

Season 2: Episode 10

“Near Misses Pt. 2”

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how it ends



NETWORK INTRO

Rusty Quill Presents...

MICAH [Promo]

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[INTRO MUSIC FADE IN]

MICAH [Season 2 Intro]

For as long as I can remember, I've suffered from unnerving recurring dreams and night terrors. A year ago, I started the How it Ends podcast to try to uncover the meaning of my dreams and finally get some sleep. It was supposed to be a fun thing to do with my friends. But then someone broke into my house and left me a message: "You've been warned." That's when I realized this was about more than just my nightmares.

Are my dreams trying to tell me something? Is there a connection between my father's death and a day from my childhood that I can't quite remember? Someone doesn't want me to know the truth. And maybe some things are better left alone. But not for me. I have to know. We're 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]

ELIA

Are you guys okay?

DEVON

What the fuck happened? You were both--

MICAH

We were hiking, and- and I couldn't find my other orange hat, and- and Aimee really wanted to take a picture. Like, and I didn't want to but she insisted--

ELIA

Woah. Woah, woah, woah, woah. Micah. Slow down.

MICAH

She almost got hit. Like it came out of nowhere.

DEVON

What... What came out of nowhere?

AIMEE

We were out hiking and I almost got hit by an arrow.

ELIA

What the fuck?

DEVON

What? Wait. Can y'all please, just start from the beginning?

MICAH

Um... during certain times of the year, you have to wear neon orange because people hunt in the area.

ELIA

Well, if you were wearing orange, then how did that happen?

AIMEE

I wasn't.

ELIA

What? Why?

AIMEE

Micah only had one hat in her car. She couldn't find the other one.

ELIA

[Sighs] Oh, shit. I have it. It's in my closet.

MICAH

Yeah. I figured.

DEVON

But wait. If- If you didn't have a hat for each of you, then why did you even go?

AIMEE

It was my idea. I said it was fine. I've been to that area several times, and depending on the amount of people, you know, if most of you wear it, it's enough. I figured if we stayed close together, we'd be fine.

DEVON

So... you got separated?

MICAH

Well, we were walking together for a while, you know? Just talking and stuff. And you know, then about a mile in, we came up on this big boulder that I've climbed a few times. And Aimee wanted to take a picture of me standing on top of it. I guess we just weren't thinking.

AIMEE

I wasn't. I didn't even think about that. We were just having fun. Couldn't have been apart for more than a few minutes.

ELIA

So... what? Then just all of a sudden an arrow comes flying out of nowhere?

MICAH

Actually, no. So I climbed up to the top and I was posing for the photo. You know, I think you took one or two, right? I was up there for a minute.

AIMEE

Yeah. Yeah. I got one in before anything happened.

MICAH

And as I was thinking of another pose, I- I- I saw someone move in the trees behind her. You know, I tried to lean forward to see if I could make it out, and then I actually saw someone step out from behind a tree. I wasn't sure what was happening at first, but then I saw the bow and arrow, and I fucking screamed for Aimee to get down. I can't believe you listened to me that fast.

AIMEE

I know. I don't even know why I did because I was so confused. But I guess it was instinct? I just dropped down. My phone went flying.

MICAH

Well, then and I scrambled down the rock and ran to her while yelling her name and waving my arms. I thought maybe they couldn't tell that there was a person in the trees, so I just tried to make a lot of noise.

AIMEE

Once I got back to my feet, we called out over and over, saying they just shot at a person by accident. Micah took off her hat for a second and waved it around and yelled to them.

DEVON

So what did they say?

AIMEE

Nothing. No one responded. It was fucking terrifying.

ELIA

Are you kidding?

DEVON

Why wouldn't they respond?

MICAH

I don't know! Maybe because they were scared, too? Like, they could have killed her. I mean whoever it was, like maybe they

ran away during the time it took me to like get down to where she was. Like. They knew they totally fucked up.

ELIA

Yeah, you fucking think? Micah, Aimee. Can I get you something? Do you want a drink?

MICAH

Maybe some water?

AIMEE

Yeah. Same. After no one answered, we booked it.

MICAH

Yeah. I- I grabbed Aimee's hand and we legit ran as fast as we could back the way we came. Like, straight to the car and then we called you. I practically dragged you, but I wasn't about to let go of you.

AIMEE

I've never run anywhere holding someone's hand, so... that was new.

[MICAH and AIMEE laugh nervously]

MICAH

Yeah.

ELIA

How are you two cracking jokes right now? Like, what is wrong with you?

DEVON

Elia, it's... it's okay. Come sit down--

ELIA

No, Devon.

[Phone rings]

It's not fucking okay.

[Phone rings]

AIMEE

It's a 732 number.

MICAH

Fuck. Really?

DEVON

Wait. What does that mean?

MICAH

It's just an area code near where we grew up.

AIMEE

[Into phone] Hello? Oh. Hi, Tim.

MICAH

[Whispers] For real?

AIMEE

Yeah. I'm here. I'm sorry. I'm actually with some friends. Um.
Yeah. Them. Sure.

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

Can everyone hear me?

ELIA

Yeah.

MICAH

Yeah. Hey.

DEVON

Hey, Tim.

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

Hey, folks. Um... so I was calling Aimee to let her know about
something I found when I was cleaning out my dad's stuff. Uh,

there's an old file in here. Like, a file folder. Uh... it's got Nolan's name on it and it's... I think it's an old case file of my dad's.

MICAH

Oh, my God.

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

Yeah, so I wanted to know if you wanted this, or--

MICAH

Yeah. I think so. Yes--

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

Okay.

MICAH

Yes, I do.

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

Great. Um... maybe you could text me your address when we get off the phone.

MICAH

Of course, yeah. I'll do that.

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

Okay. Cool.

MICAH

Um... Tim? I'm sorry about--

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

Please. Don't. I apologize for how short I was with all of you when you were here--

MICAH

No, Tim. It's us who should be sorry. We just barged in on you at clearly the worst possible time. You know, we didn't even give you a chance to explain, or anything.

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]
To be fair, you didn't know. But, thank you.

AIMEE

I hope you have friends to help you through it. I heard your mom passed a few years ago, as well. Do you still talk to Luke? You guys were so close.

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

Nah. I actually haven't seen him in a few years. Until maybe... early this past fall? Late summer? I was driving over to my dad's house and I saw him driving past me in the opposite direction. We stopped and rolled windows down, just to say a quick "hey" and "let's catch up soon". We said we'd exchange numbers over Facebook but that hasn't happened yet.

MICAH

[Whispers] That must be when...

AIMEE

Ssh.

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

Say that again? Sorry, I missed it.

AIMEE

Tim, I really am sorry about Mark. He was always so nice to me when we were kids. You know, I guess we're all starting to get to that age where our parents are getting older. It's tough.

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

Yeah. I guess. Um... but that's not how he died.

ELIA

Sorry?

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

So. It was an accident. He... called and left me a message saying he was going to check on our family's cabin. Um... The power went out and a neighbor called to let him know, so he took a drive out there to go check on it. Called him a few times and when I

didn't hear back, I started to worry. The cabin is in the woods, but nowhere so remote that your phone wouldn't work. When I got out there is when I found him.

AIMEE

I'm so sorry, Tim.

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

Yeah. Not sure what he was doing, but he was up on a ladder for some reason. He must have slipped and fell. It was just... it was real bad, Aimee. Like, horror movie bad. His arms and legs were all twisted up. His jaw was... fucking... mangled. And he'd bit his tongue clean off.

AIMEE

Jesus.

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

I'm sorry. I have no idea why I just told you that.

MICAH

Don't worry about it.

AIMEE

Tim, I know we haven't been friends in years, but... you can always call me if you need anything. You know that, right?

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

Thanks, Aimee. I appreciate it. So. Hey. I should go. Um... I really need to get this house cleared out so I can sell it. Um, Micah I'll get that folder in the mail to you as soon as I can.

MICAH

Thanks. Um... Yeah. No rush. Thank you.

AIMEE

Take care, Tim. And seriously, call me if you need anything.

TIM SCHRADE [VO on phone]

Will do. Bye.

DEVON

Okay. It's not just me, right? I can't be the only one thinking--

AIMEE

That the way Mark died sounds... I don't know...

DEVON

I know this is the worst timing, but I have to run out for a bit. I can come back afterwards.

MICAH

No, it's okay. Um. I think I'm actually going to stay here. I don't feel like being alone. Aimee, you just want to chill here for a bit?

AIMEE

I actually just want to be at home right now. Like, in my own bed. Locked in my house. Devon, do you have time to drop me off at my car before your appointment? It's parked at Micah's.

DEVON

Totally. No problem at all. It's actually the direction I'm heading in anyway.

MICAH

Okay. Well, are you sure you're good on your own? Like maybe I should come up?

AIMEE

I'd like that, but right now I think I just need to chill out on my own. I'll call you later tonight and we can figure something out.

MICAH

Okay. Sounds good.

AIMEE

Elia, thanks for cutting your plans short and letting us come here. I'll text you later, too.

ELIA

Uh... no problem. Sure.

DEVON

Yeah. And I'll head back here as soon as I can.

[FOOTSTEPS]

[DOOR OPENS]

[DOOR CLOSES]

MICAH

Hey, are you okay?

ELIA

Yeah. I just... I- I need...um... Are you hungry? I'm going to make something.

MICAH

You don't need to that. Come sit. Like, we can just... We can just order something.

[Pause]

MICAH

El. Come sit down.

ELIA

I... I have a whole chicken in here that I got at the farm yesterday. And it's not really that big so... it'll cook in like less than an hour. Actually, I could butterfly it. It'll cook even faster. Got my cast iron. Got my herbs, got my butter. Some baby potatoes--

MICAH

Elia. Like.

ELIA

[Sighs] The oven is preheating. What else? What else? A veg. We need a veg.

[REFRIGERATOR OPENS]

ELIA

Fuck. I don't have any veggies.

[REFRIGERATOR CLOSSES]

[SOUNDS OF RUMMAGING]

ELIA

I could use these mushrooms, maybe? Then the whole dish is just going to be brown. I need color.

MICAH

Elia!

ELIA

What?

MICAH

What are you doing?

ELIA

You know what? Fuck it. I'm not hungry. Do you want a drink? I can make Manhattans.

MICAH

Uh... El.

[RUMMAGING CONTINUES]

ELIA

Fuck. Fuck. Fuck, fuck, fuck.

MICAH

Elia. Please.

ELIA

We're out of fucking cherries. Are you kidding me right now?

MICAH

Elia, stop. Stop. Talk to me.

ELIA

What do you want me to say, Micah? Last year I was a chef, with some friends and- and- and now what? We're being stalked and harassed and everything we knew about what happened to your dad is a lie. And I don't know what's happening. I don't know how to fix it. And- and- and I just want to make it all stop--

MICAH

I know. I know. What we're trying... I- I- I don't... What would make you feel better right now?

ELIA

Rewinding a year and a half to when I pressured you into doing this podcast, and keeping my dumb mouth shut?

MICAH

This isn't your fault.

ELIA

[Sighs] Don't laugh at me, but... Can I do a reading right now?

MICAH

Sure.

[CARDS SHUFFLE]

ELIA

You've got to be fucking kidding me.

MICAH

What is it?

ELIA

I pulled... The Wheel of Fortune reversed.

MICAH

Is that... Is that bad? I...

ELIA

Not inherently, no. But it's the exact same thing I pulled for you last year.

MICAH

How do you even remember that?

ELIA

It's... It's one of the ones we recorded. Remember the forces that are outside of your control?

MICAH

Okay.

ELIA

I can't do this right now.

MICAH

Please. What is it? Can you please just talk to me?

ELIA

Its- It's the card... Our lives... Everything. Everything is wrong. Nearly two fucking years of just... chaos. We should have never started this. First Luke appears out of nowhere. And then your house gets broken into and destroyed. And then... Then what? Then Luke tells you that fucking story that we still don't even know if it's true or not.

MICAH

Part of it is. Aimee confirmed it.

ELIA

That's not the point. Then what? Then... New Jersey. And- And that John guy? Taking you to the bar that he last saw your dad at before he died? What the fuck is wrong with him? And then you went and shut me out, and you pushed Devon away. Started spending all your time with Luke. And- And you called that author, and his ghost stories. Who knows what kind of wild goose chase that sent you on? And- and now... Aimee's back. And shit is even more stirred up. And she said it would help, and it would get better. But it's not. It's getting worse.

MICAH

Elia, I'm sorry. I- I don't... I don't know how to fix it. I shouldn't... I shouldn't have brought you and Devon into this. It's not fair.

ELIA

It's too late. And... and...

[Sighs]

It's not your fault, anyway. I'm not mad at you. I'm just... mad. Aimee got shot at with a fucking arrow, Micah! Yeah, maybe it was an accident. But what if it wasn't? And... and if it wasn't, this is beyond dangerous. It's beyond anything any of us is equipped to handle. I just don't know what to do. And... I always know what to do. And I always know how to fix things, but I... I don't know what to do.

MICAH

No one expects you to fix everything, Elia. You don't need to put that kind of pressure on yourself--

ELIA

And- And Mark is dead. And the way he died... Like, Devon even said it. How suspicious is that? He fell off a ladder? And then- And then what? He bit off his tongue? And his jaw was hanging off? And his limbs were in 18 different directions? Sure. Right. He fell.

MICAH

We don't know anything.

ELIA

But we were all fucking thinking of it. Did you see how fast Aimee ran out of here? She just wanted to get home to her fourth floor apartment and her doorman. Like, we're all fucking terrified--

MICAH

You're right. We are all terrified. And overwhelmed. And confused. So you know what? Maybe we should just stop? Maybe we can just stop it--

ELIA

How? How? How can we stop? We're not in control anymore, Micah. We haven't been for a long time.

MICAH

We don't have to decide now, but- but I mean... Okay. Well, right now it's just you and me and we're in your apartment and we're safe. Like. Listen. Um... Okay.

So I know I'm always the one that checks out. And- And I- I probably haven't done the best job of reminding you that you- you don't have to be the one that takes care of everything all the time. And... maybe that's what... where we are right now. And I should have been better about letting you know that, like... You know that... I'm going to be around to take care of you, too.

I... for what it's worth, I- I could not have gotten through any of this if you weren't here. But maybe I should have been better at making sure that you knew that I'd always return the favor, you know? You're not alone in this either. I'm not going anywhere.

ELIA

I, um... I think I really needed to hear that, actually.

MICAH

Well, I'm sorry it took me so long to say.

ELIA

But you did.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[OUTRO MUSIC]

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