

Blood Doll Script, v1

Episode 2: “Cloister the Blood Doll”

by Alicia E. Goranson

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Approximate playing time: 1 Hour, 25 minutes

CAST OF CHARACTERS

BLOOD DOLL	30-something trans woman, femme, main character
SAMAEL (GEORGE GATAKER)	Ventruue, masc, vassal of Seattle prince AARALYN
AARALYN	Tremere, Seattle prince, femme
JOTHAM	Brujah, AARALYN's full time peace negotiator with the Anarchs, masc
ELIJIO	Lasombra, SAMAEL's boyfriend, masc
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
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, on the Weaponry Security Collective
ARTURO	Malkavian, masc, SODO Anarch community protector, “guard dog,” excellent watcher
SIOBHAN	Gangrel, femme, full time 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, masc sounding
STEPHANIE	30-something human trans woman, BLOOD DOLL's girlfriend
NEWS ANNOUNCER	News announcer, femme

SCENE 1. — STEPH (INT: BLOOD DOLL'S APARTMENT, MORNING)

• BLOOD DOLL, STEPHANIE, SAMAEL

/SFX/ CAR INTERIOR AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): (NARRATION) The Anarchs knew where I lived now. I had to give them my address for the Lyft they'd ordered me. That early in the morning, there was no bus service, no trains. And too far to walk. But they had not killed me. That was generous of them.

/SFX/ CAR STOPS, CAR DOOR OPENS

/SFX/ APARTMENT MORNING AMBIANCE, BIRDS OUTSIDE, NEIGHBORS MOVING AROUND

/SFX/ INSIDE APARTMENT COMPLEX, BLOOD DOLL WALKS TO HER APARTMENT, OPENS THE DOOR TO HER APARTMENT

BLOOD DOLL (NA): My bed never looked so good.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL COLLAPSES IN BED

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I'd almost died. I'd told them everything. I assumed there would be consequences. (BEAT) And SAMAEL's team had abandoned me. I was very much looking forward to speaking with them about that.

/SFX/ OUTSIDE APARTMENT, KNOCKING ON DOOR, PAUSE, KNOCKS AGAIN

BLOOD DOLL (NA): Someone woke me in the afternoon. It took me a few to recognize the knock.

/SFX/ OUTSIDE APARTMENT, KNOCKING ON DOOR, BLOOD DOLL SITS UP IN BED

BLOOD DOLL: Coming!

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS THROUGH APARTMENT ON CARPET

STEPHANIE: (OUTSIDE DOOR, MUFFLED) CASSANDRA? What's going on? What's happening?

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL UNLOCKS AND OPENS FRONT DOOR

BLOOD DOLL: Hey.

STEPHANIE: Don't "hey" me, cutie.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND STEPHANIE EMBRACE

BLOOD DOLL: Get in here, STEPHANIE.

/SFX/ STEPHANIE WALKS IN, BLOOD DOLL SHUTS DOOR

STEPHANIE: What's going on?

BLOOD DOLL: New job. There's an NDA.

STEPHANIE: Against using your phone?

BLOOD DOLL: It wasn't my call. But (BEAT) I am making so much money on this job. I don't want to lose it.

STEPHANIE: Come on. You could leave your phone at home. Where is it, anyway?

BLOOD DOLL: I'm not using it anymore. (BEAT) Look, I told you I'd be here in the afternoon. And you're here!

STEPHANIE: Yeah. Because I'm worried about you, you dork.

BLOOD DOLL: (SMILES) I'm really good.

STEPHANIE: You don't look it. You're all scraped up. You're cut. Are you all right?

BLOOD DOLL: I swear. I tripped and fell on the sidewalk last night on my way home. It's not (BEAT) anything.

STEPHANIE: Okay?

BLOOD DOLL: Fucking Seattle sidewalks, you know?

STEPHANIE: Is that a hickey? There, on your neck?

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

STEPHANIE: Looks fresh.

BLOOD DOLL: Fuck you.

STEPHANIE: Who are you seeing?

BLOOD DOLL: I'm not telling you.

STEPHANIE: All right. You're not telling me then.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm not.

STEPHANIE: Good. I don't want to know.

BLOOD DOLL: Good.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND STEPHANIE KISS

STEPHANIE: So where are you working?

BLOOD DOLL: An accounting firm.

STEPHANIE: (DISBELIEVING) At night.

BLOOD DOLL: It does business all around the world.

STEPHANIE: That sucks.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm keeping the same hours as the last job, at least.

STEPHANIE: I was hoping you'd get actual hours like normal people have.

BLOOD DOLL: I don't want to be normal people.

STEPHANIE: But now I can't see you when I'm free.

BLOOD DOLL: You're seeing me now!

STEPHANIE: Fuck you. It's my day off.

BLOOD DOLL: Thanks for wasting it on me.

STEPHANIE: No problem. You want to fuck and then do dinner tonight?

BLOOD DOLL: I'm (BEAT) kinda wiped? And I probably have a thing tonight.

STEPHANIE: (DISBELIEVING) Probably?

BLOOD DOLL: Yeah. Work thing.

STEPHANIE: (BEAT) Am I never going to see you again?

BLOOD DOLL: I don't know how long this work thing's going to last.

STEPHANIE: Are you making a truckload of money and burning out?

BLOOD DOLL: That's the hope.

STEPHANIE: All right. (BEAT) Are you sure you're okay? You look kinda pale.

BLOOD DOLL: Job's taking a lot out of me.

STEPHANIE: I could take a lot out of you.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND STEPHANIE KISS

BLOOD DOLL: Another time.

STEPHANIE: Boo. (BEAT) Guess I'll have to do Q patrol tonight or something.

BLOOD DOLL: Oh, fuck.

STEPHANIE: Yeah. Cops don't care about East Madison Street.

BLOOD DOLL: Hope nothing happens.

STEPHANIE: Really?

BLOOD DOLL: No. I hope some fash idiot tries something and you knock his head off.

STEPHANIE: That's how they learn.

BLOOD DOLL: Yep. (BEAT) I could do a coffee if you want to wait for me to shower.

STEPHANIE: Don't be too long, hon.

BLOOD DOLL: Yeah, yeah. I run on trans femme time.

STEPHANIE: I bet there's something you'd be on time for.

BLOOD DOLL: True. (THINKS) Was there any mail outside my door?

STEPHANIE: Yeah, there's a package.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL OPENS THE FRONT DOOR AND GRABS THE PACKAGE. CLOSES DOOR

STEPHANIE: Something you're expecting?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I'm going to open it in the bathroom.

STEPHANIE: Okay, nerd. Enjoy your fucking privacy.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS INTO THE BATHROOM, SHUTS BATHROOM DOOR, TURNS ON FAN, TEARS OPEN BOX, UNFOLDS LETTER

BLOOD DOLL (NA): In the box, their handwritten letter was set on top.

SAMAEL: (READING) My dearest, I am praying you are reading this, safe at home after that horrid event. Please trust that the parties under my jurisdiction have been reprimanded for their actions. In this box is a device they call a "pager." If you could press the button on it, I will know you are safe and available tonight for another salon. I am praying to see you at seven. Your apologetic benefactor.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): Of course, I slammed that button immediately.

/SFX/ COFFEE SHOP AMBIANCE, WALLA, PEOPLE DRINKING

BLOOD DOLL (NA): STEPH and I had a quick coffee to catch up on the latest gossip. I think she noticed my eyes checking the clock every few minutes, as if I was preparing to bolt. I had to be careful of what I said to her. I didn't want to poison our relationship. I spent a couple hours dodging questions and left to prepare for SAMAEL.

/SFX/ EXTERIOR, SIDEWALK AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I was out on the stoop, waiting before SIMON arrived, a bit before seven. He also had a surprise with him.

SCENE 2. — ALL APOLOGIES (INT: SAMAEEL'S CAR, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEEL, SIMON

/SFX/ STILL EXTERIOR, CAR DOOR OPENS

BLOOD DOLL: (SURPRISED) Hi.

SAMAEEL: Hello. Come and sit.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL SITS INSIDE, DOOR CLOSSES

BLOOD DOLL: Your Honor...

SAMAEEL: No. Fuck that. I want to apologize for ELIJIO's, SIMON's, and AMANDA's behavior last night. I was worried sick the Anarchs would treat you like collateral. I had a ransom prepared. I promise.

BLOOD DOLL: I told them everything.

SAMAEEL: And you're alive. That's important to me. I was hoping you'd be preternaturally honest. I'd have done the same in your boots.

/SFX/ SIMON STARTS THE CAR

SAMAEEL: SIMON?

SIMON: Hey. We had to make a tough call last night. And we left you to the wolves. I'm sorry. I wish things could've been different. We'll have an exfil plan for you next time, I promise.

/SFX/ SIMON DRIVES AWAY

SAMAEEL: I hope you understand the weight of a Kindred apologizing to a human.

BLOOD DOLL: Your Honor, I do.

SAMAEEL: What you did for AMANDA saved them all. LOREA is fearsome.

BLOOD DOLL: Even against you, Your Honor?

SAMAEEL: (BEAT) The odds would not be in my favor.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Why didn't you tell me we were going after the TAM server?

SAMAEEL: (CURIOUS) They told you?

BLOOD DOLL: No. I felt it near me.

SAMAEEL: Oh. (PAUSE) That's disconcerting.

BLOOD DOLL: It's probably why they let me live.

SAMAEL: I think you know that as a human, you're an open book to us. I have to be careful what I tell you.

BLOOD DOLL: I appreciate it, Your Honor. (BEAT) The Anarchs released me so I could deliver a message to AARALYN.

SAMAEL: You'd better let me deliver it. AARALYN's in a foul mood.

BLOOD DOLL: LOREA said I was to do it.

SAMAEL: They're trying to get you killed. (BEAT) But all right. What is it?

BLOOD DOLL: The next incursion in their territory, they'll take the TAM server out dancing and turn it on.

SAMAEL: Now, that's a threat. I run the Krafthaus club downtown. Not directly, but most decisions go through me. Fuck. We have a VIP suite for Kindred and the guests they want to feed on. (THINKS) You've experienced the TAM when it's on. What's the range on it?

BLOOD DOLL: I guess, some of BRIAN's team must have been twenty, twenty-five feet from it?

SAMAEL: At minimum.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

SAMAEL: Fuck.

BLOOD DOLL: A server takes a lot of energy.

SAMAEL: They could drive it in a van down the alley outside my club. Provided it works through walls.

BLOOD DOLL: It uses up blood every time it's turned on. One hundred milliliters.

SAMAEL: (PAUSE) How do you know that?

BLOOD DOLL: That's why they called me in. To make up the shortfall.

SAMAEL: Interesting. You told the Anarchs this, of course.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

SAMAEL: (BEAT) I'll have to increase security. Every night. Financial death by one thousand cuts. (BEAT) I take it you've never been to Krafthaus.

BLOOD DOLL: It's not exactly queer, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: No, it's not. It makes money.

BLOOD DOLL: Yeah. It's one of those places.

SAMAE: I understand your concern. I'm in a fucking homosexual relationship too. (BEAT) It's that AARALYN needs liquidity. (BEAT) Speaking of. (TO SIMON) SIMON! Head to Somberson's downtown. We should catch them before their tailor goes home.

SIMON: Can do!

BLOOD DOLL: We're not going to your place, Your Honor?

SAMAE: No. We need to inform AARALYN of the Anarch's threat. Even if it is a paper tiger. And you can't appear before her without an appropriate outfit. Somberson's should have something indecent for you to wear.

BLOOD DOLL: Sure. My shoulders are kind of...

SAMAE: Yes, I'm aware of your body's proportions intimately. They'll be able to alter something.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, Your Honor.

SAMAE: I don't want to instill the sin of pride in you any more than I already have. But I was fucking impressed by your performance last night. You ran into a Kindred fight. You stupid, stupid girl. Incredible. And you took AMANDA's bite willingly. Un-fucking-believable. (BEAT) I like where you're headed.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I wanted to ask you about my girlfriend.

SAMAE: What about her?

BLOOD DOLL: Lying to her is difficult, Your Honor. Should I break up with her?

SAMAE: Oh, my dear. Are you trying to protect her, or yourself?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Both.

SAMAE: (THINKS) I find it best to cut things short before resentment and suspicion set in. That said, I am almost three hundred years old and what the fuck do I know about modern relationships?

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, Your Honor.

SAMAE: (BEAT) I'll put this plainly. You're not a god. You're encouraged to lose touch with your humanity. But you aren't one of us.

BLOOD DOLL: I'd still follow you to Hell, Your Honor.

SAMAE: Good. Because that's exactly where we're going.

SCENE 3. — PRESENTED IN COURT (INT: SUMPTUOUS AUDIENCE CHAMBER, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, ESTHER, SAMAEL, JOTHAM, AARALYN, JUDITH

/SFX/ QUIET HALLWAY AMBIANCE, OUTSIDE DOOR OPENS

/SFX/ SAMAEL AND BLOOD DOLL WALK IN ON CARPET, DOOR CLOSSES BEHIND THEM

SAMAEL: Welcome back to court. Can you walk in those?

BLOOD DOLL: I've run in heels before.

SAMAEL: You're better than me in that regard.

/SFX/ ESTHER APPROACHES, BLOOD DOLL AND SAMAEL STOP

ESTHER: Well.

SAMAEL: Good evening, ESTHER. Now, fuck off. We have an audience with the PRINCE.

ESTHER: A pleasure to see you as well. You've been dressing up your DOLL?

SAMAEL: Oh, let's not get into the depravity you're into.

ESTHER: But I'm not here to clean up my own mess. You're getting desperate for court approval. You got too greedy for a win. A shame it went as far as it did.

SAMAEL: A small band was less likely to declare a fucking war on the Anarchs.

ESTHER: And that's why you told the PRINCE before you sent your coterie on their doomed mission? (BEAT) Except, wait. You didn't!

SAMAEL: Our court leaks like a sieve.

ESTHER: And you behave like BRIAN, assuming actions mean more to the court than loyalty. Speaking of which, you are permitted to speak before AARALYN tonight but your DOLL is not.

SAMAEL: She'll want to hear this from my DOLL's lips.

ESTHER: She can judge that for herself.

SAMAEL: And why are you out here? You're her minister. Shouldn't you be in court discussing the latest calamity that has befallen us?

ESTHER: We're on recess.

SAMAEL: Perfect time for us to address her. (TO BLOOD DOLL) Come along, dear. Walk beside me.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, Your Honor.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND SAMAEL WALK AWAY DOWN THE HALL, POV FOLLOWS THEM

ESTHER: (LOUD) Your insubordination is noted!

SAMAEL: (LOW) The last thing the court needs is another bootlicker.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND SAMAEL STOP WALKING, DOOR CREAKS OPEN, JOTHAM STICKS OUT HIS HEAD

SAMAEL: JOTHAM, we stand ready to address Her Excellency.

JOTHAM: "We?"

SAMAEL: The two of us.

JOTHAM: (SNIFFS) The one who befouled my desk?

SAMAEL: On my orders. I cleaned your damned coat before I sent it back.

JOTHAM: She impersonated one of my couriers.

SAMAEL: I will make restitution, I swear. Let us in the fucking court.

/SFX/ THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN WIDER

JOTHAM: The noose awaits you, SAMAEL.

SAMAEL: It hasn't killed me yet.

/SFX/ SAMAEL AND BLOOD DOLL WALK INTO ECHOING AUDIENCE CHAMBER, STOP

AARALYN: I told you to leave your pet outside.

SAMAEL: My "pet" has a message straight from LOREA and the Anarchs.

JUDITH: Shall I escort her out?

AARALYN: (THINKS) She may speak.

JUDITH: (BEAT) Go ahead, girl.

BLOOD DOLL: Your Excellency, LOREA released me last night on condition that I tell you, "On the next incursion into Anarch's territory, I plan to take the TAM server out dancing and turn it on."

AARALYN: (THINKS) Is this threat credible?

SAMAEL: I don't know. I sincerely doubt they've turned it on since acquiring it. Now, concerning the more pressing matter at hand, were you planning on a retribution of any kind? Because this warning changes things.

AARALYN: It changes nothing.

SAMAEL: Your Excellency, this does not put us in the best position to re-acquire it either. And your technical constituents are not going to like the sound of that.

AARALYN: We will not discuss matters further with your pet listening.

SAMAEL: I doubt it matters, Your Excellency, because my spy in the Anarchs ratted me out surprisingly fast and almost had my coterie killed. As if he had been given an order.

AARALYN: Are you challenging me?

SAMAEL: And last night's calamity was a direct attack on our ability to manage Masquerade breaches. Someone is fucking with us, Your Excellency.

AARALYN: This court will not stand for your insults and insinuations.

SAMAEL: Then assure me, Your Excellency, that you have things under control!

AARALYN: (PAUSE, SEETHING) JUDITH, escort SAMAEL from my chambers and dispose of his BLOOD DOLL.

SAMAEL: I don't advise the latter, Your Excellency.

AARALYN: I am asserting control, SAMAEL. By cleaning up a breach.

SAMAEL: I didn't tell her I was trying to reclaim the TAM server from the Anarchs. They didn't tell her they had it either, before they gave her the message. She has some connection to it.

AARALYN: (THINKS) Hmm.

JUDITH: I advise sequestering the BLOOD DOLL in your larder again until SAMAEL has shown appropriate control over his property.

SAMAEL: If it will please the court, I will keep her in my rooms for now.

AARALYN: Fine. Send her to his rooms immediately. But you, SAMAEL, remain.

SAMAEL: Of course, Your Excellency. (TO BLOOD DOLL) Run along. I'm sure ESTHER will see you to the door,

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, Your Excellency. Your Honor.

AARALYN: I did not give you leave to speak.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS TO THE DOOR. DOOR CREAKS OPEN

AARALYN: JOTHAM, I would speak with you as well.

JOTHAM: I am yours.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS OUT, DOOR CREAKS CLOSED, ESTHER APPROACHES HER AND THEY WALK TOGETHER

ESTHER: Follow me.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, Ma'am.

ESTHER: You're not angry with me, are you?

BLOOD DOLL: Never, Ma'am. I fear you.

/SFX/ THEY STOP WALKING

ESTHER: (PAUSE) Last night while you were on your self-destructive little mission, the morgue downtown brought in a fledgling Brujah. It woke and killed everyone in the basement, including our loyal coroners. We keep breaches quiet by careful payments to loyal SPD officers and coroners, but this one will make it difficult to keep that loyalty. And it will take time to find, train, and possibly ghoulish replacement coroners.

BLOOD DOLL: Ma'am. Why do I have to know this?

ESTHER: (LOW) Because the more you know, the more someone in court will have to kill you. Maybe it will be SAMAEEL. (BEAT) That would be fun, wouldn't it?

/SFX/ ESTHER GRABS BLOOD DOLL BY THE THROAT AND SLAMS HER AGAINST THE WALL

BLOOD DOLL: (STRUGGLES, TRIES TO BREATHE)

ESTHER: Or I could finish the job here. SAMAEEL already hates me.

BLOOD DOLL: AARALYN. Needs me.

ESTHER: For the TAM? Hearsay and bullshit. There's no one in this hallway to stop me. I bet SAMAEEL can hear all this right now and it's killing him that he can't save you.

BLOOD DOLL: (PANTS) You are the Resurrection. You are the Light.

ESTHER: I am the Dark.

BLOOD DOLL: (STRUGGLING) You bear eternal life. If there is a God, they really, really like you.

ESTHER: You don't know what you're talking about.

BLOOD DOLL: "It is wretched to know that one is wretched, but there is greatness in knowing what is wretched."

ESTHER: Whatever does SAMAEEL see in you.

BLOOD DOLL: In Judaic tradition, demons are part of Heaven. They have roles there. You have roles here.

ESTHER: Blasphemy.

BLOOD DOLL: You are a god. (BEAT) Fucking act like it.

ESTHER: (PAUSE) Fuck you.

/SFX/ ESTHER THROWS BLOOD DOLL TO THE FLOOR

BLOOD DOLL: (PANTS) Thank you, Ma'am.

ESTHER: Be on your way. I do see what he sees in you.

/SFX/ ESTHER WALKS AWAY, BLOOD DOLL STANDS AND WALKS TO THE OUTSIDE DOOR, AND OPENS IT

SCENE 4. — HOME AGAIN (INT: SAMAEL'S COMMON ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SIMON, AMANDA, SAMAEL

/SFX/ QUIET SUITE AMBIANCE

/SFX/ FRONT DOOR OPENS, BLOOD DOLL AND SIMON WALK IN, DOOR CLOSES, THEY STOP

SIMON: Make yourself at home. I guess you're staying with us for now.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, Simon.

/SFX/ AMANDA WALKS OVER

AMANDA: Kid. Hey, kid. Oh, wow.

/SFX/ AMANDA EMBRACES BLOOD DOLL

AMANDA: Kid, you fucking saved my ass. I am so sorry. If we could have taken you, we would have.

BLOOD DOLL: It's okay. I heard LOREA's pretty strong.

SIMON: (CHUCKLES)

AMANDA: That she is. We had to flee behind the warehouse. You were around the side. And I promise, I did check for you from one of the cranes. But I didn't see you. LOREA must have gotten to you.

BLOOD DOLL: I told her everything I could. She wanted to kill me. ARTURO talked her down.

AMANDA: More than just him, I'm sure. (BEAT) Oh, you don't know. Why do you think they're called the "Anarchs?" They're anarchists. Flat hierarchies. Group discussions. LOREA doesn't run them officially. She's just the richest bitch among them. She owns the warehouse. The trucking company.

SIMON: She's a big fucking deal. But she respects the others.

BLOOD DOLL: You're not mad I told her everything I know about you?

AMANDA: Hon, I barely said ten words to you before tonight. I completely misjudged you. Now, it was stupid of you to follow us in.

BLOOD DOLL: ELIJIO said to follow him.

SIMON: Right. So that's why you ran toward a firefight?

AMANDA: Or why you prefer to spend your time around Kindred instead of humans? Fricking fuck, kid. Pet status won't save you from SAMAEL's enemies.

BLOOD DOLL: I know. I fucking know. (SIGHS) Is there a room I can crash in?

SIMON: There's a guest suite. I put the clothes you came in there.

AMANDA: You can help yourself to whatever's left in the fridge. Fucking hell, I'll get you a pizza if you want one.

BLOOD DOLL: I (FLOORED) would be grateful. Thank you.

AMANDA: Of course, kid. You don't have to be all deferential to me.

BLOOD DOLL: But you can kill me. Easily.

AMANDA: Aw, hell, kiddo. I just hope your politeness doesn't come back to bite you in the ass.

/SFX/ AMANDA WALKS TO FRONT DOOR, OPENS, AND WALKS OUT, DOOR CLOSES

BLOOD DOLL (NA): AMANDA got me a large pizza, unsure how hungry I was. I had a few slices and put the rest in the fridge along with the blood bags she said were hers. She said her family's curse was painful feedings. She had been especially hungry last night and I was in no condition to be fed on tonight. (BEAT) I wasn't sure which books in SAMAEL's library were available to me to read, so I flipped through some magazines that SIMON had left around the common area. It was around four in the morning when SIMON brought SAMAEL home.

/SFX/ FRONT DOOR OPENS, SIMON AND SAMAEL WALK IN, THEY STOP, DOOR CLOSES

SAMAEL: That was a complete waste of a night. (SNIFFS AIR) What's that foul stench?

BLOOD DOLL: The pizza?

AMANDA: She was hungry. And I owed her.

SAMAEL: Ah. Thank you for eating it outside my sitting room, but let's not bring another one in here again?

BLOOD DOLL: Apologies, Your Honor.

AMANDA: My fault. I offered.

SAMAEL: It's nobody's "fault" when I didn't establish a boundary first. So let's keep it to cheese, crackers, and fruit from here on. Bread and jam should be fine too. Uncured meats. How does that sound?

AMANDA: I'll get those from now on.

SIMON: Should I pick up some mouthwash or something for the DOLL?

SAMAEL: No. I have some cheap bourbon she can gargle. Of course, why should that keep me from kissing her?

/SFX/ SAMAEL WALKS TO BLOOD DOLL, KISSES HER, AND PULLS BACK

SAMAEEL: Mmm. Nothing personal, my dear. I'm going to get you that bourbon first.

/SFX/ SAMAEEL WALKS TO HIS SITTING ROOM DOOR, OPENS IT, WALKS IN

BLOOD DOLL: It won't happen again, Your Honor.

/SFX/ SAMAEEL RETURNS WITH BOURBON, SHUTS DOOR

SAMAEEL: I trust you. You're a marvelous creature. You do as you're told and you love it! Now here, swish this around. Swallow it or spit it in the bowl.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL SWISHES BOURBON IN HER MOUTH, SWALLOWS

SAMAEEL: Good girl!

BLOOD DOLL: It's burning my throat, Your Honor.

SAMAEEL: (SNIFFS) That's better. Come here.

/SFX/ SAMAEEL WALKS TO BLOOD DOLL, KISSES HER

SAMAEEL: Mmm. Such a pity your body needs another day to recover.

BLOOD DOLL: ESTHER told me about the fledgling and the coroner deaths.

SAMAEEL: I'm aware. Things are getting dangerous. I don't know when I can release you again.

BLOOD DOLL: I understand, Your Honor.

SAMAEEL: Still, I'll have you all to myself. (BEAT) Of course, we know absence makes the heart grow fonder. I'll figure something out. Rent another apartment, perhaps. (BEAT) Could you have another swig of that bourbon? And then I'll fuck you. I promise.

BLOOD DOLL: Gladly, Your Honor.

SAMAEEL: Good. I've had (BEAT) a night. (BEAT) You, I, and JOTHAM need to visit the Anarchs tomorrow.

BLOOD DOLL: Why me, Your Honor?

SAMAEEL: They are apparently curious about you. As am I.

SCENE 5. — THE MAGIC CIRCLE (INT: SAMAEŁ'S SITTING ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEŁ

/SFX/ QUIET SUITE AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): SAMAEŁ and I had a lovely night together and then I was sequestered in the guest quarters, along with a selection of books they insisted I read. A clock in the corner told me when the morning came and the little sound the suite had turned dead silent. There were no windows. I found it difficult to sleep in a room undisturbed by humans for who knows how long. But the bed was comfortable and I awoke around late afternoon. I ate the fruit and cheese in the fridge; the pizza long since disposed of. I wondered what state SAMAEŁ was in now. They didn't have a coffin in their room, just the bed they'd fucked me on. But I didn't know what happened to their body during the day. (BEAT) Sunset was a quarter past six and I heard them stir then. I had already showered and prepared myself for them. They were appreciative.

SAMAEŁ: Good evening!

BLOOD DOLL: Good evening, Your Honor.

SAMAEŁ: You slept well?

BLOOD DOLL: New bed. New room. It's not easy for me to sleep in new spaces.

SAMAEŁ: You'll get used to them, I'm sure. Now. Let me see your neck. Hmm. (INSPECTS HER) You're still recovering. Not quite back to your normal pink glow. But close enough. May I?

BLOOD DOLL: Of course.

SAMAEŁ: You are so self-destructive. I may end up falling in love.

/SFX/ SAMAEŁ PIERCES HER NECK, DRINKS, AND LICKS HER

SAMAEŁ: Mmm. I'm so hungry in the morning.

BLOOD DOLL: I've only seen you feed on women.

SAMAEŁ: I eat men!

BLOOD DOLL: And enbies?

SAMAEŁ: (CONFUSED) Who are they?

BLOOD DOLL: Non-binary people. (PAUSE) Who exist somewhere within or without the gender spectrum?

SAMAEŁ: Ah. Yes. Them. Well, I suppose I must!

BLOOD DOLL: Other Kindred?

SAMAEL: We'll not talk about that. I'll only say it can go very well or very badly. You've eaten?

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

SAMAEL: Please. Sit.

/SFX/ SAMAEL AND BLOOD DOLL WALK TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CHAIRS, AND SIT

SAMAEL: The first move is yours.

BLOOD DOLL: You called yourself a perversion of the resurrection. You drink blood, like a Catholic.

SAMAEL: Blood is also not kosher. But to your usual point, it's just a drink. Nice for both of us. Until it kills you.

BLOOD DOLL: Misogyny defined women as "unclean" in various times in their lives. Which, of course, we're not. A strange thing can be natural.

SAMAEL: Are you advocating for (BEAT) pride in being a Kindred? Kindredism?

BLOOD DOLL: It's moot because you don't shape human culture. You have your own. We don't call you "Kindred" or your birth an "Embrace." Your culture remains insular.

SAMAEL: If we are to change, you are saying we must change ourselves.

BLOOD DOLL: I get that it's hard. Camarilla court seemed very (BEAT) old.

SAMAEL: It's meant to keep us in line. It works until it doesn't.

BLOOD DOLL: Like the fledgling in the morgue.

SAMAEL: Fuuuuuuck that. It was very deliberate. And it makes no sense for the Anarchs to piss us off like that.

BLOOD DOLL: How do the Anarchs handle change through their culture?

SAMAEL: They don't. Most of the time, they end up with a boss who rules them like a PRINCE. The Seattle Anarchs have only stayed in a flat hierarchy because LOREA believes in it.

BLOOD DOLL: Forgive me, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Go ahead. Say whatever blasphemous thought you have.

BLOOD DOLL: Why are Kindred so sloppy in their feeding?

SAMAEL: The Beast's demands are antithetical to society.

BLOOD DOLL: So why don't you account for that?

SAMAE: We do. We pay coroners, police. Judges sometimes.

BLOOD DOLL: Why don't you just feed every Kindred?

SAMAE: (BEAT) Why don't you feed every human?

BLOOD DOLL: We established your culture is not subject to the same rules that human society is.

SAMAE: It is, in fact, the same as capitalism. The Camarilla uses ostracism as punishment as capitalism uses poverty. Have you seen BRIAN anywhere? He's not whale-food like the rogue fledgling. AARALYN removed him from Seattle.

BLOOD DOLL: You could ensure Kindred are fed whether or not they are allowed in a city.

SAMAE: No, we could not. The banishment is from Kindred society. We have spaces, like at my nightclub, where Kindred can feed on the guests without notice. I'm not letting someone outside of polite society in there.

BLOOD DOLL: Why not?

SAMAE: Because there are rules about who can and cannot be Kindred. BRIAN's team, created without official sanction, could not continue to exist. And there are others, many more, who we haven't caught yet. Who keep hidden because they know the price of being found.

BLOOD DOLL: Which causes more breaches.

SAMAE: Or the Thin Bloods. Don't get me started on them. It's one thing we agree on with the Anarchs. Kindred population control. The more of us there are, the sloppier we get.

BLOOD DOLL: Why is preventing breaches so important to you?

SAMAE: Pitchforks. Torches.

/SFX/ SAMAE SNAPS THEIR FINGERS, A FLICKER OF FLAME APPEARS AND IS SNUFFED OUT

BLOOD DOLL: You can snap fire.

SAMAE: I don't like to. I fucking hate the stuff. Anyhow, proceed.

BLOOD DOLL: Breaches make it sound like there's some sort of Kindred law.

SAMAE: Yes, it's the first tradition. Don't shit where you eat.

BLOOD DOLL: If it's so important, why don't you guarantee blood to all who want it?

SAMAE: (PAUSE) First off, how fucking dare you.

BLOOD DOLL: I cannot be the only consensual BLOOD DOLL in Seattle.

SAMAEL: And how exactly do we find them without a massive breach?

BLOOD DOLL: Same way the Red Cross does.

SAMAEL: (PAUSE) You want me to let some Thin Blood asswipe in my club to prevent them from causing a breach. Where's that breach going to happen then? In my fucking club!

BLOOD DOLL: I'm here of my own free will.

SAMAEL: You are not.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) If I had had the choice.

SAMAEL: Fair.

BLOOD DOLL: RACHEL and PETER said there were plenty of other BLOOD DOLLS happy to let Kindred feed on them.

SAMAEL: Discovery, my dear. How would I find them?

BLOOD DOLL: I don't know. (BEAT) But I think they're out there. I don't feel unique.

SAMAEL: I don't believe this. We started off so well, with Resurrection and blood and now look where we are.

BLOOD DOLL: Your first tradition is to avoid breaches. Ignore the implementations. The solution to avoid breaches is to feed everyone.

SAMAEL: I'm sure that would go down well with the Sabbat. (BEAT) You don't know who the Sabbat are. (BEAT) There are a lot of forces who would be against this universal feeding trough you're proposing.

BLOOD DOLL: Is that any reason you should stop dreaming about it? About having a better world for Kindred?

SAMAEL: Fucking hell. My BLOOD DOLL is a leftist.

BLOOD DOLL: You knew that on our first night together.

SAMAEL: Well, you can have your dream, and I'll have mine, where everybody follows the rules.

BLOOD DOLL: Why should the Thin Bloods follow the rules?

SAMAEL: It begins.

BLOOD DOLL: Of what benefit is it to anyone who lives outside the system to follow the rules?

SAMAEL: There should only be one Kindred for every hundred thousand humans. That allows us to feed and hide safely. But Seattle has over forty when we should only

have eight. That counts Camarilla and Anarchs. And who knows how many Thin Bloods and others there are.

BLOOD DOLL: Who are these Thin Bloods?

SAMAEL: Barely Kindred. Far enough down their bloodline that their curse is all but unrecognizable. They keep away from the beaches where LEVIATHAN likes to hunt them for sport.

BLOOD DOLL: Okay. So your problem is predator overpopulation.

SAMAEL: Exactly.

BLOOD DOLL: But sapient predators. You're smart enough to find people like me who enjoy being fed on.

SAMAEL: The dream.

BLOOD DOLL: Say I found a way. Would you do it?

SAMAEL: You're talking nonsense.

BLOOD DOLL: Would you do it?

SAMAEL: (PAUSE) It's not my decision.

BLOOD DOLL: Would. You. Do. It?

SAMAEL: (PAUSE) Hypothetically, yes. But we'd need a lot of humans to sate us. I can't live off of only you.

BLOOD DOLL: I promise to think about it. Thank you, Your Honor.

SAMAEL: Ah. You were doing so well there.

BLOOD DOLL: What did I do, Your Honor?

SAMAEL: I was enjoying talking with you. Without a "Your Honor" every other fucking word from your mouth.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I'm (BEAT) sorry?

SAMAEL: You know, you're the only sapient being I can drop my guard around. Now, either we keep playing this macabre dominant/submission game you insist on playing. Or you can talk to me like a fucking adult.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) But given the power disparity between us...

SAMAEL: Fuck the power disparity.

BLOOD DOLL: Every second I spend in your world, I might die. Because you or someone might just kill me. For whatever reason. Like I'm stepping in a tiger's cage.

SAMAEL: I'd have killed you already if I was going to! You know who your enemies are.

BLOOD DOLL: Your intentions don't matter. It would be nothing to you to kill me now.

SAMAEL: How little you think of me.

BLOOD DOLL: You're almost three hundred years old, right?

SAMAEL: As Kindred, yes.

BLOOD DOLL: And you haven't learned about fucking patriarchy? Feminism 101. Women have to empathize with men for their own safety while men are not taught to empathize with women.

SAMAEL: I do empathize with you. It's why we're having this fucking conversation.

BLOOD DOLL: But the power disparity exists. You don't need to think about it because you're in control.

SAMAEL: All right. I want to be able to talk with you, like we were doing earlier. How do we negotiate that?

BLOOD DOLL: Make a space where you don't show off, like the woman from a few nights ago, and I don't defer to you. Are you familiar with the concept of the Magic Circle?

SAMAEL: I vaguely recall. Something about games?

BLOOD DOLL: It's a space where we set the rules. Inside, we talk. You there, me here. Anyone else enters, the Circle is broken. You intimidate me or I defer to you, the Circle is broken.

SAMAEL: I can still kill you.

BLOOD DOLL: The Circle is broken.

SAMAEL: Fair. (THINKS) All right. So put your clothes back on.

BLOOD DOLL: That's not our relationship.

SAMAEL: Agreed. The Circle requires your nudity.

BLOOD DOLL: (SMILES) I like that too.

SAMAEL: (SMILES) Are you saying we have a relationship?

BLOOD DOLL: I am.

SAMAEL: Good. I like being me when I'm with you. You help me to be myself.

BLOOD DOLL: When we do break the Circle, the power disparity returns. I will continue deferring to you because I cannot risk pissing you off.

SAMAEEL: I do like having you swoon over me. Yes. Let's be greedy, you and me. We can have our Circle, and our sex.

BLOOD DOLL: The Circle is sex to me.

SAMAEEL: Huh. It is to me too. Is everything with you sex?

BLOOD DOLL: (THINKS) Whenever I'm with you.

SAMAEEL: Fascinating. I love it. (BEAT) It's a shame. We must break the Circle to prepare for JOTHAM.

BLOOD DOLL: Fuuuuck.

SAMAEEL: Are you ready? Stand.

BLOOD DOLL: Okay.

/SFX/ SAMAEEL AND BLOOD DOLL STAND

BLOOD DOLL: The Circle is broken, Your Honor.

SAMAEEL: It'll still be there for us, my dear. Now, you'll be meeting with the Anarchs as a representative of the Camarilla. I'm afraid you'll have to wear that fancy dress you picked out last night.

BLOOD DOLL: Gladly, Your Honor.

SAMAEEL: First, before you go. Let me feel your breasts. I adore breasts.

BLOOD DOLL: You know you can grow your own, like these.

SAMAEEL: I've considered it. It would be a lot of work though. (CHUCKLES)

SCENE 6. — LEAVING FOR MEETING (INT: SAMAEŁ'S SITTING ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEŁ, JOTHAM

/SFX/ QUIET SUITE AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I got dressed and did my makeup for my official outing as a Camarilla representative. I mean, all the gods knew I was just a pet. But I'd hoped to be an interesting pet, at least. JOTHAM arrived a half hour after I was done. I saw him as a great bruiser of a man who filled out his coat and eyed me with utter disdain.

JOTHAM: Hmmph. She's riding with us?

SAMAEŁ: I don't see a reason for an extra car.

JOTHAM: I don't like her smell.

SAMAEŁ: I'd appreciate you not insulting her to her face.

JOTHAM: Hmmph.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I had expected no quarter from JOTHAM. Of all the Pantheon, he was the most by-the-book, straight-faced, humorless bastard of them all. We piled into SIMON's car and I took the front seat.

SCENE 7. — MEETING RIDE (INT: SAMAEAL'S CAR, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEAL, JOTHAM

/SFX/ CAR INTERIOR AMBIANCE, DRIVING

JOTHAM: They are preparing for the vote.

SAMAEAL: I know.

JOTHAM: This could be your chance.

SAMAEAL: I don't give a damn.

JOTHAM: You are Ventrue.

SAMAEAL: How little you know of me.

JOTHAM: A Ventrue who does not want to lead is like a Malkavian who makes sense.

SAMAEAL: Tell me you're disloyal to the PRINCE without telling me you're disloyal to the PRINCE.

JOTHAM: (PAUSE) We don't talk of such things here.

SAMAEAL: (PAUSE) I'm doing what I can. It doesn't help that AARALYN's accounts aren't exactly liquid now.

JOTHAM: BRIAN was a catastrophe. They want her out.

SAMAEAL: It's been too long since the Ventrue ran this city. They don't have a fucking clue how it works anymore.

JOTHAM: But you do.

SAMAEAL: I'm failed upwards as far as I want to go.

JOTHAM: Have you now.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): (PAUSE) They were silent for the rest of the ride.

SCENE 8. — WAREHOUSE MEETING (INT: ANARCH'S WAREHOUSE, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEL, JOTHAM LOREA, SIOBHAN, ARTURO

/SFX/ LARGE ECHOING WAREHOUSE AMBIANCE, DOOR CLOSSES, THREE FOOTSTEPS WALK FORWARD

BLOOD DOLL (NA): The three of us, SAMAEL, JOTHAM, and I, stepped into the warehouse where I'd been taken prisoner. It was crawling with Anarchs. In jeans, clubwear, dressed-down clothes to put us, in our fancy attire, in our place. I counted about twenty of them, sitting on crates, resting against the forklifts, all watching us and ready to throw down.

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS STOP

LOREA: Welcome, Camarilla. I'd offer you something to eat but I see you brought a snack.

JOTHAM: LOREA, it is an honor to speak with you again.

SAMAEL: My humblest apologies for my coterie's intrusion on your premises.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I kept silent.

LOREA: Before we start. BLOOD DOLL. I've set out three crates similar to the one you saw before. Tell me. Which is the TAM server in?

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I stared at the three crates laid out on the concrete floor, and I didn't have a clue.

BLOOD DOLL: None of them, Ma'am.

LOREA: (PAUSE) Correct. We've secured it at another location. I trust you won't be coming for it again.

JOTHAM: Let us stick to the agenda, if we may.

LOREA: This is our house. The Anarchs demand a guarantee that you will leave us the TAM.

JOTHAM: If you show in good faith that you will not use it against the Camarilla.

LOREA: Only in self-defense.

JOTHAM: What does that even mean, when you have decades of hatred against the Seattle Camarilla?

LOREA: I've missed you, JOTHAM.

JOTHAM: And I have not missed you. Very well. We offer five million for the return of the TAM server.

LOREA: A pittance.

JOTHAM: Seven million.

LOREA: No chance.

JOTHAM: Ten million and no more.

LOREA: Give us Capitol Hill.

JOTHAM: Not for the TAM.

LOREA: Then the TAM is not for sale.

JOTHAM: Hmm. You are aware of our predicament.

LOREA: Someone dumped a Brujah fledgling in the city morgue.

JOTHAM: And was that someone you?

LOREA: No.

JOTHAM: You don't speak for the collective.

LOREA: Fine. (SHOUTS) Did any Brujah in this warehouse Embrace anyone in the past week?

/SFX/ NO RESPONSE, FOOTSTEPS SHUFFLE

LOREA: It wasn't us.

JOTHAM: Then who?

LOREA: That's not the collective's problem.

JOTHAM: We are making it your problem. When any Kindred is discovered, it is everyone's problem.

LOREA: That's rich, with you keeping an unfettered BLOOD DOLL.

SAMAEAL: She's fettered now. And what you consider gross negligence on my part, I see as success. As a falcon, set free, that returns to one's arm.

JOTHAM: Are you jealous that you lack such a prize?

LOREA: I've had some like that. It never ends well. They remind me that humanity is untrustworthy. I trust the Camarilla more.

JOTHAM: Fine. So it is your position that the Anarchs are blameless in the coroners' deaths.

LOREA: It doesn't make any damned sense.

JOTHAM: If I was to request a census, would ARTURO be available?

LOREA: He can answer for himself.

ARTURO: I'm not working with you pieces of shit, ratting out Kindred who've done no harm.

JOTHAM: This is harm!

SIOBHAN: You've been so busy mopping up BRIAN's breach, you've lost control of downtown. We're happy to take some of that territory if you can't manage it.

SAMAEL: Oh, please. We all want the same thing here. To keep the government and the Sabbat off us.

JOTHAM: Come, SAMAEL, Our business is done.

SAMAEL: (PAUSE) Our thanks to you, Seattle Anarch collective, for your time and for your peace.

SIOBHAN: Fuck you.

ARTURO: Get out of here.

LOREA: We'll speak again, I'm sure.

/SFX/ SAMAEL, JOTHAM, AND BLOOD DOLL WALK AWAY

BLOOD DOLL (NA): (PAUSE) I followed SAMAEL and JOTHAM out from the warehouse, unsure of what the point of any of that was.

SCENE 9. — RIDE HOME (INT: SAMAEL'S CAR, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEL, JOTHAM

/SFX/ CAR INTERIOR AMBIANCE, DRIVING

JOTHAM: (PAUSE) These are your instructions, SAMAEL.

/SFX/ JOTHAM HANDS OVER A PIECE OF CRINKLY PAPER, SAMAEL OPENS IT TO
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SAMAEL: (READS) This is a show of weakness.

JOTHAM: AARALYN wants it done.

SAMAEL: (PAUSE) Anything for AARALYN.

JOTHAM: (PAUSE) I'm sure she'll thank you for your loyalty.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): (PAUSE) And once more, they were silent for the rest of the car ride.

SCENE 10. — CHAINED (INT: SAMAEŁ'S COMMON ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEŁ, AMANDA, SIMON

/SFX/ QUIET SUITE AMBIANCE, SAMAEŁ, SIMON, AND BLOOD DOLL WALK IN, CLOSE THE DOOR

SAMAEŁ: I'd like to be alone.

/SFX/ SAMAEŁ OPENS THEIR SITTING ROOM DOOR, WALKS IN, AND CLOSSES THE DOOR

AMANDA: How'd it go?

BLOOD DOLL: The Anarchs refused to sell us the TAM.

AMANDA: Uh huh.

BLOOD DOLL: And they said they didn't Embrace that fledgling who killed the coroners.

SIMON: That's strange.

AMANDA: Yeah. If they'd done it, they'd be crowing about it all night.

BLOOD DOLL: So they really didn't do it?

SIMON: They still might have. But (BEAT) it's not like them?

AMANDA: It's like us.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Why would the Camarilla poison their own well?

AMANDA: Fuck. Is this about the vote?

BLOOD DOLL: What vote? JOTHAM was talking about it in the car.

SIMON: A vote of no confidence in AARALYN.

AMANDA: It's a pretext toward replacing her as the PRINCE. The Ventrue want control of this city again.

BLOOD DOLL: And SAMAEŁ's a Ventrue.

AMANDA: Yeah. Don't let his kindness fool you. He'd burn half the city down if he had a reason to.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I know. (BEAT) Is there any food in the fridge? (BEAT) For me?

AMANDA: Sure. I got you like three flights of cheese, and the bananas and melons you asked for. Bread too, and the jam.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you. You're so good to me.

AMANDA: Well, I'm young. Relatively. And a lesbian. So I feel for you, kiddo. You got dealt a bad hand in life. If you were some cis straight chick, I wouldn't give you the time of day.

SIMON: You're all right. And I don't really like girls.

BLOOD DOLL: Like ELIJIO?

SIMON: I'm not really his thing. He thinks I'm not high class enough.

BLOOD DOLL: Do you date humans?

SIMON: Yeah, I do. And you gotta be careful with that. Because I wasn't careful.

BLOOD DOLL: What happened?

AMANDA: Oh, tell her.

SIMON: (PAUSE) You met PETER? When you were at AARALYN's.

BLOOD DOLL: Yeah. We talked. He didn't want to get to know me?

SIMON: I'm not surprised. PETER was my boyfriend. AARALYN found out. And she took him. (PAUSE) And I don't get to be with him any more.

BLOOD DOLL: Oh fuck. I'm sorry.

SIMON: Except before every party. I get to go down to the "larder," and affix jewels to him, and paint him up. And sometimes mesmerize him. And send him on his way. (PAUSE) ESTHER doesn't like it when I ask her how he's doing. (PAUSE) Look, you cannot, under any circumstances, keep any hope of staying with your girlfriend. When they find out about her, they may pull her in and give her to someone. And if you are very, very unlucky, you'll have to watch it. Every. Fucking. Month.

BLOOD DOLL: (BREATHES, SAD) What the fuck is with your Pantheon?

SIMON: They aren't all that bad. (BEAT) What am I saying?

/SFX/ SAMAEL OPENS THEIR SITTING ROOM DOOR

SAMAEL: Dearest, could you come in a moment?

BLOOD DOLL: Of course, Your Honor.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS INTO THE SITTING ROOM, AND CLOSES THE DOORS. SHE WALKS TO HIM

SAMAEL: Sit.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL SITS

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, Your Honor?

SAMAEL: I grant you your freedom. For one day. I'll deal with it. Conclude your business with the human world.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) What is to become of me, Your Honor?

SAMAEL: I'll take care of you. I'll arrange for your things to be brought here. I'll ensure you are kept occupied. I'll send you outside with AMANDA and SIMON regularly.

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

SAMAEL: It's nothing. Go. I'll have SIMON transport you to your apartment (BEAT) and this evening, he'll bring you home.

BLOOD DOLL: Am I to be your pet full-time, Your Honor?

SAMAEL: (PAUSE) I still need the Circle. We will continue to invoke it together. I'd like that. I need that. (BEAT) But to the other Kindred, yes. You must be a pet. You must be treated as a pet. You must be restrained as a pet. There is no other place for a human in my world.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) I'll cancel my lease and my phone service.

SAMAEL: Good.

BLOOD DOLL: And I'll break up with STEPHANIE.

SAMAEL: Do you need an excuse to give her?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) I'll say I have a new love. And I'm leaving to be with them.

SAMAEL: (PAUSE) Good. I'll see you when you return. I'm trusting you not to make a fool of me.

BLOOD DOLL: How could I run from a god?

SAMAEL: I wouldn't think you'd want to.

BLOOD DOLL: I don't.

SAMAEL: It's all I ask for. (BEAT) On your way.

SCENE 11. — LAST DAY (INT: BLOOD DOLL'S APARTMENT, EARLY MORNING, 3 AM)

• BLOOD DOLL, JUDITH

/SFX/ QUIET NIGHT APARTMENT INTERIOR, OCCASIONAL CAR OUTSIDE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): It was past three in the morning when I arrived at my apartment. I had my ID. I needed to sort things into piles that I did and did not want to come with me.

/SFX/ FRONT APARTMENT DOOR OPENS, BLOOD DOLL WALKS IN, SHUTS DOOR

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I had a watch around there somewhere. I needed an alarm. I had so much to do.

JUDITH: Hello, my dear.

BLOOD DOLL: (SQUEALS, CLASPS HAND OVER MOUTH)

JUDITH: You weren't supposed to leave.

BLOOD DOLL: SAMAEL said I had the day to finish my dealings with the human world.

JUDITH: Hmm. You were spotted leaving SAMAEL's place a short time ago. And I came here, to wait.

BLOOD DOLL: What can I offer you, Ma'am?

JUDITH: (PAUSE) Enjoy your day of freedom. It's a rare gift. I never got one. I was killed and then I woke up as you see me now.

BLOOD DOLL: You're magnificent, Ma'am.

JUDITH: (PAUSE) I believe you. (PAUSE) ESTHER hates you. But she hates putting up with SAMAEL's bullshit more.

BLOOD DOLL: It must be hard, keeping the peace.

JUDITH: There are those who prefer a more (BEAT) charismatic sheriff than the one they've got. (PAUSE) But I'm a bigger bitch than anyone in this town. And you'd do well to remember that, little falcon.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) You've spoken with JOTHAM.

JUDITH: Yes. I know why SAMAEL sent you away. Because you won't like him tomorrow, when you find out what he's doing. Right. Now.

BLOOD DOLL: (BREATHES) I accept whatever it is. It's part of the job.

JUDITH: Spoken as a true accomplice. I can't wait to see what SAMAEL makes of you.

BLOOD DOLL: (BREATHES, SWALLOWS) Am I to live to see him again, Ma'am?

JUDITH: (PAUSE) You are. I should be off, then.

/SFX/ SOUND WARBLER FOR A SECOND

BLOOD DOLL (NA): And she was gone. The room swam for a second. And then stabilized while I tasted a hint of strawberry flavoring in my mouth. (BEAT) I didn't know what to do. I couldn't contact SAMAEL. So I went to bed. I found the old watch, set my alarm, and barely went under before it rang in the morning.

SFX/ QUIET NIGHT APARTMENT INTERIOR, MORNING, BIRDS AND NEIGHBORS

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I showered, dressed. Made a quick pile of things I wanted to take with me. Ran to the property management office. Arranged to end my lease at the soonest I was able to. I figured SAMAEL would pay for it, for my services rendered every night from then on.

SFX/ EXTERIOR, DOWNTOWN AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I went downtown to my phone's store and canceled service for a phone I had broken with my bare hands. (SIGHS) And then, there was STEPHANIE.

SCENE 12. — GOODBYE TO ROMANCE (INT: STEPHANIE'S HALLWAY, LATE MORNING)

• BLOOD DOLL, STEPHANIE

/SFX/ QUIET NIGHT HALLWAY INTERIOR, MUFFLED NEIGHBORS LISTENING TO TV

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL KNOCKS ON HER DOOR, STEPHANIE OPENS THE DOOR

STEPHANIE: Hey.

BLOOD DOLL: Hey.

STEPHANIE: You're up early.

BLOOD DOLL: I wanted to talk.

STEPHANIE: Yeah. Come in.

BLOOD DOLL: Thanks.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS IN, STEPHANIE SHUTS THE DOOR

STEPHANIE: What's going on?

BLOOD DOLL: I'm going away.

STEPHANIE: On a trip?

BLOOD DOLL: I can't tell you.

STEPHANIE: Is this part of the NDA?

BLOOD DOLL: I (PAUSE) can't see you anymore.

STEPHANIE: (PAUSE, FLOORED) Okay.

BLOOD DOLL: I didn't want to ghost you.

STEPHANIE: It sure sounds like you're ghosting someone.

BLOOD DOLL: I wouldn't. I (BREATHES) don't want to see you again.

STEPHANIE: (PAUSE) Well, fuck you.

BLOOD DOLL: Yeah. (BEAT) We're done.

STEPHANIE: Like that, huh?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Yeah.

STEPHANIE: What brought this on?

BLOOD DOLL: I can't explain it.

STEPHANIE: First you're going on about this fantastic job you have? And now you're just going to fucking disappear? And fuck me off too?

BLOOD DOLL: That's how it is.

STEPHANIE: You know, I'll have to call the cops on you? File a missing person's report. I'll do it.

BLOOD DOLL: They won't find me.

STEPHANIE: This is some crime shit, isn't it? Where the fuck are they taking you?

BLOOD DOLL: They're not.

STEPHANIE: Then what the fuck is happening? (NEAR TEARS) You were fine a couple days ago. And now you're telling me to fuck off. Tell me the goddamn truth. Are you going to be okay?

BLOOD DOLL: You can't change what's going to happen.

STEPHANIE: Will you be okay?

BLOOD DOLL: No.

STEPHANIE: I'm calling the cops.

BLOOD DOLL: STEPH.

STEPHANIE: Fuck. You.

BLOOD DOLL: I want this.

STEPHANIE: Really? Because it's sounding like a crime or a cult thing or something worse.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm sugaring.

STEPHANIE: (PAUSE) You don't know shit about sex work.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm going away with her. Don't follow me. Don't ruin this.

STEPHANIE: (PAUSE) Okay. (PAUSE) If the money's that important, I guess.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you.

STEPHANIE: I mean, you're in your thirties. I don't know how you got into that.

BLOOD DOLL: I can't say. I'm just going away.

STEPHANIE: (PAUSE) Will I see you again? Ever?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) I don't know. You might.

STEPHANIE: Should I pretend I don't know you?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) That would be for the best.

STEPHANIE: (SNIFFS) Fuck.

BLOOD DOLL: I have to go.

STEPHANIE: Okay. (BEAT) I'm telling your friends.

BLOOD DOLL: I can't stop you.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL OPENS THE DOOR

BLOOD DOLL: Goodbye.

STEPHANIE: (PAUSE) Later.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS OUT, AND SHUTS THE DOOR

SCENE 13. — LAST COFFEE (EXT: DOWNTOWN SEATTLE, AFTERNOON)

• BLOOD DOLL, NEWS ANNOUNCER

/SFX/ CITY AMBIANCE, PEOPLE WALKING, BUSES RUNNING

BLOOD DOLL (NA): The city's different, in the day. Without a phone, it's just you and the moments crawling by. I bought a cup of coffee and finished it in fifteen minutes. But I couldn't. Help. Noticing. What the people. In the coffee shops. On the street. In the parks. In the outdoor seating. Were all talking about.

NEWS ANNOUNCER: Police are still investigating the arson attack that burned down the Brisbane dance club in Sodo. A mainstay of Seattle's nightlife, cameras showed arsonists setting the club on fire after three in the morning. Of the forty-seven people inside, only seventeen escaped, and twelve others with critical injuries.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): Sodo. Not Krafthaus. A Sodo night club. Where the Anarchs operated. Where many of them got their meals. The Camarilla hit them where it hurt.

SAMAE: (REPEAT OF LINE 753, REVERB) This is a show of weakness.

JOTHAM: (REPEAT OF LINE 754, REVERB) AARALYN wants it done.

BLOOD DOLL: Fuck.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): (PAUSE) I had my last cup of coffee, my last cinnamon roll, my last bahn mi sandwich, and my last boba, under my last free day in the sunshine. I went back to my apartment, cleaned up, sorted some more things, and was out front for Simon before he arrived.

SCENE 14. — LAST DAY (EXT: FRONT OF BLOOD DOLL'S APARTMENT, EVENING)

• BLOOD DOLL, SIMON

/SFX/ SIDEWALK AMBIANCE, CAR PULLS UP, DOOR OPENS

SIMON: This is it.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) I'm ready.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL GETS IN THE CAR, DOOR CLOSSES, INTERIOR AMBIANCE

SIMON: How was your day?

BLOOD DOLL: Fine. (BEAT) The pile in the middle of the apartment can come.

SIMON: I'll let SAMAEEL know.

/SFX/ CAR STARTS

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Can we keep one window down on the way to his place?

SIMON: (SAD) Sure.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, Sir.

SIMON: Of course.

/SFX/ A WINDOW ROLLS DOWN, CAR DRIVES OFF, ALL SOUND CUTS OFF

BLOOD DOLL (NA): And then I became a kept woman. But it was okay. I knew my place.

SCENE 15. — NEW HOME (INT: SAMAEŁ'S SITTING ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEŁ

/SFX/ QUIET SUITE AMBIANCE, BLOOD DOLL WALKS IN, CLOSES DOOR

SAMAEŁ: Oh, don't look so dour. I'm sure you have a long, fruitful life ahead of you.

BLOOD DOLL: I invoke the Circle.

SAMAEŁ: All right.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND SAMAEŁ EACH WALK TO THEIR SEATS AND SIT

BLOOD DOLL: So we're to become roommates.

SAMAEŁ: I mentioned I can get you another space if you need variety. Notice we put the heat on for you. AMANDA, SIMON, and I. We don't need it. It's skyrocketing my utility bill.

BLOOD DOLL: We're going to argue. We're going to get sick of each other.

SAMAEŁ: We'll give each other space. I'm in this for the long haul. You're the one who's going to grow old and die. And then I'll have to keep on after that. This is why most Kindred-human relationships don't work out.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) You torched the Brisbane club in Sodo.

SAMAEŁ: (LOW) And I can't have the Anarchs finding out.

BLOOD DOLL: (BREATHES, SIGHS) Did any Kindred die?

SAMAEŁ: No. And the Anarchs would have been in AARALYN's chambers if they had.

BLOOD DOLL: I heard almost twenty humans died.

SAMAEŁ: Why do you care?

BLOOD DOLL: I don't. (BEAT) And that's fucked up. (BEAT) In some ways, I feel like I'm already dead.

SAMAEŁ: Do you know what? I get up every evening. And I feel exactly the same way.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm becoming a monster.

SAMAEŁ: You're adapting to my world.

BLOOD DOLL: I told STEPHANIE I was sugaring for an older person.

SAMAEŁ: (BEAT) I wouldn't call it that.

BLOOD DOLL: You know I like what we do.

SAMAEL: It absolutely thrills me.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) It was hard. (PAUSE) I don't think she'll come hunting after me.

SAMAEL: Then that's sorted, isn't it?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) JUDITH was at my apartment when I went in.

SAMAEL: (BEAT) What did she want?

BLOOD DOLL: I don't know. She hypnotized me, and she was gone.

SAMAEL: Hmm. I don't see any new marks on you. At least, marks that AMANDA and I hadn't made. I'll keep an eye on you, though. The good news is that I have excellent senses and nothing concerning is drawing my attention.

BLOOD DOLL: You're very good to me.

SAMAEL: And you're very good for me, too. May I kiss you?

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, I'd like that.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL STANDS, WALKS TO SAMAEL, THEY KISS

SAMAEL: And might I have a taste?

BLOOD DOLL: Please.

/SFX/ SAMAEL PIERCES HER NECK, DRINKS, AND LICKS HER

SAMAEL: Very nice.

BLOOD DOLL: Should we start our conversation tonight?

SAMAEL: Talk? No, we're going out!

BLOOD DOLL: Already?

SAMAEL: Don't you want to see my club? The Krafthaus?

BLOOD DOLL: I (SURPRISED) do.

SAMAEL: Fantastic. I'll comp your drinks, but don't go overboard. I'd prefer not to have to carry you home.

BLOOD DOLL: Uh.

SAMAEL: We can stop by a shop on the way and get you some clubwear. What do you like? Patent leather? Latex?

BLOOD DOLL: Didn't you just burn down the Anarch's club?

SAMAE: Well, they don't know that. And they have other clubs. And bars. So many bars in Georgetown.

BLOOD DOLL: Shouldn't we expect retribution tonight?

SAMAE: That's why we'll be there. Me, JOTHAM, ELIJIO, my coterie, JUDITH's coterie. Firebombing the club would be one thing. Trying to kill a quarter of the Camarilla would be open war.

BLOOD DOLL: And the TAM server?

SAMAE: Their nuclear solution? Better to use it where we aren't expecting it. I'm going to have the place crawling with security.

BLOOD DOLL: This feels like a bad idea.

SAMAE: On the contrary. With war on the line and everything on the edge of falling apart, it is time to dance! Put some clothes on. Get your coat.

BLOOD DOLL: Are you sure?

SAMAE: The Circle's broken! Power disparity's back. Dearest, I order you to dress, get your coat, go out with me tonight, and have an utterly fabulous time. Tell me no. You can't do it!

BLOOD DOLL: I (PAUSE) Yes, Your Honor. I can't.

SAMAE: Come on then. This is what it's like to live in our world. This is how monsters celebrate!

SCENE 16. — CLUB (INT: KRAFTHAUS CLUB, MAIN ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEL, ELIJIO, AMANDA, JOTHAM

/SFX/ CLUB TRACKS PLAYING, WALLA OF PEOPLE CHATTING, DRINKING

SAMAEL: (@00:00:04) Ah! My pride and joy! Welcome to the Krafthaus. I'll tell you, after three hundred years, they couldn't invent neon and the LED fast enough.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND SAMAEL WALK TOGETHER

BLOOD DOLL: This is a COVID outbreak waiting to happen.

SAMAEL: Yes, but you have your pretty mask on and it's early in the night.

BLOOD DOLL: The mask is to protect others from me.

SAMAEL: Listen! Listen! Ah! I know this one! Come on!

BLOOD DOLL: Okay?

SAMAEL: To the dance floor!

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND SAMAEL HURRY TO THE DANCE FLOOR

SAMAEL: Look at this space! All of it for us! Are you ready?

BLOOD DOLL: For what?

SAMAEL: Our moment to shine! Follow my lead! (LISTENS TO MUSIC, @00:00:29 ON BEAT) One, two, three, four. One, two, three, four. (OFF BEAT) Oh yes. Give me your hands.

BLOOD DOLL: Here.

SAMAEL: (ON BEAT) Ready? And twirl!

BLOOD DOLL: Aaah!

SAMAEL: (LAUGHS) Never been twirled before?

BLOOD DOLL: No!

SAMAEL: You did wonderful! Truly! (@00:00:45 ON BEAT) One, two, three, four. One, two, three, four. (OFF BEAT) Ready? We're trying something new. (ON BEAT) Start! Step out. Step in. Like me. Out. Then in.

BLOOD DOLL: Yeah! (ON BEAT) Out. Then in.

SAMAEL: You're getting it! You're getting it! Now do what your heart wants!

BLOOD DOLL: Woooow! (DANCES) Olè! (LAUGHS)

SAMAEL: You got it! That's right! That's right! (@00:01:07 ON BEAT) Left. Right. Left. Right. (OFF BEAT) You're getting it! You've got it! My darling!

BLOOD DOLL: (@00:01:15 ON BEAT) In. And out. In. And out. (SEDUCTIVELY) And in. And in. And in. And in.

SAMAEL: Yes, my darling. Oh, you're so fucking close. I love it. Follow my lead. You're so good at that. (@00:01:30 ON BEAT) Back. Back. Toward. Toward. Back. Back. Toward. Toward. Now dip. And dip. And dip. And dip. (OFF BEAT) I've got you! It's all right! (ON BEAT) Now up! And up! And pose! And hold! (OFF BEAT) Lovely! Absolutely lovely! (@00:01:45) Now grind. Grind me like I know your Beast wants to. Let's make them all jealous. Everybody fucking watching. They know what we've got, love. I know what we've got. Each other. Now, dip me.

BLOOD DOLL: You're sure?

SAMAEL: Quite sure!

BLOOD DOLL: Okay! (@00:02:00 ON BEAT) Dip. And dip. And dip. And dip. And up. And up. And up. And up. (LAUGHS)

SAMAEL: That's right. You've got me. Oh, I could spend forever in your arms. This fucking dance floor!

BLOOD DOLL: Do the opposite of me!

SAMAEL: Yes!

BLOOD DOLL: (@00:02:15 EVERY TWO BEATS) And left. And right. And left. And right.

SAMAEL: You taunt. You tease.

BLOOD DOLL: Now together!

SAMAEL: Got me! Fucking hell! Your arms, dear! In your arms! (ON BEAT) One, two, three, four. One, two, three, four.

BLOOD DOLL: (ON BEAT) Sway. And sway. And sway. And sway.

SAMAEL: (OFF BEAT) Mask off? I want to kiss.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND SAMAEL KISS

SAMAEL: This is primordial magic. It must be. We share it. It's ours...

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL INTERRUPTS SAMAEL, KISSING THEM AND THEN RELEASING

BLOOD DOLL: (@00:02:45) Kissing you is weird when you don't breathe.

SAMAEL: My dear, it's because you took my breath away.

BLOOD DOLL: (SNERK LAUGHS AT HOW BAD THAT WAS)

SAMAEL: I can dine off cheese, too, once in a while!

BLOOD DOLL: Let's dance more!

SAMAEL: Closer, please. Closer. I want to feel you as you feel me. Just sway. Sway to the beat. Come even closer. Like the first time I fed on you.

BLOOD DOLL: We could only get any closer if you were inside me.

SAMAEL: In due time.

BLOOD DOLL: (SWAYS, CLOSE, THINKS) Sometimes I wish I could feed off you.

SAMAEL: You know the consequences.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm not asking to.

SAMAEL: I know. I too wish we could share experiences. (PAUSE) Someday.

BLOOD DOLL: Someday.

SAMAEL: I wish you could see your eyes sparkling, dearest.

BLOOD DOLL: But then I couldn't see yours. (BEAT) I'd ask you to twirl but I'm not letting you go.

SAMAEL: Nor should you.

BLOOD DOLL: Is this a dance anymore?

SAMAEL: We're always dancing. You and I. It's just that, regrettably, there is music only some of the time.

BLOOD DOLL: A kiss can be a song.

SAMAEL: Then let's compose.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND SAMAEL KISS

SAMAEL: What name would you give that composition?

BLOOD DOLL: The finest beginning I could hope for. Given the circumstances.

SAMAEL: It's not "Clair de Lune" but it will do.

BLOOD DOLL: (LAUGHS)

SAMAEL: Mmm. You haven't called me "Your Honor" once on the dance floor.

BLOOD DOLL: Nope.

SAMAE: (@00:03:52) This is our Circle. Among the lights. Among the music. Among the electric air. I'm yours here in a way I cannot be outside.

BLOOD DOLL: (BREATHES IN) Mine.

SAMAE: Yours. Please.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND SAMAE KISS DEEPLY

BLOOD DOLL: (SEPARATES, PANTS)

SAMAE: Was that weird?

BLOOD DOLL: No. Not when I'm filling you with my breath.

SAMAE: Fucking hell, CASSANDRA. Fill me more.

BLOOD DOLL: (SMILING) In good time.

SAMAE: No time like the present.

BLOOD DOLL: (DOMINANT) You're so insistent, aren't you.

SAMAE: I can't stand to be without your taste. I can't stand to be outside of you. You are more than nectar to me. More than ambrosia. You are the balm for all that vexes me. When I picture the fire within me, it is you who stokes it.

BLOOD DOLL: (VERY DOMINANT) And this delights me.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND SAMAE HOLD EACH OTHER CLOSE

ELIJIO: (PAUSE) Pardon me. Mind if I cut in?

SAMAE: ELIJIO. My love. You couldn't wait until she was done with me?

ELIJIO: The two of you are so fucking hot. Would you mind leaving me this dance with SAMAE, BLOOD DOLL? I so rarely get to see him nowadays.

BLOOD DOLL: He's all yours.

SAMAE: Thank you, DOLL. Have a great time! There's condoms in the VIP suite if you need them!

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS OFF DANCE FLOOR TO BAR

BLOOD DOLL: (TO BARTENDER) Excuse me? Could I get an AMF? Thank you. I don't have any cash. He's paying for... oh, you already know.

/SFX/ BARTENDER MAKES AN AMF, PASSES IT TO HER

BLOOD DOLL: Thanks!

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL DRINKS

AMANDA: I see you're having a good time.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm still getting my breath back.

AMANDA: I see fireworks and unicorns in your eyes. You've got the halleluia chorus playing on repeat in your head, right?

BLOOD DOLL: I'm learning so much about SAMAEEL and me.

AMANDA: You know, (BEAT) I can only afford this place when SAMAEEL comps my ticket. Look at all these fucking cis straights. Do you or I look like someone who belongs here?

BLOOD DOLL: Yeah. It really isn't my scene.

AMANDA: I know you're utterly entranced by everything SAMAEEL does for you. But you should know, not every Kindred's got a high rise and a bank account large enough to be the bank's problem. You just lucked out. I couldn't afford you.

BLOOD DOLL: Come on. You're a dyke. You know how cheap I really am.

AMANDA: Yeah, and I'm old school. Sixties and seventies. Butches. Femmes. Plenty of transsexuals. Excuse me. Transgender folks. Like you. Sore spot for a lot of old dykes. Especially if you didn't have the, uh, GRS.

BLOOD DOLL: I came out in college. Boston. Lotta queer shit going on there, but they still had the dyke marches.

AMANDA: Hell yeah. I'd love to attend one of them if they weren't during daylight.

BLOOD DOLL: Think you'll ever be rich like him?

AMANDA: Oh, I'm saving my pennies. Maybe when I'm twice his age. (CHUCKLES) He started with money. I didn't. I don't think it changes much, over the centuries. I know we may be gods to you. But in the Pantheon, I'm the shit under SAMAEEL's boot.

BLOOD DOLL: That's how he treats you?

AMANDA: Oh, he treats us fine. He's a better boss than most of the others. He knows what's going on.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Are you dating anyone?

AMANDA: Like who? Humans? Yeah. A bit. It gets dicey after a while, though. They look me up on Instagram and find pictures of me going back (BEAT) a ways, looking like I am now? I gotta be careful. Careful is lonely. You want to know why we end up with so many Kindred? Who the fuck else are we going to date?

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

AMANDA: (PAUSE) You're the boss' pet. (PAUSE) I don't want to make it weird with him.

BLOOD DOLL: He won't mind.

AMANDA: (BEAT) I'm good.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) The offer stands. You're pretty.

AMANDA: (PAUSE) Heh. Don't let the other butches hear you called me that.

/SFX/ AMANDA WALKS AWAY, BLOOD DOLL WALKS THE OTHER DIRECTION, POV
FOLLOWS BLOOD DOLL, SHE DOESN'T NOTICE PASSING BY JOTHAM AT THE
BAR

JOTHAM: Human. Come here.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, Sir?

JOTHAM: (PAUSE) It can be "Sir," if you want. "JOTHAM" also works.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Thank you, Sir.

JOTHAM: What the fuck are you doing here? What the fuck is SAMAEEL doing here?

BLOOD DOLL: Dancing?

JOTHAM: He's flaunting himself. Flaunting you.

BLOOD DOLL: Flaunting ELIJIO now.

JOTHAM: AARALYN keeps ELIJIO busy. After what happened with SAMAEEL's sire. He tell you about that?

BLOOD DOLL: No.

JOTHAM: Hmm. (THINKS) You like this fucking city?

BLOOD DOLL: Seattle, Sir?

JOTHAM: Are we in another fucking city?

BLOOD DOLL: No, Sir. This is where the queers are so, this is where I am. The city's fine. Gum wall. Lenin statue. Good punk scene.

JOTHAM: Anyone tell you I used to be an Anarch?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) No, Sir.

JOTHAM: (PAUSE) I miss Chicago. I had some good friends there. I'd like to move back someday. When AARALYN's done with me.

BLOOD DOLL: You can't just leave, Sir?

JOTHAM: Can you? Door's open over there. Knock yourself out.

BLOOD DOLL: I wouldn't.

JOTHAM: You get it. You keep your head down in this business. You do the job, enjoying what you can. (PAUSE) Next time he wants you to fuck him on my desk, tell him it will be the last fucking place you ever fuck someone. You understand me?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Yes, Sir.

JOTHAM: Go. Have a good time. Do whatever. Stay out of my business.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, Sir.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS AWAY, ELIJIO APPROACHES

ELIJIO: Hey.

BLOOD DOLL: What is it?

ELIJIO: Trouble. Fucking idiots. Get in the VIP suite.

BLOOD DOLL: Okay.

ELIJIO: Go. Of all the places they could be, this is the stupidest.

/SFX/ ELIJIO WALKS AWAY FAST, SAMAEL APPROACHES

BLOOD DOLL: Hon?

SAMAEL: You heard ELIJIO. In the back.

BLOOD DOLL: Will you be okay?

SAMAEL: Given how many of them there are, I'm guessing, no. Looks like they want a war.

BLOOD DOLL: Stay safe.

SAMAEL: Impossible in my line of work. Go!

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS AWAY, SUDDENLY SHE STOPS AS JOTHAM CLAMPS A HAND ON HER SHOULDER

JOTHAM: Plans changed.

BLOOD DOLL: What the hell?

JOTHAM: We need you outside.

BLOOD DOLL: SAMAEL said I need to get in the back.

JOTHAM: (VOICE DROPS) Did it look like I was asking?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) No, Sir.

/SFX/ JOTHAM LEADS BLOOD DOLL OUT FROM THE CLUB

SCENE 17. — SOLD (EXT: STREET OUTSIDE KRAFTHAUS CLUB, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEL, ELIJIO, LOREA, JOTHAM

/SFX/ MUTED CLUB TRACKS PLAYING, WALLA OF PEOPLE ON STREET, HIGHWAY
AMBIANCE IN DISTANCE

/SFX/ JOTHAM AND BLOOD DOLL WALK OUTSIDE

LOREA: You can make this easy.

SAMAEL: She's not on offer.

ELIJIO: Do we have to call out our boon to make you go away?

LOREA: You'd spend it for a human?

JOTHAM: She's right here.

/SFX/ JOTHAM TOSSES BLOOD DOLL ON THE SIDEWALK

BLOOD DOLL: What the fuck?

JOTHAM: Shut it.

SAMAEL: JOTHAM. Take her back inside.

JOTHAM: Look around us. Top of that apartment complex. Behind those cars. Around the corners. We are hopelessly (BEAT) outnumbered.

SAMAEL: But she hasn't brought the TAM. The server. You can't get it running, can you? Or do you fear it more than us?

LOREA: Either are your problem now.

SAMAEL: You're not fucking taking her.

JOTHAM: She's yours.

BLOOD DOLL: I am not.

SAMAEL: She's not.

LOREA: You want to throw down with me, SAMAEL?

ELIJIO: There's people watching us with cameras. (LOW) You want another breach?

LOREA: The fight doesn't happen here. But it happens somewhere, if we don't leave with her.

JOTHAM: Take her.

BLOOD DOLL: Fuck you.

SAMAEL: JOTHAM.

JOTHAM: We cannot. Afford. A war.

SAMAEL: I go with her.

LOREA: No. You know where she's going.

SAMAEL: I'll risk it.

LOREA: Even if you want to. The answer is no. We leave with her. Or this starts.

SAMAEL: (LONG PAUSE) You'll return her.

LOREA: Not if she's useful. She's safe with us. I guarantee that as part of my debt to you.

SAMAEL: Fuck my debt. You intend to kill us all! JOTHAM. We're giving them the nuclear codes.

JOTHAM: Consider her payment for SAMAEL's coterie burning down your club.

SAMAEL: (VERY LONG SEETHING PAUSE) LOREA. I call in my boon. She comes back.

LOREA: (SMIRKS) All right. She comes back. Her body, at least.

SAMAEL: (TO BLOOD DOLL) Hey. Love. Go with them. Don't make a scene. Protect me as I will be protecting you.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Okay.

/SFX/ A CAR DOOR OPENS. BLOOD DOLL STANDS

LOREA: We aren't going far. You look lovely by the way.

BLOOD DOLL: Get fucked.

SAMAEL: JOTHAM.

JOTHAM: Not a word.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL CLIMBS IN CAR, AND DOOR SHUTS

SCENE 18. — TAM REBORN (INT: EMPTY STORAGE ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, LOREA, TAM

/SFX/ QUIET AMBIANCE, HUM OF WAREHOUSE OUTSIDE, DOOR OPENS

/SFX/ LOREA FORCES BLOOD DOLL INTO THE ROOM

LOREA: Inside. Please.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I recognize the TAM server over there.

LOREA: I want you to turn it on.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) And then?

LOREA: Keep it running at least two minutes. If you survive that long, turn it off and we'll set you free.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you.

LOREA: These cameras are recording everything. We'll catch your progress. Whatever happens to you.

BLOOD DOLL: So you're not staying?

LOREA: And let it tear the blood out of me? Ha. You survived it, though. (BEAT) I wonder why.

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

LOREA: Its tank is down a hundred milliliters. I can draw your blood if you want me to.

BLOOD DOLL: I've done it before.

LOREA: All right. Knock yourself out. (BEAT) I'm locking the door until you complete the job. Don't worry about banging on it. We'll let you out when it's time.

BLOOD DOLL: (SIGHS)

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS TO THE TANK, TIES THE RUBBER STRIP TO HER ARM,
PREPARES THE NEEDLE AND INSERTS THE PHLEBOTOMY TUBE IN HER ELBOW

/SFX/ BLOOD DRIZZLES INTO THE TANK

LOREA: Good. Start when you're ready.

/SFX/ LOREA WALKS OUT AND SLAMS THE DOOR BEHIND HER

BLOOD DOLL: Fuck.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL FINISHES FILLING THE TANK, REMOVES THE TUBE FROM HER
ARM, AND WRAPS VET WRAP AROUND THE INSERTION POINT

BLOOD DOLL: All right. Hi, cameras. You're watching me. The tank's full. I'm turning on the TAM now.

/SFX/ LONG PAUSE, BLOOD DOLL FLICKS THE POWER SWITCH

BLOOD DOLL: Please don't work.

/SFX/ SERVER BOOTS UP

BLOOD DOLL: (PANTS)

TAM: Transmigrated Artificial Masterintelligence online.

BLOOD DOLL: (CATCHES HER BREATH)

TAM: (PAUSE) Online. (PAUSE) Online.

BLOOD DOLL: (BREATHES)

TAM: (LONG PAUSE) What is your query? (PAUSE) What is your query?

BLOOD DOLL: (BREATHES)

TAM: A query is mandated to continue. (PAUSE) What is your query?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Deus ex machina.

-END-