

Season 2: Episode 11

“The Messenger”

Written by Stephanie Resendes & Micah Rodriguez

Transcript by Evelyn Archer

how it ends



NETWORK INTRO

Rusty Quill Presents...

MICAH [Promo]

Thank you for listening to the How it Ends podcast. If you want to support the show, you can find us on Patreon at patreon.com/howitendsstudio and at our merch shop at howitendsstudio.threadless.com. Enjoy the show.

[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]

AIMEE [Voiceover, on phone]

Hey, Micah.

MICAH

Hey, you. How you doing? You know, I just wanted to check in. I haven't heard from you much this week. I was kind of worried, you know? With what happened?

AIMEE [Voiceover]

Yeah, this week has been wild. Our office is swamped. We have two people out. I've barely been home. I wasn't avoiding you, I swear. And about that... I'm doing okay. Still a bit rattled, for sure. But I haven't had much time to think about anything other than work. Maybe that's for the better?

MICAH

No, I promise I didn't think that. I really just wanted to see if you were doing okay, you know? And I get it sometimes being busy helps. But um... Yeah, I was actually wondering what you were up to tonight?

AIMEE [Voiceover]

No real plans other than collapsing on my couch and zoning out in front of the television.

MICAH

Any chance you want to hang out? Or...

AIMEE

I'd love to catch up with you, but the idea of driving right now--

MICAH

--Well, actually, I was thinking that I could come up. You know, if you were up for company.

AIMEE [Voiceover]

Wait, for serious?

MICAH

[Laughs] Yes. I know that we owe you more than a few trips to Boston. And I was thinking that maybe I'd see if Elia and Devon had plans and I could bring them along, too.

AIMEE [Voiceover]
Oh, I would love that.

MICAH
Okay, cool. Well, the other reason why I was calling is to tell you that Devon got another package, and so did I. They actually came on the same day.

AIMEE [Voiceover]
Where were they sent from?

MICAH
Well, Devon's came from somewhere in Washington, I think. I don't remember if he told me the city. And mine... mine actually came from Somerville.

AIMEE [Voiceover]
What was in it?

MICAH
I haven't opened it yet. I figured, you know... I didn't want to go through any of it without all of you there.

AIMEE [Voiceover]
Do you want to bring it with you when y'all come up?

MICAH
Yeah, if that's okay with you?

AIMEE [Voiceover]
Yea, for sure.

MICAH

Cool. All right. So let me rally with them. And I'll text you when we're on our way?

AIMEE [Voiceover]
Yeah, sounds good.

MICAH
All right. Bye.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

AIMEE
Hey, you guys made it.

ELIA
[Breathing heavily] Barely. You could have warned us that you lived on a fourth floor walk-up.

AIMEE
[Laughs] Sorry. I'm used to it. Didn't really cross my mind.

ELIA
[Catching her breath] Phew....

MICAH
Well, you know, you wouldn't have to use the elevator all the time, if you went hiking--

ELIA
--No, don't finish that sentence, please.

DEVON
Or you could--

ELIA
--Or you could both stop talking.

[MICAH and DEVON laugh]

ELIA

[Deep breath]

Aimee. Hi. May I please sit down?

AIMEE

[Laughs] Couch is this way.

ELIA

Thank you. Oh, what the fuck?

AIMEE

What? What's the matter?

ELIA

Your- your- your kitchen? Why you didn't tell me?

AIMEE

Uh... I mean, sorry? I don't really have much time to cook.

ELIA

[Fake outrage] Oh, oh. Oh, so it's being wasted on you, then!

[MICAHA, DEVON and AIMEE laugh]

ELIA [To MICAHA]

Did you know about this?!

MICAHA

About Aimee's kitchen? No, this is my first time here, too, El.

ELIA

[Under her breath] It's just so pretty.

DEVON

[Laughing] Oh, gosh.

AIMEE

Is she gonna be okay?

DEVON

Yeah, eventually. [Laughs] Hey, where can I put this stuff?

AIMEE

Oh, sorry. Set it down on the island.

ELIA

[Fake outrage] Yeah, just set it down on the marble island, Devon!

[ALL laugh]

[crosstalk] [inaudible]

[PHONE RINGS]

AIMEE

Hello? Okay, I'll be right down.

Pizza's here. Be right back.

DEVON

Cool. How are you holding up over there, El?

ELIA

Just uh, just trying to figure out how to get this six burner in the Prius without Aimee noticing.

MICAH

Elia...

DEVON

You really need to stop.

ELIA

I mean, she would not even notice if it's gone. It's- it's spotless. She'd never even touched it.

DEVON

Such a thief.

MICAH

For real.

AIMEE

All right, pizza's here. I only got cheese because--

AIMEE AND MICAH

--it's only kind of pizza that matters. [Both laugh]

AIMEE

Do we want to eat first and then go through this stuff? Or...

ELIA

Eh, let's just open the boxes. I'm kind of getting antsy to see what's inside. We'll just eat later.

DEVON

All right, well, you want to go first, Micah?

MICAH

Aimee, do you have a knife or scissors that I can use to cut the box open?

[FOOTSTEPS EXIT]

[DRAWER OPENS, CLOSES]

[FOOTSTEPS ENTER]

[SOUNDS OF OPENING BOX/REMOVING CONTENTS]

MICAH

Um, okay.

ELIA

What's in it?

MICAH

Well, there's like... it's all individual packages. There's one for each of us.

AIMEE, ELIA, DEVON

What?!

MICAH

Yeah, here.

DEVON

[Under his breath] What the hell...

ELIA

Well, should we open them?

MICAH

Screw it. Why not?

[UNWRAPPING PACKAGES]

ELIA

Hey, man, what the fuck?

DEVON

What? What is it? What's yours?

ELIA

It's *my* chef coat. The one that my parents bought me when I graduated. I thought I lost it.

DEVON

This is *my* copy of The Colossus of New York. I've... had it for over 15 years. I only just started rereading it a few weeks ago, and I thought I left in White Electric. I even went back to ask if anyone turned it in. My God...

MICAH

This is fucked up.

ELIA

Why, what'd you get?

MICAH

This is Mulder's collar from when he was a kitten. I keep this in a box in the back of my closet. It's been back there forever.

ELIA

This- this is beyond fucked.

[Pause]

Aimee, what did you...?

[Under her breath] Oh shit.

MICAH

What? What was it? I can't--

AIMEE

It- it's something from Brendan. But the postmark says April 2019.

MICAH

So that means that, like--

DEVON

--Someone intercepted it.

MICAH

Uh... Aimee, are- are you going to open it? Like, I mean, I get it if you don't want to right now.

AIMEE

No, it's okay.

[UNWRAPPING PACKAGE]

AIMEE

There's a pin from Sequoia National Park. And there's a Polaroid with a post it on the back.

[Reading] "Couldn't find the right postcard. In transit. Love you, B."

MICAH

I'm so sorry.

ELIA

Is there anything else in the box, Micah?

[LOOKING THROUGH PACKAGE]

MICAH

Yeah, there's an index card in here. It says, "Last chance. Stop looking." Hoo. Okay.

ELIA

Aimee, do you have anything a little stronger than beer, maybe?

AIMEE

No, actually, I'm all out. I haven't had time--

ELIA

--Is there a liquor store around here? Devon and I can take a walk.

AIMEE

Yeah, two doors down.

ELIA

Perfect.

AIMEE

Hey, take my keys so I don't have to buzz you in.

ELIA

We'll be back.

[DOOR OPENS, CLOSSES]

AIMEE

Didn't you say Devon got another package?

MICAH

Yeah, it's in the other bag.

AIMEE

Did he open it yet?

MICAH

I think so, but I wasn't there. So I don't know.

[LOOKING THROUGH BAG]

MICAH

What's in it? He- he didn't tell me anything.

AIMEE

Similar to the last package he got. There's this little pelican. Uh, and a lot of paper.

MICAH

Okay, a candle, two liter soda bottle, a gallon of distilled water, glycerin, and a disposable aluminum pie plate?

AIMEE

Sounds kind of like a recipe?

MICAH

Yeah, it does. Um, can I borrow your laptop?

AIMEE

Yeah, sure. Hold on.

MICAH

All right. I'm just gonna Google all that stuff.

[TYPING]

MICAH

Okay, the first result is an article on how to make a DIY fog machine.

AIMEE

The fuck?

MICAH

What else is in there?

AIMEE

There's a napkin with writing on it. It says, "And after all of this, I'm amazed that I am cursed far more than I am praised."

MICAH

That sounds really familiar. I heard it somewhere before.

[Pause]

Okay, so a pelican, DIY fog machine, and some random words.

AIMEE

There's some notebook pages in here, too.

[DOOR OPENS]

DEVON

[In distance] We're back. Got the good stuff.

[DOOR CLOSSES, FOOTSTEPS ENTER]

DEVON

Well, I see y'all got into the next mystery box.

ELIA

[Labored breathing] That's what she said.

[All laugh]

AIMEE

I hope that's okay, Devon.

DEVON

Yeah, of course. I mean, it's not mine. Well, actually, I guess it is, but I'd really rather it would not be.

MICAH

We just started going through it. We actually didn't get too far though.

DEVON

So what's in it?

MICAH

Well, so far, we have this little pelican toy, this napkin with some words on it. They sound kind of familiar, but I can't really place it. And then there are a bunch of papers still in the envelope that we haven't looked at yet.

DEVON

Let me see the envelope. More steno style paper. One of them has a symbol kind of like the last box. Hey, El, actually come here for a second. Can you look at this symbol and see if it means anything to you?

ELIA

Oh, yeah, that's the symbol for Libra.

DEVON

There were other symbols on pages from the last two boxes I got. I'd been meaning to ask you about him, but I really hadn't had a chance.

ELIA

Well, did you bring them?

DEVON

Sure thing, brought everything. Hang on.

[Pause]

All right, here. It's just a few but take a look.

ELIA

Okay, well, this is just a triangle. This one... let me check.

[Pause]

Okay, yeah, so I thought it was the Zodiac symbol for Sagittarius, but that one doesn't have this like, squiggly thing around the arrow.

DEVON

Do you have anything else? No, just the triangle, the squiggly arrow, and then the Libra one, I guess.

ELIA

Well, I mean, I've seen a triangle represent the elements before, they're on a few of my tarot decks. And if it's pointing down then it's water and if it's pointing up it's fire, but you can't really tell which way it's supposed to go on this page. Also, I'm pretty much pulling this out of my ass, so it could mean absolutely nothing.

DEVON

I mean, I wouldn't say *nothing* because at least now we have something we can Google and look into further.

ELIA

Okay, what else came in the box with the triangle symbol again?

DEVON

Oh, so this crystal, The Devil and The Tower tarot cards, a wolf figurine, and that HP Lovecraft quote.

ELIA

Okay, well, the crystal is a quartz. I can tell you that for sure. And then the cards--

DEVON

--El, you know, I took those to mean Devil's Tower, Wyoming. Since, you know, that's where the package should have been sent from.

ELIA

I mean, yeah, but did you also Google what the card symbolize?

DEVON

No, I mean... Well, I didn't. That's your department.

ELIA

Okay. Well, the Devil is sort of pointing to avarice, and you know, getting caught up in seeking out luxury and like, being

really materialistic. And generally, I know the Tower to mean like a major unforeseen change and sometimes in more dramatic explanations, I've seen it be like a harbinger of danger and chaos, too.

MICAH

Maybe we should write some of this down or--

AIMEE

--Already on it.

ELIA

Yeah. I mean, I got nothing for you on this wolf figurine, though. I don't know what that means.

AIMEE

Same with this pelican from the latest one.

MICAH

It feels like everything in each package connects to each other, but not necessarily with items in other boxes, like, at least not yet. So let's try to keep them separated by location?

ELIA

What- where are they all from again?

DEVON

Okay, so near Centralia, Pennsylvania. Devil's Tower, Wyoming. And then somewhere in Washington State, I guess. I'm going to pull up the eatatjims.com site. Yeah.

[TYPING]

DEVON

Y'all there are new posts here.

MICAH

What are they?

DEVON

A picture of a lighthouse. Another triangle symbol. A painting of a demon-type dude that I'm not cool with at all. Another quote and a bowl of fog... with fog coming out of it?

AIMEE AND MICAH

Oh shit.

DEVON

What?

AIMEE

One of the things in the package was a list of ingredients for something. Micah Googled them exactly as they were written and it brought up a page on how to make DIY fog.

ELIA

So someone wants us to make fog? What? Wh- why?

AIMEE

No idea.

DEVON

Well, hate to ask this, but did anyone click anything on the website? Because I didn't.

ELIA

No.

MICAH

No.

AIMEE

I haven't even seen the website yet.

DEVON

Oh, really? Damn, sorry. I thought I emailed the link to everyone. Here, take a look.

AIMEE

Okay, so the fog picture, we might have figured out. But the lighthouse... I'm going to click that and see if there's any info.

[Reading] "You'll find me by the sea. Cape Disappointment, Washington."

MICAH

Cape Disappointment. Didn't you just tell me that--?

AIMEE

--Yeah.

ELIA

What?

AIMEE

Micah and I were talking about Brendan on our hike. And the last postcard I got from him came from Cape Disappointment.

ELIA

Well, when was that? Do you think he sent this package?

AIMEE

It was over a year ago. I really don't think so. Brendan couldn't have anything to do with any of this. Mostly because he's been on his own for like, 20 years. And he has no idea who Devon is, so--

ELIA

Right. Yeah, sorry.

AIMEE

You're fine. Devon, what's the postmark on that package?

DEVON

Looks like Ilwaco, Washington.

[TYPING]

AIMEE

Hmm, it's right near there.

MICAH

Okay, so someone is pointing to Cape Disappointment then.

AIMEE

It feels like we're supposed to pay attention to all the locations, but why?

DEVON

Is there a connection between the three places? Like, what does Centralia, Devil's Tower, and Cape Disappointment have in common?

MICAH

There was a wolf in one of the packages, right?

DEVON

Yeah, yeah. It's right here.

MICAH

Aimee, am I losing it or is there a Yogi Bear post on that website?

AIMEE

Yeah. Yogi Bear. Jellystone Jollies.

MICAH

Okay, well, what if we missed a place?

ELIA

What are you talking about?

MICAH

Well, what if there was a fourth place mixed in with all the other clues and we just looked over it?

AIMEE

Where?

MICAH

Well, Yellowstone. I mean, Yogi Bear lives in Jellystone Park, which is you know, a play on words. And the wolf, um... Okay. Like, it could be a leap, but there's been a lot of press about the re-entry of wolves in Yellowstone: political stuff, books, documentaries. So what if they are actually pointing to four places?

AIMEE

Devil's Tower and Yellowstone are only like seven hours apart.

DEVON

Okay, so Yellowstone, Devil's Tower, Cape Disappointment, and Centralia. Still, like, what do they have in common?

MICAH

The only thing that makes sense to me is that they're kind of unique natural landmarks. You know, Yellowstone and Devil's Tower are more obvious, but Centralia's whole thing about the coal mine burning for 200 years is nuts.

[TYPING]

AIMEE

Cape Disappointment is rated as one of the foggiest places in the US. This website says they get about 106 days of fog per year. Not exactly a landmark, but definitely special. Okay,

but what about all the mystical stuff? How does that connect to any of the locations?

DEVON

Does anything else stand out on the website?

AIMEE

Was the picture of a mountain lion posted around the time you got the Centralia box?

DEVON

Yeah, why?

AIMEE

Hmm.

MICAH

What?

AIMEE

Well, I mean, I know everything on here could have like, a million different meanings. But Penn State's mascot is the Nittany Lion. Looks a lot like a mountain lion.

ELIA

Are we like 100% sure that there's no way this could be Brendan?

MICAH

Aimee, does anything else stand out to you?

AIMEE

No, not really.

MICAH

Maybe we should make a note of it anyway because, you know, you could be right.

ELIA

[Sigh] Okay, so Centralia was first. Devon, can you run by me again what metaphysical stuff was in that box?

DEVON

The arrow-like symbol with the squiggly line around it. I had to use charcoal to shade over the imprint on the page.

ELIA

That's it?

DEVON

Yeah.

ELIA

Okay, and then Devil's Tower-slash-maybe-Yellowstone?

DEVON

All right, that was the quartz crystal, the tarot cards, and the triangle symbol.

ELIA

Well, crystals with points like that are used to focus healing or other types of energy. Like fixating on a thought. And then, the triangle, like I said, could be fire or water. And- and then the Cape Disappointment package. What was in that?

MICAH

Nothing as far as I can see.

AIMEE

But the website has this triangle symbol. It's a sigil for air.

ELIA

Okay, so it looks like we might have every element represented, besides Earth.

AIMEE

Writing that down.

MICAH

Okay. Well, what about the quotes? One of them was Lovecraft right?

DEVON

Yeah, it's from *The Alchemist*. It's a short story.

MICAH

That's what those words are. They're lyrics. I knew I recognized them! Let me see if I can find the song.

ELIA

Uh... want to catch me up?

MICAH

Sorry. We looked at this napkin from the Washington box before you got back from the store. These words were on it. It's a song.

ELIA

What song?

MICAH

"Silver Wings" by Thrice. They did this whole concept album a while back, it was called *The Alchemy Index*. Four volumes each corresponding to an element. This song was on *Air*.

AIMEE

So there are three quotes in total?

DEVON

Oh, yeah. They, uh... here they are.

AIMEE

Okay, so the Cape Disappointment box had the Thrice lyrics.

MICAH

[Reading] "And after all this, I'm amazed that I am cursed far more than I am praised."

AIMEE

The Devil's Tower-slash-Yellowstone package had the HP Lovecraft quote.

DEVON

[Reading] "High up, crowning the grassy summit of a swelling mound, whose sides are wooded near the base with the gnarled trees of the primeval forest, stands the old chateau of my ancestors."

AIMEE

And the last quote from the Centralia box is from The Marriage of Heaven and Hell by William Blake.

ELIA

[Reading] As the new heaven has begun, and it is now 33 years since its advent, the eternal hell revives."

AIMEE

The first two point to alchemy. Let's see if the William Blake one does as well. Okay, the first site that comes up is called The Alchemy Website.

DEVON

So what does alchemy have to do with any of this?

ELIA

All I know is that it's based off of the elements. And those triangles could be fire or water. And then we definitely have one pointing to air on that website.

AIMEE

Anyone have any guesses?

MICAH, ELIA, DEVON

No.

AIMEE

Cool. Micah, what do you think?

MICAH

I mean, I keep coming back to like, why us though? Like, what does this have to do with Devon or me? I know, we wondered if this was Luke sending these but that feels like a fucking stretch now, right? It doesn't make any sense. And moreover, like, how can any of this have anything to do with me or my dad? Or even Mark? I don't know. The only thing, um...

Aimee...

AIMEE

What?

MICAH

Listen, I don't- I don't mean to overstep here. But I keep coming back to the fact that you got a postcard from Brendan from Cape Disappointment, like right around the time that you came to see me. I was wondering, you know, you say you have all those postcards, right?

AIMEE

[Apprehensively] Yes.

MICAH

You can say no, if you want to, but you know, maybe- maybe I could take a look at them?

AIMEE

I really think that was just a coincidence, Micah.

MICAH

No, you're probably right. But maybe?

AIMEE

How is this gonna help us?

MICAH

I don't know. We're clearly at the "let's try anything" place, right? We don't- we don't have to read anything that he wrote on the back. I get that it's private. I really just want to see where they came from.

AIMEE

Most of them are packed away. But the ones from like, 2017 to now are in a box under my bed. I'll go get them

MICAH

Okay. Thank you.

[FOOTSTEPS EXIT]

ELIA

Hey, are you sure this is a good idea?

MICAH

[Whispering] I don't know. But I- I have a weird feeling about this.

[FOOTSTEPS ENTER]

MICAH

Aimee, some of these match the locations we got packages from.

AIMEE

Seriously?

MICAH

Yeah.

AIMEE

Show me.

MICAH

Here. Look, he was in Devil's Tower and Yellowstone in 2017. I promise I didn't read the writing. I just flipped it over to see the postmark date. And then he was in Cape Disappointment in 2019. That was the last one until the one that was intercepted, you know, and sent in the box of creepy stuff.

AIMEE

Okay, but I'm not sure this means anything. What else is he gonna do? He's living "hashtag the van life." Of course, he's all over the map. What about these other ones? Point Reyes? Caverns of Sonora? Thor's Well?

MICAH

Well, Thor's Well is really well known. It's been on my travel bucket list forever. You know, it's a bottomless sinkhole where like, ocean water just churns as the tide comes in. It's wild. You know, it does sort of fit our guess that the packages are coming from unique places around the country? Maybe the other postcards from earlier do too?

AIMEE

I don't know, seems like a stretch to me.

DEVON

It does feel like we made some progress, though. But there's still- still so many questions. I don't know.

AIMEE

Yeah, I think we're gonna have to do a lot of research.

DEVON

We can't forget about the box that was sent to Micah.

ELIA

Yeah, none of us are ever gonna forget that.

DEVON

No, no. I mean, that the box can't be from the same person who sent all the others. I mean, why send us dozens of clues? Just to tell us to stop looking?

MICAH

Exactly. I mean, this whole time we thought the boxes with the "clues," for lack of a better word, in them we're creepy, but maybe they're not. Maybe someone's trying to help us, trying to make us figure something out.

DEVON

But help us how though? I mean, you said it yourself, you don't think this could be connected to you or your dad or what happened to Mark. So, what are they trying to help us with? Last I checked, there was only one mystery we were trying to solve.

MICAH

Right. The only mystery we were trying to solve. But I don't know, maybe this is bigger than we realize? I mean, that's why I think if maybe we looked at like, Aimee's--

ELIA

--Hey, you know what? My head hurts. Could we fix it with some alcohol please?

AIMEE

Yes, please. Give me the bottle and a straw.

ELIA

You got it. Oh! I almost forgot. I have some of Kieran's stuff.

AIMEE AND MICAH

Who?

DEVON

Elia's friend we were hanging out with that morning you all went on the hike.

ELIA

Yeah, the guy from my class.

AIMEE

Oh, right. You told us about him.

ELIA

Yeah, so his family makes sort of like, that herb-y liqueur, and he gave... Devon he gave you a sample. Did you get to try it?

DEVON

No, I didn't get around to it.

ELIA

He gave me a full size bottle, so we can all try it together now. Aimee? Shot glasses? All right, some for Devon, some for Aimee, some for Micah, some for Elia. Um... should we do a toast?

AIMEE

To what?

ELIA

Right. Okay, well.

DEVON

Hmm, this has... quite the smell.

ELIA

I mean yeah, it's like a billion year old recipe so it was made for digestion. Not like, for frat boys to throw back at a party.

AIMEE

Yeah, I'm probably just going to take a little sip. You didn't really need to fill the glasses to the very top, Elia. Bourbon will do the trick.

ELIA

Uh, force of habit. All right, you guys ready?

AIMEE

Sure.

ELIA

All right. On 3. 1... 2... 3...

AIMEE

[Scoffs] Ugh, Elia. What the fuck?

DEVON

Yeah, sorry to your boy, but this is fucking nasty.

[SHOT GLASS FALLS ON FLOOR]

ELIA

Micah!

MICAH

[Panicked] I've- I've had this before.

DEVON

What?

ELIA

How? That- that's not possible.

MICAH

[Panicked] No, it- I have. I have definitely had this before. Someone made me drink it. And now I think I remember.

Aimee, they weren't smiling. There was no one smiling at me. They were all wearing masks.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[OUTRO MUSIC]

Transcribed by [Evelyn Archer](#)

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