



# Wolves at Our Door: The Extraordinary Story of the Couple Who Lived with Wolves

By Jim Dutcher, Jamie Dutcher

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For centuries, wolves have haunted the human imagination. It has been accepted as conventional wisdom that they are savage predators, creatures of nightmare. Determined to overcome such misconceptions, Jim and Jamie Dutcher spent six years in a tented camp on the edge of Idaho's wilderness, living with and filming a pack of wolves. Now, in this lyrical memoir, the Dutchers share their experience of life among these intelligent and elusive animals.

By socializing with the pack from the time they were pups, the Dutchers were able to gain the wolves' trust and observe their behavior in a way that few people ever have. What they witnessed was remarkable: a complex nature oriented toward family life and strong social bonds.

*Wolves at Our Door* is much more than a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the Dutchers' Emmy Award-winning Discovery Channel documentary. It is the story of two people brought together by their devotion to wildlife and held together by their belief in each other. It is about their struggle to keep the project alive amid marauding mountain lions, forest fires, subzero temperatures -- and the never-ending storm of controversy that surrounds the wolf.

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### **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

The Dutchers spent six years living with a pack of captive wolves in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho, producing the Emmy Award-winning documentary of the same title. In this book, Jim (The Sawtooth Wolves, with Richard Ballantine) and Jamie elaborate on their experience, describing how they became involved with the project, sharing their most memorable moments in the pack, and revealing the logistical problems posed by wildlife filming. Supporting the premises of their movie, the book details many myth-dispelling, playful interactions among the wolves and between wolves and humans. (These wolves were raised largely by Jim in captivity but in a large wilderness area with minimal interference from humans.) The reader gets to know the various wolf "personalities" that beguiled and bedeviled the authors, including Kamots, the calm, regal alpha who once comforts Jim by placing a paw on his hand; Matsi, the gentle beta; and Lakota, the slump-shouldered, tail-dragging Omega who is also the joker of the pack. Episodes of tragedy and mourning (as when a wolf is killed by cougars) are countered by moments of exuberance and touching inter-species communication. The Dutchers describe how the wolves dance in delight at the snows of winter, compete viciously for status and entertain themselves with complex social role-playing. This accessible book will delight nature fans and general readers alike. Maps and color insert not seen by PW.

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From Library Journal

Intent on dispelling the misguided notion that wolves are dangerous, predatory creatures, the Dutchers went to great lengths to observe a wolf pack's natural, unguarded behavior: they created a 20-acre enclosure for the wolves in Idaho's remote Sawtooth Mountains and moved their own quarters inside of it. There, the couple spent six years living among and filming the wolf pack, and their resulting film won an Emmy Award and became the Discovery Channel's highest-rated natural history documentary. This written account of their film explains how the Dutchers set out to capture the intimate daily life and social structure of the wolf pack. They observed behavior of a complex nature, a complicated and rigid family orientation, unexpected playfulness, and unyielding social bonds and achieved their goal of revealing a more sensitive, gentle wolf. This reads like a novel about relationships, but the main characters are animals rather than humans. It will captivate readers who are drawn to the wilderness and the somewhat mystical social structure of wild animals. Jim is a filmmaker and author of *The Sawtooth Wolves*, and Jamie is a former National Zoo employee. Highly recommended for popular wildlife collections and for those studying the social structure of animal groups. (Photos not seen.) Deborah Emerson, Rochester Regional Lib. Council, Fairport, NY  
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From [Booklist](#)

Dutcher had a dream of filming the intimate moments of a pack of wolves for a wildlife documentary. But how does one get close enough to wild wolves to observe, let alone film, their natural behaviors? Dutcher solved this problem by building a 20-acre enclosure in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho and introducing a wolf pack. Composed of two adult wolves and four unrelated, hand-raised (so they wouldn't be wary of humans) pups, the pack was installed in their enclosure in 1991. The intertwined stories of the wolves and of the humans filming them over the next six years make for a fun read. Although the wolves did not have to hunt for their food (the authors provided them with whole carcasses several times a week), they otherwise behaved as if they were not captive. As is stated in the text, the authors are not scientists, yet they weave into

their narrative a lot of wolf biology. This will be a popular book for all animal lovers. *Nancy Bent*  
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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Julia Hale:**

This book untitled *Wolves at Our Door: The Extraordinary Story of the Couple Who Lived with Wolves* to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy that book in the book shop or you can order it via online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, because you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason for you to past this publication from your list.

#### **Mildred Lucas:**

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#### **John Harrison:**

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this *Wolves at Our Door: The Extraordinary Story of the Couple Who Lived with Wolves* publication written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written in good manner for you, dripping every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still uncertainty *Wolves at Our Door: The Extraordinary Story of the Couple Who Lived with Wolves* as good book but not only by the cover but also with the content. This is one e-book that can break don't judge book by its deal with, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this particular!?! Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

#### **Carmine Caulfield:**

As a student exactly feel bored to be able to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library in order to make summary for some reserve, they are complained. Just little students that has reading's spirit or real their leisure activity. They just do what the instructor want, like asked to the library. They go to generally there but nothing reading really. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring and also can't see colorful images on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important for yourself. As we know that on this era, many ways to get whatever you want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this *Wolves at Our Door: The Extraordinary Story of the Couple Who Lived*

with Wolves can make you truly feel more interested to read.

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