

Season 2: Episode 9

“Near Misses Pt. 1”

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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 CALLING]

MICAH

[From a distance away]

Aw, man. I only have the one orange safety hat. I... I usually have a spare hiding in here somewhere, but... like mostly because I have to spring hikes on Elia, otherwise she won't go on them.

She probably took it the last time so she could be like, "No hat. Guess we can't go on the hike. Brunch?"

Sorry. Anyway. Um... you want to go somewhere else?

AIMEE

Um. No. I've been here a couple times before. Not everyone wore one. Yours should be enough as long as we stay close together.

MICAH

You sure?

AIMEE

Yeah. It's only four miles, anyway. It's pretty quick.

[MICAH and AIMEE WALKING]

MICAH

It's kind of nice, having someone with me that actually likes hiking. But um... you know, I have to say, I was a little surprised to hear you got so into it. You used to be a little bit more like Elia, back in the day.

AIMEE

Well, to be fair, I was 12. I thought malls were a lot cooler than nature. But I came around.

MICAH

Well, I'm glad. You said you'd been to Wickaboxet before, though?

AIMEE

Yeah. Not this loop, but I've hiked two of the other ones with friends from college. One of them grew up around here.

MICAH

They still live around here?

AIMEE

Nah. Moved to LA, I think?

MICAH
Right on.

[MICAH and AIMEE WALKING]

MICAH
It's weird you know, that we've lived so close to each other for so long.

AIMEE
Yeah. I guess it is. You came here right after high school, right?

MICAH
Yeah. Um... I got out of Somerville as fast as I could.

AIMEE
Yeah. I get it. Considering. I guess I did, too, in a way. After undergrad, I moved to Boston and I've been living there ever since.

MICAH
Didn't want to stick around Jersey?

AIMEE
[Chuckles] No. I wanted to be sort of close to home, but live in a city that isn't New York. It's way too busy for me.

MICAH
Yeah, I like visiting New York, but I definitely couldn't live there.

AIMEE
Oh, yeah. You have family up there. I forgot.

MICAH
Yeah. My titis and cousins are in and around the boroughs, but mostly in the Bronx, you know? Honestly, I can't even remember the last time I saw them, though. It's been years.

AIMEE

Does your mom still go?

MICAH

I think so, yes. As often as she can, really.

AIMEE

You don't visit her too much either, huh?

MICAH

Uh...

AIMEE

Sorry. I'm not judging, I promise. I'm just asking.

MICAH

No, no. I- I know you aren't. I mean... I guess it's just... No? I don't really go back often. Um... I visited her around Thanksgiving, you know? Kind of right around the time all of this started. But only because she took the day off and made me promise. Before that, it had been about two years since I'd gone home.

You know, usually I spend the holidays with Elia's family or alone. Ava and I talk on the phone more than anything. You know I guess it took a while for her to understand that, but... you know. She gives me a lot of space. You know how it is. I- I... whatever.

[MICAH and AIMEE WALKING]

MICAH

I think I've actually visiting Somerville in the last year or so than in the last...10? Maybe? Um... a couple of times before that Thanksgiving trip, you know... I- I made sure that I brought Elia, or even better, Elia and Devon. Um... My mom likes company, so having friends around keeps her from asking me too many questions, like... You know how it is.

AIMEE

"Are you hungry?" "Why did you cut your hair? I love it long."
"Why don't you call me more?"

MICAH

That's it. Yeah. Except if you add a few casual, yet frustrated phrases in Spanish, then... that's Ava. So, yeah.

AIMEE

All moms are the same, more or less. The hair thing is mom's specialty. I swear she can tell if I trim it a quarter of an inch. Why is she so invested in my hair? I have no idea.

MICAH

Well, my mom stopped asking about stuff like that after I started getting tattoos. You know, shaving the side of my head was sort of old hat at that point. But secretly, I think that she might want to do it, too. She kind of alluded to it before, but like... you know, never really said it outright.

AIMEE

She could totally pull it off. Her style is so on point.

MICAH

Ugh. Tell me about it. It's an awful shadow to live in.

AIMEE

I just want to roll around in her closet.

[MICAH and AIMEE laugh]

AIMEE

I was obsessed with her jewelry collection. It was so much fun to play dress-up with her stuff. Remember that?

MICAH

Well, obviously. Um... also? I have like five pairs of her hoops. Like, she has so many, she didn't even notice that I took them.

AIMEE

I am borrowing them.

MICAH

Oh, yeah? You are? Okay.

AIMEE

I'll steal them from you. If you don't let me.

MICAH

[Laughs] Okay.

AIMEE

Micah, I...

MICAH

Aimee, I know that tone.

AIMEE

No, it's just... This is sort of the first time we've gotten a chance to really hang out, just the two of us for more than half an hour or so. And... I wanted to tell you... I just haven't said... Um... I missed you. A lot. You know, it didn't take me long to realize I'd made a mistake that day. But then I felt stupid and I didn't know how to say I was sorry. So I just pulled away.

MICAH

Yeah, but... I let you. You know, it isn't like I came banging on your door after that to make up. I mean, let's be honest. Like, I know how I can be. It's easier to slip away sometimes than it is to stay. And I don't know, being close with people has always been hard for me since...

AIMEE

Since Nolan died. I know.

MICAH

Yeah.

AIMEE

But I think that's what made it worse. Even though we were kids, I knew why you were always so distant. So I tried to stay on it, to make sure you'd never stray too far, or felt like you didn't have someone in it with you.

MICAH

I know you did. You know, I remember your whole family really stepped up for me and my mom back then. I mean, I was at your house more than my own. And I felt so safe in your room, like it

was our little private hideout away from the fallout of the accident.

AIMEE

Yeah. We had fun, huh?

MICAH

Yeah. Yeah, we did.

AIMEE

Remember when we used to turn my ceiling fan on high and throw balled-up socks at it?

[BOTH laugh]

MICAH

Oh, my God. Yeah. We could really not keep it together, could we? It's sort of... I think it was like the funniest thing in the world to us.

AIMEE

Real talk? I still do it sometimes when I'm feeling crappy and lying around.

MICAH

Same, actually. Um... it still cheers me up.

I missed you, too. And... uh... I didn't completely let you disappear from my life, you know? Even though we weren't speaking.

AIMEE

What do you mean?

MICAH

Well... I know I've said I didn't know what you were up to. Um... but that isn't really true. You were in the paper a lot, because of soccer and I might... I might have all of those clippings.

AIMEE

You do?

MICAH

Yeah. I- I mean... I was really proud of you. I- I always admired your drive. You know, when you settle on something, you just do it. And you do everything to be your best. It's your superpower. You know, you were just incredible to watch.

AIMEE

You came to games?

MICAH

A few.

AIMEE

But I never saw you there.

MICAH

Well, slipping in and out sight without anybody noticing is my superpower.

AIMEE

Micah...

MICAH

It's not a big deal. Uh... What I'm trying to say is that... I didn't know how to mend the break either, but that was my way of knowing how you were.

AIMEE

I... We're Facebook friends. You know that, right?

MICAH

Yeah. Yeah, I know. But... I mean, I'm never really on it. It's just a kind of how I log into some websites, mostly.

AIMEE

Well, you used to use it more.

MICAH

Well, probably, when it was still like, cool. Now it's just ads and insufferable people--

AIMEE

--A while back you posted that you made a donation to the National Parks Foundation in Nolan's name?

MICAH

Oh. Wow. Yeah. That was a long time ago. I think I did it for what would have been his like... 50th birthday, maybe?

AIMEE

I saw that post.

MICAH

Oh, yeah? We've been Facebook friends for that long?

AIMEE

I followed your lead. Been donating to the National Parks Foundation every year since then. Small donations first, because I was still in school. But I give more every year. I donate on Nolan's birthday and make it out in his name.

MICAH

[Sighs] Some... Sometimes I feel like I'll... never fully recover from losing him. You know, it's been over 25 years and it's still raw. Like it happened yesterday.

[BIRD CALLS]

MICAH

I tried to outrun it, you know. By leaving Somerville, and rarely going back. And... I tried to bury it and pretend like I'm all right by keeping busy with school, hiking, photography. And I- I definitely tried to drink it away for a little while, but that made things worse. It landed me at the bar where I met Elia, though, so... You know, that was good. And... and because of that I tried to replace it with friends. And that was... okay for a little while. You know Elia and Devon, they're lifesavers, and they're amazing friends. But as close as I am to them, I- I still keep how I feel about my dad to myself, mostly. And I've told them a little bit, but... you were there, you know? You know.

AIMEE

I know.

MICAH

Eventually, I tried to do it the right way, right? Like, by finding a therapist and working through it. But nothing fucking works, Aimee. Like it's... it's always this giant hole in my chest. And... everything that's happened this past year and half, like the nightmares, Luke, the break-ins... it was like an out-of-body experience. And... I watch myself make decisions that made no sense. Or worse, hurt Elia and Devon. And that's not me. You know, I'm a lot of things, but I'm not a bad friend. And I was one. All year. The minute I start to think about how any of this pointed to what happened to my dad, I could- I just couldn't see anything else. And- and it took so little to, like flip that switch. And... and now we know it's real. Like, some- something happened. Someone knows something. And I've been really trying to stay level and not to make the same mistakes, but... I'm scared that I'm going to lose myself all over again.

AIMEE

That won't happen.

MICAH

Well, how do you know?

AIMEE

Because we won't let it. I know you have Elia and Devon and they're your best friends. But I'm here, too. We're all going to work together to find the answers. No matter what, I'm here for you.

[MICAH and AIMEE WALKING]

MICAH

I've been meaning to ask you, um... about Brendan? You know, like you said earlier, we haven't really had a moment where it was just the two of us. I was kind of waiting for the right time. I didn't know that he left like that, Aimee. I mean, I knew he went to college and dormed at Rutgers, but nothing about him... disappearing. When did that happen?

AIMEE

Sophomore year of high school.

MICAH

It's been that long? Like... I had no idea.

AIMEE

I assumed you did. I figured Ava would have told you.

MICAH

[Scoffs] Just another thing she decided not to fill me in on, I guess. Um... for what it's worth, if I had known, I would have called. We might have had a weird disconnect going on, but I loved Brendan, you know? He always felt like a big brother to me, too. Can... um... Can you tell me what happened? Like, I mean... I heard what you told Elia. Th- That's actually how I found out. But I'm... I'm assuming there's more to that story?

AIMEE

Um...Well, like I told her, during his sophomore year of college he'd been acting kind of weird since the beginning of the year. He used to come home every weekend. That stopped almost as soon as the semester started. He came home during Winter Break and told my parents that he was finished with school, with football, all of it. There was a huge fight. I remember doing that thing you see kids do in movies, where I sat at the top of the stairs so I could hear what was happening.

MICAH

Yeah.

AIMEE

Most of the shouting was between him and my dad. But even my mom got involved a few times. That really threw me, because... you know, she never yelled.

MICAH

Holy shit. Really? Like... I can't picture your mom yelling at anyone.

AIMEE

I know. It was really scary. It was a few days before Christmas and we were sitting at the table eating dinner. And as soon as he said it the room went silent. No one responded, so he repeated it. And my mother turned to me, told me to take my plate upstairs and stay in my room.

The minute I closed my door, the yelling started. I waiting in my room for a while before I snuck to the top of the stairs so I missed a lot of the argument. I remember my dad yelling, "You made a commitment! College is part of that." Brendan yelled back, "Like I had a choice. I don't want any part of it anymore. I'm done." My mom kept saying, "Do you know what this means?"

And then finally Brendan stormed out of the kitchen, headed for the front door. He saw me sitting at the top of the stairs. And Micah, his face looked.. tortured. Like, he was being pulled in two different directions. He stared at me for almost a whole minute. Then he just shook his head and left.

MICAH

Aimee, I'm... I don't even know what to say. Is that the last time you saw him?

AIMEE

He came back that night at like, 2 in the morning, like way after my parents had gone to sleep. I heard him in his room, so I got up and knocked on the door. And he was throwing stuff into his duffel bag. I asked him where he was going. He said back to his apartment. He told me to go to sleep and that he'd call me soon.

MICAH

Did he?

AIMEE

Yeah. He called the next morning, but he waited until he knew my parents would be at work. I was home on break, too, so I was the only one who would answer the land line. He told me he was okay, and that he was going to stay with friends in New Brunswick until he could figure something else out. For a while after

that, he'd only call when he knew my parents were out. After a few weeks, he stopped calling altogether. Then he just emailed. I called the apartment number once, just to see what would happen. And it was disconnected. Eventually his emailed tapered off, too. Then one of my replies bounced back. And that was it.

MICAH

You said he sent you a letter or something after that, right?

AIMEE

An envelope with a picture of him in it. He'd written on the back.

MICAH

Right, yeah. I remember now. He sends you postcards.

AIMEE

Yeah. Off and on for almost 20 years now.

MICAH

You save them?

AIMEE

I have every single one.

MICAH

When's the last time you got one?

AIMEE

I think it was January or February of 2019. So... it's been about a year.

MICAH

Where was it from?

AIMEE

Cape Disappointment, Washington. Never going to forget that one. Kind of on the nose, don't you think?

MICAH

Yeah. I... I got nothing.

AIMEE

I heard what Elia said at the end that episode about how she thought maybe I came back to help you because I couldn't solve my own mystery, so to speak.

MICAH

Yeah.

AIMEE

Nah. It's okay. I mean, when I heard Mark and then talked to my mom, there was no way I could keep that information from you. So maybe Elia's right. If I can't find Brendan, helping you get to the bottom of this? Is the next best thing. There's no reason why we both have to feel lost and confused.

MICAH

I'm here for you, too, you know.

AIMEE

I know.

[MICAH and AIMEE WALKING]

AIMEE

So... can we finally talk about that day with Luke now?

MICAH

Oh, my God. Yeah. I know. I'm sorry. We've tried so many times, and...

AIMEE

Shit keeps coming up. I know.

MICAH

Yeah.

AIMEE

But I'm going to get this information out right now, if it's the last thing I do.

MICAH

Okay.

AIMEE

So yeah. Luke and I got to his house, made some food, and then headed upstairs to watch Empire Records.

MICAH

Right.

AIMEE

Okay. You showed up right when the movie ended. We heard banging on the front door, and Luke went down to answer it. A minute later he called up the stairs to tell me that it was you, and you were all muddy and freaked out. And I was mad because I thought you were just pissed that I ditched you. I almost didn't come down the stairs, but Luke kept yelling for me. When I finally did and I saw you, I got scared because you looked..

MICAH

Like what?

AIMEE

You were so pale. Like white as a ghost. And you had the strangest look on your face, like you weren't completely there, you know? Like you were in shock. You had this big cut on your forehead and it was bleeding pretty badly. Luke was already on the phone. He said you gave him the number.

MICAH

I... don't remember doing that. I only remember him calling her.

AIMEE

You know, I didn't hear you say, "It saw me." Um... I guess you told him that before I came down. But I took you to the bathroom to see if I could clean the cut up a little bit. There was a lot of dirt around it. You let yourself be led down the hallway. It still freaks me out to this day because it felt like you weren't "in there," you know?

MICAH

[Sighs]

AIMEE

I got you to sit down on the toilet so I could wash your face with a cloth and then it was like you came to. You turned to look at me and you said, "I saw them smiling. They were all smiling." I asked who you were talking about and you just said you didn't know. I pressed you and you just sort of drifted off into a haze. You didn't say anything else. Ava showed up about half an hour later and picked us up. She'd already called my mom, so she brought me there and took you to the doctor.

MICAH

The fuck?

AIMEE

Yeah. I know. At the time it scared me because I thought you seriously hurt yourself. I chalked what you said up to hitting your head. It was already bruising when you showed up. But now I'm not so sure.

MICAH

But what the hell could that even mean?

AIMEE

Do you remember anything about the hike? Maybe you saw someone on the trail?

MICAH

Nothing.

AIMEE

Yeah. That's what I figured. It's really difficult to keep all of this straight sometimes.

MICAH

Yeah. Tell me about it. I mean... I've been trying, trust me. I have a notebook of stuff at the house...

AIMEE

Hmm... yeah. I've seen your notebooks. You're just like your dad that way. I remember looking at your school notes and I have no

clue how you ever made sense of them. There's no order to anything.

MICAH

Well, there's order to me.

AIMEE

Yeah, well. That's kind of what I'm getting at. I think we might need to keep a more organized record of everything. You know, make a timeline of events covering the podcast and maybe even the stuff that happened before you started it.

MICAH

It's not a bad idea.

AIMEE

I kind of already started doing it, so I'm glad you're on board.

MICAH

Okay.

AIMEE

After you played the recording of the break-in for me, I started listening back to the episodes from last year and making notes. I'm trying to go slowly though, so I can make sure I don't miss anything. I've only gotten through the first two. Just your visit home for Thanksgiving and that trip to Salem? The one where that creepy lady was all, "You have something you need to remember."

MICAH

Oh, fuck. I forgot all about that.

AIMEE

She wasn't wrong. But, yeah. So that we don't miss weird things like that. Maybe that interaction didn't mean anything, but something else might.

MICAH

You know, so I'm all for it. And I... you know I appreciate you taking it on--

AIMEE

Well, yeah. I mean, all of this is kind of hard on you, so it might be easier if someone else handles--

MICAH

Oh, for sure. For sure. I was just trying to say that like this is like the most "Aimee" like thing, ever. Like, you were always the one that had your shit together. I guess it figures that you'd just kind of... you know, do it now.

AIMEE

Maybe it's my Capricorn moon?

MICAH

Been talking to Elia a little bit, huh?

AIMEE

Maybe.

MICAH

Yeah.

AIMEE

On a lighter note... Um... I really like this trail loop. There's a lot to look at. The pond loop is fine, but it's kind of boring.

MICAH

Yeah. Agreed. Um... Do you see that huge rock over there? Like, I climbed it the last time I was here. It doesn't seem like it would be that tall from where we are, but once you're up there, you get a really solid view of the trail and then like, all the woods ahead.

AIMEE

Oh, that's cool. You want to run up there? I'll take a picture of you.

MICAH

No. I mean, it's fine. Like I can come back some other time and set a timer on my phone, or something.

AIMEE

Don't be stupid. I didn't get this fancy phone for nothing.
It'll be an awesome photo. Go. It'll take two minutes. Just go.

MICAH

Okay. Okay. Okay, okay.

[MICAH'S FOOTSTEPS RUSTLE THROUGH LEAVES]

MICAH

[From a distance] I'm King of the world!

AIMEE

Original.

MICAH

[From a distance] Don't yuck my yum!

AIMEE

Okay, find your angles. Okay. All right. One. Two. Three. Got
it. Wait, I'm going to take one more. What are you doing? Pose!

MICAH

Aimee! Hold on!

AIMEE

What's the matter?

MICAH

Aimee! Get down! Get down on the ground!

[CELL PHONE DROPS]

[ARROW FLIES]

[ARROW LANDS]

[SCENE TRANSITION]

KIERAN

Did you just start recording?

ELIA

God, yeah. Sorry. It's... It's just kind of a habit. I...

KIERAN

Okay. Because?

ELIA

Um... It's kind of a long story. My friend, Micah has this... podcast. And we're just, you know... trying to figure some stuff out. Um... So we record pretty much everything and you know... just in case something happens.

KIERAN

Okay. Like what?

ELIA

It's really hard to... Like I said, it's... it's just a really long story, and so I record things when she or Devon or our friend Aimee are around and then Micah and Devon will pick apart the necessary bits when they're editing. Um... but really I just turned it on as... as a habit because Devon's on his way. I can totally stop if you're not comfortable.

KIERAN

No. It's...It's all good. Don't let me stop you from doing what you're doing. Maybe even... something interesting might happen?

ELIA

Yeah. Okay. Um. Thanks, but... just let me know if you start to feel uncomfortable or anything.

DEVON

Hey, hey. I'm sorry I'm late.

ELIA

Hey. All good. We just got here, too. Um... I ordered you a nitro.

DEVON

Oh, sweet. Thanks, Elia.

ELIA

Yeah. Kieran, this is my friend Devon I've been telling you about. Devon? Kieran from my class.

DEVON

Hey there. Nice to meet you. Uh... baby food? Or brownies?

KIERAN

I'm sorry?

ELIA

It's... It's Devon's attempt at humor. Um... Kieran is the one who's working on bottling his family's secret recipe liqueur.

DEVON

Ah. Is it like a schnapps or something?

ELIA

Ugh. Devon.

DEVON

What? I'm just asking.

ELIA

Jesus Christ.

KIERAN

No, no, no. It's okay. It's like a Jager, if I had to compare it to anything. It's got a pretty strong herbal flavor, kind of, uh... Kind of an acquired taste.

DEVON

Hmm. That's cool.

KIERAN

Not as cool as this one, with her super trendy on-brand modern Portuguese food truck.

ELIA

Please stop.

KIERAN

What? It's so cool. Has she told you about her plan for the truck, yet?

ELIA

Uh... No. I didn't. I... I just came up with it, this morning, so...

DEVON

Really? Oh, come on. You got to spill.

ELIA

Well you know how sometimes you want to get food from a food truck but there's nowhere to sit, or they just have like those really uncomfortable little metal chairs on the sidewalk?

DEVON

Yeah, yeah. No, I dig it.

ELIA

Well I had this idea to add some collapsible stairs to the side of the truck and create a little seating area on top. Like a little rooftop deck situation. Put some railings around the side. Get some comfy seats. And you know, that way people don't have to just shovel food in their head while they're hovering over a bush and trying not to drip on their work clothes. Or grab a bite, sit and relax before you have to hop on a bus. You know, something like that. Or whatever.

DEVON

That's genius. I get it. Kind of like uh... a double decker bus, but for food.

ELIA

Yeah.

DEVON

Yeah. Cool. Does it sound doable?

ELIA

I mean, I don't know. But I'll figure it out, probably?

KIERAN

Oh, for sure. For sure you will. If anyone can, it's you.

DEVON

Yeah. Totally. She's our little MacGyver.

KIERAN

Sure is.

[Pause]

EVAN

Hey! Hey. This is wild.

DEVON

Um... sorry? Are you talking to me, or...?

EVAN

No. I... I mean no offense. I don't know you.

[To KIERAN] Hey, man how are you doing?

KIERAN

Sorry. I... I think you have the wrong person.

EVAN

Oh, come on. You don't recognize me? I mean, I know it's been a few years but I can't look that different, can I?

KIERAN

Can you just... go, dude? I don't... I don't know who you are.

EVAN

Sorry, I... I just... I didn't mean anything by it. It's just you look exactly like this guy B--

KIERAN

Well. I'm not. So you can go now.

EVAN

Right. Right. Sorry to bother you folks. Have a good day.

ELIA

No. No worries.

DEVON

All good, man.

ELIA

All right. That was... strange.

KIERAN

Yeah. Some people just don't know when to quit.

ELIA

Right. Um... So, Kieran. Do you have any more samples? Maybe Devon wants to try... some of your stuff?

KIERAN

Yeah. I... I think I still...

DEVON

It's okay, man. Don't... don't worry about it. It's not necessary.

KIERAN

No, no, no. No trouble at all. I insist, actually.

DEVON

Cool. Well. Just one's good. Thanks.

KIERAN

Nah. Please. One for of all you. Elia got a sip in class, so one... one for her. Plus a couple for your... for your other friends. Um... Micah and Aimee, right?

ELIA

Right. Yeah. Thank you. That's... that's super generous.

DEVON

Yeah. Thanks, man. Hmm. The... Elixir of Life? Well that's a pretty lofty promise, there. [Chuckles]

KIERAN

Yeah. Um... That's uh... That's what we call it. My family, that is. It's an old recipe that's been passed down since before anyone can remember. And a lot of people in our family have lived well into their 90s, some past 100. So it's... It's kind of like an inside family joke. We all drink this. We live long. It's The Elixir of Life.

DEVON

Yeah.

KIERAN

But... I'm still trying to decide if I want to market it that way, or change the name. Keep that little tidbit just in the family.

DEVON

[Chuckles] Right on. I get it. Cool story, though.

ELIA

Wait, you're not going to try it?

DEVON

Hmm... We're in a café, you know, Elia, you know. No outside beverages.

ELIA

You can have a little tiny taste, you dweeb.

DEVON

Hey.

ELIA

It's not that serious.

DEVON

Look, you. Back off.

ELIA

[Laughs]

KIERAN

No worries, man. Try it on your own time. I totally get it. Like, not wanting to open a present in front of the person who got it for you, right? In case you don't like it?

DEVON

Hey, no. No. I didn't mean... Yeah. I'm sure it's good, but...

KIERAN

[Chuckles] Just playing. No, no, no. It's okay. Uh... all good. Maybe you can bring it to your friends and all try it together. The reason why it's so herbal is because it's supposed to aid in digestion. So... let our girl Elia, here, cook you a nice big, rich meal. Then sip on this guy after.

DEVON

Ah, yeah. Sure. Could do that.

ELIA

So besides sipping on it, is there anything else, like, we could do? Do you have a good cocktail recipe to use it in?

KIERAN

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah, yeah, yeah. You got a pen?

ELIA

Uh... not me. Devon?

DEVON

Yeah, I think I've got one in here somewhere... Here we go.

[ELIA'S PHONE RINGS]

ELIA

Oh. Hey. It's Micah.

[Into phone] Hey. You're on speaker so don't say anything stupid--

MICAH

[Voiceover, on phone] Elia, where are you?

DEVON

Micah? Are you okay?

MICAH

[Voiceover, on phone] Devon?

DEVON

Yep. Micah, where are you?

MICAH

[Voiceover, on phone] We- We're in the car. We're- We're safe, but... It- It was so close.

AIMEE

[Voiceover, on phone] Elia?

ELIA

Aimee? What's going on?

AIMEE

[Voiceover, on phone] Can we please come to your house?

ELIA

Uh... yeah. Of course. We'll be there in five minutes.

Kieran, I'm so sorry.

KIERAN

No, no, no. Please. Don't apologize. That sounds... serious. So you guys should go.

ELIA

Thanks. Um... I'll- I'll see you at class next week?

DEVON

Yeah. Nice meeting you, Kieran. Take care.

KIERAN

Yeah. See you soon.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[OUTRO MUSIC]

Transcribed by [Evelyn Archer](#)

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