

**Bear: Myth. Animal. Icon.****Wolf D. Storl**

North Atlantic Books (Jan 9, 2018)

Softcover \$21.95 (320pp)

978-1-62317-163-6

Long ago, dogs and cats renounced their wild ways in exchange for food served in bowls and a warm place around the fire. In submitting to humans, they became the laughingstocks of the animal kingdom. Bears and humans, on the other hand, have developed a fascinating relationship, one that delves into any number of spheres, from spirituality to sexuality, mythology, and medicine. Recent archaeological finds confirm that bears have preoccupied the imaginations of humans and even neanderthals since time immemorial.

*Bear: Myth. Animal. Icon.* grants this mighty, brilliant, gallant animal the rock star treatment, detailing the ways and whys that humans and bears have interacted—not always pleasantly, of course. A renowned woodsman, Wolf D. Storl relates dozens of folktales and anecdotes from every bear-familiar corner of the world, and the book's illustrations only add to the intrigue.

MATT SUTHERLAND (January/February 2018)

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