

Season 1: Episode 8

“How Long?”

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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]**

[FOOTSTEPS]

LUKE

Oh, my God. I'm gonna be so sore.

MICAH

Okay. You said you wanted to take the longer loop. I was fine with three miles.

LUKE

Yeah, I'm not interested in doing that again, though.

[TRAFFIC SOUNDS]

MICAH

You stop complaining. You sound like Elia. She hated it when I dragged her on long hikes.

LUKE

Maybe you should call her.

MICAH

Yeah. I want to. But I feel like she's just too mad at me still, and she'll probably just tell me that I brought this on myself.

LUKE

Yeah. I get it. Do you want to talk about it? I know she's your best friend, and all. And I can't exactly step in for her, but I can try.

MICAH

Thanks. Devon really... he just said that there were just some kids.

[MUFFLED THUMP]

MICAH

[laughs]

Did you just actually fall on the ground?

LUKE

I can't help it. My legs are so sore.

MICAH

[laughing] Oh, my God.

LUKE

I'm dragging my feet all day.

MICAH

[laughing] Are you okay?

LUKE

I'm fine. Thanks.

MICAH

[continues laughing]

LUKE

Your deep concern is heartwarming.

MICAH

[continues laughing]

[DOOR OPENS]

[DOOR CLOSES]

[traffic noise ends]

[background coffee shop CHATTER]

LUKE

Why don't you go grab that table over there? I'll get the drinks. What do you want?

MICAH [laughing]

Something hot. I don't know. Surprise me.

LUKE

No problem

MICAH

Yeah.

[coffee shop CHATTER]

LUKE

I got you a vanilla latte.

MICAH

Thanks. I'm sure it'll be delicious.

LUKE

Shut up.

MICAH

[laughs] Sorry. I'm filing that one in my memory warehouse forever.

[pause]

Oh.

LUKE

Hey. Your friends.

MICAH

Yeah. Yeah, I know.

LUKE

Are you gonna go say hello?

MICAH

Yeah. Elia! Devon! Hey.

ELIA

Hey.

MICAH

You... you folks want to sit?

ELIA

I think... we're getting our coffees--

DEVON

Yeah, sure. We can do that.

ELIA

Okay.

DEVON

So... uh... I'll put the order in. BRB.

MICAH

Uh... How... How've you been?

ELIA

Fine. You?

MICAH

I'm okay. I miss you guys.

ELIA

Yeah, well. Uh...

DEVON

Hey. [nervous chuckle] Got you a chai, Elia. Should be up soon.

ELIA

Thanks. Um... we should probably just go over and wait.

MICAH

No, we're... we're waiting, too. Luke just put our order in. Um... if you guys want to sit and wait, we could do that together.

DEVON

Yeah.

ELIA

Uh...

[chair pulls out]

DEVON

Let's sit.

ELIA

Okay.

DEVON

Okay. So... how's uh... my buddy Mulder doing?

MICAH

He's good. He misses you. You should swing by soon and say hi. I haven't really seen you around the house lately.

DEVON

Yeah. Um... been really busy, you know. I'll try to stop in soon, though.

MICAH

Cool. El, how are things at the restaurant?

ELIA

You would know if you were picking up any shifts the last few weeks.

DEVON

Elia. Come on.

MICAH

No, no. It's fine. Um... I only took a couple weeks off. Things have just been kind of...

ELIA

Yeah. We know. Devon... told me what happened at your house.

MICAH

Oh.

ELIA

So did anyone answer your call for stories? Did you find anyone else that's dealing with things?

MICAH

Well, yeah, actually--

LUKE

Yeah. We... Yeah, we met up with this guy--

ELIA

I... I wasn't asking you.

DEVON

Hey. El.

MICAH

El.

LUKE

Sorry, I was... only going to say that we did find someone who had a story like ours.

ELIA

Like, "ours"? Interesting.

MICAH

[sighs]

ELIA

Well. What did he say?

MICAH

Maybe we can talk about this another time? Maybe just me and you? We could go get coffee or dinner or something?

ELIA

We're having coffee. Or soon, if it ever fucking comes.

MICAH

[sighs] Okay, uh... His story was actually pretty fucking horrifying. Similar to mine, and also Luke's. And... my dad's.

DEVON

Wait. Your dad's story?

MICAH

Yeah. There was this whole thing about a car crash on a dark road.

DEVON

I'm sorry, Micah. That's got to be rough.

ELIA

So, what? You think something fishy happened to your dad now?

MICAH

I don't know, maybe. I mean... That's what I'm trying to figure out.

ELIA

Well, did you tell your mom?

MICAH

Not yet. There's not really much to tell.



LUKE

Yeah, well you... it might not be a good idea to bring any of that up until we have some more answers.

ELIA

Oh yeah? Really? Why? Are you trying to protect Ava now, too?

LUKE

No. I just meant--

ELIA

What? So now, like the two of you are out here doing... what? Ghost hunting? Like, what have you been looking for?

MICAH

Elia. You know that we're just trying--

ELIA

Trying to chase monsters? From that book? Like you really called that author and wasted his time? For what? It's a fiction book. What do you even gain from that?

MICAH

I know it's fiction, Elia. I'm not a kid. I... I asked him about the people who told him the stories. Things like that often have real origin stories. You, of all people, should know. You are obsessed with lore.

ELIA

Yeah. Whatever.

LUKE

We just want to know--

ELIA

We. We, we. Again. So it's like the two of you against the world now? Is that what it is?

DEVON

Elia. Chill.

MICAH

Ugh. This was such a bad idea.

LUKE

I didn't do anything to you. I don't understand what your problem is.

ELIA

My problem is you. You come here out of thin fucking air. You've got all these stories to spin. You come here and you know, bring up your old friend Aimee and then you guys go and get drinks at the Avery, of all places?

LUKE

Why does that matter?

ELIA

Oh, I don't know. It's conveniently a block away from Micah's house?

LUKE

So? I said--

ELIA

And then you say you've lived here for years? But you don't run into her until we're in Salem? And your story that happened in the woods just a few weeks before Micah's?

LUKE

I don't know what to tell you. It... That's what happened.

ELIA

Yeah. All your stories are exactly what Micah needed to hear. But she didn't. She didn't need you to stir up all this stuff. Like, it was hard enough for her already. And now you two are out here doing what? Like, just... "Hey there, Demons! It's me, ya boy."

MICAH

[chuckles]

ELIA

I'm not trying to be funny, Micah. This is--

MICAH

No, I know, but--

ELIA

It's not fucking funny. No!

[pause]

Who even are you, dude? Like. Ava doesn't even remember your name.

MICAH

Elia, she said she remembered picking me up at Aimee's boyfriend's house. You met... You remember--

ELIA

But she doesn't remember his name. You only know his name because of Aimee. And Aimee's not here to tell us if this is the same guy.

LUKE

Are you kidding me?

ELIA

How do we even know you are who you say you are? Like, I really don't see how you've brought any value to Micah's life whatsoever.

LUKE

Well you haven't been around for like a month!

ELIA

Yeah. Because of you! We fought about you. It's always... you. And ever since you told her that bullshit story, she's been missing and... It's just not her. It's never been her.

DEVON

Guys. We all need to relax, you know. Just for a second. This isn't getting us--

ELIA

I don't care, Devon. It's not... I don't care. He needs to hear this. Micah is my best friend and I'm not going to let him fuck up her life.

MICAH

Oh, my God. What am I doing that is fucking up my life so bad, Elia? Please, enlighten me.

ELIA

Uh... let's see. You took two weeks of work. You're not focusing on your photography. You blew me off. I don't what you said to Devon because he won't tell me, but he's obviously upset. You're meeting up with people that your mom specifically told you to avoid. You know, I know you have a lot going on with your dad and everything. And it's been brutal and I get it--

MICAH

Wait a second. Wait a second. What do you mean, "people that my mom told me to avoid?" Who are you talking about?

ELIA

That um... That John guy. But like, that's not even the point. I'm trying to tell you that... you know, we love you and I know you never really dealt with your dad's death and everything--

MICAH

How do you know that she told me not to talk to him?

ELIA

That's what you said when we were in the car.

MICAH

No. I told you she was fine with it. I remember. In fact, I have it recorded.

ELIA

Micah.

MICAH

So that's it. It was you. You... you've been talking to my mom this whole time?

DEVON

Hey, Micah. Come on. You know, she wouldn't have--

MICAH

Oh no? Elia? You didn't? You didn't call my mom to ask her about John Buckley? Tell me to my face.

[pause]

MICAH

That's what I thought. And I bet that's how my mom found out about the first break-in. She called me and left me that voice mail begging me to move home. It was awful. And it was because you told her. How long, Elia? How long have you been talking to my mom behind my back?

ELIA

Listen. You left her when you went to college and never looked back. You don't call her often. You don't talk about your dad with her. She knows that you love her, and that being home is painful for you, and she just worries.

MICAH

How. Long?

ELIA

A... a year. Or two.

MICAH

Years?! You came down on me for not telling you about meeting Luke. One. Thing. In all the years we've been friends, I have always told you everything and now you're telling me that you've been lying to me for a couple years.

Did you know?

DEVON

No. I didn't. But maybe...

ELIA

He didn't... I didn't tell him. He didn't know anything, but--

MICAH

Right.

ELIA

Micah. She loves you. And we worry. And... I just wanted her to know that you were okay.

LUKE

So you're coming for me? But you've been lying to her for years?

ELIA

No. You don't get to talk right now.

LUKE

You're probably next.

MICAH

What?

ELIA

What!

LUKE

Keep asking questions and you'll be next.

[CROSSTALK]

ELIA

What does that even mean?

MICAH

We're gonna go. Let's go.

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

[OUTRO MUSIC BEGINS]

Transcription by [Evelyn Archer](#).

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