

NAXOS
AudioBooks

NON-
FICTION
UNABRIDGED

Farley Mowat

NEVER CRY WOLF

Read by **Adam Sims**



1	<i>Never Cry Wolf</i> by Farley Mowat – Chapter 1	4:48
2	My infatuation with the study of animate nature...	4:36
3	The die was cast one winter's day...	3:50
4	Having already been unnerved...	4:49
5	Chapter 2	4:32
6	Although these instructions were firm in tone...	3:39
7	There was clearly nothing for it...	4:03
8	Chapter 3	4:26
9	Free at last to begin our takeoff run, the aircraft...	3:54
10	Chapter 4	3:46
11	Since I realize that what I must now recount...	3:55
12	The solution of this problem led directly to the discovery...	3:22
13	Chapter 5	4:37
14	I was not unduly alarmed by his behavior...	4:36
15	Eventually the jam broke and the waters subsided...	4:19
16	Chapter 6	4:47
17	Arctic wolves, the author informed me...	4:48
18	The object I had previously glimpsed was still in view...	5:34
19	Chapter 7	4:57
20	My thoughts that evening were confused.	3:52

21	Miraculously, I kept my feet...	3:21
22	Chapter 8	3:55
23	Anyone who has observed a dog...	4:31
24	Chapter 9	3:43
25	After the first two days and nights...	4:06
26	Angeline and George seemed as devoted...	3:04
27	The sixth morning of my vigil had dawned bright and sunny...	5:00
28	Chapter 10	4:31
29	I suppose it was only because my own wolf indoctrination....	5:23
30	Although I was much entertained by the spectacle...	4:45
31	Chapter 11	3:40
32	Souris Á La Crème...	3:52
33	Late that evening, when I was about to return...	4:11
34	Chapter 12	4:00
35	'In the beginning there was a Woman and a Man...'	2:56
36	'Ask him then,' I told Mike...	3:04
37	Chapter 13	5:00
38	Mike obliged. He explained that the wolves...	4:27
39	No doubt alerted by the sounds of play, Uncle Albert...	4:00
40	Chapter 14	5:25

41	'They are too old to live in a hole in the ground...'	5:21
42	Chapter 15	4:17
43	I had been unprepared for such quick results...	4:11
44	This sent Albert into a frenzy of abasement.	5:07
45	Chapter 16	3:42
46	If the morning meat delivery made me somewhat squeamish...	3:48
47	Chapter 17	3:15
48	The impact of a hundred and fifty odd pounds of pouncing wolf...	3:34
49	This discovery brought me fully awake...	4:10
50	Chapter 18	3:45
51	Female wolves do not breed until they are two years old...	4:26
52	Now, animals stricken with rabies do not 'go mad'...	3:44
53	Chapter 19	3:51
54	The countryside was a maze of low ridges...	4:25
55	Up to this time most of the deer we had encountered...	4:38
56	Chapter 20	4:09
57	Groups of aged and sterile does were also a favorite target...	3:58
58	Fresh kills, where the whole carcass was available...	4:40
59	Chapter 21	4:22
60	Time slipped past, the river of deer continued to flow...	3:30

61	The deer were clearly reluctant to be driven...	3:15
62	Chapter 22	4:24
63	With the plant study so fortuitously ended...	4:23
64	Hastily attempting to redeem myself I tore off the mask...	4:44
65	Chapter 23	4:22
66	Traps and poison are the commonest wolf-killers...	3:02
67	Accompanied by a Cree Indian companion...	4:04
68	Chapter 24	3:55
69	The den ridge was, as I had expected...	4:41
70	Epilogue	0:58

Total time: 4:51:46

Farley Mowat

NEVER CRY WOLF

When I began *Never Cry Wolf* 30 years ago, I intended to cast the wolf in a rather minor role. My original plan was to write a satire about quite a beast – the peculiar mutation of the human species known as the Bureaucrat, who has become the dictatorial arbiter of all our affairs. I also thought it might be fun to take the mickey out of the new high priests of our times, the Scientists, who now consider themselves the only legitimate interpreters of Truth.

With malice aforethought I deliberately set out to expose those new would-be rulers of our world or, rather, to let them expose themselves in the pages of a book. But somehow I found myself losing interest in their bureaucratic and scientific buffoonery and becoming increasingly engrossed with what had originally been my secondary character: the wolf.

Never Cry Wolf was not kindly

received by some human animals. Because it is my own practice never to allow facts to interfere with the truth and because I believe that humor has a vital place in helping us understand our lives, many self-ordained experts derided the book. Some dedicated wolf haters, including the far-flung network of those who kill for sport, went so far as to claim it was an outright work of fiction. Others brushed it aside, claiming it was invalid because its author was not a *bona fide* scientist with at least a doctoral degree. For the most part I ignored this yapping at my heels, but perhaps now is a good time to turn, if briefly, upon the pursuing jackals – which is what a proper wolf would do.

Never Cry Wolf is based on two summers and a winter that I spent in the subarctic regions of southern Keewatin Territory and northern Manitoba as a biologist studying wolves and caribou. For

most of that period I was employed by the federal government of Canada, and a report on the wolf studies I conducted has been on file with my employer since 1948. As to my qualifications: I possess six honorary doctoral degrees, which suggests that at least six universities consider me and my work worthy of academic recognition.

While it gives me pleasure to have earned the right, on the basis of these honors, to be called Dr. Sextus, it gives me even greater pleasure to note that almost every facet of wolf behavior described by me has since been rediscovered by the selfsame scientists who called my studies a work of the imagination. Some imagination!

Unfortunately, my major contention – that the wolf does not pose a threat to other species and is neither a danger nor a real competitor of man – remains largely unaccepted.

Until about 400 years ago the wolf was second only to man as the most successful and widespread mammal in North America. There is extensive evidence to show that, far from being at enmity, the

wolf and hunting man worldwide enjoyed something approaching symbiosis, whereby the existence of each benefited the existence of the other. But after European and Asiatic men began divesting themselves of their hunting heritage in order to become farmers or herdsman, they lost this ancient empathy with the wolf and became its inveterate enemy. So-called civilized man eventually succeeded in totally extirpating the real wolf from his collective mind and substituting for it a contrived image, replete with evil aspects that generated almost pathological fear and hatred. European man brought this mind-set to the Americans, where, spurred on by bounties and rewards and armed with poison, trap, snare, and gun (together with new weapons provided by an enlightened technology, including helicopters and fragmentation grenades), we moderns have since waged a war to the death against the wolf.

Of the 24 wolf subspecies and races inhabiting North America at the beginning of the European invasion, seven are now extinct and most of the remainder are endangered. The wolf has been effectively

exterminated in all of the south-central portions of Canada, in Mexico, and in almost all of the United States south of Alaska. However, until recently an estimated 20,000 still shared the forests and arctic tundra with multitudes of moose, deer, caribou, and elk. Now the use of aircraft, snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles has enabled such numbers of sport killers to penetrate this relatively inaccessible region that the stocks of 'big game' animals therein have been dangerously depleted. This has ignited a furious and duplicitous outcry from hunters, outfitters, guides, lodge owners, and other financially interested parties against the wolf: 'Wolves are destroying the game animals – *our* game animals! The wolves have got to go!'

Who listens to this accusation? Governments listen. Most, if not all, provincial and state departments of fish and game are little more than Trojan horses of the sport killer lobby. And that lobby is extremely well organized and funded. Its members bring almost irresistible influence to bear on governments to protect game animals from their natural predators so

that sport killers can continue to find a sufficient number of live targets for their weapons.

The preponderance of expert, independent opinion (as distinct from that of hired-gun biologists employed by government game departments) agrees that the wolf serves a vital role in maintaining the long-term well-being of its prey species, is not a threat to human beings, is responsible for only minor losses of domestic stock, and for the most part will not even live in proximity to human settlements or agricultural enterprises. This is the truth of the matter.

We have doomed the wolf not for what it is but for what we deliberately and mistakenly perceive it to be: the mythologized epitome of a savage, ruthless killer – which is, in reality, not more than the reflected image of ourselves. We have made it the scapewolf for our own sins.

There is a considerable likelihood that the holy conspiracy of government 'game managers,' self-serving politicians, and self-styled conservation organizations devoted to 'enhancing' the supply of big-game targets will succeed.

Only the most resolute and implacable resistance to this cabal of death dealers can now prevent the commission of one more major atrocity against life on earth – the annihilation of the wolf.

Notes by Farley Mowat



Farley Mowat is a popular and distinguished naturalist whose internationally acclaimed books include *Gorillas in the Mist*, *A Whale for Killing* and *People of the Deer*. He has received scores of literary awards and his works have been translated into more than 30 languages.



Adam Sims trained at LAMDA. His recordings for radio include *The World According to Humphrey* and *The Salamander Letter* for the BBC. His television and film credits include *Band of Brothers* (HBO) and *Lost in Space*. His theatre credits include *The Madness of George III* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Alice in Wonderland* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Regent's Park) and *Snake in Fridge* (Manchester Royal Exchange), for which he won the award for Best Actor at the Manchester Evening News Theatre Awards. For Naxos AudioBooks, he has read Murakami's *after the quake* and *Hard-boiled Wonderland and the End of the World*, and Poe's *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*.

Credits

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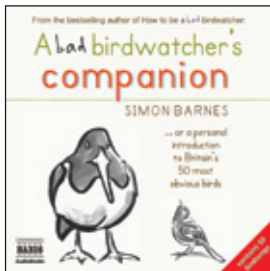
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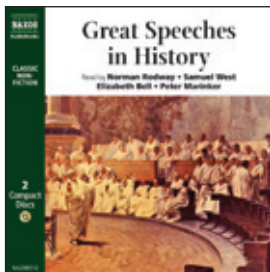
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More than half a century ago, the naturalist Farley Mowat accepted an assignment to investigate why wolves were killing Arctic caribou. Mowat's account of the summer he lived in the frozen tundra alone – studying the wolf population and developing a deep affection for these wild creatures (who were no threat to caribou or man) – is today celebrated as a classic of nature writing, at once a tale of remarkable adventure and an indelible record of the myths and magic of wolves.

Never Cry Wolf was made into a major motion picture by Walt Disney Productions.

'...a pioneering book in restoring the good name of that maligned creature... Mowat is so enjoyable to read.' – The Wall Street Journal.

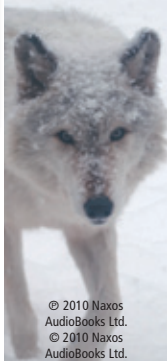


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