



Embracing the Wild in Your Dog, an Understanding of the Authors of Our Dog's Behavior-Nature and the Wolf

Bryan Bailey

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The ontogeny of anthropomorphism, where we attach our human traits to our pets, is the most damaging and paralytic problem associated with dog ownership today. Believing in a fairy tale world where dogs possess the same moral consciousness and a sense of altruism as attributed to humans has led to consequences that include a drastic increase in leash laws, dogs being outlawed in a rising number of city and national parks, some breeds being banned in several states, an alarming escalation of aggression to humans, a rising cost in homeowner and business insurance, and a record number of clinically maladaptive dogs. This book is not a dog obedience book. Rather, it is about developing a deep understanding of the authors of your dog's behavior; nature and the wolf. For all that man has done to carve the wolf from the wild to create a biological doll, today's dog is still a wolf at heart and the accompanying instincts borne from such ancestry defines how the dog approaches its world. In this book, you will come to know the wolf in your dog and the tools that nature gave it to survive and coexist in both the mountains and in your home. You will learn how activating and deactivating the natural wolf impulses and mechanisms in your dog will lead to the harmonious existence and the control you always dreamed of. Most of all, you will come to embrace the wild in your dog and the grace and the peace that is breathed into its acceptance.

Embracing the Wild in Your Dog, an Understanding of the Authors of Our Dog's Behavior-Nature and the Wolf Details

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Author : Bryan Bailey

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From Reader Review Embracing the Wild in Your Dog, an Understanding of the Authors of Our Dog's Behavior-Nature and the Wolf for online ebook

Patricia Reding says

Reviewed for Readers' Favorite at www.ReadersFavorite.com

Rarely does a book come along that so positively mesmerizes me that I read it from start to finish in a single sitting. Yet that is exactly what I did with *Embracing the Wild in Your Dog*, by Bryan Bailey. Bailey opens the story with a reminder that with man's domestication of the wolf to today's "dog," he changed the environment of the creature. Even so, dogs have retained the same base instincts that nature originally provided the wolf. Buttressing his approach to his theory of dog owning and training, Bailey tells of his childhood mentor, a U.S. Army Green Beret. A tough man, he challenged his protege to solve problems on his own, to rise to overcome the stresses that life was sure to put in his path, and to learn from the nature that surrounded him. With heartfelt stories of his mentor woven throughout, Bailey instills upon his readers, the same life lessons, if they will but hear.

With a daughter involved in the dog-training world, I've been introduced to a wide variety of training theories, concepts, tools, and approaches. But Bailey reassured me that some of my most base instincts about our own family pet are completely valid and that I ought pay careful attention to them. In this way, *Embracing the Wild in Your Dog* provides pertinent information to all dog owners. In telling his story, it is almost as though Bailey inhabits the body of the creature he teaches us about. He guides readers to an understanding of a dog's most basic needs, and he explains how our domesticated "wolves" behave in a manner intended to meet those needs. Bailey used what I would call a "creative non-fiction" approach to the work. That is to say, that although his main intent is to provide information, he does it in a way that paints a picture of the world he wants his readers to see. That picture becomes a living, breathing canvas of color, sound, and even feelings. Bailey's work is truly worthy of the attention of others—and in my estimation, of an award or two! If you are a dog owner, this one is definitely worth your while, so wait no longer to get your copy!

Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says

Review: EMBRACING THE WILD IN YOUR DOG by Bryan Bailey

Wow!! Never your ordinary dog book here! Bryan Bailey comes barreling out of nowhere (actually, out of Nature and evolution) with an entirely new standpoint. That dog you think you own (in my case, they own me) is not just some domesticated, human-trained creature, here for its owner's delectation. Sorry: that "dog" is a domestic wolf, product of millions of years of evolution; and as Wolf is, so is Dog.

Author Bailey advises: look at Nature! Examine Wolf behavior! Here is where you will find the template for your Dog-- not by studying human behavior and interactions. It's definitely an education in which I intend to engage.

Suzanne says

Some people may embrace the message of this book, while others may run screaming into the wilderness to get away from it, but nearly everyone who reads it is bound to have a strong reaction of some sort.

The anecdotes from the author's childhood in Alaska were vital to forming his approach to working with dogs, so I liked reading them to see what lesson his mentor taught him in each situation. Likewise, the anecdotes from his time working as a trainer illustrated his approach and the different types of clients and problems he has worked with professionally.

The author's knowledge of wolf behavior is something that many of us cannot hope to replicate, and he acknowledges this point. But we can follow his reasoning that treating dogs as small furry humans can lead to trouble. Every time he talked about owners who dress their dogs up and inundate them with toys and treats, I kept picturing a scene from the Nora Roberts book, *The Search*. In her book, the protagonist is a dog trainer who also runs a search and rescue unit. One of her clients has a very spoiled small dog who goes crazy and barks and attacks any dog that comes near. The trainer tells the owner that the dog sees herself as alpha of the pack and is defending her territory and place in the pack hierarchy. To prevent lawsuits and injuries the owners need to reclaim that alpha position. Mr. Bailey says much the same thing - if owners don't want their dog to bark at or bite other dogs or humans, then the owners must establish their place as the dominant ones in the relationship and have the dogs look to them for cues on how to react in a situation.

Bailey's chapter that discusses his views on rescue programs and no-kill shelters is sure to rile up some readers. He admits that his statements may make people think he dislikes all such programs, but that it is not true. He simply thinks there are dogs who cannot be safely worked into the human world and trying to do so will cause injury, heartache, and perhaps even death (of another pet or a human), or lawsuits. He gives several examples to support his point.

Overall this is a fascinating read and provides a lot of food for thought and discussion. It is comparable in some ways to a book I read years ago about the hidden or secret life of dogs (sorry, I can't remember the exact wording). That book also talked about things like the pack hierarchy that forms when you have several dogs. *Embracing the Wild in Your Dog* goes into more descriptions of situations that have gone wrong because the humans did not exert dominance when they should have.

If you are looking for a manual on how to train your dog, this is not intended for that use. If you are looking for something to read that will cause you to re-examine your beliefs and behaviors toward man's best friend, then you have found it.

I read an e-book provided by the publisher through NetGalley.

Lynda Dickson says

This book recounts the author's experience of growing up in the Alaskan wild under the tutelage of his mentor, a Special Forces survival instructor who taught him to understand how nature and the wolf contribute to the behavior of dogs. The author's upbringing had a direct impact on his philosophy on dog training, which is based on the tenet that dogs are really wolves and behave as wild animals. This belief is reinforced by the author's personal accounts of tragic events caused by dog owners who treat their pets as humans and expect them to behave like humans.

I found this book very interesting because it supports my husband's approach to training our dog - and he was the best-behaved dog I have ever seen. I also enjoyed the great photos and quotes at the beginning of each chapter. However, I have one suggestion for the author: hyperlink the footnotes. I also would like to have learned more about the author's training techniques, but I can understand that each case is individual. Interested readers can visit the author's ProTrain Memphis website to find out more about his training programs.

One thing is certain. After reading this book, you will never look at your dog the same again. "You will come to know the wolf in your dog."

I received this book in return for an honest review.

Full blog post: <https://booksdirectonline.blogspot.co...>

Danielle Urban says

Embracing the Wild in Your Dog by Bryan Bailey is an interesting book that readers will find fascinating. A man bringing the truth and ways of the wild nature of both dogs and wolves to people. Facts that we wouldn't know unless someone pointed them out to us, and yet, Bryan Bailey teaches us how to look and find our own answers. Demonstrates the relationship of wolves and dogs and our different perspectives on them as well. Lessons we learn and will continue to learn as we progress further into this stunning read.

Embracing the Wild in Your Dog is not like any other book I have read. It's like White Fang but in a more educational purpose than entertaining. However, as a reader, I did find this unique book entertaining. Especially when Bryan Bailey has to guess exactly the number of wolves that walked on a single path waiting to see if he failed answering his mentor correctly. I can almost feel myself there in Bryan Bailey's shoes sensing the cold nature around me. Feeling the cold numbness chilling my body as I am trying to track and and learns what my mentor knows. Survival is the overall theme in this book as well as dogs are wolves at heart and will always behave like wolves. If we can come to understand wolves, then we can come to understand our dogs better and know to live in harmony. Dogs can be the best friend a human has ever known until an accident occurs that surprises you. Then you're left wondering how did this happen and why? It's because we humans have long forgotten the way of the wolves and our dogs are wolves at heart. Mother nature gave them instincts that will always be imprinted inside their nature. Overall, I highly recommend this book to readers everywhere. It's one journey every dog lover will enjoy taking. Learning and rediscovering wolf/dog relationships guided to us by Bryan Bailey. His experiences are ones that should be passed onward to others. I rate this well-written book a five out five stars.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

www.melissa413readsalot.blogspot.com

I love that the author used Native American sayings at the beginning of each chapter.

To look into the eyes of a wolf is to see your soul. Just be sure something you want to view is there ~ Iroquois saying

I really loved this book because the author talks about my two favorite things: Wolves & Dogs.

The author lived in Alaska growing up and had a mentor that taught him about wolves and the wild. He incorporated these things into dog training, looking at your dogs inner wolf so to speak.

The author and his wife own a training facility to help people with their dogs by training them like the wolves train their families. I think this is an interesting concept.

Some clients would come to him and not listen and their poor dogs would get put to sleep by court order from biting someone. It's sad, but it happens. They thought he was crazy because he didn't use regular methods of training or explaining about your dog. Here's the thing, why don't you try it to see if it works. Hello people!

The bottom line is to see the inner wolf in your dog, treat them both with respect, and love them both :)

I would like to thank NETGALLEY and the wonderful publisher, SMITH PUBLICITY, for putting this book on my shelf to read as part of October's Adopt A Shelter Dog Month and in exchange for my honest review.

Kasey Cocoa says

I enjoyed reading through this book and ended up reading it again later on. The layout is nicely done with pertinent information in each section. I like how you get a bit of personal story in with the information about wolves and dogs. I'm familiar with a few theories on how you should work with dogs and I've shared my life with several breeds, including a half-husky-half-wolf which took special consideration and understanding. That said, I found this book to have valuable information that applies to all canines with insight into the 'why' of their behavior. This book makes an excellent gift for anyone who has decided to share their home with a dog. I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review. This in no way influenced my opinion, although my current rescued canine resting her head on my arm while I type away may have influenced my adoration

for all canines, especially wolves.

M.M. Strawberry Reviews says

I found this book to be incredibly fascinating and informative. Personally, I'm a cat person - have always been, and always will be - but when offered the opportunity for this book, I figured I'd broaden my horizons and learn something new. I wasn't quite sure what to expect, and I was blown away.

The author has incredible insight, but then he speaks from experience. He brings up many, many valid points, including warning us against seeing animals as people. He does stress that animals deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, but again, they are not human, so we can not hold them to the same standards as we do other humans. Animals do not understand things the same way we do, and when we understand that, it leads to a lot less grief.

He tells us several stories and concrete examples of the wolf in the dog, and how this affects dog behavior, and what owners can do to understand that inner wolf so that they can live a good coexistence with their dogs. I don't own dogs, but relatives of mine do, and I've spent some time around various dogs - some well trained/behaved, others, not so much. Reading this book has given me a better understanding into their behavior, and also their owners.

Though this book is about canines specifically, I can see how much of this information can also be applied to cats, who, like dogs, are descended from apex predators and carry the instinct within them. Like dogs, cats can attack children (or babies) who get into their space and make them feel threatened. And like dogs, cats suffer at the hands of owners who fail to understand the reason for this behavior, among others. The author highlights other behavior which owners may see as "bad", such as a older dog pinning down a younger dog to teach it its place within the hierarchy. Humans would see this as abusive, but the older dog isn't actually hurting the younger dog, any more than a human parent is hurting their children by giving them time out.

Overall, I would highly recommend this book, whether you're a dog or cat owner/lover, as this book offers much valuable insight into nature and animal behavior. I have definitely learned several things which will help improve my interactions and understandings with dogs in the future.

Rob Slaven says

As is typical, I received this book free in exchange for a review. Also as usual I'll be absolutely candid about it because I buy books too and I certainly wouldn't want to get a stinker when I think I'm getting something great.

The nutshell view on this book is that it's not only a book about dog behavior but also the personal journey of the author during his childhood in Alaska. Either of the intertwined narratives could stand on its own but together they make for a pretty engaging duo.

To the positive, the book has a lot of key information to convey about dogs and their behavior. It lays out in great detail the disservice we're doing to our pets when we treat them like furry humans and gives the background needed to hopefully convince us of our folly. The author's personal story meshes well with this

message as he spends his early years under the tutelage of a survivalist in the wilds of Alaska and living with the animals about which he's writing. The viewpoint is fresh, vibrantly written and has the deep ring of truth to it.

The only negative, which could be negative or positive depending on your view, is that it does have a strong streak of Native American mysticism to it. Each chapter is commenced with a quote from our wise predecessors on this continent and they tend towards the more spiritual rather than scientific view on animal behavior. To me, they compliment the other contents wonderfully but those who do not share my view on the wisdom of Native American teachings may find them rather ponderous. Further, it should be pointed out that this is NOT a book written to help you train your dog. The lessons here are conceptual in nature and not specific to any behavior. It won't help you teach your dog to sit but it may help you figure out WHY he refuses to.

In short, in reading this book my mind turned to all the people I could give it to that might appreciate it and would benefit from it. I wish I had a half dozen copies to hand out because this is powerful insight that needs to be in the hands of dog owners everywhere. Properly framing the relationship between human and pet would make every dog in human care a lot happier.

Diane says

Embracing the Wild in Your Dog: An Understanding Of The Authors Of Our Dog's Behavior - Nature And The Wolf considers the relationship between domestic dogs, wolves, and humans, and is a recommendation for any dog owner who seeks a discussion of the differences and similarities between dogs and their wolf brethren.

This isn't to say that Bailey claims that the wolf and the dog share the same characteristics: he's careful to point out where their heritage links and where it diverges, and also analyzes human influences on a dog's personality, traits and development. Coming from a canine trainer with more than enough experience in obedience, this means that Embracing the Wild in Your Dog isn't so much about control techniques as it is about understanding the wild nature of the domestic dog and how to redirect these natural tendencies to tailor aggression and change undesirable habits.

That said, the 'wolf' in a domestic dog isn't something to be dominated so much as something to be embraced: it's this process of acceptance and fine-tuning that leads a canine trainer to the type of control that syncs with a dog's nature, resulting in harmonious interactions for all involved.

This is not a 'dog training' book, however: readers who approach it as such may be disappointed. It's about understanding a dog's underlying psyche, its sources, and how to interact with the animal with this knowledge in mind; and the approaches use the author's experience growing up in the Alaskan wild and his encounters with wolves as the starting point for such an understanding.

Unique in its approach, filled with the author's insights ("...I changed how I handled Ranger and became a bit of a wolf myself in doing so."), and considering how leadership is established between species, Embracing the Wild in Your Dog is a delightful blend of memoir and insights into wild and domestic animal alike, and is highly recommended for canine owners who seek more animal psychology than the usual 'how to train your dog' book offers.

Chuck O'Connor says

This is the best book I have read in a very long time. As a police K9 S.W.A.T. member and former military working dog handler, I have handled and trained dogs for nearly 25 years. In that time, I thought I had gained an immense knowledge of canine behavior until I read Bryan's book. Now, however, I realize I was operating in the dark and I was guilty of making some of the very assumptions in regard to my dogs' behaviors that Bryan states are detrimental. In fact, I can recall two instances in my professional handling career where I was bitten by the dog I was handling because I perceived the circumstances completely different than what either dog obviously did. If I had read Bryan's book prior to these moments, not only would I have not been bitten by either dog, but both would have performed far better in their duties.

This book will not be a favorite to those readers that are not capable of an open mind or can't manage to overcome their own agendas or personal prejudices for the sake of their dogs or other readers. This is certainly understandable given the subject matter of the book. However, for a reviewer (a professional one at that), with absolutely no professional experience in regard to dog training or handling, to call into question the judgement of this incredibly experienced author in matters such as dog aggression with deadly consequences, is unbelievable and speaks volumes of the lack of credibility of the reviewer.

If you care about your dog and the relationship you share with it. **READ THIS BOOK!** You will not be disappointed from the very second you read the first sentence. Unlike your typical non-fiction, this book reads like a novel packed with adventure, emotionally charged stories of Bryan's time with his mentor, and **REAL** information that will forever change (for the good) how you view your dog.

Claire says

Review: Embracing the Wild in Your Dog by Bryan Bailey Published by: Fastpencil Inc (24th September 2015)

Source: NetGalley

ISBN: 978-1619334717

Rating: 1.5*

Synopsis:

Some time ago, dogs became as interwoven in the American culture as baseball, Apple pure and the Fourth of July. In fact, in most households, dogs have even trumped evolution itself and jumped to being four legged humans where they are adorned with human names, designer outfits and feed diets that would confound even the best nutritionist. In most cases, we've granted them our human intelligence and our sacred human emotions as well. They are no longer dogs to us, they're family! Yet ask that msn had done to carve the wolf from the wild to create a surrogate human, today's dog is still a wolf at heart and the accompanying instincts borne from such ancestry defines how the dog approaches its world. The ontogeny of anthropomorphism, where we attach our human traits to our pets, is the most damaging and paralytic problem associated with dog ownership today. Believing in a fairy tale world where dogs possess the same

moral consciousness and sense of altruism as attributed to humans has led to a drastic increase in leash laws, dogs being outlawed in a rising number of city and national parks, some beds being banned in several states, an alarming escalation of aggression towards humans, a rising cost in homeowner and business insurance, and a record number of clinically maladaptive dogs.

This book is not a training book. It does not cover obedience topics such as heel, sit, down, stay, and chime. Instead, it's about fighting the ship of American dog ownership by changing our perception of our dogs. It is about the author growing up in the Alaskan Wild under the tutelage and guardianship of a Special Forces survival instructor who introduced him to the ways of wolves and the similarities they shared with dogs. It is about the wisdom and splendour of nature and the many life lessons she provides. Mostly, it is about developing a deep understanding of the authors of your dog's behaviour, nature and the wolf. In doing so, you will truly learn who and what your dog really is and the whys and hows of its behaviour. You will learn the tools that nature gave them to survive in both the mountains and our homes. You will learn how activating and deactivating natural impulses and mechanisms in your dog will lead to the harmonious existence and the control you always dreamed of. Most of all, you will come to embrace the wild in your dog and the grace and the peace that is breathed into its acceptance.

Review:

Goodness, I'm not entirely sure where I should start. Parts of the synopsis I agree with, more parts I most definitely do not. Where the author grew up, together with his experiences and culture have clearly influenced his opinions about the similarities between dogs and wolves. I'm willing to bet that should he have been born elsewhere, his views would be entirely different.

As a multiple owner of dogs rescued from certain death at the hands of man, this was always going to be a hard sell to me. I've seen with my own eyes how much psychological damage and distress can be caused by human's improper treatment of dogs. There is a part in this book that concerns the author's refusal to work with a woman to help integrate a rescued pitt bull into her family, which included 3 other rescued dogs. He refused because he considered that the new dog (who he suspected had been used for dog fighting) was not a 'good fit' with the household; let's just say the consequences were deadly. The author also mentions that thinking 'there are no bad dogs, just bad owners' is short sighted. He's obviously never rescued a 'bad' dog from being euthanised and seen the fantastic progress that can be made using positive reinforcement.

While I may not agree with many of the author's points of view, there were a couple of parts that made interesting reading, once I'd ignored all the author's prejudices. As I'm not American, I'm not up to speed with some of the laws around dogs and other statistics, I'm pretty sure that 'believing in a fairy tale world where dogs possess the same moral consciousness and sense of altruism as attributed to humans' is not responsible for the alleged 'drastic increase in leash laws, dogs being outlawed in a rising number of city and national parks, some beds being banned in several states, an alarming escalation of aggression towards humans, a rising cost in homeowner and business insurance, and a record number of clinically maladaptive dogs'. I'd like to know how the author arrived at these conclusions and, indeed, where he got such information.

Crittermom says

Embracing the Wild in Your Dog is for the most part a book written with great insight into how we neglect

the wolf at the heart of our domestic companions. By neglecting their origins, we misinterpret natural behaviors. By applying anthropomorphism we weaken what would otherwise be a mutually beneficial relationship.

The quotes at the start of each chapter were well selected, and the descriptions of Bailey's early experiences helps the reader to understand how he acquired his knowledge of the wild.

Where Embracing the Wild in Your Dog falters is in its vehement attack on what is commonly thought of dogs as pets and the nature of training. So much energy is devoted to attack in the first third of the book, that it is likely to alienate readers to the extent that they stop reading - whether they agree with Bailey or not. People who would be persuaded by later portions may not read past the beginning. Bailey has many extremely valid points, but they at times get lost amidst the insults.

The other weakness is that while he points out instances where common training responses are wrong, he does not provide examples of a correct response. Even in a book that is not a training book, it is important to explain comparatively how to respond with the wolf in mind. Turning away and ignoring a jumping dog is wrong - what would be a better response? Examples help the reader to understand. Punishment is a natural part of learning in wolves, ok how is it best implemented when training dogs? What is the difference between effective punishment to correct behavior and wrongful application of force?

I was reminded a bit of an infomercial. Ie. Our product will solve all of your dog's behavioral issues. We can give you lots of examples where other products fail and show you lots of happy customers. We won't give you specifics, because then you won't buy our product.

Embracing the Wild in Your Dog is a promising book, but needs work. In future, I would recommend Bailey eliminate or reduces the repetitive attacks, focus on content, and provide more specific examples so that readers understand more of how to change their actions. It is all well and good to see the wolf in your dog and know you need to act differently, but if you don't have any concrete examples of correct behavior you are still at a loss.

Regretfully I can't rate Embracing the Wild in Your Dog more highly. It needs too much work. I do, however feel that Bryan Bailey has a great deal of insight and a valuable message to get across. I look forward to seeing what he writes in future.

3/5

I received a copy of Embracing the Wild in Your Dog from the publisher and netgalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

--Crittermom

See the wolf inside your dog
<http://muttcafe.com/2015/11/embracing...>
11/23/15

Clare O'Beara says

This honest and direct memoir combined with dog behavioural account brings home to us the fact that wolfish thoughts and actions are still part of the dog's makeup. Dogs have been domesticated for so long that they look to humans, but some dog breeds, like huskies, are far closer to the wolf and more independent. The author, a dog trainer, warns that some dog owners treat their dog like a child, when this can lead to unforeseen events and even to tragedy. I enjoyed the quotes, most relating to wolves, at the head of each chapter.

The author grew up in Alaska and explored the bush country with a mentor who was a Special Forces soldier and survivalist; from this man he early learned to track wolves and observe their behaviours. These are great stories if a bit chilling at times. The author tells us that he went on to handle K9 dogs for the police, treating them with respect as he had treated his sled dogs but making sure he was the leader. A wolf wants to be a leader or follow a leader. The dog is no different.

On the topic of dog training we don't get any direct lessons on how to make your dog behave, which I consider a lack. I suggest that if a dog of any size is used to ruling the roost and jumping anywhere he wants to go, you could lock him in a room by himself or tie him safely for an hour alone. This teaches him that no matter how he barks he can't make the owner set him loose. He has lost the dominant position. Praise when an animal does the right thing is much more important than abuse when he doesn't, but you must let the animal know what is good and what is bad. As the author tells us, some owners can't stop a dog from racing out into the road to chase a squirrel. He blames the multi-million dollar pet industry for this lack of knowledge; see what you think. Pets live longer and are healthier because petfood is better. But I never dressed up any animal as a person.

And despite enjoying the book very much, I warn that there are some potentially upsetting aspects. I agree that it is never safe to leave a dog alone with a small child. Dogs see small children as not the same as adult humans, more like an animal rival, especially crawling babies (four-legged) or tail-tugging toddlers (pesky cubs). A wolf will naturally use its teeth to discipline a cub; a dog may too. Some dogs whose fighting instinct is close to the surface will seek to eliminate a potential rival, whether another pet or a child. The author gives some extremely distressing accounts of an adopted rescue dog 'going bad', to show that we can't expect a dog to change its nature just because it is now in a loving home.

Readers may like to team this book with 'Julie of the Wolves' by Jean Craighead George, 'The Hidden Life Of Dogs' by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, and any horse training book by Monty Roberts.

Viga Boland says

If I could give "Embracing the Wild in your Dog" by Bryan Bailey, ten stars in every category, I would. Never before have I read a non-fiction book that enlightens, disturbs and inspires all at once, and leaves me wondering if I even took a breath from the time I opened the book.

As I read the last page and checked Bryan Bailey's biography, I let out an audible sigh. If the sigh could speak, it would say brilliant and breath-taking.

"Embracing the Wild in your Dog" is both of those. It is also a memoir and an instructional book. But its premise and its concepts may not be embraced or welcomed by all who cannot think of that little fluffy puppy in their laps as a wolf. But he is...at least instinctively, and Bryan Bailey makes sure you know that by the time you're finished reading.

As soon as I'd read the first few chapters, I began looking at my little Shorkie, Duffy, through a different lens. I realized that when he first took a light nip of my grand-daughter's lip and our gut reaction was to yell at Duffy for his bad behaviour while we wiped away her tears, that Duffy's reaction to having his neck grabbed in a hug constituted a threat and he was merely issuing a warning...as his now very distant forebears, the wolves would have done. I have now learned that no amount of breeding these "fur covered humans on four legs" is going to breed out the wolf in him. As an Indian chief explained to the author's mentor, "Because a dog carries a wolf inside of him, he also carries the wolf's prints. The wolf goes with him everywhere he goes." Sadly, today's dog owners live in denial of this truth. As a result, children and adults are being bitten and dogs are being euthanized, while vet bills and law suits drain bank accounts because we dog lovers don't want to acknowledge the wolf in our dogs.

"Embracing the Wild in your Dog" by Bryan Bailey is also the story of a boy growing up in the harsh Alaskan climate and learning about survival from a soldier who had learned the same from studying wolves. At one point, this soldier took an accidentally self-inflicted bullet to his neck while the two were trekking in the frozen north. Weak and bleeding profusely, he continued the journey because the wolves had taught him that to lie down was to die. Yes, this book is all about being tough and that adage: "When the going gets tough, the tough get going".

When Bailey shares stories like this or others about what happens in nature when animals face possible death, "Embracing the Wild in your Dog" becomes far more than just instructional: it is the beautifully moving memoir of a young man and his mentor. At times, readers may find themselves arguing, even outraged by Bailey's stance on how to raise and enjoy your beloved dogs, but I guarantee that after reading this book, you will never look at your dog again in the same way. The next time little Bella is being a "naughty doggie" you will find yourself questioning whether it is Bella, or you, who needs to be disciplined.
