



The Wolves of Currumpaw

William Grill (Illustrations)

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The Wolves of Currumpaw is a beautifully illustrated modern re-telling of Ernest Thompson Seton's epic wilderness drama *Lobo, the King of Currumpaw*, originally published in 1898. Set in the dying days of the old west, Seton's drama unfolds in the vast planes of New Mexico, at a time when man's relationship with nature was often marked by exploitations and misunderstanding. This is the first graphic adaptation of a massively influential piece of writing by one of the men who went on to form the Boy Scouts of America.

The Wolves of Currumpaw Details

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Author : William Grill (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review The Wolves of Currumpaw for online ebook

Margie says

I loved this story. I had never heard of Seton and the work he's done for wildlife preservation. The illustrations were great as well.

Edward Sullivan says

A superbly illustrated retelling of a story from Ernest Thompson Seton's Wild Animals I Have Known. An honest, compassionate and profoundly moving story with an excellent conservation message. Exceptional in every way.

Caren says

I read this book because it was on the shortlist for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal (the British counterpart to the ALA Caldecott). No, it didn't win, but being on the shortlist means it was in rarefied company. It was a lovely, thought-provoking book, one of those rare books which can be read by children and adults with equal interest. The pictures are done in an interesting way: there are series of very small scenes which advance the story line set into larger, often two-page, spreads that give a sense of the vast open landscapes of New Mexico, where most of the action takes place. Often the pictures are soft with a muted, limited range of color, but the story is sharp and clear. The book is a larger format, which lends itself to the sweeping landscapes. The story is a true one, a retelling of an account by Ernest Thompson Seton of his hunt for a legendary wolf, originally published in 1898. The wolf, Lobo, was a crafty leader of his pack whose territory had become so constrained with the encroachment of humans and their livestock, that he had resorted to hunting cattle. A high bounty was set for him as he evaded every attempt to trap or poison him. Ernest Thompson Seton had been living in New York, but had been raised in Canada and missed the wild landscapes of his youth. He was an artist, drawing wildlife, and a hunter. He often hunted wildlife in order to use the specimens for more detailed drawings. He read of the high bounty for Lobo and, having grown weary of city life, set off to try his hand. Lobo proved a real match for his wits. When he finally captured and killed Lobo's beautiful mate, a white wolf named Blanca, Seton experienced a change of heart. He used Blanca's body to finally capture and kill Lobo, but he felt enormous regret and ever after turned to conserving nature rather than destroying it. He went on to become one of the founders of the Boy Scouts of America. The story and pictures work together to totally immerse the reader. I know I shed a tear or two for the great Lobo and his Blanca.

Courtney Umlauf says

I'm beginning to think I need to be on the look out for Flying Eye Book publications. I love their focus on melding wonderful illustration with interesting text. Here we're told of the clash of wills between Earnest Thompson Seaton (one of the founding members of the Boy Scouts) and Lobo, the King of Currumpaw, leader of a wolf pack that's terrorizing ranchers in the late 1800s. It's a clash that changed Seaton for ever and

helped to spur on nature conservation.

Grill also has a book very similar in format that recounts Shackleton's final journey on The Endurance, which I highly recommend. Shackleton's story has a lot more detail to dig into, but both stories are well told in in both pictures and text.

Heidi says

The illustrations aren't my favorite, but the story is a fascinating one. The conflict between Lobo, a cunning wolf and the men who tried to catch him was intriguing and rather sad. Too long to really be a picture book, especially since it's a true story, but an interesting book nonetheless. There is much here to discuss with young readers about the time and place and wolves in general.

Nicola Mansfield says

This is a lovely book which is sure to win many hearts. It's a re-telling of Canadian naturalist Ernest Seton Thompson's 1898 story "Lobo, the King of Currumpaw". It's both a sad and heartwarming tale as it tells of Seton hunting down a wolf who was the scourge of New Mexico. It also tells how Lobo taught him respect for the wolf and he gave up hunting them thereafter. Incorporated into the story are the biographical account of Thompson's later life and the legacy he left behind to conservation. I really enjoyed this book and had looked forward to reading it as soon as I'd heard it was coming out. As a child I used to read Seton Thompson's stories, getting them out of the school library over and over again.

Kaitlin says

* I was sent this for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review *

This is such a wonderful book, so wonderful in fact that it actually managed to make me a little emotional whilst reading it. This is a non-fiction, illustrated retelling of the Wolves who lived in Currumpaw. These wolves were forced to steal cattle to survive after humans had taken over their wilds, and so they became wary of the traps and snares that humans used. This is a real life story which is about a wolf and a man and the battle between the two which ended in reform. I found it truly moving and eye-opening, and genuinely lovely!

The illustrations within this book are quite simplistic at first glance, with coloured pencils being the main focus. I have to say, however, that some of the quirky layouts and wonderful poses for the animals and humans really brought this story to life. Grill clearly has a deep understanding about how to connect with the reader and also how to make them care for the little stick animals he depicts so well. I found that the energy and quality of those simple lines and poses made this whole book so wonderful.

As a whole, an excellent read and an informative one too. I learned all about the Wolves of Currumpaw, and found the story connected with me a lot more than I had thought it would. It was just marvellous and I would highly recommend this! 4*s

Alexandra says

Recommended from the Brainpickings blog, I bought this book for my niece and nephew and decided to take a look at it before sending it off. This is probably one of the most beautiful children's books I've seen and while the story is quite sad, the author's simple description of the resulting conservation movement is excellent. Combined with gorgeous pastel illustrations that symbolize the early plains of the western USA and provide an openness with which to take in such difficult concepts at a young age, I think this book should be a staple introduction to ecology and conservation for a young reader.

This book would probably make the most sense for a 7 or 8- year old child though I think you easily expand that range based on maturity level and how many questions you're willing to entertain. I will certainly have this in mind as children's gift for many years to come.

Donna says

Quite simply beautiful, but utterly heartbreaking.

Maryanne says

This is a lovely book for older kids who still like to pour over pictures and also like history. But fair warning that it's a tearjerker for those that love animals....

Lara says

Guh, this made me cry like a baby!!! Once again, I looked at this and thought, "blah, so much brown," and then got completely sucked into the story, and Grill's way of telling and illustrating it. I hadn't heard of the Currumpaw wolves before, or Ernest Thompson Seton's role in eliminating them and the effect it had on him. It's heartbreaking and inspiring, and I'm definitely interested in reading this story in Seton's own words at some point.

Anyway, William Grill has completely won me over again!

Alyssa Gudenburr says

A long story about how wolves were hunted in the United States and how an alpha wolf changed his killers heart. A sad but important story that shows the importance of wolves to nature and why we shouldn't hunt them to extinction.

Karen W says

Sometimes I read a book and it fills a space within me that I didn't realized had existed. This is a retelling of Ernest Thompson Seton's short story set in the fading days of the old west. The illustrations made me feel like I was free falling into this world where wolves and men clashed. Seton went on to found the Boy Scouts in the states hoping that it would inspire future generations to protect wildlife. Be prepared to shed a tear for Lobo and Blanca.

Mieke Decuyper says

Hopla, update. Ik MOET dit boek nog een sterretje bijgeven! Hoe langer ik het boek bekijk, hoe meer fijne details ik ontdek! Prachtig! Ik wil direct het eerste boek van William Grill ook lezen, bekijken en bewonderen!

Mathew says

The Wolves of Currumpaw will have you gasping in joy at its invention and shedding a tear in its telling. We find ourselves transported to New Mexico, 1893, to witness the story of a great wolf named Lobo, terror of the plains, and man's desire to kill him.

[See my whole review here](#)
