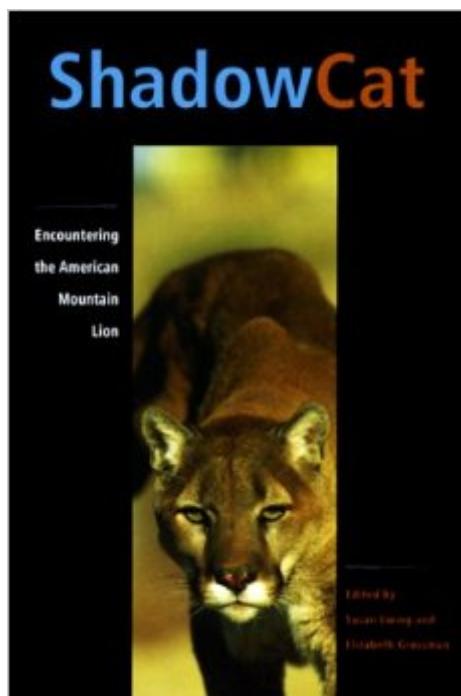


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Shadow Cat: Encountering The American Mountain Lion



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Some anthologies are glued together, others are woven. This text is a wonderful tapestry of insightful, well written essays that address a controversial topic without relying on platitudes. There is one strand that is out of place, however, and while I normally think bad literature is best left ignored, I have to inquire why Pam Houston was included here? Her fiction is shallow, and when put to the test here, in essay form, it is apparent that she cannot write one honest line, cannot turn an original phrase that does not rely on her own substantial ego. The real meditations here are from Elizabeth Marshall, David Quammen, Rick Bass. Here is contemporary nature writing at its best.

I have recently become intrigued by the Cougar and found this book. In general, the essays were not too political or preachy, but filled instead with a shared love of this predator and its place in our imagination. I could do with a little less of the "I am part of the esoteric tiny society of humans special enough to enjoy this spot on earth..since I'm here first I will smugly vilify anyone else who thinks their SUV belongs here" sentiment. Of course, this sentiment is a natural reaction to population explosion and necessary, but it was little thick in spots.

A sleek, golden mountain lion sizes up the reader from the cover of "Shadow Cat". Intelligent, probing eyes pierce your soul. This is an anthology of cougar lore: natural history, cat encounters, and conflicts. Do you want something different? Sample David Quammen's description of a meal

preparation. The main course: cougar flesh. Shadow cat offers the perspectives of hunters and conservationists, ephemeral recollections and sensation. Variety it has.

If you want a terrific book on mountain lions, then please read Soul Among Lions by Harley Shaw. I have read every book on lions and this is the only one worth reading. Most of the authors in Shadow Cat are easterners who have moved to Montana or California, displacing numerous wildlife species with their cabin in the wilderness and who have never even seen a lion, let alone have any kind of authority to provide insight into any aspect of lion ecology. The book is biased toward anti-hunting and environmentalism and doesn't portray an accurate picture. If you are a granola who likes to blame loggers and hunters for your own ineptness then you may like this book. They let Wayne Pacelle have the parting shot in this book, and well if that doesn't throw up a big red flag then you're probably dumb enough to want to read Shadow Cat.

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