

Blood Moon Rising episode 13 Transcript

56:43

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 roleplaying rules by World of Darkness. This actual plays 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 and welcome to a special episode of the Old Ways Podcast's Vampire the Masquerade chronicle "Blood Moon Rising." I'm your Storyteller, Storyteller Rina, and tonight, we're going to turn the spotlight onto two of our coterie members, and see what happens after last episode's planning meeting. So let's hear some introductions from our cast members for tonight. So to my right:

J John (Vince) 01:28

Hi, I'm John, and I'll be playing Vince Markevich of Clan Tremere, who has no reason to be nervous about this evening whatsoever.

S Storyteller Rina 01:38

Absolutely not. He should never be nervous about anything ever. And to Vince's right:

K Katerina 01:46

Hi, this is Ali and I play Katerina Bogdanovich of Clan Toreador, and you have nothing to be worried about. I just have some questions.

S Storyteller Rina 01:59

And nothing is ominous about that whatsoever. Alright, so we begin this episode just after the events of the coterie meeting together in Marcus's very interesting safe space of a shipping container, where Katerina got perhaps a little bit heated, and Vince is dealing with the fallout from, well, murder. So after the meeting, the two of you decided that you were going to leave together because Katerina wanted to talk to Vince about some things. And so tonight, let's see where this conversation takes us. So you're setting out into the night. Vince was brought by Alex, so Vince doesn't have a car. And Ali usually takes public transportation or walks. So where are the two of you going? And how are you getting there?

K Katerina 03:02

Well, I guess that depends. Does Vince have a smartphone?

J John (Vince) 03:06

Vince does have a smartphone.

K Katerina 03:09

Katerina, me, I would be willing to take an Uber.

S Storyteller Rina 03:17

gasp

A Ali (Katerina) 03:18

Right?

J John (Vince) 03:19

First time this season.

A Ali (Katerina) 03:24

I'm not the biggest fan of Ubers because it's strangers, and more strangers, and I'm not that worried about being murdered. I'm worried about murdering the driver if they try anything

worried about being murdered. I'm worried about murdering the driver, if they try anything.

J John (Vince) 03:38

Vince is not from great background. So he's like,

V Vince 03:45

If you want, we can take the tram across city. We don't have to take a bus out to my neighborhood. But you know, it's I mean, it'll take a while or we can wait to get the Uber, which is faster.

K Katerina 03:54

We should probably, we should probably do the Uber.

V Vince 03:58

Ok.

J John (Vince) 03:59

And he'll just put in a call. He's like, down by the docks getting an Uber. Let's see how this goes.

S Storyteller Rina 04:07

Yeah, it takes a little bit of time, especially because it's early morning at this point. But it is San Francisco. So you do have people out at all hours of the night doing various things. And so eventually, you do get a small black car pulling up and a Pakistani man looks out the window. He looks at the app comparing pictures. Looks a little suspicious. He's just like,

U Uber Driver 04:44

Vince?

J John (Vince) 04:46

Vince just throws out one hand in a casual way like yep, right here, bud. He's like, oh, let's, let's go.

S Storyteller Rina 04:55
Do you talk in the Uber or is it just kind of an awkward silence for the 25 or so minute drive to Vince's bungalow?

K Katerina 05:03
Well, that depends. Is Vince holding the door open for me?

U Uber Driver 05:07
An excellent question.

J John (Vince) 05:10
I'm not entirely sure that he would know to do that, because he's very modern. Like he's very modern. He's just like, people open their own doors where I'm from. Yeah. Just like, he opens his eyes. He's like,

V Vince 05:28
You're not gonna get in?

K Katerina 05:31
There's just gonna be a pause, and I'll open the door and get in

S Storyteller Rina 05:39
Well, Vince is in trouble.

J John (Vince) 05:41
He's done something wrong.

S Storyteller Rina 05:43
We have a long, awkward silence for about 27 minutes as you drive back to Vince's bungalow. The Uber driver is content to not speak, he seems a bit tired, which given the fact that it's about 2:30 in the morning makes sense. And he just puts on some Miley Cyrus very, very loud. So you are eventually deposited outside of your bungalow, Vince. And the Uber driver says,

U Uber Driver 06:16
5 stars. Remember, 5 stars!

S Storyteller Rina 06:18
And gives you a thumbs up.

K Katerina 06:20
Listen, 5/5 for not talking.

S Storyteller Rina 06:24
Absolutely relatable.

J John (Vince) 06:25
Yeah, Vince just nods and is like, no, didn't talk. We'll give five stars. Yeah.

S Storyteller Rina 06:31
So he drives off into the fairly quiet night. Vince's bungalow's in a decent neighborhood. So it's pretty quiet in the wee hours of the morning. You do hear a couple dogs barking and somewhere a couple houses down the street you hear a baby screaming, which they tend to do whenever they feel like it. But it's becomes quiet again within a few seconds. So Vince, you're home. You don't know how the ghost is going to feel about things. But you are home at least.

J John (Vince) 07:06
And Vince turns, and he's like,

V Vince 07:10
Miss Bogdanovich, Katerina I...also I don't know which one is appropriate. So, I live with a ghost and she's technically the landlord. So I gotta have to ask if you can enter. It should be ok. But just bear with, just please wait a moment and I'll...

K Katerina 07:35
Understood. I can wait.

understand I can wait.

V Vince 07:39
Thank you very much. I'm so sorry about this.

J John (Vince) 07:40
And he just like brisk jogs up to the front door. He's like, she can see him cringe as he opens the door and and just unlocks it, opens up.

S Storyteller Rina 07:53
No books come flying at your head this time.

J John (Vince) 07:58
He's just like,

V Vince 08:00
Mina. We have a guest. Her name is Katerina Bogdanovich. She is also a vampire. I have some news for you after after she has left, but,

J John (Vince) 08:16
He just kind of whispers this.

V Vince 08:17
Please like, please, please be nice.

S Storyteller Rina 08:21
The pencil that was lying on the floor of the hallway from where the ghost tossed it a couple of nights ago lifts and it just taps the wall once,, we assume for "Yes."

J John (Vince) 08:34
And he just leans out the door and just gives her a thumbs up. He's like, it's ok.

- A** Ali (Katerina) 08:40
And I'll just give you a quizzical look. raised eyebrow before I walk into the door. And I'll take off my trench coat cause I don't go anywhere without that. And I'll hand it to you.
- J** John (Vince) 08:57
Yeah, and it's kind of like, ok, I've got to get used to the fact that some vampires are literally from a period where this is how things went. So he's like,
- V** Vince 09:11
Oh, thank you. I'll just hang it up here.
- J** John (Vince) 09:12
And he actually does have a coat hook next to the door. And he will hang yours up. And he's like,
- V** Vince 09:18
Well, I left mine behind at Alex's house, but I'll pick it up at some point.
- K** Katerina 09:24
You should keep track of your belongings better.
- V** Vince 09:26
Yeah.
- J** John (Vince) 09:28
He nods. He's like,
- V** Vince 09:31
Yeah, after after Karen died, I just got real real low. And yeah. I mean, you should have seen me before. Before I came, before we met up earlier, it wasn't pretty. I hadn't fed in a few days and yeah, that was messy.

- J** John (Vince) 09:55
Wearing his longshore union shirt.
- S** Storyteller Rina 09:58
And borrowed shoes.
- V** Vince 09:59
And borrowed shoes. Yes, sorry. Gifted t-shirt, borrowed shoes.
- K** Katerina 10:06
Well, I had a meeting with another Tremere. And I wrote down some information, but I will need help interpreting it for us.
- V** Vince 10:28
Well, let's go through to the library. I've got a table with two chairs there, we can...I've got a desk lamp, we can take our time and work through it.
- K** Katerina 10:38
Very good.
- V** Vince 10:40
Yes, it's got two chairs and one of them's usually for Mina, but I don't think she'll mind.
- S** Storyteller Rina 10:47
Yeah, as you say that, Vince, you realize Mina is a bit quiet tonight. Other than the pencil tapping on the wall to say that Katerina could come in, like, it's weirdly quiet in here.
- A** Ali (Katerina) 11:05
Is she pouting?

J John (Vince) 11:06

Vince has a feeling that when you leave, things will get bad for Vince. Or that things might be bad for Vince in a very short period of time. As we walk in, he's going to be explaining. He's like,

V Vince 11:18

So Mina, she was looking for her daughter, who Karen said she had information about, but now that Karen is dead, I don't know how I'm going to be able to get that. It's, it's a little bit more complicated, but I'm still going to be able to work through it. I might need to lean on Alex, though.

K Katerina 11:38

There are private investigators. You can always hire someone if needed.

V Vince 11:45

Well, you see, the problem is that Mina died about 100 years ago.

K Katerina 11:49

Well, there are family trees.

V Vince 11:54

Yeah...my family, they don't really, we're not the type that keep...like, there's no printed one, there's no...

K Katerina 12:02

There is no even handwritten family tree?

J John (Vince) 12:06

And he just kind of looks at you. He's like,

V Vince 12:08

No, we just kind of knew my aunt. Then I find out that Mina is my great, great, great aunt, yeah, no, just I don't know, my family was...

J John (Vince) 12:23
He just pauses and then shrugs. He's like,

V Vince 12:25
We just didn't do that.

K Katerina 12:27
Well, this is unfortunate, but it's not the reason I'm here.

V Vince 12:32
Yes, of course, sorry.

J John (Vince) 12:34
And he rearranges the desk so the chairs are side by side.

A Ali (Katerina) 12:39
I'll reach into my other pocket, and I'll pull out like just this little travel notebook. And it's where I took all my notes while I was at Vera's. And I'll just like, open it to like the first page and hand it to Vince, and he'll see written at the top of this particular page "blood purification ritual."

V Vince 13:07
Sounds like you're researching what Karen was up to.

K Katerina 13:09
Not only that, but is this is from a much older Tremere I was fortunate enough to have trust me in giving me such a secret.

J John (Vince) 13:30
And Vince nods slowly he's like,

- V Vince 13:33
Well, Karen, Karen was pretty slow. So I can imagine even older members of the clan are slower still to share stuff.
- J John (Vince) 13:42
And he just puts down the notebook. And he's like, he just looks up and says,
- V Vince 13:46
You have very nice handwriting.
- J John (Vince) 13:48
And he's just back to reading.
- K Katerina 13:51
There are symbols and ingredients and instructions that I simply will not understand, given that I am not practiced in the blood magics.
- V Vince 14:11
Well, a lot of it's in code. And some of these things are substitutions. Some of them are symbols that have one meaning in one context and another in in our context. So a big part of my time as a Ghoul was learning some of these things so I could get them for for Karen and, well, three years as a vampire were mostly, when I wasn't working, I was learning the stuff. So I don't know all the secrets, I can have a first stab.
- J John (Vince) 14:48
And he's going to sit down and just take out a clean sheet of paper and he's going to start transcribing the symbols that he recognizes nd just like he's what he thinks that they're most likely to mean in this context.
- S Storyteller Rina 15:06
Ok, so give me Occult plus Intelligence. And because you're a Tremere, it's only going to take you 4 successes.

J John (Vince) 15:18
Seven successes out of 4, one of which is a 10. Vince is a nerd.

S Storyteller Rina 15:25
With that, this is to you a fairly simple ritual to read through, once you actually get into it. You have to spend a few minutes figuring out the peculiarities of Vera's specific style, or whoever this vampire is, you don't know her name. But whoever's style this is, it's slightly different from Karen's, and it takes you a couple minutes to work out how they phrased things, but once you get it, you get it. And you're able to rapidly go through it. And this, this ritual is based on on what you're reading, it dates back at least 1000 years. It seems to be a very old ritual, and it's for purifying mortal blood of things like the plague. So it appears to be a disease remover.

J John (Vince) 16:24
He looks up from it towards Katerina, and he's like,

V Vince 16:26
Well, originally, this was made for Kine blood. And it removes disease. Now, I'm not entirely certain that that's what we're looking at; what we're looking at's...

J John (Vince) 16:43
He pauses and scratches. He's like,

V Vince 16:44
Although I suppose it could be like some kind of weird bloodborne parasite. That doesn't make sense. If it's a disease, this should work. Give me a moment.

J John (Vince) 16:53
And he's going to... Oh, damn, do I have those notes from Karen's house? Or did I leave those at Alex's?

S Storyteller Rina 17:01
It's not with you. You did take notes, and you copied down the ritual circle that you saw at Karen's. But in your sort of frenzy, you left pretty much everything at Alex's, except for what was what you were wearing, which is now at Marcus's.

J John (Vince) 17:23
So he leans back in the chair, he's like,

V Vince 17:26
Ok, unfortunately, I left the vast majority of the notes and evidence gathered so far at Alex's apartment, that's not great. I'm just gonna pick those up tomorrow. Until then, I can really get a get a firm handle on on the difference between Karen's version of the ritual and this other member of Clan Tremere you got this from.

S Storyteller Rina 17:57
I will say, Vince, with considering how many successes you got on this, you do pick up on a couple of differences that you just kind of remember, now that your head is a bit clearer and you've had some time to separate a little bit from Karen's death. You are remembering a few things.

J John (Vince) 18:18
Right.

S Storyteller Rina 18:19
So this one, this one only takes the full blood and bodily fluids of one Kine. Karen's took several. Karen's seemed to be a very more empowered version of this, because it required a lot more blood and other fluids. And you also pick up on, there's some different symbols described in the ritual circle on this spell. Two of them are the same, two of the four are the same, but two of them are different. And without looking, you can't really compare the differences in the symbols. But you know for a fact, just looking at this sketch, the symbol at the top of the circle and the symbol to the left are different symbols from what you remember at Karen's. So I'll give you that with your good roll.

J John (Vince) 19:16
He'll explain this to Katerina. He's just like,

V Vince 19:19
Well, Ms. Bogdanovich, there are some differences between this and Karen's. The number of Kine used and the number of the symbols. The numbers are the same, but that,

J John (Vince) 19:35
And he points to her diagram and he's like,

V Vince 19:37
These two are different. That's, that's what I've got for you right now. I'd need more reference material than I have here. This library is, while nice, you know, very personal. It's not the most powerful. It's...

K Katerina 19:54
It is incomplete.

J John (Vince) 19:58
And he just nods.

V Vince 19:59
It's definitely not complete.

K Katerina 20:03
This Tremere ritual is for purifying Kine blood. Is there a way to modify to purify for Kindred blood?

J John (Vince) 20:18
And Vince kind of stops and looks at you. And he's like,

V Vince 20:21
I don't know. I know we can, with some spells and some rituals that they can be amplified to affect a member of the Kindred, but I don't...I don't know the details of how it's done.

J John (Vince) 20:41
He just kind of shrugs. He's like,



V Vince 20:43
As far as I can tell, that's all just in the blood, my blood as a caster. It would be limited by that.

K Katerina 20:54
It's just that, given the nature of the deaths and being the same, and there have been actively four that we know of, if we can pinpoint where individuals are being targeted, there might be something in this ritual that would be able to be purged. Whether or not it is something akin to a virus or bacteria, I wouldn't know, as I am not a doctor. I do know from some other sources that it takes time to rid the body of toxins.

A Ali (Katerina) 21:48
And of course, I would know that from the farm, and how that works and everything. I wouldn't know all the details, obviously. But I know that there's a process for it.

K Katerina 21:58
Well, it is important that we pinpoint where it starts or where the crossover is. If we can combine this ritual with the one that Karen was doing, and if there is a way that you could get into a more complete library, perhaps it is worth it to see if it can be applied specifically to Kindred.

J John (Vince) 22:39
Yeah, and Vince leans back in his chair, he's just like,

V Vince 22:41
Well, I only know two Tremere that are not my Sire. You probably know more. And one of them wouldn't be...well, I don't think he takes kindly to my being sired.

J John (Vince) 23:05
And he's just like stroking his chin, he's like,

V Vince 23:07
Well, we can...

K Katerina 23:08

exasperated Do you have access to a library that you do not need permission to enter?

V

Vince 23:19

There's no Tremere that let you access their library without permission, I can tell you that much. And even if they do, you'd usually be supervised. If you're left in the same room with all their books that'd be crazy, that they'd be leaving in the same room unsupervised with them.

S

Storyteller Rina 23:34

Katerina, you could give me a roll. Because with your connections in Kindred society, it's likely that you would have more names, obviously beyond just Vera.

A

Ali (Katerina) 23:47

Because I do have contacts.

S

Storyteller Rina 23:48

Right, you might know who the Whip is, for example, the clan whip, in which case Vince could definitely go to them or you might know some other people. So let's see if you if you know the right people. So I'm going to say Charisma as a social roll, and Politics.

A

Ali (Katerina) 24:15

So I got 3 successes with one Crit.

S

Storyteller Rina 24:17

Ok, so I'll say with that, you know who the Whip is. You have actually catered an event for the Whip and their little tribe that they have, their adopted vampire family and their ghouls. You've catered a big family event. And so the Whip is Phoebe Van Ness. She's Dutch or at least used to be years and years ago, but has lost most of her accent since emigrating, and she's fairly polite to you for a Tremere. Other than Vera, she's been about the only Tremere who's actually treated you like an equal and not, you know, the staff coming in to cater the party. So she actually takes time to talk to you a little bit. And you're not on intimate terms like you are with Vera, where you sit and talk and you can potentially be invited to the house outside of the party. But she's friendly. So you do know Phoebe.

A

Ali (Katerina) 25:33

Now, do I like readily have her contact information? Like if I call the shop, would it be fairly easy for me to get her contact information?

for me to get her contact information.

- S** Storyteller Rina 25:43
Oh, absolutely. Since she's a client, and since she was a client of the nighttime side of things, right, then if you call the bakery and Lucy or Cora is working tonight, then they'd be able to find that for you easily.
- A** Ali (Katerina) 25:57
Well, then I will turn to Vince.
- K** Katerina 26:01
Do you have a phone that I could use?
- J** John (Vince) 26:05
He puts his mobile phone down the table and slides it across to her and then pulls it back, unlocks the screen and pushes it across.
- A** Ali (Katerina) 26:13
And Katerina will stare at it for a long second, looking for the call button.
- J** John (Vince) 26:21
Karen had been pretty sharp. She liked staying on top of these things. But now Vince is like, oh I see, and he pulls it back and pulls up the phone application and he's like,
- V** Vince 26:33
There's the number dial, please feel free to call whoever. It's on billpay, I have the minutes. I don't call anyone except work.
- K** Katerina 26:41
Well, I am also calling the bakery because I might have someone who could help.
- V** Vince 26:51
-- --

Oh, fantastic.

A Ali (Katerina) 26:53
So I will go ahead and call the bakery.

S Storyteller Rina 26:58
So you call the bakery and you hear Cora answer.

C Cora 27:04
Dragonfly Confections. This is Cora speaking, how may I help you?

K Katerina 27:08
Hello, Cora?

C Cora 27:10
Ah, Katarina. Good evening.

K Katerina 27:14
I need you to go into the office and into the file cabinets for all of the past clients and I need you to find the contact information for one Phoebe Van Ness.

C Cora 27:30
Oh, the Tremere Whip? Of course. Did you get a phone?

K Katerina 27:36
No, I am borrowing one.

C Cora 27:39
Miracles will never cease.



- S** Storyteller Rina 27:41
You hear a low chuckle.
- C** Cora 27:43
One moment, Katerina. I'll be right back.
- S** Storyteller Rina 27:45
And the hold music comes on. What is your hold music for the bakery? I'm assuming it's not Girl from Ipanema.
- A** Ali (Katerina) 27:54
No, it is like classic, like kind of jazzy, like elevator music that you would hear like in the 60s.
- S** Storyteller Rina 28:04
Alright, so you hear this jazzy kind of comforting tune come on. And you wait a couple minutes. And Vince, while Katarina is on the phone, a sheet of paper starts sliding across the desk to you and the pen on the desk picks up and starts writing on the paper. And if you're not paying attention, then the pen goes up and hits you in the forehead and then goes back to the paper.
- J** John (Vince) 28:38
Vince was paying attention, but it's hits him in the forehead anyway.
- S** Storyteller Rina 28:41
Yes, because it looked like you weren't paying attention.
- J** John (Vince) 28:43
Yeah, no, Vince has been watching it but he's not been wanting to draw Katerina's attention to this. So he's just like, looking out of the corner of his eye at this pen writing. And then of course, she gives him the head whap and he just turns his head to look. He's like,
- V** Vince 29:00
Sorry, Mina. What can I do?

S Storyteller Rina 29:02
You see scrawling out in very hasty, sloppy letters - Mina has gotten fairly decent at writing out letters, like ghost writing over the last couple of nights - but this is a lot sloppier. And it says,

M Mina 29:17
"Karen gone. :("

J John (Vince) 29:24
He nods.

V Vince 29:27
Yeah, she...she's gone. I don't think I'm going to be able to bring her back.

M Mina 29:37
No. On this side now. She can't talk to me. But I see her.

V Vince 29:50
Oh, she'd hate that. She'd hate not being able to talk to someone. Yeah, there was a...Can you tell her something?

M Mina 30:02
I can try.

V Vince 30:05
Tell her I'm going to figure out what it is. And I'm going to figure out how to stop it. And then I'm going to get whoever made it.

M Mina 30:14
I tell.

V Vince 30:18
I tell.

V Vince 30:17
Thank you, Mina.

S Storyteller Rina 30:19
And everything goes quiet for a minute and the pen drops. Katerina, the hold music falls away and Cora flicks back on and says,

C Cora 30:31
Phone number? Address? Both?

K Katerina 30:33
Give me both, Cora, please.

C Cora 30:36
Ok.

S Storyteller Rina 30:37
And she rattles off a phone number and says,

C Cora 30:42
Well, the last time we catered for her was at the Vampire Club. But she does list an address.

S Storyteller Rina 30:54
And she gives you an address in the financial district.

K Katerina 31:00
Thank you, Cora.

C Cora 31:02
Whatever you need. Everything alright? It's been very quiet here tonight.

- K** Katerina 31:08
There is just a lot going on that needs to be taken care of, which is I have not been in lately, but I know that you and Lucy have it handled. And of course Ray Ray. He is very responsible.
- C** Cora 31:28
Oh yes. Everything's fine here we can we can manage a quiet night without you.
- S** Storyteller Rina 31:34
There's another little chuckle.
- C** Cora 31:37
You do have some mail.
- K** Katerina 31:41
Well, take it upstairs and put it through the mail slot for me, please.
- C** Cora 31:46
Of course.
- K** Katerina 31:48
And can you give our supplier a call to restock some of our vintage? We are running low.
- S** Storyteller Rina 32:02
There's another chuckle.
- C** Cora 32:03
Yes, I'll give Margarita a call. But maybe tomorrow. I'm not sure she'll answer tonight. She said she had a fun time planned. Whatever that means.
- K** Katerina 32:16

In the next couple of days. We just need to restock; we have gone through more in the in the last 30 days than expected.

C Cora 32:27
You got it.

K Katerina 32:29
Thank you.

A Ali (Katerina) 32:31
And I'll hang up the phone.

S Storyteller Rina 32:33
There's a another laugh and a click. And she hangs up.

A Ali (Katerina) 32:38
And I'll hand the phone back to Vince.

V Vince 32:41
Oh, thank you. So I...

J John (Vince) 32:45
And he leans back again and he's just turning in his chair and looking at her and he's like,

V Vince 32:48
Ms. Bogdanovich. I have a question. You'd know better than I would. Roughly how many vampires are in San Francisco?

S Storyteller Rina 32:56
There used to be around 1000 in this part of the Bay Area between here and the smaller suburbs and so on. With clan Gangrel leaving, you're down to about 700-750.

A Ali (Katerina) 33:16

That's a lot of Gangrel!

S Storyteller Rina 33:17

Well, the country Gangrel and the city Gangrel, right, so between both sets of the clan leaving, you had lots of small packs roaming around the the area.

K Katerina 33:28

Well Vince, there currently are 700 to 750. I do not know the exact number as I have not met all of them, though. I do know a fair amount.

J John (Vince) 33:49

Vince's jaw is just hanging slightly agape. He's like,

V Vince 33:53

That many? Yeah, I mean, I know it's a big city but...wow.

K Katerina 34:00

Let me tell you, there are almost no vampires in Alaska. In the town where I was turned, there were two of us in a town of 500 people

V Vince 34:14

Wow. That must make feeding and staying undetected really really... Up there, I get it for like winter, but like what the hell did you do in summer?

K Katerina 34:25

I've only completely drained one individual and that was right after I turned even though it is not as fulfilling. My sire who died many years ago, he kept a farm and we sustained primarily off of livestock.

V Vince 34:47

Yeah, well, that makes sense. I...

J John (Vince) 34:54

And he looks real torn up as he's working up to this. He's like,

V Vince 34:58

I am...I've also only drained one person. Actually, it was my first time not bagging. Yeah, it's uh, it felt really good, but I didn't like it.

K Katerina 35:02

The frenzy of being too hungry is unrefined and not having that control is overwhelming for some of us.

J John (Vince) 35:30

Vince nods.

V Vince 35:31

I wasn't even acting like me. I was like some kind of animal. I mean, obviously you know the feeling, the heightened senses, the thrill of just the pounce, but afterwards, I just realized that I killed somebody and...sorry, sorry, I still have it fresh. I only did it tonight. It was just a couple of hours ago, I'm still trying to deal with it.

K Katerina 35:59

Right after I was turned, there was almost a week before I could properly feed. And my sire was very irresponsible in this way. Because one evening, when he left me alone, the blood lust was too strong and we weren't far from the docks. And I just went down and the nearest person was very quickly relieved of all of their blood. It took almost no time. And I just left them there as the blood lust was not completely sated after not feeding for so long. But my Sire found it and found me and took me back to the house before I could take another life.

J John (Vince) 37:19

Vince is just looking at her. He's just like,

V Vince 37:23

I can't imagine you ever not being in control.

K Katerina 37:27

I can tell you this experience, then you are that far gone....there is no remorse, you do not care you actually took a life. And since I've only drained one individual and it was a very long time ago, it is not something that I am sorry I did. Because if I had gone much longer, the chances of having gone into torpor are very, very high. And the fact that I'm even still alive is remarkable considering the I was sired without any permission. So you must understand that this feeling you have of being overwhelmed and feeling like you have murdered an individual will fade over time, if you let it. That depends on how much of your humanity you care about retaining. I personally don't retain as much of my humanity. But I do make active choices to not be a complete monster either.

J John (Vince) 39:00

And Vince just melts. He's like,

V Vince 39:03

I don't I don't know. I just...I...since I was turned, I've basically just said, Oh, I'm still still Vince Markevich, I am still the same guy. I just, you know, have to drink blood now. And you know, food is terrible.

K Katerina 39:22

Even though you're a very, very young Kindred, you must come to terms with that, before even addressing the fact that you have killed someone, is the fact that you are no longer who you were. You are forever different now. You will not be who you are. And if you think that is impossible, you might as well ask someone to take you now as you are before you live to know.

J John (Vince) 40:04

And he just quietly nods.

V Vince 40:06

I hadn't considered that. Well. Let's unpack that later.

J John (Vince) 40:16

Which is almost Vince's catchphrase. So he's like,

V Vince 40:20

Ok. But sorry. Back to the topic at hand.

K Katerina 40:24

I have good news for you. I happen to know the Tremere whip.

V Vince 40:31

Oh, I know there is one, I just never met them.

K Katerina 40:35

She is very respectful of the jobs that I perform, and we are on, perhaps friendly terms. I suspect that if I ask her to let you take a look at her library, which I am sure is extensive, given the nature of her position, I will owe her a favor. But I am willing to owe her a favor, provided that you can get the information that I need, or that we need, to satisfy the Prince about what is going on. Because let's be honest, if we don't have answers for the Prince, it could be all our heads.

V Vince 41:30

Well, look, I mean, it won't just be you and her, it will be both of us and I'll owe you, so. I always pay my debts. So at least there's that to look forward to.

K Katerina 41:40

I can tell you right now that you and I will be in each other's debt, given the nature of what I'm asking you to do. So we will call it even, provided the information checks out.

V Vince 41:58

Of course. If you arrange it, I will show up and I will...

J John (Vince) 42:03

He pauses, and he's like,

J John (Vince) 42:06

How formal is meeting your clan Whip for the first time?

K Katerina 42:12

I can tell you that meeting with the Toreador clan Whip was fairly informal. But that is because we are all very good-natured.

J John (Vince) 42:27

Vince is just like,

V Vince 42:29

That doesn't reconcile with any of...and also what the hell is the Toreador standard of very casual? I'm not entirely sure.

K Katerina 42:40

We're all very very pretty when we show up.

V Vince 42:44

Everyone's just so beautiful.

K Katerina 42:47

But I will do is I will need your phone number.

A Ali (Katerina) 42:54

I say very reluctantly. Because I'm not a fan of phones. I still have a pager. Phones are not my forte. I have a rotary phone in my house.

K Katerina 43:06

What I will do is write down everything in this notebook. You must keep it in a safe place because we cannot have anyone find this before you have the meeting with the Whip because this research is crucial. I have a feeling.

V Vince 43:22

- V** vince 43:33
You're right. I think...I think Karen was onto something. I need to collate all the notes but I think she was onto something. I think you're right about it being important.
- K** Katerina 43:43
I feel like, depending on what notes she had, it is incomplete.
- V** Vince 43:51
It definitely was.
- J** John (Vince) 43:53
Vince is just constantly leaning backward and forward as he's checking notes, and then talking and leaning forward, check notes, then leaning back and talking.
- V** Vince 44:01
I am...you know, I've just realized none of them have died the same way, the exact same way twice. They've all... Luther Garibaldi tore his own tongue out. Felix Conrad exposed himself to sunlight after removing his own tongue. Karen Stein was chained to the floor, surrounded by her books, and burned.
- K** Katerina 44:34
Did Karen still have her tongue?
- J** John (Vince) 44:38
Vince shakes head.
- K** Katerina 44:42
So...that is when she was chained to the floor.
- J** John (Vince) 44:49
And Vince has flashbacks of that time where he noticed as he watched her burn and her face melt that she didn't have a tongue. He's like,

- V Vince 44:59
It was removed before this...before she burned.
- K Katerina 45:05
Well, their deaths are not the same, though they do have one overlapping piece of evidence.
- V Vince 45:14
Well, technically two, because there's also the symbol of the Blood moon, as I've taken to calling it in my notes.
- K Katerina 45:24
But taking out the tongue is specific so that they cannot speak to whoever may have done it, or as a way to defend themselves appropriately.
- V Vince 45:45
Like, I think there's also a third element where...Mina, that the ghost was just here,
- J John (Vince) 45:52
And he just turns the paper and just slides it forward.
- V Vince 45:58
Karen is on the other side, and she can't talk.
- K Katerina 46:01
Which means that perhaps none of them can talk.
- J John (Vince) 46:06
Luther Garibaldi could not be questioned when seen in the vision by Alex, so I think this is...
- K Katerina 46:18
So this reaches further than just this plane

so this reaches further than just this plane.

J John (Vince) 46:24
He just nods. He's like,

V Vince 46:25
I think this is a specific countermeasure to prevent us using necromancy to simply ask "who did this to you?"

K Katerina 46:35
Well then, that is why it is even more crucial that we find out a way to try to get ahead of this as much as we can. And this ritual, I think it needs a modification for Kindred. There are too many overlapping signs that make me nervous. This might be the only way and we don't know what kind of sacrifice it might need.

J John (Vince) 47:22
Vince nods and he's like,

V Vince 47:24
Yeah, I don't know what's gonna require, but we'll be able to do it. We, if this is the angle, and the good news, by the way, is that we do have a known subject who is experiencing all the symptoms.

J John (Vince) 47:41
And he's just thinking of how Trevor has been keeping him up the last few nights. He's just like,

V Vince 47:49
And you know, he's pretty far gone. But we can we can always give it a shot. Once we get the data

K Katerina 47:56
Well, then I should set up that meetings sooner rather than later, yes?

V Vince 48:02
Please, please Ms. Bogdonovich.

K Katerina 48:04
Well, as much as I was planning to do it later, I will need your, I will need your phone again.

J John (Vince) 48:17
He just unlocks it, brings up the phone app again, slides it back across.

A Ali (Katerina) 48:22
And I will give Miss Van Ness call.

S Storyteller Rina 48:27
The phone rings for about 10 seconds and then you hear:

P Phoebe 48:36
Yes, Phoebe Van Ness. Who is this? I don't recognize this number.

K Katerina 48:41
Hello, Ms. Van Ness. This is Katerina Bogdanovich.

P Phoebe 48:46
Oh, yes. From the bakery. I don't think I have a party planned. What can I do for you?

K Katerina 48:56
I need your help.

S Storyteller Rina 48:59
There's a long pause.

P Phoebe 49:03
Oh my. This is highly unorthodox.

K Katerina 49:08
It is most unusual. I do understand quite a bit. You are the Tremere Whip.

P Phoebe 49:18
Yes, that has been my job for quite some time.

K Katerina 49:22
Well, I have a very young Tremere who recently lost their Sire.

P Phoebe 49:32
Karen's boy.

K Katerina 49:34
Yes. I need his help. And subsequently your help now. I will offer a favor for you to call in whenever you wish.

P Phoebe 49:53
Intriguing.

K Katerina 49:55
I need this young man to have access to your library to help with something dire. And that is all I can say.

S Storyteller Rina 50:11
There's another long pause.

P Phoebe 50:13

Answer me this. Does it have to do with how Karen died? You understand, as the Whip, it's sort of my job to look into these things.

K Katerina 50:28

I understand, and it is connected to that, and hypothetically more.

S Storyteller Rina 50:40

Another pause. You can almost hear the wheels turning.

P Phoebe 50:45

Well, we can't have powerful Tremere dying off and no one knows what happened to them. And I suppose if Karen's boy - I can't remember his name. She's had so many of them.

K Katerina 51:05

This one is called Vince Markevich.

P Phoebe 51:09

Vince, yes. If Vince will agree to supervision in my library, I will allow him in as he is another Tremere. But I cannot allow you in, as you must understand, it would be impossible.

K Katerina 51:27

I understand that. Your knowledge is very private and it is crucial that you keep it secret, I understand that I will not be allowed in the library, but I will be his escort.

P Phoebe 51:46

That, I think we can agree to. So as long as young Vincent is fine with supervision to make sure he doesn't get into things that a Kindred of his age should not be allowed anywhere near, then, on the basis of the favor you will owe me. I think we have a bargain.

K Katerina 52:11

Well, I must inform you that this information might normally be out of his usual studies. It is old information.

P Phoebe 52:31

Yes. Well, if it's connected to Karen, I suppose it would be. But I will supervise and make sure that whatever he gets into isn't too much for his underdeveloped brain.

K Katerina 52:46

When is the soonest that you can accommodate us? Because time is of the essence.

P Phoebe 52:52

Well, not tonight. It's too close to sunrise.

K Katerina 52:56

No, but in the next couple of days,

P Phoebe 53:00

Tomorrow night.

K Katerina 53:01

Very well.

P Phoebe 53:02

In two days I have a well, what you would call a baby shower, except it's more for baby vampires. We always tried to do one for Karen, when she sired one, but then after you know, the eighth or so it just got to be too much.

K Katerina 53:20

Very good. May I have your address? And the times that you would like our arrival?

P Phoebe 53:30

Oh, yes, I'll text it to this number, now that I have it in my phone.

K Katerina 53:36



Katerina 53:36

Very good. I believe that is all. Thank you very much. I will owe you something very big. I understand.



Phoebe 53:48

Yes. Yes, you will.



Ali (Katerina) 53:51

And I will turn to Vince.



Katerina 53:53

Well, we have an appointment with the Tremere Whip tomorrow night. She will send you a text with an address and the time that we will arrive. I believe you have the number for the office at the bakery and the the number for my haven.



Ali (Katerina) 54:18

And I'll write those down on just you know, like the nearest piece of paper.



Katerina 54:22

When you get that information, give me a call. And if I do not answer, leave a message on the haven machine but not on the office machine.



John (Vince) 54:38

And Vince is just like,



Vince 54:40

Holy crap, this is a big deal. This is a really big deal. Thank you. Thank you very much, Miss Bogdanovich. I'll be sure that information gets to you straightaway and thank you,



Storyteller Rina 54:53

As Vince says that, Katerina, a pen taps you on the forehead.



...

K Katerina 54:59
Ah, you must be Mina, yes?

S Storyteller Rina 55:04
And the paper, which Vince had turned towards you, the pen, drops back to it and start scratching out.

M Mina 55:12
Bogdanovich?

K Katerina 55:15
Yess, Bogdanovich.

M Mina 55:18
I think I knew your father. In the old country.

K Katerina 55:24
The old country primarily was Russia, yes?

M Mina 55:30
Yes. And then Markevich to Bulgaria.

K Katerina 55:36
Yes.

M Mina 55:38
:) cousin.

S Storyteller Rina 55:41
And on that bombshell, we will leave you for this evening.

A Ali (Katerina) 55:46
Fantastic.

S Storyteller Rina 55:48

So thank you everyone for joining us for this special spotlight episode. I hope you enjoyed getting to know Vince and Katerina a little bit more, as we definitely enjoyed these interactions. I hope you will tune in next time for the further adventures of our coterie. Thank you and good night.