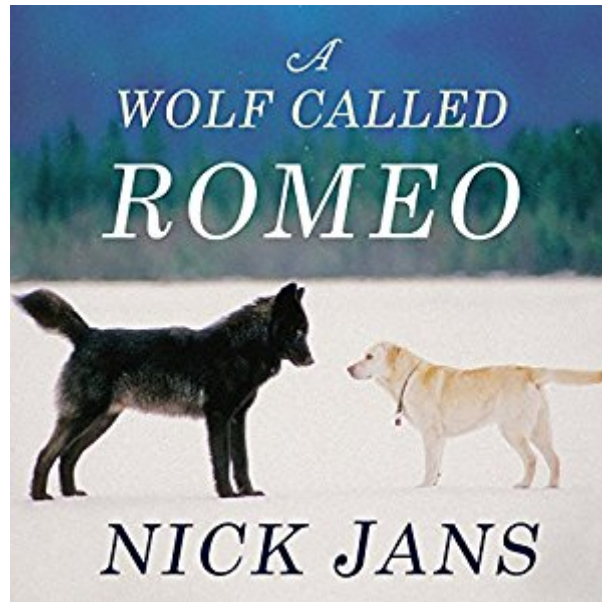




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# A Wolf Called Romeo



## Synopsis

No stranger to wildlife, Nick Jans had lived in Alaska for nearly 30 years. But when one evening at twilight a lone black wolf ambled into view not far from his doorstep, Nick would finally come to know this mystical species - up close as never before. *A Wolf Called Romeo* is the remarkable story of a wolf who returned again and again to interact with the people and dogs of Juneau, engaging in an improbable, awe-inspiring interspecies dance and bringing the wild into sharp focus. At first the people of Juneau were guarded, but as Romeo began to tag along with cross-country skiers on their daily jaunts, play fetch with local dogs, or simply lie near Nick and nap under the sun, they came to accept Romeo, and he them. Written with a deft hand and a searching heart, *A Wolf Called Romeo* is an unforgettable tale of a creature who defied nature and thus gave humans a chance to understand it a little more.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours 32 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: July 1, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00L3IY3M4

Best Sellers Rank: #6 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Dogs & Wolves #17 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Lifestyle & Home > Animal Care & Pets #78 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Nature

## Customer Reviews

I ordered this book as a member of the Vine program. This story is a treasure. It's a gift, a unique and wonderful journey. My favorite, all-time man-dog book is Merle's Door: Lessons from a Free-thinking Dog by Ted Kerasote. Enter Nick Jans with his book entitled *A Wolf Called Romeo*. This is unequivocally THE BEST man-wild animal book I have EVER read. PERIOD. Jans uses his life experience as an author, naturalist, experienced outdoorsman, investigative journalist and photographer to weave a wonderful story. The essence of the book (for me) is characterized in the following excerpt: "Running a Darwinian

gauntlet that demanded constant adaptation and complex responses, with scant margin for error, he had accomplished what few large predators ever had, or will: he lived near, even among, thousands of humans over most of his life. He was not just a shadowed presence or camp follower, but as an independent, socially interactive creature whose territory overlapped our own without the benefit of a large-scale preserve. Through this time among us, he remained his own gatekeeper, his comings and goings defining the ever-shifting boundary between worlds, rendering our own surveys and markers meaningless. (excerpt from page 185). Like I said - THE BEST man-wild animal book I have EVER read. PERIOD. This book should be required reading for wildlife biology students and practitioners everywhere!!! When it comes to understanding the wolf ( I hike in northeastern Oregon - Eagle Cap Wilderness - where wolves are now becoming re-established ) hikers, civilians, researchers, ranchers, naturalists and environmentalists would ALL be well-served by consuming this work. BUY IT! READ IT! LEARN FROM IT! - as we have vastly more to learn about this creature - and its interaction with man (or man's interaction with the wolf). Buy it! Savor it. Look for Nick Jans and go meet him at an author appearance. You will be blessed by this true story. I certainly was. I promise. PERIOD.

I purchased this book several months ago and am just now getting around to reading it. It is written well and the pictures are a bonus. Romeo is a black wolf that started hanging around Juneau, Alaska in 2003. At first he stayed on the outskirts just watching, then started interacting with the resident dogs. Soon, word gets out that if you bring your dog out to certain areas that the wolf will appear to play with them. I'm only a third of the way through the book, but I am loving it. The book is written by Nick Jans who lives in Juneau and the picture on the front cover is Nick's dog interacting with the wolf purely through accident. It was their first encounter. Nick describes the encounter in great detail.

This book was really moving. Written as a personal narrative, it was easy to follow (and hard to put down!). I read this a good two years ago and I find myself still thinking about it from time to time. Quite a few times I was brought to tears, and I honestly feel like I have a deeper, more "awakened" understanding of the animal kingdom from reading this. I enjoyed reading parts about the human-to-human relationships that were formed around Romeo, as well!

This book is a great read especially for those of us who are wildlife enthusiasts. It is a good

companion to other books about wolves which discuss how wolves are misunderstood, and unfairly portrayed by those with narrow self-interests. Besides telling the story of Romeo the lovable wild wolf, the author touches on a variety of wildlife topics including; how wolves, and by extension all wildlife species, are perceived by the public, irrational fears of some, public miscomprehension, media distortion, ineptitude of the legal system and attitudes which can compromise it. The author's intentions, and the plethora of human attitudes that range from honoring and respecting wildlife, to respectable hunters, and all the way to repugnant miscreants who actually delight in perpetuating harm, pain, and death. Alaska has them all, and they all play a role in the story. As someone who never had the opportunity to encounter Romeo, or any animal like him, his story is both heartwarming and amusing, and ultimately sad and infuriating. But the core story surrounding Romeo is about people. Perhaps the spirit of Romeo is asking us whether we as sentient human beings can ever learn to regard wild lands and wild creatures with the reverence and respect they deserve.

As a recent wildlife management graduate I was intrigued when I heard about this book, a wolf that lived near humans for 6 years? Incredible. I'll admit I bought the book with a little trepidation. Surely this was going to be another one of those scientifically inaccurate tree hugging feel good stories. Nope, I was wrong. Right off the bat Nick Jans did a good job of convincing me that I should continue reading. Every argument was supported with scientific data and experience from biologists, trappers, and hunters. Yes, there were times when I wanted to shout at the nameless characters, call them names, ask them why they were being so stupid. It seems like every time I got frustrated, so did the author, every time I wanted to shout "Don't do that!" or "It's your own fault, not the wolf's", the author did it for me. As I got into the story, I held my breath after each chapter wondering what Romeo's fate would be. My heart was hoping for that happy ending but my gut was telling me that with the type of people out there something bad was going to happen. I think I was more upset by how the law handled everything than how he actually met his fate. Overall a very good read, not only because you get to meet Romeo as Juneau knew him, but it makes you think about important issues regarding the management and protection of wildlife.

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