

**Uncle Nick**

**[calm]**

I saw the cow out there, in the woods, leading her to him.  
They are both coming home.

**[sound of chewing]**

**Uncle Nick**

You know, when I first saw you, all those years ago, you were radiant.  
You were the most beautiful woman I had ever encountered.  
Your strength. The way that you fought back against the gray-coated devils.  
You were my angel. And how could my brother and I not help you on this underground railroad?

**[pause, then proudly]**

You showed us the way.

**[pause, then sorrow]**

But. I did not warn you what would happen to you if you accepted us,  
how it would end for you.  
And I did not expect the curse to harm you so.  
When you became an angel, and the parts of you that left for heaven said farewell, we did not  
do right by the parts of you that remained.

**[a bit more upset]**

I'm sorry, Juliet. I never said it before.  
I'm sorry.

**Juliet**

**[happy, loving]**

I forgave you a long time ago, Adisa.  
A long, long time ago.  
But I have a more serious question for you.

**Nick**

**[curious]**

Mmm?

**Juliet**

Will I still look beautiful under their floodlights?

**Witchever Path Presents:  
River Bank**

**Vanessa**

**[calm and resigned to what this means]**

You heard my brother. Bring Kieron and Carl with you.  
One hour.

**Betty**

**[angry]**

You try anything cute, I'm going to kill them.

**Vanessa**

**[cutting her off]**

We're past the point of threats, Betty.

**[hangs up]**

**Vanessa**

**[immediate panic]**

I just killed them both, didn't I?

**Alphonse**

**[soothing her]**

Shh, no, it will be alright.

We'll get this done.

Let's go. We'll take the riverbank home.

**[starts walking]**

**Vanessa**

**[upset with Alphonse, aware that they aren't that far from the woods, so lower volume anger]**

Where have you been?

You said you were leaving!

We came out here for you!

**Alphonse**

**[Apologetic]**

I tried --- I, really did.

When you left, I had a good year of barely even seeing any of them.

I dropped off the magazines, got them to agree to money transfers, and I barely had to do any clean up of Uncle Al or Pauline's take out.

But three years ago, in the summer, something changed.

They began eating more. Roaming.

And things in the town only got worse. Chip no longer hid his disgust when I was in the store.  
And when everyone else around town looks at you like you're an outsider, you look for a way  
out.

Then six months ago, I lost my job at the shipping warehouse because I had to spend half a day  
cleaning up one of Aunt Pauline's messier meals.

Uncle Nick was furious with Al and Pauline and so he signed off on me having some of their  
savings to keep things afloat.

**Vanessa**

So where did you go?

**Alphonse**

**[wistful]**

There's a woman I met, in New Hampshire at a farmer's market about three months ago when I  
decided to give selling venison a try.

She's mixed, like us.

She let me know she owned a farm, but was looking to pull up stakes and start again in another  
spot. I don't know what I was thinking, but I mentioned our acreage, and she was interested in  
buying our land. So we talked for a while.

**[almost happy]**

And spent some time together.

But when Uncle Nick said no to selling...

it sort of limited the reason to reach out to her anymore.

So I decided to go, but I didn't get far.

I can't live there anymore, but I can't just *leave* them, you know?

**Vanessa**

**[upset, but trying to stay cool]**

I don't know, Al.

They killed James and Herb.

They might have even killed Bill when he left.

**Alphonse**

**[sad]**

They didn't. He got... he got away.

He's in New York.

**Vanessa**

**[upset]**

Billy's in New York?

Why didn't you tell me?

**Alphonse**

[big confession time]

Because I didn't want you to know what I did.

There were only two of us left up here after you went.

And when he told me he was going, everything we were promised, it was going to be for nothing. Nick and Alfred, on paper they're 100 and 102. Nick was originally going to take Dad's name, but Billy called the police, remember?

**Vanessa**

[grim]

I do. And we let him know that this was okay.

**Alphonse**

[guilty]

At the time it was, but then you let us know your secret, and you left. Bill and I rationalized it that there were at least two of us and when we passed on, they uncles would take our names and that'd by them at least a little more time with the property, so long as Billy started a family and kept the line going.

**Vanessa**

[catching on]

What did you do to Billy when he tried to leave?

**Alphonse**

[upset]

I wouldn't have hurt him.

But I wanted to get him to stay. I screamed at him, let him know this was really the only legacy we had. That we guarded something that would likely be needed again some day. He disagreed. We fought. And I hit him.

He didn't fight back. He just cleared his throat, shoved me off him and left.

He never picked up any call I made. Then he changed his phone number.

So, I tracked him down with a detective and found out he's in New York.

He's doing all right.

**Vanessa**

[upset]

You could have told me where he was anyway. You hitting him isn't the same as Pauline... what Pauline and Juliet did.

**Alphonse**

[guilt and shame choking him up]

But it was MY FAULT that he ran. And... you're all I have left besides them.

I couldn't have you hate me.

**Vanessa**

**[sigh]**

I ... let's get to the house.

**Action News**

**Jennifer Moreau**

Shots fired in Threading, Maine. Twenty-three people have been killed, and fourteen wounded, including an Aroostook County deputy after locals armed with firearms showed up to the police station to protest after it was leaked that persons of interest in the murder of a local businessman were being released about two hours ago.

Aroostook County Sheriff's Department is working with the State Police to respond, and we've received word that the Governor convened a meeting to decide if the National Guard needs to be called in to bring order. We have John Hopper on location. Before we go to John, we want to warn viewers that what you are about to see may be disturbing to some viewers.

**John**

**[definitely shaken]**

I'm on the main street of Threading in front of a local bed and breakfast that has been riddled with bullets. Behind me, you can still see the cars smouldering and emergency folks covering the bodies of several casualties. The Fire Chief and his crew have fought the blazes, but they are overwhelmed by the magnitude of this incident.

I was told about half an hour ago, a masked militia of locals stormed the street looking for two people of interest in the Chip Martineau murder. After being asked to disperse, the mob opened fire, wounding Deputy Peter Caron, putting him in critical condition.

But what's more disturbing is that the mob's attack was met with a counter-attack, leaving several of the masked assailants literally in pieces. Witnesses claim the two unknown African American people, a man and woman, walked into the firefight and began killing indiscriminately.

It's ... it's a mess down here, Jen.

**[kicks something with his foot and looks down]**

Oh god, there's a ... I just kicked a foot in a shoe. I thought it was just a shoe... And...

**[terror]**

Jen, there's a ... a pile of limbs near one of the vehicles they're trying to cover up with a sheet. Holy shit, I think they were chewed on ----

**Jennifer**

We are pulling back to studio coverage for a moment.  
We'll be bringing you more news as it comes in.

**Kay**

[fearful but keeping it together]  
What are you, precisely?

**Pauline**

[compassionately]  
I don't think you'd really understand that, but we've been dead.  
Kind of. But we're here to make sure that our nephew and niece are protected from these  
people.

[side talk to Alfred, quietly chiding him for messily eating the meat off of a severed arm]

Alfred. We're already a mess, don't mess up this car, too.

**Alfred**

[genial, calm, occasionally chewing]  
Please don't look in the rearview too much, friend.  
We're famished and, well, we need you to keep an eye on the road.

**Kay**

[disgusted at the chewing, still aware of the monsters in the back seat of this cop car]  
We stole a sheriff's vehicle. There are armed racists in the streets.  
What are we going to do to save Vanessa and Kieron?

**Alfred**

[warmly]  
Do you have any children, Kay?

**Kay**

[hesitant]  
I have... two.

**Pauline**

[sweetly]  
That's wonderful!

**Alfred**

Indeed it is. What would you do to get them out of harm's way?  
Actual guns pointed in their direction.

**Kay**

**[conjuring up that parental instinct]**

Whatever it took.

**Alfred**

That's what we're doing.  
Family's all we got.

**Pauline**

[calmly]

You just have to get us near the property, hon.  
We don't want you to come in with us.  
We'll get Vanessa out of harm's way.

**Kay**

[worried to ask]

What about Kieron?

**Pauline**

**[nicely]**

Meghan needs her Prince Harry.  
We'll see this through.

**Alfred**

[chuckles]

Okay, I *get* that one.  
I love you, dolly.

**Pauline**

**[giggles]**

**Deputy Pete**

[waking up, weak, blood loss]

**[machines beeping]**

Oh, oh shit.

**Ronnie**

[happy and relieved]

Oh thank God, you're awake!

Pete, don't move too much.

We're at Northern, Maine Medical. You made it, buddy.

[emotional]

You're.. You're going to be alright.

**Pete**

**[cough]**

Are the Reeds okay?

Betty came for them.

She wanted to string them up.

**Ronnie**

[calmly, trying to reassure him]

Don't worry about that. State's mobilized, and the Guard's on the way up. They'll get Threading back in control.

**Pete**

[remembering what he saw]

Ronnie, you got to warn them. The people the Reeds are with. They are ... they aren't human.

They tore through Betty's guys like nothing I ever saw. The big guy, they shot at him and his wife, and they shrugged it off before... His mouth was like a snake, all wide and fanged. And

they just cut 'em all down.

They're monsters.

**Ronnie**

**[trying to shush his delirious friend]**

They'll try to round everybody up, Pete. It's okay. It's going to be okay.

**Pete**

**[animated]**

**Ronnie, no.** It's not.

It's not just a bunch of peckerwood racists going after black folk.

The monsters that came looking to face Betty.

They're real, man.

I saw them!

They ate people, Ronnie!

**Ronnie**

**[concerned his friend is delirious]**

It's going to be okay, Pete.

**Pete**

[raving]

Listen to me, damn it! It's going to be a bloodbath.  
They got to burn it all down, that house, all of it.

**Ronnie**

**[yelling]**

**We need some help in here.**

[trucks pull up]

**Betty**

[commanding]

Get Jimmy and the boys to set up a perimeter.  
We'll get these two out and ready.

**Henchman 1**

All right, what do you want us two to do.

**Betty**

[smug]

Grab the gas cans, set that fucking house on fire.  
I want no cover for them.

**Henchman 2**

Let's go, queers.

**Carl**

[still in pain from the grazing of the bullet]  
You kiss your sister with that mouth, Mikey?

**Betty**

**[evil and smug]**

Don't pay Carl any mind, Mike.  
Don't look so glum, boys.

We're getting you back to your "lady."

**Kieron**

[defiant]

This is the type of person you are, Betty?

**Betty**

[matter of fact]

Well ... yeah.

**[Eric, Tim, Shannon, Richard, feel free to do these voices with different inflections, they're background, spaces between = different person]**

**Voices:**

All right, fire in the hole!

Woooo. Look at it go!

That's how you do it!

Let's get r done!

**Betty**

[yelling out]

I know you're out there, hiding like rats.

You shot your shot. But we are still here!

Get out here, give yourselves up!

[all of this rant will be put down to lower volume as we cut to Alphonse and Vanessa]

No body armor, or whatever the fuck that was.

You're going to make your way out here and face the music.

[impatient]

Are you stupid? Get out here!

There is NO WAY you're getting out of town alive. We got blockades on the roads now. You have no escape. None! We have you, and this is the end of the line.

So just give it the fuck up now!

**Alphonse**

[counting calmly, quietly]

Twenty-four, twenty-five.... Damn, Betty Martineau, who would've thought she'd be a leader?

All right, that should work.

Here, take this.

[hands gun to Vanessa]

**Vanessa**

[quiet indignation]

How many shots?

**Alphonse**

[calm]

15 rounds, second clip, same.

Make 'em count.

We're about ready to move.

**Vanessa**

[beside herself with disbelief]

That's your plan? Just pick them off?

**Uncle Nick**

[whispering]

No, wait until I say.

**Vanessa**

[scared shitless]

Uncle Nick?

**Kieron**

Baby! Get the hell out of here!

Just run!

They're going to kill all of us anyway.

**Betty**

You first. Get him on his feet.

[Kieron struggling against his captors]

This isn't just about you anymore, freaks! First we take you out, then the revolution starts.

America's Awake. People will see, and they'll join up. We're going to rise ---

[man screaming]

**Alfred**

[Calmy walking out of the dark]  
I thought I told y'all to run?

**Pauline**

[Serving righteous realness]  
They can't help it.  
They're losing, so they're just going to tear everything apart.  
But, like we told the Klan fleeing Fort Negley after Leander took it from them,  
"You never learn."

[fight ensues]

**Betty**

[calm]  
Grenades, now!

[grenade launchers]

**Pauline**

Alfred?

**Alfred**

I love you,

[large explosions]

**Vanessa**

[shock]  
They.....

**Uncle Nick**

[gravely]  
Yes.

**Betty**

[yelling, triumphant]  
Told you we weren't playing.  
GET OUT HERE NOW or I am watering this grass with  
Your sweethearts' brains.

**Uncle Nick**

**[calmly]**

Alphonse. Go now.

**Vanessa**

**[surprised]**

What?

**Alphonse**

[blows out air and gets ready to accept his fate]

Vanessa, I love you.

Time for me to be the brother I was meant to be.

**Vanessa**

**STOP!**

Let me go, Uncle Nick.

**Nick**

No, you must see this through.

**Alphonse**

**[yelling to Betty]**

I'm coming out, Betty.

My hands are up.

Don't shoot.

**Betty**

**[surprised]**

Didn't expect you to come out for this one.

**Alphonse**

**[proud]**

Betty, you got what you wanted. The two you killed, they killed Chip.

Your revenge has been made.

I'm going to give you a chance, though.

Everyone put your guns down.

**Betty**

**Are you serious? Pft.**

Vinnie, get out here, too!

Enough of this bullshit.

**Alphonse**

Okay. Then it's come to this.

Betty, witness my curse.  
We will hunt your kind, forever.  
You will be chased and caught wherever you surface.  
Your people will never be safe.  
Every life you take will only prolong your people's suffering.

**Betty**

**[calmly]**

Okay, Al.

[shoots Alphonse]

**Vanessa**

**[screams]**

No!

**Nick**

**[consoling]**

As Baako died, so did Adisa feel this loss pull at his soul.

**Juliet**

**[lovingly]**

Let her go.

**Henchman 1:**

Betty, the Guard's on their way!

We gotta get this done!

**Betty**

Kieron's next, Vinnie.

Get out here on the count of ten!

**[Shannon, give me a slow count]**

**Vanessa**

[pleading]

Help me save him.

**Nick**

**Will you help us in return?**

**Juliet**

If you do, we will save them both.

**Vanessa**

**What must I do?**

**Nick**

What I did.

**Betty**

2.... And All right... here she comes, Miss America.

Are you ready, sweetheart?

**Vanessa**

**[grief stricken]**

Let them go. You can have me.

**Betty**

Boys, shoot....

[tear]

[gurgle and spit and die]

**Uncle Nick**

Baako and Ella were their names.

Remember to tell your husband that when you rejoin him in hell.

[gunshots begin]

**Juliet**

Come brave children, to the woods.

**Kieron**

Vanessa!

**Vanessa**

Run baby, I'll ----

[Vanessa is shot]

**Kieron**

Let me go! She's hurt, I need to go back.

Let me go!

**Juliet**

She is gone, child. And now you must flee.

She bought you your life.

[helicopters]

**Carl**

Look... it's the Guard!

What do we do?

**Juliet**

Can you both swim?

**Action News**

**Jennifer Moreau**

The chaos in Threading has drawn to a dramatic close as an apparent white separatist cell was behind the riots and mass murder in the town. The alleged ringleader appears to be Elizabeth Martineau, whose husband's murder a day prior lit the powderkeg that has left forty people dead. Mrs. Martineau worked at the Threading Maine police department as a receptionist and dispatch call operator.

Among the dead are Alphonse Miller, who was a suspect in the highway slayings of several people who now seem to have all been connected to the same far right organizations as Mr. Martineau. We will be bringing you more news as the.....

[time passes]

**Kieron**

**[so impressed]**

This might be the greatest Americano I've ever had.

Seriously.

**Carl**

**[bashful]**

Ah, come on, bud. It's your machine, I'm just pushing the buttons. I really can't thank you enough for this. I... running a bar like this one, it's really something special.

**Kieron**

**[calm]**

Well, Vanessa always wanted a place for people to feel a sense of community. And before she moved out here, you were... well, you were it for her.

**Carl**

**[calmly]**

Still, I'm just a gay Maine redneck, Kieron. You didn't have to set me up.

**Kieron**

**[sad]**

I did, though. It helped, having you around this year.

**[pause, then warmly]**

So thank *you*.

**[door opens]**

**Kay**

**[happy]**

The papers are all signed, and your non-profit is fully operational. Vanessa's Voice for Queer People of Color is officially founded. Now you just have to find the board you want for it.

**Carl**

THAT'S GREAT! Congratulations, CEO!

**Kieron**

**[brushing that off]**

Nope. Not me. We're getting the right representation on this board. We just got to get the word out.

[bar music]

**Pen**

**[upset]**

I said leave us alone!

**Jerk**

**[drunk and creepy]**

Relax, I'm trying to be nice.

Come on back in and have a drink with me and my friends.

Two women out on the town with no dates?

Come on, we're fun.

**Pen**

Not a woman and we're not interested.

Fuck off.

**Mary**

**[standing ground]**

We're on a date, guy. Go back inside.

**Jerk**

Not tonight. Come on in with me, girls.

**Pen**

**[assertive]**

Hands off!

**Vanessa**

[walking up on them]

I'm sorry, but is there a problem here?

**Jerk**

Mind your business, bitch.

**Vanessa**

No thanks, I think I will mind yours.

Friends, you may want to go.

[monster sounds]

**[car door]**

**Alphonse**

Welcome back, how'd the night go?

**Vanessa**

One less predator in Concord.  
What about you three?

**Uncle Nick**

Leftovers from that Motorcycle Week up North.  
Their flag is everywhere.

**Aunt Juliet**

It's all the same.

**Alphonse**

We'll hit the road tonight, stop in VT to sleep in the Park and Ride.  
Where to next?

**Vanessa**

Wherever. We're needed everywhere.