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Romeo: The Story Of An Alaskan Wolf



Synopsis

Romeo: The Story of an Alaskan Wolf is about a single black wolf that changed a community forever. Romeo had a playful and loving soul that residents of Juneau, Alaska simply could not ignore and many adopted him as part of their community. Orphaned and alone, Romeo chose his territory below the Mendenhall Glacier close to the town of Juneau, and made his winter home in the Upper-Valley and along the shorelines of the nearby Lakes where he played with his cousins - the dogs that accompanied their owners as they snow-shoed and skied throughout his territory every winter. For John Hyde, Romeo was more than a friend, and much much more than the lone wolf he photographed every winter for nearly a decade along the lake shores, on the flanks of Mount McGinnis, and on the many trails that lead up and down this mountainous and stunningly beautiful area of Alaska. He writes in his Preface to the book: The first time I met Romeo face to face, close enough that we could stare into each other's eyes, I felt I was sitting on the edge of two worlds: one so wild and free I might never be able to comprehend its true significance, the other civilized, which I was driven to escape from on a regular basis. As he recounts Romeo's life from a tragic and violent beginning through to its equally tragic end at the hands of humans for whom he posed no threat, the author writes in the tradition of Aldo Leopold and seeks to describe the kind of redemption and hope that Romeo provided us with as an example of how we humans might reconsider the baleful and destructive nature of our attitudes toward our wild fellow creatures and the wilderness that is our heritage too. Romeo shared our world to our delight and without malice. We, on the other hand, are often too busy thoughtlessly destroying wilderness habitats in Alaska and elsewhere. Romeo's life, the life of a wild carnivore, as it is described in this book in both clear and scientific language, was unique. He lived on the edge of the wilderness and of our so called civilization, where the two often clashed both in benign and more aggressive ways. When they did it was often his gentle behavior that illuminated our own human ignorance and latent aggression toward his or any another wild species. Romeo: The Story of an Alaskan Wolf is also the book of a remarkable photographer whose portraits of the wild and of Romeo in particular are as unique as the subject himself. The book is a tribute to an animal whose life came to be treasured by those who knew him and whose life now stands as a challenge to us all in our struggle for a better and more sustainable planet.

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Customer Reviews

"There's a sharp division in the way we view wolves - a division fueled far more by mythology and imagination than by fact. Wolves shouldn't and can't fit neatly into any negative or positive stereotype. Their niche in any ecosystem is not so one dimensional. We do wolves a disservice when we squeeze them into simplistic scripts and, ultimately, we diminish our appreciation of all wild things if we fall prey to a simplistic wolf myth. Our fear or love of wolves gets in the way of awe and, if wolves can't inspire awe, what wild creature can?"

"Few humans are lucky enough to spend time with a wild wolf. I am one. My moment in time with Romeo was inspirational -- a lifetime experience to cherish forever."

John Hyde in his beautiful tribute to Romeo, a lone dark-haired wolf, creates a unique and endearing story. This chronicle of a wolf in the midst of two worlds inspires respect for all wolves and their rightful place in nature. This book will delight a broad audience and that's good for all free-living animals, and good for the human spirit."

Romeo: The Story of an Alaskan Wolf is not about wolves, it is the nearest thing to being a wolf that could be hoped for. Romeo, the principle character, chose to build a bridge between his kind and ours and succeeded so well that, though it cost him his life, he for ever banished the mythical wolf created by mankind and showed us the true nature of one of the most admirable and interesting living beings on our planet. I envy John Hyde as I have never envied another human being."

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forever. -- ROBIN SILVER, M.D., Center for Biological Diversity There's a sharp division in the way we view wolves - a division fueled far more by mythology and imagination than by fact. Wolves shouldn't and can't fit neatly into any negative or positive stereotype. Their niche in any ecosystem is not so one dimensional. We do wolves a disservice when we squeeze them into simplistic scripts and, ultimately, we diminish our appreciation of all wild things if we fall prey to a simplistic wolf myth. Our fear or love of wolves gets in the way of awe and, if wolves can't inspire awe, what wild creature can? -- KIM ELTON, Director of Alaska Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior

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JOHN HYDE is a photographer, cinematographer and artist who lives in Juneau, Alaska. His work has appeared in countless magazines and many films.

From the Disneyesque opening chapter to the fateful ending, *Romeo: The Story of an Alaskan Wolf* is one that will warm your heart while at the same time, dispel the myriad of myths and unbridled misinformation that is so prevalent these days regarding the North American gray wolf. Author John Hyde's work chronicles the fascinating true life story of a lone Alaskan wolf affectionately named Romeo by the locals. Coupled along with his own personal encounters with Romeo, this book will leave you with an amazingly different perspective of *canis lupus*. While the title's main focus is a solitary animal, Hyde also does a very credible job in providing an extremely readable description of the inner workings of a wolf pack; highly social creatures whose members all have a specific role in the pack's survival. From the alpha male and female to the lowest ranking wolf, it provides just the right amount of particulars to educate and inform the reader without getting overly involved with a lot of scientific detail or animal psychology. The heart of the story however revolves around Romeo's behavior and the relationship he develops with the townsfolk and their dogs . . . a behavior which might be classified as atypical if you were one who held on to the misguided belief that wolves are nothing more than vicious, methodical thrill killing predators. If so, you will be astonished and pleasantly surprised by what this remarkable story describes. Hyde carefully recounts how the citizens of Juneau transitioned from their initial fears of a wild animal playfully interacting with his

canine cousins to an almost complete acceptance of this wolf which would eventually become a national celebrity. *Romeo: The Story of an Alaskan Wolf*, brimming with brilliant photographs, is certainly a must read for any wolf or wildlife champion. I also can't help but to think that it would offer great insight to those who mistakenly support the delisting of wolves from the endangered species list. Bravo zulu John Hyde - and thank you!

The color pictures are wonderful! Glad I read this book after I read "A Wolf Named Romeo" by Nick Jans. Jans' book was more detailed. This book was more of a summary and filled in some blanks. After reading both books I have a better understanding of what transpired. How fortunate the authors were to have experienced this first hand! Sorry for the outcome though...

I had just finished reading Nick Jans' book "A Wolf Called Romeo" and found myself moved to the point of Googling everything I could find about Romeo. I then found this wonderful book by John Hyde, and ordered it right away. I believe that all of us who are fascinated with Romeo will benefit from having both books. Mr. Jans provides a detailed journalistic account of Romeo's life and the far-reaching effects Romeo had on the community. Mr. Hyde provides a more intimate portrait of Romeo, along with absolutely spectacular color photographs. These photographs often literally took my breath away; I literally gasped several times as I turned the pages of this book to discover each new stunning vivid photo of Romeo and his wilderness. I have high praise for both of these books, and I especially have to sing the praises of Mr. Hyde's glorious photography in "Romeo: The Story of an Alaskan Wolf" and the intimate portrait he provides of Romeo here.

Having read the written history of Romeo, I hankered after the book full of his pictures. I certainly wasn't disappointed. Not only are the wolf's photographs incredible, just the beauty of the area is gloriously captured. Perfect book for so many reasons.

This book is lovely & the photo's are incredible but I did not look it over carefully! I am just now getting to read it & found a torn & folded page (17-18).. This page had been folded two to three times & torn at the top.. I would bet it had been returned to & put back in with the new books.. I looked today to replace it on , & discovered these books are no longer in print & are now selling for more than \$175 privately.. Could never pay that price for a book.. So will now try to cut the torn/folded page out of my book, then photocopy it on glossy photo paper & re-insert my page into the book.. I had read Nick Jans book & decided to order this one too.. John Hyde is a wonderful photographer &

It's a shame I never noticed the torn/folded page..Lesson learned the hard way to always check pages in books..

I bought this book on a whim and must say that it immediately became a treasured book of mine. I didn't know what to expect since I knew very little about wolves or Alaska before I read the story. However, the book is a fabulous mix of heartfelt story, facts (about wolves and Alaska) and beautiful photography. I only wish my dog would have experienced the joy and love of Romeo.

This is such a great story. The author really does a good job capturing the life of Romeo on film and in words. The ending is sad and so preventable. It shows how man has little to no respect for nature and wild animals.

What a wonderful book. Our tour guide told us about it during our honeymoon to Alaska but we didn't have chance to buy it before we left. My hubby ordered it for me over the holidays and it was such a wonderful gift. It brought back memories of our trip and was such a heartwarming story that was truly touching and beautiful. A must by for any wolf lover or Alaska tourist.

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