

Blood Moon Rising ep 21 transcript

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S Storyteller Rina 00:01

Thank you for joining us wherever you are. This podcast episode is brought to you by the Old Ways actual play team. This actual play uses the 5th edition Vampire the Masquerade tabletop role-playing rules by World of Darkness. This actual play is performed by adults and in an adult setting. Listeners should know that this podcast is intended for a mature audience and will include strong language and mature themes. All content, including names, places, events, companies, and so forth that may bear resemblance to entities living, dead or undead is strictly coincidental. My name is Rina Haenze, and for tonight's game, I will be your Storyteller.

S Storyteller Rina 01:00

Good evening everyone, and welcome to another episode of the Old Ways Podcast's Vampire the Masquerade Chronicle "Blood Moon Rising." I'm your Storyteller, Storyteller Rina, and tonight we have some very, very interesting events to attend. But first, we need to get into some introductions. So to my right:

M Marcus 01:19

Hi, this is Mike and I play Marcus Voss of Clan Brujah, who is about to have a wonderful night.

S Storyteller Rina 01:25

I'm sure he is. And to Marcus's right:

T Teagan (Rahm) 01:30

Hi my name is Teagan and I'm playing Rahm the Shaman, and I am so very hungry and ready

m, my name is Teagan and I'm playing Rahm the Shaman, and I am so very hungry and ready to party.

S

Storyteller Rina 01:38

Hungry and ready to party. That's a great combination. And at the end of the table we have:

A

Ali (Katerina) 01:45

Hi this is Ali and I play Katerina Bogdanovich of Clan Toreador, and I have no idea what I'm doing with my life anymore. Or unlife, as it were.

S

Storyteller Rina 01:59

Do any of us? And since we are in the missing Vince Markevich formation, last but not least we have:

T

Tiffanie (Alex) 02:07

This is Tiffanie and I play Alex Giovanni and we definitely have a party to go to.

S

Storyteller Rina 02:14

Rock on. Alright, so it is still the night of October 31, Halloween, all of you have completed your meeting with Billy the Hammer, no one died, much to the surprise of perhaps some of the younger vampires in the coterie, and you have other business to attend to for the evening. Putting aside most thoughts of blood moons and dreaming and well, hunger, for most of you, you now have some events to attend. As Marcus drops Vince off at home, as he requested, Vince says he has some work to do. Who knows what that means with a Tremere? And you can now get to your other shenanigans. So let's start with Alex and Rahm, who had a party to attend to.

T

Tiffanie (Alex) 03:08

Yes, we will, yeah, go back to my place and get our costumes on. And then head on down to the party.

T

Teagan (Rahm) 03:20

What am I wearing this time? What did you put me in?

T

Tiffanie (Alex) 03:23

Tiffany (Alex) 03:12

A toga.

T

Teagan (Rahm) 03:24

A toga! Perfect.

T

Tiffanie (Alex) 03:26

Yeah, and I'm wearing like, a very like, sheer almost see through, like Greek dress. I have a wig that's long brown hair, a crown, just going as you know, Aphrodite, basically.

T

Teagan (Rahm) 03:47

I think this is the point when I'm just glad that Rahm doesn't have like these full chest tattoos under the toga and everything.

S

Storyteller Rina 03:55

The two of you are heading out to your party. Rahm, you're hungry. You're not doing so well at the moment. But Alex kind of insists that you need to go to this party. So you are in the backseat of the car wearing a toga; you haven't eaten in a while and when you did eat, it wasn't exactly satisfying. So it's going to be an interesting rest of the night for you. So Alex, where is this party?

T

Tiffanie (Alex) 04:25

Well, I would also reassure Rahm that there should be Kine, cattle for him to feed from, not like literal cows, because he's probably going to look at me weird when I say that anyways, so I would imagine that the Nephilim Temple is probably on the edge of town, probably. And yeah, that's where we're headed.

S

Storyteller Rina 04:53

You arrive at what Alex has described to you, Rahm, as a temple. So what does it look like, Alex, and how many people can we expect to be there?

T

Tiffanie (Alex) 05:04

Well, it depends how many people are in this area, but I would, I would assume probably at the very least, maybe a couple of dozen. Because I mean, San Francisco is a fairly decent size. And then there's a couple of decent sized cities near it. So we would all probably congregate into

this area, I picture it very much like probably a big mansion, but inside is very gilded and very, you know, posh, and, you know, lots of gold and spiral staircases and you know, marble everywhere kind of thing.

S Storyteller Rina 05:41

So, the two of you disembark from the vehicle, much to the relief of Alex's driver, and you can make your way into the temple. It's not, say a bustling Elysium sort of place. There's not as many of your cult in San Francisco as you would perhaps like, Alex, but there's still a couple dozen. That's pretty good. So the two of you enter, what do you do?

T Tiffanie (Alex) 06:13

I'm just looking to have fun. So I'll see what's going on in the different rooms. And I'll also I've gotta find several probably, you know, willing participants for Rahm to feed.

T Teagan (Rahm) 06:29

Yeah, I'm just looking at the differently dressed characters and I'm just like, you know, just like humming under you know, or like singing to myself. *hums a song* I'm just dancing like nervously.

S Storyteller Rina 06:43

Rahm is perhaps a little more manic than normal.

T Teagan (Rahm) 06:47

Yeah, Rahm doesn't do so well when he's hungry.

S Storyteller Rina 06:51

As we've noticed. We've noticed. Half the city has noticed by now, Rahm. So Rahm is fidgeting and looking around and singing under their breath. And so Alex, you have a look around, all the doors are open; no one really goes in for closed doors at this kind of event. You see a few ghostly figures actually sort of floating their way through the halls. The veil is very thin here, which is why the temple was built here and on October 31, on Halloween, it is even thinner. And so some ghostly spectral forms are actually moving around visibly. Rahm, you sort of see the outlines of these ghostly figures moving through the halls; you don't see them quite as well as Alex does. But you do catch a sort of ghostly glimpse as they move.

R Rahm the Shaman 07:45

What the shit is that?

A Alex 07:47

Basically anything goes, so whatever you want to do is going to be here. This is for good times.

T Teagan (Rahm) 07:58

Rahm cannot physically raise one of their eyebrows any higher than it already is raised at Alex. And I'm just gonna be like,

R Rahm the Shaman 08:09

Alex, I had no idea this side of you existed. This is, this is unprecedented. A surprise to be sure, but a delightful one.

S Storyteller Rina 08:24

As you say that, Rahm, a young woman dressed in a tunic, a very, very short tunic that barely covers anything and tall gladiator sandals, drapes herself over your shoulders and just giggles and says,

G Ghoul 08:42

Hail Caesar.

T Teagan (Rahm) 08:45

I'm just going to be, I'm just gonna like look over to the side and just be like,

R Rahm the Shaman 08:48

Oh, hey, oh my gosh. So this is, this is like a whole thing.

A Alex 08:55

Yeah, whatever you want to do tonight.

T Teagan (Rahm) 08:58

Is this is this a vampire or a human on my shoulder?

is embracing this vampire or a human on my shoulder.

S Storyteller Rina 09:03

This one appears to be human.

T Teagan (Rahm) 09:05

Well, that's terrible. Oh, I feel like I need to roll something for hunger. I feel like I need to roll something because I can probably smell them.

S Storyteller Rina 09:21

Ok, so give me a willpower, minus four because you're hungry. You can smell her perfume but you can also smell the iron underneath and you can feel her veins pulsing through her fingers, that heartbeat, as she's stroking your cheek.

T Teagan (Rahm) 09:41

Holy crap. Was that a good roll?

S Storyteller Rina 09:43

Well, kind of.

T Teagan (Rahm) 09:45

Oh, no.

S Storyteller Rina 09:47

Because the thing is, you've got a messy critical. It means that your bestial nature shows itself, even as it allows you to resist just ripping her throat out. How does Rahm resist just draining this human dry but still show the monster inside?

T Teagan (Rahm) 10:13

Oh in that case, I think that we would try to Dominate them or Compel them, if that's possible.

S Storyteller Rina 10:22

.....

I think so, in this situation.

T Teagan (Rahm) 10:24
No, absolutely. So let's see, I think that Rahm would look at them and say,

R Rahm the Shaman 10:37
Why don't you go round up some of your friends and find us a nice quiet place in a corner somewhere?

S Storyteller Rina 10:49
And she just giggles and she tweaks your nose a little bit, says "Ave" and drifts away calling for some of her friends, you assume; you can't quite make out the names. It's very loud in here. There's various noises coming from all the different rooms. But she's poking her head into a room and yelling for someone.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 11:12
I'm gonna look at Rahm and tell him that,

A Alex 11:18
You are free to feed but if anyone dies, I will have your head

R Rahm the Shaman 11:26
Alex you said anything goes. This is not anything goes, this is most things go and then sometimes your head goes and that's not anything goes. What do you...what are you doing to me here?

A Alex 11:42
There are people that provide this herd and it needs to be maintained. Murder is never on the on the table. When I said anything goes, I was talking fun things. I didn't realize that you were into murder. Some masochism here and there? Sure. But no one has to die.

R Rahm the Shaman 12:12
It's not, it's not about, it's not about what I'm into, Alex, it's, it's more I...

T Teagan (Rahm) 12:22
I just look Alex in the face.

R Rahm the Shaman 12:26
The beast is very present tonight. And if we want to have a magical evening, whatever, a good evening, then we've got to find a way to at least take the edge off a little bit first.

A Alex 12:44
Well, I said you could feed, but that doesn't mean you have to kill them. So should I leave you alone? Or do I have to babysit you tonight?

R Rahm the Shaman 12:57
How about for a minute, just for like a minute, you know just like a minute, you stick with me for a bit because I might need you to grab the nape of my neck and just keep me off that that that that bowl of cream there for just a little bit because I am, I am not doing so great.

A Alex 13:24
Ok, well we can find a way to make this fun.

S Storyteller Rina 13:27
As you say that, the girl in the very short tunic is waving at you and you see three of her friends. There's a young man and two other young people and they're all wearing similar short tunics. They appear to be dressed as muses, and they're all poking their heads out of one room and waving at you.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 13:48
I will usher Rahm that direction.

T Teagan (Rahm) 13:51
Oh, you don't have to usher jack shit, like, Rahm is already there.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 13:56

So what's in this room that they chose?

S Storyteller Rina 14:01

So in this room, it's one of the smaller rooms, but it's still pretty fabulous. There's a lot of these low couches, very Greco-Roman style that you lay on to eat, set up around a table in the back, but there's also cushions all over the floor. There's someone playing a harp in the background, there's giant standing harps. And there's very heavy velvet curtains hung all around the room.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 14:28

Do we have glasses in here?

S Storyteller Rina 14:31

Yes.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 14:33

Ok. I will sit them down and sit Rahm across from them. And I will hand them the cups to fill and then we will drink that way. That way I can keep Rahm off of them.

T Teagan (Rahm) 14:54

So you're like just kind of standing there at this point. I'm imagining I'm sitting on a chair and I'm just gonna like lean my head against your hip just because I'm just like, I don't think I can, I don't think I can focus. Makes it, makes it really easy if you have to put me in a headlock.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 15:12

Yeah, we'll get you a glass. Like a civilized human.

S Storyteller Rina 15:18

Okay, so Rahm, you are feeding from this goblet, this chalice, it's glass but gilt edged, as this young woman cuts open a vein on her wrist, and she's looking at you and making eye contact with you the whole time as she fills the glass with her own blood.

T Teagan (Rahm) 15:44

Oh, that's terrible. I'm focusing on the glass. I'm like,

- R** Rahm the Shaman 15:48
Is this, is this William Sonoma? This is really nice. It's good.
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 15:56
I will not let her hand Rahm the glass directly, because I don't want him to grab her.
- S** Storyteller Rina 16:05
Ok, so she goes to lean in and hand the glass to Rahm and you intercept and she pouts while still making eye contact with Rahm the whole time.
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 16:17
And I will hand it to Rahm.
- R** Rahm the Shaman 16:19
Hey, thank you. That's appreciated. Yeah. Ha, this is oh, god, this glass really transmits warmth very, very well.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 16:32
Yeah, no, no, that's it. That's all I can say. I'm gonna go ahead and just, I'm going to chug this like a hot cocoa.
- S** Storyteller Rina 16:39
Alright, so I will tell you Rahm, that because you're at 4 hunger, and you're not feeding directly from the vein, you're going to have to take three glasses of this in order to reduce by 1.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 16:56
Alright, each time I'm gonna, I'll have like a different, like, I'll be like, you know, slainte, and then like the next time we'll be like, kampai. And then like, the next time, I'll be like, cheers. And I'm just gonna, I'm gonna just try to fill that empty space in my soul.
- S** Storyteller Rina 17:14

It doesn't quite work. But you taste the offerings of three of these five young people, as they offer it to you via Alex taking the glass out of their hands and handing it to you. And it does take the edge off just a little bit. You're still very hungry, but you feel a little bit more in control of yourself and feel like maybe you're not going to run wild on a rampage. And Alex, the other two offer you some of their blood as well.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 17:48

Sure, because I mean, at this point, we're already infected. So I'm just going to have a good time. I'm not worrying about that.

R Rahm the Shaman 17:56

Alex. Alex! The second girl is a vegan. You can, you can, you can tell.

A Alex 18:04

Okay...

R Rahm the Shaman 18:05

Just in case that's like not your thing. Just letting you know. Oh, god.

S Storyteller Rina 18:12

So you satiate yourself a bit, Alex and Roahm, take the edge off of your burning hunger. And all five of these humans are sitting there looking at you expectantly, Rahm. They're all looking at you.

R Rahm the Shaman 18:28

Well, everyone. Fantastic. I just wanted to say thank you for coming out to...what's this place called, Alex?

A Alex 18:38

It doesn't really have a name.

R Rahm the Shaman 18:40

Thank you for coming to the place with no name. I appreciate all of you tonight. Why, why are they looking at me that way, Alex?

A Alex 18:52
I think that they're looking to have some fun.

R Rahm the Shaman 18:56
Oh, fantastic. Ok, that, that is, that is gonna be a thing. That is not normally my thing. Alright.

A Alex 19:09
Well, if it's not, then you can just have company. My thing is down the hall with the chains. So unless you want to join me there...

T Teagan (Rahm) 19:19
Rahm is like,

R Rahm the Shaman 19:20
Nice, sweet. Be there in a minute. Give me, give me like 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 minutes. That seems right.

A Alex 19:35
Don't kill anyone.

R Rahm the Shaman 19:36
I won't.

A Alex 19:37
Okay, sweet.

R Rahm the Shaman 19:39
I will not kill anyone.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 19:42
And I'm going to find the very big red room in this place.

S Storyteller Rina 19:46
You know exactly where that is; you've been here many times over the years. And they are waiting for you.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 19:52
Yay.

S Storyteller Rina 19:54
So we'll leave the two of you for the moment having various degrees of fun And we'll turn the camera over to Marcus, who has dropped Vince off for the night and now has the whole rest of Halloween to amuse himself. So Marcus, what are you planning to do?

M Marcus 20:13
I have so many things to do tonight. Amusement is but one of them. So after I drop Vince off, I'm going to make a direct stop at a building which should be closed but likely the occupant is still within. I'm going to stop by the bakery.

S Storyteller Rina 20:32
Alright, so you make your way over to Dragonfly Confections. The sign outside does say closed. But you know Katerina was heading directly there after the meeting with Billy.

M Mike (Marcus) 20:44
Indeed I do.

S Storyteller Rina 20:45
So Katerina, you went straight home, you've had a lot to do over the last couple of nights, you're feeling perhaps a little bit less in control than normal, and you had a very tense meeting with one William Mallet. And when you get back, the bakery is closed because you sent off everyone to, as you call it, quarantine. You make your way up to your apartment and the door, these beautiful doors that Frank made for you, part has transformed into a hand and it's sticking out towards you and it is holding what looks like an envelope.

K Katerina 21:34
wary I grab the envelope.

S Storyteller Rina 21:40
You take the envelope, and the hand melts back into the door. And it just looks like two ivory doors again.

A Ali (Katerina) 21:46
That's so gross.

S Storyteller Rina 21:48
You go into your apartment holding the envelope, and it's got your name written on it in very elegant cursive, Katerina Bogdanovich. And do you open it?

K Katerina 22:01
I think I'm going to change into slightly less formal clothes, meaning I probably just take off my jacket and put on a loose fitting shirt. And then I will open it.

S Storyteller Rina 22:14
So you get a little more comfortable and you sit down, you open the envelope, and inside is a letter written with quill pen. You recognize the style of ink and also the very distinctive cursive as being that of one Vera Giovanni and the letter just says, very simply,

V Vera 22:40
My dear Katerina, I am sorry I did not see you when I left. But Paula arranged very fast tickets to Rome. My bodyguard is coming. He is my ghoul, as you know, and he will keep us safe. Thank you for all you have done. You have been a true friend and I will miss you very much. Please be safe. Come back soon. I hope and perhaps we will eat together again. Love, Vera Giovanni.

S Storyteller Rina 23:16
And her personal seal is stamped at the end.

K Katerina 23:19
I'm going to take the letter and put it in a drawer with what few correspondences I have.

S Storyteller Rina 23:31
Alright, as you put away this letter, Marcus, what are you doing?

M Marcus 23:38
I am standing outside the confectionery and I'm gonna knock on the door, even though I have her office number. Yeah, I'll knock.

S Storyteller Rina 23:48
So you knock and you don't hear anything. You don't see Lucy the shop assistant moving around inside like she normally would be at this time of night. It's just dark.

M Marcus 24:00
I'll take my cell phone out and call Katerina's office.

S Storyteller Rina 24:05
Alright, so Katerina, you hear the office phone downstairs.

K Katerina 24:10
Here I was just comfortable and ready to spend the night in peace. I'll go downstairs, I'll go into the office, go downstairs. I'll go into the office and flip the light on because nobody's here, and I'll answer the phone.

K Katerina 24:30
This is Katerina.

M Marcus 24:32
Are you inside by chance spending Halloween night all to yourself?



K Katerina 24:36

Well, if I was not inside, I don't think I would answer the phone, yes?

M Marcus 24:43

It's a rhetorical question. It was meant to be rhetorical. That's ok. I was thinking, with our business with the coterie nearly at a conclusion, it might be nice to one to go out and perhaps see some other Kindred. There is, after all, likely something happening at Elysium tonight, it being Halloween. And I remembered that you're a little difficult to get a hold of directly.

K Katerina 25:18

Yes, given that my pager is in too many pieces to be repaired.

M Marcus 25:33

These things do happen. I've been known to break a few phones myself. We had an opportunity a little while ago to have a social call, which was interdicted by an old friend. I was hoping we would, we would have an opportunity to, as I mentioned at the time, circle back to something a little bit more private.

K Katerina 25:55

There's a long pause. Very long pause.

K Katerina 25:59

And you would think that Elysium would be private?

M Marcus 26:07

I think it'd be private enough. I don't mean to mean, private as in you and I alone. That's far too forward, right? Now, private is you and I, without, say, an old friend from the east.

K Katerina 26:22

Well, if I remember correctly, our last social engagement perhaps was more alone, with just the two of us, yes? Yeah. Or was supposed to be.

M Marcus 26:42

Was supposed to be...

was supposed to be, yes.

K Katerina 26:46

So, in that case, I would suppose technically, it would not be too forward because it was already arranged before.

M Marcus 26:58

There's a nice and wonderful pier walk I could show you. The time at the docks has afforded me quite the opportunity to see all that the coastline has to offer.

K Katerina 27:12

That would be fine. I will ask if you wanted to visit Elysium, given that it is a big night among our kind.

M Marcus 27:25

I think a short social call there wouldn't be a bad idea. After all, who knows who we might see?

K Katerina 27:33

I will have to get dressed and then do myself up appropriately, yes?

M Marcus 27:42

Yes. Perhaps an hour, an hour and a half.

K Katerina 27:46

Yes, that will take some time. But I do have a request.

M Marcus 27:53

Certainly.

K Katerina 27:54

Given that my pager is in too many pieces, would you be willing to bring me a cell phone that is as low tech as possible?

M Marcus 28:12
Low tech? Yeah, certainly something simple, perhaps something durable. There's a Nokia brand I'm sure that would be useful for you.

K Katerina 28:23
Just please bring whatever you deem appropriate, given that it is very hard to find a pager nowadays, and I suppose cell phones are necessary in this day and age.

M Marcus 28:45
Certainly, but if you'd like it as straightforward as possible, I'm sure I can find something. I have to go change anyway. So let's say an hour and a half

K Katerina 28:57
Yes, that will be enough. I will be waiting downstairs in that time, and I will be ready to go. And if you are late, I will be very disappointed.

M Marcus 29:18
I think you'll find it's going to be quite the evening. I won't be late.

K Katerina 29:23
Good. I will see you soon.

A Ali (Katerina) 29:26
And I hang up the phone.

M Marcus 29:28
And my plans are fairly simple. I'm gonna head back to the office, I'm going to get changed into something, likely something black and something slightly more formal than we'll say the leather jacket offers and and yeah, if I can find a Nokia phone for her I absolutely will. Because they're durable as hell and I don't need her, you know Jeremy Pivening a phone off of the wall somewhere and destroying it. Yeah, that that'll be my aim. If nothing else, if I can't find

something like that specifically, then what I'll probably do is I will find a phone that is a non touchscreen phone, a non smartphone. Because what she wants is a phone to make calls with; she's not interested in necessarily using the browser function or apps function of it.

S

Storyteller Rina 30:27

You do manage to obtain a Nokia that is more recent, but it still functions the same way. For now you can get a prepaid card to go with it, if you think that something Katerina would like.

M

Marcus 30:43

Yeah, I'll probably just go that route. And then what I'm gonna do for her is load it up with just an egregious amount of minutes. So that way, she doesn't have to worry about it for a while. Want to make sure that she's set and ready for anything that might be necessary in the future, as far as phone conversations.

S

Storyteller Rina 31:00

How sweet. So you change, you get ready.

M

Marcus 31:05

It's not without its own hooks, of course.

S

Storyteller Rina 31:07

Of course. And you procure a phone for Katarina. So Katerina, you have hung up the phone. You no longer have a quiet night ahead of you. What do you do?

A

Ali (Katerina) 31:19

Well, first off, this is bullshit. I was gonna have a nice relaxing night in, because Halloween is overrated. But I'm going to go and take a brief shower and I will appropriately do all of my makeup and I will stand in front of my closet trying to decide what I'm going to wear out of like 100 outfits and I will probably just settle on a mid-length dress that is black with some probably silver accents along the collars and the cuffs and the hem of the skirt. And I am going to wear a pair of low-heeled knee-high boots. And this outfit, of course, is not complete without my red trench coat.

S

Storyteller Rina 32:17

Of course. So the 90 minutes pass. Katerina, you are downstairs, appropriately attired for the evening, and Marcus is waiting for you.



Katerina 32:28

I will open the door and I will tuck my keys into one of the pockets of my trench coat and I will walk outside.



Mike (Marcus) 32:37

I will open the door to the car for her. I will get in and then we will head to Elysium. After I put the car in gear, I will pass her the phone and say,



Marcus 32:49

You should be set for quite a while.



Katerina 32:53

Understood. Thank you for picking this up for me. I do not believe that trying to get one myself would work very well.



Mike (Marcus) 33:09

We're headed to Elysium.



Storyteller Rina 33:11

All right, so you make your way down to the Vampire Club. Katerina, you're very familiar with it of course and with Sebastian, him being a member of your own clan and him being absolutely everywhere with everyone and sometimes in everyone. So you are very familiar. You are very familiar with the vampire club and our dear, dear Sebastian. It is busier tonight, Marcus, than it was when you came and paid a visit to Sebastian a couple nights ago.



Mike (Marcus) 33:47

Certainly.



Storyteller Rina 33:49

There's definitely livelier music. You can already hear it from the outside as you pull up. And there's a lot more people going in and out. And by people, I mean vampires with the occasional human escort.

K Katerina 34:04
How loud is it in here?

S Storyteller Rina 34:06
You haven't gone all the way in yet. You can hear it vaguely outside because of your heightened senses, right, your vampiric senses, but Katerina, it is appropriately 1950s swing music at the moment. So perhaps it takes you back a bit.

K Katerina 34:25
It's been a while since I've heard this kind of music.

M Marcus 34:31
Yeah, they don't play it much anymore, do they?

K Katerina 34:33
No, they certainly do not.

M Mike (Marcus) 34:37
I'm very interested to see who else is here as well. So I will definitely be keeping an eye out for the sheriff. Although I'm betting as well she's a little busy still. Probably still yet on the hunt.

S Storyteller Rina 34:51
Since you haven't gotten any reports about the blood hunt ending, you can fairly safely make that bet. So you go in to Elysium and you are greeted, not by Sebastian this time, but by a somewhat muscular man with dark hair and a dark mustache, wearing a white tank top and very, very tight jeans. This is a man you know, Katerina, part of your own clan, as Farrokh; he is Sebastian's right hand vampire, so to speak. Whenever Sebastian's busy, Farrokh will come in and take things over for a little bit. And he smiles at you and he says,

F Farrokh 35:30
Darling, I haven't seen you around here in quite some time. Sebastian is of course quite busy tonight, as you can see.

S Storyteller Rina 35:38
And he laughs this deep throaty laugh.

F Farrokh 35:45
But of course he sent me to give you a little bit of whatever it is you're interested in this evening. You can have it all darlings, just ask.

K Katerina 35:55
Well, I suppose I should go say hello to more of our clan. But I do not anticipate that I will be here all night. So if I do not see you before I depart, know that I will come by pretty soon.

F Farrokh 36:24
Well, any night you grace us with your presence, my dear, is truly a magical night. Oh, you might want to say hello to our new primogen, by the way, they're here making the rounds. I suppose you've heard? Since Claudio was on the outs?

K Katerina 36:41
Yes. I suppose. Marcus, do you mind if I depart for a few moments?

K Katerina 36:52
But will you take me so I can meet them?

M Marcus 36:52
Not at all.

F Farrokh 36:58
It would be my pleasure.

S Storyteller Rina 36:59
And he extends an arm.

A

Ali (Katerina) 37:01

And I will gracefully put my hand through it and my hand is resting appropriately on his elbow.

S

Storyteller Rina 37:13

And he leads you off through the crowd. There's a bunch of different clans represented here tonight. There's no Gangrel so far as you can tell, which is not that big of a surprise. But there are a decent number of Toreador, Ventrue you see a couple of Lasombra skulking around in the background. There's even a few Brujah here having animated conversations as they make their way towards the dance floor. So Marcus, Farrokh has taken Katerina off somewhere to meet the new primogen for clan Toreador. So what would you like to do with your time alone in Elysium?

M

Mike (Marcus) 37:52

I'm looking for Jean.

S

Storyteller Rina 37:54

Alright, so you're going to go looking for Jean. It takes you a few minutes. It is a lot more crowded in here. There's a lot of noise and music and vampires talking and you can hear other sounds from other rooms. And you finally find, in a back corner away from everyone else, away from the dance floor but in a place where she can see pretty much everything, is Jean Valentine, the Seneschal. She's sitting on a low couch with her feet propped up on a low table across from the couch, and she's moodily drinking out of a very, very big glass.

M

Marcus 38:39

Good evening, Jean. How are you?

S

Storyteller Rina 38:41

She looks up at you. She's got really dark circles under her eyes now, much much darker. Her eyes look a little subdued and her hand is shaking slightly around the glass. She throws back half the glass in one go and sets it down, says,

J

Jean 39:00

Marcus. Should have known you'd be here tonight.

M

Mike (Marcus) 39:09

I look around.

M Marcus 39:10
Why's that?

S Storyteller Rina 39:10
I don't know. Just seems like everybody is out partying. Like you feel the doom coming.

S Storyteller Rina 39:19
She stares into her glass.

M Marcus 39:22
Doom? You feel doom?

S Storyteller Rina 39:24
She bares her fangs in a bit of a snarl. She's moving, you suspect, a little bit more towards the end here. She doesn't seem as in control of herself as she normally is, and even less in control than she was when you delivered Eli to her a few nights ago.

J Jean 39:42
I'm dying, Marcus. What the fuck do you think?

S Storyteller Rina 39:46
She throws back the other half of the glass.

M Mike (Marcus) 39:49
I sit down on the couch next to her, like very familiar, almost predatory and I say,

M Marcus 40:00
As we're working on something to save you, I need you to hang in there. But it's only going to be useful to you if you keep from coming apart at the seams.

- S** Storyteller Rina 40:16
She lets out this low, bitter laugh.
- J** Jean 40:19
City's coming apart at the seams, Marcus. How the fuck am I supposed to keep it together?
- S** Storyteller Rina 40:26
And she looks off to the corner and yells something in French. And a waiter comes running up with another giant glass of wine. Or what humans would think would be wine.
- M** Marcus 40:40
How are you supposed to keep it together?
- J** Jean 40:44
Well, the Prince is just talking to Eli down in the dungeon, won't even let me in. Don't think they trust me right now.
- M** Marcus 40:56
Why wouldn't they trust you? You keep their house.
- J** Jean 40:59
Yeah. And I didn't keep Claudio out. He was there for years, Marcus. I'm not sure I trust me anymore.
- M** Marcus 41:11
That is something you're gonna have to clear up with yourself, then. There is a future that's coming. It's one that's beyond maybe beyond the current state of things. You need to believe that that future is possible.
- J** Jean 41:28
All I'm focusing on is surviving this Marcus, right now. That's all I can fucking do. You're not dreaming, are you? You don't know what it's like.

M Marcus 41:40
I'm certainly not dreaming.

J Jean 41:42
It's like being a Malkavian all the time.

M Marcus 41:46
I don't even think I'd like it some of the time.

J Jean 41:49
No. Imagine being one at night. And when you're sleeping. And all the voices. Blood. Always hungry, Marcus.

M Marcus 42:00
Well, thanks.

M Mike (Marcus) 42:02
I stand up.

M Marcus 42:04
I am here to have a good time. And hopefully, very soon, you and I will have a chat together after your predicament clears up. And we can talk all about the future that is coming.

J Jean 42:21
If you say you're working on a solution, I'm sure you are. Just tell your Tremere not to take too long.

M Marcus 42:31
My Tremere? That's funny. I'll do what I can.

S

Storyteller Rina 42:37

Meanwhile, Katerina, you have been escorted through Elysium into a back room. There's about 15 other vampires in here, all sitting around talking, drinking, chatting. They're all Toreadore. And in the middle of the room is a tall, slender vampire with very short blonde hair, got an undercut, wearing very dark makeup, dark lipstick, and very elegantly dressed in skinny jeans and a leather jacket and very high heels. And they're holding a glass in one hand as they're talking to people. And you recognize this as Dara; it's the only name they give anyone. And the way they're talking to people, the way they're holding themselves now gives you a fairly good idea of who your new primogen is. So you go into Elysium and you are greeted, not by Sebastian this time, and,

F

Farrokh 43:56

Dara, darling. You know Katerina, of course?

S

Storyteller Rina 44:00

And Dara turns and looks at you with impeccable makeup and eyeliner just sort of boring into your soul. If you had one.

D

Dara 44:10

Katerina. Pleasure.

K

Katerina 44:14

Yes. It is nice to see you.

D

Dara 44:17

What can I do for you? Everyone seems to want something tonight.

K

Katerina 44:21

I'm just here to give my regards and say hello. I will not take up too much of your time.

S

Storyteller Rina 44:30

They tilt their head slightly as if they weren't expecting just a simple Hello.

—

- D** Dara 44:35
Well, that's refreshing. I will remember that.
- S** Storyteller Rina 44:38
And they smile and lift their glass.
- K** Katerina 44:39
Have a good night. Thank you.
- F** Farrokh 44:45
That's it, darling? Don't have any wild parties or schemes or anything you want to propose?
What did I bring you back here for?
- K** Katerina 44:54
Because I wanted to meet our new Primogen.
- F** Farrokh 44:57
You're too careful, Katerina. It'll get you in trouble one of these days.
- K** Katerina 45:01
I'm pretty sure my carefulness has been what has made me so successful, yes? Will you escort me to where you are keeping the drinks and then you are free to go.
- F** Farrokh 45:17
Dismissed. Thank you. I appreciate the dismissal.
- S** Storyteller Rina 45:22
And he smiles to let you know he's teasing you. You've known each other since you've moved here, and he's been here quite a while, so you understand each other fairly well. And so he leads you back out into the main dance floor area and towards the drinks. The music has changed, and there is a tall man with blond hair and one green eye and one blue, singing Velvet Goldmine. And he looks across the floor and he winks at you and goes back to his song,

as Farroukh leads you over to the drinks table. So let's turn the camera back over to Rahm and Alex for a little bit. So, Rahm, you've had a good 25 minutes, actually 27 by your account. Humans seem pleased. No one's dead.

T Teagan (Rahm) 46:19
That's good. I aim to serve.

S Storyteller Rina 46:23
You finished up, the humans are sleepy and happy and three of them are all making out in the corner. Now, what would you like to do, Rahm?

T Teagan (Rahm) 46:32
I guess I'm going to go looking for Alex. Is my toga, like, all right, is it...hold on. I gotta like, move the toga. Ok.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 46:42
I imagine as the night goes on, more and more people won't have costumes on.

T Teagan (Rahm) 46:48
I'm gonna put the toga back on, but I'm going to tie it around my waist with a little knot.

S Storyteller Rina 46:54
So Rahm is now wandering around with his toga as a kilt. And you're looking a little bit better, Rahm, you notice there's these tall mirrors everywhere, mirrors on the ceiling, mirrors on the floor, everywhere.

T Teagan (Rahm) 47:14
Of course.

S Storyteller Rina 47:16
And you do notice that the shark bite in your abdomen does seem to be mostly healed over. But you're kind of surprised it hasn't healed completely, considering feeding and all the other things you've been doing. But you don't look like there's half of you missing anymore. So that's

a start.

T Teagan (Rahm) 47:37

I assume I also noticed some human bites and I'm like, oh, well, usually it's the other way around.

S Storyteller Rina 47:44

Absolutely. Definitely. Got a hickey or three. So you make your way through the hallways, I assume poking your head into various rooms to see if you can find Alex.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 47:56

And I've probably been going around collecting the ghosties, I want to see what trouble we can get up to with the ghosts.

S Storyteller Rina 48:06

And in one room at the back, you see Alex surrounded by these spectral sort of floating wisps that you can't quite make out, Rahm, but you hear whispering, that's what it sounds like to you, Rahm, is whispering and it's a dozen whispering voices. And Alex is just kind of standing there chatting with the ghosts. How's the conversation going?

T Teagan (Rahm) 48:33

I'll be like, they're just doing their haunted mansion routine. Just swing in there like "Grim Grinning Ghosts, we're out to socialize."

R Rahm the Shaman 48:43

What you doin' there? What you got?

A Alex 48:46

Friends.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 48:48

I'm going to try and catch up on any gossip I can with these ghosts, since I don't see them very often. I've probably seen them before but now we can chat freely. I had other plans but then, you know, Alex probably forgot at some point and was like, oh, the veil's real thin and then that

like overrode everything else.

- S** Storyteller Rina 49:11
You were having some fun and then a ghost floated by and that distracted you.
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 49:15
Yeah, um, I probably just left somebody hanging somewhere. Quite literally.
- S** Storyteller Rina 49:19
Yes. So you're chatting with these these spectral forms and Rahm is watching in confusion, which Rahm has been doing all night pretty much, so that's nothing new.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 49:32
I'm confused because I thought there were going to be more whips and chains.
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 49:37
Couple rooms over.
- S** Storyteller Rina 49:38
I mean, you can go find those if you want to, Rahm.
- T** Teagan (Rahm) 49:42
No, I'm fine. I came to find, I came to find Alex.
- S** Storyteller Rina 49:45
So Alex is talking to these ghosts, and there's about a dozen of them in here that you've collected Alex, and one of them is telling you about how they've seen several familiar vampires on the other side, but that they can't speak.
- G** Ghosts 50:11
We tried to talk to them, try to talk to them. They don't have anything to say. Or maybe they can't. I don't know.

CAN I, I DON'T KNOW.

- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 50:18
They, they don't have tongues.
- G** Ghosts 50:23
All of them?
- S** Storyteller Rina 50:24
And then you hear all the ghost whispering.
- G** Ghosts 50:25
All of them. That's not good.
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 50:28
Yeah, there is a poison that is circling circulating through the community right now. And so, a lot of these familiar vampires that you see died rather horrifically, I'm surprised some of them aren't straight specters to be fair,
- G** Ghosts 50:52
Something holding them back, holding them back, trapped here with us. They don't like it.
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 51:00
So you're saying all of them, though, are stuck? I mean, I found some fetters. But I wonder if that's part of the ritual or the poison or whatever's going on.
- S** Storyteller Rina 51:15
And you hear some chattering among the ghosts, and Rahm, the air in here starts to feel cold. And you don't normally feel cold the same way anymore, being undead, but it feels icy cold for a moment. And the noise of the rest of the temple, the partying and the music and the very, very loud sex, all just kind of mutes, is what it feels like. And Alex, you see a sort of glowing, green outline for a moment in the center of the room. And the ghosts are all chattering. You can't quite make out what they're saying, but it gets louder and louder. And then you see the spectral form of Luther Garibaldi resolve in the center of this room, and he's dressed much the

way he was when you last saw him in unlife, in this rumpled suit, battered old fedora, but his eyes are hollow as he's looking at you, and he opens his mouth as if he's trying to speak to you and he makes no sound. And the ghosts are all chittering and pointing towards him.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 52:49
I'm going to approach Luther.

A Alex 52:53
I was wondering when you'd make yourself known, considering I have some of your things.

S Storyteller Rina 53:00
He nods.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 53:01
I will fish in my...oh, I'm not wearing my suit. Ok, I guess I'll look around for paper and a pen.

S Storyteller Rina 53:10
Give me a d10 roll. Oh, when you say that you have something of his, he points to the spectral hat on his head.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 53:17
I nod at him. That was a 5.

S Storyteller Rina 53:22
So on a 5, I'm going to say there isn't in here. But you could potentially send if you can, in this sort of quiet muted space, if you can see your way to poke back into the full on Temple and ask for someone to bring you pen and paper you could do that, or you could send Rahm.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 53:43
Yeah, I'm sending Rahm. I'm gonna look over.

A Alex 53:46

Rahm, Rahm. Quickly. I need paper and a pen.

R Rahm the Shaman 53:51
Is that Luther?

A Alex 53:53
Yes. Now can you hurry, please?

R Rahm the Shaman 53:55
Alright. He looks like a couple of Legos short of a spaceship. Yeah, no, let me go find a pen. I'm sure somebody's using one inappropriately somewhere.

S Storyteller Rina 54:07
Alright, so Rahm, give me a d10.

T Teagan (Rahm) 54:10
I rolled a 6. Is that good?

S Storyteller Rina 54:11
Yep. 6 is high enough. It takes you a couple of minutes, and as you're scurrying around, you poke your head into one room that is very, very red. And there is a vampire who is suspended from the ceiling, just sort of hanging there shirtless.

V Vampire 54:34
Have you seen Alex? They were here a few minutes ago.

R Rahm the Shaman 54:39
Yeah, no, I'll send them back this way. Hey, do you got a Sharpie? It doesn't matter what color.

V Vampire 54:46
Yeah, there's some red ones.

S Storyteller Rina 54:49

He nods his head over to a table. There's paper, it looks like some consent forms, and a bunch of pens.

T Teagan (Rahm) 54:57

Oh, well. Those are far cleaner than I expected. Alright, fantastic. And I'll grab a Sharpie. And I'll go back to Alex.

S Storyteller Rina 55:06

So a few minutes later, Alex, as you've been looking at Luther, and he's just been staring helplessly back at you, and the ghosts are talking to each other and trying to see if they can get him to talk, Rahm comes back with a stack of consent forms and a Sharpie.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 55:25

I will put the Sharpie and papers on like a table or end table, and gesture for Luther to use those. I meant to tell him,

A Alex 55:39

You know, it's going to take less energy today to do that. So if you have anything to say, today is the day to do it.

S Storyteller Rina 55:48

He nods, and you see just the sort of deep weariness in his eye sockets, like these hollowed out eyes that are looking back at you and he just slowly moves over, and he looks at the ghosts and just sort of nods his head like "get out." And the ghosts all chitter at each other but they retreat back to the corners. They're still there, but they're not surrounding you anymore. And Luther stretches out a spectral hand, almost as if in surprise, he can do it, and the pen moves. The Sharpie moves and begins to write on the paper.

L Luther 56:33

Waiting for you.

A Alex 56:35

For what?

L Luther 56:36
Talk.

A Alex 56:38
Oh, because I'm going to be the only one that's going to be able to see you and talk to you. Got it.

S Storyteller Rina 56:43
He nods.

L Luther 56:44
Why bring Shaman?

A Alex 56:47
Oh, why not?

S Storyteller Rina 56:50
And Luther's incorporeal form turns and looks you up and down Rahm and tilts his head and you look as he looks at your abdomen. He turns back to you, Alex and scratches out:

L Luther 57:03
Annoyed Andrew, I see.

A Alex 57:06
Yeah, something got him? Probably. Sure. I believe you.

R Rahm the Shaman 57:13
What can I say? I'm delicious.

S Storyteller Rina 57:15
Dead but delicious.

L Luther 57:17
Dead but delicious.

A Alex 57:21
Right.

L Luther 57:22
This hard.

A Alex 57:26
I know.

L Luther 57:29
I don't remember.

S Storyteller Rina 57:33
And he points to his his mouth. When he opens his spectral mouth, you see there's nothing there. It's just a void.

A Alex 57:41
Oh, you don't remember?

L Luther 57:42
Why can't talk?

A Alex 57:45
Right. We have all been...well, not all of us. Most of us have been poisoned. You were the

beginning.

S Storyteller Rina 57:57
He nods, slowly taps paper with the Sharpie like he's thinking.

L Luther 58:03
Luis too?

A Alex 58:05
I would assume so. But I haven't had...I haven't been able to get access to Luis. I mean, you know, the Prince and I have such a wonderful relationship.

L Luther 58:17
Ha. Luis burn. Not here.

A Alex 58:25
Oh!

L Luther 58:25
Felix not here.

A Alex 58:29
Really? What about Trevor?

L Luther 58:33
Trevor here.

A Alex 58:35
What about Karen?

—

L Luther 58:38
Was here but is gone.

A Alex 58:43
Like moved on?

L Luther 58:45
No. Gone. Like poof. Ash.

S Storyteller Rina 58:52
And he seems a bit frustrated with how long it takes him to write anything, because a Sharpie goes flying across the room and hits Rahm in the head.

T Teagan (Rahm) 59:02
Honestly, fair.

L Luther 59:04
If ash, not here. Moment, then not.

A Alex 59:10
Oh. So there was a split second where they crossed over before they completely ashed.

L Luther 59:20
Yes. Karen to kid. Vince?

A Alex 59:25
Yes.

L Luther 59:26
Worried. Stay more than second. No speak. No speak.

A Alex 59:33
I can believe that.

L Luther 59:35
Then gone. Is ash.

A Alex 59:39
Yeah, she she had a not so pleasant time as well.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 59:44
He nods.

L Luther 59:45
Can't talk each other.

A Alex 59:49
Yeah, one of the last things is to tear out your own tongue, which is horrible and unfortunate, and I wonder how they got it. So there has to be a ritual, has to be.

L Luther 1:00:07
Tremere.

A Alex 1:00:09
Yeah, I know. And I know who it is.

L Luther 1:00:13
Grandmother's childe, yes?

S Storyteller Rina 1:00:16
Question mark

QUESTION MARK.

- A** Alex 1:00:18
That's what she thinks. And that's what I think as well.
- L** Luther 1:00:20
I know. I saw. Zachariah.
- A** Alex 1:00:26
Do you think that if we take out him that it will cure people that are infected now?
- S** Storyteller Rina 1:00:38
He shakes his head.
- L** Luther 1:00:40
Purify.
- A** Alex 1:00:41
Yeah, that's what Vince is working on. But we have to stop...you said Zachariah, right?
- S** Storyteller Rina 1:00:48
He taps the name again with the pen.
- A** Alex 1:00:51
So we got to stop him so that nobody else gets infected. Way to make this a work night.
- T** Tiffanie (Alex) 1:00:58
I smirk at him.
- S** Storyteller Rina 1:01:00

He shrugs.

L Luther 1:01:02
Boring here.

A Alex 1:01:04
For you. Oh, you mean on the other side? Yeah, it probably is pretty boring. I mean, you can always hang out with me

L Luther 1:01:13
Find restoration.

A Alex 1:01:18
Oh!

L Luther 1:01:19
Zachariah might know. Powerful.

A Alex 1:01:24
He might know how to restore you?

L Luther 1:01:27
Not life. Unlife whatever. But...

S Storyteller Rina 1:01:32
And he looks at you pleadingly.

A Alex 1:01:34
I would think that would be something we could do. I might have to look into that.

- L** Luther 1:01:42
Ask Marcus about Sect War, something connected. Presence.
- S** Storyteller Rina 1:01:51
He just keeps tapping the word something over and over as if he's thinking.
- A** Alex 1:01:54
So somebody or something that was in the Sect War is also causing what's going on now?
- S** Storyteller Rina 1:02:01
He shrugs.
- A** Alex 1:02:02
Or are they taking out people that took out them?
- L** Luther 1:02:07
Can't see. Can't see. Can't see.
- S** Storyteller Rina 1:02:13
His shoulders slump a little bit.
- L** Luther 1:02:15
Can't work here. can't work here.
- S** Storyteller Rina 1:02:19
Just over and over and over.
- A** Alex 1:02:21
Well, if you also need a place that has more than enough energy, and easier for you to communicate in, you know where my place is. Also has your...

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:02:28
And I point to my head like a hat.

S Storyteller Rina 1:02:39
He nods.

L Luther 1:02:40
Saw you. Saw you and Trevor.

A Alex 1:02:45
I tried my best.

S Storyteller Rina 1:02:46
Rahm, you're getting half of this conversation because you can't see what he's writing.

T Teagan (Rahm) 1:02:51
Oh, that's fine. That's absolutely fine. As long as Luther doesn't want to hang out at my house. I'll have to play podcasts on full volume to drive him out.

L Luther 1:03:00
You tried, but ate him.

A Alex 1:03:06
Not ideal, no. I didn't really have control of that situation. Unfortunately.

L Luther 1:03:13
Good thing not sheriff now. Ha.

A Alex 1:03:19
That's if anybody finds out. You gonna snitch on me?

That's if anybody finds out. You gonna switch on me?

L Luther 1:03:23
Find...

S Storyteller Rina 1:03:24
And he points to his open mouth.

L Luther 1:03:26
And no. Deal?

A Alex 1:03:29
Deal.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:03:31
What are you making a deal about over there?

A Alex 1:03:34
He wants me to help get his tongue.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:03:37
Do we have to? Like I mean, he's already dead.

A Alex 1:03:43
Yeah, and he can't speak. He doesn't need the physical tongue. He needs a spiritual...

R Rahm the Shaman 1:03:50
Yeah, I know, I'm just like, you know it's nothing against you, Luther, just you know, just dead sheriff is...you know, keeps things dead. Dead men tell no tales.

...

S Storyteller Rina 1:04:11
And the piece of paper, something scrolls on it and then it floats up next to him and you can see it, Rahm, it says:

L Luther 1:04:19
I tell.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:04:22
Yeah, ok, alright. Hey, oh, yeah. Um, hey, we should get that tongue.

L Luther 1:04:30
I know you, Rahm.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:04:32
Yeah. Yeah. Yeah...

S Storyteller Rina 1:04:38
And there is the slightest hint of a ghostly smirk on his face and it's the first time he's looked anything other than depressed since he manifested in this room.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:04:49
Can't, can't blame me for trying alright? Sweet.

L Luther 1:04:52
Yes, I can, motherfucker.

A Alex 1:04:55
Now that this night took a fucking turn...

L Luther 1:04:59
Many fucking turns.

A Alex 1:05:02
Yeah, well, not the fun kind either.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:05:05
Speak for yourself.

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:05:07
I'm going to collect the paper, well, several papers or whatever, and usher Rahm out.

A Alex 1:05:17
I've got research to do. I mean, you too, apparently. We better work on this together to find out if we can...

R Rahm the Shaman 1:05:25
I thought we were partying! It's Halloween night and now we're gonna go do tongue research?

A Alex 1:05:32
Well, you can stay and then Luther can tell me all your dirty secrets when I find his tongue.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:05:36
First off phrasing! *mutters* Fine. Alright, well, where are we going? Are we going to, are we going to the secret tongue restoration library? Like, where are we going?

A Alex 1:05:58
Do you know where that's at?

R Rahm the Shaman 1:06:01
No, I don't get the fancy books. I've been asking for them. And my mentor hasn't been sharing.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:06:05

T Tiffanie (Alex) 1:06:10
Ok, I'm gonna go back to my place. And I want to see if I have anything, any rituals from the Clan that can do something.

S Storyteller Rina 1:06:22
So the two of you reluctantly leave the party. Luther's spectral form begins to waver and dematerialize as you leave the room. And no one really seems to notice that you're gone, except for the original girl in the very short tunic, who looks at Rahm and pouts and says,

G Ghoul 1:06:44
Going so soon?

S Storyteller Rina 1:06:47
Yeah, I'll be right back. I just gotta run to the 7/11, grab a pack of smokes.

G Ghoul 1:06:52
Get me some Funyuns?

R Rahm the Shaman 1:06:54
Funyuns. Sweet. Yeah, do you want the kind with the spicy funyuns? They got the spicy.

G Ghoul 1:07:00
I like everything spicy.

R Rahm the Shaman 1:07:04
I'll be right back.

T Teagan (Rahm) 1:07:05
With no intention of coming back.

S Storyteller Rina 1:07:07
And the two of you go back to Alex's apartment to do some tongue research, but not the fun

And the two of you go back to Alex's apartment to do some tongue research, but not the fun kind. So let's switch the camera over to Katerina and Marcus at Elysium.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:07:21

Indeed.

S Storyteller Rina 1:07:22

So Katerina, you have been deposited at the drinks table by Farrokh, and Marcus, you have finished your conversation with a very depressed looking Jean Valentine.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:07:36

In some small way, even though I think Jean's a fun person, somewhere down deep I do enjoy the struggle of clan Lasombra now these days. With that said, I will have an opportunity at some point hopefully to see some of my other clanmates; I can't imagine we are completely bereft of Brujah here.

S Storyteller Rina 1:08:01

No, there's definitely some Brujah hanging out. You see a couple of them who have apparently just had a minor altercation, which is nothing new but one of them is resetting a broken nose with an audible crack and then looking around for the nearest human to drink from to try and heal it up.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:08:26

So things are about standard.

S Storyteller Rina 1:08:28

About standard.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:08:30

I don't imagine David would make his his way down to Elysium on such a night.

S Storyteller Rina 1:08:36

David hasn't been seen in Elysium in several years.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:08:41
Unsurprising. But yeah, I'll find something to drink. Or maybe I'll hold off, come to think of it. Yeah, maybe I'll wait. I'm, I'm still probably a little paranoid about blood supply.

S Storyteller Rina 1:09:00
Just a little bit.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:09:02
I have my own, should I need it. So, yeah, I'll go to the drinks table, if nothing else just to make sure that my fellow coterie may doesn't accidentally ingest some foul blood.

S Storyteller Rina 1:09:19
Alright, so you go find Katerina, who's standing at the table. Have you gotten a particular drink, Katerina?

K Katerina 1:09:27
No, I was standing here so I'd be easy to find.

M Marcus 1:09:32
Ah, there you are. So how is your new primogen?

K Katerina 1:09:38
Well, they are Toreador.

M Marcus 1:09:46
Well, I should hope so.

K Katerina 1:09:49
They are flashy, but that is not to be unexpected, yes?



M Marcus 1:09:56
Very true. Do they have a particular art form they prefer to add on to whatever new expos or feature they might be doing?

K Katerina 1:10:06
I did not ask; they are very busy with making their own interactions and with many of the clan are already asking for favors and taking up the time, I simply wanted to say hello.

M Marcus 1:10:26
I've heard it doesn't take very long once you get a position of power here in the city, people immediately start asking favors.

K Katerina 1:10:35
That is why I will be waiting, yes?

M Marcus 1:10:41
Yes, certainly a calculated step is one better than something taken too risky. Got a change in the music in here, didn't they?

S Storyteller Rina 1:10:51
Yes. It's very much glam rock now.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:10:54
Oh, ok. I see. I see we're continuing to cycle up the calendar as it were. I will, I'll suggest to Katerina:

M Marcus 1:11:06
Perhaps, unless you have any other further business in Elysium, we can we can make our exit before the 90s arrive. It's not the greatest decade for me.

K Katerina 1:11:19
Well, the 50s and 60s were where it was at, so I am very happy to leave now that I have conducted my business and been social.

M Marcus 1:11:40
Good.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:11:41
Then I will extend an arm towards the door and we can take our leave.

K Katerina 1:11:47
Fantastic.

S Storyteller Rina 1:11:49
You see Sebastian making out with two different men at the same time. He just sort of waves halfheartedly at you but he's very, very focused on what he's doing or rather who he's doing.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:12:00
Can he even see us in the wall of flesh?

S Storyteller Rina 1:12:05
Sebastian sees everything. He somehow always seems to know when people are coming in and out, no matter what he's doing.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:12:13
He saw everything except the, you know, except this Sabbath. Good job, buddy.

S Storyteller Rina 1:12:17
They didn't come into his club.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:12:20
Or maybe they did and he didn't see it.

S Storyteller Rina 1:12:22

S Storyteller Rina 1:12:22

Possible. But you're able to leave Elysium with the party still happening. It's about about midnight. So just about to tick over into November 1.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:12:33

Yeah. So my plan is to take Katerina to a portion of, a colorful portion of the San Francisco Riverwalk area, baywalk area, where there's some art pieces that are down there. And there's even some neon displays that have got a nice glow to them. Probably on the non-wharf or working side of the Bay. I don't want to sully tonight with work.

S Storyteller Rina 1:13:04

It's fairly easy to find a walking path down along the bay, especially when you leave Elysium. The Vampire Club is in this old abandoned yacht, and there's not a whole lot of humans down in this area. The ones who are here are inside providing other purposes. So you can easily walk along around the Bay from here. There's some paths, a few trails, there's a bike trail, but no one's really out using it tonight. Not at midnight, everyone's at home, either with their kids or getting ready for work the next day after taking the kids out for trick or treating. It's fairly quiet. You can hear some rowdy party it sounds like from a boat out on the bay; someone's having a very loud party out there. But it's fairly nice out here right now.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:14:02

Yeah, and even if it was, you know, 20 degrees out, we wouldn't feel the cold which is kind of nice, in a way, so yeah, we'll take a walk and we'll walk through some of the the more artistic portions, the sculptures that they probably have set up or art displays and ring in the first of November that way. And I'll turn to her and say,

M Marcus 1:14:32

How did you come to find baking to be your passion?

K Katerina 1:14:38

It is one of the only things that I have left of my family. I got a fair amount of recipes from my mother and they came from her mother and I brought them with me when they sent me away to get me out of the grip of Russia.

M Marcus 1:15:11

Which war?

K Katerina 1:15:14
The second, going into the Cold War. I was shipped over when I was 16.

M Marcus 1:15:25
I can only imagine hopefully the ride over wasn't too terrible. I know some of the boats, some of the larger ships that they send overseas aren't necessarily the most comfortable ones.

K Katerina 1:15:40
I don't remember how long I was on the boat. But I was in cargo, because it is very rare that one can pay the passage especially during that time.

M Marcus 1:16:01
Oh, and not to mention, if you're trying to leave Russia during the war, I'm sure that there was some sort of documentation that you didn't want to have to present. It being a war.

A Ali (Katerina) 1:16:13
And this whole conversation so far, I'm not looking at you at all.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:16:21
It's fine.

M Marcus 1:16:22
I have the fortunate perspective of seeing not one but two world wars. And it doesn't seem that much in Russia changes.

K Katerina 1:16:35
No, I don't imagine it does. Russia is both a very simple place and a very complex country at the same time, more so than any other place that I've lived.

M Marcus 1:16:54
But you're here now and have been for some time and you've got your own bakery here. But you're usually open most nights.

K Katerina 1:17:04

Yes, though with many of these issues that have occurred with the tainted blood supply, it is very hard for us to stay open, especially at night.

M Marcus 1:17:19

Hopefully Vince can find a way around that relatively soon and things can get back to normal.

K Katerina 1:17:26

It is going to take a significant amount of time and monetary effort. That is the problem. Efforts to get it back up and running.

M Marcus 1:17:42

This city has changed an awful lot in the past, oh, 80 or so years. A lot of people come and gone. And not just Kindred.

K Katerina 1:17:58

I haven't seen my parents since I left. And there has been no correspondence.

M Marcus 1:18:05

I did the smart thing, I think, after the...after things changed with me. I did my best to separate myself from them. It's hard enough being who we are to complicate things by watching people grow old and die.

K Katerina 1:18:23

Yes. I simply wish to know how they died and what kind of lives they led. I did try some letters back then with no answer. After a handful, I knew I wasn't going to get an answer.

A Ali (Katerina) 1:18:46

I raise my eyes and head to look at as much of the stars as I can see before I look at Marcus and ask,

K Katerina 1:18:57

Katerina 1:19:01
What is it with this interrogation, anyway?

M Marcus 1:19:02
Interrogation? What interrogation?

K Katerina 1:19:04
You are asking an awful lot of questions, as if you are trying to delve into my life.

M Marcus 1:19:16
I think it's reasonable to wonder who you're working with. To know more about them, especially if you find them fascinating

K Katerina 1:19:24
Well, I am just a simple baker.

M Marcus 1:19:31
I think we both know that's not true. I think that people in the city know a lot about you. And some of those people have mentioned that you're not so simple.

K Katerina 1:19:41
Well, then, I must be introduced to these individuals because I keep things very close to the chest. There are very few that I trust with any sort of personal information. So either you've done research or you will find out more through another channel.

M Marcus 1:20:11
I am not what you would call your run of the mill common rabble.

K Katerina 1:20:18
Well, I've seen that. Outside of you taking out my doors.

M Marcus 1:20:28

Indeed, the unfortunate and minor release of pent up frustration.

K Katerina 1:20:39

Not you exactly, but the doors are fixed. And we do not have to linger on this is kind of unfortunate business. Yes?

M Marcus 1:20:54

I agree. There's much to be done ahead. I suppose you find out about someone, you research someone, because you're trying to figure out where they sit or stand when it comes to what is next.

K Katerina 1:21:13

And what is next for you?

M Marcus 1:21:17

I think that there is going to be a great and powerful change in this city. And I think the Kindred who are prepared for it are going to benefit the most. It's no secret that William's appearance is here for a reason. It's not just to check up on how the coterie is doing, it's not just to play games with us or the Prince. They're a very real threat to how things are going to operate, and I'm not necessarily willing to throw in my lot with them. But I'm also not willing to just walk you through what I have planned. Because it's very important if alliances are going to be made that they'd be made properly. So that's what I'm interested in finding out, that's the reason for all of the questions, you understand: where do you sit on the board? What are you interested in? And how might we benefit from knowing each other better?

K Katerina 1:22:29

You see, this is bordering on talking business, yes?

M Mike (Marcus) 1:22:37

I smile a rather toothy grin.

M Marcus 1:22:42

But not business,



K Katerina 1:22:45
But a kind of business.

M Marcus 1:22:46
The kind of business between two people. You and I.

K Katerina 1:22:51
You are asking about alliances. And that is a another kind of business. Politics is a whole realm of business, even if it is not necessarily one for monetary gain. This part of the conversation is done. I will not discuss that right now.

M Marcus 1:23:16
Fair enough. Fair enough. Then how would you like a drink? A safe one?

K Katerina 1:23:25
I am not convinced that there are guaranteed safe drinks in the city.

M Marcus 1:23:33
I am. I know just where to get one.

K Katerina 1:23:37
Perhaps you could enlighten me first.

M Marcus 1:23:40
Oh, in my office.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:23:43
And I will walk us back to the car.

S Storyteller Rina 1:23:46
You go back to the car, and I assume you're going back to the office?

M Mike (Marcus) 1:23:51
Correct.

S Storyteller Rina 1:23:52
Ok. So you go back to the union office. It's now about close to one o'clock in the morning by the time you've conversed and driven back, and the only car still in the parking lot is Marie's. And you can go up to the office.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:24:12
I'll head in and let Marie know that she can leave for the evening.

S Storyteller Rina 1:24:17
She nods.

M Marie 1:24:19
Greg didn't come in tonight. Did he tell you anything?

M Marcus 1:24:26
No. Find out why.

M Marie 1:24:27
Ok, he's not answering his phone. Maybe he's just passed out again.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:24:32
I step over to her desk and write a number on a piece of paper. And I say,

M Marcus 1:24:39
Call this number. Give them Greg's address. Have them drive by the house. Don't go alone.

M ...

M Marie 1:24:44
Ok, got it. I'll see you tomorrow, Marcus. Happy Halloween.

M Marcus 1:24:52
Happy Halloween.

S Storyteller Rina 1:24:54
And she departs

M Mike (Marcus) 1:24:56
So I'll head upstairs and I will get out a very specific bottle and two glasses in the outer office the table comfortable chairs and pour her a glass of a fine vintage of...what?

S Storyteller Rina 1:25:19
So Katerina, you have a fine glass, and Marcus?

A Ali (Katerina) 1:25:25
Well, first things first, I take off my trench coat, and I give to Marcus.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:25:33
I find a place to hang it up.

K Katerina 1:25:35
Where shall I sit?

M Marcus 1:25:37
Here is fine.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:25:38
I extend a hand towards the couch.

A Ali (Katerina) 1:25:41
I will take your hand and I will sit.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:25:45
I sit down a reasonable distance, not too far, not too close. And I will slowly pour that glass. And I'll lean over and say to her,

M Marcus 1:26:02
These are really well, solid. Thanks to Vince, honestly.

A Ali (Katerina) 1:26:08
I'm just gonna stare at the glass because I have so many more questions I want to ask, but if it borders on another kind of business, that is not appropriate.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:26:23
No, we wouldn't want to talk business, would we?

A Ali (Katerina) 1:26:26
Dangerous.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:26:28
It is, it is. It's against the rules, right?

A Ali (Katerina) 1:26:32
Yes, of course it is.

K Katerina 1:26:34
Well, if it is courtesy of Vince, then hopefully perhaps we'll be seeing more changes.

M Marcus 1:26:45

Yeah, I should hope so. I should hope so. I've no doubt the young boy is working dutifully. And in due time to come round. For now, though, shall I tell you a story?

K Katerina 1:27:06
If you wish.

M Mike (Marcus) 1:27:07
I'm going to turn just the body angle a little bit and face her a little bit more directly.

M Marcus 1:27:13
It was in '95. We just gotten word from the Prince that someone had left a calling card, a rather graphic one, in one of the parks nearby. And my sire David called with an urgent need for response. They were concerned because the tides of change were coming again, mostly from what was going on in Los Angeles, it was burning its way all the way north. And that fire was lit by a very terrible organization of strange and quite frankly, violent vampires. We know them here in the city as the Sabbat. And when we arrived in the park, I was stunned at what they'd done. Not what they'd done to the bodies, but what they'd done to themselves. The war pack that they had sent, five, six vampires had decided that a rather graphic display of Kindred was in order to announce their presence. They'd collected themselves to some sort of circle. And they pooled their own Vitae together into a single goblet, and each one of them was creatively drinking out of it in turn. And I just remember hearing their voices chant up and up. I was lucky that I had caught them in whatever religious practices that they were in the middle of. And we had to do our best that night to deal with the situation directly; the Prince's orders were clear. And so we were unfortunately forced to put several of them down. But they were in such a state of...I really can only say they were in such a state of ecstasy during the fight that the men of the pack managed to stay completely aroused during the battle. Something that's very difficult to do. I don't know if it was the blood, or if it was their religious fervor. But that kind of control over the body is somewhat fascinating, don't you think?

K Katerina 1:30:13
Yes, it is interesting, but I have one very important question. What is, what is the purpose of this story?

M Marcus 1:30:31
I think it's fascinating what Kindred bodies can do. And I'm supposing, in a way,

M Mike (Marcus) 1:30:39
I take a drink of the glass, I set it back on the table.

M Marcus 1:30:46
I'm kind of wondering if you'd be interested in any sort of Kindred experimentation with maybe what our bodies do together.

A Ali (Katerina) 1:30:59
There is a super long pause. And I will just down the whole glass of blood, there's, there's not a whole lot that I can say right now. And after the glass is drained, I will just put my head down and stare at my hands.

K Katerina 1:31:22
This is not, this is not something that I have any experience in.

M Marcus 1:31:33
Well, I don't suppose anything has to be rushed. We have an eternity.

K Katerina 1:31:40
That is not guaranteed.

M Marcus 1:31:42
That is fascinating, then. I suppose then, I just need to know if you're willing to try.

K Katerina 1:31:53
Yes, I am willing to try.

M Marcus 1:31:58
Fascinating,

K Katerina 1:31:59
I do not know how to relax very well.

M Marcus 1:32:08
Perhaps I can be of assistance

K Katerina 1:32:10
That is potentially possible.

S Storyteller Rina 1:32:15
And on that note, we will leave our vampires to their various extracurricular activities. I hope you will join us next time for some more fun in the dark. Thank you and good night.