

Liars & Leeches

Episode 9- "Prepared for Anything"

Created by Hemlock Creek Productions

Story by Marisa Ewing

Written by KJ Scott

THEME MUSIC BEGINS

NARRATOR

Liars & Leeches: Episode 9-  
"Prepared for Anything"

THEME MUSIC CONTINUES

NARRATOR

"Liars & Leeches" is a horror audio drama intended for mature audiences only. It contains sensitive topics, including discussions of gun violence, as well as depictions of domestic violence, stalking, and murder. More specific details about each episode are listed in the show notes. Listener discretion is advised.

THEME MUSIC ENDS

S1- EXT.- Tonya's House

SFX: Crickets, car approaching

NARRATOR

As the car pulled up the driveway to Tonya's home, Natalie knew something was wrong. Anxiety settled in the pit of her stomach like a weight. Tonya was in danger. She could tell.

SFX: Car doors closing

SEAN

Wow, nice house!

SFX: Knocking

NATALIE

Tonya! Tonya, open up!

VIX

Natalie?

NATALIE

What?

VIX  
(taking a deep breath)  
He's here.

NARRATOR  
Fear blossomed in Natalie's mind.  
This thing was here, with her  
friend. Her friend who wasn't  
responding to her. Her friend who  
might be hurt or worse because  
Natalie left her alone.

NATALIE  
Fuck!

SFX: Doorknob rattling

NATALIE  
Of course it's locked. Of fucking  
course...

VIX  
There are other ways in.

NATALIE  
The backdoor is probably locked  
too!

VIX  
I'm not talking about doors!

NARRATOR  
Natalie turned to see Vix pointing  
at one of the windows. She knew  
they'd be locked as well, but  
these... these were easier to  
break.

NATALIE  
Fuck, okay. Stand back.

SFX: Natalie throwing a rock, glass breaking

ALARM  
Fault detected- living room window

NARRATOR  
Natalie had never broken into  
someone's home with a rock through  
the window before. She hoped it  
would be the last time.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

She took off her denim jacket and tucked it over the sill, hoping it would protect them from any glass, then climbed into the house.

SFX: footsteps on glass

NARRATOR

There was a glass on the coffee table half full of water. Tonya had been here, but she wasn't in the living room now. Natalie desperately wanted to call out for her, but she knew it would only draw the attention of The Man, even though the sound of shattering glass undoubtedly did that already.

NATALIE

(whispering)

Is he still here?

VIX

(whispering)

Yes.

NATALIE

Can you sense Tonya? Is she alive?

VIX

(after a long pause)

Yeah. Yeah, there's someone really scared upstairs. She's alive.

NATALIE

Oh thank God.

VIX

Be careful. If he's still here, we need to be prepared for anything.

SFX: Bones and flesh shifting

NARRATOR

Vix began to shift, her limbs lengthening and her form transforming into the same shadowy creature she'd become before. Natalie fumbled with her bag and pulled out a bottle pepper spray, eyes fixed on the stairs. Whatever came down, she'd be ready.

S2- Int. Tonya's House

SFX: Ominous music, panicked breathing

NARRATOR

Upstairs, Tonya pressed herself against the wall opposite the door. For a moment, the panic threatened to drown her, pulling at her limbs and causing her to sink slowly to the ground. But even as she tried to breathe, something else took hold of her. She would not die cowering in a corner. She would go down fighting. And it wasn't over yet. She could still find a way to escape. Even if things seemed terrible now, there had to be a way out of here.

TONYA

Breathe. Just breathe. You know this house, so where do you go now?

NARRATOR

Her eyes landed on a picture of Tami and Jim. She would keep fighting for them. She would keep living for them. She stood up on shaky legs and peered out the window. She was close enough to the roof that she could probably make it up if she was careful. Slowly, she began to try and open the window.

TONYA

(quietly)

C'mon you motherfucker. Open up!

SFX: window opening

NARRATOR

As fast as she could, Tonya shimmed out the window. Balancing on the frame, she reached up with one hand to grip the edge of the roof.

SFX: Tonya grunting with effort

NARRATOR

Her hand was sweaty, but she was still able to grab the roof and pull herself up.

(beat)

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Up on the roof, Tonya let the cool night air refresh her as she looked around.

TONYA

Oh thank god, that must be Natalie's car.

NARRATOR

The flicker of determination in her fanned into a flame. Her best friend was here. She would find her, and then they'd get to safety together. Tonya wasn't alone.

(beat)

She crept across the roof, arms out for balance. The roof was dry, thankfully, and not slick with dew just yet. Tonya regretted not grabbing a pair of shoes from the bedroom as she gingerly tried to find a way down. Finally, a trellis caught her eye. Tami had loved the idea of an old house covered in ivy, and she and Jim had put up a small trellis going up part of the house. It would work.

TONYA

(softly)

Thanks, Tami.

SFX: Tonya climbing, heartbeats

NARRATOR

Tonya felt as though the trellis would give way at any second as she made her way down. She couldn't look below her; she was terrified that she would slip and fall to her death, or worse: be injured and unable to run. But her hands didn't shake as she slowly climbed down, only breathing when her feet touched solid earth. Tonya stumbled as she regained her footing, looking around nervously. She half expected to see a shadowy monster emerge from the trees nearby. When nothing did, she started to move, heading towards the front of the house. That's when she saw the broken glass.

(beat)

(MORE)

## NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Peering inside the window, Tonya covered her mouth to hide a gasp. She could see Natalie and a man she assumed was Sean standing next to a shadowy figure. This must be Vix.

(beat)

Natalie looked terrified. Tonya had never seen her friend so scared. Slowly, Tonya began to try and climb in the window, trying not to make any noise that would frighten her friend. Still, she put her palm down on a small piece of glass.

## TONYA

(wincing)

Fuck!

## NARRATOR

Natalie spun around at the sound. Tonya watched as her friend's face contorted into a small sob before she hurried to Tonya's side and helped her in. Once she was inside, Natalie threw her arms around her, holding her close.

## WISTFUL MUSIC

## NATALIE

(tearfully)

Don't scare me like that again, okay?

## TONYA

Oh, this is my last time fighting off a shadow monster. I promise. Listen, he's still -

## VIX

*Shhh!*

## OMINOUS MUSIC

## NARRATOR

Vix raised a hand, effectively silencing both Tonya and Natalie. Her eyes were fixed on the kitchen. Slowly, Tonya followed her gaze to see a pair of burning yellow eyes illuminated in the dark of the kitchen, close to the floor.

NATALIE

Oh God.

SFX: growling, footsteps

NARRATOR

The Man slowly slunk out of the kitchen. Natalie tensed as he approached, and Sean turned pale and covered his mouth as he stepped backwards. Only Vix didn't react, stepping forward as if to protect her friends. Tonya watched as she tensed, as if waiting for an attack.

VIX

(firm, monstrous voice)  
*That's close enough.*

THE MAN

(monstrous voice)  
*I knew Tonya was expecting company, but I certainly wasn't expecting another Leech. Your timing couldn't have been worse, but I won't hold it against you. After all, there's plenty to go around here, but that one, Tonya? She's mine.*

VIX

*No. None of these humans belong to you. None of them belong to me either. And you will leave them be.*

THE MAN

(confused)  
*You would rather side with these humans than stand with one of your own?*

VIX

*You and I are nothing alike.*

THE MAN

*Fine. If you want to be human so badly, you can die like one.*

SFX: Fighting noises



NARRATOR

The Man lunged forward at Vix. Natalie dragged Tonya out of the way as the two monsters collided, screeching and ripping at each other. The sound was horrifying as Sean, Tonya, and Natalie all tried to get out of the way, Sean with his hands over his ears. The match was even, at least - Vix's sharp claws seeming to do as much damage as The Man's terrifyingly sharp fangs.

NATALIE

(yelling over the sound)  
We need to do something!

TONYA

Do what?!

NARRATOR

With a cry, Natalie charged forward, holding her can of pepper spray in front of her. Distracted by Vix, The Man didn't see Natalie until she'd managed to get a good shot into one of his yellow eyes.

NATALIE

AAAH!

NARRATOR

The Man screamed in agony, snapping at Natalie who dodged the attack.

SEAN

Leave them alone!

NARRATOR

Sean grabbed whatever was closest to him, throwing it at The Man. First was the TV remote. Then came the glass of water. Finally, Sean grabbed one of the lamps on the side tables. With a roar, he threw it at The Man, who howled as it burst against him with a shower of sparks.

TONYA

Yes! Get him!

NARRATOR

The Man was growing furious now. It was easy to see that he had not been expecting this fight, and he was tired of playing games. Natalie, especially, seemed to be a point of frustration as she danced just out of his reach.

TONYA

Nat, watch out!

NATALIE

Don't worry about -AH!

NARRATOR

With a roar, The Man kicked out his back leg, catching Natalie in the stomach and knocking the wind out of her. The blow sent her flying across the room, right into the wall.

TONYA

NATALIE!

NARRATOR

For a moment, Tonya stood frozen, unsure of what to do.

SEAN

Go! We got this!

NARRATOR

It was true. Vix and Sean seemed to have the situation under control for the moment. Tonya raced across the room to Natalie's side.

NATALIE

(groaning in pain)

TONYA

Natalie? Nat, are you okay?

NARRATOR

As she knelt down beside her friend, Tonya could see that Natalie's arm was bent at a horrifying angle.

SFX: Vix struggling

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Natalie whimpered slightly as she looked at it, then up at Tonya, blood trickling down from a small cut on her head.

NATALIE

(woozy)

I might... have to sit this one out for a minute.

TONYA

It's okay, it's gonna be okay...

NARRATOR

Tonya looked over at the fight. In the few moments she'd turned her back, The Man had been able to pin Vix to the floor. Vix was desperately pushing on his throat as he snapped at her neck, clearly trying to break it. Sean was frozen in terror.

NATALIE

You've got... you've gotta finish this. Don't worry about me.

TONYA

I can't.

NATALIE

Yeah. Yeah you can.

NARRATOR

In the destroyed living room, Tonya saw her knife lying a few feet away. It gleamed in the light, and Tonya knew she was ready to finish this. She scrambled across the floor to grab the knife, tightening her grip on the hilt.

SFX: Vix struggling

NARRATOR

She drove it into The Man's back. The Man instantly screamed, twisting and kicking out at Tonya. She dodged his flailing limbs, pulling the knife out as she did so. Black blood spurted from the wound, dripping down onto Vix.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Vix was able to break free from his loosened grasp.

(beat)

For a moment, the Man stared wildly at all of them, focusing intently on Tonya and the bloody knife in her hand. And then with a final, wounded howl, he scrambled into the kitchen and through the back door.

SFX: Footsteps

TONYA

(breathing heavily)

Is... is he going to die from that?

VIX

No.

SFX: Vix transforming

NARRATOR

Vix began to shift back into her human form. There were a few bruises and scrapes on her body. Once she was fully human, she hugged Sean, who ran a hand over her hair.

SEAN

(winded)

You good?

VIX

Yeah, he didn't really get me. I think I got him worse.

TONYA

Shit, Nat. Your arm...

NATALIE

(pained)

I've had worse.

TONYA

Really?

NATALIE

Nope. But it sounds badass when I say things like that.

TONYA

(laughing weakly)

C'mon, let's get you on the couch  
and take a look at that arm.

SEAN

(gagging)

That, uh, that looks gross. We  
should get you to a hospital.

NATALIE

Hell no. We gotta finish him off.

TONYA

Are you kidding me? You can't do  
that shit right now with your arm  
like that?

NATALIE

I don't care. This fucker's gotta  
die.

VIX

Natalie has a point. We can't just  
let him go. A Leech like this,  
who's so desperate to feed that  
he'll attack a human so openly?  
He's a danger. Besides, we've  
wounded his pride. He'll be after  
us again.

TONYA

How do we know he won't die from  
his injuries? He might be dead  
already!

NARRATOR

Even as she said that, Tonya knew  
it was a lie. The Man was still out  
there. If she didn't stop him now,  
he'd come after her again, or hurt  
someone else. Tonya thought of  
Victoria Parks, and felt her  
resolve grow stronger.

TONYA

...what do we need?

VIX

Keep the knife. You're pretty good  
with it. Do you have any other  
weapons?

TONYA

A few more knives in the kitchen,  
if that helps.

VIX

Perfect.

SFX: Vix leaving

TONYA

Nat, if we're not back in two  
hours, call the police.

NATALIE

What are you talking about? I'm  
going with you?

TONYA

Have you seen your arm?

NATALIE

Like I said, I'm fine. Besides,  
it's my left arm. I'm right handed.

TONYA

(scolding)

Nat...

NATALIE

No. Don't even try it. I am going  
with you, because you are my best  
friend and that's what friends do.  
Don't ask me to sit on the  
sidelines and watch you risk your  
life.

(beat)

You remember the first time I met  
Tami?

TONYA

Barely.

NATALIE

We were all going to get lunch  
while we were interns. And you went  
up to use the bathroom and your  
sister said to me that you were a  
special person and that if I was  
gonna be your friend, I had to look  
after you. 'Cause you'd look after  
me. She must've known we were going  
to be best friends, even though  
we'd only known each other a little  
while.

(MORE)

NATALIE (CONT'D)

And I said I would, I said I'd look after you. So I'm going. For Tami.

TONYA

(crying)

I love you.

NATALIE

(emotional as well)

Love you too.

SFX: They hug

SEAN

(awkwardly)

Hey, I, uh, I don't wanna interrupt the love fest but if you want to go, we should at least set your arm somehow. Get a sling, or something.

NATALIE

Good call. You got medical training?

SEAN

A little. I've taken a few first aid courses and I almost gave blood. Guess it pays to be a hypochondriac.

NATALIE

Sure does.

NARRATOR

As Sean began to fuss over Natalie's arm, Tonya went to find Vix in the kitchen. The other woman was standing there, looking at the knives on the counter in front of her.

TONYA

I've never had to introduce myself to someone after a life or death battle before. I'm Tonya.

VIX

It's nice to meet you Tonya. Natalie's told me so much about you on the way here. Sorry, where are my manners. I'm Vix.

TONYA

It's nice to meet you Vix. And  
thank you. For helping.

VIX

(trying to joke)  
It's all selfish - I just didn't  
want to be found out.  
(beat, growing serious)  
I've never had to fight one of my  
own before.

TONYA

You did good.

VIX

Yeah, I guess I'm kind of a badass?

TONYA

(laughing)  
I'll say.

VIX

(laughs, then grows  
serious)  
I am so, so sorry this happened to  
you. Truly.

TONYA

Thank you.

NARRATOR

Natalie and Sean made their way  
into the kitchen, Natalie's arm now  
in a makeshift sling. She grabbed  
one of the knives from the counter.

NATALIE

Let's kill this son of a bitch.

S3- EXT.- Cedar Grove town center

SFX: crickets, outdoor noises

NARRATOR

The trail of blood led them from  
the house to the center of town.  
Tonya kept a tight grip on her  
knife, wondering what they must  
look like to anyone who passed.  
Thankfully, it was late enough that  
no one was out on the streets and  
businesses were closed.

(MORE)



## NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Vix led the group, tracking The Man's bloody claw marks on the ground. As they moved through the town, the claw marks changed to footprints. Clearly, The Man was trying to hide.

## CALM BUT OMINOUS MUSIC

Vix led them to the Hometown Farmstand, moving past it towards the woods beyond. Tonya felt a chill settle over her as they headed off the road. The trees loomed tall overhead, blotting out the stars. They only had the light from their flashlights or phones.

## NATALIE

A hideout. In the woods. This bastard really has a flair for the dramatic.

## VIX

We're here.

## NARRATOR

The group stopped in front of a dark cave, the mouth gaping into the dark. Tonya suppressed a shudder as she stared at it.

## NATALIE

What happened to all the decorations?

## VIX

That's just me. I like human things. Most Leeches though, they prefer caves or places like this.

## NATALIE

You ready?

## TONYA

(with a deep breath)  
Yeah. Let's do this.

S4- INT. CAVE

SFX: Water dripping, bats flying

NARRATOR

The cave stretched on and on as they walked inside. A few spiders scuttled away from them as they walked forward, causing Sean to gag. Slowly, they made their way forward. Vix was still in the lead, but Tonya was right behind her. She had never felt more ready than she did in this moment, but she also felt terrified. There was no running this time. No hiding. She was going to face The Man, and one of them would emerge victorious.

(beat)

Finally, the narrow passage opened into a spacious cavern. The beams of the flashlights bounced off the walls as the group stepped inside.

TONYA

Where is he?

VIX

He's here. I can sense him.

THE MAN

(Pained)

Traitor.

SFX: Ominous noise

NARRATOR

The four jumped, flashlights swinging around to see The Man slumped against a wall. He was clearly injured, blood staining his clothes. He glared at them, dark eyes flashing with a deep fury. His bared teeth shone in the light.

THE MAN

(angry)

Helping a human, instead of just feeding? It's disgusting. You're pathetic.

VIX

It doesn't matter what you think of me. It's over.

THE MAN

No. I refuse to die like this.

NARRATOR

The Man put his hand on the floor.  
Suddenly, the room began to fill  
with a strange mist. It curled over  
their feet before starting to  
spiral upwards.

SFX: Mist hissing

NATALIE

What the hell is this?

VIX

Brace yourself!

TONYA

Natalie!?

NARRATOR

Tonya looked at Natalie  
frantically. For a moment, she saw  
her friend's equally terrified  
face, and then the mist filled the  
space and Tonya saw nothing.

SFX: Heartbeats

NARRATOR

For a moment, all Tonya knew was  
her own heartbeat. Then the mist  
began to clear.

SFX: Lights flickering, crowd noises and shopping carts

NARRATOR

As she blinked it from her eyes,  
Tonya saw she was in the Hometown  
Farmstand. Crowds of people pushed  
past her as they rushed from aisle  
to aisle. Tonya felt panic crushing  
her again.

TONYA

Natalie?? Vix?? Sean??  
(fully panicking)

NATALIE!

OUTRO MUSIC

## NARRATOR

Liars & Leeches: Episode 9-  
"Prepared for Anything" starring  
Ryan Reid as The Narrator, Kendell  
Byrd as Tonya, Newton "Newt"  
Schottelkotte as Natalie, Lindsay  
Wells as Vix, Jason Lasky as Sean,  
Jamie Richard-Stewart as The Man,  
and Olivia Steele as the Alarm.

OUTRO MUSIC CONTINUES

## NARRATOR

"Liars & Leeches" was produced by  
Hemlock Creek Productions. The  
story was created by Marisa Ewing  
and the script written by KJ Scott,  
with script editing provided by Meg  
Williams. Dialogue editing, mixing  
and mastering was done by Marisa  
Ewing, sound design by Melissa  
Pons, and music written by Nico  
Vettese of We Talk of Dreams.  
Additional recording assistance  
provided by Jordan Alexander and  
Trey Baker of Music City Studios.  
To learn more about the show, cast,  
and crew, visit  
[www.hemlockcreekprod.com](http://www.hemlockcreekprod.com). That's  
Hemlock Creek P-R-O-D .com.

Thank you for listening. We will  
return next week.

OUTRO MUSIC ENDS

**END OF EPISODE**