

Season 1: Episode 4

“The Avery”

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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

I wanted to make a... quick note of last night's dream before I forget it. Been back at my apartment now for... little while, maybe... maybe a week? Everything has been fixed and cleaned up, but the new security system takes some getting used to. I've set it off twice by accident, to the chagrin of Devon and my landlord. I'll get the hang of it, I hope.

But getting down to it. Even though my apartment definitely feels safer I wouldn't be me if I didn't have some serious dreams after the break-in. And the one from last night was... especially... creative, for lack of a better word. So here goes.

In the dream I was in my bedroom with the door shut. Mulder was sleeping next to me. And then out of nowhere there was this banging, like someone was in my kitchen slamming all of my cabinets over and over. I was terrified that someone was going to come into my room after me and just like burst through the door at any second. But I was paralyzed. Like, I couldn't move. And Mulder just slept, like he couldn't hear anything. I thought

I was losing my mind. I cupped my hands over my ears to try and drown it out but it just got louder and louder and louder. And then I went to scream and... then I woke up.

Like I sat... I sat straight up in bed, about to scream. Like, in real life, about to scream. And then I realize that the banging was actually the sound of my own heartbeat in my ears. Just... fear pounding inside my head. It... it took me almost an hour after waking up to feel normal. And I... I didn't even want to get out of bed to look at the kitchen. I kept expecting to see what I saw that night. Those words. "You've been warned." When I did finally get the courage to get up and look, everything was fine.

This is what I meant when I said that my dreams were getting worse. I've always had nightmares, but for a while now, when they're particularly bad I wake up in this weird twilight state where everything feels like... I don't know, like everything that I've seen in a dream is real. And sometimes it takes hours to shake that feeling. The less sleep I get, the longer it takes to feel normal.

I'm okay now. Which is good, because I have a bunch of stuff I have to do today, and plans later. No... Luke and I finally found a time to meet up. It actually took longer to find a time that worked because of everything that was going on. And I... I'm not nervous because it... it isn't a date, but it also a little weird. Like I met this kid once when we were kids. I'm sure it'll be fine.

Okay. I'm rambling now, and I feel like this is a good time to wrap this up.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[BACKGROUND BAR CHATTER, GLASSES]

MICAH

Do you mind if I record this? Like, I'm doing a podcast...like...

LUKE

Yeah, actually I listened to the first couple of episodes. I follow you on IG. Saw your posts about it.

MICAH

Wait. You do?

LUKE

I looked you up after we ran into each other. You got a unique name. It wasn't hard to find you.

MICAH

Hold... Hold on. Are you...Are you "l.emmetjames"?

LUKE

That's me.

MICAH

Huh. I didn't realize that was you. Well, that's why I didn't follow back. Sorry.

LUKE

It's no big deal.

MICAH

So. Um. What made you suggest the Avery, anyway? I always forget about this bar even though I live like right around the corner. And then when I come in here, I forget how pretty it is and how much I like it, and I wonder why I don't come here that often. It's weird.

LUKE

Ah, yeah. It's got a good vibe. The cocktail selection is pretty sweet. Plus it has a Lily Marlene's feel since that place closed.

MICAH

Yeah. Yeah. So. [chuckle] So it's not... It's not just that you like... um... dark mysterious bars, is it?

LUKE

No.

MICAH

Cool.

LUKE

So crazy how we both ran into each other, huh? Both living in Providence, but not seeing each other. Then we see each other in Salem. It's wild.

MICAH

[pause] [clears throat] Yeah. How long have you... How long have you lived in Providence, anyway?

LUKE

A few years. It's cool, though. It's been an adjustment, for sure. After moving down from Boston, it's slower. Quieter. I don't mind that at all. It took me a while to make friends, though.

MICAH

Yeah, it's just... that's just the way it is. Gotta give it time.

LUKE

How about you? How long you lived in Providence?

MICAH

Since college. So like... 15 years.

LUKE

Wow. That's a long time. Do you go back home often?

MICAH

Here and there. Not that often, though.

LUKE

You miss home?

MICAH

I... I guess.

LUKE

I visit my family fairly often, but even if I didn't I'd have to go back for pizza and bagels.

MICAH

Shit. Oh. Yeah. Okay. Well, that... yeah that, I miss. Yeah.

LUKE

What's the deal with bagels up here? There are some places that are okay but...

MICAH

Yeah. Uh... you are preaching to the choir, sir. But, side note. There is a place called Café Tempo that's pretty cool. But you gotta go all the way down to West Warwick for that. It's like a 25 minute drive.

LUKE

That's not bad. If it feels like home it's worth it to me.

MICAH

Yeah. I mean. Uh... uh. I guess it's not that far.

LUKE

We should go some time. I'll drive.

MICAH

Yeah. Cool. Yeah, we could do that.

[pause]

LUKE

So. Still talk to Aimee?

MICAH

No. Not really. Um. I... I mean no. No, we don't. After we went to different high schools we just sort of lost touch and you know, went our separate ways.

LUKE

Didn't you two live right across the street from each other?

MICAH

Yeah. We did. But um... you know when you just don't want to see someone so you just kind of don't see them?

LUKE

Yeah. I know what you mean.

MICAH

How long were y'all together, anyway?

LUKE

We broke up after she went to school. I guess the boys there were cooler. It was okay, though. We weren't soul mates.

MICAH

Yeah. I guess the girls there were cooler, too. [pause] [clears throat] I think after whatever happened that day at the park, you know, we just kind of drifted apart. I don't know.

LUKE

The day at the park? Where I met you?

MICAH

Yeah. When we got there, she told me she was gonna go to your house instead of hanging out with me and I wasn't super stoked on that. Aimee said that I was probably just jealous that she had a boyfriend and I didn't. We were, like, 12, 13. You know how it is. But um... But you know, that really wasn't it. We'd been growing apart that year anyway. Getting into stupid arguments about nothing. And I... and I don't know I guess we just started to like different things. Aimee was really, really focused on soccer. But I mean, I get it. She was very, very good. Like starting varsity and stuff. Um. But she was also way more into being social.

LUKE

Right.

MICAH

I'm not... I'm not good at the social thing in the way that she was. I really prefer to be alone. But I guess that day just sort

of sealed the deal. And you know, and that's normal teenage stuff. It's not like we have bad blood between us or anything.

LUKE

Yeah. That makes sense.

MICAH

What makes sense?

LUKE

Well. You know I listen to that conversation you had with your mom from the podcast, and you talked about not remembering everything that happened that day. Is that really true?

MICAH

Yeah. I mean. I really just remember Aimee going off with you and then my mom picking me up and she told me that it was your house that she got me from.

LUKE

Yeah. Well when you got to my house you were really upset. Aimee thought you were exaggerating for attention, but I didn't think you were. So I called your mom.

MICAH

Wait. Like, exaggerating what? Like, making something up?

LUKE

You said something happened to you in the woods.

MICAH

I did?

LUKE

Yeah. And Aimee didn't believe you.

MICAH

But you did.

LUKE

Yeah.

MICAH

Okay. Why?

LUKE

Um... so a few weeks before I met you, I snuck out in the middle of the night to meet up with some friends. It was Halloween so we got eggs and toilet paper. Teenage boy shit. We ended up hanging out at this little graveyard that's on the side of River Road.

MICAH

[sharp inhale]

LUKE

My friend Tim swiped a bottle of Jim Beam from his dad. We smoked a little weed. I wasn't the seasoned drinker I am now, so I was pretty wasted. I guess I passed out at some point because when I woke up my friends were gone. I was definitely still drunk so I couldn't ride my bike. River Road is really long and pitch dark at night. There isn't a sidewalk or anything, so I had to walk my bike on the edge of the road and hope cars wouldn't hit me.

MICAH

Okay.

LUKE

I was walking for a few minutes. Five? Maybe 10? I thought I heard my friends. I saw a dim light in the trees, like a flashlight or something. I left my bike on the side of the road and walked a few yards into the woods, but I couldn't hear them anymore and I didn't see the light. I figured they were fucking me, so I, you know, called their names a few times. Like, "Tim!" No answer. Um.

When I turn around to get my bike, I turn around to head back to the street and something or ... someone was standing over me. Whoever it was, they were unnaturally tall. And they were inches away from my face. This hot breath. If I focus on it, I can still feel it on my face.

MICAH

[shaky breath] Hoo.

LUKE

I froze. It... they were just breathing on me. Then it whispered, "I see you." I just ran. Ran to my bike, adrenaline kicked in, pumping... I rode home as fast as I could. I don't know how I did it, but I managed to sneak back into the house without waking my parents. I didn't think I was gonna be able to fall asleep but I must have. I woke up the next day in all my clothes.

MICAH

That's horrible.

LUKE

Yeah. Next time I saw my friends, I yelled at them for leaving me. Turned out they left me out there for like three hours. So I was just out there. I told them what happened, but they just laughed it off. Said I was probably hammered and all Halloweened-out.

MICAH

This is awful. I don't even know what to say. I mean. I'm a little confused, though. I mean, I'm super sorry that this happened to you, but... I... I just... I'm not following. I just don't understand what this has to do with me.

LUKE

You asked why I believed you that day. Why I called your mom, even though Aimee told me not to.

MICAH

Okay.

LUKE

When you got to my house you were banging on the door and screaming, "Let me in!" And when I did, you stopped yelling and went really still. Just stood there, crying. All covered in dirt and scratches. Your forehead was cut up and bleeding. I asked you what happened and you looked at me and said, "It saw me."

MICAH

[shaky breath]

[SCENE TRANSITION]

MICAH

I cut the rest of the conversation that I had with Luke at the bar short because, to be honest, I lost my shit. And I'm not putting that out there. After that, I cancelled my plans and went home. I just needed time to think through some of this.

I mean. I've been having the same recurring dream, one that I never get to see the end of. And the feeling of being watched has haunted me for years. Luke basically came out of nowhere, and appeared in Salem but lives in Providence, which is strange in its own right because I haven't seen him since that day, but his story about someone unnaturally tall lurking in the dark... and then how I got spooked about the Grinning Man entry in... in Elia book. But also he... he also remembers some of what happened to me that day at the park.

And why didn't Aimee tell me? I knew... I know we grew apart after that but really? And what the fuck does "It saw me" mean? What saw me? Is this what my dream is trying to tell me? Is it even a dream? What if I'm remembering something? What if all this is actually a memory of something that happened that day in the woods.

Don't let Micah see.

Don't let Micah see.

Did my dad see something, too? What did he not want me to see?

Ever since I talked to Luke, when I'm about to fall asleep I try to focus on that dream in hopes to have it again. But it hasn't happened yet. I'm gonna keep trying because maybe I'll see the end. Maybe I'll see what's watching me now that...

I'm going to try to find out more about my dad. That seems like the best place to start. I have to know.

[OUTRO MUSIC BEGINS]

Transcription by [Evelyn Archer](#).

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