

Season 1: Episode 5

“The Same Room”

Written by Stephanie Resendes & Micah Rodriguez

Transcript by Evelyn Archer

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

Devon, thank you again for driving. I meant to say that before we left.

ELIA

Yeah. Thanks, Devon.

DEVON

Hey, no problem. And for real, I mean. Basically our only option, right?

ELIA

No. It was not our only option. I offered.

MICAH

Oh, God.

DEVON

Right. So. Our options were your refrigerator box on wheels...

MICAH and ELIA [laughs]

DEVON

Or... Micah's ancient Civic with...

ELIA

Listen.

DEVON

With... what's the count? 300,000...

ELIA

Listen.

DEVON

...miles on it? Uh...

ELIA

That box on wheels hasn't failed me yet.

DEVON

Mm-hmm. Yeah. Duct tape. Some chicken wire and hot glue.

[laughter]

ELIA

Yeah. Good as new, right?

DEVON

Yeah, MacGyver. Good job.

ELIA

Still works.

MICAH

[laughing] Oh my God.

ELIA

But um... speaking of our shitty cars, you know we're an hour and a half into this drive and have you hit 60 miles an hour yet?

Or...

DEVON

Hey. Hey. Hey.

ELIA

Still ramping up, there?

MICAH

Damn.

DEVON

Don't hate on the Prius.

MICAH

Burn.

DEVON

It's saving us a ton of gas.

ELIA

Ugh.

DEVON

Yeah. Yeah. And I'll have you know, you know... driving the Prius, it's an art...

ELIA

Ugh...

MICAH

You started it. You started this. So... anyway.

ELIA

Yeah. Um. Anyways, is your mom gonna be home when we get there? Or has she already left for New York?

Oh, no. She left early this morning.

ELIA

I'm just excited to see Apollo, though. It's been so long.

MICAH

Yeah, he's a good dog. He's a good, good dog.

ELIA

No. He is the best dog in the whole entire world. Don't get it twisted.

DEVON

And really, I'm a loser for loving Mulder?

ELIA

Yes, that's different.

MICAH

I mean. Seriously.

DEVON

Ah, come on.

ELIA

Yeah.

DEVON

Double standard.

ELIA

Hmm.

MICAH

Hmm. I'm with you, Devon. I really... I am.

ELIA

What are we doing this weekend, anyway? You haven't even told me like any plans or anything.

MICAH

Well. Uh... I had some... ideas.

ELIA

Oh, no. You're gonna make me go on a hike, aren't you? It's so cold.

MICAH

I... I mean. I thought we could check out a trail.

ELIA

Nooo...

MICAH

In the Sourland Mountains. I mean... That's why I told you guys to bring the right footwear. Like. I mean. You can do outside things all year long.

ELIA

Or. Or.

MICAH

Or?

DEVON

Here it comes.

ELIA

Plan B: you guys could drop me off a brewery somewhere--

MICAH

No way.

ELIA

And just go walk around in circles all by yourselves.

DEVON

Here it comes.

MICAH

No fucking way. You're coming.

ELIA

And I'll wait for you guys.

MICAH

We can do the brewery thing, though. But I... I have something I need to do. I need to meet up with this guy for a couple of hours. But then I'm free after, and we can do that.

DEVON

Hmm. Who you meeting up with?

MICAH

Um. Just this... Just this dude. This guy.

ELIA

This dude? You're bringing us all the way to New Jersey and then, what? Go on a date?

MICAH

Oh, my God. For fuck's sake. No. Of course not. It's... It's just an old family friend. Like, that's it.

DEVON

Oh. Is it someone we know?

MICAH

No. Um. I haven't actually met them, either.

ELIA

Uh. How... So how is it an old family friend if you haven't met them before?

MICAH

Um. Well. He's a friend of my... I mean, um... He was... He was a friend of my... of my dad's.

DEVON

Oh. Oh. Uh... Well, you could have told us. I mean...

MICAH

Yeah. Sorry.

DEVON

Not gonna judge.

ELIA

Well, can we come, though? It'd be kind of cool to meet someone else who knew your dad. He's probably got some cool stories.

MICAH

No. Not this time. Um. We've only been communicating via email and I think that... I don't know, maybe that would be weird, to like, spring my friends on him, like the first time we meet up.

ELIA

Well, what's his name?

MICAH

John Buckley. He was a park ranger, like my dad.

DEVON

Oh, that's cool. Uh. He must have some great stories.

MICAH

Yeah. I mean, hopefully.

ELIA

But what about your mom? Does she know that you're meeting up with him? Did you tell her?

MICAH

Yeah. I talked to her about it. She was fine.

ELIA

But I don't... So how'd you find him, then? Did your mom get you guys in touch, or...

MICAH

Something like that?

DEVON

Yeah, Elia. You know, enough with the interrogation.

MICAH

Seriously.

ELIA

I'm just asking.

DEVON

Why don't we figure out where we're gonna go while Micah meets this guy?

MICAH

Yeah. I mean, you guys could go hit up a bar on Main Street. Maybe get some thicker socks for the cold, cold hike?

ELIA

Don't talk to me right now.

MICAH

[laughs] Okay. Fine. Okay. Well then what are you going to do, then?

DEVON

[chuckles] Well, I imagine we're going on a culinary tour of Somerville, then.

ELIA

Uh, yeah. Obviously. When you're rolling with me.

MICAH

You guys should go to Verve, though. They have oysters and fancy cocktails.

ELIA

Oh. Sold.

DEVON

Nice.

ELIA

Hey, Devon? Speaking of food, can you just um... stop at a rest stop or something? Whatever you see next? I need a snack.

DEVON

What? We've been driving for an hour. Why didn't you eat before we left?

ELIA

Uh... I did? I'm hungry again.

DEVON

Well...

ELIA

That's what happens. You eat and then you get hungry again.

DEVON

Jesus. Well. For that, there is gorp in my bag, if you want it.

MICAH and ELIA [laugh]

ELIA

The fuck you just say to me?

DEVON

Don't y'all white folks eat that stuff?

MICAH

[laughs]

ELIA

I have never heard that word in my life. I don't know what you are talking about, sir.

DEVON

Mmm.

MICAH

It's "Good Old Raisins and Peanuts". [laughs]

ELIA

Oh.

DEVON

Yeah.

ELIA

No.

MICAH

Yes.

ELIA

That's not what I want.

[Fadeout begins]

DEVON

Hmm.

MICAH

That's what the internet says.

[Fadeout]

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[BAR CHATTER]

JOHN

Micah.

MICAH

Hi.

JOHN

Have a seat.

BARTENDER

What can I get for you?

MICAH

Oh, uh... just a club soda. Thank you.

JOHN

You know, you look just like your father.

MICAH

Oh, uh... no one ever really tells me that. Most people say that I look like my mom. [clears throat] Thanks for meeting me.

JOHN

It's no problem.

MICAH

So. Um. You and my dad were... were close?

JOHN

Yeah. We... we worked together for a long time. My wife Abby was pretty fond of your mother.

MICAH

Oh. Do they still keep in touch? She hasn't mentioned her.

JOHN

I wouldn't know. We split up 20 years ago.

MICAH

Um... I'm sorry. I just assumed when you said, "Your wife" that...

JOHN

Yeah?

BARTENDER

What's up, John?

JOHN

Another one of these? Thanks. So. You'd... you'd said in your email that you wanted to talk about your dad?

MICAH

Yeah. Yeah. Please.

JOHN

What do you want to talk about?

MICAH

I mean, I guess just general stuff. My mom and I don't really talk about him much so... anything you can think of, you know. Funny stories, something like that.

JOHN

[chuckles] My funny stories are probably stories you probably don't want to hear about your dad.

MICAH

[nervous laugh]

JOHN

Nothing bad, you know. Just, you know... two young guys being stupid and... little things but...

MICAH

Okay. Um. Well. Yeah. I don't...

JOHN

But your dad was one of the best men I've ever known.

MICAH

Thank you.

JOHN

So...anything about Nolan?

MICAH

Yeah. Anything you can tell me, really. That'd be great.

JOHN

The thing I remember most about Nolan is that you could never really keep him down. You know what I mean? Uh... he was always in a good mood. Even when he had every reason to be pissed off, he would just smile, shrug and move on.

MICAH

So what was he like at work?

JOHN

Just as you'd expect, I guess? Helpful. Kind. Patient. That, and he just loved to be outdoors.

MICAH

Yeah. I'm... I'm like that, too. I just um... I need to move. Like, being outside gives me space to really breathe and think. Like, routine makes me anxious, you know?

JOHN

Sounds like him. Sorry. I... I'm not sure I'm telling you what you want to hear.

MICAH

I mean. I guess I just wanted to hear someone other than my mom talk about him. You were one of his closest friends, though? Or... That's what my mom said.

JOHN

Yeah. I just remembered this one time. We were headed out to our usual fishing spot. We were on the highway, and he noticed this woman's car was smoking.

MICAH

Mm-hmm? (affirmative) [pause] So you guys helped her?

JOHN

Oh. Yeah. Once she was away from the car and safe, he drove to a store to get a fire extinguisher. Now keep in mind that was back before cell phones, obviously. So he had someone in the store call the Fire Department to get them out there. When the Fire Department showed up and took over, we waited it out. Eventually, her car got towed and we drove her home. By the time it was all said and done, it was too late in the day to fish.

Don't... Don't get me wrong. He wasn't the type to insert himself just for glory, or his ego. He just... genuinely liked to help. It was who he was.

MICAH

Yeah. I remember that about him.

JOHN

Hey, Chris? Another one, please?

[drink pouring]

JOHN

He was really creative, too.

MICAH

Yeah. Yeah, he was.

JOHN

When... Whenever I'd stop by your house, he'd be out in that little shed.

MICAH

That was like our... our place. I hung out with him there all the time.

JOHN

Or he'd be surrounded by the most random shit. Making notes in that little journal he carried around..

MICAH

Yeah. Wait. What... what journal?

JOHN

Oh. He always carried around this leather journal. A notebook. Never saw him without it.

MICAH

Hmm. I don't think I've ever even seen it. I wonder if my mom still has it.

JOHN

I doubt she'd throw it away. The two of you gave it to him for a... birthday, maybe?

MICAH

Wait, how do you know that?

JOHN

Because he never shut up about that. He'd have you draw little cartoons in it. Or copy something that he drew. He was always talking about you, how smart you were, how talented. You said you're up in Providence? What are you doing up there?

MICAH

Figuring things out, I guess? I'm interested in photography. That's what I went to school for. So... um. I also really like having a flexible schedule, so I bartend, too.

JOHN

What kind of photography?

MICAH

Mmm. Landscape. Nature. Sort of... photo journalism-style stuff? Um... Anything that combines the outdoors and being alone and photos, basically.

JOHN

You definitely sound like your dad. Definitely take after him.

MICAH

Wait. He was interested in photography, too? I don't think I knew that.

JOHN

Same type of stuff, too. Always taking photos of trees, wildlife. Never saw him without his camera, either.

MICAH

Ah, I'll have to look for... like, his camera and his journal when I get back to my mom's. It would be... it'd be kind of nice to like... have those things with me at home.

JOHN

Maybe you'll find some of the photographs he took around..

MICAH

Around what?

JOHN

Um. Around the time he died. I'm sorry.

MICAH

Uh... it's fine. Don't worry about it. Was he... was he shooting something in particular around then?

JOHN

I'm... I'm not sure. Maybe? He was definitely working on a project. But I don't remember what it was.

MICAH

Oh. Okay. Um. Maybe there'll be something in the journal about it.

JOHN

[scoffs] Good luck with that.

MICAH

What do you mean? Why?

JOHN

I've never read anything in the journal, but I did see him write in it a lot. He was like DaVinci, he'd open it up and scribble on whatever page he landed on.

MICAH

Wow. Well, I really hope I can find it, then.

JOHN

He was like that at work, too. Never really had any real organizational systems, but always seemed to know what was going on. Me? I need some kind of order.

MICAH

Yeah, my mom is like that. Um. Like... like, uh... Like you, I mean. Like, she... she needs... They were... Yeah. They were just... They were just different.

You know, I'm not sure what exactly, but something you said just reminded me of this time when we all slept out in my backyard.

You know, it was really warm out, so it must have been summer or... end of summer. My dad and I were in the shed doing something and my mom called us in because it was getting dark and looked like it was going to rain. And he like walks out of the shed and looks up at the sky for a minute and then he just like starts digging through his stuff. And he pulls out like our tent and those... what are they called? Those um... those like camping lantern things and our sleeping bags. And then he tells me to just like run in the house and go get my mom. It took me a few minutes to get her out there because she was definitely, you know, in for the night. And, you know, when she comes outside my dad had unrolled all the sleeping bags, and was like halfway through pitching the tent. And my mom was so not having it. She just was like, "No way. I'm not... I'm not staying out here when it's going to rain. My bed is so close." Like, "No, no, no." And I just remember her saying, "Not a chance, Jones." You know, and... she used to say that a lot.

JOHN

Yep. That sounds like Nolan.

MICAH

And he just... He didn't even do anything. He just smiled at her. And that's all he did. He just stood there and smiled at her and I remember looking back and forth between them for what felt like forever, but was probably just a minute. And then she just sighed and walked back into the house. And you know I stood there for a little bit and I waited for him to say something but he didn't. And I was confused because I had no idea what was going on. And then like a few minutes later she just, like, walks out of the house holding a whole bunch of snacks in one arm and pajamas in the other. She just walked over and dropped it all on the ground. And then that was it. My dad just... um... He just beamed. He looked so happy. And we slept in that little tent that night in the rain. And we ate snacks and they told me jokes. And... and then I fell asleep. It was the best night. I can't believe I didn't remember that until just now.

JOHN

Yeah, your parents were good together.

MICAH

Yeah.

[Phone BEEPS]

JOHN

I take it you need to get going?

MICAH

Oh. Uh. No. Um. That's just my friends wondering where I am. Like, separation anxiety, or something. They've been wandering around town for a while.

JOHN

That's okay. I should go, too. I've got a few things to do.

MICAH

Uh... Oh. Okay. Um. Well, thank you for this. For... for meeting me. It was, uh... It was really nice.

JOHN

Chris? See you tomorrow.

MICAH

Oh, um... You don't have to do that. Thank you.

JOHN

It's only a club soda. But, yeah. It was nice to meet you also. I haven't talked about your dad with anyone in a long while. It was a trip.

MICAH

Yeah. I know what you mean. It feels like I've only just started talking..

JOHN

Especially because of where we are.

MICAH

What? Where we are?

JOHN

It was my birthday on a Friday. We went out for drinks after work, but Nolan didn't stay for too long. He left early. Said he had to "go check something out."

MICAH

Why are you telling me this?

JOHN

I... I'm sorry. I assumed you knew. We... we were here. In this bar.

MICAH

What?

JOHN

It had a different name then. We were sitting right in this room having drinks. It was the same night he died.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

DEVON

The room is filled with an impenetrable fog so thick that you huddle together instinctively. As the fog swirls, you are plunged into darkness, yet you sense heavy movement around you.

MICAH

Great. [laughs] Good. Okay.

[moody adventure music plays]

DEVON

The fog lifts as quickly as it came, but the light does not return.

ELIA

Um. Okay. I cast Produce Flame.

MICAH

Cool.

DEVON

As the torch is lit, the darkness recedes and you realize that the room you're standing in has changed.

ELIA

Ooh.

DEVON

The walls are plain stone brick. The floor is heavy gray flagstone, speckled with moss. The room seems utterly empty, but most worrying, is that now it also seems to lack a door or any means of exit. There is only cold gray stone surrounding you. The east wall looks to be not entirely secure. It's moving subtly. It seems to be breathing.

MICAH

Okay. Um. I would like to roll a Perception check on the east wall. So... [dice rolling] That's an 11. Um... plus 5 Perception, so... a 16.

DEVON

Okay. So the wall--

ELIA

Hang on. Out of character. Um. Are you ever going to tell us what happened with that John guy earlier? I'm like, dying to know.

MICAH

Okay. Uh. It was fine, I guess. He told me some stories that I'd never heard before. But I... I kind of just... For now, I kind of just want to play. So can we talk about this later? Like when I've had time to like process, and...?

ELIA

Okay.

MICAH

And anyway, like... Devon. Okay. Sorry. What do we see?

DEVON

Uh, okay. The wall begins to gently breathe again. The breaths are more ragged than before, as if some careful balance has been interrupted. You notice that the wall's movement seems to match the breathing of the person near it.

ELIA

Um. I think we both need to stand near the wall and see whose breath it's trying to match. [breathes deeply] All right. You go.

MICAH

[breathes deeply]

ELIA

Um... Let's try breathing together.

MICAH

`Mkay.

MICAH & ELIA

[breathe deeply]

ELIA

Out of character, though. What do you mean by "process"? Like, are you okay? Did he say something to you?

DEVON

As you both stand near the wall and breathe...

ELIA

Okay.

DEVON

...it matches your breath.

MICAH

I think we should take a deeper breath--

ELIA

Seriously, Micah. What happened? Are you okay?

MICAH

Um. It was really just him telling me stories of what it was like to be my dad's friend. It was just a lot to.. to take in. It all is... Hearing about my dad, that story that Luke told me... I promise I'll tell you guys all about it, just like, not now. Please.

ELIA

But...When did you talk to Luke? What are you...? [sigh]

MICAH

Wait a minute. No, I told you. We got drinks. I told you that.

ELIA

No. You didn't. What are you...? What story did he tell you?

MICAH

It was... just this story about something that happened to him as a kid and then, you know, kind of some stuff about me. Can we please just play?

ELIA

No. You didn't tell me about any of this. Like... What could Luke have possibly have told you about when you are kid? He knew you for a day.

DEVON

Hmm. You know what, guys? I think I'm done DMing here. I'm going to pack up, okay?

MICAH

[sigh] Come on. I really... This is what we said we were going to do. I really just wanted to play this nerdy game of Dungeons & Dragons. That's all. That's what I wanted to do.

ELIA

Okay. Well.

DEVON

Well. Wait.

MICAH

I didn't... I didn't tell you guys because I wasn't... ready to. But I... I... I... I have every intention of telling you. I just wanted a little bit of time to figure things out.

DEVON

Wait. So. When exactly did you meet up with Luke?

MICAH

Um... The weekend after New Year's. Yes. It... Yeah. The weekend after New Year's.

ELIA

Really. Are you sure about that?

MICAH

Yeah.

ELIA

So. The weekend of my party at the restaurant that you didn't show up to, that's the weekend.

MICAH

Elia. I'm...

ELIA

That Saturday...

MICAH

I was going to come by after, but then the story that he told me--

ELIA

No. No, no, no.

MICAH

It just freaked me out so it... Like, I just needed--

ELIA

No. Yeah. It really freaked you out. You know, you've been saying that a lot lately, and I'm real sorry that you're going through all this stuff, but it's so hard for us to keep up.

MICAH

What?

ELIA

And you know... you know we're in your corner, but you've been way more unpredictable than usual lately and no one knows what's going on anymore.

MICAH

Yes, you do.

ELIA

And we... we get that you require a lot of space, but it's really, really out of character for you to just straight not show up to something that you know was really important to me.

MICAH

Elia.

DEVON

Yeah, Micah. I mean. No disrespect. Just seems like you're not putting your energy in the right places.

MICAH

Guys, I'm... I'm sorry. I don't know what to say. I...

ELIA

Yeah. Well. That's fine because I'm just going to go upstairs and watch TV anyway.

MICAH

El, come on.

ELIA

No. Like, no. I'm good.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[interior car sounds. Highway rushing by.]

MICAH

I still can't believe she fucking left like that.

DEVON

Well, Micah. It's her job.

MICAH

She doesn't even have to be there until 5. Like, if she had rode with us, she would have made it on time. She didn't have to catch a train at the break of dawn. She hates getting up early.

DEVON

I don't know what to tell you. I mean. I think she was still upset from last night. And she probably thought it'd be better just to head out, clear her head.

MICAH

Yeah. Whatever.

DEVON

Look. Micah. She just found out that you blew off one of her biggest nights at the restaurant. You know how hard she worked on that.

MICAH

Devon...

DEVON

Before you say anything, I'm not trying to take sides. I love you both. But this was kind of a big deal to her. You didn't show up.

MICAH

I know. I fucked up. I just feel like I can't keep everything straight. All this weird shit keeps dropping in my lap and I'm really trying to figure it out. And I'm doing the podcast, just like you guys said I should. Like, this was y'all's idea. Like, I... I thought that I was doing the right thing.

DEVON

Let's... you know, that's one interpretation. You know... What we originally came up with was one thing. But a lot's shifted from where it started, you know? And I'm fine with that. Still am. So long as you remember what you started it for.

MICAH

I do.

DEVON

Remember what's important.

MICAH

Of course I do.

DEVON

Micah, I'm not sure that's true. You know I'm talking to you as one of your best friends. This project? It seems to be taking over all your free time. And a lot of your head space. You're recording almost every time we hang out. And I can roll with it to an extent. But it's still be nice to be able to just chill, you know? Relax. Just... and know that what we're... what we're talking about isn't gonna end up all over the internet. But yeah. That's not even my biggest concern. If I'm being honest, what about the break-in. That was real shit, Micah. If someone came into your apartment, our building, and smashed up all of your stuff...

MICAH

I know. I was there.

DEVON

And the message? How are you not terrified to basically do anything? Have you even asked yourself about that? What you're being warned about?

MICAH

I don't know. I wish I knew.

DEVON

Micah, I'm worried about you. Elia is, too. Hell, I live in the same building so I'm worried about me, too. I mean, could this have upset someone, somehow?

MICAH

I don't know how. I only recorded you and Elia and uh... and Billie up until that point.

DEVON

And Luke.

MICAH

What about Luke?

DEVON

Look. You're telling me that you don't think it's strange that right after this dude shows up, shit starts getting weird? I wasn't about to stoke the argument last night. You know, I was trying to let y'all work your stuff out. But I heard the episode that you posted when you and Luke went to the bar. I just didn't connect the dates. Micah. That's some shit. Do you know what he wants? Do you know what he wants you to do with the information he gave you?

MICAH

He heard the conversation I had with my mom on Thanksgiving and how much it bothered me that I couldn't remember. Like I think he's just trying to help me.

DEVON

Look.

MICAH

What's wrong with that?

DEVON

You know, if that's the case? Fine. But I think you need to tread carefully.

MICAH

I am. Like, I'm being careful.

DEVON

Hmm.

MICAH

Can I put on the radio?

DEVON

Yeah. Sure.

[OUTRO MUSIC PLAYS]

[FADEOUT]

Transcription by [Evelyn Archer](#).

Property of **How it Ends Studio, LLC** © 2021 - All Rights Reserved.