

Uncle Nick

The world is far hungrier than we are, Vincent.
Through the long history of our family, one truth returns over and over again:
You are either devoured by the pale, white teeth of this world, or you eat your way through it
yourself.

Baako and Adisa, Hope and Prudence... the four of them lived hidden from the world after the war. They watched over their family, and traveled bit by bit, with their nephews and nieces guarding them during the day. And when the time came, they'd play matchmakers and keep the bloodline going. They amassed a fortune, but as the brothers and their wives outlived their offspring, time was not on their side.

An eighty-year lifespan was long, but acceptable. However, a hundred years, more? That would bring blue eyes back to the home. And so, Adisa came up with the idea... take the names of the boys and girls that were lost along the way... and let them inherit their own property over and over.

But, nothing lasts. And as the centuries moved, our family's numbers were fewer and fewer. And now, here we are. You need to get married, Vincent. You need to have children. Because if our family is revealed to the light of day before we are ready, who will save the people again? Who will be the shepherds?

Witchever Path Presents
Underground Part Four: Take Down the Flag

Kieron

[quietly]

There's two of them. Looks like a sheriff's vehicle.

Vanessa

[slight straining sound]

Ok...

I'm taking this down.

[puts down rifle,
flag comes down]

Kieron

[unsure..]

What? **[slight groan in the hands]**

Ok. I'll go out there.

Vanessa

Why?

Kieron

While you get rid of this, I'll distract them.

We're in it now.

But, Nessa... this is getting worse.

Vanessa

You don't know how it is up here, Kieron.

It'll get worse if I don't.

Kieron

I'll call Kay if they take me in. They'll be able to take care of this.

I love you.

[door]

Kieron

[loud, to someone about 20 yards away]

Good morning!

Deputy One

[shouting back]

Good Morning, are you Alphonse Miller?

Kieron

No, I'm his brother-in-law, Kieron Reed. I'm looking for him.

Deputy One

Can you come over by the car.

[happening at the same time, creaks in the house as she slowly goes into another room]

Vanessa

Shit.

[walk slowly through the house]

[click of the basement door]

[Light knock. Then in a quiet voice]

If you are there, if you are awake. I'm coming down.
The police are here, and this... this is a fucking mess.

[slow walk down the stairs]

[outside by the sheriff's SUV]

Deputy One

....And your wife's in the house?

Kieron

Yeah, it's her family property.
We're looking for anything that we can find Al.

Deputy Two

Would you consent to me entering the domicile to speak with your wife?

Kieron

It's not my home. I can't agree to that.

Deputy Two

Are you telling me you do not consent to me entering the home?

Kieron

My wife would make that decision, sir.
It's her family's home.
I'm sure she'll come out and talk to you if you ask her to.

Deputy One

Sir, do you have any firearms, knives, pepper spray, or weapons on your person or in your vehicle?

Kieron

I have a knife on my belt.

Deputy Two

Is your wife armed in the domicile?

Deputy One

Sir? Can you answer my partner's question?

Kieron

It's Maine, right? There's a gun in the house with her.
I'd announce yourself if you're going to walk in.

Deputy Two

[radio crackle]

10-20 at the Miller property. 0 on the premises, Two 13s, requesting a 10-40.

Dispatch

10-4, 4 advised.

Deputy One

Sir, can you place your hands on the vehicle.

Kieron

Am I being detained?

Deputy One

Sir, place your hands on the vehicle.

Kieron

Yes, sir.

[pat down]

Deputy Two

I see movement in the house.

I think it's the wife.

[shouting out]

Ma'am, can you come outside, please?

Deputy One

Sir, can you call for your wife?

Kieron

Are we under arrest?

Deputy One

[impatient, civil]

Sir.

You and your wife may have information that can help us solve a disappearance last night. We'd like to talk to you both, and we'd like to avoid any escalation, please. Cooperation will go a long way with us.

Kieron

Chief Parker called us minutes ago.
I'd like to talk to him.

Deputy Two

Ma'am, please come out of the house!

Deputy One

Chief Parker called you?

Kieron

Yes, sir. I'd like to speak to the local authorities. You're with the Sheriff's Department.

Deputy One

Sir, I'm going to have you take a seat in our vehicle while we talk to your wife.

Kieron

May I have my phone?

Deputy One

No sir, I'm going to place you into the car right now. Do not resist.

Kieron

Am I under arrest?

Deputy One

I am holding you for probable cause.

[SUV door]

Kieron

Name and Badge?

Deputy One

Excuse me?

Kieron

Name. Badge. Please.

Deputy One

You can have all of that information once your wife comes outside, sir.
Watch your head.

[gets Kieron into car]

Deputy Two

Ma'am!

[to Deputy one]

Shit, Ronnie. How soon until backup?

Deputy One

Ten minutes. Ready to go in?

Deputy Two

Don't have a warrant.

Deputy Ronnie

You're calling out to a woman in a busted up house and she isn't answering.
Probable cause, Pete.

[sound of a crash]

Deputy Ronnie

And there you have it.

Deputy Pete

Safety off. Let's go.

[jogging]

Deputy Ronnie

I'll kick, you cover.

[kick]

Vanessa

HELP!

Deputy Pete

Ma'am?

Vanessa

The basement stairs broke. I'm going to fall.

Deputy Ronnie

Ma'am are you armed?

Vanessa

Oh Jesus, really?

The rifle is in the kitchen.

I'm holding onto the door jam. Please help.

Deputy Ronnie

We'll be right there.

Deputy Pete

Hold on, Ma'am. We will get you up.

Stay calm.

[scene change, busier police station]

Kieron

We're fine, but this whole thing is messed up and is going to get worse.

I'm going to need you to get out here today.

Kay

[on the phone]

Have they charged you with anything?

Kieron

No, but this town is no fan of Vanessa or her brother.

Kay

Say nothing else to them without me present.

Nothing. I can get out there in..... 8 hours to Portland and then however many to get to you. I'll be in late. But I will get to you. In the meantime, I'll call to keep you from being arrested. You and Vanessa stay calm, stay respectful. Stay quiet. You hear me?

Kieron

Thanks, Kay.

Goodbye.

Deputy Ronnie

All set?

Kieron

Yes sir, Deputy...

Deputy Ronnie

Lefrienier. [La-Fren-EE-er].
You called a lawyer with that call?

Kieron

Everyone should.
Maybe you should, too.

Deputy Ronnie

Threatening me with a lawsuit?

Kieron

I'd like to see my wife, please.

Deputy Ronnie

Yeah, in a minute.
She's talking to Chief Parker.

[door busts open]

Betty

Where the hell are they?
YOU! You piece of fucking....

[rushing forward]

Deputy Ronnie

Ms. Martineau calm down,
you're not supposed to be here.

Betty

You murdered Chip. You killed him!
You and your he-she bitch!

Deputy Ronnie

Hey! Pete, get her out of here.

Betty

Don't touch me! I know you did it.
I know you did!
I'm going to be there when they kill you.
I'm going to watch you...

Deputy Pete

Betty, calm down. You need to go home before we gotta lock you up.

Betty

In the old days, there wouldn't even be a trial!

Deputy Pete

BETTY! GET OUT OF HERE or I am going to have to arrest you.

[scene change, interrogation room]

Chief Parker

Why were you at the property, Vanessa?

Vanessa

I told you. I was looking for AI, or something he might have left behind.

Chief

Why did you have a rifle?

Vanessa

Chip told us that a bear had been on the property, which is what AI was nervous about.
It's creepy out there.

Chief

Let's wind the clock back to Bullets and Tackle. A witness says that you and your husband accosted Mr. Martineau. You insulted him, made a comment about his race, and were threatening him.

Vanessa

That's a lie. He insulted us.
He barely told us anything about AI, and then ordered us to get out.
That place has to have security cameras, can't you see what happened?

Chief

Usually, yes.
But Chip had an old closed circuit system, and the tape is missing. Meaning that there's no footage of the last 24 hours.
You want to tell me what happened?

Vanessa

He was angry, we swore at him, he kicked us out and insulted me as we left.

He mentioned **my** race, my gender, and let me know it was still America up here.

That was it.

We ate at the diner, and we went back to the Bed and Breakfast at 7.

You can ask around.

Chief

I did. The waitress claims a middle-aged African American Male paid for your meals before disappearing. According to her, that disturbed you and you told your husband you had to leave immediately. Why?

Vanessa

Everything up here terrifies me.

I don't trust anyone.

Chief

Vanessa, this is bad. Chip is dead.

You and your husband are the last two people to see him alive.

I have something to show you.

[sound of photos hitting the table]

These were taken a few decades ago.

Do you recognize that road?

Vanessa

[stammering]

My brother's bike. I recognize that.

Why are you showing me this?

Chief

I remember when that happened. That whole summer, my dad wouldn't let me go walk by the river alone or even ride my bike. Chip's Dad, when he owned that store, made a killing for home defense. They never found Herb.

Then, over the next decade or two, your other brothers took off. Your parents died.

And you... you had a hard life.

I get it. Why did you leave home?

Vanessa

Because I'm a woman. Because I needed a real life.

Chief

I know. And I appreciate that you found something that Threading couldn't give you.

I do. As for your brother, well, he stuck around. And it's lonely out here if you don't have anyone.
It can take its toll. And if that person already feels like an outcast well...

[[new picture slapped onto the desk]]

Chip gets found in the water, about a quarter mile away from where your brother's bike was
found.

I don't think you're a suspect, I don't think you're a killer, Vanessa.
But you know Al better than anyone else, and I need to know,
Is there something you're not telling me about him?

Vanessa

Al's a good man, Billy.
You don't think he's capable of this?

Chief

Vanessa, good people can do bad things.
You left him behind. There has to be a reason.
Something happened at home, it had to.

[hears the sounds of Betty shouting in the other room]

Damn it. I'll be back.

[leaving the room]

Action News
Jennifer Moreau

Threading Police and the Aroostook County Sheriff's Department are seeking the public's help
with any information related to the killing of a local business owner.
47 year old, Charles Martineau's body was found earlier this morning near a local logging road.

We're going to John Hopper, live on location.

John

[read it like someone on location outside]

Jennifer, I am standing by the St. John River, where local and county authorities are investigating the site where the body was found. The victim, Charles Martineau, was an active member of the community and local hunter. Sources close to the investigation said that there were signs of a struggle within his store that suggest foul play.

We can't confirm it yet, but there has been talk that the security system at Bullets and Tackle, Mr. Martineau's store, had been tampered with, leaving police and the Sheriff's department to ask people to come forward with any information they might have that can lead them to the people responsible.

Jennifer

What about reports of another missing man from the town?

John

That's right, Jennifer. There are confirmed reports that Alphonse Miller, a lifelong resident of the town, was reported missing by family a few days ago. Police are speaking to his family, hoping to rule out a connection between his disappearance and the death of Mr. Martineau.

[gas station]

Carl

[long whistle]

They're connected.

Pauline

What makes you say that?

Carl

Al and Chip, I went to school with both of them them.

Alfred

You got a lot of them red hats for sale here, son.
Rattlesnakes, stars and bars.

Carl

Owner of the station's call. I'm.. not a fan, really.

Pauline

Do you have People Magazine?

Carl

Yep. It's over the on the rack. Don't know if the one for this week is up there yet or not. Main guy who used to buy him was Al, really.

Alfred

So you know him, the missing fella. You think Al killed that shopkeep?

Carl

Who, Chip? Chip was an asshole.
Real shitheel. I don't think Al would kill him, though.
Even if he called him a, well, you know.

Alfred

Yes? A what?

Carl

I am not going to say it.

Pauline

What about Al's family? Could any of them done it?

Carl

Well, I knew Vinny real well. I just saw him. Her. I saw her two days ago?

Alfred

Her?

Pauline

Hush, Alfred.
How does she look?

Carl

Sorry? Do you know the family?

Alfred

We're related.

Carl

Oh. God. I'm sorry about spouting off at you.

Pauline

You knew our boys. Really well. Didn't you?

Alfred

Pauline. Don't.

Carl

Well, sort of? I ...

Pauline

Vinny [sniffs] was here.
You saw Vinny recently.

Carl

What the hell.

Pauline

[lower, slightly growling]

Were you cruel, too?
Did you try to hurt her?

Alfred

Pauline. No.

Carl

Your eyes. Holy Shit.

Pauline

[growl]

You're all going to pay for --

Carl

[stuttering out in fear]

I loved Vin.

Alfred

Come again?

Carl

We used to... every once in a while. We'd meet up. Before he ... moved away.
Before he became, well, who she is now.

Alfred

Give me your hand.

Carl

Don't hurt me.

Alfred

Give it.

[inspects]

Oh.

Pauline.. Take a whiff.

He's telling the truth.

Pauline

[sniffs, rage fading]

You poor boy. You poor, mixed up boy.

We forgive you.

Carl

For?

Alfred

These stickers, and hats, and nonsense.

You're underground, too, in your way.

Sleep well and safe, tonight, son.

Then get outta town.

[Late night]

Betty

[angry]

They are going to walk if we let them.

[angry people at the bar]

Betty

You remember them growing up. You remember Vinny skulking around town, carrying on. He's a threat. That whole, polluted family is a threat. Chip knew. You know it, too.

And that shemale at the station? He's gonna walk if we don't demand justice.

This is still our town. And we need to go down there, and we need to put this right!

[Groups yelling yeah and all that]

Some of you laughed at Chip. He told you that we were under assault. Our way of life. He told you this day was coming. And.. I even laughed it off. We're Threading. That poison in the rest of the country, it wasn't here.

But I was wrong. And if you are real, honest Americans, then you know we are at war. So let's go down there, and let them know. It's still America. We're taking a stand.

[Cheers]

[back at the station]

Deputy Ronnie

Good evening. The station's closed unless it's an emergency.
Can I help you?

Kay Lazenby

My name is Kay Lazenby. You're holding two of my clients.
It's 2AM local time, if they are not under arrest, you will release them now.

Deputy Ronnie

Mister Reed is in holding. The other Mr...

Kay

Before we make this a civil rights case, I'm going to let you restart that sentence. Then you're going to bring me to Mrs. Reed, whom I assume is being questioned.

Deputy Ronnie

[under breath]

Shit.

[louder, more buttoned up]

I will let the Chief know you're here.

Kay

[righteous]

No, you'll escort me to where Mrs. Reed is being questioned and I will let them know myself.

[holding]

Chief

We've been going at this all night, Vanessa.

So here's what I think. I think Al killed your brother.

And I did some research on the Uncles that owned the property.

Do you know what I found?

Do you want to tell me what you think I found out when I called the retirement homes in Caribou?

Vanessa

No.

Chief

I want to believe you're a good person. And I have to convince a town out there that you're not involved with a really gruesome thing.
 You're scared. I can't imagine what it was like for you in that house.
 But you have to tell me the truth.

[knock]
 Goddamn it.

Kay

Chief Parker, I'm Kay Lazenby, Mr and Mrs Reed's attorneys. Mrs. Reed, please stop talking to him.

Chief

Hold on, we're having a conversation.

Kay

Have my clients been arrested?

Chief

No, but they're people of interest.

Kay

You're going to release them, then. Here's my card. When you want to speak again, I will be present and make arrangements. We will cooperate, but after the two of them get some rest and meet with me. Are we clear?

Chief

Vanessa, this isn't going to play well with the town.

Kay

The town isn't the law, Chief. If you need to maintain order, go out there and do it. Now let's go get Kieron.

[outside, angry mob]

voice

KILLER!

Murderer!

FREAK!

You're Gonna Burn!

Betty

You won't get away with this!

Deputy Ronnie

Disperse!

Y'all need to go now!

[in the car, stuff pelting the window]

Kieron

Oh shit. This is going to go bad.

Kay

We're getting out. Hold on.

[guns it....]

[later on]

Kay

And that's all you said?

Vanessa

Yes, they don't know anything. He kept getting interrupted by deputies and whoever else.

Kay

Good. But you need to stay strong, both of you.
And you're going to need to tell me everything.

Kieron

Thank you, Kay. I'm
[interrupted by Vanessa's phone]
Who is that?

Vanessa

It's a blocked number.

Kay

Are you going to answer it?
Put it on Speaker.

Vanessa

No.

Kieron

Nessa.

Vanessa

Who is this?

Alphonse

Vanessa. It's Al.

Vanessa

What the fuck is happening?

Alphonse

I need to see you.

Meet me in two hours at the rope swing. Come alone.

Vanessa

Al, you need to turn yourself in.

Al

You know I can't.

But be careful out there.

The town is angry.

It's going to get messy.

Herb says you have to come.

[HANGS UP]

Your choices this week are:

**Go to your brother alone
Tell Your Lawyer Everything
Leave town and regroup**

You can vote on our website at witcheverpath.com/vote

We'll be closing the vote down on Thanksgiving Day, November 28. This time

This episode featured the talents of

Jas LaFond as Vanessa
Nick Frey as Kieron
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
David S. Dear as Alphonse
Shannon Perry as Betty
Eric Perry as Carl
Tim Sherburn as Deputy Pete
Nichard Naldony as Deputy Ronnie
Dallas Wheatley as Kay Lazenby

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

The last vote was close. How close? We recorded the alternate choice for our Patreon subscribers. Here's a taste:

[clip]

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