

# THE YEAR THE WOLVES CAME by Andy Froemke

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**Title:** The Year the Wolves Came (Inspired by True Events)

**Genre:** Family Drama

**Logline:** A female biologist encounters a hostile homecoming when she attempts to reintroduce wolves to Yellowstone Park, while at the same time, reintroducing her ten year old daughter to her ex-husband (a wildlife photographer).

**Tone:** *Born Free* meets *Fly Away Home*.



Set against the sweeping Montana landscape, the story begins with Eliza Clayton (30's), a field biologist, coming home to head up the controversial reintroduction effort to restore wolves to the Yellowstone ecosystem, where they had been exterminated 60 years before by hunters and ranchers. Unbeknownst to her, Eliza's ex-husband has also been tapped to work on the project as the documentary photographer. Further complicating the issue, Eliza has to deal with her estranged Father, who is an aging sheep rancher on the opposite side of the reintroduction fence.

Overwhelmed by her herculean task and determined not to have her daughter grow up without a father, Eliza attempts to bring Megan and her ex-husband, Max, closer by suggesting they reside together during the reintroduction effort. Despite Megan's initial enthusiasm, Max's reluctance to change his lifestyle makes the arrangement an uncomfortable one. However, Max quickly buffers himself from his parental responsibilities by calling on his comedic writer friend, Johnny, to help out.

Meanwhile, the reintroduction moves forward. The wolves are transplanted to Yellowstone and immediately become a flash point for rancher fury. Fighting for the wolves on the front lines, Eliza quickly discovers the depth of the hatred harbored toward the animal when one of Megan's favorite wolves is shot shortly after release. Eliza quickly rescues a litter of wolf pups left behind and attempts to forge new family bonds among the packs.

Megan, devastated by her loss, channels her grief into getting her parents back together. Max's old feelings for Eliza are rekindled as he slowly begins to lose his selfish habits and little by little sees his values transformed by his newfound relationship with his daughter.

But tensions between ranchers and the wolf reintroduction team escalates. Eliza is forced to learn the difficult lesson that sometimes love requires sacrifice. In order to placate ranchers and save the packs, she has to put down a wolf she's emotionally invested in when it strays onto public land. Her once adversarial relationship with her father softens. Although Max and Eliza don't get back together, the once dysfunctional family unit finds a future, as do the wolves, in their new home... Yellowstone Park.