



# Lone Wolf

*Kathryn Lasky*

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Spinoff from owl Guardians of Ga'hoole introduces Faolan, newborn wolf pup with a twisted leg. Harsh code of the pack demands such weakness be abandoned on a desolate hill. But alone in the wilderness, Faolan does not perish - a tale of survival, courage, and love triumphant.

## Lone Wolf Details

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Author : Kathryn Lasky

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## **From Reader Review Lone Wolf for online ebook**

### **Sophia Luo says**

This is a really boring book and it's full of complicated words. I don't want to read the rest of the series.

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### **Allie says**

My 11 year old son's rating.

I've struggled with the ratings on the last several middle grade books we've listened to; that's why I'm just putting my son's rating. :-/

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### **Steven R. McEvoy says**

This story was amazing! It reads like a cross between The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling and A Wolf Story by James Byron Huggins, both of which I love and have reread many times. The story is powerful and compelling. It is the first book set in the world of Ga'Hoole that does not focus primarily on the Owl kingdoms. It was wonderful to read, and I immediately started book two after finishing book one. I could not wait until I had even written my review. I had to know what happened next.

It is the story of Faolan, a young wolf who is left to die because of a birth defect. He ends up on an ice floe in a river during the spring thaw. He is plucked from the river by a she-bear, who has just lost her cub to a cougar. The bear decides to raise him. Over time he comes to realize he is different. He grows and learns from his second milk-mother Thunderheart. She realizes she will go to the long sleep and tries to prepare Faolan. But life is not always fair and much befalls Faolan during the winter. Soon he is in search of the Wolves of the Beyond.

You cannot help but fall in love with the characters in the book. My only complaint is the covers are a little too 'Disney' for the actual content of the books. It looks like it will be the beginning of an amazing trilogy. I highly recommend them!

Read the rest of the review and with links to other reviews of books by the author on my blog [Book Reviews and More](#). And also an author profile and interview with Kathryn Lasky.

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### **Andrew says**

This new series, set in the world of the Guardians of Ga'Hoole, can be read completely independently. (At least, this first book apparently can, because I've only read the first Ga'Hoole book, and didn't feel at all lost or spoiled.) It tells the tale of a young wolf with a splayed paw, cast out from the pack due to his deformity. He ends up being raised by a bear, and this mix of species helps illustrate the differences in animal behavior.

As with the Ga'Hoole book I've read, Lasky combines a compelling plot, an intricate fantasy mythology, and real animal behavior and psychology to create an exciting, fascinating read with three-dimensional characters. I'm glad to be in on (almost) the ground floor for this one, instead of having to catch up through fifteen already-published books. Reading this is a bit of an emotional roller coaster, because I'm such a sucker for animal stories. Can't wait to read the next one!

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### **Melinda Voong says**

Personally, it wasn't that interesting to me. It doesn't have that much... Excitement, a hook to catch me on. I mean, the main thing I disliked though was the blandness of the main character.

The main character was too... How should I put this? Too overpowered. I get it's fictional, but this is based on survival and that kind of stuff, right? Then wolves should not be able to walk on two legs, be able to jump and pull down a cougar, and jump over a huge wall of fire. Like, seriously. If that isn't overpowered, I don't know what is.

Not to mention when he joined the pack, he had a 'broader chest' than other wolves, can gnaw better than the other wolves already... It's just not too interesting with a character who could do everything. Like conflicts? Easily solved, problem done and gone.

He killed a caribou and a cougar by himself too. Let's see- The cougar could easily win. Let's face it, cougars are bigger and have stronger jaws. Faolan would not have won. The cougar wouldn't even have bolted, anyways. Especially if it knew it's enemy was one single wolf. And then the caribou. Wolves work in pack to bring down caribou. A well-placed kick can even kill Faolan too.

But nope. He's too strong. Gotta live through it.

Plus we don't get to see much of his personality either. At first it was him learning survival instincts and then Thunderheart dies and everything is just boring. He kills stuff, eats stuff, goes and looks around a cave... We don't get to explore him much anyways.

The thing that bugged me most about this was it's main character. I'm certainly not going to read the rest of the series- Especially if this is how the main character is and if he's going to remain that way. Characters who are far too strong aren't just my taste because apparently, conflicts can be easily overcome.

Plus he's just your run-of-the-mill one special character out of all the others. Tch. Boring read, annoying main character.

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### **Chelsea Trent says**

This book is of a series of 4 books with the mystifying adventures of a young wolf pup named Foalan. I am currently reading the 2nd book: Watch Wolf. Growing up i've had an undying passion for wolves, i raised two wolf pups, Megan and Shiba, of which I found as orphans and decided to adopt them. My friend recommended this book to me as she noticed i am obsessed with wolves. This book tells of a wolf pup who

was exiled from his pack due to being "different" Separated from his pack and parents, he was left to die, literally. In pack law if there is a deformity in a pup, the pup is taken someplace where death is certain and the mother is banned from the pack and forbidden from returning so that the packs bloodline is not corrupted. I don't want to spoil this book so i'll only tell you my favorite part, when Foalon is left to die by the Obea, he ends up washing up on shore before a grizzly mother overtaken by grief and ready to throw her life away. The grizzly had lost her two cubs to a male grizzly who ruthlessly killed them for a chance to mate with her, when she finds Foalon she thinks of him as a gift from the heavens and a reason for living. This is my favorite part because, without eachother they both would've died. This book is a great stress reliever and a book to get your creative juices flowing.

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### ♥Marie Gentilcore says

This book was recommended to me by my 9-yr old son. He read it in class and loved it and thought I would enjoy it as well. I am so glad I read it, it was a really well told story of a wolf named Faolan who was born "malcadh" which meant he had some type of disability which in his case was a splayed paw with a swirl on the bottom pad. Malcadh pups are taken away and left to die to keep the packs strong and healthy. Faolan was rescued by a grizzly bear named Thunderheart who had just lost a cub and she became his milk mother. This story brought out so many emotions and the characters felt so real to me. I can't wait to read the next book in the series.

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### Rachel Harris says

(Written by my ten-year-old daughter as part of a Language Arts assignment)

The Wolves of the Beyond, The Lone Wolf, by Kathryn Lasky is a thrilling novel about a wolf pup named Faolan as he embarks on the journey of a lifetime. This book has enticed many readers and will leave you hunting for more as you learn of a destiny written in the stars...

When a she-wolf named Moragg gives birth to a pup with a splayed paw, she knows the rules of her clan force her to leave him to die. But when Thunderheart the bear rescues him and named him Faolan, the pair become inseparable. When tragedy hits, Faolan must strike out on his own in a world full of danger.

This enchanting read will unveil your inner fangirl with a character we can all relate to. It teaches a lesson many fail to teach, the social crime of prejudice and how not to judge someone by what you see, but by their heart.

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### Kim Ledford says

OK I love the subject matter and used to read books like it all the time, and I know this is a childrens' book, but I lost it when "Angus McAngus leader of the McAngus Clan" showed up. Lol! I listened to the audiobook and the narrator was good. The gnawing art thing was pretty silly. Two stars for creativity.

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## **Kellee says**

Reviewed at: <http://www.teachmentortexts.com/2012/...>

A student who is in my yearbook class was so excited when he saw my classroom library that he came bounding over to me the first week and asked me, "You have so many books! So you read a lot, right? Have you read *Wolves of the Beyond*?" He was so excited. And how can a teacher kill a kid's excitement in 2 seconds? By answering, "No. I'm not sure what that is..." Well, he was so flabbergasted by my lack of knowledge that he brought me the book to read, pretty much commanding me to. And I have to say, I am pretty glad he did.

*Lone Wolf* is obviously the beginning of what is going to be a majorly epic animal fantasy series similar to Erin Hunter's books and *Redwall*. This series is a spin-off of Lasky's *Ga'Hoole* series yet I never found that not reading *Ga'Hoole* hindered the story in the least. Though it takes place in the same land as the other series, it is new characters and still includes description and a map to help with the setting.

While reading, there were 3 things that really impressed me. 1st, like most fantasy animal fiction, I am always amazed by how an author can get into the head of animals. Lasky describes the animal instincts, aggression and emotions in such a beautiful way as if she can read their minds. 2nd, the world building is phenomenal. It amazes me when an author can build such a high fantasy world for their animals to live in. Finally, the immense plot development that is required to make these epic series and ones that intertwine like *Wolves of the Beyond* and *Ga'Hoole* astonish me even more.

Mentor text for: Setting, Characterization, Plot Development, Descriptive, World Building (Mapping)

Snatch of Text: "In the Cave Before Time, he had seen two constellations of wolves. One was the starry one on the rock ceiling. The other "constellation" was not stars but the hunting and traveling formation of wolves running together. In that formation he had sensed a common feeling, a spirit of fellowship. It made him feel all the more lonely. He had wanted to run with those wolves, to be part of that "constellation," ever since he had first seen the picture." (p. 145)

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## **Jacki says**

Born with a splayed paw with an odd spiral design on the pad, Faolan is left to die. But Fate intervenes and the moments old wolf pup is quickly adopted by a heartbroken grizzly bear, affectionately named Thunderheart. *Lone Wolf* is the story of Faolan's first year of life.

I have not yet read the previous owl series by the same author, so I really had no idea what to expect. I was more than pleasantly surprised and am looking forward to sharing this book and the rest in the series with my son.

I was particularly moved by the depth of spirituality displayed in such a child-friendly manner, as well as the respect given to all living creatures. Lasky's hunting scenes are powerful and the respect afforded to the dying animal is a lesson to all humankind.

Faolan's journey from abandoned pup, to adopted grizzly/wolf, to future pack member was heartening.

Lessons were harsh, but not too harsh for young readers, and resulted in a maturing and intelligent young wolf destined for greatness and a compassionate heart.

I only gave this 4 out of 5 stars because it ended much too abruptly, in a way that made it nearly impossible to not pick up the next book in the series (as well as now needing to get out and pick up the owl series as well).

Great quick, but insightful, read for adults. Even better read for kids.

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## **Melanie says**

I want to start off by saying that I generally love Kathryn Lasky's books- I read all but a couple of the Guardians of Ga'Hooole series and all of her additions to the Royal Diaries series and thought they were fantastic. This book however was surprisingly dull. I wanted so much to like this book and, it being a kind of "kid's book" thought I would finish it in about a day when it actually took me about 3-4 days. I had to force myself to pick it up and slog through it- working diligently just to make it from chapter to chapter because I really hate to not finish a book and I was in a hurry to start *The Giver*, which was recommended by my boyfriend.

In the Guardians series, Lasky does a very good job of explaining things like twilight and yep in the context of the story without distracting from the plot and characters. Explanations in this book however seemed to stand out like ugly sores, distracting and obvious in the worst way. Things are also explained that the main character doesn't even understand like the name for the spirit of a pack running together. The explanation for what I will call the magical cave is somehow both extremely lengthy and dull while also very uninformative. I'm still not quite sure what it was- were the pictures moving? did he literally hear animals? how was he "reading" the images? did time literally stop for him? etc., etc., etc. Yet the discussion of this magical cave spans a ridiculous amount of pages and is mentioned several times afterward.

Even without lengthy and very numerous explanations, the book just doesn't flow. Faolan goes from event to event with nothing to really tie them together. The whole story is a little preposterous as well in so many various ways: Faolan is like a super wolf and unless there is a plot twist that reveals the true reason, the only explanation is that his bear mother pushed him to be more physical; The animals seem to be able to spot constellations with almost disgusting ease and see spirits literally traveling through the sky and recognize each one; this wolf manages to bring down a cougar and a full grown caribou (albeit an old one) alone- say what?; the wolf chiefs wore headdresses, necklaces, and ceremonial robes- who made those things?? the canines with no opposable thumbs??

I noticed as I was reading that my interest was piqued only when the rogue smith owl was introduced and thought maybe I would begin to like it, but as the perspective shifted back to the main character, I realized it was just the part of me that loved the Guardians- not that I had actually begun to like this book. I read this on my kindle so I don't have a page count but honestly it isn't necessary. I only became slightly interested after part 3 started and only really liked the final chapter. The last chapter is seriously the only time when there is semblance of action and even that is very anti-climactic. This probably isn't enough to convince me to read/ pay for the next book since I'm too scared I'll be forced to wade through more pages of uninteresting character "development", unimportant observations, and lengthy explanations of every aspect of their world.

I really wanted to like this book, especially since I paid for it on my kindle while most books I had

downloaded were free and because I liked Lasky's work so much, but the only saving grace for Lone Wolf were things taken straight out of her other novels and the last chapter. I would never recommend this book to anyone- especially wolf lovers. I would steer them gently in the direction of the Guardians series if they wanted an interesting and exciting novel about an almost mythical realm of anthropomorphic animals with their own ways and customs, which is what I felt this book promised to be.

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### **Lisa Brunton says**

The first half was good but it got very boring and no plot I'm not reading the rest of the series

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### **Zach Densley says**

I feel as if this series is very good. Personally I think LONE WOLF is the best book out of all of the books i've ever read . it starts out with an a pup named foalan that was taken by an obea to his tummfraw to die. his tummfraw was a icy river that will soon break into a massive river. And before you know it he was saved by a grizzly mother that was named thunder heart by foalan and soon became his mother. The massive bear took care of him and taught him many things. I can think of a couple of things right off the bat! She taught him how to dig for fresh onions, she also taught him how to stand on two legs, and she taught him how to fish out of a river isn't that awesome!

My favorite character is foalan. I think he is very strong, fast, scary, and last but not least sneaky. Another reason is because he knows how to make all kinds of friends. Plus he can endure all kinds of abuse. Also took on many challenges like he took name calling well and surviving the wild animals and being hurt by many things like wolves of his kind. Next compliment about him is he is very intelligent. Now for my favorite thing about him is he can take down a huge caribou. finally he knows what to do when really hard things hit.

If I had to recommend this book to any one I would recommend it to anyone who liked THE OWLS OF GAHOOLE. Also any one who likes bears, owls, or wolves. plus iI would recommend it to every on around the globe if I had to.

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### **Emily says**

The author was very creative in coming up with these characters and this world. But the story itself was very uneventful to me. I was listening to the audiobook and I would find myself tuning out too frequently. I'm still curious about the next book though. Maybe it'll redeem the series.

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### **Caleb says**

This was an amazing story about a wolf pup who is raised by a bear and sets out to prove his worth as a wolf. Great plot, characters, and writing style.

A major theme of this story about judgement, specifically that we should not make hasty judgements,



especially not based on appearance. Faolan was judged by the packs and clans for being born with a symbol on his paw fur, which they thought was a curse. They tried to kill him, but he was rescued by a bear who cared for him even though he was a different species and saw the good in him.

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### **Naomi says**

This book is about a wolf pup, named Faolan, who was abandoned as a cub due to a strange marking on his paw and twisted leg. Thunderheart, a bear who just lost her cub, finds Faolan and cares for him. One day, Faolan goes out hunting in a cold winter storm. He gets lost and can't find Thunderheart. Then, he wanders off into the Outermost, a place where dangers and other wolves lurk. Will Faolan find out what happened to Thunderheart and survive the Outermost? Read to find out.

My favorite part was when Faolan gets accepted into the MacDuncan clan after proving himself worthy. He also makes lots of new friends that accept him.

I recommend this book to anyone who likes animals, adventure, action, and a little bit of revenge.

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### **Whitlea says**

I was really surprised that I didn't like this one. I had enjoyed what I had read of Lasky's Ga'hoole series, and I was expecting this to be comparable in quality to that.

There were two main issues I had with this book. The first one is that it is horribly dull. The beginning was very exciting, but the first two parts were uninteresting. It didn't help that the main character doesn't have that much of a personality. It started to pick up around the end, but it was too little too late for me.

The other issue I have is that the way the society of wolves was portrayed. It irked me to no end that Clans of wolves were considered "noble" as opposed to the cannibals living on the outskirts. Killing innocent wolf pups in the name of genetic purity is on the same level as killing one of your own to eat, in my opinion. I was expecting somewhat of a challenge to be made against their highly unethical practices. I would have liked this book a whole lot better if we had at least been given that.

I suppose this might be corrected future installments, but why bother? This promised to be an exciting animal fantasy, but instead I found myself bored and irritated beyond belief by the end of the novel. Honestly, I'd recommend skipping this one and picking up something like Guardians of Ga'hoole or Warriors instead.

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### **Vermin Supreme™ says**

Being a fan of animal fantasies, I decided to buy this quick read at my school book fair. Not worth the ten dollars. At least, not yet.

This book starts off fairly amazing, with creative ranks and how the Packs work. I did realize how large the writing font was, and it slightly worried me. But I'm used to reading short books, like Warriors.

Anyway, the writer did seem to know what she was talking about. Being a wolf lover myself, I know tons of facts about these beautiful creatures. If I was about nine, I would love this book, as it seems to have a high vocabulary for its child-like length.

Only when Faolan gets taken in by the bear did this book get questioned by me. First of all, a bear? Really? That's highly unrealistic. I doubt her milk would even keep the wolf pup alive, let alone the pup be willing to drink it. Then when the bear cried. Animals do not cry. Not emotionally. And the tears seemed to be repeated every two scenes. Then, what really got under my skin, was that Faolan was said to have green eyes. Green. Eyes. Wolves cannot ever have green eyes. How can someone writing an entire series about wolves, get eye-color wrong?

Not only did the facts slowly get more incorrect, but the character Faolan is downright annoying. He sounds somewhat of a jerk, even in his early life stage.

I'm not finished, but I doubt this book will get any better.

\*UPDATE

I've gotten fairly far into it. Only about ten or twenty pages left. But I'm not finishing it. It's too awful.

The author seems to have run out of descriptions near the end. She began to use the word "arthritic" about every other sentence when talking about some wolf named MacDuncan.

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Okay, so this book was awful. Normally, if someone has already written a series, and begin another, they don't really connect the two. That's why there are series; so you CAN connect the two.

It really upset me when the author dragged in those stupid owls. I thought, "hey, everyone can write a bad book. Maybe this would be better than those owls." Boy, was I wrong. Of course, the author installs the freaky birds into it.

Just so much of this book was wrong. I mean, if a thirteen year old like myself can find a gross amount of large and small errors, why should this book even be selling? It was just downright bad. I didn't understand half of it.

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## **Cindy says**

This book frustrated me. I loved Laskey's past series on owls so it could only be assumed that this book would be similar but with wolves. However, it wasn't.

A few of my problems included -

-This book was a lot of "tell" not show. There were pages of descriptions, describing wolf packs, habits, personality, behaviors. There isn't a lot of character interaction, and it almost feels like I'm reading a textbook. The author picks up conversations in the last 30 pages or so but by then it lost me.

-The owls. I understand that the Beyond is close to the previous series of books with the owls, but it seemed

the reader was constantly being drilled that the owls were close and that YES this author was the author of the Owl series. It's like this series couldn't stand alone without the random owl comparison, or sentence.

-The main character is dull. Not because there isn't a personality but because one isn't developed. This has to go with the whole "telling" not showing. So by the time the main character developed I knew nothing about them.

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