

Season 2: Episode 5

“Schrade”

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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]**

**[OUTDOOR SOUNDS, BIRDS CHIRPING, WIND BLOWING]**

DEVON

Elia... what? Do you need help? What is all this?

MICAH

She always does this.

AIMEE

Is she like a chronic over-packer?

MICAH

Not exactly...

ELIA

I think I forgot something. I'll just- hang on.

DEVON

Not possible! I am... With 100% certainty you have remembered everything.

MICAH

So, what did you pack this time?

ELIA

[Deep breath] Well, since I plan on cooking, I brought a bunch of ingredients and I wasn't sure if the Airbnb would have the right tools, so I've got a few of those too...

[Under her breath] I don't...

AIMEE

We could have stopped at a grocery store when we got close to the house. We're going to New Jersey, not Siberia.

ELIA

But I already have everything! And this way we save money. And I brought puffed peas, Pringles, Pull 'N' Peel Twizzlers, pumpkin seeds, salted almonds, M&Ms, cashews, raisins... um, those little twisty sesame, crunchy, sweet, salty things...

**[CAR DOORS OPENING/CLOSING/BEEPING]**

**[CAR ENGINE STARTS, AMBIENT DRIVING NOISE]**

DEVON

She brought all the individual ingredients to make...

MICAH

...Gorp. Yep.

ELIA

What did you guys say?

DEVON AND MICAH

Nothing.

AIMEE

[Whispers] We're only going for two nights, though.

MICAH

[Whispers] Just- just go with it.

DEVON

You folks want to go to the Airbnb first? Get settled, and then head over to Mark's? Or what?

AIMEE

I think we should go straight to Mark's. See if he's home. If his car isn't there, we can drop our stuff off and come back.

ELIA

Wait, how do we know he's gonna be there again? I know you told me but I forgot already.

AIMEE

Well, my mom runs into them all the time at the Y. And they already know each other for being public servants or whatever.

ELIA

Oh, cool kids club.

[AIMEE and ELIA laugh]

AIMEE

I asked her to make conversation with him the next time she saw him. Try to figure out what he's been up to.

ELIA

That's kind of weird, though. Like she just sidled up to the elliptical and was like "Hey Mark, looking good. By the way,

well, what are you gonna be around for the next couple of weeks because my daughter and her friends would like to ambush you."

MICAH

We're not really ambushing him.

ELIA

Well, what would you call it then? We're showing up unannounced at his home to pump him for information.

MICAH

[Laughs] Oh my, God.

AIMEE

Anyway, that's why we picked today to go. He told her he was going to be out of town for a bit to work on something, but he'd be back this weekend because there's some 5K he's running.

ELIA

And she didn't think you asking her this was weird?

AIMEE

No. I mean, she didn't seem it. She's always been nosy. It's like her emotional baseline just to be in everyone's business.

ELIA

I don't know. I still think we should call.

MICAH

We're not calling. Like, I mean, for real. I don't want to give this guy any time to prepare some new story to cover up the old one. Like. I mean, if we show up and I ask him right there on the spot, like what- what else can he do? He'll tell me the truth, like he has to.

ELIA

And what if he doesn't?

MICAH

He will.

DEVON

So, while I agree, do we have a plan if he seems to make something up or is unwilling to say anything?

MICAH

He'll tell me.

DEVON

Okay. But in case he doesn't, did you call your mom? Let her know that you'd be close by? I mean, we can go talk to her.

MICAH

No, I didn't.

ELIA

Listen, guys, I just think that--

MICAH

--you didn't call her, did you?

ELIA

No! I didn't, I promise. I haven't spoken to her without you knowing.

MICAH

Okay, then what were you going to say?

ELIA

I was just going to suggest that maybe you should because it seems like this might be a good time to bring it up with her. Like, plus you have all of us with you, so maybe it'll just help everything go over a little bit more smoothly.

MICAH

I don't know. Maybe.

ELIA

Think about it.

AIMEE

Can I get some of those puffed pea things?

ELIA  
Oh, yeah, sure.

DEVON  
So El, what are you gonna make for dinner?

ELIA  
Oh, so I'm going to make a roast whole salmon with a lemon risotto with peas. And then I'm going to make a homemade baklava for dessert, because I just learned how to from one of the line cooks at the restaurant. So excited!

AIMEE  
You have a whole fucking fish in that cooler?

ELIA  
Yes.

[MICAHA laughs]

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

MICAHA  
I can't believe I'm back here.

AIMEE  
Yeah, but just remember, we're here with you.

**[FOOTSTEPS. KNOCK ON DOOR. DOOR OPENS]**

TIM SCHRADE  
Hi. Can I help you?

MICAHA  
Yes. I'm sorry to bother you. I'm actually here to speak with Officer Schrade.

TIM SCHRADE  
Well, he's not here.

MICAH

Oh, um, his car was in the driveway, so I assumed that--

TIM SCHRADE

--You shouldn't have.

MICAH

Okay. I'm sorry. Let me start again. My name is Micah Jones. I met with Officer Schrade a few months ago about a case that he worked on. And I was actually just hoping to speak with him a little bit more about it.

TIM SCHRADE

Look, he isn't here, and I don't really have time for this. So... I'm sorry. Can you just please go?

AIMEE

Tim? Hi. Do you remember me? I know it's been a long time, but it's--

TIM SCHRADE

--Aimee?

AIMEE

Yeah. Hi.

TIM SCHRADE

Wow. You still live around here?

AIMEE

No, not exactly. I mean, my parents do.

TIM SCHRADE

Oh, right. They're over near the hospital?

AIMEE

Yeah. Yeah, uh... It's- it's been a long time.

TIM SCHRADE

Has it really been since prom?



AIMEE

Yeah, that's probably right.

TIM SCHRADE

So have you seen him recently? I just saw--

AIMEE

--Tim, we're really sorry to stop by unannounced and normally we wouldn't, but it's really important that we talk to your dad.

TIM SCHRADE

Look, Aimee--

AIMEE

--Micah's father Nolan was in a fatal car accident a while back, and your father was the officer on the scene. She needs to get some more information about that night. It's urgent. It won't take long. I promise. In case you two are like, in the middle of something.

TIM SCHRADE

All right. He still isn't here. And you can't speak with him. I'm not gonna keep repeating myself.

ELIA

Guys, let's just go. Dude, we're really sorry. It's clearly a bad time. Micah, you can just call Officer Schrade later. We should just go.

TIM SCHRADE

You shouldn't have come here. Like, next time have some fucking manners and call first. And actually no, you can't call later.

MICAH

But why? I- I'm sorry. I get it. You're pissed. But why can't I call? I mean, I've even been here before. Your dad knows who I am. I visited him at his invitation. I promise you. I'm not just a stranger.

TIM SCHRADE

Because he's dead. How's that? He's fucking dead. Okay?

**[DOOR SLAMS]**

MICAH

[Shakily] Give me the keys.

DEVON

Why?

MICAH

Please, give them to me.

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

**[FOOTSTEPS RUNNING UP/DOWN STAIRS]**

MICAH

[In distance] Mom? Mom, are you here? Mom, where are you? Mom!

ELIA

Yo, this is bad.

DEVON

Yeah...

ELIA

I don't see Apollo anywhere.

AIMEE

I know she asked me to, but I feel like I should stop recording.

**[FOOTSTEPS ENTERING]**

MICAH

Don't. She's not here. I'm gonna call her.

[Pause]

MICAH

[Into phone] Hey, it's me. I'm actually at the house. But you aren't here. I came down with Elia, Devon, and Aimee. Yeah, we

came to talk to Officer Mark Schrade. Does that name ring a bell? Because it should, you know, because he's the cop that found me in the road the night that dad crashed his truck. Yeah, that's right. I know. And I also know that you've been keeping that for me all this time.

So uh... you know better than anyone what dad's death did to me and still you told Schrade to call back in April to like, make sure I didn't remember something? How could you do that? It doesn't even matter anymore.

You know, the four of us came down here to talk to him. And basically to make him tell me the truth about what really happened that night, and uh, we just found out that he passed away. So I just wanted you to know that the only person who was at the scene that night is dead, and now I will never know what happened.

[Deep sigh]

DEVON

Hey, Micah. What can we do?

MICAH

What? Um... nothing. God, guys. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to, like... lose it.

AIMEE

Are you okay?

MICAH

Yeah, uh, you know... yeah, I'm okay. We should just... we should probably just go.

ELIA

Where? What do you want to do?

MICAH

I don't know. Get out of here. Like, get my mind off of this. I really don't care where we go.

ELIA

Why don't we just head to the Airbnb? It's still early, but I'll get a jump on dinner. You know, it's gonna take me a little bit to get everything prepped anyway. And then maybe once that's rolling, we can just play a game or something.

AIMEE

That sounds good to me.

MICAH

Yeah, totally.

AIMEE

We can stop for a deck of cards at a gas station or something.

DEVON

Well, I brought all our D&D stuff.

AIMEE

Oh, God. Who travels like this? Whole fish in coolers? Epic tabletop games?

MICAH

I mean...

DEVON

Well, I brought it last time, so I figured why not? You gonna play too?

AIMEE

Mm... I think I might just watch.

ELIA

Oh, come on. You'll have fun.

AIMEE

Remember how I said I don't get you?

ELIA

Mm-hmm. [Affirmative]

AIMEE

I'd never have guessed you'd be into Dungeons and Dragons.

MICAH

Oh my god, she loves it.

ELIA

I'm a level two gnome cleric and her name is Saroe. Thank you very much.

AIMEE

What the fuck even?

[AIMEE, MICAH and DEVON laugh]

AIMEE

Okay, I'll play.

DEVON

Yay.

ELIA

Also, I brought my tarot cards, too. So if you want, I can do a little reading for you.

AIMEE

Wait, how do you expect to play a game of Dungeons and Dragons, give me a tarot reading, cook an entire fish and risotto, and make baklava... all at the same time?

ELIA

Like a fucking professional.

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

ELIA

Okay, baklava is in the oven. Devon, you can continue. I apologize for the 30 minute delay.

AIMEE

I don't know if I can fit any more food. Elia, come live with me and cook forever. I'll never shade you again.

ELIA

[Sing-song] I told you so.

DEVON

Okay, I only have a little bit left for this arc, so here we go.

A vast prairie expands before you. You take in your surroundings and almost immediately, you spot something peculiar about 30 feet away.

ELIA

I approach cautiously.

AIMEE

Me, too.

MICAH

I follow them.

ELIA

What do we see?

DEVON

You see a strange small creature seated on a green and purple checked blanket of plush velvet, eating a pie. His eyes are brilliant lavender spheres perched on independently moving stalks. He is clad in a suit of gold satin.

AIMEE

Same.

[MICAH and ELIA laugh]

DEVON

His appearance is startling. But his intentions seem non-threatening. In fact, he seems to have been expecting you.

ELIA

Hail and well met, my dude. Who are you? Or, what are you?

AIMEE

I think he's a... snail?

[ELIA, MICAH, AIMEE laugh]

DEVON

[Loud, high-pitched] Hello! I am Marvin the Dismaying. I tell so many lies.

[ELIA, MICAH and AIMEE break into laughter]

MICAH

Oh my God, I did not expect that.

ELIA

I feel like that's not something you want to tell folks right off the bat, my friend.

DEVON

[Loud, high-pitched] Who are you?

[ELIA, MICAH and AIMEE still laughing]

ELIA

Uh, I'm Saroe.

MICAH

Meara.

AIMEE

[Flatly] I'm Brenda.

[ELIA and MICAH laugh]

DEVON

[Loud, high-pitched] Brenda. Such an unusual name.

AIMEE

[Laughs] I get that a lot.

DEVON

[Loud, high-pitched] Indeed.

[Normal voice] There is a thunderous flapping sound from overhead and suddenly two enormous geese land behind Marvin.

AIMEE

And who are they?

DEVON

[Loud, high-pitched] They are my companions, Noodleneck and Waddlebottom.

[Normal voice] The geese stare at you with nonspecific but unquestionable menace, as geese are wont to do.

[Loud, high-pitched] Do any of you speak Goosish?

[ALL laughing]

MICAH

Oh, my God. No, we don't.

DEVON

[Loud, high-pitched] So sad. Never you mind. May I ask, where your party is heading?

ELIA

We don't know because we don't know where the fuck we are. We- we ended up here accidentally by walking through a secret door in a castle. And then there was a flash of light. And here we are in this prairie with you, Marvin.

DEVON

[Loud, high-pitched] Nothing is accidental here in the prairie. You are exactly where you were meant to be.

[Unstoppable laughter]



[TEXT MESSAGE CHIME]

MICAH

Sorry, Devon. One sec. Oh my God. It's my mom. It's my mom.  
Sorry.

DEVON

[Loud, high-pitched] Are...

[Normal voice] Uh, are you going to answer?

MICAH

Um...

ELIA

I mean, maybe you should. We- you just did call her and say a whole bunch of--

MICAH

--No, you know, this is... no, I'll talk to her later. I'm having so much fun right now. Like, let's just- let's just keep playing. I don't want to ruin it. [Clears throat]  
Okay, Marvin, can you tell us where we are? Maybe that will help us decide where to go from here or what to do.

AIMEE

Yeah, Marvin. Be useful.

DEVON

[Loud, high-pitched] To the north are The Bonelands. An expanse of craggy cliffs made from crumbling white stone. They are named both for their danger and the lives they've claimed. To the west is the Wall of Broken Dreams.

AIMEE

[Strong Bad voice, singing] I walk dis lonely road...

[ELIA& MICAH burst out laughing]

AIMEE

Sorry. I'm sorry. Continue.

DEVON

[Loud, high-pitched] To the south is the Crystal River, named for its peaceful atmosphere and clear waters. It is said that anyone who touches the water is imbued with unstoppable strength and immortality.

AIMEE

Ah, I see what you did there.

DEVON

Mm. And to the east is the White Mist Forest. Beyond that is the Fortress of Malaise, but I don't expect you want to travel there.

ELIA

Alright guys, which way do we want to go?

AIMEE

Well, hard pass on The Bonelands.

ELIA

Yeah, same. Oh, I would actually rather go to the Crystal River because I like crystals.

MICAH

I think I actually want to go to the White Mist Forest.

ELIA

Yeah, of course you do.

AIMEE

Why?

MICAH

Well, he said he tells so many lies. And he's sort of selling that Crystal River with its clear waters and its beautifulness really hard.

ELIA

Oh, well. Yeah, shit.

MICAH

Well, I don't know. Maybe we're supposed to be like, put off by the forest and the fortress? I don't know, maybe?

AIMEE

Logic in the time of cholera.

ELIA

[Confused] What?

MICAH

Have another cocktail, Aimee, please.

AIMEE

Hmm, okay.

DEVON

[Normal voice] Noodleneck and Waddlebottom are watching you intently as you have this conversation.

ELIA

All right, well, I'm pretty much all set with being attacked by giant geese. So Forest of the White Mist it is! Peace out, Marvin. Keep it real.

DEVON

[Loud, high-pitched] I have a gift for you. For all of you. For all your--

**[TEXT MESSAGE CHIME]**

MICAH

Ugh!

ELIA

Are you sure you just don't want to take that?

MICAH

Uh, yeah, I'm sure. I'm sorry.

DEVON

[Loud, high-pitched] For your journey...

**[TEXT MESSAGE CHIME]**

DEVON

[Normal voice] Uh... your mom again?

MICAH

No, actually, it's like another random number.

AIMEE

What does it say?

MICAH

It's another audio file.

AIMEE

Play it.

**[LOW WHITE NOISE]**

ELIA

The hell is that?

DEVON

Doesn't sound like anything. It's just noise.

MICAH

It's probably just like a butt dial or something. Like, whatever--

ELIA

--Okay but, but that's weird and a little creepy, though. No?

MICAH

I guess yeah. But like, you know, it's just- it's just noise. I'm not gonna- there's no reason to dwell on it, I guess. I don't know. I feel like I have enough to worry about, right? I'm just gonna delete it or something. Um.

Okay, Devon, I'm so sorry. I really don't mean to keep interrupting this amazing, amazing experience that you're providing us all right now.

ELIA  
For real.

DEVON  
No, no worries. So let's just get this last part out.

[Loud, high-pitched] For all your travels, my comrades. For you, Saroe, I bestow this tiny ball.

**[DEVON PLAYS TWINKLING SOUND EFFECT]**

ELIA  
Aww!

DEVON  
For you, Meara... a box.

**[TWINKLING SOUND EFFECT]**

MICAH  
Thanks!

DEVON  
For you, Brenda. I have intuited that you are troubled with tax debt.

[ALL laughing]

I will see that it is forgiven. Eventually.

**[TWINKLING SOUND EFFECT]**

AIMEE  
Oh wow, thank you so much!

ELIA

[Singing] One of these things is not like the other.

DEVON

[Normal voice] And... that's all I had planned for this game.

MICAH

Oh, a ball, a box, and tax relief. I feel like there's a joke in there somewhere.

DEVON

Maybe... Anyway, Aimee gets MVP status for stepping in and rolling with the game. You know, you're actually pretty good at this.

ELIA

Mm-hmm. (affirmative)

AIMEE

I dated this dude for a minute who was super into it. I like learning about new things. It was more fun playing with you guys, though.

DEVON

Aw, pshaw. Got to get some water. Anyone want anything?

MICAH

Water? I think you mispronounced Manhattan.

DEVON

Ah-ha. I see we're about to go down the rabbit hole. All right. Yeah, let's see. Anything else? Anyone else?

AIMEE AND ELIA

Yes!

MICAH

Bye, liver. I'll help you pack your stuff!

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

AIMEE

[Whispers] Was that you?

ELIA

[Whispers] No.

AIMEE

[Whispers] Maybe it was Micah, like going to the bathroom or something?

ELIA

[Whispers] I don't know. Let me check her room.

**[FOOTSTEPS EXIT]**

**[DOOR OPENING, CLOSING]**

**[FOOTSTEPS ENTERING]**

ELIA

[Whispers] No, she's not in there.

AIMEE

[Whispers] Maybe she got up to get something to eat.

**[SCREEN DOOR BLOWS OPEN, OUTDOOR AMBIENT SOUNDS]**

AIMEE

Oh my God.

ELIA

What the fuck. Okay, um... Go wake up Devon. I'm gonna go outside and see where she went.

**[FOOTSTEPS]**

AIMEE

Devon! Devon, wake up!

DEVON

[Sleepily] Wha- what's going on?

AIMEE

Micah's not in her room and we just found the back door wide open.

DEVON

Wait, what?

AIMEE

Micah is not in her room. We don't know where she went. Elia went to look for her.

DEVON

Shit.

**[DEVON GETTING OUT OF BED]**

AIMEE

Look, there over by the trees.

**[AIMEE, DEVON'S FOOTSTEPS ACROSS THE YARD, CRICKETS CHIRPING]**

AIMEE

What the hell is going on?

ELIA

[Whispers] Ssh. I think she's sleepwalking. I read somewhere that you're not supposed to wake people up when they do this because it can scare them and they can start lashing out.

AIMEE

[Whispers] What the actual fuck? Has she ever done this before?

ELIA

[Whispers] No, this is new as far as I know. But she was murmuring something right before you guys came over here.

DEVON

[Whispers] What was it?

ELIA



[Whispers] I couldn't make it out. And then she stopped but, I don't know. It just sounded like she was saying the same thing, like repeated over and over again.

DEVON

[Whispers] Should we tried to get her back inside?

ELIA

[Whispers] Yeah, but just go slow.

MICAH

[Mutters] It's in the trees... He's in the trees. It's on the trees.

ELIA

[Whispers] That's what she was saying before.

DEVON

[Whispers] That mean anything to anyone?

AIMEE AND ELIA

[Whispers] No.

DEVON

[Whispers] Well, let's get her inside. Easy.

**[DOOR TO HOUSE OPENS, CLOSES]**

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

ELIA

Well, I don't know about you two, but I'm fucking awake now.

DEVON

Yeah.

AIMEE

Pretty much. I'm gonna make some coffee.

ELIA

Anyone hungry?

AIMEE

No way.

ELIA

Well, I'm gonna make toast. Devon?

DEVON

Yes, please.

**[SOUNDS OF COFFEE AND TOAST BEING MADE]**

AIMEE

Okay, I'm just gonna say it because I need to. And then it'll have been said and I can move on. That was terrifying.

ELIA

Yeah, no shit. When you went to go get Devon, I ran out to the deck. And like, I just froze. I didn't know where to go or what to do. This yard is so big. And then, you know, we're kind of secluded out here. And then the motion sensor light kicked on.

DEVON

Well, yeah, that's how we saw you, too.

ELIA

Yeah. And then that's when I saw her standing there. And I just booked it. And when I got up close, she was just kind of like, swaying back and forth and mumbling. And you know, it took me a minute to realize she was actually asleep. Because her eyes were like, wide open. And she was holding her phone like she does when she's recording something.

AIMEE

[Freaked out] No, no, no.

ELIA

Yeah, tell me about it. That's the worst thing, like her voice memo app was open. And it was just... recording.

**[DOOR OPENS IN DISTANCE]**

DEVON

She did all that in her sleep?

ELIA

I guess so.

**[FOOTSTEPS ENTERING]**

MICAH

You guys are talking so loud. And like, why the fuck are you up at 3:30 in the morning? Especially you, Elia?

ELIA

Who's gonna tell her?

MICAH

Tell me what?

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

AVA [Voiceover] [Voicemail recording]

Mija, it's your mother.

[Sigh]

[Pause]

Micah, I'm sorry. [Foreign language] No se que decir. Mija, I don't want to say this on a voicemail, but I have a feeling you don't want to talk to me right now. I didn't tell you the truth because I thought it was the right thing to do.

You were so young and you didn't remember. I was upset. We lost your father and I didn't know what to do.

[Foreign language] Pensé que te estaba protegiendo. Por favor, creeme. I always meant to tell you, but time passed and you didn't seem to remember, so I just let it be. I knew I'd have to

at some point, [foreign language] pero nunca hubo un buen momento. Please call me. I love you.

**[MESSAGE END TONE]**

AVA [Voiceover] [Second voicemail recording]  
Micah. I forgot to tell you. In your message, you said you spoke to Officer Mark Schrade? And that he said I asked him to talk to you? Mija, I haven't spoken to that man in over 25 years. Since the night your father died. Call me back.

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

**[OUTRO MUSIC]**

Transcribed by [Evelyn Archer](#)

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