



**Dross Part Two:
With this Ring...**

CW: Foul Language, Racism, Death

Narrator

Marvin has a gift. One that allows him to tap into the emotional resonance of an object, and to



experience the memories within. But after helping a dying man at his job pass peacefully, he comes across another patient's missing earring which is connected to something terrible, something happening not in the past, but the here and now. And you voted for him to give it back.

Here's what's gonna happen now.

Witchever Path Presents DROSS PART TWO: With This Ring

Geraldine

[upset]

Help! Help!

Marvin

[muttering]

Damn it...

[to her, trying to be warm to her]

Geraldine, I found your earring in the hallway.

I think it must have got knocked to the floor by the cleaning lady.

Geraldine

[suspicious]

My earring. Did you *take this from my room*?

Marvin

[trying to stay patient]

No, ma'am. I know you were looking for them, and I found this one in the hallway.

Marvin

[narrate]

I almost reach back down to get it where I dropped it on the floor, just to get out of here.

But fuck that, after what I just saw.

I take a hanky out of my back pocket, and pick it up.

I bring it over to her.

She's standing there, trembling.

She's more afraid, then angry. But when she sees the earring, she looks relieved.

Geraldine

[calming down]

You found it! Did you find the other one?

Marvin

[thinking about the evil thing he saw]

... Nope. But the staff will keep looking.



Geraldine

[feeling bad]

I'm sorry.

My granddaughter gave me these, and I just...

[trails off]

Marvin

[seeing her go into a trance]

Are you ... okay?

Geraldine

[humming to herself, Shannon give us about 20 seconds of it]

Marvin

[narrate]

Whatever is happening, it isn't my business.

I go back to my shift.

At 3AM, I eat lunch.

I heat up the Beef patty in the microwave.

While I wait, I take out what Teenie got me from the co-op.

It's a Lunachicks pin.

I feel the woman's pride and strength fill me up when I put it in my hand.

The courage, and solidarity.

It's all light and power.

Geraldine's earring, what it was connected to, doesn't matter at this moment.

It helps...

I stay away from Geraldine's room. I spend the rest of the night making my other rounds.

Sometime around sunrise, I visit Pete. He's gone.

The ring gleaming on his hand. That ocean scene.

I call the doctor. He'll call Pete's daughter.

I leave without finishing my paperwork about Pete.

[Scene 2]

[Pawn shop door jingles open, jazz playing in the background]

Marvin

[narrate]

Walking into the shop is like walking into a busy kitchen. There are so many things in here, you can almost taste all the thoughts and memories on them. For people like us, it's heaven. Moms left us the shop, which was opened by her daddy.

When she passed, Calvin took it over.

It's doing well, but he ain't selling enough to both keep it open and have an apartment.

I walk past the wall of instruments and my neck tingles from all the feelings connected to each of them. Dreams of success, promises made. Break ups, heartbreak.

I stop in front of a trumpet and can feel the love someone had for the thing radiating out toward me.



Calvin

[pretty amused his brother is distracted by the same instrument]

You want that horn, you buy it.

But I gotta tell you that thing will depress you if you hold onto it too long.

Why you coming here after work, Mumble?

Marvin

[thinking about the night, and the cursed earring]

Hey C, I ain't been able to see you because of my shifts all week.

Something happened last night I want to talk to you about. You mind?

Calvin

[lovingly]

My name's on the deed, but it's still Momma's shop.

Sit down.

What's got you squirrely?

Marvin

[narrate]

I sit on a bar stool he got from an estate sale and tell him what happened. About Pete and his memories of Julie. I let him know everything I saw in that memory, and then I tell him about the earring, and what I saw when I touched it. His dirty old dog smile leaves. He takes a pack of cigarettes out of his pocket and bangs it against his palm while he listens to me, looking like I just told him I ate the last piece of pie.

Calvin

[disturbed by the news]

So, what'd you do with the earring?

Marvin

[matter of fact]

I just gave it back to her.

She didn't really say much after, and went back to bed.

Calvin

[coldly]

Mmhm. Good.

That ain't none of your business.

Marvin

[confused]

But what I saw, have you ever seen anything like that?

It didn't feel like a memory.

Calvin

[firm]

Did you like what you felt?

Marvin



Nope.

Calvin

[trying to coach his brother away from any curiosity]

Then who gives a shit?

Let the old lady have her earring, and whatever it is that comes with it.

You touched something that scared you?

You don't got to do nothing else.

Mind your business, move on.

[pauses]

If you was taking anything, should have taken that old guy's ring.

That memory sounded good.

Marvin

[not really wanting to let it go]

But have you ever seen or heard about seeing through an item like that?

Like being able to look through it to somewhere else?

Calvin

[disturbed]

Leave it be, Mumble.

Nothing about that will do you any good.

Shit, I remember. I remember Momma talking once about a doll someone brought in- said it was cursed. She took one look at the thing and made the guy leave.

If it's anything like that, you did right by giving it back.

Marvin

[realizing it's a dead end]

Are you going to be home tonight?

Calvin

[thinking]

Should be. Why?

Marvin

Teenie is making dinner. I got the night off, figured we'd chill, maybe play the game.

Calvin

[hesitant]

I got inventory to do here.

Marvin

[suspicious]

Something that good here? Bring it home, C.

Don't be greedy.

Calvin

[warmly]



Shit. Look, I'll be there.
But this thing with the old lady, don't tell Teenie, hear?
That kind of shit she can't leave alone.

Marvin

Cool. See you later, man.
I'mma head home and sleep.

[Scene 3]

Marvin

[narrate]

Teenie's at work, which suits me. It's 9AM, I'm exhausted.
I shower, brush my teeth and head into my room.
The smell of sandalwood hangs heavy in the air.
My room is filled with comfort and safety.
A quilt made out of security blankets.
Three night-lights that kept nightmares away.
A record player whose tone puts me at ease every time I put the needle down.
Everything in here brought comfort to somebody.
And that's why sleep comes so easy.

Julie

[disappointed]

That was disappointing, Tiger.

Marvin

[scared]

What the fuck?
Who's there?

Julie

[Calm]

Check your pocket.

Marvin

[narrate]

I reach into my pocket, and there it is. The sea. Provincetown.
Julie.

Marvin

[freaked out, to Julie]

You aren't real.
I'm dreaming.

Julie

[trying to get through]



That's right. You're in your bed. Dreaming of me.
And meanwhile, that poor lady's being eaten alive from the inside out.

Marvin
[extra terrified]
What do you want?

Julie
[glad he's listening]
I want what you want.
I want you to do the right thing, Tiger.

Marvin
[narrate]
I put the ring on my finger and I see Julie.
I know I can't touch her. My eyes see her, but she's as solid as smoke.

Julie
[pleading]
You got to help her, Tiger.

Marvin
[dismissing that]
It ain't my business.

Julie
[chiding]
You think they'll stop with just her?

Marvin
[Confused]
Who are they?

Julie
The winemakers.

[Scene 3]

[Athena is cooking, singing in the kitchen]

Marvin
[narrate]
I don't know how long I've been out.
Julie is nowhere, but I can feel the warm metal ring in my pants pocket.



Across the room, the metal poster of Biggie is staring at me, his crown tilted on his head.
And the confidence that my homie Lamar used to get looking at this picture before every show
is what keeps me from pissing my pants. I let it soak in, I feel Lamar's swagger get into me,
chase away my fear.
I'll figure this shit out.

I hear Athena in the kitchen, singing the Pogues.
They love Irish music.
I don't get it.

[walks into the kitchen]

Athena

[singing like they don't care if people hear or not]
The coat she wore still lies upon the bed...
The book I gave her that she never read...

[notices Marvin]
Oh, good, you're up.
You want to help me chop these scallions?
The legs' gotta cook for another 40 minutes.

Marvin

[relieved for that normal task]
You got it. How was work for you today?

Athena

[excited]

Today was so good.
It was that referral call from my regular, Marie?
Anyway, this old lady up in Pembroke lives in this big old mansion.
She wanted to talk to her dead husband, usual shit.
So, I do my spiel, you know? Don't tell me anything yet, but if I could see their room, that would
help. And as soon as I get in there, I feel this pull to a little plastic kazoo. It's got a weird feeling,
love and excitement, but relief.
So I ask her to pick it up, bring it to our spot downstairs.
And here's where it gets good, Marvin.
We go into the memory together.
And there's her husband, and the dude is handsome.
He's sweet, and he's happy.

They're at a party. Well, there's a really hot woman there. Some singer who was an act down in
a club in Boston. She's the guest of a business partner of his... and the party is raging. So the
widow's leading us through this fun evening and she comes across her husband in a back
stairwell, the singer makes a hard pass at him and he just says no.
He says no, and not only because his wife is somewhere in the house, but because, get this, "if
you find me attractive, it's because of my Doris making me the man I am." Then, then the
dude... he offers to get the lady a talk with an agent he knows, in exchange for her to do
something good for a stranger.



Marvin
[disbelief]
Say word?

Athena
[really touched]
I know!

A white, rich dude in 1954... literally decent behind closed doors. And she caught him doing that without him knowing. And when he leaves the singer alone, he seeks her out and just blows this kazoo at her.

It was Hallmark shit, Marvin. Real Hallmark shit.
I don't know if I'm ever gonna top that in my life.
So, we come out of that memory, together, and she looks at me, tears in her eyes, and asks me if I would keep coming back every week.

Marvin
[intrigued]
You gonna do it?

Athena
[Bittersweet]
Nah. I told her that the spirits aren't usually able to do that all the time.
I didn't want to tell her what I was worried about.
Because nobody can really be that good.
Say we find another thing in the house that has something that goes the other way.

Marvin
Leave them wanting more.

Athena
Exactly. But she gave me this.

[hands him the check, sound of it unfolding]

Marvin
[seeing all those zeroes, reacts audibly to the sheer amount of money]
What you gonna do with all that?

Athena
[happy]
I was thinking we could talk with C about it tonight. This could get us a spot, maybe even move North. Anyway, how was your night at work?

Marvin
[upset, but really trying to cover]
It was... all right. We lost an old guy on the unit. Helped him pass.
It was sad. Just been trying to get over it.



[fighting against telling her everything]
Teenie, did you ever keep seeing a memory after you lived it?

Athena
[taking that seriously]
No. Why?

Marvin
[getting ready to bare his soul]
Last night, this old guy, Pete, as he was ready to go, I helped him see...

[front door opens and closes]

Calvin
[coming in]
Something smells goood.
Hey y'all, I brought something to share.
Wait. What are you talking about, Marvin.

Marvin
[trying to play it cool]
Talking about Pete and what I saw with him before he died.

Calvin
[pissed at his brother immediately]
Oh?

Athena
[not picking it up]
Thinks he saw a ghost.

Calvin
[that, being new, is surprising]
A what? Where?

Marvin
[uncomfortable]
In my room. I, C, I'm sorry, man.
I gotta tell her.

Marvin
[narrate]
The story doesn't matter at this point. She listens to me, and Calvin stares at his watch, and grabs a beer out of the fridge. C doesn't heckle me, or give me shit. He doesn't have to. His disappointment comes off him in waves. I look at his clothes, his jewelry. I'm hoping he doesn't feel that way about me often. I'd hate to find out one day by picking up his watch, or keys.

But Teenie isn't disappointed or upset. They look at me and their mouth opens to speak. Then they close it. Then they open it again.



Athena

[a little angry]

So what are we gonna do?

Calvin

He did it. He left the thing where it belongs.

Marvin

[unease]

But I got Pete's ring.

I don't remember taking it.

I gotta take it back.

The body is gonna be moved today and if they look for it I'm going to be blamed.

Athena

[concerned]

You should bring it in then, see what you can do about this earring thing, Marvin.

Calvin

[disagreeing]

Go in and drop the damn ring in his room, if you want, but stay the hell out that lady's room.

C'mon now.

We ain't boutta to get involved.

Marvin

[narrate]

I feel the ring in my pocket, and I inhale the smell of the shore.

They'll fight all night.

I have to do something.

Marvin's choices this week are:

Put the ring on

Drop the ring in the room, mind your business

Help Geraldine

You can make your choice at WitcheverPath.com/Vote

We'll close the vote on Thursday, March 18.

Why an extra day? Because we made you wait.

I'll talk about why in a minute.



This episode features:

Isaiah Frizelle as Marvin
Shannon Perry as Geraldine
David S. Dear as Calvin
Miranda Riddle as Julie
Vyn Vox as Athena

Our theme song is by Rydr.
Celtic Punk is by [Andy Littlewood](#).
Sleek, and Cruisin are by [Zap Splat](#)

Thank you to Blythe Renay our season three producer and thank you to all of our Patreon Subscribers that have been supporting this show. If you got the cash, for 5 dollars a month (or \$50 for our annual subscribers like Jen) you gain access to the Squirrel Feed, which brings you extra episodes, exclusive stories and alternate decisions.

Our higher tiers also offer you behind-the-scenes content, live chats, and more.

But here's a free one for all of you.

You may have noticed the episode was late.

We're a two person shop at the studio, and one of us, well, me, got really sick over the past three weeks. And while the writing and recording moved forward, some of it was done from a hospital bed. Two minor surgeries, a biopsy, and a laser blasting a kidney stone out of my body, I'm back in the house and finally pain free. For those of you who were in the know, we are so grateful for your support.

We're righting the ship and getting ready for the next episode. Until next time, Sleep with a clear consequence. Choose the Path.

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