



Groundbreaking
(A Children's Story)



Fluffy was a very lonely mountain
lion.

The love of his life
lived on the south
side of a giant
freeway.



He could hear her and he
could see her, but he couldn't
reach her because he couldn't
cross the giant 10 lane freeway!

Every piece of his being longed
to be with her.



Fluffy named his love P-99 because she reminded him of 99, the beautiful agent from the Get Smart series.

The name evidently caught on.

LOCAL NEWS

P-99 is newest mountain lion in landmark Santa Monica Mountains study

By Steve Brown
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Fluffy could see 99 from across the freeway. Day after day he would call to her, and he was sure he could hear her answering. Fluffy and all of his relatives were stuck on the north side of the giant Los Angeles freeway and couldn't cross. 99 and all of her relatives were stuck on the south side of the freeway.



Fluffy and 99 were not so keen to date their next of kin, and something had to be done.

One morning, Fluffy saw a man with a backpack crossing the freeway. That was it! He needed a backpack to cross the freeway and be with his one true love.



Fluffy did what he had to do.

He found a boy with a backpack and he "borrowed" the backpack with the intention of completing the crossing.

Unfortunately, a highway patrol officer saw the incident.

Having no choice, Fluffy scurried up a tree with the backpack. After many hours, Fluffy surrendered.



The officer arrested him for stealing the backpack even though Fluffy was sure that he was really only "borrowing" it.

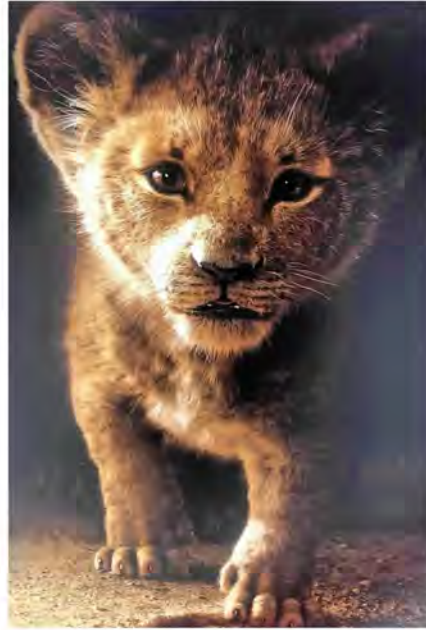
Fluffy was sent to the Los Angeles County Men's Jail.



He became agitated due to the small confines of the prison. Mountain lions need room to roam! He got a little out of control and tried to eat his cellmate Bob.

The prison warden didn't know what to do. The next day, he received this childhood photo of Fluffy.

The warden, overcome with emotion and feeling like it was impractical to house Fluffy in the overcrowded prison, released him back into the wild on the North side of the giant freeway.



Enter Beth Pratt. She was on the case & was overcome with emotion when she read the story in the local paper.



It wasn't right that lions on both sides of the freeway were dating their cousins, and the progeny seemed a little off.



She endeavored to build a bridge over the giant freeway and unite the lions. Only one problem...it would have to be the largest wildlife overpass in the history of the world!

She went to her boss Collin with the idea and said she would need about \$87 million to build the overpass. He laughed so hard, he almost lost an eyeball.



She told leaders in Congress about the project. Same reaction. One of them got a hernia from laughing so hard.

But she was determined and nothing was going to stop her from putting the mountain lions back on Tinder!



And can you guess what happened?



For 10 years Beth fought for her dream. She didn't sleep (exaggeration), and she didn't eat (slight exaggeration). She did nothing but work (not exaggerating). She was a scientist, not a social butterfly, but she had a cause and it was time to make some phone calls.

She talked to
everyone.



Landowners on the
south side of the
freeway. Government
officials.



The Santa Monica Mountains
Conservancy. Philanthropists,
Caltrans. Everybody! And can
you guess what happened? Yep -
Thousands of citizens came
forward to help support the
project, and Low and Behold...

HER DREAM CAME TRUE!!!



On Earth Day, April 22, 2022, the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Overpass project broke ground.





Everyone was there. The Governor, Senators and other heads of state, the Indian Tribe that once owned the land, and every media outlet on the planet!

And can you guess
who else was there?





Rumor has it that when the
Overpass was finally completed,
Fluffy and 99 were united at last
and lived happily ever after!



THE END

"To the Annenberg Wildlife Overpass Team, whose accomplishments remind us that high ideals really are worth pursuing and crazy dreams really can come true."

Jon Buxer, Author, February 2023

In Memoriam



LOCAL NEWS

**Tickets for P-22 memorial at
Greek Theatre available
Monday**

SOLD OUT

