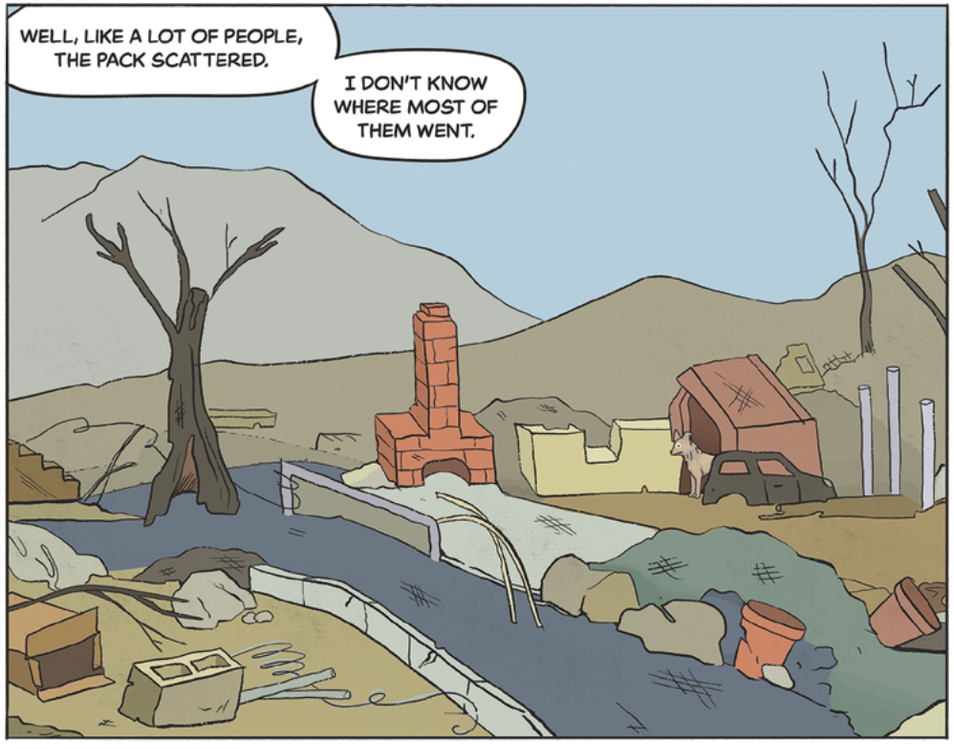
NATURE IS RESILIENT, AND WE ARE NATURE

WRITTEN BY JASON WISE
ILLUSTRATED BY LESLEY GOREN



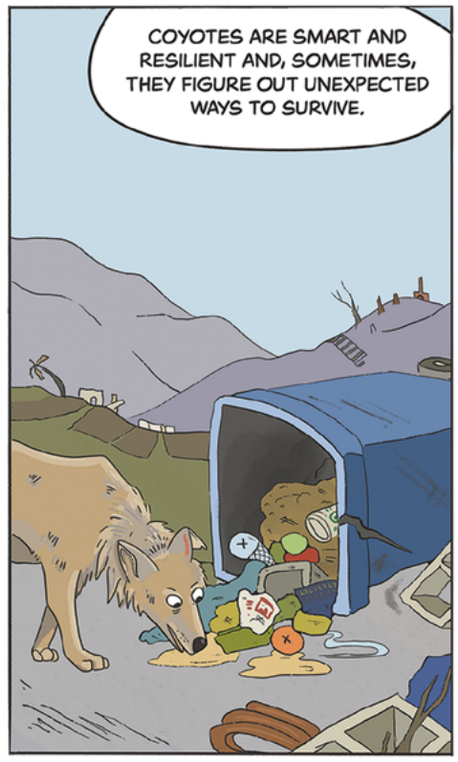



WELL, LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE, THE PACK SCATTERED.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE MOST OF THEM WENT.

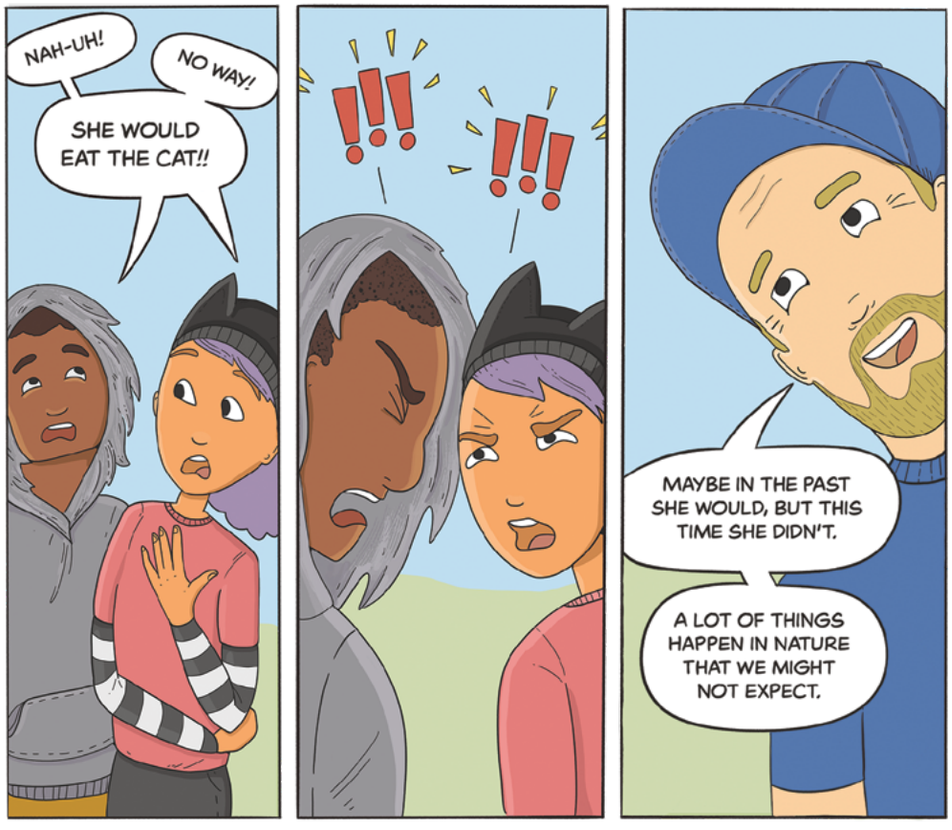

EXCEPT ONE. A YOUNG FEMALE STUCK AROUND. SHE WAS FILMED LIMPING DOWN THE STREET, AND THE VIDEO WENT VIRAL.

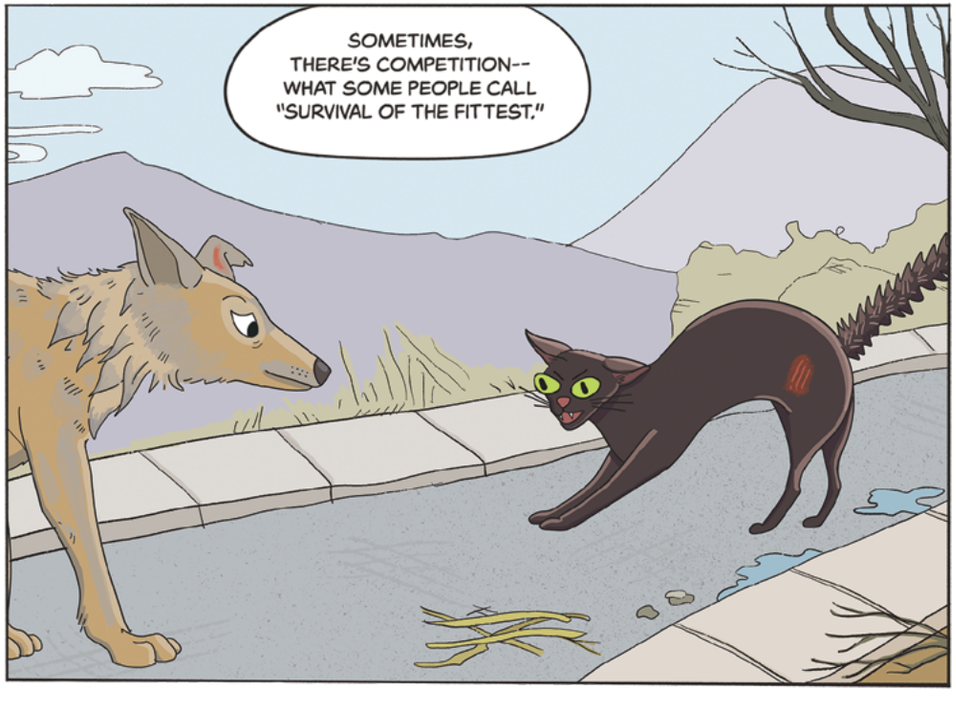

COYOTES ARE MY FAVORITE.
YOU'RE CRAZY! COYOTES EAT PETS!


YOU'RE RIGHT!
WHEN COYOTES ARE HUNGRY, SOMETIMES, THEY DO LOOK FOR FOOD IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.
BUT NOT USUALLY.


COYOTES ARE SMART AND RESILIENT AND, SOMETIMES, THEY FIGURE OUT UNEXPECTED WAYS TO SURVIVE.

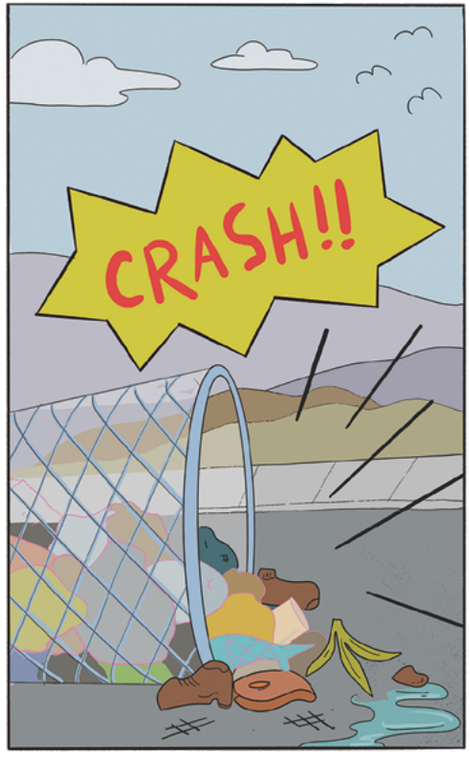

WILDLY ENOUGH, THIS ONE BECAME FRIENDS WITH... A CAT.
STOP


NAH-UH!
NO WAY!
SHE WOULD EAT THE CAT!!
!!!
!!!
MAYBE IN THE PAST SHE WOULD, BUT THIS TIME SHE DIDN'T.
A LOT OF THINGS HAPPEN IN NATURE THAT WE MIGHT NOT EXPECT.


SOMETIMES, THERE'S COMPETITION-- WHAT SOME PEOPLE CALL "SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST."

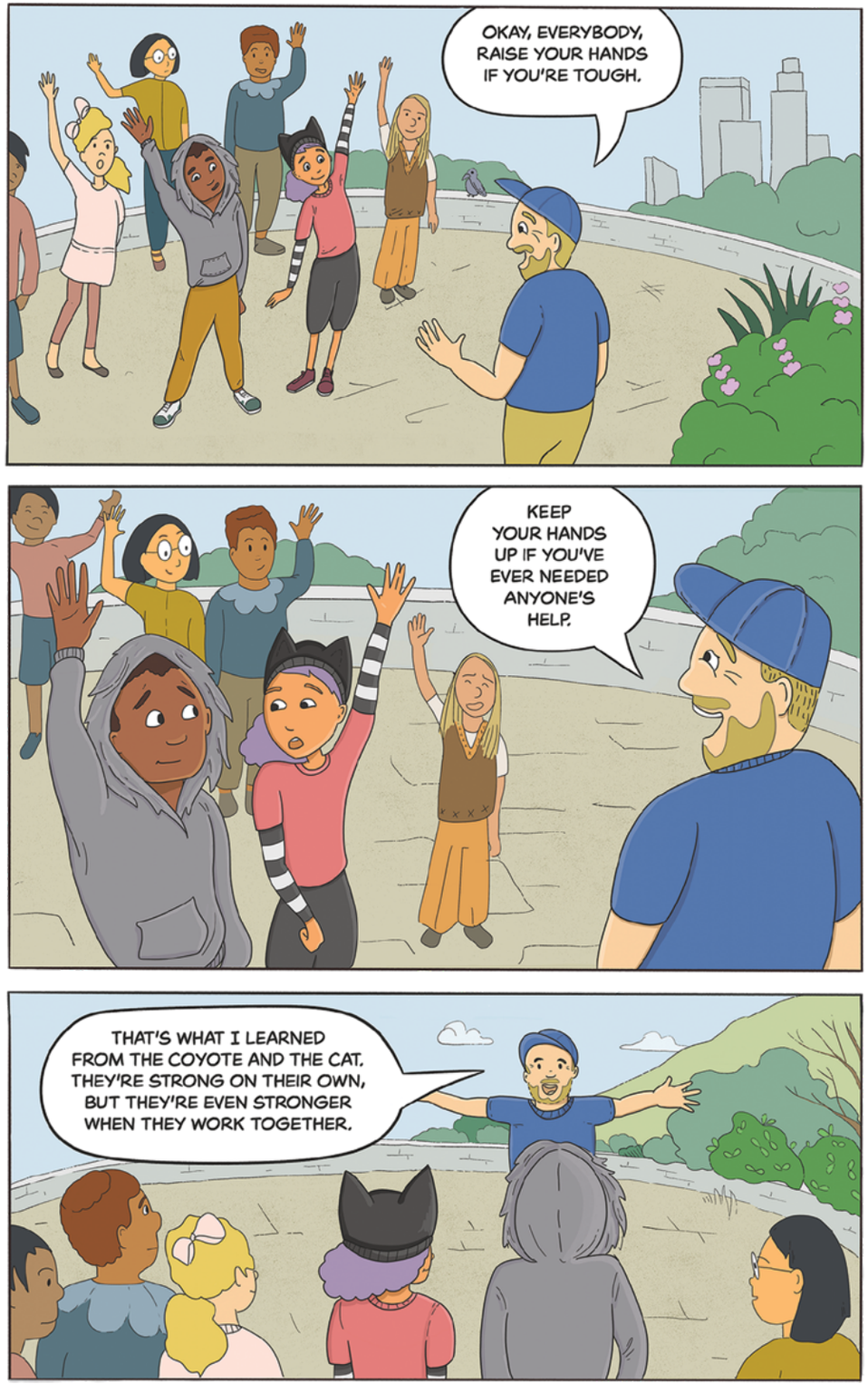

BUT SOMETIMES WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST...


HISSS!


CRASH!!


CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
...THERE'S A PARTNERSHIP, OR WHAT I LIKE TO CALL "SURVIVAL OF THE FRIENDLIEST."


FRIENDS CAN HELP EACH OTHER OUT WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH.
THEY CAN KEEP YOU COMPANY WHEN YOU'RE LONELY.
OR COMFORT YOU WHEN LIFE IS DIFFICULT.
I WAS SCARED WHEN THE FIRES HAPPENED. I ONLY HAD TIME TO GRAB MY FAVORITE TOY.
ME, TOO, BUT THEN I WENT TO STAY WITH MY COUSIN WHO MADE ME FEEL SAFE.
MMM-HMM
SAME
YEAH


OKAY, EVERYBODY, RAISE YOUR HANDS IF YOU'RE TOUGH.
KEEP YOUR HANDS UP IF YOU'VE EVER NEEDED ANYONE'S HELP.
THAT'S WHAT I LEARNED FROM THE COYOTE AND THE CAT. THEY'RE STRONG ON THEIR OWN, BUT THEY'RE EVEN STRONGER WHEN THEY WORK TOGETHER.


SO WHAT HAPPENED? ARE THEY OKAY?!
THEY DID WHAT FRIENDS DO. THEY HELPED EACH OTHER.
THE BLACK CAT WAS GREAT AT CLIMBING TREES TO FIND FOOD THE COYOTE COULDN'T REACH.
THE GREY COYOTE WAS GREAT AT FINDING THE SNACKS THAT LIKE TO HIDE.


THEY BOTH WERE RESILIENT ON THEIR OWN...
...BUT MAYBE THEY REALIZED ALL THE FIGHTING THEY DID BEFORE THE FIRES WAS HOLDING THEM BOTH BACK.
YEAH, BUT THIS IS CLEARLY MADE UP, RIGHT?!
SHHHH!


I KNOW SOME OF YOU PROBABLY DON'T BELIEVE ME.
BUT I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN A WORLD WHERE TWO STRONG ANIMALS LIKE A COYOTE AND A CAT CAN BECOME FRIENDS.
BECAUSE IT MEANS US PEOPLE--ALL OF US--CAN DO IT, TOO.
AND WE NEED THAT RIGHT NOW MORE THAN EVER.
WE CAN CREATE A STRONGER, MORE CONNECTED WORLD.
JUST LIKE THE COYOTE AND THE CAT.


BECAUSE NATURE IS RESILIENT, AND WE ARE NATURE.
WHAT DO YOU KEEP POINTING AT?
IT'S TRUE! WE CAN BE FRIENDS!

Nonprofit Spotlight

For each of our free eBooks, the storytellers select a local nonprofit to highlight. The creators of "Nature is Relient, and We Are Nature" chose the Santa Monica Mountains Fund (SAMO).

From the Creators

"The SAMO Fund does such critical work in our local Los Angeles mountains to repair ecosystems broken by development and extreme fires. I wholeheartedly support their work that not only benefits the plant and animal ecosystem itself, but the human ecosystem that integrates into these mountains, which are vital for our peace, joy, and clean air in the city."

--Jason Wise, Writer of "Nature is Resilient, and We Are Nature"

"I deeply believe in SAMO Fund's mission to protect and encourage appreciation and understanding of the Santa Monica Mountains. The Fund supports the work of the National Park Service and California State Parks through education, scientific research, public engagement, environmental stewardship, and wildfire resilience.

The Santa Monica Mountains have been part of my life for a long time. I lived in Topanga for 10 gorgeous years when my kids were wee littles, and I still hike these trails with family and friends and continually return to these plants and landscapes for inspiration in my work."

--Lesley Goren, Artist of "Nature is Resilient, and We Are Nature"

You can read about and donate to the SAMO Fund here.

Debuting January 2027!

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