

*Wolf to the Slaughter is a novel by British crime-writer Ruth Rendell, first published in 1971. It is the third book in the popular Inspector Wexford series. A mini-series adapted from the novel was produced by Television South in 1984.*

Christopher Ketcham March 13, The reintroduction of the gray wolf to the Northern Rockies was an ecological success story—until big money, old superstitions, and politics got in the way. He hung from the open door of the craft with a semiautomatic shotgun, the helicopter racing over the treetops. Then, in a clearing, Niemeyer caught a glimpse of her platinum fur. Among wolf lovers in Idaho, she was called Alabaster, and she was considered a marvel—most wolves are brown or black or gray. People all over the world had praised Alabaster, had written about her, had longed to see her in the flesh. Livestock ranchers in central Idaho, whose sheep and cows graze in wolf country, felt otherwise. They claimed Alabaster and her pack—known as the Whitehawks—threatened the survival of their herds, which in turn threatened the rural economy of the high country. She had to be exterminated. At the time, wolves were considered a rare species in Idaho and across the Northern Rockies, and they were protected under the Endangered Species Act. As a trapper for the U. Department of Agriculture and later as a wolf expert for the U. Fish and Wildlife Service, Niemeyer was trained to control predators, mostly coyotes and foxes. In 26 years working for the government, he had killed thousands of coyotes. But wolves are a different kind of kill. As predators, they are exquisite. Niemeyer had taken a liking to wolves. There were four other members of the pack, scattered in the woods. The helicopter circled, flushing them out, and Niemeyer shot them as they ran. When he necropsied Alabaster at the kill site—gutting her, stripping her pelt—he found she was pregnant with nine pups that were two weeks from birth, almost fully formed. He buried each pup. The creatures are powerful—the largest males, six and half feet from tooth to tail, weigh pounds—and they are agile and cunning. They run in packs of seven to ten animals that consist of a father and mother—the alphas—along with pups and subordinate males and females, unrelated to the family but welcomed in their midst. The wolf is an apex predator, at the top of its food chain, keeping prey from overpopulating, which maintains a balanced ecosystem. With European settlement and the decimation of its native prey—buffalo, elk, mule deer—the wolf was bound for destruction. It was now killing for its meals the domesticated sheep and cattle that settlers had ranged across the grasslands and the mountains. Hated for its depredations, the wolf was hunted mercilessly—shot, trapped, poisoned with strychnine, fed glass shards stuffed in bait, its pups asphyxiated by fires set in their dens. By 1930, the gray wolf had disappeared almost entirely from the U. Decades later, during the high tide of environmentalism, conservationists began to agitate for a government-sponsored recovery. The evidence suggested that the loss of the wolves had destabilized the ecology of the Northern Rockies. Following the passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, the U. Fish and Wildlife Service undertook the recovery of the wolf in the region. By 1978, funding had been approved for Fish and Wildlife biologists to remove 66 gray wolves from Canada, where the animals still numbered in the tens of thousands, and truck them south for release in central Idaho and Yellowstone National Park. Niemeyer, now retired in Boise, was among the trappers who traveled to Canada in 1978 to capture and radio-collar the reintroduced wolves. The reintroduction, he told me, had been one of the epic wildlife-recovery stories in U. Yet concerns about the threat posed by the wolves to cow, sheep, and elk populations had led to a stark reversal. In April 1981, following a series of lawsuits and an unprecedented intervention by Congress, *Canis lupus* was removed from the endangered species list. Wolves can in some circumstances be shot on sight. Niemeyer, who is six foot six inches and giant-shouldered, shot 14 wolves in the course of his government career; the Whitehawks were his last. What you have with wolf delisting is half-truths, untruths, hysteria, and just downright craziness. The American Farm Bureau Federation, a nonprofit advocate for farming and ranching interests, had even sued preemptively in 1981 to stop the reintroduction, but a federal court rejected the suit. Following a lawsuit filed by 12 conservation groups that challenged the decision, the U. Judge Donald Molloy pointed to a glaring discrepancy: Fish and Wildlife Service, had come to the same conclusion. The decision infuriated pro-wolf conservationists, though it was not unexpected. Salazar, a Colorado Democrat, comes from a family of five generations of ranchers. A new

lawsuit was filed by a coalition that included 14 environmental groups, among them the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, the Humane Society, and smaller outfits like the Center for Biological Diversity. While the suit was pending, Idaho and Montana opened a hunting season that resulted in the culling of more than wolves—some 32 percent of the entire Northern Rockies population. He determined that the de-listing violated the letter and the spirit of the Endangered Species Act; he found no evidence of genetic exchange among wolf sub-populations. He also ruled that Fish and Wildlife had failed to properly oversee wolf management plans in Idaho and Montana. The ongoing litigation drew the ire of Republican politicians throughout the West. Senate seat in , had sparked a kind of arms race of anti-wolf rhetoric. Tester floated his own wolf-delisting bill; it also went nowhere. According to multiple sources, Salazar and Tester put together a deal to let delisting go forward in Congress. Salazar declined interview requests for this story. In lieu of presenting legislation to attack the Endangered Species Act and wolf protections directly, they wrote a legislative rider into the federal budget bill. On April 9, amid tense negotiations over the threat of a government shutdown, the rider—the only one in the budget bill—passed with all but three Democrats in the Senate voting in favor. On April 15, the president signed it. Tester declined several requests for interviews. Senator Tester worked hard to reach a bipartisan, science-based solution that brings wolves back under state management and works for Montana. The rider was barely discussed, much less debated. Only one legislator, Maryland Senator Ben Cardin, raised an objection. But ranching and livestock associations dominated the anti-wolf lobby. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. It changed its name to Animal Damage Control in and took its current name in the s. Its chief mandate in the Rockies is the killing of predators—cougars, coyotes, wolves—through trapping, snaring, hunting, aerial gunning, and dispersing poisons across public lands. Ranchers assert that wolves today are plundering livestock in record numbers and that the work of Wildlife Services is indispensable. In Idaho during , the Statistics Service reported 2, cattle lost to wolf attack. When Fish and Wildlife investigated, it found that only 75 of the attacks could be verified. According to the Statistics Service, sheep killed by wolves in came to , but Fish and Wildlife investigators could only verify Even using its own apparently inflated statistics, the USDA found that in , less than a quarter of a percent of U. By contrast, in , Wildlife Services was responsible for killing roughly 12 percent of the total population of wolves in the Northern Rockies. Turchan, who is long-haired and lean and craggy-faced, moved over the land as a trained hunter—slowly, listening, looking. He was a bowman by preference, but this day he carried a high-powered rifle. Turchan climbed on steep hills where he knew elk liked to gather; where there were elk, there would be wolves on the prowl. Any sound that suggested death, weakness, or vulnerability, he said, would bring out the wolves. The wolf packs in recent years had increasingly harassed the elk in the Bitterroots, thinning the herds, and the business Turchan runs during the summer and fall—a pizza restaurant and RV park near the town of North Fork—depends on the elk for survival. Turchan sighted no wolves that day and got no kill. But he had been doing his best to inspire others to take up the cause. When I mentioned that I was writing about wolves, he invited me into the restaurant and insisted on opening the kitchen early so I could eat. Her husband chimed in: The bodies of the animals hung limp and heavy in the arms of the hunters. Beers raised his voice. Was it all fable? Why did the Irish breed wolfhounds specifically to kill wolves? Why did their dogs wear spiked collars? You think all these people over all these centuries saying the same thing about wolves were all dumb superstitious ignoramuses? The anti-wolf people say the reintroduced wolves from Canada are bigger, more bloodthirsty, more dangerous, and that the wolves in the U. These new wolves kill for sport, as Victor Turchan had explained to me. And if the wolves that were here were so gentle and sweet, less wild and smaller, why did we kill them all by the s? Yet in other areas where wolves and elk interact, elk numbers are stable or increasing. What the elk-hunting industry wants, says Niemeyer, who shoots an elk every year for the meat, is hunting that requires no effort and little skill, a kind of vanity hunting. When wolves were reintroduced, elk adapted. The herds, once loose and relaxed, became tightly packed and watchful. They fled from open range and spent more time in the cover of the woods. They are smarter—the species, in other words, has improved. They overgrazed the banks of streams, and they ate away the sprouts of aspen trees, resulting in stunted aspen groves. After roughly 15 years of wolves on the move in Yellowstone, the aspens are taller and healthier, and the willows on the stream banks

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recovered. When the willows recovered, they shaded the water, which cooled, and in the cooling water the trout returned. Songbirds returned to the ponds, and so did frogs.

### Chapter 2 : Editions of Wolf to the Slaughter by Ruth Rendell

*Wolf to the Slaughter: An Inspector Wexford Mystery [Ruth Rendell] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. It was better than a hotel, this anonymous room on a secluded side street of a small country town.*

### Chapter 3 : The Ruth Rendell Mysteries - Season 1, Episode 2: Wolf to the Slaughter, Part Two - calendrierdelascience.com

*This was my Boxing Day read, Wolf to the Slaughter from Ruth Rendell's Inspector Wexford series. This is an engaging mystery with a plot liberally sprinkled with suspects and clues. It begins with a missing woman, who based on an unsigned note is assumed to be dead.*

### Chapter 4 : The Ruth Rendell Mysteries - Wikipedia

*Wolf to the Slaughter was shot on video in the Hampshire market town of Romsey. George Baker: Wolf to the Slaughter was not the best of the Wexfords and it was filmed on tape. Two cameras, both shooting the scene from different angles.*

### Chapter 5 : Wolf to the Slaughter by Ruth Rendell | calendrierdelascience.com

*Wolf to the Slaughter is also perhaps one of Rendell's most suspense-filled books (of the Wexford series). A local hotel has been letting one of its rooms as a love nest, but when a man with a knife one evening gets through with it, it is a room of blood, violence, and death.*

### Chapter 6 : Wolf to the Slaughter (Chief Inspector Wexford, book 3) by Ruth Rendell

*Ruth Rendell Mystery Season 1 - Wolf to the slaughter part 1 of 4 TVS Production - Duration: ADC TV Collection - TVSProductions82 55, views.*

### Chapter 7 : Review: Wolf to the Slaughter by Ruth Rendell – Carol's Notebook

*When Detective Chief Inspector Wexford receives an anonymous letter informing him that 'a girl named Ann has been killed by a small, dark young man named Geoff Smith' he little realizes See full summary.*

### Chapter 8 : "The Ruth Rendell Mysteries" Wolf to the Slaughter: Part One (TV Episode ) - IMDb

*Watch The Ruth Rendell Mysteries - Season 1, Episode 1 - Wolf to the Slaughter, Part One: One evening, someone messes up a love-nest on a side street in a small country town. The carpet is soaked.*

### Chapter 9 : Wolf to the Slaughter (Inspector Wexford, #3) by Ruth Rendell

*Wolf to the Slaughter's wiki: Wolf to the Slaughter is a novel by British crime-writer Ruth Rendell, first published in It is the third book in the popular Inspector Wexford series. Plot summary Anita Margolis had vanished.*