



CATAMOUNT Part 3:

Right to Remain

Content Warning: Contains Racism, Sexism, Murder



Disclaimer

Witchever Path is a horror anthology show with mature themes, adult language, and subject matter that some may find uncomfortable. Listener discretion is advised.

[Content Warning for this episode: Foul Language, Animal Injury, Some Racism]

Narrators:

Last time on Witchever Path.

[Clips of Marisol, Rainer, Burke, finding of dead body]

Narrators:

When the unexpected turns into horror, Burke was faced with a tough decision.
Your involvement led us to this.
Witchever Path presents Catamount, Part Three: You Have the Right to Remain.

[Kevin, John, and Lisa Laughing at the table, eating.
Marisol and Ila are cleaning up in the kitchen]

Ila

[trying to feel this out]
So, your brother does this a lot?

Marisol

[annoyed at her brother]
Just enough to test the limits of my patience, and not as much since he became himself, really.
But when we were kids, he'd always put me on the spot in public to get what he wanted.
Like in this case, dinner.

Ila

[sympathetic]
You know, I haven't really talked to my parents since I told them I wasn't their daughter.
But I learned that one of the upsides of being shunned by family is you don't have to stand for
this shit if you don't want to.

Marisol

[uncomfortable]
I know, but Johnny's really harmless. Even though he got in the way of us –

John

[from the other room]
Mari! Come on in here!



[Marisol groans]

Ila

[supportive, conspiratorially]
Say the word, I'll throw 'em all out.

Marisol

[appreciative]
I'm surprised you're not running for the hills.

Ila

Not until you tell me what he got in the way of us doing.

[changes subject as he walks into the room with the guests]

Who wants something to drink?

Lisa

[charmed]
No thanks, I'm good.

John

[staying more polite]
No thanks, Ila.

Kevin

[to Ila]
So you're a poet, right?

Ila

[guarded on that]
Try to be.

Kevin

[reciting a line]
"So you want the tongue of God."
Respect man. What you do is hard.

Ila

[recognizing the line]
You like Major Jackson, huh?



Kevin

[happy that he didn't come off an ass]
Friend of mine gave me *Leaving Saturn*
to read when I had nothing to do on base.
I was hooked.
I can't write for shit, though.

Ila

[surprised by the good convo]
It's a good book.
He teaches near here.

Lisa

[politely]

Marisol, thanks for letting us invade your space and eat your food like the travelling gremlins we are. I'm sorry about the surprise.

Can we clean up at least?

Marisol

[graciously]

No, we got it. Thanks.

Johnny's been telling me you guys are starting to get some real traction for your show.
I've been meaning to listen, but it's been crazy up here all year.

Lisa

Oh, I get it. Honestly, you don't have to.

John

[interjecting, being affable]

Yes, she does.

The show is great. And actually, we wanted to kind of ask you to be on it.

Marisol

[disbelief]

Why?

Lisa

[clarifying]

You've been living up here a while, you've got a medical background, and you're a skeptic.
I think it'd be great to have you weigh in on what you think is behind the missing pets, what evidence points to something other than what people claim they are seeing.



[text message noise]

Ila

[pretty quietly]

What.

Marisol

[not hearing him]

I don't know. Things have been pretty tense up here already with politics.
Coming out against the local legend might ruffle some feathers.

John

[knowing his sister isn't saying no]

Come on, Mari.

Since when does what other people think matter to you?

Ila

[a bit louder]

Mari?

Marisol

[to John and Lisa]

Fine. Johnny, I better not look stupid.

[to Ila]

What's up, Ila?

Ila

[pretty serious]

A cop was found dead in the woods.

Marisol

[surprised]

What?

Johny, turn on the tv.

[television turns on, news]

News Anchor

[coming into middle of the story]

Covenant Police found Officer Poole in the woods.

Andrew Poole, 30, had been a Covenant Police Officer for three years in his hometown.

The department is not commenting on whether or not foul play is suspected.



Danyelle

[giggling a bit, shaking string, cat batting at it]
Get it, go on get it.

Lennie

[annoyed]
Boots is still here?

Danyelle

[unbothered]
Have you ever left somewhere before you're ready?

Lennie

[sighs]
You gotta be kidding me right now.
Get her out of here.

[opens door, Boots runs out]

Danyelle

[eating some snacks]
I'm thinking of getting us a second fridge for the basement.
Just to get ready for the winter.
Do you think we can afford it?

Lennie

[bothered by this attitude]
No, you're not gonna come at me with that while I'm pissed at you.
I tell you to do something and instead you're asking me about spending money?

Danyelle

[amused she's perturbed]
Winter is bad for us, you know that.
Less we go out the better.
Haven't you seen the news?
People are dying, animals are going missing.

Lennie

[giving up]
We have a live show in three hours.
Are you wearing the harness, or are you going to wear the catsuit?



Danyelle

[cooly]

Both.

[sound of the outdoors. Peaceful... then hears a snort]

Rainer

[Calm, here's Kip growl]

Shh.

[rifle shot]

[Bear killed instantly, falls over]

Rainer

[calm]

That's how you do it.

No more chicken stealing for you, you big asshole.

Kip, check him.

[dog trots over]

[Rainer walks over, goes into his duffle bag and gets out his tagger for bear]

Mark

[yelling out]

Damn, you got him!

He's big!

Rainer

[tags bear's ear]

Yeah he is. Shit. But we got him.

So, we have a choice here, man.

You want the meat, or you want me to take him off your hands?

Mark

[surprised by that]

Oh... yeah, I wasn't thinking about that.

I mean, what's the cost here?



Rainer

[thoughtfully]

Well, I got time to field dress him now and hang him in your tree. Tagged the bear so the warden can know I shot him at the right time as per law.

They might want to come by and check it out, if that's all right, but I doubt it.

If you don't want the meat, I can take it all off your hands for another two hundred.

Mark

[not liking that]

You need help getting him up in the maple?

Rainer

[grateful]

Yeah, I'd appreciate it. We'll want to get this done in the next two hours, or the meat'll start to go bad. Good thing it's chilly.

Hey Kip, come here.

Mark

[looking at the dog]

Man, he's a good boy. How's Beau doing?

Rainer

[thinking of his boy]

He's gonna pull through. I guess I can take him home tomorrow or later today....

[you can hear a car pulling up and into the driveway]

You expecting company?

Mark

[looks up]

No. Ah, shit. It's Chuck.

Hold on, I'll go talk to him. Probably wants to see what the shot was about.

[walks out to him]

Rainer

[quietly]

Kip, come. Mach Schnell.

[walking up]



Mark

[neighborly]

Hey, Sergeant. Can I help you?
[seeing that more cops have arrived]
Is... everything?

Burke

[business, and on alert]

Mark, is Rainer Pelletier out back?

Mark

[a bit more nervous]

Yeah, he got the bear who was killing my chickens.
He and his dog are back there.

Burke

[to the radio]

Car 2 and 1, Officers on scene, suspect out back, officers ready to arrest.

Dispatch

Cars 3, 5, 20 en route.
Bennington and State waiting on standby.
Over.

Burke

[back to it]

Roger. Going to engage,

Dispatch

[concerned]

Car 2, wait for back up.

Burke

[annoyed]

Negative, he'll bolt.

Hall

[realizing there may be shots]
Are you sure about this?

Burke

[calm]

We don't have time. Mark, please go into your home.



Mark

[concerned]

Chuck, what's going on?
Is this... about Drew?

Burke

[terse]

Mark, get into the house.
Stay away from the windows just in case.
Hall, let's go.

[striding out back]

Rainer! Put your hands on your head and come out from the woods.

Hall

[worried]

I don't see him. He's
[truck revs up and drives away]

Burke

[angry]

Ah, fuck me.
No. No No!

Hall

[radioing in as they are running]

Car 3, Suspect has fled.
Be on the lookout for a 2002 Black Ford 150,
Catamount Pest Control on the sides.

[both running to the car]

Burke

[incredulous]

Damn it.

[to dispatch]

Dispatch and all units, car 2 and 3 are immobilized. Suspect slashed our tires before fleeing the scene. Approach with caution. Armed and Dangerous. Switch to 11-58 for pursuit. Over.

Dispatch

[affirms]

Copy.



Hall

[angry, trying to figure out next move]
So, he did it. He had to.
We're going to take 'em down, right?

Burke

[knowing Rainer]
No. We take him *in*.
I know he has high capacity magazines, illegal guns, and more.
He'll try to go to ground, but we'll get him.

Hall

And give him a chance to kill another one of us?
Fuck that. This isn't Chicago.

Burke

[realizing that his idea of justice isn't the new generation's]
No. It isn't.
And you're not at War.
We take him in.
All right, our ride's here.
Let's get going.

[Shift to the house]

[John and Ila talking together in the corner]

John

[giving his experience on T]
I'm actually doing the patch. I tried Striant in the beginning, but I felt like I was doing dip.
You?

Ila

[warming up to John slightly]
Shots.

John

[shuddering]
I can't do needles.



Ila

[unphased]
I got Type 1 Diabetes.
What's one more prick?

John

[changing the subject, conspiratorially]
Oh hey, so Mari is in the other room being interviewed, so level with me:
You two together?
Need me to see if I can stay with Lisa and Kevin and give you guys some alone time?

Ila

[dryly]
I got Type 1 Diabetes.

John

[not getting it at first]
Yeah, but....

[laughs]

Damn. Fuck that's good.
But I'm serious, even if it's a little awkward.
I was dropping in on her to make sure she isn't alone, but now that she's not, I'm....

[seeing something out the window]
Uh, there's a white dude with a dog in the backyard.

[Peanut starts barking]

Ila

[recognizing Rainer]
Holy shit.
[looking around drawers, finds meat tenderizer]
All right, here we go.
Tell Marisol.

[inhales, opens the back door]

Ila

[being assertive, aware the guy may be armed]
Can I help you?



Rainer

[puzzled, desperate to not make it loud]

Uh... Yeah. I thought.

Is Dr. Suarez here?

I need help.

Ila

[assertive]

You should go.

Rainer

[aware he has borrowed time, cops on his tail]

Hey, listen.

I need.

[Door Opens]

Kevin

[tough, seeing the situation as serious]

Everything okay?

Rainer

[frustrated]

Can I see Dr. Suarez? I'm not dangerous, I'm.

Marisol

[comes out]

I'm calling the cops.

Rainer

[realizing how nuts this is]

IOkay, fine. But I need you to watch my dog.

Please. I'm turning myself in to them.

Marisol

[taken aback by the request]

I don't think so.

Rainer

[calm]

They shoot dogs first, Dr. Suarez.

They'll shoot Kip and call it self defense.

He's a fucking puppy. I can't have another dog ---



Ila

[standing his ground]
You gotta be kidding me!
Get out of here, man.

Marisol

[trying to calm people down]
Guys...
[to Rainer]
Did you do it?

Rainer

[staying oddly calm, the combat nerves coming over him]
No, Ma'am.
I was home all night. I promise you.
If I take him to any of my friends, they're going to get raided, too.
You're the only person not connected to my life I trust.
He's good with other dogs, I swear to you.

[pause, both dogs barking, sound of sirens in the distance]

Marisol

[calm]
Okay.

Ila

[shocked]
Mari.

Marisol

[reassuring to him]
I know.

[to Rainer]

All right, we'll take him for now.
But you need to go. Now.



Rainer

[calm]

I owe you. I owe you so much.

I'm sorry.

[to kip]

I gotta go boy, go see Dr. Suarez.

Go.

[to all of them]

All right, I'll go back out the way I came in.

Thank you.

[runs out of the yard into the woods]

Marisol

[trying to be calm in front of this nervous dog]

Come here, boy. That's it.

Ila, can you get me some treats inside?

Get Johnny to put a leash on Peanut. I'll walk this guy around the house and they can meet on the sidewalk. Last thing I need is a territory fight.

Ila

[really messed up by the situation]

This is crazy, Marisol.

You should call the cops about this now, before they charge you for something.

Marisol

[defensive]

Rainer is looking out for his dog.

I can't risk being responsible for Kip being hurt.

Ila

[thinking about fighting about it]

This is really...

[catching himself]

I'm going to go home for a bit.

Marisol

[realizing the tension]

Ila, no wait.



Ila

[establishing boundaries]

It's a full house right now.

I'll text you when I get home to let you know I'm okay.

Kevin

[realizing he's in an awkward position here]

Um. Would you like me to walk the dog to the front for you?

Marisol

[annoyed he was there, but politely]

No, I got it. You go inside.

[door closes]

You so much as nip at Peanut, and the cops are coming right away.

[on the neighborhood, coming through the backwoods, sirens shut off]

Rainer

[calmly]

My hands are up.

I'm getting on my knees.

[people coming over]

Statie

Put your hands on your head!

Get on the ground!

On your Knees!

Lay Down!

Rainer

[shouts out]

Which one?

Hall

Stop resisting!

[hit with flashlight]

[Rainer makes grunts as beating starts]



Burke
[speaking up]
Stop! Stop!

Cuff him.

Rainer. You have the right to remain silent.

News

An arrest has been made in connection with a Covenant Police Officer's Death.
Police arrested Rainer Pelletier, a local exterminator. Pelletier, age 38, is a war veteran of Afghanistan who local authorities say is a member of the patriot group, the Sons of Gadsen.

Lennie

[not liking that news]

This is not good.

Danyelle

[annoyed at Lennie's concern]

So, change the channel.

I want to see that new Haunted House show.

What are we going to have for dinner?

Lennie

[opening the fridge]

Well, we're out of meat.

I could go out and get something.

Danyelle

[excited]

I'm on it.

Lennie

[thinking about what that entails]

You stay home tonight. I'll go get it.

Danyelle

[offended]

Why do you have to go?

Lennie



[pushing back]
You know why.
Stay home.
I'll bring it back.

[walking through the field on campus]

Ila

[talking to himself]
She's grown and so are you.
You don't have to agree to bad decisions just to keep her.
And it doesn't mean she'll reject you either, man.

[sound of deer crying]

Ila

[hearing it but still talking to himself to feel better]
She's not Appa, she'll hear you out.

[crying]

Ila

[acknowledging that]
Hold that thought, Ila.
[walks over, find deer in the field, lying down, panting]
Oh, Bambi. You okay?
You look....

[sound of padded feet through the dried grass]

Ila

[sees the big cat looking at him, definitely scary]
Oh hey, big Kitty.
Oh.
Okay.

[low growl of the big cat]

All right let's all back up from each other here.
I'll go back this way and you-

[mountain lion takes a step]



Ila

[defiance in face of certain doom]

[picks up a stick]

You know what, no.

I haven't come this far for this.

Stay back.

[cat makes loud growl]

Narrator:

What does Ila do?

Run

Attempt to Scare the Cat Off

Walk backwards the way he came.

You can vote now at WitcheverPath.com/vote. We'll keep the poll open until Wednesday, November 18.

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That's it for this week. Don't forget to vote, and until next time, sleep with a clear conscience. Choose the Path.

