

The Company of Wolves Key Quotations

- "carnivore incarnate" - (embodiment of carnivorous activity, emphasises violence and primality)
- "it is winter and cold weather" - (threatening and harsh setting)
- "ghosts, hobgoblins, ogres ... witches" - (supernatural links showing religious nature of the village)
- "the wicked trees go fishing on behalf of their friends" - (personification of the forest)
- "their knives are half as big as they are, the blades are sharpened daily" - (lacking innocence and childhood, the children are thrust into the dangerous environment)
- "eaten up a mad old man who used to ... sing to Jesus all day" - (religion will not help you)
- "the beasts would love to be less beastly if only they knew how" - (natural instinct takes over emotions/feelings - don't know anything else as society shapes you)
- "tore off the eldest boy's left foot" - (horrific imagery)
- "he was chopped up with a hatchet" - (horrific imagery)
- "she wept and her second husband beat her" - (patriarchy is unreasonable and unforgiving)
- "she lays a carving knife in the basket her mother has packed" - (maternal image + violence together shows the danger of the environment)
- "children do not stay young for long in this savage country" - (thrust into the dangerous setting, forced to grow up and gain experience, forgetting innocence)
- "the forest closed upon her like a pair of jaws" - (simile shows the supernatural qualities of the forest)
- "her practised hand sprung to the handle of the knife" - (independent woman, weapon in knife use transgresses the gender boundary)
- "laden with carcasses of game birds" - (all of the things dead which the girl was admiring just a moment ago)
- "remarkable object in his pocket" "his rifle would protect them" - (phallic object and euphemism - criticism of the way men run society, competing for power with each other not for good of people)
- "there is a faint trace of blood on his chin, he has been snacking on his catch" - (foreshadows)
- "you can hurl your Bible at him ... you thought that was a sure prophylactic" - (religious belief is futile)
- "snow that melted in tears on the tiles" - (nature's rebellion)
- "not even an indentation of a head on the smooth cheek of the pillow" - (the young girl is not being passive as some were expected to be in Carter's time of writing and just laying in bed)
- "the Bible lay closed" - (the youth are rejecting religion so are making progress for society, as opposed to the Bible being open when the grandmother was there)
- "the tick of the clock cracked like a whip" - (idea of the clock not simply "eroding time" it should measure productivity in the working world - crack the whip - showing women can gain independence and work in the 'man's world')
- "then went directly to the man ... she stood up on tiptoe and unbuttoned the collar" - (the girl takes charge without the wolf's directions, corrupting her in the eyes of the reader)
- "she freely gave the kiss she owed him" - (acts freely showing it is not the wolf's fault entirely)
- "she knew she was nobody's meat" - (independent woman, does as she pleases, reinforcing ^)
- "the old bones under the bed set up a terrible clattering" - (protest of older generation being replaced by the new independent woman to challenge patriarchy rather than conform)
- "sweet and sound she sleeps ... between the paws of the tender wolf" - (wolf redeemed somewhat as he has not killed her, bestiality implied? - we look down on the girl)