

FINDING RACHEL
PART ONE
OUTLINE
by Karl Schaefer

TEASER

1) LOADING DOCK - NIGHT

We open with a mysterious Stillson beat. He's with a small group of well heeled supporters, getting a demonstration of a computer kiosk -- the new voting machine. The discussion is about "margin of error". He likes what he sees. Somebody off screen interrupts the group, who look somber. But Greg recognizes the interloper, smiling broadly as he bids them to come join the group. Just as we're about to reveal who it is...

2) SMITH HOUSE - BASEMENT

Johnny and Bruce, talking about the Armageddon board. Bruce hasn't been sleeping well. They talk about Johnny's vision of Christopher Wey and the magazine cover, and the implication that Johnny might have something to do with causing Armageddon. Johnny implies to Bruce, that if it turns out to be true -- Bruce should do whatever it takes to stop him. Bruce tells Johnny he's being ridiculous, but the idea has been raised. Bruce leaves, worried about Johnny. Johnny shuts the door behind Bruce and turns around to discover Wey waiting for him. He has something to show Johnny.

Johnny has another Wey vision. More intense than the others, taking him to Wey's reality, the post apocalyptic future from "Visions."

3) VISION - FUTURE

It's scary. Dangerous. Wey is afraid. He takes Johnny to a "message fence". A thrashed chain link fence covered in photos and messages, like the survivor posters after 911. Lost persons. Families Separated. All of them dated around January, 2015 -- now faded. Except for a patch of new flyers, made on some kind of crude copy machine. It features a symbol, a hand with an eye in the center under which it says "Johnny Smith". Alternating with the Johnny Smith poster, obviously made on the same paper, is a copy of a flyer for a woman, RACHEL SANDERS. Beautiful. Young. Missing. She wears a Stillson for Congress button in the picture. The date she vanished, Nov 11th 2004.

Wey gets in Johnny's face. These were put up yesterday. People approach, spooking Wey. The connection is broken and Johnny suddenly finds himself...

4) INT. SMITH HOUSE

Back in his living room, standing over a shattered coffee table, picking bits of safety glass out of his hair and clothes -- with no idea how he got here.

End Teaser.

ACT ONE

1) CAMPAIGN RALLY

Johnny goes to a Stillson rally the next day, the date Rachel disappears according to the flyer. He stalks Stillson. We hear some of Stillson's stump speech. Johnny runs into Purdy and Sarah. Re-establish that Sarah is working for the Stillson campaign.

Johnny spots Rachel, she's shooting a behind the scenes documentary for the Stillson campaign. Stillson flirts with her, comes off very Kennedyesque. Johnny arranges for Sarah to introduce him to Rachel. He shakes Rachel's hand, gets a vision:

2) VISION -

The Stillson meeting from the opening, but from a different perspective, revealing that RACHEL is the person who interrupted the meeting. Stillson invites her in, introduces her to the men as his future media relations person. The other men seem polite, but uncomfortable with her presence.

RESUME SCENE

Johnny comes out of the vision, tells her he needs to talk to her, but not here. She knows who he is. She's a media student at Faith Heritage, and has heard Purdy talk about him. They arrange to meet later, at a Diner.

Sarah asks what Johnny was talking to her about. Johnny asks Sarah again to quit campaign. Tells her it's not just politics, Stillson is dangerous. Scares her a little. She promises to quit.

3) JOHNNY'S CAR - LATER

Johnny parks across the street to keep an eye on Rachel. While he's waiting, he has another WEY VISION.

4) VISION - FUTURE

Back at the message fence. Wey's being followed. Somebody knew he was coming. A group of survivors appears, spooking

Wey. Before the connection is broken, we get a glimpse of one of the survivors, a strange girl, 30ish, her arms tattooed with numbers.

5) INT. SMITH HOUSE

Johnny comes out of the vision to find himself in his basement, a nasty bump on his head, standing at the Armageddon board, a phone in his hand, A VOICE ON THE PHONE says, "911 Would you like to report an emergency?" the dispatcher repeats herself. Johnny stares at the phone, no idea how he got here or why he called. He apologizes to the dispatcher, tells her it must be a mistake. Takes a beat to think. Checks his answering machine, there's one message from Rachel, "Where is he? She's at the Diner, he's late. She'll wait." Johnny realizes it's dark. Hours have passed. He starts to go, first pausing to write something on the Armageddon board: MISSING TIME.

6) THE DINER

Johnny rushes to the Diner, but Rachel is gone. When he describes her to a waitress, she says yeah, I saw her, she left about an hour ago... with you.

7) BANNERMAN HOUSE

Johnny goes to Walt and Sarah's. Wakes everybody up. Sarah notices his cut. Johnny tells Walt about Rachel. Walt doesn't have much to go on -- Johnny's not even sure she's missing. Tells Walt about his missing time and the mysterious 911 call. Johnny wants Walt to investigate Stillson. Walt is hesitant, he's in the middle of an election too, has to be careful.

Walt calls in Rachel's information. They get a car license and address. Johnny asks Sarah if she quit the campaign yet. Walt is surprised, he asked Sarah to quit a long time ago, for his own reasons, and she wouldn't do it. But when Johnny asks her, she does it. Sarah wonders what's really bothering Walt -- he has to go, they'll talk about it later.

8) RACHEL SANDERS HOUSE

Walt and Johnny go to Rachel's. House is dark, locked up. No sign of anything wrong. Johnny gets a vision of where she hides the key, before Walt can stop him, Johnny goes inside. Her modest little house is dominated by a desktop editing system. Johnny touches the computer mouse, triggering:

9) VISION

Rachel at her editing system, rifling through a stack of DV tapes, frustrated, looking for something, panicked. "It's not here."

Johnny is snapped out of the vision by a woman's voice.

REBECCA SANDERS, Rachel's older sister, steps into the open front door, confronting Johnny and Walt. Who are you? And what has happened to my sister?

end act one

ACT TWO

1) RACHEL'S HOUSE (cont)

Rebecca is shaken, but we get a glimpse of her inner strength right up front. She knows a cop in her sister's house at 2 am can't be good. She doesn't settle for Johnny being introduced as a "consultant" -- presses and finds out he's a psychic who believes her sister might be in trouble. Rebecca is instantly skeptical. Questioning Johnny. His directness and Walt's reassurance does little to convince her. But when she looks in Johnny's eyes, she catches herself believing him, before her rational mind takes over again.

Walt asks why she's here. She was coming up to visit her sister. They were going to take a trip after the election. They hadn't spent time together in a while. Walt and Johnny ask her about her sister, and we find out Rachel was a polar opposite of Rebecca. She's a recent graduate of Faith Heritage's new media program. She wanted to be a television journalist. A good Christian girl. An optimistic believer. Something Rebecca never understood. Walt gets a profile of Rachel, no boyfriend, places she might go etc.

Johnny and Walt try to put Rebecca at ease, but she's a realist, and establishes upfront that she expects to be told everything. She's a therapist that works with juvenile offenders. She can handle the truth. But inside she's scared to death for her sister.

Johnny and Walt leave, asking her to stay by the phone and call them immediately if Rachel turns up or calls.

Outside, Johnny presses Walt to investigate Stillson. Something has happened to Rachel and he's behind it. He's the subject of her documentary, she must have gotten something on tape, seen something she shouldn't have.

Walt wants to know more about Johnny's vision that led him to Rachel in the first place. And why is he so sure Stillson is an evil guy? Is he really any worse than your average

politician? Johnny can't tell Walt everything he knows. You just have to trust me. Walt promises to talk to Stillson, but is worried about Johnny.

2) SMITH HOUSE - LATER

Johnny and Bruce are sweeping up the shattered glass from his broken coffee table, a puzzled look on Johnny's face as he tries to remember what happened. They discuss Johnny's missing time, throwing some theories around. It seems like Johnny's visions of the future are causing him to lose chunks of memory, like some kind of Dead Zone shock therapy.

3) STILLSON HQ - NEXT DAY

Walt interviews Stillson. It's polite but tense... for Walt. Stillson is cocky. Seems genuinely surprised and concerned that the girl is missing.

Rebecca shows up while Walt is still there. Stillson invites her in. Promises to help, calls in Sarah and has her mobilize the campaign workers to help search for Rachel. Rebecca seems relieved that somebody is taking action. As Walt and Sarah leave, Stillson invites Rebecca into his office. Stillson's Father and Sonny Elliman watch from the background.

4) RACHEL'S CAR

is discovered parked within sight of Faith Heritage. Johnny and Bruce arrive at the car, meeting Walt and a forensic team, already dusting the car for prints. Johnny touches a dent on the front of the car, triggering:

5) VISION - HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Rachel's car swerving suddenly to avoid hitting a deer.

RESUME SCENE

Johnny wants to touch the inside of the car, but Walt won't let him, not yet. The car may be a crime scene, and Johnny can't go near the interior until the forensic team is finished. It's the first hint we have that Walt is worried Johnny may become a suspect.

Purdy arrives on the scene, his campus security alerting him to what is going on. He knows Rachel. Is it true she's missing? He's deeply concerned... for the girl. She was a wonderful student. One of the first graduates of their media program. That rare mix of faith and talent. If there's any way he can help...

Johnny remarks to Walt as they step away, that this girl has an awful lot of powerful men for fans.

6) RACHEL'S HOUSE

Johnny comes by to check on Rebecca, see if she's heard anything, if there's anything he could do to help. Rebecca seems warmer, curious about Johnny and his abilities, but she doesn't invite him in, lingering by the front door. Assured that she's okay, Johnny says goodnight, and we stay with Rebecca, revealing that she was within reach of a gun behind the door the whole time -- very afraid of Johnny.

end act two

ACT THREE

1) STILLSON PRESS CONFERENCE

Not for his campaign, but for Rachel. Stillson is donating time and money in the last week of the campaign to help in the search for Rachel Sanders. With Rebecca at his side, he announces a reward, and holds up the newly minted "MISSING" poster seen in the Wey vision. Rebecca seems moved by the amount of resources and media attention Stillson is bringing to the search.

2) SMITH HOUSE

Johnny and Bruce watch the press conference on television. Bruce observes that Stillson doesn't miss a trick. Johnny is fuming. Not just about Stillson though. It's about Rebecca. We begin to understand, even before he does, that Johnny is *jealous* of Stillson. Johnny decides it's time to go rattle Stillson's cage.

3) STILLSON FUND RAISER - THAT NIGHT

We find Johnny and Bruce, in tuxes, trying to buy tickets at the door for a thousand dollar a plate dinner with the candidate. Johnny asks if five grand will get he and his friend at the candidate's table?

Stillson is a little taken aback as Johnny and Bruce sit down next to him, but he rolls with it. Purdy and Mike Kennedy notice from the next table. With a polite smile on his face, Johnny asides to Stillson that he knows what he's doing and he's not going to get away with it. Stillson tells Johnny to bring it on. He accuses Johnny right back of having something to do with Rachel's disappearance. That he heard several of his other volunteers had seen Johnny talking to her at the rally. If Stillson is afraid of Johnny, he sure doesn't show it.

Purdy leans in to interrupt them, would like to speak to Johnny. Johnny, Purdy, and Mike Kennedy speak out in the hallway. Purdy is surprised to see Johnny spending so much money to support Greg, did he have a change of heart? No, Johnny replies, in fact he'd like to take as much of his money as he can and pour it into a Stop Stillson campaign. Maybe there's still time to make a difference before the election. Purdy and Kennedy explain to Johnny that he actually has very little in the way of liquid assets, his money tied up in the trust. Johnny tells them to cut the bullshit, give him a full accounting or he's going to hire a lawyer and a forensic accountant, and use auditing the trust as a way to crack open the books at Faith Heritage. So go take another look at my balance.

Stillson walks in on this conversation, making Purdy and Kennedy nervous. Stillson goes eyeball to eyeball with Johnny. Gives him back his check. Tells him he doesn't need Johnny's money, go ahead and give it to his opponent, he'll win either way. Maybe it's time he and his friend left. (Bruce is escorted out in the background) Stillson goes to put the check back in Johnny's pocket, but Johnny stops him, triggering:

4) VISION - STILLSON

At a window in the oval office, alone, looking out the window at Washington D.C. expectantly, like that famous photo of JFK. Then suddenly, a bright flash on the horizon grows until it consumes Stillson, blasting him to dust.

RESUME

Johnny comes out of the vision, pulls away from Stillson. Stillson knows Johnny had a vision. Doesn't care. Johnny stares Stillson down for a beat, then turns to go, on the way out telling Purdy he's serious about his money. Stillson's Father and Sonny Elliman see them to the door.

5) WALT'S OFFICE

Rebecca confronts Walt. What is he doing to find her sister? Has he questioned Johnny Smith? She heard Johnny had been seen talking to her sister. And leaving a Diner with her? Why isn't he a suspect? She also heard Walt and Johnny are friends. Shouldn't Walt remove himself from the investigation? She wants Johnny brought in and questioned, his house and car searched. Why aren't these things being done?

Walt tries to talk her down, you don't know this guy like I do. You need to see him in action, then you'll believe. Forensics is done with your sister's car, I'm meeting Johnny at the impound yard to see if he can get a vision from your

sister's car. Come with me. You'll see, he's not a suspect, he's the best hope your sister has.

6) IMPOUND YARD

Walt and Rebecca join Johnny at Rachel's car. The car is finished, the report will be out in a few days, nothing obvious came up. Johnny touches the inside of the car, searching for a vision, finally touching the steering wheel
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7) *VISION - swerving to miss the deer again, this time from inside the car, Vision Johnny riding shotgun next to Rachel. The car goes off onto the shoulder, grinding to a stop -- Just outside the car Johnny sees a "Deer Xing" sign, riddled with bullets.*

RESUME SCENE

Johnny comes out of the vision, knows where she swerved off the road to miss a deer. Rebecca remains dubious.

8) THE DEER XING SIGN - DAY

Pull back to reveal the wooded highway where Rachel's car went off the road. Tires tracks still visible. So are a second set of tracks. Rebecca's skepticism gives way to suspicion, then fear, as they follow Johnny away from the road toward the woods. Johnny touches a broken branch triggering:

9) *VISION - WOODS - SPLIT REALITY*

A deer stares at Johnny, illuminated by headlights. It appears to be looking at him, but then Johnny sees RACHEL, her video camera rolling, approaching the deer, speaking to it gently as she tapes it. The deer isn't afraid of her, standing still as she walks right up to it. Just then, a second set of headlights sweeps across the scene as another car pulls over. We hear a car door and the deer bolts. Rachel turns to see who's coming. Johnny follows her look, but all he (and she) can see is a silhouette of a man rimmed by headlights. Rachel squints into the lights. Looking a lot like the deer, something spooks her and she turns to run into the woods.

In a split reality vision, Johnny follows her into the woods, coming in and out of the vision as he retraces her steps, crashing through the same brush she must have. Rebecca and the others struggle to keep up in the rugged, dark terrain.

The sequence crescendos as Rachel falls, then gets up, turning to fight. She swings the camera at her unseen pursuer, connecting with our POV.

RESUME SCENE

Johnny comes out of the vision, Rebecca and Walt catching up to him. At Johnny's feet is Rachel's broken video camera.

Rebecca loses it. Before she even knows what she's doing, she's hitting Johnny. Her anger suddenly unleashed at the realization that her worst fear is true. She leaves no doubt who she believes did this, pummeling Johnny, who doesn't fight back, just taking it until Walt pulls her away.

end act three

ACT FOUR

1) NEWS MONTAGE

The media pick up on the story, Johnny's psychic twist giving it just the sexy element it needs to take on a life of it's own. Stillson judos any suspicion off of him, staying out ahead of the story, his statements always turning things back toward Johnny. Rebecca makes a public statement putting pressure on Walt, pleading with him to arrest his un-named suspect.

2) SPIN CONTROL MEETING - PURDY'S OFFICE

Stillson, Dad, Sonny, Purdy, Mike Kennedy meet to discuss Rachel. Stillson is acting like he really thinks Johnny did it. Dad upbraids Stillson for involving the girl in the first place. They get into an argument in front of the others. It's weird, demonstrates how twisted their relationship is. Dad slaps Stillson. Stillson lets it go, maybe even makes a joke of it -- but we see in his eyes he's not going to let that happen again.

They get back to Rachel and Johnny Smith. Sonny suggests they help justice along. Stillson says no, Smith is doing a fine job of framing himself.

3) WALT AND SARAH

Both worried about Johnny. Walt is stressed, between the election and Johnny, he's tapped out. Hopefully, when forensics is done restoring the wet video tape from Rachel's camera, they'll get a clue that clears Johnny and leads them to the real killer. right now he's getting a lot of pressure from the prosecutor's office to bring Johnny in as a "person of interest" while they develop a case against him. He tried to get Purdy to help, but he seems more worried about Faith

Heritage's reputation. And Rebecca Sanders is threatening to go public with her suspicions of Johnny. Walt may have to bring him in for questioning. Sarah is shocked to hear that. It almost sounds like Walt thinks Johnny might have something to do with Rachel's disappearance. When Walt doesn't deny that fast enough, Sarah turns all of her anxiety about Johnny against Walt, accusing him of selling Johnny out. Walt feels unjustly attacked, tells Sarah she still hasn't accepted that the Johnny she loved, is not the same Johnny that woke up from the coma. Who knows what's going on inside his head. Who knows what he's capable of? Sarah slaps Walt. She regrets it the second she does it, but you can't un-ring a bell. Walt makes it worse for her by staying calm, telling her maybe she needs some time to sort out her feelings for Johnny. He's been feeling for a while that their marriage was too crowded. He's going to find someplace else to stay while she decides if she's committed to this marriage or not. But he's not going to wait forever.

4) AT THE DINER

Johnny and Bruce sit in a booth where Johnny supposedly met Rachel -- they're trying to put together a timeline for what happened during Johnny's missing time. The waitress who saw Johnny and Rachel that night, sees Johnny back in the diner and gets scared. The cops have been back to question her about that missing girl. She goes and gets the manager, who throws Johnny and Bruce out.

5) JOHNNY'S HOUSE

Johnny and Bruce return to find Walt waiting for them. Johnny can see right away that something is wrong. Walt has a few questions. He's hoping Johnny can clear something up for him. Is he sure Rachel was attacked where they found the camera? Yes. Did Johnny see this in a vision, or is it possible it's something he *remembers* that happened during one of his bouts of amnesia? It's a vision. I was never there. As far as I know.

Walt seems disappointed by Johnny's answer. He's got something to show Johnny, pops a videotape into Johnny's vcr. It's the restored transfer of the tape in Rachel's camera. The first image is of the deer, caught in her headlights. Then the deer is spooked as the second car approaches. When Rachel swings the camera around toward the cars, we see the silhouette of a man approaching, much like in Johnny's vision -- but then the man obscures the light as he moves forward, revealing who is approaching -- It's Johnny.

Bruce instantly starts spinning how it doesn't mean anything -- but Johnny is floored. He was there? Walt can see it in his face, even Johnny has doubts about himself.

Walt has no choice. He's got to arrest Johnny. If he doesn't do it, somebody else will. Johnny understands. Walt can't lose the election over this, or Johnny won't have any ally left. Bruce can't believe this is happening. Walt slips the cuffs on Johnny as we...

End Part One

To Be Continued...