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Taking my Morning Run was Scarier than I Thought

By: Mach Albers

Hi, my name is Jack. And today I'm gonna tell you a story of when my friends and I took our "morning run". But what did we really do?

It all started when Mom told me a story of when she was my age, and she saw something orange covering the entire river bar. (Which by the way, she won't speak of.) Now, when I first heard this story I thought Mom was pulling my leg, like she always does.

Before high school started, I wanted to enjoy my summer vacation. "What are we doing this weekend?" I asked Mom.

"Just staying home," Mom replied with a smile.

"Yess!" I exclaimed.

"How come?" she asked.

"Because I was wondering if James, and Ervin can come over," I said.

"That sounds good," Mom said with a bigger, more joyful smile.

"Sweet thanks, Mom!" I yelled behind me as I ran for the phone.

I couldn't wait for Friday! When my friends showed up, we went outside for some activities: Bike riding, Skateboarding, a game of basketball, and we even got to watch the new movie:

Black Panther. And then bedtime had snuck up on us. So we got ready for bed and told scary stories.

The first thing that popped up in my head was the story Mom told me when I was a little younger.

I told that story to my friends, with every detail I could remember. I'm pretty sure James was into it, but Ervin on the other hand, didn't believe me. I couldn't tell if he was faking or he was just being that way.

"Is that true?" James asked.

"Of course not!" Ervin exclaimed, trying not to believe it.

"Shhh. Yes it's true. My mom said it's alllllll true." I said trying to bring out the 'alllllll'.

"Where did this take place?" Ervin said with an accusing voice.

"Near Somes Bar." I replied.

"What do they look like?" Ervin asked again.

"Mom won't speak of it." I answered.

There was silence for a moment. Then James broke it, "Why don't we take a look?"

"That's a dumb idea," Ervin chimed in.

"Not really. I know how to drive Mom's stick shift," I suggested.

"You guys are crazy. Aliens don't even exist," Ervin said with a smirk.

"You scared?" James said with a smirk in return.

"Of made up creatures?" Ervin laughed like it was a joke. Then realized we were serious. "Of course not," he cleared his throat.

We snuck out of my room at around 1:30am. I grabbed the Honda Civic keys that were hanging up by the door. I didn't want to drive around in a minivan, and on top of that I needed to practice with the Honda, since it had a clutch. I got in the driver's seat and James called shotgun. Ervin had to crawl in the back.

Luckily, the car was pretty quiet, so it didn't wake up the dogs. I shifted into first gear and pulled out of the driveway.

We got to the highway, but I had a sick feeling in my stomach.

"You know, we don't have to do this," Ervin said.

"I know," I said hesitating.

"Let's go then, press on it!" James shouted with a smile.

I shifted to second and turned left, towards Somes Bar.

We finally made it to *Spink's Ranch*. That's where Mom went to her summer camp and saw things covering the river bar. I turned off my headlights and turned down the volume of the radio. If we got caught trespassing with my mom's car, what would I say to the police? "Sorry officer, my buddies and I stole my mom's car to go look for aliens." Yeah, I don't think so.

I parked the car near the road but far enough away to keep it hidden from the highway. "Ok, whatever you do, don't get caught," I ordered.

"Aye, aye cap'm," Ervin said mockingly.

We made our way down to the river bar, and hid behind a log the size of the bus. I climbed up to the top of the debris and took a peek.

I quickly climbed back down. I slipped and almost fell flat on my face.

"C'mon, check this out," I said with wide eyes.

We all started climbing the bus-like log. Once we made it to the top we took a peek. I saw orange hazard suits covering the entire river bar. All lined up, like ants marching one by one.

There was a quick sound behind us. We all instantly turned around. None of us had flashlights, which was pretty stupid of us to leave behind. But at least I had brought my phone. I quickly grabbed it out from my pocket. I turn on the light and hoped to not see anything.

There was a little alien in a hazard suit, about the size of my two-year-old sister. At first I couldn't see its face, but then I walked a little closer and put my flashlight to its head. I barely got a glimpse before it shrieked at the top of its lungs (if it had lungs). We all quickly covered our ears.

"Run!" I shouted. But it was too late. I saw a light turn on in the distance, a house window. *Oh, snap*, was as all I could think. I grabbed James's arm and turned him around. We ran straight for the river bar.

We pushed our way through the tall orange life forms. By this time I had seen headlights coming behind us, and the extraterrestrial life forms were watching us. We ran for the river. Suddenly I felt a hand grab my arm, so I turned around thinking it was Ervin. Instead it was a tall alien looking down on me. I froze. Then I felt many more arms grab me. I looked around and saw Ervin and James being dragged away from the water. I kept thinking, *Aw, man. Aw, man. Aw, man. Aw, man. I'm dead. I'm dead. I'm dead. I'm dead. I'm dead. I'm dead.*

I couldn't take it, I wasn't just gonna disappear away from earth with these...these things. I reached for the nearest orange

helmet I saw, and ripped it off. The alien screamed before turning to dust and collapsing. I looked in shock of what I had just done, and so had all the other orange hazard suits. Ervin and James froze.

“Rip off their helmets!” I shouted at the top of my lungs. Neither one of them hesitated. I saw bodies drop faster than you can sing Mary Poppins Super-cali-fragil-istic-expi-ali-docious. Anyways, we were winning the fight. We ran back to the woodlands. Luckily, we were far from the headlights earlier, but we were also far from the car which seemed our only way out of this hell hole.

I quickly ran to the opposite side of the river bank and told my friends to follow me. But there wasn't a house at all. The only house we found was a half-burnt cabin. So where was the light coming from?

Once we found the car, we quickly got in. The radio was still on...oops.

We turned off the car half way down the driveway so we wouldn't wake the dogs. I shifted to neutral and coasted the rest of the way.

When we parked, we snuck back inside, up the stairs, through the hall, past the bathroom, and made it to my room.

If there's anything I learned that day then it was to never borrow your mom's car and leave it on for an hour or two. Because the next day Mom used the car, and it died before she even left the driveway. So I lost my privilege to have anybody over at my house for a while. Which sucked, but at least I could go to other people's houses. One of my questions, even to this day is, what was that light I saw? Did Ervin and James see it? What about the two

headlights? These are questions I might never find the answer to. And if there's one thing I would change, it would be to remember to record the whole thing.

"Whoa, that was close."

"Yeah, tell me about it."

"A little bit too close."

"Boys, you should be sleeping." Mom said walking into the room.

I looked at my clock. 4:23 am. "We just got done taking a morning run," I said with a smile.