

Cries Like a Human



**Writer / Director:
Antonio Marquez**

**Producers: Max Dickter,
and Jordan Hoffman**

A Junkyard Nights Production

Logline

Two Chicano teenagers face a deadly mountain lion and rural human traffickers in this dark coming of age thriller.



Synopsis

The simple act of a cowboy stopping to help a TRUCKER fix a flat tire on the side of a deserted wintry highway ends in murder when the cowboy sees a haunting sight: a naked woman fleeing for her life from the semi-truck across the snowy plain.

So opens *Cries Like a Human*, a dark Southwestern coming of age thriller about two Chicano kids just trying to figure out teenage life when they come up against daunting odds. Their lives are forever changed when they must face-off against a deadly mountain lion and a human- trafficking operation in their rural community in the San Luis Valley of Colorado on the border of New Mexico.

Seventeen year old GABE spends his winter break helping his mother CECILIA take care of their cows and helping a local over-the-hill rancher, ERNESTO, take care of his sheep. MARIANA, Ernesto's sixteen year old granddaughter, wants nothing to do with their traditional agricultural way of life and only dreams of returning to the big city where she spent most of her childhood. Gabe pines after Mariana, and Mariana pines on escape, while Cecilia develops her own affair with the rancher who owns the property next to hers; a *Tejano* cowboy named LYLE who lives on the ranch with his drug addict brother, GRAY.

One morning Gabe discovers all of Ernestos sheep have been slaughtered by a MOUNTAIN LION. This discovery sets off a chain of events that they can never escape from. As Gabe and Mariana struggle to deal with dark realities of their own communities, they discover things about themselves and each other as Gabe set out to hunt the lion and Mariana sets out to flee the city when an old boyfriend of hers, CHRIS, passes through town.

After failing to find the lion, Gabe goes to a party while Cecilia and Lyle share a romantic evening at her house. Gabe make a fool of himself, alienating Mariana, and furthering her desire to escape with Chris. Lyle has to cut his evening short with Cecilia and leaves on urgent business. Too drunk to help his mother with one of their cows giving birth at night, Gabe passes out drunk while Cecilia heads out alone into the night—where she has a fatal encounter with the Lion. Lyle and Gray abduct Chris and Mariana the next morning, after Chris makes the mistake of sharing his drug-trafficking plans with a local who is working for the brothers.

When Gabe discovers his mothers body the next day, he wraps her corpse in a blanket and sets out to hunt the deadly beast—tracking it onto Lyle's land where he discovers the captive Mariana and Lyle's evil secret double-life.

As the Trucker hauling the shipment of trafficked women gets closer, Gabe and Mariana must figure out how to outwit Lyle and Gray before Mariana gets taken away into the world of human-trafficking—all while trying to avoid the deadly mountain lion stalking the woods that surround them. Predators come in all forms, and mountains lions can't roar. They cry like a human.

Gabe



17, A handsome, dark and broody teenager. Finds solace in nature and astronomy but struggles to connect with people. He is fiercely loyal to those he does connect with, but fears for his own mental state and the 'blood visions' he experiences.

Mariana

16, Rebellious, witty and beautiful; a born troublemaker. She loves her grandparents but dreams of leaving their traditional way of life and its rural entrapments. She is willing to go to great lengths to escape.



Lyle



Late 40's, A rugged cowboy and military vet, always ready with a sharp word and a shot from a flask or a gun. His friendly demeanor hides an evil side just waiting to be revealed.

Gray

Late 30's, Lyle's younger brother, a drug addict and mostly-silent psychopath; he's willing to do whatever his brother asks.



Cecilia



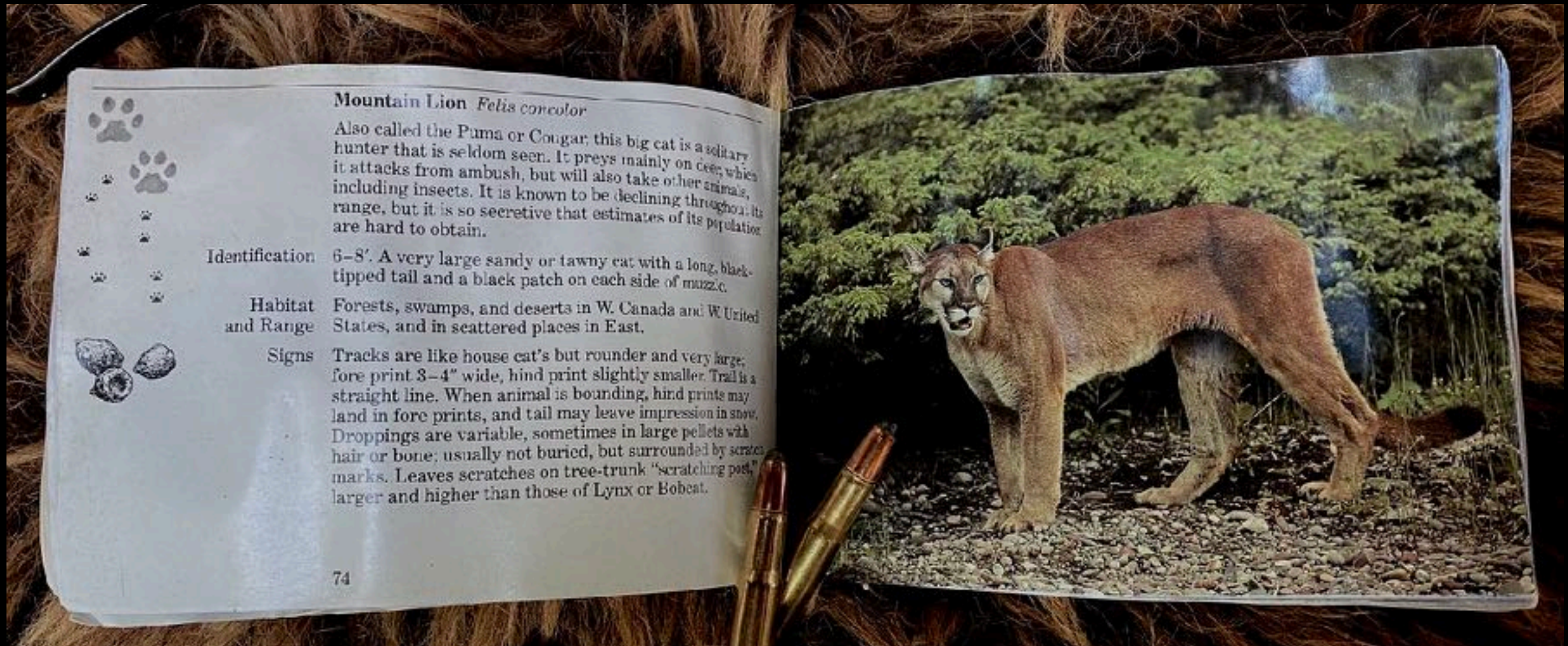
Late 30's, Gentle but tough, concerned for her son, Gabe's, wellbeing and willing to fight for her rural communities rights. She has a blossoming relationship with Lyle.

Chris

21, Obnoxiously self confident, dreams of becoming a big shot hustler; but is in over his head. Mariana sees him as a means of escape.



The Lion



It makes many sounds, including an



eerily humanlike scream

The Town



The Ranch



The Hunter



The Hunted

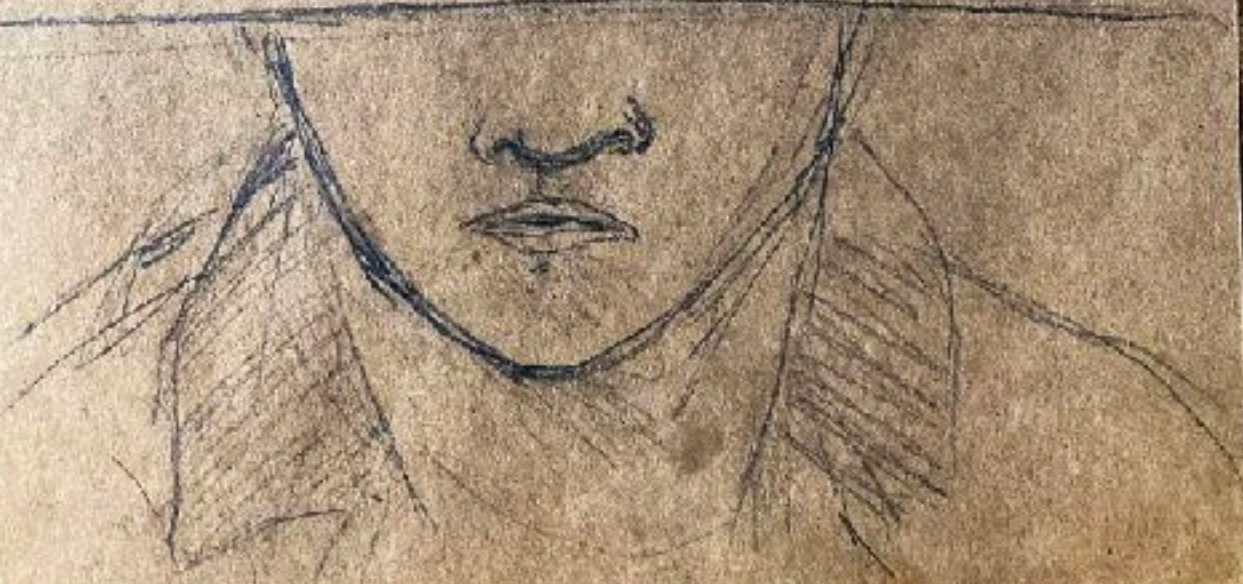


A Contemporary Latinx Western





cries like a human



Junkyard Nights

At 12 years old, in an unassuming junkyard nestled in the foothills of the Sangre De Cristo Mountain range, a ragtag group of boys forged characters and spun stories; exploring and playing in the resulting worlds.

Moving from our imaginations onto mini-DV camcorders and cut together as best we could, these movies were the beginning of our creative relationship that has spanned nearly 20 years. While individually we have discovered our own accomplishments that have taken us to different corners of the world, we continuously return to New Mexico to reconvene the Junkyard Nights, bringing those lessons home to tell a story.



Jordan Hoffman

Antonio Marquez

Max Dickter