

Prelude: Alex Giovanni

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S Storyteller Rina 00:00

theme music Thank you for joining us wherever you are. This podcast episode is brought to you by the Old Ways actual play team. This actual play uses the fifth edition Vampire the Masquerade tabletop role playing rules by World of Darkness. This actual play is performed by adults and in an adult setting. Listeners should know that this podcast is intended for a mature audience and will include strong language and mature themes. All content, including names, places, events, companies, and so forth that may bear resemblance to entities living, dead, or undead is strictly coincidental. My name is Rina Haenze, and for tonight's game, I will be your Storyteller.

S Storyteller Rina 01:01

Greetings and welcome to another episode of the Old Ways Podcast's Vampire the Masquerade Chronicle, Blood Moon Rising. I am your Storyteller, Storyteller Rina, and tonight we are bringing you another of our character prologues to introduce our coterie to all of you, our wonderful listeners. So, without further ado, I'd like to briefly turn the spotlight towards our subject tonight. Last time we had Marcus the Brujah, so let's see who we have joining our coterie this evening. Tiff?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 01:33

Hi, this is Tiffanie and I'm playing Alex Giovanni. They are Clan Hecata, and they like to hoard bits of information. It makes things fun.

S Storyteller Rina 01:47

Yes, we do love a good bit of information hoarding. So we'll see what you're able to do with your network of information as we go. And just to clarify, Alex does use they/them pronouns, correct?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 02:01
Correct.

S Storyteller Rina 02:02
Excellent. Alright. So let us begin. It is yet another cold October evening in San Francisco, with the wind coming off the bay. There's a light drizzle of rain outside as so frequently happens at this time of year. And Alex is awakening for the first time this evening. So why don't you tell us a little bit about where Alex sleeps. How do you get your rest during the day?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 02:40
They usually are in the back portion of a storefront. Well, it looks like a storefront. The back half of it is more like a spacious apartment. It's not small but not huge. And everything is always meticulously in its place and clean and straightened and tidy. So when Alex rises, usually they will pick out their suit for the evening, make sure everything is perfect - no fuss, no wrinkles, no hair out of place - and get ready for what the evening may bring.

S Storyteller Rina 03:27
Excellent. So as you arise this evening, maybe stretch a little bit, you feel a bit of hunger gnawing away inside you. Why don't you give me a Rouse check to see how hungry you are and if you can control it? So that's going to be 1d10 and you want a 6 or higher.

A Alex 03:50
So that is a 9.

S Storyteller Rina 03:54
Ok, so with a 9, that is a Success. So you're feeling a little bit hungry, but you can wait; you don't need to feed immediately. So you don't feel the need to rush off and devour the nearest living being that you see or the nearest bucket of blood, whatever you find first. So you're able to go about your evening routine as normal. Do you have people you keep around you at this time of night? Are you solitary?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 04:26
Probably just the guy that runs the front of the the store. Max runs front of the store, so I will probably see him for a little bit, check in, make sure he has everything he needs. And then if I need to, I will probably stop in and see my hacker friends from my herd and get what I need

and check in and see if they have any....if they've tracked down any other interesting information or tidbits.

S

Storyteller Rina 05:02

Are your hacker friends in the same building? Do you have to go out to find them?

T

Tiffanie (Alex) 05:10

If...see, I don't think I got my wealth high enough, because it's only a 3. I would say if I could get the whole building, yeah, I would have them all living above me in apartments. But otherwise, I'm sure they're fairly nearby.

S

Storyteller Rina 05:25

Ok, so maybe all along the same street. So you get get dressed for the evening's activities, you're wearing a very nice, well-tailored dark suit, dark blue, do you wear a tie? Or is that not your style?

T

Tiffanie (Alex) 05:44

Usually, I would go with like a silk like scarf, you know, or whatever they call them. But you know, like a, yeah, more of like a scarf than a, than a tie, per se.

S

Storyteller Rina 05:58

Ok. So you've got a nice, dark colored silk scarf, maybe a dark green, hanging around your neck, and you exit through the front of the building, you wave at Max, and he just smiles at you. It's usually fairly quiet at this time of night; sunset in San Francisco in October is around 6-6:30. So he's expecting maybe a couple customers will come in, but it's usually fairly quiet. So he's got a paperback out, and he's sitting in a chair behind the desk with his feet propped up on a stool. And he just sort of gives you a wave and a cheery smile, before he returns his his attention to his novel; he always seems to be reading the same novel, as if he has to keep going back over and over and over, because he's not really paying full attention to it. But it keeps him busy. And he's never really complained. You make your way out into the street. It's not a super busy area of town; you do get cars going past you, some people who very obviously are taking shortcuts to get away from the famous traffic. But it's a little bit of a drizzle, cool breeze coming in from off the Bay. And you have to make your way up one of the hilly streets to get to where your your hacker colleagues live. But you're used to the walk, it's nice, good to stretch your legs, get some fresh air, you don't go out very much usually. So this is this is a nice little exercise for you. And a few cats come running past you as you go; they seem almost drawn to you. There's a small black cat named Dante, that you see occasionally when you take these evening walks, and he stops for a nuzzle and for a pat on the head before he runs off in search of squirrels or whatever it is he chases at night. So you get up to the apartment block where you can find your friends. They live in this sort of nondescript high rise building that has

a ton of small apartments. Still outrageously expensive, because it's San Francisco, but they can live fairly anonymously in one of these tiny one-room apartments each without attracting too much attention. You make your way up to the seventh floor and you knock on the door of apartment 712. Do you have a code knock or phrase or do you just knock and expect them to answer?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 08:46

I probably have like a special knock, like how like how soft or how hard I would knock. Usually soft, because I don't want you know, everyone around us to hear that they have company.

S Storyteller Rina 08:59

Right. So you hear a soft click that you know is the the peephole cover being lifted and then closed. And then you hear the sounds of multiple locks being undone. There are at least five of them, including the chain on the door. But at last the the door swings open, and there is a fairly lanky looking young person. They're in their mid 20s and look a bit like they haven't showered for a couple days. And there are Cheeto stains on their fingers and what looks like maybe a spilled Mountain Dew down the front of their white t-shirt, holes in their jeans and they're wearing fluffy slippers. But the rest of the apartment is really clean. It's just they're a disaster. So this is Maxine.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 09:56

Right.

S Storyteller Rina 09:57

One of your little hacker friends, and Maxine looks at you with caffeine bloodshot eyes. She's holding what looks like a massive can of Red Bull in one hand, and you can see past her to her desk where there are six or seven empty cans of Red Bull just scattered around the desk.

M Maxine 10:22

Oh, hey, boss. Uh, come in.

A Alex 10:28

Thank you.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 10:30

And I will enter the apartment.

M Maxine 10:34
Cool.

S Storyteller Rina 10:36
The door clicks closed, and then she takes a minute to refasten all of the five locks on the door before turning around and:

M Maxine 10:47
Uhhh...coffee? No, you don't drink coffee. Uh, you wanted something?

A Alex 10:56
Yes. What I'm usually here for.

M Maxine 10:59
Oh, right, right, right. Right, right. Sorry. I've been up for like 52 hours, and my brain isn't quite...quite connecting. I think...I think that's the right word. I don't know.

A Alex 11:21
Have you gotten anything for being up for 52 hours?

M Maxine 11:26
Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah.

S Storyteller Rina 11:29
And she shuffles over in her fluffy pink slippers back to her computer. She's got six monitors all set up, so that she can see pretty much everything without even even needing to turn more than a slight tilt of the head to either side. And there's a pair of broken blue light glasses on the desk that have been there for at least a month she hasn't bothered to fix or replace. But she starts flipping through, like scrolling through a bunch of files on the on the computer. And she says,

M

M

Maxine 12:08

Which one did you want again? Were you the one we wanted the info on Conrad? Was that you?

A

Alex 12:18

Yeah, I do. I did receive something from Trevor Conrad.

M

Maxine 12:24

Right. Right, right, right. Right.

S

Storyteller Rina 12:32

And you're used to all of this by now, but it's still a little frustrating just how long it takes her to get to anything when she's sleep deprived. But she pulls up some folders.

M

Maxine 12:46

So it, it's really hard to find information on this guy. Um, he's really good at hiding his tracks, kind of like you. Um, but it looks like there was a bit of trouble at his night club.

S

Storyteller Rina 13:05

She pulls up a police report. The police report is dated from three days ago, which is the day before you got a message from Trevor Conrad.

M

Maxine 13:17

Um, so I managed to find it, looks like someone buried this because it didn't make the news. But apparently 3 people died. And they were underage.

A

Alex 13:32

Oh boy.

M

Maxine 13:34

Yeah...

S

Storyteller Rina 13:36

And she pulls up three pictures. They look like social media images of these three teenagers.

M

Maxine 13:45

Yeah. Paulie Anderson, he was 18, so he definitely shouldn't have been there. And Susie Newman, and...oof, 17. Uh-uh. And then Andy Veris, and he's also 17. And the police report says it it looked like they were drugged or something. Maybe they overdosed? I'm not, not really sure because there's no autopsy reports or anything yet. But yeah. It doesn't look good.

A

Alex 14:33

Yeah. Not at all.

M

Maxine 14:37

And yeah, like, it's not in the papers.

S

Storyteller Rina 14:41

And she pulls up a bunch of different paper reports.

M

Maxine 14:45

It's like there's, there's nothing here and you think with three teenagers dying in a nightclub, a well-known nightclub, that there'd be something, but there's nothing and so he's obviously got some friends, this Conrad guy obviously got some friends who are covering some things up. But I think it's going to be trouble for him. Because I don't think there's any way to completely get away with three teenagers dying in your club. Or I guess this is dad's club. It's a little hard to find the paperwork on this place, actually. Like, the only reason I knew it existed was from the paperwork.

S

Storyteller Rina 15:26

And she looks, she looks up, perks up a little bit like a dog that's brought you a ball back like, "did I do good? Did I do good?"

M

Maxine 15:36

But, yeah, yeah, so he's in real trouble. If so, I don't know what all you can do for him. Or maybe, maybe you're trying to get dirt on him? I don't know. It's not my place to ask. I don't want to know, I don't want to know. But uh, yeah, that's...this is deep shit, man.

- A** Alex 15:54
I have an idea what he needs. But thank you for the information. Why don't you take the rest of the night off? Take a shower. Make sure you sleep.
- M** Maxine 16:05
Shower.... Oh, that's what I forgot to do.
- S** Storyteller Rina 16:10
And she just sort of lifts her shoulder and sniffs and goes "ugh". She pushes herself back in her chair and it goes rolling across the floor.
- M** Maxine 16:19
Like, yeah, I should shower. Yeah, shower. Oh, I don't know if I fed the cat.
- S** Storyteller Rina 16:26
And she just stumbles off into the hallway muttering things to herself. She remembered to close off, like, shut down her computers so that the information and everything isn't still up and running. But she is off in her own little world at this point now that she has done the tasks she was told to do.
- A** Alex 16:44
I'm also going to go to her refrigerator and see if she has left a deposit for me to take.
- S** Storyteller Rina 16:52
So you open the fridge as you normally do. And there are a couple IV bags of blood. One of them is labeled from the previous week and the most recent one looks to be from last night, which might also explain her kind of wooziness and not quite all togetherness. But there's a couple IV bags of tasty, tasty blood for you.
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 17:19
Yeah, I will take take them and close the fridge, leave her clean bags and supplies, probably would wipe down her desk because I can't handle it. And make sure she gets in the shower.

S Storyteller Rina 17:38
Ok.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 17:39
Like, just listening. Because you know I don't want her falling and dying in the shower.

S Storyteller Rina 17:46
You hear some...you hear the shower start to run and you hear some EDM playing very loudly from from the speaker on her phone in the bathroom and she starts, it sounds like she's trying to sing. It's not a very pleasant sound. But she does sound like she is at least semi-cognizant in the shower.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 18:08
Alright, then I will unlock all the door. Well, yeah, I'll unlock everything. And then make sure that the knob is at least locked when I leave. She can come out and lock the rest of the locks.

S Storyteller Rina 18:27
Which she most certainly will. So you lock the door on your way out, almost tripping over a large orange tabby cat that has come out from behind the couch and just sort of looks at you, sniffs and stalks off towards the kitchen. And so you're able to get out fairly quickly, once you've cleaned up her desk and maybe left some Clorox wipes as a hint.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 18:57
Right.

S Storyteller Rina 18:58
Which never really works with Maxine, so, but you have gotten what you came for both in terms of sustenance and information. So what would you like to do?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 19:10
I will probably head to the nightclub. If I need to call an Uber then I will do so. And then yeah, I head to that...to Trevor's place and see what's going on.

S

Storyteller Rina 19:27

So the nightclub is called the Blue Orchid. And you being who you are, you know this place fairly well. It's a fairly well known Toreadorhangout spot. Trevor and his father are both Ventrue, and by Father, we mean Sire. They have a ton of money and Trevor's sire sponsored this club for him, and he turned it into a spot where the Toreadors like to come out and be seen. You get a decent number of Ventrue there as well, sitting in the back going over their business dealings, but also making note of who's there so that they can wield some power later on. But you're fairly familiar with this place, especially the fact that the patrons will bring in young humans, young mortals and get them high, dance with them, get them drunk, feed off of them, and then leave them somewhere else the following day with no memory of where they were. So it's actually fairly concerning to you that the club and the name of the club have made it anywhere, including police reports. That's bad news. Very bad news.

T

Tiffanie (Alex) 20:56

Well, I have a feeling what they need me for but you know, we'll see.

S

Storyteller Rina 21:02

So you pull up on the street where the club is, it doesn't have a large sign outside announcing what it is or anything, of course. And your Uber driver is a Pakistani guy who just sort of looks at you with a furrowed brows.

U

Uber Driver 21:19

Are you sure this is where you want to go?

T

Tiffanie (Alex) 21:23

I just nod and hand him money and a tip. Well, I'd probably do that from my phone. But give them a large tip.

A

Alex 21:34

Thank you.

T

Tiffanie (Alex) 21:35

And then exit the vehicle.

S

Storyteller Rina 21:38

He shakes his head a little bit, but he gets the notification of the tip through the app, and that makes him a little happier about the situation as he drives off. And as he does, you can make your way down this dark alley into, there's a kind of old office building that was left fairly rundown, people think it's a squatters' building. But you know that down in the basement, there's the fairly lively nightclub for Kindred, particularly Ventrue and Toreador to show up, so you can go in through there. It's not hard for you to get in and it's fairly obvious that you're one of the one of the Kindred, so they just sort of wave you on in. There's very, very loud salsa music playing right now. And there are couples dancing, some of them more like air quotes dancing, salsa in this dance floor in the middle. You see several very flamboyantly dressed Toreadors, a couple of them you recognize as local models or Instagram influencers, dancing with very obviously drunk or high humans, but these humans at least look to be of age. And you see one young vampire just leaning down as if to whisper in his date's ear and you see a small trickle of blood going down the young woman's neck, which is not exactly the way things are usually done, but kids these days, right? And you have entered the club. What would you like to do?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 23:26

I'm going to go to the bartender and tell the bartender that Trevor asked to see me.

S Storyteller Rina 23:35

The bartender is a short, fairly broad-shouldered vampire dressed all in black. rolled up sleeves, and they look up at you, sort of looking you over.

B Bartender 23:53

Giovanni? Yeah. Okay, yeah, boss is expecting you. That way.

S Storyteller Rina 24:00

And they point with their thumb to a back door behind the bar.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 24:04

I will go to the back door.

S Storyteller Rina 24:10

So there are a couple very muscular looking humans. You know them to be recently Ghouled, by the look of them, standing with their arms crossed outside the door, but they see you coming. They look at each other and they nod and then they open the door and allow you to go through; they were obviously expecting you. And as you go in, the atmosphere in this room is

very different from the main part of the club that you just walked through. It's very quiet in here. There is a hazy bit of smoke, smells a bit like marijuana, but the really high end kind, and you see Trevor Conrad, reclining on a couch, a very bright blue, very garish compared to everything else that you've seen so far, crushed velvet. It looks like something from the 70s. And he's reclining on this couch. He's wearing a mussed up business suit, but the jacket's been thrown off. The white shirt has been half torn open, you can see buttons on the floor. His shoes and socks are off. And he's reclining there with what looks like a young woman. Hard to hard to tell age or anything from this, this angle. But she's laying on the couch, and he has half raised himself up, and her blouse is pulled aside. And you can see bite marks across her chest with blood pouring out of them from here. And her eyes are kind of rolled back and she looks to have this sort of blissful, ecstatic resting face, as she can't see him at this moment. She just appears to be completely out of it. But as you enter, Trevor looks up, and he draws a hand, he draws a hand across his bloody mouth.

T Trevor 26:23

Ah, Alex Giovanni, welcome, welcome. I wasn't expecting you this early.

S Storyteller Rina 26:31

And he hastily tries to button up his shirt and realizes there's no buttons there.

A Alex 26:37

I will just look with no expression and tell him,

A Alex 26:42

Well, when there's business to be done, the fun must wait.

S Storyteller Rina 26:47

He looks down at the girl on the couch.

T Trevor 26:50

Yes, just a light snack. You know, quick and easy.

S Storyteller Rina 26:59

And he just sort of pushes her slightly to the side. And he gets up, just completely ignoring how mussed up everything is about him. And he pokes his head out the door and whispers something to one of the guards, and the bodyguard comes in, picks up the girl and takes her

out into the main area of the nightclub and the door shuts again. And Trevor sits back on the couch and looks up at you expectantly.

A Alex 27:32
So I hear that you've had some problems.

T Trevor 27:39
Problems. That's one way of putting it I suppose. Yes, problems. Mm hmm.

A Alex 27:47
Well, considering there's a police report, I would call it a very big problem.

T Trevor 27:55
Oh, God. There wasn't supposed to be any paperwork. Oh, God. Oh, God. My sire is going to kill me.

S Storyteller Rina 28:06
And he starts rubbing his temples as if he has a really bad hangover.

A Alex 28:10
So to me, it sounds like you really need help.

T Trevor 28:18
Yes, yes. Help. It's...nothing like this has ever happened before. Sammy usually vets all the humans we bring in to make sure they're the right age and and no one will miss them. You know, usually,

S Storyteller Rina 28:39
He nods his head towards the doors.

T Trevor 28:41
Or party girls and you know rich Trust Fund babies who are expected to show up drunk or

of party girls and you know, then there are babies who are expected to show up drunk or overdose or whatever. Anyway. How was I supposed to know that they were high schoolers? God.

A Alex 28:58

Well, what happened that night?

T Trevor 29:05

Well, okay, so we were having a party. It was a, it was a masked, masked party because someone thought it would be fun, I don't even remember who but I try to keep them happy. The customers, you know, gotta keep, gotta keep it running. And when you've been around for as long as most of my clientele have, you want to shake things up a little bit. So they were having this masked party and, and something to do with leather. I don't judge, I don't judge but you know, got a little risqué. And, um, well, I had Sammy bring in a bunch of new humans, you know, new partners, getting them to come to this party and we well, you know, this time we, we told them we had a new type of heroin and and we got several of them several of them in. And I should have known there was something something wrong with those three, I should have known, but how can you expect me to know, I'm not out there doing all of that, that's Sammy's job.

S Storyteller Rina 30:21

And he just starts rambling on, trying to absolve himself of guilt for a few seconds.

A Alex 30:30

Who is this Sammy? Human?

T Trevor 30:36

Yeah, one of my Ghouls. He's been been with me in the club for the last two years, he's usually a very good purveyor of fresh live ones, you know, the kind that like to party and get down and won't remember anything in the morning. So I trusted him, I trusted him and can't believe he'd do that. But there were these these three kids. I don't know their names. They've got to be around somewhere. Police took their ID and whatnot. But one of, one of them, the girl, she was with...I shouldn't say who she was with, but they went back into one of the rooms to have a little fun. And apparently, he couldn't complete the job. Because she came out screaming and there was blood everywhere. And then her two friends, being young human males, apparently rushed in to try...and I don't know what young human males do anymore, but avenge her honor or something. And we couldn't stop them in time. And well, they were kind of torn apart.

A Alex 32:21

Ok.

T Trevor 32:24

And I sent Sammy to stop the girl one. But she'd run out screaming into the street and someone had called the police and she was dead by the time they got here, but they had already been called. Luckily I had time to clean out most of the clientele, but the damage was already done. At least it wasn't worse.

A Alex 32:50

Well, what is it that you want me to do?

T Trevor 32:54

I need this to go away. Can you find any information on these..the dead ones, or their parents or something, pressure to make them stop? They weren't the normal party kids, drug addicts sort of things. So people actually want to know where they are. And I've managed to keep their names out and I don't even remember their names, but daddy took care of it. And well, I don't want them finding out about the police reports and coming back here. Can you mislead them or get them to stop? Blackmail? I don't know. Do your, your thing. I was told you were the best.

A Alex 33:51

Well, usually I deal with the dead.

T Trevor 33:56

Well, they're dead.

A Alex 33:58

Right, but you're asking me to talk to their living counterparts.

T Trevor 34:04

Well, you don't have to talk to them. You could, um, establish a fake social media trail or something. They went off to Peru. I don't know.

A Alex 34:19

Yes. I do have ways of taking care of this. However, I don't know if you have enough to pay

Yes, I do have ways of taking care of this. However, I don't know if you have enough to pay.

T Trevor 34:29
We can, we can manage it.

A Alex 34:34
Really?

T Trevor 34:38
Yes. My sire is...well, let's just say he heads up a board of other Ventrue in the political sphere. And I may hear some things that maybe I shouldn't be hearing, just may, that could be useful to you in your occupation.

A Alex 35:21
For the next six months.

S Storyteller Rina 35:24
He blanches as much as a vampire can blanch.

T Trevor 35:31
Yes, fine. Just make it go away. Make it go away.

A Alex 35:37
Good. You will hear from me soon. Or not.

S Storyteller Rina 35:43
He blinks and looks confused. And a little terrified.

A Alex 35:51
And remember, if anyone knows that you are speaking with me, outside of this encounter, bad things will happen.

T Trevor 36:06
Oh, no, no, no, no. I'm the very, very soul of discretion. Yes, yes. No one, no one, no one will...Oh, no, no, no, no. I don't even remember your name.

A Alex 36:19
Good. Nice doing business with you.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 36:22
And I will turn and just walk out the door.

S Storyteller Rina 36:26
You walk out, and you hear you hear him in the background pulling out a cell phone. It sounds like he's texting someone, just from the the various sounds that the phone makes. You don't know who he's texting or what he's texting them. But no, maybe it's just texting his sire to tell him that the situation is under control. But who knows.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 36:54
I will then go to one of the other apartments with the other hackers because Maxime should be sleeping, and I'm not going to bother her again. So I'm going to go visit them and ask them to pull up the police report, get rid of the police report and search up any information on those three.

S Storyteller Rina 37:26
Eddie, the second young hacker, who looks much more alert and awake and as if he actually slept last night or during the day, just says,

E Eddie 37:38
Yeah, yep, yep, you got it boss.

S Storyteller Rina 37:41
And he immediately gets to work with laser focus. You see a small pill bottle labeled Adderall on the on the desk next to him. But he is very intensely focused and does not even seem to notice as you move away from him.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 38:00

I'm just going to leave like a little post-it note, because I know when he gets focused, I can't speak with him, that says "call or text with any other information to make these people disappear." And then I'll just tape it on the desk,

S Storyteller Rina 38:16

You leave the post-it note, and he doesn't even notice that you put anything there. But this is probably happened before. So you are used to this method of communication. Eddie's a lot less verbose than Maxine.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 38:31

Which I prefer because, you know, I don't want to waste my time talking to humans.

S Storyteller Rina 38:37

Eddie doesn't waste your time, he's very focused, and he gets right to work. And you know that he'll get back to you very quickly, as soon as he breaks his concentration.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 38:47

Yeah, I'm going to give him time and probably head back to my place and see what else is going on for the evening.

S Storyteller Rina 39:00

Ok, so you go back to your place, and the shop is closing up at this point, since it's fairly late in the evening, and a tech shop isn't going to stay open super late. The closed sign is in the window, but you wave at the watchman as you go upstairs. As you go up the stairs towards your apartment, I would like you to make an Awareness and Intelligence roll. No, I'll say Wits. So Awareness and Wits, so that'll be 5d10.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 39:43

So it's 1...no, 2. 2.

S Storyteller Rina 39:46

Ok, so 2 Successes. Alright.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 39:48
Yeah, cuz it's 6 or higher, correct?

S Storyteller Rina 39:50
6 or higher.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 39:52
Yeah, 2.

S Storyteller Rina 39:54
So with 2 Successes, that's enough to make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. And as you approach the door, you think someone's in there.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 40:15
Huh. Well, if I think someone is in there, I will probably just stalk in, like, sneak and basically be as quiet as possible.

S Storyteller Rina 40:36
Ok, so if you want to sneak in, give me Stealth and Subterfuge. So that's going to be 4 for you, 4d10. And because you have to open the door, this is going to be a bit more difficult, right? So you're going to need 3 successes here.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 41:01
I did get it! 6, 7, and 8.

S Storyteller Rina 41:04
Sweet. Alright, so you manage to open the door extremely quietly. And you're old enough that you've learned how to move without making a sound, and you've lived in this apartment so long you know where all the creaky boards are and all the places where the tile squeaks and so on. So you're able to slip in quietly. And you see in this, this living area, right? There is a man. He's got his back to you. And he's facing out the window, at the San Francisco surroundings,

the skyline. He's got his hands clasped behind his back very casually, he's wearing a long, dark trench coat, and you see a dark fedora on an end table next to your couch. He doesn't seem to have noticed you.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 42:04

I will...yeah, I will walk up. And well, still be sneaking, but be about a foot behind this person and lean over and ask them:

A Alex 42:21

Is there anything I can help you with?

S Storyteller Rina 42:24

He turns around to look at you. He doesn't seem ruffled or anything by your quiet approach. He looks up at you. He's fairly short, he's shorter than you are, and he's got lean, like fox-like features, very sharp, inquisitive eyes, and a small nose that almost kind of seems to be sniffing all the time, like sniffing the air for danger, and very sharp high cheekbones. And he looks, tilts his head and he looks up at you. And you know this man. This is Luther Garibaldi, the Sheriff of San Francisco, he's the prince's right hand Enforcer. And Luther looks up at you and says,

L Luther 43:13

Good evening, Alex.

A Alex 43:17

I assume you have a message

L Luther 43:20

Of a sort, of a sort. I need some information.

S Storyteller Rina 43:27

And he moves over to the couch and sits down without being invited. His posture is always every time you've seen him, he's always ready to leap up at a moment's notice. And all of his senses are on alert. He's a he's a Gangrel. And so his nose quivers a little bit. But you notice, just, he looks tense.



A Alex 43:55
And what kind of information are you looking for?

L Luther 44:03
There's a Malkavian prophet, oracle, something, causing some difficulties for my clan, let's say, and whatever they said to everybody...Well, I can't get anyone to give me a straight answer. I want you to tell me what they saw. And what they said. It could really, really destabilize the balance of power around here if they don't cooperate.

A Alex 44:34
Do you have a name?

L Luther 44:35
Ah, yes. Dina Forthright. I don't think it's a real name. Forthright indeed.

A Alex 44:49
Do we know any frequents where this person hangs out?

L Luther 44:58
They've been seen in Chinatown. That's where my last contact saw them.

A Alex 45:05
And your contact has not seen whatever this Malkavian is doing?

L Luther 45:14
Well, my contact's gone. That's the problem, you see.

A Alex 45:19
Oh, interesting.

L Luther 45:23
You may have noticed, Alex, with your keen interest in all the goings on in these parts, and with

You may have noticed, Alex, with your keen interest in all the goings on in these parts, and with your web of little spiders...the Gangrels are leaving.

A Alex 45:37
I have noticed. But you're not.

S Storyteller Rina 45:40
He looks affronted.

L Luther 45:43
I have a job. I have a duty. I serve at the will of the Prince. Got it?

A Alex 45:50
Yes, that is the most fun.

S Storyteller Rina 45:55
Luther licks his lips a little bit. You see his fangs.

L Luther 46:00
Oh, well, I do get to indulge in some of my passion for violence. And as you know, there are too many cooks in the Gangrel kitchen, too many vying for leadership. Whereas here, only the Prince is above me. And no one can argue with that. You know this, Alex. Why would I leave?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 46:33
Then I guess the only other question I have is, what is the payment?

L Luther 46:45
Yes. You understand, this is not officially from the prince. This is a pet project of mine. But I have some information coming in very soon. Perhaps you've heard of the disappearance of our noble prince's clan siblings, hmm? Only two were left. Not many of the Nosferatu still around here anymore. You mustn't tell the prince I told you about this. But one of them hasn't disappeared. He's dead.

A Alex 47:29
And how do you know this?

L Luther 47:32
Because I've been the one investigating how he died. The Prince takes it very seriously, you know. Not many of their clan left here. Only two siblings of the same generation still on the West Coast. Well, one, I suppose. We don't know where that other one is.

A Alex 47:56
And you didn't think to contact somebody who can speak with the deceased?

L Luther 48:03
Well, it happened only a couple days ago. You see, the Prince has not decided what they want done about it. It was very disturbing.

A Alex 48:19
But we still have a body, correct?

L Luther 48:22
Parts of one

A Alex 48:26
That might work. Well, you can relay to the Prince...not officially...

L Luther 48:34
Of course.

A Alex 48:36
Just a suggestion, maybe, to put you into the Prince's favor, yhat sometimes there are some clans that can see how someone has died.



L Luther 48:55
Well, you know our Prince. Very old fashioned, the Nosferatu and, Prince Velasquez more so than others. I appreciate the favor. Unofficially.

A Alex 49:12
Well, with that, I will see if I can find this...Dina Forthright. I agree. That is a terrible name.

L Luther 49:24
Right. You'd think in this era, you could come up with something more interesting if you're going to go by a pseudonym.

A Alex 49:34
Well, I mean, people are naming themselves after cars and states and...

L Luther 49:40
Very well.

S Storyteller Rina 49:42
And suddenly his body just kind of goes rigid and he stretches his neck out, tilts his head and sniffs.

L Luther 49:55
Oh, there's a human in this building. One of yours?

S Storyteller Rina 50:07
You can see his fingers are sort of tightening and unclenching, over and over. He's usually a bit more restrained in your presence, at least when he's on official or unofficial business, but..

L Luther 50:27
Such a shame. I will have to hunt elsewhere. Shame, shame. Smells like a good vintage. But, of course, I'm not going to trespass upon your herd. No, no, no. That would be uncouth.

- A** Alex 50:46
Indeed it would.
- S** Storyteller Rina 50:48
And he picks up his fedora, puts it on his head. And he goes to the door, he turns and he looks at you and says,
- L** Luther 50:59
Unofficially, it was a pleasure doing business with you. Unofficially. Got it?
- A** Alex 51:06
As always, unofficially.
- S** Storyteller Rina 51:12
And he flashes this little feral smile, with his sharp little fangs.
- L** Luther 51:18
Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm getting hungry.
- S** Storyteller Rina 51:24
Luther departs, leaving the faint aroma of cigarette ash behind. And you have a few mysteries on your hands.
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 51:38
Indeed. I have a lot of work to do.
- S** Storyteller Rina 51:43
You do. It's a good thing you like doing that, isn't it?
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 51:47
Well, having a 6 month favor is going to come in handy. So it'll be worth it.



Storyteller Rina 51:55

It certainly will. So, I think we'll leave it there for this evening. Thank you, Tiffanie, for joining us for this prologue, and I hope all of you at home are enjoying hearing more about Alex Giovanni. And we'll be back later with a another character to delight your ears.