

TV

'Severance' Season 2 finale explained

The thrilling "Cold Harbor" gave us a few key answers, but left a lot of details still unexplained.



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By Randee Dawn

"Severance" fans have been waiting for the arrival of "Cold Harbor" — the 10th and final episode of Season 2 — for weeks.

While the second season of the twisty hit Apple TV+ show has deepened the mysteries of the corporation called Lumon and the "innies" who work there, as well as their split-mind "outies" who live in the real world, there have been far more questions than answers.

Thursday night marked the premiere of “Cold Harbor,” and while it gave quite a few answers to what Mark S. (Adam Scott) would do to free his not-actually-dead wife Gemma (Dichen Lachman) from the experimental clutches of Lumon’s lower floor, viewers are still left with a lot of questions — and a set-up for a tense Season 3.

Here’s what we found out as Season 2 wrapped up, what we think we know ... and where we imagine things might go next. At least, that’s what our outies think.

Spoiler alerts for “Severance” Season 2 — especially “Cold Harbor” ahead.

What happened in the ‘Severance’ Season 2 finale?

The 75-minute season finale was packed with satisfying scenes from the start.

Mark S., brought to a “birthing cabin” owned by Lumon, was able to have a surreal conversation between his innie and outie selves for the first time, thanks to a video camera and an inside threshold that allowed him to flip back and forth between his severed and un-severed selves.

Unfortunately, Mark’s innie is as smart as his outie. He figured out pretty fast that even though Outie Mark was sincere in wanting to re-integrate their personalities and memories after getting Gemma out of Lumon, that would likely be the end of his “innie” life — and meaningful love for innie Helly R. (Britt Lower). But Innie Mark wasn’t entirely unsympathetic.

Conflicted, Mark returned to Lumon to complete the “Cold Harbor” file, and then used Irving’s (John Turturro) notes to access the lower floor and find Gemma.



Adam Scott and Britt Lower in "Severance," now streaming on Apple TV+. **Jon Pack / Apple TV+**

But that didn't mean it was easy: He had to evade a marching band ("Severance" wouldn't be complete without some truly surreal moments), take a beating from Mr. Drummond (Ólafur Darri Ólafsson). Goat-handler Lorne (Gwendoline Christie) saves Mark's life and frees him so he can track down Gemma. Also saved is Emile, the baby goat that Mr. Drummond was forcing Lorne to kill.

In a deeply clever move, Mark even used his *tie* to access the room where Gemma had been told to disassemble a crib.

Briefly, Mark and Gemma's Outie selves were reunited and shared a passionate kiss or two. But once they returned to the main floor, everything changed again as their innies took over. Innie Mark took Ms. Casey/Gemma to the exit door and helped her get outside (where she became Outie Gemma) — while he remained his Innie, inside.

With Helly R. standing at one end of the corridor and Gemma now freed outside and pounding on the door for him to leave, what would Innie Mark do?

At last, he made his choice to stay as Innie Mark — and ran off, bloodstained and unsure of the future, with Helly R. As they ran, the 1968 hit “The Windmills of Your Mind” (originally introduced in that year’s “The Thomas Crown Affair”) played.

Is there “no honeymoon” for them, as Mrs. Cobel (Patricia Arquette) declared? We’ll have to wait and see.

What did we actually learn in ‘Cold Harbor’ and its mysterious motivations?

“Cold Harbor” was mostly full of plot and a few revelations, but here are a few things we discovered:

- Mrs. Cobel told Mark, “The numbers are your wife.” The numbers refer to all the number sequences he’s been combining into digital boxes at his work station every day. Apparently Mark has created 24 files; “Cold Harbor” will be the 25th, and every file is a new innie consciousness of Gemma.
- Lumon apparently has a marching band of Innies on call, as well as a “Choreography and Merriment” department.
- Dylan’s (Zach Cherry) Outie also communicated with his Innie, who’d tried to quit Lumon in a previous episode. But this was a more empathetic connection: Outie Dylan wrote Innie Dylan a note, which Mr. Milchick (Trammel Tillman) handed to him — and the note said that Outie Dylan aspired to be the kind of man Innie was. He gave Dylan the option to stay, or quit. Dylan remained at Lumon, and was again critical in holding back the tide so that Mark could be the hero.



Britt Lower in "Severance," now streaming on Apple TV+. [Apple TV+](#)

What questions do we now have that we hope will be answered in Season 3?

We're as interested now in the "why" all of this happened as much as the "how" — and here are just a few things that Season 3 could decide to tackle:

- If Mark has been intuitively creating the new innies of Gemma by filing numbers away based on how they make him feel — the "tempers" Keir Eagan and Lumon have based their philosophy/religion on — what have Helly, Irving and Dylan been doing with their files? What loved ones are they creating innies of, and why?
- Why was Gemma chosen for this experiment in the first place? Was she never in a car accident? What makes Gemma and Mark so special that they were the guinea pigs (or goats, in the case of "Severance") for the procedure?

- Are the goats just sacrificial creatures, as Lumon reveals itself more and more to be a twisted faith, or does Mammalian Nuturable have a bigger part to play in the purpose of the corporation? (We are hoping to see more of Gwendoline Christie as Lorne the head goat herder, especially after she saved Mark's life).
- Where does Innie Mark think he's going, exactly, with Helly? He's killed one Lumon worker, released Gemma into the world, and is hanging everything on his romance with the innie of the daughter of Lumon's CEO Jame Eagan. Her Outie Helena has never shown she's on board with Helly's actions or intentions.
- Now that she's free, what will Gemma do? Will she go to the police or the press? Could she team up with Mrs. Cobel (Patricia Arquette) and Mark's sister Devon (Jen Tullock) to help bring down Lumon ... or will someone reveal themselves to be a double agent? Are they waiting for Gemma outside Lumon in a getaway car?
- Are there deeper explanations for the importance of Devon's husband, author Ricken (Michael Chernus), Miss Huang (Sarah Bock), Mr. Milchick, Burt Goodman (Christopher Walken) and Cecil Fields (John Noble)?

Stay tuned for Season 3 of "Severance," which at the moment has no premiere date — but is coming. Here's hoping we don't have to wait three years to get it!

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