

FINDING RACHEL
PART TWO
OUTLINE
by Karl Schaefer
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TEASER

1) REBECCA

On the street in Cleaves Mills, putting up "missing" flyers for Rachel, still clinging to a shred of denial.

2) HOTEL SUITE

After a catered meal, Stillson, his father, and the three shadowy businessmen from the voting machine meeting, light cigars and drink brandy. Several available women lounge around, sipping drinks, waiting for the evening's activities to begin. But first the men watch the news, catching the latest poll. The race is a three way heat, Stillson's opponents actually ahead by less than 3 points. Stillson just smiles, "what's that margin of error again?" Four points, replies one of the men.

The senior one of the shadowy supporters, asks Stillson to join him in the next suite, he has some ideas he'd like to discuss in private. Dad tries to go along, but is politely disinvited, encouraged instead to go get to know the gals. We see him burn about the snub.

3) COUNTY JAIL

A holding cell crammed with felons, straining at the bars, taunting guards, fighting, crying -- reveal Johnny, curled up in the corner, completely surrounded. Why would Walt put him in such hellish conditions?

A guard arrives, unlocking the door -- reveal that Johnny is alone in the cell, the others just a vision of previous occupants. Johnny has a visitor.

4) SARAH

fighters not to cry when she sees Johnny in a prison jumpsuit. He looks bad. She tells him everyone sends their love and they're going to get him out as soon as they can. He tells her she shouldn't have come, it will look bad for Walt. She knows, she and Walt had a fight about it, but she couldn't not come. He asks her to tell Rebecca he didn't do this -- he needs to talk to her. Sarah agrees to talk to her. They press their palms against the glass. Why is this happening?

end teaser

ACT ONE

1) WALT SEARCHES JOHNNY'S HOUSE

Full forensics treatment. Walt is pushing everyone hard. He doesn't want any mistakes. Purdy is there as Johnny's Trustee, with an A- list criminal attorney for Johnny. Bruce shows up. Why aren't you out looking for the real killer? Reporters are showing up outside. (I'm not sure if we should use Dana in these episodes -- it's so crowded already)

Walt finds the Armageddon board, brings Bruce down to show him, wants to know what it's about. Bruce lies well, says he has no idea. The forensic team photographs the board. Somebody concludes from all the Stillson references that Johnny Smith has some kind of obsession with Stillson. Looks like he might even have been stalking him.

Everyone leaves, but Purdy lingers behind, studying the board -- wondering what it *really* means.

2) SARAH AND WALT - LATER

Sarah pleads with Walt to do something to get Johnny out of jail, he's dying in there, it's torture for him. Walt is doing everything he can. That's not enough. Walt knows it's not enough. Their anger at the situation has nowhere to go, but at each other. Walt leaves, taking some clothes with him, the door slamming behind him. Sarah is shaking. We find J.J. - listening, having heard the whole thing.

3) INTERROGATION ROOM - WALT QUESTIONS JOHNNY

Purdy and the Lawyer are present. So is the District Attorney, a no nonsense prosecutor who is not on Johnny's side. Johnny won't talk about the Armageddon board. Walt implores him, give me something Johnny, an alibi, an explanation for the video, some shred of evidence that exonerates him. Reasonable doubt. Anything. Johnny has nothing to give them. He can't help from in here. The prosecutor suggests Johnny take a lie detector - that might clear him. Walt, Purdy and the Lawyer say no way, for many good reasons. But Johnny agrees, on one condition. They get Stillson to take one too. Purdy and the Lawyer exchange a look.

4) STILLSON HQ - WALT QUESTIONS STILLSON

I thought Johnny Smith was your suspect? He wants me to what? Take a lie detector? Dad and Sonny stop the conversation right there. But Stillson can't help himself. He agrees to take the test, he's not afraid. He has nothing to hide... but the way he says it, he has more confidence

than an innocent man would. Walt makes an appointment to test him later today, then leaves.

Dad is furious, even if he's completely innocent, it's a stupid move. Stillson turns cold. Tells an old story about how G. Gordon Liddy used to hold the palm of his hand over an open flame, and not feel pain. When asked how he did it, Liddy would reply, "The trick isn't not feeling pain, the trick is not caring." Stillson says the same applies to Lie Detector tests... the trick is not caring. ... Besides, I didn't have anything to do with her disappearing. Off Daddy and Sonny's ambiguous reactions.

5) RACHEL'S HOUSE - SARAH GOES TO SEE REBECCA

Sarah pleads Johnny's case. Tells Rebecca she's wrong about Johnny. Tells her Johnny's story. Rebecca is moved by Sarah's plea, but still has her doubts. She believes Johnny's "predictions" are just a subconscious way to confess to kidnapping her sister. She thinks her sister might still be alive, and Johnny knows where she is. Sarah implores Rebecca to see Johnny. He wants to talk to her, he must have a reason. Walt can arrange it. Sarah leaves, Rebecca conflicted, but promising nothing.

6) INTERROGATION ROOM - THE LIE DETECTOR TEST

Stillson is up first, loose and natural. The picture of a sociopath, he keeps the familiar needles calm as he answers every question without hesitation.

Johnny goes next. The instant they strap him to the machine, he begins having visions of the previous "subjects" - morphing between suspects, almost as if he was having a hard time holding onto his identity. The needles go wild, showing deception to every question - even known truths like Johnny's name. The test is a total failure for Johnny, and while not admissible in a court of law -- it will be very damning in the court of public opinion.

Through the 2-way mirror, Stillson watches Johnny taking the test, along with Purdy and Johnny's lawyer. Stillson is fascinated as he watches Johnny's life unravel. Purdy tries not to seem terrified.

Still recovering after the test, Johnny meets with Purdy and the Lawyer, who suggests they start laying the groundwork for an insanity plea. Johnny fires him.

end act one

ACT TWO

1) INTERROGATION ROOM

Walt gives Johnny a fresh chair from the guard room - never touched by an inmate. Johnny has recovered slightly. He's trying to hang in there, but this environment is tough for him. Walt tells Johnny that Rebecca is here to see him. He pulls himself together.

Rebecca comes in. She's here looking for Johnny's "Psychic" help -- at least that's what she tells Johnny. Her real agenda is to trick Johnny into a confession of some kind. Johnny looks her in the eye and tells her he had nothing to do with her sister's disappearance. Rebecca doesn't blink. She tells Johnny she's willing to accept that, but she needs help believing -- help like finding her sister alive.

After talking to Walt, she has brought five objects of Rachel's for Johnny to touch. He touches the first, a hairbrush, triggering:

2) *VISION - YOUNG REBECCA AND RACHEL.*

Rebecca protects her sister from a drunken father as her parents argue.

RESUME

Johnny tells Rebecca she's been watching out for her sister for a long time. That he saw her protecting her from an abusive father. Rebecca is impressed, then catches herself, this guy is good -- at lying. He could have found this out other ways, or even from her sister.

Johnny touches Rachel's camera, through the plastic bag, it doesn't seem to matter. He notices the lens cap is missing. Touches front of lens, triggering:

3) *VISION - RACHEL getting out of the car and approaching the deer, taking off the lens cap and putting it in her pocket as she gingerly walks toward the deer. The vision follows the lens cap, suddenly flashing to another time and place - LATER - NOT IN THE WOODS - AN INTERIOR - She's falling, hitting the ground hard, her eyes glazed -- THE LENS CAP falls out of her pocket and spins to a stop under a table.*

RESUME

Johnny asks if they've found the lens cap. Tells them it's important. Rebecca asks what he's seen. He holds back. If they can find the lens cap, maybe he'll know more.

Johnny is taken away, leaving Walt and Rebecca behind to talk. She's not sure what they accomplished. Walt's going to

check the evidence log and photos, see if the lens cap surfaces.

4) JOHNNY'S JAIL CELL

Johnny is taken back to his empty cell. *The instant the door slams shut behind him, the cell is crammed with inmates again. Johnny has grown resigned to it now, just standing, holding onto the bars quietly, blending into the crowd of vision felons.*

5) MEANWHILE BRUCE

calls together a meeting of people Johnny Smith has helped in the past, some we've seen, some from incidents we haven't seen. Sarah is there. Bruce has called them together because Johnny is in trouble and needs their help. They quickly agree to start a "Free Johnny Smith" fund, raising a few thousand dollars for his defense. But that won't be enough, they need to tell Johnny's story to the public. It's the beginning of what could become Johnny Smith's power base in season four.

6) JAIL EXERCISE YARD

Johnny squints in the daylight, finding Purdy waiting for him. He brought some food, a gourmet sandwich, bottled water. Johnny's grateful. Purdy pulled some strings to get Johnny the food and some private time outdoors. But he's not just here to visit. He wanted to talk to Johnny alone. He wants to ask about the Armageddon board. Wants to know what Johnny has seen. Johnny won't discuss it. Purdy presses him. They get into it. Johnny tells Purdy he's going to have to decide which he wants to save, his soul or his ass? How much does he believe his own preaching?

7) RACHEL'S HOUSE

Rebecca sits at Rachel's editing system, methodically going through her sister's tapes, checking them against Rachel's tape logs. Several tapes seem to be missing. She drops one of the tapes, bends down to pick it up, discovers something on the floor under the desk -- the lens cap.

end act two

ACT THREE

1) STILLSON HEADQUARTERS

Sarah is still here, but now she is coordinating the Stillson volunteers who are helping search for Rachel, answering phones, putting up flyers. Stillson checks in with the progress of the volunteers, ladles on the praise. He

asks her how Johnny is doing. Implies she may need to rethink who he is

2) PURDY'S OFFICE

Purdy and Mike Kennedy are having a heated discussion. Purdy wants to post bail for Johnny if he's formally charged. It could be over a million dollars, given Johnny's perceived assets. That's just the problem, Johnny's assets are already leveraged to the hilt. That's where they've been getting the cash to feed the Stillson campaign -- if the money ever even makes it into the campaign coffers. Kennedy warns Purdy that their dealings with Stillson have left them very exposed, and that putting up collateral for bail will bring a lot of scrutiny on some heavily cooked books. He doesn't want Purdy to get them all arrested trying to help Johnny Smith.

3) HOTEL ROOM

Stillson, his Father, and Sonny are going over polling data. It's too close for Dad's liking. He wants to use some good old fashioned racial intimidation in a few key precincts. Stillson nixes the plan. His new supporters are very risk averse. Besides, Argon has it covered. Dad turns furious. Knows he's being pushed out by those bastards. Won't stand for it. The argument is broken up by a call from Mike Kennedy.

4) INTERROGATION ROOM - JOHNNY AND REBECCA

She has the lens cap with her. He touches it, triggering:

5) VISION

Rebecca falling, hitting her head on the edge of a table.

RESUME

He comes out of the vision, tells her where the lens cap was found. She tells him he's right. Johnny is at a loss. He can't connect his visions to a timeline. He still doesn't know what happened, the visions aren't enough to fill in his missing time. He knows he met Rachel at the diner, but doesn't remember it. Apparently he followed her to the woods where they found the camera. But remembers nothing of that either. And he has several visions which he can't reconcile. Rachel and Stillson, Rachel and a deer, her running in the woods, and her falling to the floor, dropping the lens cap.

Rachel wonders if Johnny is having some kind of trauma induced amnesia. Johnny tells her about his missing time. Asks her what type of therapist she is. She specializes in Juvenile offenders suffering from post traumatic stress. Mostly she helps them face what they've done so they can see

the consequences of their actions. She does a lot of guided visualization to help them relive their crime and accept responsibility for their actions. Johnny asks if she could help him piece back together that night. Maybe she can help him remember what happened during the blank spots. Rebecca is hesitant. There's a big difference in what she does with convicted juveniles -- the facts are known, she has a roadmap for the visualization. In the suggestive state she puts them in, it would be very easy to implant false memories, even accidentally. It's a big problem in child molestation cases, a lot of innocent people have been convicted based on memories implanted by misguided therapists. Johnny doesn't care. He just wants to help find Rachel and get the hell out of here. He'll take the risk.

Rachel talks Johnny through a brief meditation, calming his mind so he can listen to his subconscious. She's very good, and it's subtly done. She gives him a little test, asks him to visualize a lemon, then see himself biting into the lemon, can he taste how sour it is? Johnny's face squinches up, he can taste the lemon. So can Walt who watches through the two way mirror. (If we do it right, so will the audience at home)

6) RECOVERED MEMORY MONTAGE

Rebecca begins walking Johnny through that night, starting with him sitting in his car across the street from Stillson headquarters. WE SEE what Johnny describes, intercut with Johnny and Rebecca back in the interrogation room. She asks him questions and has him describe his feelings as he:

- Meets Rachel at the Diner, tells her she's in danger. She believes him, wants his help. He wants to see the documentary she's making about Stillson. He's going to follow her home, where she can show him her rough cut. They leave together.

- Driving home, he sees her swerve to miss a deer, then get out of her car to film it. He pulls over to see if she needs help. Another car pulled over behind him. As he got out of the car, the driver of the second car got out, shining a flashlight in Johnny's face, making it impossible to see who it was. The obscured figure walks straight up to Johnny and bashes him on the head with the flashlight, knocking him out. When he came to, he was alone, and the cars were gone.

- Johnny drove himself home and dialed 911.

That's when he came out of his vision. What vision? The question breaks Johnny's concentration, and he suddenly becomes more self-aware, realizing they are about to enter an area he doesn't want to talk about. Rebecca asks again. What vision? Of a friend, that's all. His Dead Zone has been

really messing with his head lately, even more so than usual. Could he see who was in the second car? No. It was too dark.

What about the vision of Rachel falling and dropping the lens cap? It must have happened in her house. Whoever knocked him out must have taken her back there. Maybe they were looking for something. Something on one of those tapes.

Rebecca wants to know -- is her sister alive? Johnny doesn't know. There's still a chance. If they could take him back to her house, to where it happened, he might see more.

Rebecca looks to Walt. He'll make it happen.

end act three

ACT FOUR

1) EXT. FAITH HERITAGE - TWO YOUNG FEMALE STUDENTS

cut through the Faith Heritage parking lot, chatting about the election, on their way to vote. One of the girls pauses, noticing something. Then SCREAMS. Her friend returns to look, then turns away, aghast.

THEIR POV - MIKE KENNEDY - behind the wheel of his car, his brains blown out, a gun in his hand. The coroner's report will call it an apparent suicide.

2) ELECTION DAY

Stillson voting for the cameras. He opens the curtain of the voting booth to reveal the Argon digital voting machine. He pretends to need help. A cute young poll worker comes to his aid, showing him how to register his vote on the touch screen. Why this is better than video poker he quips, drawing a laugh from the press.

3) RACHEL'S HOUSE - DAY - Johnny, Rebecca, and Walt. Johnny commends Walt on ditching the press. Rebecca shows him where she found the lens cap. Johnny touches the floor, triggering:

4) VISION - SPLIT REALITY - RACHEL/REBECCA-JOHNNY

The Rachel side of the vision is night, very dark, just an occasional flashlight sweeping across her face as she lays on the floor. She looks peaceful. Angelic. Dead. It's hard for Johnny to hide his reaction from Rebecca. She asks Johnny what he sees, he hesitates, starts to tell her, then is interrupted as A DARK FIGURE enters the vision. The silhouette grabs Rachel by the feet and begins dragging her lifeless body into the next room. Then suddenly, RACHEL MOVES, grabbing the leg of the table as she is dragged past.

A flashlight illuminates the hand, hanging on tight to the table leg. The figure reaches down and grabs her wrist, prying it off the table leg, Rachel's strength finally giving out. The flashlight goes off, the vision ends.

RESUME

Johnny is drained by the vision. Not just because of the content, but because of what he must do next. Tell Rebecca what he's seen.

She knows already. She can see it in his face. Johnny relates what he saw. Tells her Rachel didn't suffer. It was two men. Couldn't see faces. She grabbed onto the table leg. Rebecca stays strong. Is still clinging to her denial. She's going to believe Rachel is alive until Johnny, or somebody else, proves differently.

Johnny reaches down, touches the table leg Rachel clung to, triggering:

5) *VISION - NIGHT - RACHEL'S HAND*

frozen in the same position we last saw it. The VIEW RAMPS BACK TO REVEAL JOHNNY, looking down at Rachel's hand, now protruding from a shallow grave. It's raining. Lightning flashes, revealing a decrepit barbed wire fence nearby. Johnny looks closer at the fence, another flash of lightning revealing a rusted shot up sign reading: NO HUNTING Blackhorn Ranch.

RESUME

Johnny comes out of the vision to find Rachel staring at him expectantly. He looks straight at her, feeling her pain, but she deserves the truth. He just shakes his head "no" in reply to the question she can't ask. Johnny turns to Walt, "Where's the Blackhorn Ranch?"

6) *THE WOODS - NIGHT*

A search party's flashlights follow a barbed wire fence through the woods. Johnny recognizes where they are. Walt asks Rebecca to stay with some deputies while he, the Prosecutor, and Johnny scramble the last ten yards to the gravesite. Walt's flashlight falls on the hand. Rachel breaks away from the deputies and runs to the gravesite, stopping short and dropping to her knees, crying, her denial finally torn away. The Prosecutor tells Walt and Johnny this doesn't change anything, they still can't rule Johnny out as the killer just because he knew where the body was. Psychic visions are not a defense. Johnny turns to Rebecca, asks her if she believes him. Rebecca can't even look at him. The

Prosecutor tells the deputies to take Johnny back to the car, in cuffs.

7) STILLSON VICTORY PARTY

He walks onstage to cheers, and gives an acceptance speech Robert Kennedy could have delivered. His winning margin? Two points. It's Miller Time for the Shadowy Supporters, but Dad seems somber.

Sonny Elliman fights through the crowd and balloons after the speech to get to Stillson, whispering something in his ear. Stillson looks at him, incredulous. He what?

8) BACK AT THE STATION

As Walt and Johnny return with the others, Purdy is waiting for them. He congratulates Walt on winning - Walt is surprised, he was so preoccupied he forgot to vote. Johnny asks if Stillson won? Purdy tells him yes. It's like driving a stake through Johnny's heart. Purdy has more important news than that though. He shows Walt a letter he received today, postmarked three days ago. It's a suicide note from Mike Kennedy. In it he confesses to embezzling millions of dollars from Faith Heritage. More importantly, he confesses to killing Rachel Sanders.

Johnny seems surprised, he stares at Purdy, who can't look him in the eye. Rebecca watches Johnny, searching for his reaction. Walt feels like a huge load has been lifted off his shoulders. The Prosecutor promises to have the suicide note authenticated. Purdy assures him it's real, he's seen that signature on every Faith Heritage check for the last five years. Everyone is talking except for Johnny and Rebecca. Johnny sees her looking at him and mouths "I'm sorry" as they take the cuffs off him.

9) EXT. SHERIFF'S STATION - LATER - Johnny is released, stepping out into the early morning light, Bruce and Sarah waiting for him. Sarah hugs him first. Then Bruce. He thanks them for never losing faith in him. Bruce is giving him a ride home. Bruce hands him his cane, triggering:

10) VISION - CHRISTOPHER WEY - THE FUTURE

Johnny and Wey are in some kind of bombed out structure, illuminated by a few fires. Wey is in a panic. Where have you been? People, other survivors are after Wey. He needs to tell Johnny something before they catch up with him. The pursuers are getting close as Wey tells him -- "You survived. You're alive. Somewhere nearby" Johnny tells Wey he must lead him there. But before Wey can, the Survivors arrive, swarming Wey, tackling him as Johnny watches helplessly. They take away his cane top, breaking the

connection. Johnny snaps out of the vision and finds himself in...

11) SMITH HOUSE

Johnny is sitting in his living room, no idea how he got here. His doorbell rings. It's Rebecca. She's come to thank Johnny for finding her sister. She also wants to tell him she's sorry for not believing him. He doesn't blame her, his life is hard for him to believe. She starts to talk about Rachel, begins to cry. Johnny very gently reaches out to comfort her, and she falls into his arms, giving in to the horrific truth that will haunt her the rest of her life.

END ACT FOUR