

[hospital beeping in a room]

**Teenage Hector**

**[upset, sitting next to Levi's bed]**

Hey, man. It's me, Hector.

Your mom's going to get something to eat, so I wanted to sit with you.

[pause]

Hagbard told me the doctor said they're keeping you sedated right now.

They're worried if you woke up, you'd be in too much pain or get up or something.

Your mom said I was your foster brother so they'd let me in.

But we're closer than that, right?

[heavy breath]

I should have been there with you.

[choked up]

I'm so fucking sorry, Levi. I couldn't get off work.

I would have been there to help you.

[pause]

You and Mira shouldn't have had to tell him he was out without me and Hagbard.

I didn't think he would actually --

**[sounds of beeps]**

**Hector**

[angry, but sniffing, wiping his tears away]

They got him, though.

Rommel's gonna pay for this.

The cops said he even admitted he hit you.

I don't even know if you can hear me.

I don't even know if you're still even in there, anymore.

But we're going to make sure you're honored.

The record company, they told us to focus on you. We can sign any time.

If you don't wake up, we're going to get someone to redo Rommel's part on the album.

People are going to know your name all over the world.

And when you get out of bed, Levi, you're gonna wake up to the glory you deserve.

**Levi**

[low]

Hector?

**Hector**  
**[shocked, not screaming because it's the ICU]**

Levi!  
 [tearing up more]  
 Oh my God! I can't believe you're ---

**Levi**  
 [quiet, then building into horror]  
 It's dark here. And it's finally quiet.  
 It's been so loud, Hector.  
 They won't stop screaming here.

**Hector**  
 [his friend's delirious, so he tries soothing]  
 It's okay, Levi.  
 You're in the hospital.  
 They got you on drugs and a ...

**Levi**  
 No, Hector.  
 She's waiting for us here.  
 She doesn't stop smiling.  
 She wants us all.  
 She's... she's going to eat me.  
 Forever.

**Hector**  
 Levi... it's ...

**Levi**  
 Break up the band, Hector.  
 Save yourself.  
 SAVE YOURSELF.

**What do you when you're confronted with the unexplained?  
 What if the rational course of action won't do the trick?  
 With Hector's baby on the way, you decided Hagbard's taking the reins of this situation.  
 Witchever Path, Presents Chosen Part Five - Good Lady**

**Nurse**

[calling out]  
Hector Navarro?

**Hector**

[under his breath]  
Fuck.  
I guess I'm up on the sewing table.  
We'll figure this out together once the baby's born.

[to the nurse]

I'm right here, ma'am. I'm coming.

**Hagbard**

You want us to go with you upstairs after you get sewn up?

**Mira**

We will, if you want!

**Hector**

[to them quietly]  
We can

[phone buzzes]

Damn it.  
Angie's saying that the baby's coming.

**Nurse**

Sir, are you coming?

**Hector**

[frustrated]  
I gotta go.

**Hagbard**

[trying to calm his friend down]  
After you get sewn up. The doctor sent you down here to get that seen to.

**Hector**  
**[starting to protest]**

Yeah, but --

**Hagbard**

[being the big sibling and taking a bit of charge]

Get yourself taken care of, they'll be quick, and we'll all get up there.

We'll go together.

**Hector**

[adrenaline pumping, and disoriented from all of the things happening]

I - yeah.

[sighs]

You're right. You're gonna wait for me?

**Hagbard**

[amused]

We just got stitches, Hector. I'd prefer not to drive anywhere for awhile. Seriously, though. We'll be here.

**Hector**

[collecting himself]

That makes sense. I'll go.

Thank you, man.

[to the nurse]

Sorry for making you wait.

[Hector runs to the nurse]

**Mira**

[calm, but guarded]

Hagbard, after we go upstairs with Hector...

We have to talk to the cops about this.

**Hagbard**

[thoughtfully parsing his words]

Mira, a couple of years ago, when Nazis decided they could start walking around without any fear... how did you feel about it?

**Mira**

[not following, a little confused by the non-sequitur]

It disgusts me.

**Hagbard**

And people who punch those Nazis? How do you feel about them?

**Mira**

I think they're doing the right thing.

**Hagbard**

[hoping she'll catch the hint]

And yet. It's against the law if it isn't seen as self-defense.

And so those people, they try to avoid police entanglement when they can.

**Mira**

[understanding what they mean, but trying to be the voice of reason]

I get it, Hagbard, I do. But I really think that we can't handle Rommel alone.

And the two of you are even starting to believe in magic.

Can you cast spells?

**Hagbard**

[thoughtful]

No. But...

**Mira**

**[lets that hang in the air]**

But? Hey, the dramatic effect of a pause right now isn't what I need.

**Hagbard**

[just going for the truth]

I know someone through some protests and direct action.

And she has a very good friend, who she swears can, make things happen.

And I know what I sound like to you, but I'll make you a deal:

I'll reach out, and we'll talk to them.

If it doesn't work, or we don't like what we hear, you can call the cops.

I promise.

**Mira**

[acquiescing begrudgingly]

Okay, Hagbard.

What do we do?

**Hagbard**

[calm]

I'll go make the call.  
You wait here and text me if Hector comes out.  
Oh, and Mira.

**Mira**

Mmm?

**Hagbard**

Tara's coming back in. I don't know what you tell her, but can you... be discreet about what I told you before I get a better sense of her?

**Mira**

[fine with it]

Sure, Hagbard. Go make your call.

**Tara**

[hands full]

They have a machine that has hot chocolate down there.  
Hagbard, I got you a tea.

**Hagbard**

Thanks, Tara. I'm going to make a call real quick, I'll be right back.

**Tara**

[pleasant]

Okay. I really like them, Mira.  
Is Hector getting his stitches?

[seeing Mira's distress]

Babe, are you okay?

**Mira**

[trying to appear fine]

Yeah, it's just -

[decides to throw caution to the wind]

The guys, I mean, the two of them don't think our cuts are accidents.  
And, Hector said that he knows Rommel's cut, too.  
And this is just so fucking nuts.

**Tara**

[confused]

I thought Hector and Rommel wouldn't talk.

You know, given that Rommel went all Aryan Nation or whatever in prison.

**Mira**

[agreeing]

You're right. Rommel's not looking to be friends. He wants to restart the band. And with all of the original members signing off, he can make money off it. So, he has to make a deal.

But he apparently told Hector that he'd convince them that we are bound together, and cut his hand,... And then ....

[waves hand sighs]

We're all here in the hospital. And they're thinking he cast some sort of spell.

**Tara**

[emaphetic]

And what do you think?

**Mira**

[calm but being raw]

I haven't been able to walk more than ten steps for the past ten years, Tara.

The pain is ...

[emotional]

I can't describe it all without language that is so stupidly on the nose, or trite.

And I tried everything to numb the pain.

I drank. Electric therapy. Medical Marijuana, which sort of helps if I stay in the chair. I even saw a "healer" a few years ago. They chanted over me, used crystals.

The whole thing left me feeling embarrassed and stupid.

And that's why what they're saying is messing with me.

**Tara**

[being supportive]

Because they're jumping into conspiracy theories and magic?

**Mira**

[trying to compose herself]

Because... sitting here and listening to them, the only thing I am feeling right now is the throbbing in my hand, and the instinct to get up and go to the bathroom on my own.

**Doctor LeGrasse**

[looking at the wound]

Hector, how thick was that glass?

**Hector**

Oh, it was mostly the lightbulb, nothing too big.

**Doctor LeGrasse**

Well, that lightbulb should be illegal. Wow.

[snips the thread]

Okay, you're about done.

**Hector**

[relieved]

Great. I got to get upstairs. My wife's giving birth.

**Doctor LeGrasse**

[pleasantly surprised]

Oh, *well...* go! Go.

Congratulations!

**Hector**

**[ready to get this done]**

Thanks!

[gets up]

**Doctor LeGrasse**

Wait!

Do you want to use the staff elevator?

**Hector**

**[pleasantly surprised]**

Yeah!

That would be great!

I got friends in the waiting room, can I ?

**Doctor LeGrasse**

[hesitant]

Mmm.

You can text them and let them know where to meet you. Let's get you up there, Dad.

[walking to the elevator]

**Hector**

[grateful]

I can't thank you enough.



[elevator dings, gets in]

[makes a phone call]

**Rommel**

[voicemail]

You've reached Dark Coven Productions. Leave me a message.

**Hector**

[angry]

I should blow you off.

I should.

But I'll be busy for the next few days.

So I'll call you and we'll meet.

[pause]

I believe you.

But we're going to talk when *I'm ready*.

Call me before I call you, and I will find a way to make sure you NEVER get what you want.

[hangs up]

[elevators dinging]

[sound of screaming and pushing]

**Doctor Burke**

[being supportive]

Keep it up, Angie... you're doing great.

This is going really well.

You got this.

**Angie**

**No puedo hacer! Afuera demonio!**

**Hector**

[doing the breathing coach]

Stick with me, let's do this.

[three quick breaths]

And push.

[three quick breaths]

Push.

**Angie**

Hectorrrrrrrr.

[baby cries]

**Doctor Burke**

We got her. We got her!

**Angie**

[you know how to deliver this line, Jas]

Hector? How does she look?

**Hector**

[overjoyed]

Perfect.

Perfect.

**Doctor Burke**

[happy]

Okay, Dad. You ready to cut her cord...

What's her name?

**Angie**

Leviana.

**Hector**

What?

**Angie**

It's okay, Hector. It's good.

[sound of hospital background]

**Hagbard**

[small talk]

Yeah, Venom, Maiden, Mayhem early on, but as I got older, that was something I wasn't ashamed to admit, because, well, obviously.

**Tara**

[enthused]

Yeah, I mean, we could debate the artist versus the art all day, but I see your point.  
Do you listen to anybody recently you love?

**Hagbard**

[thinks]

The Bridge City Sinners.

**Mira**

[interrupting]

Tara-bear, can you get me another soda?  
I'm running on fumes and could use some caffeine.

**Tara**

[eager]

Oh, sure. Hagbard?

**Hagbard**

[politely]

No thanks, Tara. I'm pretty good.

**Tara**

Okay, be right back.

[Tara walks off]

**Mira**

[low conspiratorial]

Did she round the corner yet?

**Hagbard**

[understanding]

Yep. And to anticipate your question, I was able to talk to the woman my friend thinks may be able to help us out. She wants to meet and talk it over in person. She lives in Hartford.

**Mira**

[skeptical]

When?

**Hagbard**

[frankly]

Tomorrow. Like right away.  
She was pretty emphatic about it.  
She wants to see our hands and talk about the whole thing.

**Mira**

[skeptical]

I don't know.  
What are we even hoping she'll do?

**Hagbard**

[hiding the inherit wizardry]

She may be able to find a way to make Rommel back off.  
She's a problem solver.

**Mira**

[puzzled]

Like a hitman?

**Hagbard**

[laughs]

No. No, like a political fixer for the common people.  
Sandy, my friend, said that she was able to get an entire group of alt-right guys to completely disband their group in Connecticut before a big rally.

**Mira**

[giving it a benefit of the doubt]

All right.

**Hector**

[walks up]

Hey guys. Want to come in and say hello to somebody?

**Hagbard**

[mood change to happy]

Yeah, of course. Of course.

**Mira**

[happy]

Oh my god, yes!  
Hold on! I'll text Tara and let her know the baby's here.  
Room 4313, right?

**Hector**

[agreed]

Yep.

[light knock at door]

Angie? We're here.

**Angie**

Hola, guys.

Here she is... our little girl.

Leviana.

**Hagbard**

[happy]

Wow.

**Mira**

[touched]

She's beautiful...

Hi, little girl.

Welcome to the world.

**Hector**

[caught up in the joy of this moment]

Even with everything going on... I'm glad you're both here to meet her.

This moment, *right here*.

We're going to make it.

Hagbard... what's up?

**Hagbard**

Nothing, man.

It can wait.

[sound of outside]

[shovel]

**Rommel**

[grunting]

Almost... come on...

[hits the coffin lid]

There you are.

[swipes dirt.]

Here we go.

[click of the coffin]

Hi there, Levi.

Miss me?

I was hoping to avoid this, but the band's got to get back together for this to work.

He was pretty clear about that.

[paused]

Nothing to say?

That's fine. I'd love to talk more, but we can't really hang out and wait for the sun to rise. Last thing I need is to be caught here. Could you imagine?

Anyway, let's get you out of there.

What's that?

No, I can carry you fine. I don't need all of you anyway.

[crunch of shovel breaking vertabre]

[sound of walking]

**Peter**

Got him?

**Rommel**

[smug]

Yup.

[shakes bag]

All packed and ready for our ride.

**Peter**

**[thoughtful]**

Morning's almost here, though.

You need to go home and rest.

**Rommel**

You should hold onto him for me.  
If the cops get wind, they're coming to me immediately.

**Peter**

[amused]  
Smart thinking.  
What's your alibi for tonight?

**Rommel**

I left my phone with Tommy tonight.  
He's been having cyber sex with some girl on my phone all night.

**Peter**

**[amused by the excon's antiquated vernacular]**  
It's called sexting.

**Rommel**

What?

**Peter**

Let's just go.

[music blaring]  
[car doors open]

**Hagbard**

[stretching]  
That was a long ride.  
I'll get your chair out of the trunk.

**Mira**

Sounds good.  
Do you think she has an elevator?

**Hagbard**

[embarrassed]  
[pops trunk]  
Oh, Mira. I'm so sorry, I didn't think.  
I'll text her right now.

**Mira**

[annoyed]  
It's okay.

[gets chair]

**Hagbard**  
Need help?

**Mira**  
You can just hold the chair steady  
[small grunt as she stands up, and then sits in the wheelchair]

**Hagbard**  
She just texted back.  
Someone's coming down to let us in.

**Widdershins**  
[happy]  
Good morning!  
Good morning!  
There is a lift in the building.  
Tante M is waiting for you upstairs.  
I will take you up!

**Hagbard**  
[a bit confused]  
Okay, thank you. I'm Hagbard. And you are?

**Widdershins**  
[ happy to say]  
Wid- Why I am Matt, the Auntie's ex-husband.  
Let us go inside.

**Mira**  
[wheeling herself in, speaking low to Hagbard, musically]  
He's creepy...  
[slight laugh]

**Hagbard**  
[little chuckle]  
We'll be ok.

**Mira**  
I like your pendant. Is that a butterfly?



**Widdershins**

Butterfly? Ha ha. No, no butterfly.

[it hangs in air]

**Mira**

[awkward]

Okay.

[elevator stops]

**Widdershins**

Ah, here we are.

Next stop, destiny.

**Mira**

[sniffs the air]

Well, it smells good in here at least.

Is that Sage or weed?

**[Widdershins knocks on door]**

**Widdershins**

Good Lady?

They are here.

**Makayla**

[from inside]

Great. Matt. Go check on Lilly, would you?

Hi. I'm Makayla.

You're Sandy's friend, Hagbard, right?

**Hagbard**

Yes, ma'am.

**Mira**

I'm Mira.

**Makayla**

Nice to meet you. I want to start by saying I looked you up before you got here.

And I know what happened to your friend.

Can I see your hands?

**Hagbard**

[taken aback]

You don't want to hear the story?

**Makayla**

I don't need it yet.

And, this one, Mira?

You believe what you see, right?

**Mira**

[guarded]

Right.

**Makayla**

[nurturing]

Let me see your hands, please.

[turns hands over then disapprovingly]

Mmm.

Mira, can I see yours?

[inspects , with some humor.]

Okay... You got strong hands, girl.

So, do you want to hear the good news?

**Hagbard**

[confusedly hopeful]

Is there good news?

**Makayla**

You aren't claimed yet.

But you five aren't out of the woods.

You were young, and stupid, and you did it all with ignorance, and some of you with disbelief.

But words have power. And blood

[taps table]

Has power.

**Mira**

How much?

**Hagbard**  
**[surprised]**  
 Mira, what?

**Mira**  
**[annoyed]**  
 How much is this help going to cost?

**Makayla**  
**[laying it all out plainly]**  
 One of you died, another erases music whenever he's about to make something really good.  
 Hagbard, here has lived a life of penance rather than face the music.  
 You... you've been punished for not believing over and over.  
 And now --

**[Mira stands up]**

**Mira**  
**[angry]**  
 I've been punished?!  
 My chair and pain are a punishment? FROM WHO?  
 Fuck you, lady.  
 Levi died because Rommel was a fucking psychopath.  
 Fibromyalgia isn't a curse, even if in my heart it feels that way.  
 Hagbard, it hasn't even been five minutes, and this voodoo...

**Makayla**  
**[trying to reason with the foolish]**  
 Listen to me and show me respect in my damn house.  
 That cut in your hand is a past due letter from whatever you made a deal with.  
 It's come to collect, and Rommel made his payments.  
 If you think this is bullshit, Keep thinking that. If you really believe it, maybe you'll be ahead of  
 the game.  
 But for Hagbard? They know what's up.  
 Your other friend, too.

I can help. I can make it possible to break the pact.  
 It's not easy, but I can give you what you need for it to work.  
 Then you take care of it.  
 So right now, you're standing up on your own feet, staring me down, and I can tell by the look in  
 your eyes it's not the physical pain that you're fighting, it's the decades old pain.  
 So here's your choice, Mira:

You accept my help today, and get a chance to stop all of this.  
You say fuck this, and you walk away from these two, and leave them to take care of it.

But I want to help you, Mira. I'm not asking you to pay me, or to hurt anyone.

**Mira**

What's in it for you?

**Makayla**

You're the victim of a contract you didn't even know you were in.

I've been there, and can't stand seeing someone go through it.

But you need to accept my help.

So I will ask you to do this:

[stands up]

Take my hand and say yes, or sit back down and wait outside until Hagbard's done here.

**Hagbard**

[confused]

I haven't said yes.

**Makayla**

Don't fool yourself, you're here.

You know what you want.

Well, Mira?

What's it going to be?

**What should Mira do, oh wanderers of the path?**

**Should she decline Makayla's help?**

**Accept Makayla's hand?**

**Or demand further proof?**

**You can vote now at [Witcheverpath.com/vote](http://Witcheverpath.com/vote)**

**We'll be collecting your choices until Thursday April 21.**

**You could vote for what you think will help her out, or what you think will be the most interesting. Maybe those will intersect for you... maybe they won't.**

**This episode featured**

**Lito Velasco as Hector**

**Vyn Vox as Mira**

DJ Sylvis as Hagbard  
Mike Gagne as Rommel  
Mandy Hall as Tara  
JD Lauriat as Peter  
Jas LaFond as Angie and Makayla  
Kim Dauber as Dr. Burke  
Steven as Matt

This episode was written by Jas and Steven and produced by Steven

The Witchever Path theme song was written and performed by Rydyr

The song Klezmer Folk was by [October Inc.](#)

The songs, Lo-Fi Dub and Stay Away were by [ZapSplat.](#)

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If the pandemic has you cash strapped, we get it. It's tough all over. You can support us by getting your friends to listen. Tell more people about the show, or give us a high rating on Apple Podcasts for Podchaser.

And stay tuned after I stop talking so you can support some of the amazing podcasts we love, many of them the projects of the actors you heard today.

Until next time, my friend, Choose the Night, Choose the Unknown. Choose the Path