

Encapsulated Season 3 Episode 1

FADE IN:

INT. COUNTRY HOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT

It's a quiet, idyllic night. MILDRED (46) is fast asleep. There's an ominous breeze blowing through the open window, the faint creaking of the weather vane, the soft scraping of the trees against the side of the house.

Suddenly, there's a rumbling in the distance. The room begins to rattle as the noise intensifies. The pictures fall off the wall. The alarm clock starts beeping and glitching out. The breeze turns into a howling wind.

And then the light. Like a spotlight, a neon green beam illuminates the bedroom. Mildred stirs in her sleep and mumbles groggily to herself.

MILDRED

What is it, who's...?

The light fills the room, the rumbling gets louder, the wind howls faster, a window breaks. And then, a low, monotonous hum emanates just outside.

Mildred rubs her eyes, and abruptly jolts awake. She runs to the window and sees A SPACESHIP! A giant disc, a chrome flying saucer, hovering in her front yard, its green beam getting more intense, its humming growing more menacing.

MILDRED

Oh boy...

Mildred dashes for the closet and looks madly for her rifle and ammunition. She curses to herself as she accidentally drops the bullets on the ground.

Meanwhile, the ship CRASHES through the wall and turns on its tractor beam. Mildred starts floating involuntarily.

She manages to load a few bullets in mid-air, and fires multiple shots at the spaceship as she drifts towards it.

MILDRED

You guys don't quit, do you?

The spaceship, undaunted by her bullets and her threats, continues to suck her out of the room. She desperately clings to the bedposts as she drifts upward, but the ship is too powerful.

MILDRED

Goddamn it! Alright, let's get this over with.

She looks up at the spaceship, hovering only a few feet above her. A circular aperture opens up - inside the ship are two menacing aliens with tentacles and red eyes, eagerly waiting to devour her!

MILDRED

Hey! HEY! You hungry?

Both aliens are glaring at her evilly. With her last ounce of strength, she hurls the rifle directly at them, but they easily dodge it.

The room is decimated, the sound is like a rushing wave, the green light is overpowering, she's nearly inside the spaceship now, the aliens begin wrapping their tentacles around her, the alarm clock is beeping louder and louder!

MILDRED

And three, two, one...

INT. MILDRED'S BEDROOM - DAY

It's morning. Mildred lurches forward. Her room is normal: the pictures are on the wall, there's no spaceship, and her alarm clock is going off.

Her heart is pounding. She takes a few deep breaths, then slams her hand on the clock until it turns off. But she accidentally hits it too hard, and the display cracks.

MILDRED

Whoops.

She gets out of bed and inspects the room. The window is still intact. She looks blithely at her front yard, a sunlit expanse of grass and dirt that seems to stretch endlessly, no other houses in sight.

She grumbles and walks to the closet - she's relieved to see her rifle and a full box of ammunition. She empties the box and counts the bullets one by one.

There's a harsh knock at the door. Mildred groans, puts the bullets back, and yells in response.

MILDRED

I know, I know, hold your horses!

Her daughter, GABRIELLE (25), sounds livid.

GABRIELLE

I don't need this today, Jesus Christ can you hurry up and help me with the dress?!

MILDRED

My alarm clock's broken!

GABRIELLE

If I hear one more fucking excuse, I swear, I'm NEVER talking to you again, you have no-

MILDRED

(interrupting)

Well at least it'd be QUIET around here!

GABRIELLE

Oh my god, mom, can you think about somebody other than you for ONE DAY of your life?!

MILDRED

Wow. You're one to talk.

GABRIELLE

MOTHER! I DO NOT NEED THIS RIGHT NOW!

MILDRED

You whiny little-

EXT. TOWN PARK - DAY

Gabrielle is standing happily at the altar with TONY (27), her groom-to-be. There are a few hundred people gathered, seated in folding chairs. Mildred is well-dressed and smiling politely from the front row.

PASTOR

And Gabrielle, do you take Tony to be your lawfully wedded husband, to love and to cherish, to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, til death do you part?

Gabrielle giggles excitedly and grins at Tony.

GABRIELLE

I do!

Tony grins back, they can barely contain their excitement.

PASTOR

Then by the power vested in me, in the sight of God and Willisburg, I now pronounce you, husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

The newlyweds kiss. Gabrielle's heel pops up. Everybody cheers and claps, including Mildred, though it's obvious that her smile is patronizing. She rolls her eyes, then keeps grinning and clapping for show.

INT. LEGION HALL (WEDDING RECEPTION) - DAY

Everybody is mingling and dining in the legion hall (which is the largest venue in Willisburg). The members of the wedding party are seated at a table near the front, while the guests are scattered amongst dozens of round tables.

At the back are two rows of tables set up buffet style, with an assortment of homemade salads, casseroles, breads, potatoes, and desserts. In one corner is a table that's overflowing with wedding gifts. In the other is the cake, which two women are cutting into smaller pieces.

Mildred is sitting up front, but with her back turned to Gabrielle and Tony. Nobody else is at the table with her. Thirty feet away, Gabrielle is chatting non-stop with the bridesmaids, purposely ignoring her mother.

Mildred isn't grinning anymore, but she seems content, especially since she has a whole bottle of coke to herself. She's been slowly working through the soda, while guests pop over for small talk.

The latest guest is BARRY (65), the town sheriff, who nods politely and sits next to Mildred.

BARRY

How you holdin' up, Mildred?
(she swishes the bottle)

Fair enough.
(pause)

Looks like the whole town turned out, you must be proud of her.

Mildred laughs out loud; Gabrielle shoots her a dirty look, then quickly returns to her conversation. Barry chuckles.

BARRY

Well, certainly nobody's here on YOUR account.

MILDRED

But I'm so charming...
(they laugh again)

I tell you, I still can't believe they're all here for HER either. Or HIM.

BARRY

Nothin' else going on I suppose. It's just this and the aliens.

Mildred's eyes go wide.

MILDRED

Aliens?

BARRY

Sorry, 'Mexicans', can't say aliens.

MILDRED

Oh. Right.

BARRY

Yeah, talk about a shit show, first time I've had to get ICE involved. Usually we don't see 'em this far north... Crazy times.

MILDRED

Mm-hmm.

BARRY

Anyways... You make sure you got a DD, and if you need help with anythin' now that you're livin' on your own, give me a call.

MILDRED

Will do, Barry.

BARRY

And if you're so inclined, tell the happy couple that I said congratulations.

MILDRED

Don't get your hopes up.

He chuckles, they both stand up for a quick hug, then he walks away. Mildred smiles and sits back down.

The next to congratulate Mildred are ELEANOR (38) and her husband JOHN (37), who stay standing the whole time. Mildred puts on her patronizing face.

ELEANOR

Mildred, always a pleasure. Congratulations!

MILDRED

Thanks, Eleanor! Have a seat!

ELEANOR

We won't keep you long.

JOHN

Did you survive the probing?

Mildred is taken aback. How does John know??

MILDRED

The- the what now?

JOHN

The probing, from Barry, wasn't he interrogating you just now?

Mildred sighs with relief and chuckles.

MILDRED

Yeah, you know Barry.

(they laugh)

Is Clark here?

ELEANOR

Of course! Who isn't? He and the gang are somewhere back there.

JOHN

This is quite the turnout!

MILDRED

Mm-hmm.

There's an awkward pause.

ELEANOR

Well, we should probably visit the happy couple. Always a pleasure, Mildred.

JOHN

Good to catch up.

MILDRED

It sure is.

Eleanor and John go over to Gabrielle and Tony, who are much happier to see them than Mildred was. Mildred takes a swig of coke and quietly impersonates Eleanor.

MILDRED

Always a pleasure, Mildred.

She takes another sip. She's startled to hear a voice directly behind her.

MICHAEL

It's not every day somebody gets abducted.

Mildred whirls around in a panic. MICHAEL (51) is standing behind her, arms spread wide, grinning ear to ear.

MICHAEL

Bring it in.

MILDRED

Jesus, Michael, no!

MICHAEL

Alrighty then.

Still grinning, he pulls up a seat.

MICHAEL

Sorry to give you a fright.

MILDRED

What do you mean, abducted?

MICHAEL

Oh, I just meant Gabrielle, getting swept away by the tall, dark, handsome man. How does it feel, your daughter being taken out from under your nose like a thief in the night?

MILDRED

You are TERRIBLE with words.

MICHAEL

I know, don't got much of a rind on me.

(Mildred looks confused)

I'm sorry, I think it's the-

(he pantomimes drinking)

You want any?

MILDRED

No, I don't drink.

MICHAEL

You don't? News to me...
(she rolls her eyes)
Got any big PLANS now that she's gone?

MILDRED

Not really, Michael.

MICHAEL

Well, I'll be.
(he pauses)
Getting another DRINK!
(he laughs)
Have a good night, Milfred.

MILDRED

It's 3 in the afternoon, Michael.

MICHAEL

Is it? Next you'll be telling me I'm sober!
(he laughs again, she just stares)
Alright, I got the message loud and queer, clear,
oof, hope nobody heard me!

MILDRED

Goodbye, Michael.

She helps him stand up, then gently pushes him away - he bumbles off towards the drink table, muttering to himself the whole way. Mildred sighs and sits down.

After a bit, another guest, DENISE (38), sits down; Mildred is relieved to see her.

DENISE

Congratulations, mother of the bride.

MILDRED

Well thank you!

Denise clinks her wine glass with the coke bottle.

DENISE

To freedom. I mean, love, or something.

MILDRED

Hear, hear!

As they sip their drinks, Gabrielle once again gives them a quick dirty look, but Mildred and Denise don't notice.

DENISE

So... You want the good news or the bad news?

MILDRED

Bad news. Only bad news.

DENISE

Well, the invasion is under way.

MILDRED

The what now?

DENISE

The invasion. Somewhere in the Middle East, possibly Syria? I just skimmed the headline.

MILDRED

Oh.

DENISE

Our tax dollars at work.

MILDRED

Makes me want to start drinking again.

DENISE

But the wedding doesn't? Yikes, don't tell me you and Gabby are getting along.

MILDRED

Oh, believe me...

(she leans in closer and whispers)

Between us, I need to keep my wits about me, you never know when they might visit... I keep seeing them in my dreams.

DENISE

Who? The feds?

MILDRED

No, the... The... Visitors of the third kind.

DENISE

Ohh.

(whispers too)

Don't tell Amy, but I've been seeing them too. That's smart, staying sober. My plan is just to play dead and hope they ignore me.

MILDRED

That's good. I should try that next time.

(they go back to a normal volume)

How is Amy? Is she here?

DENISE

Nah, she stayed home, Parker had a cold.

MILDRED

Poor baby... Do you guys need anything, feel free to take extra food back with you. If anyone asks, I gave you permission.

DENISE

Aww... I might, thanks. So. You need company tonight, or are you all set?

MILDRED

I could not be MORE set, believe me.

DENISE

You sure? Because I don't need to be around a sick kid, believe ME.

(they chuckle)

Also, I think you have a shadow.

Denise gestures behind them. GEORGE (71) is standing awkwardly a few feet away - he's trying to be discreet, but clearly wants to chat.

DENISE

Come on over, George, I was just leaving.

George graciously walks over, they swap places.

DENISE

Text me if you need anything.

MILDRED

Don't forget to take some food.

DENISE

Will do. Later!

Denise walks away. Mildred turns her attention to George, who's been waiting silently and patiently. George is a bit hard of hearing, so Mildred is speaking louder.

MILDRED

George!

GEORGE

Mildred! This is very exciting, congratulations!

MILDRED

Thank you. We're glad to have you.

GEORGE

Congratulations! They make a great couple!

MILDRED

How have you been?

GEORGE

I saw a UFO.

MILDRED

A what??

GEORGE

A UFO. Well, now it's an IFO, because I identified it. Turns out the Miller kids got a new drone toy, the thing crashed on my roof.

MILDRED

Their parents let them run wild, don't they?

George smiles and nods, though Mildred isn't convinced he understood her.

MILDRED

How's the wheat crop?

GEORGE

What?

MILDRED

HOW'S THE WHEAT CROP?

GEORGE

Oh, the wheat's doing just fine. The drone landed on the house, not in the fields.

MILDRED

That's good to hear.

(pause)

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, GEORGE. WE APPRECIATE YOU BEING HERE.

GEORGE

You take care now, Mildred.

He smiles; they stand up and hug; then he leaves. Mildred sips her coke, then looks around the room.

A few seconds later, there's a clinking of glasses, and the noise in the room settles down. Except for the clinking - soon, everybody is tapping their glasses with their forks, until finally Gabrielle and Tony kiss.

They all cheer, except Mildred, who scowls and takes a big gulp of soda. She raises the bottle in the air and rather unexpectedly gives a 'toast'.

MILDRED

Here's to the bride and groom. My little girl is all grown up now.

(Gabrielle is glaring at her)

Here's hoping that life treats you well, because Lord knows I won't.

With that, a hush falls over the room. Mildred chuckles, then casually walks out of the building as everyone stares and whispers around her.

INT. MILDRED'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mildred is playing solitaire at the table (real cards, not on her computer). There's calming piano music playing in the background. The front door is open. The night is still and tranquil. Mildred seems to be at peace.

Suddenly, there's a faint rumbling outside.

MILDRED
Goddamned fighter jets.

She keeps playing, and the rumbling grows louder - soon, the table starts rattling, the pictures fall off the wall, and the dishes in the kitchen crash to the floor.

Mildred's eyes light up. She glances outside and does a double take.

MILDRED
You're shitting me.

Hovering in the distance is a giant UFO - about the size of a large house. A hypnotic neon green glow is emanating from the edges.

MILDRED
You're dreaming, Millie, it's just a dream, it's just a dream, it's-

Nope. She immediately runs into her bedroom, grinning and full of energy. As the rumbling gets louder, she opens the closet and pulls out the rifle. Her hands are shaking.

MILDRED
Steady now, steady.

She takes a few breaths, loads a few bullets, then puts the rest in her pocket. She cocks the gun, then cautiously makes her way back to the living room.

The rumbling has stopped. The ship has landed not more than two hundred feet away. Mildred braces herself, then steps slowly out the front door.

EXT. MILDRED'S FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Mildred approaches the ship, gun at the ready. It looms ahead like a monolith, towering thirty feet high and about one hundred feet across.

It's a saucer shape, with the green strip of light along the rim. The underside is also illuminated. The ship is suspended on four struts - the body is roughly ten feet above the ground.

MILDRED

You picked the wrooong house my friend.

Mildred is about fifty feet away when there's a hissing and a rush of air. A ramp unfolds from the underside and extends to the ground. There's a whirring from the inside as a hatch opens at the top of the ramp.

Suddenly, it's silent. Mildred stops walking, crouches, and aims the gun at the hatch. For a few seconds, there's no activity or noise of any kind.

Then the alien appears. A humanoid figure. Mildred turns off the safety. Then another appears, then a third, and within seconds, there are a dozen of them ambling quietly down the ramp, like a flock of penguins.

MILDRED

I'm counting to three!

Soon, there are over fifty aliens walking down the ramp, and the first ones have just reached the ground.

MILDRED

One!

The aliens are getting closer.

MILDRED

Two!

They're about ten feet from her.

MILDRED

George??

She realizes that the alien looks EXACTLY like George, and is the same height and size as George. Even the clothes look similar to what George was wearing earlier.

Also, the alien is grinning. It brushes right past Mildred without saying a word. She's quickly swarmed on all sides, but the aliens don't seem to notice her.

MILDRED

What the... Barry? Michael? Denise??

Mildred lowers her gun slightly. The aliens all bear striking resemblances to the townspeople, they all have the same insipid grin on their faces, and they all bumble right past Mildred like she's a stone in a river.

MILDRED

This is a dream, this is not... This is, this can't be real, this has to- hey, Gabby, GABBY!

She spots the alien that looks like Gabrielle, with the same grin, and same obliviousness. Mildred grabs the alien and shakes it by the shoulders.

MILDRED

What the hell did you do to my daughter??

The alien smiles, but doesn't fight back. Stunned, Mildred lets her go. The alien resumes walking away as if nothing had happened. They're still pouring out of the hatch like a colony of ants.

Mildred is in a daze, but she snaps out of it when she sees one that looks like Tony, her new son-in-law.

MILDRED

This isn't real, this is just a dream..

She aims and shoots. It's a direct hit to the head. She fires again, two more hits to the alien's chest. But it keeps walking, keeps grinning, ignoring Mildred.

MILDRED

Un-be-fricking-lievable...

She drops the gun. For a minute, she's overwhelmed, and then she just bursts out laughing.

Meanwhile, the grinning look-alikes keep streaming out of the hatch. By this point, over two hundred of them have left the ship and dispersed.

Mildred glances at the house. None of them seem to be at the house, they're all going into town. Pretty soon, she's doubled over with laughter.

As the flow starts to thin out, she regains her composure and starts greeting them (although they don't respond).

MILDRED

John... Amy... Ooh, Eleanor, always a pleasure.

She stops the Eleanor alien, gives her a hug, then knees her in the stomach and slams her to the ground.

The alien, still grinning, stands up, completely unharmed.

MILDRED

Woah woah, not so fast.

She pokes the alien's hand. It's... Squishy. Mildred pokes it again and leaves a little indentation, but the skin quickly reforms itself. Like foam.

MILDRED

Diabolical...

Meanwhile, the alien Eleanor looks past Mildred, not directly at her. Mildred stares at her, no response.

MILDRED

Do you speak English? Or anything? English?

The alien doesn't respond, just keeps smiling. Not in a creepy way, but adorably, like a baby animal. Mildred eventually steps aside and lets the alien go on her way.

Then she sees herself - a Mildred look-alike. This alien immediately makes eye contact with the real Mildred and beelines directly towards her.

MILDRED

Oh shit, shit shit shit...

She quickly grabs the gun and tries to load more bullets, while the alien gets closer.

MILDRED

Hey, stay back, stay! STAY!

She aims. The alien is only five feet away, grinning, but not coming any closer.

MILDRED

What do you want with me?

ALIEN MILDRED

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr?

MILDRED

(lowers her gun)

What the f-

FADE OUT.