



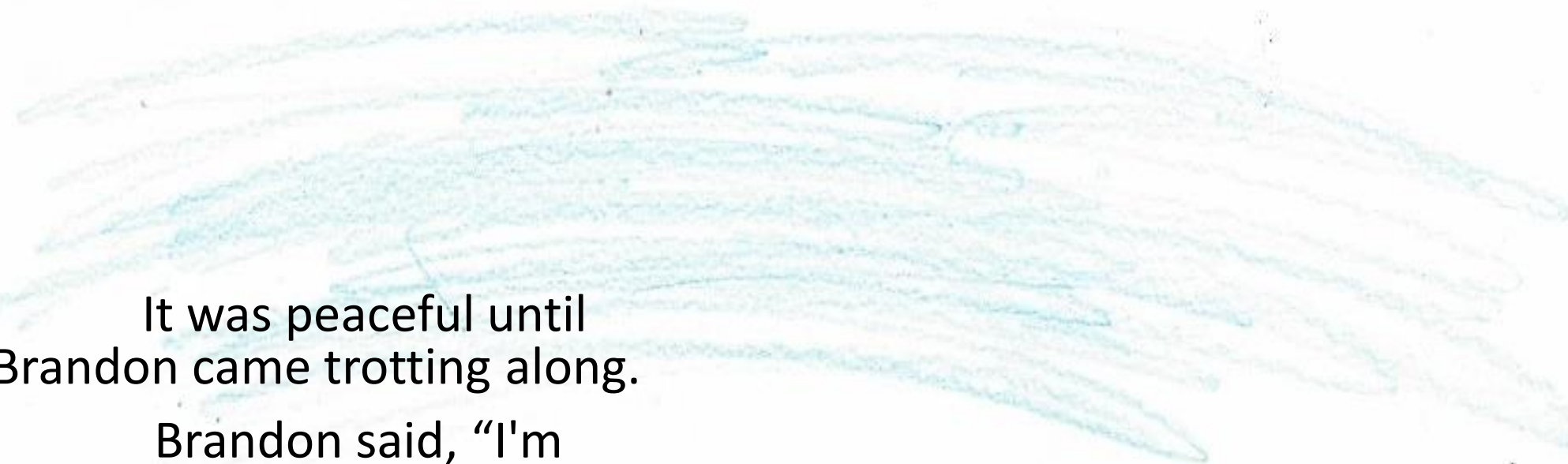
Why Lions Have Manes

By James



A long time ago when days were new, male lions did not have manes. One nice spring morning, Brandon the lion woke up and stretched. Only a few herds of animals were active on the open grasslands of the savannah.





It was peaceful until
Brandon came trotting along.

Brandon said, "I'm
perfect and the most
handsome lion on the
savannah."

Jim the hippo said,
"Stop bragging"

But of course he didn't

Jim plugged his ears
and hummed, "La la la la la la
la la la la."



Henry the honey badger was walking around looking for a bee hive when he bumped into lion.

“Watch out midget,” said Brandon.

“Being small has its benefits, especially for climbing trees,” said honey badger.

Brandon said, “I am the perfect size. I am not too small and not too big. Unlike you, you are way too small.”

“Whatever leave me alone. I am way too hungry for this,” said honey badger as he walked away.



Kay the cheetah came zooming by until Brandon stepped in front of cheetah. Cheetah stopped faster than you can say Superman.

Cheetah said, "That was rude. Get out of my way."

Lion said, "Want to wrestle I bet I can beat you because I'm so much stronger than you. I'm also the most handsome cat In the world."

"No, but do you want to race me?" asked Kay.

"You just have to run away every time coward," said lion. "You are just afraid of my strength."

"Get over yourself," said Kay as she ran off.



The next day Jim got an idea.
He gathered everyone together.

Jim said, "I have a plan we
are going to glue hair on Brandon
and hopefully he stops bragging
forever."

Everyone yelled, "YES!"

"Well how are we going to
do that?" asked Henry the honey
badger.

"We are going to have
beauty contest and he will glue it
on himself," said Jim.



The next day they put out advertisements for a savannah beauty contest on Sunday. Sure enough Brandon the lion signed up. The day of the beauty contest, a lot of animals showed up. Along with Brandon, there was a giraffe, deer, another honey badger, ostrich, and a hyena. They all stood in line.

Cheetah, honey badger, and hippo were the judges. They each looked at every animal and marked scores on their papers. They huddled up to compare the scores.

Cheetah said, “We have a winner it is...”



“BRANDON!” said honey badger.

Brandon danced around. “I knew I was going to win, you other animals are soooooo ugly.”

“Boo!” hollered the other animals.

Hippo said to Brandon, “Here’s this new lotion it makes you so shiny. It’s sixty animal dollars and is part of your prize. You should try it.”

So Brandon tried it and put it all over his neck.

“Wow your fur shines even more,” honey badger said. “And here’s a golden and dark brown fur scarf for winning.”

Lion wrapped it all around his neck. For the next week Lion bragged that he won the huge prize and kept wearing the scarf.



Ten days after the contest Brandon finally decided to take off the scarf or so he thought. No matter how hard he tried, he could not get it off. He ran to hippo.

Lion said, "WHAT is this? I can't get it off!"

Hippo grinned. "It's not my fault you wore it for TEN days. I didn't know it would do that."

Brandon growled at Hippo, "Don't play games Hippo! I know you did something!"

Hippo said, "I don't know what happened? If you would have taken the scarf off right after the contest, it would have come off easily. Instead you bragged. It's not my fault."

"Now I'm not the most handsome cat," cried lion.

"But you are the furriest," said Hippo as she went back into the water away from lion's rage.

That is how male lions got their mane.

