



Episode 4

Written by Ellie Kendrick

CHARACTERS

ROSA

She/her

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

FINN

They/them

Late teens, AFAB trans masc, a bit cheeky

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...

One.

FLASHBACK

Pop music from a tinny speaker

GIA

You think I'm wearing waterproofs to a rave? Are you mad?

Small bedroom space, upbeat spotify playlist through a tinny portable speaker in the background.

ROSA

Put them on. It's wet down there.

The sound of waterproofs rustling

GIA

Let me look at you. *(slowly, sincere)* I love you...

ROSA

Catching her breath – nervous laugh-

What? -

GIA

...but I'd be a bad friend if I didn't tell you you legit look like a giant frog right now.

GIA laughs

ROSA

Shut up! It's what you're supposed to wear!

GIA

What was that Kermit? I don't speak ribbit.

ROSA

This is high quality kit, *actually*.

More clothes rustling and the sound of keys jangling

GIA

It might be what you wear when you're down there with your dad searching for imaginary mushrooms. But if you're going to a *rave* - Ow! (*laughing, struggle*)

The sound of hitting each other with pillows as their voices get more distant and reverb-y

Don't you dare – I swear if you start tickling me again -

Discordant sounds of the mycelium takes us into-

Two.

ROSA

FINN! FINN, come back!

More discordant sounds added, it's unpleasant and eerie. The fungal bioluminescence flickering, fading, pulsing in and out around her as she moves. Like a tripping circuit or a failing heartbeat, weakening, off-kilter.

ROSA

FINN! You dickhead, you've compromised the entire system! The light's flickering out! We're going to be trapped down here in the dark!

ROSA

Dammit!

ROSA

The mycelium... it's angry with us! Finn! Where are you?

The sound of footsteps in the distance

ROSA

I can hear you...

Three.

WITH FINN

FINN is running, it's more echoey here

FINN is excitedly talking to themselves.

FINN

Smashed it! See?... Didn't I tell ya? you've got this Finn. You always do. You can make it a business - rave rooms. Festivals! You can travel the world with these, Finn... You're gonna be a rich, famous...

The sound of FINN tripping

FINN

Ow!

FINN

Balls.

The mycelium rumbles and groans - it's discordant and loud now, echoing all around FINN

FINN

Hmm. Which way. Left or right. Left or right.

The sounds get louder, the sound of mycellium pulsing, FINN's voice echoing eerily around them

FINN

What the hell is that?

FINN

AHH! What's that? Ghost?

FINN

Can't see.. what's that shadow? Hello? Who's there?

FINN

Oh my GOD A GHOST!!

FINN climbing

FINN

Get me out get me out.... Way's blocked – aaaahhh -

FINN

Aaaah! - climb up here -

FINN jumps up, rocks falling around them

FINN

No way out. No way out! --

The mycelium sounds quieten as FINN's voice sounds smaller, more contained

FINN

Muffled

Help – please – help – I'M STUCK!

Four.

FLASHBACK

BACK IN THE BEDROOM

The sound of tinny pop music again

ROSA

So why do you only want to go to the caves now? After all these years?

GIA

Well, this is the last time we'll ever get to go, isn't it.

ROSA

No. Not me. I'll find a way to get back.

Beat

ROSA

why've you got that shady look on your face?!

GIA

Well okay maybe maybe someone I like is gonna be there too.

ROSA

(awkward) Who?

GIA

Secret.

ROSA

Since when did we have secrets?

GIA

I'll tell you about it tonight.

ROSA

You better not leave me on my own.

GIA

Literally name one time when I have ever done that.

ROSA

Um, April 2019, you left me waiting outside school for forty five minutes while Keisha B taught you the dance to Renegade.

GIA

Rosa, I cannot believe you are still obsessed with that night. 3.5 years ago. Let it go!

The sound of turning off the speaker, spraying deodorant

ROSA

Never. You didn't even text. I'd saved you my last Apple / Fruit Shoot.

GIA

(interrupting) Apple Fruit Shoot! I REMEMBER. Listen.

The voices warp as we're taken back into the present with the growing cymbal-like sound & mycellium sounds taking us back to the caves

GIA

I'm not going anywhere without you. OK?

Five.

PRESENT DAY. BACK WITH ROSA.

ROSA is singing

ROSA

The hum and the glow
Is way a below...

Her singing echoes back to her in complete phrases

ROSA

(singing) If you want things to grow -

ROSA

(singing) Carry seeds you can sow...

ROSA

The mycelium...*(murmuring)* can you *hear* me?

ROSA

You're leading me, aren't you...*(singing)* The deeper the roots....

She edges down the passageway, and the pulse/resonance gets louder...

ROSA

(singing) The taller the shoots -

The sound of FINN whimpering

ROSA You're kidding me.

FINN

(faint) Someone...help... please!

ROSA

(Calling through the wall) Finn? Is that you?

FINN

...yes.

ROSA

You prick! What the hell did you do?

FINN

(muffled) Mhn mlrphac

ROSA

I can't hear you.

FINN

I'm claustrophobic!!

ROSA Good.

FINN

There was a ghost.

ROSA

That wasn't a ghost you idiot. That was the mycelium. Responding to attack. *Your* attack. You just ripped out the fruiting body and ran! This system is immensely delicate.

FINN

Can you help me get out? PLEASE?

The sound of dripping in the cave, their voices echoing

ROSA

Hmm. Let me think. *Can* I help you get out, well, probably. As someone who is descended from generations of people who have lived in, travelled through, cared for, nurtured and respected these tunnels for their entire lives, yes. Yes I can. *Will* I help you? Hmm. Don't know. That's a different matter entirely. Cos, correct me if I'm wrong, but I *think* you just tricked me into leading you right to the heart of the fruiting body which my family have spent decades trying to find, and STOLE IT.

Right??

Beat

ROSA

You can't even admit it.

FINN

I'm sorry.

ROSA

I should leave you here, you know.

FINN

Muffled No... please... Listen. What am I supposed to do? I just needed some money to get a bit of security – and with the eviction and everything - I promise. I don't have the kind of family like you do,

ROSA

What do you know about my family?

FINN

I just figured this might be a security net ...

ROSA

So you didn't care what the cost would be.

FINN

I didn't know it would mess things up! I just thought I'd take a little extra and... maybe meet you above ground some time. And laugh about it together.

ROSA

Fantastic plan. Working out well so far?

FINN

I *said* I'm sorry... I didn't know what else to do...

ROSA

Good luck, Finn.

FINN

Please...

ROSA (exhaling - over it) God's sake.

ROSA walks back to FINN

Six.

ROSA

FINN? ***Beat*** Can you hear me?

FINN

Yes.

ROSA

OK. You're stuck in the Chamber of the Serpent.

FINN

AAAAH!!! SNAKES?!?!

ROSA

No. And don't shout, you might disturb more of the rock above you. It's just called that because it's long and narrow and it winds round at the bottom. That's where you're stuck. It's an old mineshaft. And you're not going to be able to get out unless you follow my instructions. Can you do that?

FINN

(wthempering) mm-hmm.

ROSA

I need you to crawl back upwards the way you came for me. OK? You disturbed some rocks that have fallen and blocked your path, I'm going to try and move them.

The sound of ROSA moving rocks

FINN

Can't move.

ROSA

You haven't tried.

FINN

Stuck! Can't move!!

ROSA

Ok, take it slowly. And keep your voice down.

FINN

Can't move. Can't move. *(whimpering, panicking)*

ROSA

FINN, stay calm.

FINN starts to hyperventilate as rocks fall around them

ROSA

(raising her voice) Finn? Can you hear me? I'm coming round the other way. Stay there.

Seven.

ROSA

(reciting it to herself) Smuggler's passage in the dark... watch out for the rocks so – OUCH! - *(jumps)* so sharp...

Jumping, moving rocks, the sound of mycelium humming around her

ROSA

(continuing the song) Devil's staircase climbs so steep – but there's one step which plunges deep – AHH! PHEW -

Pebbles she has disturbed, falling deep, deep down into the depths through the missing step

ROSA *(continuing the song)* Careful of the tunnel's danger... leading to the Serpent's chamber. (stopped singing) Hang on. Tunnel's danger. Tunnel's danger. Be specific... Tunnel's danger...

Far off, the sound of TOMMY

ROSA Is there someone else down here?

TOMMY

(far-off, faint) The garden... Need to find the garden...

ROSA

The garden? Wait – come back - do you mean the *heart's garden*? But that's just a myth... The garden at the heart of the caves... Hello? Are you there – wait -

The mycelium becomes discordant, rocks crumble

ROSA

Aahhh – someone help me! I'm going to fall!

The sounds of things growing, the low ominous pulse returns

ROSA

(singing, TRYING TO CALM HERSELF) The hum and the glow... Is way down below....

The glow of the MYCELIUM, the sound of it growing towards her

ROSA

(singing) If you want things to grow/ take the seeds you will sow...

You're growing. You're growing towards me. Like ropes...

The sound of ROSA's feet on the rocks.

One hand... two hands.... Pull, Rosa. Trust it. Pull...

The sound of effort as ROSA hauls herself back up

The sounds of the mycelium die down

ROSA

Oh my god. Thanks mycelium. OK. Sure. Narrowly avoided death. Guess that was the “danger”. Just a simple matter of going... sideways... down here... and then --

ROSA jumps down. The sounds of FINN’s whimpers get closer as we hear ROSA’s footsteps.

Eight.

ROSA

Alright dickhead. I can see your little finger.

FINN

mm-hmm.

ROSA

Can you wiggle it? Good. I need you to stay calm, no sudden movements or loud noises. Understood?

FINN

(nervously) Mmmhmm.

ROSA

Right. Now reach your hand upwards towards me.

FINN

It’s trapped. I’m trapped...

ROSA

No you’re not. Just move, slowly. Right hand first. Wiggle it OK? Good. Now move it up. There you go. Now the other one. Good. Well done.

FINN

I can't see - I can't do it I can't -

ROSA

Yes you can. You've just started. Now all you need to do is carry on. Put your hands here and here. Then pull yourself up on your belly. Good. Keep doing that.

FINN groans with effort

FINN

I'm sorry about what I did. I know it was a dick move.

ROSA

Understatement of the century. Tricking me into liking you.

Sounds like there's someone else down here too. We're going to have to try and find them once I've got you out of there. Put your hand here, that's strong enough to hold your weight.

ROSA

Come on, pull.

FINN

Alright, we're not all bloody Lara Croft.

ROSA

What's that?

FINN

Tomb Raider? That vintage 90s computer game?

ROSA

I don't play computer games. I have better things to do. Turn sideways, there you go, now come through this bit.

The sound of FINN dragging their body along the tunnel

FINN

(choking, spluttering) Aaah! Spider webs!

ROSA

It's ok. That's just some hyphae. Tendrils of the mycelium. That's like a sort of root system. But not actually roots, more-

FINN

(interrupting) Sticky...eugh!!! it got in my mouth!

ROSA

Shhh, let's keep your mind off it. Why don't you tell me about today. Who did you come to the rave with?

FINN

Just turned up on my ones. I know lots of the people organising it, always see some faces I know.

The faint sounds of the the mycelium humming, and the dripping of water in the echoey caves

ROSA

Should've guessed. So it's you lot whose fault it is that I have to swab sick off the walls for the community clean-up. Put your hand here, see?

FINN

You do that?

ROSA

You thought this place just magically cleaned itself?

FINN

I never really thought that much about it.

ROSA

Of course you didn't. Tight squeeze coming here.

FINN

(constricted as they squeeze through) You've got this whole community pride thing going on cos you grew up here or whatever and that makes you special. But the raves, that's community too. Welcoming people into the caves. Not keeping them out. Inviting them all in, not policing them.

ROSA

I'm not policing! I hate the police.

FINN

Don't take this the wrong way, but you can be quite an angry person, can't you?

ROSA

(offended) Hello! We're getting evicted! Hundreds of people are being displaced from public property for private profit! There's a lot to be angry about! Hand here. No, *here*.

FINN

But sometimes it feels good to let go. That rave - it was a collective mourning, reclamation, solidarity, party - all in one. It's a kind of *protest*.

ROSA

And look where it's got us.

Beat.

FINN

Why did you come then? If you think we're all just trashing the place?

ROSA

My best friend wanted to. Gia. Her family haven't been rehoused yet so they're all having to go and stay with some relatives in Glasgow. And I wanted to spend my last night with her.

FINN

So you had a fight?

ROSA

It's a long story.

FINN

Well - you said you needed to take my mind off it...

ROSA

OK. Fine. Well.... I'd been drinking...

The cymbal sound returns and grows as we're transported into...

Nine.

FLASHBACK. RAVE.

Loud techno music, voices

GIA

There you are!

ROSA

(Slurring) Where did you go? I was looking for you.

GIA

OK someone's had enough to drink.

ROSA

Where?

GIA

I was talking to Conor. He's so cute.

ROSA

Gia. I'm never gonna see you again.

GIA

Course you are.

ROSA

But never like this. I'm going uni, you're moving away. Everything's scattering. It's not gonna be like before.

GIA: Yeah, it'll be different, but we'll make it work, right? Cos I love you.

ROSA

I love you too.

Can I kiss you then?

GIA

Let's get you some water.

ROSA

I really wanna kiss you. You're not listening.

GIA

I am but let's sit you down.

They go outside - voices are louder, music a little quieter

ROSA

I'm in love with you. I always have been.

GIA

Rosa...

ROSA What?

GIA

You've just had a bit too much to drink.

ROSA

You – you don't, do you? But I thought that's what you were telling me – earlier - when you said you liked someone -

GIA

Hey. Rosa. Let's talk about this tomorrow. OK?

ROSA

Why not now?

GIA

Rosa. Listen to me. You're my best friend in the whole world. I adore you. Just not like that. I don't want to hurt your feelings. But it's not that way with you and me.

ROSA

(hurt) Wow. Right. Cool. OK.

GIA

And right now I need you to -

ROSA

I should have known.

GIA

Hey! Rosa! Come back.

WE HERE THE SECTION FROM EP2:

ROSA suddenly enters the smoking area. She is upset, flustered and a little drunk. She approaches FINN

ROS

Hi...

FINN

Oh hey

ROSA

I'm Rosa

FINN

I'm Finn... how's it going?

Ten.

PRESENT DAY.

FINN

Ah, Rosa. That sucks. I'm so sorry.

ROSA

Yeah.

FINN

I used to fall for people so easily. So hard. That's how I learned you've got to move on fast. Keep it casual. Before anything gets too serious. Don't stick around and you won't get hurt.

ROSA

That doesn't sound like a very good approach.

FINN

It's just the way the world works, isn't it?

ROSA

Not necessarily.

Beat.

FINN

Well. It's not often you meet someone worth risking it for...

ROSA

(ignoring that) We're nearly here. See that faint light glowing? That's the mycelium running from the next tunnel. Not far.

FINN

I thought you were gonna leave me down there.

ROSA

I was.

FINN

Why d'you come back?

ROSA

'Cos sometimes you've got to stick around.

FINN

Alright alright you got me.

ROSA

Nearly there.

FINN

There's so many people who are gonna want to be with you.

ROSA

This rock's unsteady, careful.

FINN

You're a bad ass eco action hero with a fungus obsession. Are you kidding me?

ROSA

OK. I've got you. Give me your hands, I'll pull you out.

ROSA PULLS FINN UP, WITH EFFORT, INTO HER ARMS.

Their voices echoey again. The sound of dripping returns.

ROSA

It's ok. You're safe.

FINN

(half-joking) Rosa. You're my hero.

ROSA

Shut up.

FINN

No, really – thank you.

ROSA

It's ok.

FINN

Now how do we get this fungus back to where it belongs?!

ROSA

The way's blocked. We can't risk going back down there.

FINN

Well then. I'll trust you with it. Now let's get the hell out of this place!

ROSA

Easier said than done. The bioluminescent trail's so faint now. I think it's this way. Or this one...
Or maybe...

We hear ROSA's footsteps

FINN

Wait... Rosa. Look... I really meant it. I'm sorry about what I did. It was so stupid. I really want to make it up to you. When we get out of here.. would you maybe want to go for a drink with me?

The sound of the mycelium harmonising and growing in volume and complexity of harmony

Beat

ROSA Maybe.

FINN Are you just saying that so I don't have another panic attack?

ROSA *(smiling)* Maybe.

FINN I think you're sick, Rosa.

ROSA I thought I was policing you?

FINN In a hot way?

ROSA Police are never hot, Finn.

FINN What about me?

ROSA Yeah, you're alright.

Beat.

ROSA

Look! The mycelium! It's glowing so brightly!

FINN

Wow... like a galaxy. Milky way.

ROSA

This path is glowing stronger. See? Come this way. Look. The light. It's leading us. Can you hear that sound? It wants us to go down this tunnel. It's going to help us find the other person down here. Finn! *(STOPPING, TURNING)* What you waiting for?

The mycelium grows into a beat and then drops out suddenly

FINN

(shy) Will you hold my hand?

Silence. The sounds of the caves.

Eerie melody swells back in

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 written by Ellie Kendrick. 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 Munotida Chinyanga and music by Oliver Vibrans. Starring Francesca Amewudah-Rivers as Rosa, Abby Russell as Gia, Jetsun Lama as Finn & Nkhanise Phiri as Tommy.

Thank you for listening.