

Season 3: Episode 15

“There’s No Song for the Choir”

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how it ends



STEPHANIE [Voiceover]

In addition to our general show content warnings, this episode contains scenes that some listeners may find disturbing. Please press pause and review a full list of content warnings at the bottom of this episode's description. Listener discretion advised.

[INTRO MUSIC FADE IN]

MICAH [Voiceover]

This is Micah Jones. You know who we are by now, so I'll spare you introductions. Here's what you need to know: two years went by and you didn't hear from us. I know some of you thought that we were gone forever, and for that we're sorry. We've done our best to catch you up, and what we've found is a story bigger than us. Bigger than dreams or nightmares. Even bigger than memories.

The time for hiding is over and the only way out is through. We're airing in real time again, and what you'll hear will almost certainly put us in danger, so we need your help.

Share this story far and wide. And don't forget to eat at Jim's. Listen for whispers. They can try to stop us, but they can't stop all of you.

See you on the other side. Thank you for listening.

[INTRO MUSIC FADE OUT]

[SCENE TRANSITION]

ANNOUNCER [voiceover]

24 hours gone.

DEVON

I can't believe I didn't think to check these sooner.

LUKE

You're good, man. It's been chaotic. No one else thought of it either. At least you caught it early.

DEVON

Yeah. Uh... What time did they get back again?

LUKE

Aimee said around 6:30, and Micah left right after to stop at the pet store.

DEVON

Okay. Okay. Let's start around 6:20 and see what we can get here.

[COMPUTER MOUSE CLICKS]

LUKE

There. There they are.

DEVON

Okay. So. Elia and Aimee are getting out and... they take the bags inside and Micah steps out. You know, she's got her keys in her hand. She's standing... uh... She's standing there on the lawn. Still standing there. Looking at her phone. Texting someone, maybe?

[pause]

What the fuck?

LUKE

Holy shit. Wait. Go- go- go back. Go back. Slow it down so we can try to see--

DEVON

No, no, no, no. How did we not hear anything? Shit. Someone fucking grabbed her and we didn't hear a fucking thing?

[COMPUTER MOUSE CLICKS]

LUKE
Jesus Christ.

DEVON
Something's not right here. Look.

[COMPUTER MOUSE CLICKS]

DEVON
Okay, she looks up toward the street like she hears something, right?

LUKE
Shit. Yeah. I- I see it. And then they... grab her? What...? She went limp. The way he grabbed her hair. Re- Rewind it.

DEVON
Why?

LUKE
Just do it. Please.

[COMPUTER MOUSE CLICKS]

LUKE
Look. He grabs her hair, wrenches her back but he also clamps something over her mouth?

[COMPUTER MOUSE CLICKS]

DEVON
[sigh]
They drugged her.

[pause]

They were in our driveway! How fucking long were they waiting?

LUKE

Do you have a camera in the back? Can we see where they went?

DEVON

I only have one in the back hallway, not- but not near the cars. There's no way to leave except right here, like through the front--

LUKE

Okay. He's driving her car. What- What?

DEVON

He's still got that fucking hat on. God damn.

LUKE

Th- That's it. They're gone.

DEVON

How did this happen? She was right there. We could have--

LUKE

Don't do that to yourself. We don't have the time right now. We need to bring this to the cops. Maybe they'll finally fucking listen.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

ANNOUNCER (voiceover)

48 hours gone.

DEVON

I'm sorry. I wish I had better news for y'all but... I don't know. I made them a copy of the footage. One of the detectives seemed to think it could help, but... I got a bad vibe from the other. They're already looking for her car. They did seem to be a bit more motivated now that we have proof that someone took her. But... I don't know. It feels like it's most likely going to end up in a box on a shelf. If we're lucky.

AIMEE

At least we know more than we did before.

DEVON

Yeah. Okay.

ELIA

I mean, thanks for coming by to tell us.

DEVON

Well, good. Sorry for stopping by unannounced. I just... When I left the station, I felt... uh... I don't know. I- I figured...

AIMEE

Are you okay? Do you want to stay for a bit?

DEVON

Eh. I'm all set. But- but thanks, though. I- I need to get back.

ELIA

All right. We'll- we'll talk soon, though?

DEVON

Yeah. Be safe. Please.

AIMEE

Yeah. You, too.

[FOOTSTEPS]

[DOOR OPENS]

[DOOR CLOSES]

[FOOTSTEPS APPROACH]

AIMEE

Okay. It's not perfect, but it's progress at least. Right?

ELIA

Aimee.

AIMEE

There's video evidence.

ELIA

Yes, but there isn't anything new to go on. Y- you can't see the person's face and they were already looking for her car, but...

AIMEE

Hey. What's going on?

ELIA

I... I messed up.

AIMEE

What do you mean?

ELIA

[deep breath]

When we went to the station the other day and, um, the cops were asking us questions...

AIMEE

Yeah?

ELIA

I said... They asked if anything like this had ever happened before. Like if we'd ever lost contact with her, I think was how they put it. And I just... I wasn't thinking. I said, "She's kind of a loner sometimes and likes to hike by herself." And that she's dipped off a few times before, you know, like, not answered texts or calls, but that, you know, we- she was just, like, holed up in her apartment for a while, you know? She's... She's introverted. It's just how she is.

And I realize what I was saying, and- and I tried to explain that we always knew where she was. Like... Yeah. She'd have called out of work, but her car would still be in her driveway, you know? And- and Devon could hear music coming from her apartment. Like, we knew she was okay. And I insisted that this was different, but I- I could just tell by the looks on their faces... the damage was done. And I fucked everything up being me.

AIMEE

Elia.

ELIA

No. There's more.

[sighs]

They asked me if she had any social media. And I said, "Just an Instagram page, but she doesn't really use it anymore." But they still made me pull it up.

AIMEE

Ah, shit.

ELIA

Yeah. It doesn't look great. And one of the cops even started to say to me that this was vital information they should have known from the beginning as it changes the possibility of whether she was taken or actually left on her own.

AIMEE

No. That's not fair. Those are old posts, and they're just... I mean, they're taking them completely out of context. They can't do that. I- I'm going to call them. They need to understand--

ELIA

They're not going to do anything. You know that. You heard what Devon said. Even after showing them the footage of someone taking her, it didn't seem like it changed their tactics. I- I feel like they still think she left on her own.

AIMEE

But how could they? They saw the tape. It's clear as fucking day that someone grabbed her.

ELIA

Yeah, I know. It just... It doesn't feel like it's going to be enough.

AIMEE

When's the last time you checked in with Ava?

ELIA

Uh, earlier today. There's still nothing on her end either. But she reported Micah missing in Somerville, too. You know, just in case. But they're doing even less than the cops up here. She's a mess.

AIMEE

Well, then. We have to do something. We need a new plan.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

ANNOUNCER (voiceover)

72 hours gone.

ELIA

It's- It's the tapes. We should have never released them. We knew something like this would happen.

AIMEE

We knew something bad might happen. We didn't know this--

ELIA

This is something bad.

DEVON

Hey. El. We can sit here all day talking about what we should or shouldn't have done. But that's not going to help us now. We need to put the energy into finding her. Trying to, anyway.

ELIA

Okay. I know you're right. I'm- I'm sorry.

AIMEE

It's okay. We're all having a hard time.

BRENDAN

Is there anyone else we can call? Anyone else she spends time with on a semi-regular basis? Does she have any other friends?

ELIA

No. And that's part of the reason why the cops aren't taking this seriously.

DEVON

Yeah. To them she's an introverted loner and fits the type. They're still convinced she'll just pop up in a few days. That this is all some big misunderstanding.

BRENDAN

They saw someone fucking grab her!

DEVON

Yeah. Don't even get me started on that.

BRENDAN

Come on. There has to be someone else. Anyone. Someone from the restaurant that you both worked at?

ELIA

No. I'm telling you. There's no one.

AIMEE

Um...

ELIA

What?

AIMEE

Okay. So this is a total long shot and probably a stupid idea, but... what about those two people we met at Bayberry? What were their names again? Rina and...

ELIA

Vallon. Yeah. Um. I'm not trying to shit on your idea because I'm fine with trying everything, but why would Micah call them?

AIMEE

I don't know. But I just remember Micah and Rina exchanging numbers, and Micah offering to show Rina around. Do we know if

they ever hung out? It's been a long time since then. A really long time. Fuck, I don't know. Maybe that's stupid.

ELIA

No. It isn't. I mean... Micah didn't mention hanging out with her, but that isn't necessarily evidence that they haven't. We could try.

BRENDAN

Do it. Call them.

ELIA

[deep breath]
Shit. I can't.

BRENDAN

Why not?

ELIA

Because Micah's the only one who exchanged numbers, and Rina's number is in her phone which is obviously not...

AIMEE

Oh, what about Micah's laptop? That's here, right? Maybe her contacts are synched?

ELIA

Right. Yeah. Okay, that's worth a try. I- I'll go get it.

[FOOTSTEPS AWAY]

[DOOR OPENS]

DEVON

These are the two people you met at the community table? On The World's Longest Saturday?

AIMEE

Yeah. They sat with us for a little while before we ran out of there because Elia spotted Kieran.

DEVON

Oh. I remember editing that. You know, before we put it out. I think she said her number out loud. We bleeped it out, but I'm almost sure she said it.

BRENDAN

Do you still have the original recordings?

DEVON

Yeah, I do. Let me go back and listen through them. I'll be right back.

[FOOTSTEPS AWAY]

[DOOR OPENS, CLOSES]

[KEYS JANGLE]

[FOOTSTEPS APPROACH]

ELIA

This- this feels wrong. I feel like I'm invading her privacy or something.

AIMEE

You're trying to help find her.

ELIA

I know.

[pause]

Uh, her messages are doing that thing where they're showing all the phone numbers but the names haven't synched with her contacts app on the laptop and... I... I only recognize a few of these numbers here. I don't know.

[DOOR OPENS]

[FOOTSTEPS APPROACH]

DEVON

I got it. It's 609-[redacted].

ELIA

Um... Yes. Okay. I- I see a 609 number here. Fuck, it's the same one. Yeah. So it looks like they did chat a bit. And... um... they hung out once, but... it was months ago.

BRENDAN

Who cares? Call them.

AIMEE

I'll do it. Devon, show me the number again.

DEVON

Here you go.

[PHONE RINGS, OUTGOING]

RINA

Hello?

AIMEE

Uh... Hi. Rina. Um... You may not remember me, but my name is Aimee. I met you and Vallon at Bayberry with Micah and our friend Elia a while back? You sat at our table?

RINA

Oh, yeah! Hey, Aimee. How are you? How's Elia? A little surprised you're calling me. It's nice to hear from you. Did Micah give you my number?

AIMEE

Um. Sort of. Listen, Rina. This is going to be...

RINA

Is everything okay?

[MURMURS FROM RINA'S PHONE]

[aside]

Ssh.

Aimee. Is everything okay?

AIMEE

No. Micah is missing. We came back from a trip on Sunday night, and... Well, Elia and I went into the apartment to hang out with our friends and Micah went to run an errand and pick up our take out... And she never came back. Yesterday Devon checked their apartment's security cameras and we saw someone grab her and drive her car away from the house.

RINA

Oh, my God. Uh... I'm... I don't even know what to say. Have you reported it to--

AIMEE

Yeah. Yeah, we did. And they're looking into it, I guess. But it's complicated. So we're just doing everything we can to find her. That's why I'm calling.

RINA

W- Well, what could I do?

AIMEE

Well, have you heard from her recently? Or do you have any plans with her that are coming up? Anything like that?

RINA

Um... Um... Let me think. We haven't texted in a while, but... But I did run into her at a coffee shop in Westminster.

AIMEE

White Electric?

RINA

Yeah. That's the one.

AIMEE

That makes sense. She goes there a lot. It's one of our regular spots. Um, do you remember when that was?

RINA

Maybe a month or two ago? I'm not sure.

AIMEE

And did she seem okay?

RINA

Yeah. Definitely. I mean, she seemed fine.

AIMEE

Okay. Thanks for taking my call. Listen, if you see her or hear anything or--

RINA

I'll call you. I promise. I'll save your number as soon as we hang up. Are you sure there isn't anything else I can do to help?

AIMEE

No, just that. Just keep your eyes out for her. And stay in touch if anything comes up.

RINA

Okay. I will.

[aside]

Micah's missing. Her friend called. We have to-

[to AIMEE]

Sorry. Vallon just walked in.

AIMEE

Well, I'll let you go. Thanks for your help.

RINA

Sure. I- I'll be in touch either way.

MUFFLED VOICE

[inaudible]... It's [inaudible] move. Danger [inaudible].

RINA

[aside]

I know.

[to AIMEE]

Call me anytime, Aimee. Seriously.

AIMEE

Thanks.

ELIA

I... I don't feel good.

BRENDAN

I'll get us some water. Has anyone eaten anything? Or are we all running on empty?

DEVON

Fumes. Hundred percent.

AIMEE

Yeah. I haven't eaten either. Although I'm not sure I can.

BRENDAN

We all need to rest for a few and recoup. We're not good to her if we're not thinking clearly.

DEVON

Yeah, you're right. I'll see what I have in the kitchen.

ELIA

Jesus Christ. We- we forgot about John.

BRENDAN

Shit, you're right.

ELIA
Should I?

AIMEE
No. I can do it. You just said you don't feel well.

[PHONE RINGS, OUTGOING]

JOHN
Hello?

AIMEE
Hi, John. It's Aimee.

JOHN
Hi, Aimee.

AIMEE
I'm here with Elia and our other friends, Devon, Luke and Brendan. I have you on speaker.

JOHN
Uh- Not a- Not a problem. Are- Are you calling with good news?

AIMEE
I wish I was, but we were actually calling to ask you if you've heard anything.

JOHN
[sigh]
Sorry, kids. I tried my best to report her missing, but... Ava had already reported it in Somerville. And my local station basically laughed me out of the building when I mentioned she hadn't gone missing from Jersey. I tried to reason with them. You know, say that whoever took her... you know, strong possibility they brought her here from Providence. They said until we can prove it, it's a case for PPD.

I even asked if they could just flag her plates because her car's missing, but... Yeah. Nothing.

[FOOTSTEPS APPROACH]

JOHN

I did what I could without getting into the whole sordid story,
but...

DEVON

Yeah. Same here, John. Thank you for trying, though.

[pause]

JOHN

Was there... something else?

DEVON

[clears throat]

Well. We checked the footage from our security cameras here at
the house, and... uh...

JOHN

Yeah?

[pause]

ELIA

John. Micah was taken from here. Right- Right off her own front
lawn.

JOHN

Why- Why didn't you open with that? Uh... You could get that to
the police. They could--

AIMEE

No. No. John. We already did. Devon did. They took it and filed
it, but... I don't know.

DEVON

You can't see the person's face at all.

LUKE

They grabbed her from the front of the house, forced her into her car, and drove off. It all happened in less than a minute.

JOHN

Okay. Okay. Um. All right. Okay. Well... So we know she's traveling in her car, right? Or was at some point. So maybe they'll flag her plates now with that information. Did you ask them to do that in Providence?

DEVON

Yeah. Um. They were already looking for her car, so they said.

JOHN

Do you have a copy of that tape? I'll see if the cops here will, uh, do it now.

DEVON

Hmm. I can email you a file. Uh, you can play it for them on your phone.

JOHN

I don't have that kind of phone. But I'll call you when I get there, and maybe you can send it right to them?

DEVON

Yeah. Well. Sure. Yeah. I guess. We can try.

JOHN

Okay. Okay, I'll head there now. Is there anything else I need to know?

AIMEE

I don't think so John. But thank you for helping.

JOHN

Any time. Keep me updated, okay?

AIMEE

We will.

JOHN
And stay safe.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

ANNOUNCER (voiceover)
Seven days gone.

DEVON
It's been a week, and we have nothing new. I'm trying to stay positive, but... I really thought we were going to find her. But the more time that passes, the more...

MULDER
[loudly, heartbroken]
Meow.

DEVON
Yeah. I know, buddy. I miss her, too. Hmm. Once again I have to ask myself, why am I even recording this? Why are we still recording anything? I thought things were getting out of hand a long time ago. We should have stopped then. Why didn't we just fucking stop?

[KNOCK ON DOOR]

DEVON
Who the hell?

[KNOCK ON DOOR LOUDLY]

DEVON
Who is it?

ELIA
Devon, it's- it's me. Let me in.

[FOOTSTEPS]

[DOOR OPENS]

DEVON

What's going on? Are you okay?

[DOOR CLOSES]

DEVON

Is it Aimee?

ELIA

No, no, no. Uh. I- I'm fine. Everyone's fine. Aimee is at work still. She had a late appointment or something. I just... I- I- I don't know. I'm sorry. I- I- I should have at least called.

DEVON

[relieved laughter]

Yeah. You should have. You scared the shit out of me. I never get knocks on my actual apartment door. Only tenants have the outside key.

ELIA

You're right. I'm sorry. I- I have a set of Micah's keys. I wasn't thinking.

[deep breath]

I was home, and I started getting restless and all of a sudden I felt like I was going to jump out of my skin. And I had- I had- I had to leave. I... I couldn't be home alone. I just ended up here.

DEVON

It's okay. It's okay. I get it. Don't worry. You're good. Okay?

ELIA

Okay.

DEVON

All right. Sit down, I'll- I'll get you something to drink.

[FOOTSTEPS AWAY]

[FOOTSTEPS APPROACH]

DEVON
Here.

ELIA
Thank you.

[deep breath]

Are we ever going to see her again?

I'm sorry. I didn't even ask. How- How are you doing?

DEVON
I'm...

ELIA
Yeah. Uh. Were you on the phone or something when I got here? I heard you talking when I was coming up the stairs.

DEVON
Oh, no. No. I was just thinking out loud.

ELIA
Anything I can help with?

DEVON
I don't know. Mostly just getting in my feelings. But I've been thinking a lot about Mark's tapes.

ELIA
Yeah? What about them?

DEVON
Just some of the stuff he talked about. The more I think about certain things, the more my brain's trying to make connections. And maybe they make sense, or maybe it's just me trying to make them make sense. We know more than we ever have, but I still haven't been able to make the pieces fit together. Not in a way that points us in a concrete direction. We knew that airing them, you know, could be trouble, but no one thought--

ELIA

Yeah. I know. No one thought something like this would ever happen. Have you been paying attention to Luke at all?

DEVON

Uh... Not any more than usual. Did I miss something?

ELIA

No. Nothing specific, but I- I have been keeping my eye on him and he's struggling. I... I think this is a trigger for him because of...

DEVON

Because of Frankie. Right.

ELIA

Yeah.

DEVON

Yeah.

ELIA

Yeah, I- I know we're all hanging on by a fucking thread, but Luke seems even more strung out. We really need to keep an eye on him. And with Mark being involved in all this, too? It's- It's just...

DEVON

Yeah. Mark. Fucking Mark. He lied to so many people about so many things, and... But he was honest on those tapes. I know it. That's why I'm so frustrated. I know there's something in those recordings that we're missing. How, though? How does it all come together?

ELIA

Well. All right, let's try to work through some of it piece by piece.

DEVON

Okay. Well. The robes, right?

ELIA
Robes?

DEVON
The ones that Mark found in his wife's closet after she passed.

ELIA
Right. Yeah.

DEVON
Brendan said that the people who performed that fucked up ceremony--

ELIA
They were all wearing robes.

DEVON
Right. Including his parents. Seems obvious that this is all connected, but then I start to second guess myself.

ELIA
How so?

DEVON
Well there are all kinds of robes, right? Colors, fabrics. Do they tie? Button? Zipper? We don't really get an accurate description of them from Mark. Or Brendon, right?

ELIA
Hmm. Wrong. Mark said they looked like robes from a choir or something, right? Or a graduation? And they had some kind of stole, or another piece of fabric that drapes over the robe itself. I mean, can't we just ask Brendan again if he remembers the robes he saw?

DEVON
That's what I'm saying, though. Even that can mean different things to different people. So what if I'm reaching?

ELIA

Okay. Let's move away from the robes for a second. Any other connections? You know, anything more... substantial, I guess?

DEVON

Well. The guy who took Mark. Knocked him out and kidnapped him, essentially. Right there, at the scene of Nolan's accident. He threatened him not to report it as anything other than an accident. Why would someone do that?

ELIA

No. Yeah. You're- You're on to something there.

DEVON

Exactly. Why would this guy be so adamant about Mark keeping his mouth shut about what he saw?

ELIA

If he was willing to knock out a cop and drive him to a remote area to threaten him, then the guy is either very used to doing shit like that or he's a fucking idiot. I- And I don't think he's just some moron trying to beat an insurance claim. He wanted Mark to keep quiet and he- he said so by threatening his family. He mocked Mark, remember? Something was at stake for him. He didn't want to be associated with the accident.

DEVON

Okay. That part, though. The guy didn't just threaten Mark to keep him out of the report. He threatened Mark if he didn't report it as an accident.

ELIA

Because... He... killed Nolan on purpose?

DEVON

But why? What did Nolan do? Or know? And then there's the part that keeps coming back to me. But honestly? It's so unsettling I've sort of tried to avoid thinking about it. Even though I know it's probably the thing we should talk about.

ELIA

Well, what is it? If- If I'm being real, I barely remember what's on those tapes right now. I- I'd have to do a re-listen. My brain is just too full.

DEVON

Yeah. I- I get it. They're burned into my mind because I did all the audio cleanup. Listened to them like a dozen times.

[pause]

Mark talks about the night of the accident a few times. In the earliest tapes, he dances around it a bit. Like he couldn't bring himself to admit it, but as the tapes and the years go by.. As his guilt grew, which became obvious by his descent into drinking and rambling, he started to let more truth slip by.

First he described part of it when he talked about the nightmares he was having. But then he finally tells the real--

ELIA

But how do you know it's the real story? How do you know it's not just another alcohol-soaked lie?

DEVON

It's because of how he told it. He started with the details about him. What he was doing, or supposed to be doing that night. He lamented making the decision to take that route home.

ELIA

Right. Okay. Yeah, I remember that.

DEVON

Yeah. How he walks himself through the entire night. Seeing the accident. Seeing Nolan. Hearing Nolan ask for Micah. And then realizing that she was actually there. The entire story sets me on edge. There's something so..

You know how you can feel someone standing right behind you, even though you can't hear them? It's almost as if you can feel their body's energy enter the space you're in and until you turn around, there's just the feeling that someone's watching you, you know, doing whatever it is you're doing. Even when it's something benign, like a person looking over your shoulder at your screen at work. It's- It's like a weight.

ELIA

Yeah. I- I kind of get what you mean. I'm pretty sensitive to other people's energies when they come into a space, but... Yeah. Sorry. Keep going.

DEVON

It's when Mark starts to detail walking around the truck, finding the fabric in Nolan's hand, then finally seeing Micah. He said he saw her in the headlights. And her expression made him uncomfortable. When once he got her to move out of the center of the road, she walked up to Nolan and whispered something. And it's that. It's what Mark heard her say. Micah said, "It's okay, Papa Bear. He sees me now."

Why is it always this kind of phrasing? Luke's encounter in the woods. They said, "I see you." Luke said the day Micah got hurt in Duke Island Park, she whispered to him, "It saw me." When Nolan wrote in that fucking book, "Don't let Micah see." It's been the same thing over and over from the beginning.

This whole thing has been going on for so long. We've been doing this shit for fucking years now, and it's always been so disjointed. The information came to us, or we found it in such a piecemeal way over such a long period of time... It's just so hard to make sense of it. It all happened so slowly. Like watching a candle burn down to the bottom.

But Mark's tapes provided us the link. Everything that's happened is connected. Nolan. John. Brendan. Micah. Aimee. Luke. That... That's it. That's the thing.

What if we're not... On the outside, I mean? Who sees her, Elia? Who saw her? I can't believe I'm saying this, but... Is this

something else? Something beyond anything that's ever been rooted in logic and the real world? I don't know. It- It's all so... unnatural. Everything feels... I don't fucking know. I can't bring myself to really contend with the thought.

ELIA

What exactly do you mean by "unnatural"?

DEVON

I... don't know. I don't have another way to describe it right now. But I'll say this: I started to feel it when Luke told us about what happened to Frankie. As he explained what she went through, the notes, the nightmares, how she sort of came undone... Then all of a sudden she's fine. And then she disappears?

ELIA

Devon, I can't... I... No. I'm sorry. That has to be a horrible coincidence because I don't know if I can handle that.

DEVON

That's... that's what I mean. I started to feel that overwhelm, you know? The- when I give myself a moment to think about it, I get that feeling like someone's in the room with me. Like I'm being watched.

ELIA

Watched by who?

DEVON

No by who. By what.

[pause]

And why do I feel like the person who threatened Micah when we started this thing is the same person who's been pushing her to keep going on?

ELIA

Wh- what? H- how? Wh- And- and why would somebody do that? Why would they want to keep her quiet and also push her to keep looking? That makes no sense.

DEVON

Because either way, they'll get what they want. She has something. She knows something. And it has everything to do with Nolan and that night.

ELIA

Okay, then what are they going to do to her?

DEVON

I don't know. But they've been playing a long game, I'm sure of it. And I think we're running out of time to stop them.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

ANNOUNCER (voiceover)

10 days gone.

[FOOTSTEPS THROUGH GRASS]

LUKE

Hey, um... I just realized... A while back, we passed that massive boulder. Was, uh... Was that the spot?

ELIA

Where Aimee almost got hit? Yeah. I was thinking the same thing. It- I don't know. It looks like it could be.

LUKE

Crazy. Feels like a lifetime ago.

ELIA

Yeah. Can't believe I'm on a fucking hike right now.

[louder]

This is what you wanted Micah? You finally got me out here.

Yeah. I'm sorry. It's kind of all I have at this point.

LUKE

Why are we out here, anyway?

ELIA

I mean, like I told you. There's something just not right about this. Micah didn't just ditch her car here. Someone left it here to make it look like she did and... I don't know why, but I'm sure of it. That bullshit note they found? Wasn't her.

LUKE

How can you be sure? I mean, I believe you, but... People go missing in strange ways.

ELIA

That's true, but this isn't one of those times. You know, everything's off about it. Nothing makes sense.

LUKE

They matched her handwriting to one of her journals, though.

ELIA

I don't care. She- she could have been forced to write it. She- she- she'd never do this. I don't care what that note says. One, if she ever did decide to run away and start a new life, I know for a fact that she would tell me and Devon first. Face to face, not in a note. And no matter how hard we fought her, she'd still go. But... she would have at least said goodbye.

LUKE

What's number two?

ELIA

She would never leave without Mulder. The fact that the note says, "Devon, please take good care of Mulder for me." No. It was like the person who took her was trying to make it a point, you know? Sprinkle in some identifying details to add authenticity. And maybe the cops bought it but I don't. She would never leave without him. I don't care where she was going or what she was planning to do. Allegedly.

LUKE

So that's it. They found her car and one barely verifiable note and they're calling off the investigation?

ELIA

I mean they didn't say calling it off, exactly. But it's slowed down. So, I mean, I guess, yeah. Basically. They aren't going to continue using resources to find somebody they think skipped town. It's fucking bullshit.

LUKE

So they're ignoring the whole snatched-from-the-front-yard angle, too?

ELIA

Oh, no. They're not ignoring it. Even better, they suggested that she possibly had actually orchestrated the whole thing.

LUKE

You can't be serious.

ELIA

Yep. They said she knew where the cameras were positioned and set up the whole kidnapping scenario to make it all seem believable. I don't know.

LUKE

That doesn't even make sense, though. If she wanted to go missing, to never be seen again, why would she make it look like she was taken? And create that noise? I'd think she'd rather just, you know, slip out the back without any fanfare.

ELIA

Oh, she did it for the podcast, obviously.

LUKE

What?

ELIA

Yep. They think she wanted to go viral and make it a whole thing and that she's going to just pop back up again when her little stunt works.

LUKE

They actually said that? "Little stunt"?

ELIA

Yep.

[BIRD CALLS IN THE DISTANCE]

ELIA

It was embarrassing for them, honestly. They sounded so out of touch. Somehow they assumed Micah is some kind of internet persona, so she'd do anything for a little bit of attention. Which is fucking hilarious to me, since they originally "the type" to walk away from her life because she's such a loner.

So like... which is it guys? Is she a showy attention seeker, willing to fake a disappearance for clout? Or a broody loner that no one cares enough about to notice that they're even gone? It's a fucking joke.

They kept her car as evidence, but last I heard they're likely going to release it since they're close to saying a crime hasn't been committed. And yeah, that's the other part about it, I guess. Her car.

LUKE

What about it?

ELIA

The cops said it was empty. You know, completely cleaned out. It was part of the reason they started to lean towards her orchestrating the whole thing.

LUKE

But why?

ELIA

Okay. So. Fine. Say, Micah decided she was going to bail on her life. She somehow plans the exact moment she'll be back at her house, directs someone to grab her. They drive her here, of all places? And then she dumps her car, but not before she removes

every single thing she's ever owned and left in it. She writes a note and then... what?

LUKE

Don't they think she left with someone?

ELIA

They speculated, but there wasn't any evidence to confirm or refute that. For me it's the fact that there wasn't a single item in the car, save for the note. Micah's car was full of her stuff the day we got home from the spa trip. I know it was because she grabbed stuff from it before we left.

Micah's car is never really messy, but she always has stuff in the trunk and in the cab. She keeps basic emergency items. You know, jumper cables, first aid kit, camping bedroll. One of those hammocks you tie to the fucking tree if you love being outside that much. Notebooks, pens. And ever since that shit happened with Aimee nearly getting impaled by an arrow, she keeps, like, 30 orange beanies in the trunk because never wanted to get caught without one again.

So you're telling me that somehow she just cleans everything out, like her car's been fucking detailed or whatever, and leaves? Where would she put it all? Did she get on a bus? She doesn't have another car. Like, how- how would any of this even happen?

LUKE

So they think she had someone help her?

ELIA

It's the only thing they can say, and it barely holds any water. They're just... quitting. And it's driving me fucking crazy.

LUKE

Okay. That makes sense, but... I am still a little unsure we're actually hiking the trail, though.

ELIA

[sighs]

Because I can't sit still. You know, being inside my apartment, or Devon's... I don't know, I feel like I'm just going to peel my skin off. They found her car here on Sunday, so... Now I'm here.

At the very least, we're taking a walk somewhere she's been a hundred times, so I feel closer to her and... At best, we get struck by lightning and find something that points us in the right direction.

LUKE

I was surprised you wanted me to come.

ELIA

Why?

LUKE

Well... I don't know.

ELIA

Luke. We're good. Okay? We've been good for a long time. You're my friend. You're Micah's friend. Like, it's fine.

LUKE

Okay.

ELIA

Do you know where we are? Like, on the trail map, I mean?

LUKE

Um... Let me look.

So, we started here at the parking lot on Plain Meeting House Road. That's where they found her car. We followed the blue line all the way until it met the yellow one, which is the Flintlock Loop. We passed the Boulder Garden, and walked around part of the Pond Loop. So I think we're here.

ELIA

So we passed Hemlock Ridge and... turned to the left back to our car?

LUKE

Uh... Oh, shit. No. We turned right. We're headed to the other parking lot on Hazard Road. We should probably turn around and go back the other way. Sorry, I wasn't paying attention.

ELIA

No, it's fine. That's- that's where we're going, then.

LUKE

To the road? Why?

ELIA

I just want to. Okay?

LUKE

Okay. Sure.

Are we going to walk on the road back to the car? It's kind of far, even for me.

ELIA

No. We'll take the trail back.

LUKE

Oh... kay.

[FOOTSTEPS CONTINUE]

LUKE

El? What are you doing?

ELIA

I'm looking around.

LUKE

Why?

ELIA

Because it just occurred to me that maybe this person who was so desperate to convince people that Micah did this herself had the sense to actually make her walk the trail, in case someone could

see her doing it. So... I don't know. What if they dumped her car and walked to this lot where another car was waiting?

LUKE

Uh...

ELIA

Just... Humor me, okay? I won't be long. Then if you want, we can call an Uber from here and- and drive us back to the other side to your car.

LUKE

No. No. We don't have to do that. Go ahead. I'll look, too.

[FOOTSTEPS]

ELIA

Fuck. Goddammit.

LUKE

Elia. Come here. Right now.

ELIA

Yeah, I know. I'm done. I'll call an Uber. I don't even want to walk back. Fucking stupid hiking. Never again.

LUKE

No. No. Come here. Right now.

ELIA

What? What it is?

LUKE

Look.

ELIA

Jesus, you need to get a new case or something. What the hell did you do to your phone?

LUKE

It's not mine. I found it, off in the trees over there, back towards the trail. Look. Look at the back.

ELIA

Wait. This- This is...

LUKE

Micah's. This was right next to it.

ELIA

That's a piece of her jacket. It- it's the one she was wearing the day we got back from the trip. What- Why- What happened to it? It looks like something clawed it to pieces, or... Or cut it with something sharp.

LUKE

I think you're right. Someone took her and tried to make it look like she ran away. But she didn't go without a fight.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

ANNOUNCER (voiceover)

12 days gone.

[INTERIOR CAR SOUNDS]

BRENDAN

Hey, what's up? How was work?

[CAR DOOR OPENS, CLOSSES]

AIMEE

Ah, pretty good. How's your day going?

BRENDAN

It's going. Is your car ready yet?

AIMEE

No. I called and they still need to keep it until tomorrow. The

rotors they need haven't come in yet. They've finished all the other stuff, though. So annoying.

BRENDAN

Yeah. It happens, though. Just got to keep up on maintenance.

AIMEE

No, I know that. I just feel like I got my brakes replaced not that long ago.

BRENDAN

They're not scamming you, are they?

AIMEE

No, definitely not. The guy sent me a picture of how mine looked. And I'm no mechanical expert or anything, but even I could tell they were shot.

BRENDAN

Oof. Yeah, that sucks. Brakes are expensive. Especially in a car like yours. So, you just want me to drop you at home?

AIMEE

Um. How about we go get dinner? If you're not too busy? Elia's out for the night, so I was probably just going to do a solo take out anyway. These days I really don't like being in the apartment alone for too long.

BRENDAN

I get that. And, yeah. I'm down. Any place in mind?

AIMEE

Hmm.

BRENDAN

Maybe somewhere outside of Providence? I could use a change of scenery, honestly. Everything has been so heavy and I'm a little stir crazy.

AIMEE

I bet. You're a rolling stone.

BRENDAN
Hilarious.

AIMEE
[chuckles]
No, I get it. Yeah, that sounds good to me, too. Um... There's this oyster bar Elia keeps telling me we have to try.

BRENDAN
[chuckles]
Okay. But the question is, are you prepared to suffer her wrath for going there without her?

AIMEE
Well, if I tell her I went with you, she won't give me too much shit. She'll just be happy we're still working on fixing stuff between us.

[to the recorder]
Sorry, babe. You'll hear this sooner or later. It's my only idea and I'm hungry.

BRENDAN
It's your funeral.

AIMEE
Yeah, uh. Maybe don't with the funeral jokes. At least not right now.

BRENDAN
Shit. Yeah. Sorry.

AIMEE
It's all good. Let's go. I'll put the address in my phone.

[CAR STARTS UP, DRIVES AWAY]

[INTERIOR DRIVING SOUNDS]

AIMEE

Um... Google says it's going to take about 40 minutes to get there. Is that far enough from Providence for you? It's by the ocean.

BRENDAN

It'll do. Maybe we can stop and walk for a few if there's time?

AIMEE

Yeah, sure.

BRENDAN

It's been a while since I've seen you. Since that day we called John. And that lady.

AIMEE

Rina.

BRENDAN

Right. Rina. How are you holding up? Is there any new--

AIMEE

If we heard anything new, I would tell you.

BRENDAN

Yep. Sorry.

AIMEE

I didn't mean it like that. I just... I don't know. After looking through all the security footage, and then what Luke and Elia found... It almost feels like the more we find, the less I understand what could have actually happened.

BRENDAN

Maybe taking a break? How many times have you looked through everything? Maybe--

AIMEE

I can't. We're missing something and I have to find it. The only thing I know for sure is that she didn't just ditch us. I went down a rabbit hole looking for more information on all of your shit, too.

BRENDAN

My shit?

AIMEE

Yeah. That whole... Mom and Dad's... thing.

BRENDAN

The organization?

AIMEE

Yeah. Is that what it's actually called?

BRENDAN

I don't know. It's just something I started calling it.

AIMEE

I keep wondering if it's also connected to this, or if it's just really insult to fucking injury and the absolute worst timing.

BRENDAN

I...

AIMEE

When you showed up you said you thought it might have something to do with Nolan, but you never really explained why.

BRENDAN

I didn't?

AIMEE

No, I don't think so. When you were telling us that whole story, we all kept interrupting. We do that sometimes. Sorry, but... I've listened back to everything you said. Micah even asked you why you thought it was connected to her and her dad, but you never really got to answer. I only realized it when I opened all that stuff back up again.

BRENDAN

Ah.

AIMEE

So what is it? Why did you think the organization was connected to Nolan?

BRENDAN

Well, it's sort of a thin connection. But remember how I said that I was promised anything I could want? Influence, money, even power? Though I don't know what that would even look like.

AIMEE

Yeah, I remember.

BRENDAN

Well, Nolan was like the golden child... guy... person, whatever, of our town, wasn't he? At least before he died? I know I told Devon this much when you three left us guys to bond or whatever that day.

In my time away, once I started thinking about all this stuff again, it crossed my mind. Then when Mark came to find me and had all those questions about the Joneses... I don't know. I wondered.

AIMEE

That's... it?

BRENDAN

I did say "maybe" when I mentioned her dad. I didn't say I was sure. I can only confirm our parents are part of this fucking thing.

AIMEE

That is thin.

BRENDAN

Told you.

AIMEE

But that's the thing. I'm not sure that you're wrong, though. Something in my gut tells me there is some kind of link. I mean, you said that the people at The Seething wore masks.

BRENDAN

Yes. They did.

AIMEE

And Micah remembered that something happened to her, and that she was taken somewhere by someone she didn't know. When she came to, she was facing three people wearing masks with a symbol on them.

BRENDAN

Yeah. I remember us talking about that a little bit, but everything is sort of blurring together.

AIMEE

I have the symbol she drew in my notes. Let me get it.

[CASE UNZIPS]

[PAPERS RIFLING]

AIMEE

Here. This is what she drew. She isn't 100% sure this is exactly it, but it's what she could remember. Is it the same as the symbol on the masks at The Seething?

BRENDAN

Honestly? I don't know. When I focus on that night, the symbol just... isn't the part that really stuck with me. Sorry.

AIMEE

No. It's okay. But see, this is why I can get behind the

possibility that all of this is happening. It's connected. It wouldn't make sense for these two very horrible, specific things to be this similar and end up being coincidental.

BRENDAN

Sure. But...

AIMEE

I know what you're going to say. I know. We have no idea how it comes together. That's why I'm fucking determined to find it.

There's something that's been bothering me.

BRENDAN

Okay. What?

AIMEE

I was thinking about your episodes.

BRENDAN

Episodes?

AIMEE

The blackouts.

BRENDAN

Ah. Yeah.

AIMEE

What if they did the same thing to her? To make her have blackouts, too?

BRENDAN

I don't even know why or how I started getting those. Could be anything.

AIMEE

Brendan. Let's be realistic here. You were kidnapped, knocked out, and drugged by an underground secret society. And then started to lose big chunks of time. Micah also has missing time, people in masks, and a potential lifelong stalker situation.

BRENDAN

Aimee. Do we have to, right now?

AIMEE

I know. I know you're sick of talking about it. But Brendan, you're the only one who has any sort of knowledge about what these people are capable of. If they took Micah--

BRENDAN

Why would they take Micah?

AIMEE

I don't know. That's what I'm saying. It's the "why". But really, all I can think about is what might be happening to her. What if she's lost or confused? What if she doesn't know where she is? Or that she's even in trouble?

BRENDAN

If Mom and Dad are the ones involved in this, why would they not want one of us? Why take her? And not you or I? Or both of us?

AIMEE

Okay. Let's back up. We already said what we know about what Micah remembers, and how it's similar to some parts of the ceremony. Set that aside.

On Mark's tapes, he found robes and a journal that belonged to his wife locked behind a hidden door in their house. That's a huge red flag. He described the robes, but you don't really remember those either, right?

BRENDAN

Not really. I told you what I remember of them. They were black. That's all I got.

AIMEE

That's fine. Mark said he found a few sets and they were in different colors. He never said what colors, though. But it's less about that and more about his wife's journal entry that he read. I have it written here.

He said, "Mark thinks I don't know what really happened the night that man crashed his truck. But I do. We all do. We are monitoring the situation closely." Even though he didn't say much else, Mark's reaction to those words proved he was surprised by what she wrote. And he and I both want to know the same thing: Who the fuck is "we"?

I looked Katherine up. I couldn't find much on her, but I did find out that she worked for a housing association and was basically a property manager. Not exactly the type of job where you'd be conducting some kind of surveillance. And also, there's the fact that she knew Mark falsified his report. Plus, it's implied that other people did too because she used the word, "we". Yet nothing ever came of it.

No one ever doubted or challenged his version of events. But she knew the truth. She knew he covered something up. So how did she find out? Who else knew? How much did she know?

I know how I sound. But seriously, ask yourself the same questions and tell me what you think. You said The Organization claimed to have a widespread network of people and the ability to grant anyone almost anything they wanted. You said that your scholarship was part of that--

BRENDAN

Yeah, I did. But... Shit. That happens to privileged people all the time. Someone's dad knows a dean. They make a recommendation. Blah, blah. It's how rich people stay rich or whatever. Back door deals.

AIMEE

Okay, yeah. That's true. But what if it's more than that? What if what they claim isn't just smoke and mirrors? Mark was the only cop there that night. He said it himself. If he made up a story and never told anyone about it, tell me how Katherine could know what actually happened if she wasn't mixed up in all that shit?

BRENDAN

Okay. Say she is. They kept an eye on the situation because he fucking lied about an accident that ultimately resulted in someone's death. Maybe she was protecting him and her family? Simple as that. I mean, that's enough to ruin a career and someone's life. Hers too, by association.

AIMEE

Yeah, I'm not saying I disagree. I'm saying you're right. But I believe there's more to it. Those tapes have gotten under my skin.

BRENDAN

I see that.

AIMEE

He said so much, but it was like he stopped short of saying the exact thing we need to know. I feel like I'm looking through a camera lens and I can see what's in front of me, but it's just slightly out of focus. And the more I try to figure it out, the fuzzier things become.

BRENDAN

Like I said, I think it's probably a good idea for you to take a break. Even just for a night. No one's expecting you to save the day, Goose.

AIMEE

I know that.

BRENDAN

So, tonight at dinner? We can take a break? You just have a meal, talk about sports, eat oysters, and plan how you'll apologize to Elia for your betrayal? Yeah? Say yes.

AIMEE

[sighs]

Yes. Okay.

But can I say one more thing about Mark's tapes? It- It's less about solving everything and more that it's something that really freaked me out when I heard it. I get chills every time I listen to them.

BRENDAN

Maybe stop listening?

AIMEE

I'm serious.

BRENDAN

Yeah. All right. Go ahead.

AIMEE

When Mark finally told the story of what really happened that night, he described seeing Micah for the first time. He said she was standing in the headlights of the truck in the middle of the road.

BRENDAN

Yeah. I remember. It's that photo you found in the box the case file came in.

AIMEE

Yeah. As if that wasn't unsettling enough, it's... It was when she said he spoke to Nolan. He said Micah walked right up to Nolan, who was in bad shape, all hunched over the steering wheel. He said she whispered to him, "It's okay Papa Bear. He sees me now."

BRENDAN

Yeah.

AIMEE

So you know I'm not really a superstitious kind of person. I like facts, logic. This whole time we've been looking into all this history, things about Nolan, the organization, whoever hurt Micah. I've never once thought that it was anything other than a really sick person or sick people who just enjoy hurting people.

BRENDAN

Okay.

AIMEE

But when Mark repeated those words... Something felt wrong. I can't put my finger on it, but I also can't shake it. It's almost like I heard something I shouldn't have and I keep feeling like... I can't find the words to describe...

BRENDAN

Try.

AIMEE

I can't shake the thought that she wasn't talking about a person. And ever since we heard those tapes, whenever we were all together before she... It felt like something else was in the room with us, waiting.

BRENDAN

Waiting for what?

AIMEE

I don't know.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

ANNOUNCER (voiceover)

15 days gone.

[SOUNDS OF CUTLERY, TABLE BEING LAID]

DEVON

El, Aimee. Thanks again for having us. This all looks amazing.

ELIA

Oh, you know. I just... wanted everyone to be together. I- I just, you know, wanted to have you all over. It's been a while.

Okay. Okay, what are you all waiting for? Eat.

[SOUNDS OF PLATES BEING DISHED UP]

LUKE

This is delicious, Elia. What is it?

ALL

[laugh]

BRENDAN

Whatever the polar opposite of a picker eater is? That's you, man.

ELIA

Thanks, Luke. But honestly? It's not my best or most impressive work. Um... They're just, you know, they're spicy peanut noodles and they take about 15 minutes and... ten of that is just waiting for the water to boil, so...

ALL

[laugh]

LUKE

Could have fooled me. Don't give away all your secrets.

ELIA

Noted.

BRENDAN

Can you pass me that spinach, Devon?

DEVON

Sure. Here you go.

ELIA

Oh, actually not spinach. It's sautéed peapod leaves.

BR
Fan-cee.

ELIA
I mean, they basically taste like spinach, though.

BRENDAN
What's on them?

ELIA
Um, some grated ginger and garlic. Little bit of sesame oil.
Splash of rice vinegar.

DEVON
Nice. These are really good, El. I've had your noodles before,
but these are new to me.

ELIA
Oh, yeah. I've actually only made them once. Um... I- I order them
from Gourmet House all the time, but I wanted to try making them
for myself.

AIMEE
Where exactly does one get pea pod leaves? I've never seen them
before.

ELIA
I got them at Good Fortune Market? That one over on the
Providence/Cranston line? That you can see from the highway? Um...
you do know there are grocery stores other than Whole Foods,
right?

AIMEE
[chuckles]
Okay. Low blow. But fair.

DEVON
[chuckles]
So, what kind of movie do we all want to watch later?

ELIA

Um, nothing scary, please? Or suspenseful, or thrilling in any sort of way.

AIMEE

Yeah. I second that. Something I can easily follow along with while I scroll mindlessly on my phone.

BRENDAN

Sounds like all the shit you like to watch, Luke.

LUKE

Really, dude? Come on.

BRENDAN

Uh, hey do you two mind if I grab another drink from the fridge?

ELIA

Oh, yeah. Of course. Help yourself. And that goes for everyone. Um, seltzers are in that bottom drawer. Beers and a half bottle of rose are on the shelf.

LUKE

Are there any more noodles?

AIMEE

You done already?

BRENDAN

What did I tell you? Human trash compactor.

[PHONE ALERT BEEPS]

[WATER POURS]

AIMEE

Everything okay?

[pause]

ELIA
It's- Kieran?
[deep breath]

DEVON
What does it say?

ELIA
I don't... uh... I- I- I can't. You- you open it.

DEVON
Hmm. Looks like a typo. I mean, that's happened to me before when I carry my phone in my pocket and I don't realize the text thread is still open.

ELIA
Okay, but why is he texting me? We haven't talked in forever.

DEVON
No clue.

AIMEE
Let me see. I'm fine to tell him to fuck off, Elia.

ELIA
Thanks, babe. But I'd rather just leave him on read. I meant to block him a long time ago, but I- I don't know I guess I forgot.

[PHONE ALERT BEEPS]

[PHONE ALERT BEEPS]

AIMEE
It looks like in the first text he was trying to type your name. Says, "Elia" but with a "w" at the end. Then, "piner ba" and "mansioin". Mansion, maybe?

LUKE
Can I take a look?

[PHONE ALERT BEEPS]

ELIA

What does that one say?

LUKE

It's jumbled. Says, "K-J-I-L-L." And then there's a semicolon. And then "H-R-L-P"

[PHONE ALERT BEEPS]

"H-U-R-E-R-Y-Y"

AIMEE

Hurry?

[PHONE ALERT BEEPS]

LUKE

This one says, "Ben. Kel...Ker... G-H..." What the hell does that...? Wait.

BRENDAN

What is it?

LUKE

No fucking way.

ELIA

Oh, my God. What? What is it?

LUKE

Elia, did Micah ever meet Kieran?

ELIA

Well, no. Uh... No, definitely not. I only hung out with him a couple of times. Uh, Devon met him. But I don't think anyone else did.

LUKE

What about that day you saw him at Bayberry? Did she see him then?

ELIA

I mean, maybe. But sh- she wouldn't have known. I- I didn't point him out or anything. She- she walked out of there right after I did, and Aimee's the one that got the to-go boxes for us, so...

AIMEE

Yeah. And there were a few other people standing around waiting for food. I- I didn't exactly inspect their faces. I was trying to skedaddle, too.

ELIA

Luke, what is going on? Why- why are you asking...

LUKE

Some- some- someone pull up the podcast. What episode... was that? The one where you met him at the coffee shop, or something. You two. You and Devon.

DEVON

I got it. Hmm. Okay. I think it's near the end? Not totally sure.

[PODCAST EPISODE PLAYS]

ELIA

[on recording]
Jesus Christ.

KIERAN

[on recording]
No, no, no. It's okay. It's like a Jager...

LUKE

That's Kieran?

KIERAN

[on recording]
... if I had to compare it to anything.

ELIA
Yeah.

LUKE
He's the guy with the liquor? The one that Micah drank and got the flashback?

ELIA
Yes. What? What are you fucking doing, Luke?

LUKE
One- one second. Devon, can I see your phone?

DEVON
Uh, yeah.

[pause]

LUKE
Listen.

[PODCAST EPISODE PLAYS]

MICAH
[on recording]
If you're interested in hearing the rest of it, just email me back. Ben.

Of course, I responded to that email, and it turns out um... he's from Pennsylvania near Philly, which is actually not that far from where I grew up. And we emailed back and forth a couple times...

[PODCAST EPISODE PLAYS]

BEN
[on recording]
Well. Anyway. Um... I was almost back to my truck and I heard something rustling in the trees behind me. I shined that flashlight on the spot. I wasn't spooked or anything, but I just... I had this really weird feeling when I was leaving. But

then that night... That night the nightmares started. I'd be in the woods alone. I'd just be completely terrified. And one night, my wife found me sleepwalking in our backyard.

MICAH

[on recording]

Wait. H- Have you ever sleepwalked before?

BEN

[on recording]

No. No. That was... That was the first and only time.

MICAH

[on recording]

Oh, God.

BEN

[on recording]

She said I was just standing behind our house staring into the darkness, just mumbling.

LUKE

Do you hear it?

MICAH

[on recording]

Do you remember what- what you were saying?

BRENDAN

Hear what?

LUKE

His fucking voice, man. It's the same person.

ELIA

What are you talking about?

AIMEE

Luke, maybe we should just...

LUKE

I'm telling you. It's- it's the same person.

DEVON

Luke, I--

LUKE

Elia. Do you have a picture of Kieran? Or can you pull up his social media or something?

ELIA

No, I don't have any pictures of him. And- and as far as I know he's mostly off line, but... No. Wait. Shit. Hang on. Hang on.

[DRAWER OPENS]

[RUMMAGING SOUNDS]

AIMEE

What is that?

ELIA

Uh, the stuff from the class I took, the one where I met him. They- they had a little party for us all on the last day. They took a bunch of group photos with a Polaroid, and then they gave us each one.

AIMEE

There it is.

ELIA

Yeah. Okay. That's- that's him to my left in the black jacket.

LUKE

That's him! That's the guy we met that day. It's the same person.

DEVON

Who's the same person?

LUKE

That's Ben Keller. He responded to Micah's podcast episode asking for stories. We met up with him near Mystic.

AIMEE

Wait. Didn't she go meet with him again a while back? The same day that your apartment burned--

ELIA

Yeah. She... did. She went to Jersey on a whim and randomly called him up to ask him some questions. He was actually nearby so they met at that bar.

DEVON

Yeah, I remember this. Things got tense and she left without telling him.

LUKE

I'm telling you that Ben and Kieran are the same guy. And I don't think those texts are from him. I think it's Micah. She's trying to tell us how to find her.

AIMEE

Well- well- well, what do we do? I- I mean, do we call the cops? If- if you're right and it's her, we can't respond. What do we fucking do?

ELIA

Shit. I don't- uh- No. How can any of this be possible? I...

LUKE

I don't know. But... wait a second. I need to...

[PODCAST EPISODE PLAYS]

MICAH

[on recording]

Do you remember what you were- what you were saying?

BEN

[on recording]

She said it didn't... didn't make sense. It was just random words.
Give. Of. See. Return. Kill.

LUKE

I knew I heard it before. Brendan.

BRENDAN

That's my fucking tattoo. Give your life. Of spirit and blood.
See gold. Return to earth. Kill what remains.

ELIA

Wh- wh- what- what is happening? I...

LUKE

I think he's going to kill her.

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[OUTRO MUSIC]

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