



Mission: Wolf Rescue

Kitsun Jazynga/ Daniel Raven-Ellison.
RRP £12.99 ISBN-13: 978-1426314940
(For sale at the UKWCT £7.99)

One of the most exciting books I have read in a long time. Mission Wolf Rescue inspires and encourages children of all ages, and even adults, to explore their world.

It gives informative ideas on how to be pro-active in saving the environment and the amazing animals, some of whom are critically endangered.

Dr Doug Smith, wolf biologist at Yellowstone National Park says: "We need to adopt the attitude that other animals besides humans are important too".

The back book cover explains to children that their mission is to learn all about how wolves live, the challenges they face, and what they can do to help rescue them. There are amazing adventure stories, breath-taking photography, superb graphics,

and exciting hands-on rescue activities all tied together with educational information and fun facts. The book lists additional resources in print and online for children wanting to explore further. Famous scientists and explorers are interviewed; myths and legends explored.

Jim and Jamie Dutcher, co-founders of Living with Wolves state that: "The ability of wolves to experience compassion and empathy is the single most important message about wolves we can share". Dave Mech, possibly the most famous wolf biologist of all, is quoted as saying: "The wolf is neither man's competitor nor his



enemy. He is a fellow creature with whom the earth must be shared."

This extraordinary book shows that wolves have lives just like humans - they have good times and bad times, lessons to learn, work to get done and families to raise. It is time to learn more about wolves so that we can help to ensure their future.

Wendy Brooker

Jacques Annaud for film adaptation *Le Dernier Loup*, despite misgivings over *Seven Years in Tibet*.

This book pulls its weight but certainly not its punches. It's at pains to remind us that the battle for the wolf is far from over, but it's a fascinating

glimpse of a world where it's seen as a key player in the ecosystem and worthy of our respect. And until that world becomes a reality, it's more than worth stepping into. If you have a stomach as strong as the animal's.

Review by Jessica Jacobs

Note: The film adaption of the book was released in China in February this year and elsewhere in the following months. There has been no UK release as yet but we hope to review the film in a further issue of Wolf Print.



The Wolf Border

Sarah Hall
Hardback 434 pp Faber & Faber
RRP £17.99 ISBN-13: 978-0-571-25812-3

The case of UK wolf reintroduction is a hot topic at the moment, amply aided by high profile conservationists with positive viewpoints like David Attenborough and Chris Packham. So it's interesting that this is the second novel I have reviewed on the subject this year and thankfully, another intelligent literary novel that explores the case for wolves in the UK but refuses to take the sensationalist route. The book was also serialised on Radio 4 back in May/June.

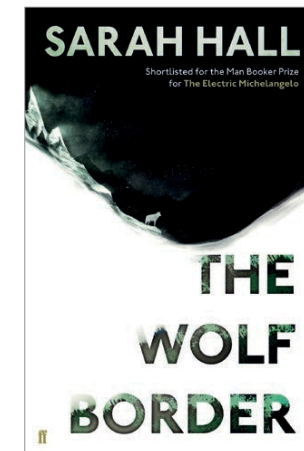
The Wolf Border is a novel where we are immediately strongly invested in Rachel, who is very much a lone wolf. She has family issues - particularly with her prickly, critical mother who is '...all bone and breasts under her coat...a body made to ruin men.' Her brother too is troubled, possibly sick. Rachel may be studying wolves in Idaho, being purposeful - but she is not in place, never home. Idaho is depicted as a brutal place for the wolf, which will have most of us nodding in recognition. Back in the UK, Rachel is approached by Thomas Pennington. The aristocrat has a vision, a project and the money, to achieve another kind of placement altogether - an apex predator family into Cumbria. 'Sometimes,' he says 'a country just needs to be presented with the fact of an animal, not the myth.' He is a little cavalier about the risks and problems, not the most comfortable fit for the project and in fact a 'liability'. Yet the project eventually pulls Rachel in - a

project that involves a pair of breeding wolves to be placed in enclosures deep in Cumbrian countryside, with the idea that they will at some point be reintroduced to the landscape.

Author Sarah Hall has an impressive pedigree and has already been shortlisted for The Booker Prize, for an earlier book, *The Electric Michelangelo*. For *The Wolf Border*, she researched at the UKWCT.

Combined with evocative writing about place and people, the accurate research imbues the whole story with a sense of credibility and depth. Hall writes beautifully about the burden and gift of being a mother, a daughter and sibling. Particularly in the former, you can see the baby's plump legs, smell the milkiness of its head and truly hear its needy mewl. But most of all, you sense a carnivore on the wind when Rachel can, sense that there will be problems with holding things in, containing the wildness within borders of any kind and protecting our own.

This is a book about family, kin and belonging - a story that will leave a smoky resonance in your heart and head as you leave each page. It's hard to forget a wolf like Ra who 'glows in the winter gloom like halogen' or is 'like the blaze of a matchhead'. Named after the sun god, wolves are indeed described with exquisite dedication. If they wore t-shirts, I am sure that their title of 'God of all dogs' would be a perfect slogan.



There are plenty of personal boundary issues and the politics of power in *The Wolf Border*, as pups arrive and the possibility of success grows ever closer. It has a simple, powerful ending which like the rest of the book, is not overdone or cloying. Fundamentally this is about the grey wolf, but also about how much of ourselves we wish to trade and how many borders and boundaries we create, to retain our sense of privacy and sense of self. I loved the way it was written with a delicate, poetic hand - it made me ache for mountains, wilderness and wild places. A truly stunning book that has real feeling for the wolf at its core.

Sarah Hall was born in Cumbria and has accumulated many awards for her work, including a Betty Trask Award and Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Haweswater. The Electric Michelangelo was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, The Carhullan Army won the 2006/07 John Llewellyn Rhys Prize.



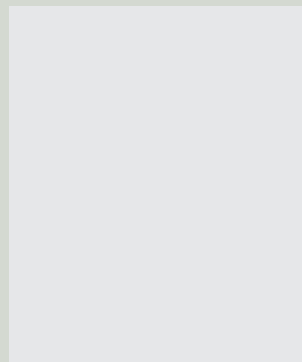
Wolf Totem Jiang Rong

PB, 544 pp. Penguin Books;
Reprint edition. (March 31, 2009)
RRP £12.99 ISBN-13: 978-0143115144

When student Chen Zhen is sent to "educate the nomads" in Inner Mongolia during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, he discovers more about the balance of nature and spirituality than he bargained for. According to wise old Bilgee, wolves stop grazers destroying the plains, send humans to heaven via "sky burial", and provide food with their enormous hunts. But in their drive for more farmland, headquarters want them eliminated at all costs, plunging man and wolf into an increasingly bloody war. To learn more about an enemy who frightens and fascinates him, Chen captures a cub to raise in captivity. Will it be the only wolf to survive the reaping of the grassland?

In Jiang Rong's semi-autobiographical novel both nomad and wolf are spiritual and savage. The former would rather freeze to death than sleep on a wolf pelt, but hunt and skin wolves for population control; the protagonist flits between scientific curiosity and guilt over the cub. And on one occasion, the wolves "speak" to heaven using the blood of the herd of horses they just slaughtered.

However, for all their brutality, the wolves are still the victims, and the story shows the harsh and tragic price of environmental ignorance. As the Chinese officers and migrants blunder into the grassland with traps and firecrackers, the wildlife is scattered and the plains turn to desert. In fact,



the outsiders have as much malice and depth as the traditional "big bad wolf" character.

At the same time there is a glimmer of hope at the end of the tale and in its popularity; purportedly the second best-selling book in China, *Wolf Totem* was successful enough for Chinese directors to approach Jean-