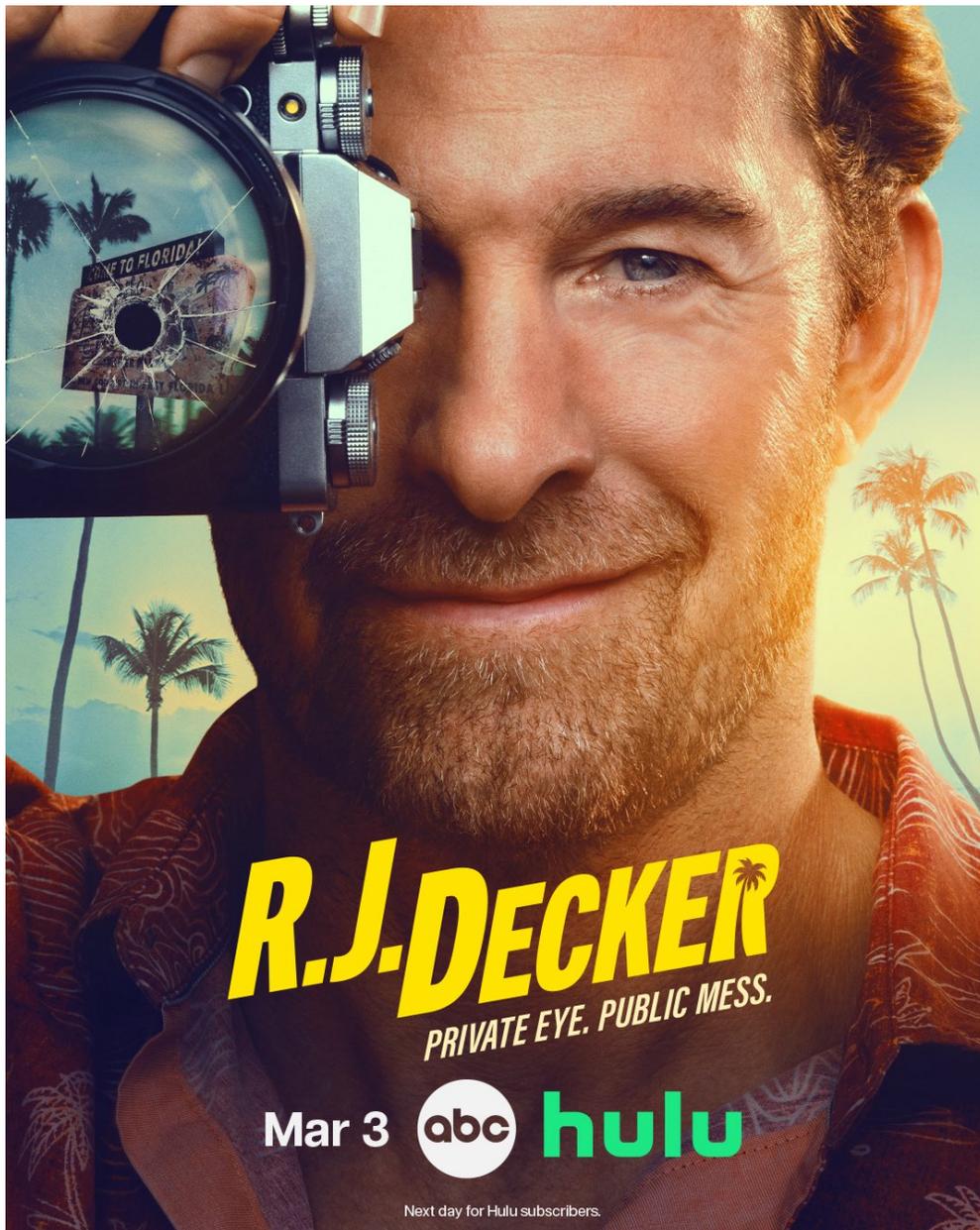


R.J. DECKER Episode Guide

Episodes 001-003

Last episode aired Tuesday March 17, 2026





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Season One

Pilot

Season 1

Episode Number: 1

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Tuesday March 3, 2026
Writer: Robert Doherty
Director: Paul McGuigan
Show Stars: Scott Speedman (R.J. Decker), Kevin Rankin (Aloysius "Wish" Aiken), Adelaide Clemens (Catherine Delacroix), Bevin Bru (Detective Melody "Mel" Abreu), Jaina Lee Ortiz (Emilia "Emi" Ochoa)
Guest Stars: David Darrow (Wade Ennis), Mélodie Rose Romano (Sofia Abreu), Hunter Burke (Clay Gregory), Matthew Cornwell (Detective William "Bill" Ragsdale), Lincoln A. Castellanos (Dognapper), Grace Junot (Judge Anna Yu), Javier Vazquez Jr. (Boss), Anthony B. Jenkins (Darius), Ryan Rhodes (Burly Man / Dewey), Don Stallings (Chester), Tanya Hutchins (News Anchor #3), William Christopher Watson (Mr. Accosta), Tyler Ashley Williams (Darius' Mom), Alex Lugo (Mechanic), Keith Brooks (Florida Man), Jim Ford (Dr. Adrian Noble / Cecil Gregory), Brian Duckson (Bailliff), Blanca Araceli (Ines), Michael Germant (Borimir the Attorney), Katina Rankin (Field Reporter), Mel Fair (News Anchor #2)
Summary: Ex-con photographer R.J. Decker becomes a PI in South Florida, solving strange cases with help from his journalist ex, her cop wife, and an enigmatic woman from his past who may help or destroy him.



The episode begins with RJ Decker staring at a candy bar when a woman walks up to him and asks if he's going to stare at it or eat it through the wrapper. He asks why he would try to eat it through the wrapper. She says you've been staring at it for 10 minutes. He asks if she's been watching him for 10 minutes. The lady says my friend thinks you're an un-housed individual. He says you can just say crazy homeless guy. She says my friend thinks you're a crazy homeless guy. She asks why he's staring at a candy

bar on the courthouse steps. He tells her that he's on trial because he caught a kid stealing camera equipment out of the back of the trunk of his car. She asks if he was a photographer. He says he was for the news, and he caught this kid and lost it. She asks if he beat up a kid. RJ says he wasn't really a kid. He was 20 years old and the son of a state senator. She says it doesn't explain the candy bar. He says it's his favorite, and he could be going to prison. She says candy bars are hard to come by, but I can think of something even in shorter supply in prison. Seconds later, they are in his car, having sex.

RJ arrives in court and briefly speaks to his attorney before Judge Anna Yu comes out and asks Mr. Acosta to call his next witness. He calls Emi Ochoa Emilia 'Emi' Ochoa to the stand. She turns out to be the woman RJ slept with and Lucas's stepsister. She says RJ is the man who almost killed her stepbrother.

Two years later, Darius is shown stealing a car, leading the cops on a high-speed chase, losing them, and taking the car to a chop shop. The owner tells him that he needed a 2019 because

there are different parts. Darius asks if he wants him to put it back. The owner says I'll give you half. Seconds later, one of the workers finds a dead female in the trunk.

Elsewhere, RJ tracks down a dog thief and ends up bonding with him because they are both ex-cons. Fanny Pack says he didn't want to take the dog. RJ tells him it's okay and gives him a card. He says that after he returns the dog, he wants Fanny to call the number on that card because the guy helps ex-cons with jobs.

RJ returns home to his trailer and runs into Chester, who has to save RJ from his dog. RJ tells Chester to quit giving Tim Petty free rein of the trailer park. Chester tells him to just keep a treat on him, and Tom will leave him alone. This is when RJ remembers that he got a package for Chester the other day and gives it to him. Chester asks RJ if he talked to management about getting his trailer moved out of the sinkhole. RJ says they are hesitant because he's two months behind on rent. While this conversation takes place, RJ also receives a text from Aloysius 'Wish' Aiken, who claims he needs to talk to RJ about something.

RJ goes to see Wish. Wish offers him a drink, but RJ tells him to cut to the chase. Wish says the chase is Clay Gregory. Seconds later, they are watching a news cast about Rhoda Batista being found in the back of an abandoned car. The newscast says the murder is reminiscent of the murder of Broward County Herald journalist, Maya Gregory. In both cases, the murder weapon was a coat hanger. RJ says it would be nice to know where Clay was last night. Wish says it's safe to assume that For Lauderdale's finest are all over that. Wish says I wanted you to hear about this from me because there is a straight line between what happened to your reporter friend and that kid you beat up a few days later. Wish says you were carrying around too much hurt and laid it on the first person who came along. RJ pats him on the shoulder and walks off.

RJ goes to the scene where the car was found and starts snapping photos. It doesn't take him long to run into Detective Bill Ragsdale. Bill asks if he's back at the newspaper. RJ says he's a PI now. They spend a few minutes talking about Clay and how he was cleared from the Maya case, until Detective 'Mel' Abreu interrupts and asks if RJ is asking him to put cuffs on Clay. RJ says you have to put cuffs on him for something. Mel tells Bill that this is her case and not his, and sharing information with a civilian would be bad. After Mel leaves, Bill tells RJ that Clay didn't kill anyone last night because he was visiting family in Topeka.

RJ returns home, drinks a beer, and watches news casts, saying that Clay isn't a person of interest. Not long into his night, he receives a call with no ID on his phone. He answers it. It's a female who is looking for a private investigator. She asks if he can meet in person, but the reception goes wonky. Immediately after that, he notices that the battery is almost dead, and he can't find the charger. RJ loses connection and turns the TV back on to find Clay talking about the police wasting resources on him and not looking for the real killer. RJ grabs the TV off the wall, throws it on the ground, and starts stomping on it. This causes the trailer to roll into the sinkhole.

RJ goes to stay with his ex-wife, Catherine Delacroix. He tells her that it will just be temporary and he'll be out of her hair in no time. He asks how her better half took the news. Catherine says she wants to talk to you, and she's in the garage. RJ goes to the garage to see Mel. Mel tells him that he can stay there for one week, then he goes, and she won't talk to him about the case. He asks her if the person who called the police about the BMW interacted with the guy who abandoned it. She says Maya was your friend, but this case is about Rhoda.

RJ goes to see Clay and asks if he confessed to murdering two women. Clay tells him that he saw Catherine's piece of the Herald this morning, and it reminded him of the way Maya used to write. RJ says Maya was something. RJ says she was before you killed her. Clay asks how he can be so sure that he killed her because he hardly knows him. RJ says you were cheating on her. Clay says I was getting away with it, so why kill her? Clay goes on to say that he was on a plane when this new murder took place. RJ says he knows he didn't do it. Clay asks why he's there. RJ spins his theory that Clay hired someone else to kill Rhoda, so the insurance company might begin to believe that he didn't kill Maya and pay out the policy. Clay says this has been fun, but he's got work to do. RJ says me too.

RJ receives another call from the lady who called the night before. She asks if he's still up for the meeting. He says, " Yeah. She tells him to pick the place. He picks the FM Station. She tells him that she'll meet him at 7 and immediately hangs up. Seconds later, RJ knocks on an apartment door and asks a lady about seeing the suspect abandon the BMW. She tries to deny it, but RJ says he saw pieces of her flower pot on the ground because she likely threw it at the

suspect. RJ says he's just looking for a description of the man and even has a few pots to replace the ones she broke. She tells him the man was short, 5'2", and black. She didn't see his face, but she saw the angry penis on his hat. RJ pulls up the logo and tells her that it's not a penis. It's a jumbo shrimp logo for the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp. The lady asks if this information helps.

Seconds later, RJ is at a restaurant and tells Darius that he likes his hat. Darius thanks him. RJ laughs. Darius asks what's so funny. RJ says I wish I could have seen your face when you found that dead lady in the car. This causes Darius to drop his tray of dishes. Darius swears he didn't hurt the woman. RJ says he believes him, but he is a car thief. Darius asks who he is. RJ says I'm a PI and I do the occasional job for an insurance company. That company insures cars, so they keep good records when it comes to car thieves. Darius asks if he's on a list. RJ says that's how I found you. Darius says I'm a minor and all that's supposed to be sealed. RJ says it's insurance companies. Darius says I tried to do the right thing, that's why I left the car trunk open. RJ says that's practically useless because the owner of the car has no connection to the victim, which means the car was likely stolen twice. Once by the killer, then by you. RJ says what he needs to know is where the car was abandoned when he stole it.

RJ shows Mel what he's learned about the BMW. She asks him if he was sleeping with Maya. He says he didn't even know her that well. He tells her that he was the one who found Maya and took the picture of her death. He felt guilty about it, and that's when he started following Clay and taking pictures of him. He felt like he could really see who Clay was through his camera. That's about the time the kid broke into his car and stole his cameras. That's why he lost it. Mel tells him that in the new career he picked, it seems like he's still taking pictures. She tells him that if he sticks with it long enough, he will start seeing the ugly stuff again. He says he might be able to prevent some of the ugly stuff from happening.

RJ shows up at the FM Station and finds Emi waiting for him. RJ basically tells Emi to go screw herself because she lied about him that day in court and got him sent to prison. She asks if they can talk about why she called. He tells her that she's out of her mind. She says there was no job. There is only her wanting to say that she's sorry. He says you lied, so you could say you were sorry for lying. She asks if she pulled him away from something. He tells her about the new case and Clay. She says Clay is this town's whitest whale, and you are going to bring him down. He tells her to tell her dad that he said hi and walks off.

RJ returns to his trailer and looks at some old surveillance photos of Clay. He receives a call from Catherine. She tells him that she's headed to a press conference for Rhoda. The footage that he found led to more footage that actually showed the guy in the hoodie getting into a silver sedan and driving away. The camera was too far away to get a look at his license plate or his face, but progress is progress. After leaving his trailer, RJ thinks he runs into Tebow, who has moved on from his scary clown costume phase, but this guy pulls a gun on him and takes a shot. A chase ensues. RJ runs back to his trailer and gets an iron, but the shooter shows up and is about to shoot RJ. Right before he does, he's attacked by Tom Petty.

Mel tells RJ that the park is clear. RJ says it's Popeye Calves. Mel asks if he saw his legs. He says he didn't need to because he paid Clay a visit and told him that he was on to him for hiring someone to kill Rhoda and make it look like Maya's murder. RJ says this is good because he's getting sloppy. Mel says he left blood evidence, his gun, and who knows what else behind.

Because of the attack, RJ decides to move out of Catherine's place and move in at FM Station. When Catherine brings RJ's clothes over, Wish tells her how he and RJ met in prison. Wish was innocent of his crime, and RJ went right to work on his case and proved his innocence. Even though he did, the wheels of justice turn so slowly that Wish was only released one day earlier than he was supposed to be. When Wish got out, he bought a lottery ticket, won a million dollars, and bought the bar.

RJ calls Mel and tells her that he was going through his old surveillance photos and found something. Mel asks why she remembers the guy in the photos. RJ says, probably because you've driven behind one of his bus advertisements in the last 15 years. Mel says he's the plastic surgeon guy. RJ says he goes by Doctor Adrian Noble, but his real name is Cecil Gregory. He's Clay's cousin. Back in 2020, Cecil was losing money hand over fist until one of his offices burned down due to an electrical fire. Mel says Clay is an electrician. RJ says what wouldn't you do for your cousin who helped you bilk an insurance company out of a million dollars? She asks if he thinks Cecil is Popeye calves. Seconds later, Cecil walks out, but has pants on. RJ says, " Don't worry, Wish is over there. Immediately after that, Wish comes up and pulls Cecil's pants down.

He doesn't have any bite marks, which means he isn't their guy. Not long after that, Mel gets word from her captain that they arrested a guy trying to break into a vet clinic. He was trying to get medicine to treat a bite wound, but claims that he got the injury from a barbed wire fence. They took him to the hospital and got him treated. The doctor who treated him says the wounds were bite marks.

RJ and Mel head to Wade Ennis's house. Bill shows them a weird cigarette box. It matches the same butt that was found in Maya's car years ago. Despite this, RJ is still insistent that Clay is involved and talks Mel into questioning Wade about Clay. Wade swears that he doesn't know Clay, and he's a serial killer. Mel asks why he went after RJ last night and how he would have even known about him if it wasn't for Clay. Wade says I'm a riddle wrapped in mystery. RJ says you should just do yourself a favor and give us Clay. Wade says he doesn't know any Clay.

Emi goes to see RJ and says she heard that someone confessed to the murders. He doesn't say anything. She asks if he still thinks Clay hired him to do it. RJ says his name is Wade, and he's going to take all the credit because he knows he's going to prison no matter what. He then asks if she's there to offer him another pretend job. She tells him that she may or may not have had her father's hacker hack Wade's hard drive. They spend the next few hours going through the hard drive. She apologizes for sending him to prison. RJ and EMI use the hard drive to find that Wade was prescribed antibiotics after Maya was killed, but they can't find out from whom, so they decide to break into his house and get the bottles.

The next day, Mel and RJ go visit Clay and tell him that they know he paid Wade to kill Maya. The only thing was that he didn't pay him with money. He paid him with calf implants. That's why Wade had the wheelchair in his apartment and was prescribed antibiotics after Maya was killed, because he got an infection. Cecil copped to everything.

Catherine tries to get RJ to let her write about his story, but he's not into it. Seconds later, Emi shows up, and RJ excuses himself. She tells him congrats on getting his guy. He asks if her helping him out one time makes up for 18 months in prison. She says it's a start. She gives him an Almond Joy before she leaves.

Twenty Pounds of Clem in a Ten-Pound Bag

Season 1
Episode Number: 2
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Tuesday March 10, 2026
Writer: Robert Doherty
Director: Paul McGuigan
Show Stars: Scott Speedman (R.J. Decker), Kevin Rankin (Aloysius "Wish" Aiken), Adelaide Clemens (Catherine Delacroix), Bevin Bru (Detective Melody "Mel" Abreu), Jaina Lee Ortiz (Emilia "Emi" Ochoa)
Guest Stars: Pej Vahdat (Remington Aubrey), Michelle DeShon (Kelly-Lynn), Wil Deusner (Marcus Abernathy), Connor Duermit (Brody Weller), Mary Rachel Quinn (Club Hostess), Anthony B. Jenkins (Darius), Enya Flack (ADA Georganna Ballard), Kyle Justin Leatherberry (Clem Crayshaw), Victor Kuchmaner (Dancer #2), Allie McCulloch (Darla Simms), Kenneth Nance Jr. (Detective), Pete Mangum (Cowboy Stripper), Jef Holbrook (Gary the Florist), Quincy Giles (Dancer #1)
Summary: Wish enlists R.J.'s help on a bizarre case when his late cellmate's son is wrongly accused of murder.



The episode begins by showing a young boy walking into a warehouse late at night and feeding Venus flytrap plants. Not long after that, he is raided by the police because they think he's growing weed. They soon discover that he isn't growing weed, but the search turns up a dismembered body in the back of the warehouse.

Darius tries to teach RJ Decker how to pick a locked car door, but he's really bad at it. RJ tells him that the pick is broken, but Darius steps up and picks the lock

within seconds. Seconds later, Catherine Delacroix comes out and asks what they are doing. RJ says Darius is helping him with a new skill that he might need as a PI. She says it's 9 am on Monday, shouldn't Darius be in school? Darius says someone lost their boa constrictor in the school, and we're supposed to stay home until Animal Control finds it. After Darius leaves, Catherine tells RJ that she found the key to the file drawers. He tells her that's great because now he'll have a place to put his files, which aren't many. She asks if things are still slow. He says they are picking up Aloysius 'Wish' Aiken texted me and told me that he's got a new client. She asks if he'll be older than 12.

RJ arrives at the FM Station and learns that the client is Wish. RJ gives him a big speech about not needing charity until Wish tells him about his old cellmate's son, Marcus, being in trouble. Wish says it's real, and it even made the paper. He shows RJ the front page about the grow house or horrors.

RJ goes to see Marcus in prison, but Marcus tells him that he can't afford him. RJ says he's already been paid for by Wish. RJ says all he knows is what he read in the papers. Marcus says to begin, it wasn't my grow house. It was Clem Crayshaw's. Marcus goes on to explain how Clem is a flytrap poacher and hired him to help him with the plants. Clem was the poacher, and he tended to the plants. Marcus says he knew it was wrong, but his girlfriend, Kelly Lynn, just told him that she was pregnant. RJ says it's fine, but how did you miss the body parts? Marcus says

the body parts were in a part of the warehouse that Clem kept locked. Marcus goes on to say that he and Clem barely saw each other, and they spoke over Snapchat. A couple of days ago, Clem messaged him and told him that he forgot the mealworms, and the flytraps would have to switch to road kill. Marcus says Clem killed John Doe and used him to feed him to the plants. Marcus tells RJ that on the night the cops raided the warehouse, they made him look at the dismembered body. It turns out that he wasn't just dismembered. He was also carved up. His biceps and butt cheeks were missing. Marcus says he just wants to go home to Kelly, and RJ has to find Clem.

RJ goes to see Melody 'Mel' Abreu at the police station and asks for a peek at the case. Even though she claims it isn't her case, she tells him to meet her outside in 10 minutes, and she'll bring the file. He asks if she's serious. She says no.

Wish goes to see Kelly with groceries. He tells her how Waylon, Marcus's dad, helped him survive in prison. She says Marcus never talked about him. He says Marcus didn't know him. He was already serving his sentence when Marcus was born. A couple of years later, he got leukemia. On his deathbed, Waylon made Wish promise that he would look after Marcus.

RJ tracks down Clem's ex-wife, Darla Sims, at a nail salon. She asks if he can come back at 5 when she closes, but there doesn't appear to be anyone in the store. He asks if they can talk now. She says when she's at work, work is for customers. Seconds later, RJ is getting a pedicure. Darla tells RJ that there is no way Clem would hurt a fly, except to feed his flytraps. He asks if she knows about the plants. She says yeah. RJ asks if she knew that he was a poacher. She says she even went on a few trips with him and Gary to North Carolina. RJ asks who Gary is. She says he's a drinking buddy and has a flower shop on Cordova. He asks if she's heard from Clem lately. She says that a year ago, when she texted him about being late on an alimony payment. He sent her a picture of his butt back. RJ looks at the picture and notices that Clem has tattoos of The Doors on his butt. He asks her if Clem has any other tattoos.

Later that night, RJ goes back to the FM Station and shows Wish the picture of Clem's tattoos. The only other tattoos Clem had were on his arms. Wish says so. RJ tells him about the mutilated body being Clem. Wish says finding Clem was how you were going to clear Marcus. If Clem is John Doe, then who is sending instructions to Marcus over Snapchat? RJ says you are assuming that someone was. RJ says he wants to do right by Wish, but Marcus is looking guilty. Wish says you met him. RJ says Marcus just found out he's having a baby and needs more money. Wish asks if he was supposed to kill his boss and take over his flytrap business. RJ says yeah. Wish says Marcus didn't do this. RJ says if the police don't know John Doe is Clem, they will soon and turn up the heat on Marcus. Wish says you are going to have to work fast.

RJ shows up at Emilia 'Emi' Ochoa's work and tells her about his new case. He also says the DA is a political ally of your dad's. She says so, what? He says he needs to know if the police have anything on Marcus other than him being near the body when it was found. He needs to know if they looked at anyone else. She says you need me to flex some muscle. He says yeah. She asks if that's how they are supposed to square things between them. He says that, or you could go to prison for 18 months. She asks what his client's name is.

Kelly shows up at Wish's place all dolled up and with brownies, and thanks him for coming to see her yesterday. She sees the lottery plaque on his wall and says she can't believe Marcus never told her that he knew a lottery winner. Before Wish can explain himself, Kelly is nearly naked in his office. He says all he sees is a woman carrying a child. She says I'm not pregnant and only told Marcus that to kick his butt into high gear. Wish says that if you hadn't, he wouldn't have taken the job that landed him in jail. He tells her to put her clothes back on. She says you may care about Marcus, but he's a terrible provider. He asks if she's there because she thinks he's got real money. She says it's because you're so good-looking. She takes her brownies and tells him to get Marcus out of jail fast because they've got bills piling up fast.

RJ turns up at Gary's flower shop and asks if he chopped Clem's head off to take over his flytrap business. Gary asks if he really thinks the body is Clem's. RJ says he does. Gary says Clem didn't charge him for the flytraps. He would just come in and leave a few. They've been there for weeks. RJ says there must be a market for them because Clem has thousands. Gary says he doesn't know who he's selling his plants to, but he told Clem that he didn't want any more. Gary says he's not the one who killed Clem.

RJ is at home when he receives a call from Emi. She tells him that he was right about the police knowing that John Doe is Clem. Along with that, Clem had a brother-in-law, Brody Weller.

Last year, they got into a fight, and Brody beat him stupid. Clem's sister called the police, but when they got there, Clem didn't press charges. RJ asks where he can find him. She says she got a work address, but he should probably take some singles with him when he goes.

At the club, the hostess thinks that RJ and Brody used to dance together. He lets her believe it, but claims he blew out his knee years ago. She tells him that he's got it where it still counts. Seconds later, Brody comes out on the stage. RJ is outside the strip club when he receives a call from Wish, asking if he's really trying to expense a pedicure. RJ tells him that he's in the middle of something. He's going to take a look inside Brody's car while he works. Wish asks how he's going to get inside the car. RJ asks if he really wants to know. Wish tells him that he's on conditional release. RJ tells him that he will call him if he finds something and hangs up. RJ picks the lock and mutters to himself that he did it. Brody says yeah, you did and punches him in the face.

Stevie and the hostess debate calling the cops, but RJ tells them there is no need because he's not a car thief. He only came to ask Brody about his brother-in-law, Clem. Brody asks why he wants to talk about Clem. RJ says because he's dead. Brody says he can't believe Clem is gone. First it was Lacey, now it's Clem. RJ asks who Lacey is. Brody says Clem's sister. Brody says you came here because you thought I killed Clem. RJ says you did beat him up pretty bad. Brody says we were pals, but that changed when Lacey was diagnosed. Brody wanted her to do everything the doctors said, but Clem was sure the flytraps were the solution. RJ asks what cancer and flytraps have to do with each other. Brody asks if RJ knew who Clem was selling the plants to. RJ says he doesn't know. Brody tells him there is this holistic medicine company, Venusian Health, that would buy the plants in bulk. In the US, they are sold as immunity modulators, but in other countries, they claim they can do a lot more. RJ says, like treating cancer? Brody says Clem was buying what they were selling, and that's why he kicked him out of the house that night. After Lacey died, Clem did a 180 and claimed he was going to look into Venusian Health. Last week, he called Brody and apologized for the false hope he gave Lacey. RJ says the call came last Tuesday, and that's about the last time anyone saw him alive.

RJ returns home and tells Catherine that he may have a big story for her. The next day, Catherine and RJ are at Venusian Health, speaking with the owner about the efficiency of their product. Catherine eventually gets around to asking him about his claims that his product can treat cancer in other countries. The owner says his lawyers tell him that he shouldn't answer that question, but the American FDA is deep in the pocket of Big Pharma. RJ asks the owner if he gets his flytraps from Clem. The owner asks why RJ is suddenly asking the questions. Catherine says Clem was murdered last week, and the police think he was killed by a kid who works for him. RJ asks the owner if there was a break-in last week at the plant. RJ says your assistant called it in and said your computer was missing, but you showed up and said you just took it home to do some work. The owner asks what the point is. RJ asks if it was Clem who broke in and took the computer. Catherine jumps in and says that her research said that in order to market their product as cancer-treating in certain countries, they would have had to bribe certain individuals. The owner says the interview is over and sees them out.

Mel calls Georgana Wheatley down to the station and asks her about Marcus's case. Georgana tells her that the case isn't hers to discuss. Mel says you got me, but I spoke with the lead detective, and we both agree that you should hear what my associate has to say. Seconds later, Mel and RJ tell Georgana their theory about the case. RJ tries to convince Georgana to get a warrant and search Remington Aubrey's home. Georgana says there is no point because Marcus took a plea deal this morning and confessed to everything.

Marcus tells Wish and RJ that he confessed because they took the death penalty off the table. Wish says you didn't do it. Marcus says I've got too much to live for to take a chance at trial. Marcus asks who's taking care of the plants. RJ says he can look into that. Marcus goes on to say the plants need 10.2 pounds of food per feeding. They are fed once a week at that amount. Marcus says whoever he was talking to on Snapchat got the amount right. RJ says the human head weighs 8 pounds, but checks on his phone and realizes that it weighs 11 pounds. This leads RJ to realize that if they added up Clem's body parts, the head, hands, butt cheeks, biceps, and all the missing parts, they must weigh 20 pounds. Since the bag only weighed 10.2 pounds, where is the rest of Clem?

RJ calls Mel and asks if she can get someone else to get a warrant to search Aubrey's warehouse. She asks why. He says he knows how they can prove he killed Clem.

Seconds later, Mel and RJ interrogate Aubrey. Mel apologizes for being late and says they were searching his warehouse. Aubrey asks why they could have been looking for. RJ says the rest of Clem. Aubrey says Clem supplied me with flytraps. Why would I kill him? Mel says he stole your computer, and there was something on it. RJ spends the next few minutes talking about piranha solution and how it can be dangerously unpredictable when it comes to metal. Despite that, it's good at turning bone and flesh into soup. Piranha solution only contains two ingredients, sulfuric acid and hydrogen peroxide, which RJ saw at his warehouse yesterday in droves. Mel shows him two partially dissolved teeth they found in the drain trap at his warehouse. They also found a 9 mm bullet.

Wish calls Kelly down to the bar and tells her that he's throwing Marcus a welcome home party tonight, but he doesn't want her there. She says she can go anywhere she wants. He says she can, but he wants to show her something else. He takes her outside and shows her the impounded car that she was complaining about earlier. Wish says you said you'd rather live in Nashville, but didn't say why. Kelly says my sister lives there, and it seems nice. Wish tells her to go there because what she's looking for isn't there, and it isn't with Marcus. She asks why he's helping her. He tells her that she reminds him of someone that he would have been better off without.

Emi shows up at Marcus's party and asks RJ if they are even now. He says if they get even too fast, he won't be able to call her anymore. She says getting too close to a family like mine could earn him a return trip to the pen. She asks if that's what he wants. He says he doesn't know what he wants. She says it's probably best to celebrate what they got, which is an 8 o'clock reservation. She leaves and tells him to have a good time.

The Needle and the Damage Done

Season 1
Episode Number: 3
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Tuesday March 17, 2026
Writer: Liz Friedman
Director: Tara Nicole Weyr
Show Stars: Scott Speedman (R.J. Decker), Kevin Rankin (Aloysius "Wish" Aiken), Adelaide Clemens (Catherine Delacroix), Bevin Bru (Detective Melody "Mel" Abreu), Jaina Lee Ortiz (Emilia "Emi" Ochoa)
Guest Stars: Mélodie Rose Romano (Sofia Abreu), Josh Cooke (Agent Jacob Koop), April Billingsley (Naomi Carter), Atkins Estimond (Mauricio), Leif Gantvoort (Rico Delaware), Drew Rausch (Craig), Nick Pupo (Ricky Strom), Dean Simone (Ed Carter), Kyleigh Bakker (Tracee / Sammy the Sea Cucumber), Gene Alfred Garrett (Rex), Zany Dunlap (Francis), Todd Denson (Holden Carter)
Summary: R.J. is recruited by Emi to investigate the disappearance of a wealthy rehab tycoon's son. Mel and Catherine discover they have different views on parenting and finances.



The episode begins with RJ Decker proof-reading one of Catherine Delacroix's articles. Seconds later, Sofia interrupts to tell them that Harper and Violet invited her to the kids' spa on Saturday to get manicures and pedicures. Melody 'Mel' Abreu reminds her that she's volunteering at the dog rescue on Saturday. Sofia asks if she can skip it. Mel tells her that she made a commitment, and they keep their commitments around there. Not long after that, RJ receives a call and steps away to take it. He tells Catherine that the piece

is good, but needs dashes and commas. The call turns out to be from Emilia 'Emi' Ochoa. She tells RJ to change shirts and meet her at the address she's going to send. Catherine overhears and asks who needs RJ to change his shirt. He says Aloysius 'Wish' Aiken. He might have a new job for me. She says the last time she saw Wish, he was wearing a shirt that said Beach Better Have My Money. RJ says he's got layers.

RJ meets Emi and learns all about Ed Carter and his famous drug rehab centers. Emi says if he does good work and does it quietly, she can guarantee the Carter family will be back for more. Inside, a lady tells RJ about Holden Carter not coming home last night and not responding to calls or texts. RJ asks why they are moving so quickly to bring on a PI. The lady says Holden has struggled with drug addiction for years. They think he may have relapsed. RJ says that means he got clean at some point. The lady says that 18 months ago, when he went to a center in Switzerland. RJ says the best place for him to start is by speaking with whoever saw Holden last.

Seconds later, RJ is speaking with Holden's driver. He admits to driving Holden whenever he's in town and says the last place he saw him was when he dropped him off at the community center for a support group meeting. He waited up front for Holden to come out of the meeting 90 minutes later. Everyone, but Holden, came out. RJ asks how Holden seemed. The driver says he was relieved that Holden wanted to get to a meeting because he's been distracted and down. RJ notices the driver's army lingo and asks if he served. The driver says he was a Marine. RJ asks

if that's why Ed chose him to drive Holden. The driver says no, the biggest threat to Holden is Holden and always has been. RJ asks for the address of the community center.

At the center, the counselor admits to seeing Holden, but immediately tells RJ to forget that he said so. He also denies him use of the security cameras because of privacy issues. The counselor says his sister is 5 years sober, and anonymity is crucial to that. RJ says he's there because Holden's sister is worried about him and thinks he might be in trouble. The counselor checks the footage and tells RJ that Holden used the side exit and made a call right before the meeting. After that, someone walked up to him and started talking to him, but he couldn't see who because they were in a blind spot. Seconds later, the counselor sees a man in a costume take Holden hostage. He makes Holden get in his van and drive him off.

RJ shows Emi the footage from the center. She asks if it could be a sex thing. RJ says it could be, but at the moment, he's more worried that it's an abduction based on the way the guy in the costume is holding his arm. He might be concealing a weapon. Emi tells him that he needs to be sure until she speaks to Naomi about a fury. RJ says the costume is actually Sammy the Sea Cucumber from Rio Vista Prep. Emi says that's where Holden went to high school.

The mascot tells RJ that it's not her in the video. She worked a swim meet yesterday at the same time. RJ asks if someone could have borrowed the costume. The mascot says that the costume is totally different. The one in the video has a sailor's cap. That version of Sammy was retired in 2012. RJ asks where someone could have gotten the costume. The mascot says she thought it was destroyed after the flagpole incident. RJ asks about the incident. The mascot tells him that some rich kid hoisted Sammy on the flagpole with the performer inside and left him up there overnight. The costume was soiled. RJ says the guy I'm looking for went here in 2012. The mascot asks if she thinks it was some kind of revenge plot. RJ asks if she remembers the name of the 2012 Sammy. She tells him, Ricky Strom.

Catherine and Sofia show up at the station with a treat for Mel. Sofia tells her that she's going to the spa after all. Mel says we went over this. You have the dog rescue on Saturday. Sofia says Catherine fixed it. Catherine says she called the shelter and shifted Sofia's commitment to next weekend. In addition to that, she'll volunteer two days instead of one. Mel says that's great, but how much is the spa going to cost. Sofia says Catherine took care of that, too. Mel doesn't look too happy and tells Catherine that she will see her at home.

RJ goes to Ricky's house, but no one answers. While knocking, he sees a pair of shoes through the window, and they look as if they are struggling. He busts down the door and finds Ricky restrained in the Sammy costume. RJ asks him where Holden is. Ricky says I think someone took him. RJ says you did. Ricky says I did, but someone broke in and did this to me. Ricky admits that he abducted Holden because of the flagpole incident. He says he was offered a full ride to Florida and was going to take it, but the incident caused him to have a panic attack every time he put on the costume. He saw that Holden was going to be in town, and that's when he plotted his revenge. RJ asks how he knew Holden was going to come back out of the center. Ricky says he didn't. He just got lucky. Holden was on the phone with someone and seemed nervous. Whoever he was talking with, they were trying to find a place to meet. Despite all this, Holden apologized to Ricky and asked for forgiveness when Ricky told him why he had abducted him. Ricky asks if it would help if he could get RJ Holden's phone.

RJ and Ricky head to the side of the road, where Ricky made Holden throw out his phone. It takes a bit, but they find the phone. There are 10 calls from Naomi and 47 from Rico Delaware. RJ asks Ricky if that means anything to him. Ricky says no.

Catherine apologizes to Mel about the spa day. Mel says it's easy for you because you forget that I grew up poor. Catherine says you always hold it against me that I have a little money. Mel says a little? Catherine says my grandparents left me what they left me, and we're married. What's mine is yours. Mel says like this house? Catherine says yeah. Mel says you put all the money down. Catherine says it was with your permission. Mel says Sofia and I love this house, but it feels like something I won and not earned. Mel says she will sign off on the spa day as long as they split it.

RJ tells Emi about Rico and him being a street artist who also spent some time at one of the Carter Rehab Clinics. He didn't have a good experience with them and has been posting anti-Carter graffiti all over town. RJ says if we find Rico, we might find Holden. Emi tells him that Holden has been found. He was at some no-tell hotel/motel with a needle in his arm. He overdosed.

Naomi thanks RJ for trying to help them. He apologizes that they couldn't find Holden faster, then asks if Holden said anything about harassing phone calls. Naomi asks what he's talking about. RJ tells her about the calls from Rico. Naomi says he wouldn't have been in Holden's phone, then asks Emi if she understands this. Emi asks to speak with RJ alone. Emi asks RJ what he's doing. RJ says Ricky said Holden was devoted to his sobriety. She asks if he's on drugs right now. RJ says something was going on with Holden that day. Emi says he was probably calling his dealer when Ricky confronted him. This is a tragedy, not a mystery. She tells him that he needs to drop this and demands that he give her Holden's phone. He says he doesn't have it with him, but he will drop it by her office later. When RJ gets in his vehicle, he looks at Holden's phone.

RJ goes to the FM Station and meets with Wish and Mauricio. He asks if Mauricio can crack Holden's phone. Mauricio tells him to give him a day. After that, RJ goes to see Rico about Holden being found dead. RJ tells Rico about his theory about Holden. Rico says he was cool with Holden, and his grudge was with Ed. Rico goes on to say that Rico called him a while back and wanted to know about his experience in the rehab facility. Rico told him about recruiters pulling 5 grand a head for addicts for good insurance. RJ asks if he ever talked to the cops. Rico says cops don't listen to junkies. RJ asks how Holden took the news about the facility. Rico says he said he would take it to Ed. RJ asks him about calling Holden 47 times. Rico says he was thinking about using and needed to talk to Holden. RJ tells Rico that he thought Holden was in a good place, but asks what he thinks. Rico says every addict is one day away from a bad slip.

RJ arrives home just about the time Agent Jacob Koop, from the IRS, shows up. Jacob tells RJ that he wants to talk about the work he's doing with the Carter family. RJ says he can't talk about his clients. Jacob says he's there because he doesn't think Holden's OD was an accident. RJ says I don't think I'd be violating confidentiality if I told you I thought the same thing. RJ invites him inside to talk about it, but Jacob says he'd prefer to go somewhere public. RJ asks why. Jacob says because I think you killed him.

RJ tells Jacob that he doesn't blame him for suspecting him. Jacob asks if he can confirm his whereabouts. RJ says yeah, but he'd first like to confirm some of his suspicions. RJ says the IRS must be monitoring the family's account since Naomi just paid me this morning. RJ says you are from investigations, which means you are looking into something bigger. Jacob says he can't confirm or deny that. RJ tells Jacob that Holden learned some pretty shady things about the facility and was probably going to reach out to the IRS, which makes him think he reached out to Jacob. Jacob says he can't confirm or deny that. RJ says he thinks Holden was going to whistle-blow and take down Carter Rehab. Jacob asks RJ where he was again when Holden was murdered. RJ says, " Subpoena my phone records. Jacob says that it will take days. RJ says that gives me more time to prove that it was Ed who murdered Holden.

RJ returns home in a not-so-good mood. Catherine invites him to join her for a beer. He asks her if she had as a crappy day as he did. She tells him about her and Mel's fight. She says you were always okay with me paying for things. RJ doesn't say anything. She asks if he wasn't okay with it. He says it took him a while to get used to it. She asks if she's repeating a pattern. He says, unlike me, Mel said something, so that's progress. She asks what she's supposed to do. RJ says you have to say something back. Before the conversation goes any further, RJ's phone rings.

Seconds later, RJ is at the FM Station, learning that Mauricio was attacked and the phone was stolen. Wish points out that only three of them knew about the phone. Mauricio says he probably used the Find My Phone App. Wish says the owner is dead. RJ asks if he got a look at the guy. Mauricio says he was white and jacked. Seconds later, Mauricio removes the ice bag from his face, and Wish notices that he's got a dent in his face. RJ says that's not a dent. It's a globe from a signet ring. RJ tells Mauricio that he was punched in the face by a Marine, and he knows who he was.

Mel brings in the Marine and questions him about the phone. The Marine claims he found the phone under his car seat because Holden left it there. Mel shows him photos of Mauricio's face. The Marine says that guy must have made another Marine mad. Mel asks how Ed took Holden's confrontation. The Marine says he's just a driver and has no idea what she's talking about. Mel continues to lay out her theory and begs him to give up Ed. He tells her to charge her with assault, but if she wants to talk to him again, she'll need to come back with a lawyer.

RJ receives a message from Emi, saying that Ed just called her. He meets her at the FM

Station. She jumps onto him because Ed is threatening to cut ties with her because of him. RJ says that'd be bad, then proceeds to tell her about Ed's rehab, not wanting people to get better, so they can keep collecting. He also tells her about Holden talking to the IRS.

Ed tells Emi that he was surprised to hear from her after he told her father that they needed some time apart. She says we'd be remiss if we didn't at least try to apologize for RJ's actions. Emi says I'm well aware that we need to earn back your trust, and that's why I brought Holden's phone. Ed takes the phone and asks if there is anything else. She says the phone was locked when we got it, but we took it to one of our experts, and they opened it, so you'd have access to Holden's pictures. Despite that, our expert found that someone was tracking Holden's movements and reading his e-mails and text messages. Whoever it was knew that he was going public about the rehab facility. Ed asks what she's suggesting. She says she's not suggesting anything. She's only hoping that she's getting back in his good graces. Ed says when the time comes, your father will have my support. He also tells her that he didn't mean to kill Holden. The plan was to discredit him and make him look like a junkie. His death was a terrible mistake. Emi asks if Naomi played a part in this. He says she loved her brother.

RJ asks Emi how her meeting with Ed went. She plays the recording for him. She asks who gets this first. He says the IRS. She says I'll come with you, then I need a drink.

Mel arrives home to find Francis waiting for her with rose petals everywhere. Catherine tells her that she's early, then introduces her to Francis as the Herald's financial advice columnist. Francis says she was just leaving. Catherine thanks her for her time. Catherine tells Mel that she had Francis help prepare their financial future. If things continue as they are, Mel will be making more money than her by 2032. Catherine asks if she can be generous if she promises not to be a financial drain in the future. Mel says she'll do her best, and she looks forward to carrying her broke butt in the future. Sofia interrupts and asks if there is a dinner plan. Mel says somewhere cheap.

Emi tells RJ that Naomi is going to work with the IRS and institute the changes Holden wanted at the clinics. RJ says that's good and apologizes for what he said during their disagreement. She tells him that she didn't do what she did because of him. She says she totally chose her dad's political career because Ed was a liability and had to go. All that's left is for her father to close every loophole that Carter Rehab was taking advantage of. RJ says he still thinks it was him. She says it was not. As they talk, Catherine walks up and sees RJ talking to Emi. Mel calls her and asks if they can add fries to the order. Catherine tells her that they are closed and she's going to the taco place instead.

Actor Appearances

A

Blanca Araceli 1
0101 (Ines)

B

Kyleigh Bakker 1
0103 (Tracee / Sammy the Sea Cucumber)
April Billingsley 1
0103 (Naomi Carter)
Keith Brooks 1
0101 (Florida Man)
Hunter Burke 1
0101 (Clay Gregory)

C

Lincoln A. Castellanos 1
0101 (Dognapper)
Josh Cooke 1
0103 (Agent Jacob Koop)
Matthew Cornwell 1
0101 (Detective William "Bill" Ragsdale)

D

David Darrow 1
0101 (Wade Ennis)
Michelle DeShon 1
0102 (Kelly-Lynn)
Todd Denson 1
0103 (Holden Carter)
Wil Deusner 1
0102 (Marcus Abernathy)
Brian Duckson 1
0101 (Bailiff)
Connor Duermit 1
0102 (Brody Weller)
Zany Dunlap 1
0103 (Francis)

E

Atkins Estimond 1
0103 (Mauricio)

F

Mel Fair 1
0101 (News Anchor #2)
Enya Flack 1
0102 (ADA Georganna Ballard)
Jim Ford 1
0101 (Dr. Adrian Noble / Cecil Gregory)

G

Leif Gantvoort 1
0103 (Rico Delaware)
Gene Alfred Garrett 1
0103 (Rex)
Michael Germant 1
0101 (Borimir the Attorney)
Quincy Giles 1
0102 (Dancer #1)

H

Jef Holbrook 1
0102 (Gary the Florist)
Tanya Hutchins 1
0101 (News Anchor #3)

J

Anthony B. Jenkins 2
0101 (Darius); 0102 (Darius)
Grace Junot 1
0101 (Judge Anna Yu)

K

Victor Kuchman 1
0102 (Dancer #2)

L

Kyle Justin Leatherberry 1
0102 (Clem Crayshaw)
Alex Lugo 1
0101 (Mechanic)

M

Pete Mangum 1
0102 (Cowboy Stripper)
Allie McCulloch 1
0102 (Darla Simms)

N

Kenneth Nance Jr. 1
0102 (Detective)

P

Nick Pupo 1
0103 (Ricky Strom)

————— Q —————

Mary Rachel Quinn 1
0102 (Club Hostess)

————— R —————

Katina Rankin 1
0101 (Field Reporter)
Drew Rausch 1
0103 (Craig)
Ryan Rhodes 1
0101 (Burly Man / Dewey)
Mélodie Rose Romano 2
0101 (Sofia Abreu); 0103 (Sofia Abreu)

————— S —————

Dean Simone 1
0103 (Ed Carter)
Don Stallings 1
0101 (Chester)

————— V —————

Pej Vahdat 1
0102 (Remington Aubrey)
Javier Vazquez Jr. 1
0101 (Boss)

————— W —————

William Christopher Watson 1
0101 (Mr. Accosta)
Tyler Ashley Williams 1
0101 (Darius' Mom)