



**Dross Finale:
Steel Driving Man**

CW: Extreme Violence, Dismemberment, Foul Language, Death



Narrator

Marvin and his family relied on you, every step of the way.
You decided to have him return a cursed item that doomed Geraldine.
Then, you reconsidered and the attempt to save her brought the attention of her enemies.
You had him call to the Witch, who sent an ally that they didn't trust.
And when the forces of darkness came calling and grabbed Marvin by the throat, it was up to
you to decide what he used against his attacker. ALL of your choices led to this.
Witchever Path Presents the Finale of Dross:
Steel Driving Man.

Marvin

[still choking... nearly passing out]
My fingers are scraping across the broken glass....
They're wet with my blood.
The monster on top of me won't let go.
And then I *feel* the spike under my fingertips.
My hand closes over the twisted metal as black spots explode across my eyes.

[sound of the metal being brought up from the glass and a loud thunk as it smacks into
Crimson's eye socket...]

Crimson

[screams in agony]

Marvin

[Narrate.... coming back from the brink of death... getting air back, adrenaline starting to flow]
I drive the spike into the monster's eye, and the impact is felt all the way up my arm.
Blood pours out of the wound and rains down my face.
Some of it gets into my mouth... and I realize it's not blood, but wine.

The thing falls off of me, grasping at the large wound in its face. The whole side of its face looks
like a cracked bottle, barely held together by a sticker label. I try to get up, but I'm out of
breath... my heart is pounding.

I feel the rusted old spike in my hand, vibrating with the same beat as my heart.
Then I feel this intense feeling of love and peace start to wash over me. My grip lessens, and
then I feel the light tug on the spike, and see Calvin pulling it out of my hand. I try to speak, but
my throat's on fire. He steps over me, and toward the wounded monster on the ground.

Calvin

[primal yell]

[Sound of the spike entering Crimson's skull again, and again... breaking glass bottle, torrent of
wine across the floor]



[just quiet]

Widdershins

[shocked, for the brothers have bested and killed one of the fae with cold iron]

What? What have you done?

Calvin

[panting from the attack]

What I had to do.

What about you?

You just fucking stand there?

You hope your friend was going to kill him?

Widdershins

[looking at the body... frustrated but then seeing opportunity]

You killed one of the pair... and the other one will know.

Yes. They will feel the pain of this one, but ---

[looking at the dead Crimson... seeing his way out of a trick]

We may be able to trick them further. Yes.

But I will need your help.

And it will cost us all something very precious.

The angry green one, the white wine maker... they are clever and more powerful than this one.

When they get here and see Crimson dead, oh how they will unleash torments.

Unless, Crimson is not dead at all.

Marvin

[sore throat from being strangled]

What do you mean?

Calvin

[threatening]

This spike took that thing out real quick.

How about you?

You want it?

Marvin

[trying to calm his brother]

C. Don't.



Widdershins

[ready to make a deal]

Chartreuse will kill your sibling, or worse. He will find ways to make the two of you suffer. He will drink you dry, anything to avoid the inevitable feeling of loss for his opposite number.

Or, we can trade... a death for a death.

Calvin

[furious]

I knew it!

Widdershins

[annoyed]

Neither of you, nor your sibling need die.

Which leaves

[the unzipping of his hacket]

Me.

Marvin

[confused]

Wait, you want us to kill you.

Widdershins

[calm]

Hagbard was a person who made a trade to save someone months ago. Hagbard sacrificed this life to save two friends and got a new path in return.

It would serve Hagbard's nature to do so again.

To be Hagbard... is to care so very much for people.

So.

Marvin

[narrates]

Hagbard taps their stomach.

Widdershins

[to Calvin, with a sinister smile in their words]

Do what you want to do, Calvin, and I will get you your victory over the other one.

Calvin

[feeling his anger turn into confusion]

You *want* me to kill you.



Widdershins

Trade Hagbard for Crimson, or lose all three of you to nothing.
But strike quick... because you cannot beat the other one head on.

Calvin
[resolve]
Okay then.

Marvin
[Shocked]
Calvin, No!

[sound of the spike hitting its mark]

Widdershins

[cough, yelp from being stabbed]

Marvin
[narrate... play up this scene for us with drama, take your time with the lines and breathe it out]
The spike finds its way into the stomach and Hagbard stiffens, its mouth opening to wail, but instead there is only silence. The tongue lolls out of Hagbard's mouth and sitting on it is a single, green moth. It takes flight, past Calvin's head, circles Crimson's body, and lands on the monster's damaged face. It crawls into the dark, wet cavern of the wound and disappears.

Hagbard's body falls to the ground. Calvin drops the spike.

[SCENE 2]

[drone sound]

[tea cup smashes]

Chartreuse
[sudden shock]
Something is amiss.
I don't feel you, my love... I don't...

[walks into the room near Athena, sound of the vines]

Athena



[pained noises from being squeezed]

Chartreuse

[to Athena]

My lover is impulsive, brash. The strength and fire within Crimson, it's white hot. Because of that passion, I cannot see through their eyes. I cannot share their thoughts.

The only true experiences we could ever share...

[tightens the vines]

Chartreuse

Was a drink.

And then your brother had to ruin it.

Athena

[in pain]

Let me go!

Chartreuse

[feeling some restraint]

No.

Your brother has made terms and a bargain.

Deals and exchanges are the only things that keep the world together.

A fruitful harvest, a golden goose, the ability to communicate with a loved one a world away.

I will give him what he wants. His freed sibling, back in his arms.

But first, tell me, Athena, how did you all thwart me?

How does your brother know of us?

How did he cheat us?

Athena

[defiant]

He didn't cheat you!

He couldn't even stop you from killing that woman!

Leave him alone, you asshole!

Chartreuse

[angry]

I could crush you like a grape if I desired it.

[calming down]



But ... the deal. We will wait... and should Crimson not return before the appointed time, we shall go to your brother.

But first.

Athena

[narrate]

The green haired figure pulls a crystal bottle out of the air and pulls out its round stopper.

He comes closer to me, his lips are a tight, close-mouthed smile. It contains no joy. He brings the bottle closer to my face, holding the mouth of my bottle to my lips. I try to keep my mouth closed, but the vines squeeze around my midsection so hard my mouth opens and the hot, red wine flows into my mouth. I try to spit it out, but it's too late. The liquid burns as I swallow.

The memories come fast like lightning. The ending of her relationship with Pete after nearly being caught by his daughters. The tears and pain of living next door for a whole five years. Moving away after meeting Timothy, whom she married after she found out she was pregnant. The kids. The grandbabies. Then the lake. Where a woman with bloodshot eyes and fiery red hair attempts to trade Geraldine's grandkid a bag of wishes for a lock of her hair. And she takes her grandchild away from the wild-haired stranger... whose eyes shed bloody, angry tears.

I can't hold onto any of these memories and the world around me becomes a rich blue. The sky seems cracked and angled. Shadows move across the sky, and I hear the sounds of people crying and talking quietly.

My captor appears out of the blue, his body still dressed in that sickly pale green. He carries the crystal bottle in his hands, his lips wet with wine.

Athena

[panicked]

Where are we?

Chartreuse

[amused]

Your brother wanted the two earrings, Athena.
I am to deliver them to him, and you.



That was what he demanded.
But the other one requires us to take a detour.
Someone else has that earring.

Athena

[narrates]

He waves his hand to the sky, and it shifts from that deep blue to pink and blurry. The lines I see in that pink are unmistakable. They're from the palm of a hand. The scene above changes like a camera changing direction. We're turned in the person's hand, and the person looking down at us is a little girl.

Athena

[to Chartreuse]

We're in the other earring?

[narrates]

Chartreuse laughs, and then gestures to my left. There is a door, attached to nothing. It says "Pharrell Funeral Home Staff Only."

Chartreuse

[Evil incarnate]

Your brother requires much from me for this deal.

Much indeed. I must reclaim that cursed item from a little girl.

I don't like to interact with your kind directly.

But this little one, she is why we chose the woman directly.

Had you let us just take the grandmother, it is so unlikely our paths would have crossed again.

But now, thanks to you, I will go into that parlor, I will take that girl, quiet and sad, out of that room of grown men and women who are too busy displaying their grief to another to notice this well-mannered, beautiful child has disappeared until it's too late.

The earrings will be together, you will be returned to your brother's arms, free, and when the teeth are identified... that family's loss will be nearly ripe enough to taste.

Athena

[upset]

Don't you fucking dare!

Chartreuse

[amused]

Dare? I don't dare. I need never dare. I am the sommelier of spirits.

I must do this to meet your brother's demands.

Her death is by his decree.

It wouldn't do to show up to a bargain without what he asked for.

A shame.



Athena

[afraid for this girl]

Wait! Don't hurt her and I'll give you...

Chartreuse

[intrigued]

Oh?

Athena

I'll give you how we found you.

Chartreuse

[amused]

Ah, now... that I will accept.

[SCENE 3]

Calvin

[freaked the fuck out]

What the hell was that?!

Marvin

[freaked out to]

I don't know! The moth just flew out and crawled into the other one!

And now! Now we got two bodies on the ground!

We killed them!

Calvin

[fumbling around]

We did.

[distracted]

Fucking power being out, glass everywhere.

You see the lockbox?

Marvin

[looking around]

I think.

Yeah, here it is.

[picks it up]

Calvin

[back to his plan]



Great. Now give me the ring before more people come through that door.
And when that thing comes in we'll want to make sure we...

Crimson-shins

[gasps for air]

[large inhale]

FUCK!

Marvin

[narrator]

The creature in red sits up and looks around with its one good eye.
It looks around and then down at Hagbard's body, then at its hands, wet with its own blood.

Crimson-shins

[relieved]

Yes. Yesssss! Death cannot touch me!

Oh, Crimson!

I am here, and you, my dear boys... I think you have something for me.

Marvin

[hoping]

Hagbard?

Crimson-shins

Hagbard?

[laughing]

Hagbard?? Was that their name?

Well, they aren't about to answer you.

My love will be here any moment now. Yes, Yes, yes, yes.

And when he gets here, he'll want what you are offering.

So, dear boys.

[firm and scary]

Give me the ring.

Marvin

[narrate]

The dark empty socket continues to ooze bloody tears down Crimson's cheek and to the corner of its smile. Its one good eye is wild... staring at me with a hate that makes me wonder what the hell Hagbard thought was gonna happen here.

Marvin

[to Crimson]



No. I had a deal with the other one.
We aren't giving you anything until they get here.

[the magical teleport and droning sound as Chartreuse arrives]

Chartreuse

[proudly]

You needn't wait any longer. I am here.

[sees Crimson's face]

... Love?

Crimson-shins

[tattling and upset]

The little one did this to me! He took the spike off the floor and stabbed me through the eye! I was just trying to scare him! So I had to teach them a lesson, and I killed their white friend. He was sent by some witch or something.

[vainly]

Please don't look at me, dear one! I know I'm hideous now.

We need to make them pay!

Chartreuse

[diplomatically]

You ... are always beautiful, my dear.

Even now.

But you, boy. Have insulted me with your demands.

My love nearly ruined the bargain in their rage, however. I see the marks on your skin.

A dead bargainer is of no use in this negotiation.

Still, your restraint here is most unlike you, my love.

Marvin

[narrate]

The words hang in the air for a moment. I look at the back door that Crimson had broken through before they had grabbed me by the throat and calculate the odds of us being able to run. What I didn't expect was for the front door to open.

Lance

[calling in]

Yo, why y'all in the dark here, playas?



Get your power cut off?
Shit, yo! What is up with this motherfucker's face?

Marvin

[trying to warn him]

Lance!

[then narrate this with the scary weight it deserves]

Crimson is on top of him before he even knows he's in danger. The wet snap of his neck makes my stomach turn.

Crimson-shins

[satisfied]

Goodbye, *Lance*.

[to Chartreuse, confused]

What?

Chartreuse

[satisfied]

Ah, nevermind.

Marvin, you rude, arrogant thing.

You pushed us to madness and mayhem. And my love's passionate reactions threatened your trust of my end of the bargain we made. Let us call these dead mortals payment for that, and for my partner's outburst, Crimson has a permanent scar to remind them to think before acting.

Calvin

[terrified, acting hard]

Wait. Where the fuck is Teenie?

Chartreuse

[calm]

She will arrive through the door and into your arms the moment I have what's left of Geraldine. Your sibling convinced me you didn't know what you had. Though, I'm certain by now you must have figured it out, haven't you? If I were to hazard a guess, it's in that lockbox.

Calvin

[firm]

Show me Teenie or this deal is off.

Marvin

[affirming that]

You heard him. Our sibling and the earrings, man.

[narrate]

The green haired monster laughs a bit, and comes forward. In the dim light, one of its irises has a sickly green glow, the other a simple brown.



Chartreuse

Regrettably, I can't give you both earrings. Athena had begged me to avoid what was necessary for me to procure it. And so... a deal was struck between us. We will leave Geraldine's family alone, and your family may have the other earring as a means to see that we keep our word.

Marvin

[narrate]

Crimson stands close to Chartreuse and whispers into his ear. Crimson giggles and Chartreuse smiles.

Crimson-shins

[to the brothers]

Well, boys, as I said before my dear heart arrived: Give me the ring.

Marvin

[narrate]

Crimson blows me a kiss and I feel that fluttery breeze. I look at Calvin and give him the wink.

Calvin

[opening the box]

All right.

Hold on.

[holding it up]

Here you go.

Crimson

[jubilant]

Thank you! Oh, oh my.... I feel her! I feel her in the ring!
So very good! Yes! Yessss. We've done it, my heart!
Now kill them!

Chartreuse

[tutting his love]

My pet, no. We have what we need to finish our drink.
And now

[snaps his fingers]

Now you may have your sibling back into your arms and free.

Marvin

[narrates]

Chartreuse takes a step to the right to reveal Teenie standing there as though they had been hiding behind him the whole time. I rush forward and take them into my arms. Athena grabs on



to me and collapses. Crimson tosses the ring up in the air and catches it, circling around Chartreuse.

Crimson-shins

We win! We win!

Now we'll drink our fill of Geraldine!

Chartreuse

[smug]

Yes, my dear. But first, may I see that ring?

Athena

[whispering]

Mumble... don't let him touch it.

Marvin

[quietly]

It'll be okay. We just.

Chartreuse

[calmly]

Ah, this ring. There's a memory here. Rage and betrayal. A masculine creature. Upset... An affair. And ... it's not the right one. Oh, you tricky little fools.

Do you know what I must do to you now?

[sound of whispers and the wines]

Marvin

[grabbed]

The vines came from nowhere. They wrap around my siblings and me and string us up. They're tight around my arms and legs, constricting and holding me in place. I look at my sister's face, and then I see it... one pale, green, glowing iris.

[to Teenie]

Ah, T, what did you do?

Athena

He was going to kill a little girl and

[struggling]

I couldn't let him do it. So I had to give him something he'd want!

Chartreuse

[proud]



And with that exchange, children, I have bested you. For I may have sensed the power in the ring you gave me, but had I not already sipped Geraldine's soul, I wouldn't have noticed that you had swapped it for a poisonous memory from another soul. You would have spoiled our only sustenance. The only way my love and I can share experiences. This ring would have been the spoiler of our spirits.

You mortals think you can trick us? The good folk? Even without your family gift, I can sense betrayal from a league away.

[wet stab]

Chartreuse

Oh.

Crimson-shins

[revealing the identity]

Oh, kinfolk, oh kin-folk.

[laughs]

Must your last words be so comedic!

Winemaker, Winemaker...

Taste iron.

[stabs him to death]

Marvin

[narrate]

As Chartreuse falls to the ground, the vines fall from our bodies. The creature the Witch sent is definitely wearing Crimson's broken face. Chartreuse looks up at us one last time and points a shaking hand toward me. He starts to say something, but is stabbed a final time in the back of the skull and he collapses.

Crimson-shins

[happy]

Oh, what fun! How I had forgotten this game! The fun times, dear siblings, sweet siblings! Twelve seasons passed as a kind, good servant before he died on that floor, wearing another man's face. And now, a reborn son of the free folk is free once more. And as promised, you have won the day.

Marvin

[narrate]

The creature that was once Hagbard steps over his old body and picks up Lance.

Marvin



[creeped out]

What are you going to do with him?

Crimson-shins

[mischievous]

One never knows when someone must live a new life.

Calvin

[upset]

What do we do with the others here?

Crimson-shins

Chartreuse will be dead grape leaves and spilled wine. As for your ally, Hagbard, the witch will want the body. Let her know to come collect the poor, good friend.

Athena

Wait. Where do you think you're going to go.

Crimson-shins

[thinks about it]

That is my affair now.

At long last. Yes. Yessss.

Goodbye good family, sweet family.

We will not meet again.

[Scene 4]

Marvin

[narrate]

For two weeks, we keep Hagbard in the store's back office under a tarp. The body doesn't rot, but smells vaguely of old flowers and leather. When the witch comes up, she isn't what I expect. Her left arm is in a sling. White butterfly bandages are holding the skin on her temple together.

Marvin

Shit, are you okay?

Makayla

I'll live. Which is more than I can say for him.

Who stabbed him?

Marvin

[stretching the truth]



He had a plan to stop them... but it didn't work. The winemakers, they were all over us. We had to trick them by swapping out the ring for one with a bad memory. A betrayal. It made them fight each other, the red haired one killed the other and told us we were even. Whatever that means.

Makayla

[upset]

I can't believe I'm going to miss him.

Marvin

[confused]

How did you meet?

Makayla

[sighs]

Once, he tried to steal my daughter.

Marvin

What?

Makayla

How is Athena?

Marvin

She lost something to them trying to get away.

I'd ask you to help her, but... I think our family's had enough of that kind of help for a while.

Makayla

[seeing his point]

Okay. You got my number.

[Final Scene]

[Irish music, knock on the door]

Athena

[to the door]

It's open.

Calvin

[lovingly]

Ay, Teenie. I'mma head over to the shop to check on Mumble. You should come with.

You remodeling? Where's all your stuff?

Athena

[realizing how little they felt about removing all of those objects]



Oh. They were just taking up space. I was feeling claustrophobic. Too many things in here. You know what I mean?

Calvin

[disturbed by that]

No.

Athena

[trying to get rid of him]

I'll see you later, C.

[drawer opens, clink of glass and crystal]

Athena

[looking at this]

Okay, now let's find the rest of it.

[walks across the hall into Marvin's room]

Athena

[narrate]

I gave him the ability to see the power in objects. And in return he replaced a part of me with a part of him.

[drawers open, rifling around]

Athena

[narrate]

He took my connection to the world, and gave me an empty, thirsty void.

[under their breath]

Come on, where are you?

Athena

[narrate]

And I have tried to be strong, but every hour that hole in me is trying to be filled. And nothing is helping. Nothing.

[finds the ring]

Athena

There you are, my dear.



Athena

[narrate]

I need a drink.

Narrator

That is the end of Dross. Thank you to everyone who voted to make this tale complete. And thank you to all of our Patreon subscribers, and those who funded the kickoff of Season Three with our IndieGoGo campaign.

This story was written by Journee and Steven, and produced at home by them. Thank you to Blythe Renay for their amazing support of season three.

The Cast of Dross were:

Isaiah Frizelle as Marvin
Shannon Perry as Geraldine
David S. Dear as Calvin
Vyn Vox as Athena
DJ Sylvis as Hagbard
Dallas Wheatley as Crimson
Journee LaFond as Chartreuse and Makayla
Josh Rubino as Lance
Miranda Riddle as Julie
Alexandra Young-Jui as Kristine
And Steven as random voices throughout

Foley by Witchever Path, ZapSplat and Audio Hero.

The Witchever Path Theme Song is by RYDR
Approaching Meltdown is by Pearce Roswell.
Expo is by South Pause.

Thank you, SJ Patterson, for becoming a new annual subscriber to our Patreon. If you want to hear more episodes, hidden stories, and even alternative decisions, consider becoming a patron at [Patreon.com/witcheverpath](https://patreon.com/witcheverpath).

That's the end of Season Three. We'll be returning to you again in October with Season 4, but that doesn't mean we won't be putting things up on the feed. We'll share some tales from the vault, Journee and I will talk about the folklore and myths behind our stories, and more. All while making new stories for the next season. It's going to be bigger, slicker, and darker.

Until next time, loves, Sleep with a Clear Consequence. Choose the Path.