

Season 1: Episode 3

“North American Monsters”

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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]

MICAH

All right, are you guys cool if I just get this out of the way really quickly?

ELIA

Yeah, yeah. Do what you got to do.

DEVON

Go for it.

MICAH

Last night's dream. Okay. So um.. [clears throat] Let's talk about last night's dream. Um. Yeah. All right. So. Um. It started off fine. Um. I dreamt that I went out to local bagel shop and brought home a dozen bagels. Yay. Who doesn't like bagels?

And I cut open a blueberry bagel and I know it was blueberry because it had this kind of purplish tint. And I do the thing. I

toast it. Layer it up with cream cheese. Everything seems fine.
Um.

But then I take a bite and then immediately something feels very wrong. The bagel has this like stringy texture and I almost choke while I'm trying to swallow it. Ugh.

I look down at it but it seems fine. Just like a slightly purple blueberry bagel with a layer of cream cheese. And I take a second bite. And um... you know, I look down as I pull the bagel away from my mouth and there's thick, long, black hairs stretched from my mouth into the bagel.

And it's sticky and wet with cream cheese and I start to gag and cough because I can't breathe because I'm swallowing what feels like a fistful of hair. It's covering my mouth and my tongue and my lips and the more I pull the more I realize I'm pulling this hair ball from the back of my throat.

And then I woke up. Like, coughing. I'm pretty sure that's horrifically gross, but that's what I dreamt and that's the ride we're on. Um.

I told Elia and Devon that I was going to be recording this one, and Elia... um... seems to think that it would be an opportune time to get another tarot reading in because I'm damaged in some way for dreaming about a hair bagel.

ELIA
Yeah.

MICAH
Yeah.

ELIA
Yeah. Okay. So, on that note.

MICAH
[laughs] Okay.

ELIA

I guess we'll get started.

MICAH

I warned you. I warned you. I'm sorry.

ELIA

Okay.

DEVON

I see now why you didn't want to paint these, so...

MICAH

Yeah. Well. Yeah. I said I'd... yes.

ELIA

Okay.

MICAH

They're very often like this, so...

ELIA

All right. [clears throat] Hang on. Tarot cards. Let's do it.

MICAH

Let's do it.

ELIA

All right. Think of your question.

MICAH

Okay.

ELIA

Or whatever you want to...

MICAH

I think I got something.

ELIA

You know the deal.

DEVON

Is Devon a way better friend than Elia?

MICAH

[laughs]

ELIA

That's not how this works. That's very rude, actually.

DEVON

Okay, tarot cards. Help me figure out if I'm a better friend than Elia.

ELIA

Anyway. I'm going to use...

[CARDS SHUFFLE]

MICAH

The answer is Yes.

ELIA

I'm going to use the Ace of Swords to cut you both.

MICAH

Okay.

ELIA

How about that, now?

DEVON

Hmmm.

MICAH

Okay.

DEVON

...smart.

ELIA

Okay. So. Here you go. Pick your three cards.

MICAH

Um. I think I want this one.

ELIA

You're not supposed to touch them.

MICAH

Sorry. Sorry.

ELIA

Just point.

MICAH

Um. So. That one, that one, and that one.

[CARDS TURN OVER]

ELIA

Okay.

MICAH

[sighs]

ELIA

All right. First is The Tower. Um, basically this is saying that things are changing and maybe causing intense emotions and chaos in your life. And now's the time, um... to change your course, reevaluate your surroundings. Um. And then your second card...

MICAH

This is quick. Okay.

ELIA

... is... Well. Okay.

MICAH

Getting right to it.

ELIA

Yeah.

MICAH

Hoo.

ELIA

Your second card is the Queen of Cups, reversed. This means you're bottling up your emotions and it's not doing you any good and you need to find a way to let some of this energy go or you'll regret it. Don't let yourself start ghosting on your friends like you always do...

MICAH

It does not say that.

ELIA

Make sure to focus on healthy boundaries...

MICAH

Hmmm.

ELIA

And stop interrupting people--

MICAH

Okay.

ELIA

--When they're talking to you.

MICAH

Okay.

ELIA

Lastly is the Wheel of Fortune. Change is coming. That's... that's the general gist of this card, regardless of its position. But when it's reversed it can mean that you should lay low and let things unfold as naturally as you can. Um. The description here actually says, "forces that are outside of your control are taking hold over your life."

MICAH

Okay. That's not ominous AF or anything.

ELIA

Oh. Wait. Speaking of. I wanted to show you something.

MICAH

Oh my God.

ELIA

Hang on. I'll be right back.

MICAH

It's...the quickest thing and um...

DEVON

[inaudible]

MICAH

She's like... Dory from Finding Nemo.

ELIA

I heard that.

[ALL LAUGH]

DEVON

Hey, what's that?

ELIA

It's a book I got in Salem. Here.

MICAH

Okay.

ELIA

Look.

MICAH

Let me see. The Field Guide to North American Monsters by W. Haden Blackman. You really believe this stuff, El?

ELIA

No, it's fiction, obviously. It's just like written to look like one of those nature guides, or whatever. But here. Let me see it. Look at this. Hang on. [PAGES TURNING]. Okay. Right here. It's the Jersey Devil. Is that like a real thing? Are people really into that in New Jersey?

MICAH

Uh. Okay. The Jersey Devil. Height: 3'6''. Weight: 70 pounds. Population size: 1.

ELIA

Isn't it cool?

DEVON

Wait. Let me see that.

MICAH

Here.

DEVON

Okay. The Jersey Devil is a hideous monster with a lithe body, cloven hooves and a thin neck. Hmm. Elia, I thought you were from Pawtucket.

[ELIA and MICAH LAUGH]

ELIA

Oh my God. Devon!

[LAUGHTER CONTINUES]

DEVON

Continuing.

MICAH & ELIA

[LAUGHTER INTENSIFIES]

DEVON

Continuing. Atop the slender neck sways a horrible head..
[clears throat]

MICAH

[laughing] Oh my God.

ELIA

Stop. That's enough.

MICAH

Let me see here. Let me see this.

ELIA

All right. Moving along. I think I saw you in there, too, Devon.

DEVON

Oh. Well. Yeah. As what?

ELIA

It was called The Mothman. Is that... ?

DEVON

Yeah. Mothman.

ELIA

Sound familiar?

DEVON

Um. My fluttery, dusty wings.

ELIA

I don't think that's what The Mothman is.

DEVON

Well.

ELIA

Micah, did you see the thing about the Chupacabra in there?

DEVON

Micah, you okay?

ELIA
Micah?

MICAH
I...um. Yeah. I have... I have to go. I'm sorry. I...

ELIA
What do you mean?

MICAH
No, I have to go. And I'm gonna borrow this and I will Venmo you...

ELIA
We were just kidding around.

MICAH
I'm sorry. I have to go. I'm sorry.

DEVON
What's going on?

MICAH
I'll call you guys later.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

MICAH
So before I say anything else, I... I know I have to stop storming out on people like that. And I really didn't mean to. But I was there, flipping through Elia's book and then one of the entries in it caught my eye. And I got... this pit in my stomach. I just wanted to be alone. I drove around for a while and then eventually stopped for some coffee. Ran some errands to clear my head, kind of thing.

But yeah. This entry in the book...it's called The Grinning Man. And this is what it says. "He's been seen waiting on paths and trails in New Jersey. And he has this over-pronounced leering

grin. He doesn't reach for you. He doesn't make a sound. He just stands there. Smiling at you."

And that description of a person watching someone in the woods felt so much like the dream I've been having that kind of started this whole thing and... and... Okay, so before... The Grinning Man isn't real, like obviously. I know that. And I know that I was... real extra in how I reacted but a story like this...it has to come from somewhere, right?

I mean every time I turn around in that dream I get the feeling like... you know, that I'm about to see someone standing there, or that something is right behind me. But I'm never... I never get to that part. And... and this description... I don't know... it was like a flash of something. I don't know. This sounds insane.

[KNOCK ON THE DOOR]

DEVON

[through the door] Micah. It's me. Open up.

MICAH

Oh my God, you scared the shit out of me.

[DOOR OPENS]

DEVON

Yeah, well. You didn't exactly leave Elia and I feeling warm and fuzzy this morning. So what happened?

MICAH

Yeah. Um... I didn't mean... I didn't mean to run out like that it's just, you know, something I read in the book freaked me out. And I haven't really made sense of it yet so... I don't know. I don't really want to talk about it right now. Like, is it cool if we just hang out?

[Phone BEEPS]

DEVON

Yeah. Yeah. Sure. Um. Do you want to watch TV?

MICAH

Yeah. Sure. That sounds fine.

DEVON

Okay. There's this documentary on Netflix I was looking at. Pretty cool, I mean...

MICAH

Oh, that... That sounds good.

[Phone BEEPS]

DEVON

Okay. Uh. I didn't even tell you what it's about.

[Phone BEEPS]

MICAH

What? Um. Sorry. I... er... Sorry. What were you saying?

DEVON

Who are you texting? Elia's at work, right?

MICAH

Well, I know more than you and Elia. Like, I... I'm not a total hermit.

DEVON

Your mom.

MICAH

Wow. Okay. Uh. No. Actually it's, um...hold on. Let me just finish this thought. It's... It's, um... It's Luke. From... from Salem? The... that guy that we met?

DEVON

Wait. For real? Is he bothering you?

MICAH

No. No. Of course not. You know. We... We're just trying to make plans to like meet up.

DEVON

I mean. Are you... You sure that's safe? You don't even know this dude.

[Phone BEEPS]

MICAH

I mean. I sort of do. We've been texting. And, you know, he's definitely who he says he is. I mean, he's okay. He was... weird that day, admittedly. But I think he... you know, we talked about it. He said he was just kind of anxious about interrupting us at the table.

DEVON

Mm-hmmm. (affirmative)

[Phone BEEPS]

DEVON

Okay. You know what? I'm pretty tired. I'm gonna go upstairs. Have fun with Luke.

[Phone BEEPS]

MICAH

I'm... [sighs]. Look, I'm sorry. Um. Can I make it up to you? Maybe dinner tomorrow?

DEVON

Hmm. Yeah. Sure. Sure. Sure. Call me if you need anything. All right? Sleep tight, kid.

MICAH

Good night. Um. I guess I'll talk to you tomorrow.

DEVON

All right.

[DOOR OPENS and CLOSES]

[SCENE TRANSITION]

MICAH

Hey. So. I just woke up because it's completely freezing in my room. It took me a minute to realize what's going on because I was like dead asleep. And it's 3AM. I just woke up and my bedroom window is wide open. And, obviously, I like... immediately jumped to shut it... to make sure... and I was worried about Mulder, but... but he's right here. Yeah, I know... I know I left it closed and locked before I went to sleep. And I don't remember opening it. Maybe I could have done it in my sleep but if I did that's... That's completely something else. Like I'm used to not sleeping, and I'm used to these horrible dreams, but doing things in my sleep to where I either put myself at risk, or you know... My cat. That's... That's a whole other story. I'm just kind of hoping that I got up because my room got warm and then I just went right back to sleep and I didn't think about it.

I also don't know why I grabbed my phone to record myself, though? Um, I feel like maybe it's just habit now. Also I'm whispering and I don't really know why because... I'm in my own house and I'm in my room so... That's... it's fucking cold in here. Gonna put on some sweatpants. But I, um... I've never... sleptwalked before.

[DRAWERS OPEN]

So... I don't really know... Ow.

[DRAWERS CLOSE]

... if that's going to be a thing. I don't know. I was um... I was having a really good dream. I was dreaming about sledding with my parents down this big hill at Vanderveer. That's where I went to first and second grade. And I was laughing and sliding toward my dad and he was pretending to be an Abominable Snowman and... I don't know. It was nice.

Maybe after I... make some coffee and de-cobweb, I'll sit down and record it with as much detail as I can remember. Because I'm pretty sure Billie is gonna want to talk about this one. I don't know. It's been a while since I talked about my dad--

[MICAHA GASPS. Door SLAMS.]

[SCENE TRANSITION]

MICAHA

It's about 1:00 in the afternoon and this is the first second that I've had to myself. The cops left a couple of hours ago, and my landlord and Devon just went back upstairs. Elia was here for a little while, too. But she had to leave for work. Getting Devon to leave was probably the hardest of all.

Um. My bedroom door opens up into the kitchen. It's a weird layout, I know, but most of the houses in Providence are really old and a lot of them are quirky. My kitchen is at the center of my apartment, so you know... on the left is the living room. It's where the front door is, and it faces the street. To the right is a short hallway that leads to my bathroom and like a tiny den-sized room that I use for a studio and my back door.

When I opened the door and flipped on the light... my cabinets and drawers were open and the contents were all over the floor. Just... forks and knives and glass everywhere. Both my front door and the back door that opens to the stairwell were standing wide open. I could see right out to the street. And on the floor of my kitchen under all the mess someone had written: "You've been warned."

I ran back into my bedroom and locked the door and called 911. And then I called Devon until he answered. While we were waiting for the cops to get there, neither one of us could really say much until he turned to look at me and was like, "You didn't hear anything?" That's the most insane thing about this is that I didn't hear anything. Nothing. And Devon didn't either.

When the cops got there, they asked if anything was stolen. But I'm pretty sure nothing's missing. My laptop was on the couch,

and my camera stuff was on my kitchen table and it's all there, untouched. They also said that there were no signs of forced entry, so they wondered if I knew who could have done this. And I don't. I still don't know why anyone would do this, or worse, like how they even got in. Devon wants me to come stay with him for a few days while things get sorted out. You know, he has a second bedroom and completely loves Mulder, so I'll probably do that.

Elia wants me and Devon to move. Which, even if I wanted to, and I don't, I can't. This apartment is beyond affordable. And I've been here since I moved to Providence so I have a great relationship with my landlord. And he's horrified by this whole situation. He assured me that he'll, like, change the locks and add another deadbolt and get a security system. That'll just have to be enough.

I took some pictures of what I saw after the cops left, but before I cleaned things up and I'll post them to my Instagram story when I upload this.

Providence folks: if you're out there listening to this, have you ever heard of anything like this happening? I mean, this is not your standard issue break-in. They didn't take anything. At least, I don't think that they did.

Anyway, if you or someone you know has had something similar happen to them, email me. Maybe we can figure out who did this. My email is: zorroyoso@gmail.com. So that's Z-O-R-R-O-Y-O-S-O at gmail.com. I know that this might seem irrational, but between finding my dad's stuff, the book, running into Luke, and now this? Like... It can't all be a coincidence? Right?

[SCENE TRANSITION]

AVA

[voiceover] Micah. It's your mother. What is this about your apartment being broken into?

[foreign language]

I just saw you for Christmas. You sat at my table and to not tell me that someone has threatened you? What is this, "you've been warned?" Warned about what?

[foreign language]

Micah, what is going on up there? Did you do something?

[foreign language]

Micah. Maybe it's time for you to move back. You don't have to stay in Somerville. We can figure something out. I'm worried about you. Maybe I should come visit. I have plenty of vacation time.

[foreign language].

I love you. I'm your mother. I'm here to help you. Please don't shut me out.

MICAH

Okay. So I have no idea how she found out about what happened to my apartment. And I had zero intentions of telling her, and that voice mail is exactly why. I knew if I told her, she'd immediately say that I should move home. And she did. When I first moved up here for college and didn't want to live in a dorm and come home every holiday, she fought me tooth and nail. But after a while, you know, she seemed to realize that I was serious about not going back, so... She kind of just let it go. You know, she still mentions it from time to time but it's not really a thing anymore. Something like this would set her off.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[OUTRO MUSIC BEGINS]