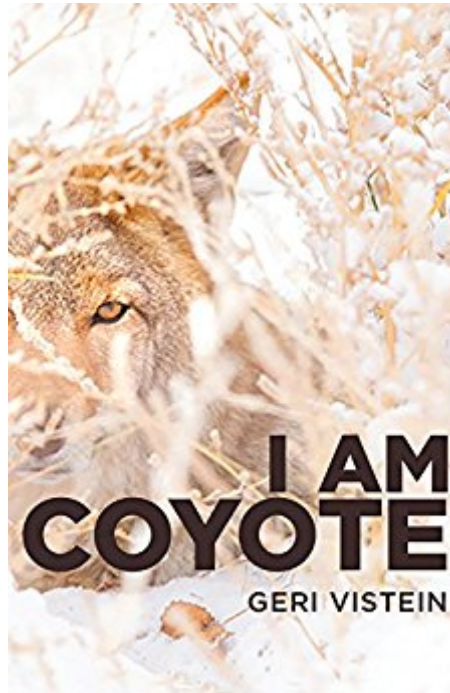




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I Am Coyote



Synopsis

Coyote is three years old when she leaves her family in Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario and embarks on a 500-mile odyssey eastward in search of a territory of her own and a mate to share it with. Journeying by night through the dead of winter, she endures extreme cold, hunger, and a harrowing crossing of the St. Lawrence River in Montreal before her cries of loneliness are finally answered in the wilds of Maine. The mate she finds must gnaw off a paw to escape a trap. The first coyotes in the northern U.S., they raise pups (losing several), experience summer plenty, winter hardship, playfulness, and unmistakable love and grief. Blending science and imagination with magical results, this story tells how coyotes may have populated a land desperately in need of a keystone predator, and no one who reads it will doubt the value of their ecological role. Told through the eyes of a coyote, this is a riveting story with mythic dimensions. A work of creative nonfiction that adheres to the highest standards of wildlife biology. With deep insights into wild canine behavior, penetrates the veil of "otherness" that separates us from the animals with whom we share the planet. An appendix explores the history and current status of coyotes in North America. Native Americans considered them tricksters, messengers, and companions. Given the disappearance of wolves, they are even more critical to ecosystem health today. The author explains how, without coyotes, prey species are weakened by disease and parasites. Geri Vistein speaks extensively about coyote-human interactions to a variety of audiences. She is a nationally recognized expert on the topic and maintains the website CoyoteLivesInMaine.com. A QR code in the book takes readers to a hauntingly beautiful recording of coyote song.

Book Information

File Size: 2808 KB

Print Length: 192 pages

Publisher: Tilbury House Publishers; 1 edition (October 9, 2015)

Publication Date: November 13, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B01J298WHM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

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Customer Reviews

Although Geri Vistein and I have never met, I have to say that she has had a great influence on my life. A couple of years ago, I had been doing some research on coyotes in Maine, and had found a chat room site established by a group of northern Mainers that promoted the hunting of coyotes using dogs to flush them out, where they were ambushed by human hunters; they showed many pictures of entire coyote packs butchered for the sheer joy of killing them. Not long ago, citizens in my southern Maine town, began complaining to city officials about coyotes that were seen in neighborhoods, and city officials held a meeting to discuss the problem. Hundreds of people attended the meeting and were demanding that state officials should come to our town to kill off these beautiful animals. I attended that meeting and defended the existence of coyotes. Shortly after this meeting, Geri Vistein appeared on our local TV station to talk about coyotes, and our need to accept them as a vital part of our ecosystem. I believe that her shared insights helped change how many perceived the coyote as a menace. Her book, "I Am Coyote", is a beautiful journey into the life of a wonderful creature that enriches our existence; I truly hope that our human fears will not lead to their extinction. Thank you Ms Vistein for sharing your wisdom.

Without question one of the best books I've ever read... and I'm 68 years old... so that's a lot of books! Beyond brilliant, just an incredible accomplishment by Geri Vistein. Highly recommended for anyone who loves wildlife. This remarkable narrative puts you into a Coyote's worldview. I have no idea how Geri did it. Mesmerizing book! Buy it, read it, and you'll see that I am right! :)

Beautifully written!

Author Geri Vistein must be part coyote herself; otherwise, how could she get so deep inside coyote heart and mind? A carnivore biologist and obviously a keen observer, Vistein pulls her reader inside

Coyote's life, convincingly revealing the animal's intelligence and emotions without being anthropomorphic—a literary feat in itself besides good storytelling. When I asked myself why I was so profoundly moved by Coyote's experiences, more questions elbowed their way in. Where on my own bookshelves would I place this book? Is it a love story? Is it a children's book for adults? Is it a nature book? Does it belong in the spiritual section? The author does not pull any punches about the reality wild animals face, and maybe that observation answers why I am haunted by Coyote's experiences. The coyote characters are so clearly drawn, they trot alongside you long after you put the book down.

A book for anyone who appreciates the complexity of the wild creatures who share the planet with us. Perhaps especially important to give to someone who may gain a new understanding of the benefits of learning to live more consciously with the animals who are now right in our midst. I learned a great deal about coyotes, and at the same time, the author's descriptions of the environment in which they live was so beautifully written. This would be a wonderful book to read aloud. The visual beauty of the words in this book inspired me to create this painting, "Golden Coyote."

A captivating read! As you stride alongside with Coyote in her wondrous journeys, you get a bird's-eye view of the daily challenges and perils of living in the wild. I have gained a new respect for these intelligent and loving Coyotes and their place in our world. Beautifully written! Bravo Geri Vistein!

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