

Blood Moon Rising ep 19 Transcript

🕒 1:21:00

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 Vampire the Masquerade chronicle "Blood Moon Rising." I am your Storyteller, Storyteller Rina, and tonight we're getting into some very, very, very serious stuff. So business as usual. But before we get to introductions, I'd like to thank our backers, our Patreon backers; without you we wouldn't have this particular chronicle going. And I'd like to thank all of our listeners and our cast as well for everything that you bring to the show. And I'd also like to thank a certain someone who you will hear from in a moment. So without further ado, let's get to introductions. To my right:

M Mike (Marcus) 01:38

Hi, this is Mike and I play Marcus Voss of Clan Brujah.

S Storyteller Rina 01:43

And to Mike's right:

And to Mike's right.

J John (Vince) 01:45
Hi, this is John, I play Vince Markevich of Clan Tremere.

S Storyteller Rina 01:50
And next to John:

T Teagan (Rahm) 01:53
Hi, this is Teagan and I'm playing Rahm the Shaman of Clan Malkavian.

S Storyteller Rina 01:58
Indeed. And at the end of the table:

K Katerina 02:01
Hi, this is Ali and I play Katerina Bogdanovich. And I am clan Toreador.

S Storyteller Rina 02:08
Yes, yes you are are. And next to Ali we have:

T Tiffanie (Alex) 02:14
This is Tiffanie and I play Alex Giovanni of Clan Hecata.

S Storyteller Rina 02:19
And last but not least, we have our special guest this evening:

S Scott (William) 02:24
Yes, hello, I'm Scott. And I'll be playing a visitor who's come to town to maybe light a fire under the player characters. We'll see whether that's literal or figurative soon enough.

S Storyteller Rina 02:30

S Storyteller Rina 02:39

Oh, my. So thank you very much for joining us, Scott. We're happy to have you with us. So before we get into fires, literal and imaginative and metaphorical, let us reopen this evening on the night of the 30th/31st of October 2022. So we will begin with a Katerina Bogdanovich, who has recently cleansed her stock, so to speak, and is now on her way to visit a certain Vera Giovanni. So Katerina, how are you getting there?

A Ali (Katerina) 03:21

Since I have all of the cellphones of every person, vampire, since I have every cell phone of the people who work for me, I'm going to make one of them order me an Uber so I can get over there as fast as possible because I'm not going to try to figure that out.

S Storyteller Rina 03:41

Ok, so Margarita begrudgingly orders you an Uber through her phone. And you hear some disgruntled grumbling from various rooms in the farm as you leave, but that's nothing new. So you take the Uber, you're feeling a bit anxious, a little bit stressed. And something feels different as you leave the farm tonight; there's just a change in the air. So about 20 minutes later, the Uber pulls up in front of Vera's home and the door opens very quickly, a lot faster than normal. You didn't even have to ring the bell; Paula is just there.

K Katerina 04:30

Good evening.

P Paula 04:32

Good evening, Katerina. My, this is a busy house this evening. I take it you want to see Vera?

K Katerina 04:40

Yes, I need to speak to her urgently.

P Paula 04:44

Very well.

S Storyteller Rina 04:45

And she ushers you in and takes you back to that sitting room you've been in before and Vera is sitting on the couch looking a little stressed, a little confused, a little agitated, but she stands up and greets you.

V Vera 05:01
Katerina. How can I help you?

K Katerina 05:06
Well, I have some good news for you. The Prince has granted your request so that you can go see our family.

S Storyteller Rina 05:15
Her eyes get big.

V Vera 05:18
Oh, I didn't think they would actually...

S Storyteller Rina 05:23
And she signs something in a flurry that Paula has to ask her to repeat because it's so fast even Paula can't keep up with it.

V Vera 05:32
Yes, I didn't think they would actually let me go. Oh, my gosh, I should, I should go. It's been so long.

K Katerina 05:42
Yes, but I need you to understand that you must stay there.

S Storyteller Rina 05:50
She looks at you quizzically.

V Vera 05:52
Is it because of who's in town right now?

K Katerina 05:57
Yes, that is part of it, and there is more danger in this city than we've ever faced before.

S Storyteller Rina 06:07
She nods.

V Vera 06:08
Yes, Alex told me.

K Katerina 06:11
Probably not as much as you deserve to know. And I wish I could explain, but time is short. You need to leave tonight, if you can.

V Vera 06:24
I don't know if I can go tonight. I have, I have to get permission for someone else to take my duties with the clan and there's a party that someone else will have to host and...

K Katerina 06:36
urgent You do not understand: you need to leave as soon as possible. They will have to deal without you.

S Storyteller Rina 06:47
While she is dithering a little bit, like she's flustered. She's not quite sure what she wants to be doing here. So I'm going to ask you for a roll to persuade her of how important this is. So you're gonna give me, I think, Persuasion plus Manipulation. You're trying to get her to follow your, your will, so to speak.

K Katerina 07:18
4 Successes with a 10.

S Storyteller Rina 07:21
Excellent. So Vera pauses when she sees how agitated you're getting. She's not used to seeing

you so worked up. And she signed something to Paula; Paula nods and leaves the room and Vera signs to you very slowly in phrases that you've picked up from her over the last couple of years.

V Vera 07:44
Thank you. I will go now. Tonight. When can I come back?

K Katerina 07:51
I will send you a letter by post when everything is clear. If you do not hear from me, do not return.

S Storyteller Rina 08:01
She nods and she looks a little sad. And before you can react, she takes your hand and she leans in and she kisses your cheek and then she signs,

V Vera 08:15
I will miss you.

S Storyteller Rina 08:16
As she quickly flees the room.

K Katerina 08:19
I will make my way out the door. I need her safe.

S Storyteller Rina 08:24
Alright, so you leave so that she can pack and get ready to go. And I assume you're heading home from here?

K Katerina 08:34
Actually, I'm gonna, yeah, I'm gonna be heading home but I'm gonna stop into the bakery and I have a couple of employees to call.



- S** Storyteller Rina 08:43
Alright, so you get back to the bakery. Cora is still there; Lucy is off for the night off at a party somewhere as usual on her nights off.
- A** Ali (Katerina) 08:55
I am going to use the office phone, which is an old landline and call her phone repeatedly until she answers.
- S** Storyteller Rina 09:08
Lucy?
- A** Ali (Katerina) 09:10
Yeah.
- S** Storyteller Rina 09:12
You call 5, 6, 7 times. No replies.
- K** Katerina 09:22
That is not ideal.
- S** Storyteller Rina 09:25
No, it is not.
- A** Ali (Katerina) 09:27
I guess I will have to catch her tomorrow when she is working.
- K** Katerina 09:31
Cora, I need to speak to you.
- S** Storyteller Rina 09:34
Cora dusts some flour off her hands and walks over to you.



Cora 09:39

Are you hungry again?



Katerina 09:41

No, but I must ask you a very pressing and very important question. Do you understand?



Storyteller Rina 09:48

She nods, a little concerned.



Katerina 09:52

When you were human, you used to have dreams, yes?



Cora 09:57

Yes.



Katerina 09:58

Have you been having any now?



Storyteller Rina 10:01

She pulls back a little bit.



Cora 10:03

How did you know?



Katerina 10:06

Because it is something that is affecting Kindred across the city, and the bakery and all its operations are at least one of the distributors, without our knowledge.



Storyteller Rina 10:28

Her eyes go wide.

K

Katerina 10:31

The stock has been culled.

S

Storyteller Rina 10:34

Both eyebrows go up.

K

Katerina 10:35

We will have to start over from the ground up. It is regrettable, but necessary. But for now, you know where the farm is?

C

Cora 10:48

Yes, of course, I've picked up deliveries.

K

Katerina 10:53

I need you to give me your phone. And I need you to go to the farm with the rest of the employees.

C

Cora 11:02

Why?

K

Katerina 11:04

Because I need all of my employees in one place. So that I know all of you are safe. This is for your own protection.

S

Storyteller Rina 11:15

Cora is your coworker, she's not your employee. So you're gonna have to give me a roll here, because Cora is not just going to, Cora is not just going to accept an order from you, essentially. Manipulation and Persuasion again.

A

Ali (Katerina) 11:36

I've got 5 Successes with 3 10s.

S

Storyteller Rina 11:39

Wow. Ok, so Cora just nods. She's lived through a lot over the last century or so, she's a little bit older than you are. And she just takes out her phone. She says,

C

Cora 11:51

I am just going to text my catsitter, one moment.

S

Storyteller Rina 11:56

And she sends a quick text message and then hands you her phone.

K

Katerina 12:00

Thank you. I know that this is inconvenient, but when I return, there should be hopefully a way to make sure that everyone is safe. But having you all in one place means that I don't have to track any of you down. I will see you as soon as I can.

C

Cora 12:23

Makes sense, yeah. For sure.

S

Storyteller Rina 12:27

And she just wraps up her wraps up her pastry that she was making and grabs her bags.

C

Cora 12:34

Just see you later, I guess.

K

Katerina 12:37

See you soon.

S

Storyteller Rina 12:40

And she disappears out the back door. So Cora has gone, Lucy is not picking up her phone, and

you can settle in for an uneasy night.

A

Ali (Katerina) 12:54

Do I happen to know where she frequents?

S

Storyteller Rina 12:58

You don't. Because being a young Toreador, of the Internet age in particular, even though she no longer uses the internet, she tends to go to various parties all over the city with her young Toreador friends where they can be seen either by mortals or by other vampires, depending on who they're trying to impress at the moment. It's how she hunts, so she could be anywhere in the city.

A

Ali (Katerina) 13:26

Alright, then, yeah, I'm going to go upstairs to the loft. And I am going to turn on some loud music for once; the classical is not going to do enough today. And probably pace and look at my doors suspiciously and continue to pace.

S

Storyteller Rina 13:47

Yeah, those doors continue to make you uncomfortable. And tonight, you almost get a sense of agitation in the room from the doors. It's weird, but you continue pacing, and we'll leave you there for the evening. Alex Giovanni, after leaving Vera with the promise of a meeting with Grandmother tomorrow, you have a book to deliver to a certain young Tremere.

T

Tiffanie (Alex) 14:18

Yes.

S

Storyteller Rina 14:19

So you and your driver pull up outside the haunted bungalow, and you see a familiar looking vehicle in the parking lot across the street.

T

Tiffanie (Alex) 14:31

Marcus?

S

Storyteller Rina 14:32

Yes. So it appears you're not the only one paying a visit on the resident Tremere this evening, but you can go up and knock on the door. I assume you're not just going to barge in.

M Mike (Marcus) 14:45

No, no, well, actually, I'll probably walk up to the door and ask Mina if it's okay if I visit.

S Storyteller Rina 14:55

You hear one knock, which you assume means yes

M Mike (Marcus) 14:59

And then I open the door.

S Storyteller Rina 15:03

So Vince and Marcus, you've been having an interesting deep discussion in Vince's library over a very fine vintage that Marcus liberated from Vince's sire's former home. And you hear the door open.

V Vince 15:21

Who could that be?

J John (Vince) 15:22

Says Vince in his t-shirt and jeans.

V Vince 15:25

The Sabbat wouldn't be able to, unless they know what I've been researching.

M Mike (Marcus) 15:33

I stand up concerned, obviously.

M Mike (Marcus) 15:36

I'm probably talking to Mina like,

A Alex 15:39
Oh, how have you been? How are things going?

S Storyteller Rina 15:42
And there's a pencil that comes floating through the hallway and she starts writing on the wall.

M Mina 15:49
Worried about Vince. Not sleeping well.

A Alex 15:54
No one's sleeping well, unfortunately.

M Mina 16:00
I don't feel good.

A Alex 16:04
Well, perhaps with this book, you can help Vince figure out how to fix what's going on. Since you may remember some of the things you used to do.

M Mina 16:18
Ok.

A Alex 16:20
And hopefully that will make you feel better.

M Mina 16:23
Hope so. Dead is enough. Dead and sick? No good.

A Alex 16:28

Yeah. I'm going to have to look into that one, that's new to me.

S Storyteller Rina 16:34

So Vince and Marcus, you hear the unmistakable voice of one Alex Giovanni talking to the air in the hallway.

M Marcus 16:42

Have you given them a key, Vince?

M Mike (Marcus) 16:43

I raise an eyebrow.

V Vince 16:45

I must have forgotten to lock the door. That's very embarrassing. Give me a moment.

J John (Vince) 16:51

And he just pokes his head into the corridor. And he's like,

V Vince 16:54

Oh, hi, Alex. Why don't you come in?

A Alex 16:59

Mina already invited me, but I actually have a book for you.

V Vince 17:04

Oh, books are always welcome.

A Alex 17:07

I mean, this is Mina's place, correct?

V Vince 17:12
That is true. Sometimes I forget that I'm but a lowly tenant. So we're having a drop of blood.

J John (Vince) 17:21
As he's looking at Alex, he's just like, "what horrible things have they done?"

T Tiffanie (Alex) 17:26
You don't want to know.

J John (Vince) 17:27
Yeah, exactly. Right. But, but Vincent wants to know, he wants to know about everyone's dirty secrets now.

A Alex 17:32
So I had an interesting visit with someone of your clan. And she has agreed to let you borrow this book in the quest to clean everyone. Because it is my impression that even if Kindred aren't having dreams, they may at some point.

V Vince 17:58
Well, I didn't... I didn't... I thought it was just the infected blood. But I have some notes I've gotten from Ms. Van Ness. And yes, I can have a look at it, see if there's anything I can combine with the notes we have so far. And if I can work it in I can. Anything is going to help, to be honest. It seems like it might be complicated.

A Alex 18:25
Sure, but I would trust this one, since she's quite a bit older than most. But here's the book, you can tell me if it's helpful.

J John (Vince) 18:38
So of course, he just takes it with both hands. He's like, he just looks at the cover.

V Vince 18:43
I have no idea what this is. But yes, thank you very much. I'd be delighted to get a look

through.

J John (Vince) 18:51

And he's just thinking back about everything he's been told so far.

V Vince 18:56

You know what, maybe this actually will be better than the ritual that I've been given. Because that ritual might just be unnecessarily bloody. Let's see. Let's see.

A Alex 19:08

Well, if you don't mind, you guys can get back to your chat. I'm just going to hang with Mina now for a while; she's not feeling well, not that you probably noticed.

V Vince 19:17

Well, I thought she was quiet, but I thought that was because Karen was dead.

M Mike (Marcus) 19:24

Perhaps, but she should be feeling better for Halloween coming up.

V Vince 19:30

Are ghosts affected by things like blood moons?

A Alex 19:36

Well, certain times of the year the shroud gets a whole lot thinner so they can interact more freely.

J John (Vince) 19:43

And Vince like stares into the middle distance, kind of like I'm doing. And he's like,

V Vince 19:50

What is someone that was a very experienced magic user was siphoning energy from beyond the veil somehow to, I don't know, to do something terrible to us? I don't know, the Sabbat are

weird.

A Alex 20:07

Oh, yes. And of course they eat babies. I mean, how much of this stuff are you going to believe in? How much are you not?

V Vince 20:15

They've infected our dreams.

A Alex 20:18

Well, as much as they have made us dream, but the fact that they have poisoned our supply is the issue. And anybody with enough time, and willingness and certain know how could make that happen. I mean, don't think that all Tremere are with the Camarilla.

V Vince 20:50

Yeah, I get that. But they also have this weird... They have a bunch of different traditions that we don't have. Like, I don't know a lot about it. But they've got stuff we don't

A Alex 21:04

Sure. But we have stuff they don't.

V Vince 21:07

But as you said, not all Tremere are with the Camarilla. So they could've easily gotten a bunch of us.

A Alex 21:13

Yeah, it's possible. I mean, the thing is, is we don't know enough. Do we want them here? No. Do we want them trying to make a move? I think personally, they're either trying to take this or they're trying to weaken the city so that the Anarchs can move in. So it makes it easier for them to operate as they wish. I mean, there's there's a lot of theories, right now we need to focus on the one thing, and that is to get a cure to the poisoning.

V Vince 21:46

You're right you're right I just there's a lot of potential energy trapped on that side of the veil

You're right, you're right. I just, there's a lot of potential energy trapped on that side of the vein, as I understand it, but...

A Alex 21:54

Yes, there is. And you know, there are a few of us that can take some of that or use it or, you know, be friendly, so that it doesn't backfire at you. You know, because they are equally sentient beings as we are.

V Vince 22:17

Oh, of course. Yeah. I mean, I mean, it's a person. But what if someone took Mina's ability, the energy that she uses to sustain herself? What if someone was siphoning it? That is what I mean? What if someone was just taking the primal force?

A Alex 22:36

It's, it's possible. But if Karen was a fetter, then she's not going to feel well. If you being sick affects her, she's not going to feel well. There's others. Many, many reasons, potentially. And then there's all the other things that live on the other side with her.

J John (Vince) 23:05

You're right, I should just focus on the thing that I can at least do something about, because I know nothing about that side. So Right. Yeah.

S Storyteller Rina 23:13

Is Marcus just hanging in the library, listening to this conversation through the door or...?

M Mike (Marcus) 23:18

Absolutely. And there's no reason for me to engage in this. I'm happy to listen to people's positions and consider them. I think it's very revealing. Besides, I have a nice, solid vintage, Why ruin it with anything else and the time I'm enjoying spending here in the, in the library?

S Storyteller Rina 23:39

That's true. Got a library, got a good drink, what else do you need? Beyond the gossip coming through the door.

J John (Vince) 23:48

John (Vince) 23:13

I mean, gossip is, is actually one of the Vampire core tenents. It's really more important than the blood.

Vince 23:54

Well, Alex, I won't keep you if if you want to stay and talk to Mina. But please, It's her house, if she tells you to leave, please leave.

Alex 24:03

I don't think she would ever tell me to leave. Maybe you, but not me.

Vince 24:10

Yeah, but you know, I just can't say to you be my guest because I don't own the house. Yeah, no, I'll just,

John (Vince) 24:19

He just points vaguely towards the library. He's like,

Vince 24:21

I'll just be going. If you need me, just holler.

Alex 24:25

I hope the book is helpful.

Tiffanie (Alex) 24:27

And then I'll shout down the hall:

Alex 24:29

I'll talk to you later, Marcus.

Mike (Marcus) 24:32

I don't say anything.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 24:33
I'm going to ask Mina if she feels safe.

S Storyteller Rina 24:37
You get a question mark on the wall. Vince is going to have a lot of pencil to clean off of his wall later.

M Mike (Marcus) 24:44
At least it's just pencil.

A Alex 24:46
Do you feel like something is going to harm you?

M Mina 24:51
Harm Vince.

A Alex 24:53
Fair.

M Mina 24:55
He sick, I sick.

A Alex 24:57
That was my theory. Well if you can help him with that book I brought from Vera, hopefully, you can make some headway. And you have a good night. And hopefully there's a way you can get a hold of me tomorrow if you need to. I have a party at the temple, so we'll see you then.

M Mina 25:18
Got it.

S Storyteller Rina 25:20
Smiley face emoji on the wall.

M Mike (Marcus) 25:22
And then yeah, I'll yeah, let myself out and head to Rahm's place.

S Storyteller Rina 25:28
So you're gonna have Rahm stay with you for the next day and then go straight to the shenanigans? Ok, so, Rahm the Shaman...

T Teagan (Rahm) 25:38
Am I going to a party?

S Storyteller Rina 25:40
Well, we'll see. You have not been feeling very well, for obvious reasons. You slept through an entire night, you groggily woke up halfway through tonight still not feeling great. I'm gonna take that Rouse check from you, though. Ok, you succeeded.

T Teagan (Rahm) 26:05
Yay! This is good. This is a good start to a good day.

S Storyteller Rina 26:09
You still take one Point of Hunger.

T Teagan (Rahm) 26:10
Dammit.

S Storyteller Rina 26:11
Because you didn't sleep very well. And you were dreaming again.

T Teagan (Rahm) 26:17

T Teagan (Rahm) 26:17
Were they good dreams?

S Storyteller Rina 26:19
No, surprisingly. In addition to all of the blood and the screaming and the shadows, you mysteriously had dreams about very sharp teeth sinking into your abdomen. And fins circling you in the mist.

T Teagan (Rahm) 26:36
I don't like fins. They're my least favorite object.

S Storyteller Rina 26:41
Well, they followed you into your dreams this past day. And you're less able to control the hunger than you have ever been. And considering what happened the other night, that's saying a lot. So you take that point of hunger. You're still missing a chunk of your leg, your abdomen looks a little bit better but you didn't heal as much as you were expecting to while you were resting. And you know that in order to recuperate at all, you're going to need to feed at some point.

T Teagan (Rahm) 27:19
Well, I learned to lower my expectations after I was surprised by vampire sharks. That was, that was a new thing. Was not seeing that coming. Who's around me? Is there anyone? Anyone here at all?

R Rahm the Shaman 27:35
Hello?

S Storyteller Rina 27:37
You hear a knock on the door to your staircase.

P Preethi 27:40
Master Rahm? Master Rahm are you alright?

S Storyteller Rina 27:45

Preethi, is that you?

P Preethi 27:47

Yes, Master Rahm. There's someone at the door for you. I didn't know if you were well, but..

R Rahm the Shaman 27:54

Time out, is someone at the door already? Who's at the door? Is it a man, woman? Betwixt? Who is it?

P Preethi 28:03

A person in a very nice suit. Said their name is Alex.

R Rahm the Shaman 28:11

Oh, ok. Well, of all of the options, that's probably the least shitty. Ok, cool.

T Teagan (Rahm) 28:16

I'm going to go ahead and get up. And I'll go ahead and then I might...I have pants on at least right?

S Storyteller Rina 28:24

Ish.

T Teagan (Rahm) 28:26

Ok, well then I'm going to put pants on. And then I'm going to, I'm going to open the door. I'm assuming because Alex is awake and walking around that it is definitely not, it's definitely a time of the evening when that's okay.

S Storyteller Rina 28:40

Alex, Rahm is standing there bare-chested in harem pants and still with a significant chunk of his abdomen missing

M Mike (Marcus) 28:51



Well, you look better than Vince did.



Rahm the Shaman 28:55

Wait, what happened to Vince?



Mike (Marcus) 28:57

Oh, he just looks like he rolled around on the floor and it was a mess but anyways...



Rahm the Shaman 29:06

You can see through part of me. Look. Look there's more, there's there's chunks.



Mike (Marcus) 29:14

But your pants are clean.



Rahm the Shaman 29:16

Yes. Well, I have people that help me do that. So that is, that is a good thing.



Mike (Marcus) 29:25

Well, if he was a little bit nicer to Mina, she might clean his clothes too.



Rahm the Shaman 29:29

Who's Mina?



Alex 29:31

Oh, his ghost.



Rahm the Shaman 29:34

Freaky. Cool.



..

A Alex 29:35
Aunt. Or cousin. I don't, I don't remember how they're related.

R Rahm the Shaman 29:42
Sweet. This is... you guys are interesting. You are very interesting group of people. You know that right?

M Mike (Marcus) 29:50
Yes.

R Rahm the Shaman 29:51
Ok. What did I...what am I missing? What were, what you're here so we obviously...

M Mike (Marcus) 29:58
Well, part of your leg, your abdomen...

T Teagan (Rahm) 30:02
I was hosting a party at the beach and I forgot to bring snacks.

A Alex 30:08
Obviously.

R Rahm the Shaman 30:10
But really, you're here so obviously, you need me...something is going on, what's going on?

M Mike (Marcus) 30:17
Well, there is a very old wise woman; when I say very old, I mean *very* old, who says that she is in town to speak to the Oracle. And the only person that I can think of that has had visions of what's going on who could be called somewhat of an Oracle is either Dina or you.

R Rahm the Shaman 30:44
I don't. I don't like being Cassandra. Why do I always... it's because I'm friggin' Malkavian, isn't

I don't... I don't like being Cassandra. Why do I always... it's because I'm Muggin' Malaviani, isn't it. I'm always getting wrapped in this stuff. There's always an Oracle.

M Mike (Marcus) 31:02

Guess what, there might be information to be found. So I thought, since we will be able to go visit her first thing tomorrow - but tomorrow is also Halloween, I have a party for us to go to - so I thought you could stay with me. And we'll go visit her and then go to a party

T Teagan (Rahm) 31:24

You see Rahm's entire demeanor change.

R Rahm the Shaman 31:27

Oh, really? Ok, alright. Ok.

M Mike (Marcus) 31:35

I will grab a bite to eat.

R Rahm the Shaman 31:39

Well, no, yeah, absolutely. But also, I was gonna just grab like a night bag. And wait, hold on. Is Marcus gonna be there?

M Mike (Marcus) 31:51

Oh, no, he wouldn't be found at a party like this.

R Rahm the Shaman 31:55

Ok, so we don't need box cutters. Ok, sweet. No worries.

M Mike (Marcus) 31:58

I have your costume already, too.

R Rahm the Shaman 32:02

A costume?

- A** Alex 32:04
Halloween costume.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 32:07
Ok, fine. What is it? Is it, is it good?
- M** Mike (Marcus) 32:14
Well, we're gonna go as early Romans, or Greeks. Depends how it turns out with the accessories
- R** Rahm the Shaman 32:22
As long as I get to put like the toga over the hole part.
- A** Alex 32:26
Right.
- R** Rahm the Shaman 32:27
Then I think we got this. All right, um, in that case...
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 32:33
And Rahm, like, runs back into the house for a second, fishes through a drawer and grabs a particular eyeshadow palette.
- R** Rahm the Shaman 32:43
Alright, fantastic.
- M** Mike (Marcus) 32:47
Oh, sure. I mean, I don't have any other plans tonight. So I figured I'd just scoop you up, make sure that you feed first so that you can heal some of this, and then we can go.

R Rahm the Shaman 33:02
That's gonna be a problem.

M Mike (Marcus) 33:07
What's gonna be a problem?

R Rahm the Shaman 33:09
I, I don't bag. I, I don't...I like 'em, you know, wriggling.

M Mike (Marcus) 33:21
Then call some of your people.

R Rahm the Shaman 33:24
Should we? So last time we talked, remember, about the dream thing?

A Alex 33:36
Right, but you're already having them. And if you don't bag then you don't know how to make it safe.

R Rahm the Shaman 33:45
But won't that put them at risk?

A Alex 33:48
Oh, yeah, but they're just Kine.

R Rahm the Shaman 33:52
But they're, they're my Kine. And they're, they're nice. And I like them. And I've trained them. Do you know how difficult it is to get somebody trained to use the Amazon shipping methodology? Like it's once you get that down? Like you don't want to?

M Mike (Marcus) 34:15



MIKE (MARCUS) 34:13

Ok, here's your options. You can either look like this and feel like this. Or take care of it.



Rahm the Shaman 34:27

Alright, come in. Come come come inside. Come inside.



Teagan (Rahm) 34:31

And Rahm's gonna go into the beaded area. And I do have the equipment back there? We talked about it so I'm sure I have some sort of phlebotomy equipment or something like that to be able to do some sort of blood draw. This is not the thing that I I'm really set up to do. This isn't what I do. Alright, hold on.



Rahm the Shaman 34:55

Preethi? Preethi, are you still around?



Storyteller Rina 34:58

She pokes her head into the beaded curtain area.



Preethi 35:00

Yes, Master Rahm. I was getting ready for bed.



Rahm the Shaman 35:04

Hey, sweetheart, darling. Absolutely. And as you should be, you are absolutely fantastic. By the way, you look great tonight. I just want you to know that.



Preethi 35:14

Oh, thank you, Master Rahm.



Rahm the Shaman 35:16

Absolutely. I need a, I need a small favor. I know we haven't done this in a while. We haven't really needed to with our regular customer base, but I need to run a couple of tests. And so I just need to do if you could give me like, five quick minutes here. I need to, I need to, I need

you to do a donation. Just a pint. Is that going to be something that you can support this evening?

P Preethi 35:46

I guess. I mean, I was just going to bed. So I didn't have any major plans. Sure. I guess.

R Rahm the Shaman 35:53

I really, you know, I just want you to know that I know things are really difficult here. And I really appreciate everything that you do for me and this organization. And I'm just very grateful for all your hard work.

S Storyteller Rina 36:09

She preens.

R Rahm the Shaman 36:11

Absolutely. Fantastic. Alright, cool. Um, I'm going to give you a little bit privacy here. Go ahead. Just go ahead. You know how to use the phlebotomy equipment. So I'm just going to step on the other side of these beads

P Preethi 36:24

You don't want to take it directly?

T Teagan (Rahm) 36:27

Well, that's the thing, love, we're kind of on a bit of a time crunch right now. And there's a couple of other issues going on. So we're going to do it, we're going to do it Capri Sun style. So if you could just, if you could just help me out with this this one time. I'm going to pick up, I know you like the what do they call it? Those fruit nut chocolate bars? Yeah, I'm gonna grab one of those Cadbury ones for you on the way back alright?

P Preethi 37:05

Oh, that sounds marvelous. Ok.

T Teagan (Rahm) 37:08

Fantastic. Alright, cool. I'm just gonna go ahead and close the beads, as much as you can close

beads.

- S** Storyteller Rina 37:14
As you close it, or pull the beads back, you see her sterilizing the inner part of her elbow with a with a cotton pad and just whistling to herself.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 37:26
Fantastic.
- R** Rahm the Shaman 37:26
Alex, how's everybody doing?
- A** Alex 37:29
As far as?
- R** Rahm the Shaman 37:32
They're all still in one piece still right? Every time I, every time I don't hang out with you for a period of time somebody gets messed up.
- A** Alex 37:42
That's usually you.
- R** Rahm the Shaman 37:44
Ok, fair, rude. But fair.
- M** Mike (Marcus) 37:49
It looks like most of us are infected.
- R** Rahm the Shaman 37:55
Well, that is shitty.

- M** Mike (Marcus) 38:00
I, however, hopefully gave Vince more help. I got...I procured a book from somebody.
- R** Rahm the Shaman 38:10
How's that supposed to help? What's, what is Vince doing?
- M** Mike (Marcus) 38:14
Sorry. Yeah, you've been sleeping and such. He's researching a potential ritual that can help cleanse the blood. Or maybe everyone, blanket the city. I hope it's like a blanket the city. That would make it so much easier and less of a headache.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 38:34
Rahm just flops back into into like a beanbag.
- R** Rahm the Shaman 38:37
Oh my god. Oh, thank god.
- M** Mike (Marcus) 38:39
You're assuming he can do it, though.
- R** Rahm the Shaman 38:41
Well, he's got the backing of the entire Tremere clan. Of course.
- M** Mike (Marcus) 38:45
They don't really know who he is.
- R** Rahm the Shaman 38:48
Fuck.
- A** Alex 38:49

How do you think I got the book? Because I talked to somebody in the clan.

R Rahm the Shaman 38:54

Alex, we have got to get our shit straight.

M Mike (Marcus) 39:00

That's why I figure we'll give him time to study and we'll go get more information from the clan when the Oracle speaks to the wise woman. And then we'll have the most amazing time at this party. Trust me. Like you know how you've been looking for like enlightenment and clarity of mind? This temple will bring it to you.

R Rahm the Shaman 39:26

Why do I feel like I'm being roped into something that I don't have all the fish about?

A Alex 39:32

It's a party.

S Storyteller Rina 39:34

As Alex says that, Preethi pokes her head out. She passes you a pint sized IV bag of blood.

T Teagan (Rahm) 39:43

Absolutely. I give her a kiss on the cheek and I just say,

R Rahm the Shaman 39:46

You are absolutely fantastic and an essential part of this organization. Thank you so much. Cadbury fruit nut bar, got it on the list already. We've got this. Alex, let's, let us be away.

M Mike (Marcus) 40:03

Excellent.

R Rahm the Shaman 40:05

Preethi, you got the fort. This is your, your place, you run it

Preethi, you got the fort. This is your, your place, you run it.

P Preethi 40:08
aYou got it.

S Storyteller Rina 40:10
She's swaying slightly as she bandages up the IV hole in her arm.

R Rahm the Shaman 40:17
Oranges, darling.

R Rahm the Shaman 40:18
Orange juice in the fridge. Got it. Got it.

T Teagan (Rahm) 40:21
You rock. Love you. Alright. Fantastic. Alex, I'm going to, so I'm going to go ahead and grab a leather jacket and just kind of like, I got like this nice maroon leather jacket. And I'm just going to kind of put it on and like zip it up. It's a little bit of a kind of an Eisenhower jacket. So it's a little short, but I'm hoping it covers up enough holes and chunks. We're not going with skinny jeans today because that's going to really show the definition of the bite marks. So something a little bit baggy or some Levi's. Yeah, that'll work. Sweet.

R Rahm the Shaman 40:54
Alex, why are we still here?

A Alex 40:58
I'm waiting on you.

T Teagan (Rahm) 41:00
Ok, fantastic. And we are gone.

S Storyteller Rina 41:04

The two of you leave, and everyone retires for the evening or for the daytime. Meanwhile, while all this has been happening, at exactly 12:01 on the 31st, a plane lands from Chicago at Terminal 1 of San Francisco International Airport. And departing from this airplane, first off the plane from Business Class, and currently striding through the hallways of the Harvey Milk terminal, we find who, Scott?

S

Scott (William) 41:50

William Mallet is not a large man by modern standards; he's a little over five foot tall and fairly slightly built. Looking at him, he may appear to be in his late 50s early 60s. He's got iron gray hair, it's not completely white yet, that is neatly slicked back and is thinning a bit. He is dressed in a very expensive but simple, bespoke suit, just a simple grey suit, and obviously a bespoke white shirt underneath that. But his sole eccentricity is that he wears a silver colored cravat instead of a tie. Well, I suppose another eccentricity is that he carries a walking cane which has got a silver head on it and the head appears to be a hammer. He carries himself very straight, and has got a no-nonsense kind of air about him. He doesn't smile habitually. He's got very cold eyes. But at the same time, there is perhaps a certain charisma and presence to him.

S

Storyteller Rina 43:29

Who's traveling with you in your, in your entourage?

S

Scott (William) 43:33

William is accompanied by a relatively small entourage. The only Kindred amongst them is Tiana Nanai, who is William's body guard. She is of Clan Brujah and she is a large woman, originally from the Pacific Islands, who has been in his employ for over 100 years at this stage. She is about six foot two tall, solidly built, dressed in a again a fairly expensive suit, but this is a light linen suit with a loose cut that is clearly designed for freedom of movement. But she has a few visible tattoos, including a couple of facial tattoos, and she moves with the kind of wary grace of someone who is used to both trying to avoid violence and engaging with it when absolutely necessary. The two humans who accompany William are, first of all, Sophie Archambeau, who is mistaken by too many people probably, for her liking most of all, for William's personal assistant. She is not. She is the Chief Technology Officer of Opticon, which is a data analysis firm that William owns that deals with some degree of political consultancy as well. And she very much acts as William's interface with the human world. She is, however, a ghoul. And Sophie is now in her 50s; she is dressed in a black skirt suit with an open neck white blouse, and she carries an attache case with her. She wears horn-rimmed glasses and usually has a scowl on her face when dealing with the humans that she has to deal with for William, but a very pleasant professional manner when dealing with him directly. And last of all, is the other human who is a fairly large, well-muscled man, probably in his early 20s, mid 20s, maybe, who those who keep up with professional sports in the news, might even recognize as a former Olympian, a member of the German Olympic swim team, whose name is Lucas Bacher, and he has a very particular purpose in William's entourage. He is William's blood boy. And this is something of an open secret. William has allowed the rumor to circulate to that he keeps this boy on staff to provide blood transfusions to keep him young. And this is a half truth. William does make use of his blood, but not through transfusions

S

Storyteller Rina 47:00

His little entourage walk through the Harvey Milk terminal. It's night, it's just past midnight on the 31st, Halloween, there's not a whole lot of people traveling at this time. So just a few other travelers from Chicago. And anyone who does get in your way quickly moves out of it. So you just have a sort of aura of "Don't fuck with me." And you step out into the cool San Francisco night; it's not as cold here as it is already in Chicago for you, although it is still a bit breezy. So you have a limo waiting for you; there is a driver wearing the fancy old style suit and hat, he's holding up the sign saying "William Mallet and party," and they drive you to your location of choice. Where is William going to be staying while he's in San Francisco?

S

Scott (William) 48:02

While he's staying in San Francisco, William has made arrangements to stay at the house of an unnamed friend who has left town to leave William the full run of the premises. This is a mansion up on Pacific Heights of the area that's now known as Billionaires' Row. It's an old-fashioned looking house that takes up most of the city block or the equivalent and has got its own small grounds around it. But most importantly, it's well fortified, easy to secure, and has got good stout shutters that can go over all the windows.

S

Storyteller Rina 48:52

So your limo drives you up to a very expensive-looking modern home. This one though, has instead of all of the glass that you see in a lot of modernist architecture in San Francisco, it appears to be more of a square. And all of the windows have curtains over them. But it's a very square-shaped dwelling. It stands out like a sore sore thumb from the rest of the architecture in San Francisco and the locals all hate it. But it's very much the kind of place a billionaire would stay. So you and your your entourage arrived at this location. By the time you get everything set up, you review the information you've been given and who you want to speak to on this particular trip, it is getting later into the morning. But you do get an alert from one of your contacts in San Francisco that the Blood Hunt is on for one of the Primogens of San Francisco; Claudio Ricci, the Toreador Primogen, is currently the subject of a blood hunt and your contact happens to know that the message will be going out right at sunrise, and come the following night when sun sets on the 31st, it's open season, and that's new information to you.

W

William 50:23

Well, they do keep things lively around here.

S

Storyteller Rina 50:28

Very.

S

Scott (William) 50:30

S SCOTT (william) 50:29

Well, I suppose if they're going to hunt him, they're going to hunt him; they must have good reason. And as long as they don't scare the Kine or attract the wrong kind of attention, why not? I'm sure we can help the clan find a suitable replacement once all the dust has settled.

S Storyteller Rina 50:50

Interesting. So do you have any shenanigans you want to set in motion before you retire for the morning and you can begin your proper work the following night?

W William 51:04

Ah, yes. Ms. Archambeau, could you please bring me those invitations?

S Scott (William) 51:11

On these invitations, when Sophie brings them through, are handwritten. They're beautifully handwritten on cream card with a stamp or letterhead on them. That is William Mallet's own personal stamp, a various one for each member of the coterie, and William signs them all personally. The invitations suggest that the invitee makes themselves available at the Opticon offices at their earliest convenience. Once William has finished signing them all, he hands them back to Sophie.

W William 51:54

Ah, Ms. Archambeau, do have these hand delivered, that should convey an appropriate degree of urgency.

S Storyteller Rina 52:03

Sophie nods. And she says,

S Sophie 52:08

I'll get these out as quickly as possible. They shouldn't be too hard to find.

W William 52:15

Very good. Thank you.

S Sophie 52:17

— And Monsieur, you have a message waiting from...

S Storyteller Rina 52:26

She peers at the paper.

S Sophie 52:28

I cannot read this handwriting.

S Storyteller Rina 52:30

But she hands you a message. And it's from the Primogen of Ventrue in town requesting confirmation of your arrival when you've arrived. So you have Juanita Martinez, she's the Primogen in town asking you to let her know when you've arrived and when you would like to have a clan meeting to discuss Conrads.

W William 52:59

Oh, yes. Yes, of course, must keep the locals happy. Ms. Archambeau, could you please write a message to Ms. Martinez, suggesting that we meet in, let's say in two nights time. Do pass on my regrets that I shan't be able to make time for her sooner than that. But she must understand that I am newly arrived in San Francisco, and I'm still familiarizing myself with the complexities of the situation here.

S Storyteller Rina 53:38

Sophie nods, takes it down and says,

W William 53:42

I will deliver this as well. Is there anything else monsieur?

W William 53:46

Yes, I'm afraid I have some personal business to attend to with the current management of San Francisco. You may wish to keep a stake or two at the ready, just in case.

S Sophie 54:02

Or three.

W William 54:03

As ever, Ms. Archambeau, your efficiency and hard work have been exemplary. Thank you indeed. I would be quite lost without you.

S Storyteller Rina 54:13

She smiles and she heads out to distribute your mail for you.

S Scott (William) 54:19

So William heads back to his borrowed mansion some time before dawn. He is rather old. He is almost 1000 now. And while this does have its merits, he does not quite have the energy he had when he was a younger kindred and does sometimes need to turn in early, especially after such a long journey.

S Storyteller Rina 54:49

And the trip was, while not exactly long, it was still very taxing for you. You haven't had to travel like that in quite some time. So, you retire, all of you, for the day in your various locations. And when you awake, it is 7:30pm on Halloween. So I would like a Rouse check from everyone, including you, Scott. So that's going to be one d10, and you want a 6 or higher.

M Mike (Marcus) 55:29

I have a 9.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 55:31

8.


S Storyteller Rina 55:32


Ok, so Marcus is fine as usual somehow.


T Teagan (Rahm) 55:37


I have failed.


S Storyteller Rina 55:40


 Storyteller Rina 55:40
Okay, so Rahm, you're going to take two points of Hunger.


 Teagan (Rahm) 55:44
That's at 4 out of 5.


 Mike (Marcus) 55:46
Also as usual.

 Tiffanie (Alex) 55:48
Fuck.


 Storyteller Rina 55:49
Also as usual for Rahm.

 John (Vince) 55:52
Imagine you had this fucker in your house and you're just like, "ok, Rahm, I'm taking you to a party later." And you just look over, and he's like *animal noises*

 Teagan (Rahm) 56:00
I have, I have Prethi's bag in the fridge. So I just haven't used it yet.

 Ali (Katerina) 56:07
I rolled a 6.

 Storyteller Rina 56:08
Ok.

 Scott (William) 56:09
Ah, I passed.

- S** Storyteller Rina 56:11
So William is fine. He's old. He doesn't need to feed as much. And Katerina, you take one point of Hunger. And Vince?
- J** John (Vince) 56:20
Vince succeeded and I add a point to Hunger because dreams.
- S** Storyteller Rina 56:24
Alright, so you all wake up in your various locations. Let's deal with Rahm first. Rahm, you wake up and you are ravenous. There is a gnawing inside your gut. And you are feeling so fucking hungry.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 56:45
I want the human equivalent of an In and Out Burger. I'm going to go straight for that fridge, for that bag. And I'm going to, I want to, I just want to bite the bag. That is not the right way to eat/drink from that bag. I'm doing it anyways.
- S** Storyteller Rina 57:06
Ok, so you bite into the bag and blood goes everywhere all over Alex's kitchen. All over you, all over the kitchen. It looks like an episode of Hannibal in here.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 57:20
That's fantastic. Yeah, I'm gonna try to get as much of it in my face as I can and whatever. I can't...I'm gonna go at it. So I don't care if it's on the floor. I hope you use the Roomba. Do I get any of that?
- S** Storyteller Rina 57:34
Well, I can tell you, the way you bid into it is not going to be enough to really do much.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 57:42
Look, I'm not making good decisions.
- S** Storyteller Rina 57:43

Alright, business as usual for Rahm the Shaman.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 57:47

So I walk into my kitchen that's more expensive than his entire house to him like licking the floor.

T Teagan (Rahm) 57:55

Yes, that is exactly what it is.

S Storyteller Rina 57:58

And there's blood splatter everywhere. Rahm is covered in blood. He's licking the floor. His eyes are slightly red. And he looks very much like Vince did when Vince was on the brink of frenzy.

M Mike (Marcus) 58:17

Can any of you get your shit together?

T Teagan (Rahm) 58:21

I didn't think it was going to pop. It's like this is...it's like a giant bloody tide pod.

M Mike (Marcus) 58:36

Let me know when you're when you're cleaned up and feeling better. There might be...I don't know, back there might be another one in the back of the fridge.

S Storyteller Rina 58:47

Yeah, why don't you roll me a d10 to see if you have another bag in the fridge.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 58:51

That was a two. Yeah, no.

S Storyteller Rina 58:56

You ran out of your supply, and with Maxine dead and Eddie in a bit of a panic, you haven't

really had much chance to refill.

T Teagan (Rahm) 59:04
Do I get one point off hunger for that?

M Mike (Marcus) 59:06
Are you got to finish cleaning my kitchen first? Probably.

R Rahm the Shaman 59:09
Alright, fine. You don't...they make the...if you've seen the commercials for the paper towels that you can bring them out and then use them again. They fixed that in like the 90s.

S Storyteller Rina 59:25
If you want to reduce your Hunger, you have to clean the kitchen.

T Teagan (Rahm) 59:31
Alright, I'm into that.

S Storyteller Rina 59:33
I think you're hungry enough at four Hunger that you don't really have much control over it. You're just...the smell is all around you. And because the smell is all around you, you are just devouring every bit of blood you can find on every possible surface.

R Rahm the Shaman 59:48
I'm very sorry about the grout.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 59:51
I just turn around and walk away and start getting ready for the party.

A Alex 59:56
But when you're done, make sure you shower.

S Storyteller Rina 59:59
So as Rahm is clean feeding, and Alex, you turn away you see an envelope stuck under your front door.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:00:09
Oh, no. Alright. I will go check out the envelope.

S Storyteller Rina 1:00:15
It has your name on the front in very elegant handwriting.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:00:21
Ok, maybe...eh, depends on if it's a Toreador or not. I'll open it.

S Storyteller Rina 1:00:27
So you open the envelope and you find a neat, elegant invitation card in almost calligraphic handwriting. And it is from a William Mallet, inviting you, Alex Giovanni, to a meeting at your earliest convenience.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:00:49
Oh, fuck that. Ok. Well, my earliest convenience is going to be on the 1st because we have a party.

S Storyteller Rina 1:00:57
So where's this meeting supposed to take place at, Scott? Do you give a location?

S Scott (William) 1:01:04
William has invited the various members of the coterie to the Opticon offices in the financial district of San Francisco. This is a fairly opulent-looking glass-fronted building that is incredibly modern in its design.

S Storyteller Rina 1:01:25
So the address is in the financial district, actually in the heart of Venture territory in downtown

So the address is in the financial district, actually in the heart of ventrue territory in downtown San Francisco. And you you recognize the office building.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:01:39
Is that where Felix was staying?

S Storyteller Rina 1:01:41
Not the same building but across the street.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:01:45
Ok, well then I guess I will get Rahm cleaned up. I'll just put on a suit because we gotta go see the wise woman. And then Rahm's just gonna have to hang out until after my meeting. Because I'm not taking him with me.

S Storyteller Rina 1:02:03
You see a second envelope under the one you picked up and this one has Rahm's name on it.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:02:09
Ah, son of a bitch. Ok, I guess I'll look back towards the kitchen and tell Rahm:

A Alex 1:02:19
Hey, Rahm, there's some Ventrue pissing on our party. So after you see the wise woman, we gotta go meet some dude with a stick up his ass. But he'll totally kill us. So keep your mouth shut.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:02:33
Ok. Is that code for something?

M Mike (Marcus) 1:02:36
No, it's literal. All of it.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:02:39

Alright. Well, I'll, I'm going to, I'm, there's a lot of coagulation going on.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:02:46
Shower. You better lick your feet clean. Do you know how much my carpet cost? I'm just kidding.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:02:53
And I throw like a rag at him.

T Teagan (Rahm) 1:02:55
Yeah no, I clean myself off and head off to the shower. And then post-shower, I'm gonna see if Alex is the same clothing size as me.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:03:04
Do I have something that I could pick out for Rahm?

S Storyteller Rina 1:03:08
I think we established last time when Rahm was staying with you last time that he is slightly shorter than you and a bit skinnier, but that you can make it work.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:03:18
Right. So no tailored suits, but I could probably get them like a nice dress shirt and maybe have them cuff some dress pants.

T Teagan (Rahm) 1:03:25
Alright, fantastic.

S Storyteller Rina 1:03:28
So while Alex and Rahm are getting ready for a party and also for a meeting or two, Marcus, you have awakened.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:03:38

Really?

S Storyteller Rina 1:03:39
This night of the 31st.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:03:41
It could be worse.

S Storyteller Rina 1:03:43
It could be. Give it time. You slept very well last night.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:03:48
Oh good. Didn't remember a thing.

S Storyteller Rina 1:03:51
Nope. Not a thing. Lucky you. And there's a knock on your door.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:03:57
Am I still in bed?

S Storyteller Rina 1:03:58
Oh, you could have gotten up by now.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:04:00
I'm just wondering. Okay, yeah, get out of bed and go as I am to the door of my bedroom here at the office, which is essentially in the back of my office.

S Storyteller Rina 1:04:14
You open the door and Marie's standing there.

M Marie 1:04:14
I'm sorry to bother you, Marcus, someone...French dropped this off for you.

S Storyteller Rina 1:04:16
And there is a white envelope with your name neatly written across the front

M Mike (Marcus) 1:04:34
I take the envelope.

M Marcus 1:04:36
Thanks, Marie.

M Marie 1:04:38
Yeah, I didn't want to wake you up. Sorry.

M Marcus 1:04:41
It's ok. I'll be down in a little while.

M Marie 1:04:46
Ok.

S Storyteller Rina 1:04:46
She nods and goes off downstairs, back to work.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:04:51
I close the door and inspect the letter within.

S Storyteller Rina 1:04:55
You also find an invitation to a meeting with William Mallet at the the boardroom downtown of the Opticon offices at your earliest convenience.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:05:09
Of course. So I'll set the letter aside and probably try to figure out what I'm going to wear next.

S Storyteller Rina 1:05:19
Ok. Are you planning on going straight to the meeting? Do you have other plans for this evening?

M Mike (Marcus) 1:05:26
No, I don't really have any. I did at some point need to speak with Rahm about something more long term, but I assume he's probably still resting up after is nasty runnin with the beach party.

S Storyteller Rina 1:05:40
Yes. After his shark attack.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:05:44
Yes, it seems that the local Gangrel do enjoy a good quick bite of Malkavian every now and again. So I will dress properly, although nothing too over the top for me, so do that and grab my jacket and go downstairs and speak with Marie and make sure that everything downstairs is running fine as it should be.

S Storyteller Rina 1:06:12
She nods and just points at everyone working on their different projects.

M Marie 1:06:17
It's a very quiet night tonight. The cops took the caution tape down. So I guess it's, I guess they're done with the scene.

M Marcus 1:06:24
Yeah, they're done.

M Marie 1:06:26
.....

Ok, good. We don't need that kind of attention. We got work to do.

M Marcus 1:06:32
We do. How are you feeling?

M Marie 1:06:36
Didn't sleep very well.

S Storyteller Rina 1:06:38
She smiles a little sheepishly.

M Marie 1:06:39
But who does these days?

M Marcus 1:06:42
I sleep like the dead.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:06:44
I smile.

M Marie 1:06:47
Well, I guess all of this doesn't bother you too much when you've seen the stuff you've seen.

M Marcus 1:06:53
Doesn't mean it doesn't bother me. It means that I can channel it. There's a difference.

M Marie 1:07:01
Oh, maybe I'll learn how to do that one, one of these nights.

M Marcus 1:07:04



I have no doubt. Chin up.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:07:07

She nods and gets back to her desk.

M

Mike (Marcus) 1:07:11

From there, I am going to likely contact Vince and attempt to ascertain whether or not he has also gotten a very mysterious letter.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:07:21

Ok, so, Vince, you wake up this evening. You also did not sleep very well. And you're feeling a little hungry. And instead of a book being thrown at you, when you wake up this evening, it just sort of limply falls off the bookcase.

J

John (Vince) 1:07:44

Yeah. And Vince will pick that up. He picks it up and he reads, just it must be very annoying for Mina now because he just picks at random, just like wherever it falls. He just reads from there.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:07:58

So you read to Mina now.

J

John (Vince) 1:08:00

Yeah, so Vince will read to Mina, and he's just like, and then he puts it away.

V

Vince 1:08:10

I hope you're doing ok.

J

John (Vince) 1:08:15

I'm just gonna check the post because as a person who still lives their mortal life, I get post or sorry, mail.

S

Storyteller Rina 1:08:23

Storyteller Rina 1:09:29

You go out into the hallway in your bare feet, and you don't get any response from Mina. Which is a little strange, but Alex did say that she wasn't feeling very well. So you go check your mailbox. It's one of those metal boxes that's hung on your wall just outside your door, and inside your mailbox, you have a couple bills, one from the power company and one from the water company. And you have a notice reminding you not to use too much water when it comes to lawns. You're on a ban on watering lawns currently, etc. But then you also find a plain white envelope with your name on it.

J John (Vince) 1:09:08

And this is the point at which Vince wonders whether vampires can be affected by anthrax and opens the envelope.

S Storyteller Rina 1:09:15

It's a valid, it's a valid worry. So this plain white envelope doesn't have a return address, doesn't have a stamp, doesn't even have your address. It just has your name. Your full name on the front.

J John (Vince) 1:09:28

The last time I got anything like this was the invite from the Prince. And yeah, I'm just like "oh goddammit". He just takes it inside and opens up.

S Storyteller Rina 1:09:39

So you also find this invitation from William Mallet. And as you're looking at it, perhaps in confusion and a bit of dawning horror, your phone rings.

J John (Vince) 1:09:51

It's my friend Marcus. Really, can I call him a friend because he's just another monster? He freely admits to it so yeah, he's a monster.

V Vince 1:10:00

Oh, hi, Marcus.

M Marcus 1:10:02

Vince, I'll keep this short. Did you get a letter tonight?

V Vince 1:10:06
Oh, I take it you got one too.

M Marcus 1:10:08
I did. I'm gonna stop by your place.

V Vince 1:10:10
Ok. I'll get dressed and be ready for when you're here.

M Marcus 1:10:14
Wear something with a collar.

J John (Vince) 1:10:16
Last person who said that to Vince was his sire. And he's like, "no, no, he means a different kind of collar."

M Mike (Marcus) 1:10:21
Far different. I mean, hey, I'm not here to shame. So if you want to wear a collar, that's fine with me, buddy.

J John (Vince) 1:10:27
Yes, I will.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:10:30
Alright. I'll see you shortly.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:10:32
I hang up the phone and then get in the car.

S Storyteller Rina 1:10:35

We'll change the camera over briefly to one Katerina Bogdanovich. Katerina, you did not sleep very well.

A Ali (Katerina) 1:10:43

I'm not shocked by that.

S Storyteller Rina 1:10:44

I didn't think you would be. So you wake up, you feel groggy, you feel bleary eyed. The dreams were worse this time than they were yesterday. You don't know if it was because you saw the cold dead staring eyes of the 50 humans you killed, or if it's just because you've suddenly realized how much the bakery had a part to play in this, but you feel like shit. So you wake up, and you presumably get ready for the day. And as you go to the door leading to the stairs down to the main part of the bakery, you see this white envelope under your door.

A Ali (Katerina) 1:11:40

I will pick it up.

S Storyteller Rina 1:11:43

As you reach for it, it scoots forward a bit, almost like it's been helpfully pushed.

A Ali (Katerina) 1:11:48

I guess I'll open it.

S Storyteller Rina 1:11:51

So you open the envelope and you find this invitation from William Mallet inviting you to your meeting at your earliest convenience down at the Opticon offices in the financial district, the heart of Ventrue territory, as you know. What do you do?

A Ali (Katerina) 1:12:11

I'm going to walk downstairs into the bakery. I'm going to go into the back. I'm going to turn on the oven and throw the envelope inside.

S Storyteller Rina 1:12:23

So you burn it to a crisp?

so you burn it to a crisp:

A Ali (Katerina) 1:12:26
Correct.

S Storyteller Rina 1:12:28
Excellent. So you have received your summons and decided to ignore it. Cora is gone for the night, and perhaps a few more nights, as you've sent her to the farm for quarantine. And you don't see any sign of Lucy.

A Ali (Katerina) 1:12:45
I'm gonna go into the office and attempt to call her another half dozen times.

S Storyteller Rina 1:12:51
You call her and call her and call her and you get nothing. On the seventh call you get "inbox full."

A Ali (Katerina) 1:13:04
I'm sure that since she's my employee, I am going to find her file and where her address is. Because I need to hunt her down and make sure she's ok.

S Storyteller Rina 1:13:17
Alright, so you get her address. Ray Ray pokes his head in.

R Ray Ray 1:13:23
Hey, Katerina.

K Katerina 1:13:25
Hello, Ray Ray.

S Storyteller Rina 1:13:26
He tilts his head a little bit.

R Ray Ray 1:13:29
You feeling ok?

K Katerina 1:13:32
Just been sleeping a little rough for a little while. I will be ok. No worries.

R Ray Ray 1:13:39
Uh huh. Never known you to have a bad night's sleep. You out partying and you didn't tell me?

K Katerina 1:13:46
No. You really think I'm going to go partying without you?

R Ray Ray 1:13:51
You better not.

K Katerina 1:13:52
No, don't worry. It's just been a few hard nights of trying to arrange with a client that is very particular.

S Storyteller Rina 1:14:03
Ok, got it. Got it. Do you need me to stick around tonight? I see Cora is not in, I haven't seen Lucy and Lexi already left.

K Katerina 1:14:11
We are going to do something that we do not do very often. I would like you to write a note and post it on the door that we are closed for the evening.

S Storyteller Rina 1:14:26
He holds his hands up to his mouth in fake shock.

R Ray Ray 1:14:30
We're closing the bakery?!

K Katerina 1:14:35
For a short while at nights.

R Ray Ray 1:14:38
The world must be ending. Pigs are flying past my window.

K Katerina 1:14:43
Isn't it you, Ray Ray, who told me that maybe I shouldn't work so much?

R Ray Ray 1:14:49
Yes, I just never thought you'd actually listen to me.

K Katerina 1:14:52
I try to rub it in at some point. Now go enjoy your night. I have, well, more meetings with said client I'm working very hard to get this party ready for.

R Ray Ray 1:15:06
Alright, but if we keep this closed for more than a couple nights, you're gonna have to come out with me and Raul.

K Katerina 1:15:14
I will make the effort and if I cannot, you will know.

S Storyteller Rina 1:15:22
He rolls his eyes, but he smiles.

S Storyteller Rina 1:15:25

Alright, you got it. He saunters off. So we will leave our session there, with all of our various preparations for the Halloween night ahead with our mysterious William Mallet in town. So thank you all for listening, and have a good night.