

# SnapRead!

Charlie's ranch was the last place to find cougars. The land is flat. There are no trees. There is no place to hide. Or is there?

Charlie is a rancher. He raises cattle near the Medicine Bow mountains. Lots of snow falls. It is very cold. Charlie grew up on this ranch. He takes life in stride. But Charlie got a big surprise.

An official truck parked on Charlie's land. It said "Game and Fish Department." A man stood on the porch. He was Billy Brown.

"What's up, Billy?" Charlie said. "Come on in. Have some coffee."

Billy said, "I brought friends from the university."

A young man and woman got out of the truck. They walked into the kitchen. They had worked all week in the forest. They checked animals with radio collars.

Charlie was curious. "What are you tracking?"

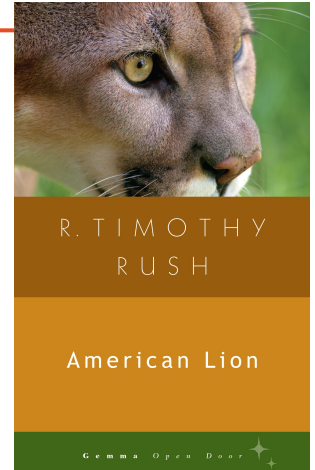
The man's name was Tom. Tom said, "Bears, mostly. But also something harder to find."

Cheryl, the woman said, "A mama mountain lion. She lives in your barn. I think she has kittens."

"What? That's not possible!" said Charlie. "I know my barn. There is no footprint. There is no sign."

Cheryl said, "Oh, she is there. Her radio collar sends a signal."

"Let's go see," Charlie said. "I can't believe it!"



Adapted from  
*American Lion*  
Copyright 2017  
by R. Timothy Rush  
SR.AL.1.5

GEMMA<sup>+</sup> OPEN DOOR FOR LITERACY