

Season 2: Episode 7

“Reappearance”

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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]

MICAH

Okay, so I feel like I haven't recorded myself like this in a long time. I'm used to just having one of our phones or Devon's USB mic around when we do stuff, but...yeah. It's been a while since I've sat down alone to talk about, like anything, really. So I feel like it should be said that our trip to New Jersey when way off plan. I knew showing up at Mark's house unannounced was a risky idea. But I didn't care when I thought it would be

him opening the door. I was angry and I wanted answers, but... well, you know what happened. At first, I thought Tim was just being difficult, but when he said that Mark was dead... it felt like my head split open. I mean, obviously, from shock, but also, it just made everything feel finite. Like a hard jagged end to ever knowing what really happened the night my dad died.

And no, I still haven't talked to my mom, but her voicemail made things more complicated because now I truly know Mark was up to something. You know, if she didn't ask him to call me then something motivated him to try and convince me that it really was an accident.

One of the most surprising things about this is that I really feel sorry for Tim. You know, he had a shady dad, obviously but, you know, after things calmed down, Aimee told me that Tim's mom died, like a while back. So Mark was actually his only remaining family. And he's alone now, which kind of explains his reaction. In a way, I actually sort of relate. I'm sure he has friends to help him through it. I mean, I hope he does. If I didn't have Elia or Devon, I don't know what I'd do.

And Aimee, too. You know, she was there when I lost my dad and now she's back. The more time we spend together, the more it feels like the years of silence weren't even real. Like, jokes come easy and, you know, watching Aimee fall into step with this little trio of a family has been pretty great. I mean, even Elia has come around. You know, I think... I think Elia might even like Aimee a little bit better than she likes me? Which is fine.

Aimee's really charming and always complimenting her cooking which, you know, Devon and I don't even bother to do anymore. Yeah, and I know that I'm the type to withdraw, but that's getting harder to do. More importantly, I find myself wanting to do it even less. So I guess that's good, right? Like, growth and all?

[Pause]

For the most part, I've been sleeping better. I guess, if you don't count sleepwalking. Whatever that was. I mean, obviously I

listened to what happened but Elia said I kept repeating, "it's in the trees" or "it's on the trees" or something. And I don't remember the dream I was having so I couldn't even explain it, even if I wanted to. I haven't been dreaming much at all, save for the one I told Devon about a few weeks ago.

Until last night. My recurring dream came back. You know, the one that started this whole thing. And the last time I had that dream was before I went to meet with Officer Schrade, like back in April.

It started off pretty much the same as it always does. I'm walking in the woods on a trail that feels like I've been there before. But I don't recognize anything. I can hear birds and water nearby. And it feels like a pretty simple hike. Like, I don't feel scared or worried. But then that feeling comes back. Someone's watching me. My chest tightens, and usually I try to turn around and see what's behind me and just as I do, I wake up. And then I'm screaming or I'm so disoriented that it takes a while for me to realize that I'm actually in my bed.

But this time, I get that feeling like I'm being watched and everything after that is different. I turn around to look, and I don't wake up. I actually caught a glimpse of something this time. Like, I was able to fully turn around before waking up and I caught a glimpse of someone--

[PHONE RINGS: INCOMING]

MICAH

That's probably spam, but... Hello?

LUKE [Voiceover] [On phone]

Micah. It's Luke.

DEVON

Seriously, Luke?

LUKE [Voiceover]

Yeah.

MICAH

Where have you... where have you been?

LUKE [Voiceover]

I can't tell you. Listen, I don't have a lot of time. But I wanted to talk to you. So listen, I know I left suddenly and then left you that voicemail a while ago, but I have my reasons. I'll explain at some point, I promise. But I can't right now. I wanted to ask you. Did you get that file I sent you?

MICAH

Which one?

LUKE [Voiceover]

The one with me and Mark arguing?

MICAH

Yeah, I did. I knew it had to be you who sent it.

LUKE [Voiceover]

Good. I was just trying to keep Mark honest. He caught me recording, so I had to shut it off. He was really pissed, but I refused to delete it. And then I made him promise to talk to you. Has he talked to you?

MICAH

Luke, no. He hasn't. But I have to tell you--

LUKE [Voiceover]

--Did he tell you? I don't know everything. He knows things that I don't and he refused to tell me. He said it was too dangerous. Did you get a hold of him?

MICAH

Luke, no, we didn't. We all went. Me, Elia, Devon, um and Aimee, actually. Luke, Aimee's back.

LUKE [Voiceover]

[Under his breath] Oh...

MICAH

We all went to Mark's house on a day we knew he'd be home. And you know, the idea was to catch him off guard because, you know, I figured if he didn't have time to like, prep another story or lie, he would actually tell me the truth. But you know--

LUKE [Voiceover]

[Rushed, excited] --Did he? What did he say? Micah, I told him I was going to send it to you as soon as I could. So he had a time limit on reaching out to you to tell you everything he knew.

MICAH

Luke. Mark is dead. Did you know?

LUKE [Voiceover]

No, I had... no idea.

MICAH

When we got there, Tim answered the door. You know, he was really upset that we just showed up. And I mean, I get it. You know, he just lost his dad but, you know, we didn't know at first. He just kept saying that he wasn't there for us to talk to him, so we kind of pressed him. And, he didn't tell us how he died, so either way, I mean, it feels a little sudden, but- but yeah.

Luke, are- are you still there?

LUKE [Voiceover]

Yeah. I'm still here.

MICAH

Also, um, you know, I actually got another text with an audio file in it. It was the same day that we found out about Mark, actually. I listened to it, but you know, it just seemed like noise. There wasn't anybody talking or anything. Was it you? Did you send me that?

LUKE [Voiceover]

The only thing I sent you was the recording of me and Mark.

MICAH

Oh, okay. I just figured that it was you.

LUKE [Voiceover]

[Rushed] Look, I got to go.

MICAH

Wait.

[Pause]

MICAH

Okay. Wow. Okay, I'm gonna- I'm gonna play that file again. If Luke didn't send it to me, maybe I should listen to it. Maybe I'll play it on my computer. I might be able to figure out what it is if it's a little bit louder.

[ON AUDIO FILE: CAT MEOWS]

MICAH

Is that- is that Mulder?

[ON AUDIO FILE: CABINETS BANGING OPEN AND SHUT]

MICAH

Oh my God.

[ON FILE: GLASSES BREAKING, SILVERWARE FALLING]

[SCENE TRANSITION]

AIMEE

Hey. Sorry I'm late. Traffic.

MICAH

No, no. you're good.

AIMEE

Micah, are you feeling okay? You look kind of pale.

MICAH

I'm- I'm all right.

AIMEE

We could have rescheduled if you weren't feeling well.

MICAH

No, I'm not sick. I promise. I'm glad we made these plans. I do need to talk to you.

AIMEE

Okay. Well, yeah, like I said, I've been wanting to talk to you about some other stuff that happened that day at Duke Island.

MICAH

Yeah.

AIMEE

But it just seems like every time we get around to it--

MICAH

--You know, do you - sorry to cut you off. Do you remember when someone broke into my house last year? The first time like, you know when they trashed my kitchen?

AIMEE

Yeah. Well, I mean, I remember listening to that episode when you aired it, but Micah listen--

MICAH

--Right, so the cop that day- the cops asked me a ton of questions. You know, did- did I have a run-in with someone? Could I think of anyone who might do something like that to scare me? Especially since nothing was stolen, you know? And I answered "no" to all of them.

AIMEE

Yeah, you said that.

MICAH

Well, then there was the whole, you know, people banging on my windows thing and some--

AIMEE

--Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

MICAH

Yeah, and do you remember that text I got when we were playing D&D a few weeks back? You know, the one with the audio file that's just noise?

AIMEE

Yeah. I thought you deleted that.

MICAH

No, I didn't. Um... Aimee, Luke called me last night.

AIMEE

Micah! Why didn't you lead with that? Does Elia know? Devon? What did he say?

MICAH

Aimee, but--

AIMEE

--Did you ask him about the argument with Mark? Does he know that Mark is--?
[Whispers] Does he know that Mark is dead? Did he have something to do with it?

MICAH

No. Aimee. Listen to me, please.

AIMEE

Ugh. It's so quiet in here.

MICAH

Listen, about the audio file...

AIMEE

What about it?

MICAH

Well, I asked Luke if he sent it to me and he said that he didn't. He did say that he sent the one of him and Mark arguing. But I was curious, so I decided to listen to the other one again. I'm gonna play it for you.

[PLAYS AUDIO FILE OF CABINETS SLAMMING, GLASS BREAKING, ETC.]

AIMEE

Micah is that--

MICAH

--I think it's--

AIMEE

--A recording of a break in?

MICAH

It- it might be.

AIMEE

Well, were you're recording before you went to bed? Did you forget to turn it off?

MICAH

No, I know that I was definitely recording but and I- I do remember turning it off, the voice memo app. I use that app Pzizz to help me fall asleep every night and you can't record and listen to the app at the same time.

AIMEE

Is that you breathing in the beginning?

MICAH

I think so.

AIMEE

Micah, this is fucking terrifying.

MICAH

I- I know.

AIMEE

Micah, what the hell were you thinking?

MICAH

Wait, what?

AIMEE

I mean, why the hell did you bring me to the Hogshead instead of Three Broomsticks?

MICAH

I got to be honest, um, Harry Potter references? I don't- I don't understand.

AIMEE

Do you not understand what this means?

MICAH

I- I mean, it means that someone recorded themselves breaking into my house and sent it to me. Yeah, I follow that.

AIMEE

[Frustrated] Ah, seriously, Micah! Yes, it means that, but it also means that someone's fucking watching you. And that happened last year. I mean, why send it now? Bringing me here to the silent bar and playing that file was stupid. That person could be here right now.

MICAH

[Shook] Fuck. I didn't think about that. I was- just- I just figured it out, like just like, you know, a half hour ago.

AIMEE

[Irritated] Put that stuff away. All right, let's- let's talk about something else. You know, next time when you have a fucking revelation like that, can you please just tell me to come to your apartment, so we can have a bit of privacy? Or, you know, one day you can make the trek up to mine.

MICAH

Privacy? Like- like someone's sneaking into my apartment to record us talking about someone sneaking in and trashing my house.

AIMEE

You know what I mean. Plus, you have a whole fucking security system now.

MICAH

Well, fuck all that that it's done anyway, clearly.

AIMEE

Seriously, let's- let's talk about something else.

MICAH

Okay, well- well. What were you saying that you like, wanted to tell me something?

BARTENDER

Hi, can I get you anything?

AIMEE

Oh, no. No, I'm good.

MICAH

Me too, I guess. Thanks. You- you don't want to order a drink?

AIMEE

No. Hey, where's Elia and Devon tonight? Maybe we can meet up with them.

MICAH

Well, Devon went to Wyoming.

AIMEE

Wait, he actually went?

MICAH

Yeah, he's there now. You know, he had some airline points to burn. And he wanted to meet the person running the hotel. I guess he thought, you know, talking to her directly would prove that he was not the person there. And he figured he would check

out the area. I think the whole getting packages with random stuff in it is getting, you know, really weird for him

AIMEE

And Elia?

MICAH

Well, she had class tonight.

AIMEE

Oh, right. She's taking that business course.

MICAH

Yeah.

AIMEE

Yeah. What time is she out?

MICAH

Like an hour, maybe?

AIMEE

I'm gonna text her and see if she wants to hang out afterwards. Maybe we can just head to our place with beers and some food.

MICAH

Okay.

AIMEE

All right. Let's go.

MICAH

Well, I mean, I guess she could always just come by my house, too. We could just go there now. You know,

AIMEE

Nah. You know, I thought about it and you're right. I'm all set with your apartment right now.

MICAH

[Under her breath] Neat.

AIMEE

Well, you said it.

MICAH

Well. What do you want to do until then?

AIMEE

Where's the closest sporting goods store?

MICAH

What?

AIMEE

I'm buying you a baseball bat.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[OUTRO MUSIC]

Transcribed by [Evelyn Archer](#)

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