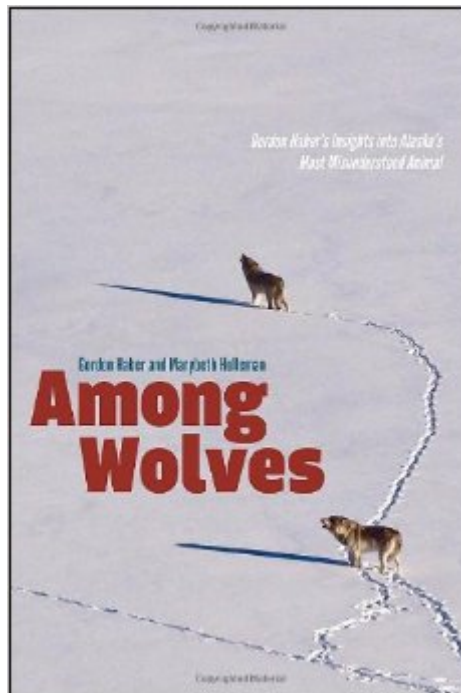


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Among Wolves: Gordon Haber's Insights Into Alaska's Most Misunderstood Animal



Synopsis

Alaska's wolves lost their fiercest advocate, Gordon Haber, when his research plane crashed in Denali National Park in 2009. Passionate, tenacious, and occasionally brash, Haber, a former hockey player and park ranger, devoted his life to Alaska's wolves. He weathered brutal temperatures in the wild to document the wolves and provided exceptional insights into wolf behavior. Haber's writings and photographs reveal an astonishing degree of cooperation between wolf family members as they hunt, raise pups, and play, social behaviors and traditions previously unknown. With the wolves at risk of being destroyed by hunting and trapping, his studies advocated for a balanced approach to wolf management. His fieldwork registered as one of the longest studies in wildlife science and had a lasting impact on wolf policies. Haber's field notes, his extensive journals, and stories from friends all come together in *Among Wolves* to reveal much about both the wolves he studied and the researcher himself. Wolves continue to fascinate and polarize people, and Haber's work continues to resonate.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Among Wolves is a captivating account of the late Gordon Haber's close observations, insights, and personal stories about Alaska's wolves and their distinctive culture. Author Marybeth Holleman has written a treasure of a book, compiling photographs, political events, fascinating writing and stories from friends, which captured Gordon's brilliance and tenacity while studying wolves in Denali National Park and interior Alaska for 43 years. Gordon died in a plane crash while monitoring wolves he loved in Denali four years ago on Oct. 14, 2009. *Among Wolves* brings his voice back -- making

it possible to learn more about the advanced social structure of wolves, the best science to use in their defense, and fearless advocacy, so sorely needed on their behalf.

I've read a number of books about wolves and although I enjoyed them I've always had doubts whether I was getting the whole picture. Here is a scientist who studied wolves for over 40 years in their most natural conditions one would think is possible. His work continued relentlessly throughout the year in the air and on the ground. His insights are fascinating and his findings significantly different from some others who have studied wolves and yet, as I read on, they made a lot of sense and his conclusions seemed beyond question. What a magnificent creature and what a wonderful book about them.

What a great book - what a purpose filled life. I wish everyone who wants to kill wolves, and those who have the stereotypical, and completely wrong views of these wonderful creatures would read this book. I fear for the future of the wolves, both in Alaska and in the lower 48, as they face possible delisting despite scientists and all information proving why they need to be protected. Also, I liked how Haber stopped using the word "pack" due to the wrongful connotation that it brings to mind about wolves, using "group" instead, which I will from now on. Far too many have no clue about wolves and want to exterminate them. I had no idea about the complex family structure, how it dictates the survival of the group, and the myriad of ways that people want cruelly slaughter these amazing creatures for no good reason.

If Ms Holleman had not put all Haber's work in one accessible spot for all of us to read and contemplate Dr Haber's work much to the now thwarted joy of the state of Alaska's Board of Game would have passed into oblivion and they could continue their unrestrained predator control killing of wolves (and bears and coyotes) with less visibility and review. But the appearance of this book informs all of us, Alaskans and otherwise, that the state of Alaska is at war with its wildlife. Gordon Haber fought them against all odds but the opposition has been sustained by Ms Holleman. This book will raise the awareness of everyone about what is happening in Alaska to one of Creation's finest creatures. It is amazing that she collected all his notebooks, photos, and anything that had to do with wolves and organized it in a readable account of decades of serious research by the dean of wolf researchers. It the best wolf book I have come across and it's full of Haber's work of over 40 years. It certainly opened my eyes to what wolves are all about and their greatest threat: the state of Alaska.

"Among Wolves" is one of the best books on the lives of wolves I've read in a long time. Marybeth Holleman is a fantastic author who obviously had Gordon Haber's spirit alongside of her as she so skillfully brought us into Gordon's life. Upon reading this book you will discover the trials and tribulations Gordon faced while studying the Denali wolves for most of his life; a life that ended in a plane crash while studying these intelligent predators. The intimate details of family members of wolves and personalities of certain alpha wolves, will take the reader right to the scene. You will feel you are actually viewing it through Gordon's eyes. Jackie M.

I will make this simple... I had trouble putting this book down. It's one of the most detailed and comprehensive books on the wolf, from a biologist who has traversed thousands of miles of Alaskan wilderness by foot and air to research and study these amazing canine predators. Gordon Haber not only gives us a complete biology of the wolf but also shares interesting stories, photos and observations that are priceless. He also describes his constant confrontations with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and their needless, senseless and wantonly cruel predator control program. He was the wolf's voice in a wilderness filled with venom and hatred for a species so completely misunderstood because of fear, hatred and competition. The wolves have lost a phenomenal biologist, defender and friend. Don't pass this book by...it's a phenomenal read!

If you're curious about wolves, this extremely accessible book filled with Dr. Gordon Haber's insights and observations of a lifetime's research will delight you. Holleman has neatly organized Haber's writings and field notes, and has included additional facts and reflections of Haber's life from acquaintances and colleagues. Haber's own delight in his work is evident as he describes how wolves form family groups and, often altruistically, help family members navigate the intricacies of becoming a successful hunter and teammate. His conclusions are scientifically sound and deserve to be supported by biologists and lawmakers throughout the country. Terrific book that deserves a wide and varied audience of those who have a desire to understand one of nature's most complex and charismatic creatures.

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