



Griffith Park
Welcomes You

teena

WHY WE HEART P-22

P-22 IS LIKE MANY ANGELENOS: doing his best to make do in a big city and to find a comfortable and safe place he can call home. He's the ultimate underdog even though he's a top predator cat, and he goes by many names: mountain lion, cougar, puma, panther, or catamount, depending on the region. He's survived the busy streets—and wild freeways—of L.A. to find his current home, Griffith Park, where he lives semi-quietly among diverse animal residents and human visitors.

Millions of people visit the park each year, but the majority of them don't even know P-22 is there. We aren't likely to ever come in contact with him—very few people have—and that's the way it should be. We don't have to see him in the flesh to feel connected to P-22. And feeling connected to this solitary cougar also makes us feel more connected to the city we share with him.

We hope this book and the activities in it inspire kids of all ages: first, to get out and explore the natural world around us, especially the incredible Griffith Park, which is open and free to us all. (There are free parks all over the city and the country—let's never let that go away.) We also hope that the adventures of P-22 will do for other kids what they've done for ours: make them excited about the urban wildlife in our midst and motivated to protect these animals. From squirrels to coyotes, bats to hawks, deer to snakes, children naturally are interested in "all creatures great and small," but P-22 stands out as a pretty awesome example of how we humans can learn to coexist with wild animals.

He is a reminder that wildlife is as much a part of our modern city as the Hollywood Sign and traffic (of course, the mountain lions were here first). And if having a mountain lion live in the same park we use and enjoy, in the second-largest metropolis in the country, isn't magic, we don't know what is.



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