**The Very Last, One and Only, Highly Endangered**

**Mountain Lion in Pennsylvania**

***“To hide or to be a hide, that is the question.”***

The Eastern mountain lion, a distinct subspecies that used to roam the entire eastern U.S., was declared extinct in 2018. But at the side of a highway somewhere in rural Pennsylvania, Lester, the very last, bedraggled Eastern mountain lion, miraculously struggles on—competing with a trio of vultures for road kill, suppressing his instincts to hunt and to roar, dodging hunter’s bullets, and complaining of his plight. In a last desperate attempt to find his long-lost wife, restore his dignity and fulfill his destiny of surviving to father the next generation of his breed, he decides to come out of hiding and find his way to the governor in Harrisburg to seek protection and locate his wife.

Along the way he gathers three furry companions—a social outcast skunk with a body odor problem eager to find a friend, a bad dog looking to bust out of the pen and reform himself, and a tough old goat on a quest for cardboard, and together they set out for the state capital. Unfortunately, he attracts the attention of a sensationalizing press that vilifies him to boost ratings. Worse yet, the governor turns out to be a narcissist, fear-mongering billionaire demagogue, who is also an avid hunter. His only interest in Lester is using him to further terrorize the public, staging his slaughter as an act of heroism, and reaping the political rewards.

A well-meaning aide to the governor, Fred Fairfellow, reaches out to zoologist Jane Goody-Goody to consult about Lester’s discovery, and they hatch a plan to inspire the governor to protect him. Unfortunately for Lester, the governor ignores their pleas and declares a million dollar bounty on his head, which the governor plans to claim himself. As Lester’s assassins circle, Jane intervenes in the nick of time and sequesters Lester safely at the zoo, where his friends find him and pledge their support.

But the governor is not so easily deterred. He stages Lester’s “escape” from the zoo to resume his plan to make a public display of Lester’s execution.

Ultimately, however, the governor’s scheming unravels as Fred heroically intervenes to save the day, with the help of Lester’s animal friends. In a classic happy ending for all but the governor, the governor gets jail time and impeachment, Fred and Jane get together, and Lester gets the governor’s sprawling estate (and vast herd of sheep), gets his wife back from a distant zoo, and discovers that he is already a father, fulfilling his destiny. And as the show closes, he once again finds his triumphant roar.