

LITTLE WOLF



Peter Donnelly

For my sister Suzanne, with love x
P.D.

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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Little Wolf lived in a deep valley, surrounded
by pine forests and rocky mountains.



Every day was an
adventure for Little Wolf
and his brother and sisters.



Together they raced
through the forest,
tumbled in the mud
and splashed across
bubbling streams.

And, each night, the pups curled up in their
cosy den, listening to Big Wolf's tales of long ago.





One day, Big Wolf made an important announcement.

"Gather round, pups. Very soon, all the wolves in this valley will come together for the Howling Ceremony. The moon will be bright. The crowds will be huge! And on that night, each of you must howl your very best howl to prove that you are ready to join the pack."

The pups jumped up, eager to get started.

"My howl will be the best in the whole valley," said one pup.

"Mine will be the loudest," cried another.

But Little Wolf was worried.
He didn't feel brave enough to
howl in front of a great big crowd.

Quietly, he slipped into the forest.
Then he took a deep breath and tried to howl.

But all he could manage was a tiny . . .

"EEEEKKK!"



Little Wolf heard a rustling sound in the bushes . . .



"Hey, little squeak!" the other pups giggled.

"Now, now pups," said Big Wolf, appearing through the trees.
"That's no way to treat your little brother. Scatter back to your den!
Don't worry, Little Wolf," he smiled. "Take your time and practise."

The next morning, Little Wolf marched off into the forest with his head held high. "Today I am going to howl. I know it, I really do!"



Little Wolf found his favourite spot in the woods. He sat up straight and took a deep breath but all that came out was an . . .



"It's no good," sighed Little Wolf.
"I just can't do it."

Spring turned to
summer and the
Howling Ceremony
drew closer.



With each passing day,
Little Wolf's brother's and
sisters' barks and growls
grew louder and stronger.



But Little Wolf could still only manage a squeak. "I'm not a real wolf," he said sadly. "I'll *never* be a real wolf without a howl."

"Don't worry," Big Wolf said gently. "You will find your own special voice when the time is right."

