

Season 1: Episode 9

“Do You See?”

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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]**

[VOICE OVER]

OFFICER MARK SCHRADER

Hi, Micah. My name is Mark Schrader. I ran into your mother the other day, and she asked that I call you. I'm uh... I'm the officer that was first on the scene of your father's accident. Your mother mentioned that you may have questions about what happened that night. Thought I'd be the best person to set the record straight. Best I can, anyway. So give me a call back. You can probably see my number on your phone, but just in case, it's: 732...

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

MICAH

I can't believe I'm doing this. I'm currently sitting in front of Officer Schrader's house. Once I heard his voice mail, I called him immediately and asked if I could meet with him. And when he said, "yes" I just got in my car and started driving. And... here I am.

I don't think that I could do this on the phone.

[birds sing]

[car door opens]

[car door shuts]

[footsteps]

[screen door opens]

[knock at door]

[door opens]

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Hi, Micah. Come in.

MICAH

Hello. Thank you.

[door closes]

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Have a seat. You like some coffee? Just made a French press.

MICAH

Uh... sure. Thank you.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Cream?

MICAH

Mm-hmm (affirmative)

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

How was the drive? You hit any traffic?

[coffee pouring]

MICAH

Oh, not really. Not really.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

That's good. So... like I said. I ran into your mother the other day. And she mentioned that you'd been doing a podcast. I've listened to a few. My son got me into them. Have you heard of "Serial"?

MICAH

Yeah. Uh... I have.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

It was an interesting show. I hear they're making a documentary about the case.

MICAH

Right. I... I think I heard that. [sighs]

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

What made you start your podcast?

MICAH

It's sort of a long story...

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

I got time.

MICAH

Um...

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

What is your podcast about? Let's start there.

MICAH

Um... Well, I guess... I guess it's... Started about... this recurring dream that I've had since I was little. Which, even back then, scared me for sure. But it wasn't that big of a deal. Until like the last year or so, anyway.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

What changed?

MICAH

Well, I started having it more often. And then I would have trouble sleeping because it was overwhelmingly disoriented. And you know, I have other nightmares, too. Pretty frequently. But this one... um... in particular, this one was different. And at the same time, I started to see a therapist to talk about it because I wasn't sleeping and then not-sleeping was affecting everything. You know, work. My ability to focus. My mood. Yeah.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

What happens in the dream?

MICAH

Honestly, if you're okay, I-I-I'd don't really want to get into it.

[grandfather clock begins to chime]

MICAH

But anyway. So what did my mom tell you?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Not too much. She said you started a podcast and it's led to some questions about your dad..

[grandfather clock chimes three o'clock]

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

... and the day that he died. She did mention that your house got broken into? Did that have something to do with the podcast--?

MICAH

Wait. She told you about that?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Yes. Um... I'm a retired cop. She asked my advice.

MICAH

Yeah. There was a break-in but I think it was just some people trying to play a really shitty prank on me.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE  
She said you were scared.

MICAH  
[mutters] I bet she did.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE  
I'm sorry?

MICAH  
Nothing. I... I just actually haven't talked to my mom about any of it. But she talked to a friend of mine without me knowing... It was... a thing.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE  
I see. Did you report it to the police?

MICAH  
Yes.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE  
What do they have to say about it?

MICAH  
Listen. Officer Schrade...

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE  
Mark.

MICAH  
Officer Schrade. I appreciate you agreeing to let me come speak to you, and welcoming me into your home. But I'd really like for you to tell me what it is you know.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE  
I assume you're recording this?

MICAH

Ah... yes. Yes. I was going to ask, is that okay?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Fine. I'm fine with it, if you are. But I wonder if this is something you'd prefer to remain private.

MICAH

No. It's fine.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Your mother said you've had a really hard time since he died.

MICAH

I'm okay.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

All right. What questions do you have?

MICAH

What did the crash look like?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

How much did your mother tell you about the night of your father's crash?

MICAH

I know that he was supposed to come home to be with us. And that he never did. And recently, she told me he was yelling about me while he was in the hospital right before he went into a coma. And then he died.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

What was he yelling?

MICAH

Please. Sir. Can you just tell me what you saw?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

[big breath] I was the first on the scene that night. I was actually on my way home. I usually take River Road. It isn't the

busiest of roads at night, so it's... a nice ride to wind down after a shift.

MICAH

[clears throat]

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

I saw the truck from a ways back because the headlights were on. And... at first I thought it was just pulled over. But once I got closer, it was clear there had been an accident. The front end was wrapped around a tree.

MICAH

Um... did anything look suspicious?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Um... not that I could see.

MICAH

Okay, so what did you do?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

I radioed it in and went to see if the driver was okay. There was glass all over the road. Debris everywhere. I saw a pair of boots. A shovel. I didn't know what had happened. And then I saw him. Your dad was in bad shape. He had a gash on his head and was pretty scratched up. He was still breathing, but I didn't want to move him in case he had a spinal injury, so I just waited with him.

MICAH

[takes a deep breath] Oh...okay. So what else did you see?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

There was a camera on the side of the road--

MICAH

Wait. A camera?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE



Yes. Like... you know. A fancy one that a professional would use. It was surprisingly intact for having been thrown outside the truck.

MICAH  
Shit.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE  
Sorry?

MICAH  
Uh... the camera. I think I... I think I had it. I found one at my mom's house not too long ago. At least I'm assuming that it's the same one. But it got stolen from my car. There was film in it that I was gonna get developed but I just never got around to it. Fuck.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE  
I'm... I'm sorry to hear that.

MICAH  
Was he conscious at all? Like, did you talk to him?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE  
Well. In a sense.

MICAH  
In a sense. What does that mean?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE  
As I said, he was in pretty bad shape. But when I first arrived and checked on him... He asked for you.

MICAH  
Wh- What?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE  
He asked for you.

MICAH  
Why would he ask for me?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

He was disoriented. You were probably on his mind. It's not uncommon.

MICAH

Did you tell anyone?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

No. I don't think so. At the time, I didn't know who "Micah" was.

MICAH

What did he say to you?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

He just said your name a few times. And then asked where you were. I talked to him until the ambulance came, just so he knew he wasn't alone.

MICAH

[takes a ragged breath] Um... Do you know what caused the crash?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

It was ruled an accident. Just so you know, he wasn't--

MICAH

My dad wouldn't do that.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

I'm not suggesting he would. Only reassuring you. There's a lot of wildlife around there. It could have happened to anyone.

MICAH

What could have happened to anyone?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

He swerved to avoid hitting an animal, and likely lost control of the car.

MICAH

That's it? Like he swerved to avoid hitting a deer, or something? And that... And he just died because of it?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Not... exactly. It was a fox. But. Yes. Again, it isn't uncommon. It could happen to anyone.

MICAH

Wait. What did you say?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

That it isn't unusual for wildlife to cause severe accidents? Especially at night--

MICAH

No. About the kind of animal that it was.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Oh. It was a small fox.

MICAH

N-n-no. That... no. That can't be it.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

I'm afraid it is. I saw the fox myself. From what I remember, the official report said he lost control of the car and hit the tree to avoid hitting the fox.

MICAH

No.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Yes. Once the ambulance came, I took a quick walk around. I found the body of a kit near one of the tire tracks.

MICAH

Stop it. Please.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

I'm sorry?

MICAH

Stop talking. That's not what happened.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Micah. You asked me to tell you what happened that night.

MICAH

Yeah, that's... and that's not it, though. No.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

What do you think happened?

MICAH

Well whatever it was, it wasn't that.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Micah. I--

MICAH

No! Something... happened to my dad. He saw something. And whatever that was made him crash.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Yes. I already told you. It was a young fox. Probably separated from its--

MICAH

It was something else. It has to be. My mother told me he was yelling, "Don't let Micah see" at her when he was in the hospital. She said he kept saying it over and over again.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Yes, Micah. She told me that when we spoke the other day. But I'm sure it was because he didn't want you to see how he looked. He was severely injured--

MICAH

No! It was more than that. It has to be!

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Micah, please try to calm down.

MICAH

I found those same words in a book. He wrote them down. He must have seen something. Something that he didn't want me to see.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

I'm not... following.

MICAH

At first I didn't think it meant anything, either. Nothing other than like a really creepy coincidence. But then... then Luke told me about something that happened to him on the road. That same road. Like, something came after him in the middle of the night. It threatened him. It wasn't far from where my dad crashed. It's what made me start looking.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Start looking for what? Micah, you aren't making any sense--

MICAH

For answers! I don't think it was a coincidence that he crashed right there. I don't think it was an accident. Because it was near what happened to me. And Luke. And...

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Micah. It was accident. He hit a fox and lost control of the car. He hit the tree hard enough to total his truck. I was there.

MICAH

No. You said he asked for me. Why would he ask for me? And then why would he yell, "Don't let Micah see?"

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

I have already explained this, Micah.

MICAH

No. I... I even talked to someone who had an experience just like this.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

What do you mean?

MICAH

I talked to a man named Ben who reached out to me because of the podcast. He said that once he heard what happened to me, and Luke's story, that it reminded of the thing that happened to him.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

What happened to you?

MICAH

We were... we were warned. It made sense. It makes sense! He was warned, too. He said he was driving and saw something standing in the road, and that's what made him almost crash his truck. Just like my dad. And then, when he went to go see what it was, someone hit him from behind and knocked him out.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

That very well may have happened to that person. But it doesn't have anything to do with your father. You have to see that you're reaching--

MICAH

I'm not! Someone caused the crash. Or something. He didn't die just because he was trying to avoid hitting a fucking deer.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

[shouts] It wasn't a deer! It was a kit. I've said it several times. It was a young fox. I saw it dead on the side of the road, its legs were crushed.

MICAH

[almost crying] No. No. He wouldn't.

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

It was. I'm sorry. It was a horrible accident. But that's what it was. An accident.

MICAH

He-he-he hit... He hit me?

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Micah, you aren't making sense?

MICAH

He tried not to... He tried not to hit... me? I don't...

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

I don't understand. Do you think he saw you there?

MICAH

[crying]

OFFICER MARK SCHRADE

Micah. I'm going to shut off the recorder.

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

MICAH

I um... I am not sure what to say. I only sort of remember leaving Officer Schrade's house. I stopped crying after a while and he finally let me leave. After that, I drove to a park and just sat in my car for a really long time. But then I got angry.

I drove all the way home without stopping because I was sure he was wrong. That's where I am now. I know you can't see me, but I'm sitting on my couch and everything found in my dad's shed is right in front of me. Everything. I came home knowing I'd find some semblance of proof of what happened that night. And I did.

[tape recorder plays]

NOLAN (voice over)

September 30th. Finally figured out what to do for Kit's birthday. [pause] It might take me a while to get it, but she will absolutely love it.

[pause]

October 18th. Caught a glimpse today on a hike. It was far away. Definitely two of them.

[pause]

October 22nd. Same hike. Saw tracks. Several. Almost sure it's them. Was direct register trot and strides look about right. Narrow trail. Set up trip. Will check them as often as I can. Once I'm sure where the den is, I'll set myself up and wait.

[pause]

October 29. Got a blurry snap. But it's all I really needed. Two red foxes. Most likely mother and a kit. Gonna check again just to be sure. Busy week ahead. Should be able to on... Friday. If all's good, I plan to pack up my camera and spend all weekend, if needed, to get the shot. Get it framed for Kit's bedroom. And gonna give her the song I wrote for her, too.

[guitar strums]

[pause]

All right. November 5th. Stopping by John's birthday thing. Then gonna check again.

[tape recorder shuts off]

MICAH

[through tears]

I didn't listen to all the tapes that I found. I... I mean. I hadn't listened to them all because... because I didn't want to... I didn't want to listen to them all at once.

I just miss him so much, and I found this whole box of his voice. You get it, right? You get why I wouldn't? I had all the other stuff, like his sketches and the books that he used to read me. But the tapes were different. It was like being in the room with him again. I wanted to hold on to that. So I didn't listen. I saved them.

The last note on the tape was the night he died. November 5th. It was the night of the accident. Officer Schrade said he hit an



animal. That he swerved to avoid hitting an animal and then lost control of the car. That his truck was wrapped around a tree. And then he said my name a few times, and he asked where I was. Officer Schrade said it was a young fox. A kit. Its legs were crushed. And it was dead on the side of the road.

Don't let Micah see. I remember overhearing someone say... I don't know, maybe my mom... say that, but... Before he went into a coma, you know, my dad was really out of it. Not making much sense. I don't know why I remember that now. And she said he kept repeating, "Don't let Micah see." I don't know maybe he thought he was still in the truck.

[pause]

I knew this girl in high school who got into a really bad car accident. She said that the police got a hold of her mom, and without thinking her mother just put her little brother in the car and raced over to the scene. And her little brother was confused and terrified by all the commotion and for weeks after that refused to ride in a car. Maybe um... Maybe he thought my mom would rush out there, and that she'd bring me. You know, if I saw the fox...

I said once, um... way back when I started this whole thing that my dad never called me "Micah" unless something was really wrong. And that was so seldom that I don't think I have any memories of him saying my name. You know, instead he called me, "Kit." Like a young fox. He always said I was curious and wily, and that I could get into and out of anything.

He said I was his "Smart little kit." Quiet and elusive. I listened back to my conversation with Officer Schrade. And when he said it was a fox, it was like I didn't hear him or something. I just shut it out. I was so convinced it was something or someone that caused the crash, to hurt him. But then he used the word "Kit" and I... I fell apart.

My dad crashed his truck because he saw a young fox in the road and he tried not to hit it. And when he did, he thought of me. Of course, he'd swerve. He said my name. He told my mom not to

let me see. She was right when she said that he was always my like, big, strong, papa bear. He didn't want to scare me.

I raced home from Schrade's house, convinced I'd find something to prove him wrong. Something that would show him everything I've been chasing means something. And instead I found proof that my father always thought of me. That he'd been planning to camp out and take a photo of a fox family... for me.

I spent the last few months completely immersed in this, like... what? Investigation? I thought I was building a case that what happened to my dad was linked with what happened to me that day in the park. Luke's encounter Halloween night. Ben's story. Maybe even the break-in.

I'm not sure I said it out loud, but I thought maybe someone did want me to stop looking into everything. And I never really found out if it was a prank or not. But now it just seems like I'm an easy mark.

I created this mess. Chasing monsters, ghosts. Putting it all out here for anyone to hear. Because that was easier. You know, even with the thinnest of evidence it was easier to believe in someone or something... or something magical or monstrous. Something that can't be explained... took my dad from me.

A fucking car crash is just too boring, too pedestrian, to just blink a person like my father out of fucking existence. He was everything. To me, to my mom, to his friends. To so many people. And an accident just made him disappear.

So many people lose loved ones like this. One minute, that person is larger than life, filling a room with laughter. And the next, it's just... empty. A hole that can't ever be filled by anything or anyone else. Ever again.

How do you fucking rationalize that? Even 10, 20 years later? That life is just that random? I know I am not special, here. I don't think that I'm the only one who has gone through this, or that this is the worst that someone could go through. I just

need you to see why I clung to the possibility. The possibility of it being anything else.

Do you see?

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[OUTRO MUSIC BEGINS]

Transcription by [Evelyn Archer](#).

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