

Season 3: Episode 5

“Hell’s Kitchen”

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how it ends



NETWORK INTRO

Rusty Quill Presents...

STEPHANIE [Voiceover]

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**[INTRO MUSIC FADE IN]**

MICAH [Voiceover]

That feeling when you hear someone call your name and you turn, but no one's there, and shiver runs down your spine. When something moves just out of vision and it sets in. The sense that someone, or something is watching you. Do you know that feeling? Good. It means you're paying attention.

I'm Micah Jones. My friends and I started this podcast to explore my dreams and nightmares and to help me finally deal with my dad's death, even after all this time. Instead, we stumbled onto something much darker, something we were never meant to find out. My dreams aren't just dreams. They're memories. Warnings. I should have paid closer attention. And my dad? He's at the center of it all.

The How it Ends Podcast is no longer releasing in real time. We can't. It isn't safe. But if you're just finding us, start at the beginning. Thank you for listening.

**[INTRO MUSIC FADE OUT]**

[Voiceover]

The events that are about to unfold occurred during the week of March 1-March 8, 2020.

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

**[PAPERS RUSTLE]**

ELIA

All right. So... after everything that went down last week, I decided that I... uh... needed to take another look at the packages we got. Something about the box with the stolen items seems like... I don't know. Unrelated to the others? So I'm just going to ignore that for now.

**[PAPERS RUSTLE]**

**[OBJECTS MOVING AROUND]**

ELIA

So... symbols are a common thread. There are shapes on four different pieces of paper that line up with the alchemical signs for the elements. We got earth, air, fire, water. Um... and then some of the symbols are zodiac signs. There was Sagittarius in the Centralia box. And then... Libra in Cape Disappointment. And then there are some symbols before that I've never seen.

Um... Let's try at [eatatjims.com](http://eatatjims.com).

**[TYPING]**

Oh, shit. Wait there's actually some new posts on here. Got more zodiac. The Aquarius symbol. Um... There's also a link to a website in here. [Shapecatcher.com](http://Shapecatcher.com).

**[MOUSE CLICKS]**

Oh, this is actually cool. This is a website where you can draw symbols and it kind of like... interprets them for you. Let me try it out.

**[MOUSE CLICKS]**

Cool. Okay. I just drew the symbol for fire, which is just, you know, like a regular old equilateral triangle, the point's on top. And it correctly identified it. Um... It gives some other options, but that came up as the first result.

**[MOUSE CLICKS]**

And it identified two squiggly horizontal lines as the Aquarius symbol, so this seems pretty legit.

Oh, wait. What... What was the symbol that Micah drew? Um... the one that she said was on the- the masks that the people in the woods were wearing?

**[PAPERS RUSTLE]**

And... I can't find it. I must have left that at Aimee's house. What did she say it looked like, again? A warped Amazon logo. Something that could be mistaken for a grin.

**[MOUSE CLICKS]**

**[PAPERS RUSTLE]**

I don't know. I can't remember. I- I think I'm close, but I'm forgetting a part of it. Nothing's really coming up.

**[DOORBELL RINGS]**

Hey, Kieran. You can come in. It's open.

Hey, how's it going?

KIERAN

Not bad. What's new with you?

ELIA

Ooh. Uh... Sorry it's a little cluttered in here. I lost track of time. I didn't realize it was already 7. Don't worry. There's plenty of room to work over on this counter, anyway. So we're good.

KIERAN

Right on. Right on.

ELIA

Why don't you just put that stuff right... there, and um... I can make us some cocktails?

KIERAN

You... working on something?

ELIA

Oh, yeah. That's just... um... it's just research. It's nothing.

KIERAN

Oh. Is this your business plan for the food truck? Uh... how's that going, by the way?

ELIA

I mean, yeah. You know, it's definitely still something I'm working on. Right now, finding a food truck, I think, is probably going to be my biggest hurdle. There's kind of two options, you know? I can buy... something turnkey, but it's going to cost more than I have. Or I could buy, you know, some piece of shit fixer-upper that will also cost me more than I have to retrofit. And you know, not to mention the cost for repairs and everything.

KIERAN

Aren't you all... She-Ra, Princess of Power? You can do all that stuff yourself. I think you mentioned, um... learning how to fix cars from your Uncle Manny, that one time?

ELIA

I told you about Uncle Manny?

KIERAN

Yeah, but you can, can't you?

ELIA

Oh, yeah. I mean, I could probably manage a lot of the labor with some help, but... I can't... like... you know, just make car parts and appliances appear out of thin air. No matter how hard I try, it's just going to take longer than I hoped, you know?

Some more saving. But you know, I've got my budget planned out so...

KIERAN

You could just ask your parents for money?

ELIA

Oh, no. Uh... even if they had it, I wouldn't ask. You know this is something I want to do myself, and they totally did more than enough by helping me through culinary school, so...

KIERAN

That just sounds like you're getting in your own way, to me.

ELIA

I... wouldn't say that. I- You know, I'm just being realistic. My parents are retired. They're on a fixed income. It's not like, you know... stores of cash just laying around. But... you know, like I said, even if they were well off, I just really want to do this myself. I do fine at the restaurant. I live beneath my means. I just want to do it my way. My parents are great, but everyone knows money comes with strings. So I'm good.

KIERAN

Okay.

ELIA

Not trying to like... jump all over you. Just explaining... how it is. But, yeah. Sorry. What about you? Last we chatted, you were working on the branding for the liqueur?

KIERAN

Yeah. Uh... Mostly logo, images. Uh... I think the name is pretty set.

ELIA

What's it called again?

KIERAN

The Elixir of Life.

ELIA

Right. Yeah. You mentioned, that's uh... that's what your family always called it. I- I didn't realize that was going to be your, like, official branding.

KIERAN

Oh. Yeah. Uh... No way. I could never change the name. I think my family would probably disown me or something.

(laughs)

ELIA

(chuckles)

Oh, yeah. For sure. So uh... They're pretty protective over it, yeah?

KIERAN

Absolutely. By the way, did your friend Devon try the sample I gave him?

ELIA

Yeah. He... I think he did. Yeah.

KIERAN

Annnnd?

ELIA

Um... he said the taste was very... distinct? And memorable?

KIERAN

(laughs)

You don't need to protect my feelings. It's an acquired taste.

ELIA

Yeah. Um... By the way, how are you going to get around having to list your ingredients on the back of the bottle? You know, since it's a family secret recipe. Are they going to be okay with that? Or... you know, isn't it like, the law or something? You have to let people know what's in it?

KIERAN

Yeah. But there are ways around it. Certain things can just be listed as "flavors" or "spices". It's not like I'll have to give all of my secrets away.

ELIA

Right on. Yeah. Is there anything super unique in there? Or different?

KIERAN

No. Nothing too rare. It's just a very specific blend, and the ingredients go together. Uh... We weigh everything out, each time we make it, to a tenth of a gram, so that's what makes it so special. And hard for, really, anyone to replicate.

ELIA

Right. Yeah. Cool. Uh... what inspired your family to make it in the first place, actually? I- I know you said it was meant to be a digestive aid, but... I don't know. Were there a bunch of those floating around back then? Why go through the trouble of brewing their own?

KIERAN

Yeah. And that was one reason. There were others.

**[PAUSE]**

ELIA

Well... like what?

KIERAN

I don't know. That was before my time.

ELIA

Okay, but aren't you, like, the one leading the charge to commercialize the family recipe? Shouldn't you have all the history to back it up? Like, I mean... Even like potato chips. I have a bag of potato chips with an "about me" section on the back. And- and... um. Then there's this one, too. It has like a "spud-finder"... tater-something? I don't know. But it, like, traces the origin of the ingredients and... I don't know. People eat that stuff up. I'm sure if you--



KIERAN

I'm sure they do.

[PAUSE]

ELIA

All right.

[PAUSE]

Uh... Well, I guess we can get started. I don't know about you, but I'm getting hungry. Uh... Actually, I'm just going to run to the bathroom real quick. But I do have some shrimp in the freezer. Can you just grab that and take it out?

[FOOTSTEPS]

[DOORS OPEN AND CLOSE]

[PAPERS RUSTLE]

[MOUSE CLICKS]

[TYPING ON COMPUTER]

KIERAN

(under his breath)

Interesting.

[MOUSE CLICKS]

[TYPING ON COMPUTER]

[DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES]

[FOOTSTEPS APPROACH]

ELIA

Okay. Ready for Cooking 101?

KIERAN

Sure.

ELIA

Cool. It... looks like everything is here. Did you grab that shrimp?

KIERAN

Oh. Uh... no. I was...uh... I was just about to.

ELIA

No worries. I got it.

**[FREEZER OPENS]**

ELIA

Okay. First, we are going to start by sautéing some onions and garlic. I can mince the garlic if you want to dice the onion. Want me to show you how?

KIERAN

I think I'm capable of cutting an onion.

ELIA

Oh, yeah. Totally. Okay. I just... I meant... You know, this is a lesson, I'm just... I'm just trying to gauge your skill level. Um... and I do have a trick. Like, there's a neat way to do it, so that your eyes don't water.

**[SOUND OF ONIONS BEING CHOPPED]**

ELIA

Oh. Wow. You... actually have really good knife skills. Are- are you sure you need a lesson?

KIERAN

I mean, I'm not a pro, or anything. I watch that guy on TikTok that cooks in the woods. Uh... I probably just picked some stuff up from there.

ELIA

Right. Cool. Oh, actually. We don't have everything. I forgot the most important ingredient.

**[CABINET OPENS]**

KIERAN  
(snickers)

ELIA  
What?

KIERAN  
It's just... Pre-mixed spice blends? Really? Kind of amateur, don't you think? I kind of expected more from you.

ELIA  
Uh. No. Not really. Not amateur. You know, it's just cost effective.

KIERAN  
(curt)  
Onions are done.

ELIA  
O... kay. That was... really fast. Um... I mean I guess you can just take the wheel with prep, since that seems to be your thing. So next, let's mince the garlic. Chop three or four cloves. Do that whole bunch of parsley and... then slice the lemon half.

KIERAN  
(snickers)  
You're kind of bossy for someone so small, huh? You push around all the dudes in your kitchen?

ELIA  
What... does my size have to do... And what- I- I treat everyone in the kitchen the same. Is everything all right, dude? Like, you came here for a lesson and that's what I'm giving you. Like, you were fine a minute ago.

KIERAN  
I'm good.

ELIA  
Okay, good. Just pause for one sec. Because I need to grab that spoon--

**[KNIFE CLATTERS TO THE CUTTING BOARD]**

ELIA

Kieran! Watch it!

KIERAN

Why did you reach in front of me when I was chopping? I almost cut your fingers off.

ELIA

I told you I was reaching in front of you. Did I... miss something?

KIERAN

I just... I didn't hear you. I was in the zone.

ELIA

(sighs)

Right. Okay.

**[POTS AND PANS CLATTER]**

**[GAS STOVE BURNER TURNS ON]**

ELIA

Can you... uh... please, when you have a chance, add those onions to this pan?

**[ONIONS SIZZLE IN THE PAN]**

ELIA

Ah. Shit. I don't want to get this shirt all greasy... um... I just got it. I'm going to go run and grab an apron from my hall closet. Do you want one?

KIERAN

No, thanks.

ELIA

All right. I'll be right back. Just keep an eye on those onions for me, please. We don't want them to get brown. Just sweat them down a bit. So they should be cooked at a low temp and just keep stirring them.

**[SIZZLING CONTINUES]**

ELIA

Hey, I... um... I feel like I might be forgetting an ingredient? You know, I haven't made this in a while. It's- It's my mom's recipe, so just let me call her real quick. And remember, keep an eye on the onions. Don't let them brown. Um... if it seems like they're cooking too fast, you can add a splash of water, too.

**[SIZZLING INTENSIFIES]**

**[MORE INGREDIENTS BEING CHOPPED]**

**[SMOKE ALARM BEEPS]**

ELIA

(coughing)

Why did you turn the burner up? I told you to cook it gently.

KIERAN

I didn't.

**[WATER RUNNING INTO THE PAN]**

ELIA

What are you talking about? I just turned it off. It was on full-blast. I told you to keep it on low.

KIERAN

I didn't turn it up. Maybe something is wrong with your oven.

**[SMOKE ALARM BEEPS]**

**[SMOKE ALARM STOPS]**

ELIA

O... kay. Well, even if that is the case, did you not see the smoke and the burning? I- I just told you. Add water. Or, you know. Common sense? You could have just turned off the gas, or moved the pan?

KIERAN

Why are you interrogating me?

ELIA

Interrogating? I'm just asking you questions.

(sighs)

Okay. Kieran. What is up? For real. I know you said you were all good, but... did I say something? You turned on a dime, here. You asked me to show you how to cook. And I remember you said you were a dunce in the kitchen. So I started with the basics. You know, chopping an onion. There are some tricks to it. And then all of a sudden... I don't know, you're an Iron Chef and you're accusing me of being bossy? It just feels like your vibes are off or--

KIERAN

(scoffs)

Vibes? Okay.

ELIA

What's your problem?

KIERAN

I don't have one.

ELIA

Okay. Maybe cooking just wasn't the thing today. We can... do something else? I can order pizza or sandwiches. Whatever. Like, I don't know. Just... don't insult me by saying you're fine because... You're clearly not.

KIERAN

Yeah. Well. I thought you were going to show me a recipe. Not push me around like a little bitch.

ELIA

Ha ha... Uh, no. That's not what I was doing. That's not... I didn't mean to do that. I... I guess I am just used to running the show. I didn't realize that you'd have some of the basics down. That's all.

KIERAN

Yeah. You assumed.

ELIA

Yeah. You're right. I did.

KIERAN

Can I use your bathroom?

**[FOOTSTEPS]**

**[BATHROOM DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES]**

**[SOUNDS OF RUMMAGING THROUGH SILVERWARE DRAWER]**

ELIA

(under her breath)

Okay. Okay. Don't freak out. Don't freak out.

**[BATHROOM DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES]**

**[FOOTSTEPS RETURN TO KITCHEN]**

ELIA

Hey. You know what? I- I'm getting pretty tired. And I just realized I have a whole bunch of stuff to do before my shift tomorrow that I probably won't have time for any other time? So maybe we can just take a rain check? Take a rain check?

KIERAN

What kind of stuff?

ELIA

Uh... sorry?

KIERAN

What. Kind of. Stuff. Do you have to do?

ELIA

Uh... I have a bunch of laundry. All my- my chef coats are dirty. And I- I only have one clean pair of kitchen pants left--

KIERAN

That's it?

ELIA

I mean, I don't have laundry here. So, you know, I have to go to the laundromat. It's a whole thing.

KIERAN

You didn't know that before we made these plans?

ELIA

Well, no... I- I mean I just kind of realized it when you were in the bathroom, I guess. You know, I was thinking about my shift tomorrow, and what time I need to go in. And then I wondered if I have enough clothes for it. And then I realized I was supposed to do laundry yesterday, but I didn't because I got caught up in something else. And if I wait until later today, I'm just going to be there super late, and I'm not going to really... I- I don't even... You know, I don't even really know when they close, so I don't know if I will make it in time. So, I... Yeah. Maybe this just... wasn't in the cards for today.

KIERAN

Yeah. It just sounds like pretty shitty time management on your part.

ELIA

Yeah, actually it's a real problem. Definitely, it's something I need to work on. But, yeah. Totally my fault... And- and I apologize.



**[CHAIR SLOWLY PULLS OUT]**

**[KIERAN SITS]**

KIERAN

(sighs)

I guess. I didn't drive all the way here just for you to bail.

ELIA

I know. Again. Super sorry. And next time, I'll be more prepared. I promise.

KIERAN

Yeah. Next time.

ELIA

So... yeah. Looking at the time, I- I really should get things together so I can head to the laundromat in the morning. I'm so sorry. I really don't mean to rush you.

KIERAN

Then don't.

**[PAUSE]**

But I'll go.

**[CHAIR PULLS OUT]**

ELIA

Okay. Sorry, again. I can- I can walk you to the door.

KIERAN

No need. I know my way out.

**[FOOTSTEPS]**

See you soon.

**[DOOR CLOSES]**

[LOCKS AND DEADBOLT CLOSE]

[SCENE TRANSITION]

[PHONE RINGS, OUTGOING]

AIMEE

(on phone)

Hey, what's up? Are you guys done already? That seemed kind of--

ELIA

No. I... Uh... I mean, yeah. Kind of. He's gone. He- He left. He...

AIMEE

Did something happen? Are you okay?

ELIA

No. Aimee. It was... so strange. He shows up and we're just hanging out for a bit and chit chatting. I make us some drinks. And it was... I don't... Everything was fine. And all of a sudden, we start the actual cooking lesson, and he just... he does a complete 180.

AIMEE

What do you mean?

ELIA

I don't know. His whole demeanor changed? And...

(deep breath)

All of a sudden he's calling me bossy. Snapping back at every direction I give him. He told me I was treating him like a little bitch.

AIMEE

He said that? Like, those actual words?

ELIA

Yes. He... He went to the bathroom and I tried to think of a way to get him out as fast as I could. I don't know. It wasn't just what he said. It was how he acted? The look on his face? His whole... presence. I- I hid the knives that were out, and- and got anything else dangerous out of reach, which is probably just me being extra.

AIMEE

No. No. It's not extra. You were listening to your instincts.

ELIA

When he came back from the bathroom, I made an excuse about having to call it a night, and asked if we could reschedule.

AIMEE

Okay. And then he left?

ELIA

No. Not right away. Uh... I said I had a bunch of stuff before work. And it seemed like, you know, cooking wasn't just in the cards for us tonight. And he... he sat down.

AIMEE

What?

ELIA

Like, yeah. He... pulled up one of my kitchen chairs and just... sat down. Like, asked me why I didn't plan better. And- and that I was rude for making him come all the way here. And...

(big breath. voice cracking.)

He was making me uneasy up until then. But... I don't know. That's when I started to really panic. And... he finally agreed to leave. And I walked him to the door. But I- I stayed a couple steps behind him. And then he opened the door. Stopped midway through, and just goes, "See you later." Or something like that. And- and- and then he left. And I locked and chained the door.

AIMEE

And this just happened?

ELIA

Yes, like I locked the door, then immediately called you.

AIMEE

Okay. Babe, I can come down there--

ELIA

No-no-no-no-no. It's...

(sighs)

Thank you, but no. I really do need to get up early tomorrow, and I know you do, too. I just... I don't... He really creeped me out.

AIMEE

Okay. Well. What would make you feel safer?

ELIA

I- I don't know.

AIMEE

Is Devon home?

ELIA

Probably. Why?

AIMEE

Well, maybe he could come by and just make sure the coast is clear. Just, like, do a drive-by to make sure that Kieran definitely left. He's the only one who's met him before, so he would know his face.

ELIA

Yeah. Maybe. I don't... I don't know. I don't want to bother him.

AIMEE

Do you really think Devon is going to be upset about something like this?

ELIA

No.

AIMEE

Right. Let's add him to the call. We'll talk to him together.

ELIA

Okay. Thank you.

AIMEE

Of course.

ELIA

All right. Um... Hang on. I'll- I'll... call him.

**[PHONE RINGS, OUTGOING]**

ELIA

Okay. Good. It's ringing.

AIMEE

See? It'll be okay.

**[SCENE TRANSITION]**

**[OUTRO MUSIC]**

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