



## **Part Wild: One Woman's Journey with a Creature Caught Between the Worlds of Wolves and Dogs**

*Ceiridwen Terrill*

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## Part Wild: One Woman's Journey with a Creature Caught Between the Worlds of Wolves and Dogs Ceiridwen Terrill

*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 comes from living with a measure of wildness.

## Part Wild: One Woman's Journey with a Creature Caught Between the Worlds of Wolves and Dogs Details

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# **From Reader Review Part Wild: One Woman's Journey with a Creature Caught Between the Worlds of Wolves and Dogs for online ebook**

**Phoenix Carvelli says**

Review book won on Goodreads.com on 1-31-12.

This was a truly inspiring and yet sad story. It is an unfortunate fate that awaits many of the wolf dogs that are bred each year. As beautiful as these animals are, I would much prefer to see wolves in their natural surroundings instead of their mixed offspring living in cramped pens for life. It seems when man gets involved with nature, the outcomes are not always what are planned or hoped for in the end.

While reading, I wondered if Inyo was not only acting on the natural ways of the wolf but also on the tension that she felt within her home. I feel that she knew the more she got out of her containment areas, the more time the author would spend with her running free in the early mornings and late nights. It seemed that is the only time when Inyo and the author were most happy and themselves. Inyo, in her wolfy way, seemed to be preparing the author to handle life's challenges on her own. The book photo with the author and Inyo shows a vision of both with focus, determination and strength. While the photo on the back inside flap, shows the author more relaxed and happy. Coincidence? Maybe...or not.

Wonderful information was presented on wolves, wolf dogs, and various studies and rescue programs for these beautiful animals with mixed genetics. How confusing and frustrating it must be for these halfwolf halfdog mixes to try to live within the confines of mans world while having the soul of a wolf! It would be like trying to contain the winds!

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**Justin Podur says**

This is a sad, heartbreaking, and somewhat infuriating book, and a story that is being repeated over and over because people don't pay attention to what this author learned. She tried to adopt a wolf-dog, and she failed. The story of the attempt and failure is full of lessons about why wild animals should not be treated as pets. My feeling reading this was that humans get a lot out of our relationships with animals, but the relationships are almost never reciprocal. In order to enjoy the experience of something wild, we lock it up in a cage, confine it, and try to train it to do what we want. I appreciate that the author recorded her experiences and wrote them up for people to read. I hope that many people read them, so that fewer people have to go through what she, and the wolf-dog, ultimately suffered.

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**Shazza Maddog says**

Ms. Terrill writes about a subject I know something about - living with a wolfdog - in her memoir. Inyo, her wolfdog, was supposed to be her link from the human world to the wild. Inyo was supposed to be her protector, to keep her ex-boyfriend from taking control of her life again. Inyo was supposed to be the best dog ever - but things didn't work out that way.

Inyo didn't act like a dog. She acted like a wolf. She lived with Terrill for four years, and during that time, it was a strain on Terrill and her husband. Inyo couldn't or wouldn't stay within boundaries, escaping pens and houses equally. As she matured, she grew to dislike other dogs. Because of Inyo, Terrill kept collecting eviction notices, and Inyo kept collecting visits to animal control in and around Las Vegas.

If you have ever wanted a wolfdog, this book ought to be required reading. A bittersweet story that should resonate with those people who are interested in wolves, and domestication of dogs, Terrill explores the reasons why people might want wolfdogs, or even a wild animal as a pet. She searches for reasons for Inyo being the way she was, and how other animals are being domesticated around the world (foxes in Russia, for example). Her story should stand as testimony as to why wild animals should remain wild, rather than be 'adopted' into domesticity.

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### **Sarah Boon says**

Thoughtful exploration of the wolf-dog phenomena, from someone who had a wolf dog and realized her mistake. Chronicles her own life with a wolf dog, interspersed with extensive research on both wolves & dogs separately, as well as the wolf-dog industry. Heartbreaking but very lucid, not self-pitying or self-promotional in any way. Very clear eyed analysis of the issue despite her own (major) personal involvement.

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### **Ashley says**

As I read this book, the more I became interested in wolf dogs. Inyo's distinct sense of wildness and attachment to her owner was compelling. I learned a great deal about these wild hybrids, and followed the adventures of Inyo and her owner from puppyhood to the day when Inyo was ultimately put down. I was still inspired by this incredible story of a dog that should have never apparently happened, but I am glad it did. For without her and her owner, this book would never have been possible. In fact, about 4 weeks after reading this, I was walking my dog and got to meet a big, white, long clawed wolf/husky mix. (I was surprised the owner openly stated the dog's breed, with the knowledge of it being part wolf.) It looked like an incredible creature, and this was the first and only time in my life I had seen one. Thank you Ceiridwen, for introducing me to the world of wolf dogs!!!

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### **Amber Polo says**

The title describes Ms. Terrill as well as Inyo (at least during the time their lives were together). Her extreme adventures show her searching for wilderness experience outside the bounds of the ordinary. Telling her story as honestly as she did was exceedingly brave. To reveal your personal shortcomings is never easy and her choices with Inyo would have been different after her research.

Like dog ownership, what happens between human and animal is often a result of the owner and the owner's choices. I found it admirable that throughout this troubling four years in her life she pursued a successful academic path.

By exposing the plight of wolfdogs, Terrill has done a great service to them. And there will continue to be controversy. Recently I've the opportunity to spend time with Arctic wolves, perhaps bred by one breeder in the Southwest Terrill mentions. And listen to a wolf refuge manager about how he places wolfdogs in homes. Much information confirmed Terrill's views that owning a wolfdog is a serious gamble on the unknown.

She is doing important work. I look forward to more of her beautifully written and important words.

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### **Rwildfon says**

Well, this story certainly opened my eyes to the reality of wolfdogs. I have met a few, also met wolves and know that they are incredibly time consuming to have in your life. This book confirms how humans should not go messing around with animal gene pools and should not play out their fantasies of harboring "near wild" creatures. I shudder to think of how many wolfdogs are alive in the US right now. Want a dog? Get a dog.

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### **Jillyn says**

I received this book through Goodreads First Reads.

This book is an emotional journey in which one dog owner must decide for herself the rights and wrongs in a situation where no one is the winner. I found this book to be a nice blend of research and facts and memoir. I learned much about wolves, wolfdogs, and canines in general, and at the same time, gained insight into the difficult life of the author and the personal battles she had to face both with and without her wolfdog, Inyo. I caught myself shouting at her mentally in her decision making, and she writes with a detail that makes the book easy to read, and more importantly, it's smooth in its transition between research and story.

Overall I give it 3.5 stars. Not being an avid animal lover, I feel like some of the more important emotional aspects were a bit lost on me. (That being said, I cried at the end result, having just put down my own dog a few months ago.) If you're a wolf fan, dog lover, or an animal lover in general, this book is a good read for you.

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### **Lara says**

I really admire Terrill's bravery in telling the story of her wolfdog Inyo and illuminating the heartbreak and danger of trying to contain wild animals in human bonds. She went farther than personal memoir with a great deal of research into the challenges facing wild wolves, the still-debated origin of domestic dogs, and the "genetic tameness" experiments with foxes in Russia. She is also an accomplished writer and describes nature and its creatures in eloquent detail. Compelling and sobering.

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### **Carolyn says**

I want to be the woman in this book. She described it all so well. Who wouldn't want a wolf dog to traverse the wild with?

Yet there were so many horrible lessons in it to warn one, not to take on such a task.

Similar to folks who get Pit bulls and expect them not to fight or attack other dogs. Or get a Border Collie and try caging them all the time. As well as a friend of mine who got a Pug and expected it to live in the

garage 24/7. People can be unconsciously cruel, by not learning about the breed.

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## **Oolookitty says**

This is a tough one to review. It's well-written, but as a tale of someone who makes one bad decision after another -- decisions which affect everyone around her in mostly negative ways -- it gets old to have her continually play the victim. I finished the book really disliking the author and feeling bad for the animals in her care --- and for any animal unlucky enough to live in the immediate vicinity while her "wolfdog" was roaming the streets.

A primer for what not to do, I guess.

Also, for the people who are advocating Caesar Milan while reviewing this book: please, no. His training methods have been widely debunked among trainers and animal behaviorists, and throwing him into the mix would not have helped anybody.

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## **Mary Kelley says**

I think that obtaining any dog without reading about the dogbreed is wrong and moreso with a wolf mix. I think 3 years 4 months does not make an expert. Her story is typical of many dog breeds that require lots of work and much training.. As a companion to wolfdogs of varying content I am always interested in other people's stories and could not pass it up. From the beginning I felt a sense of doom. This woman is very candid about events in her life - an abusive relationship, herself diagnosed as OCD. Wanting a wolfdog to protect her, (NOT) a husband that disappeared in the world of computer games, but did she take the time to read about the "dog" she wanted. NO. My love of wolves found me reading Mech, Lopez, and the unbelievable books by Lois Crisler (1960s) among many others. Someday I was going to have a wolf I thought. But then I found a book "All the loving Wolves" Living and Learning with Wolf Hybrids by Michael Belshaw (1990) and it became my Bible among many other books way before wolfdogs were well known about. And that began my life with wolfdogs. She failed at knowing about the dog, some mystique for having a wolf and by far the commitment that goes with them. Most backyard breeders lie about wolf content if any at all. They are usually bred with Northern breed dogs because of similar look. Siberians are well known for being Houdinis as well as smart enough to open the fridge, doors and whatever else, and I would guess that was what she mostly got. I see this book as her justification for killing Inyo because she was "Part Wild". She was part wild because there were no boundaries, no consistent training, and being raised with two dysfunctional people - read Caesar Milan's books, dogs are sensitive to their human companions emotional condition, even unconscious behavior on our part. Even part wolf will have heightened awareness which can result in distressful actions. This is a good read though. For what not to do. Her research after the fact is good as it intertwines in the story. I feel sorry for Inyo. To me this book is the author's way to justify her actions. Yes she did a lot because she loved Inyo, but if you don't instill that you are the alpha dog and maintain it with a large dog it is a disaster waiting to happen. Unfortunately in the wolf/wolfdog world most people are ignorant of what they are getting into and if they are getting the real deal knowledge is power. The commitment runs its course after the puppy is no longer a puppy, or chews up that Armani pair of shoes. There are the challenges of maturity, especially when you are looking at 1 inch canines. I would and have done whatever possible to protect and give mine a good life. PetSmart puppy training, professional training, socializing and lots of love and companions other dogs, cats and me. They can be obedient, trained with

voice and hand signals. Read it but "Ceiridwen Terrill will make you fully understand the differences between wild and domestic animals" is questionable.

It saddens me that wild wolves get blamed for the actions of feral dogs. The wolf is an easy blame for ranchers and those starving hunters with those expensive high powered rifles or low flying aircraft. And unethical people who abandon their wolfdogs in wilderness also contribute to the wolf being seen in a negative way. People need to be responsible, companion animals of any kind are a commitment not property that can be disposed of.

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### **Cathy Scholtens says**

So many reviewers have panned this book because the author wrote about the stupid decisions she made concerning having a wolf-hybrid animal. I liked the story because she DID write the book, to warn others about the pitfalls and disasters waiting for all involved.

The fact that the author's personal life is also a disaster, it didn't surprise me that she chose to enter into what was so obviously a disaster in waiting.

I think to write about one's own screw-ups is admirable, especially when you can actually write well, which Terrill does.

This book should be required reading for anyone thinking they want some kind of "special" dog.

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### **Edward Sullivan says**

After escaping an abusive relationship, Terrill adopts a wolfdog pup, hoping that the hybrid's wild independence will rub off on her. At the same time, she finds a new sense of security in her new boyfriend. Neither relationship turns out to be as stable as she hoped. The wolfdog incorrigibleness results in chronic escapes, a destroyed apartment, terrorized neighbors, and several incarcerations in the pound. Meanwhile, financial irresponsibility on the part of her spouse and the strain of caring for a difficult animal wear on Terrill's marriage. As the author tries everything from obedience classes to electrified enclosures to restrain her pet, she also makes an effort to understand her wild wolfdog, exploring the science behind the biology, psychology, and evolution of dogs and wolves. A fascinating, compelling memoir that's very personal but also quite informative.

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### **Erin Coleman says**

Please note: Received this book from Goodreads giveaway.

Rough book - not the writing, just the struggles of every single living creature mentioned in the book. I don't think anyone made it out without a scratch.

I admire the author's candidness and honesty in admitting some pretty heavy mistakes. While her decisions were not the ones that I would have made (currently springing to mind is the idea that a destructive wolfdog needs two puppy friends, especially when the owners are drowning in debt), I have to give her credit for writing and choosing to publish this book. As I neared the end, it seemed to me that the author was



attempting to make up for her mistakes by doing one of the only things left she could for Inyo: sharing her story in the hopes others will learn from it.

The book was written with wolf and wolfdog research and facts interwoven seamlessly throughout the narrative, which I think prevented the story from stalling and dropped some knowledge on me without me feeling like I was tricked into attending a lecture.

I'd recommend it.

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