

Blood Doll Script, v1

Episode 7: “Banish the Blood Doll”

by Alicia E. Goranson

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Approximate playing time: 1 Hour, 15 minutes

CAST OF CHARACTERS

BLOOD DOLL (CASSANDRA DAVRIL)	30-something trans woman, femme, main character
SAMAEL (GEORGE GATAKER)	Ventruer, masc, vassal of Seattle prince AARALYN
SOPHIA	Ventruer, Seattle prince, 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
LOREA	Cult of Set Non-Believer, femme, SODO Anarch community organizer
SIOBHAN	Gangrel, femme, full time mutual aid provider, SODO Anarch community resource distributor
NAVAL LIAISON	Naval liaison for Kitsap base, femme
RACHEL	AARALYN's former Blood Doll, femme
PETER	AARALYN's former Blood Doll, masc
NICHOLE	Kindred, femme, BLOOD DOLL's girlfriend
ZACHERY	Thin Blood, any gender
LAUGHING SABBAT	Fascist Sabbat, any gender
STEPHANIE	30-something human trans woman, BLOOD DOLL's ex-girlfriend
CYNTHIA	Thin Blood, any gender
SILVER	Anarch, 30s-40s
MILDRED	Kindred, JASON's sire
ARTURO	Malkavian, masc, SODO Anarch community protector, “guard dog,”

excellent watcher

SECURITY

Member of Krafthaus/Harbinger's security team

SCENE 1. — TIME SKIP (EXT: STREET OUTSIDE HARBINGER'S CLUB, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SAMAEL

/SFX/ CITY AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL(NA): It had been two years since SAMAEL was taken to Kitsap base. Two long years, achingly slow at first. And then the nights went faster as it became the new normal to live my life without them. The war between the Camarilla and the Anarchs continued for two months. Once the sides were sick of fighting, they drew up new territory. The Anarchs took the Central District. The Camarilla retained downtown and most of North Seattle. Capitol Hill remained a point of contention, but not one anyone was willing to fight for anymore. Despite it all, I continued running Harbinger's. I sent both sides their money. I stayed away from their courts to avoid giving intel to either side. I lived alone in SAMAEL's rooms. I had no loves. Sometimes I took guests from the club home for sex. But it was a profoundly lonely time. I cannot express how my heart sang once the truce was established after two months of war, and I could let my Kindred patrons back into the club.

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

BLOOD DOLL (NA): From then on, at least twice a week, I joined my own line into Harbinger's. I admired the artwork, chatted with other people about their lives, until I reached the feeding chamber. The bouncers knew what to expect, and did not search me. I simply waited for the lights to go out.

/SFX/ SOUND CUTS OUT

BLOOD DOLL: Whoever you are, Kindred, do not mesmerize me. Do your work. I submit (BEAT) willingly.

/SFX/ KINDRED BITES HER, DRINKS, LICKS HER

BLOOD DOLL (NA): And when they drank me, I would feel SAMAEL's clawed hands around my waist, their mouth on my neck, and sometimes...

SAMAEL: (ECHOING) That's my girl. Lovely.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): Sometimes I would even hear them.

/SFX/ SWITCH ON, CLUB TRACKS PLAYING, WALLA OF PEOPLE IN CLUB

BLOOD DOLL (NA): And then, I would return to my work. Because there is nowhere we can stay forever, except our own prisons.

SCENE 2. — EVERYDAY HARBINGER'S PART 1 (INT: HARBINGER MAIN ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SECURITY

/SFX/ CROWD WALLA, MUSIC PUMPING, BLOOD DOLL WALKS IN, STOPS

BLOOD DOLL: Evening, LARRY.

SECURITY: Good evening, Miss DAVRIL.

BLOOD DOLL: Just so you know, there's a new trend among the influencers where they try to stick things to our ceiling dragon. You catch anyone trying that, explain that I want to see them. And bring them to me.

SECURITY: You got it. (BEAT) Hey, I was wondering if I can take next Saturday night off.

BLOOD DOLL: We need everyone on shift then. What's happening?

SECURITY: Well, we can't all be as dedicated to the club as you are. You didn't hear it from me, but some of the guys have a bet going that you sleep in the office.

BLOOD DOLL: I assure you, I sleep somewhere far away from this place.

SECURITY: If you say so. (BEAT) Anyway, I'd like the day to take my kid to the beach.

BLOOD DOLL: Sure. Your toddler, right? How's he doing?

SECURITY: On his feet for about ten seconds before he goes down.

BLOOD DOLL: Coordination doesn't come easy.

SECURITY: I appreciate seeing him try.

BLOOD DOLL: You have a good shift.

SECURITY: Crowd seems kinda light tonight.

BLOOD DOLL: We'll get some new cocktails in. That livens up the place a bit.

SECURITY: I love handling more drunk people. (BEAT) Later.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS AWAY

SCENE 3. — EVERYDAY HARBINGER'S PART 2 (INT: HARBINGER KINDRED BASEMENT, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, ARTURO, MILDRED

/SFX/ CROWD WALLA, MUSIC PUMPING MUFFLED

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS DOWN STAIRS, STOPS

BLOOD DOLL: Evening, MILDRED. ARTURO.

MILDRED: CASSANDRA.

ARTURO: Hey, Miss DAVRIL.

BLOOD DOLL: Brunch rush is over, I see.

MILDRED: There's a few trickling in.

BLOOD DOLL: It's sure been a hot one out there. (BEAT) ARTURO, what have you been playing?

ARTURO: (PAUSE) Vampire Survivors.

BLOOD DOLL: Ah.

ARTURO: (BEAT) It's hard to stop playing it.

BLOOD DOLL: Just as long as it's on your downtime, that's fine.

MILDRED: How's your downtime going?

BLOOD DOLL: NICHOLE and I are fine.

ARTURO: Cool. What are you doing with her now?

BLOOD DOLL: Uh...

SCENE 4. — NICHOLE'S SALON (INT: NICHOLE'S APARTMENT, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, NICHOLE

/SFX/ _____ APARTMENT AMBIANCE, LIGHT WIND AND TRAFFIC OUTSIDE

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Are Kindred evil? (BEAT) Does “evil” even exist outside of human notions of bad morals and ethics?

NICHOLE: Go on.

BLOOD DOLL: Isaiah 45:7 says, “I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light and create darkness. I make peace and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.”

NICHOLE: So evil is a deliberate choice from God?

BLOOD DOLL: If we assume an Abrahamic God exists, then you and all Kindred are their creation. No evil exists without God’s consent.

NICHOLE: Then as I am a Kindred, I am set up to lose? If all is predestined, I’m just a pin to be struck down. If not, I’m still an example of what not to do in the universe. I don’t like either. I laugh. I love. And aren’t humans still sinners in the hands of an angry God?

BLOOD DOLL: Early Kabbalah considered evil to be God’s intrusive thoughts that escaped. Imagine you’re developing a language. You create the words, “God is great.” But then you have to consider the possibility of “God is not great.” And then it slips from your mind into the world. Imagine the chaos it would cause.

NICHOLE: If I could manifest everything I thought about, I would scare every lover I have.

BLOOD DOLL: I’m scared of you. And yet I sit here before you, naked, pouring out my soul to you.

NICHOLE: Do humans even have souls? I can have a dialogue with my Beast. But you can’t speak with something that connects you to the cosmos.

BLOOD DOLL: Perhaps I don’t have a soul. Perhaps I’m the more evil of the two of us.

NICHOLE: Oh, you want to have an evil-off? An evil competition?

BLOOD DOLL: I would beat you in a heartbeat.

NICHOLE: Okay. With one caveat. It is not evil (BEAT) if you feel guilt about it. I’m talking pure evil acts. No regrets.

BLOOD DOLL: Fuck you.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): NICHOLE and I had been dating for about four months. She moved to Seattle from St. Louis to avoid drama she didn’t want to talk about. I had made it a policy to introduce myself to every Kindred on their first visit to Harbinger’s. NICHOLE and I hit it off pretty fast. At first, I was too embarrassed to ask her for my own secret wish. To continue SAMAEAL’s salons with someone. She picked up on my

reticence and once I'd confessed it to her, she was intrigued. I gave her a challenge, and she relished it.

NICHOLE: Well? The most evil thing you've ever done without regrets.

BLOOD DOLL: I killed a Kindred.

NICHOLE: With your own hands?

BLOOD DOLL: With help. But I orchestrated it.

NICHOLE: I'm calling bullshit.

BLOOD DOLL: Excuse me?

NICHOLE: You don't strike me as the killer type.

BLOOD DOLL: You can ask any of the Kindred who were here two years ago. It's an open secret.

NICHOLE: No. I believe you. I just don't think it counts as evil.

BLOOD DOLL: It felt fairly evil to me.

NICHOLE: Was it in self-defense?

BLOOD DOLL: Partially. (BEAT) It was also revenge.

NICHOLE: Would you have done it if it was purely revenge?

BLOOD DOLL: Maybe? I certainly wanted to.

NICHOLE: Okay. But that's like a six out of ten on the evil scale. If that's the best you can do, I'm sorry. I out-eviled you with breakfast this evening.

BLOOD DOLL: Bitch.

NICHOLE: And you love it. I'm breaking the Circle. Get over here and let me kiss you.

BLOOD DOLL: It better be the most evil kiss I've ever had.

NICHOLE: It'll be up there. Teeth and everything.

BLOOD DOLL: Good.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS TO NICHOLE, STOPS, THEY KISS

BLOOD DOLL (NA): Gods, NICHOLE made me hot.

NICHOLE: So, I've got a girlfriend who's coming to the city tomorrow. She's landing in the afternoon. I want to take her to Harbinger's.

BLOOD DOLL: Human?

NICHOLE: Yes.

BLOOD DOLL: And you don't want her drunk by anyone else?

NICHOLE: By me only. In the VIP suite.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I can arrange that.

NICHOLE: Look at you. The big mean Temple Warden. But I see who you really are. I see the little BLOOD DOLL in you struggling to get out.

BLOOD DOLL: I don't know if I could be anyone's BLOOD DOLL anymore. I don't know. I'm not feeling it.

NICHOLE: You still like to be drunk.

BLOOD DOLL: That's different. It's not my main duty.

NICHOLE: Hmm. Is this about your ex?

BLOOD DOLL: You'll have to be more specific.

NICHOLE: The Kindred.

BLOOD DOLL: Again, more specific.

NICHOLE: The nonbinary one.

BLOOD DOLL: Look. I care about you a lot. I don't like talking about my other relationships with people I'm close to.

NICHOLE: I won't take it personally. I have people I miss too.

BLOOD DOLL: I miss the way we cared for each other, them and me. I miss our loyalty. One in a million chance I'll ever find that again. (BEAT) This is why I prefer not to talk about that particular ex. The inevitable comparisons.

NICHOLE: Please. I like what we have.

BLOOD DOLL: So do I.

NICHOLE: See you at Harbinger's tonight?

BLOOD DOLL: Of course. (BEAT) Look at the time. I need to get going.

NICHOLE: Now, that's evil. You getting me all worked up and then leaving.

BLOOD DOLL: I promise. Next date, you will get yours and then some.

/SFX/ THEY KISS

NICHOLE: I will nightdream all about it. Thank you for letting me bite you earlier.

BLOOD DOLL: It is my pleasure. Trust me, I can't get enough of it.

SCENE 5. — AMANDA'S RIDE (INT: AMANDA'S CAR, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, AMANDA

/SFX/ DRIVING AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL: Thanks for the lift.

AMANDA: I know. Taking the bus to Queen Anne's a hassle. How's it going with NICHOLE?

BLOOD DOLL: Good. Her sister died recently. One hundred and two. She's wishing she could go to the funeral.

AMANDA: Even if it was at night, what if someone recognized her from an old photograph?

BLOOD DOLL: She could go veiled.

AMANDA: Ah. Very goth. Not my scene.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I'm sorry PENELOPE died.

AMANDA: It was her time.

BLOOD DOLL: Is there ever a right time for death?

AMANDA: Absolutely. When your mind's intact and you're ready to go.

BLOOD DOLL: Not for me. I'd keep hope that I'd last another day.

AMANDA: That's how it gets you. (BEAT) Oh, stay away from the Camarilla warehouse next week. The sheriff's doing some training there she doesn't want you to see.

BLOOD DOLL: Noted. Thank you. (BEAT) I know you don't enjoy working for her.

AMANDA: She knows. But she keeps us in groups of three. So someone's always got our back. Doesn't spread us out too thin. Expects us to finish jobs, though. Even when they get too hairy and shouldn't be finished.

BLOOD DOLL: How are the Anarch patrols on Capitol Hill?

AMANDA: SIOBHAN doesn't tell you about them?

BLOOD DOLL: No. So I'm asking you.

AMANDA: They're getting bolder. Claiming they're protecting streets we're not defending. (BEAT) They're not wrong. But they're also taunting us. Looking for fights. It was never this bad under AARALYN.

BLOOD DOLL: We make do with what we have.

AMANDA: I miss the old crew. I miss SIMON. I miss ELIJIO.

BLOOD DOLL: ELIJIO's still in northern California. We write letters.

AMANDA: SIMON's been gone for months. I don't know if he's still in the state.

BLOOD DOLL: I wouldn't be surprised if he was no longer with us.

AMANDA: Fuck, CASSANDRA. You don't have to be so cold.

BLOOD DOLL: Don't I? (BEAT) Another man died at my club last month. We had to puppet him out, arrange for his body to be shipped to a hotel, and set him up with his face in a pile of coke. I have to watch that and still let in the Kindred who did that in the club. I can't look soft.

AMANDA: I appreciate how you help pay the cops to look the other way. We get into a lot of fights with the Anarchs we can't easily explain away.

BLOOD DOLL: It's part of the business.

AMANDA: Yeah. I gotta say, though. The court was a lot better when we had SAMAEEL. Dissension in the ranks was healthy for them. Now, (BEAT) I don't know how much more of this I can take.

BLOOD DOLL: If you want to go, you should go. Like SIMON. (BEAT) I can't.

AMANDA: I know. They got you good.

BLOOD DOLL: Still, it's a very gilded prison I'm in. And I have so much to do.

AMANDA: You can still walk the world in ways I can't.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes. I'm useful. And I will continue to be for as long as I can.

SCENE 6. — THE NEW PRINCE (INT: SUMPTUOUS AUDIENCE CHAMBER, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, ESTHER, SOPHIA

/SFX/ QUIET MAIN ROOM AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): A week after AARALYN's death, the Ventrue installed one of their own as PRINCE. SOPHIA had previously ruled Montreal until forty years ago when she failed her no-confidence vote. I think the Ventrue brought her in because of her availability on short notice. It certainly wasn't for her governing prowess.

ESTHER: Your Excellency, presenting one CASSANDRA DAVRIL, proprietor of Harbinger's, a human.

SOPHIA: Approach.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS IN ON CARPET, STOPS

BLOOD DOLL: Long may Your Excellency reign.

SOPHIA: DAVRIL, your profits are consistent, but your expenditures were up this month. Explain.

BLOOD DOLL: Your Excellency, we had a number of planned maintenance jobs this month. In addition to covering the extra security we've needed after the overzealous Ravnos took too much blood from a guest last month. I indicated all these added expenses in my last two reports to this magnificent court.

SOPHIA: The extra security were hired from the Anarchs, thus enriching our enemy. Explain.

BLOOD DOLL: Your Excellency, my request for additional enforcers from your sheriff was denied.

SOPHIA: Then you should have hired additional humans.

BLOOD DOLL: To police Kindred, Your Excellency?

SOPHIA: (LOSING HER TEMPER) You could ghoul them. You could... (INTERRUPTS SELF, REALIZING BLOOD DOLL CANNOT GHOUL ANYBODY) I ask myself regularly why we don't have a Kindred running Harbinger's. Or why we need Harbinger's at all, except at the insistence of my sheriff.

BLOOD DOLL: Your Excellency, the Portland Ventrue were surprised at the effectiveness of their own Blood Temple after I helped their court establish it. I'm assisting courts in Boston, Chicago, and Vancouver as well in forming their own temples.

SOPHIA: That is on your own time. We need you to run your god damned business like a goddamn business! We need revenue to fight the Anarchs. And we. Are losing. Territory.

BLOOD DOLL: Your Excellency. The purpose of the Blood Temple is to save you money and resources. It cannot be to fund your war. If you return the club to an exclusive

playground for the wealthy, your Masquerade breach count goes up. Limiting which incursions you can fund.

SOPHIA: I may still make the decision. You should be prepared to execute it when I do.

BLOOD DOLL: (ANNOYED) Yes, Your Excellency.

SOPHIA: I want a cost-benefit analysis of converting Harbinger's back into the Krafthaus, next month.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) May I include your sheriff's estimates on the number of breaches we're saving her from?

SOPHIA: No need. Just the numbers will be fine. Also continue to record which Anarchs are on security detail every night. Tomorrow night, encourage as many of them as you can to work for you. I'm having our sheriff pull her enforcers then.

BLOOD DOLL: (SHOCKED) Tomorrow night, Your Excellency?

SOPHIA: Is that a problem?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I'll do what I can, Your Excellency.

SOPHIA: Good. And consider raising your drink prices again. (BEAT) Oh, and our condolences to you. I believe this is the anniversary of SAMAEI's capture?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) It is, Your Excellency.

SOPHIA: Our spy network continues to check for his status. It is unseemly for one of us to be in the government's control. That said, our resources are finite. You think of him too often. Perhaps long after you should have let him go.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) I shall consider it, Your Excellency.

SOPHIA: You may leave.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, Your Excellency.

SOPHIA: ESTHER, escort her out.

ESTHER: Yes, Your Excellency.

/SFX/ DOOR CREAKS OPEN, ESTHER AND BLOOD DOLL WALK OUT INTO HALLWAY

BLOOD DOLL: Surely the PRINCE has revenue streams outside of my little club.

ESTHER: She expects much of a Kindred murderer.

BLOOD DOLL: She seems very pleased with her own sheriff.

/SFX/ ESTHER AND BLOOD DOLL STOP

ESTHER: She likes results. (LOW) As soon as you finish that report, Harbinger's is done for.

BLOOD DOLL: I ran Krafthaus once.

ESTHER: For a night.

BLOOD DOLL: That's more than anyone else in court has. And when the sheriff asks for Harbinger's to be reinstated, I'll be here for that as well.

ESTHER: Do you truly enjoy serving SOPHIA?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I am glad for the opportunity.

ESTHER: No. You're glad to serve particular Kindred. Like NICHOLE.

BLOOD DOLL: My mind is yours to search, but my will is not yours to control.

ESTHER: I join the PRINCE in questioning why we keep you around. I serve a court. With court politics. Where you do not fit. I regret ever having woken you up at BRIAN's trial. I wish I had had the foresight to leave you to AARALYN's will.

BLOOD DOLL: We all live with our choices. But mine are small. Yours are the choices of gods.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS AWAY

BLOOD DOLL: (LOUD) And I am your result!

SCENE 7. — TRANSPARENT (INT: HANGER INTERIOR, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, SIOBHAN

/SFX/ CAR REPAIR AND WELDING AMBIANCE WITH REVERB, BLOOD DOLL WALKS IN

BLOOD DOLL: SIOBHAN? SIOBHAN?

SIOBHAN: Hey! CASSANDRA. Cool your horses. I'm having a day. What's up?

BLOOD DOLL: SOPHIA's pulling the Camarilla enforcers from Harbinger's tomorrow. I need more Anarchs.

SIOBHAN: Wow. Why doesn't she just put up a billboard saying when she'll attack us?

BLOOD DOLL: I'm just the messenger.

SIOBHAN: And that's how we first met, right? You pretending to be JOTHAM's courier?

BLOOD DOLL: Listen, I'm over my eyeballs in shit. SOPHIA wants me to justify keeping Harbinger's as a Blood Temple.

SIOBHAN: If she pulls out, we're pulling out too.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm aware. That's why I'm telling you.

SIOBHAN: Fuck. Why does she have to be so bad at losing? (BEAT) Tell you what. I'll have some extra folks clock in. Can't promise they'll stay the whole shift though.

BLOOD DOLL: I'll endeavor to hold them as long as I can.

SIOBHAN: Aw. I'm sure that'll be adorable. (REALIZING) Oh! You're doing the thing where you say what SOPHIA would want you to say! Because you know they'll read your mind in court.

BLOOD DOLL: Results are no longer enough for PRINCE SOPHIA.

SIOBHAN: Sucks to be you, Camarilla. I miss when you could just fucking tell me off.

BLOOD DOLL: I miss when I could go to LOREA for these kinds of requests.

SIOBHAN: Hey, don't blame me for her dropping her duties. That shit was all stress from the war. Built up and built up and now I'm the lucky bitch who has to deal with your ass.

BLOOD DOLL: We don't talk often. Has she announced she's leaving your collective yet?

SIOBHAN: Fucked if I know. She hasn't done a fucking thing in the collective for almost a year now though. I'd ditch her, but we need her fucking warehouse.

BLOOD DOLL: Please tell me she's no longer funding you.

SIOBHAN: SOPHIA would love that, wouldn't she? I know the Camarilla are hemorrhaging members under her rule. I'm surprised you haven't gone indie.

BLOOD DOLL: I am trying to save both you and the Camarilla from your own sloppy membership. And with what you know about my service to SOPHIA, I'm frustrated I have little to no support from the Anarchs. (BEAT) I think you've forgotten what I've saved you from.

SIOBHAN: I remember. It's not that I'm not grateful. I just don't like you. I'm really happy you found NICHOLE. Because without a Kindred lover, you were on a dark path to burnout. And from there, who knows what damage you might have done.

BLOOD DOLL: I wish you were still in that warehouse job. At least then I could believe a word out of your mouth.

SIOBHAN: Okay, you can blame me, or you can blame LOREA for ditching us and me having to pick up her fucking slack. Things change, hon.

BLOOD DOLL: Don't I know it. (BEAT) Thank you for the extra staff tomorrow.

SIOBHAN: No problem. Thank SOPHIA for telling me her battle plans. Later!

SCENE 8. — OUTSIDE HARBINGER'S (EXT: STREET OUTSIDE HARBINGER'S CLUB, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, NICHOLE

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

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I have so many regrets in my life. And the next night's was one I could have prevented. You learn by making mistakes, but some lessons are not worth the cost.

NICHOLE: Hey. The owner said you should call her when I get here? This is her card, right?
(BEAT) It's all good. I'm chill.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS OUT, STOPS

BLOOD DOLL: Hey you!

NICHOLE: Hi!

/SFX/ THEY HUG

BLOOD DOLL: What's going on?

NICHOLE: My girlfriend should be here soon. She stopped by a friend's first.

BLOOD DOLL: It's no problem. Security will let you in to avoid the line. And here's two VIP passes, as promised.

NICHOLE: You are fantastic.

BLOOD DOLL: You are fantastic. I hope you have a great night.

NICHOLE: You as well.

BLOOD DOLL: I've got to run.

NICHOLE: Where're you off to?

BLOOD DOLL: I'm checking in with the folks downstairs. New visitors. You know.

NICHOLE: Got it. Go on then. Hope it's light tonight.

BLOOD DOLL: That's my prayer every night.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS BACK INTO THE CLUB, POV FOLLOWS HER

SCENE 9. — TERROR (INT: HARBINGER KINDRED BASEMENT, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, ARTURO, MILDRED, LAUGHING SABBAT

/SFX/ CROWD WALLA, MUSIC PUMPING MUFFLED

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS DOWN STAIRS

BLOOD DOLL: MILDRED. ARTURO. Please tell me you're staying.

MILDRED: Sheriff says you can have me.

ARTURO: I'm not going anywhere. Can't speak for the rest of the Anarch enforcers, though.

BLOOD DOLL: I know. (BEAT) I'm thinking about closing shop after they leave.

MILDRED: We've still got a line. No way they're all fed before then.

BLOOD DOLL: Yeah and there's going to be another line after the fight tonight.

ARTURO: There'll be a fight?

BLOOD DOLL: SIOBHAN thinks so. That's where the enforcers are going. (BEAT) I don't want to stay open. Fuck, there won't even be a line of guests when the wounded get here. (BEAT) But it would look like shit if I didn't stay open.

MILDRED: ARTURO and I can handle any one-on-one fights.

ARTURO: Yeah. The line looks pretty chill tonight.

BLOOD DOLL: (LOOKS) Who are the five new Kindred?

MILDRED: I've never met them. Go do your Temple Warden thing.

/SFX/ ENFORCERS START WALKING AWAY

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE, WATCHING) Fuck. And there goes our security shift tonight.

ARTURO: Should we shut down the feeding areas?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) Fuck it. We stay open. I don't feel like letting every Kindred in this line upstairs to do their feeding.

ARTURO: Good call.

MILDRED: Okay then.

BLOOD DOLL: I'll be right back. I want to check out the new Kindred.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS TO LAUGHING SABBAT, STOPS

BLOOD DOLL: (WELCOMING) Good evening!

LAUGHING SABBAT: What's up?

BLOOD DOLL: I'm CASSANDRA DAVRIL. I run Harbinger's, and I'm excited to see some new faces tonight. Welcome!

LAUGHING SABBAT: (SUSPICIOUS OF HER) Thank you.

BLOOD DOLL: Has anyone explained how we work to your group?

LAUGHING SABBAT: We've heard. Human. (BEAT) CASSANDRA. You have the symbols for all the clans painted on your walls.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes. We welcome every Kindred here. Affiliated. Unaffiliated. Clanned. Unclanned.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Ah...

BLOOD DOLL: If you have a problem with how we do things, you're free to hunt elsewhere. We keep this space safe for you.

LAUGHING SABBAT: No space is safe for us.

BLOOD DOLL: I get that. (BEAT) Enjoy your blood and then be on your way.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Sure.

ARTURO: Next!

BLOOD DOLL: Looks like you're up.

LAUGHING SABBAT: One per chamber?

BLOOD DOLL: Yes. One of your group will have to wait until the others are done.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Interesting system.

/SFX/ FOUR LAUGHING SABBATS WALK UPSTAIRS, BLOOD DOLL FOLLOWS

BLOOD DOLL: (LOW, TO MILDRED) MILDRED, keep your eyes on the newcomers.

MILDRED: Gladly.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS BACK TO REMAINING LAUGHING SABBAT, STOPS

BLOOD DOLL: So, how long has your crew been in town?

LAUGHING SABBAT: We just drove in.

BLOOD DOLL: Business or pleasure?

/SFX/ ALARM STARTS BLARING

MILDRED: They're slaughtering our guests!

ARTURO: I put us on lockdown!

BLOOD DOLL: Shit.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Death to the Blood Temples! Long live the Sabbat!

/SFX/ LAUGHING SABBAT ATTACKS BLOOD DOLL

BLOOD DOLL: Get 'em off me!

/SFX/ LAUGHING SABBAT IS PULLED AWAY, STRUGGLING

LAUGHING SABBAT: (STRUGGLING)

BLOOD DOLL: Stake 'em!

/SFX/ KINDRED RUN OVER, FIRE A STAKE INTO LAUGHING SABBAT

LAUGHING SABBAT: (GRUNTS IN PAIN, GOES QUIET)

BLOOD DOLL: Get upstairs! Stake those fuckers!

ARTURO: Three are contained, but one broke out!

BLOOD DOLL: Fuck!

MILDRED: I'll catch them!

/SFX/ MILDRED RUNS UPSTAIRS, MANY FEET RUNNING UPSTAIRS, SHOUTING

BLOOD DOLL: Every Kindred in line! Free drinks for a month if you help to hold down the fucking Sabbat!

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS CLAMBER UPSTAIRS, SCUFFLE OVERHEAD

ARTURO: We subdued the three in the chambers!

BLOOD DOLL: How many dead?

ARTURO: Four guests, four bouncers.

BLOOD DOLL: Fuck! The three upstairs. Take their heads off.

ARTURO: And the one you staked down here?

BLOOD DOLL: That one's mine.

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS CLAMBER UPSTAIRS

ARTURO: Your security's letting the guests out.

BLOOD DOLL: Good. I want to see how MILDRED's doing.

ARTURO: There's still one up there.

BLOOD DOLL: I fucking know.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS UPSTAIRS

SCENE 10. — TERROR, PART 2 (INT: HARBINGER MAIN ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, MILDRED, SECURITY, NICHOLE

/SFX/ CROWD PANICKING WALLA, PEOPLE HURRYING OUTSIDE

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS BY THEM, STOPS

BLOOD DOLL: MILDRED! MILDRED!

MILDRED: Over here! (BEAT) We got 'em.

SECURITY: We tazed them. It barely did anything.

MILDRED: So I put a stake in them.

SECURITY: Isn't that overkill?

BLOOD DOLL: SECURITY. I'll handle this. MILDRED. (LOW) Drag that body to a feeding chamber. Decapitate it. The cops will take the corpses and lose them for us. The sheriff will take them to LEVIATHAN. Anyone asks? They're fascist terrorists. (BEAT) Go. I'll handle the cops.

MILDRED: Okay.

/SFX/ MILDRED DRAGS THE BODY AWAY, NICHOLE RUNS OVER, STOPS

NICHOLE: Oh my God.

BLOOD DOLL: NICHOLE. Hey.

NICHOLE: What the fuck?

BLOOD DOLL: Sabbat. They hit us.

NICHOLE: That one killed my girlfriend. Just put their hand right through her.

BLOOD DOLL: (ANGRY) My fucking God.

NICHOLE: What are we going to do?

BLOOD DOLL: We got all five of them. Not that it fucking matters.

NICHOLE: My girl. (BEAT) She's dead.

BLOOD DOLL: Here's your chance to undo that. While there's chaos in here. I'll be back.

NICHOLE: (BEAT) Okay.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS AWAY, STOPS

BLOOD DOLL: One. Two. Three.

SECURITY: Thirteen dead.

BLOOD DOLL: Thirteen. (BEAT) You did what you could. Stay. The police will want to speak with you.

SECURITY: Who were those guys?

BLOOD DOLL: No idea.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS AWAY, STOPS

MILDRED: CASSANDRA.

BLOOD DOLL: How'd it go?

MILDRED: They're decapitated. Except the one you left downstairs.

BLOOD DOLL: Good. Tell any Kindred left here to go home. I'll handle SPD. (BEAT) I made a bad call tonight.

MILDRED: Yeah. Well. I should have pushed you harder to close.

BLOOD DOLL: This is my burden. Not yours. (BEAT) You and ARTURO get the Sabbat I staked off the premises. Can you drive?

MILDRED: Yes.

BLOOD DOLL: Take my car. Get that Sabbat to our Camarilla warehouse up north. Hide them in a crate. I'll deal with them later. Bring back the car when you're done.

MILDRED: Why do you want that Sabbat?

BLOOD DOLL: I want to teach them that actions have consequences. I need something to look forward to after tonight.

SCENE 11. — THE GIFT (EXT: PUGET SOUND SHORELINE, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, NAVAL LIAISON

/SFX/ MORNING CITY AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I had a long, long night ahead of me. I told the police what they needed to hear. EMS collected the corpses to be analyzed and sorted. Some to graves. Some to a whale. The cops had been briefed about the decapitations being a ritualistic death for members of the weird rich blood drinking sect I was supposedly a part of. (BEAT) SOPHIA's sheriff stopped by and we had a chat. I filled her in on everything except the Sabbath I intended to keep for myself. She didn't press hard. I think she was as shocked as I was. She knew how much work she had ahead of her, with the Kindred feeding returned to the streets. (BEAT) The sun had risen by the time I was allowed to leave the crime scene. I later learned that the Sabbath had hit the Harbinger's in Portland, too. Same night. They wanted to stop us from feeding everyone. And it worked. (BEAT) SOPHIA had strictly forbidden the use of technology under her rule. Which made my bookkeeping a nightmare. But I still kept the phone that LOREA had given me. After the skunkworks siege, LOREA had it converted to a regular phone still containing her and SIOBHAN's contacts. I paid in secret to keep it online. I'd rarely had a use for it. Until that morning.

/SFX/ PHONE RINGING, ANSWERED

NAVAL LIAISON: (ON PHONE) Hello?

BLOOD DOLL: Good morning. My name is CASSANDRA DAVRIL. I own the Harbinger's club in downtown Seattle. You've probably had us surveilled for some time.

NAVAL LIAISON: (ON PHONE) How did you get this number?

BLOOD DOLL: You're the NAVAL LIAISON who works at Kitsap, correct?

NAVAL LIAISON: (ON PHONE) I'm going to hang up now.

BLOOD DOLL: If you check the police records, you'll see my guests were attacked by monsters last night. Thirteen people dead. I have one of those monsters in my possession. Staked through the heart. I'm wondering if you'd like to have it.

NAVAL LIAISON: (ON PHONE) (PAUSE) Meet me outside the base perimeter in three hours. (BEAT) Bring the creature. (BEAT) What did you want in exchange?

BLOOD DOLL: I want you to do your worst to it.

NAVAL LIAISON: (ON PHONE) (BEAT) Fine.

BLOOD DOLL: And remember that I'm a friend.

NAVAL LIAISON: (ON PHONE) (BEAT) We can always use a few friends.

/SFX/ CALL ENDS, WIND AND WAVES ROLLING IN AMBIANCE

/SFX/ CAR DRIVES UP, STOPS, TURNS OFF, DOOR OPENS, BLOOD DOLL STEPS OUT

BLOOD DOLL: I'm CASSANDRA. I'm friendly.

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS APPROACH ON CONCRETE, STOP

NAVAL LIAISON: Let's have a look at your creature.

BLOOD DOLL: Be quick. It'll burn in the sun.

/SFX/ CAR TRUNK OPENS, CRATE OPENS, SKIN SIZZLES

NAVAL LIAISON: That's enough. Close it.

/SFX/ CRATE CLOSES, SIZZLE STOPS

NAVAL LIAISON: We'll take it.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you.

NAVAL LIAISON: You deal with these creatures?

BLOOD DOLL: I do.

NAVAL LIAISON: How did you come into that line of work?

BLOOD DOLL: I worked the night shift doing security downtown.

NAVAL LIAISON: Ah. Because they only wake up at night.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

NAVAL LIAISON: (PAUSE) Is there something you wanted to ask me?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) No.

NAVAL LIAISON: (BEAT) How much do you know about them?

BLOOD DOLL: Not a lot. But they like (BEAT) talking to me. About their lives.

NAVAL LIAISON: Would you be willing to tell us what you know, on the record?

BLOOD DOLL: Of course.

NAVAL LIAISON: (PAUSE) They really talk to you?

BLOOD DOLL: They open up to me, yes. That one called themselves a "Sabbat." They're dangerous terrorists who want us all dead.

NAVAL LIAISON: How'd you know to stake them?

BLOOD DOLL: Others told me.

NAVAL LIAISON: Which others?

BLOOD DOLL: I don't recall. (BEAT) They look very much like humans. (BEAT) Until they don't.

NAVAL LIAISON: (PAUSE) Would you be interested in helping us crack some of our monsters?
Get information from them?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) I'd do my best. If you're offering.

NAVAL LIAISON: Let me talk with command. We'll see what we can set up.

BLOOD DOLL: I'd like that. A lot.

SCENE 12. — AFTERMATH (INT: SUMPTUOUS AUDIENCE CHAMBER, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, ESTHER, SOPHIA

/SFX/ QUIET MAIN ROOM AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I was dreading my meeting with SOPHIA. This was her nightmare scenario, too and she didn't take well to bad news.

ESTHER: Your Excellency, presenting one CASSANDRA DAVRIL, proprietor of Harbinger's, a human.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS IN ON CARPET, STOPS

SOPHIA: Proprietor indeed. But one requires a business to be a proprietor of to retain the title.

BLOOD DOLL: Your Excellency, it was with the brave efforts of the Seattle Kindred at the club that we were able to subdue the Sabbat.

SOPHIA: How many human murders were there?

BLOOD DOLL: Thirteen.

SOPHIA: Thirteen murders. Our investments. Gone.

BLOOD DOLL: If Harbinger's is over, then the Anarch's investments are also gone.

SOPHIA: By your own words, this will cost us manpower and resources. The bribe amount alone is staggering.

BLOOD DOLL: Your Excellency owns multiple clubs. I am glad the Sabbat did not attack any of the more profitable ones.

SOPHIA: This breach is beyond a fiasco.

BLOOD DOLL: It is manageable, Your Excellency. We are well-prepared for it.

SOPHIA: And my sheriff says the police were given four Sabbat bodies. But the Kindred interviewed said there were five attackers.

BLOOD DOLL: The fifth never reached upstairs. Every human witness will only have known four.

SOPHIA: Where is the fifth Sabbat?

BLOOD DOLL: Kitsap. I gave them to the naval base for experimentation.

SOPHIA: (AGHAST) Why?

BLOOD DOLL: Death was too good for them.

SOPHIA: You are not fit to judge Kindred. Not even a Sabbat.

BLOOD DOLL: Your Excellency, I should like to see the Sabbat try to rescue their own from that base.

SOPHIA: The very thought of a Kindred given to humans for that purpose. It's disgusting. I forbid you to ever return to Kitsap.

BLOOD DOLL: Of course, Your Excellency. Only (BEAT) the LIAISON for that base offered to let me speak to the Kindred they hold prisoner there. Surely that information is worth a Sabbat?

SOPHIA: I am very concerned with the liberties you take when given any freedom whatsoever.

BLOOD DOLL: We've had some Kindred disappearances recently. Perhaps they were kidnapped?

SOPHIA: And what would you have me do if you found them there?

BLOOD DOLL: Give them hope that they are remembered, Your Excellency?

SOPHIA: You twist my intentions. And my words.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, I do, Your Excellency. Because I am not allowed subterfuge in this court. My mind is an open book, so I take care what leaves my mouth. I am not allowed to say that our enforcers were short-staffed that night because you made it maddeningly clear you intended to attack the Anarchs then. And how did that go, Your Excellency?

SOPHIA: Rein in your tongue, Kindred killer.

BLOOD DOLL: You have taught me that you would prefer I perform your commands to the letter, rather than get results. Last night at the club was what happens when you demand too much and I am given no leniency.

SOPHIA: Leave Harbinger's to your lackeys (GRITTED TEETH) while I ponder what to do with you.

BLOOD DOLL: There are Kindred in this city, regulars at my club, who would have worked to replace the enforcers who left. But of course, I was forbidden from increasing my expenditures.

SOPHIA: You dare blame the Sabbat's attack on me?

BLOOD DOLL: My mind lies open to you. I do not blame you for the attack. I blame you for our inability to deter or mitigate it. And by your lack of response, I take it your assault on the Anarchs last night did not go well. If I am to be judged by this court, I will have them hear the facts!

SOPHIA: (FURIOUS) Leave us. Cease your work with Harbinger's. You are to remain in your domicile until the court calls you back. Am I clear?

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, Your Excellency. I am yours. But I am also the Anarch's. And I do not know how they will react when they learn I am being sequestered in my own home.

SOPHIA: They know better than to invade our territory.

BLOOD DOLL: And what have they been doing for the past two years, Your Excellency?

SOPHIA: ESTHER. Escort her out and see she is driven home.

ESTHER: Of course, Your Excellency. (TO BLOOD DOLL) This way, please.

SCENE 13. — FAITH (INT: SAMAEŁ'S ENTRY ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, LOREA

/SFX/ QUIET AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I waited in my chambers, alone. Knowing SOPHIA had forbid the use of technology and had no way of spying on me. After a half hour, I was confident no one remained to watch my door. So I called LOREA on the phone she had given me. (BEAT) We hadn't spoken in a while. She picked up that we might not speak again for a while if she didn't come over.

/SFX/ DOOR OPENS, LOREA WALKS IN

BLOOD DOLL: Hello.

LOREA: Hello. (WORRIED, CONFUSED) I thought they were holding you here?

BLOOD DOLL: SOPHIA says I'm not to leave.

LOREA: There's no guard.

BLOOD DOLL: No.

LOREA: (BEAT) Nobody's keeping you here.

BLOOD DOLL: And now that you've broken in, I am plausible deniability for leaving.

LOREA: Are you serious?

BLOOD DOLL: Thirteen dead, LOREA. I doubt Harbinger's will survive this.

LOREA: I heard.

BLOOD DOLL: I hope the Anarchs have a backup plan. I hope they have their own Blood Temple that accepts Camarilla, or a healthy stockpile of BLOOD DOLLS.

LOREA: SIOBHAN seemed pretty shocked when she told me.

BLOOD DOLL: Not the kind of shocked that has a plan though.

LOREA: No.

BLOOD DOLL: Well. Fuck.

LOREA: You're still staying here?

BLOOD DOLL: In SAMAEŁ's rooms? They're in a trust that'll last for decades. I maintain the utilities.

LOREA: Have you brought a pizza in here?

BLOOD DOLL: No. I maintain my diet as they would have wanted.

LOREA: You really are just hanging onto hope, aren't you?

BLOOD DOLL: Well. I certainly don't have them. Or you. And I doubt NICHOLE's eager to see me since I got her girlfriend killed.

LOREA: Oh, shit. I'm sorry.

BLOOD DOLL: I am, too. (BEAT) I wish very, very hard that I could cry over this. (BEAT) But I'm angry. And I don't know how to stop.

LOREA: Do you want help to kill someone?

BLOOD DOLL: I'm way ahead of you. Remember the NAVAL LIAISON you spoke with a couple years ago? I gave her one of the Sabbat.

LOREA: (BEAT) Holy shit.

BLOOD DOLL: She has invited me to meet with the Kindred they have imprisoned tomorrow. SILVER might be among them. Do you have a message you'd like me to give her, if I see her there?

LOREA: Tell me if she's there.

BLOOD DOLL: Of course.

LOREA: I know I haven't been active among the Anarchs. But if you could prove she's there, I may be able to organize some volunteers for a rescue party.

BLOOD DOLL: I'll tell you whatever I learn.

LOREA: First, get proof it's her. Ask her where she met me the first time. Then tell her the black candle still burns under the Five-Twenty. If it's her, she'll know what you mean.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you. I'll have to be careful what I say.

LOREA: I trust you'll get the message to her. All we have is that old file VANISHING GIRL sold us. This would mean a lot.

BLOOD DOLL: I promise. (BEAT) I should go to bed. I'll break out tomorrow evening.

LOREA: All right. (BEAT) I suspected this tight-wire balancing act of yours couldn't last.

BLOOD DOLL: And where was my place, if not between the Anarchs and the Camarilla? You both had reasons to hate me. All I had was your respect.

LOREA: Without you being as fearsome as I know you are, I think they forgot.

BLOOD DOLL: SOPHIA's not going to like that I broke curfew.

LOREA: And yet, you're going to provoke her.

BLOOD DOLL: Getting on the base is the chance of a lifetime. And I only get one life.

LOREA: I could Embrace you now.

BLOOD DOLL: And tell me that SOPHIA wouldn't immediately send me to LEVIATHAN.

LOREA: Not if you ran.

BLOOD DOLL: How well do you know me?

LOREA: Well enough to know you wouldn't run.

BLOOD DOLL: Don't make this more awkward than it is. I don't seek Embrace today. I seek faith that my hope means something.

LOREA: I pray you find those you want to find.

BLOOD DOLL: If there are gods beyond you, I doubt they listen to me. (BEAT) Thank you again. Good night.

LOREA: Take care.

SCENE 14. — TO THE UNDERWORLD (INT: NAVAL TRUCK REAR, EVENING)

• BLOOD DOLL, NAVAL LIAISON

/SFX/ NAVAL TRUCK DRIVING AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I met with the NAVAL LIAISON that evening. I apparently passed my security clearance. Her superiors had approved my presence on the condition that I sign forms with very serious consequences on them. I was to be escorted at all times, and transported in the back of a truck so I couldn't see any part of the base.

NAVAL LIAISON: How long have you known about these creatures?

BLOOD DOLL: Two and a half years now. Your records show me quitting my job at the security desk around then? That's why.

NAVAL LIAISON: What happened?

BLOOD DOLL: The creatures owned one of the companies that rented space in our building. They called me into their office to put my blood in some sort of computer?

NAVAL LIAISON: (SUDDENLY INTRIGUED) Tell me about this computer.

BLOOD DOLL: I don't know much about it. They were running blood through it. They had me leave before they turned it on. Their office closed shortly after that, I think. I was pretty shaken by the experience. I couldn't stay there.

NAVAL LIAISON: The monsters' presence can be overwhelming. (BEAT) How did you end up owning Krafthaus?

BLOOD DOLL: For a day.

NAVAL LIAISON: The day before it closed, yes.

BLOOD DOLL: I was in a relationship with the owner. Same reason I own Harbinger's.

NAVAL LIAISON: And who was that?

BLOOD DOLL: Debra Harrington. You'll find her name on the shell corporations listed as owning the clubs. She was very wealthy and we loved each other. (BEAT) She's dead.

NAVAL LIAISON: I'm sorry to hear.

BLOOD DOLL: I've done what I can with the business. But now, after the monsters' attack, it's probably over.

NAVAL LIAISON: Why would the creatures want to attack you?

BLOOD DOLL: Why do they do anything? Greed. Lust. Or just to cause chaos. I've known about them for so long, and I still don't understand them.

NAVAL LIAISON: You're very brave to be doing this. These motherfuckers are as intimidating as hell.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm sure I'll be well protected.

NAVAL LIAISON: The creatures will be secured. I'd still worry about them though. They've got tricks we don't fully understand.

BLOOD DOLL: Tell me. Where they are held. Can they see the moon?

NAVAL LIAISON: No. We keep them underground. Some are too strong to risk their containment above ground.

BLOOD DOLL: That's what I thought.

SCENE 15. — THE FIRST VISIT TO THE UNDERWORLD (INT: UNDERGROUND CELL, EVENING)

• BLOOD DOLL, NAVAL LIAISON, LAUGHING SABBAT, CYNTHIA, SILVER

/SFX/ QUIET CELL, GUARDS SHUFFLING

BLOOD DOLL (NA): We parked in an underground bunker and I was escorted down a concrete corridor to a small, unmarked room. Two guards stood on either side of me while the LIAISON brought me a chair. A thick glass wall divided the room. My phone and all my personal possessions were taken from me. The LIAISON informed me what I could not tell the Kindred I would meet about the base. Two other guards wheeled in a thick metal box, human-sized, and set it down, upright.

LAUGHING SABBAT: (LAUGHS)

BLOOD DOLL: Hello, SABBAT.

LAUGHING SABBAT: CASSANDRA!

BLOOD DOLL: You never gave me your name.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Hmph.

BLOOD DOLL: Or your friends' names. Or your cell's name. (PAUSE) I'll give you a gift. I'll tell you whether or not your attack on my club worked.

LAUGHING SABBAT: No.

BLOOD DOLL: Come now. I won't bullshit you.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Do they know your club was feeding Kindred?

BLOOD DOLL: Ah. So you're not interested.

LAUGHING SABBAT: (BEAT) Tell me something true.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I don't think you ever intended to leave my club. You went in, knowing I had Kindred enforcers there, ready to die. (BEAT) I bet a lifetime sentence in this prison is the worst thing that could have happened to you, isn't it?

LAUGHING SABBAT: Fuck you.

BLOOD DOLL: Don't you want to know whether or not it was worth it?

LAUGHING SABBAT: Not from you.

BLOOD DOLL: Is someone else coming to see you? (BEAT) I doubt these guards are strong enough to force you into that box. Who did you hope was your visitor?

LAUGHING SABBAT: (PAUSE) The Dark Father destroys all. The Dark Father destroys all.

BLOOD DOLL: (SERIOUS) The Dark Father destroys all. The Dark Father destroys all.

LAUGHING SABBAT: (BEAT) Your club is finished, isn't it?

BLOOD DOLL: I told you I wouldn't bullshit you.

LAUGHING SABBAT: What about my comrades?

BLOOD DOLL: Dead and given to the police. I spared them.

LAUGHING SABBAT: (CHUCKLES SADLY)

BLOOD DOLL: Who should I fear? Who is still out there, waiting to end whatever I do?

LAUGHING SABBAT: You'll never know.

BLOOD DOLL: I guess I won't. But I've seen the power of the Sabbat. And it terrifies me. Well done. (BEAT) You won.

LAUGHING SABBAT: (LAUGHS NERVOUSLY)

BLOOD DOLL: To whose name should I ascribe this victory? Who ruined me? Who swept away everything I've worked on for years?

LAUGHING SABBAT: (PAUSE) Elixir.

BLOOD DOLL: Your name, or your cell's?

LAUGHING SABBAT: Elixir will not end with me.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you, Sabbat. Praise the Dark Father.

LAUGHING SABBAT: May you suffer as I will.

NAVAL LIAISON: It's time.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) May I speak with you again?

LAUGHING SABBAT: (PAUSE) Yes. Tell me more about how you suffer.

BLOOD DOLL: I will. I promise.

NAVAL LIAISON: We're done.

/SFX/ GUARDS TILT METAL BOX AND WHEEL IT FROM THE CELL

NAVAL LIAISON: Elixir. Interesting.

BLOOD DOLL: I don't know what it means.

NAVAL LIAISON: Give us some time. We'll bring the next one in.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): They gave me water. I waited for some time until they had wheeled in the next Kindred.

/SFX/ GUARDS WHEEL IN METAL BOX AND SET IT DOWN

BLOOD DOLL (NA): She was a woman I'd never met before.

BLOOD DOLL: Hello.

CYNTHIA: (DEJECTED, DEPRESSED) Yeah.

BLOOD DOLL: What's your name?

CYNTHIA: (BEAT) Not while they're listening.

BLOOD DOLL: I understand. It's all you have that's yours here.

CYNTHIA: Yeah. They call me Six Ninety-Two.

BLOOD DOLL: What can I call you?

CYNTHIA: I don't care.

BLOOD DOLL: I'd like to call you something that you prefer.

CYNTHIA: I'm not falling for that "getting to know you" bullshit.

BLOOD DOLL: Hmm. I have a feel for the clans now. (BEAT) You're Thin Blood, aren't you?

CYNTHIA: (PAUSE) What's it matter?

BLOOD DOLL: I've met a Thin Blood named ZACHERY. Do you know him?

CYNTHIA: (BEAT) You don't know ZACHERY.

BLOOD DOLL: He works night shifts at Pike Place Market, cleaning the stalls and prepping them for opening. His favorite films are Gattica and Existenz. He used to love the ocean (BEAT) until he was Embraced.

CYNTHIA: (PAUSE) Can you bring him a message?

BLOOD DOLL: No. Everything that's said here remains in here. (BEAT) But he's still with us, as far as I know. If that counts for anything.

CYNTHIA: (PAUSE) You weren't expecting to find me here, were you?

BLOOD DOLL: I've met quite a few Kindred in my life. I like talking with them. They're always so guarded. I think it's a relief when they can talk to a human they don't have to lie to.

CYNTHIA: All these assholes around me though.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm here too.

CYNTHIA: You're one of them.

BLOOD DOLL: Do I seem like them?

CYNTHIA: You are. You are, you are. I'm not saying a thing.

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) You don't have to. (BEAT) ZACHERY's kind of a doofus though, isn't he?

CYNTHIA: (MAD) What are you saying about him?

BLOOD DOLL: He's sweet, but it's hard for him to focus on you. He gets into his conspiracy theories too. It's hard to know when he's kidding and when he isn't.

CYNTHIA: (BEAT) Okay. You know him.

BLOOD DOLL: Sometimes it's worth risking things. (BEAT) I'm CASSANDRA. What's your name?

CYNTHIA: (LONG PAUSE) CYN.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you. CYN.

CYNTHIA: (BEAT) I've got nothing else to say.

NAVAL LIAISON: (PAUSE) All right. Get her out.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you for your trust.

/SFX/ GUARDS TILT METAL BOX AND WHEEL IT FROM THE CELL

NAVAL LIAISON: You actually can talk to these things.

BLOOD DOLL: I try.

NAVAL LIAISON: (PAUSE) If you're up for it, we've got one more.

BLOOD DOLL: (SAD) Yes, please.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): My second wait was almost an hour. I hoped that was to prepare a (BEAT) more powerful Kindred than the last two. Someone they needed to take extra precautions with. Someone who I was dying to see again.

/SFX/ GUARDS WHEEL IN METAL BOX AND SET IT DOWN

BLOOD DOLL (NA): Instead (BEAT) it was SILVER.

SILVER: (PAUSE) What the fuck?

BLOOD DOLL: Hello, Kindred.

SILVER: (BEAT, PRETENDS NOT TO KNOW HER) Who are you?

BLOOD DOLL: My name is LOREA. (BEAT) I know we've never met before.

SILVER: (BEAT) No.

BLOOD DOLL: Would you play a game with me?

SILVER: (BEAT) What kind of game?

BLOOD DOLL: Imagine we'd met for the first time. Outside this place. Tell me how we met. And I'll tell you about a candle.

SILVER: (PAUSE) Say I was new in town. Looking for a place to meet folks. Trying to do things proper. Parked my car in the alley, got charged five bucks for it because there was a concert nearby. And you. You piece of shit. You probably came over and started ridiculing me about how I liked the band. The Electric Prunes or whatever. I probably followed you into another alley, where I might have punched you. And I may have said something about how you could make fun of any part of me, but you leave my music taste alone.

BLOOD DOLL: That's a story.

SILVER: Yeah.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I have stories too. Tell me your name first.

SILVER: (BEAT) Marjorie.

BLOOD DOLL: Well, Marjorie. I have stories about a cupboard filled with jam, a dinner on the docks, and a black candle still burning under the five twenty.

SILVER: (BEAT) Oh.

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you for playing this game with me, Marjorie. I'd be delighted to share more stories with you sometime.

SILVER: (PAUSE) Yeah. LOREA. If you could.

BLOOD DOLL: Are you tired?

SILVER: You don't even know.

BLOOD DOLL: I'll let you rest. Good night, Marjorie.

SILVER: (BEAT) See you around.

/SFX/ GUARDS TILT METAL BOX AND WHEEL IT FROM THE CELL

NAVAL LIAISON: Marjorie, huh. (BEAT) I'm going to see if I can get you back here.

BLOOD DOLL: (SAD) Happy to help.

NAVAL LIAISON: Good. (PAUSE) Before you go.

BLOOD DOLL: What?

/SFX/ GAS SPRAYED IN BLOOD DOLL'S FACE

BLOOD DOLL: (COUGHS, WRINKLES NOSE IN DISGUST) Urgh. (BEAT) What'd you spray me with?

NAVAL LIAISON: That was a gas that the monsters react to. Badly.

BLOOD DOLL: But I'm not one of them.

NAVAL LIAISON: There was a concern. (BEAT) You can go. We'll return your things. This way back to the truck.

BLOOD DOLL: (SMOLDERING) Of course.

SCENE 16. — BAD BUT HOPEFUL NEWS (INT: WAREHOUSE INTERIOR, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, LOREA

/SFX/ WAREHOUSE AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I was shaken by what I'd seen. The Sabbath had it coming. CYN and SILVER though? They looked gaunt. Malnourished. Exhausted. And I could do nothing for them. Except return to LOREA with my news.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS ON CONCRETE, STOPS

BLOOD DOLL: I'm back.

LOREA: You got inside?

BLOOD DOLL: Yes.

LOREA: Who'd you find?

BLOOD DOLL: SILVER.

LOREA: Oh. Wow. That's incredible. How'd she say we met?

BLOOD DOLL: She punched you in an alley for insinuating she liked the Electric Prunes.

LOREA: Fucking hell. How's she doing?

BLOOD DOLL: She's in rough shape.

LOREA: She's just a fucking animal in there. Did you give her the message?

BLOOD DOLL: Of course. Her eyes lit up.

LOREA: I burn that candle for every one of us missing.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I have no idea where they took me. Only that it was underground. In some kind of bunker.

LOREA: This isn't nothing though. (BEAT) This doesn't make up for the TAM.

BLOOD DOLL: Nothing does.

LOREA: But it's something. Thank you.

BLOOD DOLL: Two years. No moon. I don't know how I'd be doing. (BEAT) I should get home.

LOREA: That's wise. SOPHIA's probably looking for you.

BLOOD DOLL: (SIGHS) Yeah.

LOREA: Hey. It was worth the try. You didn't come back empty handed.

BLOOD DOLL: I know.

LOREA: I can get some traction on saving her.

BLOOD DOLL: Good luck. (BEAT) I also met a Thin Blood who said her name was CYN. And the Sabbat I put there. They said they were part of a cell called "Elixir."

LOREA: (BEAT) I'll see what I can do with that.

BLOOD DOLL: I'll see you around, then.

LOREA: Do you want me to escort you home?

BLOOD DOLL: I don't want you to fight them. I'll face the music as I always do. Alone.

SCENE 17. — WAYLAID (EXT: OUTSIDE LOREA'S WAREHOUSE GATE, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, ESTHER

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

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS OUT ON CONCRETE, STOPS

ESTHER: Where do you think you're going?

BLOOD DOLL: Home.

ESTHER: Where you were told to remain.

BLOOD DOLL: Would it have mattered? Or was my fate sealed the moment I left court?

ESTHER: Well, now you have an additional charge against you. Where did you go?

BLOOD DOLL: I just drove around. I needed fresh air.

ESTHER: If I check the odometer in the car, will it be exactly the distance to Kitsap and back?

BLOOD DOLL: You could just read my mind.

ESTHER: You won't admit to it?

BLOOD DOLL: Which is worse? A lie in defiance? Or the truth in shame?

ESTHER: The lie, of course.

BLOOD DOLL: The court talks about rewarding those who do good service, but deep down (BEAT) it wants rebels. It wants results in spite of orders. It is the most conservative drivel, playing "who's in the In-Group today?" And only the most fearsome reach the center. And those who simply do their duties are. Not. Fearsome.

ESTHER: Come with me. I have a car ready for you.

BLOOD DOLL: Like when you took me to AARALYN. When she tried to ghoul me. I know how this works.

ESTHER: Must I tell the PRINCE you're not coming?

BLOOD DOLL: (ICY) Very well.

SCENE 18. — BANISHED (INT: SUMPTUOUS AUDIENCE CHAMBER, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, ESTHER, SOPHIA

/SFX/ QUIET MAIN ROOM AMBIANCE, BLOOD DOLL WALKS IN ON CARPET, STOPS

ESTHER: Your Excellency, presenting one CASSANDRA DAVRIL, a human.

BLOOD DOLL: Your Excellency? Am I no longer proprietor of Harbinger's?

SOPHIA: You don't really need your tongue, do you? (BEAT) We gave you two commandments. Stay home. Stay away from Kitsap.

BLOOD DOLL: Fortune favors the bold, Your Excellency.

SOPHIA: And you consider yourself "bold?" (BEAT) Harbinger's is no more. I'm re-instituting the Krafthaus. Without your involvement. And with that (BEAT) I don't know why we should keep you around anymore.

BLOOD DOLL: Surely you can use a human who knows all the Seattle Kindred and who can run an entertainment business.

SOPHIA: Actually both are excellent reasons to kill you. You know so much. And you seem too willing to share it with our enemies. The human military and the Anarchs.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Am I to die before this honorable court today?

SOPHIA: (PAUSE) No. (BEAT) I am releasing you as a boon to all other humans who would work with us. That their deaths are not inevitable. The court grants you mercy. (BEAT) As well, you have allies among the Anarchs who would probably perform some foolishly heroic acts on hearing of your death.

BLOOD DOLL: Bless the mercy of this honorable court.

SOPHIA: The court maintains the right to waive all protections over you should any of your knowledge fall into human hands. (BEAT) We banish you from all of Kindred society. We permit the occasional exchange. But you are not to walk among the Anarchs or the Camarilla. Is this clear?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) It is, Your Excellency.

SOPHIA: DAVRIL. You are stripped of all privileges granted to you by this court. You are not to speak to any member of this court again, unless granted permission. ESTHER. Take her home.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Thank you for my life, Your Excellency.

SOPHIA: And those are your final words to this honorable court. Leave in silence.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS AWAY, STOPS, THINKS, AND THEN CONTINUES WALKING. CREAKY DOOR OPENS, SHE WALKS OUT

SCENE 19. — EVICTION (INT: SAMAEL'S ENTRY ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, ESTHER

/SFX/ QUIET AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I was over. But so was SOPHIA's reign. I'd hitched my wagon to a broken star.
But what other choice did I have?

/SFX/ DOOR OPENS, BLOOD DOLL AND ESTHER WALK IN, STOP

ESTHER: Home again, home again, the saying goes?

BLOOD DOLL: Permission to speak to you, and not the court?

ESTHER: Granted.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Fuck you. (BEAT) I'm done.

ESTHER: Speaking of fucking you, the Camarilla are foreclosing on SAMAEL's properties.
That includes this suite of rooms. You have one week to pack your things and
move to another location.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Of course I am to leave here. Is there also a prohibition on me being
drunk by any Kindred?

ESTHER: Provided you don't solicit them (BEAT) who cares. Are you addicted to being a
BLOOD DOLL?

BLOOD DOLL: Are you addicted to being a bootlick?

ESTHER: I'm going to miss you, sweetie. (BEAT) Now leave our rooms, and leave our
lives.

/SFX/ ESTHER WALKS OUT, SHUTS THE DOOR

BLOOD DOLL (NA): And that was it. I was cast out. No income but my investments. No permitted
connections to the Kindred world. (BEAT) Well, there was one, still.

SCENE 20. — FAREWELL NICHOLE (INT: OUTSIDE NICHOLE'S APARTMENT, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, NICHOLE

/SFX/ APARTMENT HALLWAY AMBIANCE, PEOPLE MOVING ABOUT

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL KNOCKS ON NICHOLE'S DOOR, NICHOLE OPENS THE DOOR

NICHOLE: (SURPRISED) Oh! Hello.

BLOOD DOLL: Hi.

NICHOLE: What's going on?

BLOOD DOLL: I wanted to check how you're doing. (BEAT) Did you...?

NICHOLE: My girlfriend? (BEAT) Come in.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS IN, STOPS, DOOR CLOSES

NICHOLE: (PAUSE) I left her dead. (PAUSE) I don't think she would have wanted this. (BEAT) I don't think I have the right to bring her back. I think she'd find it (BEAT) "evil."

BLOOD DOLL: I've heard different from other Kindred.

NICHOLE: I'm not "other Kindred." If I bring her back, and she doesn't want to be back, I have to kill her again. (BEAT) And I don't think I could. (BEAT) I wish I could have asked her first.

BLOOD DOLL: And that'd be a Masquerade breach.

NICHOLE: Fuck the Masquerade. You told me yourself. There's no way to ethically invite in BLOOD DOLLS with it.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm here to apologize. To confess.

NICHOLE: About what?

BLOOD DOLL: I was short on enforcers that night. I made the call to let the feedings happen anyway.

NICHOLE: (BEAT) Why?

BLOOD DOLL: I don't have a good reason. I made the call.

NICHOLE: Did you invite those asshats into the club?

BLOOD DOLL: Not specifically.

NICHOLE: Then why are you trying to poison me against you? And why are you trying to take the blame for getting my fucking girlfriend killed? How dare you?

BLOOD DOLL: (PAUSE) You're right.

NICHOLE: (PAUSE) Did you come for anything else?

BLOOD DOLL: SOPHIA cast me out from Kindred society. I won't be able to see you again. As often as we used to.

NICHOLE: (PAUSE) I was going to talk to you anyway. (BEAT) I can't play with you anymore. I just see your fucking club around you. And I think about her.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Fair.

NICHOLE: (BEAT) We can still be friends.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Thank you.

NICHOLE: (BEAT) That really sucks about the PRINCE.

BLOOD DOLL: I was expecting it.

NICHOLE: Harbinger's not coming back, huh?

BLOOD DOLL: She's re-opening it as the Krafthaus.

NICHOLE: Oh, shit.

BLOOD DOLL: Yeah.

NICHOLE: Just spitting on your legacy, huh?

BLOOD DOLL: What did I expect, a human among Kindred? Nothing I did was going to last.

NICHOLE: (BEAT) I've got a client I have to visit soon.

BLOOD DOLL: Okay. (BEAT) Thank you for indulging me.

NICHOLE: Thank you for opening yourself to me.

BLOOD DOLL: You made it a pleasure.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL AND NICHOLE HUG, AND KISS

BLOOD DOLL: I'll miss this.

NICHOLE: Yeah. I will too.

BLOOD DOLL: See you.

NICHOLE: (BEAT) Goodbye.

SCENE 21. — NEW LIFE (INT: COMMUNITY CENTER, AFTERNOON)

• BLOOD DOLL, STEPHANIE

/SFX/ MURMUR WALLA, LOW WIND OUTSIDE, SHUFFLING IN SEATS

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I found a small, affordable house in North Rainier and had my things from storage moved into it. I lay on my new mattress on a newly purchased bed, and stared up at the ceiling. I could have pizza again. I could use phones without hiding them. I could have another computer. But I didn't want any of that. I had my cash and my credit cards and no one to talk to. No one to have coffee with. The seconds ticked slowly by in my new home as they had in my cell in AARALYN's. I walked in the sun around the neighborhood, down to the restaurants and markets. I was still in Seattle, but it was a whole new life. (BEAT) I decided to get myself another job.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS IN ON WOOD FLOOR

STEPHANIE: So, with the new rider proposal coming up next, I vote we adjourn for lunch and think about what we want to plant in the community garden. How's that sound?

/SFX/ WALLA, PEOPLE GETTING UP AND SHIFTING AROUND, BLOOD DOLL STOPS WALKING

BLOOD DOLL: Hi.

STEPHANIE: Holy shit.

BLOOD DOLL: What's up?

STEPHANIE: (BEAT) How long's it been?

BLOOD DOLL: I don't know. A couple years?

STEPHANIE: (BEAT) I told you. I didn't want you just showing up in my life.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm sorry.

STEPHANIE: You said you'd write me letters. Where are they?

BLOOD DOLL: I've been busy. I was swept up in a lot of things.

STEPHANIE: Uh huh. So now you're unswept? Got time on your hands?

BLOOD DOLL: I was kicked out.

STEPHANIE: Of what?

BLOOD DOLL: That relationship I told you about.

STEPHANIE: What about your club?

BLOOD DOLL: Harbinger's is done. You heard about the murders.

STEPHANIE: Who didn't? Jesus fuck. Fascists in your club?

BLOOD DOLL: What's done is done. The club will return as Krafthaus and I will not be involved.

STEPHANIE: How are you doing, like, financially?

BLOOD DOLL: I'm fine. I'll never have to work again. (BEAT) I didn't come here to see you. I'm looking for opportunities to volunteer.

STEPHANIE: At our community center?

BLOOD DOLL: I have a place in North Rainier. It's not that far from the Link.

STEPHANIE: What are you interested in doing?

BLOOD DOLL: Teaching. Small business management. Grant writing. (BEAT) Religious studies.

STEPHANIE: I suppose. I don't know how many students you'll get. Our most popular classes are about how to become an influencer.

BLOOD DOLL: I wouldn't know anything about that.

STEPHANIE: You ran a club that catered to influencers.

BLOOD DOLL: I didn't handle the art projects. I barely knew who most of the artists we featured were.

STEPHANIE: At least do a presentation on what it was like to run Harbinger's. That'll put butts in seats.

BLOOD DOLL: I have to be careful what I say. But I probably can write up enough anecdotes to make a presentation.

STEPHANIE: Great. (BEAT) We meet Tuesday and Thursday nights to discuss classes and events. Come to the next one.

BLOOD DOLL: I will. Thank you.

STEPHANIE: For what it's worth, if you lost your job because of that attack, that's fucked up.

BLOOD DOLL: Nothing I can do now. I'm proud I ran it as long as I did. I'm even proud I convinced club owners in other cities to open their own.

STEPHANIE: Franchise Harbinger's?

BLOOD DOLL: You know it.

STEPHANIE: Was that like the place in Portland that got hit on the same night as yours?

BLOOD DOLL: Sure was.

STEPHANIE: Fuck. That's rough.

BLOOD DOLL: I'd rather talk about volunteering for now, if that's okay.

STEPHANIE: Sure. (BEAT) See you Tuesday?

BLOOD DOLL: See you Tuesday.

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I ended up volunteering for two classes a week. I organized them on the phone I got from LOREA. I had to install some extra apps to receive all the texts and DMs I needed. I wasn't happy about cluttering the damned thing, and I was scared of falling into my old video watching habits. (BEAT) I spent the next two weeks creating syllabi and lesson plans. I ran a practice class for STEPHANIE. She was impressed by my presentation skills. Of course, what do you expect from someone who had to regularly present in Camarilla court? (BEAT) I thought my first class went well, but I noticed some of my students on their phones. I thought it draconian, but I banned their use in class, except to record my lectures. I told them it was an accessibility requirement for me, as I couldn't focus with their presence as distractions. (BEAT) My students and I grew more understanding of each other as the weeks passed. I still kept my nocturnal hours and slept during the day, which meant I awoke at three PM, my phone packed with questions from them. I became busy again. It was wonderful.

SCENE 22. — OLD LIFE (EXT: SEATTLE SUBURBAN STREET, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, ZACHERY

/SFX/ NIGHT STREET AMBIANCE, CARS IN DISTANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): One night after class, I was walking back to the Link, and I heard a shout from a nearby darkened street. I ran over with my pepper spray ready, and found two people struggling. I shouted at the assailant.

BLOOD DOLL: (SHOUTS) Hey!

BLOOD DOLL (NA): And applied the pepper spray.

/SFX/ SPRAYS PEPPER SPRAY

ZACHERY: (IN PAIN) Aaaa!

/SFX/ OTHER PERSON RUNS AWAY

ZACHERY: Fuck! What'd you do that for? (BEAT) Miss DAVRIL?

BLOOD DOLL: ZACHERY?

ZACHERY: (SURPRISED) What are you doing here?

BLOOD DOLL: I teach at the community center.

ZACHERY: Oh wow. You're not running the new Krafthaus?

BLOOD DOLL: Nope. SOPHIA cast me out.

ZACHERY: Out of the Camarilla?

BLOOD DOLL: And threatened me if I tried to join the Anarchs.

ZACHERY: That's shitty of her!

BLOOD DOLL: Don't get me started. (BEAT) I'm sorry for interrupting your hunt.

ZACHERY: It's okay. You didn't know. I still got some other spots.

BLOOD DOLL: Oh. (BEAT) Do you happen to know another Kindred named CYN?

ZACHERY: You found CYNTHIA? I thought she was dead dead.

BLOOD DOLL: Yes, I found her. In the Kitsap naval base. As a prisoner.

ZACHERY: Oh.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm sorry. I can't free her. (BEAT) I can try to give her a message, though.

ZACHERY: Yeah! Tell her (BEAT) I got a new place in Shoreline. There's like four of us in a two-bedroom. Rent sucks.

BLOOD DOLL: It's quite obscene, yes.

ZACHERY: Tell her I still wear the kandi she made me. It says, "Blood's Thick."

BLOOD DOLL: Next time I get the chance, I will.

ZACHERY: Oh, fuck. How's she doing? (BEAT) Actually, don't answer that.

BLOOD DOLL: Yup. Sorry.

ZACHERY: (BEAT) Hey, I don't know if you still do the BLOOD DOLL thing.

BLOOD DOLL: I haven't had anyone feed on me for a while.

ZACHERY: (BEAT) Would you mind if I had a bit?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) Sure. Go easy though.

/SFX/ ZACHERY BITES BLOOD DOLL, DRINKS, AND LICKS

ZACHERY: How was it?

BLOOD DOLL: Thank you. I missed that.

ZACHERY: (BEAT) Do you want to do it again sometime?

BLOOD DOLL: No thank you. (BEAT) I have to get going.

ZACHERY: Okay. It was great to see you again, Miss DAVRIL. I'm sorry they screwed you over like that.

BLOOD DOLL: You have a good night. Good fortune on your hunts.

SCENE 23. — GHOULED (INT: SEATTLE BAR, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, STEPHANIE, PETER, RACHEL

/SFX/ BAR AMBIANCE, DRINKING, CASUAL WALLA

BLOOD DOLL (NA): A month later, my first course was completed. I had also started to volunteer for other tasks around the community center, helping draw protest banners and stuffing envelopes. In celebration, STEPHANIE offered to take me out drinking. I would never have said no to that.

/SFX/ STEPHANIE WALKS OVER, SETS DRINKS DOWN ON THE TABLE

STEPHANIE: All right. Here's your fucking whiskey, Miss Moneybags.

BLOOD DOLL: I adore it. Thank you.

STEPHANIE: While I have the freshest IPA money can buy. Cheers.

BLOOD DOLL: Kanpai.

/SFX/ THEY CLINK THEIR GLASSES TOGETHER AND DRINK

STEPHANIE: What are you thinking about teaching next?

BLOOD DOLL: You reminded me. Mixology. I got fairly good at that when I was off in (BEAT) you know.

STEPHANIE: Yeah. Where your tastes went from the humble gin and tonic to whatever the fuck whiskey that is.

BLOOD DOLL: It's hard to go back, once you've had the best.

STEPHANIE: Are you sure you're happy down here with us lowly peons?

BLOOD DOLL: I wasn't happy in my ivory tower. This is a relief in a lot of ways.

STEPHANIE: Oh. So if they let you back in?

BLOOD DOLL: I don't know. It's not the world it was when I first came into it.

STEPHANIE: So what countries did she take you to?

BLOOD DOLL: I never left Seattle. I was either in my rooms in Queen Anne or the club, most of the time.

STEPHANIE: It sounds deeply boring.

BLOOD DOLL: I liked the tedium.

STEPHANIE: They broke you out of your old video junkie habit.

BLOOD DOLL: (SMILES) And I'm not going back.

STEPHANIE: And I see you bring those sandwiches to class every night. Don't you get sick of them?

BLOOD DOLL: No. And they're very important to me.

STEPHANIE: (BEAT) To your new life. And my old one.

BLOOD DOLL: I'll drink to that.

/SFX/ THEY DRINK

BLOOD DOLL: (SEES PEOPLE SHE RECOGNIZES) Just a minute.

STEPHANIE: Something up?

BLOOD DOLL: I recognize those two people at the bar. That man, and the woman beside him.

STEPHANIE: You're going to say hello?

BLOOD DOLL: I am. I'll be right back.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS TO THE BAR, STOPS

BLOOD DOLL: RACHEL? PETER?

PETER: CASSANDRA!

RACHEL: The fuck are you doing here?

BLOOD DOLL: I'm teaching now. I'm celebrating my first class with my ex.

PETER: STEPHANIE, right?

BLOOD DOLL: You remembered!

PETER: Yeah. I was kind of a bitch to you. I'm sorry. I was just (BEAT) going stir crazy in there. You know.

RACHEL: Same, honestly. But I'm glad you and her are doing okay. Can we get you a drink?

BLOOD DOLL: No, I'm good. I have the money SAMAEEL gave me and my salary from two years of running Harbinger's. I'm set.

PETER: Well, la de da. Look at you.

RACHEL: Hey, I can say I knew you before you were cool.

BLOOD DOLL: Hell yeah. (BEAT) So what's going on with you now?

RACHEL: Oh, you know. (BEAT) Kindred business.

BLOOD DOLL: Oh! Did you both get Embraced?

PETER: (CHUCKLES) I wish.

RACHEL: We're ESTHER's now.

BLOOD DOLL: (REALIZES) Oh.

PETER: She feeds us regularly.

RACHEL: Yeah, she's decent to us.

BLOOD DOLL: Do you still live with SOPHIA?

RACHEL: We have our own places now.

BLOOD DOLL: That's good.

PETER: It is. I get to hack together all kinds of fun devices in my free time.

RACHEL: I'm with a band. We're getting better.

BLOOD DOLL: Nice.

PETER: Yeah. It's a life. It's more than we had under AARALYN.

RACHEL: I guess. SOPHIA's not really into us. I think she just dumped us on ESTHER.

BLOOD DOLL: Ah. (BEAT) Did you ask to be ghouléd?

RACHEL: (LONG PAUSE) It was there among some options?

PETER: I was hoping Embrace was on the table.

BLOOD DOLL: Still could be?

RACHEL: (LONG PAUSE) Anyway, it's super good to see you.

PETER: Yeah, we come here on some of our days off to (BEAT) commiserate.

BLOOD DOLL: Oh. (BEAT) Well, I hope to see you again.

PETER: Same!

RACHEL: Yeah. It was good to run into you. Good luck on your teaching.

BLOOD DOLL: Did you ever get that Masters degree?

RACHEL: Yeah! It was a bitch.

PETER: She's pretty proud of that.

BLOOD DOLL: Congratulations!

RACHEL: Thank you! (BEAT) Take care of yourself, okay?

PETER: Yeah. Congrats for getting out. Enjoy it.

BLOOD DOLL: I'll try. Thank you.

PETER: Bye!

RACHEL: See you when we see you!

BLOOD DOLL: Yeah. Be well.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL WALKS BACK TO STEPHANIE, STOPS

STEPHANIE: Friends from your old life?

BLOOD DOLL: Sort of. (BEAT) I can talk with them about things I can't with you.

STEPHANIE: I still think you were with the mob.

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) I'm not endangering you by telling you.

STEPHANIE: I mean. I'm still going to ask.

BLOOD DOLL: It doesn't matter where I was. Just where I am. Tonight.

STEPHANIE: (BEAT) Sure. I'm drinking to that.

SCENE 24. — CANDLE IN THE WIND (EXT: PUGET SOUND SHORELINE, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL

/SFX/ WIND AND WAVES ROLLING IN

BLOOD DOLL (NA): It really was the end for me. Away from the Kindred world for so long, recognizing people who were there, recognizing I couldn't return, and honestly, my life outside was growing on me. The exhilaration of living in the tiger's den was wearing off and looking back, I was surprised at some of the choices I'd made. The things I'd said to openly hostile people. I didn't feel like a better person, but my experiences in the Kindred world had made me a richer, more cultured one. I'd grown in confidence and held my own in ways I never could before. I was just damned lucky I wasn't dead. (BEAT) I drove out to the pier where JUDITH had first brought me to witness LEVIATHAN. I put a black candle on the pier's end and lit it. And I said a prayer to the old me who could not be with me anymore. And to SAMAEI. (BEAT) And then I went home. And once more, everything changed.

SCENE 25. — THE BEGINNING OF THE END (INT: BLOOD DOLL'S LIVING ROOM, NIGHT)

• BLOOD DOLL, ZACHERY

/SFX/ QUIET AMBIANCE

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I was reading another book that SAMAEEL had recommended to me, when I heard a knock on my window.

/SFX/ KNOCK ON GLASS FROM OUTSIDE, PAUSE, REPEAT

ZACHERY: (OUTSIDE, MUFFLED) Hey! Hey, it's me!

BLOOD DOLL: (SIGHS)

ZACHERY: (OUTSIDE, MUFFLED) Hey! Can I come in?

BLOOD DOLL: Go away!

ZACHERY: (OUTSIDE, MUFFLED) I just want to talk!

BLOOD DOLL: Not interested!

ZACHERY: (OUTSIDE, MUFFLED) You said I could drink you again sometime?

BLOOD DOLL: (BEAT) No. I did not!

ZACHERY: (OUTSIDE, MUFFLED) Okay. Fuck. Okay. (BEAT) Hey! I think it's really shitty what happened to you!

BLOOD DOLL: (SIGHS, ANNOYED)

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL STANDS, WALKS TO THE WINDOW, OPENS IT

BLOOD DOLL: ZACHERY. I'm in no mood to play games tonight.

ZACHERY: So, I was thinking. (BEAT) They never gave you a chance to become a Kindred, right?

BLOOD DOLL: The Camarilla? No. However- (IS INTERRUPTED)

ZACHERY: Yeah, they screwed you over pretty bad. After everything you did for us at the club.

BLOOD DOLL: Probably. Yes.

ZACHERY: I mean, you fed me for years. I've been out of practice. (BEAT) I want to repay you.

BLOOD DOLL: I'm good.

ZACHERY: Oh, you're being so polite about it. You can tell me.

BLOOD DOLL: We're done. Please leave.

ZACHERY: No, I'm serious. I can make you a Kindred. Like you always wanted.

BLOOD DOLL: Where did you get that idea?

BLOOD DOLL (NA): I snatched my phone from my pocket and hit the emergency call code.

ZACHERY: Every human wants to be one of us. We live forever. We never age.

BLOOD DOLL: Believe me. I know.

ZACHERY: I was scared. When my sire killed me. But it's okay.

BLOOD DOLL: We're done.

/SFX/ BLOOD DOLL SHUTS THE WINDOW, WALKS AWAY, WINDOW BREAKS, ZACHERY
STEPS IN

ZACHERY: It's not something to be scared of. It's amazing.

BLOOD DOLL: ZACHERY. Please leave.

ZACHERY: You'll be stronger. Faster. Smarter.

BLOOD DOLL: Out of my house!

ZACHERY: You won't feel a thing.

BLOOD DOLL: ZACHERY. Who will get your message to CYNTHIA? Who will get your-

/SFX/ SOUND CUTS OUT

-END-