



CW: Foul Language, Homophobia, Violence against Transgender People



Witchever Path Narrator

YOU have been working hard to protect your family, with varying degrees of success. The connections between whoever is watching your family with two other disappearances is unsettling. The fact the cops have done nothing to connect the dots is troubling, and with no one to rely on, you've been taking matters into your hands... which has gotten you some unwanted attention. Desperate and aware that your reactions to surprises may cause more trouble, you decide to talk to your lawyer before doing anything else.

Witchever Path presents SENTRY: Part Five - The Fifth

YOU

[narrate]

Tom's office is nicer than you thought it'd be. It's the size of your living room and kitchen combined, taking up the whole corner of this renovated factory space. You scan his walls and see the list of degrees and accolades. It dawns on you that Tom is a bigger deal than you thought. There's no way you could afford him on your own. You had been there for his brother, Mark, when it counted. And though it's uncomfortable to lean on this guy's sense of gratitude, you need him.

He listens to your full story, watches your video evidence, and even looks at the stuff you took from Kaylee's phone. Through it all, he looks thoughtful, nonjudgmental. When you finish he adjusts his glasses and takes a deep breath.

TOM

[finally speaking]

I'm glad you brought all of this to me. Can I have everything you showed me?



YOU

Yeah, I think it's a good idea. I got copies on a server, too.

TOM

This Myron and Tasha, are you sure you can trust them?

YOU

Yeah. I do.

They're looking for Kaylee and gave me the information that I didn't have about the missing kid.

And then when they mentioned Holt, I was at a fucking loss. It sounds fucked up.

And if Karl was connected to the last thing...

TOM

Well, from the outside, it looks like he's helping you. He got your gun back. He seems to be keeping the local PD off of you, too. That's a pretty big deal, because Rowe PD seems to think you're ready to explode at any minute.

YOU

Holt blew off Myron and Tasha when they had information that Rye kid and Kaylee were connected somehow. And yet I never heard about any of this shit. Ever. Have you?

TOM

Only what you showed me so far. And that is weird. But given all the things you've seen, and with the guy in your backyard, it's not all coincidence. Speaking of which, I reached out to the Rye family. The dad's interested in meeting with you if you want.



And I have a contact with the local FBI that might be able to help. Kidnapping isn't federal, but we might have some options.

YOU

Okay, it all sounds good. Let's set it up.

YOU

[narrate]

You shake hands before Tom gives you a hug. Over his shoulder, you see a picture of him with Mark. The two of them are holding massive salmon they'd caught. Mark's face is happy and intact. Slapping Tom's shoulder, you break away and head out.

As you walk toward your truck, you know you're being watched. There's a middle-aged bald man in a pea coat sitting on a bench near the river, trying to keep you in his periphery.

You see his mouth moving. Radio. Got to be.

You look in the opposite direction of where his head is pointed and you see a Dodge Charger, idling in the lot. There are two men inside. You take a few steps in their direction and when the guy on the bench turns to look at you, you wave at him.

He doesn't like that.

You get in the truck, text what just happened to Tom, leave. To get home, you take the sparse farm road that crawls by the Granite University campus. The Charger is following you. You have goosebumps as you obey traffic laws you hadn't even thought about since you were sixteen.

Don't give them a reason.

You pass the big student union building where the Therrien Dairy Farm used to be. You cross the border of Manchester and Rowe. The Charger passes the border, too. Staties. They got to be Staties. You pull into the parking lot of a half-abandoned strip mall.

The car drives past. Fuck.



You get out and walk into the sub shop, one of the two businesses still open in this shopping center. While waiting for your order, you text your wife and let her know what's happening. She lets you know there's been a van on your street for the past two hours. You have her call Tom for you, while you drive home. Why the fuck are they watching you?

After lunch, you spend the rest of the day setting up more security lights and cameras. Fuck whoever is watching you, you got nothing to hide. Let them think you're crazy. This is a fight you can win. You go to work, help your clients, and make a note of cars in the VA lot that don't look right. Myron and Tasha agree to meet with you and Mr. Rye the same day that Cole wants to hang out with that girl. You want him to go. Because if you're being followed, that means whoever is stalking your family may stay away.

That Friday night, the three of you watch Mortal Kombat, sharing a massive popcorn bowl. Jaime snuggles into your shoulder and the three of you have a laugh at how fucking awful the movie is.

COLE

This is so bad. Why didn't we watch the new one?

YOU

Because this one doesn't try to hide how shitty it is.

JAIME

And it's got Connor McLeod of the Clan McLeod in it as Raiden.

COLE

[confused]

Who?

JAIME

[Journey laugh]



The fucking Highlander.

YOU

[amused]

Right? The fucking Japanese God is played by a fucking french dude who's most famous role is being a Scottish dude with a french accent?

COLE

So his name is Highlander?

YOU

Wait. We never watched Highlander?

Stop this movie. Stop it now.

JAIME

What?

YOU

No son of mine can be called a man until he sees Highlander.

COLE

That's the rule, then?

JAIME

That's not the rule, Cole!

COLE

What is it?

JAIME and YOU

There can be only one!

COLE

Y'all dumb.



YOU

Saturday morning, you come out of your bedroom to find Cole already dressed and making breakfast. He's playing music in the kitchen, and it's fucking good. You brew coffee and hang out in silence, watching your son get ready to hang out with some girl. In your day, you'd be a nervous wreck. Jaime's the only woman you ever confidently approached and that's because the two of you had both visibly hated the party you were at. Cole's happy energy and calm demeanor was all his mom.

YOU

What's Dina like?

COLE

She's cool. We share TikToks and memes.

YOU

What music does she like?

COLE

Old school stuff. Nirvana. Linkin Park.

YOU

Cole. They're not... *Nirvana's* cool, anyway.

COLE

Yeah. I made her a spotify playlist, too. I put Bad Brains, Bridge City Sinners, Black Flag.

YOU

That's a lot of Bs.

COLE

That's the idea.



YOU

[narrate]

Outside, there's no extra cars on the street. You check the footage of the backyard. A skunk family played around by the treeline before dawn, but there's no sign of anyone.

No cops, no creeps.

The plan is for Jaime to drop off Cole and for you to meet up with Myron and Tasha before talking with Dylan Rye's dad. Tom set up the meeting for two pm. You're meeting at some park in Allenstown. You put on your favorite light jacket that lets you conceal your pistol comfortably.

It's one o'clock when the three of you say goodbye and take separate cars.

You take a weird route to the diner you're meeting your friends. Well, *not exactly friends. What are they to you? Allies?* The side streets and small roads make it easier to spot a tail. You don't have one. When you get there, you see Tasha, but no sign of Myron.

YOU

Where's your friend?

Tasha

He texted a half hour ago. He told me he has a flat. Is that okay?

YOU

I guess.

Before we go talk to this kid's dad, I wanted to get a chance to talk to you about what my lawyer thinks our next steps should be and how we can all work together.

YOU

[narrate]



Tasha listens as you go over Tom's plan in between handfuls of fries. It's been about half an hour, and you realize that you haven't heard from Jaime in a bit. You text her that you're finished and are going to head to the park.

TASHA

[being supportive]

Thank you for being so upfront with me. I'm in with whatever I can do to help. I can't speak for Myron, but I'm pretty sure he'll be onboard once we talk to him.

YOU

I'm glad to hear it. I don't know what we're going to find, to be honest. But after meeting you guys, and listening to Jaime about calling Tom, I know we'll be ready for what comes next.

[to waiter]

Excuse me? Can I get the check?

[transition to the park]

YOU

[narrate]

Mr. Rye is already waiting for you by a plaque about Rober Frost's Honeymoon. He's about 42, with thin gray hair and a slump to his shoulders that makes him pitiful. You text Jaime again before walking over to him. His handshake is firm, but he doesn't make eye contact.

YOU



[to the guy]

Thanks for being willing to meet us. This is Tasha Rourke. Her sister was the one that reached out to you before.

MR. RYE

[feeling remorse]

I'm sorry to have heard that she went missing, ma'am.

TASHA

[also sad about this affair]

Thank you. I'm sorry, too.

[notices wife isn't there]

Is it just you today?

MR. RYE

Natalie left me about six months ago. She thought it was time to move on. To make peace with the fact that Dylan wasn't coming home. I couldn't do it. I spent my 401k on private investigators, lawyers, bounty hunters. I even saw a medium. But I know, I know he's out there.

So if you have any information, please share it with me.

YOU

[narrate]

Your phone is vibrating as you start to answer. You apologize and check it. Your phone has three notifications from your security app. Nothing from Jaime. You put it back in your pocket. He listens to you with wide eyes as you tell him about the person in your backyard and what you found on Kaylee's phone. When you mention his kid's tumblr, he fucking loses it.

Mr Rye

This was my fault! Natalie just wouldn't let Dylan be who he wanted to be. I didn't fucking care, really. I didn't like him painting his nails, or wearing makeup. But I mean, I fucking grew up with kids who listened to Marilyn Manson, this shit was gay, but who fucking cared? People grow up.



But she couldn't take it. And when he fucking was crying in his room after she... look. We're Christians. We believe there's a right and wrong. But we're also supposed to love our children. And Dylan wanted to be something that we were taught was wrong. I didn't want to push him, though. I didn't. It was Natalie who wanted him to just be normal. I thought he'd stop pushing our buttons and just level out eventually. But Natalie was fucking relentless. She said I wasn't enough of a man to put a stop to what Dylan was doing. And if we lost him to being queer, well, that was because I wasn't being tough enough on him.

And so when he fucking... Oh god. I didn't know it'd be the last time I'd see him.

Tasha

What happened?

YOU

[narrate]

Your phone rings but it's not from a number you recognize. You put it on silent. Mr. Rye's got his head in his hands. Tasha almost reaches out to comfort him, but shoots you a look and you shake your head. Whatever he's about to say, you want to hear it before he gets a shoulder to cry on.

Mr Rye

I was driving him home from school. He had been in a fight. He had a swollen lip. I can see he'd washed makeup off of his face. And I was just so ashamed.

I had to leave work to pick him up. I asked him what happened. He told me some football player jumped him after he went to change in the handicapped bathroom. I asked him why he was doing that. And he told me... he told me he's a girl. That he doesn't want to be a boy. That he wanted us to call him Dina.

I fucking slapped him before I knew what I was doing.



YOU

[freaked the fuck out]

What did you say?

RYE

[confused]

I know! I shouldn't have -

YOU

What did your kid want to be called?

DID YOU SAY DINA?

RYE

Y-yes.

YOU

[narrate, we're building horror]

You can't hear him anymore. You turn away quickly, avoiding Tasha's eyes as you try to dial your wife. The phone falls out of your grip. Recovering it from the ground, you dial Jaime. It goes to voicemail. You do it again, it goes to voicemail.

You open the security app. The live cameras are offline. You try calling Jaime again. You hear Tasha saying your name.

Tasha

Are you all right? What's wrong?

YOU



I got to go now. I have to fucking go.

RYE

Wait. What about the information on my son?

YOU

[narrate]

You look at him as you reach Jaime's voicemail again. You're moving without thinking.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

Witchever Path Narrator

Here are your Options:

- Hit Mr. Rye for being the worst father
- Search for Jaime without delay
- Race Home to see what's wrong with your security cameras

Vote now at WitcheverPath.com/vote.

You have until Saturday, February 5.

This episode features:

Tyler Bell as YOU

Journee LaFond as Jaime

Mars LaFond as Cole

Missy Croft as Tasha

Steven LaFond as Tom and Mr. Rye

This episode was written and produced by Steven.



Foley by Witchever Path and Audio Hero.

The Witchever Path Theme song is by RYDR.

The following music was featured in this episode:

Sudden Fall by Wendel Schrerer

Zipper by Bill Ferngren

Oh What a Life by Spring Gang

After the Fall by Max Anson

Epinephrine by Dissidence

Mass Hysteria by Starlight

Surveillance Camera by Alan Carlson Green

Find all of these artists on [EpidemicSound.com](https://www.epidemicsound.com)

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