To Jane Hill,
Sarah and Nicholas Johns,
and Karen and Ken Fidgen

' Wild Wolf ' comes from an folktale called ' Moowis ' from the Algonquin Indians in Canada and North America. A version of this story called 'The Snow Husband' can be found in ' North American Indians' by Lewis Spence, (reprinted by Senate in 1994)

The story has a particular lesson to be passed down the generations and ends sadly. Whilst travelling through the Rocky Mountains in 2007, a lone black wolf crossing the road gave me the idea for a different and happier ending.

The costumes worn by Bravest Warrior and Proud Girl have been influenced by early paintings and also by photographs taken in the late 19th Century. Bravest Warrior may come from the Northern Cheyenne or perhaps the Arapaho who were their allies and spoke the Algonquian language. Proud Girl wears bright colours to show her status as the Chief's daughter but also to depict her youthful pride. The beautiful beadwork, quillwork and embroidery have been a great inspiration, without this 'Wild Wolf ' would still be just an idea.

FIONA FRENCH.

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WILD WOLF

INSPIRED BY AN ALGONQUIN FOLKTALE

Fiona French

Otter-Barry BOOKS



"I am an old grey wolf,
guardian spirit to the people who live in
the high mountains.
Many times, I have seen that danger is
not outside in the forest,
but inside humans.

Long ago, a tribal chief
had a beautiful daughter.
She was very proud.
Brave warriors came from far and wide
to ask for her hand in marriage.
She refused them all.

Laughing, she turned away from the
Bravest Warrior,
who was a chief in his own land.
How humiliated he felt.
His warm heart turned to ice inside him and he
planned revenge on Proud Girl.

Bravest Warrior gathered up all the old rags and animal bones
that the tribe had thrown away.
With ice and snow he formed them into a shape of a man.
He covered it in his finest clothes
and Ice Man came alive.

Proud Girl saw Ice Man in the shadows,
far from the flames and the fire.
She loved him instantly, more
than anyone in the world.
The revenge of Bravest Warrior
closed in around her.