

IN THE AUTUMN OF 1893, A MAN NAMED **ERNEST THOMPSON SETON** ARRIVED IN NEW MEXICO.

THESE WERE THE DYING DAYS OF THE OLD WILD WEST-AND SETON'S MISSION WAS TO HUNT DOWN THE LAST OF A BREED OF **OUTLAWS...**

...THE **OUTLAW WOLVES.**

JOURNEYING WEST TO HUNT WOLVES WAS AN IMPULSE, HE SAID. A SIMPLE ENOUGH JOB, HE THOUGHT...

SHOULDN'T TAKE ME MORE THAN **TWO WEEKS** TO CATCH THE PEST...**THREE** AT THE MOST...



HE WAS ESTIMATING WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO CORNER AND KILL **ONE** WOLF IN PARTICULAR...

A WOLF, THEY SAID, WHO POSSESSED AN ALMOST SUPERNATURAL ABILITY TO CHEAT DEATH. HE WAS KNOWN AS...

LOBO: **KING OF THE** **GURRUMPAW**

ADAPTED BY
MARK EVANIER
ILLUSTRATED BY
THOMAS YEATES
LETTERED BY
TODD KLEIN

MANY HAD TRIED TO CATCH AND KILL THIS PREDATOR. MANY HAD FAILED...

THE LOCAL COWBOYS AND FARMERS HAD POSTED A RECORD BOUNTY--A LARGE CASH AWARD TO WHOEVER COULD RID THE LAND OF LOBO.





SETON WAS THE **PERFECT** ASSASSIN. HE HAD, LITERALLY, WRITTEN THE BOOK ON TRAPPING AND KILLING WOLVES...

FROM HIS TRACKS, IT WOULD SEEM HE TRAVELS THIS PATH...

...SO HE WILL COME ALONG AND EAT THIS MEAT I HAVE LACED WITH STRYCHNINE.

SETON SLEPT THAT NIGHT, CONFIDENT THAT LOBO WOULD TAKE THE BAIT OF THE POISONED BEEF. OF THAT, HE WAS THOROUGHLY CONFIDENT...

...AND THOROUGHLY **WRONG.**



HE SNIFFED AT MY FOUR **BAITS...** THEN ARTFULLY CARRIED THEM ABOUT, PILING THEM UP WITHOUT ACTUALLY BITING INTO THEM...



...AND TO EXPRESS HIS UTTER CONTEMPT FOR MY BAIT, HE SCATTERED **FILTH** OVER THE PILE!

WITH EACH PASSING DAY, SETON'S DETERMINATION GREW.



THE **TWO WEEKS** STRETCHED INTO MONTHS, BUT THE VISIT WAS NOT WITHOUT ITS JOYS...

SETON, A DEVOUT LOVER OF NATURE, FELL IN LOVE WITH THE LAND..WITH ALL THAT IT WAS, HAD BEEN, AND WOULD BE.

SO MUCH OF THE UNTAMED BEAUTY OF AMERICA IS BEING **DESTROYED** IN THE NAME OF "PROGRESS"...

BUT THOUGH HE LOVED ANIMALS, HIS LOVE DID NOT EXTEND TO WOLVES...

THEY'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHER WILD CREATURES. THEY'RE **KILLERS**, DESTROYERS OF OUR LIVESTOCK.

THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER. LOBO **MUST** BE KILLED.



HE CAMPED OUT ABOVE THE CREEK, WHERE SNOW GEESE AND CRANES Huddled, BEYOND THE REACH OF THE WOLVES.

HE NEVER SAW LOBO, BUT ONE DAY HE NOTICED SOMETHING...

LOBO'S TRACKS... THERE IS **ANOTHER PAIR** WITH THEM, SMALLER AND RUNNING OUT IN FRONT OF HIM! IS IT **POSSIBLE?**

THE OLD MARAUDER IS IN LOVE.



IT WAS SO. SHEPHERDS WHO HAD GLIMPSED THEM CALLED HER **BLANCA** BECAUSE OF HER WHITE COAT.

SHE WAS ALWAYS LEADING LOBO ON A MERRY DANCE, THEY SAID...



SETON KNEW: DURING THE BREEDING SEASON, A MALE WOLF AND HIS MATE ARE PRACTICALLY INSEPARABLE.

HE PLACED METAL TRAPS NOT TO CATCH HIM BUT TO CATCH HER.

THE HEAD OF A DEAD COW WOULD BE THE "LURE" TO ENTICE HER DOWN THE NARROW PATHWAY WHERE THE TRAPS WERE SET...

OF THAT NIGHT, HE WROTE IN HIS DIARY: "...I AM MORE EXCITED, AND YET MORE ANXIOUS, THAN I HAVE BEEN IN THREE LONG MONTHS..."

HE HOPED...HE **KNEW** THAT LOBO COULD OUTSMART HIS TRAPS...

HE DID NOT SLEEP...

...BUT THAT HIS MATE WOULD NOT BE SO CLEVER.

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, HE COULD NOT WAIT TO CHECK...TO SEE IF AT LONG LAST, HE'D STRUCK A BLOW AGAINST LOBO.



HE HAD.

LOBO REMAINED CLOSE BY, RELUCTANT TO LEAVE HIS MATE.

BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN **SUICIDE** TO STAY WHEN THE HUNTER WAS ARMED WITH A GUN.

SETON WOULD LATER RECOIL FROM WHAT HE CALLED "THE INEVITABLE TRAGEDY"...

...BUT HE WAS THERE TO DO A JOB.

THAT NIGHT IN HIS CABIN, HE HEARD LOBO ON THE HILLSIDE...

HE WAS, AFTER ALL, THERE TO KILL WOLVES.

THAT IS NOT THE LOUD, DEFIANT **HOWL** I KNOW FROM HIM. IT IS A LONG, PLAINITIVE **WAIL**...




HE HAD TO STRIKE FAST WHILE LOBO'S GUARD WAS DOWN.

HE PLACED HIS TRAPS AGAIN, LAYING DOWN BLANCA'S SCENT TO LURE LOBO UP TO THEM...


THE NEXT MORNING, JANUARY 31, 1894, HE FOUND LOBO CAUGHT IN FOUR OF HIS TRAPS.



THE FIRST THING SETON DID WAS TO TAKE A PHOTOGRAPH.



AND THEN HE LOOKED INTO THE EYES OF THE WOLF HE HAD HUNTED FOR SO LONG...



...AND WHAT HE SAW WAS NOT A KILLER BUT A CREATURE OF DIGNITY: COURAGEOUS, LOYAL AND LOVING.

SETON TRIED TO TAKE LOBO BACK ALIVE BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. THE KING OF THE CURRUMPAW WAS DEAD OF A BROKEN HEART IN A FEW SHORT HOURS...

TO HIS DYING DAY, SETON REGRETTED WHAT HE HAD DONE. IT PROMPTED HIM TO BECOME A LEADING FOUNDER OF THE NATION'S CONSERVATION MOVEMENT AND THE BOY SCOUTS.

THE OLD BOUNTY HUNTER NEVER HUNTED ANOTHER WOLF. INSTEAD, HE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO SAVE THEM, AND SO MUCH MORE OF NATURE.

THE END

