

**Chosen Part Two:
Cookies and Cream**

**[fire crackling]
[scrape on gravel]**

Rommel

[satisfied]

Okay, the circle's complete and the fire is burning.

[Rommel pulls out some paper]

We're ready to begin.

Just remember to keep out of the circle while we're doing this

Rommel

[loud, shouting it to the wilderness around them]

We call to you, Lords of the Dark, who dwell in the shadow of Paradise.

The warriors of a war of Chaos against the Oppressive Order of the Ones Above.

We seek your gift, the power to realize our dreams in exchange for our eternal fealty.

[to his bandmates]

Repeat after me, "hear us, masters of the night!"

Mira

[making fun of him]

Really? No names or ---

Rommel

[aggressive]

Fucking just do it, Mira.

Hagbard

[trying to diffuse the tension, while still being keyed up themselves]

Mira - the band. Just go with it,, please. It's gonna be great.

Rommel

[getting back into it]

All right, "Hear us, masters of the night!"

Hagbard

[loud with almost sincerity]

Hear us, masters of the night!

Levi

[loud, in character]

Hear us, masters of the night!

Hector

[loud, going along with it]

Hear us, masters of the night!

Mira

[sarcastic]

Hear us, masters of the night!

[wind starts to blow]

Rommel

[to the sky]

We seek your audience! Come and trade with us, hidden rulers!

Hear us, Masters of the Night!

Hagbard, Mira, Hector, Levi

Hear us, masters of the Night!

Rommel

[to the group]

All right.

[sound of the knife being drawn]

Now, a little bit of blood from each of us to seal the pact.

Mira

[upset]

No way, you're not getting near me with that thing.

Rommel

[indignant]

Don't be fucking weak, Mira. I'm gonna hand you the knife. We all have to do it ourselves, or it doesn't work.

Hector

[angry with Rommel]

Fucking stop. She doesn't have to do it, it's all fake anyway.
She can stay out of it.

[Rommel cuts himself]

Rommel

[pained voice from slicing his palm]

Ah!

Hear us, masters of night!
Hagbard, your turn.

Hagbard

[cuts self, hisses in pain]
Hear us, Masters of Night!

Mira

[exasperated]

You two are crazy!

Hector

[Angrier]

All right enough. We don't need to do this.

Rommel

[angry]

Yes, you do. You and Mira. Or you're out.

Hector

[Furious]

Out?!

I started this band, Rommel.
And the three of us outnumber you two.

[knife cutting into flesh]

Levi

[in pain]

Hear us, masters of night!

Mira

[betrayed]

Levi, really?

Levi

[pained, but calm]

Doing it for the band, it barely hurts.
Here, take the knife.

We'll get it over with.

Mira

[starts walking]

Fuck this, I'm leaving.

Rommel

[alarmed a bit]

You walked through the circle!

Mira

[incredulous]

So what? Nothing about this is real.

Look.

[kicks gravel]

I broke the circle!

Oh, no, the demons are loooooose!

What shall we do?

[footsteps and a dog growling]

Peter

[calmly sinister]

Maybe start by telling me what the four of you are doing out here...

You're trespassing.

Witchever Path Presents

Chosen Part Two

Cookies and Cream

[door opens]

Hector

[calling out]

Angie, I'm back.

I got the ice cream.

Angie

How did it go, perrito?

Hector

[sighs, thinking about the heaviness of the evening]

Rommel is out of jail. I don't know why I didn't tell you that earlier.

He called Hagbard. And they're scared. The two of them are worried he's going to show up and do... I don't know what.

Angie

[compassionately]

Holy shit. Are you feeling okay?

After what he did...

If you don't want to talk about it.

Hector

[a little upset, trying to hide it with some anger]

He killed one of my best friends.

He never even admits what he did. Not all the way.

They fought, he hit Levi with the car and Mira...

You know what was the worst thing? I knew what was going to happen a year before that.

Angie

[puzzled]

What do you mean?

Hector

[vulnerable]

It was at the crossroads.

[decades back, at the crossroads]

Mr. Peter

[creepily warm]

Well, kids. Tell me what you're doing here, and I'll decide whether or not to call the cops.

Hagbard

[intimidated]

You don't need to call the cops. We'll go.

Rommel

[afraid but a little defiant]

We're just out here having a little fun.

We don't want any trouble, man.

Levi

[trying to play it cool]

We're practicing for our stage show, sir.

We're a band.

Peter

[amused]

Well, it looks like you're doing more than that... something a little Satanic.
I wonder if your parents would approve of that. You guys are like what, fifteen, sixteen?
You should be home.

Rommel

[pissed]

Try nineteen, asshole.

Peter

[laughs]

Not minors? Too bad for you.
When the cops get here, you'll just be locked up instead of going home to mommy and daddy.

[walkie talkie beep]

Hey Ray, it's Peter.

Rommel

[panicked]

Wait, no!

Peter

[amused]

No?

Rommel

[desperate]

Don't call the cops, man.
Please.

Peter

What's it worth to you?

Hector

[afraid]

Hold on, sir.

[takes out wallet, pulls out cash]

I got twenty dollars. Guys?

Hagbard

[snapping out of their quiet panic]

I got twelve. Levi.

Peter

Kids, you got to do better than that.

[pauses]

I got a better idea.

Mira

[nervous]

Hector...

Peter

[dismissive]

Rest easy, little girl.

I'm not interested in *you*.

Ray

[on the walkie]

What are you seeing, Peter?

Hector

[nervous, suspicious]

What do you want?

Peter

[mischievously]

I want you to finish what you're doing.

Like if I wasn't here.

Hagbard

[shocked]

What?

Peter

Finish your little magic show.

I want to see what you think you were doing.

Or, you know, you can explain it to the police.

So, I see three of you have cut yourself.

[stops and is thoughtful for a moment]

You there, buddy, why don't you do it next.

Then, the girl.

Mira

[terrified]

Hector... we should go.

Peter

[calm]

Oh, you can go. You can leave, you know... and like the angry kid, Robbie-

Rommel

ROMMEL!

Peter

Right, as the kid said as I came up... you're likely out of the band, right?

But you all came out here for something, yeah?

I want to see it. Otherwise, hey, you all get arrested.

And something tells me one of these boys would rat you out anyway.

Levi

Hey! Fuck--

Peter

[say quickly like you're talking over Levi]

But I'm going to spare you from ever knowing which one of you is a coward.

[laughs]

Finish what you started. And I'll let you go.

Rommel

[to Levi]

Give him the knife, Levi.

He's gonna do it.

Levi

[annoyed]

You're gonna snitch everyone's name out, Rommel Malkin?

Rommel

[incensed that his whole name was just used]

Fuck you, man!!.

Peter

[laughs]

Okay...you can fight after. You, you native american?

Hector

Mexican.

Peter

No shit. Well, boy, make the cut.

Hector

[slow breathing, looking at the man]

[grunts in frustration, then cuts himself, hisses from the pain, and says this part quietly]

Hear us, Masters of Night.

Peter

[amused]

What was that? I couldn't hear you.

Hector

Hear us, masters of night!

Mira

[resigned]

Assholes. Okay... hand me the knife.

[cuts]

Hear us, masters of night!

Rommel

[trying to act like he's in charge]

Okay, man. Now call to them in Spanish.

Hector

[offended]

Dude, go fuck yourself.

Rommel

[exasperated, trying to get Hector to understand the gravity of a creepy dude making them do it]

Come on, man, add something to this.

For the band.

Hector

[camping it up]

Puedes tener las almas de quien cree en esta mierda! Puedes tomar a este maldito tonto de todos modos!

[loud wind and the fire surges]

Peter

All right, then.

Works for me.

Thanks, kids.

Keep up the music.

Hopefully it's better than... this.

[starts walking away]

Hagbard

[unsure, calling after him]

You're not calling the cops?

Peter

[shouting back]

Depends if you clean up after yourselves.

[back to the present]

Hector

[slightly disgusted at the memory]

We were spooked for days, but went back to practice that next weekend like nothing happened. But that night, that was when I saw Rommel was more than just a pushy, spoiled kid. We were younger than him, and the band was what we had. So we stuck with it. And... we paid for it.

Angie

[trying to support him]

Baby, I'm so sorry.

Should we be worried?

Hector

[at a loss]

I don't know. Probably not.

[black metal playing]

[knock on door jamb]

Tommy

[a bit on alert]

Rommel, the lady's here.
She's got a big guy with her.

Rommel

[clears throat]

Be right there.

[walks down hallway]

Kristin

[trying to be civil, warm and professional]

Rommel Malkin?

Rommel

[warmly]

That's me. I hope you weren't expecting a monster.
No horns or tail, not yet anyway.
[laughs]

Kristin

[slight laugh]

Thanks for agreeing to meet today.

Rommel

[trying to be gracious]

Of course, I reached out to you after finding out about your show and your obsession with our case. I was so surprised and relieved when I found you open to talk to me. Most people these days, they seem to write off people who have been inside. And given the case, I feel like I've never really been given a chance to clear the record.

Kristin

[a little charmed, but on guard]

Okay. But I want to remind you that you agreed to whatever questions I might ask.

I want to give you a chance to talk and tell your side, but I may have some things I'll ask you that you might not want to answer.

It's okay that I brought Jeremy here, right? He's not going to talk, I just... well.

Rommel

You're a woman who came out to meet a convicted felon. I want you to feel safe.
You don't mind if Tommy is here too, do you?
He's going to record us, too.
Just so I can have a record of what we said as insurance.

Tommy

[firmly]

I'll promise to keep myself silent, ma'am.
Would you like some water?

Kristin

[polite]

No thank you. And sure, you guys can record it.
We're going to just start right off, Mr. Malkin.

Rommel

Rommel, please.

Kristin

Okay, Rommel. Let's just start. You were just released from prison after being incarcerated for twenty-four years... how does it feel?

Rommel

[surprised, quick laugh]

You weren't kidding. How do I feel?

[slight pause, then happy]

I feel like Rip Van Winkle.

[Fade into the sound of guitar noodling]

Mira

[explaining]

Hector was always this good, too. Like out of all of us, he was the best.

Tara

[excited]

I don't know, I think the drumming is pretty amazing. Give yourself some credit.

Mira

[trying to be gracious, though it calls attention to *why* she doesn't drum anymore]

Thanks.

[pause]

You know, I thought playing this would really mess with me. I haven't listened to it in years. But after being with the Hagbard last night, and having Hector meet up. I had to hear it.

Tara

I heard your stuff all through college. I had a friend, they'd play your bootleg over and over.

I probably heard it a million times over. I learned "Forsaken" by ear in like a day.

And I haven't really talked to you about it because of, well....

Mira

[reassuring]

I appreciate it, too.

But it looks like I'll be talking about it a lot for the near future, so I thought, why not get ahead of all of it? And your love of music, I just didn't want to tiptoe around it anymore.

Especially if you and I are getting serious.

And this, and everything that came after it, made me who I am.

Tara

[touched]

Thanks. So, are you worried that Rommel will be coming around?

Do you want to stay here with me for a little while?

Mira

[really touched and surprised]

Wow. Um. It's only been a month, but... your place is on the first floor and my chair can actually fit in your bathroom, so.

[thinks about it]

Sure.

Tara

[ecstatic]

Really?

Mira

[happy too]

Yeah, when the Lyft gets here I'll head over to my place, get some things, and head back.

[push notification]

And.. that was fast.

Tara

I'll get the door. Or. Hey, should I come with?

Mira

I'll be okay. Let me do this, I'll be back tonight.

Tara

[charged with bliss]

Okay.

Mira

[reflecting it back]

Okay.

[opens the doors for Mira]

[sound of chair rolling down ramp]

Tara

[distant shout]

See you, Mira!

Mira

[calling back]

Take care, hon!

[Car door opens.]

Mira

That was really fast, I

[struck dumb]

Peter

[that same wicked amusement]

Oh, it's no problem. Mira, right?

Mira

I.

Peter

I'm Peter. Let's get going.

Your Choices Are

Get in the car
Decline the ride
Call Tara for help

You can vote now on WitcheverPath.com/vote. The poll stops on February 27, so let's see what position you put Mira in.

This episode features:

Lito Velasco (He/Him) as Hector
Vyn Vox (He/They) as Mira
DJ Sylvis (They/Them) as Hagbard
Mike Gagne (He/Him) as Rommel
Jas LaFond (They/Them) as Angie
JD Lauriat (He/Him) as Peter
Melissa Geiser (She/Her) as Kristen
Mandy Hall (They/Them) as Tara
Tyler Bell (He/Him) as Tommy

The story was written by Jas and Steven and produced by Steven.

The Witchever Path Theme Song is written and performed by Rydr

The song, Forsaken, was performed by David Hawkins

The song, Movement, was by David Miles. Find more of his work on ZapSplat.com

Please join us in three weeks to see how you, the audience, effected our story with your decisions.

Before you go, we want to ask you to please consider becoming a Patron of our show over at patreon.com/witcheverpath. Our newest subscribers are Lindsay Gemmell and Melissa L. Geiser! Thank you, both! They now have access to our exclusive content, including episodes and stories from the Witchever Path team not found anywhere else, including the current storyline starring Rick and Melissa Croft who play a podcast team in search of an elusive New England cryptid. The cost of entry at our basic tier is just \$5 and we are sure you'll love it.

Before you go, check out the trailer for the Boston Harbor Horror podcast. While they just wrapped up Season 1, you can now go and binge this nautical horror and be all caught in time for season 2! It's written and produced by Mike Gagne, who you just heard playing Rommel. Check it out.