



**DROSS Part Five:  
Unwelcome Help**

**CW: Foul Language, Body Disfigurement, Violence**



**Narrator**

Marvin called the witch, and planned to meet with his siblings at the shop before taking any action against the winemakers. Unbeknownst to him, his sibling, Teenie has been abducted. The witch offered him a difficult choice, to learn a spell, leave town, or to allow her ... associate to help them in her stead. You chose the third option. No turning back now.

Witchever Path Presents, Dross Part Five... Unwelcome Help

[droning sound]  
[stomping of grapes]

**Athena**

[in pain... groaning at first]

**Crimson**

[sinister happiness]  
Oh, you're awake!

You've been hit rather hard, I do so hope my love didn't break your skull.  
Do you want to retch into the bucket I left you?  
I usually need help getting out of the vat, so I can't come over there and check your head.  
Can you speak?

[to Chartreuse, over the shoulder yell!]  
They're awake!

**Chartreuse**

[from the other room]  
Are they concussed?

**Crimson**

[back to Chartreuse]  
They're groaning and haven't spoken yet.  
But they aren't retching into the... Wait!  
No, they aren't

[ATHENA grunts and picks up the bucket, hurls it at CRIMSON]  
[Sound of Bucket hitting Crimson]  
[SPLASH of Crimson into the grape vat]

**Crimson**

[cries out]

[sound of clock]



**Crimson**

[to Chartreuse]

Love! It's attacking!

Get in here!

**Athena**

[narrate]

The bucket connects with their head, and their bloody tears arc through the air as I start to run.

My legs are wobbly, I feel like my head is underwater. I hear the thing screaming for their partner. The room is lit in a dim, green light that flickers like a torch. But I find the door, and wrestle it open... only to see nothing but a tiny silver footpath, surrounded by nothing.

**Chartreuse**

[Imperiously confident]

You can try to leave, though the way out is hard without someone who knows the way.

But you know that, don't you?

The magic that your folk practiced endured in the winter of reason.

But all things move toward their end.

We have come home.

[The sound of twisting branches and then a loud gust of wind. ATHENA is held fast by the vines of their mystic winery]

**Athena**

[STRUGGLING NOISES]

[upset narration, turning to panic]

The plants hold me fast, the vines cutting against my wrists, while their grapes brush softly against my forearms. Fight through the fear, Teenie. Fight through it.

**Crimson**

[smug]

What's the matter, dear?

No way out?

**Athena**

[defiant, but in pain]

I don't even know what you want.

**Chartreuse**

What do you have?



[SCENE 2}

**Marvin**

[narrate]

I'm waiting for the witch's guy on my building's front porch.  
She said he'd be there in an hour.  
It's warm for February, almost 68.

[WIDDERSHINS is walking closer, wearing the form of Hagbard here. Humming to himself]

**Widdershins**

[Genial]

Excuse me... Are you called Marvin?

**Marvin**

[suspicious]

I don't know you, man.

**Widdershins**

[amused by this... Laughing for a bit....]

**Marvin**

[unnerved]

All right, man. Time to go.

**Widdershins**

[calming down a bit]

You called the good lady, and agreed to receive help, or are you *not* Marvin?

**Marvin**

[a bit less unnerved]

I called her. You got the right guy.

**Widdershins**

[conspiratorial]

Such a *wise... smart* man. Never give your name if you can avoid it.



Yes. *Yes indeed.*

Call me Hagbard. It is what I'm called when standing in this Abenaki land.

[chuckling evilly]

Can you see me, friend? Can you see?

**Marvin**

[confused]

What?

**Widdershins**

[trying to get to the bottom of Marvin's powers... they're a mystery]

Secrets Secrets. So mysterious. Trust is a currency here... And its transactions are treacherous if one isn't careful.

[laugh]

And they will want to trick you with their transactions, Marvin.

We are so good at these deals, you see.

[LANCE walks up to them]

**Lance**

[Greeting is "friend"]

Hey, hermano!

What. It. Is.

Sun's still up bro. Why you up?

**Marvin**

[last person he wants to see]

Sup, man.

[nobody talks]

**Lance**

[to Widdershins]

Sup, playa? Name's Lance. I see you know my homie Marvin.

Yo, Marvin, I gotta ask ya for a favor, bro. Your brother sort of undercut me on a sale of some of my grandpa's shit, and I wanna just get it back.

Can you let him know I'll hit him up later?

**Marvin**

[trying to get rid of him]

All right, Lance. I'll let him know

But you sold 'em, and I can't guarantee that he's still got 'em..

**Lance**



[puzzled at that idea]  
But I just sold them to him. Why would he have sold my shit that quick?

**Marvin**

[trying to get him to go]  
Yo, Lance, I'm sorry, man, but I gotta go.  
Funeral today.

**Lance**

[quick pivot]  
Oh shit, yeah... don't worry, yo.  
I'll hit you up about it later if you forget, but yeah.  
Sorry for your loss.  
Peace out, yo.  
And, good meeting you, man.

**Widdershins**

[the rudeness causing him to seethe a bit]  
Until soon, *Lance*.

[waits for him to go, becomes a bit happier]

Well, best to go to your brother's shoppe, no?  
Onto adventure and the unknown.  
The way is scary indeed, friend Marvin.  
But fear not, I am here for you...

**Marvin**

[narrate]  
He winks at me and laughs a bit. The wind picks up and whistles past my ear and I feel the breeze fluttering past it like the wings of some bug. I cover my ears and avoid looking at him.

[to Widdershins]  
All right, Hagbard. Best to move forward, so much to prepare for, so much to see.

[Scene 3]

[the Shop... Calvin's working]

**Calvin**

[looking at his brother coming in, a little relieved]  
You good?

[sees a guy he never saw before]  
Who's this?



**Marvin**

[sort of confused]

It's the dude Makayla said she was sending up.  
You met, right?

**Calvin**

[clearly not]

No.

**Widdershins**

[amused]

Oh, we've met... the drum skin's been changed, but the beat is the same. The beat is always  
the same.

[sinister chuckling]

**Calvin**

[Skeptical. Unafraid. He's not happy]

Nah. No. This ain't happening.

Get out of here and tell Ms Cleo we don't play this game.

[picks up a broom]

Get out.

**Widdershins**

[feign wounded]

My. My. Rude.

This face is my favorite.

Does it displease?

The shopkeeper wishes the mask lifted?

**Calvin**

[angry and afraid]

You ain't who you say you are.

**Widdershins**

Proof then?

**Calvin**

[ready to hit him]



All right. Let's see.

[sound of flesh falling away]

**Marvin**

[Narrate]

The tall man laughs, and it gets louder, the pitch changes. His mouth gets wider and wider and I run away from his side to stand next to my brother behind the counter. A loud series of pops and tears come from the man-shaped creature. The eyelids droop, the skin begins to hang off the flesh, as if deflating. Calvin's hand comes off the broom and down under the counter for Mama's pistol, but he freezes when the "not-man" pulls his open its mouth with its hands and peels the skin up and over its head as if taking off a mask.

It is.

The thing that looks at us with massive, black eyes laughs as two large antennae stretch out from where they had been packed tightly against its head under its disguise. Its mothlike head studies us, but underneath those inhuman eyes is a cruel smile with scattered, sharp teeth.

**Widdershins**

[raspy... Deej into Steven voice]

There... now here we are, hold....

[coughs]

Ah... yes... yes.

You are transfixed.

Am I the flame to your wings, children?

This is your first lesson: the words and the intent are how one wins.

Here I am. Your compatriot in this game.

**Marvin**

[terrified]

What the *fuck* are you?

**Widdershins**

[overjoyed]

Far too simple.

What was I to be?

A baby, raised by a suffering wife?

A secret familiar?





My *own* master?  
Today, today I am your specialist.

**Calvin**  
[no longer frozen in fear]  
The Devil is a liar!

[raises gun]  
Mumble, Get down!

**Marvin**  
[narrate]  
Calvin pulls Mama's pistol out and pulls the trigger. Nothing happens. I feel the breeze again and look at the creature, and he looks normal again, the skin back in place.

**Widdershins**  
[calm and somewhat conciliatory]  
Oh, friends. I forget, I forget.  
Forgive me.  
But the others that have the soul, they are powerful themselves.  
And they are angry with you. Very angry.  
So we shall have to be quick, clever, and cunning, dear friends.  
*Brave Brothers.*

**Calvin**  
[surrendering to this mad world]  
You're a demon.

**Widdershins**  
[insulted]  
There was never a good word for what I am.  
You made the call for help and my mistress sent me.  
And here I am...  
Here to help you against the thirsty ones.

**Marvin**  
[thoughtful]  
The winemakers.

**Widdershins**  
[excited]  
Yes! Oh, so clever!



Blood Red and Spirit Green?

**Marvin**

[feeling more trusting]  
Yeah? How'd you know?

**Calvin**

[upset about this chat]  
Why the hell you even talking to this thing?  
It'll trick you.

**Widdershins**

[polite]  
He talks to us because he saw the real darkness.  
But the Red and Green are as recognizable to me as the shopkeeper is to you.  
They are the drinkers and bottlers of souls.  
They devour secrets and love.  
And when they get a taste, they must finish.  
Yes.  
But they got the woman... you let them take the woman.

**Calvin**

He didn't do shit!

**Widdershins**

[ignoring that]  
But she wasn't all there. You took a piece away...somehow. Somehow.

**Marvin**

[thinking]  
But I didn't... I ... oh. Oh god. C.

[thinks about it]

Holy shit.

**Calvin**

[concerned his brother is reacting like this.]  
Mumble.  
What is it?



**Marvin**

[narrate]

I take Pete's ring out of my pocket and hold it up.  
The warm, metal on my fingers.  
I feel her in there, and I look at my brother.

[to Calvin]

C, gimme your hand.

**Calvin**

[cautiously]

Okay...

[to Widdershins]

Moth-man, you move closer, I'll get this to shoot, y'hear?

**Marvin**

[narrate]

I put on the ring and grab my brother's hand... and just like that, the display case in front of us  
fades away, and there's the beach... and Julie.

**Julie**

[happy to see him]

Hey, Tiger.

Oh, you aren't alone.

Hello.

**Calvin**

[whistles]

You weren't kidding, Mumble.

Ma'am, nice to meet you.

**Marvin**

[putting the theory out there]

So... Geraldine.

That's your first name, right?

**Julie**

[surprised and a bit conflicted]

I'm Julie... but... wait.

The woman you're trying to help.

It's me...

**Marvin**



[trying to make sense of it]

You knew I had to help her. You said you saw. You were disappointed. You had to know it was you.

**Julie**

I only saw some of the things you saw, Tiger. But her face, her pain, you brought it into this memory, where I live. But now... now I know it's me, the real me, you're trying to help.

**Calvin**

[Thinking about this]  
You're taking this well.

**Julie**

[thinking about it]  
I know that seems weird, but I'm here, I'm...

**Widdershins**

[interrupting]  
A memory of soul. All its kindness and understanding and integrity.  
All of it. So... this is how you do this, good brothers?  
You see and feel what's inside a thing.  
Marvelous!

**Julie**

[unnerved, as much as she can be]  
Oh. You're frightening.

**Widdershins**

[sniffs the air]  
Oh, they'll want this bouquet.  
Most of all... they thought the earring would take her all away, but when you touched it.  
Marvelous Marvin...ohhhhhh. Yes. They knew more of her was out there.

**Calvin**

[thinking and then catching on]  
But they don't know what you got.  
[snaps fingers]

I think I know what to do, Mumble.  
Take the ring off, man.

**Julie**

[to Marvin]



Go get 'em, Tiger.

**Marvin**

[bittersweet, to Julie]

I'll try.

**Marvin**

[narrate]

I take off the ring and Calvin's already walking to the back, to the supply closet he keeps locked.  
I feel my stomach flip. I know what he's doing.

[to Calvin]

C, man. You sure you want to?

**Calvin**

[determined]

They don't know what you got, just that you got it, right?

**Marvin**

Yeah.

**Calvin**

[bracing himself... picks up a lockbox]

Okay... I hate touching this shit.

I hate it.

[unlocks]

They sell it to you, they want it gone, and you don't want to touch it because of the fucking way  
it makes you feel after a bit, but... a strong feeling's a feeling. Even a bad one.

Mumble, call Teenie. Let her know to get over here.

**Marvin**

[getting out his phone]

On it.

[phone is ringing]

[phone rings]

**Crimson**

[picks it up]



Oh, it stopped! I think I stopped it anyway.  
What do we do with it?

**Chartreuse**

[looking at the thing]

Look at the thing, it's face has changed.

I think It's listening to you.

**Marvin**

[aware something is very wrong]

Hey! Who is this?

**Crimson**

[shocked]

I think it's him!

**Chartreuse**

[picks up the phone]

Marvin?

**Marvin**

[assertive]

Who are you?

**Chartreuse**

[amused]

You haven't guessed already? You let your sibling go about their business like it didn't matter.  
Now we have them.

Very arrogant of you.

**Marvin**

[fearful]

Oh shit!

Don't hurt 'em. Tell me what you want.

**Calvin**

[whisper]

Who the fuck...



**Chartreuse**  
[calmly]

You have something of ours we want. We have your loved one. Come to us and we will trade.

**Marvin**  
[upset]

Tell me when and where.

**Chartreuse**  
[amused]

Geraldine's funeral.

**Marvin**  
[narrate]

I look at Calvin and the monster. They both shake their heads.

[defiantly]

No.

**Chartreuse**

**No?**

**Crimson**  
Did he say NO?

**Chartreuse**  
[playing hardball]

Marvin, I have someone you love. Would you like to hear them?

**Athena**  
[in pain]

Marvin, you got to stay away from them! They're ---

**Crimson**  
That's unhelpful!

**Chartreuse**  
[cold]



Here is what we will do. You will meet us at the funeral, we will take what you have stolen and your sibling will be set free and back into your arms. Do you agree?

**Marvin**  
[narrate]

The thing that calls itself Hagbard holds up two fingers and then pulls on its ear before pointing to the floor. I get it.

**Marvin**  
[confidently]  
Bring both of the earrings here, to me, along with Teenie. You bring them alive and unharmed.

**Crimson**

And if we don't?

**Marvin**

Then you can't finish making your soul milkshake, or whatever.

[Crimson are talking low... almost just walla mumbly]

**Chartreuse**

Where is this place?

**Marvin**

321 Spruce Street. Don't make us come looking for you.

[click]

**Marvin**

[panicked]

Did I just kill Teenie?

**Widdershins**  
[amused]

Oh no, you've confused them. They are tricky, they are cunning, but they have trouble seeing you as smart as they are.

**Calvin**

[not buying it]





How do you know?

**Widdershins**

Because once, I was them. But people like you changed all of that.

[bitter laugh]

[slaps hands together]

Here is what I shall do for you! I will wait, revealing myself when it is most advantageous. My assistance will come as a surprise, allowing you time for your own schemes....should you have any.

**Calvin**

[to Marvin]

All right, Mumble. Here's what we're doing.

**Marvin**

[narrates]

Calvin explains the plan while shaking the box of bad things. The creature back in its man suit titters and laughs. Calvin's only addressing me, he doesn't look at the thing calling itself Hagbard. The fear he had when we saw this monster for what it is is missing. And then I see the combat knife hanging from his belt. I can feel the certainty coming off of it, and into him.

**Calvin**

[finishing up]

But before we even do this, you gotta make sure you're ready. So I got some things you might want to be holding for when they come in the door.

**Marvin**

[narrates]

Calvin puts down three things on the bar. An old compass, a railroad spike, and a 9mm. Each of them is radiating with almost overpowering feelings and memories. I'm about to pick up the compass when the power goes out.

**Calvin**

What the fuck?



**Widdershins**

Ah... I was concerned this might happen.

**Marvin**

What is it?

**Widdershins**

My kind. Whenever your people get the upper hand we either retreat, capitulate, or

[glass smashes]

**Widdershins**

Fly into a rage.

**Crimson**

You threaten us?!

You, a man, a MORTAL man threaten us?

[grabs MARVIN]

**Marvin**

[narrate, desperate... dying]

The thin one in red is on me, its delicate fingers wrapped around my neck. Its grip is almost cutting into my skin, like being choked by piano wire. I try to pull away, as its bloody tears begin dropping on my face, but they're too strong.

**Calvin**

**[alarmed]**

MUMBLE!

[Calvin unsheathes the knife and stabs Crimson]

**Marvin**

[narrate]

Calvin stabs this monster over and over, but it won't let go! I'm seeing stars, my hand reaches across the broken glass, searching for something, and I can feel the things Calvin laid out for me grazing my fingertips... I have to grab one.

All of the paths you have taken in the story lead to this moment of truth.

What does Marvin grab?



The compass

The railroad spike

The gun

Vote now at [WitcheverPath.com/vote](http://WitcheverPath.com/vote)

You have until the very last minute of May 19 to make this choice for Marvin. When in doubt, go with your gut, and the immediate buyer's remorse that comes afterward.

This episode features:  
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  
Jas LaFond as Chartreuse  
Josh Rubino as Lance  
Miranda Riddle as Julie

Our theme song is by Rydr.  
ZooTropio by [Etienne Roussel](#)  
Dark vs Light, Miss Me With That, and Who's That Creepin' by [DJ DENZ The Rooster](#)  
Foley by ZapSplat, Audio Hero, and Witchever Path

Dross is written and produced by Steven and Jas.

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That is it for this week. Vote. Then Sleep With A Clear Consequence. Choose The Path.