

The Stalker Returns – Story Break

5.9.03

TEASER

1. We open with Johnny business¹, he's on the street (parade?), and WEY, lookin' homeless, is preaching Armageddon on the corner, people just "walken" by. Johnny recognizes and approaches him. Wey looks at Johnny, says something pertinent and cryptic. (Could be something that then happens in the future.) He disappears around a corner. Johnny follows him. And he's gone.
 - Wey's been watching Johnny, collecting info². He knows that Johnny is like him. He has memory problems, but knows certain things. He doesn't, however, know the exact date of his family's murder, but knows it's approaching. (Something for Johnny to do – pin down the date).
 - He's confused and emotional. Thinks everything that has happened to him is his own fault for being a bad guy and screwing up his family.
 - Not the most trustworthy ally, but the only one Johnny will have in the Armageddon thing.

ACT ONE

1. Bruce and Johnny talk. Johnny unloads to Bruce, explains past stalker appearances. Who is he, what can it mean? Bruce thinks it's a fan/stalker, offers to "hang" with Johnny (for protection).
 - Bruce brings up possibility that this guy is a vision, but J says, people don't look at me/talk to me in my visions.
2. Int. Smith Home: Johnny in basement with Armageddon board. Stalker makes contact, gives J an address. Demands, "Take me to my family." (Because he shows up wherever Johnny is, and he wants J to take him to see his family, maybe find out what happened. Or he knows what happened from death records, knows dates, but doesn't know what date it is now.)
 - Johnny chases Wey up stairs, but all the doors are locked and security system is on.
3. J investigates, leads to Wey home (Upstate NY), sees Christopher (healthier, younger version of Wey), daughter Jenny. J approaches house, meets Madeleine and Christopher³, they rebuff him. Madeleine thinks something's up. Gets FLASHES of Maddy and Jenny murdered (off of Christopher?). (Mislead that perhaps Christopher commits the murder). Johnny thinks Christopher may be rebuffing him b/c doesn't want to talk in front of wife.

¹ Re: JJ story?

² First time he sees Johnny, he's confused. The next time he sees Johnny, he's less confused, and now is starting to watch and glean information.

³ Johnny is nice, Madeleine is interested. Then Christopher is aggressive. Madeleine thinks maybe Johnny has something she wants. Stay on her reaction to J and C interaction.

The Stalker Returns – Story Break

5.9.03

ACT TWO

1. Land development – Johnny on phone to Bruce, “Come to NY.” Johnny spies on Christopher arguing with mob-type thug. Johnny encounters Chris’s secretary, gets VISION of her and Chris having an affair. Johnny begins to suspect Chris, but then:
2. Wey appears: “Bring me to them.” Johnny demands to know who Wey is, and accuses him of murdering them. Wey reacts with confusion – didn’t know they were murdered.
 - 2a. And now Johnny confronts Christopher at job. Gets his attention with cheating, asks him if he has a twin, enemies, does not tell him about murders. (P.I. shooting pictures.)
3. Police Station – Bruce meets Johnny, who sums up problems and suspects.
4. Wey Station, aka Casa de Wey – Johnny sees Madeleine, and meets Jenny. She talks about marital problems, they get along, he gets VISION of PI Guy., her talking to him, exchanging money.
 - Wey is watching through window! Johnny tells Bruce, and Bruce trusts Johnny, gives chase out the back. Johnny follows “chase” into forest, separates from Bruce, comes face to face with Wey, who reveals the cane top in his pocket.

ACT THREE

1. In the woods – Johnny and Wey, face to face. Wey tells Johnny his story – with a big missing piece (the murder).
 - He wakes up post-apocalypse, discovers he can get visions, visions lead him to cane, cane to Johnny, etc. Also explains that he is tethered to Johnny in “present tense”, i.e., wherever Johnny is right now, not where Johnny was before or where he will be. Explains cane top (They create a circuit w/ pieces of cane.) Shaman reference to Johnny’s book. Johnny asks him: What happens, what causes Armageddon? Wey is cagey, “You don’t know?” (...yet), Wey says, “I will give you answers if you save my family.” (Bruce runs up, sees J talking to nothing). Johnny asks, “When will murders happen?” Wey: “There’s still time.”
2. Motel – Johnny and Bruce talk about what’s happened, try to comprehend it. They draw a timeline diagram. Johnny feels that Wey holds the key to big mystery, highlights predicament (if he saves Christopher, Wey disappears). Johnny realizes he must know exactly when and how the murder happens. Johnny picks up his, WEY appears, “Where were you?” Johnny asks, “How do I get in the house.” (Bruce watching J talking to air). Wey says take me with you.

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5.9.03

3. Wey Home, Day – Johnny, Bruce and “Wey” get in using hidden key, and disarming security code. Johnny begins searching for psychic clues, Wey insists to share VISION: Johnny begins to experience the murder, Wey watches himself get k.o.’d, then Jenny comes in, “accidental” murder. Mom follows and the P.I. strangles her to death. Wey does not recognize him. Wey and Johnny explode into conflict over what to do. Wey says save us. Johnny says: If I do that, you can’t help stop Armageddon – and Wey throws Sarah back in his face.⁴ There is no conclusion because cops, Maddy, and P.I. bust in, arrest Johnny and take cane. Johnny tries to scream out a warning, to Maddy, but no dice.
 - 3a. P.I. takes Maddy to porch, calms her down, we pick up on his creepy attraction to her. Shows her pictures of Johnny and Christopher. She says she hates hubby, and will take Jenny to mother’s tonight. (P.I. reacts to “tonight”.)

ACT FOUR

1. Police Station – Maybe start with Bruce making his 1 phone call to Walt. Johnny is in jail, trying to tell cops that Foster is killer. They don’t listen/believe. Christopher shows up to talk to Johnny, “Who are you?” (Weird echo of Johnny’s question to Wey). Johnny says, “I’m the guy who would give anything for your life.” But you’re fucking it up. Go to your family, stay with them. Fix you’re life. (Johnny makes decision to sacrifice answers, save Wey and family). Johnny tries to warn him about murder, but fails. Christopher totally disbelieves.
2. Madeleine’s Mother’s House – Christopher shows up, hat in hand, apologizes to Maddy. She’s hurt, doesn’t want to forgive, but Jenny loves Dad. Family scene (Johnny got these people together). Maddy willing to talk about it Mother is nosy. Maddy says let’s go home to talk. Tonight. (Chris intimates that he wants to ask her about P.I., etc.)
3. Police Station – Johnny and Bruce get out (Walt gets them out, charges dropped, psychic jail break, etc). Johnny gets cane back. Wey appears, “What happened?” Johnny, “Holy shit, we’ve changed nothing.” They jump into car, call house...
4. Wey Home – Phone ringing, no one home. Reveal P.I. dressed as burglar. He ignores phone, gets in hiding place behind door.
5. Johnny, Bruce (and Walt?) in car, driving, “We’re too late!”

⁴ If you could go back to June 6, 1995, and stay at Sarah’s house that night, wouldn’t you? Johnny has to think about that.

The Stalker Returns – Story Break

5.9.03

6. Wey Home – Chris, Maddy and Jenny pull up. Maddy and Jenny delayed. (Spill drink or Chris does has some doubt and asks them to wait.) Chris walks in, gets KO'd. Johnny catches Jenny and Bruce fights P.I., wins. Aftermath...
7. Tag – Johnny Smith House basement. Johnny putting up clipping of incident on the Armageddon board. Waits with cane. Wey appears. Johnny apologizes for not saving him. Wey – Maybe I deserved this. Maybe my fate. J says we can work together. Wey ambivalent. J saved family, but Wey doesn't trust Johnny – Time magazine cover of Johnny, "Will this man destroy the world?" Wey – We are the two most dangerous people on the earth.

NOTES

P.I. is Joe Foster, that Madeleine has hired to determine whether or not Christopher is cheating, and he is. Joe Foster is the one who will kill them. It's not pre-meditated. He has fallen for Madeleine. Has grown jealous and disgusted with Christopher. Christopher has a job in a dangerous business where he would have a lot of enemies, e.g., construction.

The family: Christopher has a lot of responsibilities. Needs to grow up. Wife worked, no cookies at home. She has recently quit her job to try to take care of Christopher like he wants. It has not made things better. Chris is carrying on with some girls at work. Madeleine gathering arsenal for divorce/, hires Joe Foster.