

BEASTS AMONG US

Written by

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EXT. GREYHOUND BUS TERMINAL - NIGHT

LAURIE SIMPSON (20s) of SUNY BINGHAMTON steps out of the overcrowded bus and slams her suitcase down on the pavement.

LAURIE  
(on the phone)  
Mom? I just got off.

A pale, ghastly hand taps her shoulder from behind.

AMOROUS VOICE (O.S.)  
Excuse me?

Laurie drops her phone.

LAURIE  
Hey, douche!

Laurie swivels around. She opens her mouth, but hesitates. As she counts her breaths, the gorgeous, perfectly sculpted face of KIERNAN VALE (late 20s) snickers at her with his striking teal eyes.

KIERNAN  
You dropped something.

Laurie scoops it up and jams it back in her pocket.

KIERNAN (cont'd)  
You must not be from around here.

The bus veers off.

LAURIE  
I don't have time to care.

Laurie scans the area around her for help, but finds no one.

LAURIE (cont'd)  
Why are you still here?

Kiernan whiffs the air around her.

KIERNAN  
Florae.

LAURIE  
Excuse me?

KIERNAN  
You're perfume.

Kiernan snickers and saunters forward.



Vicki pulls out a pile of CDs and peruses them, one by one.

NICK  
I thought you said I should embrace  
my hobbies?

VICKI  
Embrace and obsession are two very  
different things, Nick.

Nick reaches behind him, smacking the hump of a large  
flannel blanket with his tripod.

NICK  
Wake up, Gary.

The blanket flies off, revealing GARY CRUIKSHANK (mid-20s),  
stinking wet.

GARY  
Where are we?

VICKI  
Oh, lord.

Gary curiously eyes the distant Appalachians.

GARY  
Colorado?

NICK  
Wrong mountain range.

Vicki shoves a CD into the player and presses play.

VICKI  
(to Gary)  
Who was it, this time?

Gary shoves his five-hundred-dollar ELAINE AUCLAIR figurine  
back underneath his jeans.

GARY  
The legendary bracer of Edith.

NICK  
She's not real, man.

GARY  
(to himself)  
Maybe in your imagination.

Nick glares at the stereo.

NICK  
Are you trying to put me to sleep?

Vicki holds up two CD's too his face.

VICKI  
Well?

Nick selects the Ace of Base CD and shoves it into the player.

NICK  
Must be a sign...

GARY  
Har har har.

VICKI  
That was your grandfather's favorite album, you know...

NICK  
Yeah? Well, good for him.

Vicki adjusts with her sunglasses.

VICKI  
(whispers)  
You didn't have to leave.

NICK  
We already discussed this back in Ohio.

VICKI  
OSU is a great college!

NICK  
Full of drunks and football freaks.

Vicki looks over to Gary.

VICKI  
Help me out here, Gary, please.

Gary leans forward.

GARY  
What's red and white, and black all over?

NICK  
Your face in about three seconds.

Gary sits back and peers over his shoulder.

GARY  
Yo, DEVON!

DEVON SERLING (early 20s) pops his beanie-covered head out from the trunk, with a mouth full of Cheetos.

DEVON  
I'm busy!

GARY  
Stuffing yourself?

DEVON  
Relax, man!

Devon shoves the bag of chips under his nose.

DEVON (cont'd)  
Have a Chester.

Gary scoops up a handful and gazes back out at the mountain ranges.

GARY  
Personally, I prefer the hills. Fewer tornadoes that way.

Devon turns white.

DEVON  
That wasn't your --

NICK  
You can't keep running from your past.

GARY  
Isn't that what we're doing?

NICK  
Touche.

A sweaty Nick turns up the A/C.

VICKI  
Nick?

NICK  
Is it normal to have recurring nightmares?

DEVON  
You bet! I have one almost every  
night!

VICKI  
About?

DEVON  
...that, I'm being chased around town  
by a pack of wild coyotes.

NICK  
Coyotes?

GARY  
(to himself)  
Better than twisters.

DEVON  
I know, weird, isn't it? Sometimes I  
almost think that I am one.

NICK  
Maybe they're werewolves, looking for  
you to join their pack.

Devon tosses the bag of Cheetos at Nick's head.

DEVON  
Man, fuck off, Nick!

Nick momentarily snickers.

DEVON (cont'd)  
(to Nick)  
I see it hasn't diluted your sense of  
humor.

GARY  
Good job using your big words, ZERO.

VICKI  
Zero?

DEVON  
(whispers)  
A nobody.

Nick hesitates to spill his secrets. His brain says yes, but  
his heart says...no.

NICK  
Mom.

Vicki takes out her bottle of anxiety medication from the glove box and hands it to Nick.

VICKI  
 (to Nick)  
 It's about your father, isn't it?

Nick turns pale. His eyes dart towards the stereo. During the Berggren sisters' duet, the voice of PETER HARPER (30s) lingers in the static.

PETER (O.S.)  
 Lock the door and count to ten.

GARY  
 (curious)  
 Nick?

Nick snuffles, twists off the cap, and downs the entire bottle.

VICKI  
 Nick!

Vicki smacks it out of his hands.

VICKI (cont'd)  
 Pull over.

NICK  
 But...

VICKI  
 Pull over!

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Nick pulls the wagon up to the curb, places it into park, and steps out.

DEVON  
 (confused)  
 Nick?

Nick marches across the street.

GARY  
 (to Devon)  
 Shit man, this isn't good.

Vicki undoes her seatbelt.

VICKI

Nick!

She exits the car and hurries after Nick.

DEVON

What should we do?

GARY

(anxious)

Wait for a signal...

Nick quickens his pace.

VICKI

It wasn't your fault!

NICK

Bullshit!

Vicki stops in her tracks and bites her lip.

VICKI

Please!

Nick grinds to a halt and flips around.

VICKI (cont'd)

I should've been there when he died.

NICK

Yeah? Where were you then?

Vicki is at a loss for words.

VICKI

I...

A McLaren barrels down the street.

DEVON

Hey, uh, guys?

Gary shoves Devon aside and opens the door.

NICK

Well?

VICKI

She was disabled!

NICK  
 Dammit, mom! -- When will you ever  
 start caring about --

A loud HONK interrupts the moment.

GARY (O.S.)  
 Nick!

Nick jerks his head right and grimaces. As he steps back,  
 the supercar slams into him with full force.

VICKI  
 Nick!

DEVON  
 Holy Mary.

As Devon fumbles with the door handle, the car grinds to a  
 halt. The passenger, Kiernan, exits and winces at the blood  
 on his hood.

KIERNAN  
 Damn.

Nick hits it, back-first, and tumbles to the ground. A  
 torrent of blood splashes onto Kiernan's leather jacket and  
 face.

KIERNAN (cont'd)  
 Damn.

VICKI  
 Nick!

Vicki, Devon, and Gary scramble to his aid.

VICKI (cont'd)  
 Nick? Nick?!

GARY  
 Come on, man! This isn't the plan!

Nick snickers.

NICK  
 I guess God wanted to speed up  
 things.

VICKI  
 Plan? What --

DEVON  
 We formed a suicide pact.

VICKI  
(bewildered)  
What?!

NICK  
(relieved)  
In case everything went too shit.

KIERNAN (O.S.)  
Looks like it has.

Kiernan marches forward, stops behind Nick, and looks down.

KIERNAN  
Do you really want to die?

VICKI  
Enough of this madness.

Vicki whips out her cell phone.

KIERNAN  
There's no need for that.

VICKI  
He's dying!

KIERNAN  
I can fix that.

Vicki hesitates.

9-1-1 OPERATOR (V.O.)  
9-1-1, what's your emergency?

VICKI  
What are you, some kind of angel?

KIERNAN  
(shocked)  
Angel, huh. That's a first.

Kiernan nudges Vicki aside, bends down to Nick, and lifts his sleeve.

DEVON  
What the hell do you think you're doing?

KIERNAN  
Someone, make him shut up.

Gary nudges Devon towards the wagon.

GARY  
Bandages, trunk.

Devon's eyes dart back and forth between his best friend and the rusted trunk of Vicki's wagon.

GARY (cont'd)  
Dude!

Devon trudges towards the wagon.

GARY (cont'd)  
(to Kiernan)  
Can you really help him?

KIERNAN  
(to Nick)  
Well?

NICK  
Fuck you.

KIERNAN  
(annoyed)

OK.

Kiernan arises. As he steps towards his car, Vicki yanks him back.

VICKI  
Help my son, dammit!

Kiernan huffs, bends back down to Nick, and raises his fingernail towards the skin of his arm.

GARY  
What are you --

Kiernan slices open his arm.

VICKI  
How is that supposed to help?

KIERNAN  
You'll find out in a minute.

Kiernan raises his bloody arm underneath Nick's lips and taps his head.

KIERNAN (cont'd)  
Hey.

Nick opens his eyes and staggers back at the sight of Kiernan's bleeding arm.

NICK  
(dazed)  
What --?

KIERNAN  
Drink up.

NICK  
(anxious)  
Mom?

Vicki encourages Nick to drink. He groans, sits up, puckers his lips, and takes one big sip. As the wet sticky substance touches his tongue, Nick's pupils dilate, and his heart palpitates.

KIERNAN  
(to Vicki and Gary)  
You both might want to step back.

Gary leads Vicki back over to the wagon, just as Devon emerges from it, with a roll of bandages. He sees Nick's pupils in horror.

DEVON  
(drops bandages)  
Man, I want some of that.

Nick's fingernails dig deep into Kiernan's arm. He moans, groans in agony, with each sip lasting longer than the last.

KIERNAN  
(annoyed)  
OK, that's enough.

Kiernan shoves Nick aside and arises.

VICKI  
Nick?

DEVON  
Nick?!

Nick staggers to his feet, balances himself out, and grips his jaw.

NICK  
(confused)  
What --

GARY

What is it?

NICK

It feels like I'm wearing braces.

KIERNAN (O.S.)

Those are your fangs.

Kiernan steps forward.

KIERNAN

You'll get used to them.

Nick nervously reaches inside his mouth. As he pokes around inside, his fingers graze over the sharp tips of his brand-new fangs, still dripping wet with Kiernan's blood.

NICK

(aghast)

I --

Nick faints.

GARY

Shit. That had to hurt.

Devon races back into the wagon, grabs his pillow, and places it underneath Nick's head.

KIERNAN

Where were you guys heading to?

VICKI

The university for orientation.

Kiernan smirks.

KIERNAN

Orientation, huh?

INT. LITTLE VENICE RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - DAY

CONNIE SIMPSON (50s) places two plates of Chicken Parmesan onto a tray, while fellow server JANINE (30s) adds a plate of lasagna to hers.

JANINE

Have you heard from Laurie yet?

Connie grabs a pizza and places it onto the tray.

CONNIE  
It's been almost 12 hours.

Connie and Janine make their way towards the door.

JANINE  
Maybe she wanted to do a little  
sightseeing?

CONNIE  
At 9 pm?

Connie and Janine exit the kitchen.

INT. LITTLE VENICE RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Connie and Janine make their way towards the front of the  
bustling restaurant.

JANINE  
I'll call BILL after work and let him  
know she's missing.

CONNIE  
Thanks, Jan.

Janine hurries off to her table. As she hands the lasagna  
over to a HUNGRY PATRON, Connie stops in front of a table  
near the window and unfolds her tray.

CONNIE (cont'd)  
Sorry about the long wait.

A gentle voice, belonging to ANTON MARKOV (50s), chuckles,  
his gaze fixated on a HOMELESS MAN (40s) scavenging a  
dumpster in a nearby alleyway.

ANTON  
Not a problem. I'm being entertained.

Connie curiously peers out the window and shudders at the  
sight of the starving vagrant.

CONNIE  
As if this city doesn't have enough  
problems --

Anton huffs.

CONNIE (cont'd)  
Forgive me, Mister Mayor. I didn't  
mean to --

Anton stops her with his palm.

ANTON  
How's the daughter?

Connie places the two plates of Chicken Parmesan in front of him and looks over to Janine, chatting with another customer.

CONNIE  
She arrived last night at the  
Greyhound, but --

Anton snarls and picks up his glass of wine.

ANTON  
I'd like all of these boxed up.

Anton takes one final sip as Vicki sets down the pizza.

CONNIE  
Of course.

As Connie hurries off to locate some containers, Anton takes out his credit card, smacks it down onto the table, and arises.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

The homeless man eagerly pulls out a dead rat carcass and raises it to his salivating lips.

ANTON (O.S.)  
It's not worth it.

Anton strides into the alleyway with a smirk.

ANTON  
Believe me, I've tried.

The homeless man snarls and flashes his fangs at the mayor.

HOMELESS MAN  
Just leave me be.

Anton continues his march.

ANTON  
Well, if I did that, then --

Anton whips out his utility knife from his pocket, twirls it around, and flips it open.

ANTON (cont'd)  
I'd have to hear it on the six  
o'clock news. -- Woman found dead in  
local alleyway, drained of all her  
blood.

Anton scratches the knife across the brick wall to his  
right. The homeless man frantically drops the rat and whips  
out his claws, ready to fight.

HOMELESS MAN  
I'm not a killer.

ANTON  
But you are a vagrant. A fanged  
vagrant, and worst of all --

Anton gazes at his reflection in his knife and snickers.

ANTON (cont'd)  
A nuisance.

The homeless man growls and leaps forward. His footsteps  
kick up dead newspapers and leaves, as he throws his arm out  
and lunges at Anton's throat.

A sickening slice is heard.

The homeless man stops dead in his tracks. Blood trickles  
down his frail arms, as his head rolls off his body, and  
onto the ground below.

Anton steps back with his bloody blade and sighs.

ANTON (cont'd)  
I hate busy work.

A feminine, seductive voice approaches Anton from behind.

FEMININE VOICE  
(in Russian)  
Another one, Mayor Markov?

Anton whips out his handkerchief from his suit pocket and  
steadily dries his knife.

ANTON  
English, please, YELENA. We are in  
New York.

YELENA POPOVA (40s) steps out from behind the dumpster and  
marches up to the homeless man's corpse.

YELENA

How should I dispose of this one?

Anton sheathes his knife and tightens his gloves.

ANTON

The trash compactor -- and make it neat this time.

Anton flips around and marches away. As he storms back towards the restaurant, Yelena carefully tucks the head underneath her arm and pulls the corpse into the shadows.

INT. SUNY BINGHAMTON - ADMISSIONS HALL - DAY

MIRANDA VALE (early 30s) paces the floor, back and forth, her eyes glued to the clock on the wall.

10:30 AM

MIRANDA

(to herself)

Dammit, Kiernan, where are you?

LARRY ROBERTS (50s), a beefy OATH of a man, stumbles over.

LARRY

Still waiting for your brother, Miss Vale?

MIRANDA

(annoyed)

Mr. Roberts.

LARRY

Professor Roberts, if you would.

MIRANDA

Sorry, you may wear that tie pretty well now, but --

Miranda saunters over to Larry, picks up his tie, and twirls it around his neck.

MIRANDA (cont'd)

You'll always be that same, clueless forensics teacher to me.

Larry nudges her aside and fixes his tie.

LARRY  
I'll have you know, I teach physics  
now.

MIRANDA  
Great. Cause, I've got a problem for  
you.

Miranda glares intently at Larry's bulging belly.

MIRANDA (cont'd)  
How much weight can one old, ceramic  
tile floor hold?

Larry readies his rebuttal.

VICKI (O.S.)  
Miranda?

Miranda breathes a sigh of relief.

MIRANDA  
Mrs. Harper.

Miranda hurries over to Vicki and Gary, holding a shaky Nick upright, while Devon and Kiernan converse behind him.

DEVON  
(whispers)  
So, can you guys eat normal people's  
food?

KIERNAN  
We can, but most of us try not to. --  
Or else we'll end up like him.

Larry scowls at Kiernan and storms off.

DEVON  
Damn.

MIRANDA  
Nick? Nick?

Miranda slaps Nick's cheeks. He snarls, inadvertently revealing his fangs.

MIRANDA (cont'd)  
(horrified)  
Shit. Are those --

KIERNAN  
Real? Yes.

Miranda marches up to Kiernan and smacks him hard across his face.

KIERNAN (cont'd)

Ow.

MIRANDA

Great, now you really fucked up.

Devon snickers.

DEVON

Dude, you got hit by a girl.

KIERNAN

She's my sister.

Kiernan cracks his neck and growls at Miranda.

KIERNAN (cont'd)

Doesn't count.

VICKI

(to Miranda)

Can you help him?

Miranda eyes the CHECK-IN table.

MIRANDA

I'll check him in. Have you got his ID?

Vicki reaches into Nick's pocket and hands Miranda his driver's license.

NICK

Miranda...

Devon spots a wheelchair in the corner.

DEVON

Hello.

As he races over to it, Miranda gently places her hands on Nick's cheeks and taps her forehead onto his.

MIRANDA

I promise I'll explain everything to you.

NICK

Hungry...

Miranda looks like Kiernan. He groans, gives Vicki a silent wave goodbye, and exits.

VICKI  
Where is he? -- Never mind.

Devon returns with the wheelchair.

GARY  
Nice, Devon. You're using your brain  
for once.

Vicki whacks Gary in the arm.

GARY (cont'd)  
Hey!

She gives Devon an even harder one.

DEVON  
(to himself)  
What did I do to deserve this?

VICKI  
Enough, both of you. Now --

Vicki angrily snaps her fingers and points to Nick. Devon and Gary reluctantly decide to shake it out.

DEVON  
Truce?

Gary reaches for Devon's hand but playfully pulls it away.

GARY  
For now.

Devon groans and trudges forward. As he and Gary help Nick into the wheelchair, Miranda pulls Vicki aside.

VICKI  
Sorry about those two.

MIRANDA  
It's fine. I don't mind a little  
drama, every now and then.

Vicki bites her tongue.

MIRANDA (cont'd)  
Vicki?

VICKI  
 (anxious)  
 Is it true?

Miranda hesitates, takes a deep breath, and opens her mouth.  
 Vicki shudders at her oddly curved fangs inside.

VICKI (cont'd)  
 I see. Curved?

MIRANDA  
 Specifically made for killing.

Vicki steps back.

MIRANDA (cont'd)  
 Animals.

VICKI  
 And Nick's?

Miranda looks over at Nick and smirks.

MIRANDA  
 Knowing Kiernan -- most likely just  
 for sport.

VICKI  
 Sport?

Miranda pulls out her phone.

MIRANDA  
 Have you read the news lately?

VICKI  
 We've been on the road for a while  
 now...

Miranda shoves her phone into Vicki's face. She takes  
 Miranda's phone and grimaces at the article's headline.

LOCAL UNIVERSITY STUDENT MISSING  
 SINCE YESTERDAY

VICKI

My son's not a killer.

MIRANDA  
 Kiernan's been looking for new  
 initiates for his army.

Nick sniffs Devon's arm.

DEVON  
(pulls it back)  
Hey man, I'm no blood bank.

GARY  
Thank God, I'm anemic.

VICKI  
Army?

MIRANDA  
I doubt this was an accident.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Anton drapes his cigar to the side of a brown leather armchair. Across from it, Kiernan barges in, ready for a fight.

ANTON  
Back so soon?

KIERNAN  
I did what you asked.

Anton smirks and swivels around.

ANTON  
Did you know?

KIERNAN  
You want proof? My car's out front.

ANTON  
That won't be necessary.

Anton puts out his cigar, chucks it in the bin, and arises.

ANTON (cont'd)  
Has he exhibited any signs?

KIERNAN  
You mean powers?

ANTON  
Did I stutter?

KIERNAN  
Maybe.

Anton scowls, marches up to the window behind him, and glares out at the city streets below.

KIERNAN (cont'd)  
Not yet. It's too early to tell.

                  ANTON  
Then, what are you still doing here?

                  KIERNAN  
Sure thing. I'll leave -- Anton.

Anton snarls and jerks around.

                  ANTON  
                  (in Russian)  
That's Antonov, shit face!

Kiernan strolls up to Anton's desk and examines the documents on top.

                  KIERNAN  
Prison records?

Anton shoves the papers back inside his folder and tucks it back into the drawer.

                  ANTON  
A little nosy, aren't we?

                  KIERNAN  
I've seen that man before.

A faint smirk spreads across Anton's face.

                  ANTON  
Have you now?

Kiernan returns his smirk with a cheeky frown.

                  KIERNAN  
ROBERT WHITE, serial killer and  
convicted rapist. Also known as the  
"Southern Tier Terror".

Anton whips out his utility knife, spits on it, and polishes it with his handkerchief.

                  ANTON  
A terror indeed. Five women, brutally  
dismembered, and their heads  
consumed.

                  KIERNAN  
You snuffed him out. Didn't you?

ANTON  
 You, vampires, are like a plague to  
 our species. So, what better way to  
 cure it, than to --

Anton jabs the blade towards Kiernan's chest.

ANTON (cont'd)  
 Eradicate.

Kiernan scowls and storms out.

ANTON (cont'd)  
 You can come out now, Yelena.

Yelena slithers out from behind one of Anton's magnificent  
 purple curtains and glares at the doors behind her.

YELENA  
 You should've let me kill him.

ANTON  
 Do not worry --

Anton saunters over and gently grabs her chin.

ANTON (cont'd)  
 My young confidant.

Anton moves in for a kiss. Yelena doesn't resist.

ANTON (cont'd)  
 Soon, you will have your chance.

EXT. NICK'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Devon, Nick, and Vicki shove their bodies against the door  
 as Nick pounds and howls from inside.

DEVON  
 This -- this is really bad.

GARY  
 No kidding, ARTHUR.

VICKI  
 That's it!

Vicki steps away from the door and collapses onto the floor,  
 in tears.

VICKI (cont'd)  
 I can't do this anymore.

DEVON  
Come on, Mrs. V. Don't give up.

Kiernan rushes up to the door with a rabbit carcass in his hands.

KIERNAN  
Where's --

Vicki jumps up and shoves Kiernan into the wall.

VICKI  
Where did you go?!

Kiernan shows Vicki the corpse.

DEVON  
Peter Rabbit?

KIERNAN  
(to Vicki)  
What is it?

Vicki clenches her fist but hesitates. She takes a deep breath, sighs, and unfurls it.

VICKI  
Help my son, please.

Kiernan pats Vicki on the shoulder and marches up to the door. He shoves both Devon and Gary aside and knocks hard.

KIERNAN  
Nick?

DEVON  
(to Gary)  
Since when are you from Germany?

GARY  
Since I watched Downfall.

Miranda opens the door from inside.

MIRANDA  
Took you long enough.

Miranda yanks Kiernan inside.

INT. NICK'S DORM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Miranda leads Kiernan over to Nick, halfway through devouring his own arm. He glares hungrily at the carcass.

NICK

....

Devon, Gary, and Vicki step in and grimace.

VICKI

Nick!

Miranda slams the door shut.

MIRANDA

Not a good idea.

DEVON

Oh, fuck this.

Devon races out of the room and down the hall.

VICKI

Devon!

Gary moves to comfort his friend, but Kiernan holds him back.

KIERNAN

Do you want to die?

Gary steps back and wipes the tears from his eyes.

GARY

Is he going too?

Kiernan sighs, tiptoes up to Nick, bends down, and pulls his fangs out from his arm.

KIERNAN

You're going to need to learn some control.

Kiernan's words go in and out of his ears in a snap. Nick stares at him blankly.

MIRANDA

What the hell are you waiting for?

Kiernan hands Nick the rabbit carcass.

KIERNAN

He'll need to rest for a few hours -- after that...

Nick digs in.

KIERNAN (cont'd)  
He should be fine.

VICKI  
(doubtful)  
Really?

GARY  
He's not going to turn on us, is he?

MIRANDA  
Depends.

VICKI  
On what?

KIERNAN  
Whether or not he can control his  
powers.

GARY  
I know where we can get him a good  
cape.

KIERNAN  
We're not superheroes.

MIRANDA  
Maybe not you, but I like to fashion  
myself as a modern-day princess.

DEVON  
In Madonna's wardrobe?

Miranda glares at her black baby-doll dress and scowls.

MIRANDA  
(to Kiernan)  
Outside.

Miranda grips the collar of Kiernan's leather jacket and  
drags him out of the room and down the hall.

EXT. NICK'S DORM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A group of PROMISING YOUNG STUDENTS hustles past Miranda and  
Kiernan in the midst of a heated argument.

MIRANDA  
(whispers)  
The mayor?!

Kiernan hushes her.

KIERNAN  
He's got a hit list.

Miranda steps back.

MIRANDA  
(doubtful)  
Of?

Kiernan gently takes her hand and stares into her eyes. Miranda squeezes it tightly. She keeps her gaze on the floor, afraid to move it.

MIRANDA (cont'd)  
Are we on it?

KIERNAN  
I don't know.

Miranda tightens her grip around Kiernan's hand.

KIERNAN (cont'd)  
He put it away before I could get a closer look.

MIRANDA  
And Nick?

KIERNAN  
Someone who can help us.

MIRANDA  
Help us? Like you helped that missing girl?

Kiernan steps back and sighs.

MIRANDA (cont'd)  
Where is she, Kiernan?

KIERNAN  
At home, with mom and dad. She'll be safe there.

MIRANDA  
Jesus, Kiernan.

Miranda flips around.

KIERNAN  
Miranda?

MIRANDA  
You really think that -- that...

Miranda glances over at the door to Nick's dorm room and winces.

MIRANDA (cont'd)  
You can't just go around turning  
people.

KIERNAN  
I'm doing what dad would've done—to  
protect our kind.

Miranda nuzzles up against Kiernan's chest. He wraps her around his arms.

MIRANDA  
How many more?

KIERNAN  
As many as it takes.

Kiernan bites his lip. His fangs cut them open.

KIERNAN (cont'd)  
Enough to bring justice to this rust-  
infested city.

Kiernan marches off.

MIRANDA  
Egghead.

Miranda takes out her phone. She turns it on and smirks at the picture of herself, Kiernan, and DAMIAN VALE (40s), posing in front of Damian's vintage mint green 70's Buick Estate Wagon.

EXT. VALE HOUSE - DAY

Connie pulls up to the curb in her car, stops, and rolls down the window. She stares intently at the mansion's imposing front door.

JANINE  
I should really tell Bill.

CONNIE  
We're gathering Intel.

Connie undoes her seatbelt and exits the car. She marches through the wrought iron gate and up the stony steps as Janine races to catch up to her.

JANINE

What makes you so sure she's here?

Connie marches up to the porch.

CONNIE

The Vale's practically owns this town -- More than the mayor would like to admit.

Connie rings the doorbell.

JANINE

I think I'll wait in the car.

Janine turns to leave, but Connie holds her back.

CONNIE

Janine, please -- I don't have anyone else.

JANINE

Alright, but just so you know --

Janine takes out a small revolver from her pocket.

CONNIE

Jesus! What's Bill been telling you now?

JANINE

Ever since I got mugged.

Janine carefully examines the gun.

JANINE (cont'd)

He thinks it's for the best.

CONNIE

Remember to have a word with him.

The door creaks open, revealing CAPRICE VALE (50s), a thin, Twiggy-Esque woman, in a form-fitting black dress and pumps.

CAPRICE

Is there something I can help you two with?

Janine tucks the revolver back in her pocket.

CONNIE

Have you heard the reports about the missing girl?

Caprice narrows her eyes at Janine's pocket and smirks.

CAPRICE

Yes, quite a tragedy. Do you need help spreading the word?

CONNIE

Well, no -- not exactly.

Caprice further pulls the door open.

CAPRICE

Would you two care to come in?

Connie hesitates. She steps forward.

JANINE

(yanks Connie back)

We just want to know if you've seen her?

CAPRICE

You must have wax your ears. -- I haven't.

Connie groans in dismay.

CONNIE

What about your husband? Maybe he --

Caprice growls under her breath.

CAPRICE

I think you've both overcome your welcome.

Caprice slams the door shut in their faces.

JANINE

Can we go now?

CONNIE

Yeah, there's somewhere else I want to check.

Connie hurries down the steps and towards her car. Janine races after her.

JANINE

Where?

CONNIE

The bus terminal.

JANINE

Again?

Connie opens the door.

CONNIE

There had to be some witnesses.

Janine enters the car.

JANINE

We should have done that the first time.

Connie's hands begin shaking.

JANINE (cont'd)

Connie? -- Shit, is it another --

CONNIE

The glove box -- hurry...

Janine cracks open the glove box and hands Connie her prescription anxiety pills.

CONNIE (cont'd)

(takes two pills)

I must find her.

Janine gently squeezes Connie's hand.

JANINE

We will, you and me.

Connie squeezes it back as her eyes fall on Janine's Carnelian ring around her ring finger.

CONNIE

Until the end?

Janine looks at Connie's equal in size, the Carnelian ring around hers, and snickers.

JANINE

Until the end.

INT. VALE HOUSE - MIRANDA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Laurie peeks through the blinds and fumes as Connie speeds off.

LAURIE

I want to talk to my mom.

Caprice cautiously enters the room.

CAPRICE  
I can't let you do that.

LAURIE  
Then, piss off.

Caprice snarls, stomps over, and sinks her claws into Laurie's shoulder.

CAPRICE  
You'd best show me some respect.

Laurie growls back, exposing her sharp, pencil-tipped fangs.

LAURIE  
I'll rip your fucking throat out!

DAMIAN (O.S.)  
Caprice?!

Caprice releases Laurie as Damian wobbles in.

CAPRICE  
Damian. You're awake.

Damian stumbles in and covers his mouth from his uncontrollable urge to cough.

DAMIAN  
What happened?

Caprice remains fixated on Laurie.

CAPRICE  
Just a little mother-daughter bonding.

Damian gaps at Laurie's fangs.

DAMIAN  
What have you done?

Caprice gently wraps her arm around Damian and pulls him towards the door.

CAPRICE  
You're sick, Damian. Let me help you back to bed.

Damian unsuccessfully wrestles his arm within her grasp. He's too weak to fight her.

DAMIAN  
This isn't how we fight...

CAPRICE  
I have everything under control.

Caprice pecks Damian's cheek.

CAPRICE (cont'd)  
Anton, Kiernan, and I.

DAMIAN  
That man's playing your strings. Both  
of yours.

Damian snarls at the ring, revealing a mouth full of fangs.

DAMIAN (cont'd)  
I'll kill you --

As he lunges for her neck, Caprice twists his wrist a  
perfect 180 degrees and rips it off.

CAPRICE  
Are you now?

Damian howls in agony and hits the floor. He can't help but  
cough, which sends even more blood into Miranda's lush  
carpet.

DAMIAN  
Damn, disease...

Caprice picks up Damian's severed hand.

CAPRICE  
It kills up to one hundred thousand  
people per year. Isn't that  
fascinating?

Caprice tosses the hand onto Miranda's bed.

CAPRICE (cont'd)  
Here, Laurie, eat up.

Caprice kicks Damian to the floor, storms out of the  
bedroom, and slams the door shut behind her.

DAMIAN  
(to himself)  
Miranda.

INT. NICK'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Nick slowly opens his eyes and sits up; his chin and cheeks caked in dry fur and blood.

NICK

Mom?

Vicki jolts awake and hugs Nick tightly.

VICKI

Thank God, you're awake.

Miranda enters the room and breathes a sigh of relief.

MIRANDA

(to Nick)

You got a little --

Nick touches his cheeks, stares at his hands, and grimaces. He shudders, grabs his sheets, and mashes them against his face.

Gary stumbles in.

GARY

Sweet, you're up.

Miranda steps up to Nick.

MIRANDA

I think you got it all.

Nick relaxes and plops back down on his bed.

NICK

So, um, Miranda --

Miranda leaps forward and smacks her lips against his. Gary does his best to hide his disgust. He peers back into the hallway.

GARY

Where the hell's Devon?

Vicki sits up.

VICKI

Stay here.

Vicki hurries away.

GARY

You two done French-kissing?

NICK  
We're in New York?

MIRANDA  
God, you're such an idiot.

NICK  
What?

Miranda grabs Nick's arm and flips it around.

MIRANDA  
Good, your arm healed.

NICK  
My arm?

Gary leans in for a closer look and huffs

GARY  
We caught you snacking on it an hour ago.

Nick gags and vomits right onto Miranda's dress.

MIRANDA  
Great.

GARY  
You need a towel.

MIRANDA  
Well then, why don't you go get me one?

GARY  
Sure thing, princess.

Gary storms off.

NICK  
What the hell's his problem?

MIRANDA  
Probably just in shock from what he's seen so far.

Nick stares down at his bloodstained bed sheets and chucks them aside.

NICK  
I'm a monster.

MIRANDA

Who can run up to one-hundred miles per hour, turn invisible, and lift a 1984 Yugo GV.

NICK

(confused)

A what? Wait -- what?!

MIRANDA

It helped save my mechanic. Now --

Miranda sits up and walks over to the desk in the corner of the room.

MIRANDA (cont'd)

There are a few rules you'll have to follow.

She cracks open the drawer.

NICK

Rules?

A pen and notepad fly into Nick's hand.

MIRANDA

Number one.

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

In the large, theater-style lecture hall, PROFESSOR BENJAMIN WINCHESTER (60s) flips on the projector in the front of the room, while Nick curiously watches from afar.

MIRANDA (O.S.)

Don't stare at the light.

NICK (O.S.)

The light?

Nick scoffs and narrows his eyes at the light bulb inside the projector.

MIRANDA (O.S.)

It'll burn out your retinas.

Nick's retinas begin to sizzle. He gasps, jumps up, and scurries out of the classroom.

MIRANDA (O.S.) (cont'd)

Number Two.

EXT. SUNY BINGHAMTON CAMPUS GROUNDS - DAY

Nick, with his bloodshot eyes, sets his lunchbox down on the grass next to Devon and cracks it open.

MIRANDA (O.S.)  
Absolutely, no carbs.

Nick takes out a Tupperware full of leftover penne pasta and cracks it open.

NICK (O.S.)  
(annoyed)  
Why not?

MIRANDA (O.S.)  
We've got an image to maintain.

Nick plunges his fork into the pasta.

DEVON  
(anxious)  
What happened to your eyes?

Nick tosses the fork aside and huffs. His stomach growls.

Nick stares hungrily at Devon's roast-beef sandwich. His mouth waters. As Devon reaches for another bite, his phone rings.

Devon curiously answers.

DEVON (cont'd)  
(into the phone)  
Hello? -- SARAH? Slow down...

Devon sits up and steps away. As he ducks into a corner for some privacy, Nick eagerly scoops up his sandwich and digs in. He devours it in seconds, grabs his bowl of pasta, and scarfs it in, as if it were his last meal.

MIRANDA (O.S.)  
And finally -- number three.

INT. BOSCOV'S DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Nick, now wearing sunglasses, eagerly looks down at a bottle of Calvin Klein OBSESSION in the glass case below him.

MIRANDA (O.S.)  
Control your anger.

An ANGRY SHOPPER (30s) bumps into Nick. He snarls and jumps to his feet.

NICK

Excuse you.

ANGRY SHOPPER

Excuse you? How about, excuse you!

The angry shopper shoves his cell phone into Nick's face.

ANGRY SHOPPER (cont'd)

...for making me miss an important call!

Nick clenches his fists. His eyes glow red with fury.

MIRANDA (O.S.)

You're a lot stronger than you think you are now.

Nick grabs the angry shopper's phone and crushes it with his bare hands.

NICK

Guess you'll need a new one?

The angry shopper lunges for Nick, but Nick is faster. He dodges the man's erratic movements, grabs his wrists, and bends them backward.

The man's wrists flop over like two limp sausages. He glares at them for a few seconds before the shock takes over. The shopper shrieks, drawing in a small crowd of curious onlookers.

The shoppers grimace and gasp to themselves. Nick straightens his shades and hurries off.

INT. MIRANDA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

As Miranda and her skinny roommate, LILY (20s), converse on top of their beds, Nick storms in and rips off his sunglasses, his stomach ready to burst.

NICK

I can't do this.

MIRANDA

Oh my god.

Lily eyes the door.

LILY

Jesus fuck!

Lily dashes out of the room and down the hall.

NICK

Who is she?

Miranda jumps off the bed.

MIRANDA

Unimportant. You, on the other  
hand --

She walks up to Nick and slaps him across the face.

MIRANDA (cont'd)

...must really love playing with  
fire.

NICK

A guy's got to eat.

Miranda glares at Nick's enlarged belly.

MIRANDA

And your eyes? The blood on your  
wrists?

NICK

Asshole was being a prick...

MIRANDA

That asshole could've been the mayor,  
a police officer, or more  
importantly, another vampire.

Nick clutches his stomach.

NICK

Your point?

MIRANDA

Don't pick fights, you can't win.

Miranda leads Nick over to his bed and sits him down.

NICK

Sorry.

Miranda reluctantly sits down next to him.

MIRANDA  
You really have to be careful, from  
now on.

Nick snickers.

NICK  
When have you known me to be careful?

MIRANDA  
Not since the whole Jackson  
Sanitarium Expedition.

NICK  
Ghosts, cobwebs, and asbestos galore.

MIRANDA  
You could've been killed.

NICK  
But we didn't. So --

MIRANDA  
So that means you keep going?

NICK  
Well --

MIRANDA  
No, well, Nick. You're reckless.

Nick takes out his phone.

NICK  
But my Insta...

MIRANDA  
I don't give a shit about your  
followers. It's dangerous.

Nick lowers his phone.

NICK  
My dad was the same way.

MIRANDA  
Was he into all that, urban exploring  
stuff?

NICK  
He toured some of the world's most  
famous landmarks. The Great Pyramids,  
Paris Catacombs, and the vault in  
Fort Knox.

MIRANDA

Vault?

NICK

It's where the country keeps most of its gold.

Nick furiously counts his breaths.

MIRANDA

What happened to him?

NICK

He got mixed up with the wrong people, snuck in some gold for the trip home, and was executed by the CIA for it.

MIRANDA

Holy fucking shit.

Gary and Devon walk in.

NICK

Where have you guys been?

DEVON

Uh, class?

GARY

(steps closer to Nick)  
Damn.

NICK

What?

GARY

You look like hell.

Nick snarls underneath his breath.

NICK

You know, I'm getting real sick of your attitude lately.

Miranda sits up.

MIRANDA

(to Nick)  
I think you need a shower.

She grabs Nick's arm, but he nudges it off and arises.

NICK  
 (to Gary)  
 Well?

GARY  
 (to Miranda)  
 Where's Kiernan?

MIRANDA  
 He went to check in on our father.

NICK  
 (anxious)  
 Is -- is he also --

MIRANDA  
 An ancient: one of the oldest  
 vampires in existence -- lying on his  
 deathbed.

NICK  
 Is that why you never mentioned him  
 before?

MIRANDA  
 Yeah, I'm sure that would've been in  
 an interesting conversation. -- Hey  
 Nick, so -- my dad? He's Dracula,  
 like THE Dracula.

GARY  
 Well, is he?

Miranda hesitates to answer.

GARY (cont'd)  
 What do you know? Perfect.

Gary rolls up his sleeve.

MIRANDA  
 What are you doing?

Gary shoves his arm underneath Miranda's mouth.

GARY  
 Bite me.

MIRANDA  
 Hell no!

Nick interjects.

NICK  
Back off, Gary!

GARY  
I'm not scared of you, Nick.

Nick shows off his fangs and red retinas.

NICK  
Well, you should be.

Devon frantically tries to pull the two apart.

DEVON  
Now, guys, let's just chill for a minute. -- Nick? Do you really think Gary's worth it?

NICK  
Yes.

DEVON  
Well, uh -- OK. Gary? Gary?!

GARY  
Why not? Who's to say I wanted to drive 386 miles in a shitty beater listening to Chuck Mangione and his stupid trumpet.

DEVON  
Man, what did Chuck ever do to you?

GARY  
Make pop music.

Gary's phone vibrates. He takes it out, reads the text message, and scoffs.

NICK  
Who's that?

GARY

SABRINA.

Gary tucks his phone away.

GARY (cont'd)  
She sends her love.

Nick growls, flies forward, and pins Gary to the wall by his neck.

LARRY (O.S.)  
What's all the kerfuffle?

Miranda shuts and locks the door.

MIRANDA  
Nick!

DEVON  
Oh shit. Shit.

NICK  
No one said you had to leave her.

GARY  
Really? Cause I'm pretty sure you're  
the one who told her it'd be better  
for me if I did.

Larry raps on the door from outside.

MIRANDA  
Whose Sabrina?!

GARY  
My girlfriend. Ex-girlfriend. --  
Thanks to fang boy over here.

Nick shoves Gary deeper into the wall.

NICK  
Why don't we call her up then? And  
see what she has to say?

Miranda tugs at Nick's arm.

MIRANDA  
Stop!

Larry's raps become frantic.

LARRY (O.S.)  
Miss Vale!

The door handle rattles. Devon shoves his body against the door.

DEVON  
We're all just having a little  
friendly argument...

GARY  
 (whispers)  
 Go ahead. Then she can see who the  
 real freak is, now.

Nick throws back his fist and snarls.

NICK  
 Fuck you.

He swings forward, but two hands stop his fist, inches from Gary's nose. Nick looks down to see Miranda, on the verge of tears.

MIRANDA  
 Let him go.

Nick releases Gary and embraces Miranda.

DEVON  
 (to Gary)  
 Dude, were you serious about all that  
 shit? About becoming --

GARY  
 Why not? Maybe she'll take me back  
 then...

Gary marches to the door.

NICK  
 Gary --

Gary flings it open, shoves Larry aside, and storms off.

LARRY  
 Now than --

Larry stops mid-sentence at the sight of Nick's fangs, the blood on the bedsheets, and the hole in the wall.

LARRY (cont'd)  
 What in the Kansas City is going on  
 here?

Miranda drags Nick out of the room and into the men's restroom, without giving Larry any answers. He simmers hard like a teapot, ready to explode.

LARRY (cont'd)  
 (to Devon)  
 Well? Mr. Serling?

DEVON  
(anxious)  
Nice ascot.

Devon hurries away.

LARRY  
(to himself)  
I should've stayed in Tulsa.

INT. MEN'S RESTROOM - DAY

Miranda taps her knees near the lockers while Nick washes the blood off his skin.

MIRANDA  
We're going to need more help.

NICK (O.S.)  
From Kiernan?

MIRANDA  
My father.

NICK (O.S.)  
I thought he was sick?

MIRANDA  
Nothing ever stops my dad from moving. Not even Cholera.

NICK (O.S.)  
Cholera?

Nick emerges from the showers.

NICK  
I thought that ended years ago?

MIRANDA  
No, it's still around --  
Unfortunately.

Nick approaches Miranda, places his hands on her shoulder, and kisses her head.

NICK  
If our ancestors could survive it, so  
can he.

Nick takes a seat next to Miranda. He eyes the dirty water on tile floor and dries himself with a towel.

NICK (cont'd)  
What does it do to people like us?

MIRANDA  
Loss of appetite, strength,  
mobility --

Miranda examines her hand.

MIRANDA (cont'd)  
Until the body becomes nothing more  
than a corpse.

NICK  
How bad is it?

Miranda breaks out into tears.

MIRANDA  
He's been bedridden for four years  
now.

Nick wipes away them away and gives her a tender hug.

MIRANDA (cont'd)  
My mother takes care of him now. Most  
of the time.

NICK  
Kiernan?

MIRANDA  
He feels responsible for it.

NICK  
Why?

Miranda takes a deep breath.

MIRANDA  
We went on a camping trip once. Four  
years ago.

EXT. CAMPGROUNDS - DAY

On a large pile of pond rocks, Damian shows a reluctant  
Kiernan how to hold a fishing pole.

MIRANDA (O.S.)  
My dad was trying to teach us how to  
fish.

Miranda snickers next to him and tosses her line into the stream below.

MIRANDA (O.S.) (cont'd)  
The rocks below us were loose.

As Kiernan flings his line into the water, the rocks below him give way. Miranda pulls Kiernan to safety, but Damian falls straight into the water.

NICK (O.S.)  
Did he drink it?

Caprice rushes into the stream and pulls Damian out from underneath the river and back onto the shore.

MIRANDA (O.S.)  
We didn't know it was polluted until about a day later.

Damian coughs.

MIRANDA (O.S.) (cont'd)  
Apparently, my mother picked the spot where all the local drunks come to party and shit.

NICK (O.S.)  
Literal shit.

INT. MEN'S RESTROOM - CONTINUOUS

Miranda arises.

MIRANDA  
Funny, isn't it?

NICK  
It couldn't have been that bad.

MIRANDA  
We, vampires, have weak immune systems.

Miranda eyes the dirty tile floors near the shower.

MIRANDA (cont'd)  
It's why we try to stay as clean as possible.

Nick arises and joins her by her side.

NICK  
A genetic flaw?

MIRANDA  
Birth defect, mutation, whatever you  
want to call it. The point is, it's  
real -- and it's deadly.

Miranda's phone rings. She answers.

MIRANDA (cont'd)  
(into the phone)  
Kiernan? -- What?

NICK  
(confused)  
Miranda?

MIRANDA  
(anxious)  
Dad's been hurt.

EXT. VALE HOUSE - DAY

Miranda, Nick, and Devon exit the wagon and hurry up to the house.

MIRANDA  
Kiernan!

Kiernan and Caprice carefully carry Damian over their shoulders and down the steps.

KIERNAN  
(anxious)  
It was Laurie.

DEVON  
The missing girl?

Nick stops in his tracks and glares at Miranda.

MIRANDA  
(to Kiernan)  
Tell them the truth, Kiernan.

CAPRICE  
Sweetie? We don't have time for --

Kiernan shoves his hand in front of Caprice's face and sighs.



ANTON  
(dismissive)  
The only child of Vicky and Peter  
Harper. -- The son of a spa  
receptionist and a surgeon who  
couldn't save his own life.

Nick stomps forward and slams his fist into the document,  
splitting Anton's desk straight in half.

ANTON (cont'd)  
Oh ho ho -- impressive.

NICK  
Don't talk shit about my father.

ANTON  
Indeed. Let's talk about you.

NICK  
(confused)  
Huh?

MIRANDA  
What?

KIERNAN  
Anton...

ANTON  
(furious)  
Antonov!

The group steps back, bewildered.

ANTON (cont'd)  
Excuse me for my outburst.

Nick glares at the destroyed plaque beneath his feet.

NICK  
So, you're the mayor, huh?

ANTON  
Guilty as charged, I suppose.

Nick clenches his knuckles.

NICK  
What else do you know about me?

Anton points to the document.

ANTON

Oh, that was it. That's all I had.  
Which, you've destroyed. -- Years  
upon years of research...

MIRANDA

God, what a tool.

CAPRICE

(shouts)

Hey!

The group looks over at Caprice and Vicki outside the office. Next to them, Damian's breath becomes soft.

NICK

(to Anton)

Do you ever shut up?

ANTON

Why? Don't you like the sound of my  
succulent voice?

NICK

No.

ANTON

Well then, anyway...

Anton dusts the dust off his chair and sits back down.

ANTON (cont'd)

Yelena?

Yelena steps out from behind the purple curtain and bows.

YELENA

Yes? Antonov?

Anton waves his hand towards Damian.

ANTON

Take Mr. Vale and his wife to the  
guest room. Make sure they're  
comfortable.

Yelena bows, walks over to the trio and points them to the guest room.

YELENA

(in Russian)

This way.

Yelena walks away.

VICKI  
Slavic?

CAPRICE  
Commies.

As Caprice and Vicki help Damian to his feet, Anton breaks the silence.

ANTON  
(to Nick)  
Your powers are growing, yes?

NICK  
Yeah. So what? I've got it under control.

ANTON  
Do you?

Nick glares at Anton's shattered desk and trembles.

NICK  
Maybe.

Miranda rushes forward.

MIRANDA  
Nick, be careful.

ANTON  
I can help with that.

DEVON  
Why should we trust you?

ANTON  
Who are you?

Kiernan steps forward.

KIERNAN  
We can.

MIRANDA  
Kiernan.

NICK  
Why?

KIERNAN  
(glares at Anton)  
Antonov.

Anton props his chair back up, sits back down, and picks up a cigar from the ruins of his desk, below, and lights it.

ANTON  
(to Nick)  
Your father was executed by the CIA,  
correct?

NICK  
Was that in the file you had?

ANTON  
If it wasn't, why would I be telling  
it to you?

KIERNAN  
Keep going.

Anton sits up and marches over to the window.

ANTON  
How would you like to avenge him?

NICK  
Avenge?

ANTON  
(smokes a cigar)  
Well, someone must pay for his death,  
don't they?

Nick glares at his trembling fists.

MIRANDA  
Nick, don't do it --

KIERNAN  
Devon, get her out of here.

Devon reaches for Miranda.

DEVON  
Come on --

Miranda snaps her jaws at Devon. He backs off.

DEVON (cont'd)  
OK then.

NICK  
What do you want me to do?

ANTON  
Simple -- Come by every afternoon,  
say -- around 5.

DEVON  
Why 5?

ANTON  
Because I like it.

DEVON  
(weary)  
Nick...

MIRANDA  
Devon, go check on Vicki.

Devon reluctantly hurries out of the office.

KIERNAN  
(to Anton)  
And?

Anton swivels towards Nick.

ANTON  
I'll help him home in his gifts.

NICK  
Gifts? -- You're not even a vampire.

ANTON  
Don't be so sure of that.

Anton winks at Nick.

KIERNAN  
(whispers to Anton)  
What about my father?

ANTON  
(whispers back)  
I'll help him as much as I can.

Anton arises and saunters over to Nick.

ANTON (cont'd)  
And, in return, you'll help me bring  
order to an otherwise unruly and  
unjust city.

NICK  
Like some half-assed vigilante.

ANTON  
Well, it's either that, or --

Anton shoves Miranda aside, whips out his utility knife, and raises it to Nick's neck.

ANTON (cont'd)  
I'll kill you.

Kiernan helps Miranda to her feet.

MIRANDA  
Those are some pretty shitty terms.

ANTON  
Really? I think they're quite generous. -- Live...

Anton presses the knife into Nick's skin.

ANTON (cont'd)  
Or die.

Miranda pulls Nick away from Anton and places herself in front of him, fangs ready.

ANTON (cont'd)  
How's that little army of yours, Kiernan?

MIRANDA  
Kiernan!

KIERNAN  
I still need one more person.

ANTON  
Well then...

Anton clicks his teeth and cocks his head towards the door. Kiernan growls, glares at Nick, and storms off.

NICK  
What do you need an army for?

ANTON  
Did you really think you were going to do this alone?

NICK  
You're not answering my question.

Anton cocks his head towards the window.

ANTON  
Take a look.

Nick walks up to the window and peers out.

ANTON (O.S.)  
Now, tell me, what do you see?

Down in the alleyway below, a MUGGER (40s) SNATCHES an AFFLUENT WOMAN'S (30s) purse and DARTS away.

NICK  
Some lowlife, robbing a rich lady --  
OK?

ANTON  
Well, what if I told you that lowlife  
was my treasurer?

NICK  
You're lying.

Anton puts the phone to his ear.

ANTON  
(into the phone)  
Yelena?  
(in Russian)  
Bring him in.

Anton hangs up and sets the phone back down on the floor.

NICK  
I don't get what you're trying to  
prove.

ANTON  
You will, in a minute.

Yelena shoves the mugger/treasurer, JORDAN HEWITT (50s), into the room, and rips off his ski mask.

JORDAN  
Mayor Markov -- I...

ANTON  
(in Russian to Yelena)  
Thank you.

Yelena winks at Nick, blows him a kiss, and exits. She closes and locks the doors behind her, as Anton marches up to his comrade in arms, and pats his shoulder.

ANTON (cont'd)  
Where did I go wrong with you?

JORDAN  
(anxious)  
You cut my salary by seventy-five percent!

ANTON  
I think that was a fair compromise.  
Considering what I found --  
(whips out USB drive)  
This.

NICK  
What is that?

ANTON  
A drive. It contains videos of Mr. Hewitt having explicit intercourse with some very young underage minors. -- Well, I'd plug it in for you, but considering what you did to my desk earlier...

NICK  
Enough.

Nick glares at Jordan and cracks his knuckles, neck.

MIRANDA  
Nick, think about this...

NICK  
(whispers to Miranda)  
You weren't there when he died.

Nick nudges Miranda aside and stomps up to Jordan.

NICK (cont'd)  
How do you want me to do this?

JORDAN  
(to Anton)  
Anton, please -- Mercy.

ANTON  
Start with the head--and work your way down from there.

NICK  
Gladly.

Jordan races to the doors and tries the handles.

JORDAN

No -- please!

Nick rips him from the doors, severing his arms, tosses his body to the floor, and sinks his fangs into his neck.

Anton checks his watch and grumbles.

ANTON

I'm overdue for an appointment with the school board.

Anton leads Miranda over to the doors. He reaches for the handles but hesitates.

ANTON (cont'd)

Do clean up the mess when you're finished, would you?

As Nick spits out several of Jordan's insides, Anton leads Miranda out of the room and shuts and locks the door behind them.

EXT. GREYHOUND BUS TERMINAL - DAY

Janine anxiously sways side to side as Connie shows a picture of Laurie on her phone to the TICKET ATTENDANT (50s).

CONNIE

Are you sure you haven't seen her?

The ticket attendant wearily shakes his head. Connie groans and marches off. Janine hurries after her.

JANINE

(anxious)

Maybe Bill found something by now.

Connie stops in her tracks and grumbles.

CONNIE

I know she got off that bus.

Janine angrily whips out her phone.

CONNIE (cont'd)

What are you doing?

JANINE

Calling, Bill.

As Janine steps aside, Connie lowers her eyes to the ground. As she ponders her next steps, she spots something purple sticking out from underneath a nearby car. She races over to it.

JANINE (cont'd)

Connie?

Connie pulls out a phone from underneath the car, turns it around, and taps on the screen. She grimaces as Janine races over.

JANINE (cont'd)

What is it? What did you find?

CONNIE

(hopeful)

Her phone.

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - DAY

As Gary mopes on a nearby bench, CODY CHEVALIER (20s) takes a seat next to him and sighs.

CODY

You know, moping about it won't change anything.

GARY

Go find someone else to annoy.

CODY

(sighs)

Fine, ignore your friendly vampire's advice.

GARY

Vampire?

Cody flashes his sharp-tipped fangs and smirks.

CODY

You want to get back at him, don't you?

Gary glares at Cody's fangs and takes a deep breath.

GARY

Alright.

END