

Blood Moon Rising Episode 4

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Storyteller Rina 00:01

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 5th 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.

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Storyteller Rina 01:00

Good evening everyone, and welcome to another episode of Vampire the Masquerade, "Blood Moon Rising." I am your Storyteller, Storyteller Rina, and tonight, our coterie is going to continue on the thread of investigations they picked up last time, some perhaps more fruitful than others, but we'll see what happens tonight. But first, we have some introductions. To my right:

M

Mike (Marcus) 01:23

Hi, I'm Mike and I will be playing Marcus Voss of Clan Brujah, and it seems that I may have a visitor.

S

Storyteller Rina 01:32

Hmm. Wonder who that could be. And to Marcus's right:



J John (Vince) 01:36
Hi, I'm John. I'll be playing Vince Markevich of Clan Tremere. And it turns out I'm renting from a ghost.

S Storyteller Rina 01:45
I hear they make pretty decent landlords. Just a little hard to talk to.

J John (Vince) 01:50
Pretty accommodating in most ways, actually. Yeah.

S Storyteller Rina 01:54
Well, to our haunted vampire's right:

T Teagan (Rahm) 01:59
Hi, my name is Tegan and I am playing Rahm the Shaman, and I am desperately reaching out, reaching out, reaching out.

S Storyteller Rina 02:11
But what is reaching back to you? That's the question. And to Rahm's right:

K Katerina 02:18
Hi, I'm Ali, and I am playing Katarina Bogdonovich. And I have people to visit.

S Storyteller Rina 02:29
People? That might be a bit of an overstatement, but we'll see. And finally we have:

A Alex 02:36
This is Tiffanie and I'm playing Alex Giovanni and I have a Tremere to go scare. I mean, go visit.

S Storyteller Rina 02:44
Oh my. Well, I'm sure you'll be able to intimidate them with no problem whatsoever. All right.

So let us reopen on this cold San Francisco night. It is still the same night where you were assigned your duties by the Prince, although that night is not going to last for too much longer. So we'll see how much you can get done. So Katerina, you decided to go pay a visit to Marcus down in the Union offices where he works. Katerina, you arrive at the Longshoreman's Union Building where you believe Marcus works. There are some lights on, which is uncommon in this area at about one o'clock in the morning. And you see people moving around in there, you think. What would you like to do?

 Katerina 03:45
I'm gonna knock on the door.

 Storyteller Rina 03:48
Marcus, someone's knocking at the front door.

 Mike (Marcus) 03:55
Alright, well, there's more than enough Union help here to get the door.

 Storyteller Rina 04:00
Right. Marie looks up you.

 Marie 04:05
Should I get that? Is it dangerous?

 Marcus 04:11
It could be.

 Marie 04:14
Oh.

 Mike (Marcus) 04:15
I step over towards the door.



S Storyteller Rina 04:17

Marie goes up and cautiously reaches out towards the door. You've had some visits from some...thugs, let's say, working with some unscrupulous elements trying to prevent unions from forming in various warehouses and so on. So she just carefully reaches out towards the handle and turns it and lets the door swing open and she steps back so that you're between her and the door. And Marcus you see your new acquaintance. Katerina.

M Marcus 04:54

Ah. Katerina.

K Katerina 04:59

Hello, Marcus.

M Marcus 05:01

Won't you come in?

M Mike (Marcus) 05:02

I step to the side and gesture to the interior.

K Katerina 05:06

And I will walk in.

M Mike (Marcus) 05:15

Fantastic. I shut the door behind her and look at Maria and say,

M Marcus 05:20

Back to your work, my dear.

M Marie 05:22

Right, of course, as long as you're sure everything's okay.

M Marcus 05:27

We're good. I'm certain.

M Marie 05:28

Ok.

S Storyteller Rina 05:29

And she scurries off back to her desk. Greg is passed out from all of the caffeine.

M Mike (Marcus) 05:39

Oh, did he finally give over to the lands of sleep after you know the 5th massive Red Bull?

S Storyteller Rina 05:46

More like the 7th, but yes, he appears to be completely passed out, slumped over his desk. So Marie's at her desk now, working on the other side of the room.

M Mike (Marcus) 05:55

Certainly. I'll walk Katerina towards the loft area upstairs, away from the workers, and gesture to the stairway.

K Katerina 06:10

I'll go upstairs.

M Mike (Marcus) 06:14

We probably land in the loft. There's a loft sitting area there, a couple of couches, an end table or two, a coffee table that is likely made from what appears to be posterized historical events in San Francisco's union history, including a centerpiece, which is what looks like it's dated maybe around the 30s, if you pay attention closely to it, and it looks like it's a report that the news had about union workers being killed during strike breaking activities. I gesture to a seat at one that's open and available.

M Marcus 06:56

What brings you here?

K Katerina 06:59
I was looking through my records. And the kin of the Prince, Luis, who was killed, was one of my patrons.

M Marcus 07:15
I see.

K Katerina 07:23
And I found his referral, how long he's been a patron of the bakery and, well, *chuckles uncomfortably* one of my own clan, the proprietor of the Vampire Club. But I...since we are needing to work together, ja? It seems most appropriate for me to give relevant information to those of us who are easily found.

M Marcus 08:10
Well, I admit I don't practice hiding. It's counterproductive to my work, you understand?

K Katerina 08:18
Yes.

M Marcus 08:22
Tell me...this bakery. How long had Luis been a patron of it?

K Katerina 08:27
5 years, according to the records.

M Marcus 08:30
That's an awful long time. And do you feel like the bakery plays a relevant role in his demise?

K Katerina 08:41
I don't know. I wasn't even aware that he was one of the patrons, but I do provide a vital service to, well, a large amount of Kindred.

M Marcus 08:57
Oh? What services does the bakery offer?

K Katerina 09:04
We can discuss that at another time.

M Marcus 09:05
Of course. Well, it seems anyway that Luther had met with a few people before his...unfortunate heart incident.

A Ali (Katerina) 09:25
Yes. Which is why I felt it prudent to look into what it was he wanted from me. That information.

M Mike (Marcus) 09:41
Certainly. Compiling a list of people who he met with before gives us a picture of his last days, perhaps uncovers a few stones might lead us along a path to finding his killer

K Katerina 09:58
Well. You are familiar to the Seneschal. And perhaps they will be kind enough to perhaps see if they can provide us with a more extensive list than those of us who were gathered to see his body.

M Mike (Marcus) 10:24
Yes. To that end, I may have walked that path a bit already. Jean was willing enough to share with me a few names. There is a lawyer I'm looking into. He is someone who has had some dealings, not only with the Brujah, but with likely some other clans. I'd like to get a better look at him. I wonder if you would be willing to accompany me.

K Katerina 11:04
Very well.

M Marcus 11:06

I'm certain that your keen social skills will be highly useful.

K

Katerina 11:16

Of course.

S

Storyteller Rina 11:18

So are you planning to pay the visit this evening, in the last few hours of night? Or...?

M

Mike (Marcus) 11:26

I think it might be - although I don't have a massive amount of Etiquette, I probably have adequate enough to know that might be a slight faux pas, to call on somebody so early or so late in the evening, might be a little bit, well... So I wouldn't suggest us going tonight; I would likely suggest to Katerina that we would pick it up the following evening, when we have more time, and perhaps I'll have my some of my workers here maybe get a better idea of his operating hours.

S

Storyteller Rina 11:58

Excellent plan. So do you have any other things you'd like to discuss or work on for the remainder of the evening?

M

Mike (Marcus) 12:09

I think if we're tabling the bakery menu list, then not at this time.

A

Ali (Katerina) 12:18

Then I will provide Marcus with my pager number, as I do not carry a cell phone

M

Mike (Marcus) 12:31

Fascinating. I would provide her with what she already has, which would be the address, obviously the building. And then I would also give her the address of a restaurant, a certain Italian restaurant that I may have frequented before, where she could also inquire as to my whereabouts.

M

Marcus 12:59

I do keep a phone here.

M Mike (Marcus) 13:03
And I gesture kind of to the basement level.

M Marcus 13:05
And you're happy to have that landline number, if you'd like. Ask for Marie.

K Katerina 13:12
Understood.

M Mike (Marcus) 13:15
And of course, I would get up and walk her to the front door.

S Storyteller Rina 13:21
Very politely, of course.

M Mike (Marcus) 13:24
Yeah, again, Etiquette enough to know you don't just say goodbye from the couch, you walk someone out. And also clearly, Marcus has somewhat of an understanding of the social dangers when it comes to Clan Toreador.

S Storyteller Rina 13:48
Indeed. So what are the two of you in your separate ways planning to do for the rest of the evening before you retire at sunrise?

M Mike (Marcus) 13:58
I'm having Marie look into this Victoria Llewellyn; as someone who's an accountant and works on books, there has to be some record of her somewhere in the business community.

S Storyteller Rina 14:12
Ok, so Marie gives you a thumbs up from across the room and her fingers start flying across the

the keyboards, and within moments, you have the information that Victoria works at Green and Johnson, which is a an accountancy firm. It's a fairly high profile one. And Victoria appears to be the senior partner, just from what Marie gathers from the website.

M Mike (Marcus) 14:49

Interesting. And yeah, I have already stopped in Chinatown this evening, so I'll continue to wait for that to play out.

S Storyteller Rina 15:02

You plan for pickup or delivery?

M Mike (Marcus) 15:06

Pickup, I think, is probably best.

S Storyteller Rina 15:10

So you get a message on your phone that your order is ready.

M Mike (Marcus) 15:17

Excellent, then that will be what I pick up before the dawn arrives.

S Storyteller Rina 15:23

So tell us a little bit about Marcus's feeding.

M Mike (Marcus) 15:30

Well, I think it's important that, like any muscles, that you exercise certain ones when, when they're necessary. And I think when you have a, you know, probably an energetic town filled with all sorts of different activities, whether it be kayaking in the bay during a Giants game, or whether it be people who run the marathons around San Francisco, there's an awful lot of athletic people here. And Marcus is the type of person who enjoys the hunt itself. It's really what gets his blood going. And that is something that, luckily, his warehouse can afford to give him the space to do. And so there is a section there within that allows him to bring certain guests and allow them to, we'll say, compete against a Kindred in a sort of obstacle course, we'll say, whether it be parkour, or whether it be something just simply more basic. He needs to feel that specific muscle stretch. And so he's very much aligned in an alley cat sort of way. He needs to see them and to hunt them and to get them.

S

Storyteller Rina 17:10

Do you take just a little? Do you drain your particular prey after they've completed their obstacle course?

M

Mike (Marcus) 17:25

Oh, no, I think that he's someone who is very much in the mind that someday he will have a set of his own athletes, so to speak. For you can't simply drain what could be a wonderful prospect. You must build, oh, a team of sorts. And so I don't think he's the type of a vampire who would drain people, humans, until they fall limp, but I think he would definitely make sure that they got the taste of what it's like to go against perhaps a bit stiffer competition.

S

Storyteller Rina 18:07

Tonight, you bring back a very lean and very athletic-looking runner. They're a College Track and Field champion. They won in their division last year at State and they are very proud of their ability to jump, to run, to be faster than just about anyone, and they will provide you some good sports this evening. And we will perhaps draw the curtain a bit as Marcus begins his hunt. And Katerina? What do you plan to do for the rest of your evening?

A

Ali (Katerina) 19:01

Um, I have a journal that I pocketed from Luther's place that I would like to comb over while I'm while having a snack.

S

Storyteller Rina 19:16

So you go home and Katerina...how does Katerina feed?

A

Ali (Katerina) 19:23

Um, she she utilizes her own services, so she she drinks from vials or bags. You know, whatever's provided by her Ventrue contact. She's particular to Asian female blood.

S

Storyteller Rina 19:47

So you sit back in a comfy chair and enjoy some fresh free-range bagged human blood, non-GMO, and you pull out this journal that you liberated from Luther's apartment and begin to read. In general, the earlier parts, if you take the time to read them, it looks very orderly, very between the lines, so to speak. He doesn't ramble all over the place. And most of what he writes down are very cryptic, short messages. So there's initials of, perhaps, people that he's

meeting with. There's a few dates. There's some times and occasionally you'll see a note appended. Sometimes you'll see, next to a set of initials, the word, "hostile". And then you'll see occasionally "potential?", and a few other notes that appear to be Luther's own ideas of what to expect from whoever it is he's talking to. But as you read, it takes you, you know, a few hours, and you're getting close to sunrise, by the time you get to the end. And the last few pages are chaotic. The handwriting changes, it becomes really sloppy. Some parts are hard to read, some of the initials you can't even quite make out. There's some blood splatter, it looks like, on a few of the pages. And the words "blood" and "the dreaming" occur several times over there in very bold block letters. Standing out amidst the scribble, you do come across a list of initials set out over the course of a week. You see M.V., and then you see A.G., K.B., R. the S. with what looks like a cranky sort of squiggle next to it, you can't quite make it out, but it looks sort of like, almost like the written version of a harrumph. And then, on the night, the date listed for the night before he died, the list says V.M. and then the rest of the pages, which should take up, you know, he could have been writing in this journal for a few more months if he hadn't died so suddenly, they are all scribbled over with this strange, sloppy handwriting, these bloody words, the occasional reference to a dream. It's very difficult to make heads or tails out of it, but you do gather that, at least according to this book, the last person Luther went to visit before he died was Vince Markevich.

A

Ali (Katerina) 23:39

Understood.

S

Storyteller Rina 23:43

And with that thought, you can retire to bed as the sun begins to rise. So we'll turn the camera over to Alex Giovanni, who has been doing some investigating of their own. So Alex, you had a little chat with Trevor Conrad of the Ventrue and learned a few things. And what are your plans after leaving the nightclub?

A

Alex 24:13

Well, before it gets too late for me to be out and about doing my business, I'm going to go see Vince. I can't remember if he told me where he was. I thought he did when he was like rambling about the haunted place.

S

Storyteller Rina 24:35

He did. He did give you enough information you could probably find it.

A

Alex 24:39

Ok. Well, I will go and visit his place.

S Storyteller Rina 24:48
With your senses, your Clan senses, it's not too difficult as well because you saw the aura, right?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 24:56
Right.

S Storyteller Rina 24:57
So you know about the fetter and you have a strong sense of Vince's aura. And so because you know the general area where his haunted bungalow is, once you get in the area, you feel it, you feel that sense, and it's even stronger here. So you're able to make a beeline as it were for Vince's door. So Vince, you are sitting in your library, having a chat with a ghost, and the ghost has just written down that their name is Mina Markevich. And as you take in that name, you hear a knock at the door.

J John (Vince) 25:40
Vince is like,

V Vince 25:42
Please, excuse me, I just, I just gotta take this real quick. I'm sure it's something important.

S Storyteller Rina 25:51
The pencil goes flying and hits you in the back of the head as you leave.

V Vince 25:54
Gah! I'm sorry! I'm sorry. Ow.

J John (Vince) 25:59
He, like, rubs his head as he walks towards the door. At this point, his sleeves are rolled up, compared to earlier in the evening, and he's just like, he's clearly been at it for a bit with books and stuff. He opens the door and he's just like,

V Vince 26:19

Oh. Hello, hi. Will you come in?

J John (Vince) 26:30

And he just like stands aside and like, just gently, the arm kind of slowly goes like "ta da?" in just a, an invitational movement that you can tell he's like, should I be doing this?

A Alex 26:47

I walk in, and I greet the room, AKA the ghost.

A Alex 26:53

Hello, how are you this evening?

J John (Vince) 26:57

Oh, well, I'm doing ok.

A Alex 26:59

I wasn't talking to you.

V Vince 27:01

Oh.

S Storyteller Rina 27:02

A book falls out of the bookcase and lands at your feet. It's Pride and Prejudice.

A Alex 27:16

I'm sure he'll read to you in a little while.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 27:20

And I'll turn to Vince.

—

A Alex 27:23
Um, so I got some interesting information.

J John (Vince) 27:31
And he's like,

V Vince 27:33
I do too. Won't you come through to the library?

A Alex 27:36
Sure.

J John (Vince) 27:37
Like, his body language screams "Oh god, why this person in my home?" *chuckles* Yeah, there is no need to do any rolls. Vince is not good at this. Yeah, he's just like,

V Vince 27:55
Oh, won't you come through, please?

A Alex 27:57
Sure.

J John (Vince) 27:58
So the library is still probably a bit of a mess from earlier on. There's a table and two chairs. And on the floor, you do see a coffin.

A Alex 28:10
You haven't put that in a separate room?

V Vince 28:12
Um, I often find myself needing stuff in here anyway. And I have to read to her. Them. I haven't

confirmed that yet, when I wake up, so most days, it's just easier to wake up in here. Plus, it's kind of like the safest room in the house, you know?

A Alex 28:37
Ok, interesting.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 28:39
I'm gonna like dust off the chair before I sit down.

J John (Vince) 28:44
There's one chair that is very clearly the chair that gets used and one that's just like, obviously not. There's books on it and stuff and you're just like, "oh, I see." He's like,

V Vince 28:56
I don't usually get visitors.

A Alex 28:59
Clearly.

J John (Vince) 29:01
He's just like,

V Vince 29:02
So...

J John (Vince) 29:04
He sits across from you. And he's like, um,

V Vince 29:07
So I wasn't entirely open earlier this evening. So the reason that uh, that Luther talked to me before he died was that...uh... Fuck.

J John (Vince) 29:27
And he just like sags, his shoulders just like sag as he says,

V Vince 29:30
Well...

J John (Vince) 29:30
He's just like,

V Vince 29:32
Oh boy. Um.

A Alex 29:36
I'm gonna like reach across as best I can and put my hand on his shoulder to reassure him. It's probably more creepy, but I'm trying.

J John (Vince) 29:45
I'm imagining it as totally being like, "there, there." Robotic arm pat. *laughs* Yeah, he's like, um,

V Vince 29:57
My sire was implicated in the death of the Prince's clan brother.

A Alex 30:04
And why was that?

V Vince 30:07
Well, her notebook was found at the scene. Oh, and as you can imagine, I felt a need to protect her. Because she's my Sire. I've got to. So I kind of kept that to myself.

A Alex 30:29
Ok...

V Vince 30:32
Well, but tonight is the first chance I had to actually sit down and read the notebook.

J John (Vince) 30:38
And while he isn't open it to you, show you it, he's like, he's actually protectively putting his hand on the book and like, moving it to the side. He's like,

V Vince 30:50
The contents seem to show a kind of degradation in my Sire's mental state. I called her out of concern and I am worried that whatever happened to Luther might happen to her.

J John (Vince) 31:06
And he just like looks you dead in the eyes as he says that; he seems to be very serious.

A Alex 31:10
Has she talked about dreams?

V Vince 31:15
It's like, well, she mostly spok in single words. You have to understand, my sire is a woman of refinement. She is very cultured.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 31:32
I like roll my eyes like "yes, I know. I know. I'm hearing the same crap. I know."

J John (Vince) 31:38
He's like,

V Vince 31:39

Well, she the way she talked was an awful lot like the way Luther talked. Like, she couldn't focus. She...she was sniffing the air like an animal at bay. Or at least that's how that's described in books and stuff. I've never actually hunted in my life. Yeah, she was, she was obviously scared, and I'm just worried that whatever happened to Luther is going to happen to her.

A Alex 32:14

Ok, well, first things first. Why don't I put this out there? I am willing to help you as an elder vampire and protect you, since your Sire is out of commission. However, we do need to find out how long your Sire has been like this and what the clan is up to, because right now there's a nasty rumor going on about you guys. So you're going to need extra protection.

J John (Vince) 32:58

You see his face just kind of like drop into his hand, almost. He's just like,

V Vince 33:06

Oh dear.

J John (Vince) 33:09

Yeah, because Vince has been told, "Hey look, we're kind of bad news in vampire society." He doesn't get too much more intel than that most of the time. He's been told that he can't form blood bonds or hold blood debts or anything like that. He is not allowed, strictly speaking, to have any hold over other vampires. He knows that much. So he's a little bit like, what's happening right now? But also a little bit like, "That's bad. I'm a Tremere. And if things go bad for clan Tremere, that means bad for me." He's, despite being a vampire for 3 years, he's so really in the dark as to a lot of how his own clan operates. He is, he really has been kept in the dark, and just told things as it was convenient for his Sire to tell him them. So yeah, he's just like,

V Vince 34:13

Well, I appreciate the offer and what can I do for you in return?

A Alex 34:20

Well, why don't we worry about you, and make sure that you stay safe. The first thing we need to do is find out where the rest of your clan is in this city. You can't tell me it's just you and your Sire, because you guys run in packs just as much as Gangrel do.

J John (Vince) 34:48
And he's like, internally, Vincent is like, "I've often made the comparison myself. Yeah." But externally he's like,

V Vince 34:59
That is not entirely true. Um, you know, strength in numbers, yeah definitely, but we tend to keep to ourselves. I mean, also, I might not be on the best of terms with some of the other members of Clan Tremere. Just...just stuff.

A Alex 35:24
Why? This is important. We need to get to the bottom of this rumor.

V Vince 35:31
Oh.

J John (Vince) 35:33
He kind of like, scratches his jaw line. And he's like,

V Vince 35:38
Um, well, the vampire that my Sire Embraced before me....he, he didn't take kindly to a, well, to me in general. So I think, I think he might not be a good one to turn to. So, yeah, but I know, I know a couple. Just, I wouldn't be super friendly with anybody. You know what I mean?

A Alex 36:14
Ok, I mean, I didn't plan on, you know, making super best friends today.

S Storyteller Rina 36:26
Alex, your phone rings.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 36:29
I'll look at it.

J John (Vince) 36:32
As it rings, he's like,

V Vince 36:33
You're allowed having a... you're allowed to have a phone?

A Alex 36:36
You're allowed to have one too. You have to be careful.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 36:39
Who was on the phone?

S Storyteller Rina 36:41
So you recognize this number as Vera Giovanni. Vera is a Tremere. And no one quite knows why she's Tremere. There were rumors about a Tremere feud, a family feud between a Tremere family and a group of the Giovanni centuries ago and that the two families swapped a child to be sired in the other family to prevent the blood feud from continuing. But no one's sure if that's actually what happened. And Vera doesn't say anything about it. But you've had some interaction with her.

A Alex 37:34
Just one moment, Vince, please.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 37:36
And I'll answer it.

V Vince 37:37
Yeah, of course.

A Alex 37:39
Go for Alex.

- S** Storyteller Rina 37:40
You hear the voice of Paula, who is Vera's interpreter, Vera is deaf and uses sign language. And so, you hear,
- V** Vera 37:51
Good evening, Alex. This is Vera Giovanni. I have been contacted by someone who is looking to get in touch with you and I did not know if it was appropriate for them to know how. So I said I would call you first.
- A** Alex 38:10
Very much appreciated. Who is looking for me today?
- V** Vera 38:15
A Ms. Katerina Bogdonovich. She said she needed to talk to you but I did not know if you already knew each other and if she was someone you wish to speak to. I can vouch for her, if you need that sort of thing. We are very good friends.
- A** Alex 38:36
Um, I am familiar. I can meet her at her bakery tomorrow evening.
- V** Vera 38:51
Very well. I will pass on that information.
- A** Alex 38:54
Also, can I ask a personal question?
- S** Storyteller Rina 38:58
There's a bit of silence. You assume Vera's signing something.
- V** Vera 39:04
Yes, of course.

- A Alex 39:10
Um...Have the Tremere had any visitors from out of town?
- S Storyteller Rina 39:16
There's a very long pause.
- V Vera 39:20
There has been some traffic.
- A Alex 39:29
Well, family to family... Your visitor might be causing some trouble.
- V Vera 39:39
Trouble? I will see what I can ascertain. Family to Family.
- A Alex 39:47
Of course, always.
- V Vera 39:49
Ms. Bogdonovich asked me to give you her pager as well.
- S Storyteller Rina 39:53
And she rattles off a number.
- V Vera 39:54
If you wish to contact her.
- A Alex 39:57
Ok. Thank you

V Vera 40:02
Thank you, Alex. Good night.

S Storyteller Rina 40:04
And you hear a click.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 40:05
Alright.

S Storyteller Rina 40:08
So Vince, you've only heard one side of this conversation.

J John (Vince) 40:12
But he does guess from like the last, from Alex's question, that they are talking to another Tremere, just because of what they had said to him previously, and so on. So he's like,

V Vince 40:25
I think you probably know more Tremere in the area than I do.

A Alex 40:30
Um, well, this is a very special Tremere. So, perhaps, but are you telling me you've never met Vera?

J John (Vince) 40:40
He just shakes his head. He's like,

V Vince 40:43
No. Should I have?



- A** Alex 40:49
Probably. Let me guess: you don't even know where you guys meet.
- J** John (Vince) 40:57
He's like,
- V** Vince 40:58
awed The other, the other Tremere vampires meet up regularly?
- A** Alex 41:05
Well, I mean, I'm just assuming. I've heard things. I've seen things. I don't know if they've changed in the digital age and everybody's, you know, doing video calls. I don't know.
- J** John (Vince) 41:19
You look at his face, and you can tell that Vince is a little bit upset at the idea that he hasn't been invited to something. He's like, "but Cyril gets to go."
- A** Alex 41:29
I would say your Sire is doing a pretty poor job.
- V** Vince 41:34
She...
- J** John (Vince) 41:39
He's looking down at you, saying,
- V** Vince 41:40
She's just, like, yeah. She, she has her priorities. She, she has her reasons, I guess.
- A** Alex 41:50
Okay, well, um, let's keep in contact, and I will try and get you in contact with your clan. We'll

make sure that you stay safe. Why don't we... Have you made any traction with speaking with the owner of the house?

- J** John (Vince) 42:13
He points to the papers on the table in front of you that probably have just like scribbles. And he's just like,
- V** Vince 42:19
Yeah, it's, we made some headway today.
- J** John (Vince) 42:23
And he, like, just looks up and around the room. He's like,
- V** Vince 42:27
Didn't we, Mina?
- S** Storyteller Rina 42:32
The pen picks up off the table and scratches out a long "Y" for yes.
- V** Vince 42:39
Yes. Thank you very much for your suggestion about the pen and paper. I actually... I don't know, I just assumed that when you die, you forget how to write.
- J** John (Vince) 42:39
Vince is just like,
- S** Storyteller Rina 42:53
There's more scratching. And the words "Dum Dum" appear on the paper.
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 43:00
I like shake my head.

A Alex 43:03
You know, they were once people, just like we were.

V Vince 43:08
That's why I proposed that we maybe you know, discuss terms. And then I found out that, uh, I'm apparently more of a tenant than I realized, and, um...

A Alex 43:19
Well, of course, I'm sure she's been here longer than you.

S Storyteller Rina 43:22
And there's more scratching. And you see "102 years."

V Vince 43:29
It's just like, I mean, that, that like, that number is just like... Yeah, I mean, fair. Again, I, I didn't believe in ghosts and stuff until I lived in a haunted bungalow. So I mean, I'm, I'm a little bit not sure how to deal with it.

S Storyteller Rina 43:58
There's more scratching "U" - the letter u - "R" - the letter r - "vampire".

J John (Vince) 44:05
He's like,

V Vince 44:06
I mean, yeah, but only for the last three years.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 44:10
Um, if I look around the room, can I figure out are there any fetters in this room? Like in this bungalow? Apartment? Whatever this is?

S Storyteller Rina 44:23
Yeah. So you're looking for the auras, right? So there's still that aura around Vince. And it's very strong, even stronger in here.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 44:32
Which I can assume from the paper since they have the last name that maybe they're related.

S Storyteller Rina 44:37
Exactly. And there is a very old book on the table as well and that has a glow around it. Those are the only two that you're picking up in here.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 44:49
Ok.

A Alex 44:50
So in order to protect her so that she can also help you, you have to keep yourself safe. And you have to keep this book safe. That means don't spill anything on this book. Don't let it get damaged. Don't rip any pages out. Don't use it for scratch paper,

J John (Vince) 45:11
Vince looks horrified at the notion that he would damage the book. One of the reasons he was selected for Tremere is the fact that he's a huge fucking nerd. I'm like,

V Vince 45:22
Yeah, I...

J John (Vince) 45:23
He just, like, nods.

V Vince 45:25
Yeah, that's kind of a given, right? I mean, who would do those things?

J John (Vince) 45:30
It's a totally alien idea to him.

A Alex 45:32
Well, those two things, you and this book, are very important to her. Ok? Bad things happen to her when bad things happen to you, to you and the book. Ok? Make sure you...

V Vince 45:50
If you say so.

A Alex 45:52
I know so. Make sure you stay friends.

V Vince 45:54
Ok.

A Alex 45:56
And what's gonna happen now is we're gonna go to sleep. You tell me if you have any dreams. Also, I will come by and I'm picking you up tomorrow evening. We have a bakery to go visit.

J John (Vince) 46:10
He's like,

V Vince 46:12
What's...what, are you gonna tell me that vampires have a bakery or something?

A Alex 46:17
Uh, yeah.

J John (Vince) 46:19

Like, he leans across the table real intense. He's like,

V Vince 46:24

I mean, it's not just weird industrial music clubs?

A Alex 46:28

Surprisingly, no.

J John (Vince) 46:31

He just puts his head in his hands. He's like,

V Vince 46:33

She really did tell me nothing about this world.

S Storyteller Rina 46:39

And on that note, we will leave you to to finish up your business and go to your separate sleeping arrangements, and we'll have a look at what Rahm the Shaman has been doing since the success of his poem at slam poetry, Malkavian Night. So Rahm, you are still standing on the stage, as the scream dies away.

T Teagan (Rahm) 47:07

As the scream dies away, I think I'm going to leave the stage. I was told that it might be best if I left, so I think I'm going to exit. But I'm not going to leave the area. One of my goals here was to reach out to the network, see if we could dig up any connections, anything meaningful, and hopefully scare up some leads. So I'm probably going to stay just outside for a little bit and probably fake smoking a cigarette. Probably don't smoke anymore, but I have one on me so that I can stand somewhere and no one will bother me for at least five minutes. Except for that I probably have in the last 20 years forgotten about any changes to San Francisco smoking laws.

S Storyteller Rina 48:08

Ok, but are you really smoking a *tobacco* cigarette? Really Rahm?

T Teagan (Rahm) 48:14

Teagan (Rahm) 48:17

It's actually, it's actually a Lucky Strike that has been completely emptied of tobacco, and various other aromatics have been fitted into it. Yeah, yeah, that's what they're gonna go with.

S Storyteller Rina 48:36

Ok, so you're walking around the Castro district a little bit, smoking, quote unquote, your cigarette. What are you hoping to achieve here?

T Teagan (Rahm) 48:49

I'm honestly just going to wait a few minutes to see if anybody decided to come out and talk to me. If nobody decides to come out and talk to me, then I feel strained enough that I'd probably go back to my house and try to think about what I have learned so far. Try to maintain some semblance of openness mentally, to the network. And I think one of the things that Rahm starts doing, whether this is an aspect of their compulsion, or whether this is a legit way of thinking, he is taking the name Dina Forthright and is just running anagrams of it. You can tell that he's already like written out, like, "third song fair." And then "life like gift, then horrid" and is, like, doing the best to try to figure out if there's something else, but this could just be a compulsion of Rahm's at this point, from interacting with the network in a way that they haven't interacted before and they're not used to.

S Storyteller Rina 50:11

So as you're sitting at home doing anagrams and not coming up with anything particularly striking or useful, there's a knock at your door.

T Teagan (Rahm) 50:23

Ok, I take it, it's been late enough at night that most of the housemates are probably sleeping. So I'll go ahead and... Housemates is a nice term. We'll go with that. I'll go to the door and check the eyehole first.

S Storyteller Rina 50:45

You look through the eyehole, and there is what appears to be 7 or 8 year old child standing on your doorstep.

T Teagan (Rahm) 50:54

It's like, what. like 3 o'clock in the morning?

S Storyteller Rina 50:57

Storyteller Rina 50:57
Yes.

T Teagan (Rahm) 50:59
Ok, um, all right. So I'll probably like, grab a umbrella or a cane or something that's near my door or something swingable, but casual enough to, you know, not be like a baseball bat or a crowbar or something. And I'll just go ahead and open the door with my item casually in my hand, just off to the side, it's not threatening at all. And be like,

R Rahm the Shaman 51:33
Hello.

S Storyteller Rina 51:35
The child looks up at you. They're wearing jeans and a very thick sweater and got very short hair, and they look up at you with big blue eyes. And they smile and you see little pointy fangs as they smile at you.

T Teagan (Rahm) 51:55
I think rRahm says,

R Rahm the Shaman 51:56
exasperated Of course, of course.

S Storyteller Rina 52:00
And the child says,

C Child 52:01
Rahm the Shaman?

T Teagan (Rahm) 52:04
I look around as if you know to say "who else is here to be addressing?" And I look back and I just give a head nod and a cough, an affirming cough.

S Storyteller Rina 52:24
The child nods and is quiet for about 3 seconds. And then they look up at you, arching their head back a little bit. And they start speaking and this much older voice comes out. And you hear,

D Dina 52:45
I hear you have been looking for me. Naughty boy.

S Storyteller Rina 52:51
It's very disturbing to hear 7 year old child saying this.

T Teagan (Rahm) 52:56
Absolutely. Rahm would respond with,

R Rahm the Shaman 53:03
And who are you?

D Dina 53:07
Some call me Dina. You understand, I am just utilizing this body for the moment, speaking through a willing vessel. You're a Malkavian and you get it, don't you?

R Rahm the Shaman 53:27
I get it. I understand. I have some questions.

D Dina 53:37
Yes, questions, so many asking questions. But they never liked the answers I give.

R Rahm the Shaman 53:48
Yeah, I can tell you right now, you're kind of... I don't know who you are. But you've got everybody hot and bothered in this town. Seriously, the network's all a jumble. And everybody seems a bit spooked. Mind letting me in on what you're playing at?

S Storyteller Rina 54:16

There's this low laugh.

D Dina 54:21

Hot and bothered is my specialty. We're not going to have this conversation tonight. It's getting close to time to go to bed for our good little vampire boys and girls and others. And this forum is perhaps not the best vessel to speak through. Not for this kind of discussion. And anyway, this one appears to be hungry.

S Storyteller Rina 54:52

And the child blinks slowly and kind of rubs their stomach a bit the way little kids do when they're trying to tell you they're hungry.

T Teagan (Rahm) 55:03

My hand tightens on whatever I'm holding.

S Storyteller Rina 55:07

And they they blink again and the voice comes back.

D Dina 55:13

Let's meet shall we? You can bring a friend if you want. I know we don't like individual meetings in our clan. Things tend to go a bit...strange. And with me, things are going to get very strange, Rahm. You can bring a friend. I'll tell you where to come. But be careful what you go looking for, my dear. You might not like what you find.

T Teagan (Rahm) 55:55

Just as he lights another cigarette, but on his own porch,

R Rahm the Shaman 55:59

At this point, I'm just trying to keep my head on my shoulders.

D Dina 56:07

Yes, the only way to do this is to... And the... of...

yes, there's many heads rolling away these days. And I see more coming. If you really want to talk, we can, but again, I can't tell you what you might hear until you hear it. You know how things work with us.

R Rahm the Shaman 56:40
Well, I know. Yes, I know how things work with us.

T Teagan (Rahm) 56:52
Rom probably says resignedly, if that's a word.

D Dina 56:59
So many sights, so many things to see. Maybe you'll know what they mean. Maybe you won't. It's not my job. We'll see.

R Rahm the Shaman 57:17
I'll, uh, I'll find a second. Where is the location? Where are we meeting? When? Where?

D Dina 57:28
Tomorrow night. Or the night after? I'll send you a message where. I'll be there both nights, I suppose. I'm not in a hurry. But you might want to.

R Rahm the Shaman 57:45
Somewhere public-ish, I hope.

S Storyteller Rina 57:50
And there's this low trilling laugh.

D Dina 57:53
My dear Rahm, what do you take me for, a Neonate? Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to insult you.

R Rahm the Shaman 58:02
I'm just trying to not walk into a building I don't come out of.

D Dina 58:11
Like I said, you can bring a friend. Or more, if you feel like you need it. I will.

T Teagan (Rahm) 58:21
Yeah, Rahm wants to curse under his breath. *laughs*

R Rahm the Shaman 58:25
Good night, Rahm.

S Storyteller Rina 58:27
And the child just sort of blinks and then turns around and takes off running down the streets, and you can see them almost loping, almost running on all fours as they go, dashing after what looks suspiciously like a small dog.

T Teagan (Rahm) 58:50
Gotcha. I think Rahm probably as they go inside just kind of says to themselves, fust like mockingly a little bit, just,

R Rahm the Shaman 58:58
sing-song Come out and play.

T Teagan (Rahm) 59:01
I'm going to close my door, and I'm going to attempt to contact the rest of the group.

S Storyteller Rina 59:12
Ok, who are you trying to contact and how?

T Teagan (Rahm) 59:17
Hmm. Let's see here. Which one's the scariest one?

- S** Storyteller Rina 59:24
Marcus is a Brujah and they're known for physical force. But Alex was a kind of creepy "talk to the dead", that sort of thing.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 59:36
Yeahhhhh. So Alex is the one that probably scared me the most. So we're going to reach out to Alex.
- S** Storyteller Rina 59:43
Alright, so it's going to be a little difficult to do. So you're going to have to go through one of your clan contacts to just get the information.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 59:56
Absolutely.
- S** Storyteller Rina 59:58
So Alex when you get home, you find a note with a phone number on it waiting for you.
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 1:00:10
Does it have a name?
- S** Storyteller Rina 1:00:12
The note just says "someone calling himself a shaman??"
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 1:00:24
Ok, well, I will leave that on the table so that I know when I get up the following evening to give the shaman a call.
- S** Storyteller Rina 1:00:38
Excellent. So we will draw our episode to a close as all of our coterie betake themselves to their beds, coffins, yoga mats, whatever it is they sleep on throughout the day, and we will see you all for another night of adventure next time. Thank you and good night.

