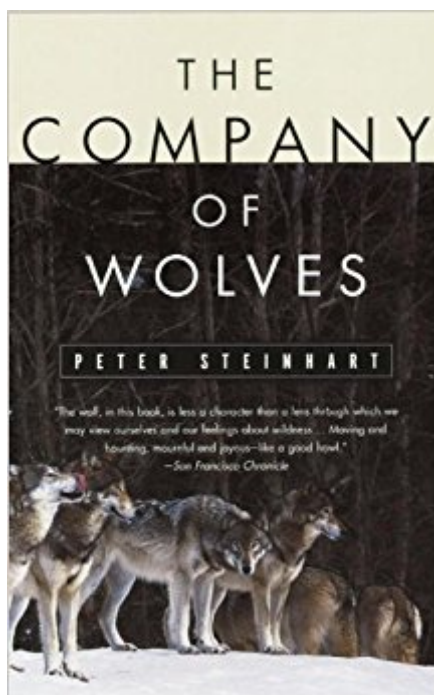


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# The Company Of Wolves



## Synopsis

As wolves return to their old territory in Yellowstone National Park, their presence is reawakening passions as ancient as their tangled relations with human beings. This authoritative and eloquent book coaxes the wolf out from its camouflage of myth and reveals the depth of its kinship with humanity, which shares this animal's complex complex social organization, intense family ties, and predatory streak.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Steinhart examines why wolves have featured so prominently in debates about natural preservation and the roles of predators. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

People either hate wolves or love them. To many, wolves have come to represent the last remnants of wildness; to others, wolves are a metaphor for the deeper aspects of the human animal. This is not a treatise on wolf biology but an examination of the relationship between humans and wolves in the wolves' last refuges in the Arctic and in places where the two species live together again as wolves move into new areas, either through their own natural movements or through attempts at reintroduction. Steinhart, the author of several books (e.g., *Tracks in the Sky*, Random, 1991) and many popular articles on the environment, speaks with wolf biologists, wildlife managers, trappers, ranchers, Native Americans, and others. Though it is clear where Steinhart's sympathies lie, the book is balanced between the wolves' advocates and their opponents. Highly recommended for

general collections. Bruce Neville, Univ. of Texas Lib., El Paso Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Beautifully written which is consistent with all his books and important information to consider in the on-going understanding of wolves and our world.

This book was recommended to me by a friend. We were planning a visit to a wolf rescue facility and this was a great book to read before our visit. What I liked best was learning about wolf behavior and wolves interactions as a family unit. It also dispelled some of the fallacies about wolves....they are gentle and curious creatures, not man eaters. On the down side, the beginning of the book was slow reading as it went over history of man and wolves.

Wow. What research. Peter puts me in the middle of his many locations and addresses the controversies surrounding wolves. He writes with such eloquence about this animal and our misunderstandings about them.

This is my second copy. Lent the first one and never received back. This is a keeper to go back and reread at a later date and recommend to others who love wolves.

Oh my goodness, this book is amazing. It has everything I wanted to know about wolves. Each chapter begins with a "personal" scene that has to do with wolves and then it explores the topic even more in-depth. The writing is detailed. The Company of Wolves is full of so many topics. If it has to do with wolves, you will find it in The Company of Wolves. I would be shocked if a wolf lover gave it anything less than five stars. One of my favorite parts of this book was the chapter on howling. Each wolf howl is unique and special.

This book discusses the world of wolves and their relations with people. It makes a great introduction to the subject. Though most of the material will be familiar to the dedicated wolf-freak, even she will learn some new things here. Steinhardt writes well, and the book is as much a page-turner as a nonfiction book can be. Each chapter combines a particular theme with Steinhardt's discussions of some person relevant to that theme. For example, the chapter on howling focuses on Algonquin Provincial Park and its summer wolf howls, built around discussions with John Theberge, who started researching Algonquin's wolves by howling at them. The most amusing of these

subject-and-person pairings is the chapter on wolf pack social organization, in which David Mech is characterized as the alpha male of wolf research. Each chapter also includes some musings on the meaning of wolves for humans. Why do we hunt? Why do we react to the howl as we do? Why do some people breed wolf-dog hybrids? Some of these musings posed interesting questions but I didn't find any of Steinhardt's comments on them particularly insightful. Steinhardt is clearly on the side of the wolves, and I suspect that most of his readers are, too. Still, he makes an effort to discuss both sides of the issue. Ranchers and even a retired wolf-bounty hunter find sympathetic portrayals here. The book's overall lack of depth would be my only significant criticism. To learn more, dig into the "further reading" that Steinhardt provides at the end.

I completely adored this book, and it has become one of my all-time favorites. As a younger reader, I found this a bit difficult to read, though I still absorbed most of the content. It is exceedingly good quoting material and often ran out of bookmarks to highlight especially good phrases. Note that it is not so much of a continuous story (e.g. *Decade of the Wolf* by Smith and Ferguson) but more of a concoction of interviews, shorter stories, science, and lupine philosophy. This book is rich with insight into society's view of wolves, and highly recommended to any nature lover.

Steinhart examines many aspects of wolf conservation and controversy in a thought-provoking book. Although this book is slightly dated, having been written before wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone, I still think it is very much worth reading. It examines controversial issues from various perspectives without demonizing or whitewashing any of them, letting the reader form conclusions -- or come to the conclusion that solutions are not easy after all. It is one of the only nature writing books I've read that discusses the sociological and anthropological aspects of conservation, and the moral issues that complicate our relationships with predators, and it does this in a clear, rational, unsentimental way. Some of the ideologies presented here will be disturbing to readers -- I had never encountered the belief that wildlife is a "resource" to be "harvested" as people see fit -- but Steinhart presents his informants in a fair light, I think. Chapters on the purity or not of red wolves (on which Steinhart suggests what I think is a rational conclusion regarding the mutability of species as they evolve) and on the dangers of wolf-dog hybrids add interesting material that isn't covered in most books on wolves.

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