

Season 2: Episode 4

“The Package”

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how it ends



NETWORK INTRO

Rusty Quill Presents...

[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]

DEVON

Hey, folks. Devon here. So, uh, not really sure how to start this off, so let's just dive in. I'm at home, about to catch up on some reading and listening to a little Shuggie Otis in the background. But the universe must have sensed I was about to actually relax. Oh, wow. I can't believe I just said that the "universe sensed." If Elia ever hears this I'll never hear the end of it.

Anyway, I'm in my apartment and pretty much the second I hit the couch, the doorbell rang. I got up, went downstairs, and there was a delivery driver at the door saying I needed to sign for a package. Only thing is, I can't remember ordering anything. Never mind something that would need a signature. But I checked and my name and address were on it, you know. Plain as day.

Hmm. It doesn't look like anything I'd order. It doesn't even look like it's from a company or anything. There's a handwritten label from some town in Pennsylvania I never heard of. Normally, I'd be curious more than anything. And I am but, for real, I'm also a little bugged out here. Seeing as how Micah just got that wild audio file of Mark and Luke arguing, it's a little too close for comfort.

So yeah, I'm pretty worried about what might pop out of here. Let's see what we got. I'm gonna feel pretty dumb recording this if all it is, is some vitamins I forgot I ordered on Amazon.

[RIPPING SOUNDS, BOX OPENING]

[SOUND OF RUSTLING PAPERS THROUGHOUT]

What in the world?

Okay, so this is definitely not something ordered online and forgot about. Just looks like trash. I thought this was like, packing paper but it's like someone's notes and they're just crumpled up... and an old postcard and...

[Whispers] What the fuck is this? It's like... a lump of coal?

There's like this map that looks like it was drawn by a five year old. No words on it. No idea where it is. You ever see that movie, Seven? [Imitating Brad Pitt in Seven] What's in the box?!! Hope nothing like that's in here.

Wow. Okay. Okay. One of these pages says, "Don't let Micah see." Someone's really trying to fuck with us. This is not funny, folks.

[PHONE RINGING - OUTGOING TONE]

[MICAH ANSWERS, AUDIO IS FULL OF STATIC]

MICAH [Voiceover]
Hey!

DEVON
Hey, you home right now?

MICAH [Voiceover]
Yea, what's up?

DEVON
Weird. A lot of static on the line. I just got this package in the mail.

MICAH [Voiceover]
Okay, anything good?

DEVON
No... Uh... interesting, maybe? I might be overreacting a bit.

MICAH [Voiceover]
Hey, Devon I can't hear you for some reason. Can I just come up?

DEVON
Yeah, yeah. I can't really hear you either. Why don't you--

MICAH [Voiceover]
--Oh my God, the signal in our house is--

DEVON

--Come up, come up. Bring Mulder.

MICAH [Voiceover]

All right, I'll come up.

[DOOR OPENS, CLOSSES]

MICAH

Hey. Uh, what... why did you make me bring my cat? What's going on?

[MULDER MEOWS. PURRS]

DEVON

Hey.

[To Mulder] Hey. Hey, bud. Here to help me sort through all this?

MICAH

God, you're so weird. Wow, who mailed you garbage? What is all that?

DEVON

Literally what I said when I opened this. Here look at this.

[SHUFFLING THROUGH PAPERS]

MICAH

Okay this one says eatatjims.com. Did you look this up? Hold on. It's just a- there's nothing on it it's just a site with a password lock. Okay, and most of these papers are blank, but... well, this one has this quote on it: "As a new heaven is begun and it is now 33 years since its advent, the eternal hell revives." What the hell does that mean?

[MULDER MEOWS]

DEVON
Right?

MICAH
What's the address on the box? Okay, Frackville,
Pennsylvania.

[MULDER MEOWS]

DEVON
Frackville. Is that near New Jersey or something?

MICAH
I have no idea. Hold on. Google Maps says it's like... I don't
know, like 100 miles west, northwest of Philly. The address
is for Granny's Motel in Frackville.

DEVON
What? Let me see that. Wait. Well, that's... something, all
right.

MICAH
Well, the postcard is from Ashland, PA. Let me see if that's
close, hold on. Yeah, it's like 15 minutes from this
Frackville place. You know, do you have any friends in the
area that might have sent you this? Like maybe somebody who's
very confused on what makes for a good souvenir?

DEVON
Yeah, no. I have no idea who'd have sent this. I mean, maybe
Elia would have done some weird shit like this.

[MULDER'S MEOWING INTENSIFIES]

It's kind of her M.O., but she's not traveling. And more
likely, she'd send this to you, considering y'all's weird
sense of humor.

MICAH [laughs] I guess.

DEVON

I don't know... a piece of coal. I mean, what she'd think? It's "pre-crystal" or something?

[MICAH laughs]

[Imitating Elia] "It'll turn into a diamond one day."
No... I don't think that's what she would do. And she definitely wouldn't send that creepy ass quote, you know? And she's not religious, but she was raised Catholic, and...

MICAH

I'm sure she's one of your nerd friends doing, like, the whole most.

DEVON

Yeah, no. I don't think... Yeah.

MICAH

Well, do you want to call the motel and find out?

DEVON

I don't know.

MICAH

Well, I'll do it if you want. Like, I'm sure they're gonna be able to clear it up. It's probably just like a misunderstanding or something.

[DIALING PHONE]

DEVON

Sure, just give it to me. I'll talk.

MICAH

Okay.

DEVON

Hello, hi. Yes. I have a bit of an odd question to ask you. I just received a package with your business' address on the return label. And I'm not entirely sure why.

[Pause]

Yeah, sure.

MICAH

What's going on?

DEVON

[To MICAH] They're getting the manager.

[Into phone] Hi, yes. Yeah. Williams. Devon Williams. Sorry, no. You must- no, that's got to be a mistake.

[Pause]

Yeah, I mean, I've never been- I've never even been close to your motel before.

[Pause]

No, no. What I'm saying is, yes, that's my name. But- I- no. No, I wasn't there.

[Pause]

I promise you, ma'am. Until about four minutes ago, I'd never even heard of Frackville.

[Pause]

Okay, um, well, could you pull up the reservation, please?

[Pause]

Yeah. And the name on the credit card?

[MULDER MEOWS]

Right. Of course. Okay, um.. this might sound weird, but would you mind describing... me?

MICAH

[Whispers] What the fuck?

DEVON

Yes. No, of course. I understand. Thanks for your help.

[DEVONS FOOTSTEPS LEAVING ROOM]

DEVON

Okay, bye now.

[REFRIGERATOR DOOR OPENS, CLOSSES]

[DEVON'S FOOTSTEPS ENTERING ROOM]

You want one?

MICAH

I think I'm good. So, what did they say? Do they know who sent it?

DEVON

Apparently, they do. I did.

MICAH

I'm sorry, I'm not following.

[DEVON CRACKS OPEN A BEER CAN, SIPS]

DEVON

So the manager said, "I" checked in about a week ago and stayed for a couple of days with a friend. After "we" checked out, she found the package on the front desk with a note requesting that someone mail it out, with my name and address written on it. All postage paid. All she had on file for the reservation was my name, and whoever it was paid cash.

MICAH

Okay, did she tell you what "you" looked like?

DEVON

[Takes a sip] Nope. She wasn't shift when "I" supposedly checked in.

MICAH

So weird.

DEVON

Look, Micah. How much do you trust Aimee?

MICAH

Wait, you think that she did this?

DEVON

I'm not ready to place blame. But it's like Elia said, we have to be on guard. Aimee's new, and now weird things, or at least one weird thing, is happening. We can't let another Luke into our lives.

MICAH

Devon--

DEVON

--And I know you knew Aimee way better than you ever knew Luke. I'm not trying to imply--

MICAH

--No, no, no. I mean, I get it. You're right. You know, I'm- I'm still trying hard to like decide, you know, where she and I stand, too. And yeah, I know... I guess it would be really easy to fall right into step and pick up where things left off, you know? I don't know... I guess the jury's still out.

DEVON

I get it.

MICAH

[Yawns] Excuse me. I'm sorry.

DEVON

You doing okay? Want to talk?

MICAH

Yeah, no. I guess I'm fine. There's not really a whole lot to talk about. Um... you know, I'm trying to be cautiously happy that Aimee's back in my life, but it's hard. How do you know if someone's like legit or not? Like, what's the- what's the waiting period on that? Like, is it six months? A year? 10 to 14 business days? Like, I don't... I don't really know.

DEVON

I get it. I mean, that's... you know, people are usually pretty great, until one day they're not.

MICAH

Yeah, I hate that. It's true, but I hate it, you know.

I actually just changed my mind about that beer. Do you mind if I take it?

[MULDER PURRING]

DEVON

Not at all. Help yourself.

[MICAH WALKS OUT]

[REFRIGERATOR DOOR OPENS, CLOSSES]

[MICAH WALKS BACK IN]

DEVON
Cheers.

MICAH
Yeah, cheers. Thanks.

DEVON
Why don't we go sit in the living room instead of standing here? You look tired.

MICAH
Yeah, well, lack of sleep, I guess, will do that to you.

[BOTH WALK TO LIVING ROOM, SIT ON COUCH]

DEVON
Dreams still keeping you up?

MICAH
[Yawning] Yeah. Can you tell?

DEVON
Ha, little bit.

MICAH
You know what's wild? I had a dream a couple nights ago that I was in a forest. But it wasn't like the forest dream. You know, it was a first.

DEVON
Hmm. Was it better or worse than the recurring one?

MICAH

You know, it's just different. Still terrifying though.

DEVON

Well, I'm all ears if you want to talk about it.

MICAH

Well, you know I... the dream doesn't really... I just get like, dropped into the forest, already walking. Like, it doesn't have a start... it doesn't start it just, it looks like I'm just existing. Does that make sense? Sorry.

DEVON

Yeah. I know what you mean.

MICAH

So I'm walking and it's just like, completely pitch dark. And I'm- I'm kind of just floating as this like... it's me, but you know, I don't know how old I am. I'm just like, ageless through this pitch black forest that I can't see in front of me.

But, I'm walking through it like a pro. You know, I'm not- I'm not stumbling. I'm not tripping on anything. I'm just kind of motoring along. And I'm not scared, but then I hear this whisper. And I can't make out what they're- what the whisper is saying to me.

And then suddenly there's two voices. And then there's 10. And then there's dozens, and then hundreds. Just this, you know, this whisper, this cacophony of whispering and, you know, it just keeps getting louder and louder and I can't make out what they're saying. And the louder they get, you know, the more scared I get, and I- I eventually completely lose my bearings.

I start to run, and not knowing what direction I'm going in, and now I actually am tripping and falling. Like, I'm getting whipped in the face with hanging branches and running directly into tree trunks. And you know, the voices just keep getting louder until it feels like they're almost in my ears. But there's no one near me. You know, there's no breath on my ear. No, person like brushing up against me. It's just noise.

When it's so loud that I think that my eardrums are gonna just start bleeding, I jolt awake. Like cold sweats, screaming you know, kind of the same old, same old.

[Deep sigh]

DEVON

Hmm. [Sips beer] Sounds like a good time.

MICAH

Yeah, ha. What the fuck are we doing, dude? Like, what? What is life? I don't know.

DEVON

You know, at this point, can't even say myself. But, um... speaking of "what the fuck are we doing?" Are you ready for our sneak attack trip to Jersey this weekend?

MICAH

Yeah, I mean, I guess as ready as I'll ever be. Thank you again for letting me drag you along. Elia and Aimee, too.

DEVON

[Game show host voice] Hey, a two night, all-expenses-paid trip to beautiful Somerville, New Jersey? Can't pass that up.

MICAH

Listen, don't shit all over New Jersey like that. Okay? Don't be that guy. The New York Times just posted an article about how it's the best city-- Listen.

DEVON

[Laughs] --I'm just playing!

MICAH

I grew up with all those jokes!

DEVON

Just teasing.

MICAH

Okay. Also, as a matter of fact, we're staying in New Brunswick this time, my friend.

DEVON

Ooh! The big city! [Laughing]

MICAH

[Sighs] Whatever. Real talk though, is it completely out of line? Like us just showing up at Schrade's house like this?

DEVON

You know, I don't even know. I just got a box full of cryptic garbage in my mail and... who's to say?

MICAH

Yeah

DEVON

But if what Aimee said is true... yeah, I think what he did was out of line.

MICAH

[Apprehensively] Yeah, I know.

DEVON

Listen, if we get down there, you change your mind, we got you. We'll hang out at the Airbnb and play games, get hammered. See if Elia can break her personal record for bagels eaten in one day.

MICAH

[Laughs] Okay, deal. Speaking of that weirdo, did she tell you that she DM'd the Airbnb host to ask them what kind of salt they keep in the apartment?

DEVON

You're shitting me. No.

MICAH

Are you even surprised though, like...?

DEVON

Truth be told, not really. In fact, she's gonna pack her own salt, isn't she?

MICAH

Mm-hmm. (affirmative) Yeah, she is.

[AUDIO BEGINS TO FADE OUT]

DEVON

Oh, God. It's bad enough that she travels with that giant roll of knives across state lines.

MICAH

A few years ago, we went to Portland, Maine for one night, and she actually packed her cast iron pan. Like, "just in case."

DEVON

Of course.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[OUTRO MUSIC]

Transcribed by [Evelyn Archer](#)

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