

BMR Episode 10

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S 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.

S Storyteller Rina 01:00

Good evening everyone, and welcome to another episode of the Old Ways Podcast's "Blood Moon Rising," our Vampire the Masquerade Chronicle. We have some delights in store for you tonight as our coterie follows up on some of the leads that they have picked up over the past few episodes. But in order to do that, we first need to do introductions. So to my right:

M Marcus 01:20

Hi, my name is Mike and I am playing Marcus Voss of Clan Brujah, who, after the previous episode, has decided to concentrate his eye and his attention on someone new.

S Storyteller Rina 01:38

Oh, my. We'll see how that works out for you. And to Marcus's right:

V Vince 01:45

Hi, I'm John and I'll be playing Vince Markevich of Clan Tremere. And I've got some worrying news about my Sire, so that's concerning.

S Storyteller Rina 01:55

Yes, your Sire is a bit more of a royal pain in the ass than you originally thought. And to Vince's right:

R Rahm the Shaman 02:04

Hi, my name is Tegan and I'm playing Rahm the Shaman. And Rahm needs to eat desperately and get back on the routine, because that is the best treatment for their condition.

S Storyteller Rina 02:21

We'll see if you get to that or not. And next to Rahm:

A Ali (Katerina) 02:28

This is Ali and I'm playing Katerina Bogdanovich and her temper is running a little short tonight.

S Storyteller Rina 02:38

Just like Katerina herself. And finally:

A Alex 02:44

This is Tiffanie and I play Alex Giovanni and I'm dragging Vince to go see his Sire.

S Storyteller Rina 02:51

You're very good at dragging people lately; we'll see how that goes for you. All right, so it's about 9:30pm. You have all just exited the Magellan theater after getting some very dramatic revelations from the Malkavian Clan Whip, Roger Pendleigh-Funt. And you've learned some things about about Vince's Sire, perhaps a few other things. It's only been a couple of hours. So you do still have plenty of night ahead of you. What would you all like to do?

A Alex 03:25

I will suggest that we check in on Karen, or Her Majesty, whichever, because I don't think she's doing well.

V Vince 03:43
Vince is inclined to agree, based on our last phone call. He says,

V Vince 03:48
She, uh, she was a bit testy. She probably if she sees us, she won't be too happy, but I think it'd be better for us to... for her to see somebody, especially if she's going through some kind of phase.

A Alex 04:03
Well, and wouldn't it be disappointing to find out that all of this is caused by one of her cults?

V Vince 04:08
That would be real disappointing. Very disappointing to find out that you weren't invited to that cult, for unknown reasons, for some reason you were not...worthy.

M Marcus 04:20
So for clarity purposes, do we believe that she's physically here still?

A Alex 04:25
I do not.

M Marcus 04:28
Ok, so, this is yet another meeting with someone in the ether, then, yes?

A Alex 04:35
Perhaps. I think we need to just see where her physicality is at.

M Marcus 04:44
Perhaps it's amongst the corpses.

V Vince 04:46
Vince is like,

V Vince 04:48
Well, I was, I was gonna go check her apartment.

A Alex 04:51
Right, that's what I'm suggesting.

V Vince 04:53
It's not actually an apartment, it's a townhouse but you know, whatever.

A Alex 04:58
So, uh, do you want to give them her address? So we can all meet there? Or do you want everybody to pile into the Lincoln?

J John (Vince) 05:09
Vince looks traumatized that he has to face the option, the notion of giving out the address of Ms. Karen Stein. He's just like,

V Vince 05:23
I was told I'd be murdered if I did this, but I think I've got a pretty good reason for what we're doing. So I think, yeah, guys, this is the address.

A Alex 05:33
Well, if you get murdered, I'll make sure you stay around.

J John (Vince) 05:37
Just puts his hand on his chest and he's like,

M Marcus 05:37

How comforting.

Vince 05:41

Oh, wait, I know, I know what that means.

S Storyteller Rina 05:46

So the address that Vince gives you, it's down in Jackson Square, so other end of town. And it's a fairly quiet area that's been gentrified a good bit, but it's very much out of the way.

M Marcus 06:04

That's kind of good, actually.

S Storyteller Rina 06:06

Is everyone planning to go visit Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the First, also known as Karen Stein, or are we splitting the party?

R Rahm the Shaman 06:16

I want to go with, but I do want to ask Vince something. So I lean into Vince, and I'm just like,

R Rahm the Shaman 06:24

So if she was the Queen of England, but she's didn't...she's not gone. Is she still technically the Queen of England or, like, were there other royalty that were also vampires? I'm just wondering, like, do we call her Her Majesty?

V Vince 06:45

I have never called her that. And it does, like, explain some weird roleplay stuff she had she wanted but I mean, no, no, I just always called her Karen or Miss Stein. Or boss. Or sire.

A Alex 07:05

I would assume since Queen Elizabeth died that she probably wants to be called Karen

M Marcus 07:14

M Marcus 07:14
Yeah, it's the 21st century. Don't dead name people.

R Rahm the Shaman 07:18
No, of course, of course.

V Vince 07:22
I mean you weren't Rahm the Shaman before you...

J John (Vince) 07:27
And he like puts a hand on Rahm's shoulder.

V Vince 07:29
...before you were chosen.

R Rahm the Shaman 07:32
I look you deeply in the eye and I say,

R Rahm the Shaman 07:34
We don't talk about that.

V Vince 07:37
Sorry, Rahm. *nervous chuckle* I'm like real sorry.

M Marcus 07:42
I appreciate the offer of your Lincoln, Alex but I'll pass. I don't really know that I can do the whole, well, Butler servant driver treatment.

A Alex 07:55
Ok.



Marcus 07:57

Enjoy.



Alex 07:59

He gets paid well.



Rahm the Shaman 08:00

Shotgun.



Vince 08:02

No one was competing for that. I just didn't want the middle seat in the back.



Tiffanie (Alex) 08:07

We go to get in the car and the driver's put bird spikes in the seat.



Storyteller Rina 08:12

What about you, Katerina?



Ali (Katerina) 08:14

I will probably be riding in the Lincoln.



Storyteller Rina 08:20

Ok, so everyone except Marcus piles into the Lincoln. Rahm, you go to open the front door and it's mysteriously locked, and the driver just gives you an "I don't know" kind of look.



Rahm the Shaman 08:34

Fine. I'll get in the back with everybody else. I wanted to talk to him about podcasts.



John (Vince) 08:40

"Please, Colin Robinson!"

T Tiffanie (Alex) 08:43

We're gonna see like Rahm hanging in the window, like, that separates like the front and back seat half, you know, or he's gonna crawl into it like Deadpool in the taxi.

T Teagan (Rahm) 08:55

Oh, yeah we're doing that. No, I'm ok. So I'm getting in now. And yeah, I am picking the seat closest to that window so I can talk to the driver, about you know, about podcasts. That's something we're doing.

S Storyteller Rina 09:08

Alex, I think your driver might require a raise or hazard pay, one of the two

M Mike (Marcus) 09:14

Union dues.

S Storyteller Rina 09:16

Or that.

M Mike (Marcus) 09:16

Proper pay rate. It's ok. I'll talk to him.

S Storyteller Rina 09:19

Alright, so Marcus, are you following them in your own vehicle? Are you going to meet them there?

M Marcus 09:25

Oh, certainly. I've got my vehicle here. So we'll just tag along behind the Lincoln.

S Storyteller Rina 09:30

Alright. So you head off towards Jackson Square and the address that Vince gave you. Alex, you get a text message from Trevor on your way. very short. to the point. just says. "Everything's

fine. Paperwork." And that's the only thing you've heard from him so far, but at least he's checked in. Katerina, your pager does not go off at all, which is a nice relief. It's been going off for too much over the last few days. And then so you just sit there next to Rahm, listening to Rahm the ears off of the driver about podcasts. So you all arrive at this townhome, it probably didn't cost all too much when Karen bought it, assuming she's been here a while. But in today's market, it would probably cost about 1.5 million. It's a fairly old home, it looks like it's been renovated, and probably in the last few years. Even looks pretty modern, up to date. Looks like the windows have been renovated to not be so open, which is not surprising considering who lives here. It's certainly not as open plan as the rest of the townhomes in the area, which go for a lot of natural lighting. But you know, it's a quiet district, fairly, fairly decent and wouldn't attract a whole lot of attention, which is also good for vampires. But it's very quiet. It's about 10pm. You hear some people off in the distance, but it's quiet on the street.

M Mike (Marcus) 11:14
I find a place to park and kill the lights.

S Storyteller Rina 11:20
There's some parking on the side of the street. People are out doing things, you assume, so they've taken their cars and you can just pull in alongside the curb.

M Mike (Marcus) 11:31
I'll exit and then wait for Vince to make his grand approach to his Sire's townhouse.

J John (Vince) 11:41
And Vince does eventually show up in the in the back of the Lincoln.

S Storyteller Rina 11:46
Yeah, Vince, do you try texting or calling Karen first to let her know that you're coming? Or...

J John (Vince) 11:52
I think based on how she reacted last time, no.

S Storyteller Rina 11:59
Ok, so you show up unannounced.

J John (Vince) 12:02
It's a bad idea. But it's a better idea than the other idea.

S Storyteller Rina 12:08
Alright. So Vince, I assume you're going up first. Do you knock, ring the bell, just try to open the door? What do you do?

J John (Vince) 12:16
He's just going to try and open the door.

S Storyteller Rina 12:20
Ok. The door is locked.

J John (Vince) 12:23
Makes sense. That is pretty standard.

A Alex 12:28
Do you have a key?

J John (Vince) 12:31
Like, do I have a key? Vince checks his pockets.

S Storyteller Rina 12:37
I would say you probably don't, considering the hierarchy.

V Vince 12:41
Right. She's very controlling.

S Storyteller Rina 12:43
Yes, she's very controlling. And you're her kept man. So she goes to your place. She never

really has you come to her place unless it's to work on a spell or something.

J John (Vince) 12:56
So that's actually the only reason I know where this is. I also know where the library is inside.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 13:01
I'm going to reach into my in side pocket and pull out my lockpicks.

S Storyteller Rina 13:06
Excellent. Alright. So you see Alex pulling out a set of lockpicks. So give me a Larceny plus Dexterity roll.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 13:19
I have a specialization of Breaking and Entering.

S Storyteller Rina 13:22
Yes, you do. Engage in some light B&E.

J John (Vince) 13:29
Just a little bit, though, just getting your feet wet.

S Storyteller Rina 13:33
You're only going to need 2 Successes for this because you're quite skilled in it.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 13:38
Yeah, and I got a shit roll.

S Storyteller Rina 13:40
Oh my god. Ok, so you fiddle around with the lock for a couple of minutes. You were expecting it to be a fairly easy opening, but seems like Karen might have gotten a special lock made that you're not used to dealing with. It's definitely not a lock you've encountered before. It appears

to be a custom one and you're not quite able to get it open. It's very frustrating.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 14:08

Can I inspect it some more and try again? Otherwise I will see if there's a backdoor.

S Storyteller Rina 14:18

You can try again if you want to spend a Willpower point.

T Teagan (Rahm) 14:20

I just lean in to Alex and be like,

R Rahm the Shaman 14:24

I think I saw this one in the Lock-Picking Lawyer. Do you need help?

A Alex 14:28

What do you mean?

R Rahm the Shaman 14:31

This, you're not gonna be able to crack this one the normal way. You're going to need to come up from the other side.

A Alex 14:39

Oh, ok. We can try that.

S Storyteller Rina 14:43

You get willpower back by resting and doing other things that are connected to your essential nature, basically, to answer your question from a minute ago.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 14:54

So, ok. Did I have Willpower refreshed at the beginning of this session?

S Storyteller Rina 15:01
Yes, you got 1 point back after you rested the previous night.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 15:06
Ok, so then I would have been at zero. So if I spent another one, I'll be at... Yeah, I'll spend it.

S Storyteller Rina 15:12
Ok, so reroll.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 15:14
Yeah, I got 2.

S Storyteller Rina 15:17
Alright, so you step back, ignore Rahm, close your eyes for a minute, and then put your lockpick set back in. Now that you know that there's something different about this lock, you can reformulate how you approach it. And after another couple of minutes, you're able to get the door open. So what do you do as the door swings open?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 15:44
Do I smell blood?

S Storyteller Rina 15:49
Yes.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 15:51
I will turn around and look at Vince and tell him to sit here on this stoop and give us a minute.

J John (Vince) 16:03
Vince is just like,

V Vince 16:04

V vince 16:04
No, no can do. I gotta go in.

A Alex 16:09
Do you want to see this?

J John (Vince) 16:10
Vince holds up a hand. He's like,

V Vince 16:14
I'm prepared for the worst.

A Alex 16:18
Ok.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 16:18
I will if there are no lights on I'm going to see if there's one like in the entrance, you know, in the entryway, like you know how like you can reach inside a door and flip lights on.

S Storyteller Rina 16:30
Yes, there's definitely a light switch in the hallway.

J John (Vince) 16:32
At this point, Vince will activate his Heightened Senses.

S Storyteller Rina 16:39
What about the the other three? Where are you? What are you doing?

M Mike (Marcus) 16:44
I'm waiting for them to step in so we can get inside. Because it looks like five weirdos sitting outside.

T Teagan (Rahm) 16:50
I'm concerned about Vinnie's well-being, so I'm gonna want to like, stick close to him in case he needs some emotional support.

S Storyteller Rina 16:56
And Katerina?

A Ali (Katerina) 16:58
Yeah, I'm waiting because the longer we're out here, the more suspicious we look.

S Storyteller Rina 17:02
So as you all pile in, and Alex turns on the light, you've all smelled this tang of blood of vampire blood. But as you step in, and the door swings shut behind you, you hear a scream. Vince, you know that the sound is coming from the down the hallway, where the library is.

J John (Vince) 17:32
Hearing the scream, Vince is off like a shot. He's just sprinting down to the library. Just not saying anything, just gone.

R Rahm the Shaman 17:41
Vincent, wait!

T Teagan (Rahm) 17:43
And I'll go after him.

M Mike (Marcus) 17:45
Yeah.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 17:48
Yeah, I casually walk that way, like Mike or Michael Meyer style.

M Mike (Marcus) 17:55
I'll be keeping up with Vince.

A Ali (Katerina) 17:58
I will be following Alex.

S Storyteller Rina 18:04
Ok, so you all go down the hallway, not quite as quickly as Vince, who's taken off like a shot towards the library. And Vince, the library door is closed, but it's not locked. But you're feeling a bit anxious and it takes you a second to get the handle to actually turn because you're stressed and you know what's happening and the screaming keeps continuing. And as you try to get the door open for a minute, your nostrils pick up the scent of smoke.

J John (Vince) 18:39
I think Marcus will be the closest, so Vince is just going to turn and say,

V Vince 18:41
I think there's a fire.

J John (Vince) 18:42
And he's going to just reach for the handle and and just try and he's also like, "well, there could be some weird incense that she has or who knows what."

S Storyteller Rina 18:54
So you yell to Marcus that it smells like there's a fire and the rest of you as you come closer you can pick up the smell of smoke as well. And Vince, you managed to get your sweaty palm to focus on the door handle and you push the door open and you are greeted with smoke.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 19:18
If I start smelling smoke, I like, I put my hand out like in front of Katerina like to stop her a minute and look at her and go,

 ..

A Alex 19:28
So, the face melting. This isn't gonna be good.

K Katerina 19:32
No, it is not.

S Storyteller Rina 19:35
And Vince, as you look through the smoke, it doesn't really bother you physically all that much. But you kind of push through it a bit and the library is ablaze. There's books and books and books, piles of them, on fire. They've all been taken off of the shelves and stacked up and set on fire. And in the middle of this massive, massive pile of burning books, you see Karen and she is burning. She is screaming as loudly as you've ever heard anyone scream. Her eyes are huge and manic. Her red hair is singed, and it's beginning to catch fire as well. You'll see her skin melting off into this pile of books, and it looks like her legs are already gone, at least the lower part, and the fire is climbing up and melting her flesh, and you see the skin beginning to peel off of her face. And she seems to notice you for the first time, and she raises both of her hands, and it looks like something or someone has restrained her in this circle, because there are chains around her wrists. And she looks at you as her eyes begin to melt, and she opens her mouth to continue to scream, and you see her tongue is missing.

J John (Vince) 21:41
Vince's reaction is pure horror. Because he's like, at the same time, he's disassociated. And he's now like,

V Vince 21:52
Whoever did this, did this because they couldn't affect you with this curse. Most likely this...

V Vince 21:57
You know, he's falling into the habits of a Tremere, he's like just detail-orientated now.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 22:07
Can I run to the kitchen and check under the sink for a fire extinguisher?

S Storyteller Rina 22:12
Yes, you can. Kitchen's back the other direction, takes you a minute to find it.

M Marcus 22:17

So I'm gonna grab Vince, and I'm gonna pull him out of line of sight of whatever's going on. Because I don't want him to be suddenly the subject, especially because what I see from my vantage point is it's reaching out towards him. And so we're going to break line of sight. And if that means I have to put him in a subtle, but yet not so subtle, headlock to move him back behind the door, then that's what Marcus is going to do. And I'm gonna bet that I'm a little faster than Vince.

J John (Vince) 22:48

I am also going to bet that. And also that Vince is in cold, numb shock. He has never actually seen this kind of horror before. I mean, the guy's never even killed anybody compared to the rest of you. So he's like, "yeah, nope." It's really easy to get him out of the way.

S Storyteller Rina 23:06

Yeah, so Marcus, you're able to grab Vince and pull him away from the door so that this melting, burning, screaming pile of flesh that used to be a vampire can't make eye contact or what's left of her eyes contact anymore.

M Mike (Marcus) 23:26

To be fair to Marcus, I don't know how blood magic works. So I don't know if she needs eyes to cast spells. So I'm just taking a cautionary tale here. And I'll say,

M Marcus 23:41

Stay here. Don't move.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 23:45

Yeah, if I find a fire extinguisher, which I'm you know, really hoping I do, I'm gonna go put everything out.

S Storyteller Rina 23:53

You definitely find a fire extinguisher. It's fairly common in vampire households in particular, because fire is very dangerous. So you can find a fire extinguisher. By the time you run back, the smoke is filling the hallway, and you can smell the burning flesh from the kitchen and you run back with the fire extinguisher and by the time you get to the library, you just see the skeletal hands reaching out through the smoke. One of them still has a manacle on it. It looks

like the other one has slipped out of it. There's no skin left on these bones. And you see a horrible melting face with no eyes, the nose has fallen off. There's blood and gore and guts everywhere. And then the hands, the skeletal hands fall back into the smoke and there's no more screaming.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 25:00
Still need to stop the fire.

S Storyteller Rina 25:04
So you begin extinguishing the fire in the library so it doesn't spread to the rest of the house. And it's disgusting work with the smell and the blood everywhere and the smoke. But you're able to get it under control fairly quickly. But this entire library is completely ruined.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 25:28
Yeah, I'm just hoping that there's some evidence of who or what chained Karen there.

M Mike (Marcus) 25:39
Yeah, I guess I'll probably just stay close to Vince. And while it may be slightly out of his public character, I'm a little concerned the young lad has had a couple of fairly traumatic experiences.

T Teagan (Rahm) 25:58
Yes, I'm gonna stay nearby to Marcus and Vince on that. I am very concerned about young Vinnie.

J John (Vince) 26:05
Vince is absolutely in shock. He's, he is trying to figure out what, how, why? And then who?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 26:17
So you said the books were arranged in a circle? Like a pile, right?

S Storyteller Rina 26:23
Well, they were, they were stacked up in a pile around what used to be Karen Stein.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 26:30

Ok, so is there any indication this was a ritual? Like, is there anything on the manacles? Is there anything on the floor?

S Storyteller Rina 26:41

So you have a look around with your keen, investigative eye, and the books just look like they've been stacked up like a funeral pyre, or like kindling. As far as you can tell, there doesn't appear to be a whole lot of rhyme or reason. But these books are also super damaged. So it's also impossible to tell what most of them are, or were. You have a look at the manacles and they're lying on the ground. One of them still has some skeletal hand bones in it. And I'd like you to give me Occult plus Intelligence. Is anyone else doing an any investigating in the room at the same time?

M Mike (Marcus) 27:24

I'm the room. I'd probably, after I know that Vince is okay, I'd want to check out the rest of the house.

S Storyteller Rina 27:30

Ok, so you're going around the house. Vince is staying with Rahm or Rahm staying with Vince, either way. What about Katerina?

A Ali (Katerina) 27:38

I'm also going to be looking around the house.

S Storyteller Rina 27:42

Ok, so both of you give me Investigation plus Intelligence.

M Mike (Marcus) 27:48

Certainly.

S Storyteller Rina 27:49

And while you're doing that, how did it go, Alex?

—

T Tiffanie (Alex) 27:52
3.

S Storyteller Rina 27:54
Excellent. Alright. So with your 3 successes as you're investigating, these manacles look old, like several 100 years old, the kind of thing you'd find in a dungeon somewhere in England or Central Europe. And you find the key. It looks like it's been thrown across the room.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 28:24
Like she did it to herself.

S Storyteller Rina 28:28
That's one possible interpretation.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 28:31
Ok.

S Storyteller Rina 28:33
So you judge the distance and yes, it's possible that she locked herself in these and then threw them from where she was standing.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 28:43
So her hand bones are still there, correct?

S Storyteller Rina 28:46
Yes. Some of them.

A Alex 28:49
So, can I Is it enough for me to use Fatal Precog on it.

S Storyteller Rina 28:58

I think it should be enough. It's enough of part of a corpse.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 29:02
Right.

S Storyteller Rina 29:03
Ok. So you're going to need to Rouse the blood before you use your powers here.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 29:11
Sweet.

S Storyteller Rina 29:13
So make me a Rouse check.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 29:18
That's a 5.

S Storyteller Rina 29:20
Ok, that's not enough. You need a 6 or higher. So you're not sure what what it is. Maybe it's just the fact that you actually were physically present for this death. Maybe it's the smoke or maybe it's just the lingering scent of burning flesh. But you're not feeling strong enough at this moment.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 29:48
Ok.

M Marcus 29:50
So in my Investigation rolls, I got two 9s and a 10.

S Storyteller Rina 29:55
Oh, excellent.

A Ali (Katerina) 29:58
I got a 7, 9 and a 10.

S Storyteller Rina 30:03
Wow, some really good rolls there. Alright, so as you're poking around, the first thing you notice when you go back into that main hallway, and you look back towards the door that you came in through, both of you see this bloody halfmoon painted on the back of the door, with blood dripping down. It looks very fresh. Probably why you smelled blood so strongly at the door. That's the first thing you notice. The second thing you notice as you come out of this hallway, and there's a kind of living area space, just down from the kitchen, is you find a severed bloody tongue on the table.

M Mike (Marcus) 30:52
Interesting.

S Storyteller Rina 30:53
Just on this low coffee table. And there's blood splattered all over this living room. And if you keep poking around, you find what looks like the bedroom. fairly nice, neat, modern furniture but not ostentatious, but definitely very comfortable looking. And the bed doesn't look like it's been slept in for several days.

A Ali (Katerina) 31:22
I'm going to be looking around for an office.

S Storyteller Rina 31:25
Ok, yep, there's an office, the other direction down the hallway from the library.

A Ali (Katerina) 31:31
And that's where I'll head.

S Storyteller Rina 31:34
Ok. So, Marcus, Which room are you going to be in at the moment?

M Marcus 31:39
Well, I'm assuming if it's a townhouse that it has a basement.

S Storyteller Rina 31:44
More than likely.

M Marcus 31:45
And so I'm looking for a door that leads down.

S Storyteller Rina 31:49
Ok, that would be in the kitchen.

M Marcus 31:51
And that's where I'm going.

S Storyteller Rina 31:53
Alright, so Marcus heads down into the basement, Katerina goes into the office. Rahm and Vince, are you still standing outside the library?

R Rahm the Shaman 32:02
I, I don't know what to say. I'm sorry.

V Vince 32:08
It's not your fault. You're not responsible for this.

J John (Vince) 32:12
And he's just, like, very cold. And he's just like,

V Vince 32:18
It's my fault. I mean, I should have checked on her as soon as I called. But no, I should have

checked on her sooner. There's, there's no two ways about that.

R Rahm the Shaman 32:29

Don't take this on yourself. Don't internalize this. We just got...we had no idea. You had no idea.

V Vince 32:42

Like, I had suspicions. I mean, some of the things she said, some of the things that are written in her in her personal notebook. I mean, I had a, I had a suspicion. I just didn't want it to be true. And this is what I get. Well, I'm gonna find whoever did this. And I'm gonna, I'm going to do terrible things. And I'm going to be just a nightmare for them. If you'll excuse me, I have to take care of a few things.

S Storyteller Rina 33:15

Vince. Vince, I'd like you to reduce your Humanity by 1.

J John (Vince) 33:22

Yep. Sounds about right. Down to 7 Humanity. Yeah, Vince isn't ok.

S Storyteller Rina 33:30

You feel like you're losing a little bit of yourself here as you're talking to Rahm. You're listening to Alex move around in Karen's library as you, every time you close your eyes to blink, you see that melting face and those staring eyes. You can still smell the smoke and the burned flesh out here. Something in you dies a little bit.

V Vince 33:58

I mean, she was the strongest person I knew. She...if they could do that to her... I don't. I don't know who they couldn't do it to.

R Rahm the Shaman 34:10

I know but that's what it is. It's only happening, I mean, we only have two data points, but it's not happening to people like us. It's happening to these older ones.

J John (Vince) 34:24

He nods. and hes like.



Vince 34:28

That's a very good point. I hadn't considered that. Oh, also, by the way, it's 3.



Storyteller Rina 34:36

I would also like to point out that Trevor is barely older as a vampire than Rahm is.



Teagan (Rahm) 34:43

I don't think my character has been fully filled in on Trevor.



Storyteller Rina 34:48

You just know he's been having nightmares.



Vince 34:50

And whoever did it took her books, which I mean, that's, that's perverse in like three ways. One, she was so proud of them, and two, her library defined her and she defined it. And three, whatever clues she'd been researching might be lost or probably are lost to us.



John (Vince) 35:16

Then he stops and thinks and he's like,



Vince 35:18

But if she knew someone was out to get her, there's a very good chance that she would leave a deadman switch or something like that. She loved spy movies and stuff. It was really, like, she loved all that stuff. And she was, like, she read Tom Clancy, and then she'd give out to me about how inaccurate some parts were. No, she loved all that spycraft stuff. So I got some things to do, Rahm.



John (Vince) 35:51

And he just puts a hand on his shoulder. He's like,



Vince 35:52

Vince 35:52
Thanks. Thanks for being here.

J John (Vince) 35:54
And he's just going to walk off. He's just going to just walk off for now.

T Teagan (Rahm) 35:58
I'll take what he said to heart and I'm going to, you know, with my hours and hours of binge watching "Law and Order", I'm going to try to look for something. I don't want to touch anything, because you're not supposed to touch things. So I kind of want to see if maybe QE1 left something out up on like on the top, like something that she touched recently, if there's any situational evidence to that.

S Storyteller Rina 36:31
In the library or elsewhere in the house?

T Teagan (Rahm) 36:34
I'll stay in the library. I don't want to get in Vince's way. But I do want to follow that train of thought.

S Storyteller Rina 36:42
Ok, so give me your Investigation plus Intelligence.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 36:47
And can I also look for fetters?

S Storyteller Rina 36:50
Yes, you can definitely do that. While you're trying to figure that out, Marcus, you are going down into a basement. As one does.

M Marcus 37:00
I mean, as one does.

- S** Storyteller Rina 37:01
When you try the door, it's locked. But with your strength, if you want to, you can pull it open.
- M** Marcus 37:11
I mean, it's not locked. It's just stuck a little.
- S** Storyteller Rina 37:13
Just a little stuck. And it's not like she needs it anyway. She's not going to care if you break her door. So you pull open the door, and you can go down into the very dark basement. It smells like death the moment you open the door. You look down into what to ordinary people, to Kine, would be pitch black darkness. There's these wooden stairs that you can see, very old stairs, look like they haven't been replaced as recently as the rest of the house has been renovated. And you just smell blood, human blood this time. Decay and rot.
- M** Marcus 38:04
Is there a light switch?
- S** Storyteller Rina 38:06
There is.
- M** Mike (Marcus) 38:07
I turn it on.
- S** Storyteller Rina 38:08
Ok, you turn it on, there's what looks like a single bulb hanging over the stairs. And then it also turns on another light further down into the basement.
- M** Marcus 38:19
Classic serial killer basement.
- S** Storyteller Rina 38:21
Oh yes. So you go down the stairs, I assume, and down in this basement. There are bodies, or remnants of them. Several of them. You see a stack of what used to be. you think. vouna

humans in their perhaps 20s. And there could have been, it could have been attractive ones. But some of them have had their throats torn out. Some of them just look like they've been completely drained. But they haven't been properly disposed of. They've just been left down here. And there is a circle painted in blood in the center of the floor with some very strange looking symbols painted north, south, east and west. And there are two human bodies stretched out inside this circle.

M Marcus 39:42

Now I better mess up those markings before anyone gets to look at him. No, I'm kidding. So are the human bodies...they're corpses, I assume?

S Storyteller Rina 39:52

They are not breathing.

M Marcus 39:53

Alright. This is unfortunate. But as disgusting as it might be for others, it's not enough to turn my heart or stomach. This is simply the way things are. It's unfortunate that the fire has been put out, because it seems like we could have had to use for the house being burned down. That's unfortunate. Is there anything of physical value down here? Does it seem like just a place where the Queen kept a herd and what looks like a series of human playthings?

S Storyteller Rina 40:37

Oh, you see there's what looks like a workbench, like where someone might do craftsmanship or something. But this, it's off to the side, and if you go over to it, it's to the left of of this circle. And there's a cork board with a bunch of rather nasty looking implements hanging on it. Seems Her Majesty didn't come completely out of the 16th century.

M Marcus 41:07

No, indeed, she did not.

S Storyteller Rina 41:10

And there's a few pages scattered on the desk. And they look fairly old. And they're written in Latin.

M Marcus 41:24

Ok.

S

Storyteller Rina 41:25

You do see a diagram on one of them that matches the circle on the floor.

M

Marcus 41:28

Oh, wonderful. I shall collect these.

S

Storyteller Rina 41:34

Alright, so you collect the pages. Do you leave the bodies as they are?

M

Marcus 41:41

Yeah, I don't want anything to do with being anywhere near that circle or touching those bodies, I just want to make sure that there is nothing of what I would consider value. The tools aren't valuable because I mean, I don't need them. And the bodies are really a kind of a sad coda to the Queen's life. And now it's likely that her child will have to clean up the mess.

S

Storyteller Rina 42:13

Very likely. You poke around the rest of the basement fairly quickly, staying away from that circle. You don't find much of what you would consider value. She didn't collect a whole lot of information the way that Felix Conrad did. You do find some what looks like heroin needles stacked up in a box. And you also find what looks like an IV bag and an IV needle. They look like they've been discarded. And that's all you find down here.

M

Marcus 42:49

Ok. I head back upstairs.

S

Storyteller Rina 42:50

Ok, as you're investigating the serial killer dungeon, Katerina, you went into the office. The office is not as grand as the library was before someone set it on fire. There's just a fairly antique-looking desk. It looks to be a couple centuries old, you think. And there's a low bookcase, the kind you could probably get from Ikea that has some potted plants on it, fake potted plants, it turns out and a couple of knickknacks. And there's a framed, old timey photograph, looks to be from around World War One, you think, of a woman, you assume it's

Karen, you didn't really get much of a glance of her, wearing what looks like a pilot's uniform, which is a little strange in and of itself as women weren't allowed to fly during the First World War.

A Ali (Katerina) 44:06

That's gonna be very interesting. I'm going to grab that picture actually, and, like take it out of its frame and look on the back.

S Storyteller Rina 44:16

Right. So you look on the back and it's inscribed on the back of the photo if you're taking the back of the frame off. It just says "with thanks, George".

A Ali (Katerina) 44:36

Ok, I'll, uh, I'll put it back together and put it where it was just and I will root through the desk.

S Storyteller Rina 44:48

Ok, you root through the desk, and you did roll really well, especially with that 10. So there's not a whole lot in here, not like with Luther or with Felix Conrad. You sense that being a Tremere, she probably kept most important things in the library. But you do find what appears to be some notes on someone, hard to tell who at first. You flip through them a little bit and you realize these are some notes on a young nurse named Vince Markevicz.

A Ali (Katerina) 45:33

I will take those.

S Storyteller Rina 45:35

You can just lightly skim them enough to see his name pop up and you realize that these notes start four years ago.

A Ali (Katerina) 45:46

Yes, I will, I will fold those up and put them in my pocket.

S Storyteller Rina 45:53

You abscond with the notes?

A Ali (Katerina) 45:55
Yes. Is there anything else?

S Storyteller Rina 46:00
You find under the drawer where you'd normally put pencils and pens and things, you tap around on that and there's a false bottom to it. And you pull out some quite lovely jewelry. Actually, it looks very old. There's some some rings with precious gems in them. And there's what looks like a very fancy ruby necklace.

A Ali (Katerina) 46:26
I'll put those away.

S Storyteller Rina 46:29
You put them back or you take them with you?

A Ali (Katerina) 46:30
No, I'm gonna put them back. That's not what I'm after.

S Storyteller Rina 46:35
Alright. Other than that, you don't find anything in here.

A Ali (Katerina) 46:38
Ok, I'm gonna like go back out into like the living room or den area and see if there's any other bookshelves.

S Storyteller Rina 46:50
So you head back to the living room. While you're doing that, Alex and Rahm were poking around in the library. So, Alex, you were looking for fetters, correct?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 47:04
Yeah, so if there aren't any in here, then I will just start looking around the apartment or the

mean, so if there aren't any in here, then I will just start looking around the apartment or the townhouse.

S Storyteller Rina 47:13

So you catch a glimpse of an aura from a book. But the book has been very badly damaged and the aura is so faint, you're not sure it's going to survive as a fetter for much longer, if at all. And then you can move out into the rest of the house and continue your search. So you do find in the living room area, aside from the bloody tongue that's on the table, you do find there's what looks like a pocket watch that's been laid out neatly on a side table next to this dark green reclining chair. And the pocket watch looks fairly antique, and on the inside is the inscription "love, S" and there's an aura around it.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 48:22

Ok. Is that all I find so far?

S Storyteller Rina 48:25

That's all you've found. So Rahm how did you do on your roll?

T Teagan (Rahm) 48:30

Oh, I was able to roll 2 Successes out of 4.

S Storyteller Rina 48:38

Ok. So what are you looking for in particular in here? You said you weren't touching anything. But what are you looking for specifically?

T Teagan (Rahm) 48:46

The young Vincent really turned me on to this concept that perhaps she would have set up some sort of message or failsafe. And so I am just looking for something that she may have made obvious for us to find, or for him to find.

S Storyteller Rina 49:06

Ok. So you go looking around in the destroyed remnants of this library. And now you've got the wet kind of squish from the fire suppressant that Alex brought in, and you have to gingerly step over some viscera as you go. And it looks like every single book was pulled off the shelf, except for one. You find it in the back corner behind the door.

- T** Teagan (Rahm) 49:44
Alright. Um, I'd like to take a look at this book.
- S** Storyteller Rina 49:47
It appears to be a first edition printing of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" by Robert Louis Stevenson.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 50:00
And if Vince is still close enough to call over, I'd like to call him over to me and show it to him.
- J** John (Vince) 50:05
Vince has wandered off at this point.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 50:09
Ok, well, while I'm looking for Vince, I'm going to look inside the inside covers and see if there's maybe a bookmark on a certain page or anything marked in here.
- S** Storyteller Rina 50:19
You do find an inscription in very fancy penmanship on the inside. "To Lizzy, with thanks. RLS."
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 50:33
And of course, my brain is like me, like, I'm thinking about Goosebumps and like RL Stein. So I don't know if I'm getting the correct reference or not. But that's what I'm assuming.
- S** Storyteller Rina 50:51
Well, the author's name is Robert Louis Stevenson, so...
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 50:54
Nope, nope, that's not Rahm's thinking. Rahm is thinking RL Stein and Goosebumps.
- S** Storyteller Rina 51:00

Ok. So that's what we're going with. So you get an idea about who might have given this inscription. And you start flipping, flipping through the book, trying to see if you can find anything in there. So what is Vince doing while this is going on? Where did you wander off to?

J John (Vince) 51:21

Vince's just wandered off to Karen's room, and he is grabbing a weekend bag from her closet.

S Storyteller Rina 51:30

Ok.

J John (Vince) 51:32

Vince is not in a great place psychologically right now. He is a little bit upset.

S Storyteller Rina 51:37

Really?

J John (Vince) 51:38

Yeah, no, turns out, trauma. But Vince still doesn't know a ton about vampires. So he is going to take this empty weekend away bag, and he's also going to go to the kitchen, pick up some black plastic bags, and he's going to start into the library and gather every single bone of hers that he can find into the one of the black plastic bags. And he's just talking the whole time. He's like,

V Vince 52:11

You should have been, I should have done something. I should have acted on it. I should have... I should have protected you. I mean, you know, compared to you, I'm not much. I'm pretty disposable. I should have done something I gotta find...

J John (Vince) 52:29

He is alternating between "it should have been me" and "I am going to avenge you."

T Tiffanie (Alex) 52:38

I'm going to interrupt him and bring him the pocket watch.

J John (Vince) 52:43
Vince is just like,

V Vince 52:46
It's an old watch. So you had lots of old stuff. I mean, turns out you're, when you're 500 odd years old, you accumulate stuff.

A Alex 52:52
This is like Mina's book. Pull your head out of your ass just a moment and listen to me.

J John (Vince) 52:59
And that kind of gets him. He's like,

V Vince 53:01
It's like Mina's book. Ok, yeah. Ok.

A Alex 53:04
So this is going to be special to her.

J John (Vince) 53:08
On one level, he's like, "Oh, excellent. That means we might be able to, you know, see what, whether someone was here forcing her to do these things." And then he's like, "it also means she treasured a gift from someone else." He's just like, "huh, that hurts a little bit. It's pretty good watch too, probably."

A Alex 53:26
So my suggestion is to keep this in a safe place. Or on you. But I don't know if you want her suddenly interrupting everything you're doing, if she's still around. I mean, I would assume since I found this. Also. It says "Love, S." Do you know who that might be from?

V Vince 53:49
.....

Off the top of my head, no, no, off the top of my head. It's like, she's like, 500 years old. She...she was like 500 years old. So you know, I mean it's like, there's a lot of people that could have been, I guess.

A Alex 54:17
Ok, well, here, you take this. And you could even ask Mina about it.

V Vince 54:28
Yeah, that's a good idea.

A Alex 54:30
Which...you haven't read to her in a while.

V Vince 54:34
Yes. Well, I thought I was gonna get home last night, but I'll smooth things over there. But, oh, geez. Oh, Karen was the only lead on her daughter. So I'm gonna have to figure out...

A Alex 54:51
You have a whole clan to ask.

V Vince 54:58
Yeah, but I only know like 3 other Tremere and one of them's dead.

A Alex 55:05
Well, I can always ask Vera, too.

V Vince 55:11
Ok. I'm sure that they're probably used, in the clan at large, to her quirks by now. So maybe they'll be like, oh, yes, she does that to all of them. Yeah, I'll hold on to the watch.

A Alex 55:29
Ok. I'll let you do that.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 55:31
And I'm gonna go find Marcus.

M Marcus 55:35
I'm probably somewhere upstairs now, like, on the main level of townhouse.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 55:39
Ok, well, I'm gonna wander around until I find you. And if I do...

A Alex 55:43
I don't really have a body to look at.

M Marcus 55:49
You say that so casually.

A Alex 55:51
Of course. That's what I do.

M Marcus 55:54
Well, we have other problems. Where's Vince?

A Alex 55:57
He's cleaning her up.

M Marcus 56:01
Well, this house is a massive Masquerade violation waiting to happen. And even us being here is dangerous now.

A Alex 56:13

Alex 56:15
What's going on?

M Marcus 56:16
It's the basement, it's a problem. So there was likely some fairly, I don't know what you call it, busy blood sorcery going on down there. Whatever the Tremere call it. There's stacks of bodies down there, all sorts of fun implements for the queen to play with, and maybe a blood bag or two. There's some strange blood writing on the floor. I really think though, it's important that Vince gets the idea that it is his cross to bear in some regard.

A Alex 56:58
So you want to leave him here to clean up?

M Marcus 57:01
No, I want to - and this is something that I have been meaning to say, but I'm glad I can say it to you directly, rather than with a bunch of other people around - we have to stop coddling him. He has to start walking on his own. He has to start being his own person. And that also means that we have to stop ordering him around. Because it's starting to get under my skin.

A Alex 57:26
Getting under your skin. But then I'm not willing to just let him walk into death.

M Marcus 57:35
He's already dead.

A Alex 57:36
Yeah. But it's easier to talk to him this way than the other way.

M Marcus 57:41
Fair. Just, maybe it's the way I was raised. But when when you're set up in your first job and you start to work, he's going to have to fail on his own a little bit. We have other problems, like that halfmoon blood that's on the door there. We're only getting closer and closer to full.

A Alex 58:02

Yes, I'm aware. I still think the Tremere have something to do with it. And that is part of why I take care of Vince.

M Marcus 58:15

I think you take care of Vince because you're an information broker. That's a subtle way for you to get it.

A Alex 58:19

He has no information to give.

M Marcus 58:21

Not yet but he's a key insight to a clan that is very secretive. And I'm certain that that means something to you. And you know what? I don't care.

A Alex 58:29

You don't have to.

M Marcus 58:30

It doesn't matter to me. No, I know. It's wonderful. It's very liberating, actually. I just want to make sure that you and us, the coterie, don't hang ourselves trying to give Vince every perfect little order. Because all that Neonate has to do is turn around and say "they told me to do it." And he's without a sire now. Which means if he wasn't released by her, who knows what the Prince could do to him? The Prince could say that he's not properly prepared. His clan could do that. And then it's, it's literally final night for him. I just want everybody to be careful in this house. If the cops find it, there's no way to explain what happened here.

A Alex 59:21

Well, then, how are we going to clean it up?

M Marcus 59:26

I am going to take care of it, because I am not going to have this mess on my head.

A Alex 59:36

Well, I also think it's important since we keep walking in last minute on these other vampires

that we need to find out why a human was affected.

M Marcus 59:54

That's an excellent question. I have some documents I'd like you and Vince to take a look at together.

A Alex 1:00:01

Ok.

M Marcus 1:00:02

It's important, mostly because I don't speak Latin. Nor do I read it, but I can... I went to Catholic Church enough to know that what, what Latin looks like. It's important that whatever legacy she left him, he gets ownership of.

A Alex 1:00:22

I agree.

M Marcus 1:00:24

For better or for worse,

A Alex 1:00:25

Well, it is what it is. It's just too bad that she didn't do her Tremere part and take care of him like she was supposed to.

M Marcus 1:00:37

It's a crucial part of vampiric societies, I'm certain you well know. There are some sires who simply do not care for the children they make.

A Alex 1:00:46

You misunderstand. When we are brought up, we are a family, you do not get left behind.

M Marcus 1:00:53

Which is why I said some. I wouldn't doubt your family obligations. It's fairly well known. I would be very interested now if the Queen asked for the right of progeny from the Prince, and whether or not Vince is unknown or was properly presented?

A Alex 1:01:18

I don't know. I mean, the Prince did seem to know who he was.

M Marcus 1:01:24

Certainly. But the Prince is fairly crafty. It wouldn't shock me if they decided to go along to get along to figure out what the issue was. It isn't like the Prince has never gone back on their word before.

A Alex 1:01:42

Yeah. Ok. I can see that.

M Marcus 1:01:47

I'll work to get the house cleaned up. And after that, you and I do have a body to investigate because I can't explain the type of wounds that it took. Nor can I explain what happened. I don't like how closely it fell on my domain's doorstep. Too many questions.

A Alex 1:02:09

I just don't want to wait too many more nights, because then the smell is a little distracting.

M Marcus 1:02:15

Oh, certainly. I mean, they were bagged and put on ice. But that doesn't, it's not going to stop the decomposition.

A Alex 1:02:21

Do you want to hand me the documents? Or do you want to hand them to Vince yourself?

M Marcus 1:02:27

I think it's important he gets them from me directly.

A Alex 1:02:29
Ok.

M Marcus 1:02:30
Not that you can't see the outcome of it in the basement if you want to get a look before I get things cleaned up.

A Alex 1:02:37
Yeah, because I think that might be death culty. I usually don't touch anything that messy. But I could be wrong.

M Marcus 1:02:46
There's quite a bit of rot down there as well.

A Alex 1:02:47
Yeah, that doesn't sound Tremere-y to me. Alright.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:02:55
Yeah, I'll wander down to the basement.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:02:56
And then, yeah, I'll work on the other part. So I'm going to wander in and find Vince, hopefully going through bones or get having gotten his shit together, as Alex has prodded him to do and I'll approach him and just say,

M Marcus 1:03:19
It seems that your sire had some rather active practices in the basement. Were you aware of this?

V Vince 1:03:27
No, no. I've only been here like, three times.

M Marcus 1:03:33

I understand. I've dealt with a lot of vampires over the years who've had the unfortunate, rather unfortunate side effect of having a sire that either decided to cast them aside, or they simply didn't... They didn't live up to what their sire wanted. And it's a, it's a heavy burden to bear. So that I understand. It actually is what sometimes fuels the Anarch movement in Oakland. It's not uncommon. There were some documents downstairs. They're written in Latin. Are you familiar with the tongue?

V Vince 1:04:08

From some of my studies, yes. I'd have passing familiarity, well, passing. I'll be able to read them.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:04:21

So I pass them over to him.

M Marcus 1:04:23

There's a fairly detailed diagram here of something that has been put up in the basement. I'm making sure Alex has a look at it before we go. But provided you can read this, I'd like you and I to have a drink sometime. I have a few other things I'd like you to look at. Just for direct translation.

V Vince 1:04:44

I mean, it wouldn't be any hassle. Just need to...might need a dictionary for some of the more obscure terms but no, that's fine.

M Marcus 1:04:54

We have more pressing matters at the moment. This house as you see it, ok, hopefully you're not too attached to it.

V Vince 1:05:04

I was only here three times.

M Marcus 1:05:07

Ok. You won't be coming back.

V Vince 1:05:10
Shouldn't we call, uh, Esmeralda? Or no?

M Marcus 1:05:14
I'll take care of it.

J John (Vince) 1:05:16
He just nods.

M Marcus 1:05:18
The basement's pretty bad. So it's important that we get it cleaned up before there's a Masquerade breach.

J John (Vince) 1:05:25
Vincent just nods slowly, like, "I don't entirely understand that term. But I know it's bad."

M Mike (Marcus) 1:05:32
Do I get the read that Vince kind of just slowly nods his head as if he doesn't really get what's going on?

J John (Vince) 1:05:42
I would say it's fair to say because like, Vince knows, it's like, "look, you got to stay under this, stay below the radar. Don't do things that would reveal the existence of vampires. Don't do magic in public, don't drain somebody and leave a body in a whole with, a corpse with two holes in the neck." He's like, but I'm a bagger. I don't. I don't know.

V Vince 1:06:05
What do you want from me?

M Marcus 1:06:07
Sure. I'm not here to create the rules for you. That's really not my... well, that's not really my...

sure. I'm not here to quote the rules to you. That's really not my...well, they're not really my thing. But there are a couple of really important rules and not breaking the Masquerade is top of the list.

V Vince 1:06:20

Yeah, because the Second Inquisition, right?

M Marcus 1:06:24

Actually, it's more like the first. But the point of not breaking the Masquerade is that because the way that we all continue to exist in this symbiotic relationship with mortals is by making sure they don't know who the fuck we are. Yeah, and take it from a clan who's got, say a bit of a history with breaking the Masquerade, given our physical abilities, I'd like to make sure that we're on the same page. Forget the fact that we've likely broke the domain tradition by entering this building unannounced and without permission. But given the fact that the owner is dead, I don't think anyone can hold us responsible.

V Vince 1:07:00

Like, look, I think we can work around that. I don't think anyone's gonna hold that over our heads. Except maybe Cyril. But you know, I mean, like, he's an asshole.

M Marcus 1:07:12

Take whatever you need. And when Alex is ready to go, go with them.

V Vince 1:07:20

Ok. Ok.

J John (Vince) 1:07:21

Then he just picks up the bag, that weekend bag of bones next to him. He's just like,

V Vince 1:07:26

Well, yeah, no, the books are all destroyed. There's, we're not going to get anything out of those. It's kind of like, I don't know what exactly she did in the basement. But I'll go have a look. I might recognize something. And these papers might help.

M Marcus 1:07:42

 Marcus 1:07:42

I mean, I don't recommend it. But as your sire is gone, this is your home. This will be the last time you're here. And so it's your right.

 Vince 1:07:54

Thanks.

 John (Vince) 1:07:56

He's like,

 Vince 1:07:58

Marcus, do vampires have wills? Is that a thing?

 Marcus 1:08:01

We do, certainly.

 Vince 1:08:04

So there's like vampire lawyers for vampires, rather than just vampire lawyers that feed on people?

 Marcus 1:08:08

Well sure. What do you think the Ventrue are in business for?

 Vince 1:08:16

Oh, I see. But that explains a bunch.

 John (Vince) 1:08:19

As he gets led into the kitchen and down into the basement, he's like,

 Vince 1:08:23

Oh, he wasn't kidding about the bloody corpses in the death cult. Oh, oh jeez. Ah. Alright.

J John (Vince) 1:08:31
Can I make an Occult roll?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:08:34
Yeah, I was looking in the basement too.

S Storyteller Rina 1:08:37
Yeah, both of you can give me Occult plus Intelligence. And you're going to need 4 successes. So while you're doing that, Katerina, you were going wandering around looking for more books?

A Ali (Katerina) 1:08:57
Yes, indeed.

S Storyteller Rina 1:09:00
All you find outside the library is in the living room. There's a small bookcase that appears to be filled with popular novels, so more modern entertainment style. There's some Dan Brown but there's also there's some Tolkein - Lord of the Rings with the movie covers though, not the original covers or you know some nice artwork, it's just you've got Orlando Bloom's face staring out at you from the cover of The Two Towers -and there's a few other books from Tom Clancy, there's some Le Carre and a few others in the spy thriller genre as well.

A Ali (Katerina) 1:09:46
I'm actually going to pull all of them off and like open them up to see if any of them are like carved out as a nice hiding spot for things.

S Storyteller Rina 1:09:58
Ok, so you pull out all of these books and one of the books that you remove is Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde and this one has a note written in the front: "Thanks for coming to the party. You're always a blast, Sebastian."

A Ali (Katerina) 1:10:24
Fantastic. Anything else?

S Storyteller Rina 1:10:27
Oh, that's the only book that you notice anything out of the ordinary.

A Ali (Katerina) 1:10:30
Ok.

S Storyteller Rina 1:10:32
Most of them don't look like they've been read except for the Clancys and Le Carres.

A Ali (Katerina) 1:10:39
Alright, then I am probably going to wander into the kitchen and see if there's anything unusual going on in there.

S Storyteller Rina 1:10:49
Ok, so off you go into the kitchen. Rahm, are you still in the library? Or did you follow Vince down into the serial killer dungeon? You've got your copy of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde that you were flipping through. And then you look up and Vince isn't there anymore; he's going out of the room with Marcus. Are you following them down into the serial killer dungeon? Are you staying up here? What are you doing?

T Teagan (Rahm) 1:11:12
Yeah, no, I'm going to follow them into the dungeon, I'm just going to unceremoniously drop this book that obviously has no evidence use in it, do it means nothing to me anymore. I drop it on the floor, and I walk downstairs.

T Teagan (Rahm) 1:11:23
Yes, I know what Mr. Voss is going to do with this house. So it doesn't really matter where this book is.

S Storyteller Rina 1:11:23
Ok, so you drop the book on the floor, you leave it there in the burned, now somewhat wet from the fire suppressant, smoke-filled room and you follow them down into the basement.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:11:43

More than likely. The two of you go down into the basement, and you are also hit with the stench of all of this death. And Vince, you've been around corpses before but this is, this is really bad. You've been there at the moment of death for several patients, including Mr. Perkins. But there's so many of them in various stages of decomposition. And you're not used to seeing anything like this. And Rahm, this just reminds you that you're hungry. God, you are so hungry. And I think you might need a Willpower roll here to resist the need to feed. You haven't eaten in several days, Rahm. There's so many corpses.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:12:45

I succeeded.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:12:47

You succeeded. But oh, man, you've got to eat soon. You're so fucking hungry.

T

Teagan (Rahm) 1:12:55

Hey, don't sound so disappointed that I succeeded.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:12:58

I'm not disappointed. Why, why would you say that?

J

John (Vince) 1:13:03

You know, one of us will fail this check someday,

S

Storyteller Rina 1:13:05

Eventually. Alright, so you go down into the basement with Alex. And so Vince and Alex, how did you do on your rolls to look at these symbols?

V

Vince 1:13:18

Four successes, one of which is a 10.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:13:20

Nice.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:13:21

I got 3, but I planned on using Fatal Precog on the people in the center of the circle.

S Storyteller Rina 1:13:28

Ok. So you're focusing more on the people who are in the center. And Vince, you're looking more at the symbols. And so Vince, you recognize these symbols. You've seen them before. Karen actually wrote them in her journal, that's where you saw them. And she's painted one of these in a ritual before. You go around the circle and then you go backwards around the circle trying to put these things together. And this seems to be a blood purification ritual.

V Vince 1:14:10

This is a blood purification ritual. I would think based on our information so far that Karen thinks, or, thought that the curse is literally in the blood. That it's quite literally in the blood, but I guess this should have been successful if it was and...

A Alex 1:14:41

So she tried several times, probably considering the bodies that are laying around.

V Vince 1:14:46

In the various stages of decomposition. Yes. I mean, death magic is pretty powerful stuff. That's if...

J John (Vince) 1:15:00

Then he's like,

V Vince 1:15:01

Wait, what if... what if she was right? I'm gonna need to check her her journal. I've got it at home. I don't have it with me. But I'm going to check the dates on it. And see how long she's been dealing with this. I would suspect she's had the dreams like the rest. Yeah, I think that she might have been on the right track if, if she's having these for a long time. And this managed to keep her safe until now. And if, if she was wrong, she was wrong. What can you do? But it should be pretty easy to check, because we have data for how long it took to affect, say, Luther and the Ventrue.

A Alex 1:15:52
So you want to stop by your place?

V Vince 1:15:55
Oh, I'm gonna stay there tonight. I got to talk to Mina anyway.

T Teagan (Rahm) 1:15:59
Can I ask a question, Rlna?

S Storyteller Rina 1:16:03
You can ask.

T Teagan (Rahm) 1:16:04
So do our characters know anything about the larger events in the VtM world? Like the emptying of London or the call of some of the really elder ones to the Middle East?

S Storyteller Rina 1:16:20
Well, it it depends on you and what you think your character would be interested in. For example, Alex definitely would be on top of all of that. Marcus would be on top of all of that. Vince? Probably not. In fact, almost certainly not, because he's not plugged into vampire society at all. Katerina might know some of it, especially because she works with other vampires. And for you, it's up to it's up to you what you think Rahm would know. Is Rahm interested in keeping track of what's going on in vampire society, especially outside of the Bay Area? Does he have connections there to know what's happening? And does he care?

T Teagan (Rahm) 1:17:02
To the extent of of how it impacts the the metaphysical and his belief system in his pursuit of Golconda. If that's the case, then I'd want to bring that up to Alex, the oldest person in our, in our group, and I'd say something along the lines like,

R Rahm the Shaman 1:17:28
Alex, does it ever bother you? When you think about all of the changes in the vampire world in the last few year worrs? ly that we're seeing that here. Something like what happened in London or what's going what's happening with the older ones.

A Alex 1:18:01

In my time, I have seen a lot of change in the way that we operate and the things that we do. I am still under the impression that this is some kind of ritual. As far as the older ones being called, who knows if that was a cult or a rumor that was started and they're so old and out of their minds that they decided it was a great place to go somewhere that's sunny 90% of the time. I mean, it doesn't sound like a vacation for me, but...

R Rahm the Shaman 1:18:39

Just, I'm just weirded out. You know?

A Alex 1:18:42

Well, the thing that strikes me the most is that the most of the Gangrel got out of here before any of this started. And they are usually more in tune with something being off kilter than anybody else.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:19:05

A canary in a coal mine.

A Alex 1:19:08

Yeah. Say what you will about them but their animal instincts are usually spot on.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:19:18

This, this, the guy that you brought into the apartment when I woke up, is he Gangrel or Tremere or anything along those lines?

A Alex 1:19:30

He's your run of the mill businessman.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:19:36

He's not, he's not a Kindred?

A Alex 1:19:40

No, he is. He's a Ventrue.

R

Rahm the Shaman 1:19:44

Oh. Alright. Well, so much for patterns.

A

Alex 1:19:50

Yeah. Now the only pattern we have so far is potential days and how bad the dreams get before we lose someone.

R

Rahm the Shaman 1:20:05

There's gotta be something linking people. It's got to be something in common. I mean, that's how these things, that's how they always go. There's the you know, in all the stories. I know this is real life but you know, logic follows there has to be some connection between them.

A

Alex 1:20:27

So far, it seems to be, if I'm thinking about it correctly, Camarilla higher ups.

R

Rahm the Shaman 1:20:39

Oh really? Well, that's not gonna be good for anybody.

A

Alex 1:20:44

Well, you got Luther, right, who was the Sheriff. You got Felix, who was, it seemed like he was pretty high in Clan Ventrue. Like he was running the clan. Don't get me wrong. I don't know all the Camarilla thingies. And then Karen, who is one of the higher ranking members of Tremere, next to Vera.

R

Rahm the Shaman 1:21:20

You must be worried about it. I can see why the Prince is concerned.

A

Alex 1:21:28

Well, and especially if the Prince's brother seem to have the same affliction. Now, I wasn't granted access to that body. So I don't know. But it sounds like it.

- R** Rahm the Shaman 1:21:44
Let's say even if it is a ritual, Alex, what would be the point of this game? Whoever's doing it?
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 1:21:56
Well, since there was mention of a death cult, it could be the work of that. The only other people that I would think that can do this kind of thing is a Tremere, and why would they do it? For more power? Or to wake somebody up? And I do know that there's a pretty powerful visitor to our city.
- S** Storyteller Rina 1:22:30
So, Vince, a lot of this is going over your head, except for the mention of the Tremere wanting more power. Alex, were you going to attempt to speak to these corpses?
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 1:22:48
Not after he told me what they were used for. I was going to do that to figure it out. . Yeah. Yeah, no.
- S** Storyteller Rina 1:22:57
Damn it, Vince.
- J** John (Vince) 1:23:02
You guys, did she tell you why she killed you? Got any, any notions on that front?
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 1:23:10
I don't need to see the dirty way in which she made this all happen. I'm good.
- S** Storyteller Rina 1:23:15
We had such sites to show you. Alright. So you finish up your conversation in the basement. Do you take anything with you when you leave?
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 1:23:32
Not unless I see any other fetters or anything.

S Storyteller Rina 1:23:35

No. There's not really anything like that down here except for some actual fetters in a physical sense.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:23:46

Right. There were literal fetters in the library.

S Storyteller Rina 1:23:48

Yes. Also those. So not a whole lot of interest down here for you once you've realized what was happening, once Vince figured out what those symbols meant. So Katerina, you don't find anything really in the kitchen. It's fairly empty. There's some wine it looks like in the fridge. Air quotes wine. And everything else looks like it's almost never been used.

A Ali (Katerina) 1:24:22

Oh, ok. Then I will head back to like the main hallway right by the front door, just kind of linger and wait.

S Storyteller Rina 1:24:33

Everyone has assembled, Marcus.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:24:38

Oh, wonderful.

M Marcus 1:24:40

So I hope you've all enjoyed your visit here to the house. I'm gonna go ahead and close the house down. I'll catch up with you.

A Alex 1:24:52

I'm going to take Vince home. Oh, and Rahm.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:24:56

I will turn to Katerina and say,

M

Marcus 1:24:58

Would you like me to call you ride?

K

Katerina 1:25:02

No, I will find my own way home. Thank you.

M

Mike (Marcus) 1:25:07

I'll nod and yeah, prepare for what comes next.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:25:16

Alright, so the rest of you leave the house. Katerina, if you're not going with Alex in the Lincoln, you can go to the nearest trolley or bus, whatever you can find. Marcus, that leaves you alone to protect the Masquerade.

M

Marcus 1:25:34

It's a funny life we lead. So, I am going to casually make a call to a very important contact in the underworld of San Francisco. I will ask them to assist me in dealing with a situation at a house in Jackson that has gotten out of hand. And this is likely something that they have heard before. And I will tell them to bring a copious amount of cleaning supplies, which they have probably also heard before,

S

Storyteller Rina 1:26:12

Most certainly. Are you calling Takeshi or one of your other contacts?

M

Mike (Marcus) 1:26:18

Certainly. Takeshi has already done some work for me. So I will call him. The important point here is I am not calling Esmeralda.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:26:28

Duly noted. So you call Takeshi, and within about 30 minutes, he shows up in a van, a couch cleaning van. At least that's what the sign on the side of the van says. And he and two of his associates immediately begin to clean up all of the destruction, something that you had been told to expect.

his accomplices jump out, bringing in all of the cleaning supplies and everything else that you requested.

M

Mike (Marcus) 1:26:56

Yeah, this is a essentially a no questions asked crew. It's what I pay them to do when we have, say union meetings that go foul or when there needs to be adjustments made to contracts out of season. And so I'll simply instruct them that the main area of concern is the basement. Before they arrive, I will have swept or washed clean most of the blood markings as to not expose any of it even to the cleaners, anything that might be a little untoward. I mean bodies are one thing, people lined up into ritual circle of blood is something totally different. That said, that, and the library, are the biggest areas of concern. And then basically, every door handle that is in the house is getting bleached. And every hall that we walked down is getting bleached.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:27:58

Right. So Takeshi and his crew come in, they nod at you know, no verbal exchange needs to happen beyond you telling them where to go. And within an hour, the library and the basement have been cleared up of bodies, bones, viscera, all sorts of unsavory things.

M

Mike (Marcus) 1:28:22

Ok. Then I go into the kitchen and make sure there isn't anything left in the fridge or anything. You know, I mean, if she kept the death cult here, who knows? I didn't see any chest freezer downstairs. And I just double check.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:28:44

You don't find anything. Doesn't seem that she cared too much for feeding her herd, if that's what they were, just those bottles of wine that you instantly know are not wine. You can take those with you or just have Takeshi dispose of them, whichever you prefer. And the tongue.

M

Mike (Marcus) 1:29:06

Right, the tongue. I'll dispose of the tongue. I think, I don't think Alex would even want the tongue. Not really their bag. I'll take the wine though. That seems, perhaps if nothing else, I could bag it and then I could give it to Vince.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:29:26

So you take the wine, you leave everything else cleared up. So Takeshi and his crew finish cleaning and take the trash with them so as to not leave it in any local trash cans. You know they'll distribute it to various places around the city where it won't cause any uproar. And

Takeshi gives you a card like he normally does for you to pay him for his services later. And they depart. Are you leaving the house still standing?

M

Mike (Marcus) 1:30:03

Yeah, I had toyed with the idea of breaking the gas main open and letting the house blow up, because I think that it would likely serve as a nice epitaph. But I think it's even better in this case to not draw attention to the house at all, to simply leave it a cold dark place, which is befitting likely what happened inside.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:30:24

So Takeshi and his van drive away, and you exit wearing some latex gloves that he provided you to ensure that the bleached handles aren't disturbed by your fingerprints. And you walk away into the early morning of San Francisco, knowing you've done your job well. But now perhaps you have more questions than you do answers. And that is where we will leave this episode. Thank you everyone for joining us. I hope you will tune in next time to find out what other misadventures our coterie can get up to and what what other bodies perhaps they can find. Thank you and good night.