



Episode 6

Written by Zia Ahmed

CHARACTERS

tommy

She/her

14 year old girl, Black British, has a sweet voice, new to the world

jessi

She/her

Mid-40s. Black British. Old time raver

finn

They/them

Late teens, AFAB trans masc, a bit cheeky

rosa

She/her

17-19. Female. Energetic, driven, bright, eager, and idealistic

haroona

She/her

Born in Sri Lanka, but moved to London in her early teens. Has a hybrid Sri Lankan and London accent. Early 20s.

jamal

He/him

Of south Asian heritage. Accent: MLE (Multicultural London English). Early 20s

Distant eerie melody underscore

We hear a voice (she/her)

You're listening to *Beneath Our Feet*. This series contains swearing, references to alcohol, smoking and drugs, and contains some listeners may find claustrophobic. For the full binaural experience, please wear headphones.

Techno beat builds, with bassy crashes, as the underscore builds and then cuts out as we move into...

Prologue

tommy: I'm going to plant one of our seeds, mum.

The music of the lullaby gently starts to underscore.

Tommy creates a hole in the ground, places the seed in it.

Nothing.

Well obviously it's not going to grow instantly.

The sound of growing. The lullaby picks up in pace and urgency.

Oh my gosh.

Sound of the earth moving, shifting, growing. Tommy gasps. The music swells.

One.

melody has been unlocked

reverberates through the underground

tommy: whoa. i've heard it before.

She hums the melody.

the sound moves through the tunnel

cloaking haroona + jamal

haroona: it's the melody. which way is it coming from ?

jamal: here...?

the sound moves through the tunnel

cloaking finn + rosa

rosa hums along

finn: the tune's growing on me

rosa: the hum + the glow

finn: not up there with your jumble classics but it'll do for now

rosa: the sound's coming from this way come

they move with urgency. The melody continues to play.

haroona: you can feel it in your body too

jamal: we're getting closer

IN THE GARDEN

the hum is getting louder

the glow is flickering

tommy hums the melody.

tommy can hear movements

tommy: hello ?

rosa + finn enter the garden

finn: hey

tommy: hi oh my god hi

rosa: i knew there was someone else i heard a voice your voice you were talking about the garden

finn: whoa there's a stream

rosa: don't dive in

yet

it's here it's actually here it's true i can't believe i'm here seeing it it's huge it's look at it it's amazing

tommy: have you been dreaming about it too ? this garden

rosa: the heart's garden

tommy: i've been dreaming about the place so clear so vivid i saw all this before + it's real the dream is real

rosa: i only heard about it in stories

the garden at the heart of the cave

finn: it goes so high up

finn: the ground's so spongy

finn laughs, and drops back into the ground

rosa: finn !

finn: it's so soft

do it

rosa: stop jumping into things

finn: you what's your name ?

tommy: tommy

finn: tommy i'm finn

come fall with me again

tommy: ok

rosa: leave it finn

finn + tommy fall back into the moss + laugh

they get back up again

finn: come on rosa do it. 3

rosa: no

finn: 2

rosa: why are

finn: 1

rosa: fine

finn: timberrrr

they all fall + laugh

finn: moss angel

we hear finn making a moss angel. More laughter.

haroona + jamal enter

haroona: wow

jamal: oh my god

haroona: this is

jamal: yeh

haroona: real

jamal: the garden at the heart of the cave

rosa: jamal

jamal: rosa what you doing here ?

rosa: the rave we fell in

jamal: we did too

rosa: but then we heard the hum

jamal: + the glow

rosa: you know about it too ?

jamal: yeh my mum would sing it to me to calm me down tell me stories about the garden

rosa: my gran did

haroona: what happened to unlock the sound ?

tommy: i just um

guerilla gardening

finn: you what ?

tommy: on the balcony i have a little garden grandma helped me with

i've been packing all day + i didn't wanna throw them away i wanted them to be safe + in
grandma's book it said scissors + your favourite plant

so i cut seeds from the roses + put them in my pocket + i was thinking about a spot until
here in the garden

it felt right to

so i just planted them here

underneath our home

rosa: let's water it

finn: i'll get some

finn goes to get some water

with cupped hands walks over to the seeds

the shoot grows almost immediately.

rosa: whoa

finn: what's in the water ?

jamal: i duno i just remember it was purple water in the story about the garden something
special in it

rosa: the way the glow comes off the water it does look it

jamal: argh this place is so amazing + people before us knew the songs too the / stories

tommy: are we gona be here forever ?

haroona: what ?

tommy: i don't want to panic but how do we get out ? i mean we have to leave tomorrow + this place is amazing but we went deeper + deeper + i don't want to panic i want to think positive but we're the furthest away from above ground we've ever been + what if i never see mum again because we're stuck here i don't want to panic

haroona: hey it's ok

tommy: is it ?

haroona: i don't know

tommy: we're not trapped ?

haroona: we can't go back the way we came but

tommy: is this where we / all

rosa: we can't think like that

tommy: but this is it ?

beat.

ok i'm just going to send my mum a voicenote

haroona: tommy, don't worry -

finn: OVER HERE

jamal: what's going on ?

finn: this

rosa: a winch

jamal: what's down there ? is that a drop ? it's the only bit that's not lit up

finn: shall i wind it ?

rosa: why wouldn't you ?

finn: fine i'll do it but we all gotta agree so i don't get the blame for any plague or demon that might be released

rosa: i vote wind it

haroona: wind it

jamal: yeh

tommy: what other choice is there ?

finn: ok finn please be no plagues please be no plagues

finn winds the winch

a small drawbridge clicks into view.

rosa: whoa it's coming out the wall

haroona: a drawbridge

tommy: there's a tunnel behind it

still winding

it clicks into place

haroona: it feels sturdy enough

jamal: how deep is the drop it's pitch black

haroona: don't look down

rosa: are we doing this ?

tommy: let's do it

finn walks across

finn: finn you're good

tiny creaks

finn: it's all good

tiny creaks

finn: yesss

rosa: you'll be good too

rosa walks across

deep exhale as she gets across

tommy: just do it

tommy walks

tommy: one foot

tiny creaks

tommy: in front

tiny creaks

tommy: of the other

tiny creaks

tommy: + you're there

jamal: you go haroona

haroona: ok

these boots

i'm just gona take them off

haroona takes off her boot

exhales

she walks across

Jamal (to her): perfect

(to himself, sounding nervous): perfect.

jamal starts to walk across

he loses his footing

jamal: oh god

he tries to grip on to the drawbridge. He screams as he falls into the dark.

haroona: jamal

cries from the group

the floor lights up

mushrooms + moss

jamal: I'M OK

finn: it's not even that deep

finn laughs

jamal: it's soft it's just mushroom tops

rosa: they're so dark

haroona: darker than vantablack

finn: could probably get a decent price for them too

jamal: someone help me up

haroona: of course

jamal struggles back up onto the drawbridge

rosa: everyone ok ?

tommy: yes

jamal: yeh just my ankle's a little sore

haroona: let us know how you're feeling ok?

finn: i think we're gona have to crawl this first bit

rosa: let's go

finn: you're gona be alright

rosa: i know

finn: i'm talking to myself

rosa: oh alright

finn: deep breath finn

deep breath

Go

they crawl through the tunnel

finn: you enjoying the view ?

rosa: keep moving you're slowing me down

finn: it's too quiet disrupt the claustrophobia for me please

jamal hums the melody

they all join in one by one

they crawl

finn: oh no it's a dead end we're trapped we're doomed

tommy: what ?

finn: it's a wall

tommy: oh no we're gona be here for / ever

finn: wait my bad

rosa: finn !

finn: messed up my depth perception there

haroona: what is it ?

finn: there is a wall but there's a ladder going up too

tommy: thank god

jamal: we going ?

rosa: yeh let's do it

haroona: how stable is it ?

finn: i'm just gona do it

if i fall then i guess it's not that stable

go finn go

finn climbs the ladder

rosa: how high does it go ?

finn: high enough to need a ladder

rosa: finn

finn: i can't see the top i'll let you know when i get there

rosa: ok

they climb, the sound of mycellium marks time passing

The sound of their footsteps on the creaky ladder

rosa: can you see anything ?

finn: just the ladder

rosa: we've been climbing forever

finn: you were just there with me you saw how huge the garden was

Jamal: ***(from far below)*** argh can we slow down ? think i've done my ankle

haroona: don't worry we won't leave you

they climb

finn: i think i'm getting a stitch

anyone else got a stitch ?

rosa: keep going

finn: just me then ?

finn exhales

tommy: feels like we're on a loop

haroona: we must have climbed about five hundred feet

they climb

finn: you lot

rosa: what ?

finn: i think i see

tommy: a way out ?

finn: yesss

finn knocks on a manhole cover

finn: there's a cover hold on

finn pushes the manhole cover up + drags it open

finn: freeeeedom

finn climbs out, panting

rosa climbs out

deep exhale

tommy climbs out

tommy: oh my god we're out we're actually out

rosa: you can see the estate from here

haroona climbs out

tommy: how far are we ?

rosa: like half a mile

jamal climbs out & drags the manhole cover back to cover it over

groans in pain

—

Distant sounds of traffic

rosa: heart's garden i can't believe it exists

jamal: the songs the myths

tommy: and my plant's in there now a part of it now

jamal: it's all passed down

Distant sound of sirens

we gotta keep fighting

rosa: and we will

jamal: but the estate's getting demolished

who's telling these stories ?

who's singing these songs ?

it was the people that lived here

+ we're all getting scattered

who's gonna honour this /

haroona: we will

jamal: but the estate will be gone

haroona: we're still here

jamal: what are they doing ? profit over people ? who are they honouring ?

haroona: we can fight them + we can honour our people keep the folklore alive

jamal: with no homes ?

haroona: our stories are home

tommy: i want to go back soon keep watering the plant keep it alive

finn: imagine a rave in that garden

rosa: not happening

finn: i mean the hum + the glow could do with a bit more of a beat

finn beatboxes

finn: the hum + the glow the hum + the glow

They all giggle

tommy: can we head back to the rave please ? i need to see my mum

haroona: of course let's go

jamal you'll be ok ?

jamal: you go i'll catch up

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The techno music returns

they're back underground

jessi is listening to her phone

we hear tommy's voicenote

jessi is sobbing

tommy: mum !

jessi: tommy oh my god tommy you're ok are you ok ? what happened / what

tommy: there was a cave-in we fell further down but it's amazing i have so much to tell you

jessi: come here *(they embrace)*

tommy: not so tight not so tight

jessi: i love you

tommy: i love you

jessi: i'm sorry

tommy: it's ok we're here

+ we're still the best team in the land

jessi: i'll make you eggs tomorrow just how you told me

The sound of voices

jamal: you gotta teach me

haroona: what ?

jamal: how not to kill plants what you know about the land

haroona: just get a cactus

jamal: you don't do cactuses at the allotment i want strawberries or something

Distant sound of a beat

finn: your hand please

rosa: for what ?

finn: you + me

back to the rave

-

The sound of demolition - machines and rubble

-

tommy

The sound of steps down the same ladder we heard earlier
Then the sound of mycellium, eerie and harmonising as before

tommy: hello

how are you doing ?

i saw a video that said plants like conversation

but if you just want quiet time then give me a sign

here you go

waters the plant

some for you too

waters the tree

we're going to get some apples out of you i'm sure of it

sorry it was a bit manic last time

moving house is supposed to be the one most stressful thing in life

a cave in at an underground rave is up there too

both in the same day is quite something

but it's quieter in my head now

+ i think we're going to help each other a lot

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The sound of gentle giggling

tommy: ok keep your eyes closed

i'm going to put something in your hands

Rustling, giggling, movement

finn: give it give it

tommy: open them

They react with sounds

rosa: oh wow it's so pretty

haroona: are these from your plant ?

tommy: yes my baby balcony plant

jamal: purple roses

tommy: it's so huge now it's touching the top i couldn't imagine a plant getting so big it's outgrowing the tree

i do think the water is magical or something

haroona: or you're an amazing gardener who's in tune with the earth

tommy: might need a tree surgeon though

finn: i can do it

rosa: shut up

finn: what's your budget i'll give you mates rates

tommy: i can pay you in apples

Tommy takes something out of her bag

jamal: am i seeing right are these purple too ?

tommy: from the tree below

rosa: the purple water

finn: they safe to eat ?

tommy: of course just try them

The sound of the bag moving, and biting into apples

jamal: mmmm oh my god these are

takes another bite

finn: give one here

tommy gives one to finn

finn takes a bite

finn: ok ok not bad

Haroon takes a bite

rosa: hmmm

haroon: so good

finn: i reckon i could reach the orchard from here

rosa: don't waste food

finn grunts with effort + throws the rest of his apple towards the orchard

rosa: almost

tommy: i dream about it a lot

finn: it only exists in photos now

old photos

the buildings gone

the graffiti gone

the people gone

haroon: who remembers the patterns we made ?

jamal: i do

rosa: it's tattooed on my brain

jamal: draw it out now

finn: how ?

jamal: your finger in the air

The gentle sound of music

jamal: i was here

The sound of voices

number 37

jamal: mum on the sewing machine fixing all the aunties clothes

The sound of a football hitting a metal post

playing wembley in the cage

97

rosa: i was here

21

The sound of vinyl crackling & a distant trumpet

rosa: the vinyl crackle from nan's records interrupted by

kelly next door awful on the trumpet but slowly slowly melody forming

tommy: i was here

2

as she draws the sound of a memory comes to life

tommy:

the buzz of the summer fair

Voices and a dog barking

jackie's dog barking

haroona: i was here

64

The sound of oil frying and a pen scribbling

haroona: the sizzle of the oil on the frying pan

+ the scribble of the pen cramming periodic table

finn: i was here

The sound of voices and a creaking swing

finn:

children screaming + pram wheels on gravel

the creak of the swings as i'm trying to launch myself in to the sky

The gentle music ebbs away to the sound of birds

-

haroona: did you wana stay here til you died ?

jamal: i duno

i would've like to have had a choice

haroona: i'm so grateful for the people i met

+ the people i can come back to

but i'm also ok where i am now

+ don't want to romanticise this place

i mean the conditions were not great

rosa: we tried to get it fixed but they ignored us

tommy: mum was always on at the council

we had to do it ourselves

finn: can't believe no-one lives there now

after all that

haroona: what happened ?

rosa: the funding fell through

workers stopped too

jamal: that's why we called you here today

rosa: we can get in

haroona: what ?

jamal: through the underground

rosa: let's take it back

tommy: how do you mean ?

finn: just move in

jamal: we'll build it back again

rosa: for us

haroona: i love you all but / i

jamal: no pressure

rosa: and we can take what we've learnt down below + bring it up here the mycelium the plants
+ use it to build here too

jamal: build a community again

jamal: we'll do a recce first

rosa: who's in

finn: i'm in

tommy: me too

haroona: i'm going to stay

i'll meet you here again

soon

jamal: of course

Manhole cover dragged open and then shut again

the ground where the estate used to be cracks, we hear something growing through the ground, and the distant sound of the mycelium building into the track we recognise

haroona: oh my god what's happening ?

haroona gasps

haroona: it's growing through the ground tommy's plant

astonished laugh

haroona: i need to go

haroona drags open the manhole cover, and drags it shut again

The music builds

We hear the same voice as the beginning (she/her)

You've been listening to Beneath Our Feet - a Jump Spark and no more superheroes. production funded by Arts Council England. This episode was directed by Tash Hyman and Fay Lomas and written by Zia Ahmed. This episode was developed through a collective writing process between

Zia Ahmed, Subika Anwar-Khan, Sam Grabiner, Ellie Kendrick, Tiwa Lade and Amelia Stubberfield - with Janina Matthewson as lead dramaturg and Ella Watts as consultant producer. With sound design on this episode by Alice Boyd and music by Oliver Vibrans. Starring Nkhanise Phiri as Tommy, Diveen Henry as Jessie, Jetsun Lama as Finn, Francesca Amewudah-Rivers as Rosa, Bhavini Sheth as Haroona and Ragevan Vasan as Jamal.