

THE DEAD ZONE

“Revelations”

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TEASER

Ext. Faith Heritage: A big ribbon is cut. Purdy stands on the steps, announces his appreciation to everyone for their continued support. Faith Heritage is an institution, thanks in no small part to the generosity of the late Vera Smith. Which is why he is dedicating the new library in her honor. Johnny and Bruce stand off to the side. Bruce can't believe how massive this place has become. A far cry from the humble chapel he was used to growing up. Johnny shrugs, he'd rather be on his couch, watching football. Bruce agrees, they need to get home – Sunday games start early. The crowd cheers for Purdy as he finishes up. An anxious, out-of-place WOMAN, 40s, lurks among the crowd. Johnny wants to say goodbye to Purdy, at least get credit for being here...

As Johnny weaves through the dissipating crowd, he brushes by the woman, and gets a strange *vision of Purdy on his knees. Crying. Sweating. Mouth crimson with blood. He looks up at the woman, says “Is this what you came back here to do?!”* Johnny snaps out of it - that woman is dangerous. A stalker perhaps? Johnny follows her, as she approaches the podium. He feels compelled to stop her when she nervously introduces herself: “Reverend? My name is Jessica, you may not recognize me... but I'm your daughter.” Off Purdy --

ACT ONE

Outside: Johnny explains to Bruce what just happened. Bruce reminds Johnny that Purdy has some crazy fans out there. Meanwhile, Purdy and Jessica speak privately over by a fountain. Jessica apologizes to Purdy for coming here, out of the blue. She goes into an awkward explanation, how she doesn't want anything from him, she just wanted to meet him. See his face. She has a good life, back in her hometown. Maybe he could come see it sometime? Purdy doesn't know quite how to put it, but tenderly tells her that what she is claiming is not possible. He doesn't have a daughter. Jessica shows Purdy a photo. We don't see it, but Purdy's face goes white. Purdy asks her why she's waited so long to come forward? She could ask the same of Purdy. She again reiterates she's only here because she wanted to see her father's face in person. Although Johnny doesn't hear what is said, Purdy gestures her into his office.

Johnny hurries over. Purdy introduces them, he seems on edge. Jessica politely smiles at Johnny, disappears into the building. Johnny pulls Purdy aside. Describes his vision of Purdy in pain. Although he's not sure how, Johnny tells Purdy he thinks Jessica could be dangerous. Purdy thanks Johnny for the interest, but politely asks him to stay out of this, says he has things to sort out with the woman. Johnny finds this odd. “Did you hear what I said? I know you believe in my visions.” Purdy sternly says he can handle this. He disappears into Faith Heritage. Johnny's confused – what just happened?

The next day, Johnny and Bruce pull up to a local Bed & Breakfast. Bruce asks Johnny why he's so concerned about Purdy – he's a grown man, he's got his own life. Johnny tells Bruce that there's something bigger than Jessica that Purdy's afraid of. Whatever he saw in that photo really spooked him. Johnny clarifies his relationship with Purdy. Although he doesn't fully trust him, Johnny can't deny his threatening vision - he saw Purdy suffer. And Jessica was there with him. They get to the front desk, but Jessica's already checked out, she paid cash. There is no last name in the guest registry.

They find her room, sneak in, and off the bed, Johnny gets a vision of *Jessica crying, packing her suitcase very quickly. She seems upset. Jessica packs the photo Johnny saw earlier when, freeze: Johnny takes a close look. A black and white photo of a woman and a little girl. Behind them, a Ferris wheel. They are standing at a carnival. Handwritten at the bottom of the photo is "Lewiston, Maine, 1964"*. Looks like they're taking a road trip...

Johnny and Bruce arrive in Lewiston, a rural farming town a few hours away. Grain silos dot the landscape. They find the local city hall. Neither of them know Jessica's last name. They speak to a crotchety old RECEPTIONIST. Without a last name, what can she do? They ask her about a carnival that was in town in 1964. She finds a record of a carnival. Over at Desmond Farm. Where is that? She points to a map on the wall. Outside, Bruce catches an acne-scarred MAN glaring at them, and quickly turns away. People in this town don't seem all that friendly.

Desmond Farm. Johnny and Bruce arrive at an open, empty field. A sign says "Future Subdivision of Shady Acres". Times are changing. A couple homes are being built. As Johnny touches a rusted-out truck, he gets a vision: *A colorful carnival FILLS the field. It's 1964. A carnival barker, ED NOLAN, 20s, speaks to a crowd – come see the Strong Man, the Bearded Lady, and the Wheel of Fortune. Johnny spins around, and sees a YOUNG MINISTER, his face obscured, angry. He tells people not to listen to Nolan - the word of God is strong, the folks of Lewiston should be hearing God's word on Sunday, not here among the dregs of society. "Come witness the glorious work of the Lord with your own eyes...." A young, woman named CLARA (the mother from the photo) tells the minister, "I'll come see your revival, Minister...."*

A young FARMER interrupts, and confronts them. What are you doing on my property? Bruce asks the farmer about a carnival that came through town many years ago. Farmer never heard of it. But his father used to rent the farm out. Supposed a carnival could have come through here. If there was a carnival, it was before the farmer was born. Johnny asks the Farmer if a religious revival ever came through? Now that, the farmer knows.

Barn: the Farmer explains his father was a believer, always talked about that revival, best thing to ever happen to this town. He kept a lot of stuff from that summer. The farmer shows Johnny a box full of bibles, hymnals, and crosses. As Johnny and Bruce fish through the items, they come across an old poster from the revival. It has a picture of the young minister listed as "Reverend Raymond Franklin." Johnny looks at Bruce, confused - "That minister... that's Purdy."

ACT TWO

In the car, Johnny gets a call from Walt. There's no record of a "Raymond Franklin," at least not in Maine. Closest match he found was for an owner of a corporation called the "Franklin Fund" based in New York. Probably a dead lead. Walt's sorry he doesn't have more information. Walt: "You gonna tell me what this is all about?" Johnny says he'll tell Walt more as soon as he knows more. Bruce wonders if they are even making headway. All we know is that this girl is dangerous to Purdy. Why don't we just call him, ask him where she lives? Johnny has a feeling Purdy is staying at arm's length on this one. Especially now that they found something odd about his past. Johnny doesn't want to confront Purdy until he figures out what's going on...

The town library: Johnny and Bruce go low tech. Bruce mumbles that these small town people need to learn to get with the times, adapt to the internet. They sift through endless microfiche, but they don't find any published information about a Minister named Raymond Franklin. They do, however, find info on the Carrington Traveling Carnival. Johnny recognizes Nolan, the carnival barker in one of the old black and white photos. The same carnival man he saw young Purdy screaming at. Turns out the Carnival is no longer in operation. But according to the carnival's 'final extravaganza' article, the owner retired in North Point. Maybe he could tell them about Minister Franklin.

Johnny and Bruce arrive at the North Point "Carnival" diner, a tacky theme diner proudly displaying old relics from the carnival of yesteryear. The fortune teller display case, the strongman muscle-o-meter, the wheel of fortune. Could this be the same carnival Johnny was at the night of his accident? Johnny speaks with the old carnival OWNER. No minister ever worked for the carnival, but he does remember a crappy little tent revival that used to follow the carnival around. A certain minister was a thorn in their side. Johnny asks why the carnival went out of business. Owner replies that times change. People want entertainment they go to Six Flags or Vegas. Johnny touches the fortune teller display case: *At the carnival: Hidden in the darkness of the tent, Young Purdy (as Minister Franklin) hands Nolan a roll of cash. Nolan hands Purdy a piece of paper, "She gave my fortune teller all of this info. This is everything you need to know about Clara Simon."* Purdy takes the info. Odd. What was Purdy doing with Nolan? What information did he just buy from him?

On their way out of the diner, they see that same Acne-Scarred Man again. He quickly walks in the other direction. They believe he's following them. They try to approach the man, but he disappears around the corner. They wonder who is following them and why. Johnny asks Bruce to go back to the Lewiston library and find out everything he can about that revival. They'll meet up later. Johnny's gonna see if there's a "Clara Simon" listed in town....

Johnny arrives at the home of Clara Simon. Once magnificent, it's now fallen into disrepair. He knocks on the door, and Jessica answers.

Jessica is a bit confused. What's Johnny doing all the way out here in Lewiston? Johnny asks about her mother. Jessica is hesitant, but Johnny presses her: "I won't go away. Either you tell me or I'll find out on my own." Jessica relates that Clara Simon was her mother and

she died when Jessica was a baby. She was raised by her grandparents. Johnny wants to know how she discovered Purdy was her father. Jessica says she learned years ago through an ‘old friend of her mother’s’, but never had the courage to step forward. After some personal issues she had in her own life: a bad divorce, the inability to have children, lack of any real family of her own, she has re-evaluated her life and found that meeting Purdy is something she needed to do.

When Johnny touches her, he gets a vision: *like before, Purdy is shaking. In pain. Mouth crimson with blood. He looks up at Jessica, says “Is this what you came back here to do?!... Go ahead, I deserve this.” And he is suddenly drowned in a sea of grain...*

Johnny makes it clear that he doesn’t trust her. Something doesn’t seem right, Purdy is an important man. And very wealthy. Jessica wants to show Johnny something. Pulls out a wad of cashier’s check receipts, “I have been getting checks most of my life – I recently figured out who was sending them.” Johnny looks at the stubs – they’ve been sent from the “Franklin Fund.” She doesn’t want his money. Purdy has asked her to come back to Cleaves Mills. And now that she found him, she’s going to spend much needed time with him. Johnny continues to pry. She doesn’t appreciate the interrogation. She asks Johnny to leave.

On his way out, Johnny touches a stairwell banister and gets a past vision: *1964, Nolan paces the room, nervous. Scared. Young Purdy stands over the dead body of Clara next to the stairs. Nolan tells Purdy, “This is not the way this was supposed to go. This is not what we planned. Jesus, Raymond... you killed her.”*

ACT THREE

At their Motel, Johnny tells Bruce about his vision. “I think Purdy killed her mother.” Bruce didn’t find any more info on the revival, but he shows Johnny what he did find. According to Clara’s obituary she died of pancreatic cancer in 1964 – no foul play. She was survived by her daughter, Jessica. No mention of Jessica’s father. Bruce also adds that Clara Simon was a socialite. The Simon Family was one of the wealthiest in Lewiston. Not anymore, Johnny was just at the house, the place was falling apart. Johnny asks why Bruce thinks that’s important? Bruce mentions it may not be a coincidence that Vera was wealthy and Purdy took an interest in her, also. Johnny says, we gotta talk to Purdy...

In the car, Johnny catches the Acne Scarred Man following them in the rear view mirror. Johnny tells Bruce to buckle it, and they swerve through the town’s (only) main streets and disappear for a moment in a tunnel. The Man follows. When the Man reappears at the other end of the tunnel, he pulls up behind Johnny’s stopped car at a stop-light. He waits. Johnny’s car doesn’t move. Light turns green. Still no movement. The Acne Scarred Man gets out, puzzled. When he looks in, Johnny’s car is empty. Bruce grabs him from behind. Why are you following us? The Acne Scarred Man refuses any questions. Johnny touches him and *whoosh*. An unseen vision.

Johnny bursts into Purdy’s office. “Why are you having me followed? What the hell is going on?” Purdy deflects questions; this is a private matter between him and Jessica. It’s

hard to explain, but Purdy needs Johnny to trust him. Any questionable things he has done have been for her protection. To Johnny's surprise, Jessica pops her head in; Purdy tells her that he needs a few minutes with Johnny. He will be right out. Purdy pulls Johnny aside, when he gets a vision: *Young Purdy knocks on Clara's front door. Clara seems surprised. Minister Franklin? What are you doing here? They haven't had many visitors since her husband died. Minister Franklin asks who 'they' are? A little girl appears by her side. Clara introduces her daughter, Jessica...*

Johnny spins out, shocked. "She's not your daughter, Gene." But Purdy knows that... Johnny is even more confused when he learns that Purdy is planning on introducing Jessica to his congregation this morning. Why is Purdy pretending that she's his daughter? "You don't understand. I owe her, I owe her eternally." Purdy asks Johnny to stop looking into this. Purdy pulls the Minister Franklin revival poster Johnny found in the barn, out of the desk drawer. Stunned, Johnny realizes why Purdy had him followed: "You used me, Gene. To cover your own tracks." Purdy seems ashamed. "I am sorry, there are things nobody can ever know." Purdy throws the poster into the fireplace. Johnny watches baffled as Purdy walks out of his office, calmly takes Jessica's hand, and leaves with her - towards the morning congregation.

Johnny visits Walt at the Sheriff's station. He brings Walt up to date. Walt can't believe what he's hearing. Walt says he'll keep an eye on Purdy and he'll try to get some info on the Clara Simon case, but warns Johnny that it's out of his jurisdiction. He does, however, have an address on that Edward Nolan guy Johnny wanted to find. Johnny hopes he could talk to someone who can give him a straight answer about Purdy. Walt doubts this guy will be straight about anything. The address is to a parole officer in Portland.

Portland, Maine: Johnny and Bruce sit with a PAROLE OFFICER. The officer hasn't seen Nolan, either; Nolan hasn't checked in. Nolan got released from prison a few years ago after a long stint for fraud and assault with a deadly weapon. Bruce asks if he left anything behind. Parole Officer pulls out a box. He left everything. Didn't even take his toothbrush. Johnny and Bruce sift through Nolan's belongings. It's filled with newspaper clippings tracking the career of Reverend Purdy. Johnny and Bruce share a look. This guy is after Purdy.

Johnny walks into a dark home, flips on the lights, only to find Purdy waiting for him. Desperate. A briefcase full of money at his feet. Gene says he'll answer all of Johnny's questions, but right now he needs Johnny's help: Jessica's been kidnapped.

ACT FOUR

Purdy doesn't want to involve the authorities for fear that Jessica might be hurt. Purdy knows it's Nolan. Johnny wants all the cards on the table. Who was Raymond Franklin? A man Purdy says he doesn't care to remember. Johnny asks if he killed Clara Simon, Purdy admits, "... Yes. I killed her." Johnny is shocked. Purdy, puts his hands on Johnny's shoulders, says he used to 'Connect them with the Lord's power... just like this...' Match/cut/morph. *We are inside Purdy's revival tent. Young Purdy has his hands on Clara*

Simon's shoulders. He wasn't just a minister – he was a faith healer. Think Benny Hinn. Young Purdy "heals" her and she falls backwards into the crowd, "touched" by the healing power of God.

Purdy tells Johnny that when he met Clara she looked weak and pale. He thought she was anemic. But it was more serious. He never knew how bad it was. And because Purdy told her she was "healed," she stopped taking her medication. Clara believed Purdy, and more importantly, *believed in him*. Usually, Purdy would split town and in a couple of days the marks would go back to taking care of themselves. Who knows how long she could have lived had she stayed on her meds? Purdy believes he robbed Jessica of her mother. After Clara's death, Purdy explains he was heartbroken, alone, lost, until he rebuilt his soul through faith. Clara is the reason Purdy turned to God.

Purdy is not proud of what he did – running a tent revival scam. He and his partner Nolan would tour the country, trading information on the townspeople, Nolan would gather intel from the carnival, sell it to Purdy. It was a cheap scam to make a quick buck. Purdy would use the info to convince the people into believing that God sent them there to heal them. Over the years, Purdy has tried to atone for his sins by sending anonymous cashier's checks to all the people he conned. From the "Franklin Fund." But Clara was different. She gave Purdy all of her money, thinking he would save others like her, she was a true believer.

Johnny is angry, fueled by suspicions he has about his own family fortune. Purdy insists he did not con Vera; his soul was "saved" by the time he was involved with Johnny's mother. Johnny tells Purdy he has been giving him the benefit of the doubt this entire time, but now feels betrayed.

Purdy pulls out a note – he found it taped to his door. It says "How much is she worth to you? If you ever want to see her again, bring cash. You know the place. This night, shall thy soul be required of thee..." Purdy taps his briefcase nervously. "This is everything I could muster." Against Purdy's demands, Johnny says they need to call Walt. Johnny tells Purdy he'll be safe as long as he stays put.

Later, Walt pulls up. Johnny tells him that Nolan probably knew Purdy, out of guilt, would accept Jessica into his life. And once he did, Purdy would be vulnerable to blackmail. Walt wants to speak to Purdy. They enter Johnny's home, but his back door is open; Purdy is gone.

Time cut: Bruce has joined Johnny and Walt. Walt's radios Roscoe, tells him to keep an eye out for Purdy... Bruce recognizes the quote. It's a passage from the Bible. "This night, shall thy soul be required of thee: then whose shall all those things be?" It's from Luke - God was speaking down to a rich man who stuffed his barns full of grain. Johnny pieces it together: the grain silos in Lewiston.

It's dawn. Inside one of the silos, Purdy holds a briefcase filled with cash. The silo looks empty. But he's surprised by a PUNCH to the face, knocks him out.

Johnny and Walt arrive in Lewiston at what looks like a half-dozen identical grain silos all spread apart. They scramble towards each one, hoping to find Purdy. We intercut between Purdy, and Johnny and Walt opening the grain silos...

Purdy wakes up inside a large hollow silo to find he's been chained to the floor. Nolan stands across the room from him, holding a gun. Nolan asks if he remembers this place? They've come a long way from shoveling grain on farms. Purdy remembers, but that past is long gone. Purdy chose the righteous path, while Nolan didn't. Purdy kicks the briefcase of money to Nolan. Nolan walks over to it, checks the contents. Nolan doesn't believe Purdy's "conversion to faith." All this time, in and out of prisons, he watched Purdy build his empire – all based on a con they used to do together. "You live the lie long enough, you become the lie, isn't that right, Franklin?"

Nolan says that Purdy abandoned him. Nolan waited in this silo for Purdy for days to give him his cut from the Lewiston job, but Purdy never showed.

Purdy: "Look at us. It's a charade. Do what you will to me; but let Jessica go. She has nothing to do with this." Jessica comes out of the darkness, "You're wrong, Reverend..." The "kidnapping" was a con that she's been in on. Nolan sought her out, and convinced her to get what was due from the man who screwed over her mother. It's all about revenge. She played Purdy this entire time. She knew he wasn't her father. "You think a monthly check makes up for what you've done to me?" Nolan walks up to a second landing and pushes a lever which releases grain from a conveyor feed. It rises around Purdy like water, gathering near his feet, then rising to his knees. Purdy's trapped...

Purdy is resigned. Just like Johnny's earlier vision, mouth bleeding, Purdy looks up at Jessica, "Is this what you came here to do? If this is what will cleanse my soul, then do it. I deserve this..."

As Purdy accepts his fate, it becomes clear to Jessica that Nolan will kill him. She looks at Nolan, horrified. "We have the money. This was never part of the plan..." They argue, furiously. Walt blasts through the locked door with his revolver, trains his gun on Nolan. But Nolan quickly fires back, Walt ducks back outside. Too dangerous. Johnny yells that Purdy's gonna die. The grain rises quickly above Purdy's shoulders and then engulfs his head. Nolan fires again, Walt is able to clip Nolan in the leg. Nolan falls. They rush in. Walt trains his gun on Nolan.

Johnny jumps into the abyss of grain, wades through, as Walt pulls the lever trying to move the grain out. Johnny pulls Purdy up, but it's too late. Grain has filled his lungs. Purdy gives Johnny his dying words, "Sin is crouching at your door. So many things I never told you, Johnny. So many lies..."

And Purdy dies.

Whoosh. We realize this was all part of a vision.

Outside the silo where Purdy is, Johnny is touching the door. But it's locked. Walt is about to shoot through it when Johnny stops him. Johnny spots another entrance into the silo next to the conveyor belt. Tells Walt to aim at the control counsel when Johnny signals him. Johnny enters the silo, unseen.

We replay the same scene – Nolan's holding the gun on Purdy; it's revealed that Jessica was in on it the whole time; and that Nolan's going to kill Purdy. Jessica argues with Nolan, when Johnny tackles Nolan, they struggle. Nolan loses control of the gun. It skitters across the floor. Right to Jessica. She snatches it up – points it at the two of them. Johnny tells her he knows who she is. She is not a killer. Whether she likes it or not, Purdy was willing to go the distance; he was going to act like he was her father. She cries. She knows she's not a killer. Johnny yells for Walt. He shoots through the door, rushes in and disengages the grain, just before Purdy dies.

As they leave, the camera pans up to an old sign on the silo. None of the characters see it, but we do. It reads: "Purdy Grain Company/Eugene, Oregon." This is where Raymond Franklin died, and Gene Purdy was born...

Time cut: a few days later at a courthouse. Jessica walks out by herself – not handcuffed. She's free. We pull back to reveal Purdy speaking with Johnny and Walt. Purdy didn't press charges. Purdy wasn't going to take her life away a second time. He owes her at least that much. As she walks away, Walt tells Purdy, "We can't promise you she won't be back." Purdy says he'll leave that up to God.

Johnny's amazed that Purdy was willing to die for his sins. Johnny asks Purdy if he has more that he needs to come clean with, now is the time to do so. He recalls the passage from Genesis that Purdy referenced in his last vision. "Sin is crouching at your door..." "Does that mean anything to you, Reverend? Any more lies?" Purdy hesitates for just a moment. He has no more confessions he needs to make. Leaving Johnny and Purdy as uneven as they were when they started...