



Wildlife Book Club: Never Cry Wolf by Farley Mowat

Tuesday, December 2, 2014



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

The pack is assembling ...



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I'm answering the call!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•••? ♥

All these nice avatars

Comment From Regina, IL

I've got my wolf earrings on

Comment From BarbG

Here and waiting-great book we got to read

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•••? ♥

Waiting to talk about Angeline, George and Uncle Albert and the pups!

Comment From Becky in SoCal

I just hung my wolf ornament on my tree.

Comment From Dave in Missouri

I didn't get the book so I can only cry wolf!:)



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Hi, everyone!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Book club time!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

RAINA.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Evening!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

You are not dressed.

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Dave in Missouri, I'll send you my book if you are interested.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

Howl all

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Hello Chapin, Raina and Amanda.

Comment From Regina, IL

Hi Amanda & Raina. Good evening EN/CN/ WN.

Comment From rejoyce

Hi everyone!!!

Comment From Regina, IL

Hi Amanda & Raina. Good evening EN/CN/ WN.

Comment From Dave in Missouri

Thanks Becky, its ok I just didn't get around to doing it!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Tsk, tsk.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

So, is everyone ready to discuss "Never Cry Wolf", by Farley Mowat? Our third book club book!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Let's do it!

Comment From 33mama

Ready!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

Yep ready

Comment From rejoyce

Ready!!!!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Okay. Well, before we delve into discussion ... I thought we'd "set the stage". Get a feel for where we are.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Any Canadians out there? :)

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

Hey, where is Izzy/Carrie when we need her?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

So, Farley Mowat traveled to the southern Keewatin Territory -- what is now right around the Manitoba/Nunavut border.

Comment From rejoyce

Way north!!

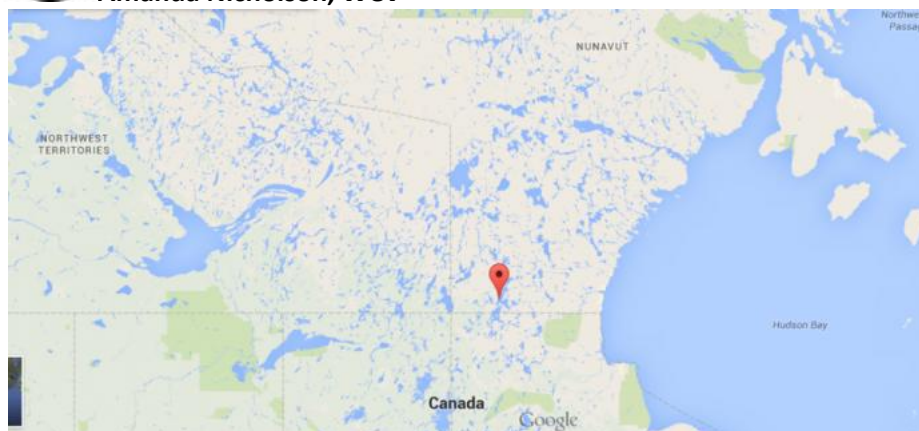


Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Right about ... here:



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

The Great White North!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

So. Snowy.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Dr. Dave and Michelle!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Well ... are they cool enough to come to book club?

Comment From rejoyce

Brrrrrrrrrrr

Comment From Regina, IL

my Aunt is Canadian. she's 96



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

So I don't know about you guys, but I had to get some visuals of the eskers and muskeg and all that ...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes, Canadians have weird words.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Esker. I like it.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

So those are the linear ridges of sand and gravel formed by glaciers.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



property of Wikipedia



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Well, what does it look like?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ohhhhh.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



property of www.physicalgeography.net



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Property of Prairie Provinces Water Board



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

So, cool, right? You can see how they would be important dens for the denning animals.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Looks like a good home for wolves to me!

Comment From rejoyce

Very cool!

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Yep.....google maps assisted me in locating the pack.

Comment From BarbG

It was -17 in Churchill the other day



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

And ... how about muskeg?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

No clue.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

This area is a tundra area -- the ground is frozen within a few inches of the surface -- which makes it nice and swampy (and mosquito-y) in the summer!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

A lovely bog!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Property of University of Saskatchewan



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



property of Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB)



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Pretty ... but also you can see why it's "barren ground"

Comment From Shirley - Greensboro, NC

Isn't that where the mud will suck your boots off?

Comment From rejoyce

Ohhhhhhhhhh



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

And then of course, to help complete our visuals ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



photo property of Robert Berdan, Canadian Nature Photographer



Amanda Nicholson, WCV



Property of National Wildlife Federation



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

And just to really set the stage ...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Mr. Mowat?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

(Which I learned is apparently pronounced like poet)



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Oh. No. Cooler than that. Sound! But I guess it's not working?? :(



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oh, is it howling?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Well darn. That didn't work. Okay, imagine wolves howling, which is super cool.

Comment From Shirley - Greensboro, NC

We can all howl instead...ARRROOOOO

<http://wolfpark.org/animals/sounds/>

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Now that is cool.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

Awesome!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I'm trying to get my dogs to join in, but they aren't taking the invite.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

My dog Leo is turning his head upside down, PEFA style.

Comment From rejoyce

LOL

Comment From Shirley - Greensboro, NC

I thought that would make my Murphy dog perk up, but he's still snoozing.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

My cat just leaped up and ran off! LOL

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Hubby thought I was in pain when I howled just now.

Comment From rejoyce

Ok, now my cats are running and hiding!!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

My roommates just popped their heads out asking which next door neighbor's dog was making all that noise.

Comment From BarbG

that woke up the cats



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Now that we're all awake ...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

What were your thoughts on the book?

Comment From rejoyce

I really liked it!

Comment From BarbG

I enjoyed the book but wondered how it all ended and what has happened since 1983



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Enjoyable, quick read -- I read it in a day!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I think he mentioned that the government tried to exterminate that specific wolf pack.

Comment From rejoyce

Me too Amanda!

Comment From rejoyce

Of course, I did not like the false negative opinions that people had about the wolves.

Comment From rejoyce

That is just so wrong :(

Comment From Becky in SoCal

It started slow, but loved it. I, too, would love to know the details since 1983.

Comment From Gail

Hi, I just now got on -- first-timer snafus! Yes, was wondering the same thing, about what has happened since publication. I looked it up and saw they are considered still viable in that area.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

I loved the descriptions of both wolf and caribous behavior, the humor, the realism, but I found the ending very sad--and the statement on the condition of the humans



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I liked it for the most part, but parts of it were a bit much.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes, I think the biggest theme in this book was how humans justify their actions against wildlife.

Comment From BarbG

so true



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Definitely.

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Hopefully we have come a long way since then, although wolves are still viewed as problems by many.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I don't know that we really have.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

One of the reasons this book was so appealing to me was because even though it's decades later, the attitudes towards wolves are still largely the same.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

It's a real battle to protect wolf populations, even in places where they are struggling.

Comment From GN

Once again, I am taking everyone's word for everything. Because, once again, I didn't read the book.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Shameful.

Comment From Becky in SoCal

It is really an issue in the Yellowstone National Park area. Ranchers want them removed.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Right. Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Minnesota ... wolves have a tough run in those states.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

the description of how the caribou sustains the wolf, and the wolf keeps the caribou herds strong (taking out the old and weak or sick). But what humans did to the the caribou for pure sport was horrendous



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

It was frustrating, of course, to read the ridiculous thoughts like "the wolves are slaughtering ALL of the caribou". It doesn't just wrongly demonize the wolves ... but it just doesn't make any ecological sense. That just goes against the basics of a predator/prey relationship!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Right!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

The end of "Spirit of the Wolf" was the most shocking section to me.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Where Mowat explains that he kills SO many caribou himself each year.

Comment From rejoyce

Lydia, that just goes to show how nature takes care of itself if man stays out of it.

Comment From Guest

Exactly! The food chain has to be intact for a healthy eco system

Comment From 33mama

He showed that wolves contribute to the balance of nature.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes, Ootek's story exemplified the connection between predators and prey.

Comment From rejoyce

Yes, I really liked Ootek!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

The caribou feed the wolves and the wolves keep the caribou strong.

Comment From Regina, IL

I really believe Ootek could communicate with the animals.

Comment From Kali - TX

oh gosh, i'm late! trying to catch up with all the geography photos - thank you amanda! i like the visuals!

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

The description of the wolves and the caribou together, toward the end of the book, was interesting. It reminded me of Ishmael -- did anyone read that book? It's been years, but basically there's a part that talks about predators not taking more prey than they can eat. They don't just run around like crazy, expending tons of energy, unless there is a point to it.

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

So the thought of wolves killing caribou (a pretty large kill to begin with) so frequently was a little hard to believe ... and he does discuss the wolves diet in the middle of the book.

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

He mentioned that in June, the wolves began eating a lot of mice.

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

So many rodents!

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Although he kind of made it seem like mice were like ALL the wolves ate.

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Which, I think other research has supported that wolves do eat a lot of mice seasonally, but Ootek again expanded on this. He explained that the wolves eat squirrels and fish, too.

**Amanda Nicholson, WCV:**

Yes, that might have been a little oversimplified.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I remember watching an older documentary ... one of the first instances where wolves were recorded eating rodents in large amounts ... and it was really shocking for some of the scientists (and politicians) to learn that bit of information.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٧•٩•? ♥

and duck

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٧•٩•? ♥

Did anyone try the Recipe for Creamed Mouse- Souris 'A LA Crème?

Comment From TerryMI

Mowat was a brave man to eat mice, to see if the wolves could actually live on mice alone

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Not a recipe for me, Lydia.

Comment From 33mama

Eww...!!!

Comment From rejoyce

It really proved that there are so many things about wildlife we DON'T know. So we should not make assumptions or broad generalizations.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I found it a little weird/unscientific with Mowat ate mice to study how that diet affected the body condition of wolves. But I guess make do with what you have?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

His experiment sounded interesting ... realizing that he wasn't really replicating it to its truest degree ... have to include the guts! :P

Comment From rejoyce

I can't say that I'll be making his Creamed Mouse recipe....

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٧•٩•? ♥

But I guess for a period of time..that is pretty much all they did eat, that a lemmings until the caribou came

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٧•٩•? ♥

I though Farleys trial of eating rodents was fascinating---

Comment From Regina, IL

Mice soup. Yum

Comment From Regina, IL

Mice soup. Yum

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

Interesting that the caribou can actually greatly outrun the wolves anyway, all except for the weak or sick

Comment From rejoyce

Yes, the balance of nature.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Rejoyce, that's a good point -- natural history is SO complex ... even in this day, there is so much we still don't know, and still are learning!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Even about animals that we've had pretty close interactions with for many years.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I liked Ootek's parable as well -- I didn't like Mowat's dismissive nature of it though. He mentioned something about being surprised to get that "survival of the fittest" lesson from someone who was "unlettered and unschooled". There's a chance that Mowat MEANT to sound that full of himself (to make a point) ... and he definitely did sound full of himself!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oh, so true. I think that Ootek added a different element to the book. I mean, of course he was Mowat's guide so he was important for the research.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

But he also added a different dimension to the storytelling in the book. He was like a fixture, there to provide Mowat with context around many of the situations they encountered.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

Agree with that! Ootek was wise, and such a naturalist (a natural naturalist)



Raina Krasner, WCV:

True. Mowat even says at one point that Ootek is a pure naturalist.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Ootek made it more real for me.

Comment From rejoyce

Ootek's comments show that it doesn't take a college degree to understand the inner workings of nature. If you are open to it and respect it, you can learn a lot.

Comment From Kali - TX

ootek gave a native perspective to the story. someone who had lived, and whose people had lived with the wolves for generations.

Comment From Gail

I think a lot of Mowat's tone was tongue-in-cheek

Comment From Kali - TX

remember, y'all, that mowat himself acknowledged that this books isn't totally factual - he embellished "the truth" to make his point.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

No, he embellished "the facts" to make the truth ... "Never to allow facts to interfere with the truth". I have to admit that was in the back of my head the whole time, and made me question pretty much everything.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yup. Me too, basically.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I had a hard time with his "practice never to allow facts to interfere with the truth". Which to me puts the interactions in a different framework. Although I never doubted his anecdotes on a whole, I did consistently wonder what details were manipulated ... and how much of the story was in the details.

Comment From rejoyce

Me too.

Comment From BarbG

yes me too

Comment From Kali - TX

yes, i did, too. i even went so far as to check other sources.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And one of the difficult things about wolf research is that it is SOO political that it's hard to sift through to the unbiased research. On both sides.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

Well, factual or not, I thought it was pretty funny Mowat he was sunning in the nude, heard the wolves and ran naked after them.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ha. Yes. And they thought he was nuts!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Oh, the myths!!! Those were funny to read. Wolves won't kill a pregnant Eskimo ... they shed their entire skin due to a disease and run around naked. Crazy!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Oh my! Yes. It reminded me of that silly story that circulates about eagles.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Ugh, me too. Especially since someone asked about it last week.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

How they shed their talons and beak every thirty years or whatever.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

Yeah! As I said, I did enjoy the humor in the book

Comment From rejoyce

LOL



Raina Krasner, WCV:

You're right, Lydia. He was a humorous writer. He told a great story ... and much of science was wrapped in anecdotes, which makes it easy to digest.

Comment From rejoyce

He even said that he found himself wishing he was a pregnant Eskimo at times lol.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I could have gone without that image.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ha.

Comment From Kali - TX

yes, i agree, raina. there are still so many articles about the "horrible, vicious" wolves who kill wantonly! sheesh!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Even the official scientific handbook given to him by the government states that wolves are vicious killers generally hated by humans. Very strong stance.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

But ...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I was kind of confused about Mowat's motives at times.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Mowat never really seemed fully on-board with that way of thinking, although he admits to being fearful of the wolves - that seems totally natural to me, and not unwarranted.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

But I feel like he was kind of billing himself as not having a strong opinion one way or the other about wolves ... and this trip would make up his mind. I don't really think that's true. I think he already leaned in favor of the wolves.

Comment From Kali - TX

please remember that mowat was born in 1921, and this story was set in 1948-1949

Comment From Kali - TX

remember the context of the time.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I don't think this is related to the time. I'm just referring to his motives as a researcher.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

It's hard to separate your own thoughts when you have been surrounded by the thoughts and opinions of others.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Right. But I mean ... he was afraid of the wolves, but he didn't seem to feel the same way as the other politicians and researchers, right?

Comment From Kali - TX

but he had to be influenced by his generation, and what the prevalent thoughts of the day were.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I know. And I'm saying I got the feeling that he innately felt the OPPOSITE.

Comment From BarbG

He was told to go do this and I am not sure he really knew what he was getting into

Comment From rejoyce

It seemed to me like he wasn't crazy about finding what they WANTED him to find.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Right



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ahhh yes, that's a great way of putting it.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

He was skeptical of their orders and maybe was a bit contrary in his thinking.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

Agree Rejoyce

Comment From 33mama

Mowat was more open minded so he watched and learned instead of accepting the myths.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

He said something about freeing his mind of preconceptions once he saw the pups.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

I think I told you during the last book club that I read the book "Lone Wolf" by Jodi Picoult. It is fiction, but one of the central characters in the book was a naturalist who had lived with wolves in Amercia for a time. So she had done losts of research for her book and there was so much I learned about wolves and pack behavior that I came to appreciate. There is a profound order and role to the wolf pack



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

The pack is so fascinating.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

And Mowat was surprised by what he found, and learned--even about himself

Comment From rejoyce

For instance, the way he said he had to keep "reminding" himself about his job.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

The whole hierarchy and family feel -- other wolves helping to raise the young, etc.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I loved reading about that!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

He really relied on anthropomorphism to make the observations consumable in a book format.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

There was a lot of data in the time he spent watching the wolves, and I'm guessing that scientific notes would not be nearly as interesting as the "stories" he made for the wolves.

Comment From Kali - TX

well, i think we can all say we're guilty of anthropomorphism at times



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I think it was a bit extreme at times. I'm all for anthropomorphism at times. I think it's even fair and appropriate but ... it was a bit much for me.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

One of my not-favorite parts was all the anthropomorphism ... I was remembering back to our first book club book, Smiling Bears. Anthropomorphism doesn't always have to be bad, but he was definitely NOT seeing things through the wolves' eyes -- he wasn't really seeing things through their point of view. That was purely his projected thoughts/emotions (George's sense of humor, the term "wife" drove me NUTS).

Comment From Lydia, PA ♡ ٩•٩•? ♡

The use of anthropomorphism did make for some good story telling though. At least for me it was



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I felt Mowat did a pretty good job describing the wolf family dynamics. Even though he used anthropomorphism, it really did describe the roles each member of the pack serves.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♡ ٩•٩•? ♡

Yes, Loved the description of Uncle Albert and his babysitting role--often relieving Angeline of play



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I guess my problem with it goes back to knowing he may fudge the details, so his credibility is already in question. And it frustrates me that he relied on turning the wolves into husbands and wives to make his story.

Comment From GN

I didn't know you were going to be using such big words.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Keep up!

Comment From Kali - TX

amanda, why did "wife" bother you? wolves mate for life, so i thought wife was appropriate, under the circumstances.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Wife is a very human term. "Mate" is just fine!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Agreed. 100%



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

There was no wedding ceremony for the wolves!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And no legally binding contract.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Hmm ... unless we don't know something ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

:)



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Mate or partner would have been an appropriate and better choice.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I guess wife is more accessible than mate, and ultimately his goal seemed to be to reach "the masses" to change their minds about wolves. And turning a wolf into a wife and mother makes people not want to kill her.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

He was playing politics, too!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

True ... and of course ... this came out in the 60's. So I could see "wife" being more appealing back then.

Comment From 33mama

It didn't really matter. We got the meaning!

Comment From Kali - TX

sheesh, GN!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Crafty Mowat!

Comment From rejoyce

Loved Uncle Albert :)

Comment From Becky in SoCal

I loved the names he gave the wolves.....even though we shouldn't name wildlife.

Comment From 33mama

It was so neat having a babysitter for the pups!

Comment From Carol in Oregon

I enjoyed the roles each played in raising the pups.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Thank goodness for the babysitter!

Comment From Kali - TX

yes, i was interested to discover that a "pack" isn't dozens or hundreds of wolves, but rather small family groups.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

And so interesting to read about their "summer den" -- a big safe spot where the pups could manage themselves ...so poor mom could stretch her legs and go out hunting!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I think being a wolf pup sounds pretty fun. Except for eating mom's regurgitated mice.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

True. Not yum.

Comment From TerryMI

That regurgitating mice was new and fascinating to me

Comment From rejoyce

Yeah, that was pretty gross :(

Comment From 33mama

Summer den was a playpen!

Comment From Becky in SoCal

It takes a village, 33 mama.

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Uncle Albert was the best.

Comment From Kali - TX

i had never known about the "regurgitation" way of feeding pups... oh my!

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Interesting also how much territory each group needed.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

Carried home all those mice rather tidily, huh? Creamed protein



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yuck.

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Yuck, Lydia.

Comment From Regina, IL

Wolves are definitely not stupid.

Comment From BarbG

the amount of territory was amazing

Comment From 33mama

And the way they respected each group's territory.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And the way they respected Mowat's territory ... After he peed on the moss and rocks.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

Oh yes! I had forgotten about that part. The marking of the territories

Comment From Regina, IL

I thought was hilarious

Comment From rejoyce

They are very interesting creatures!!!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I'm glad humans don't have to do that. We just put up fences. Although ... That would be so much easier!

Comment From Kali - TX

i almost fell out of my chair laughing when i read about mowat "marking" his territory - and then george making over him - "on a full tank" LOL

Comment From Becky in SoCal

That was funny how he "marked his territory".

Comment From 33mama

Wasn't it funny when he told how long it took him to mark his territory?

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Well Raina, maybe easier if you are male.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ahh true.

Comment From rejoyce

My dad used to do that to keep deer out of his garden!!!

Comment From Carol in Oregon

TMI Rejoyce. LOL

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Well, I think the book gave us a lot to think en it comes to wolves and our interactions with competition predators.

Comment From Guest

Did it work, rejoyce?

**Chapin Hardy, WCV:**

Goes back to Michelle's class on chemical communication!

http://wildlifecenter.org/sites/default/files/cam_archives/WCCS%20Nov%20Scents%20Archive.pdf

Comment From rejoyce

Sorry lol

Comment From TerryMI

It was fun to read the part where Angeline had visitors.

Comment From rejoyce

Yes!!!!!!!

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Mowat died this past May at the age of 92. It would have been interesting to know his thoughts on the wolves in recent years.

**Raina Krasner, WCV:**

Yes, I would be curious too! There has been a lot of drama with wolves in the last twenty years.

Comment From Kali - TX

becky, some things have changed, but unfortunately, some things have remained the same.

Comment From rejoyce

Yes, it really would be interesting to know what her thought about it as he neared the end of his life.

Comment From Kali - TX

exactly, chapin! and there was a link under one of michelle's photos about making

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

One core statement I had to underscore so I would not forget it: At the end, when he had that fright and flight response when he found Angeline and pup in the den and realized he could have killed them: “Mine had been the fury of resentment born of fear: resentment against the beasts who had engendered naked terror in me, and by so doing, had intolerably confronted my ego.”



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I thought the ending was sadly fitting.

Comment From Carol in Oregon

The ending brought tears to my eyes thinking how we can intellectually know things but often times our emotions and fears overtake us.

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Sad, but true, Kali.

Comment From Kali - TX

i have seen studies done in yellowstone, and other areas which show that the reintroduction of wolves has truly benefited the local ecosystem.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

Most profoundly disturbing, and haunting part of this for me was when Farley went to investigate the den burrow before he left. And the reaction he had when he saw the 4 green lights of yes that turned out to be Angeline and one of her pups, and he experienced that fright, the fight response. In the rage, he realized he might have shot them if he could have



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I think it was very real of him to admit that in the end, he excluded himself from that world. Very human.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

Then, he went on the say “I was appalled at the realization of how easily I had forgotten, and how readily I had denied, all that the summer sojourn with the wolves had taught me about them . . . and about myself”. He was ashamed. Then he heard George howling for the missing members of his family. For Farley that howl now spoke of “a lost word which once was ours before we chose the alien role, a world which I had glimpsed and almost entered . . . only to be excluded, at the end, by my own self” Isn't that so true of so may of us humans? sad

Comment From 33mama

Or our ego.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

But I do feel that people have generally moved their thoughts and opinions of wolves in a more positive direction.

Comment From rejoyce

Yes, it was :(

Comment From Kali - TX

oh, yes, lydia. that hurt me to read. after befriending the wolves, he couldn't bring himself to trust them.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I agree.

Comment From 33mama

Well, we're not supposed to trust wild animals.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Respect is paramount to trust there.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

True ... they will always be wild! I think it was just sad that he had that "if I had a gun!" reaction so quickly from his gut, after everything he learned/experienced.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•••? ♥

Yep..but all they did was cower and look at him..they were hiding from the wicked plane

Comment From rejoyce

Yes, we have to respect them.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ugh. Very sad.

Comment From Regina, IL

I think Mowit gave a realistic view of how humans react to wildlife

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ♡•••? ♥

I have the admit that I shed tears at that ending. But true of so many of us, we often fail to show respect our of our own fears, prejudice, hurt, or ego



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

We do need to respect wildlife. They keep things in balance. I don't know if you all have seen this video, but it shows just how important apex predators like wolves are to the environment.



Chapin Hardy, WCV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysa5OBhXz-Q>

Comment From ST

Apex predators are hugely important.

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Amazing video. Who knew all of that happened, because of re-introduction of the wolf.

Comment From Kali - TX

wonderful video, chapin! i had seen something similar, and it really does point out how vital wolves (apex predators) are to an entire ecosystem



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Pretty cool right!?!?

Comment From rejoyce

The wolves are just stunning!!!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

What an awesome video!

Comment From BarbG

just amazing



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Yay ecology.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Ahh Yellowstone. My goal is go in the winter in the next couple of years. They say wildlife sightings in the winter there are just awesome.

Comment From Carol in Oregon

wonderful video.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And speaking of winter ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Well, I can't think of a better way to wrap up that discussion. Before we announce the next book ... what do we rate this on Goodreads??



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

oh yes!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Hmmm

Comment From Becky in SoCal

I would love to go to Yellowstone in the winter. I've been in the fall. It is great anytime.

Comment From rejoyce

I've always wanted to go there Raina!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

Worth sharing that vid far and wide...education!

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Almost forgot about book club! Just spent 20 mins scrolling back. :)

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

GREAT video!

Comment From Doris

Great video!

Comment From SEK in CO

Must leave - but thank you for a good book to read, enjoyed it more than the previous choice.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I can't remember what we rated the last one, as a group ... but what about this one?



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Maybe a 3.5 out of 5. Good story, but some questions about his stories?

Comment From Shirley - Greensboro, NC

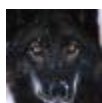
I gave it 3 stars on Goodreads. I'd give that video 5 stars :)

Comment From Kali - TX

5 Stars

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Two thumbs up!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

One to five stars is the Goodreads scale.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Oh, ha, I mean Goodreads rating -- out of five stars!

Comment From Becky in SoCal

I rate it a 3.

Comment From rejoyce

I agree Chapin.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I echo Chapin and Shirley ... 3 to 3.5 stars. Video gets five stars!

Comment From BarbG

3.5

Comment From rejoyce

Video was awesome!!!

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

I'd only rate it a '3' - because of the old data and not knowing how much is factual or embellished.

Comment From Carol in Oregon

I really enjoyed the book. 5 stars



Raina Krasner, WCV:

3.5 seems to be the general consensus!

Chapin Hardy, WCV:

3.5 it is!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Well, and Goodreads doesn't do halves. So I think four is fair

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

I rated it 4 stars. I listened to the audio book. LOL

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

4 thumbs up? :)



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

For the group page, that is! Of course, everyone can rate it how they like (and write a review!) on goodreads!

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Sounds good.

Comment From Kali - TX

i gave it 5 because it really does bring attention to wolves, and invites the reader to find out more about wolf conservation today

Comment From Gail

That sounds about right. It is a YA book in our library, interestingly.

Comment From Becky in SoCal

What is the next book?

Comment From rejoyce

So our next book is



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

What IS the next book?



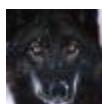
Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I'm excited about this one.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

The date will be in February (we'll have to look at the calendar ... we once again didn't do that).



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Well it's a very relevant book for the season.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

February is cold ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Like might want to wear PJ pants and curl up with hot chocolate ...



Raina Krasner, WCV:

And this author writes lots of cool wildlife books.

Comment From rejoyce

Drumroll.....



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

or maybe go dormant.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

"cool"? Is that another hint?



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Yes it is.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩٠٩٠? ♥

This will go on my Christmas list AA



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

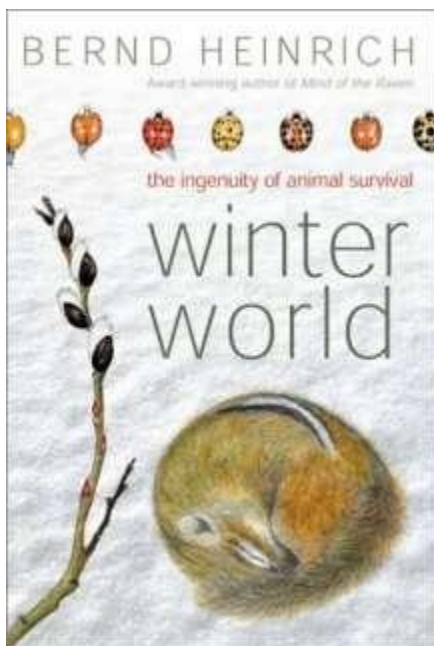
This book?

Comment From Becky in SoCal

What, What?

Comment From rejoyce

Or hibernate.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Yay!

Comment From BarbG

looks interesting



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I think AA has some books written by him? Or at least one?

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Looks like a great book. Can't wait to get it.



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I've been wanting to read this one for a while.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I already ordered mine on AmazonSmile.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I do???



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I'm very excited about this one!

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

Ohhhh! That looks good!

Comment From 33mama

Neat!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

I thought so. Maybe it's just me.

Comment From Gail

Think I just found my Xmas gift to self!

Comment From Kathy in NM ♥

ohhh... looks interesting!

Comment From rejoyce

AwEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE:))

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

More bears??

Comment From Jersey Shore Amy

Awwwwwww.....

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Can't wait to start reading.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ٩•٩•? ♥

Well I hope you order 2 on AmazonSmile AA



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

I don't think I've read any of his stuff. I just saw he has "summer world" too!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

I smell another possible book for book club this summer!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Well, he's a fun author. And I'm excited that there is a chipmunk on the cover!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Well, thanks everyone, for tuning in to another online book club! Glad you all enjoyed this month's book. Book club is fun!



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Those little nuggets don't get enough attention.



Raina Krasner, WCV:

Thank you all!



Chapin Hardy, WCV:

Thanks for joining and have a great night!

Raina Krasner, WCV:

I'm so glad we got to talk about wolves!

Comment From 33mama

Thanks, Amanda, Raina, and Chapin! Book club is always fun!

Comment From BarbG

another great book club-so many good thoughts tonight thanks

Comment From rejoyce

Thanks everyone!!! Very good book club!

Comment From Dave in Missouri

Congowings might like that book!:))

Comment From 33mama

Love chipmunks!

Comment From Kali - TX

oh my, that looks interesting

Comment From rejoyce

Looks really good!!

Comment From Regina, IL

I'll rate it when I read the whole book. Loved the feedback "before" hand. Thanks Raina, Chapin & Amanda & all.

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ʕ•ɹ•ʔ ♥

I like that the facts were stretched into stories..makes reading fun. Which after stressful work day I need

Comment From Becky in SoCal

Just ordered the next selection for my kindle. Thanks for the great book and discussion on wolves.

Comment From Carol in Oregon

Thank you as well. Always a fun time.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV:

Goodnight!

<http://wolfpark.org/animals/sounds/>

Comment From Lydia, PA ♥ ʕ•ɹ•ʔ ♥

Thanks everyone! Great book club!

Comment From Marian from Springfield

I couldn't make it for the book club but I thought the book was great and if you ever have the chance to visit Yellowstone in the winter to see the wolves it's a wonderful experience. I need to scroll back.

Comment From Shirley - Greensboro, NC

Thank you for more brain-stretching animal education!