

Season 2: Episode 8

“Ursa Major”

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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 [Voiceover] [On phone]  
Hey, did you make it?

DEVON  
Yep, I'm here. Good old Wyoming.

ELIA [Voiceover]  
How is it?

MICAH [Voiceover] [In background]  
Oh, is that the cat burglar?

DEVON  
Ha, busted.

ELIA [Voiceover]  
What?

MICAH [Voiceover]  
Hey, I need to talk to him.

ELIA [Voiceover]  
Okay, Devon, Micah wants to--

DEVON  
--Sure

MICAH [Voiceover]  
Hey, what up, cat burglar? What are you doing?

DEVON  
Hey, listen, I needed a partner in crime solving and you weren't home. So, found the next best person.

MICAH [Voiceover]  
Yeah, well, I'm on my way out. But I want to let you know that you will have a safe trip, I hope. And I'll leave a list of adoptable cats taped to your door upon your return.

DEVON  
[Laughing] Okay, okay, I get it. I'll see you soon.

MICAH [Voiceover]  
Seriously though, please be safe.

DEVON  
You know I will

MICAH [Voiceover]

Okay, love you. Bye.

[In distance] Later, Elia.

ELIA [Voiceover]

[To MICAH] Bye, I'll see you.

[To DEVON] Um... what did you do to her cat?

DEVON

Don't worry about it.

ELIA [Voiceover]

Okay...

DEVON

[Laughs] Oh, El. What the fuck am I doing here? Is this a stupid idea? This- this was a stupid idea.

ELIA [Voiceover]

It's not stupid, but if you don't feel safe just turn around, go back to the airport. I will come pick you up like, whenever. And, you know, you can just call that woman again and have her mail you the package

DEVON

Eh, I don't feel unsafe. I just feel stupid. This is so extra, you know? It's not me. I don't act like this, you know? This is your lane.

ELIA [Voiceover]

Wow, rude.

DEVON

Sorry.

ELIA

I don't recall I ever flew to Wyoming for anything. But...

DEVON

Fair enough.

ELIA [Voiceover]

Please don't call yourself stupid because you're the least stupid person I know. Including myself. Especially myself.

DEVON

Hey, stop that.

ELIA [Voiceover]

[Laughs] What can I do to make you feel better?

DEVON

Just talk to me. I'm kind of tripping out here. Give me some grounding in reality. What are you up to right now?

ELIA [Voiceover]

I am lying in bed eating a whole bag of Smartfood by myself.  
[Chews] And living the dream.

DEVON

She is beauty. She is grace.

ELIA [Voiceover]

[Laughs] Wow, didn't take you too long to snap out of your funk.

DEVON

What can I say? You make it easy.

ELIA [Voiceover]

[Chews] Listen, the last time I ate was yesterday at 4:30pm for my shift meal. Plus, I worked till 3am and now here I am awake before noon. So, you're lucky I can even form coherent words right now.

DEVON

[Sarcastically] Before noon? To what do I owe the honor?

ELIA [Voiceover]

I'm taking the food business class downtown so, you know. Had to wake up.

DEVON

Oh! I was actually being sarcastic but okay.

ELIA [Voiceover]

Oh, I get it. Ha-ha-ha-ha. So funny.

DEVON

Nah, I mean, that's not how I meant it. How's the class going? Learning anything new?

ELIA [Voiceover]

Yeah, you know, we learned a lot of this stuff in culinary school but it was just so long ago so it's good for a refresher. And you know, I've been working in the kitchen for so long, and I still love it, but it's fun to put my business lady hat on for a change.

DEVON

Ha, ha. Business lady hat.

ELIA [Voiceover]

Yeah, I mean I practically run that place anyway, so...

DEVON

Right on. True. Well, you know if you need some sweet graphics for your food truck, you know where to find me.

ELIA [Voiceover]

Uh... graphics, website, menu design, t-shirts, hats, aprons... it's... yeah. You're- it's all right on your plate, my friend.

DEVON

Right, right. Okay, well cool. And for the low, low down payment of a lifetime supply of free food.

ELIA [Voiceover]

I mean, yeah. So I give you and Micah free food all the time anyway, so nothing changes on my end. So yeah, that- that deal works out great for me.

DEVON

[Laughs] Well, tell me more about the class. You making any friends, or you eating lunch alone in the bathroom stall?

ELIA [Voiceover]

Oh, wow. Look who's got jokes today.

[DEVON laughs]

ELIA [Voiceover]

There's one really nice woman who sits next to me. Her name is Joanna and she recently retired and now she wants to start an online bakery. Holy shit, Devon. Actually, she brought in peanut butter brownies last week for us all to try. And they were so good that I died, and then I came back to life again, just so I can eat more brownies. Like, they were incredible, you would have loved them.

DEVON

[Laughs] I can see that.

ELIA [Voiceover]

Who else is cool? There's this guy Kieran. He's kind of got that like... an Anthony Bourdain vibe going for him. He's got a family recipe for liqueur that he wants to bottle. And he's actually bringing in samples, too, either this week or next week. So we'll get to try that and see how it is.

DEVON

That will be a fun class.

ELIA [Voiceover]

Yeah. Um... there's like a couple that's doing like some organic, pureed baby food. Blech. Like--

DEVON

--Elia! Come on.

ELIA [Voiceover]

No, I'm joking. Everyone's cool. You know, those are kind of the only people who really have a fully fleshed out idea. Some people are just there to get their wheels turning.

DEVON

Gotcha. Well, I'm glad you're enjoying it and making the moves towards your dreams. Check you out, boss lady. Proud of you.

ELIA [Voiceover]

Ew, feelings. Yuck.

DEVON

[Groans] You're unbearable.

[Both laugh]

ELIA [Voiceover]

No. Thank you. I love you. I- I... I appreciate it.

DEVON

Well, love you too, El. Hey, these roads are kind of starting to get a little curvy and tricky--

ELIA [Voiceover]

--Ha, same.

[Both laugh]

DEVON

All right. Don't distract me. I'm gonna hang up so I can concentrate. Talk to you later?

ELIA [Voiceover]

Yeah, drive safe. Good luck. And let me know as soon as you get there. Okay?

DEVON

Will do. Will do. Hey, thanks for talking me down.

ELIA [Voiceover]

Yeah, anytime. I'll see you later.



DEVON  
All right, bye.

ELIA [Voiceover]  
Bye.

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

**[SHOP BELL TINKLES]**

SHIRLEY  
Good afternoon, sir. Welcome to the Devil's Tower Lodge. Are we checking in today?

DEVON  
Hi, you must be Shirley? We spoke on the phone a while ago. My name is Devon Williams, and I believe you have a package for me.

SHIRLEY  
[Startled] Oh. Uh... oh.

DEVON  
Yeah...

SHIRLEY  
I- I'm- I'm- I'm sorry.

DEVON  
[Chuckles] I wasn't the person you were expecting, were you?

SHIRLEY  
Well, bless your heart, you are not.

DEVON  
Yeah, that's okay. It's what I was kind of trying to explain on the phone. I've never been here before. Someone came here and checked in under my name with my information, as you can see here.

SHIRLEY

But why? Is this- is this identity theft? Should I call the police?

DEVON

Well, I'm really not sure what we would tell them, to be honest. You know, I- they didn't actually steal my identity. You know, they didn't take my credit card info or use it for anything like that. So, you know, basically, they're just using my name as a pseudonym.

SHIRLEY

I am so sorry this happened to you at my business, sir.

DEVON

You know, it's all right, Shirley. It's not the first time this person has done it, and you're not the first business they've done it too. So frankly, I just needed to come here and... I don't know. See what happened? Find out some more information.

SHIRLEY

Mr. Williams. How about I get you set up in your room and then we can meet in the cafe in half an hour? The coffee's on me.

DEVON

You know, that sounds great. I really appreciate that. Thank you, Shirley.

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

**[CAFE SOUNDS]**

DEVON

Hey, again. Well, thanks so much for the coffee.

SHIRLEY

Please. It's the least I can do. I just feel terrible about what hap--

DEVON

--No, no, no. Don't... don't apologize. You know, you couldn't have known. And really, at this point, just any information you would have on this person would be really helpful.

SHIRLEY

Of course. So, I checked him in. I speak to a lot of people every day.

DEVON

Sure.

SHIRLEY

Travelers, obviously they're tired. Sometimes they're badly jet lagged. Sometimes they're extremely stressed and rude. Everyone is off their normal routines.

DEVON

I can imagine.

SHIRLEY

Point being, when they say or do something that's kind of weird or inexplicable, I generally just ignore it. But after you called, I was kind of racking my brain for any signs that I could have possibly missed from this person.

DEVON

And did you think of anything?

SHIRLEY

I did, it might be nothing. But when I asked him how many people he was checking in, he said two, but then quickly corrected himself and said one.

DEVON

Okay

SHIRLEY

I didn't think anything of it because, again, stuff like this happens every day, but like I told you on the phone, I wasn't here when he checked out. My employee, Carmen, was. So I asked her if she remembered anything. She's right over there, if you

want to talk to her directly. She said nothing seemed funny. But what she did say was that they checked out and paid cash and left without any kind of further incident.

DEVON

They?

SHIRLEY

Yeah, same reaction. She said there were two men. And so I asked her to describe them to me. One sounds like it was the same man I checked in. Really nondescript. Blond. Late 20s to early 30s, maybe, with a hat and glasses. Sort of short. Plus, there was another man who was wearing a college sweatshirt.

DEVON

Hmm. And did she remember what the other guy looked like? Or which college sweatshirt?

SHIRLEY

No, she couldn't remember any of the details. The same gentleman who actually talked to her when he checked out was the same one that I talked to when he checked in. The other man was just kind of in the background, and she only, you know, just saw him when they were leaving together. Would you like to talk to her directly?

DEVON

You know what? No. No, thanks. I appreciate you going through this trouble, you know, and um... yeah, right now, I think I'm just gonna go back to my room for a bit, if you don't mind. Thanks again.

SHIRLEY

Uh, Mr. Williams?

DEVON

Yeah?

SHIRLEY

I have the package.

DEVON

Oh, right, of course. Hey, Shirley, actually one more question.

SHIRLEY

Of course.

DEVON

Did this person have all of my information? I mean, like, the phone number you used to call me and my address? Did they give that to you?

SHIRLEY

We don't ask for addresses on check in, generally speaking. And since they paid cash, we had no reason to. That I only knew from what was written on the package. But yes, they did have and give us your phone number.

DEVON

Okay. Well, thank you, Shirley.

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

DEVON

Hey, folks. So I'm just going to go ahead and state the obvious here. I'm thinking it. Elia's thinking it. I'm sure you're all probably thinking it, too. I mean, it's really the most obvious conclusion here.

We all thought this was Luke, right? I mean, it could be. But I'm not as confident about that as I was a few hours ago. Who could he be working with? Who was that guy? And if it is Luke, I mean, why send this stuff and be so, you know, cryptic and weird about it with the packages? And then... call Micah on the phone?

Okay, well, I don't have my partner Mulder here to help me out with this. So let's see what's behind door number two.

**[OPENING AND UNPACKING BOX]**

DEVON

Well, there are two tarot cards in here. The Tower and The Devil. Little on the nose. I guess since this package has no return address, I'm supposing it was supposed to be kind of a subtle clue here. Guiding me to this location. Well, joke's on you, smooth criminal. You forgot to include postage. Let that be a lesson to you.

Well, no surprise there, a postcard from Wyoming. This is almost laughable now that I'm here. Let's see what else... all righty. More of these ripped out notepad papers like the last box. Some of them have more Zodiac symbols on them. Or what look like that, anyway.

And then some just have shapes. Again, lazy. There's a triangle on this one. Well, more for Elia when I get back. [Laughs] She'll really know about this; there's a crystal in here. She's gonna be psyched.

I may be reading too much into this. Maybe not but maybe? Anyway. The crystal is cut in the way that kind of looks like Devil's Tower itself.

For those of you who don't know, Devil's Tower isn't just the town I'm in here in Wyoming, but it's also the name of this really cool natural rock formation. No shade, but it's probably pretty much the only reason why people come out this way in the first place.

Anyhow, sorry. Devil's Tower is a super tall butte or, for my fellow city folks, it's like a skyscraper-sized giant rock. Vertical on the sides with a flat top? You know that movie from the '70s, uh... *Close Encounters*? Yeah. It was the structure Richard Dreyfus was totally obsessed with. He made a model of it out of mashed potatoes or something. Neglected his family and shit.

And so yeah, this crystal is cut in a similar way. Flat bottom, six flat sides. The only difference is that this crystal comes to a point at the top. So... You know, let's see. There's a wolf figurine in here. All black, howling at the moon. Kind of like one you'd get in a gift shop at the zoo. Wait a second. Hold on.

[TYPING]

DEVON

Okay, so you remember that website, eatatjims? The Tumblr page with all the random images? I thought there was an image of an all-black wolf, you know, like this figurine and it just sparked my memory. But now I think about it, it wasn't actually a wolf. It was an all-black bear. But the bear has the Ursa Minor constellation drawn over it. And...

[TYPING]

DEVON

Yep. Yep, okay. So I thought I saw this billboard on my way here. Devil's Tower is, you know, basically a great place to get a clear view of the constellations, including Ursa Major, the Great Bear. See what you did there?

There's one last thing in here, a piece of paper with an excerpt from a poem.

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

It's from The Alchemist by HP Lovecraft. Interesting. Again, for those of you who don't know, HP Lovecraft was a horror writer from the early 1900s. He was born and lived and died in our fair city, Providence. He was also virulent racist. So there's that.

[Heavy sigh] So... we've got two boxes. Both boxes contain essentially three things. One, clues about where the boxes came from. Two, some cryptic-ass shit drawn on notepad paper. Seemingly the same notepad. Three, a quote from some old-timey work of fiction that's also creepy as fuck, probably written by a racist. But, anyway. Oh, and I guess item four would be this website with its nonsensical URL, eatatjims.com, which also has images and seems to be close linking these locations.

I'm going to check with Micah, make sure she's cool with it, but remember that Google Voice number she set up last year, asking for listeners to call in with stories? Well, if any of you are able to, you know, check out the website and think about the clues I've been getting in these boxes. Let me know? I mean, there's one thing that can always be counted on, it's the hive mind.

[On phone] Hi, yes. I'd like to book a flight. I prefer TF Green, but if I can leave sooner on a flight to Boston, I'll take it.

[Pause]

Uh-huh.

[Pause]

As soon as possible. Tonight, if you have anything.

[Pause]

Anything sooner? I can be at the airport in two hours.

[Pause]

Okay, yeah. I understand.

[Pause]

Yeah, I'll take that one.

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

**[OUTRO MUSIC]**

Transcribed by [Evelyn Archer](#)

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