

THE DEAD ZONE

"NO QUESTIONS ASKED"
(f.k.a. "The Gun")

written by Moira Kirland
11/18/03

TEASER

INT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE - DAY

Sarah arrives, having just dropped J.J. off at school. She wants to talk with Johnny about an issue she and Walt are having regarding the boy. Seems Walt has promised to take J.J. hunting in two weeks, and buy him a shotgun. When they were together, Walt and Sarah had agreed to wait until J.J. was twelve before even talking about this, but now that they're separated the issue has come up again. Johnny is reluctant to interfere, but he suspects that something else is on Sarah's mind anyway. He prods. She confesses that she's worried about Walt. The last few days he's been acting very strange. Short-tempered. Evasive. She's worried he might be in some kind of trouble. Johnny wheedles out of her what her true fear is: She's worried he's having an affair. They discuss their situation a little. Sarah is afraid to confront Walt with her suspicions, fearing he may bring up suspicions of his own regarding her and Johnny. Those are questions she doesn't want to answer. Johnny promises to go see Walt this morning and suss out the situation. He assures her it's probably nothing.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Johnny "drops by" Walt's office. As he enters, a woman is just leaving. She seems unhappy. Other deputies in the bullpen greet her by her name, which is ALISON. Johnny files this information away - is Walt involved with her?

Johnny goes in to see Walt, who's openly annoyed that he's there. Goes out of his way not to let Johnny touch him. Johnny can see some of what Sarah was talking about. Walt is called out for a second and Johnny touches Walt's coffee cup.

JOHNNY'S VISION: Walt in a fight with a wiry, dark-haired man. Looks like Walt will be on the losing end.

Johnny tells Walt about the vision. Walt assures Johnny he'll be extra careful, then gives him the bum's rush out the door. Johnny asks Roscoe about the woman he saw leaving Walt's office. Roscoe tells Johnny she's the widow of DEPUTY BRAD ROBERTS, an officer who was shot. Walt was the first deputy on the scene. They were high school friends. There's a picture of Deputy Roberts on the wall. Johnny touches it.

JOHNNY'S VISION: Brad Roberts is dead on the floor, and Walt is standing over him with a gun in his hand.

Back to reality. Off Johnny, concerned --

END TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. SARAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Walt arrives. He's agitated, telling Sarah he needs something from the garage. Goes to his gun safe and takes out a service revolver. Sarah wants to talk, but he blows her off. He leaves. Sarah's more worried than ever.

INT. BRUCE'S CAR - DAY

Johnny has borrowed Bruce's ride so he can tail Walt. He follows Walt's car from a safe distance. They're getting on the highway. Looks like a bit of a trip.

EXT. ALISON'S HOUSE - DAY

Johnny is parked down the street. Walt heads up the walk to a small but tidy home. Alison opens the door, relieved to see him. He enters and she shuts the door as Johnny's cell phone rings. It's Sarah. She tells him about Walt's odd behavior, wants to know what Johnny has found out. He demurs as the door opens and Walt and Alison step outside. Alison gives him a big hug goodbye. Although Johnny feels exactly the opposite, he tells Sarah he's sure that everything is okay.

EXT. GARAGE APARTMENT - DAY

Walt pulls up to a small converted garage at the back of someone's property. He gets out and cautiously approaches the rundown apartment. Johnny exits his car and sneaks closer for a better look, just in time to see Walt jimmy the door and enter. Hears noise inside - what is he doing? Johnny climbs the steps, moves past the door to peek in a

window, but there's no one inside. Then A HAND lands on his shoulder, triggering a vision.

JOHNNY'S VISION: Walt resigning his job in disgrace. He hands over his badge and weapon to his superiors.

Johnny turns to find Walt behind him. Walt demands to know what Johnny thinks he's doing, and Johnny tells him that both he and Sarah are worried. He tells Walt that whatever he's doing will end badly for him - his job is on the line. Walt confesses to Johnny that he was in a fight the night before and his gun was stolen by a smalltime dealer who just got out of prison named JORDY. This is Jordy's place and Walt was hoping to find him here. Walt just wants to get his gun back before anyone finds out, and before anything bad happens.

Johnny wants to help. Now Walt has a dilemma. Tells Johnny that he may see some things in his visions that Walt can't or won't explain. Walt desperately needs Johnny's help, but only under one condition: no questions asked. Walt reminds Johnny how many times he had to just trust Johnny - now he needs some of that trust back. Knowing Walt is in a bind, Johnny agrees, but he's not exactly happy about it.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. JORDY'S MOM'S HOUSE - DAY

Walt takes Johnny to the rundown house at the front of the property with the garage. An OLDER WOMAN answers the door. She knows Walt and isn't happy to see him. Walt apologizes for disturbing her, but he's looking for her son, Jordy, and he needs to search the premises. The woman reluctantly lets Walt and Johnny inside, but tells them that Jordy hasn't been in her home since he got out of jail last week.

As Walt searches, Johnny touches a high school baseball trophy.

JOHNNY'S VISION: Four high school age friends, three boys and a girl burst in the front door. As they talk we learn it's WALT, JORDY, BRAD and ALISON. They're happy, all of life ahead of them. They've just returned from a baseball game (the boys are on the team). We get the feeling that,

even though Alison is dating alpha dog Brad, Jordy and Walt are also carrying their own torches for the pretty brunette. Even then, Jordy is a wild card, quick-tempered and erratic. He and Brad argue, but there's real friendship there too. And Walt is his solid self. The guy you can always count on. He and Alison watch Brad and Jordy with affectionate amusement.

Back to reality. Johnny is a little rattled to learn that Walt and Jordy have been friends since school. Why would his friend take Walt's gun? Walt and Jordy's mother are still arguing. She's defending her son, and accusing Walt of persecuting her boy. Jordy did his time, why can't you leave him alone? Jordy's mom kicks them out. Walt tells Johnny that Jordy isn't here. Johnny suggests they go to where the gun was stolen, and maybe he can pick up something there.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Walt takes Johnny to the baseball field where he and his friends used to play, and where Walt had his fight with Jordy the night before. It's a nice field with clean bleachers and a new scoreboard. Walt tells Johnny it's been fixed up in the last couple years. When they were kids the place was a dump, but they loved it. Walt notices that the dugout bench was never replaced. Even shows Johnny where they carved their names one afternoon. Johnny touches the wood.

JOHNNY'S VISION: Younger Walt and Jordy playing ball in the afternoon. Along with Brad, the one they both looked up to. These kids are close, but we may see evidence of trouble to come. Brad wants to bet on everything, even how long it will take a bird to fly across the field. Jordy lights up a joint. Walt tries to keep his friends in line.

Walt tells Johnny that it was Brad who got him on the force. After Desert Storm, Walt was at loose ends but Brad got him a job alongside him as a deputy. Brad would've been sheriff one day, everyone knew it. But one night Brad and Jordy had a fight and Brad was killed accidentally. We get the feeling Walt has a little survivor's guilt. They come to the bleachers where Walt and Jordy had been sitting when the fight started. Johnny finds a few blood spots, touches one.

JOHNNY'S VISION: Walt and Jordy arguing before their fight. Jordy is demanding his money, and he's sure Walt has it. Walt seems culpable in a transaction that happened many years ago, but he says he doesn't know anything about the money. Jordy insists Walt must have stolen it after Jordy went to jail. Maybe that was his plan all along. Walt says he's being paranoid. Jordy mentions Alison in a derogatory way and the fight escalates. Walt doesn't want to hurt his friend, but Jordy fights dirty and takes Walt's gun. Tells Walt he'll get it back when he gets his cash.

Johnny is visibly disturbed by the vision. Walt wants to know exactly what he saw, and Johnny mentions that so-called missing cash, and Alison. Walt deflects. He doesn't know about any money, and tells Johnny that he's been looking after Alison and her kids since Brad died; the whole department has. Johnny presses the issue and Walt shuts him down. He doesn't want to discuss it, but Johnny senses there's more to Walt and Alison's relationship than Walt is letting on. Maybe Sarah's suspicions are correct...

Walt gets a call on his radio - shots fired at a nearby bar. The description of the shooter fits Jordy. Walt and Johnny head over there in Walt's car.

INT. BAR - DAY

Walt and Johnny talk to the bartender. He says the fight was between a couple of guys in the back and they all ran when the cops were called. Walt shows the bartender a picture of Jordy and the bartender ID's him. Says he was talking crazy about wanting his money back and kept demanding, "Where is he? Tell me where he is!" Then it looked like the gun went off accidentally and they all took off like rabbits. Walt asks the bartender if he heard a name - who was Jordy looking for? The bartender says he doesn't know. Walt and Johnny figure Jordy got a lead on who really stole his cash. Johnny touches the spent slug which is stuck in a wall.

JOHNNY'S VISION: Jordy is pointing Walt's gun at him. Walt shoots Jordy with his second gun and kills him.

Johnny tells Walt they need to find Jordy, and fast. Things are about to get worse.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. WALT'S CAR - DAY

Walt wants more information from Johnny about Jordy's whereabouts, but Johnny says he can't work in the dark like this. There's more to all this than Walt is letting on, and Johnny can't help him with only half the story. Johnny tells Walt there's no way to keep all this secret and Walt gets hot. Johnny's one to talk about keeping secrets. Johnny's thrown. This is as close as Walt has ever come to letting on that he knows about Johnny and Sarah. Walt tells Johnny he doesn't want his help anymore. He'll handle this himself. He drops Johnny back at his car and takes off.

INT. SARAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Johnny goes to see Sarah to tell her that something is indeed up with Walt. She wants Johnny to help her husband and he says he's trying, but Walt is making it difficult. He asks her if she has anything from Walt's days as a deputy and she says she saved his uniform. Gives Johnny Walt's old badge.

JOHNNY'S VISION: The vision is fractured and chaotic. Walt and Jordy are together at Jordy's garage apartment, after Brad had been shot. Brad's dead on the floor. Jordy's hysterical, injured. Walt slaps Jordy. He needs to concentrate and he can't think with Jordy babbling about how it was an accident. The two of them are anxious and scared - we've never seen Walt like this. He demands that Jordy give him any drugs in the house and Brad's cash. Jordy points. Walt zips up the bag of money, says he's going to take it with him.

Johnny shakes off the vision, disturbed. He asks Sarah what Walt told her about Brad Roberts' shooting. She says she met Walt about four months after it happened. He told her that his two friends had fought and it had gotten out of hand, that's all. But what does that have to do with anything going on now? Johnny demurs. Gotta go.

INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - DAY

Johnny goes back to Jordy's crashpad behind his Mom's house. He's looking for a clearer vision of the shooting. He touches a table that he remembers from the vision.

JOHNNY'S VISION: Again it's chaotic, subject to multiple interpretations. This is the early part of the fight between Jordy and Brad that led to the shooting. Walt hasn't arrived yet. Brad and Jordy were partners in some kind of drug deal. Jordy is upset, vehemently denying something, telling Brad he's got it all wrong - he'd never do that (whatever it is) they're partners. Brad wants to dissolve the partnership and take his cut, twenty five thousand dollars. But then he pulls a gun and demands Jordy's half as well. He knows it's hidden in the apartment somewhere. Jordy balks, that's his cash and he'll never reveal his hiding place. The fight escalates into a struggle over the weapon and Brad is shot with his own gun.

Johnny's vision is interrupted by a gun barrel pressed against the back of his neck.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

Jordy has gotten the drop on Johnny. Johnny explains who he is and Jordy relaxes a little. Johnny tells Jordy what he knows about the night Brad died - looks like Jordy killed a cop in a fight over drugs and Walt broke the law to cover it up. Jordy gives his side: He and Brad were friends, and that friendship somehow evolved into a partnership. They needed money, that's all. Neither one of them planned to become drug dealers. Both of them wanted to get out, but Brad was starting to lose it - gambling away his money, screwing around on his wife Alison. Sooner or later it would have caught up with him and ended his brilliant career.

But that *wasn't* what the fight was about.

Seems Brad had figured out someone was sleeping with his wife, and he suspected Jordy. So Brad came over to confront him. Jordy denied it. They ended the partnership. Brad wanted his half of the cash, but then he pulled out a gun and demanded Jordy's half as well. There was a struggle and Brad was shot. Jordy called Walt, and Walt got rid of the drugs and Brad's cash. Jordy got a shorter sentence than he would have if the cops had found his drugs, and Brad got to die a hero, instead of a wrong

cop with a gambling problem. Walt was trying to protect them all.

Johnny asks for Walt's gun back, but Jordy refuses. His share of the take was hidden in this house when he went to prison and now it's gone. Walt says he didn't take it. The only other person alive who might know where Jordy kept it is Jordy's old supplier. He just needs Walt's gun for a few more hours till he can find this other guy and get his cash back. He tells Johnny it's time for them both to leave. Nudges Johnny with the barrel, triggering a vision.

JOHNNY'S VISION: Walt shooting Jordy. But this time the vision extends. Walt looks down and sees that Jordy has shot him as well. He collapses to the ground.

Johnny tells Jordy that if he doesn't stop this right now, he'll ruin more lives than just his own. Jordy says that's a chance he has to take. He needs that money to go straight and to start a new life. He's about to leave but Johnny stops him with one more question: If Jordy wasn't sleeping with Alison, than who was? Jordy tells Johnny he'll have to ask Alison about that, and he goes.

INT. ALISON'S HOUSE - DAY

Johnny arrives and Alison lets him in. She's kind of been expecting him - Walt's told her about his friendship with Johnny.

Alison assumes that Johnny knows all about her, either from Walt or from his abilities, so when Johnny asks she readily admits that Brad wasn't the golden boy everybody thought he was. He was into some bad stuff with Jordy, protecting Jordy's dealing. Not that he brought the money home. Brad had a gambling problem, and a mean streak, that's how come he and Jordy fought. They were greedy. Johnny tells her the fight was really about her, and that Brad thought she and Jordy were having an affair. This hits Alison hard. She had no idea...

Johnny can see there is more to Alison's story - he presses her. Alison tells Johnny that they never meant for it to happen, but Walt was a good friend to her when her marriage started to crumble, and before they knew it they had fallen in love. Her marriage was over, and she and Walt began an affair. She was going to leave Brad and marry Walt, but then it all went wrong. Johnny's a little knocked out by

the revelation, but he keeps his cool as she tells him that the affair ended the night Brad died - both of them felt too guilty to go on.

At the funeral, Walt handed her 25,000 in cash, telling her it was from Brad's gambling winnings. Alison didn't really buy it - Brad never won. But she was a young widow with two kids to support and she didn't ask questions.

Walt shows up, worried about Alison and furious to find Johnny there. Johnny tells Walt he can beat him up later. Right now they need to find Jordy's old supplier. Jordy thinks he stole the remaining cash that was hidden in the apartment. Walt knows who he means. But the guy went clean five years ago. Owns a used car dealership at the edge of town.

INT. CAR DEALERSHIP - DAY

When Johnny and Walt arrive, Jordy already has Walt's gun trained on the former supplier, SAM. Sam appeals to Walt - he never took Jordy's stash and he's been living the straight and narrow since '98. Together, Johnny and Walt talk Jordy down and convince him that Sam doesn't have his cash. He needs to give up this idea and return Walt's gun. It doesn't matter anymore who took the money. It's gone. Sam tells Jordy that he knows from experience you can't go straight with dirty money. Johnny tells Jordy, you want a new life? Let go of the old one. It's over. Finally, Jordy agrees. But he still wants to know what happened to his cash. Johnny tells him that he might be able to help with that.

INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - DAY

Johnny, Walt and Jordy arrive back at the scene of the crime. Johnny touches the hiding place and gets a vision of who took the cash, which we don't see. Smiles.

INT. JORDY'S MOM'S HOUSE - DAY

Johnny, Walt and Jordy sit with Jordy's mom, who tells them how she came across the money a couple of years ago. She knew it was drug money. At first she was going to burn it, but then she got the idea to do something positive with it. So she gave it away. Well, actually it was more like a donation...

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Johnny, Walt and Jordy walk the revamped field. Seems Jordy's mom had given the money to the city so they could clean up the baseball field for a new generation of kids. That's where Jordy and his friends had been happiest, and she wanted to remember them all that way.

The three men have to smile at the funny turns life takes. Walt tosses a baseball to Jordy and encourages him to enjoy the field. After all, he paid for it. Jordy doesn't have time for a game. Sam the car dealer, knowing how hard it is for a guy to go straight, has agreed to give Jordy a job and he doesn't want to be late. Although he's not sure selling used cars qualifies as "going straight."

INT. SARAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Walt arrives. Apologizes for his behavior the last few days. They sit down to talk. Walt says he'll tell J.J. the hunting trip is off until he's older. The conversation comes around to the two of them. Walt tells Sarah there are things about himself, things he's done that he never wanted her to know. Sarah says she has some secrets too, and is about to confess to him about her and Johnny, but he stops her. The future is all that matters right now. Time to leave the past where it belongs and get on with the business of living.

THE END