

"JOGGER KILLS CAT" BY AMANDA CALDARI

INT. NEWSROOM VIDEO CONFERENCE- DAY

REPORTER 1

And now, a remarkable story of survival and perseverance. Jason Young was jogging in the Colorado mountains when he was attacked by a mountain lion.

JASON waves to camera, from his home.

REPORTER 1 (CONT'D)

Jason, how are you?

JASON

I'm good! Some numbness in my fingers, but almost 100%.

REPORTER 2

Amazing. So, let's go back to that day. You're on a trail run. You hear a twig break. What happens next?

JASON

First I threw my hands up to block my face, and he just jumped and lashed onto my wrist, started clawing at my face.

REPORTER 1

Hang on, Jason. We're getting word from Colorado Parks that the mountain lion was actually just a three-month old kitten, abandoned by its own mother.

Image of a mountain lion kitten appears on screen.

REPORTER 2

Oh, how adorable.

REPORTER 1

Isn't she sweet? We're told this was the size of the animal that "attacked" Jason. Roughly 35 pounds, so bigger than a house cat, but smaller than a goldendoodle.

REPORTER 2  
Jason you're what? 6 feet tall?

JASON  
5'10".

REPORTER 2  
Some would call that an unfair  
advantage. Not really a cat person,  
are you?

JASON  
Actually, my girlfriend and I have two  
cats. I know how dangerous those back  
claws can be.

REPORTER 1  
Not as dangerous as a strange man  
named Jason, jogging through the  
woods.

REPORTER 2  
I wouldn't want to be an orphaned  
kitten with you around, no siree.

REPORTERS laugh in the lighthearted way you only see on Good  
Morning America.

REPORTER 1  
I guess the real question, Jason, is  
how dare you.

JASON  
Honestly, I was just trying to  
survive. The cat's claws were in me.  
My adrenaline kicked in and I did what  
I had to do.

Jason's dear old GRAMS appears on screen, knitting.

REPORTER 2  
We have Jason's grandma on the line.  
Jason, why don't you tell her what  
happened next.

REPORTER 1  
Did you sing it to sleep? Help the  
little guy find its mom?

JASON  
She doesn't need to hear this.

REPORTER 2

Why? Because you strangled it-

JASON

(talking over reporter)

Grams, please hang up okay? I'll call you later.

GRAMS exits.

REPORTER 2

And I say "it" because the sex could not be confirmed, as some of its body parts were missing.

REPORTER 1

Yes, it was found partially eaten-likely by its two surviving siblings.

REPORTER 2

Jason, why didn't you wait with the body, or take it with you? Rather than leaving it there to rot?

JASON

At that point my main concern was getting treated for rabies. I was also losing a lot of blood.

REPORTER 1

Joining us now is park ranger Bob. Bob works in wildlife rehabilitation, caring for sick, injured or orphaned animals.

We see a PARK RANGER join the call.

REPORTER 2

Bob, how can we keep these animals safe from people like Jason?

PARK RANGER

Mountain lions are generally calm, quiet creatures. If you see one, stay calm and back away slowly.

REPORTER 1

And if one comes towards you?

PARK RANGER

Raise your arms to appear bigger and

speak firmly in a loud voice.

REPORTER 2  
Thanks, Ranger Bob.

PARK RANGER exits.

JASON  
Yeah, that's pretty much what I did.  
Unfortunately, the cat just wouldn't  
back down.

REPORTER 1  
But it did back down, didn't it Jason?  
It retreated, and you chased it. Made  
sure it was alone. Because nobody  
backs down from Jason Young.

JASON  
I didn't mean to. I'm sorry. I wish I  
could take it back.

REPORTER 2  
But you can't. That's not how murder  
works.

Reporter 2 directs her attention at viewers.

REPORTER 2 (CONT'D)  
Folks, we asked for your help naming  
the fallen cub. The name "Whiskers"  
was submitted by 8 year old Kacy,  
whose petition to have Jason arrested  
has already garnered half a million  
signatures.

Jason hangs his head in shame.

REPORTER 1  
Up next, a nurse who donated her  
kidney to a child, and then adopted  
him, has just set fire to a nursery.  
That and more, when we return.

BLACKOUT