strong social bonds. Wolves at Our Door is much more than a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the Dutchers' Emmy Award-winning Discovery Channel documentary. It is the story of two people brought together by their devotion to wildlife and held together by their belief in each other. It is about their struggle to keep the project alive amid marauding mountain lions, forest fires, subzero temperatures -- and the never-ending storm of controversy that surrounds the wolf.

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Customer Reviews

The Dutchers spent six years living with a pack of captive wolves in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho, producing the Emmy Award-winning documentary of the same title. In this book, Jim (The Sawtooth Wolves, with Richard Ballantine) and Jamie elaborate on their experience, describing how they became involved with the project, sharing their most memorable moments in the pack, and

revealing the logistical problems posed by wildlife filming. Supporting the premises of their movie, the book details many myth-dispelling, playful interactions among the wolves and between wolves and humans. (These wolves were raised largely by Jim in captivity but in a large wilderness area with minimal interference from humans.) The reader gets to know the various wolf "personalities" that beguiled and bedeviled the authors, including Kamots, the calm, regal alpha who once comforts Jim by placing a paw on his hand; Matsi, the gentle beta; and Lakota, the slump-shouldered, tail-dragging Omega who is also the joker of the pack. Episodes of tragedy and mourning (as when a wolf is killed by cougars) are countered by moments of exuberance and touching inter-species communication. The Dutchers describe how the wolves dance in delight at the snows of winter, compete viciously for status and entertain themselves with complex social role-playing. This accessible book will delight nature fans and general readers alike. Maps and color insert not seen by PW. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Intent on dispelling the misguided notion that wolves are dangerous, predatory creatures, the Dutchers went to great lengths to observe a wolf pack’s natural, unguarded behavior: they created a 20-acre enclosure for the wolves in Idaho’s remote Sawtooth Mountains and moved their own quarters inside of it. There, the couple spent six years living among and filming the wolf pack, and their resulting film won an Emmy Award and became the Discovery Channel’s highest-rated natural history documentary. This written account of their film explains how the Dutchers set out to capture the intimate daily life and social structure of the wolf pack. They observed behavior of a complex nature, a complicated and rigid family orientation, unexpected playfulness, and unyielding social bonds and achieved their goal of revealing a more sensitive, gentle wolf. This reads like a novel about relationships, but the main characters are animals rather than humans. It will captivate readers who are drawn to the wilderness and the somewhat mystical social structure of wild animals. Jim is a filmmaker and author of The Sawtooth Wolves, and Jamie is a former National Zoo employee. Highly recommended for popular wildlife collections and for those studying the social structure of animal groups. (Photos not seen.) Deborah Emerson, Rochester Regional Lib. Council, Fairport, NY Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Let me clear the air up front. I can’t claim that this review is totally unbiased, seeing as how my kid brother assisted the Dutchers with this effort. Just ask him: I’m very hard to please. Well, he doesn’t

have to worry this time out.Weighing in at a mere 300 pages, the lucid, evocative writing makes it seem half as long. I came home from work to find my copy waiting for me. I immediately took it to my... um, "private reading room", with the intention of looking at the glorious, full color photographs and rejoining my family. But then I decided to just read the introduction. Next thing I knew, I was 100 pages into it and didn't want to stop.The book is at once a heartwarming story of two people, their relationship with each other, and their struggle to bring a dream of filming a pack of "wild" wolves to fruition, and a real life drama of the lives (and occasionally deaths) of the members of that pack.I can't recommend this book enough. Dog lovers will gain insights into the behavior of their beloved companions; wolf and nature lovers will see a magnificent animal in all its glory; and everyone else will find an eye-opening study of a misunderstood and wrongfully persecuted creature. All wrapped with a perfect blend of humor and suffering.Do yourself a favor and let the Dutchers and their beloved wolves into your life. It will be richer for the addition.

Amazing book that further goes into detail about Jim and Jamie Dutcher's amazing journey establishing, living with and documenting a wolf pack in the Sawtooth mountains. I like that you get perspectives from both of them in the form of chapters in the book, so you're seeing the wolves from two different points of view.

Jim & Jamie Dutcher were able to bond with wolves as friends and because of this bond they were able to understand more about the culture of the wolf. If we as humans could learn from Jim & Jamie maybe we could find a way to become better people. Wolves at Our Door is an intimate written piece allowing humans to have a personal look at the lifestyle/culture/tradition of wolves. There are moments you want to cry and others you laugh out loud. The book is filled with emotions and should help one understand a once feared creature. Fear is something that continues to not allow humans to understand each other let alone other creatures and even atomic matter of our universe. If you are a person who is fond of nature or a person who wants to bond with nature and animals or even a person who is just beginning to understand what is around you---you will enjoy reading Wolves at Our Door. If find yourself with no emotions while reading this book...please find a good friend or psychologist/ psychiatrist to speak to --you may not be human. Enjoy the book!

This book was easy and entertaining to read. It is a great description of wolf behavior under the very specific and controlled conditions created by the Dutchers. The pictures are touching. But I would say that this book definitely does not describe wolves in the wild. The reader should be very aware

that the wolf pack featured in the book was created "artificially"--that is to say, the wolves were hand-reared from pups and then grouped into a pack. They were, to a certain degree, domesticated. There was a great amount of human interaction, so I think it would be accurate to say that the Dutchers became part of the pack. For example, the Dutchers intervened in the wolves' lives when one wolf endangered another or could not fit into the pack. This would not happen in the wild. When the Dutchers transferred the pack to management by the Nez Pierce Indians, apparently the pack had some problems and eventually disintegrated. Maybe this was because two pivotal pack members--the Dutchers, the stabilizing humans--were removed. While I think that books like these are helpful in creating an understanding and respect for animals, one should not assume that the animals in the wild are exactly like the Dutchers observed. Whenever humans interact (or interfere) with the wild, the wild will no longer be the same. I was also a little uncomfortable with the fact that after 6 years, the Dutchers left the pack to others. They were the "mom and pop" of the pack, even though they may not believe it. The pack was created for a photo study, not a scientific one, nevertheless responsibility for their care beyond the filming project remained. Our culture tends to "throw animals away" when we are done with them. But if we've interfered with their lives, or kept them as pets, our care and relationship with them should continue through the animals' life span, because they've been compromised in their ability to lead their lives without us.

This book is a wonderful view on the lives inside a wild wolf pack. Even though the Dutchers raised all but two of the original pack from 10 day old pups, the wolves still behave as they would in the wild with the exception of allowing humans to glimpse their lives. These wolves were kept in an enclosed area near the Sawthooth Mountains for six years otherwise this book and the film by the same title would not have been possible if these were wolves born in the wild their fear of humans would never have given us the glimpse of compassion, love and loyalty that is the wolf. As you read this book you will come to understand that wolves are not born killers. Please read this book for the sake of the wolf and the wilderness they represent, it may help in restoring them to the wild, for knowledge and understanding go hand in hand with preservation.

There are at least a half dozen books on wolves piled on my tiny nightstand. How often do you get to read about a true adventure about wolves that includes the awareness of humans to actually put the well-being of the wolves ahead of their own scientific research? The use of their dog, Charlie, and the fact that the authors truly accepted the advice of the locals is what made this book my favorite. In addition to being the scientists they are, the authors are hero dog owners.

Great book and it open my eyes on deciding if I’m going to by a wolf hybrid! Owning a wolfdog Is a commitment for the life span of the dog. Thanks for a great book’

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