

Season 1: Episode 2

“Three Little Bears”

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how it ends



NETWORK INTRO
Rusty Quill Presents...

[INTRO MUSIC FADE IN]

MICAH [Season 1 Intro]

For as long as I can remember, I've suffered from unnerving, recurring dreams and night terrors. The How it Ends podcast is an exploration of daily life and the imprint it leaves on our memory and consciousness. This podcast is made by me, Micah Jones with some help from my two closest friends, Elia Cabral and Devon Williams. I'm not sure where this journey will take me so follow along as I try to uncover the meaning of my dreams, and finally get some sleep. I'm releasing this in real-time so if you're just joining, please start from the beginning. And thank you for listening.

[INTRO MUSIC FADE OUT]

[SCENE TRANSITION]

AVA [Voiceover]

Hola, miya. I'm returning your call. Sorry, I missed you. Call me back when you get a chance. By the way, I'm sorry that we argued when you were here. I know this time of year is hard for us, but we shouldn't fight. I love you. Okay, bye. Call me.

Pero, I wanted to say something else. I don't remind you enough that your dad loved you so much. He was always looking out for you. Even that night, he said, "Don't let Micah see, don't let Micah see." He didn't want you to see him so hurt because he worried it would scare you. He was so strong. Él era tu oso papa grande y fuerte.

He always will be. Te quiero. Call me.

MICAH

So I called my mom to talk about my dad like Billie suggested. And what you just heard was the voicemail she left me because I was driving when she called. I haven't called her back yet because something she said really unsettled me. But I didn't

know why. "Don't let Micah see." I felt like I'd seen it before somewhere. So I went looking for it. And I found it. It's in a Berenstain Bears book, an old one called The Spooky Old Tree. My dad wrote "Don't let Micah see" on the last page of this book.

What the fuck?

[SCENE TRANSITION]

MICAH

So in my dream last night, I was... I don't even know where it was. It was just dark. And for the most part of it, all I could hear was someone whispering, "One with a light, one with a stick, one with a rope" over and over again.

I mean, clearly, it's the book I mentioned. And I know that I'm dreaming about it. Because you know, my mom left that voicemail for me. But it doesn't really make it any less creepy. Anyway, Elia is here and I'm definitely talking about things that she doesn't know about.

ELIA

Yeah, are you gonna tell me what this is about anyway, or--

MICAH

--Well, yeah. I'm... I'm... well, that's kind of why I called Devon because I want to sort of tell you when you're both here, so I don't have to repeat myself. But...

ELIA

Okay.

MICAH

You know, it's fine.

ELIA

I mean, that doesn't really explain why you made me get up this early, but--

MICAH

--Elia, it's 8:30. Like, I would bet money that Devon's already gone to the gym and showered and like cleaned his whole apartment.

ELIA

[sighs]

Okay, well, he's a morning demon. So that doesn't really matter.

MICAH

Excuse me. I like mornings, too. Like--

ELIA

--You're a demon, too then. [Laughing]

MICAH

I'm not a demon!

ELIA

So same, same.

DEVON

Hey hey!

MICAH

Well, hey, I told you he would be up. Look, look at how sharp he looks.

ELIA

Okay.

DEVON

Why, thank you.

MICAH

Yeah, well, I mean, always.

ELIA

What about me? How do I look? [Laughs]

MICAH

[Ignoring Elia] Hey, Devon.

DEVON

Hey. What's going on?

ELIA

How's it going?

DEVON

Not too bad. What's up... what's up with y'all today?

ELIA

Umm...

MICAH

Nothing too much. We didn't really make any plans. But clearly, I didn't answer that question cause Elia is looking a little worse for the wear. She's hungover.

DEVON

What'd y'all do last night?

ELIA

We...

MICAH

Tch-tch. [Mimes drinking]

ELIA

Yeah.

DEVON

Well, clearly.

[ALL laugh]

MICAH

I can't believe you said that, okay? [Laughs] No, I asked her to come over. I didn't really want to be in my apartment alone. I was kind of freaked out.

DEVON

Wait. Something happen?

MICAH

Um, yeah. You know. So okay, now that you're both here. Um... so my mom and I have been playing phone tag because Billie told me to call her. We talked about my dad a little bit in the last session that I had with her. And, you know, I don't know if my mom sensed why I was calling from... or listening to my voicemails or what, but she called me back and she left this voicemail and she started rambling about my dad without me even bringing it up.

And I don't know, it was kind of... It was kind of weird.

ELIA

Wow.

DEVON

How'd that go?

MICAH

She said she wanted to remind me that he loved me very much, which is fine, but then she started talking about the night that he died. And I don't know, I feel like that's where things got strange because she said that while he was in the hospital, he kept saying for her like not to let me see him. You know? It was just kind of weird.

DEVON

Hmm. Weird how? I mean, you were a kid.

MICAH

I mean, yeah, that makes sense because of the accident. And like, he probably looked pretty bad. But you know, she kept saying like, "Don't let Micah see." So...

ELIA

--Okay. I don't understand.

MICAH

Well, when she said it, I just felt like I had heard it before.

ELIA

Mm-hmm (affirmative)

MICAH

Or like, seen it somewhere. So like, on a hunch, I went looking for it. And I started going through the stuff that I brought back from his shed when I went home over Thanksgiving. And it was there, like in the back of a book.

ELIA

I'm still not following. What was there?

MICAH

Those exact words. Like, "Don't let Micah see." He'd written it in a book--

ELIA

--Oh.

MICAH

Yeah.

DEVON

Did you ask her mom about it when you called her?

MICAH

No, and I'm not going to either.

ELIA

What do you mean? Why not?

MICAH

I just... I don't... I just don't want to. Like, I know it's probably just a weird coincidence. And you know that if I bring it up to Ava, like, my mom's gonna blow it out of proportion, you know, or say that I am, and then it's going to be a whole thing. So I kind of just want to avoid it.

ELIA

Okay. I know what we're gonna do today.

MICAH
Uh...What?

ELIA
We are going to go to Salem, and I'm going to get you--

MICAH
--Oh my God.

ELIA
No. Seriously. I'm going to get you some sage and we're going to
cleanse your book and whatever other stuff you brought back
that's in that box.

MICAH
Salem though? Like it's so far. We can't find someplace closer?

ELIA
Are you kidding me right now?

DEVON
Are you sure you're not really from Rhode Island?

MICAH
For real though. It takes forever to get there--

ELIA
--It takes an hour and a half. Devon, back me up. You down?
We'll go get some crystals and some herbs?

MICAH
This feels like mutiny.

DEVON
Hell, yeah. I'll go. I already hit the gym. And I don't have
anything else--

ELIA
[Under her breath] --Jesus Christ.

MICAH

[Laughs] I told you.

DEVON

What... What?

MICAH

Hey, hey. Did I hear a vacuum through my ceiling earlier?

DEVON

Yeah. Uh...

MICAH

[laughs]

ELIA

I can't.

DEVON

I cleaned up before the gym. It didn't wake you, did it?

MICAH

No, not at all. Not at all.

ELIA

Oh my god. Okay. So, yeah? No? Are we going? Do you guys want to go?

MICAH

Yeah, yeah. Fine. Let's go then.

ELIA

Okay, well, I haven't showered yet. So don't... let me take a shower first and then...

MICAH

[sighs] Fine.

DEVON

So... that smell.

MICAH

So how was your evening?

DEVON

Eh. You know.

ELIA

Go get me breakfast, Devon.

DEVON

TV and...

MICAH

Oh my God, we'll get it on the road.

DEVON

What? Hey. Go shower, stinky.

MICAH

He's already eaten breakfast, anyway.

DEVON

[laughs] Yeah. No, it was cool.

MICAH

What do you do last night?

DEVON

Eh. Read.

MICAH

We...We got hammered.

DEVON

So yeah. Yeah. You know, I went to a coffee shop and read...

[FADE OUT]

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[SHOP DOOR BELL]

SHOPKEEPER

Hey, welcome. Used books are buy one get one free today and everything over on this table is 10% off.

MICAH

Cool.

[Whispers] Okay, so we are in a shop called... what is the shop?

ELIA

Stop. Stop. Shut it off. It's rude.

MICAH

Okay...

ELIA

Hi. Um, I'm sorry. Where did you say the used books were?

SHOPKEEPER

[Sarcastic] Over on that wall with all the shelves?

ELIA

Thank you.

MICAH

Elia, I'm gonna record this. It's relevant, isn't it?

ELIA

Fine, but don't stand like right next to me. I don't want you to get me in trouble.

MICAH

What is she going to do?

ELIA

I don't know, I don't need any bad energy coming my way.

MICAH

Bad energy...

DEVON

I bind you Micah, from doing harm.

ELIA

Oh my God. Stop. What are you...

DEVON

Harm against other people--

ELIA

I can't stand you.

MICAH

On that note? Remember how you said that you were really wanting coffee?

DEVON

Yeah. Yeah.

MICAH

I think this is gonna...

ELIA

Yeah.

MICAH

This is gonna be a thing, so you should also leave...

ELIA

So you should also leave--

MICAH

--Get the coffee and then get me a coffee and then I'll text you at the... when we go to the bar.

ELIA

Oh, bye.

MICAH

Bye. See ya.

ELIA

Okay, anyway. You definitely want to get some sage like we said, and how about some lavender too? Because you could take a bath before bed and might help you sleep.

MICAH

Uh...

SHOPKEEPER

Hey there, can I help you find something in particular?

MICAH

No, thank you. I think we're just--

ELIA

--Yes, you could help us because she needs to chill.

MICAH

Okay...

ELIA

We need help finding things for that.

MICAH

Here, meet my... some... my personal assistant? I don't know what... Okay. Thank. Yes.

[NEW AGE MUSIC PLAYS DISTANTLY]

SHOPKEEPER

Okay. Lavender is a great place to start. What specifically were you looking for?

MICAH

I have no idea.

SHOPKEEPER

Okay. Well, how about some blue calcite? You can keep it in your purse or your pocket. It helps ease anxiety and stress.

ELIA

Yeah. No, she wants all of that.

MICAH

Why am I here? Uh... Thanks. Um, well, this stone is pretty, too. What is this?

SHOPKEEPER

That is black tourmaline. It helps protect against negative energy.

MICAH

Will it get her to leave me alone?

ELIA

Yo. Rude.

MICAH

Not rude, accurate.

SHOPKEEPER

I can tell her intentions are good.

MICAH

Oh, can you? Because I can't.

ELIA

Yeah, my intentions are good.

MICAH

Okay. But thank you for your advice. We're going to look around.

[NEW AGE MUSIC PLAYS]

SHOPKEEPER

You have something you need to remember.

MICAH

I'm... sorry?

SHOPKEEPER

You're trying to remember.

MICAH

Remember what?

SHOPKEEPER

I can't tell you that. But it's important.

MICAH

What? Excuse me. Like what did you...

ELIA

It's just--

MICAH

--Elia!

ELIA

She's just trying--

SHOPKEEPER

Sorry, I didn't mean to scare you.

MICAH

You didn't scare me. I just don't--

SHOPKEEPER

--Take this. Take this.

MICAH

Uh, thank you? Wh-wh-what... what is this?

SHOPKEEPER

It's kyanite. I assume you've never been in here before?

MICAH

Clearly not.

SHOPKEEPER

Consider it a gift.

MICAH

Um. Thanks?

SHOPKEEPER

Can I ring you up over here?

MICAH

Wow.

ELIA

Oh, yeah. No, sure. Just give me your stuff.

MICAH

Here. I'm going to go outside.

ELIA

Okay.

[Micah leaves the store]

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[BACKGROUND BAR CHATTER]

ELIA

Great. Oh, I think I see Devon. Hey. Over here.

MICAH

Hey.

DEVON

Hey. How was the store?

MICAH

I need a drink. It was weird. The lady in the store said some strange shit. And I don't even really know what it was about.

ELIA

Oh my God. She was just teasing you. Like you didn't have to make it so uncomfortable.

DEVON

Do y'all want to me catch me up?

MICAH

Yeah. We talked to this lady about the shop that Elia wanted me to get stuff from or whatever. And then she got all weird and then basically kicked us out.

ELIA

Oh my God, she did not kick us out. You cut me off in the middle of a sentence and she probably felt awkward. So she just asked to ring me up. That was all. There's nothing weird about except you--

MICAH

--She told me I need to remember.

DEVON

Hmm. Remember what?

MICAH

She didn't say. And also? Exactly. So she just handed me this stuff and then kind of just pushed us out the door and away.

ELIA

She didn't push us. Stop.

DEVON

It's pretty. What is that?

ELIA

It's called kyanite. But hang on. I'm gonna Google it because I don't know exactly what it does.

MICAH

It's a rock. It doesn't do anything.

ELIA

Says you. Okay, I got it. Kyanite inspires loyalty and fair treatment to others, assists in working through disagreements and disputes.

MICAH

Where are you even reading from?

ELIA

It's called CrystalVaults.com. It's a crystal encyclopedia.

MICAH

Okay.

DEVON

Crystals have encyclopedias?

ELIA

Hang on. Hang on. Hang on. Okay, it says that it helps those who have lost their way in life or are trying to break a cycle of self-destructive behavior.

MICAH

Okay, seems legit.

ELIA

Oh my God.

MICAH

What?

ELIA

To... Okay. To access forgotten childhood memories touch the center of your brow with kyanite.

MICAH

What the hell?

ELIA

Yeah. Anyway. Moving on.

DEVON

Hey, um. Unrelated. Do you know that guy?

MICAH

Me?

DEVON

Don't be obvious, don't be obvious. That guy over there.

MICAH

Which guy?

ELIA

Those [?] guys? Devon?

DEVON

Blond hair, glasses. Brown leather jacket. Looks like Matt Damon in the Good Shepherd.

MICAH

Oh yeah. I see him.

ELIA

I don't know. I don't know what you guys are talking about. I don't see a guy that looks like that.

MICAH

Oh my god, Elia. Shhh.

DEVON

Shhh. Cut it out.

MICAH

Like, no. I see him. But no. I don't know him.

DEVON

Well, he's been staring at one of you since I walked in. Secret Tinder date I didn't know about?

ELIA

[Laughs] Definitely not me then.

MICAH

Not... Same.

DEVON

You sure about that? He's coming this way.

LUKE
Micah!

DEVON
See...

LUKE
Holy shit. Micah.

MICAH
Um. Hey. Hi, I'm sorry. I don't mean to be rude but I have no idea who you are.

LUKE
Micah, it's Luke.

MICAH
Hey. Luke?

LUKE
Sorry, I guess it's been a while. You just haven't changed much so I recognized you right away. I'm Luke James? Aimee's old boyfriend?

MICAH
Um.

LUKE
We go way back?

MICAH
Oh my God. Hi. Hey. Yeah. Guys, this is...Luke.

LUKE
Hey, I'm Luke.

DEVON
Hey there.

ELIA

Uh... Hey there, Luke.

DEVON

'Sup man. I'm Devon. Nice to meet you.

LUKE

Sorry. It's really weird to run into someone from home. So I had to say... at least "Hi." I didn't mean to interrupt.

MICAH

No, it's cool. Right, guys? It's cool.

DEVON

No, it's cool. It's fine.

MICAH

Yeah, so how are things? How's it going?

LUKE

Good. Things are great. How about you? What are you been up to?

MICAH

Since middle school? You know, a lot. Like life and stuff.

ELIA

So um. Hey, Luke. Um. What brings you up here to Salem today?

LUKE

I'm just hanging out with some... some friends. They moved up here a few weeks ago.

ELIA

Oh, cool. So you live up here then?

LUKE

Actually, no. I live in Providence. It's not too far from here.

ELIA

[Laughing] Yeah, we know. We, uh... we live in Providence, too.

LUKE

Are you serious? Micah, you live in Providence?

MICAH

Um. Yeah. Yeah, I do.

LUKE

How have we not run into each other? Providence is so small.

MICAH

Yeah, I guess that's weird. I don't know--

ELIA

--She's a hermit, that's why--

MICAH

--Shut up. I go out. I'm just busy.

LUKE

Well, we should get a drink, catch up sometime.

MICAH

Yeah, that'd be fine. Right, guys?

DEVON

Sounds like fun. We should all get a drink together sometime.

ELIA AND DEVON

Yeah.

ELIA

...free.

LUKE

Yeah, definitely. Sounds good. Can I get your number? I'll hit you up? Make some plans?

MICAH

Yeah, sure. Why don't you um... why don't you give me your phone? I'll put my number in.

LUKE

Wait, what are you drinking? I'll get your next round.

MICAH

Here... here's your phone. I'm all set. But actually, we just settled up.

DEVON

Yeah.

MICAH

So you know, we're going to get out of here. Sure we'll talk soon, though? Like, that's cool, right?

DEVON

Mm-hmm (affirmative)

ELIA

Yeah.

MICAH

Yeah.

LUKE

Oh, yeah. Yeah. Cool. I'll text you. Good seeing you, though.

MICAH

Bye. Thanks... Bye.

DEVON

Later, man.

ELIA

Bye. Wait, wait. Why are you packing up? Are we really leaving?

MICAH

Yeah, we have to. I'm just waiting for him to go back to the other side of the bar. I told him that we were done.

ELIA

Okay, well, this is really painful.

MICAH

[Anxiously packing up her bag] Yeah, I don't know. Ugh, I can't even get my string in here.

I don't know what you want me to do. I just... I'm sorry. Like, it caught me way off guard. I have-- we have to get out of there.

DEVON

Do you really know him?

MICAH

I mean, sort of. Devon, you remember that conversation when I went home to visit my mom? Like, Aimee's boyfriend? We talked about it.

DEVON

Oh, that Aimee?

ELIA

What are you guys talking about?

MICAH

Remember how I was talking to my mom about Aimee and how she-- Did you even listen to the podcast? You said--

DEVON

--Yes. Yes. I just--

MICAH

--I mean, that's the guy that she ditched me for, I guess. Like, I haven't seen him since I was like 13.

ELIA

Oh, that's so weird.

DEVON

Yeah, I'll say.

MICAH

Yeah. Well, tell me about it. That's why I was so freaking awkward.

ELIA

[Laughs] I mean, well. You're always kind of like that, but whatever--

MICAH

--I'm not that bad!

DEVON

I don't know about y'all but I'm still hungry.

MICAH

Yeah, same. And I know we were supposed to get dinner. I'm sorry about that. But I'm completely wiped and that was weird. And can we please just go home and I promise I'll buy everybody pizza.

ELIA

I don't want pizza.

MICAH

Oh my God. Sushi?

DEVON

Yeah. Sure.

ELIA

Nah... Maybe?

MICAH

Okay, well, we'll figure it out on the ride home and you can be picky all you want--

[FADE OUT]

[SCENE TRANSITION]

Hello again.

So that whole day was really strange. But I will say that telling Elia and Devon about the book made me feel a little bit better. You know, like kind of unloading like a heavy weight.

And I know... I know it's just a coincidence, but I'd be lying if I said it didn't creep me out.

No. I really... I can't even think of a reason why my dad would write that or why he would write it there. I don't know. Doesn't really matter. It's just a book.

When Elia left tonight, I put it back in the box with the rest of the stuff I took from my dad's shed. And you know, it's probably better. Maybe it's a little bit like... too much too soon. You know?

But, you know, pretty sure all of that was overshadowed by Luke, though. Is there anything more awkward than running into someone that recognizes you, but you don't recognize them? Or in my case, barely remember at all? Yeah, I mean, what's worse is that I actually don't even remember what he looks like right now. And I like literally just saw him. But I did give him my real phone number though. So I... I guess I'll be hearing from him.

Yeah. I guess I can just say that the last few weeks have been nothing if not interesting. Is that the word I would use here? Interesting?

Also, side note. I promised Elia that I would give the stuff that she bought me at the shop an honest effort. So the next night I actually have free I will be taking a lavender bath and holding a rock to my head before bed to conjure up a forgotten memory or maybe just trying to get some sleep.

[OUTRO MUSIC BEGINS]

I guess? I don't know. But that's it for now. So I'll let y'all folks know if it works. Stay tuned.

[OUTRO MUSIC]

Transcription by Evelyn Archer.

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