

Every Person Who Didn't Deserve to Die in Better Call Saul

From Howard dying mid-sentence in someone else's war to Lalo burying him under a meth lab while his wife was told he drowned while most of the deaths in Better Call Saul were brutal and earned, some people never saw it coming at all.

These are the ones that still don't sit right. Starting with Howard Hamlin.

1. Howard Hamlin

Howard Hamlin spent six seasons holding things together for everyone else. His firm. His partner. His employees. Even the man who was slowly destroying him.

The only thing he never protected was himself, because he never thought he had to.

When Chuck McGill started unraveling, Howard didn't push him out. He paid Chuck's insurance settlements out of his own pocket to protect the firm. He managed the exit so gracefully that nobody outside those walls ever knew Chuck had become a liability.

"I have some bittersweet news to share." (7:12 - S3 E10)

That's how he announced it. No chaos. No bitterness. Just grace for a man who had made his life difficult and would never know it.

Jimmy and Kim's plan against Howard started as a money grab, Sandpiper settlement money, and somewhere along the way it curdled into something with real teeth.

They hired an actor to impersonate a federal mediator. They laced photos with a pupil-dilating drug to make Howard look like a cocaine addict. They planted escorts. They flipped his private investigator.

And Howard treated most of it like a nuisance. He genuinely couldn't compute that they actually meant it.

When he finally figured out what Jimmy was doing, he didn't call a lawyer. He challenged him to a boxing match. He knocked Jimmy flat on the canvas and stood over him.

"You've mistaken my kindness for weakness. I'd like to think that tonight made a difference. I'd like to think that this ends it. Probably not." (25: 40 - S6 E5)

He already knew it wouldn't. That's the saddest part.

Season 6, Episode 7. The mediation had gone wrong. Howard had stood up in front of his colleagues and accused a federal mediator of corruption, and watched everyone in that room look at him like he was losing his mind.

By the time he arrived at Jimmy and Kim's apartment, he had finally pieced it all together. He didn't come to threaten them. He came to make them hear what they had taken from him. His marriage. His sleep. His reputation.

Then he looked at Kim and said the truest thing he ever said about either of them.

"One of the smartest and most promising human beings I've ever known... and this is the life you choose." (46: 54 - S6 E7)

He wasn't finished. He was mid-sentence, the only real moment of self-defense in six seasons, when Lalo Salamanca stepped out of the shadows and shot him in the head.

His last words before the bullet were: *"There's really no need to..."*

He was trying to talk Lalo down. Still trying to protect the two people who had spent a year destroying him.

Howard didn't know who Lalo was. He had no idea Jimmy had cartel connections. He died mid-sentence, in someone else's war, still reaching for peace.

His body went under a meth lab. His wife was told he drowned. His colleagues were told he had a drug problem.

What if Howard had left five minutes earlier?

Lalo wasn't there for Howard. He was there for Jimmy and Kim. Howard was simply, horrifyingly, in the wrong place at the wrong time, a bystander in someone else's story, like he had always been.

He never once acted in his own interest. The only time he ever defended himself was through words. And even those got cut off before he could finish.

It's one thing to die badly. It's another to die badly and still have people say you deserved it.

Howard Hamlin deserved none of it.

Want to see every person who didn't deserve their fate in Better Call Saul? Watch the next video and subscribe for more.