

DALE I

LIFE EP. 207 "JACKPOT" - STUDIO DRAFT 7/30/2008 6.

ACT ONE

6 INT. ST. THOMAS CHURCH - MEETING ROOM - DAY 6

Right where we left off. Those eleven millionaire lottery winners looking at Crews and Reese. Crews goes and sits in that empty chair, softly he says...

CREWS

Is Hannah Ronson a member of this group?

WES

We're anonymous, we don't use last names... but there is a Hannah who belongs here. Why?

REESE

Hannah Ronson was found in her car, this morning..

DALE, 30-year-old John Hodgman type, in designer sweats, speaks up.

DALE

Found? Like found dead?

Was it an accident?

CREWS

No... it wasn't an accident. And what's your name?

But before Tom answers.

DALE

If it wasn't an accident... you're saying Hannah... our Hannah...

Dale stands up now... hyperventilating a little.

DALE (CONT'D)

Our Hannah... someone...

TOM

He's saying someone killed Hannah, numbnuts. You heard him.

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(CONTINUED)

DALE I & II

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6 CONTINUED:

6

Dale is finding it hard to breath.

DALE

Someone killed her? In her car?

CREWS

What's your name?

But Dale can't speak. He is having a panic attack. So...

WES

Dale...

CREWS

Dale, try to take shallow breaths,
OK? Dale, you have to take shallow
breaths or you're just going to--

DALE PASSES OUT. Crews catches him as he falls.

CREWS (CONT'D)

Pass out.

END

REESE

(looks at Wes)

You got a paper bag?

Wes nods yes... but Reese can also see... WES IS CRYING.

7

INT. ST. THOMAS CHURCH - MEETING ROOM - SHORT TIME LATER

Dale is conscious, he sits in a chair with his head low.
Crews sits next to him. They speak quietly.

DALE

That was so embarrassing.

CREWS

I've seen people have much worse
reactions to news like that.

~~(REDACTED)~~
~~(REDACTED)~~
~~(REDACTED)~~

But a reaction like that, Dale,
it's usually from someone pretty
close to the victim.

Dale looks at Crews... caught... then looks away...

DALE

Can you not use that word. Can you
call her by her name, by Hannah.

END

2/7

(CONTINUED)

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LIFE 207 - Dale

START
II →

DALE III

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11 CONTINUED:

11

REESE

It looks like Dale lied to you.

CREWS

Didn't have Dale pegged as a liar.

REESE

What about a killer?

(off his look)

Dale said he lived here. There's no house here so Dale can't live here.

AND THAT'S WHEN they hear the DULCET TONES of a bus horn playing the theme from the CODEFATHER.

Crews and Reese watch as that rock and roll tour bus swings off the road and rumbles up to a stop next to them. The door opens and Dale, in rapper sweats, pops his head out.

DALE

Honey... I'm home!

Unlike Wes... Dale has no problem spending his money.

12 INT. DALE'S ROCK AND ROLL PARTY BUS - DAY

Pretty crowded in here. Surfer dudes, party girls. Dale leads them to the back where it is quieter. On the way they pass ADAM WEST on a couch, talking to a couple of girls.

DALE

Yeah, that's right... TV's original Batman. I got him on a day rate.

They get to the back and settle in.

CREWS

What about these other people, you got them on a day rate too?

DALE

People like a party, right?

REESE

And you live on this bus?

DALE

Yeah. Got this land here... some more out in the desert. This way I can park the party anywhere I want.

CREWS

Did Hannah like the party, Dale?

Again, when her name comes up... Dale looks away.

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(CONTINUED)

DALE III

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12

CONTINUED:

12

CREWS (CONT'D)

Why don't you tell us about your relationship with Hannah?

DALE

Hannah? She was right on. You know what I mean?

REESE

Explain it to me.

DALE

We fooled around a little, it was nice, knowing...

Dale looks at his party, thinking of Hannah.

CREWS

...Knowing she wanted you and not your money?

DALE

Yeah, but she saw I was still into having this, kid in a candy store, you know. She told me, when I was done with this, she'd be there.

REESE

How'd that make you feel?

DALE

Tell you the truth, made me want her even more.

CREWS

Did you tell the others in the group you were seeing each other?

DALE

No... we thought it'd be better if they didn't know. Kept it quiet.

CREWS

Like office romances.

Reese looks at Crews, then back at Dale...

REESE

Dale, where were you the night Hannah was killed?

DALE

Here... on the bus... with my posse. They can tell you.

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LIFE 207 - Dale

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(CONTINUED)

DALE III

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12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

CREWS

But they're not your real friends,
Dale. How can we believe them?

DALE

Yeah, you're right, they're not my
real friends. Hannah was my real
friend. You guys are going to find
who killed her, right?

Crews and Reese look at Dale as, from above, the rotor wash
sound of a helicopter grows louder and louder and louder...

DALE (CONT'D)

My ride's here... I gotta go.

END

The sound of the ROTOR WASH becomes a roar as Dale and his
posse file off the bus, singing *The Ride Of The Valkyries*.

Out the windows of the bus, Crews and Reese do not see the
helicopter... all they see is the violent whorl of dust
thrown up by its descent. They are swallowed by it and...

12 INT. POLICE STATION - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Crews and Reese catch Tidwell up.

REESE

173 million dollar Tom is Tom
Buckner. According to the press
release, he worked in the defense
industry for nearly twenty years.

CREWS

Took his winnings in one lump sum
and quit his job.

TIDWELL

Why'd it take so long to find him?
I mean, how many 173 million dollar
winners named Tom are out there?

CREWS

Because this is what Tom looked
like two years ago...

Crews puts Tom's photo on the crime board. It is the picture
of Tom with that big check. Tom looked a lot different then.
Back then Tom was FAT, HAPPY AND HEALTHY. HE WAS SMILING.

TIDWELL

That's not what he looks like now?

REESE

No. It's not.

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(CONTINUED)

DALE IV

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19 CONTINUED:

19

REESE
(re: Tom's house)
You were in and out of that house?

RONALD
It didn't always look like that.
Just since he won the money.
(then...)
Tom and I used to split the cost of
lottery tickets. I'd give him a
dollar, and buy them at lunch. One
day I forgot to give him a dollar.

CREWS
And that was the day he won.

RONALD
Yeah. Haven't seen him since. He
quit work, put up those fences. He
doesn't talk to me. Doesn't talk to
anyone. We used to be best friends.

Crews and Reese look at Ronald and his family. They seem
happy and healthy. But now Crews sees something in the crowd.

CREWS
Reese...

She sees it. Dale, no longer in a sweat suit. Now he wears a
nice suit, like the suit Crews wears. Crews and Reese move to
him. As they approach they see he is questioning a neighbor.

DALE
And did you ever see him with a
woman named Hannah?

The neighbor nods no. Dale writes "NO" down on a pad.

CREWS
Dale? What are you doing here?

DALE
I got all this money but what am I
really doing with my life. Maybe I
can help find who killed Hannah.

CREWS
You just leave that to the police.

DALE
I saw you talking to those people
over there. Are they involved?

CREWS
Dale, what did I just say?

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LIFE 207 - Dale

START
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(CONTINUED)

DALE IV

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19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

As Crews considers Dale, he takes out an apple and bites it.

DALE
Does the apple help?

CREWS
Help? With what?

DALE
With the solving of crimes.

REESE
You know you're a suspect, right?

DALE
I just wanted to know if the apple
helped. I'm new to all this.
(off their look)
I'm going. I'm going.

They watch Dale go and then...

END

TIDWELL (O.S.)
Detectives...

They see Tidwell in Buckner's doorway, waving to them...

TIDWELL (CONT'D)
You should come look at this.

20 INT. TOM BUCKNER'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

Crews, Reese, Tidwell and some UNIFORMED COPS, some of whom
hold jackhammers. They have just dug up a hole in the
concrete. In that hole is CASH. MILLIONS AND MILLIONS.

TIDWELL
Looked like he'd just patched
something over so we dug it up.

REESE
He was burying his cash...

REESE (CONT'D)
That's just crazy, right?

TIDWELL
OK... get this into evidence.

21 INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Crews, Reese and Tom Buckner.

REESE
Why'd you shoot at my partner, Tom?

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LIFE 207 - Dale

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(CONTINUED)