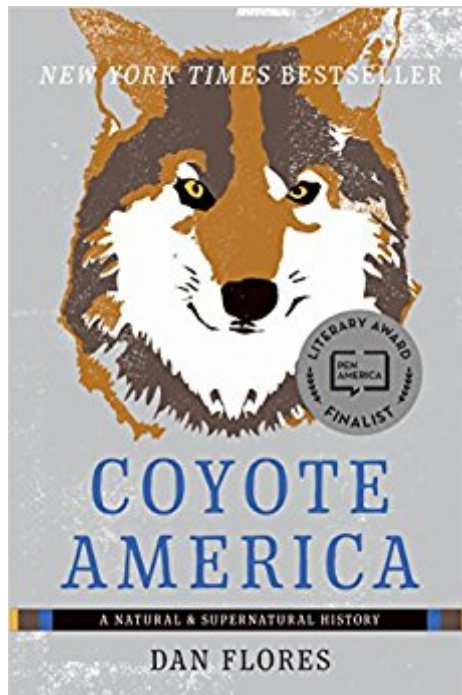




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# Coyote America: A Natural And Supernatural History



## Synopsis

Finalist for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award "A masterly synthesis of scientific research and personal observation." -Wall Street Journal Legends don't come close to capturing the incredible story of the coyote In the face of centuries of campaigns of annihilation employing gases, helicopters, and engineered epidemics, coyotes didn't just survive, they thrived, expanding across the continent from Alaska to New York. In the war between humans and coyotes, coyotes have won, hands-down. Coyote America is the illuminating five-million-year biography of this extraordinary animal, from its origins to its apotheosis. It is one of the great epics of our time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Finalist for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award Winner of the Sigurd F. Olson Nature Writing Award "The coyote should have been TIME Magazine's Person of the Year. This deeply engrossing study is part scientific, part mythological, and part personal observation. It is fully fascinating." --Lit Hub "Captivating... Dan Flores looks at a creature whose howl sent shivers down the spines of generations of farmers and ranchers. They responded by waging war on an animal that not only refused to disappear, but began showing up in places like Central Park. The coyote turns out to be the Road Runner in disguise, and is having the last laugh after all." --Wall Street Journal "[An] engaging study." --New Yorker "[A] remarkable book... which I highly recommend for all readers who are concerned about the future of wildlife and their environments in North America. Readers will be engaged immediately by the historical, cultural and ecological insights Flores provides with wit and wisdom." --Dr. Michael W. Fox, The Animal Doctor "A masterly synthesis of

scientific research and personal observation... Much of the charm of Coyote America lies in the interludes in which the author sketches his own evolution from the teenager who thoughtlessly shot a coyote in his native Louisiana to the historian and naturalist whose fascination with the mammal that early travelers called 'the prairie wolf' knows no bounds." --Wall Street Journal "A fascinating new biography of the species." --The Wild Life "Historian Dan Flores tracks the pedigree, chronicles the plight, and sings the praises of *Canis latrans* in his new book, *Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History*. Although his academic research is wide-ranging and his presentation nuanced, there's no doubt Flores' heart is on the side of the animal." --Daily Beast "Compassionate and captivating... [Flores] warns us, 'coexistence with coyotes is an essential lesson.' His exuberant book is the lesson plan." --Christian Science Monitor "Coyotes have a legendary appeal in North America, from the folklore tales of indigenous tribes to everyone's favorite 'Super Genius,' Wile E. Coyote. In *Coyote America*, Flores does more than just shed light on the legend; he explores 5 million years of biological history that lead up to the evolution of the modern coyote (*Canis latrans*) and details the unique versatility of an animal that has continued to thrive despite human campaigns of annihilation." --Chicago Tribune "It is often impossible to separate how animals behave 'wild' from how they behave around humans. Coyotes are a startling example.... Historian Dan Flores has fun describing how coyotes make a mockery of our attempts to put nature in order: 'It turns out, the coyote really is The Dude, and The Dude absolutely abides.'" --New Scientist "Wide-ranging, engaging, informative... Flores is both a fine scholar and a most engaging writer. He argues most persuasively that we need to learn to live with coyote and the other beings with which we share this earth." --National Parks Traveler "Fascinating... essential literature in university courses on environmental studies, wildlife management, and general ecology and public policy. This book will appeal to ecologists as well as to a general audience seeking to better understand how modern humans have treated coyotes and build a new paradigm for a reformed and more holistic vision of how to manage coyotes with respect and compassion... A copy of *Coyote America* should be given to all legislators to help in making informed and more cost-efficient and humane wildlife policies." --Ecology "A wonderful read... chock full of detailed information and stories about this most adaptable mammal." --Psychology Today "Engaging... provides a unique insight into the age-old war of man vs. wild... [Flores's] storytelling is riddled with humor and tidbits of information that pique interest and make it impossible to put down... From cover to cover, it's a truly thrilling read, leaving readers with a better idea of the way urban development has impacted the world and a desire to protect the existence of animals that have, in more recent days, been labeled dangerous predators. Acting as both a knowledgeable guide and a public service announcement, this book is a must-read

for anyone with an interest in animal welfare and environmentalism." --Deseret News "A must-read book if you are interested in knowing more about this persecuted critter, revered by Native Americans long before the settlers arrived." --Virginian Pilot "Coyote America possesses an extraordinary sweep and is an intriguing read." --Albuquerque Journal "The most compelling part of Flores' story - and what makes Coyote America an important book - is what it says about the U.S. government's misguided and continuing battle against the coyote." --Santa Fe New Mexican "Flores stares long and deeply into the coyote's eyes, returning to us with cultural treasures both sparkling and lyrical." --Open Letters Monthly "A must read for all Americans, whether you are a farmer or rancher, a suburban or city folk." --Mother Earth News "Historian Flores has written about the American West for decades, so it's no surprise his gaze should turn to the region's scrappy mascot. Over the past 500 years, the original desert-dweller has expanded its territory as far north as Alaska, south into the tropics and deep into many cities. That ubiquity has created a host of problems for both the animal and its neighbors, human and otherwise. Flores captures all sides of the situation in this detailed portrait of an American icon." --Discover "[A] fascinating scientific and cultural history.... Deft prose and wide-ranging research do their part to carry Flores through the grimmer chapters of his narrative.... Whatever the coyote may still be wanting, that list no longer includes a book to do it justice." --New Mexico Magazine "[An] absorbing book.... The coyote stories in this book are among the best, and Flores is a master storyteller." --Natural History "Engaging... Recommended." --CHOICE "In a straightforward style, the author unpacks the myths and urban legends surrounding the coyote and conveys his admiration and respect for this incredibly intelligent predator.... Highly recommended for natural history enthusiasts interested in moving beyond the conventional wisdom about coyotes to gain a deeper understanding of their presence in our midst." --Library Journal "[A] spirited blend of history, anthropology, folklore, and biology that is capable of surprises.... Well written throughout and just the right length, Flores' book makes a welcome primer for living in a land in which coyotes roam freely - in, that is to say, the Coyote America of his title." --Kirkus Reviews "Flores's mix of edification and entertainment is a welcome antidote to a creature so often viewed with fear." --Publishers Weekly "In this brilliant book, Flores traces the wane and wax of the coyote. Their story is interwoven with our story, but it is also like our story, that of a species that has faced challenges and overcome them. Read this book if you want to understand the wild canids among us and also, perhaps, a little bit more about yourself." --Rob Dunn, author of *The Man Who Touched His Own Heart* "As I was reading Coyote America by Dan Flores, a coyote walked through our backyard. Magic occurs in these pages." --Terry Tempest Williams, author of *The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks* "Dan

Flores's *Coyote America* is an utterly fascinating look at the life and range of *Canis latrans*. It brilliantly blends environmental history with old-fashioned storytelling. Flores is a master of the American West and a personal hero. A must read!" --Douglas Brinkley, Professor of History at Rice University and author of *Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Land of America*"Think of *Coyote America* as a biography of our continent's most enigmatic and successful predator, but don't stop there. It is also a meditation, eloquent and insightful, on our relationship to wildlife, to nature, and even to our national culture. When you've read it, you won't sing the book's praises, you'll howl them." --William deBuys, author of *The Last Unicorn* and *A Great Aridness* "A biologist once told me, 'When the last man dies, a coyote will be howling over his grave.' This splendid book makes it clear why that's true, and why the persistent, enduring wildness of this remarkable neighbor should give us great delight." --Bill McKibben, author of *Wandering Home* "With a deft blend of science and history, Dan Flores shows us the coyote as trickster, survivor, and, ultimately, a reflection of ourselves. *Coyote America* paints a vivid and long overdue portrait of an iconic animal. It's a terrific book." --Thor Hanson, author of *The Triumph of Seeds and Feathers* "A wily writer meets his natural subject. With erudition, pathos, and seductive humor, Dan Flores tells coyote stories that expose the animalism of Americans, and humans everywhere. The pleasure of his book is the cross-species love of being alive." --Jared Farmer, author of *Trees in Paradise: A California History*

The howl of a coyote at dusk is one of the chief symbols of the American West, but in recent years, we've been hearing it farther and farther east. Even New York City, about as far from the Southwest as one can get, both geographically and figuratively, has been the site of a rash of coyote sightings for more than a decade. From Central Park to the Aleutian Islands, Los Angeles to Bangor, Maine, coyotes have been found in places they've never been seen before: one was even discovered riding a commuter train in Oregon. The coyote, it turns out, loves the American people. This is ironic, given that since the nineteenth century, Americans have been at war with the coyote. Nevertheless, the coyote has not only survived our onslaught, it has thrived, using the streets of our cities as springboards for a takeover of the continent. Dan Flores, acclaimed historian of the American West, charts the species' explosive growth not just as a natural phenomenon but a cultural one, with roots in the Native American stories of a trickster god and Warner Brothers' depiction of the hapless Wile E. Coyote. The result is an American avatar: the coyote isn't just some very successful dog; it is us. " --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Any book by Dan Flores is worth a read. There are a number of books on coyotes, but this one is

the best overall I've read. It covers several broad themes: coyote resilience, coyote individualism, coyote biology (including a little evolution, but all the science is easily understood), coyotes and people (in the broad sense--native American tales, coyotes in the city and more), and much of the book deals with the persecution of coyotes. This last is important, and Flores discusses a century of shooting, poisoning and cruelty--still going on--that must have killed several tens of millions of them. A sorry tale it is, mostly a taxpayer subsidy of agricultural hatred of predators. Flores says that the coyote resilience is because they can function well as individuals or in groups, and can quickly adjust to the ecological possibilities of an area. This resilience evolved in part because of another kind of persecution: wolves kill coyotes and coyotes had to evolve ways to cope with that. Human eradication of wolves in most of the USA opened up opportunity for coyotes. Flores thinks coyotes are a lot like humans in being flexible and coping with stress. There's an amusing but serious point in American attitudes. People who like the animal say "ki-YOH-tee" and people who dislike the animal (and rural Westerners) say "ki-yote." There's a bit of a cultural war over coyotes, although not as severe and militant as over wolves. Flores discusses coyotes in cities, primarily Los Angeles and Chicago, although they've made it to New York and even Staten Island. They're in all states but Hawai'i. Flores discusses coyote mixing with wolf and dog populations. Perhaps the coyote is developing subspecies better able to cope with the human environment of cities and suburbs. The elimination of feral dogs from cities (violently done in the 19th century and domestic dogs gone feral do not last long) did the same thing elimination of wolves did, opening up areas for coyote opportunism. Coyotes can be dangerous, killing a toddler in California in 1981 and an adult woman in 2009 (in Nova Scotia). Some do eat cats, but coyotes cleaning up outdoor cats is something of an urban myth; they eat mice and rats and insects, and don't raid dumpsters. One almost side discussion is whether there really is something called a Red Wolf. Some research has shown they have 80% coyote genes and if they are not a real species, we're spending a lot of money on them. Flores looks at the evidence and finds it rather more complicated.

Good natural history of North America's most fascinating critter. Amusing, amazing and well documented science. Great for young folks interested in sciences, Native American culture and fond of animals.

Super book. The coyote is such an iconic American animal, and Flores does the topic justice. I learned not only about coyotes, but so much about the U.S. government's policies governing wild animals, their preservation or their destruction, and how the wiley coyote responds.

This is a great and informative read by a noted outdoorsman, with some remarkable facts about the 'yote.' A trip through the biology, history and cultural connection of our four legged neighbors, who are around in the city as well as the country. Having lived in the North Woods, and Southwest desert and mountains for over 60 years, I can confirm this author knows his stuff.

Great writing by a scientific story teller. Fascinating read about a fascinating subject. Tons of interesting info that is as much about human nature and human history in America as Mr. Coyote. You can't help but enjoy and marvel at the correlations between the protagonists. Like so many things in America today the answers to this co-existence and cohabitation question seems so simple that it may never be solved with the intense passions the song dog evokes. Bottom line Dan Flores makes a great read of the survivor of the Ages.

I've always loved coyotes and had known something of their lore and history, but Dan Flores brings it all to new heights. A delightful, sometimes sorrowful, read that should make coyote-lovers out of even the most casual reader.

I'm not even finished with it yet, but for this book, being a slow reader and wanting to absorb and reread all of the juicy detail may be a good thing. Book is very well organized and makes no statements without substantiation, and is doing a great job of putting everything about coyote's in context. I'll not go the Aztec route and start worshiping them, but I do wish coyote's would come through the yard more often.

Great history about an amazing animal being persecuted by a less than amazing animal.

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