

Unusual Quarry PART 6

[A4A] Unusual Quarry PART 6 [Vampire Hunter x New Vampire] [Platonic] [Strangers to Friends]
[Developing Found Family] [Established friendship] [Reflection] [World Lore] [Comfort] [Care]
[Established trust] [Older, experienced speaker][Ongoing storyline]

Notes for VAs ;

[Anything in Brackets like this is tonal indicator]

[Anything in Bracket like this is an action the character is doing]

[Anything in Brackets like this is SFX]

[NB for VAs - anything that needs a bit of context-Don't read out loud!]

{NB word pronunciation/meaning to explain any particular Britishisms}

Parts 1-5 are here;

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

[Part 3](#)

[Part 4](#)

[Part 5](#) (in full)

[Part 5a](#)

[Part 5b](#)

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Hey, kid, How was that Halloween party of yours?

Yeah? Proper traditional apple bobbing, games, dancing and then the wild drinking? Ha! Sounds pretty good to me!

Alcohol doesn't affect you anymore? To be fair, you don't strike me as the greatest drinker in the world from before.

[Amused] Ha! Oh, so you do have a wild side! Sneaking out to drink alcopops before you went to a grubby little social club for a crappy gig performed by enthusiastic sixth formers back when you were in secondary school? Well, well, well!

Hey kid, I'm not judging. I'm pretty sure it's a rite of passage for all British teenagers.

And alcopops? That's children's booze anyway. There's hardly anything in them.

Ah, your friends liked to pretend they got really drunk? So, you were the one that steered them home. [Chuckles] You're too nice for your own good, I keep telling you.

Also, now everyone thinks that you are absolutely hard core and drink doesn't touch you? [considers] You know, not a bad reputation to have.

Aha, *and* you like the fact it means you can be constantly on alert for your friends without seeming odd. See. Told you, you'd use that protective streak for good.

You did wanna punch some people though? Standard night out, unfortunately. It's incredible how even reasonable people turn into complete bell-ends once they've had a few. Was there a body count?

[Aviary looks horrified]

I'm kidding, I'm kidding. I know you haven't done anything dangerous! But did anyone tempt you?

Huh. Some bastard grabbed your friend's skirt and lifted it up while you were dancing, fuck, is there anything left of him?!

You swung round with a sucker punch aimed directly at his solar plexus, stopped a centimetre before you hit him?

[Sounds ridiculously proud] Yeah, I *bet* he fucked off. Your friend said your eyes went dangerous?

No, vampires don't have red eyes. That's not a thing, Oh, you mean? You look just like you wanted to kill someone. Nice. Look kid, no ones gonna cross you now, You've got that whole sleeping bear mentality, Yeah, I said what I said. Sleeping Bear. Yeah, nice and cuddly. Looks safe, but will absolutely rip both your arms off and beat you to death with the wet ends if crossed.

[Full Dad mode] I'm proud of you.

Yes proud, I get the impression you've never really been a violent person, but also you're not looking to exploit this new power of yours. Hence I'm proud of you. You protected your friends without getting a body count. Well done. Last thing you need is to be arrested.

Oh! Wait, I forgot to ask, how did that awkward set up thing go with your mates and that other person? I assume you didn't end them?

He was a shy first year environmental scientist? Oh that's right up your street, I can see why your friends tried to match you up. *Please* tell me they weren't a dickhead.

Good, I'd hate to have to add them to the 'break their legs' list.

[Darkly] Mind your own business about who else I have on that list.

Anyway, were they okay?

He was nice and funny and massively relieved you weren't actually interested in dating anyone? Brilliant! Sounds like it worked out well for the pair of you then.

Oh nice, yeah swapping numbers because you got on is fine kid, you've already stated the expectations, and hell, if you make a new friend then that's all good. I am sure you can talk environmental issues till the cows come home.

And if he's a dick, you can rip his head off.

[Laughing, he's not sorry at all] I'm joking, I'm joking! Sorry, I know it's in poor taste, you were just looking so earnest and I couldn't resist!

Yes, I had a useful evening myself. Found out a few key bits of information.

Yeah, yeah. Put the kettle on. I'll explain it. [Genuinely thrilled] And you bought biscuits after the night you've had. Kid, you're a hero!

[Sound of kettle boiling]

Right. So, I had an email from Godwin who got information from Gerrard, yes, the spirit guy and the wolf guy, so, Last night was Samhain, Night when the veil is thinnest. So, Godwin recommended I get in touch with the Spirit of the woods near-ish to him.

Yes, I'm being completely serious.

There's an entity called the Witch of the Woods, they're not a witch, it's just what people call the spirit, best guess? They are a Grove Spirit.

Oh. Back in the days of early man, people would worship any kind of natural feature. Grove spirits tend to be fairly common because sometimes you had naturally occurring clearings in forests. Ancient people sometimes saw this as a sign of presence of the gods. So, they worshipped the trees. The thing is, power of belief. Real ancient. This is as old as blood magic.

You believe in something hard enough, anything can happen, sounds like Disney shite but when the magic of the earth was that strong, you really could pretty much manifest a deity.

And that's exactly what happened.

Or at least that's what Gerrard thinks happened and Godwin agrees, he says that records of this entity from as early back as the Neolithic.

[Slightly exasperated] Yes, the new Stone Age. Yes, 4000 years ago. Glad they taught you *something* in school.

Godwin thinks they're a lot more ancient than that, probably Mesolithic. Maybe 12,000 years old? But honestly, once you get past Neolithic, who's counting anymore? Point is, they've seen a lot, they know a lot, and they are *of* the Earth. If anyone knows ancient magic and what's happening at weird shit o'clock, it's probably going to be them.

I focused on them because of something the vampire said, 'Cleansing' the earth.

And a whole bunch of power stations have been targeted, *fossil fuel* power stations. So I figure it might have something to do with the natural order of things, it's worth a go to investigate I think.

I don't know, fuck it kid, I'm stabbing in the dark with a wet paper hanky. I got no idea! This is so far out of my remit, normally I just stake the pointy fuckers.

[Clears throat awkwardly] Present company excepted.

But something isn't right. And if I've learned anything, it's call for help when you need it. I cannot figure this shit out on my own. The rest of the guys, even the wider network, no one's heard of this brand design, *no one* has heard of a master like this. Just 'cause we haven't heard about it doesn't mean it isn't a very real threat.

No, I'm not one to sit on any kind of danger. If we know there's a problem, we need to deal with it.

Cheers kid, appreciate the offer of the help.

Alright, alright, I'm getting to what happened.

So a while ago, Gerrard sent us all scrying sets, maybe decade, decade and a half ago. Basically, if ever we need to make contact with entities, spirits we would be covered. Never thought it would come up, mainly 'cause vampires are pretty visceral. Yeah, you know, fight the person, stab them with wood. Problem solved.

Yes, I am exceedingly practical. I'm a carpenter. What do you expect?

So. I got onto scrying. Yeah.

[Genuinely annoyed] No it's not a fucking Ouija board! Those things are both stupid and dangerous. Who allows idiot kids to open doors without knowing how to PROPERLY shut them again?!

[More calmly] You have to have a vision of where they are or what they look like. Godwin was really helpful, sent me a picture of the tree where he thinks they live. So I got set up, did the ritual and after a while, made contact.

Yeah, they were actually pretty reasonable, sometimes the Fae like to fuck with you quite a bit. And honestly, Earth spirits don't owe anyone shit, especially not humans given how much we've trashed

the planet, but they were decent, patient and they gave some advice. It might have helped that they've got this young werewolf crashing around in the background. Honestly, kind of reminded me of you.

Alright, *fine*, you don't crash around my house, but you do tend to crash the joint with baked goods, which is *why* you're always invited!

[Teasingly, winding Aviary up] And your sparkling company *of course*.

Now apparently they rescued the wolf from a bear trap. Yeah, poachers had been after them. Werewolf hide, flesh and teeth are pretty prized on the black market.

[Aviary is horrified]

Fuck, I forget you're not used to this shit, sorry kid.

No, don't apologise for being upset, it's a good thing, means you're a good person who doesn't like people getting exploited. One of the many reasons I like you.

So, they led them away from the den, but got got. Apparently the witch is training them up to be an apprentice, mainly to give them something to do whilst they heal.

Yeah, real puppy-wants-to-go-out-scratching-the-door kind of stir-crazy. They seem pretty genuine though, honestly wanting to help and trying to help make very different potions and concoctions and God knows what. Yeah, apparently they were terrified when the witch brought them in, but they're starting to calm down. [Fondly] See why they remind me of you?

Yeah, apparently they live in a den not too far off, but it's on the other side of the veil. It's been too dangerous for the Witch to cross back over, and clearly the Ravens they've sent haven't arrived to relay messages to the parents which is concerning in and of itself.

Their parents really are worried. So, I've already let Godwin know to pass on to the parents and the rest of the pack that the kid's fine, just banged up and needed quite serious medical attention. Honestly. They are in the best possible place, that spirit knows what they're doing when it comes to healing. It'll take them months with the pack. They'll probably be able to go in a few weeks with the witch.

About your age, I think, they seemed it when I heard them happily pottering around in the background. Apparently, the Witch made them a crutch to hobble about on for short distances, with the express promise they rest regularly. They've got a lot of healing to do but apparently the pup was going completely nuts with cabin fever. Can't blame them really if they're used to running around all the time.

Look, main upshot of it is, this seems like it's a bigger problem, The Witch thinks it's something old. Really old. We're gonna have to go and see them in person.

Yes, I mean cross the veil.

I want to confirm what I think, bring some more research with me and plan it out from there, with their input because honestly, I have no idea what we're going to have to deal with, it could be anything.

Gerrard's currently stumped but as I've said before, most of what we know about the Fae and how the magic of the earthworks is purely guesswork. The Witch is going to be our best bet by far. And since they're willing to talk to us, we have to go and investigate.

No, we don't just go and rock up. You're quite right. There are rules we have to follow and there's gifts we have to bring.

You know, actually not a bad plan. If you can bake some of your honey cakes, we will need to bring some other offerings like that might work. We'll have to collect a few bits and pieces as well as research the mystery threat.

Foodstuffs and trinkets of value are usually a good move. I'm gonna need to coach you on how to respond to them because whilst they seem decent, that's not an excuse to let manners slip.

No, I don't think you'd deliberately do the wrong thing. You're a decent kid, but words mean things. And we need to be very careful. This is potentially our best ally. It will not do to piss them off.

I'll research the threat, you figure out some recipes. I'll have a look and see what might be acceptable and see what we can do.

***** Slight Time Jump 1-2 hours later, still at Garrison's*****

I think I found a few different pieces here. Huh. Think you could make any of this?

Yeah. Mixed grain bread. White bread. Fresh butter, Honey cakes. Fresh milk.

You know what, jam might not be a bad idea if you can make some, it has to be homemade, not Tesco bought.

You could bribe your flatmates with cookies to leave you in the kitchen for a few hours. Sure, that sounds like a good idea. You can make it here if you want? Oh, the jam pan being taken somewhere else might be a bit suspect. Fair enough. How the hell do you even have a jam pan?!

Oh, it's your trusty bucket saucepan. You do everything with it? You know what I've decided not to even question anymore, you and your kitchen sorcery is something else.

[Chuckles] Bet you read Zeralda's Ogre when you were a kid.

No? You should look it up. I think she's a kindred spirit of yours, kid, cooks food amazingly enough that the ogre who's captured her actually ends up being so charmed by her cooking skills ends up looking after her and her family for life. She lives very comfortably, becomes top chef, has a great time. You're the sort of person whose food could charm an ogre, I have absolutely no doubt. I'm pretty sure you could tame a cave troll if you tried to with some of your pies!

OK, you look up some of the recipes. See if you can make a really, *really* good version. Look, I'll spot you some cash for this. You need to get the good honey, none of that 75p from Sainsbury's wank,

proper local honey. And that costs a bit. Get wildflower if you can. Local wildflower. There's a farmers market coming up mid-week. Perfect timing. Get some other ingredients from there as well,

Like, I know you can cook and cook amazingly. You bake like no one I've ever met, but this has got to be *perfect*.

Ha, sure, I'll help you test them out.

No way you've made butter before! Wait, why am I even surprised?!

You got bored, there was YouTube, double cream and a hand mixer just laying about at home? Have I ever told you, you're possibly one of the most wholesome people I've ever met?

Because that is *not* what I would have been doing when I was left home alone when I was 15.

[Chuckles, ruffling Aviary's hair] Never change, kid.

How long do you think it's gonna take you to get these right?

A week working around lectures *and* the needs of your hallmates.

Yeah, fair enough. I suppose they still need to cook at some point. OK, oh week is doable.

Time works differently for the Fae anyway, so a week won't be seen as being too pushy or. Too needy, which is good.

[Suddenly concerned] Hey, don't you have any essays to be working on? I'm not eating into your like, *actual* study time, am I?

Good. Good, you realise that comes first. Whatever, hocus pocus bullshit we're dealing with here will always take second place to your studies.

I do *not* sound like your mum, just concerned for your education. It's what you came here to do.

Yes, I know everything changed when you became a vampire, but still, you are going to save the world one day with your green policies and not taking any shit from stuck up southerners.

[Sincere] I just don't want you to shift your focus too far away from what is really important, OK?

Yes, I care about you, kid. And I want you to have every success, so don't put too much time into this, OK? I know your baking is going to be amazing.

All right. I'll see you midweek. Hopefully you get what you need from the farmers market. Let me know. If all else fails, I'm sure I can find something from outskirts of town.

Right. Good luck. Be careful. I'll see you soon.