

### Uncle Nick

The brothers found the plantation owners of America to be far more organized than even the British. Or perhaps, these white men were more fearful of losing all that they had built on the backs of our people. As such, they split families with cruel precision, instilled fear into the slaves in a constant rhythm, and had crushed rebellions so utterly, that many thought it impossible to escape their fate.

But many is not all.

Adisa had found that there were those who ran North to escape the yolk of bondage, and he became captivated with the agents of the Underground Railroad, and convinced Baako that perhaps this was the best way to assist in their people's liberation.

In this new land, however, the people had forgotten much of their heritage. The cross had replaced the spirits and ancestors in the hearts of so many. And the golden eyes of Baako and Adisa were seen as marks of Devil.

[spitting in insult at the thought]

The brothers continued to aid their living countrymen, even if their aid was often scorned. As the years passed, they noticed a change in themselves. They were as fast on lightning on the land, but in the water, they could no longer swim. Instead they had to walk slowly across river beds, even if the water raged over their heads.

Their feet and hands lengthened and their nails became like claws. And their stomachs were no longer satisfied by animals or fruits, but for the very meat of the oppressors, until it was all that they could eat. And while Baako embraced this change, Adisa knew that it would eventually bring ruin on them and their people. Stories had already begun to crop up about the escaped slaves' dark hunger for vengeance. This would not do.

Salvation came from a woman, a strong and intelligent former slave who led hundreds to freedom. She risked capture, torture, worse. But she continued her mission, and Adisa, he fell in love with her. Deep love, but she... she was charmed by Baako. And so, new challenges came to the brothers that they had previously never encountered in either their living and nonliving experiences.

Oh, young Vincent. All of the sorrow and suffering, I see it in your little pale face. I know that me just telling you these things about your people makes you so frightened and angry. But I hope that fear isn't for us. We love you, child.

And yet, I also know how much you can pass as one of them, out there, in our little town.

But they have not forgotten what you are, child. They will never forget. And when the time comes, Uncle Nick and Alfred, and our wives. We will be here to help you.

Now please, help me with the arms and legs. We have work to do before morning.

**Witchever Path Presents  
Underground Part Three: Fidelity**

**[Television background]**

**Jennifer Moreau**

Aroostook County Sheriff's Department are seeking information on a rash of disappearances over the past two years of commercial truck drivers and citizens near the Rte 1 highway. New evidence has led some to believe that they may be connected? John?

**John Martineau**

That's right, Jennifer. While there isn't official word yet, we received a tip that the Sheriff's office received information has found some similarities in a few of the missing person's cases that suggests that these disappearances could be connected.

**Jennifer Moreau**

What sort of connections have they found, John?

**John Martineau**

Well, Jennifer, it appears that at least eight of the missing disappeared shortly after eating or stopping at the Big Bear Truck Stop near Mawasak on Rte 1. Sources close to the Sheriff's department believe that they have found the remains of two of the missing people off of one of the logging roads thirty miles away.

[the newscast lowers in volume, country music playing over the gas station's PA]

**Chip**

[giving a customer his change, paying attention to the news just a bit]

And five is twenty - Look at this? See that guy's picture they're flashing on the screen? Man in the eagle trucker hat?

**Customer**

Yeah?

**Chip**

I met him in Concord at a 2nd Amendment rally in July.

**Customer**

Really? That's something.

**Chip**

Way Betty tells it, they got a serial killer trolling the stops.  
Apparently parts of him had been gnawed off.

**Customer**

You serious?

**Chip**

Absolutely as a matter of fact....

[sees Kieron and Vanessa enter, goes from conspiratorial but good-natured to unfriendly,  
professional]

Can I help you?

**Vanessa**

**[feeling the tension]**

Hi, Chip.

**Chip**

[recognizes Vanessa instantly as Vincent, the gay guy who left years ago to go be... well, this]

You here to buy something?

We only sell guns and sporting goods.

I don't got lipstick.

**Vanessa**

**[clears throat]**

You want to get all that shit out of the way now?

Or do you want me to ask you a few questions and I can get out of here?

**Chip**

**[pissy]**

Are you here to buy? If not, I want you gone.

Customers, or *Au revoir*.

**Customer**  
**[sizing them up]**  
Want me to stay, Chip?

**Chip**  
**[being tough]**  
No, TJ. You go ahead and take off. Give my best to Rebecca.

**Kieron**  
[gets his authoritative CEO voice on]  
My wife's brother came here and bought a rifle from you.  
He's missing. We want to know what you guys talked about.

**Chip**  
**[annoyed]**  
Your *wife*? Sure. OK.  
I told the police chief what I knew. Your brother wanted to hunt, he bought a gun, ammo, traps.  
He told me there was a bear up by your place he needed to get rid of. Then I took his money,  
and he left.

Are we done?

**Kieron**  
**[Righteous]**  
Are you confused? Fine.

**[takes out money]**  
I am buying that knife in the case. The big one with the white handle. Keep the change and tell  
me what you talked about.

**Chip**  
**[counts money]**  
We don't talk about much except what he's buying.  
I don't know if you noticed, but this ain't really NPR, buddy.  
You see that flag behind me? Doesn't usually invite questions.

**Kieron**  
**[annoyed]**  
Wow, cool.  
Little too close to Canada to be flying that participation trophy, isn't it?

**Vanessa**

**[trying to calm this down]**

Kieron, stop. Chip, just level with me. Neither of us want me here.  
What else did Al do or say?

**Chip**

**[annoyed]**

Okay, Vinnie.

Your brother bought two pairs of Cabela's. They weren't even the same size, dumb ---  
I told him and he looked embarrassed, but refused to switch them.  
I told him I wouldn't let him exchange or return them.  
Looks like that won't be an issue.

**Kieron**

**[angry]**

**You motherfucker.**

**Chip**

**[stern]**

All right, that's enough. I serve *everyone* in here, so long as they're legal citizens and keep their politics to themselves. I don't discriminate, but foul language and yelling at me in my own place of business? You can go.

**Vanessa**

**[keeping her cool]**

**Fine.**

**Chip**

**[arrogant and shouting after them]**

Go on, get out. You're all alike. You walk around the rest of the country like you know more than us and tell us what we have to accept and what we have to do to make things better? And you, you hated yourself more than anybody here did.  
Look at you.

You weren't even that dark. You almost fit in.

But here you are, all done up and demanding that we just accept it like it isn't a big deal, and we should praise you for it.

**[follows them out to the parking lot]**

Well, I'm here to tell you that in my business, in my town? You're not making me ashamed of what I know is right. You're not.

**[yell this slightly away as they drive off]**

It's still America in Threading!

**[Diner sounds]**

**Kieron**

**[upset barely containing his rage]**

I can't believe that guys like that even exist anymore.

**Vanessa**

[the exhaustion you know you feel when the world has always been this way]

Baby, we're not in the Bay Area. This whole place is going to be like this.

We're going to have to be a little less indignant if it's gonna work.

**Kieron**

**[hating that answer]**

I won't let people talk to you like that.

**Vanessa**

**[reassuring]**

I appreciate you.

[pause then a little laugh]

**Kieron**

What?

**Vanessa**

**[warmly]**

"A little too close to Canada to be flying that participation trophy?"

You're pretty cute when you're mad.

Gimme your hand.

**Waitress**

**[comes over to settle up]**

Can I get the two of you anything else?

**Kieron**

**[calmly]**

No, thank you. Just the check.

**Waitress**

[reassuring]

Oh, no. Somebody paid for you already.

**Vanessa**

[puzzled]

Who?

**Waitress**

The [whispered] black guy.[end whisper] right over... oh, he's gone.

**Vanessa**

[alarmed]

Kieron, we gotta get back to the room. Now.

**[tv again]**

**Jennifer Moreau**

Coming up after the break, squirrels attack a small town in New Hampshire. Are we in danger of a new strain of rabies?

**John Martineau**

Plus, a New England entrepreneur wants you to try out his new smart device for free! We'll talk about this after the break.

**Chip**

**[shouting out from behind a display]**

We're closing in five.

**Aunt Pauline**

We won't be long. We've only come for two things.

**Chip**

**[coming around corner politely]**

That should be all right, then. How can I ---

[pauses, sees the black and brown faces in the room]

Is there a march or something planned that I missed?

**Uncle Alfred**

No, we haven't been to town in a while, but we have family visiting and we wanted to get them something special. And... oh, I think that flag would do nicely.

May we have it, please?

**Chip**

What would *you* want it for?

**Aunt Pauline**

They're in fashion again. Kanye has one.  
What should it matter to you?

**Chip**

It's just ... it's

**Uncle Al**

**[confused]**

Who is Kanye?

**Pauline**

**[to her husband]**

You don't read any of the magazine's the boy brings us do you?

**Uncle Al**

**[slightly insulted]**

I think you know that I don't.

**Pauline**

We will talk about this later.

**[to Chip]**

Sir, I've been told in my life that flag's about heritage, not hate, right?

**Chip**

Yeah... yeah that's right.

**Uncle Al**

Well, then, if that's true then it's more ours than yours, Yankee.  
May we have it, please?

**Chip**

It's not for sale.

**Pauline**

**[to her husband]**

Okay, that's one gift down.



Mind if I inspect the other?

**Uncle Al**

Not at all, my dear. You look all you want.  
The flag please, good sir.

**Chip**

You didn't hear me? It's not for sale.

**Uncle Al**

Oh, good. I don't intend on paying.

**Chip**

Ma'am, you need to get back from this register, or you're going to regret it.

**Pauline**

It smells of some liver damage, but it stopped smoking from what I can tell about

**[sniffs]**

Three years ago.

**Chip**

What?

**Pauline**

All of its teeth are intact, I think it's going to be suitable, although I can bet it's got way too much marbling.

**Chip**

Don't you even think about --- **[sound of gun being readied]**

**Uncle Al**

No worries, we thought about it already.

**[monster attack]**

[car pulls up to the ancestral property]

**Vanessa**

Okay, we're here. Before we get out of the car, let's make a few rules.

**Kieron**

Okay.

**Vanessa**

One, we stay in each other's sight, or within at least 50 yards, ok?

Two, if anything looks bloody, don't touch it.

Three, if we go in the trailer, we leave our shoes on the steps.

**Kieron**

**[confused]**

Why would we take our shoes off? I thought nobody lived in it.

**Vanessa**

We ran into the trailer when we were kids. But we forgot to leave our shoes outside. If we had? Aunt Pauline would've spent less time rocking the trailer and more time trying to put them on.

**Kieron**

What?

**Vanessa**

I know. I know. Trust me, there are ways our family has dealt with the aunts and uncles for years. They work. Come on, we'll head over to the trailer first.

**Kieron**

**[disgusted, covers mouth]**

Wow, it smells like mold in here.

I don't know if it's safe to breathe this in.

**Vanessa**

Let's check the bedrooms. We'll see if there's anything he might have left behind.

[rummaging through things, opening of doors]

**Kieron**

Wow. Look at these pictures. You kids look... happy.

**Vanessa**

That didn't last long.

**Kieron**

So why did Al let this trailer go to rot? I mean, why sleep in the RV.

**Vanessa**

Mom and Dad, they died in here. Cancer took mom, and ... Dad, well, that was the last loss he could take.

**Kieron**

**[horrified at the implication]**

Baby, why did we come back here? This is place is hell.

**Vanessa**

Al set me free. I am not leaving him behind.

**Kieron**

Hey... look out the window at the house.

**Vanessa**

What is it?

**Kieron**

It looks like... a Confederate flag?

**Vanessa**

Fuck. Okay

**[rummages in a closet]**

Okay, well that'll be fine.

**[cocks rifle]**

You got your knife?

**Kieron**

What is it?

**Vanessa**

We're going to go check it out.

**Kieron**

Should we call Billy?

**Vanessa**

Come here.

**[kisses him]**

No.

[the door, creaky floor boards, wind through the broken windows, sound of the flag flapping]

**Kieron**

**[scared]**

I'm pretty sure.... that's that asshole's flag.

**Vanessa**

**[cold, back in the trauma of life up here]**

Well, the blood on it makes that theory worse.

**[phone buzzes]**

Shit.

**Kieron**

**[in a panic]**

Who is it?

**Vanessa**

Billy. Shit.

**Kieron**

**[whispers]**

Don't pick up.

**Vanessa**

Hold on.

**[picks up]**

Hello?

**Chief Billy**

**[more business than before]**

Ms. Reed? This is Chief Parker. How are you today?

**Vanessa**

Good, Billy. Any news on AI?

**Chief Billy**

No, ma'am. May I ask if you've left town?

**Vanessa**

I'm still in town.

**Chief Billy**

Where are you currently?

**Vanessa**

Billy, your tone is really serious. Is something wrong?

**Chief Billy**

Ma'am, where are you currently?

**Vanessa**

Out driving, looking for clues.

**Chief Billy**

Would you be able to meet me at the police station in the next twenty minutes? We would like to talk with you and ... Mr. Reed.

**Vanessa**

Why?

**Chief Billy**

There was an incident at Bullets and Tackle last night. We understand you were there earlier in the day.

**Vanessa**

What incident?

**Chief Billy**

Mrs. Reed, Vanessa, Chip was found by the river earlier this morning. We're trying to connect some dots. Your cooperation would be helpful.

**Vanessa**

Holy shit.

Yeah, okay, sure. We'll get there soon.

**[hangs up]**

**Vanessa**

Call your lawyer, and get them out here to stall.

**Kieron**

What? We didn't do anything.

**Vanessa**

Don't get cute. We need to....

Wait.

**[sound of car]**

**Kieron**

**[looks out window]**

It's a cop car!

**Vanessa**

Fuck. Okay, follow my lead.

Happy Halloween, listeners. The votes were tallied, and the majority of you decided that Kieron's love for Vanessa is one built on trust and fidelity, even if what she tells him seems impossible.

Stay tuned after the show for credits, and trailers for some shows we think you'll love. And now.

Witchever Path presents episode 3 of Underground: Fidelity.

**Your choices this week are:**

1. Get Kieron to take down the flag and throw it into the basement
  1. Hide
2. Go out there and greet the police right away

You can vote on our website at [witcheverpath.com/vote](http://witcheverpath.com/vote)

We'll be closing the vote down on Thursday, November 7 where we'll see what the majority of you have chosen for Vanessa and Kieron to do. This is a big one, so be sure to vote.

This episode featured the talents of

Jas LaFond as Vanessa

Nick Frey as Kieron

Gregory Bratton as Chip

Isaiah Frizelle as Uncle Nick

Ditrie Marie Bowie as Aunt Pauline  
Vyn Vox as Uncle Alfred  
Rick and Missy Croft as your action news team  
Steven LaFond as Chief Paker and TJ

This episode was written by Jas and Steven LaFond and edited by Steven LaFond  
The Witchever Path theme was written and composed by RYDR.

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Join us back here on November 21. Until then, sleep with a clear conscience. Choose the Path.

