

Hector

[happy]

Well, here we go, family. Time to go home.

Angie

[happy]

Oh, my own bed. No more nurses coming in.

[to the baby]

You hear that, mija? We're going home!

[newborn sounds]

Hector

[happy and also a little nervous]

We're going to need to call Mami to come by, though.

Maybe help out a little while you try to get some rest.

I... this is all real now. Like, I don't what to do.

Angie

We take care of Liviana, I did it with my sisters.

It'll be easy. Feed her, change her, hold her. You'll get used to it.

Hector

[agreeing]

Sure, I just... I want to do more than my dad did, you know?

And I got no practice doing any of this.

Angie

[playfully]

Yeah, but that didn't stop you from making a baby, did it? Deal's made, babe.

[pause]

You're going to be great at this, Hector. Just let all that fear go and follow through. This is going to be the best thing that's ever happened to you.

[phone buzzing]

Angie

[sighs, laughs]

Here comes the phone.

[Hector stops the vibrating]

Hector

[reassuring]

Whoever it is will have to wait.

We gotta get Leviana home.

A new family goes home, an old friend, thanks to you, decides that the best way to deal with the unknown is to accept help from an unlikely source

Witchever Path Presents

Chosen Part Six: Walk a Mile In Your Shoes

Makayla

Well, Mira?

What's it going to be?

Mira

[sighs]

What was the contract you were stuck in?

Did you sell your soul?

Makayla

[a little taken aback]

My husband was willing to do anything to prove magic was real,
and it almost cost me my daughter.

I had to do everything to keep her.

And.... I wound up finding the proof Matt wanted anyway.

Mira

[shocked]

Your ex... the one that's here now with your daughter?

Makayla

[little laugh]

No, that's not Matt.

And I'll prove it to you if you want, after.

But my offer is right here, and I can tell standing is starting to be an issue for you.

But I'll make you a deal, take two steps, shake my hand.

Then I'll do what I can to help you.

Mira

[starting to come around]

If this turns out to be bullshit, you'll be sorry.

Makayla

[calm]

I bet I would be.

[hand shake]

Okay, with that done, tell me everything about the night you guys cut your hands the first time.
It's been over twenty years, but I want to know how much of it you remember.

[realizing Mira's unsteady]

Oh, Mira, I'm sorry.

I'll let you sit back down first. Let me make us some tea.

[Mira sits back in her chair].

Mira

[distasteful of the thought of tea]

I don't really want any tea, if that's okay.

Makayla

[blowing that off with attitude]

I'm not offering it. You wanted my help, drinking this tea is part of it.

Mira

[conceding]

Fine.

Hagbard

[still holding onto what Makayla said]

That guy said his name was Matt in the elevator.

If he's not Matt, who is he?

Makayla

[dismissing]

He's useful, and trustworthy, to me, anyway.

[slow whistle of the kettle]

Hagbard

[startled]

That was fast.

Makayla

I started it as you pulled up.
Y'all seemed to be in a hurry.
Drink up.

[sips of tea]

Mira

[disgusted]
This tastes like burnt popcorn.

Makayla

It's an acquired taste. Hagbard, start us off.

Hagbard

[seriously trying to remember]

It was a long time ago, but I remember we were making the call to the 'Masters of the Night.' Although, it got a bit shortened to Masters of Night, too, I think. Rommel had written it. Hector thought the whole thing was ridiculous. And then, we started to cut our hands before the guard showed up.

[slow rush of the ocean turning up in volume]

Mira

[creeped about Peter]

Peter. Who showed up again, and it's not a coincidence. It can't be. It made me wonder if he and Rommel had kept in contact the whole time. I mean, Rommel picked the spot we were going to do the ritual, and the guy even showed up after Rommel got out. It's why I wanted to call the cops. It made more sense that he and Rommel were in on this and had reconnected to fuck with us even more... until the cut.

[peacock sound]

[Mira surprised]

What was that?

Makayla

[keeping her calm and on task]

It's a bird. You mentioned the cut.
Who cut themselves first?

Hagbard

[sort of pausing at weird times, feeling the effects of the mushrooms]

Mira, my cut is a total reopening of the scar ---

Like, *really* -

It's, it's just it's exact. Isn't yours exact?

Mira

[feeling light-headed and nauseous]

Hagbard, focus on the

Something's not right.

[a bit mumbly repeat]

Something's not right.

[to Hagbard]

Yeah, my cut is the same one I made, I guess.

But what can I do?

[dizzy a bit]

I don't think we're going to get the timing of this right.

I'm all over the place here,

Did we answer your question?

Makayla

[calm]

No, but you don't have to tell me.

Hagbard

[confused]

But you said.

[sound of waves]

Makayla

[Oshun echo]

You will show me.

Probation Officer

[calm]

Okay, that's a firm sweep.
Surprised I didn't find any of the firearms registered to you, Tommy.

Tommy

[annoyed]

Legally owned, but not in the house.
I need to sign it out at the range to get it.
I know my rights.

Rommel

[calm]

Am I in trouble, sir?

PO

Would you like to be?

Rommel

[knowing his rights]

No, sir. We consented for you to come in, but I have a lawyer, and I'd like to call him if we're going to keep talking.

PO

[grunts]

Rommel, the cops are here as an escort, but as your Probation Officer, I don't think I have to tell you that you're a person of interest right now.

Rommel

[incredulous]

I'm not boring, *sir*. But you're not even telling me what you're looking for.
Which is really messed up.

PO

[a bit angry]

Levi Ostermann. Somebody dug him up.
I think you know who did it.

Rommel

[firm]

Sir, Levi is dead. I wouldn't even dream of going by his grave because of the attention that would get me. I think you know that.

But, you know what I could do for you? I'm going to give you the number of my lawyer.
Let me get a pen.

Tommy

[annoyed]

Once you get that, you should leave my apartment, sir.

And while you're at it, there are other members of his old band, too.

Maybe you could cast your eye over the less politically correct suspects here, and maybe do the police work that we count on you for.

PO

[tough]

Shut your mouth, Adolf. This isn't Threading.

Your boy here's a killer and a member of the AB.

And you, well, I'm sure you're weeks away from becoming official yourself.

Rommel

[chipper]

And on that note, here's my new lawyer's number. You'd like him, his name is Feldman.

Good bye. Permission to be in the house has been officially rescinded.

[they leave]

Tommy

[calm]

Don't say a word. I'm sweeping for bugs.

Rommel

A Probation Officer can't bug the house legally, Tommy. They think I'm dumb and panic and screw up. I'm not interested in doing anything that they'll even understand. And by the time they would even make a move, it'll be too late. I just have to be careful.

Tommy

[serious, trying to get through to him]

Rommel, you've been out so little time, and you're already moving fast. I have your back, I always will, man. But you're no good to any of us if you get caught and thrown back into prison. Once you're back to making music, you'll be able to reach millions, and that's where we need you. Not behind bars.

Rommel

[amused with himself]

I'm *ahead* of the game there, Tommy.

But I need to ask you, are you willing to do whatever it takes for the cause?

Tommy

You know I am.

Rommel

[conspiratorial]

Good. Later tonight, go to this address.

That friend I met up with last night needs your help with something.

I'm going to go grocery shopping and then watch television in the living room for the rest of the night.

Tommy

Okay, what if I'm followed?

Rommel

You won't be. Have a little faith.

Oh, and man. That girl you were texting for me?

Fucking hot, bro. I'm practically sore.

Tommy

[a little creeped by that]

Uh, sure, man. Happy to help.

Rommel

Sorry man, I forgot people on the outside have hang ups about all this shit. Anyway, I'll give her a call tonight, which'll help with the cover.

Just, uh, knock before you come home.

[gross little laugh]

[sound of the railroad]

[light peacock sound]

Hagbard

[shocked]

How is this possible?
It's the tracks.

Mira

[a little afraid]
You drugged us.

Makayla/Oshun

All of you drank the tea, child.
What you remember with your waking mind can be incomplete.
But here, we can see what was and what is as it truly happened.
Here you all come.

[sound of the car coming up, blaring Forsaken]

[sounds of people talking from the first episode]

Hagbard

[in awe]
Incredible. Look at us. We're so tiny.
And there's Levi.
Holy fuck.

Mira

[surprised]
Oh my god, I used to straighten my hair so much, I'm surprised it didn't fall out.
Look at that mess. Do you know that Rommel thought I was Italian?

Hagbard

[laughing]
Yes. I knew. I let him know that you weren't on a couple of occasions, but he refused to believe it. I wonder if the fact you wear your hair naturally now would freak him out.

Mira

[sour]
So you didn't gloss it over. Look at me, look at me look at you.
Shit. You know, I hated you for a while. I thought you were like him.

Hagbard

Rommel did, too. Sometimes I thought I might be, but I just never had the same upbringing he did. I was convinced there was a good guy in there, somewhere deep. And I wouldn't fight with him in front of you guys, but I always talked about the shit he did or said that I thought was out of line when we were alone.

Mira

I thought you didn't know how much I liked you.

Hagbard

I did. You see me staring at you more than Hector while I'm trying to convince everyone.

I wanted to connect, but I was terrified.

Mira

Because you were a teenager afraid of being with a mixed girl?

Hagbard

Because I'm asexual.

Mira

[stops, pauses between these lines]

Oh.

Well, I don't.

I guess that would have been confusing to a couple of kids back then.

I knew I was mostly gay anyway, but.... Yeah. I adored you.

MAKAYLA/OSHUN

Do not miss what is unfolding, the ritual is beginning.

Look how the circle glows.

Mira

That didn't happen. I didn't see it glowing.

It was just lines in the dirt.

MAKAYLA OSHUN

Not to you, Mira. And not to Hector.

But watch, watch its center

[sound of wind, a growl]

It comes to witness your offering and to accept your deal.

Within the circle, it cannot reach out to you, it cannot harm you, not so long as you

[sound of Mira destroying the circle]

Mira

Oh no. Oh no.

I didn't know, I didn't believe.

Wait, that shadow it goes into the woods and....

Hagbard

And Peter comes out of it, making no sound.

[fear]

He's not.

[pause for understanding, and the drama of the unreal being confirmed]

He's not a person.

He's a demon.

MAKAYLA/OSHUN

Yes. But you did not believe such a thing was possible.

And so the spirit had to take a form that would make you complete the spell.

Deceit is a skill they excel at.

Mira

So we cut our hands... and that was it?

The deal's done.

Makayla/Oshun

No, watch the fool ruin it with his pride.

[hear Rommel say the thing for Hector to say shit in Spanish]

Hagbard

[more animated]

I remember this! Hector says something in Spanish and then it was all over.

Mira

My Spanish sucks. Do you know what he said?

Makayla

Of course, child, but the words may do you more harm than good, for they are the words that would complete the pact for you and for Hagbard. Much is open to interpretation, and those from beyond are better at interpreting than most mortals.

[hear him]

Hagbard

[having an idea]

Maybe it's not for you to tell us, right?

MAKAYLA

Go on.

Hagbard

We have to ask Hector, Mira.

Mira

What if he doesn't remember?

Makayla

He will remember.

{whispers}

Mira

What is that noise?

Makayla

We are not the only ones interested in this evening. Let us go back.

[back to the music of the apartment]

Hagbard

[panicked, fumbling for his phone]

[dials]

It's gone right to voicemail.

Shit.. I...

Hector, that night at the tracks, what did you say?

Call us. It's really important, man.

Call me back, *please*.

[phone buzzing again]
[stops]

Hector

[annoyed, speaking lowly, baby and Angie finally fell asleep]

Every five minutes. What the fuck.

[inspecting]

Mom, Dad, Tía, ok... Hagbard... okay, like eleven of these are from him.

“What did you say at the tracks?”

[anguished and angry that this moment is interrupted]

Come on. Just a few hours rest at home with my baby.

That’s all I want.

Is that too much to ask?

[doorbell]

Hector

[keyed up and sure that this could be Rommel]

Oh, now?

Now you coming for me?

Okay.

[opens closet]

[cocks shotgun]

Okay. Here we go.

[walks to door]

Hector

[through door]

Who is it?

Tommy

[calm, through door]

Ana’s Hands Delivery. I have a package for Angela and Hector Navarro?

I need you to sign for it.

[slides peep hole]

Hector

[suspicious]

Leave it on the porch.

Tommy

[playing the part of delivery guy well]

I'm sorry, I have to get you to sign for me to leave it.

I'll get fired if I just drop it off.

Hector

[grunts]

Hold on.

[puts down gun, unlocks and opens door]

Where do I sign?

Tommy

[puts down package]

Here's the bassinet, and you can sign on my screen.

Hector

[calm]

Thank you, goodbye.

[hefts up box]

What the hell is in this?

[puts down in side]

[opens knife, cuts open box]

Oh. Oh neat.

This is ... wow.

Has to be Hagbard.

[calls them]

Hagbard

Oh, man, thanks for calling me.

I need your help, right now.

Hector

I was going to just thank you for the package, but I got your messages.

[sighs, sort of pulled back in]
Okay, I'd prefer not to talk about this right now, but yeah.
I remember what I said.

[recalling]
Puedes.... I said that they could have the souls of whoever really believed this shit, and that
It could take Rommel anyway.

[silence]
Hector
[worried he lost them]
Hagbard, now's not the time to pause.
Please let me know you're there.

Hagbard
I... believe now.
Don't you?

Hector
[upset]
I, where are you right now?

Hagbard
[feeling that terror]
I'm with a person who thinks they can help us.
I'm going to tell her what you said. Actually, can I put you on Speaker?

Hector
What... Hagbard, what is going on?

Makayla
Hello, Hector, my name is Makayla. I'm here with Mira and Hagbard in Hartford.
You added in those words about belief?

Hector
I said that they could have the souls of anyone who believed in what we were doing.
And that it could have Rommel no matter what.

Makayla
Okay, that's pretty clear, but I think you may have a way out of this mess.
How clever are you, Hector?

Hector

I'm a session musician and music teacher. I'm not stupid, but what... what are you?

Makayla

A witch. I'm a witch. I get things done.
So, I want to ask you, are you good with contracts?
Wordplay?

Hector

[really trying to concentrate on this madness]

I don't know.
I just.
[just giving up with trying to understand]
What?

Makayla

[calm]

You know that cut is real, and you know how you really got it.
And I was told what you're going through up there and, it's fucking unfair. You want peace, and
you want to focus on what should be the happiest moment of your life, right?

Hector

Right.

Makayla

I don't want money, I don't want anything from you.
But your friends asked me for help..
And I think you need it, too.
But I bet you're being pulled in too many directions.
And when I was a new mom, I almost did, too.
So don't say yes or no to me right now.
Here's what I want you do:
Be a new dad tonight, and tomorrow. But tomorrow night, just let us know where you stand.
What you want to do.

Hector

Please put Hagbard back on the phone.

Makayla

Sure.

[switch of phone]

Hagbard

Hey, man.

Hector

[seething]

Okay.

I'm going to let you go in a second, because I'm.

[pause]

I'm angry.

I Don't Understand what we're going to do here.

But thank you for the stroller.

It just arrived.

Hagbard

I didn't get you a stroller, man.

I haven't had time to do anything today except get down here.

Hector

There's a card right here.

"Reunited at the right time.

Congratulations.

Now let's put our heads together."

[realizing]

I fucking warned him.

I gotta go.

Hagbard

No! Hector wait.

Hector

[just trying to get him off the phone]

I hear the baby, Hagbard.

I'll call you soon.

Bye.

Hector

Let's put our heads together?

[gets grim]

Yeah okay.

Angie

[downstairs]

Hector, are you okay?

Hector

I'm just going out to the store for a second, baby.

I'll be back.

What is Hector really going to do?

Take Rommel out.

Follow Makayla's Advice.

Buy some liter fluid, come back, burn the master tapes of the demo.

You can vote now at WitcheverPath.com/vote.

We will have the vote open until Thursday, May 21.

Choose with care, or with wild abandon.

This story featured:

Lito Velasco as Hector

Mike Gagne as Rommel

Vyn Vox as Mira

DJ Sylvis as Hagbard

Tyler Bell as Tommy

JD Lauriat as Peter

Jas as Makayla, Oshun, and Angie

This episode was written and produced Jas and Steven

The Witchever Path theme is by Rydr

The songs, Lo-Fi Dub, Seedy City and Stay Away were by ZapSplat.

Metal and Blood is by [Bill Walker](#).

Things are tough all over, but we want to thank our Patreon subscribers for keeping the faith. If you can, consider supporting our show at patreon.com/witcheverpath. You'll gain bonus episodes, behind the scenes content, and more. Thanks again for your support. Until next time, we hope you Sleep with a Clear Consequence.