

## REVIEW: DID BLACKSTONE JUST KILL OFF A CHARACTER?

December 17, 2014 Greg David

"Mom? Mom?" Alan's drug-induced, hazy question to an open cell phone line was the shocking ending to what had otherwise been a very Jumbo-centric episode of Blackstone.

"Wolves vs. Sheep" concluded with the ultimate cliff-hanger: Debbie, drunk and frustrated that Alan hadn't come by to pick her up and drive her to see Andy, headed out behind the wheel. Alan's call to her over an hour later arrived as she was ready to pull onto the highway and she missed the visual and aural tip that a tractor trailer was coming her way. The truck's grille, splattered with blood, means Debbie is either dead or practically there. No way she's unscathed.



That will leave the two Fraser men guilt-ridden; Alan for tossing his troubled mother to the side like a bag of trash and Andy for being unable to protect Debbie from harm.

As for Jumbo, his health is in question too. Over \$50,000 in debt to Jack, the jig was up for Daryl's right-hand man after both Gina and Alan confessed Jumbo was skimming funds from the club to pay for his increasing gambling addiction. His truck seized by Jack's thugs, Jumbo has just five days to pay off the rest of what he owes. That's going to be a major problem now that he's unemployed. Unfortunately, Jumbo seems to have cost Daryl the only meaningful relationship I've seen him enjoy on Blackstone. That's too bad, because at the beginning of Tuesday's instalment it looked like Daryl was one two-minute hand-hold away from telling Gina he loved her. Now that's up in the air thanks to Jumbo's indiscretion.

How desperate is Jumbo to raise the funds to pay off Jack? Is he willing to take drastic measures, like steal from a bank, or will he flee the city and hope Jack and his men don't find him?

Meanwhile, life for Victor has gotten a lot more complicated. The immediate money troubles the band is suffering from—the government is considering holding back on funds because of files burned up—could be alleviated by the oil company that wants to start fracking on the reserve. Victor's flaw is that he wants everyone to be educated on the long-term effects fracking will have on Blackstone while the young men want the jobs and money ASAP. Victor has the support of folks like Wilma and Leona, but that appears to be it, especially after he was shot at and had "Frack You" spray-painted on the side of his truck.

Speaking of Leona, she and Gail at least talked about the latter's alcoholism. Good on Leona for standing up to Gail's excuses with her comment that she's a recovering alcoholic too. I understand what Gail is going through, but enough is enough. If she truly wanted help she'd seek it out rather than make excuses, which is the classic denial phase of the issue.

With just two more episodes to go before the end of this season, there are a lot of loose ends that need to be tied up, the most pressing of which is: is Debbie dead?

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