

Dramatis Personae

Alphonse- played by David S. Dear

Vanessa's older brother, a man who is torn between familial loyalty and the need to escape a dark fate. His love of his sister is why he issued the warning. He is the character from the "Legacy" premium episode.

Vanessa - played by Jas LaFond

A woman who was raised in an abusive, and frightening family in a redneck town is tortured by her secrets. While most consider her caginess and PTSD to be related to her being trans, it's not what keeps her up at night. It's the fact that two of her brothers had been killed and eaten by the undead ancestors that her family were sworn to protect in exchange for the chance to be the next in line for immortality.

She escaped her demise in a small Maine town with the help of her brother, fell in love, and transitioned. She thought her life was behind her, until a cryptic foreboding message from Alphonse may pull her back into a world she thought she had left behind.

Kieron - played by Nick Frey

Kieron is confident, even-keeled and kind. He met his wife two years ago and has been a proponent of her evolution into the woman she always wanted to be. An investor in tech companies (and a friend of Maliq's from the last story), he is very conscientious of how he invests money, hoping to advance the human condition.

While he knows that his wife has seen some terrible things, he knows nothing of her past up until now.

Betty - Shannon Perry (?)

Betty is 46, has lived in Threading, Maine her whole life and is the switchboard operator/office clerk of the tiny police department. Small-minded, transphobic, but with a definite love of her town and her family. Will return in a future episode.

Carl - Eric Perry (?)

Gas station attendant who had a longstanding, unrequited crush on Vanessa when she still presented as a man. Will return in a future episode.

Sheriff Parker - Steven LaFond

Grew up in town. Is technically the only officer in town, now, getting back up from the Sheriff and State Troopers as needed.

Uncle Nick - Isaiah

One of the big Jumbie/Duppy of the storyline.

(Script Written by Steven and Jas)

Betty
[professional sounding]
Threading, Maine Police, how can I help you?

Vanessa
Hi, I've been trying to reach my brother for a few days, and he hasn't been answering his phone.
I'm wondering if someone could go check his property to make sure he's all right.

Betty
Ma'am, do you have reason to believe he might not be okay?

Vanessa
We text every day, and he hasn't answered in about three days. He left me a voicemail about wanting to leave town, but I haven't heard from him since.

Betty
What's his name?

Vanessa
Alphonse Miller.

Betty
[shaken, and a little confused]
Al Miller? He's your... brother?

Vanessa
Um, yeah. He's my --

Betty
[skeptical]
And you say that you're his sister?

Vanessa
I... yes, I'm ... wait, is this Betty King?

Betty
[a little testy]
It's Martineau now. But yes, who is this?

Vanessa

Vanessa Reed. My maiden name is Miller.
We went to high school together.

Betty

[confused and then the realization. It's Vinnie Miller from town... who is now a woman]

Vanessa? I don't know a... wait, Vinnie? Vinnie Miller?

Narrator

Witchever Path Presents
Part Two of Underground
Jiggedy Jig.

[OZ 9 wrapping up on the car radio]

Kieron

[excited]

Oh my god, that was really good, right?

Vanessa

It was *okay*, I guess. I like the Scottish lady.
Let's just go back to some music for a bit.

Kieron

[a little dejected]

Yeah, but the signal's getting worse out here, and our rentals' satellite radio isn't working.
Do you want to listen to country music?

Vanessa

[countering that]

I think I got some music on my phone still. Maybe we could listen to that?

Kieron

Well, we got about ten minutes to go, so why not?
That was a long three and a half hours from Bangor.
Try calling your brother again.

[phone rings]

Voicemail

This is Al...

Kieron

Wow, still nobody?

Vanessa

[frustrated and worried]

No. Not even Herb-- whoever. I'm hoping that the cops will have found him since then and it'll be okay... but they haven't left a voicemail.

Kieron

The woman at the police station you talked to, would she have left a message?

Vanessa

[still annoyed from that conversation]

I don't know.

She kept calling me Vinnie.

Kieron

[trying to sound supportive while getting to business]

Well, we're nearly there, but I'm running out of gas. I'm gonna stop here, okay.

Vanessa

Sure thing, I need to pee anyway.

Carl Beauschane

Good Afternoon. What can I get you?

Vanessa

Twenty on Pump 1 and can I use your bathroom?

Carl

[sounding warm]

Yup. You can.

Vanessa

Thank you.

Carl

[starting to recognize something in her face and voice]

Wait, I know you right? You grew up around here? I mean..

Vanessa

Yes.

Carl

[sort of amused]

Well, hey. Welcome back.

Vanessa

[dripping sarcasm]

Thank you, may I use that bathroom?

Carl

[trying to be funny, but it's obviously awkward]

It's unisex so... [small awkward laugh]

Vanessa

Yeah, yeah I get it.

(door to gas station opens and closes)

Kieron

I know that look. What was said?

Vanessa

Nothing. He's just ... He's somebody that's never left this town. Fuck him.

[pause, seeing her husband about to open his door]

Kieron, baby, don't worry about it.

Let's just get to the police station and see if they have any news.

Kieron

Do you think they went to check it out already? It's only been a day.

Vanessa

The town has like, maybe 2000 people in it, Kieron.

I'm sure they were over there a dozen times already.

[police station door opens]

Betty

[seeing them is unpleasant]

Can I help you?

Kieron

[all business, making it a point to be professional and civil]

Hello, we're Kieron and Vanessa Reed. We're here to see Chief Parker.

Betty

[disgusted with what she's seeing]

Uh huh. One moment.

Kieron

[not giving her the satisfaction, being a little more confident]

Thank you.

Betty

[Barely contained disdain]

Just a moment please.

[this will be said happening simultaneously to the discussion happening with Kieron and Vanessa below]

He's here. Vinnie Miller and his, I don't know, husband. You got to see this, Billy. Oh my god. I really can't believe that he actually went through all of it.

Chief Parker

[low talking]

Betty. Come on, don't talk like that.

It's ridiculous.

Vanessa

[speaking quietly]

This was a mistake.

Kieron

[talking low and fast back]

It's all right, Nessa. If they don't take it seriously, we have other options and one hell of a lawsuit.

Chief Parker

[loud]

Thank you, Betty, enjoy your lunch. I'll take it from here.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed. I'm, Chief... Ok, I need to cut some tension here.

Mrs. Reed, it's me, Billy. I, gotta be frank, here, and if I don't do it right, I'm sorry.

I understand you changed your name, right?

Vanessa

[guarded]

Vanessa.

Hello, Billy.

Chief Parker

[relieved tone]

Hey, listen, Betty's You know. It's a small town. You know. We grew up here together, but I promise you: I'm here to help, I don't know if you ever met my cousin, Mandy, but she got married a couple of years ago to a nice lady down in Portland. I got a great niece out of it.

So, regardless of what any idiot around here thinks, I'm here for you, Vanessa.

Kieron

[weirded out]

Well, great, thank you. We called about her brother, Al.

Vanessa

Billy, I know my family's pretty isolated up here. But has anyone seen Al in the past couple of days?

Chief Parker

So, I asked around. Al didn't really hang out with too many people, but he normally would go and get breakfast at the Birch Tree every couple of days. He hadn't been in. But Chip over at Bullets and Tackle saw him about four days back. Chip said that Al had come in to get his new hunting rifle. They talked a little bit, and Al left after getting his gun.

Kieron

[a little alarmed]

He bought a gun?

Vanessa

[a little bit of rural pride/just "knowing how it is" in the voice]

We hunt up here, babe, there's nothing out of the ordinary if you didn't hear his voicemail.

Did Chip say anything to you about what they talked about?

Chief Parker

[thoughtfully]

Al had a moose permit for the year, and was getting ready for Firearm season for deer. Your brother also mentioned something about a bear that kept coming by he might need to take down. He grabbed a couple traps, too.

Kieron

[a little surprised at the activity]

Okaaaaay. Have you been up to the house?
Did Vanessa and Al's uncles or aunts know anything?

Chief Parker

[confused]

Sorry? I thought only Al is living up there. We did go by, his RV isn't on the property. Looks like he had trouble backing out. The old trailer, it's locked up, Nobody answered when I knocked. The old house looked a little too unsafe to be checking alone, but peering through the windows, it looked abandoned. Vanessa, I thought you and Al were the only two left.

Vanessa

[Expertly lying, and giving the impression for her husband to shut up]

Kieron, baby, I let you know that our uncle was in a home down in Caribou.

Kieron

[picking it up, playing along]

Right... ok.

Chief Parker

[being pleasant]

Oh, did you want me to give a call down there, see if he stopped by?

Vanessa

Oh, I could call, no problem. I don't mind letting them know you're calling.

Chief Parker

Thanks, Vin. Vanessa, sorry. We work with the County Sheriff with bigger crimes out here. So, if your brother doesn't turn up in the next couple of days, we could see about roping them in. They've been pretty busy up here the last couple of months, but I am sure they or the Staties can lend a hand if we need them.

Vanessa

Thank you, Billy.

Chief Parker

Are you going to try staying at the trailer?

Vanessa

No, we're staying at the bed and breakfast.

Chief Parker

Great! I'll be in touch if I come across anything. I'm sure Al will turn up, probably with a big bull moose in tow.

[car doors]

Kieron

[quiet confusion and anger]

So, before I start the car, I want to ask you about something.

Vanessa

[defensive already]

Okay.

Kieron

[keeping it together]

Why didn't you play Billy your voicemail?

Vanessa

[defensive]

What would that help?

Kieron

[a bit more pissed]

Your brother's missing. Anything he said could be a clue. And I thought your aunts and uncles weren't in a home.

Vanessa

[defensive angry]

Kieron, I didn't mention ... I lied, OK? There isn't a nursing home. And if we can't find Al, we need to get out of town sooner, rather than later.

Kieron

[angry]

Well, then where are they?

You know what?

Can I listen to the voicemail?

Vanessa

[giving it up]

We shouldn't have gone to the cops.
It's not going to help.
It might even make things worse.

Kieron

[angry]

Ness, I have never raised my voice at you.
I have never called you names,
I don't even give you shit about where you leave your clothes in the house.
I love and support you for you are, and I know you've been through a lot.
But after what you shared back home, and what the way you're acting, I need to know the truth.

All of it.

Starting with something I'm trying to understand. You told me your brother, Herb, was killed when he was 14.. Why do you think you heard him on the phone?

Vanessa

[sigh and do that "Ok" thing]

All right, Kieron. I'm going to let you know everything.
Everything. But some of it is going to sound like such bullshit.
But it's real, it happened, and I think it's still happening.

Kieron

Ok. What?

Vanessa

My family comes from Jamaica.
As Uncle Nick told my dad

Uncle Nick

[Proud and serious]

We came to this country in the 1800s, after the revolt.
Our family escaped the Maroons who had chased them into the wilderness, hoping to capture all of the slaves, or kill them. But we survived. There were two brothers who defended the people in those woods.

Baako [BAH-Koe], strong and wise. His mother had taught him to keep that name safe from the white masters of the field. And he kept it safe, along with his younger brother, Adisa [Ah-DEE-Sah], whose heart was true. Adisa could read the secrets behind the eyes of any man

or woman, and he could almost predict the actions of their foes. The two of them led successful raids for supplies, they killed plantation owners and soldiers alike.

[Slow, sad]

But the days of honey did not last forever. The brothers, they were laid low by a plot. Yes, the Maroons were clever foes. For while they could not best the brothers in the forest, there will still relations on the plantation fields to abuse and torture.

And the wails of their kin, a younger brother, a son, a daughter, who remembers, could be heard from the fields just outside of the jungle. The white men made the relation call out for the brothers, begging for their aid.

[faster with some anger]

Baako was out of the jungle, firing a shot through a Maroon without breaking his stride. He roared a mighty curse at the soldiers in front of him, and his brother Adisa, knowing that this was to be their last battle, joined his brother in the open and charged at the soldiers, who opened fire.

[dramatic]

The shots ripped through Baako's body and he fell to the ground, his lifesblood dying the grass on the spot. Adisa had been shot multiple times, but still lived. Their kinsmen watched from the forest canopy as Adisa crawled over to his older brother and cradled him in his arms as the Maroons reloaded their guns for a second volley.

As they took aim, Adisa screamed, "**not yet!**"

But the bullets came, and the people attempted to run and hide, but without the wisdom and cunning of the brothers, the Maroons found them, and they were captured, and brought back to a pen where they awaited punishment.

But that nightfall, the people prayed to the gods for deliverance. And something answered them.

The gate caging them was ripped off of its hinges. Standing before them, naked and powerful was Baako, wild-eyed and transformed. Only half of his soul had carried on, you see. For when Adisa yelled, "not yet" he did not scream it to the bloodthirsty maroons, but to his brother. And so, Baako's spirits, for each man has two, split. One went to the world beyond, and one remained on the earth to finish what he had started.

He directed his relations to flee into the darkness, where they were met by a cloaked man who was able to guide them from shadow to shadow past the patrols. His silent feet betrayed that he, too, was more spirit than man. But when faced with the evil they had known their whole lives, and the return of Adisa and Baako, the people chose their kin. Better to follow a jumbie [Jum-bee] than a slaver.

And so the people followed the jumbie brothers, where they waited in the wilds, picking off Maroon and slave masters until the Baptist Rebellion began, where they joined the fray. And when the British emancipated all of the people on the isle, many of the family rejoiced. But not Baako and Adisa.

They left the isle, in a sugar cane ship, and sailed North to America. Where they would whet their appetite of colonizer once more until their people were free. But America proved to bring more to the brothers than they had expected.

Kieron

I'm lost. What does this ghost story have to do with your brothers now? I mean, what's a jumbie.

Vanessa

On the island, they actually call them duppies.

Uncle Nick and Alfred, they hate that name.

They said it's as bad as...

...Nevermind.

But the uncles and aunts. They're not just our great uncles and aunts, Kieron.

Kieron

[confused]

What are they?

Vanessa

Hungry.

The Decisions this Time are Kieron's

Let the story continue, hear her out.

This is insanity.

Follow up with the Chief on his own.