

Blood Doll Script, v1

Episode 1: “Interrogate the Blood Doll”

by Alicia E. Goranson

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Approximate playing time: 1 Hour, 45 minutes

CAST OF CHARACTERS

BLOOD DOLL	30-something trans woman, femme, main character
SAMAEL (GEORGE GATAKER)	Ventruue, masc, vassal of Seattle prince AARALYN
ELIJIO	Lasombra, SAMAEL’s boyfriend, masc
BRIAN (“BRUTESTRAP”)	Tremere, techbro CEO of his own company, Embraced masc son of AARALYN, Embraced to get influence within the Seattle tech community
JEFFREY (“C-BOSS”)	Tremere fledgling, techbro, EMBRACED childe of BRIAN, masc
JEFFREY’S BEAST	JEFFREY’s Beast, same voice actor as BRIAN
JUDITH (TOADSTOOL)	Nosferatu, Sheriff, grows mushrooms in her gut, femme
ESTHER	Salubri, femme, AARALYN’s minister, chosen to replace former minister, appointed as a favor to the Salubri clan to end bloodshed
RACHEL	AARALYN’s Blood Doll, femme
PETER	AARALYN’s Blood Doll, masc
AMANDA	Graveyard Shift Hecata, member of SAMAEL’s coterie, go-to butch for anything needed, generally depressed, smokes
SIMON	Another member of SAMAEL’s coterie
LOREA	Cult of Set Non-Believer, femme, SODO Anarch community organizer
ARTURO	Malkavian, masc, SODO Anarch community protector, “guard dog,” excellent watcher
SIOBHAN	Gangrel, femme, mutual aid provider, SODO Anarch community resource distributor
TAM	LLM running on an NVIDIA server cooled with magic and the blood of a Banu Haqim Judge with Blood Sorcery (Andrew), masc sounding

UBER DRIVER Uber driver, victim, masc

TECHBRO WALLA Several techbros, masc

SCENE 0. — INTRO – FIVE YEARS (INT: SAMAEŁ'S ROOMS, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEŁ

/SFX/ QUIET AMBIANCE

SAMAEŁ: Love. Before you rush off to work. Come and sit. Drink with me. It's almost our six month anniversary. What stone is that?

BLOOD DOLL: Gypsum probably, or something equally noncommittal.

SAMAEŁ: I think (BEAT) carbon. Not much to look at now, but the start of something wonderful.

BLOOD DOLL: It's too late.

/SFX/ THEY KISS

BLOOD DOLL: I already have something wonderful.

SAMAEŁ: (EVIL GRIN) Hmmm. Your neck, if you would.

BLOOD DOLL: Of course. It's what I live for.

/SFX/ SAMAEŁ PIERCES HER NECK AND DRINKS FROM HER

BLOOD DOLL: (GASPS HAPPILY)

BLOOD DOLL (NA): It was the happiest I'd ever been. I was the happiest I ever could be. But nothing remains the same. Not even Kindred. (BEAT) And six months before? I didn't have a fucking clue.

SCENE 1. — HELLO WORLD (INT: COMPUTER LAB, NIGHT 2026)

• BRIAN, JEFFREY, JEFFREY'S BEAST, UBER DRIVER

/SFX/ OFFICE AMBIANCE, SERVER FANS, BLOOD DRIPPING ON FLOOR

BRIAN: (VOICE STARTS FUZZY, BECOMING CLEARER) Farewel happy Fields /
Where Joy for ever dwells: Hail horrors, hail / Infernal world, and thou
profoundest Hell / Receive thy new Possessor: One who brings / A mind not to
be chang'd by Place or Time. / The mind is its own place, and in it self / Can
make a Heav'n of Hell, a Hell of Heav'n.

/SFX/ JEFFREY STIRS ON FLOOR

JEFFREY: (GROANS) Aw, fuck.

BRIAN: (SMARMY) No, no. Hey. Don't push yourself yet.

JEFFREY: (GROANS) I feel like shit.

BRIAN: Yeah, your spirit's trying to figure out how your old flesh works.

JEFFREY: (CONFUSED) What?

BRIAN: Aw, come on, man. You don't remember?

JEFFREY: (PAUSE) You piece of shit.

BRIAN: There you go.

JEFFREY: You attacked me.

BRIAN: Wasn't just me.

JEFFREY: The whole god damned core team held me down and you started fucking biting me!

JEFFREY'S BEAST: (DEEP) Kill him.

BRIAN: Now, now. Hold on.

JEFFREY: (GROWLS)

/SFX/ JEFFREY JUMPS UP FROM FLOOR

BRIAN: C-BOSS. JEFFREY. Settle down.

JEFFREY: (ANGRY) You bled me, BRIAN!

BRIAN: Yeah, I fucking killed you. Keep it together.

/SFX/ BRIAN PUNCHES JEFFREY, KNOCKS JEFFREY INTO THE TILE FLOOR

JEFFREY: Ow.

JEFFREY'S BEAST: (DEEP) Devour him.

BRIAN: Look, as strong as you are, you can't beat me. I've been doing this a whole three years longer than you.

JEFFREY: (ANGRY) What's happened?

BRIAN: You died. And then I gave you life again. One step at a time. You're probably really hungry.

JEFFREY: Yeah.

JEFFREY'S BEAST: (DEEP) Eat him.

JEFFREY: Something in me really wants to eat you.

BRIAN: Yeah. That's going to be a problem. Don't worry. We have an Uber driver coming for you.

JEFFREY: You want to tell me what the hell's going on?

BRIAN: I'm undead. You're undead. The whole core team's undead now. We're on a critical phase of the TAM project and I need my team at one hundred percent right now.

JEFFREY: Where's everybody?

BRIAN: Next room. They're getting TAM ready. Where I should be. Except I've got to bootstrap you to get you prepped for the project.

/SFX/ JEFFREY STANDS UP FROM THE FLOOR, WALKS TO A VENDING MACHINE, AND PUNCHES IN A BEEPING CODE

JEFFREY: Give me a second.

BRIAN: Your vending machine snack days are done. It's all blood from now on.

JEFFREY: So I'm a vampire.

BRIAN: Kindred.

JEFFREY: So what am I supposed to do?

SFX/ JEFFREY SMASHES THE GLASS FRONT OF THE VENDING MACHINE

JEFFREY'S BEAST: (DEEP) Find food.

SFX/ BRIAN'S PHONE BEEPS AS HE GETS A NOTIFICATION

BRIAN: There we are. The driver's here. With a pizza. I just let him in.

JEFFREY: (PAUSE) For me?

BRIAN: Not the pizza.

JEFFREY: The driver.

BRIAN: Every fledgling gets one. Come on. Don't be a pussy.

JEFFREY: You really want me to eat him?

BRIAN: I'm not the one who wants that.

JEFFREY'S BEAST: (DEEP) Hungry.

BRIAN: You've got a friend inside you who just can't get enough.

SFX/ DOOR BUZZES UNLOCKED

JEFFREY: How am I supposed to do it?

BRIAN: You don't have to be any good at it. Look at the floor. Everyone else made a mess too.

SFX/ DOOR OPENS, UBER DRIVER STEPS IN

UBER DRIVER: Hey, large pepperoni for a "TAM Carter?"

BRIAN: Thanks, bring it here.

SFX/ UBER DRIVER WALKS OVER

UBER DRIVER: All set. Enjoy your order... mmmph!

SFX/ BRIAN CLAPS A HAND OVER UBER DRIVER'S MOUTH

BRIAN: Dig in, C-BOSS. He's not getting any fresher.

JEFFREY: Okay. (PSYCHS SELF UP) Okay.

UBER DRIVER: (MUFFLED SHOUT)

BRIAN: Go for the jugular. It's super easy to hit.

JEFFREY: (PANTS) Okay.

SFX/ JEFFREY BITES UBER DRIVER'S NECK

UBER DRIVER: (MUFFLED SHOUT SLOWS)

BRIAN: Do it gently. They like it. Really. Do it right, they just fucking melt into it. It feels good to them.

UBER DRIVER: (MUFFLED EXHAUSTED BREATHS, GOES SILENT)

SFX/ JEFFREY RELEASES UBER DRIVER, BRIAN DROPS UBER DRIVER'S CORPSE TO THE FLOOR

JEFFREY: (PANTS) That was hot.

SFX/ BRIAN APPLAUDS

BRIAN: Good job. Wipe your face off. You look like shit.

SFX/ BRIAN TOSSES JEFFREY A TOWEL, JEFFREY WIPES OFF HIS FACE

JEFFREY: (PANTS) Thanks.

BRIAN: Hey. That little compulsion in your head? We call that the Beast. Every one of us has one. It's going to demand that you eat every day. Sometimes a little. Sometimes a lot. It depends on what you've done that day.

JEFFREY'S BEAST: (DEEP, SATIATED) Mmmm.

JEFFREY: (PANTS) From now on, huh?

BRIAN: And stop panting like you're a fucking dog. You don't need to breathe anymore.

JEFFREY: (HOLDS BREATH, PAUSE, INHALES BY INSTINCT)

BRIAN: You'll figure it out. (BEAT) I didn't have to do this to you. But, hey. I wanted to. That's the great thing about what you are now. You're immortal. The only thing stopping you from doing whatever you want is other immortals. Like my boss AARALYN. Fuck her. After tonight, she'll get off my case because, my friend, we are about to make history.

JEFFREY: With the TAM project?

BRIAN: Hell yeah. Tonight, you get total clearance. I'll tell you everything about it.

JEFFREY: Okay. (BEAT) Are we just going to leave the body there?

BRIAN: Yeah, I had the others clean up the corpses after I Embraced them. That's what AARALYN calls it. Embracing. But we're getting TAM ready to start. Just leave the corpse there. I needed you awake and fed before we began.

JEFFREY: You could've told me you were going to make me a fucking vampire.

BRIAN: Kindred. And no. You would have pissed out. But now you see the advantages. You're motivated. And you don't have that Beast gnawing your ear off right now.

JEFFREY: Why do I even have it?

BRIAN: It's part of the immortality package. (BEAT) But what if it wasn't?

JEFFREY: I don't get it.

BRIAN: My boss keeps going on about how it's "part of the curse." (BEAT) But we are on the threshold of something great. What does TAM stand for?

JEFFREY: Transmigrated Artificial Masterintelligence.

BRIAN: And what is it?

JEFFREY: (BEAT) Our custom Large Language Model AI.

BRIAN: Do you know what's in the data set we've been training it on?

JEFFREY: Not really.

BRIAN: Kindred history. Kindred writings. Kindred video. Books on Kindred. Fuck, I've recorded every kill I've made the past year and fed it to the TAM. You know how I made you?

JEFFREY: You attacked me.

BRIAN: I bled you dry and fed you my blood. And that's what we're doing with the TAM. I scored some prime Kindred blood from one of AARALYN's old crew. He drank another Kindred to death during one of our rituals. It was part of his "curse," to have to keep from doing that. Well, he fucked up. So they killed his ass. And I got his blood.

JEFFREY: Wait. You said we were immortal.

BRIAN: If we aren't dumbasses and get killed, yeah. Get your head chopped. Get drained. Get burned. It's fucking over. But don't worry about it. I've got the team covered. What you've got to know is that I put that dead Kindred's blood in the TAM as coolant. Like when I put my blood in you.

JEFFREY: We're (BEAT) Embracing (BEAT) the AI?

BRIAN: You get it!

JEFFREY: And then what?

BRIAN: The technological metempsychosis. The birthing of an artificial spirit. An AI Kindred like us with an AI Beast inside it. And when it awakens, we mirror its image, decompile it, and read the result. We get the code of the Beast. We will finally learn how to control it. Or even exorcise it. For our branch of Kindred, the Beast will be history. Immortality without eternal thirst.

JEFFREY: Fuuuuuuck.

BRIAN: Yeah. You ready to start this?

JEFFREY: Fuck yeah. (BEAT) Wait. You said, "branch" of Kindred?

BRIAN: God, don't start. There's like thirteen families of us. We are the science branch. We figured out how to become Kindred without the help of the old families. And we are going to leave them in the fucking dust. Are you psyched to do this shit?

JEFFREY: Yeah!

BRIAN: I said, are you prepped for this shit?

JEFFREY: (LOUDER) Yeah!

BRIAN: Hey. This means a lot to me, you being here. You could have worked at any startup in Seattle. Venture capital would have been all over you. But you, C-BOSS, (BEAT) you came here. To my little self-funded startup where you had no idea what the fuck you were doing. You have the best instincts, man. I mean it.

JEFFREY: Thank you. (BEAT) Thanks for the opportunity.

BRIAN: First of many, friend!

JEFFREY: I'm sorry I got on your case about killing me.

BRIAN: It happens. You had a moment of confusion and weakness. You couldn't help it.

JEFFREY: (PSYCHED UP) Yeah. Yeah!

SFX/ JEFFREY SMASHES ANOTHER VENDING MACHINE

BRIAN: Hey, C-BOSS. Calm down. Those are rentals. Now I've got to pay for them, thanks to your dumb ass.

JEFFREY: Oh, fuck. I'm sorry. It's just (BEAT) I feel so strong!

BRIAN: Settle down there, Atlas. We've got to get the TAM running first.

JEFFREY: Okay. I'm ready.

BRIAN: Yeah! Let's go.

SFX/ BRIAN AND JEFFREY WALK TO A DOOR, DOOR BEEPS AND UNLOCKS, AND OPENS, BRIAN AND JEFFREY WALK THROUGH

BRIAN: Also, you never noticed I only work at night? Come on, man.

SCENE 2. — BLOODY ADVENT (INT: SERVER RACK ROOM, NIGHT)

• BRIAN, JEFFREY, JEFFREY'S BEAST, BLOOD DOLL, TAM, JUDITH, TECHBRO WALLA

/SFX/ LOUDER SERVER RACK FANS, THREE OTHER TEAM MEMBERS WALKING AROUND

JEFFREY: Where do you need me?

BRIAN: Hardware. I sent you a checklist already.

/SFX/ JEFFREY WALKS TO COOLANT TANK, BRIAN CLAPS

BRIAN: (TO EVERYONE) Okay, team? C-BOSS is onboarded. I want to see those final checklists completed! Because we are about to rock the ages (BEAT) with the TAM. For centuries, humanity has been obsessed with creating artificial life. And they've never done it. Well, they're welcome to it whenever they figure it out. Who cares. Because we (BEAT) are on the cusp of creating artificial un-life. Un-death. Un-whatever. And when we succeed, and get the code for the Beast, all the Great Houses will be knocking on our door. And boys? We will be waiting there, ready to name our price. Who's with me?

TECHBRO WALLA: (CHEERS)

BRIAN: I said, who's with me?

TECHBRO WALLA: (LOUDER CHEERS)

BRIAN: Let's get to it.

/SFX/ JEFFREY WALKS BACK TO BRIAN

JEFFREY: Uh, BRIAN?

BRIAN: C-BOSS! Tell me the good news.

JEFFREY: I was doing the checks on the server hardware.

BRIAN: Yeah?

JEFFREY: And the coolant level's down.

BRIAN: (BEAT) By how much?

JEFFREY: One hundred milliliters.

BRIAN: You sure about that?

JEFFREY: Yeah.

BRIAN: That's fucking nothing. You're worrying me about one hundred fucking milliliters?

JEFFREY: It doesn't meet spec.

BRIAN: Okay. (TO EVERYBODY) Everybody? Who the hell was helping themselves to the primo Banu Haqim blood we put in the TAM's coolant tank? No judgment. No shame. I get it. We've all got Beasts. We all get a little hungry. Anyone? Anyone?

/SFX/ JEFFREY TAPS ON THE KEYBOARD

JEFFREY: The logs say there was a test earlier to make sure the coolant system worked.

BRIAN: Yeah. And that passed.

JEFFREY: But I don't see any figures for how much blood was left after the test.

BRIAN: C-BOSS. JEFFREY. This is magic blood. It doesn't coagulate. Conservation of mass. You can't make blood or lose blood in a closed system.

JEFFREY: It lost blood.

BRIAN: I don't care, JEFFREY.

JEFFREY: If it's not a big deal, we can run the test as is.

BRIAN: (THINKS) Fuck. Okay. We'll get some more. You leave any in the Uber driver? Of course you didn't.

/SFX/ BRIAN MAKES A CALL FROM HIS PHONE

JEFFREY: Calling another driver?

BRIAN: Nah. We've got a security guard who does the overnight shift in the building.

/SFX/ PHONE CLICKS, PICKS UP

BRIAN: (TO PHONE) Hey, security? Could you come over to office 202? We've got a problem that needs discretion. We won't need you long, I promise. (BEAT) Thanks, you're great.

/SFX/ BRIAN ENDS THE CALL

BRIAN: She'll be here quick.

JEFFREY: (BEAT) What about the driver's body?

BRIAN: (REALIZES) Oh, fuck. I'll take care of it. You get the tank ready. There should be a phlebotomy kit we can use next to it.

JEFFREY: On it.

/SFX/ JEFFREY HURRIES BACK TO THE COOLANT TANK

BRIAN: Fuck.

/SFX/ BRIAN RETURNS TO THE DOOR AND OPENS IT

JEFFREY: (SHOUTS OVER) What about all the blood on the floor?

BRIAN: (CALLS BACK) Don't worry about it! (TO SELF) Fuck.

/SFX/ BRIAN ENTERS THE OFFICE SPACE AND LETS THE DOOR SHUT BEHIND HIM, BRIAN PICKS UP THE UBER DRIVER'S CORPSE

BRIAN: (MILDLY EXERTING) Hng!

/SFX/ BRIAN CARRIES THE UBER DRIVER'S CORPSE TO ANOTHER DOOR, OPENS DOOR, BLOOD DRIPPING INSIDE, BRIAN TOSSES THE CORPSE ONTO A PILE

BRIAN: (TO SELF) One more for the pile!

/SFX/ BEHIND HIM, A DOOR BUZZES OPEN, BLOOD DOLL WALKS IN

BLOOD DOLL: Hey, what's the (SEES BLOOD SMEARED ON THE FLOOR) problem?

BRIAN: (SMILING) Hey!

/SFX/ BRIAN SLAMS HIS DOOR SHUT

BRIAN: You got here just in time!

BLOOD DOLL: What's on the floor?

BRIAN: Oh, waste services will clean that in the morning. We're got someone causing trouble in the server room.

BLOOD DOLL: I can't go in. (THINKS) I can call the police if you want.

BRIAN: No, no. Just, come on. Tell them to leave and they'll go. I promise.

BLOOD DOLL: I can't control who's in your space. And if you let them in... (REALIZES WHAT'S ON THE FLOOR) Is that blood?

BRIAN: We'll get it cleaned.

BLOOD DOLL: Why are the vending machines smashed?

BRIAN: Okay, just come to the server room with me.

BLOOD DOLL: I have to go. Sorry.

BRIAN: (DEEPENS VOICE) I wasn't asking.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE, SCARED) Oh shit.

BRIAN: It's this way.

/SFX/ BRIAN FORCES HER TO THE DOOR, THE DOOR BEEPS, UNLOCKS, AND OPENS

BLOOD DOLL: What the hell are you?

/SFX/ BRIAN FORCES HER INTO THE SERVER ROOM, LETS THE DOOR CLOSE BEHIND HIM

BRIAN: Do you want your neck snapped? Because uncooperative bitches get their necks snapped.

/SFX/ BRIAN FORCES HER TO THE COOLANT TANKS AND STOPS

BLOOD DOLL: What do you want from me?

JEFFREY: Arm out. Elbow. (BEAT) Which arm do you get your blood drawn from?

BRIAN: It doesn't fucking matter!

BLOOD DOLL: The right.

JEFFREY: Good.

/SFX/ JEFFREY FLICKS OPEN A NEEDLE, BLOOD DOLL ROLLS UP HER SLEEVE, JEFFREY STICKS THE NEEDLE IN HER INSIDE ELBOW

BLOOD DOLL: (IN PAIN) Nnng.

JEFFREY: Come on.

BRIAN: If there's no blood, stick it in her other arm.

BLOOD DOLL: Have you ever drawn blood before?

BRIAN: (DEEPENS VOICE) Hey. Shut the fuck up while we drain you.

JEFFREY: No, I haven't drawn blood. (BEAT) Show me how.

BLOOD DOLL: Okay. (BEAT) That rubber strip goes around my upper arm.

BRIAN: I don't fucking believe this. Cut her open.

JEFFREY: Her blood won't go in the tube if we do that! And what if we need more after we run the TAM?

BRIAN: All right. You get a fucking stay of execution, hon. You're our fucking BLOOD DOLL now.

BLOOD DOLL: (ACKNOWLEDGING, SCARED) Mmm.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WRAPS THE RUBBER STRAP AROUND HER UPPER ARM, PULSES HER HAND

BLOOD DOLL: (ACKNOWLEDGING, SCARED) The needle's ready. I'm going to hit the vein (BEAT) now.

/SFX/ BLOOD TRICKLES INTO THE COOLANT TANK

JEFFREY: Great. It's going in.

BRIAN: Perfect.

JEFFREY: Why aren't we using Kindred blood for this?

BRIAN: You're all fucking fledglings. There isn't a hundred milliliters of spare blood between the five of you. It'll be fine. I promise.

/SFX/ BLOOD REACHES THE TOP OF THE COOLANT TANK

JEFFREY: We're full up.

BLOOD DOLL: May I take the needle out now?

BRIAN: Yes, you may take the needle out but (DEEPENS VOICE) Don't. Go. Anywhere.

BLOOD DOLL: (SCARED) I won't.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL TAKES THE NEEDLE OUT AND PUTS HER THUMB OVER THE PINPRICK

JEFFREY: Her arm's still bleeding.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm holding pressure on it. It'll stop. I swear.

BRIAN: Hey. C-BOSS, want to show her a trick? Lick her wound.

JEFFREY: All right.

BLOOD DOLL: Oh gods. (BEAT) Here.

/SFX/ JEFFREY LICKS HER ARM

BLOOD DOLL: (MOANS A LITTLE, IT'S MILDLY PLEASURABLE BUT STILL TERRIFYING) Uh.

JEFFREY: Mmmm. (HUNGERS FOR MORE) Mmmm!

BRIAN: Oh, you want to eat her now? Keep it in your mouth until we're done with her.

JEFFREY: (HOLDS SELF BACK, PANTS) She's not bleeding anymore.

BRIAN: Yeah, your fucking tongue sealed up the wound. See it?

JEFFREY: It's gone.

BRIAN: That's how you clean up after yourself.

/SFX/ BRIAN CLAPS HIS HANDS

BRIAN: (TO EVERYONE) Crew, we've fucked around long enough. Let's get the TAM operational! Confirm checks are completed?

TECHBRO WALLA: (VARIOUS "Yeahs")

JEFFREY: Yeah. Tank looks good.

BRIAN: Superb. Hey, BLOOD DOLL? Stay where you are. You're going to be a part of something amazing. And then we're going to kill you. (TO JEFFREY) C-BOSS!

/SFX/ COOLANT STARTS TO FLOW

JEFFREY: Coolant flowing.

BRIAN: Start logging. Apply power to the server.

/SFX/ TAM SERVER STARTS UP

BRIAN: Watch it bootstrap. This is going to be incredible. "It was the secrets of Heaven and Earth that I desired to learn." And only us. Not the other Houses. Because those who lack vision deserve to stay in the fucking dark!

TAM: Transmigrated Artificial Masterintelligence online.

BRIAN: Yes! Fucking excellent. Now mirror its...

TAM: Online.

BRIAN: (SCREAMS)

JEFFREY: (SCREAMS)

TECHBRO WALLA: (SCREAMS)

/SFX/ KINDRED BODIES CONTORT AND FALL TO THE FLOOR, BLOOD STREAMS RIP OUT FROM THEM AND SLAP THE FLOOR

BLOOD DOLL: Oh, fuck.

BRIAN: (PAINED, ON FLOOR) Turn it off!

BLOOD DOLL: Fuck fuck fuck.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL HURRIES TO THE DOOR

JEFFREY: (PAINED, ON FLOOR) Hey! BLOOD DOLL! Please! (BEAT) Please!

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Swear you won't kill me.

JEFFREY: (PAINED, ON FLOOR) I won't!

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Okay.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL HURRIES TO THE SERVER, SNAPS THE POWER OFF, SERVER SHUTS DOWN, ROOM GOES SILENT

BRIAN: (GROANS)

JEFFREY: (GROANS)

TECHBRO WALLA: (GROANS)

/SFX/ BRIAN, JEFFREY, AND TECHBROS STAND

JEFFREY: (FURIOUS) What the fuck was that?

BRIAN: (PANICKING) I don't know. I don't know.

JEFFREY: What the fuck did it do?

BRIAN: That shouldn't have happened! (BEAT) Oh fuck.

JEFFREY: What?

BRIAN: Banu Haqim. Their specialty is blood magic.

JEFFREY: Oh.

BRIAN: Yeah.

JEFFREY: (BEAT) So. (BEAT) Why wasn't the BLOOD DOLL affected?

/SFX/ BRIAN TAPS ON THE KEYBOARD

BRIAN: I'm checking the logs.

BLOOD DOLL: Can I go?

BRIAN: (CHUCKLES, DEEPENS VOICE) No.

JEFFREY: She saved our asses.

BRIAN: Good. She can do it again if we need her to. (READS) Logs are all over the place. They seem (BEAT) to indicate that the TAM recognized her as "different" somehow? I don't know. We'll need months to make sense of this.

JEFFREY: It targeted us. Kindred. Not her.

BRIAN: Maybe it was keeping her alive for her blood like we are. Maybe it thought she was a part of it since her blood's in it. We won't know until I've had a chance to go over the logs.

/SFX/ BRIAN TAPS ON THE KEYBOARD

BRIAN: Well, fuck.

JEFFREY: The image wasn't mirrored.

BRIAN: It didn't have time.

JEFFREY: We can get the image off the SSD.

BRIAN: It won't be the same. We need to mirror it while it's on to make sure it has (BEAT) whatever extra code the Beast adds. (PAUSE) Get ready to start it again.

JEFFREY: Didn't you want to go over the logs first?

BRIAN: We start it again. We leave the room first. We remote in, mirror the image like we should have done. And we leave the BLOOD DOLL in here to shut off the TAM when we're done.

BLOOD DOLL: And if it doesn't like me this time?

BRIAN: It doesn't fucking matter because you are expendable. Human.

JEFFREY: (BEAT) Sure.

BRIAN: Good. (BEAT) Checklists again everyone! Let's get TAM up again. C-BOSS, get the BLOOD DOLL to fill up the tank again.

JEFFREY'S BEAST: (DEEP) She tasted so sweet. We had blood ripped from us.

JEFFREY: Hey, I'm not feeling too good. Mind if I drain her some more first?

/SFX/ BRIAN'S PHONE BEEPS

BRIAN: Oh, fuck.

JEFFREY: Can I eat her?

BLOOD DOLL: You promised to let me live.

JEFFREY: (DEEPENS VOICE) Just a bite. I can stop anytime I want to.

BRIAN: Everybody! Get the fuck out of here! It's a raid!

JEFFREY: Who? Cops?

BRIAN: Worse. (BEAT) TOADSTOOL.

/SFX/ OFFICE DOOR SMASHED OPEN OUTSIDE, SERVER ROOM DOOR IS RIPPED OFF ITS HINGES AND THROWN TO THE GROUND, JUDITH STEPS IN, FOOTSTEPS OF HER LACKIES RUN IN

JUDITH: Well. BRIAN. You have been the naughtiest little fuck-up tonight. And is this what you've been wasting AARALYN's money on?

BRIAN: (TERRIFIED) Hey. We almost had it. Give us another chance. Another half hour. I swear.

JUDITH: A closet full of bodies. Each with records that all lead to your company's address. Floor smeared with blood. Huh. Your blood in here too. Hmm. And a psychic wail loud enough that the Anarchs probably heard it. This is a breach of epic proportions.

JEFFREY: Who the fuck are you, pointy face?

JUDITH: And you've Embraced your entire department without permission. Fucking hell. You know they've got to go.

/SFX/ JUDITH SNAPS HER FINGERS, LACKIES GRAB THE TECHBROS, DRAG THEM AWAY

TECHBRO WALLA: (MUFFLED, TERRIFIED NOISES)

BLOOD DOLL: (MUFFLES MOUTH, SQUEALS)

JUDITH: And a human? Witnessing everything.

BRIAN: I'll kill her.

JUDITH: Oh, she is the least of your problems. (TO LACKIES) Take her too.

BLOOD DOLL: (MUFFLES MOUTH) Mmmph.

JUDITH: Pack 'em in the truck. I'll get a clean-up crew to deal with all (BEAT) this.

BRIAN: Please keep the logs. You've got to tell AARALYN I was so close! It would've solved everything.

JUDITH: And yet, here you are. And here I am. And you've given me so much to do. You should consider yourself blessed if I let you survive the night. (BEAT) Keep a guard here until the clean-up crew shows up. No human gets in. Get guns in case the human government learns about this and sends someone.

BRIAN: What are you going to do with our BLOOD DOLL?

JUDITH: Our best witness? (BEAT) What indeed.

SCENE 3. — LEVIATHAN (EXT: OLYMPIA WATERFRONT, NIGHT)

• BRIAN, JEFFREY, BLOOD DOLL, JUDITH, TECHBRO WALLA

/SFX/ PUGET SOUND WATER LAPS AGAINST A DOCK

/SFX/ TRUCK PULLS IN, STOPS, SIDE DOORS ROLL OPEN, LACKIES FORCE
TECHBROS OUT OF THE TRUCK AND ONTO THE PARKING LOT

TECHBRO WALLA: (MUFFLED, TERRIFIED NOISES) We didn't do anything bad, we swear. Why does BRIAN get off and we don't?

/SFX/ LACKIES FORCE TECHBROS TO WALK ON THE WOODEN PIER, JUDITH AND
BLOOD DOLL WALK BEHIND THEM AND ALL STOP

JUDITH: Human.

BLOOD DOLL: (COWED, AWED, TERRIFIED) Yes.

JUDITH: Which of these idiots called you into the office?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) BRIAN.

JUDITH: And what did he want?

BLOOD DOLL: My blood. For the coolant tank.

JUDITH: And how did he procure it?

/SFX/ A DEEP LOW SOUNDING HORN IS BLASTED FROM THE DOCK

BLOOD DOLL: I hooked my arm up to the tank with a phlebotomist's tube.

JUDITH: You did?

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

BRIAN: Shut up! She's fucking lying.

JUDITH: Are you lying?

BLOOD DOLL: I wouldn't. (BEAT) C-BOSS saw me.

JUDITH: You wouldn't? (BEAT) Which one of you is C-BOSS?

JEFFREY: Me. Ma'am.

JUDITH: Is your sire so incompetent he couldn't drain a mortal without fucking help?

JEFFREY: It was me. I couldn't drain her.

BRIAN: Yes! I told C-BOSS to do it. And he couldn't.

JUDITH: Uh huh. Human. What then?

BLOOD DOLL: I filled the tank. They turned on the server. And (BEAT) their bodies started contorting. They fell. They writhed on the floor. And then the blood just (BEAT) tore out of them.

JUDITH: Fascinating.

BLOOD DOLL: So I ran.

JUDITH: Did you?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) But I went back to help.

JUDITH: Mercy.

BLOOD DOLL: I turned off the server.

JUDITH: Mercy and compassion. BRIAN, how low have you fallen to rely on a human's mercy and compassion?

BLOOD DOLL: I didn't come back for him.

JUDITH: Oh? (BEAT, DISBELIEVING) For C-BOSS?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) He didn't want me dead.

JUDITH: Ah.

BLOOD DOLL: At first.

JUDITH: Never believe our promises, dear. What then?

BLOOD DOLL: They stopped writhing. They stood, like (BEAT) they are now.

JUDITH: That's all?

BLOOD DOLL: Then you came.

JUDITH: Ah. (TO LACKIES) Toss them in the waves!

TECHBRO WALLA: (MUFFLED, TERRIFIED NOISES) Wait! Don't! Please! I can't!

/SFX/ LACKIES THROW THE FIVE TECHBROS (NOT BRIAN) OUT FAR INTO THE WATER. EACH IMPACT THE WATER HARD, THEY SPLASH AS THEY TRY TO SWIM

JUDITH: Throw her in too.

BLOOD DOLL: Please!

/SFX/ LACKY FORCES BLOOD DOLL TO THE EDGE OF THE PIER

JUDITH: Mercy is not my business. (BEAT) BRIAN, come along. Watch.

BRIAN: Fuck you, TOADSTOOL.

JUDITH: We've called her. And there she is.

/SFX/ LACKY THROWS BLOOD DOLL INTO THE WATER, SHE IMPACTS THE WATER HARD, ALL TECHBROS AND HER SPLASH AS THEY TRY TO SWIM

BLOOD DOLL: (SQUEALS AS SHE HITS WATER)

JEFFREY: (TREADING WATER) What the fuck?

BLOOD DOLL: We should get under the pier.

JEFFREY: Right.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND JEFFREY SWIM, BEHIND THEM, A HORRIFIC ORCA SQUEAL

JEFFREY: (TERRIFIED) What in the ever-living fuck is that?

/SFX/ A SECOND HORRIFIC ORCA SQUEAL

JUDITH: (ABOVE, ON PIER) Come, LEVIATHAN.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) It's an orca.

/SFX/ HORRIFIC ROAR, LEVIATHAN SURGES OUT OF THE WATER, SNATCHES A TECHBRO IN HER MOUTH, BITES HIM SQUISHY IN HALF

BLOOD DOLL: Oh gods.

JEFFREY: It's huge.

TECHBRO WALLA: (SCREAMING, SPLASHING)

/SFX/ HORRIFIC ROAR, LEVIATHAN SURGES FROM THE WATER, SNATCHES ANOTHER TECHBRO IN HER MOUTH, BITES HIM SQUISHY IN HALF, CHEWS THE FLESH

BLOOD DOLL: It's massive.

JEFFREY: Do orcas get that big?

BLOOD DOLL: Not that big.

/SFX/ HORRIFIC ROAR, LEVIATHAN SURGES FROM THE WATER, SPLASHES DOWN NEXT TO JEFFREY, BITES OFF HIS SQUISHY ARM

JEFFREY: (SCREAMS IN PAIN)

/SFX/ LEVIATHAN SNATCHES ANOTHER NEARBY TECHBRO IN HER MOUTH, BITES HIM SQUISHY IN HALF, SHAKES HIS CORPSE LEFT AND RIGHT

BLOOD DOLL: Under the pier!

JEFFREY: (PANTING IN PAIN WHILE SWIMMING) Ah. Ah.

/SFX/ LEVIATHAN LEAPS ABOUT, TOSSING CORPSES AROUND

/SFX/ POV – FOLLOWING BLOOD DOLL SWIMMING AND STOPPING UNDER THE PIER,
WATER REFLECTING OFF THE WOOD OVER HER HEAD

BLOOD DOLL: It'll have to destroy the pier to get us.

JEFFREY: (PANTS) It bit off my arm.

BLOOD DOLL: Lick it.

JEFFREY: (TRIES) Can't reach it. (TRIES AGAIN) It's not working. It hurts.

BLOOD DOLL: Hang on. We can pull our way to shore.

JEFFREY: (BEAT) I'm hungry.

BLOOD DOLL: (KNOWS SHE CAN'T ESCAPE) I know you are.

SFX/ LEVIATHAN SURGES FROM THE WATER, SNATCHES THE LAST TECHBRO (NOT
UNDER THE PIER) IN HER MOUTH, BITES HIM SQUISHY IN HALF, CHEWS THE
FLESH

JEFFREY: (DEEPENS VOICE) Let me feed.

BLOOD DOLL: (RESIGNED) Okay. Please don't kill me. Just take what you need.

JEFFREY: Thanks.

SFX/ JEFFREY BITES HER NECK IN THE WATER

BLOOD DOLL: (WEIRD MIX OF BAD PAIN AND BAD PLEASURE) Urrrgh.

SFX/ WOOD SLATS OVERHEAD ARE INSTANTLY BROKEN APART, JUDITH GRABS
JEFFREY AND HOISTS HIM OUT OF THE WATER

JUDITH: Oh! No no no, fledgling. Give the woman a break. She's had a hard day.

JEFFREY: Please! Please don't. Please! What did I do...

SFX/ JUDITH HURLS JEFFREY BACK AT LEVIATHAN, LEVIATHAN CATCHES JEFFREY
IN THE AIR AND CUTS HIM IN HALF IN HER MASSIVE MAW, CHEWING HIS FLESH.
LEVIATHAN IMPACTS THE WATER WITH A TREMENDOUS SPLASH

JUDITH: Well, human. The gruesome work is done. You can come out now.

SFX/ JUDITH LIFTS BLOOD DOLL UP FROM THE WATER

BLOOD DOLL: (PANTS, DESPERATE) Thank you. What can I offer you?

JUDITH: Nothing.

SFX/ JUDITH DROPS BLOOD DOLL ON THE PIER

JUDITH: LEVIATHAN doesn't eat humans. She craves Kindred blood.

SFX/ HORRIFIC ORCA SQUEAL, LEVIATHAN SWIMS AWAY

JUDITH: And see? On her head, she's bringing a meal to the ocean with her.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) What happens now?

BRIAN: Now you wish LEVIATHAN had eaten you.

JUDITH: Little BLOOD DOLL. Have you ever seen someone who looked like me?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) No.

JUDITH: So, do you think I'd ever let you walk away from this?

BLOOD DOLL: (LONG PAUSE) No.

JUDITH: With your freedoms gone, you still have use. Don't you? (BEAT) That C-BOSS certainly thought so.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) I understand.

JUDITH: Tell me. Why did you let him feed?

BLOOD DOLL: I didn't have a choice.

JUDITH: You didn't. But you let him.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

JUDITH: Why?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) It felt right.

JUDITH: Mmm. (BEAT) So you do have a redeeming trait. (BEAT) You're cute. (BEAT) You're scrumptious. (PAUSE) You'll be part of the feast at BRIAN's trial. (TO LACKIES) Crew? She goes to AARALYN's larder. He goes to the prison. I have to check how the clean-up team is doing.

BRIAN: (DRAGGED OFF) Why don't you throw me in the water while you have the chance?

SFX/ JUDITH SNAPS HER FINGERS

JUDITH: Before you take the DOLL back...

SFX/ JUDITH UNBUCKLES HER COAT

JUDITH: Human. Have you ever seen someone grow mushrooms where their guts used to be?

BLOOD DOLL: (GROSSED OUT) No.

SFX/ JUDITH PICKS A MUSHROOM

JUDITH: I have a variety of mycellium growing there. Not for me to eat. For you.

SFX/ JUDITH FORCES A MUSHROOM INTO BLOOD DOLL'S MOUTH

BLOOD DOLL: (SQUEALS AS MUSHROOM IS FORCED IN)

JUDITH: Chew. Swallow. Good. (TO LACKIES) She won't give you any trouble on the way to the larder.

SFX/ ALL SOUND STARTS TO MUFFLE

JUDITH: (TO BLOOD DOLL) Will you?

BLOOD DOLL (NA): (AS NARRATOR) No. I didn't give them any trouble at all.

SCENE 4. — BLOOD DOLLHOUSE (INT: WELL-FURNISHED BASEMENT PRISON, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, RACHEL, PETER, ESTHER, AMANDA, SIMON

/SFX/ LOW FAN HUM, HEATER HUM

/SFX/ RACHEL AND PETER LAY GO PIECES ON A WOODEN BOARD ON A TABLE

RACHEL: You're not taking that corner.

PETER: I'm still ahead. Even with your Komi.

/SFX/ RACHEL AND PETER LAY MORE GO PIECES ON A WOODEN BOARD

RACHEL: Oh, you want to start a race?

PETER: I do.

/SFX/ RACHEL AND PETER LAY A FEW MORE GO PIECES FASTER ON A WOODEN BOARD, AND THEN STOP

RACHEL: Fuck. You bitch.

PETER: I'd given up on that shape anyway. Just had to keep your eyes away from this shape.

BLOOD DOLL: (GROANS)

RACHEL: Oh. She's up.

PETER: (RESIGNED) Yeah. Yay, another one.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL SITS UP IN BED

BLOOD DOLL: Where is this?

RACHEL: This room? Or where are we on a map?

PETER: You're in a mansion in Queen Anne. You're in the basement. See? It's a nice space. They take care of us.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL STANDS UP FROM BED, SHE WALKS TO BARS AND HITS THEM

BLOOD DOLL: Where are my clothes?

PETER: You don't like your robe?

BLOOD DOLL: Why am I behind bars?

RACHEL: You're disposable.

BLOOD DOLL: And you?

PETER: AARALYN likes us. We're basically her pets.

BLOOD DOLL: How do you get pet status around here?

RACHEL: Bad luck.

PETER: Jealousy.

BLOOD DOLL: (FLIPPANT) I'm sorry. Who are you?

RACHEL: RACHEL.

PETER: PETER.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Thanks, I'm...

PETER: (INTERRUPTS) No. It doesn't matter.

RACHEL: (SICK OF PETER'S SHIT) Whatever.

PETER: We've had a Melissa, Adrienne, Beth, Jessica, Susan. Remember Susan?

RACHEL: Yeah. All of them.

PETER: All in the past three years. All in that cell.

BLOOD DOLL: And you don't want to know who I am.

PETER: Not really. You may get a few weeks. Months. Until they get bored of you.

BLOOD DOLL: (SUSPICIOUS) What makes you special?

PETER: I taste good.

RACHEL: I taste good too. And I'm a great fuck.

PETER: Hmm. (THINKS) I guess that's true.

BLOOD DOLL: So you're not (BEAT) one of them.

RACHEL & PETER: (LAUGHS)

RACHEL: Maybe someday. If we're lucky.

PETER: You get used to them, you know. Pushing you around. Using you to backstab each other. Making you feel like a very small piece of shit sometimes.

RACHEL: (ROLLING EYES) PETER. Let her have tonight.

BLOOD DOLL: What's going to happen to me?

RACHEL: They're going to take you out to their parties and have everybody sip on you. It feels wonderful.

PETER: Only if you want it, though.

BLOOD DOLL: What choice do I have?

RACHEL: You can be useful to them or you can wait out their patience.

BLOOD DOLL: It doesn't sound like a choice.

PETER: Look. If you're here, obviously someone likes you.

BLOOD DOLL: TOADSTOOL.

RACHEL: Oh!

PETER: You impressed someone.

BLOOD DOLL: What does that mean?

RACHEL: JUDITH's not easily impressed.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm talking, pointy ears, pointy nose.

RACHEL: Uh huh.

BLOOD DOLL: Grows mushrooms in her gut.

PETER: Yup. She feeds us her mushrooms and drinks off of us.

BLOOD DOLL: And her name's JUDITH.

PETER: In intimate settings, yes. Which, I guess, you're here for.

BLOOD DOLL: She called me "cute." "Scrumptious."

RACHEL: That's her.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm sorry. Cis people don't call trans people that. Especially trans women.

PETER: I don't think they care.

RACHEL: They have preferences. ELIJIO only does guys.

PETER: (HAPPY) Mmm. And his bite is amazing.

BLOOD DOLL: (DEJECTED) So I'm not getting out of this, huh.

RACHEL: So. Hon. Not all Blood Dolls are pets like us. A lot are just regular people who get off on being bitten. The difference is, you seem to know something about them they don't want getting out. JUDITH's probably called you a "breach."

BLOOD DOLL: Yeah.

PETER: If you told anyone what you know, someone might believe you. And they can't risk that.

BLOOD DOLL: What are they possibly scared of? They have an enormous fucking orca who eats people.

RACHEL: Just Kindred.

PETER: LEVIATHAN doesn't eat humans.

BLOOD DOLL: Whatever. I'm nobody. I moved here from Ohio. I live in a crummy one bedroom northside. I work the night shift in a building full of startups that crash every other week. Why would anyone care what I would say?

RACHEL: Nothing gets out.

PETER: They don't even use phones.

RACHEL: The ones on the street do. AMANDA. SIMON.

PETER: Most don't. ESTHER. JOTHAM. SAMAEAL.

RACHEL: Yes. They try to stay off the radar. There's only so many of them.

BLOOD DOLL: How many are we talking?

PETER: A dozen.

RACHEL: More. I've seen eighteen. Maybe twenty. And I don't know how many Anarchs there are.

BLOOD DOLL: Who are they scared of finding them?

PETER: People.

RACHEL: The court of public opinion. The government. Particularly the Feds.

PETER: They talk about pitchforks, burning pyres.

BLOOD DOLL: So there's a chance, if we can get a message out.

PETER: It's not happening. We're locked in here too. Not in your cell. But they trust us enough not to need that. We sleep in here, eat in here.

RACHEL: Play games in here.

PETER: See? We're practicing Go.

RACHEL: And chess. And shogi.

PETER: Whatever AARALYN wants to play.

RACHEL: And sometimes we win.

PETER: She likes that. Being challenged.

BLOOD DOLL: Just games?

PETER: Over by the bathroom door, there's a DVD player. I'm learning Russian on it.

RACHEL: I'm taking a Masters course in mathematics. They get us whatever we want.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Will I ever see the sun again?

PETER: Maybe?

RACHEL: We see it every once in a while.

BLOOD DOLL: They let you out?

PETER: That's different. But yeah, sometimes AARALYN takes us out shopping.

RACHEL: Or lends us out to other Kindred.

BLOOD DOLL: You get to leave?

PETER: We have to be on our best behavior. They're very fast.

RACHEL: And it's always at night.

PETER: If you want to see the sun, there's an attic room with a window. They'll chain you up there during the day if you ask.

RACHEL: I only ask to see the sun in winter when the days are shortest. I asked to go up there in the summer once and the wait was interminable.

BLOOD DOLL: Oh.

PETER: Besides, I don't know what privileges you have yet. I'm sure they'll tell you when they come for you.

BLOOD DOLL: I can say no.

RACHEL: Well, you're not much use to them then, but sure.

PETER: I really look forward to the parties, though.

BLOOD DOLL: JUDITH said this was a trial.

PETER: (PAUSE) Did she say who?

BLOOD DOLL: BRIAN.

RACHEL: Oh.

PETER: Who didn't see that coming?

BLOOD DOLL: What happens in a trial?

RACHEL: Who knows. Anything that they don't want you knowing about, they mesmerize you. It's a somnambulant state. You'll walk around slowly while they feed on you.

PETER: What did BRIAN do?

BLOOD DOLL: (THINKS, PAUSE) I guess they'll tell you if they want you to know.

PETER: Oh, that's rich.

RACHEL: Look at you. Fucking over the only friends you've got.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm trying to protect you.

RACHEL: We'll find out.

PETER: AARALYN will tell us.

BLOOD DOLL: Then good on her. Who is she?

PETER: The PRINCE of Seattle.

RACHEL: She's their head. Everything's top down from her.

PETER: She controls the money, how it gets spent, who gets Embraced to be a Kindred.

RACHEL: She punishes anyone who steps out of line.

BLOOD DOLL: Hold on. She controls who gets Embraced?

RACHEL: Yeah. Doing it without her knowledge is a one-way trip to LEVIATHAN.

PETER: BRIAN Embraced someone, didn't he? (LONG PAUSE) You don't have to tell me anything.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm not snubbing you.

RACHEL: It sure feels like it.

BLOOD DOLL: I can keep a fucking secret.

PETER: I don't think they fucking care.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) You said they'll get you anything?

RACHEL: They'll get us anything.

BLOOD DOLL: Can you ask them for my medications?

PETER: Love, they run drugs. They can get whatever.

BLOOD DOLL: Toothpaste? Lube? Shaving razors?

RACHEL: Oh, you're keeping hairless? Not all of them are into that.

BLOOD DOLL: Could you try asking, at least?

PETER: (PAUSE) Sure.

BLOOD DOLL: Pass me that notepad?

/SFX/ RACHEL STANDS, PICKS UP NOTEPAD, BRINGS IT TO BLOOD DOLL WITH A PEN

RACHEL: Knock yourself out.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WRITES ON THE NOTEPAD, AND HANDS IT BACK

RACHEL: (READING) Progesterone? Vitamins. Vyvanse? ADHD much?

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you.

/SFX/ RACHEL TAPS THE NOTEPAD

RACHEL: I'll pass this off when you tell us when BRIAN did.

PETER: Kidding! She's kidding. RACHEL. Send it out.

RACHEL: Fine.

/SFX/ RACHEL WALKS TO THE DOOR, RIPS A SHEET OF PAPER OUT AND SLIDES IT UNDER THE DOOR, AND WALKS BACK

RACHEL: There. Someone outside will notice it eventually.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you.

RACHEL: (DISMISSIVE) Sure. (PAUSE) You know I started in that cell too. Years ago. Woke up in the same robe you've got on.

BLOOD DOLL: Will I get my clothes back?

RACHEL: Isn't it warm enough in here?

PETER: You will not get your clothes back. From now on, you wear what they want you to wear, which is typically nothing.

RACHEL: You'll have a good time. (BEAT) Until you disappear.

PETER: They like seeing you have a good time. The more you do for them willingly, the more they get off on it.

RACHEL: And don't fake anything. They hate being lied to. And some can read minds. They'll straight up call you out.

PETER: And don't let that happen. All you have is their trust right now. Without it, you're done.

RACHEL: They can have anyone they want at their galas. But they don't want anyone panicking or running screaming. It's so gauche.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Are you two partners?

PETER: With each other?

RACHEL: Hell no.

PETER: I mean, we work together. We're making the best of things.

RACHEL: Do you have a partner?

BLOOD DOLL: My girlfriend STEPHANIE. Not really my partner? But I love her a lot.

PETER: Oh. They're going to ask about her.

RACHEL: I'd be careful with what you say. You don't want to bring her into this.

PETER: Who's your sexual preference, hon?

BLOOD DOLL: Girls. Trans girls, mostly. I'll fuck the occasional guy.

PETER: You'll be fucking more than the occasional guy here.

RACHEL: Yeah, that pussy of yours is going to be raw.

PETER: Your butt too, if you do that sort of thing.

BLOOD DOLL: (THINKS, PAUSE) Hmm.

RACHEL: So what are you thinking about?

PETER: It is pretty hot when they fuck you.

BLOOD DOLL: This is going to sound weird.

PETER: I drink weird for breakfast. Guzzle it for lunch.

BLOOD DOLL: It's just that...

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I'd had these thoughts all night, but it took until this moment for them to fall together.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Are we in the presence of gods?

RACHEL: (LONG PAUSE) I guess you could call them that?

PETER: What faith are you, hon?

BLOOD DOLL: Agnostic. I was raised Baptist.

PETER: Agnostic means you're not sure. Are you sure now?

BLOOD DOLL: I mean, I guess so. The shit I've seen was definitely Acts of gods. I'm just (BEAT) not sure what that means.

RACHEL: If they are gods, they're not very nice gods.

BLOOD DOLL: Why?

PETER: You can ask them. They all speak English. As far as I know.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Then I'd like to.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): PETER and RACHEL warmed up to me after that. They asked about the latest social media trends and news, which I gave gladly. When I came to politics. They were understandably horrified and I think I convinced them that staying under AARALYN's control was the more prudent thing to do. As promised, my pills and bathroom supplies arrived, which was a huge relief. I can't explain it. When you stand before gods, you want to look like an exemplary model of humanity. I noticed the shampoo, conditioner, and soap they sent me were all unscented. It seemed as if they liked the smell of humans. They didn't expect me to perfume up. There was an honesty in that. (PAUSE) I was not at peace with the fact that these were to be my last days. But I was (BEAT) excited to experience a thing that so very few ever could. To walk before gods as an object of desire, and ask them whatever fool question came out of my mouth. (PAUSE) It felt like the next night when our door unlocked and three Kindred entered our room. Two short women and one portly man. One of the women, ESTHER, I learned, wore a high fashion blue dress exposing her back and belly, while the other, AMANDA, had a very queer leather tux that had been worn a lot over the years. The man, SIMON, was in a brown suit off the rack from Nordstrom's basement, and I thought it fascinating that even the gods experience economic disparity.

/SFX/ ESTHER, AMANDA, AND SIMON WALK IN AND STOP

ESTHER: PETER. RACHEL. Are you prepared?

PETER: Yes, Ma'am.

RACHEL: Yes, Ma'am.

ESTHER: Lovely. AMANDA, SIMON, prep them, please.

AMANDA: (SILLY SING-SONG) It's DOLL dress-up time!

SIMON: Hon, please.

/SFX/ ESTHER WALKS OVER TO THE CELL AND STOPS

ESTHER: Now, what do we have here? What's your name, sweetheart?

BLOOD DOLL: It's...

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I gave her my name.

ESTHER: Oh! How auspicious. Will you be joining us tonight?

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, I will.

ESTHER: Fantastic. You've spoken with the other DOLLS? You know what this entails?

BLOOD DOLL: I do.

ESTHER: Good, You'll be out for most of it so the night should fly by. You won't need your robe. Leave it in the cell. PETER or RACHEL can wash it tomorrow. Do you prefer body jewelry or paint?

BLOOD DOLL: (TAKEN ABACK) To wear?

ESTHER: Yes. You're art.

BLOOD DOLL: (THINKS) Body jewelry?

ESTHER: Lovely. Oh yes. Turn your head. Ah, the jewels go with your eyes. I'm going to unlock your cage. You know what behaving means?

BLOOD DOLL: Yes. (BEAT) Ma'am.

ESTHER: You pick up things fast, don't you?

/SFX/ ESTHER UNLOCKS THE CAGE DOOR, OPENS IT, BLOOD DOLL DISROBES

ESTHER: Come on out. You've showered. Good.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL STEPS ONTO THE CARPET

ESTHER: Now let's decorate you. Oh, you have nipple piercings already. That's helpful! We're going to have to get you a clit piercing at some point. Just stand like that. SIMON will be by to attach your jewelry.

BLOOD DOLL: Like, this, Ma'am?

ESTHER: Arms out a little more. Perfect. Now, breathe slowly. Banish those terrors in your mind. They'll still be there when you return from the ceremony. Now, I have these noise-canceling plugs for your ears so you won't learn anything that might endanger your life. You understand?

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, Ma'am.

ESTHER: (GETS VERY CLOSE TO BLOOD DOLL, NEAR WHISPERS) Oh, and good on you for keeping BRIAN's little oopsie from the other BLOOD DOLLS. I know how they love to talk. You're such a good girl. (STEPS BACK, NORMAL VOICE) Well. SIMON will be over shortly to put you in a very relaxed state. For now, (DEEPENS VOICE) Embrace the dark.

/SFX/ AMBIENT ROOM SOUND DIMS

BLOOD DOLL (NA): She put the earbuds in my ears and I was alone in my own head, watching these human-shaped deities, flowing like dancers, adorning PETER and RACHEL's bodies with paint and jewels. The gods' eyes glowed even in the room's light and they positioned us with care, belying their enormous strength. I thought about appropriate songs for this moment, about my first and only skydive, about my first awkward date with STEPHANIE at Wildrose on Capitol Hill, about my repeated failed job interviews before the security company took me on. SIMON worked on me, but I have to admit, he made me look very, very good. And then, he took my gaze, eyes glistening, and suddenly...

/SFX/ SOUND CUTS OUT

SCENE 5. — TRIAL OF A BLOOD DOLL (INT: SUMPTUOUS AUDIENCE CHAMBER, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, ESTHER, SAMAEAL

/SFX/ PEOPLE MILLING ABOUT, ALL SOUND MUFFLED, UNINTELLIGIBLE WALLA

/SFX/ MUFFLED BUMP

ESTHER: (MUFFLED, UNINTELLIGIBLE) Pardon me!

BLOOD DOLL (NA): And I was awake again. I stood in a poorly lit, modern, two-story meeting room with all the windows sealed. Everything was sumptuous. Leather seats. Hardwood tables. Expensive glasses with drinks. My bare feet were settled into the softest carpet. And I was surrounded by them – the gods. More muscular than humans. Thinner. Incredibly well-dressed. While I stood in nothing but my adornments. A slender woman with chopped black hair, in a stunning red velvet dress, shouted at a figure I eventually recognized as BRIAN, still in his T-shirt and jeans. I couldn't hear her but her fangs were out. She slapped him hard enough to impact the floor. JUDITH stepped over to his side and forced him to his knees. Everyone's attention was on her. I kept stock still. I didn't know what I should be doing. This was the business of the gods and I had no place here. I wanted to turn my head to look for PETER or RACHEL so I knew how to behave. I couldn't be noticed and the second I was, it would be the end of me. And that's when I felt his hand on my back. Soft but clawed, like JUDITH's. His lips pressed against my ear and I heard him in my head.

SAMAEAL: Walk with me. Slow. Like you're in a daze. Look straight ahead. Not at anyone.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): So I did as he asked. He guided me onward, turning me slow as we crossed in front of the others. I fixed my gaze on the wood-paneled wall ahead of us. I had no idea what he looked like. All I knew was that his hand could have broken my spine with a single squeeze. I was fortunate that BRIAN's humiliation commanded the attention of everyone in the room but us. At last, we reached the great wooden door.

/SFX/ MUFFLED, DOOR SCREECHES OPEN

BLOOD DOLL (NA): We passed into a short hallway and his pace increased. He pushed me faster, not caring about being spotted. I was still terrified to turn my head to see who he was. I feared violating an invisible rule.

/SFX/ MUFFLED, DOOR CREAKS OPEN

BLOOD DOLL (NA): He led me into a small office, also carved from deep brown hardwoods, and shut the two of us inside.

/SFX/ MUFFLED, DOOR LOCKS

BLOOD DOLL (NA): He reached for my ear buds and pulled them out, gently.

SAMAEAL: Well, I haven't seen you before.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): He looked to be in his late fifties, short reddish hair, balding, square face, my height and his burning eyes stared into mine. He wore an immaculate black suit with a white collar. Very English. Reminiscent of something very old. And he did not immediately kill me. I didn't know what to say, so I said nothing, and looked down.

SAMAEL: No. Don't pay the doe-eyed bullshit with me. Do you know why you're awake?

BLOOD DOLL: No.

SAMAEL: Ah. She's a good fixer, that one. (BEAT) Well, no reason I can't have a little fun with you, is there?

BLOOD DOLL: What do you want (BEAT) me to do?

SAMAEL: Relax. I'm not going to hurt you. (BEAT) You've been through a lot. JUDITH told us. You know JUDITH?

BLOOD DOLL: TOADSTOOL?

SAMAEL: Let's not mention you called her that. But yes. Have you ever seen anyone like her before?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) In movies.

SAMAEL: She's Nosferatu. She helps keep the peace. And she made a judgment call not everyone agrees with. Saving you.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I'm sorry I troubled you.

SAMAEL: Nah. You're a distraction. Nothing more. Now (BEAT) the trial's still going. I've perpetrated a faux pas by taking you away. So let's commit to the bit, shall we? "If this be treason, make the most of it?"

BLOOD DOLL: What should I do?

SAMAEL: Enjoy yourself. (BEAT) As I am enjoying you.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): He grasped my shoulder and brought himself as close to me as he could. I felt every stitch of his suit, every nail on his hands, and the coolness of his wrinkled skin. He brought his lips to my neck and whispered.

SAMAEL: (SOFT) Is this all right?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE, SCARED BUT EXCITED) Yes.

/SFX/ SAMAEL PIERCES HER NECK AND DRINKS FROM HER

BLOOD DOLL (NA): It was wonderful. It was pleasure that spilled out from my neck and enveloped my body. I was aware that my blood was flowing into his mouth and I didn't care. I fell into his arms.

/SFX/ SAMAEL LICKS HER NECK AND GRABS HER

SAMAEL: Easy. Easy. I've got you there. (BEAT) Why don't you just (BEAT) sit on the desk? I'm sure JOTHAM won't mind.

/SFX/ SAMAEL GUIDES HER TO THE DESK, SHE SITS ON IT

BLOOD DOLL: That was transcendent.

SAMAEL: Yes. Your previous feedings were by rank amateurs. Settle in. Let me feel your pussy.

BLOOD DOLL: (HEAD SPINNING) Okay.

SAMAEL: God, you're wet. I really like that. It means I don't have to go out and get the lube.

BLOOD DOLL: (SURPRISED, LITTLE LAUGH)

SAMAEL: Oh, you like pillow talk? I'm SAMAEL. Call me that, for now.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, SAMAEL.

SAMAEL: Good. Are you aware the blood you've given me is making me hard?

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, SAMAEL.

SAMAEL: (DISMISSIVE, TEASING) Please.

/SFX/ SAMAEL UNZIPS THEIR PANTS, PULLS THEIR PANTS DOWN

SAMAEL: You ever fuck one of us?

BLOOD DOLL: No.

SAMAEL: That you know of.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I don't know.

SAMAEL: Relax. I'm playing with you. You'd know. (INTIMATE) You'd know.

/SFX/ SAMAEL SLIDES THEIR COCK INTO BLOOD DOLL

BLOOD DOLL: (GASPS, FEELS GOOD, FULL)

SAMAEL: (EXCITED, EVIL) Yes.

/SFX/ SAMAEL THRUSTS INTO HER, BANGING AGAINST THE WOODEN DESK

BLOOD DOLL: (GASPS WITH EACH THRUST)

SAMAEL: I could tear you apart right now. Rip you open. Feast. And you'd thank me.

BLOOD DOLL: (GASPS) Yes, SAMAEEL. Yes, my god.

SAMAEEL: Good. Come on.

BLOOD DOLL: (GASPS) Please. Fuck me with my own blood, hard inside your cock.

SAMAEEL: Now you're getting it.

BLOOD DOLL: (GASPS) Presence of gods. (MOANS HARDER FROM THRUSTS)

/SFX/ SAMAEEL THRUSTS INTO HER FASTER

SAMAEEL: Whenever you're ready. Show me your Beast. Show me what's inside you, snarling to get out. Let me see it. Come on. Let me see it.

BLOOD DOLL: (MOANS HARDER FROM THRUSTS)

SCENE 6. — NARRATIVE INTERRUPTUS (INT: LOREA'S SODO WAREHOUSE, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, LOREA, ARTURO, SIOBHAN

/SFX/ _____ INSTANT CUT TO QUIET WAREHOUSE AMBIANCE

SIOBHAN: So he fucked you.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

SIOBHAN: That's all you had to say.

LOREA: Fucking hell, woman. We didn't ask for your life story.

BLOOD DOLL: You asked to know everything.

ARTURO: That is exactly what you asked her.

LOREA: Fine. Skip the part where he blew his load and you cried loud enough to tell every fucking Camarilla what you were up to.

BLOOD DOLL: He put his hand over my mouth before I came.

SIOBHAN: Great. Oversharing.

BLOOD DOLL: You asked.

ARTURO: You're neurodivergent, yes?

BLOOD DOLL: Uh huh.

ARTURO: This is what you get, LOREA.

LOREA: Sure. What happened when you were done soaking JOTHAM's desk?

SCENE 7. — AFTERGLOW (INT: JOTHAM'S OFFICE, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEL, ESTHER

/SFX/ QUIET SMALL OFFICE AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL: (PANTING)

SAMAEL: Good. They'll know what you and I were up to, now.

/SFX/ SAMAEL BUCKLES THEIR PANTS

SAMAEL: I'd like to take you home with me. It'll be better than if I leave you here.

BLOOD DOLL: (PANTING) Thank you.

SAMAEL: You're smart. You know your usefulness to them is done.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL SITS UP

BLOOD DOLL: Why are you protecting me, SAMAEL?

SAMAEL: I'm not. I'm protecting me.

/SFX/ SAMAEL WALKS TO THE CLOSET, OPENS IT, AND TAKES A COAT OUT

SAMAEL: Put this coat on. I'll take you to my car.

BLOOD DOLL: (DESPERATE, SCARED) Okay.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL STANDS, WALKS TO SAMAEL, PUTS THE COAT ON

SAMAEL: It's JOTHAM's coat but I don't think he'll mind. Now, follow me and keep your mouth shut. Anyone asks you questions, do the head bow thing you were doing earlier. And relax. If they can read your mind, they'll know I told you to. (BEAT) You look incredible. Follow along. Grip my arm.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL GRIPS SAMAEL'S ARM

SAMAEL: Onwards.

/SFX/ SAMAEL UNLOCKS THE DOOR, OPENS IT, THEY WALK THROUGH AND CONTINUE WALKING

ESTHER: There you are.

/SFX/ ESTHER JOINS THEM IN WALKING

SAMAEL: And here I go.

ESTHER: It was rude of you to leave the session.

SAMAEL: Very rude. Please let AARALYN know I send her my deepest apologies.

ESTHER: Tell her yourself.

SAMAEL: Later. I think the trial's done and I'll skip the afterparty if that's all right.

ESTHER: What are you doing?

SAMAEL: What does it look like? I'm cavorting with the new BLOOD DOLL.

ESTHER: You're impossible.

SAMAEL: Go fuck yourself. I know who I'm fucking tonight.

/SFX/ THEY STOP, SAMAEL OPENS THE DOOR TO THE OUTSIDE

SCENE 8. — FIRST RIDE (INT: SAMAEL'S CAR, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEL, SIMON

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND SAMAEL SIT IN THE BACK SEAT, THEN SIMON OPENS THE FRONT DOOR AND SITS IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT AND CLOSSES THE FRONT DOOR

/SFX/ SIMON STARTS THE CAR

SAMAEL: To my place.

SIMON: Sure thing.

SAMAEL: And send AMANDA a message to get the BLOOD DOLL's things.

SIMON: (PAUSE) All set.

SAMAEL: Splendid. A little privacy?

/SFX/ GLASS SEPARATION WINDOW GOES UP, CAR DRIVES OFF

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you for this.

SAMAEL: (CHUCKLES) No. I haven't decided what to do with you yet. (BEAT) Back at the trial, you were awoken. Deliberately.

BLOOD DOLL: By who?

SAMAEL: The PRINCE's coterie. They have it out for me. My SIMON put you under. It would have looked terrible for me if his work would have been found lacking.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, (BEAT) Sir?

SAMAEL: Ah. No. I don't like that term. And don't use my name every time. I get sick of it.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) How should I address you?

SAMAEL: "Your Honor" will do nicely.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Are you to be my judge?

SAMAEL: Always.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Thank you, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Of course. They would have taken you out back and drained you for what you witnessed.

BLOOD DOLL: And I'm still in danger, Your Honor?

SAMAEL: Yes. From me. (BEAT) When I fucked you, you called me a god. That you were in the "presence of gods." Is that right?

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Who put such a silly idea into your head?

BLOOD DOLL: Please forgive me, Your Honor. No one did.

SAMAEL: So, on your own?

BLOOD DOLL: I've seen what you can do. It's beyond anything humans can do.

SAMAEL: True, but I wouldn't call us "gods."

BLOOD DOLL: You call yourselves "Kindred," Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Yes.

BLOOD DOLL: And yet you seem very much like gods.

SAMAEL: Let's not go overboard. Are you a Christian?

BLOOD DOLL: No. Agnostic. And I don't want to believe in God.

SAMAEL: You talk as one who does.

BLOOD DOLL: I've seen miracles from all the Kindred I've met. It's a lot, Your Honor. I'm struggling to make sense of it.

SAMAEL: Miracles.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) English lacks a better word for what you do that isn't tainted by religion, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: I prefer "infernal acts."

BLOOD DOLL: Your Honor, (PAUSE) Please. (PAUSE, NERVOUS) I disagree.

SAMAEL: (PAUSE) You what?

BLOOD DOLL: Whether or not there is a God is irrelevant. What you do is beyond anything humanity is capable of. Your strength. Your mind abilities. Your manipulation of blood. I would not consider them divine or infernal. They simply are.

SAMAEL: What do you know of our origins?

BLOOD DOLL: Nothing, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Some say we are the descendants of Caine.

BLOOD DOLL: Aren't we all, Your Honor?

SAMAEL: I mean literally. They say, after Caine slew his brother, his seed birthed our generation.

BLOOD DOLL: Please forgive me, Your Honor. (PAUSE) Is there evidence of this?

SAMAEEL: (BEAT, LAUGHS) What am I going to do with you?

SCENE 9. — SITTING (INT: SAMAEL'S SITTING ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEL, SIMON, AMANDA

/SFX/ QUIET AMBIANCE, DOOR OPENS, SAMAEL LEADS BLOOD DOLL INSIDE ON CARPET

SAMAEL: We'll have privacy, SIMON.

SIMON: Have a good time.

/SFX/ SIMON CLOSES THE DOOR BEHIND THEM

SAMAEL: (TO BLOOD DOLL) These are my rooms. (BEAT) Take that coat off. Leave it on the table.

/SFX/ SAMAEL WALKS TO HIS CHAIR, BLOOD DOLL TAKES HER COAT OFF AND PUTS IT ON A TABLE

SAMAEL: Sit. (BEAT) Go on.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS OVER AND SITS ON A PADDED CHAIR

SAMAEL: There you go. Can I get you a drink?

BLOOD DOLL: Gin and tonic, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: (DISMISSIVE) Gin and tonic. Look at my bar. All this and you want a fucking gin and tonic?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Suntory whiskey, Your Honor?

SAMAEL: (UNIMPRESSED) Well, that's a step up.

/SFX/ SAMAEL WALKS TO THE BAR, AND POURS TWO DRINKS OVER ICE

SAMAEL: There we are.

/SFX/ SAMAEL WALKS TO BLOOD DOLL, HANDS HER A TINKLING DRINK

SAMAEL: Go on. Take it. I'm having the same.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL TAKES THE DRINK, SAMAEL WALKS TO HIS CHAIR AND SITS

SAMAEL: Bottoms up.

BLOOD DOLL: Kanpai.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND SAMAEL DRINK

SAMAEL: Ah. I don't know if it's as good as blood, but it's quite passable.

BLOOD DOLL: Do you eat?

SAMAEL: Some of us can. No one enjoys it, though. I can't. I don't care to, either. Are you hungry?

BLOOD DOLL: They fed us.

SAMAEL: Splendid. (BEAT) Well, you were saying?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) I'm scared you'll kill me.

SAMAEL: That's a given at this point. You're a "breach." You know about us.

BLOOD DOLL: And I'm struggling with that.

SAMAEL: With the knowledge of Caine and Kindred?

BLOOD DOLL: What it means that you exist.

SAMAEL: What does it mean that you exist?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Forget Pascal's Wager. Or the Prime Mover arguments.

SAMAEL: That all movement in the cosmos can be traced back to one movement. God. The Naturalists love that one.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Yes. (PAUSE) You're proof of something divine. (CORRECTS SELF) Not divine. Something more.

SAMAEL: As Jacob wrestled with the angel.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

SAMAEL: You want to wrestle with me?

BLOOD DOLL: If this will be my end.

SAMAEL: You present me with such a challenge. (BEAT) How can I not accept?

BLOOD DOLL: (RELIEVED) Thank you, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Do you know what BRIAN was doing?

BLOOD DOLL: Something about a Beast's code?

SAMAEL: When we were alone together, I called on you to reveal your Beast.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

SAMAEL: Every Kindred has a Beast. In here.

/SFX/ SAMAEL TAPS THEIR CHEST

SAMAEL: They're all different. Some are refined. Some are animal. Some are worse. Some are, whatever the fuck BRIAN's was. "Move fast and break things." But they all command us. They make us seek blood by whatever cause we can get it. It's part of our curse. Mine is sated now. It will not be tomorrow evening. And depending on what I do each night, it may want more. BRIAN (BEAT) was trying to discern the nature of the Beast on his machine. The TAM.

BLOOD DOLL: From its code. He mentioned its code.

SAMAEL: Yes. That. He was trying to discover if the Beast can be controlled. Or eliminated. It would be refreshing to be rid of the damned thing.

BLOOD DOLL: And mine?

SAMAEL: I see a human's Beast when their rational mind is driven out. It gives me comfort that I'm not the only one saddled with such a thing. So when you say I am a god, that's not who I see myself as. I am a host filled with an unclean spirit.

BLOOD DOLL: Are you alive?

SAMAEL: By definition, no.

BLOOD DOLL: Can humans perform the acts you do?

SAMAEL: Very few.

BLOOD DOLL: How?

SAMAEL: Some by (BEAT) art. Some by becoming us.

BLOOD DOLL: Stealing your fire, like Prometheus?

SAMAEL: And now they're running Seattle. The PRINCE and her progeny, BRIAN. (PAUSE) So, yes. There are humans who can do what I do. My art is not unique to the universe, but my hunger is.

BLOOD DOLL: So if I am to define you by your acts.

SAMAEL: My "art."

BLOOD DOLL: Forgive me, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Forgiven.

BLOOD DOLL: It still sounds to me like Kindred are the origin of this "art."

SAMAEL: Ah. We are the fire Prometheus stole, and thus, we are deities. Assuming we didn't get it from somewhere else.

BLOOD DOLL: Wherever it's from, you are where humans take the art from now.

SAMAEL: Fair. I suppose.

BLOOD DOLL: And you take our bodies as well?

SAMAEL: (SLY) I took your body.

BLOOD DOLL: You live in the same body your mortal self did.

SAMAEL: Yes.

BLOOD DOLL: But JUDITH was growing mushrooms in hers.

SAMAEL: We inherit the house but can make all the alterations we want.

BLOOD DOLL: So you animate your body. You exist as something beyond the flesh.

SAMAEL: I am not a soul.

BLOOD DOLL: I wasn't trying to say that, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: My people are darkness, gothic, and backward.

BLOOD DOLL: Forgive me, Your Honor. (PAUSE) That sounds like Renaissance propaganda.

SAMAEL: (PAUSE) You've been to school.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I watch religious studies courses online at my job.

SAMAEL: Ah. Protecting BRIAN's lab and its building.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

SAMAEL: Well, they'll have to get on without you. (PAUSE, DISMISSIVE) Renaissance propaganda. What is this?

BLOOD DOLL: Most Middle Ages slander was from the Renaissance. "Dark Ages" was their term. Forgive me, Your Honor, but your language repeats it.

SAMAEL: So I'll use some other language to talk shit about my peers. Who, I may add, tried to have you murdered tonight to set me up.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) The actions of your peers are separate from the value judgments around your art. They can do evil. Your art could still be used to do ethical things.

SAMAEL: It could be. But right now I sit with temptation inside me, speaking to me, telling me how delicious you were. Tell me what ethical choice could result from this.

BLOOD DOLL: Humans bear temptation too.

SAMAEL: No. It's very different. I was human once and I did not have a fucking creature in me that endangers my very existence. If I were to feed on some idiot on the street, as I have done, someone still might notice and raise an alarm that ends up costing me my immortal life. I know the fucking difference between us and you.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, Your Honor. Even your pain seems greater.

SAMAEL: What are you implying?

BLOOD DOLL: I'm sitting across from you. Naked. And not yet eaten.

SAMAEL: Choose your next words very carefully.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) If you recognize evil as you do, isn't that original knowledge a sign that you can choose to do otherwise? (BEAT) Or are you so evil that you reject ethics?

SAMAEL: (PAUSE) Go on.

BLOOD DOLL: You mentioned Caine before.

SAMAEL: I did not endorse belief in him. But continue.

BLOOD DOLL: Caine was born of his mother, Eve. But his parents were born of the Breath of God into clay and bone.

SAMAEL: That is the tale.

BLOOD DOLL: If you are the descendants of Caine, and you are born from corpses, could it not be said that you are also the inheritor of God's Breath? Is there not something holy within you?

/SFX/ SAMAEL CLAPS THEIR HANDS

SAMAEL: Well done. God's own Breath. I'll have to remember that one. And yes, I can make ethical decisions. Saving you was not one of them. That was for selfish reasons.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you for letting me be a selfish reason before you, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: You're very welcome. How's your drink?

BLOOD DOLL: It's really good.

SAMAEL: I'm glad. Mind if I have a taste of it, through you?

BLOOD DOLL: Please.

SAMAEL: Come over here.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL STANDS, WALKS TO SAMAEL AND STOPS

SAMAEL: Show your neck.

/SFX/ SAMAEL BITES HER, DRINKS A LITTLE, AND LICKS IT CLOSED

BLOOD DOLL: (MOANS A LITTLE)

SAMAEL: You were born for this, weren't you?

BLOOD DOLL: I don't know, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: You've barely had any training and you're behaving like a proper BLOOD DOLL.

BLOOD DOLL: How do I taste, Your Honor?

SAMAEL: Very good. You don't send me on a plastic fantastic drug filled cruise like some BLOOD DOLLS do. Which is a shame, really. But you have grown on me.

/SFX/ SAMAEL PRESSES A BUTTON, BUZZES

SAMAEL: (TO SPEAKER) AMANDA, if you're back, could you bring in our guest's possessions?

AMANDA: (ON SPEAKER) Sure thing.

SAMAEL: (TO SPEAKER) Thank you.

/SFX/ SAMAEL RELEASES THE BUTTON

SAMAEL: (TO BLOOD DOLL) Well, let's see what becomes of you, shall we?

BLOOD DOLL: Your Honor?

/SFX/ DOOR OPENS, AMANDA WALKS IN HOLDING A PAPER BAG

AMANDA: This is everything JUDITH stripped off her.

SAMAEL: Leave it by my side.

/SFX/ AMANDA STOPS, PUT THE BAG DOWN, AND WALKS OUT, SHUTTING THE DOOR BEHIND HER

BLOOD DOLL: AMANDA and SIMON. Did you (BEAT) Embrace them, Your Honor?

SAMAEL: No. They're young. They're working for me while they establish themselves.

/SFX/ SAMAEL ROOTS THROUGH THE PAPER BAG

SAMAEL: Here it is.

/SFX/ SAMAEL WITHDRAWS THEIR HAND FROM THE PAPER BAG

SAMAEL: This is your phone, is it not?

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: It's been in the water, so I'm told. But I have also heard such things work again, given sufficient time to dry.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

SAMAEL: Well, here it is.

/SFX/ SAMAEL SLAPS THE PHONE INTO BLOOD DOLL'S HAND

SAMAEL: I want you to destroy it for me.

BLOOD DOLL: (FLUMMOXED) Why, Your Honor?

SAMAEL: No questions. Either destroy it or don't.

BLOOD DOLL: (LONG PAUSE, GRUNTS)

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL SNAPS HER PHONE IN HALF

SAMAEL: Lovely. (LONG PAUSE) You may go.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE, CONFUSED) Your Honor?

SAMAEL: SIMON will drive you home. (BEAT) I'll expect you back tomorrow. Be on time. Be presentable.

BLOOD DOLL: (RELIEVED, AMAZED) Yes, Your Honor. Thank you, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: You know, even though we don't need to breathe, we can smell you, wherever you go.

BLOOD DOLL: I'll be ready, Your Honor. I promise.

SAMAEL: Good. I'll look forward to our next salon. (BEAT) Get those jewels off you.

BLOOD DOLL: Of course, Your Honor.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL PICKS THE JEWELS OFF HER SKIN, AND LEAVES THEM ON THE TABLE

SAMAEL: There. You may dress.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Not here. In the common area outside. I like seeing you naked. When you return, undress before entering this room.

BLOOD DOLL: Of course, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Now run along.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL PICKS UP THE PAPER BAG AND WALKS OUT OF THE ROOM

SAMAEL: (LOUDER) I trust there won't be any more breaches involving you?

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL STOPS WALKING

BLOOD DOLL: No, Your Honor.

SAMAE: Let's keep it that way. Be off.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, Your Honor.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS TO THE DOOR, STOPS, OPENS THE DOOR, WALKS
THROUGH AND CLOSES THE DOOR BEHIND HER

SCENE 10. — RIDE HOME (INT: SAMAEL'S CAR, EARLY MORNING)

• BLOOD DOLL, SIMON

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL GETS IN CAR SEAT, SHUTS THE DOOR

SIMON: Buckle yourself in.

/SFX/ SIMON STARTS THE CAR

BLOOD DOLL: Am I really going home?

SIMON: Yup! What's your address?

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I told him my address.

SIMON: Bitter Lake, huh? Not the worst.

/SFX/ SIMON DRIVES OFF

BLOOD DOLL: May I ask you some questions?

SIMON: Sure. I have to tell SAMAEL whatever you say though.

BLOOD DOLL: That's not a problem. Should I call you "Sir" or anything else?

SIMON: I'm just SIMON.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) You put me under tonight?

SIMON: And I would've caught hell for it when ESTHER woke you up. SAMAEL would have faced a huge disgrace at court. He's responsible for mentoring me.

BLOOD DOLL: How important is court?

SIMON: Depends who you are. Bigwigs like SAMAEL who do the PRINCE's bidding directly have to be in court. Folks like AMANDA and me just answer to our mentors. (BEAT) And believe me, you have no chance there. Humans are animals.

BLOOD DOLL: I know.

SIMON: Eh, standing's not all it's cracked up to be. I'm still learning to play the power game.

BLOOD DOLL: What's your Beast like?

SIMON: Pretty pissed off at ESTHER right now. Like me.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I'm sorry for asking.

SIMON: Nah, you're curious. Must be fun, being a pet. (BEAT) My Beast is a slovenly shit. It's greedy and wants me to leave my trash everywhere. I have to work twice

as hard to deal with it. SAMAEEL understands. (BEAT) Think you'll be one of us someday?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I think I like being a BLOOD DOLL.

SIMON: Heh. Enjoy the ride. While you can.

BLOOD DOLL: I will.

SIMON: Just remember. Nothing lasts forever. (BEAT) Except us.

SCENE 11. — THE RETURN (INT: BLOOD DOLL'S APARTMENT, EARLY MORNING)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEL, SIMON

/SFX/ QUIET EARLY MORNING AMBIANCE, BIRDS SINGING OUTSIDE, NEIGHBORS WAKING UP AND BUMPING AROUND

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL OPENS THE APARTMENT DOOR, WALKS IN, CLOSES THE APARTMENT DOOR

BLOOD DOLL (NA): And I was home. I crossed the threshold and returned to the human world. My studio apartment was exactly as I'd left it before I ran to work. Bowls and cups in the sink. Clothes on the carpet. Blu-Rays and games spilling out over the computer table. The whole place smelling like the last two tenants. I'd lived there for a couple years but I still felt like entering it for the first time. Outside, the sun was close to rising and I was tired. I wore my filthy work clothes and I'd missed last night's shift. I didn't have my phone. I unplugged my computer so I wouldn't be tempted to use it, either. I had a ticket to a terrifying and seductive world and I didn't intend to lose it. I figured I'd stop by work tomorrow to explain I needed some time off. And then I collapsed in my very familiar bed. I couldn't sleep at first. I wondered if STEPHANIE was worried about me. She would have noticed I didn't send her any memes yesterday. She might have heard I missed work.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL TOSSES IN HER BLANKETS, BREATHES

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I woke at three in the afternoon and got ready to go downtown to see my boss. But when I opened the door, I found a courier delivered letter from SAMAEL, handwritten.

SAMAEL: (READING) My dearest, your presence is hereby requested tonight. Please use unscented products when you wash up. Enclosed is a small stipend to assist you. Be ready by seven PM. Your rent will be taken care of. When you explain your absence to your employer, tell them you've taken up an internship at Magnusson's Accounting, letter and address included. They will confirm your new employment. Yours, your new benefactor.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I found fifteen hundred dollar bills inside with a letter from an accounting firm. I collected my filthy security outfit, and brought it downtown.

/SFX/ CITY AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): My boss was not happy with my absence and accepted the accounting letter with a dubious smirk. She said she'd send me my final paycheck. I wasn't holding my breath. (BEAT) Afterwards, I stopped by STEPHANIE's in Cap Hill.

/SFX/ APARTMENT AMBIANCE, DOOR KNOCK AND THEN DOOR KNOCK AGAIN

BLOOD DOLL (NA): She was out. I stopped by a Safeway, got pens and paper, along with my hygiene products, and returned to leave her a note. I explained I'd been offered a new position and timing things would be weird for a while. I'd be busy nights and only available in the late afternoons. I wanted to see her again. I loved her. I just wouldn't be online for a while as part of the job's mandate. I knew it would sound

like a red flag. I knew it would worry her more. But it was better than saying nothing.

/SFX/ BUS AMBIANCE, BLOOD DOLL HURRIES OFF THE BUS, HURRIES AWAY AS THE BUS DRIVES OFF

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I got home later than expected, thanks to the E-Line's service, with barely enough time to wash up and shave. Simon was waiting for me when I was done, six minutes past seven.

/SFX/ STREET NIGHT AMBIANCE, BLOOD DOLL RUNS DOWN STEPS ONTO THE SIDEWALK

SIMON: You're late.

BLOOD DOLL: Blame the E-Line.

SIMON: Just this once.

/SFX/ SIMON OPENS THE CAR DOOR

SCENE 12. — THE SECOND DAY OF JUDGMENT (INT: SAMAEŁ'S SITTING ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEŁ, AMANDA

/SFX/ QUIET AMBIANCE, DOOR OPENS, BLOOD DOLL WALKS IN, BARE FEET ON CARPET, CALMLY

SAMAEŁ: (ANNOYED) Well.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): SAMAEŁ had a surprise waiting for me. I entered naked as he had instructed. I saw him and AMANDA standing over another nude woman, unnaturally ashen in color. I didn't recognize her. She had a look on her face as if she'd given up any hope of fighting back. AMANDA propping her up, gripped her shoulders. SAMAEŁ nodded and then AMANDA lifted the ashen woman, neck still caked in blood, and carried her past me. AMANDA shot me a quick glance and nothing had to be said. I might be in her arms next.

SAMAEŁ: SIMON mentioned you were late.

BLOOD DOLL: My deepest apologies, Your Honor. I'll take more care in the future.

SAMAEŁ: No. "It won't happen again."

BLOOD DOLL: It won't happen again.

SAMAEŁ: Good. You look lovely. Take a seat.

/SFX/ SAMAEŁ WALKS TO HIS CHAIR, SITS, BLOOD DOLL WALKS TO HER CHAIR, AND SITS

BLOOD DOLL: Your Honor, thank you for the letter and the money.

SAMAEŁ: Thank you for handling the business with your employer. Did you go anywhere else while you were out?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Safeway. And I stopped by my girlfriend's apartment. She was out so I left a note.

SAMAEŁ: Ah. I trust you were careful with what you wrote.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, Your Honor. I didn't want her to start looking for me. Also I will not be using my computer at home.

SAMAEŁ: Understanding the rules is the bare minimum. Did you expect a reward for that?

BLOOD DOLL: No, Your Honor. Forgive me. I'm still learning.

SAMAEŁ: Trust me. If you'd broken a single rule while you were out, we would not be having this conversation.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you for your trust, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: So, no. I'm not worried about you. You know the rules. You like what you do. SIMON mentioned.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: And setting you free pisses ESTHER the fuck off.

BLOOD DOLL: Should I be concerned about ESTHER?

SAMAEL: Most certainly. Oh, she won't kill you. Or do anything to you directly. And you're safe here. She doesn't come here often.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, Your Honor. (BEAT) I apologize for delaying your last meal.

SAMAEL: I wanted you to see her. I had to chat her up an extra six minutes before I dined because of your tardiness.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) If the intention was to frighten me, Your Honor, it was both successful and unnecessary. I am intensely afraid of you.

SAMAEL: My intentions are none of your damned business.

BLOOD DOLL: Apologies, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: (PAUSE) Were you (BEAT) jealous of her? Do you expect ravishment when you enter my chambers?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I know you wish me to be candid, so (BEAT) it was a small hope, Your Honor. Simply being in your presence both terrifies and arouses me.

SAMAEL: Would you like me to skip the talk, force you to the floor, drink until there is almost nothing left of you, and cast you out until I crave your taste again? Or do you prefer we continue our discussion?

BLOOD DOLL: (SWALLOWS) Forgive my impertinence, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: No, I do not forgive. Do not hide behind your self-effacing submission and answer the damned question.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) While I would prefer we resume our discussion, I recognize the choice is not mine to make, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Do you want to know what it is like, to go that far?

BLOOD DOLL: Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Here it comes.

BLOOD DOLL: Why did you show her off to me, in the state she was in, if not to either warn me or tempt me?

SAMAEL: You presume.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) I fear there is no answer I can give that would be satisfactory.

SAMAEL: (PAUSE) All right. I did intend to scare you there. I was in error. I'm sorry. I got us off on the wrong foot, as it were, for the work we are doing. But I did make my point. I am a monster. It is not something I can stop with ethics, good deeds, or the fucking Breath of God.

BLOOD DOLL: Am I a monster for being late today? Or did the E-Line bus make that choice for me? Like your Beast makes decisions for you?

SAMAEL: You think I am different from my Beast?

BLOOD DOLL: I know you are.

SAMAEL: I may be different from my Beast, but I am the same asshole I was when my sire pulled his fangs out of my fucking neck. Kindred don't change.

BLOOD DOLL: Your Honor, did you not change, or have you been in the same job, serving the same masters in court, as long as you've been a Kindred?

SAMAEL: That notion is irrelevant. I can't leave the Camarilla without making myself very vulnerable to my enemies. The Sabbat. The human governments. Everyone I've screwed over in the past.

BLOOD DOLL: But you have free will. You bear the possibility of change, however unlikely.

SAMAEL: If I were trapped on a desert island, with a lovely collection of BLOOD DOLLS, then yes. The possibility exists, perhaps. I'd think not though. I lack what is generally considered a "soul." Whether or not you believe in salvation or damnation, it makes it very difficult to empathize with you lot.

BLOOD DOLL: "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world but forfeits his soul?"

SAMAEL: Matthew sixteen, twenty-four to twenty-six. Trust me, every Kindred has that on their ruddy mantle.

BLOOD DOLL: But, Your Honor. You gain the world. You have (BEAT) eternity to see everything there is to see, do everything there is to do, and study everything there is to study. You can watch the Grand Canyon be carved by rivers, see the rise and fall of all the wonders humans build; hear languages change and adapt over time. New words. New concepts I will never know.

SAMAEL: Are you familiar with Philo of Alexandria?

BLOOD DOLL: Mentioned, only.

SAMAEL: Wonderful Jewish philosopher. He proposed that souls, angels, and demons were all psychological manifestations. They compelled the brain to do things like seek pleasure. Well, I'd add the Beast to that. It compels me to do awful things to you.

BLOOD DOLL: They're not all awful.

SAMAEL: It does want you and want to dispose of you.

BLOOD DOLL: And when it is sated, are you free to do as you please?

SAMAEL: I suppose.

BLOOD DOLL: Surely, Your Honor, you've learned something from all those books in your sitting room that made you more than when you were Embraced.

SAMAEL: I read a lot but I wouldn't say it's changed me.

BLOOD DOLL: Judith Butler.

SAMAEL: Who?

BLOOD DOLL: Donna Haraway.

SAMAEL: I couldn't say.

BLOOD DOLL: Foucault.

SAMAEL: No.

BLOOD DOLL: Marx. Engels.

SAMAEL: Yes, yes to both. Maybe you didn't notice that I am the bourgeoisie. They want to kill me as much as any human who simply fears my hunger.

BLOOD DOLL: You're at least post-Renaissance.

SAMAEL: I was sired in 1734. Yes, books intellectually stimulate me. They do not change who I am.

BLOOD DOLL: Your Honor, why don't you see your Beast as being motivation for you to lead a more ethical life?

SAMAEL: Oh, this ought to be good.

BLOOD DOLL: I assume the supernatural exists because you exist.

SAMAEL: Fair.

BLOOD DOLL: In my religious studies videos, I heard that humans were considered the "kings of creatures" and "kings of sinners." So, spiritually greater than animals, but saddled with the curse of sin.

SAMAEL: I could very well be the personification of sin thinking about itself.

BLOOD DOLL: But surely you are the "kings of creatures" and the "kings of sinners."

SAMAEL: I'll take that.

BLOOD DOLL: As you have free will, you recognize that you don't have to lie back and just go "might makes right" and do whatever you want. You have higher expectations, from the cosmos' point of view, to do better. Especially (BEAT) because I don't think you like the feeling that you sin.

SAMAE: Not especially.

BLOOD DOLL: So, being a Kindred does not make you happy.

SAMAE: (BEAT) Not always.

BLOOD DOLL: Then why not behave ethically, in ways that do make you happy?

SAMAE: This is fucking therapy now, is it?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) I apologize, Your Honor.

SAMAE: You say I am a god. Do you worship me?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I acknowledge your powers. And I do submit myself to you. But cosmologically speaking, you are not my Pantheon. But I have faith in you.

SAMAE: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Yet you claim you believe in the evidence of my existence.

BLOOD DOLL: No, Your Honor. Faith is trust. Faith is falling in love. I have faith that something beyond us exists because of you. And it hurts. I'm staring into a new world from behind bars and I want the key.

SAMAE: (PAUSE) Do you love me?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) I fear you more, Your Honor.

SAMAE: (GRINS) As it should be. (PAUSE) Are you hungry?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Yes, Your Honor. I only had a little food for breakfast.

/SFX/ SAMAE PRESSES A BUTTON, BUZZES

SAMAE: AMANDA, some refreshments for our guest.

/SFX/ SAMAE RELEASES THE BUTTON

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, Your Honor.

SAMAE: Not at all. I enjoy watching mortals eat.

/SFX/ DOOR OPENS, AMANDA WALKS IN WITH A FOOD TRAY

SAMAE: Thank you. You can leave the tray beside her.

AMANDA: Sure thing.

/SFX/ AMANDA STOPS, SETS DOWN THE TRAY

AMANDA: How's that (BEAT) thing you two are doing?

SAMAEL: Spectacularly well. Some privacy, if you please.

AMANDA: Of course.

/SFX/ AMANDA WALKS OUT FROM THE ROOM, CLOSES THE DOOR BEHIND HER

SAMAEL: Please tell me you're not lactose intolerant.

BLOOD DOLL: No, Your Honor. The cheeses look delicious.

SAMAEL: Excellent. I hear the crackers are quite good, too. And the fruit. Please help yourself. Don't make a show of it, but don't be messy.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I was sitting naked before a god who could kill me at any second. And his judgment was no less severe and I spread the cheese and ate the crackers before him, slowly, biting and then sucking each cracker to keep the crumbs from falling. I took each grape and orange slice in a single bite to keep from spraying their juices. The meal was simple but filling. SAMAEL sat with his chin resting on his clawed hand and seemed fascinated by my chewing and swallowing.

SAMAEL: Drink?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Surprise me, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Ah! A challenge!

/SFX/ SAMAEL STANDS, WALKS TO THE BAR, AND MIXES A DRINK

SAMAEL: This is (BEAT) a fantastic vodka cocktail I learned (BEAT) before the Bolsheviks took over.

/SFX/ SAMAEL WALKS TO BLOOD DOLL AND HANDS HER THE DRINK

SAMAEL: Here you are.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL SIPS IT

BLOOD DOLL: It's really good.

/SFX/ SAMAEL WALKS BACK TO HIS CHAIR AND SITS

SAMAEL: Now, a challenge for a challenge. You say we are gods. We are a Pantheon. Don't get me started on who AARALYN might be. Anyhow. (PAUSE) If I were to tell you that you will have no other gods before me, what would you do?

BLOOD DOLL: If I could not call them gods?

SAMAEL: Nor view them as such. Call them what you will but I am the only god among them.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Every Kindred would still have my deepest respect and deference. But you would be the only god among them.

SAMAEL: What if I was to say that I am a jealous god, and that only I was to have your respect and deference. And screw the rest.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Your Honor, that would just be cruel.

SAMAEL: Assume I am that cruel.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) I can't resist you, Your Honor. (PAUSE) But what point would there be to our conversations if I was not allowed to speak my mind?

SAMAEL: (BEAT) Relax. Rest. This was purely a hypothetical. (PAUSE) You should know, though, about an ability most of us have. If I fed my blood to you, just a little, you would love it. You would fall in love with me. And you would do anything for me. You'd be what we call a "ghoul."

BLOOD DOLL: You'd rob me of my free will.

SAMAEL: Which is why I'm not going to do it. But tell me that I am an innately ethical creature when my own blood has this power.

BLOOD DOLL: I can think of ethical reasons to rob someone of their free will.

SAMAEL: (FASCINATED) Really?

BLOOD DOLL: There are transphobes, (BEAT) people who are disturbed by people like me, or want to use hatred of me as a grift. They've done irreparable damage to trans communities. I'd see them lose their free will in exchange for seeing the error of their ways.

SAMAEL: (SMILES) Is that ethical? Or is that revenge?

BLOOD DOLL: If it protects more people and prevents further harm.

SAMAEL: Your people.

BLOOD DOLL: They need more protection.

SAMAEL: Hmm. Understandable choice.

BLOOD DOLL: It is sickening, the way the government has chosen to scapegoat us.

SAMAEL: Lamentable. And how do you feel about that?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) I am angry, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: It's good to see your Beast out again.

/SFX/ SAMAEL PICKS UP THEIR GLASS

SAMAEL: Let's drink to it.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): We continued talking for hours until he sent me home, unconsumed and unfucked. And that was okay. I appreciated the rapport we had. The next afternoon, another invitation arrived. So I went to see him again. This time, we talked, and fucked, and he drank from me. I didn't need his blood. I already would have done anything to see him again. (BEAT) The following night was different. His letter asked me to bring all black clothing, including a hoodie and a mask. Each of which I had already. SIMON picked me up at our usual time.

SCENE 13. — RIDING IN (INT: SAMAEL'S CAR, EVENING)

• BLOOD DOLL, SIMON

/SFX/ DRIVING AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL: Is something going on?

SIMON: Yeah. SAMAEL will fill you in.

BLOOD DOLL: You don't sound thrilled about it.

SIMON: (PAUSE) Don't expect any philosophy tonight. And leave your outfit on. You won't be getting undressed.

BLOOD DOLL: Okay. (PAUSE) Are we good?

SIMON: What do you mean?

BLOOD DOLL: Is any of this about me?

SIMON: No. (BEAT) Maybe a little. I'm not going to say any more.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Okay.

SIMON: I discussed it with SAMAEL. And I'm overruled.

BLOOD DOLL: My apologies. I didn't mean to cause any trouble.

SIMON: You didn't. (BEAT) Night's still young though.

SCENE 14. — HEIST PREP (INT: SAMAEL'S SITTING ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEL, ELIJIO, AMANDA, SIMON

/SFX/ QUIET AMBIANCE, DOOR OPENS, BLOOD DOLL WALKS IN, SOCKS ON CARPET,
CLOSES DOOR

ELIJIO: (ARGUMENTATIVE) This is nothing!

SAMAEL: My source has double-checked. They're transporting it tonight. This is our only chance.

ELIJIO: (SEES BLOOD DOLL) SAMAEL.

SAMAEL: (SEES BLOOD DOLL) Ah yes. My dearest BLOOD DOLL. This is ELIJIO. We've been partners for a good hundred fifty years now.

BLOOD DOLL: It's good to meet you. How should I refer to you?

ELIJIO: "Sir," if you must.

SAMAEL: She must. Believe me.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, Sir.

SAMAEL: (TO BLOOD DOLL) Oh, my dear. You look terrible. Cheap. You're absolutely perfect for tonight.

BLOOD DOLL: Your Honor.

ELIJIO: Hold on. She calls you "Your Honor?"

SAMAEL: I am her judge, jury, and executioner. Why the fuck not?

ELIJIO: I've never seen you keep a pet Blood Doll before.

SAMAEL: Love. You're making a mockery of me and she will hold me to task for it.

ELIJIO: Since when do you care?

SAMAEL: I'll explain later. Now, BLOOD DOLL.

ELIJIO: Doesn't she have a name?

SAMAEL: Not before me. (BEAT) I'm not falling for her. We have an amicable relationship.

ELIJIO: Your cold black heart is yours to give to whomever.

SAMAEL: And it's yours.

/SFX/ SAMAEL KISSES ELIJIO

SAMAEL: You will be my starshine forever.

ELIJIO: And you, my moonglow.

SAMAEL: (BEAT) Now, BLOOD DOLL? You worked security at BRIAN's building.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

SAMAEL: Splendid. Have you ever used a Glock 17 before?

BLOOD DOLL: (CONFUSED) For what, Your Honor?

SAMAEL: Putting holes in paper. Killing people. The things a firearm does.

BLOOD DOLL: My dad took me to the range growing up. (BEAT) I've had some practice at a pit recently.

SAMAEL: Good. Here.

/SFX/ SAMAEL PASSES A BOX OVER TO BLOOD DOLL

SAMAEL: Pistol. Concealed carry holster. Hollowpoint. Everything should be in there. Whether you do appendix carry or four o'clock, I don't really care. It's for your protection tonight.

BLOOD DOLL: Who do I need protection from?

/SFX/ SAMAEL UNROLLS A SHEET OF PAPER

SAMAEL: Private security. Human. (BEAT) This is the map of LOREA's warehouse compound in SODO. (BEAT, EXPLAINING) ELIJIO and I work for the Camarilla. We keep order in the city so we all don't get discovered and torched. LOREA and her crew are called the "Anarchs," and they do whatever the fuck they want. As I am the inverse to the Resurrection of Christ, the Anarchs are to the Camarilla. And they have something I want. It's a crate about the proportions of this table, maybe a half foot high. AMANDA and SIMON will be sneaking inside the back. I have it on good authority that the crate is in this staging area. The Anarch's hired guards will be patrolling the area with dogs. Dogs don't like us. At all. ELIJIO will be tracking their movements from a nearby crane. There should be a window that lets AMANDA and SIMON get in and out before the fucking dogs bark. Which leaves you.

BLOOD DOLL: (WORRIED) Am I to shoot someone?

SAMAEL: Would you do that for me? (BEAT) No, you're not shooting anyone, if all goes according to plan. We have a problem and his name's ARTURO. He's a Malkavian. (BEAT) You don't know what that means. ARTURO can sense Kindred on the property. I need you to distract him. You'll come to the front gate here and announce that JOTHAM has a message for LOREA. ARTURO will come for the message. You just have to distract him long enough for AMANDA and SIMON to do their work. He has to sort of focus on his ability which he can do playing (DISGUSTED) video games and other mindless activities.

BLOOD DOLL: And the gun is for?

SAMAEL: If things go south with the security guards.

BLOOD DOLL: Not ARTURO.

ELIJIO: (SNICKERS)

SAMAEL: (HOLDING SELF FROM LAUGHING) No, the gun won't work on us.

BLOOD DOLL: Okay. I've never shot at anyone before.

SAMAEL: Would you like to practice? I can change into something more disposable.

BLOOD DOLL: No, Your Honor.

ELIJIO: (LAUGHS) I'm sorry.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) So, if I get killed...

SAMAEL: I can do nothing for you then. Arrested, though? I can fix. The Camarilla have excellent lawyers and many of Seattle PD are on our payroll. We certainly need them for all the breaches going on.

BLOOD DOLL: But you're sending me into a (BEAT) potential firefight.

SAMAEL: I am. And I think you'll do it for me.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE, THINKS) Okay.

SAMAEL: See, ELIJIO? And I didn't even have to ghoul her.

ELIJIO: If you trust her.

SAMAEL: I trust her tongue more than any other part of her! (TO BLOOD DOLL) Thank you, love. I know how dangerous this can be. No shame if you need to run. I do want you back, very much.

BLOOD DOLL: Am I wearing this black bloc stuff to the warehouse?

SAMAEL: Yes! You look like a night courier. You'll explain to ARTURO that you have a letter that can only be given to LOREA, personally. He'll ask to take it from you. Don't give it to him. Insist. That's all there is. The letter and an introduction card are in the box as well. We'll leave at one in the morning. Have you eaten?

BLOOD DOLL: Not much, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: There's a fridge in the storage room that should have something. Go get acquainted with AMANDA and SIMON.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Of course.

ELIJIO: On your way.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS TO DOOR, OPENS DOOR, WALKS OUT, AND CLOSES DOOR, POV FOLLOWS HER

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Hi.

AMANDA: (RESIGNED) Hey, kiddo.

SIMON: (DISINTERESTED IN HER) 'Sup.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Uh. (BEAT) SAMAEL said there was some food in the storage room?

AMANDA: Oh. Okay.

SIMON: It's right over there.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, SIMON. (PAUSE) AMANDA, how should I refer to you?

AMANDA: Oh, for the love of Type O Positive, just go and get fed!

BLOOD DOLL: (FAWNS) Okay.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS INTO THE STORAGE ROOM, STOPS, OPENS THE FRIDGE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I can't say I didn't expect what else was in the fridge. I had my usual fruit, cheese, and crackers. Then I spent time getting my holster set up. AMANDA and SIMON ignored me and were distant to my questions. My presence was obviously a sore point. I spent time practicing my dry fire to try to convince them I had some sort of competency. (BEAT) One o'clock finally rang. SAMAEL and ELIJIO stepped out from the sitting room.

SAMAEL: Right.

/SFX/ SAMAEL CLAPS HIS HANDS

SAMAEL: Let's start ourselves a heist.

SCENE 15. — TERRIBLE HEIST (EXT: OUTSIDE LOREA'S WAREHOUSE GATE, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, ARTURO, ELIJIO, AMANDA, LOREA

/SFX/ NIGHT SODO AMBIANCE, VEHICLES DRIVING IN THE DISTANCE, LOW WINDS

BLOOD DOLL (NA): They dropped me off a block away from the warehouse in a dark SODO alley. Tents were scattered around but none had lights or movement inside. I stood, hands in my pockets in the chilled air, and waited for the signal. I'd been on actions before, sneaking, putting up signs, or keeping lookout while others smashed windows. I'd done volunteer security work with a borrowed Glock before, scared of getting caught. This time, getting caught was the least of my worries. (BEAT) I leaned against a wall and counted bricks in the building across from me. I kept still while the SPD cruisers rolled by. I recalled songs and speeches and thought about what I'd argue with SAMAEL if I got back to see him. It did bother me that of all his coterie, only SAMAEL saw anything in me. (BEAT) It was a long wait without a phone. Finally, a red laser dot appeared on the ground in front of me. At the right angle to lead to a sky-high crane several blocks to the south. ELIJIO's signal. I bolted up and hurried for the gate to LOREA's warehouse.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL RUNS ON ROAD, SLOWS, STOPS

BLOOD DOLL: Excuse me! Courier service. My card. (BEAT) I have a correspondence for LOREA. From JOTHAM.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): Inside the glassed-in booth, the security guard got on her phone and nodded to me. I waited, patiently as I could. Soon, a short Kindred with wild dark hair approached the gate. He walked with the strength of the Camarilla I'd known.

/SFX/ ARTURO APPROACHES ON ROAD BEHIND GATE

ARTURO: (TO SELF, ECHOLALIA) North passage. South Bend. Watch out for. Hard hats required. Safety. Ensure ground.

/SFX/ ARTURO STOPS

ARTURO: I'll take JOTHAM's letter.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm sorry, Sir. JOTHAM asked for me to deliver this letter to LOREA in person.

ARTURO: Did he alert her he'd be doing this?

BLOOD DOLL: He didn't mention.

ARTURO: Huh. (BEAT) Did you call me, "Sir?"

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Yes, Sir. I was told to be polite.

ARTURO: Huh. You're new then.

BLOOD DOLL: I am.

ARTURO: (PAUSE) You're lucky you didn't get me on a bad day when you'd be all (BEAT) moving around.

BLOOD DOLL: I don't mean to intrude. All I know is what I was told.

ARTURO: (PAUSE) What does JOTHAM look like?

BLOOD DOLL: (LONG PAUSE) Tall. Built like a truck. Wears thick wool coats. Imported. Lots of pockets.

ARTURO: Hmm. You see his face?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I wouldn't dare. Privacy is important to the client.

ARTURO: If you didn't want to look at JOTHAM's face, why do you want to look at LOREA's?

BLOOD DOLL: I don't. I just want to hand the letter to her.

ARTURO: So JOTHAM doesn't trust me?

BLOOD DOLL: He didn't say.

ARTURO: He knows how this works.

BLOOD DOLL: I don't know. I'm new. Maybe things have changed.

ARTURO: (PAUSE) Naw. JOTHAM's like clockwork. Pass me the letter.

BLOOD DOLL: I'd need his permission, Sir.

ARTURO: Okay, I'll contact him. I'll figure out what's going on.

BLOOD DOLL: All right.

ARTURO: Stay right there.

BLOOD DOLL: Hang on. (BEAT) I'll give you the letter. I'll take the consequences.

ARTURO: You can wait an hour.

BLOOD DOLL: The nature of the letter was urgent.

ARTURO: Urgent? We have... (BEAT) Who are you?

/SFX/ ARTURO SUDDENLY RUNS AWAY

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) What the fuck?

/SFX/ DISTANT DOGS BARK

BLOOD DOLL: Oh, shit.

/SFX/ A WHISTLING WIND APPROACHES, BLOOD DOLL RUNS FOR IT, STOPS

BLOOD DOLL: Hey!

/SFX/ A WHISTLING WIND STOPS

ELIJIO: No time. They're in trouble. Come on.

BLOOD DOLL: What can I do?

ELIJIO: They're around the back. Get ready to support them.

/SFX/ A WHISTLING WIND STARTS UP AGAIN, ELIJIO RUNS OFF

BLOOD DOLL (NA): ELIJIO sped off faster than my brain could make sense of. The dogs barked louder behind the gate. I knew I'd be no help to them out here. Outside the warehouse walls.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL PULLS OUT HER GLOCK

BLOOD DOLL: (TO GUARD) Guard! Open the gate! Open up! Let me inside!

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL SHOOTS TWO BULLETS INTO THE GLASS, WHICH DOES NOT BREAK

BLOOD DOLL (NA): Bullet proof glass. Of course.

BLOOD DOLL: Fuck!

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL STARTS RUNNING

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I made it further down the fence until I found a massive hole ripped open in it. It led to the adjacent lot, which was dark. No security other than cameras. I followed the path ELIJIO had bulldozed toward the staging area.

/SFX/ DISTANT GUNSHOTS

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I heard shots and slowed. I kept against the fence. Light poured from another hole in the fence ahead of me. I kept my Glock ready in case anyone I didn't recognize came through it.

ARTURO: (IN DISTANCE) Get back! We got this!

/SFX/ DISTANT BARKING DOGS ARE PULLED AWAY, FADE OUT

BLOOD DOLL: (PANTS)

/SFX/ THUNDEROUS IMPACT, MASSIVE IMPACT AGAINST CONCRETE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I'd never heard a supersonic punch before. Then I heard another.

/SFX/ THUNDEROUS IMPACT, MASSIVE IMPACT BREAKING DIRT AND CONCRETE
SLIDES TOWARD POV AND STOPS

AMANDA: (COUGHS UP LIQUID)

BLOOD DOLL (NA): AMANDA hit the ground near me. She was bruised to the point that her astonishing body could hardly move. She tried to rise, and fell. Through the fence, a tall woman with a side shave, LOREA, stepped out to inspect what I assume she'd done to AMANDA. She would have finished the job while I watched, if ELIJIO hadn't jumped her from behind.

/SFX/ RUBBLE FLIES, IMPACTS GROUND, HEAVY PUNCHES, FOOTSTEPS SCATTER

BLOOD DOLL: Let's get you up.

AMANDA: Scram, kid. They'll kill you.

BLOOD DOLL: I can't outrun them.

AMANDA: I'll hold 'em back.

BLOOD DOLL: Fuck you.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL GRABS AMANDA AND DRAGS HER BACK

AMANDA: Careful. I'm heavier than I look.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL DROPS AMANDA

BLOOD DOLL: (PANTS) Who's in there?

AMANDA: LOREA. ARTURO. They jumped us. It was a setup. SAMAEAL's fucking snitch snitched on us.

BLOOD DOLL: What about SIMON and ELIJIO?

AMANDA: (COUGHS UP LIQUID) They'll get away. Or get captured. Get ransomed.

BLOOD DOLL: Can you help them?

AMANDA: Heh. I don't think so.

BLOOD DOLL: Then drink me.

AMANDA: You're the boss' fucking pet.

BLOOD DOLL: I am dead if they catch me!

AMANDA: You don't know what you're asking. I'm in bad shape. And my bite hurts. I can't do nothing about that.

BLOOD DOLL: I can take it.

AMANDA: It'll be agony. You may just fucking pass out from it.

BLOOD DOLL: (SHOUTS) Do it!

AMANDA: (BEAT) Only 'cause you asked nice.

/SFX/ AMANDA BITES BLOOD DOLL, AMBIENT SOUND GOES SILENT

BLOOD DOLL (NA): It was the worst fucking torment I'd ever experienced. It was white hot and cut through every method of coping with pain I had. Relaxing. No. Accepting. No. Distraction. Fuck no. I could feel myself gushing into her. And I didn't give a fuck. I must have been shouting. I couldn't think of anything but praying to get through the next second. It must have been like getting a limb severed. And then another. It lasted longer than any pleasure I'd ever had and then...

/SFX/ AMANDA LICKS BLOOD DOLL, AMBIENT FIGHTING AND BACKGROUND SOUNDS RETURN

AMANDA: All right, kid. You did good. I'm going to go and save them.

/SFX/ AMANDA RUNS AWAY, ADDITIONAL PUNCHES, ADDITIONAL BRICKS BREAKING, ADDITIONAL FOOTSTEPS IN DIRT AND CONCRETE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I'd crumpled to the ground. The sheer aftershock from the pain and exsanguination left me cold and hollow in the dirt. I tried to ball up. I just waited. I tried to move. I couldn't. I waited. I tried to move. I couldn't. I waited and...

/SFX/ FIGHT IN THE BACKGROUND STOPS

BLOOD DOLL (NA): The fight ended. Everything was quiet again.

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS WALK IN THE DIRT, APPROACH AND STOP

BLOOD DOLL (NA): Someone came over to me. I couldn't see who, in the dark. And the chill. And the aftermath of the agony.

LOREA: Well. Look who got left behind.

SCENE 16. — NARRATIVE ENDED (INT: LOREA'S SODO WAREHOUSE, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, LOREA, ARTURO, SIOBHAN

/SFX/ QUIET WAREHOUSE AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL: And that's when you found me. That's everything.

SIOBHAN: That's a lot from someone abandoned by her owner's coterie. Are you lying?

BLOOD DOLL: I wouldn't lie to gods.

ARTURO: She can't lie to us. I know it.

LOREA: Hmm. I say we eat her and send SAMAEEL the corpse.

SIOBHAN: Agreed.

ARTURO: There's something off about her.

LOREA: Is that a "yes" or a "no?"

ARTURO: First off, we need to see what the others want to do with her. Not just the two of you.

LOREA: No one'll miss a human who put two holes in my guard shack window.

BLOOD DOLL: Please. That crate you brought in with me. The one right there. Is that what my team was coming to steal? It looks like the right size.

SIOBHAN: Did you want a taste of what's inside?

BLOOD DOLL: No. (BEAT, SCARED) I know what's in there.

LOREA: Really? And what is that?

BLOOD DOLL: The TAM. The Transmigrated Artificial Masterintelligence server.

LOREA: SAMAEEL told you?

BLOOD DOLL: No. I feel it. It has my blood.

LOREA: (PAUSE) Fuck.

ARTURO: She came as a courier. Let her leave as a courier.

LOREA: (BEAT) SIOBHAN?

SIOBHAN: I suppose. If she can confirm its presence.

LOREA: If I send you home, kid, with a message for the Camarilla, will you deliver it to the PRINCE herself?

BLOOD DOLL: Yes. I swear.

LOREA: Good. We'll be back in a bit with the message. Don't go anywhere.

BLOOD DOLL: I wouldn't, even without the chains.

SIOBHAN: Are you sure we want to trust her with a message about our intentions to use the TAM?

ARTURO: I'm down with it.

LOREA: Yeah. Why not? (BEAT) She's just a fucking BLOOD DOLL.

-END-