

A Wolf at the Gate

Mark Van Steenwyk

Illustrated by Joel Hedstrom

The Blood Wolf prowls near the village of Stonebriar at night. She devours chickens and goats and cows and cats. Some say children are missing. But this murderous wolf isn't the villain of our story, she's the hero!

The Blood Wolf hates humankind for destroying the forest, but an encounter with a beggar teaches her a better way to confront injustice. How will she react when those she loves are threatened?

This imaginative retelling of the legend of Saint Francis and the Wolf explores what it means to be a peacemaker in the midst of violence and how to restore a healthy relationship with creation.

Settle in and read a tale of tooth and sword, of beggars and lords, of outlaws and wild beasts. It is a story of second chances and the power of love. This is the story of *A Wolf at the Gate*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mark Van Steenwyk founded the Mennonite Worker in Minneapolis in 2004. He is a Mennonite minister with an M.Div., with a concentration in Christian thought. He is a writer, speaker, and grassroots educator working with groups to help them live more deeply into the radical implications of the teachings of Jesus. He is the author of several books, including *The unKingdom of God*, *That Holy Anarchist*, and *The Missio Dei Breviary*. He lives with his wife Amy and son Jonas in one of the Mennonite Worker's houses of hospitality.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Joel Hedstrom is an illustrator working in the Twin Cities area. He graduated in 2010 with a BFA from the College of Visual Arts. His influences include Japanese woodblock prints, tattoos, and Greek vases.

ACCOLADES

"*A Wolf at the Gate* is a simple story that evokes profound and fundamental themes: survival, hunger, war and violence, law and justice, fear, greed, and predation. In the hands of Mark Van Steenwyk it becomes a transformative parable of truth and reconciliation, the power of community, and the dazzling force of love enacted in the public square, the very heart of justice."

—Bill Ayers, author of *Public Enemy: Confessions of an American Dissident*

"Van Steenwyk writes in sharp, muscular prose highly suitable for the fabulistic subject matter, deftly navigating both the darker and lighter segments of the story. The true standouts of the book, however, are the illustrations by Joel Hedstrom . . . full-page illustrations in brilliant colors that feel simultaneously ancient and stylishly contemporary. The result is a book out of time: a coupling of narrative and illustration that should stoke the imagination of any young modern reader. A visually stunning work addressing themes of peace, generosity, and forgiveness."

—Kirkus (starred review)



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