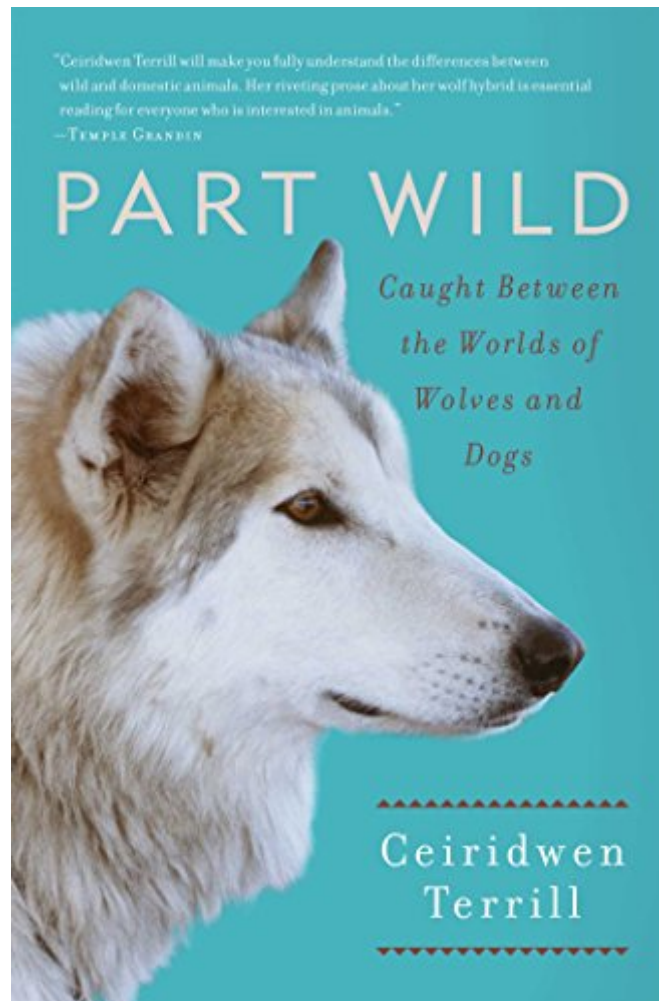


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Part Wild: One Woman's Journey With A Creature Caught Between The Worlds Of Wolves And Dogs



Synopsis

Part Wild is the unforgettable story of Ceiridwen Terrill's journey with a creature whose heart is divided between her bond to one woman and her need to roam free. When Terrill adopts a wolfdog "part husky, part gray wolf" named Inyo to be her protector and fellow traveler, she is drawn to Inyo's spark of wildness; compelled by the great responsibility, even danger, that accompanies the allure of the wild; and transformed by the extraordinary love she shares with Inyo, who teaches Terrill how to carve out a place for herself in the world. Over almost four years, Terrill and Inyo's adventures veer between hilarious and heartbreaking. There are peaceful weekends spent hiking in snowy foothills, mirthful romps through dirty laundry, joyful adoptions of dog companions, and clashes brought on by the stress of caring for Inyo, insatiable without the stimulation of a life lived outdoors. Forced to move and accommodate the complaints of fearful neighbors and the desires of her space-craving wolfdog, Terrill must confront the reality of what she has done by trying to tame a part-wild animal. Driven to understand the differences between dogs and wolves, Terrill spent five years interviewing genetics experts, wolf biologists, dog trainers, and wolf rescuers in the United States, Germany, Hungary, Sweden, and Russia. The fascinating results of her investigation make Part Wild as informative as it is moving. A gifted writer able to capture the grace and power of the natural world, the complexity of scientific ideas, and the pulse of the human experience, Terrill has written a bittersweet memoir of the beauty and tragedy that come from living with a measure of wildness.

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Customer Reviews

I came across a reference to this book in The Whole Dog Journal, where it talked about the way the book takes on the outmoded notion of "alphas" in canine behavior. I was intrigued, so I got the free sample, zoomed through it, and then bought the whole book, which I ended up reading straight through all night and into the early hours of the morning. If it appears that I came to this book with an agenda, I did, but as far as I can tell from reading reviews here, so did many other reviewers who seem to judge the book on whether they agree with the writer's training methods or agree with her opinions on wolf hybrids. Certainly we all hold our opinions, but those opinions don't really tell much about the book itself, so I wanted to admit my agenda first, and then move on from it. I had to anyway: as it turns out, the book is not too much about dominance theories (though it does address them, including the ways in which such ideas have been disproven), but it is a lot about canine (and human!) behavior. More than that, the book is a memoir, and it is a compelling story, well told. The writer does a good job of showing us what her life was like, years ago, when as a naive and frightened young woman, she got a wolf hybrid, hoping for protection from the abusive man in her life at the time. As a teacher of writing, I expect good memoir to do several things: it should be honest, and create a complex (not necessarily sympathetic) character out of the narrator, and it should include reflection--we expect to know that the writer knows more than they did at the time of action, and we expect to see some reflection on these past actions. Terrill does all this beautifully.

This was a deeply moving story- I connected with the author on her love of the outdoors, her quest for a dog as a protector and companion, and her interest in connecting with a 'wild' animal. But I wish, I really wish, she had done her research on wolf hybrid and on dog breeds first. This was such a sad story for both Inyo and the author. Whenever I hear of someone wanting a wolf hybrid- or thinking that a wolf hybrid is somehow superior to a domestic dog in intelligence, I remember my animal behavior classes back in graduate school, and also my friend who rescued wolf hybrids. If you only get this far in my review, wolf hybrids do not make good 'pets' anymore than a tiger or a cougar does! The author is a gifted writer and tells her story without a trace of self-pity or excuse for

her behavior or choices. I understand why she wanted a wolf- for protection, for enjoying the outdoors with, and as a wild companion. She makes mistakes on many levels. Wolves don't 'protect', they guard. They are just as likely to run off or turn on you in a physical altercation as they are to turn on the attacker. They are a great visual deterrent, but so are German Shepherds. There are a few myths that wolf hybrid enthusiasts like to propagate. 1. Wolf-hybrids are much smarter than dogs. 2. Wolf-hybrids are more athletic, more protective, and more 'spiritual' than dogs. 3. Wolf-hybrids are good companion animals and can be kept like dogs as 'pets'. First, domestic dogs, while varying in intelligence, are not 'dumber' than wolves. In fact, they are much smarter than wolves- and even than chimpanzees when it comes to reading human body language, and in working with and living with humans.

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