

JOHN FROM BACK HOME: EPISODE 9, "HOME"

*SFX: BEEP*

MACHINE VOICE

Wednesday, May 13. 4:01 P.M.

*SFX: BEEP*

*SFX: Rain on house*

JOHN

Hey, uh... so. I'm in your house. Uh, the living room. But, it's... it's actually not your house. I don't think. It's like... slightly different? Like someone saw your house once and tried to kind of recreate it from memory. A lot of stuff is, like, on the wrong side. Also, all the doors are locked, and I can't see out any of the windows, and it sounds like it's pouring outside. But none of that is actually what I wanted to tell you about. What I wanted to tell you is that I'm looking at that hospital bed in the middle of the living room and... your dad is in it. I don't... I don't know how that's possible. Um. But, then... there's a lot I don't really understand right now. He's just kinda... staring up at the ceiling. I don't know if he even knows I'm here. Let's see. Um... hello? Mr. Davis? Oh. OK. That did it, he's... he's looking at me now. Um. Shit dude, I wish it was you here. I mean, I don't even totally know if this is real but... to be able to see your dad one more time, that's... I wish I could give this to you. Um, hi Mr. Davis. I don't know if you remember me. I'm John Meyers. I was friends with Wes growing up? We used to, uh, spend the night here on like Fridays and Saturdays. Um. And you used to give us rides to the comic store and the video store. And to the Best Buy after school on Tuesdays so we could buy the new CDs that had just come out. You were always really nice to me. You'd let us pretty much do whatever we wanted. You never yelled at us for making too much noise or... acting like idiots. I remember this one time, I had spent the night on a Saturday night, and the next morning my parents never showed up to get me. And you and Wes were supposed to leave to go have lunch with Wes's grandmother. So, we tried calling my house, but no one was there. And this was before we had cell phones, so there was just no way to get ahold of my parents. It turned out that they had just gotten their wires crossed, both of them thought the other one was picking me up that day and they were out running errands. But anyway, I didn't have anyone to come get me, and you didn't want to just drop me off at my house alone. So you just... took me with you. You, me, and Wes, we went and picked up his grandmother and went to a diner together. I mean, I know it's not that big of a deal, but you were just... so cool about it. My dad would have been pissed, he would have totally reamed out the asshole parent who forgot to pick up his kid. But, you just let me hang out. And you weren't mad about it or anything.

(pause)

I'm really sorry about Wes leaving. I don't want to overstep or anything but...

JOHN (cont'd)

I mean, it's been hard on me, him not coming back or checking in. And so I can only imagine how hard it's been for you. I just want you to know that I think you were a really good dad. Wes was lucky. I hope he realizes that.

*SFX: Man crying*

JOHN

Oh, fuck... I'm really sorry. I shouldn't have said anything.

*SFX: Crying distorts*

JOHN

Mr. Davis? Are you alright? Oh shit... um, Mr. Davis. I... I can get help if I just, uh... whoa, whoa, what are you... what the fuck?

*SFX: Roaring*

JOHN

Fuck! Shit!

*SFX: BEEP*

MACHINE VOICE

[Unintelligible]

*SFX: Roaring*

*SFX: John running, panting*

*SFX: BEEP*

MACHINE VOICE

[Unintelligible]

JOHN

Please. Please, please just stay back. I don't... I don't even want to be here. I'll leave, OK? You want me to leave right? Just let me go.

*SFX: Growling*

JOHN

Stay back. STAY BACK! PLEASE! No, no no --

*SFX: Roaring*

*SFX: Gunshot*

*SFX: BEEP*

MACHINE VOICE

[Unintelligible]

JOHN

Wes, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I... I didn't know what else to do. I didn't have a choice. I... well, I guess you heard me talking. To your dad. I told him that story about going to lunch with you and your grandma. And then... I just... I said I thought he was a really good dad, and he... he started to cry. And then he started rubbing his face. But not rubbing, like... pulling. At first he was pulling on the skin, but then... he... he started pulling his jaw out of the socket. But it didn't break, it like... stretched, like it wasn't even bone at all. And then he grabbed at his head, and he was still crying but also like... snorting. And he was pulling at the corner of his head until I could see bone. At first I thought he had just scratched really deep, like through his skin. But then he kept pulling, and there was more and more bone, and all of a sudden the bone was... coming out of his head. He was like, pulling bone out from his forehead. They were horns, Wes. He's... he looked like a fucking... and, he just started thrashing around in the bed. And then, he got up and chased me. I jumped back through the hole in the wall, back into this fucking maze, but he followed me. And I ran until I hit a dead end. There was nothing I could do, I swear to God. I didn't have a choice. I had to shoot him. And now, there's a body lying on the floor. But... it's not the thing that was chasing me. It's just... your dad. No horns, no... but dude, I fucking know what I saw. And anyway, I thought he was already dead so how...? I didn't do it, man. I couldn't have done it. I don't know where the fuck I am, I don't know what the fuck is going on. And I don't know how I'm going to get out of here. But Wes, I know I did not fucking kill your father.

*SFX: BEEP*

MACHINE VOICE

[Unintelligible]

JOHN

I don't know how long I've been down here. There's no way to tell. I'm not hungry or thirsty... but maybe those things don't exist here? I don't know. I don't know what's going on. My feet hurt like a bitch, so I can definitely feel some stuff. It's just fucking walls, dude. Every corner I turn, more and more walls. I can't shake the feeling that I'm just walking in one big circle. But every time I try to stop and sit down... I don't know. Something makes me keep moving. It's like... like I think that if I stop this whole fucking thing might swallow me. I don't know how else to describe it.

*SFX: Muffled speaking*

JOHN

Holy shit. Do you hear that? I can hear someone on the other side of this wall. Hello? HELLO! Can you hear me? HELP! HELP ME!

*SFX: Pounding on wall*

JOHN

HEEEEEELLLPP!!!

(pause)

Fuck.

(pause)

Wait a minute. That sounds like... is that... me?

*SFX: BEEP*

MACHINE VOICE

[Unintelligible]

JOHN

I got it. I got it! I'm so fucking stupid, dude. I figured it out, though. Turns out I've been carrying the answer on my back this whole fucking time. Like, uh, *duh John!* You big fucking stupid idiot! OK, I was thinking about the Minotaur comic, because... well, you know, because of everything. And I was thinking about how in the comic we made together, it ended right when the Minotaur reached the villager. Just, like, stopped. But, then I remembered. This comic, the one I found in your room that I brought with me, it's not exactly the same. Like, there are some differences in this one. So, I thought, maybe it doesn't end the same way. And maybe there's something in this one that could give me some idea how to get out of here. Right? Right! So, I sat down and flipped to the end. And guess the fuck what, dude? It IS different! So, the villager in the comic, he runs away from the Minotaur, right? Just like me! And he gets totally fucking lost in the maze. Just like fucking me! And he's wandering around, and he loses track of time, and his hair gets long. And then after however fucking long, he can't take it anymore. He can't turn another corner and just see more long hallways. So, what does he do? He starts digging. Through the wall. With his bare fucking hands, right? But he just digs and digs and digs. And when he gets through the wall... well, it's kinda hard to tell in the comic. He makes a hole, and he breaks through, and there's this bright fucking light. And that's where it ends. I don't know what the fuck that's supposed to mean. But dude, what I wouldn't give to see some sort of light -- *any* fucking light right now. So, yeah! I'm gonna dig through this fucking wall! I don't really have any tools, which fucking sucks. But I've got... let's see... a fucking gun barrel, and my fingers and... ha, my fucking pencils.

JOHN (cont'd)

That's like... poetic irony, or something. Right? Yeah, but, uh, I'm just gonna dig through the fucking wall now. OK. See you on the other side.

*SFX: BEEP*

MACHINE VOICE

[Unintelligible]

*SFX: Digging sound*

JOHN

No one is born guilty. Yes, I know. I know. I know he did, but that hardly seems worth punishment. Aren't I the one who suffers the most from his actions? I'm the one who continues to support him. I should be the one to decide the punishment. And I say he's innocent. Yes, I know. No, I don't. I don't want that. You misunderstand me. I don't mean to offend you. I just want to understand why. Yes, I can see that. No, I don't think that. I just wish you would try.

*SFX: BEEP*

MACHINE VOICE

[Unintelligible]

JOHN

(laughing)

It's... it's fucking nothing, dude. I dug through the... I dug through the whole fucking thing. It's just another hallways. It's just more fucking hallways and walls. My fingers...

(laughing)

My fingers are fucking bloody. Fucking ground beef dude. They hurt so fucking bad, I...

(laughing)

*SFX: BEEP*

MACHINE VOICE

[Unintelligible]

JOHN

I know I'm not gonna leave here. There are some moments when I'm OK with that. I mean, between the crying, the pounding on the walls. There are these moments where I just get so tired that I kinda give up. I just don't have the energy to be scared. And, they actually feel kind of good. I feel this sort of... calm. And what's wild is... I never reached that point before. Like, I've always felt stuck, you know? But there's something about knowing I don't even have the option to get out... I don't know. It's kinda nice. 'Cause there's nothing I can do anyway. But... those moments... the peaceful moments. They don't last that long.

JOHN (cont'd)

Because eventually, I start to think about how I ended up here in the first place. Dude, I just wanted what you had, so badly. But, I didn't know. I had no fucking clue what was waiting here for you. I couldn't possibly imagine that there was anything in your life that I wouldn't want more than my own. I just... charged in. Whatever was here, whatever was in this house, I wanted it so bad. And look at me now. I fucking got it, Wes. I got everything you had coming to you.

*SFX: BEEP*

MACHINE VOICE

[Unintelligible]

JOHN

Agh, my fucking head, dude. I don't know if it's like... a headache from being dehydrated? Or, I probably hit it on the ground or the wall at some point? It's fucking killing me, though. There's like a... like a knot here. Agh, fuck. It's like... stretching against my fucking skin... ahhhh, I just want it, like... fucking out.

*SFX: Bone pulling out of skin*

JOHN

AhhhhhHHHHH! Fuck.

(heavy breathing)

Wes... it's... it's a fucking horn, Wes. It's a fucking horn.

*SFX: BEEP*

MACHINE VOICE

End of messages.

*SFX: Phone button dial*

MACHINE VOICE

Messages deleted. You have no new messages. Goodbye.

*SFX: BEEP*