Vampire: The Masquerade: Blood Doll Script, v1

Season 2, Episode 15: “Return the Blood Doll”

by Alicia E. Goranson

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Approximate playing time: 1 Hour, 20 minutes

CAST OF CHARACTERS

CASSANDRA DAVRIL	30s trans woman, Ventrue, femme, main character
SAMAEL (GEORGE GATAKER)	Ventrue, demimasc, former vassal of Seattle prince AARALYN, CASSANDRA’s sire, alter in CASSANDRA
RUTH	Naval biology scientist, 30s, trans femme
ROSE	Toreador sheriff of Camarilla
JOSEPHINE	Thin blood, 15th generation, advocate for Duskborn rights
LOREA	Cult of Set Non-Believer, femme, SODO Anarch community organizer, on the Weaponry Security Collective
HANK	Anarch, 30-40s, masc
SIOBHAN	Gangrel, femme, full time mutual aid provider, SODO Anarch community resource distributor
MARA	Buddhist Tzimisce, femme, formerly incarcerated
ENOCH	Ventrue Elder, gender long forgotten
ESTHER	Salubri, femme, AARALYN’s minister, chosen to replace former minister, appointed as a favor to the Salubri clan to end bloodshed
STEPHANIE	30-something human trans woman, BLOOD DOLL’s ex-girlfriend
FIRST LIGHT LEAD	Leader of the First Light in Kitsap
CYNTHIA	Thin Blood, femme
SILVER	Anarch, 30s-40s
LAUGHING SABBAT	Fascist Sabbat, any gender
REPORTER	News reporter for KITO TV, any gender

BYSTANDER 1	Downtown Seattle bystander, any gender
BYSTANDER 2	Downtown Seattle bystander, any gender
BYSTANDER 3	Downtown Seattle bystander, femme
BYSTANDER 4	Downtown Seattle bystander, any gender
BYSTANDER 5	Downtown Seattle bystander, any gender
BYSTANDER 6	Downtown Seattle bystander, any gender
BYSTANDER 7	Downtown Seattle bystander, any gender
POLICE (SPD)	Seattle police officer, any gender
PRESTON	Seattle Councilmember, femme
NEWS ANNOUNCER	News announcer, femme
FIRST LIGHT 1-4	First Light guards on plane, any gender
PILOT	Military pilot, femme
RONNIE	Brujah, Montana Anarchs, femme

SCENE 1. — SHAFT (INT: SKYSCRAPER OFFICE HALLWAY, NIGHT)
- CASSANDRA, SAMAEL

NOTE: REPEAT EPISODE 14 ENDING, LINE 1818 TO THE END

/SFX/ WIND OUTSIDE, STAIRWELL AMBIANCE, CASSANDRA RUNS DOWN STAIRS, KICKS OPEN METAL DOOR, OFFICE AMBIANCE, CASSANDRA RUNS DOWN OFFICE HALL ON CARPET

CASSANDRA: Fuck! She's coming!

/SFX/ HELENA SHRIEKS IN DISTANCE, CASSANDRA STOPS, SLAMS ELEVATOR BUTTON

SAMAEL (ECHO): Love, we cannot hide out from her in an elevator.

CASSANDRA: I know.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA RUNS DOWN OFFICE HALL ON CARPET, HELENA HITS FLOOR BEHIND HER, STRUGGLES ON CARPET, AND CHARGES AT HER.

SAMAEL (ECHO): She's gaining!

CASSANDRA: She wants my blood.

SAMAEL (ECHO): So why did we waste time calling an elevator?

CASSANDRA: We need to go down a floor.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA KICKS OPEN A METAL DOOR, RUNS INTO STAIRWELL, STAIRWELL AMBIANCE, CASSANDRA JUMPS INTO THE STAIRWELL, GRABS A METAL BAR ONE FLOOR DOWN, PULLS HERSELF UP, HELENA RUSHES INTO STAIRWELL, SHRIEKS

SAMAEL (ECHO): What's down here?

CASSANDRA: Escape.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA KICKS OPEN A METAL DOOR, RUNS INTO OFFICE, OFFICE AMBIANCE, CASSANDRA RUNS DOWN OFFICE HALL ON CARPET, HELENA SHRIEKS IN STAIRWELL BEHIND HER, SKITTERS DOWN STAIRS

CASSANDRA: She's feral, right?

SAMAEL (ECHO): After surviving all day outside? Yes.

CASSANDRA: So she's not thinking straight.

SAMAEL (ECHO): She's locked onto anything with blood. That's you.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA STOPS, HELENA SKITTERS ACROSS CARPET FAR BEHIND HER

SAMAEL (ECHO): What do you want with the elevator one floor down?

CASSANDRA: (STRUGGLES) Hngh!

SAMAEL (ECHO): Aren't you going to push the elevator button?

CASSANDRA: (STRUGGLES) Hngh! No. The elevator has to be above us.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA HEAVES OPEN THE ELEVATOR DOOR, HELENA SKITTERS ACROSS CARPET CLOSER BEHIND HER

CASSANDRA: There's the elevator shaft.

SAMAEL (ECHO): Here she comes!

CASSANDRA: Here goes!

/SFX/ CASSANDRA LEAPS ACROSS SHAFT, GRABS METAL PIPE ON THE OTHER SIDE, IMPACTS WALL

CASSANDRA: (IMPACTS WALL) Ugh!

SAMAEL (ECHO): Love! Crossing the shaft isn't going to help us.

CASSANDRA: (DESPERATE) It will.

SAMAEL (ECHO): She'll catch us!

CASSANDRA: (DESPERATE) She won't.

/SFX/ HELENA SKITTERS ACROSS CARPET CLOSE BY, LEAPS INTO ELEVATOR SHAFT, PLUMMETS TO BOTTOM, SHRIEKING

CASSANDRA: (RELIEVED) She wasn't thinking. She wouldn't consider grabbing the wall across the shaft.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA CLIMBS UP THE METAL SHAFT A BIT

CASSANDRA: (CLIMBING) Hngh. (STOPS, GRUNTS) Hah!

/SFX/ CASSANDRA SLASHES A METAL CABLE, CUTS IT A LITTLE

SAMAEL (ECHO): What now?

CASSANDRA: (GRUNTS) Hah! Have to cut this cable!

/SFX/ CASSANDRA SLASHES A METAL CABLE, CUTS IT MORE, ELEVATOR CREAKS

SAMAEL (ECHO): That's the cable holding the elevator's counterweight.

CASSANDRA: Not for much longer! (GRUNTS) Hah!

/SFX/ CASSANDRA SLASHES THROUGH METAL CABLE, ELEVATOR SQUEALS, PLUMMETS BY HER TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SHAFT

CASSANDRA: And down goes the elevator.

/SFX/ ELEVATOR CRASHES INTO THE BOTTOM OF THE SHAFT

SAMAEL (ECHO): Right onto HELENA.

CASSANDRA: We have to go.

SAMAEL (ECHO): (BEAT, HORRIFIED) What have you done?

/SFX/ AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SHAFT, HELENA SHRIEKS

CASSANDRA: She’s off of us. She can’t get back up here.

SAMAEL (ECHO): But love. She’s feral and wounded. She’s the most desperate monster in creation and she’s in downtown Seattle.

CASSANDRA: (BEAT) Fuck.

SCENE 2. — EYEWITNESSES (EXT: DOWNTOWN SEATTLE STREET, NIGHT)
• STEPHANIE, FIRST LIGHT LEAD, REPORTER, PRESTON, BYSTANDER 1, BYSTANDER 2, BYSTANDER 3, BYSTANDER 4, BYSTANDER 5, BYSTANDER 6, BYSTANDER 7, POLICE (SPD), NEWS ANNOUNCER

NOTE: ALL AUDIO IN THIS SCENE HAS A TV/PHONE AUDIO FILTER

/SFX/ DOWNTOWN SEATTLE AMBIANCE

REPORTER: Councilmember PRESTON? Excuse us. K I T O news. Do you know how the crane was moved over this building last night?

PRESTON: We're still looking into it. I've spoken with the union president and he said-

/SFX/ METAL AND GLASS DOOR SHATTERS, HELENA SKITTERS OUT OF BUILDING, SHRIEKS

REPORTER: (HORRIFIED) What's that?

PRESTON: I. I.

/SFX/ HELENA LEAPS ONTO PRESTON, LANDS, SLASHES HER FAST

PRESTON: (PAINED) Aaaah!

/SFX/ ADDITIONAL SLASHES, PRESTON SCREAMS, PEOPLE PANIC, HELENA TEARS PRESTON APART SQUISHY, BREATHES FASTER, LICKS UP BLOOD

REPORTER: Oh. Shit.

/SFX/ HELENA SHRIEKS, JUMPS, LANDS ON REPORTER, FLESHY RIPS, SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ, AUDIO CUTS AWAY TO BYSTANDER 1 RECOUNTING EVENTS LATER

BYSTANDER 1: The thing just crashed out of the tower like, boom! Went right for the councilwoman. Then, like, everyone near it. Just started fucking tearing them up.

BYSTANDER 2: You know they've got those bears on cocaine? This had to be a Mothman on speed or something.

BYSTANDER 1: No, it was like, a body, all tore up.

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 3: The thing ripped into my husband. Just bit into him! And I ran! The blood was just everywhere! I didn't go back. (SAD) I didn't find out he was dead until-

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 4: I was hiding under a car. It was just tearing up everyone on the street. It was all blades and teeth and the only time it stopped was when it slashed into someone

and they started spraying blood. It put its mouth over the spray, and I wanted to run but-

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ, POLICE SIRENS, CRUISERS SKID TO A STOP, DOORS OPEN, FEET HIT GROUND, GUNS START FIRING, HELENA SHRIEKS

POLICE (SPD): I've never seen anything like it. But we followed our training. We rendered the situation safe.

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 5: The cops didn't do anything. They shot it and that only pissed it off. It went right at them. Bullets went into it and it just didn't stop. (BEAT) It killed three cops before the others ran off. (BEAT) I've never seen a cop take off like (BEAT) a scared little kid. Just popping their guns behind them. I swear they shot like eight people.

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

NEWS ANNOUNCER: Seattle police have been accused of shooting twenty-six people during the downtown emergency, seriously wounding nine and killing five.

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 6: People were screaming and running. The ambulances were parked blocks away. They were too scared to go in.

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 7: It was insatiable. Whatever it was. You got near it? You were dead. You were just (BEAT) dead. I heard it got out of the Woodland Park Zoo or some shit.

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 5: These people who were in front of me tripped. And we were packed tight. You know? Packed. Some dude next to me. Some girl on the other side. They fell in front of me and everyone behind me was pushing and bam! Down I went. Down, all of us went. They were stomping on us, trying to get by. I thought I was done. I thought whatever it was was going to get me. Face on the asphalt. Couldn't get up. (BEAT) That's when the Army trucks rolled up.

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 1: The fucking Navy from Kitsap? I don't know how long it was but they came in and started pushing everyone out of the way.

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 3: All these soldiers started pouring out of their trucks, biggest rifles I've ever seen. I saw the police and was thinking, what the heck are these people going to do?

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 2: I know Castle Rock versus Gonzales. I didn't expect the pigs to do shit. But the Army? They went right in, started shooting the thing with big metal spikes on wires. Then put some serious juice through it.

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

NEWS ANNOUNCER: Excuse me. What are the Armed Forces doing here?

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: No comments. Please! Everyone! Get out of the way!

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 4: They shocked the thing, over and over and over. It was tearing out the spikes and they were just putting new ones into it. They were poppin' and poppin' it. And suddenly, wham!

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 5: It went down. Hit the ground, twitching like ten thousand of those sparkler fireworks. The street was just covered in blood.

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 6: The whole area. Blood. Everywhere.

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 7: The thing was absolutely coated in blood. Everyone was saying-

/SFX/ SNATCH OF AUDIO FUZZ

BYSTANDER 1: It was a vampire.

BYSTANDER 2: Totally a vampire.

BYSTANDER 3: It wanted blood, whatever it was. Like a vampire.

BYSTANDER 4: Vampire.

BYSTANDER 5: Vampire.

BYSTANDER 6: Vampire.

BYSTANDER 7: Vampire. Vampire. Vampire. The Army dudes loaded it up in their truck.

BYSTANDER 5: Hauled it off.

BYSTANDER 2: I swear they put a stake in its chest or something.

BYSTANDER 4: It wasn't human, is all I'm saying.

BYSTANDER 1: I heard they took it to Kitsap.

BYSTANDER 3: I heard they brought it to a camp in Everett.

BYSTANDER 4: I don't know where they went. But as soon as they had loaded it up? They were gone.

BYSTANDER 5: And I'm looking at all these bodies, all these cars wrecked, everywhere, and I'm like, who's going to clean it all up? The city?

BYSTANDER 3: It was awful.

BYSTANDER 2: It was bullshit.

POLICE (SPD): We have no further statements to make at this time.

BYSTANDER 1: Everybody knows it was a fucking vampire. I got the video.

BYSTANDER 2: Absolutely, I recorded it.

BYSTANDER 4: I recorded it.

BYSTANDER 5: I got it on my camera.

BYSTANDER 6: I put it on Instagram.

BYSTANDER 7: I put it on Facebook.

BYSTANDER 3: I put it everywhere, you know? I heard from my friends in the union that they pay off the cops.

BYSTANDER 4: I used to be a coroner. I have stories I can't tell you. We had bodies that I swear moved on their own. But nothing like that thing. We got paid extra if we found an exsanguinated body and marked it down as a drug overdose.

BYSTANDER 7: It's not a secret in the business. Over three years ago? All the overnight coroners died. In a mortuary. They said a body came back.

BYSTANDER 2: And my dealer's a vampire. Something called a Malk? I don't know. You heard of it?

BYSTANDER 5: There's a whole deal where the blood bank makes extra cash selling off their shit to someone. I just thought it was for rich assholes to use for detox. But for vampires? That makes a lot more sense.

STEPHANIE: My ex CASSANDRA died over two months ago. I watched her die in my apartment. I did CPR and everything. But I swear to you. Last month? She came back. She was in my place. I touched her. She was <u>cold</u>. Cold as a corpse. And she walked. And she talked (BEAT) like a god. She said she was a god. And she had disappeared two years before that. When she was running Harbinger's. She broke up with me before that, saying she had a new lover and couldn't tell me anything about it. And she got so much money. I know because she gave it all to me. She said it was dirty. It had to be vampire money. They had to have been running Harbinger's. I know. It sounds bullshit. But everything that happened? It's

the only thing that makes sense. She was living with vampires. And she became one.

BYSTANDER 1: I've watched that video like fifty times. Fucking blood sucker.

BYSTANDER 5: The day we learned they were real. Fuuuuuuck!

SCENE 3. — BREACH (INT: LOREA'S WAREHOUSE, NIGHT)
- CASSANDRA, LOREA, JOSEPHINE, SAMAEL, RUTH, ROSE

/SFX/ WAREHOUSE AMBIANCE, TABLET BEEPS AS LOREA TURNS OFF THE VIDEO

SAMAEL (ECHO): The Masquerade. (BEAT) Is broken.

LOREA: The Masquerade is broken, CASSANDRA. And it's all thanks to you.

SAMAEL (ECHO): We are so fucked!

CASSANDRA: I didn't mean to.

LOREA: Oh, I'm not blaming you. I'm just trying to impress how enormously fucked we all are!

CASSANDRA: Maybe we'll have a chance to actually talk with humans about us? Now that they know we exist?

LOREA: Fucked! Fucked! Fucked!

RUTH: And the First Light have HELENA.

LOREA: What's left of her. She's probably in the deepest torpor right now, recovering.

CASSANDRA: Well, what do we do? The Masquerade's been around for hundreds of years? Surely you have a plan for when it goes down. Right? (BEAT) Right?

LOREA: (BEAT) There is no plan. The Masquerade was a bulwark to protect all of us.

CASSANDRA: You had hundreds of years to come up with something.

LOREA: Nothing to handle video. Humans keep coming up with new forms of proof faster than we can deal with it!

RUTH: (BEAT) What's the damage to your operations so far?

LOREA: Blood bags from the clinics? Gone. Our deals with the coroners? Gone. Deals with police? Gone. Protection from anyone who knows we only work at night? Gone. We are alone. Every Anarch who's slipped up and told someone they're a Kindred is off the streets. Our income is shot. I'd kill you myself, CASSANDRA, except it wouldn't fix anything or make me feel better!

CASSANDRA: At least the Camarilla are down another Prince.

LOREA: You are not helping.

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS APPROACH, STOP

JOSEPHINE: So what's this I hear about this being CASSANDRA's fault?

LOREA: It's CASSANDRA's fault.

CASSANDRA: I'm sorry for not dying when it was convenient for you!

JOSEPHINE: What'd you do?

CASSANDRA: I beat Lictor HELENA in an unfair fight.

JOSEPHINE: That was Lictor HELENA?

RUTH: Kitsap will have to be in lockdown now. I don't know if they've ever held a Kindred that strong before. Fuck, I don't know if the First Light have either.

LOREA: They better hope she's in torpor then. That can last months. Years.

SAMAEL (ECHO): Centuries.

CASSANDRA: Some reports say she was staked.

LOREA: I've watched all the video. They might have staked her, or it might have been those electric javelins they stuck in her. Either way, she's not defending herself anytime soon.

CASSANDRA: So suddenly you care about the Camarilla? Now, an injury to one is an injury to all?

LOREA: The danger is real to all of us. Even JOSEPHINE.

JOSEPHINE: Really? A lot of us Duskborn can fake being human really well. You're the ones who're fucked.

CASSANDRA: Do you think the First Light will kill HELENA, RUTH?

RUTH: The First Light are always looking for new ways to kill Kindred. That said, they have their own research institutes, but those aren't anywhere near here. They're just storing the Kindred on the base until they find a need for them.

SAMAEL (ECHO): Lovely.

LOREA: Well, we are absolutely off the rails here. We couldn't take on Kitsap if we wanted to. JOSEPHINE, can your daywalkers help out my business so everyone doesn't get suspicious about why I'm only available at night?

JOSEPHINE: For the right price.

LOREA: Done. Thank you. Send in your crew. I'll tell them what to do and what to expect.

JOSEPHINE: Gladly. And I assume such a position would make us official Anarchs?

LOREA: (PAUSE) It would.

JOSEPHINE: Excellent. I'm so glad to finally hear it from your lips. We are happy to assist our day-challenged elders.

LOREA: I'll alert my crew that you're helping us through this trying time.

JOSEPHINE: While we're doing so, we would appreciate safe housing.

LOREA: (BEAT) I'm sure something can be arranged. Is that all?

JOSEPHINE: For now.

LOREA: Blood may be difficult to acquire for a while.

JOSEPHINE: I've got that covered.

LOREA & CASSANDRA: Good.

LOREA: (PAUSE) Is there something I should know?

CASSANDRA: No.

JOSEPHINE: No.

CASSANDRA: Can RUTH and I speak with JO for a second?

LOREA: (SUSPICIOUS) What about?

CASSANDRA: I need to pay her back for hiding me.

LOREA: With blood? Are you offering your Blood Doll to her?

RUTH: No.

CASSANDRA: Sure.

RUTH: (CONFUSED) Okay. Sorry. We hadn't talked about this.

LOREA: Well, get to it. I need to review this footage again.

/SFX/ RUTH WALKS TO CASSANDRA, STOPS

RUTH: What's going on?

CASSANDRA: (LOW) I need an excuse to talk to JO about the Blood Dolls.

RUTH: Ah. (BEAT) Was that your ex in the video feed?

CASSANDRA: (ANGRY) Yes. I don't want to talk about it right now.

RUTH: Fair.

/SFX/ RUTH AND CASSANDRA WALK TO JOSEPHINE, STOP

CASSANDRA: JOSEPHINE.

JOSEPHINE: Relax. I'm not giving up your precious Blood Dolls.

CASSANDRA: Don't add any more.

JOSEPHINE: I have six new ones I'm interviewing now.

RUTH: They're in. If they know anything. They're in and they don't get out.

JOSEPHINE: They know the stakes.

CASSANDRA: Have any of them said anything on social media about the coven?

JOSEPHINE: No.

CASSANDRA: You've checked.

JOSEPHINE: They check each other.

CASSANDRA: Have you seen any of them since the HELENA debacle?

JOSEPHINE: A few. I had them spread the word to stay quiet.

RUTH: Impress it on them. Nothing gets out now, no matter what the temptation is.

JOSEPHINE: I know. I have. They're very special to me.

CASSANDRA: Both the Camarilla and the First Light must be panicking now. And who knows how other humans might react to learning about humans who feed Kindred.

JOSEPHINE: I'm surprised you don't want to tell everyone about that.

CASSANDRA: I do. I really do. But I can read the writing on the wall. Panicking Kindred everywhere. This is not the time.

JOSEPHINE: I'll impress upon them that their fucking mouths need to stay shut. Now. About my payment.

CASSANDRA: Money's going to be difficult to get for a while.

JOSEPHINE: Then interest will accrue.

SAMAEL (ECHO): That's fine.

CASSANDRA: Fine.

JOSEPHINE: Good. You know what, though? I hope things stay crazy for a while. The Fire Brigade and I will be so useful while the Anarchs are desperate to keep their businesses going.

CASSANDRA: Good luck with that.

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS APPROACH

JOSEPHINE: Oh. Fuck.

LOREA: Oh good. You're finally here.

ROSE: Yes. I appreciated the invitation.

/SFX/ ROSE STOPS WALKING

ROSE: Oh. You're harboring CASSANDRA. We'd wondered where she was off to.

LOREA: She's not mine. Technically, she's yours.

CASSANDRA: I'm not going anywhere.

ROSE: I'll deal with you in a minute. LOREA. The Camarilla agree to a temporary cease fire. We will not engage in any hostile actions with your community during this time of emergency.

LOREA: Thank you. I didn't have to ask for that, you know. Especially with your Prince in the First Light's hands.

ROSE: I don't think humans would sweep any of our fights under the rug right now. Even our ghouls are starting to get cold feet and worry for their futures.

LOREA: I bet. Best of luck to you on that.

ROSE: Thank you. And now.

LOREA: Yes, the next billion dollar question. What the fuck are we going to do about the Masquerade?

ROSE: ESTHER insists that the Gracious Elder is as close to panicking as Elders get. They are compiling lists, spending all night on potential strategies, and seem flummoxed at the scale of the breach. We've had to remind them constantly that these recordings were taken by multiple sources and are being shared worldwide. They aren't used to video being spread that fast. They insist we only need to bury the video and don't understand how impossible that request is.

LOREA: Well, I intend to just cut back my operations and ride out the wave until the next big news cycle hits. A few more of those and we should be back to cryptid status, provided everyone stays hidden. I hope you enjoy your Elder recommending you burn down the entire city like they used to do in the olden days.

ROSE: (DISGUSTED) They have mentioned this as a possible solution. I swear they don't understand the immensity of the humans' world now.

LOREA: They're your boss, not mine. Have fun with your newly anxious demigod.

ROSE: Speaking of which. CASSANDRA?

CASSANDRA: (DUBIOUS) Yes?

/SFX/ ROSE WALKS TO CASSANDRA, STOPS

ROSE: The Elder wants to see you.

CASSANDRA: Sounds like they want a lot of things they're not going to get.

ROSE: They're not taking the loss of their Lictor well.

CASSANDRA: Surely they can just order another from the sea of Ventrue desperate for spots up the corporate ladder?

ROSE: CASSANDRA. Fucking take your medicine and stand before the Gracious Elder.

CASSANDRA: My trial was a farce, like JOTHAM's.

ROSE: And who exactly backs you? Who will fight for you if Elder ENOCH decides to visit you in whichever compound you're hiding in? Tell me, LOREA, would you mind terribly if the Elder stopped by?

LOREA: (PAUSE) CASSANDRA. I advise you to go to the Elder.

CASSANDRA: And die?

ROSE: If it were that simple, you'd already be dead. The Elder would have found you themselves. They want a first-hand account of what happened to HELENA. And unfortunately, you're the only one who can give it.

CASSANDRA: I can be interviewed over video.

ROSE: No video. Everything is done in person before the Elder.

CASSANDRA: I don't step into their chamber without a guarantee I will step back out.

ROSE: I can't give you that assurance. If you are planning to run, this is as good a time as ever. (BEAT) However.

/SFX/ ROSE TAKES A STEP TO RUTH, GRABS HER

RUTH: Hey!

ROSE: This is yours, isn't it?

CASSANDRA: (BEAT) Yes.

LOREA: And mine.

ROSE: I guarantee it dies if you don't stand before the Elder in the next hour.

RUTH: (STRUGGLES) Eh! Hah!

/SFX/ RUTH SPINS PULLING ROSE'S ARM IN A BREAKABLE POSITION

ROSE: Ow!

RUTH: Let me go or I break your arm.

ROSE: Stop resisting or I'll kill you. And trust me. I <u>can</u>.

CASSANDRA: RUTH. Don't. (BEAT) I'll go.

RUTH: I've got this!

CASSANDRA: None of us can take on an Elder. Trust me. (BEAT) Let's go, ROSE. Release her.

<u>/SFX/ ROSE RELEASES RUTH, STEPS TO CASSANDRA, STOPS</u>

ROSE: She's free. For now. It's good to know what you'll do for her, though.

RUTH: Fuck you.

CASSANDRA: Have you mentioned your part in HELENA's capture, ROSE?

ROSE: Yes. And I walked free. So will you.

CASSANDRA: But not without punishment.

ROSE: No. Not without consequences. But the Gracious Elder needs all the help they can get. Discipline and castigation will be meted out later. For now, let's all try to survive together, shall we?

CASSANDRA: JOSEPHINE?

JOSEPHINE: See you later, Camarilla.

CASSANDRA: LOREA?

LOREA: Come back safe.

CASSANDRA: RUTH.

RUTH: Come back.

CASSANDRA: I'll do what I can.

<u>/SFX/ CASSANDRA AND ROSE WALK AWAY</u>

SCENE 4. — JUSTIFY (INT: GREAT COURTROOM, NIGHT)
- CASSANDRA, ENOCH, ROSE, ESTHER, SAMAEL

/SFX/ QUIET AMBIANCE, CASSANDRA AND RUTH WALK IN, STOP

ESTHER: Oh, would you look at that. Gracious Elder. Your little CASSANDRA has arrived.

ROSE: I've brought her, Gracious Elder.

ENOCH: (FURIOUS) CASSANDRA.

CASSANDRA: I heard you wanted a first-hand account of what happened to HELENA.

ENOCH: You attempted to assassinate our Lictor.

CASSANDRA: Who told you that? Why would I want to? The last thing I wanted to do was anger you, Gracious Elder.

ENOCH: Ah, but you have done an admirable job.

CASSANDRA: I wanted to convince her that I was dead.

ENOCH: (BEAT) Did you attempt to Blood Bond her?

CASSANDRA: I did.

ENOCH: Our Lictor?

CASSANDRA: Your eyes and ears into the world. Unless you can be bothered to do your own research now?

ENOCH: We do not deign involvement with the affairs of the younger Kindred.

CASSANDRA: And that is why the First Light exists, Gracious Elder. Because they do not fear your coming, as I do. As everyone here does. What makes us so special to deserve your attention, when the enemies of all Kindred do not?

ENOCH: The Second Inquisition did not subdue our Lictor on the top of this construction, nor did they drive her into a feral state. (BEAT) For your insubordination and disgrace alone, we should atomize you.

CASSANDRA: That is all you do, Gracious Elder. You're all stick and no carrot.

ENOCH: We reward your presence by granting you existence here, and this insolence is how you repay us?

CASSANDRA: Is my intrinsic telos to be an extension of your Will, Gracious Elder? To answer your questions and then to serve the Camarilla with my death?

ENOCH: Aristotle believed in teleology. And he would have said your stated purpose was extrinsic, not natural.

CASSANDRA: Of course, because we share a common teleology, you and I. To render God's punishment on humans. Isn't that the nature of our undeaths?

ENOCH: You evade our questions through philosophy.

CASSANDRA: They say Kindred don't change, but we, the younger Kindred, are more coyote than your wolf. Were I a wolf, I would either have fought you or turned tail and run. Those, you understand. But instead, I sought to deceive you because I know you couldn't be assed to check on me.

ENOCH: We grow tired of your ramblings, neonate. Tell me what happened between you and HELENA so I may be done with you.

CASSANDRA: Were you right to assign SOPHIA as Prince? (BEAT) Did HELENA tell you she freed me, not ROSE? And did you believe her? (BEAT) And do you have a solution to restore the Masquerade? After hundreds? And hundreds? Of years? Do you have a solution better than "wait" or "kill everybody?"

ENOCH: We are not on trial.

CASSANDRA: You may as well be. (BEAT) I don't have the answers you want. I called HELENA to the rooftop. I held her down with a crane the size of a building and I put my blood into her to bond her to me. And before the sun rose, I tried to get her into the skyscraper but she thought she'd attack me instead. The day came and we both <u>lived</u>. (BEAT) Give me the chance to return her.

ENOCH: Don't be ridiculous.

CASSANDRA: Do you disbelieve my words? Or do you lack faith in me?

ENOCH: She is among the humans now. Perhaps we might have attempted a rescue before the Masquerade was breached. But now is not the time.

CASSANDRA: I've been to the base where they're holding her. What if I could do it? What if I could bring her back?

ENOCH: What if you fled again?

CASSANDRA: I don't want to flee. There's nowhere to go. I'd be on my own. And I'd hate it. My <u>intrinsic</u>, <u>natural</u> telos, is to unite. Camarilla and Anarch. Human and Kindred. You and HELENA. Tell me that is worth my life. Tell me of another Kindred that could do it.

ENOCH: How would you endeavor such a rescue?

CASSANDRA: I don't know. (BEAT) I don't have a plan. (BEAT) Like you, I'll do my research. I'll consult my allies. Give me a week.

ENOCH: You have three nights. And then we'll see how many of your words have weight. We grant you no resources. No aid. (BEAT) Impress us with your cunning, little coyote.

CASSANDRA: I'll return your Lictor. My life is yours. And I hope you will find use in it, when I return.

ENOCH: Let her go. Be ready to retrieve her in three nights.

ROSE: Of course, Gracious Elder. (BEAT) You are permitted to leave, CASSANDRA.

CASSANDRA: Thank you, ROSE. Thank you, Gracious Elder.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA WALKS TO THE DOOR, OPEN IT, WALKS OUT, OFFICE AMBIANCE

SAMAEL (ECHO): Bravo! You stood before an Elder and did not flinch. You're everything I dreamed you'd be before I sired you.

CASSANDRA: We have so much work ahead of us. And I hate how much I'll have to ask of RUTH. (BEAT) If she even wants to help.

SAMAEL (ECHO): She's our only key to Kitsap.

CASSANDRA: No, we can go in by ourselves if need be. I don't want to ask that of her. I got her out of that life. I'll go in with whoever else I can get to help me, if that's anyone at all.

SCENE 5. — LOVE ACTUALLY (INT: LOREA'S WAREHOUSE, NIGHT)
- CASSANDRA, RUTH

/SFX/ WAREHOUSE AMBIANCE, CASSANDRA WALKS IN, RUTH RUNS TO HER, THEY STOP, THEY HUG

RUTH: Oh my God. You're still alive.

CASSANDRA: I am. And so are you.

/SFX/ THEY KISS

CASSANDRA: I can't believe ROSE would use you against me.

RUTH: I talked with LOREA. She was going to step in if things had gotten heated. (BEAT) She likes me.

CASSANDRA: I would have beaten ROSE into the Earth if she had hurt you.

RUTH: Well, you would have tried.

CASSANDRA: (BEAT) Yeah. What can I say? You're special to me, and I like to bluster.

RUTH: Don't ever change.

CASSANDRA: Well, I've heard we don't. (BEAT) Come closer.

RUTH: Sure.

/SFX/ THEY HUG

CASSANDRA: May I drink from you? I really want to feel you gush into me.

RUTH: Of course.

CASSANDRA: Thank you.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA DRINKS RUTH, LICKS HER

RUTH: Hngh. That was nice.

CASSANDRA: I know how it feels. I miss it. It's incredible on this side, too. It's why I know we're not cursed. We're supposed to be. But the act of drinking is so fucking ecstatic. Tell me about any other creature that imparts pleasure when it feeds on another. Tell that this isn't supposed to happen between us. Like sex.

RUTH: The First Light call it a temptation away from God.

CASSANDRA: Good. What the fuck does God offer?

RUTH: Catharsis and acceptance within religious communities.

CASSANDRA: That's not your kink.

RUTH: Or yours. Remember when you took me into the forest?

CASSANDRA: That was a fucking hot first date.

RUTH: You got under my skin. You were everything I ever wanted with a Kindred outside Kitsap. (BEAT) Humans do change. Especially when we're alone in a crappy job. I don't know if you or SAMAEL figured this out, but you saved me. You saved me from that pit of an apartment room, with my only joy going out to play with others sometimes. With you, I got to play with Kindred, and it's like, enough sex can heal a gal. You brought my work life and play life together, and I can't thank you enough.

CASSANDRA: RUTH.

/SFX/ THEY KISS

CASSANDRA: I love you.

RUTH: (BEAT, STAMMERS) Really? I mean. What changed?

CASSANDRA: You got your own life outside mine. And it's making you happy. I love to see it. And (BEAT) everything's so up in the air. One fight after fight after fight. And you're still there with me. And you hold me like no one else can hold me. And I don't want to leave you. I don't want to do all the things I have to when I could be spending time with you. (BEAT) It took me being away from you to realize how much I needed you. I don't have to be the CASSANDRA who stands up taller than she is with you. I don't have to lie or manipulate or be someone I'm not. And I know you don't like me when I'm any of those people. Fuck. I fucking love you for it.

/SFX/ THEY HUG

RUTH: Of course. I love you too. I know it's not the same as you and SAMAEL.

CASSANDRA: Stop it. I get to love as many people as I want in the ways I want to love them. There is no comparison. (BEAT) Hey. I need you. I want to be in your arms. I want to smell only you. (BEAT) I want a world just large enough for the two of us. (BEAT) Because I may not last the next three nights.

RUTH: What's going on?

CASSANDRA: I have three nights to get HELENA back. (BEAT) And I don't know if I can do it without you. And I don't want to send you back to Kitsap. I want you as far away from that place as possible. I don't want you touching that life again and I sure as hell would never want to if I were in your shoes.

RUTH: (BEAT) The Elder gave you three nights?

CASSANDRA: And I got to thinking, I might never see you again if I can't pull this off. SAMAEL and I? We'd be together to the end. You? I'd lose as soon as I went to Kitsap. (BEAT) And. (BEAT) It's stupid. I know. I legitimately don't want to ask you for your help. That's when I knew I loved you. Part of me thought, I could ask RUTH to help me. And that part doesn't fucking get to say another word as long as I exist.

RUTH: (BEAT) I don't want to lose you. (BEAT) I think love is a special kind of Hell. I think it's possible to lose yourself in love. (BEAT) I like who I am with you. I want to walk into love, and Hell, with you. Together.

CASSANDRA: Oh, my love.

/SFX/ THEY KISS

CASSANDRA: I can't ask you to help.

RUTH: Fuck you. You're mine too.

CASSANDRA: I don't want to send you back.

RUTH: You want to know if HELENA is still there though, right?

CASSANDRA: But you must have someone on the inside you can just call?

RUTH: They're all First Light now. (BEAT) They'll take me back. They believe in crap like the parable of the Prodigal Son.

CASSANDRA: Will you be able to get out again?

RUTH: Yes. I have you. We'll figure something out.

CASSANDRA: You don't have to do this.

RUTH: You're right. (BEAT) But it's only for three nights?

CASSANDRA: (THINKS) Can you wear jewelry on the base?

RUTH: No, but I could sneak some in. Why?

CASSANDRA: The Anarchs made earrings for me that let me hear audio and broadcasted my GPS location. I have a feeling that if they can broadcast a GPS signal, they should be able to send short text messages too.

RUTH: So we can talk while I'm on base. I like that.

CASSANDRA: We'll talk with LOREA and get you to the Skunkworks for that.

/SFX/ THEY HUG

CASSANDRA: I'll be there for you when you need me. I've taken out First Light before.

RUTH: Yeah, in an environment they didn't know. (BEAT) They know the base very well. But so do I.

CASSANDRA: How do you expect to get out?

RUTH: If they need to move out something or someone, I'll be able to go out with them.

CASSANDRA: They'll be furious with you.

RUTH: Which is why you're going to give me a bunch of false information about a Kindred nest outside the city. Somewhere they can raid and find nothing but traces of you.

CASSANDRA: I'll set that up myself. I'll leave them some kind of clue or writing on the wall that makes them feel like fucking Sherlock Holmes.

RUTH: That'll be fun to see.

CASSANDRA: (BEAT) Tell me again that you want this.

RUTH: (MATTER OF FACT) I want this.

CASSANDRA: (BEAT) You're fucking incredible, you know that?

RUTH: Of course. I hunt you. I have to be pretty badass to pull that off, right?

/SFX/ CASSANDRA GROWLS

RUTH: Is that supposed to scare me?

CASSANDRA: It scares me.

RUTH: (BEAT) Okay, it does a little. I'm glad we're on the same page.

CASSANDRA: I'll be terrified for you when you're gone, okay? Me. A great big scary Kindred. Don't fuck this up, okay?

RUTH: I won't.

/SFX/ THEY KISS

RUTH: I got this.

CASSANDRA: I know you do. I have faith. It's like falling in love.

SCENE 6. — [HACKER VOICE] I'M IN (EXT: PUGET SOUND SHORELINE, NIGHT)
- CASSANDRA, RUTH, SAMAEL

/SFX/ WIND AND WAVES ROLLING IN

RUTH: How do I look?

CASSANDRA: Contrite. Plain. (BEAT) Tired.

RUTH: That's what I'm going for.

CASSANDRA: You ready?

RUTH: (BEAT) No. (BEAT) But it's only three nights.

CASSANDRA: Got your earrings?

RUTH: Two point oh! (BEAT) I'll check into Kitsap in the morning.

CASSANDRA: That's in an hour.

RUTH: (SMILES) I know. (BEAT) You have a good place to rest?

CASSANDRA: LOREA's truck. I can black out the windows and park in a neighborhood where I won't be bothered.

RUTH: I'll try to contact you after sundown.

CASSANDRA: I'll be waiting. I won't go anywhere. I'll track you. If I don't hear from you by midnight, I'm going in.

RUTH: I know. It'll be good to know you're out there. (BEAT) They'll reprimand me for insubordination and desertion. But unless they've shipped in more First Light, their numbers will be small. Thanks to you. They'll need people.

CASSANDRA: I can't wait until I can kill them all.

RUTH: They'll be panicking over what to do with the prisoners. Or maybe they've already decided. We'll find out.

CASSANDRA: We will. (BEAT) See you tomorrow night.

RUTH: It's still the same day. You'll just miss the bright parts.

CASSANDRA: (BEAT) Stay dangerous.

RUTH: Always.

/SFX/ RUTH'S FOOTSTEPS WALK AWAY, SOUND FADES OUT, SOUND FADES BACK IN

SAMAEL (ECHO): Did I ever tell you when I stopped worrying about ELIJIO? During all his highly dangerous escapades?

CASSANDRA: No?

SAMAEL (ECHO): I never stopped. Not even after a hundred years. Any mission could have been his last. Some came close. He was ransomed about four times, as I recall. Earned it back every time. There's a reason the Camarilla kept him on the books.

CASSANDRA: Is this to reassure me?

SAMAEL (ECHO): No, I'm justifying your fears. It's all right to have them.

CASSANDRA: Even for a human?

SAMAEL (ECHO): I feared for you. On multiple occasions. Even when I was imprisoned.

CASSANDRA: Is it natural to fear? For self-preservation. Or preservation of loved ones.

SAMAEL (ECHO): Even the Elders fear for each other. They are mostly heartless backstabbing pricks. But they recognize how alone they would be if not for one another. They're otherwise surrounded by drooling sycophants.

CASSANDRA: Was HELENA a sycophant?

SAMAEL (ECHO): To get the position. She had to be. But after? Then the leash is off. A lifetime position tells the world who truly holds it.

/SFX/ TABLET BEEPS FOR GPS SIGNAL

CASSANDRA: Got her location.

SAMAEL (ECHO): Splendid. (BEAT) I'm so happy for the two of you.

CASSANDRA: (SMILING) Thank you. (BEAT) She's over by the barracks. (BEAT) Let's see if she's listening. (BEAT) Hi. Love. I'm here.

/SFX/ TABLET BEEPS, RECEIVING TEXT

RUTH: (BITCRUSHED) "She's here."

CASSANDRA: I got your message. Good. I'll let everyone know.

/SFX/ TABLET BEEPS, RECEIVING TEXT

RUTH: (BITCRUSHED) "Moving her in a week."

CASSANDRA: Oh no. No. Fuck. We only have two more days. A week's too long. (BEAT) Let me see what I can do.

/SFX/ TABLET BEEPS, RECEIVING TEXT

RUTH: (BITCRUSHED) "Up the timetable."

CASSANDRA: Is that something you can do? Or do you need me to do something? (LONG PAUSE) Fuck. Fuck.

/SFX/ TABLET BEEPS, RECEIVING TEXT

RUTH: (BITCRUSHED) “Release files to internet.”

CASSANDRA: Files? What files? (REALIZES) The files you smuggled out! On MARA. On SILVER. On SAMAEL. I can do that. How would putting them on the internet help?

SCENE 7. — PLAN COMES TOGETHER (INT: LOREA'S WAREHOUSE, NIGHT)
- CASSANDRA, LOREA, MARA

/SFX/ WAREHOUSE AMBIANCE

LOREA: Well?

MARA: I'm curious why you've asked us here on such short notice.

CASSANDRA: So the plan is this. We scan all the files that RUTH smuggled out. The files on every Kindred held in Kitsap. And we leak them online.

LOREA: And how would this help any of us? We're trying to limit the number of details about Kindred online.

CASSANDRA: We need the First Light to move the Kindred they've imprisoned off the base in two days. Or I'm toast. RUTH will tell us how they're planning to move the Kindred so we can intercept the cargo.

MARA: So why are we leaking my very detailed and inappropriate files online?

CASSANDRA: Pressure. Nobody online's sure where they've taken HELENA. Now. Imagine if they get a flood of evidence that Kitsap has been hiding Kindred. For years. That the Kindred still might be there. That's going to add a lot of pressure from the higher-ups to get those Kindred off the base.

MARA: Intriguing.

LOREA: That could work.

MARA: Do my files need to be a part of this leak?

CASSANDRA: No, of course not. Unless you'd be comfortable with redacted versions going out?

MARA: I'd prefer that humans didn't know of fleshmancy.

LOREA: Don't worry. I have plenty more of the files. I can redact names, details, but leave enough for people to make their own conclusions.

CASSANDRA: Good.

MARA: Won't this put RUTH in danger? If the First Light suspects she leaked the files.

CASSANDRA: She said she shouldn't be. She's back with them. She's under supervision. So if the files show up while she's watched, she won't be immediately suspected.

LOREA: "Immediately."

CASSANDRA: Yes. She's still in danger. Like we are. Until we can restore the Masquerade.

LOREA: People around the world are popping off about Kindred. Most of it's garbage. But there's some truth getting out there and I'm concerned that will be noticed. Leaking these files will be gasoline on an already roaring bonfire.

CASSANDRA: I'm happy to direct some of that at the government. Once people are reasonably certain that Kitsap is harboring Kindred, the military will be looking to wash their hands of this whole incident by handing over the Kindred to the First Light.

MARA: Who may kill them.

CASSANDRA: RUTH says, not on the base. After they're transported out? Probably. So we need to prepare to save them once they're off the base.

LOREA: Sounds fun. Any ideas how?

SCENE 8. — TWO DAYS (EXT: PUGET SOUND SHORELINE, NIGHT)
- CASSANDRA, CASSANDRA (NA), RUTH, SAMAEL

/SFX/ WIND AND WAVES ROLLING IN

CASSANDRA (NA): So we did it. ARTURO scanned and redacted the files. LOREA uploaded them and posted a link to Reddit and Facebook. The internet took the bait. Sources hungry for Kindred news swept up every crumb we gave them and spread them far and wide. And then we started searching for “Kitsap” and “response”. Until we had to extend the search parameters to exclude “no response.” Nothing from Kitsap came out. Web sites associated with the base went down from all the traffic. The gaze of the Internet was squarely on them. I returned to the forest outside the base, and waited for RUTH’s signal. Nothing. I was terrified.

SAMAEL (ECHO): Love, it’s four in the morning. She’s probably in bed.

CASSANDRA: Probably.

CASSANDRA (NA): I waited alone until the next evening. And soon after.

/SFX/ TABLET BEEPS FOR GPS SIGNAL

CASSANDRA (NA): I got her GPS signal from the base.

CASSANDRA: I’m here. I’m listening. How are things?

/SFX/ TABLET BEEPS, RECEIVING TEXT

RUTH: (BITCRUSHED) “Panicked. It worked.”

CASSANDRA: Good to hear.

/SFX/ TABLET BEEPS, RECEIVING TEXT

RUTH: (BITCRUSHED) “Shipping out all Kindred (BEAT) tomorrow. Late afternoon. By plane.”

CASSANDRA (NA): She gave me the flight information. They would be taking off from the base. (BEAT) There was no chance of us intercepting the flight on the runway.

CASSANDRA: Fuck! (BEAT) I have to get on that flight.

/SFX/ TABLET BEEPS, RECEIVING TEXT

RUTH: (BITCRUSHED) “Get captured.”

CASSANDRA: I will. (BEAT) I’ll be there for you.

/SFX/ TABLET BEEPS, RECEIVING TEXT

RUTH: (BITCRUSHED) “They’ll stake you.”

CASSANDRA: Then I guess it’s my job to give them a surprise.

SCENE 9. — CLINIC (INT: SMALL CLINIC, NIGHT)
- CASSANDRA, MARA

/SFX/ WIND OUTSIDE, BEAKER BUBBLING, REFRIGERATOR HUM, KNOCK ON DOOR

MARA: Yes? Enter.

/SFX/ DOOR OPENS, CASSANDRA WALKS IN, CLOSES DOOR

CASSANDRA: Hey.

MARA: Hello!

CASSANDRA: SIOBHAN mentioned you'd be back here?

MARA: Yes. This is my clinic and laboratory for fleshmancy. I wouldn't open the refrigerator. I'm still getting into practice again and I'm not proud of my creations.

CASSANDRA: No worries. I wanted to ask you if you could do some emergency surgery on me.

MARA: Do you need your face altered again?

CASSANDRA: No. (BEAT) I'm going to get captured by the First Light.

MARA: (BEAT) Are you certain this is something you want to risk?

CASSANDRA: The Kitsap prisoners are being flown out of the base tomorrow afternoon. I don't have a lot of time.

MARA: Surgery takes time.

CASSANDRA: You mentioned once that you could move my internal organs.

MARA: Yes.

CASSANDRA: I want you to move my heart.

MARA: (BEAT) You expect to be staked.

CASSANDRA: I do.

MARA: I could do this. Your mind might be slightly confused by its new location though.

CASSANDRA: It's just flesh.

MARA: (SMILES) You're learning! Once you are free from considering flesh as an intrinsic component of yourself, you can play with its construction or annihilation! Flesh is suffering, but what incredible suffering it is.

CASSANDRA: I've never heard of a Buddhist relishing suffering before.

MARA: (SMILES) I am a terrible Buddhist at times. But can you blame me? I can explore so much that most practitioners cannot.

CASSANDRA: I'm not going to judge.

MARA: Excellent. Now, we don't have much time. Strip and lie on my table once I have put a fresh sheet on it. I will get to work. It will hurt, of course, but I will teach you some breathing exercises to pass through it. (BEAT) How is RUTH, if you don't mind my asking?

CASSANDRA: She's helping to get the prisoners ready for transport.

MARA: I see. And your intention is to free HELENA?

CASSANDRA: I intend to free them all, if I can.

MARA: That's wonderful news. And if things go wrong?

CASSANDRA: I'm dead anyway. I'll do my best to free RUTH and accept whatever comes after.

MARA: Accepting is not a small thing, like gratitude. I wish we had more time together. I have so much to teach you.

CASSANDRA: I know I'm young for a Kindred. But the world requires that we fledglings grow up too fast. (BEAT) At least I'll have RUTH there with me.

MARA: Well. We should start. If you don't mind, I will play some of my most devotional mantras as I work. Consider that I am protecting you, and that as much as you eschew the spiritual, it is now within you. And there will be nothing you can do about it!

CASSANDRA: Fair.

SCENE 10. — STAY UNDEAD (INT: LOREA'S WAREHOUSE, NIGHT)
- CASSANDRA, LOREA

/SFX/ WAREHOUSE AMBIANCE, FOOTSTEPS WALK IN, STOPS

CASSANDRA: (PAINED) LOREA.

LOREA: Are you all right?

CASSANDRA: (PAINED) I just had surgery with MARA. Without anesthesia.

LOREA: Ah. I try to avoid that.

CASSANDRA: I'm getting SILVER back.

LOREA: I know. With HELENA. It'll be so good to see SILVER again. We've been worried sick about her for years.

CASSANDRA: I know none of you want to go with me.

LOREA: Into the First Light's hands? No, thank you.

CASSANDRA: I wanted to ask for a favor before I go.

LOREA: Sure.

CASSANDRA: If you could accept any call on your phone or check the radio channels that the Anarchs typically use tomorrow? I'll need help whatever happens, especially if I've freed the prisoners.

LOREA: And what do you think I can do?

CASSANDRA: Tell HANK and the others where SILVER and I are. We'd appreciate a rescue.

LOREA: (BEAT) You'll have it.

CASSANDRA: Thank you.

LOREA: And thank you for what you're doing. I hope to see you again soon. With SILVER.

CASSANDRA: It's my hope too. And thank you for being my friend, in spite of everything.

LOREA: The TAM was a volatile weapon. I hate that you destroyed it. But such things happen. And we move on. It's the way of Kindred. I've forgiven others for worse.

CASSANDRA: I appreciate it. (BEAT) I have to leave. I need to get properly captured.

LOREA: Stay undead.

CASSANDRA: I hope to. But I'm just a foolish neonate. I haven't learned all the ways of the world yet. (BEAT) And I'm hoping they underestimate me for it.

LOREA: A fatal error too many others have made.

SCENE 11. — ENEMIES (INT: OLD DINER, NIGHT)
- CASSANDRA, SAMAEL, FIRST LIGHT LEAD

/SFX/ LATE NIGHT DINER AMBIANCE, PLATES CLINK, FOOD SIZZLES IN KITCHEN

/SFX/ DOOR OPENS, CASSANDRA WALKS IN, CLOSES DOOR, WALKS TO COUNTER, STOPS

CASSANDRA: Hey. Glad your diner is still open. Coffee. Black. And, uh. Buttered toast. If that's all right? (BEAT) Thank you. I'll be here for a few hours. I'm waiting for someone.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA WALKS TO BOOTH, SITS IN BOOTH

SAMAEL (ECHO): I must admit I'm quite concerned that we'll never wake after we're captured.

CASSANDRA: RUTH seemed confident that we will.

SAMAEL (ECHO): (BEAT) She was our captor.

CASSANDRA: And she's in as much danger as we are.

SAMAEL (ECHO): I prefer to be the lion rather than the prey.

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS WALK OVER, STOP, COFFEE CUP IS PLACED ON TABLE

CASSANDRA: Thank you.

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS WALK AWAY

CASSANDRA: (SIGHS) Now to see how long until they notice me.

SAMAEL (ECHO): Settle in.

/SFX/ SOUND FADES OUT, FADES IN, DOOR OPENS, FOOTSTEPS WALK IN, CLOSE DOOR, WALK TO BOOTH, STOP

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: May I sit?

CASSANDRA: Go right ahead.

/SFX/ FIRST LIGHT LEAD SITS IN BOOTH

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: (CURIOUS) What are you doing here?

CASSANDRA: Your cameras saw me.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: You killed half our squad.

CASSANDRA: You've read my file. SAMAEL is part of me. We killed half your squad.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: You've seen your file?

CASSANDRA: No, but I figure you have one on me after I broke out of Kitsap.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Why would you give yourself to me?

CASSANDRA: I want to work with you. And in exchange, I'm trading.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: (LAUGHS)

CASSANDRA: Release one of your prisoners and I'll go with you. Without a fight.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Which?

CASSANDRA: I don't fucking care.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: How much do you know about us?

CASSANDRA: The First Light? As much as the other Kindred have told me.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: We cleanse the world of your kind. Abominations.

CASSANDRA: You're not the first to call me that. It gets tedious after a while.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: (BEAT) You're not drinking that coffee?

CASSANDRA: Help yourself.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: (TO WAITRESS) Excuse me, Ma'am? Another coffee. One sugar.

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS WALK OVER, STOP, COFFEE CUP IS PLACED ON TABLE, COFFEE IS POURED IN THE CUP, FOOTSTEPS WALK AWAY

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Mmm.

/SFX/ FIRST LIGHT LEAD DRINKS COFFEE, SETS IT DOWN

CASSANDRA: I don't miss coffee.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: You miss food?

CASSANDRA: I had to buy the toast to justify waiting for you here.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Why do you think I'd release anybody when you've delivered yourself to me on a silver platter?

CASSANDRA: Because you're an ethical man who keeps promises.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Not to plagues on the Earth such as you.

CASSANDRA: I have a question for you that's been bugging me for years. You know about us.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: A lot more about you than you realize.

CASSANDRA: You know what the Masquerade is.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: I do.

CASSANDRA: We Kindred keep ourselves hidden. For survival. I'm wondering. So why do you?

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Did you leak those files to the internet?

CASSANDRA: I asked you first.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Because the infrastructure of both society and the internet is precarious. We've been fighting hackers, DDOS attacks, and the server load of every fucking idiot on the planet trying to learn what's happening in Kitsap. That is what happens when information on you gets out. Society surges as a beast, hungering for vindication of its beliefs, and reassurance that everything will be all right. (BEAT) Which is a pain in the ass for me.

/SFX/ FIRST LIGHT LEAD SIPS COFFEE, SETS IT DOWN

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: So. Did you leak those files?

CASSANDRA: The ones on Reddit? No. I only checked them to see if mine was among them.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: SAMAEL's was.

CASSANDRA: And they didn't want to read it.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: We've experimented on your kind after they've eaten another of your kind. CAT scans. Psychological profiles. And in all cases, the one who died remains (BEAT) uncooperative. But not SAMAEL, apparently.

CASSANDRA: Am I worth studying? Am I worth the release of a prisoner?

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: You know as well as I do that you're not walking out of here free. And neither are any of the creatures under my jurisdiction. So why are you here?

CASSANDRA: Like I said, I want to work with you.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: (CHUCKLES) Okay. With what?

CASSANDRA: Restoring the Masquerade. We both need it. Neither of us survives without it. We both operate from the shadows. Because people, supposedly, can't handle our existence.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Killing you is easier without the sympathy or interference of the masses. How do you think we can restore it?

CASSANDRA: You think we should? (BEAT) What if we're wrong?

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: (BEAT) How are you going to feed your vile appetite when everybody knows who you are?

CASSANDRA: Does my file mention what I told the NAVAL LIAISON in Kitsap before I killed her?

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: (BEAT) You said you were a Blood Doll.

CASSANDRA: And what's that?

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: You fed these monsters. Like some kind of kink.

CASSANDRA: What if we don't need the Masquerade to exist? Either of us? There's plenty of Blood Dolls out there. Enough for my people.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Except the ones who need to murder.

CASSANDRA: We can get into euthanasia later. You could "police" us. That would reassure the public for a time.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: You said you wanted to restore the Masquerade, though.

CASSANDRA: Because the public has only seen us at our worst. Imagine someone coming to the US for the first time. And the first American they meet is a religious fanatic genocider who named themselves after Lucifer, the First Light. Every American after them is going to have to live in that shadow.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Fuck you.

CASSANDRA: This is not how I wanted the Masquerade broken. My people weren't ready. But <u>you</u> were ready for this break. You, and your electric javelins. (BEAT) I intend to break the Masquerade properly, someday. I intend to smash it to little pieces while the world learns of Kindred through the loving, consensual relationships they've developed with humans. Taking new roles as religious scholars and philosophers. Proof that death is not the end. Proof that God's will can be subverted, if there's even a God. It is <u>you</u> who could not survive such a break in the Masquerade. My people would be fine. Who would you serve, I wonder?

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: You've been murderers since day one. We have video of you killing servicemembers on the base. <u>And</u> you killed so many of our squad, I should kill you now.

CASSANDRA: An eye for an eye, First Light? Will nothing less than the genocide of my people be enough for you?

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: You're not people.

CASSANDRA: And who gets to decide who is and isn't a person, First Light? "So let's go out and kill them all / So when they reach our Father's Hall / And when they burn in Heaven's light / They'll know at last that we were right." Hmm?

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Sweetened words are the domain of Satan.

CASSANDRA: No. You don't care whether or not I recognize myself as a monster. There's just a small child raised on war movies and dreams of ethnic cleansing behind that

coffee cup. (BEAT) I don't see you disagreeing. Because we're each monsters at this table. But the difference between us is that I love people and you only love humanity.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: I have such love in my heart as Christ as ever seen.

CASSANDRA: You have a dog's love of a tennis ball and your prayers are only for someone to toss it for you. So let me do the honors. You will never live as long as us. You will never know love as us. You will never know God as us. You pester me as a boil with the lifespan of a fly.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: I am a righteous man and you, devil, are my crusade. I can tell your soul was damned long before your flesh was. I am nothing like your perverted kind and you are right. I am an ethical man who keeps his promises. Because I swore before the Holy Bible to wipe your kind clean from the Earth so that no blood be ever tainted again by your corruption.

CASSANDRA: And here I am, wishing no child would be stunted as emotionally as you. You'll never see outside your cage. Never know that creature gnawing inside you that you drown in liquor and crucifixes is love. Pure love of everything. Even me. And you. Can't. Take it.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Take her.

CASSANDRA: Let's put the world back as it was, you and me. You, to continue saving the world. And me, to continue cherishing it.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: You're crazy.

CASSANDRA: No. Kindred are as much whole, complicated people as humans. That said, I have room for more than Christ in my heart. This singeing of the Masquerade was just a test of the conflagration that is to come. You will try to pray away the words I've said before you, First Light, but relief. Won't. Come.

/SFX/ FIRST LIGHT LEAD TASES CASSANDRA

CASSANDRA: Huhuhuh.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA FALLS INTO THE BOOTH

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Take her outside and stake her. Put her with the others. Let's get the fuck home.

/SFX/ FIRST LIGHT LEAD TOSSES CASH ON THE TABLE, CASSANDRA IS LIFTED OFF THE BOOTH, FOOTSTEPS TO FRONT DOOR, FRONT DOOR OPENS, FOOTSTEPS OUT, NIGHT TOWN AMBIANCE, TRUCK DOOR OPENS, POV GOES INSIDE, TRUCK DOOR CLOSES

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Stake her on three. One. Two.

/SFX/ STAKE PLUNGES INTO CHEST, SQUISHY, BODY FALLS ONTO METAL FLOOR

SAMAEL (ECHO): That was rather melodramatic.

CASSANDRA (ECHO): It got me in here.

/SFX/ TRUCK STARTS, DRIVES AWAY, DRIVING AMBIANCE

CASSANDRA (ECHO): I'm fighting the urge to blink.

SAMAEL (ECHO): The sun will rise in a couple hours. And then it'll be easy not to think at all.

/SFX/ TRUCK DRIVING AMBIANCE FADES OUT

SCENE 12. — KINDRED AIR (INT: MILITARY PLANE CARGO HOLD, NIGHT)
• CASSANDRA, SAMAEL, RUTH, FIRST LIGHT LEAD, SILVER, CYNTHIA, LAUGHING SABBAT, FIRST LIGHT 1, FIRST LIGHT 2, FIRST LIGHT 3, FIRST LIGHT 4, PILOT

/SFX/ PLANE AMBIANCE, WIND RUSHING OUTSIDE (MUFFLED)

/SFX/ POV – EVERYTHING MUFFLED WITHIN BOX

SAMAEL (ECHO): Evening, love. We made it. We're still here.

CASSANDRA (ECHO): Urgh. I feel stiff.

SAMAEL (ECHO): We're still locked in our metal crate. Getting out will be difficult without RUTH's help.

CASSANDRA (ECHO): (SNIFFS) I can't smell her. I assume we're in the plane's cargo hold. There's definitely other Kindred in here, locked up.

SAMAEL (ECHO): I don't hear any moving.

CASSANDRA (ECHO): We'll just have to wait for our opening.

SAMAEL (ECHO): I wonder where we are.

CASSANDRA (ECHO): I wonder how long we've been flying.

SAMAEL (ECHO): I have no idea. I woke up when you did.

CASSANDRA (ECHO): Or how long it'll be before we land.

SAMAEL (ECHO): That's worrysome. (BEAT) I don't suppose you need to concern yourself with blinking now.

CASSANDRA (ECHO): I know. I'm being careful, though.

/SFX/ OUTSIDE METAL CRATE, FOOTSTEPS APPROACH, STOP

CASSANDRA (ECHO): There she is.

RUTH: (MUFFLED) Hey. Gently knock once if you're up.

/SFX/ KNOCKS METAL SOFTLY ONCE

RUTH: (MUFFLED) I don't have the key. I'm going to bring over the First Light with the key. When I say, "This place is getting to me," wait five seconds and slam the door to your crate as hard as you can. Fast. Just once. Knock once if you understand.

/SFX/ KNOCKS METAL SOFTLY ONCE

RUTH: (MUFFLED) We won't have a lot of time. Be ready to fight when I get back.

CASSANDRA: (LOW) Will do.

/SFX/ OUTSIDE METAL CRATE, FOOTSTEPS WALK AWAY, FADE

SAMAEL (ECHO): This is going to be tight. I can feel it.

CASSANDRA (ECHO): I still don't have a good solution to tasers.

SAMAEL (ECHO): Don't get hit.

CASSANDRA: Or gas.

/SFX/ OUTSIDE METAL CRATE, TWO SET OF FOOTSTEPS APPROACH, STOP

RUTH: (MUFFLED) I thought I heard something from one of these crates. (PAUSE) Sorry. This job is getting to me.

SAMAEL (ECHO): Five. Four. Three. Two.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA THUMPS THE INSIDE OF THE METAL BOX

FIRST LIGHT 1: (MUFFLED) The fuck? (CHOKES)

/SFX/ MUFFLED, FIRST LIGHT 1 CHOKES, GOES SILENT, BODY SLUMPS ON THE GROUND, RUTH SORTS THROUGH KEYS, PUTS KEYS IN LOCK, LOCK OPENS, METAL DOOR TO CRATE OPENS, EXTERIOR SOUNDS ARE NO LONGER MUFFLED

CASSANDRA: Love!

RUTH: Heya!

/SFX/ THEY KISS

RUTH: Drink me fast. They may have heard that.

CASSANDRA: My pleasure.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA DRINKS RUTH, LICKS HER, FOOTSTEPS BEHIND THEM, STOPS

FIRST LIGHT 2: Hey! What the fuck?

CASSANDRA: You!

FIRST LIGHT 2: Oh, shit.

CASSANDRA: Catch a stake.

/SFX/ WOODEN STAKE SLAMS INTO FIRST LIGHT 2'S NECK, SQUISHY, FALLS

RUTH: Hey. Take the keys.

CASSANDRA: No. You open the crates. I need to hold them off.

RUTH: The Kindred don't know I'm on their side! They'll eat me. You have to do it.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA TAKES THE RING OF KEYS

CASSANDRA: (BEAT) Okay. Good luck.

RUTH: Get going!

/SFX/ RUTH WALKS AWAY, FOOTSTEPS WALK CLOSER, STOP

RUTH: (IN DISTANCE) Hey, we've got this!

FIRST LIGHT 3: (IN DISTANCE) What's wrong?

/SFX/ CASSANDRA UNLOCKS A LOCK, OPENS A METAL CRATE

RUTH: (IN DISTANCE) Ryan just gave me a fucking heart attack. She hit one of the crates, like one of the freaks was awake in there.

CASSANDRA: There's CYNTHIA inside.

SAMAEL (ECHO): You'll need more help to subdue these First Light. Open another one.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA SNEAKS OVER, UNLOCKS A LOCK, OPENS A METAL CRATE

FIRST LIGHT 3: (IN DISTANCE) Fucking Ryan. Where is she, by the way?

RUTH: (IN DISTANCE) Around here somewhere. I don't know. She walked away, laughing.

CASSANDRA: It's SILVER in there.

SAMAEL (ECHO): Unstake them. Plenty of fresh blood for them in the guards.

FIRST LIGHT 3: (IN DISTANCE) I should check though. The boss said to see what was going on back here.

RUTH: (IN DISTANCE) Okay. We'll check around the corner there.

FIRST LIGHT 3: (IN DISTANCE) Why, is Ryan going to fuck with me when I go around it?

RUTH: (IN DISTANCE, CHUCKLES) I wish.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA PULLS THE STAKE FROM CYNTHIA

CYNTHIA: (GASPS AWAKE)

CASSANDRA: Hi, CYNTHIA.

CYNTHIA: The fuck?

FIRST LIGHT 3: (IN DISTANCE) What's going on there?

CASSANDRA: Kill that fucker.

CYNTHIA: CASSANDRA?

CASSANDRA: Do it. Quick!

CYNTHIA: (BEAT) Okay.

/SFX/ CYNTHIA SCRAMBLES OUT, RUNS FOR FIRST LIGHT 3, HISSES AND ATTACKS, THEY FIGHT

FIRST LIGHT 3: (IN DISTANCE) Crap!

CASSANDRA: Come on.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA PULLS THE STAKE FROM SILVER

SILVER: (GASPS AWAKE) Fuck!

CASSANDRA: Help CYNTHIA kill that First Light! Her blood's all yours.

SILVER: Shit. Okay.

/SFX/ SILVER SCRAMBLES OUT, RUNS FOR FIRST LIGHT 3, HISSES AND ATTACKS, THEY FIGHT, PULLS FIRST LIGHT 3 TO GROUND, CYNTHIA AND SILVER MESSILY FEED ON FIRST LIGHT 3

CASSANDRA: Gotta free more.

RUTH: (IN DISTANCE) Faster!

/SFX/ CASSANDRA UNLOCKS A LOCK, OPENS A METAL CRATE

CASSANDRA: (SEES WHO IS INSIDE) Fuck.

SAMAEL (ECHO): We don't have time to choose our allies.

CASSANDRA: Fine.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA PULLS THE STAKE FROM LAUGHING SABBAT

LAUGHING SABBAT: (GASPS AWAKE) You.

CASSANDRA: Everyone. We're on a First Light plane. Kill everyone you see but her. RUTH. And the pilots. (TO LAUGHING SABBAT) SABBAT. I fucking hate your guts. But there's a body on the ground that isn't dead yet. Help yourself.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Always a pleasure. (BEAT) Ventrue.

/SFX/ LAUGHING SABBAT DRINKS FROM FIRST LIGHT 1

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS WALK FAST TOWARDS THEM, STOP

FIRST LIGHT 4: (IN DISTANCE) Oh, shit! Hold them off, RUTH! I'll get help!

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS RUN AWAY

RUTH: (IN DISTANCE) Fuck. (TO CASSANDRA) Get more out!

CASSANDRA: Working on it!

/SFX/ CASSANDRA UNLOCKS A LOCK, OPENS A METAL CRATE, PULLS THE STAKE FROM KINDRED, KINDRED GASPS AWAKE

CASSANDRA: SILVER!

SILVER: (INVIGORATED) What?

CASSANDRA: Take these!

/SFX/ CASSANDRA TOSSES SILVER THE KEYS

CASSANDRA: Free everyone. Get their stakes out. We need backup. The hungrier the better.

SILVER: Got it. (BEAT) Good to see you again.

CASSANDRA: Likewise. And make sure they know to keep RUTH and the pilots off-limits!

SILVER: Okay!

/SFX/ IN BACKGROUND, SILVER UNLOCKS A LOCK, OPENS A METAL CRATE, PULLS THE STAKE FROM KINDRED, KINDRED GASPS AWAKE, REPEAT

RUTH: They're coming!

LAUGHING SABBAT: Let them.

CYNTHIA: What the fuck are you even doing here, CASSANDRA?

CASSANDRA: Getting us to the ground.

CYNTHIA: And after that?

CASSANDRA: You're free. I don't give a fuck.

/SFX/ SEVERAL FOOTSTEPS APPROACH, STOP

FIRST LIGHT 4: (IN DISTANCE) Holy fuck, they're all out! They're all out!

/SFX/ KINDRED SCRAMBLE AT GUARD, FOOTSTEPS RUN AWAY, BODY FALLS

FIRST LIGHT 4: (IN DISTANCE) Aaaa!

/SFX/ KINDRED TEAR INTO FIRST LIGHT 4

RUTH: CASSANDRA!

CASSANDRA: What's going on?

RUTH: They're falling back! They're trying something!

/SFX/ IN DISTANCE, HEAVY BANGS ON METAL, CASSANDRA RUNS OVER, STOPS

CASSANDRA: Oh, shit.

/SFX/ GUNFIRE INTO METAL

RUTH: They're breaking open the main cabin door!

CASSANDRA: Everybody hold onto something! They're going to depressurize-

/SFX/ METAL BANG, WIND EXPLOSION, WIND ROARS THROUGHOUT THE METAL CHAMBER

CYNTHIA: Fuck!

LAUGHING SABBAT: I've got you!

/SFX/ GUNSHOTS, HIT CYNTHIA

CYNTHIA: Ow!

SILVER: Get back! Behind the crates!

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS STAGGER BACK, STOP

CASSANDRA: How badly are you hurt?

CYNTHIA: Just. Ow. Let me at those First Light!

RUTH: Getting to the front of the plane won't be easy! Anyone near that door will be sucked out!

CASSANDRA: At least they can't use their spray with this wind! How fast can you all run?

SILVER: Can't outrun the wind!

CASSANDRA: Okay! We plug the door! Push our crates over to the door! Try to block it!

LAUGHING SABBAT: And what about the assholes shooting at us?

CASSANDRA: There's guns on the corpses you ate.

LAUGHING SABBAT: On it.

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS STAGGER AWAY, STOP, GUNSHOTS FROM BOTH DIRECTIONS, STOP

CASSANDRA: Heave a crate up!

/SFX/ METAL CRATE IS LIFTED AND DROPPED ON THE FLOOR

CASSANDRA: Everyone! Get another crate ready! We'll need to stack them! And then, slide them down toward the fucking door!

/SFX/ METAL CRATE IS SLID ACROSS THE METAL FLOOR, ANOTHER METAL CRATE IS LIFTED AND DROPPED ON THE FLOOR, SPORADIC GUNFIRE HITS CRATES

LAUGHING SABBAT: They're backing off!

CASSANDRA: Stack the crates!

/SFX/ METAL CRATES ARE LIFTED AND STACKED

CASSANDRA: Push the crates! Heave them across the door!

/SFX/ METAL CRATES ARE SLID ACROSS THE METAL FLOOR

CASSANDRA: Push! Push!

LAUGHING SABBAT: Hngh! Hngh!

CYNTHIA: Hngh! Hngh!

/SFX/ KINDRED HISS, METAL CRATES ARE SLID ACROSS THE METAL FLOOR

RUTH: I think they might be ready to come at us from the other side of the plane! Kindred! Be ready to swarm!

/SFX/ KINDRED HISS, METAL CRATES ARE SLID ACROSS THE METAL FLOOR

CASSANDRA: One more! Past the open door! It'll be the hardest push!

SILVER: Do it!

LAUGHING SABBAT: CASSANDRA! I truly hate you!

CASSANDRA: I know!

/SFX/ METAL CRATES ARE SHOVED ACROSS THE METAL FLOOR, ACROSS THE DOOR, WHICH SUCKS THE CRATE AGAINST THE WALL, INDENTS THE PLANE'S INNER WALL, CREAKS, WIND STOPS HOWLING

LAUGHING SABBAT: But now. You owe me!

CASSANDRA: I do.

CYNTHIA: Door's plugged! Get them!

/SFX/ KINDRED SCAMPER ACROSS FLOOR, GUNSHOTS AND TASER SHOTS, FIRST LIGHT STRUGGLE WITH KINDRED, SCREAM, FLESH IS RIPPED, BLOOD SLURPED

SILVER: CASSANDRA. I didn't know you'd become Ventrue.

CASSANDRA: A lot has happened since your capture. What's up?

SILVER: There's one crate I can't open. None of the keys worked.

CASSANDRA: I know who's in the crate. The Regent PRINCE.

RUTH: Our squad lead has the key.

CASSANDRA: Let's get him.

/SFX/ FOOTSTEPS ON METAL FLOOR, POV SHIFTS TO FRONT OF PLANE, FIGHTING AND STRUGGLING STOP

CASSANDRA: I don't see him in the bodies.

RUTH: Try the cockpit.

CASSANDRA: Hngh!

/SFX/ CASSANDRA HEAVES THE COCKPIT DOOR OPEN, TWO GUNSHOTS INSIDE

CASSANDRA: Fuck!

PILOT: (GASPING, DYING)

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Two pilots. Two bullets. Good luck landing the fucking plane!

/SFX/ CASSANDRA GROWLS, STRUGGLES WITH FIRST LIGHT LEAD

CASSANDRA: (STRUGGLING)

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: (STRUGGLING)

/SFX/ GUNSHOTS INTO COCKPIT WINDSHIELD (DOES NOT BREAK), CASSANDRA PULLS AWAY GUN

CASSANDRA: Got your gun.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Fuck you, demon.

CASSANDRA: Tie him up. Fuck. Fuck!

CYNTHIA: And why aren't we killing him?

CASSANDRA: Still need him. Do you know how to land a plane? (BEAT, LOUDER) Does anyone here know how to land a fucking cargo jet?

/SFX/ SLOW FOOTSTEPS, NO RESPONSE

CASSANDRA: We're fucked.

LAUGHING SABBAT: So what was your plan?

CASSANDRA: I was going to dominate the pilots. Both of which are currently dead!

/SFX/ KICKS A BODY

RUTH: Fuck.

CYNTHIA: Eesh.

CASSANDRA: (PAUSE) Got an idea. (BEAT) It's a dumb idea. (BEAT, LOUD) Who wants to sire a fledgling?

SILVER: You're not serious.

CASSANDRA: The clock is ticking on these bodies. Come on!

CYNTHIA: I'm not sure I can.

SILVER: And what if whoever's the Prince now finds out?

CASSANDRA: I told you! The Camarilla fucking Prince is in that crate in the back! In torpor. She'll be okay with us saving her life. (BEAT) Who wants to sire one of the pilots?

LAUGHING SABBAT: (PAUSE) I'll sire one.

CASSANDRA: More Sabbat. Great. Pick one of them. Do your thing.

LAUGHING SABBAT: My pleasure.

CASSANDRA: And squad leader? I'll take your keys.

/SFX/ CASSANDRA TAKES FIRST LIGHT LEAD'S KEYS

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Fuck. You.

CASSANDRA: Heh. (BEAT) You're the fledgling's first meal. Make your peace with God.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: (GRUNTS)

LAUGHING SABBAT: Wake up, my childe.

/SFX/ LAUGHING SABBAT CUTS THEMSELVES, DRIPS BLOOD INTO PILOT

SAMAEL (ECHO): The fledgling will take a while to wake. It might be more than an hour.

CASSANDRA: Fuck. RUTH, how much fuel do we have? Where the fuck are we?

RUTH: Okay. We're over North Dakota. And I think the fuel gauge says we're maybe two thirds full.

CASSANDRA: Okay. Can anyone at least turn us around?

SILVER: (BEAT) I can try. Keeping us level shouldn't really take any work.

CASSANDRA: Thank you.

/SFX/ SILVER SITS ON PILOT CHAIR, PUTS ON SEAT BELT

LAUGHING SABBAT: My childe will be up and about when the Gift is finished with her body.

CASSANDRA: Thank you, SABBAT.

LAUGHING SABBAT: And we're all free when we land, right?

CASSANDRA: Most certainly.

CYNTHIA: Why are we still listening to CASSANDRA?

SILVER: You have a better idea?

LAUGHING SABBAT: Hush, Thin Blood.

CYNTHIA: (BEAT) What did you say to me?

CASSANDRA: CYNTHIA! I'm trying to get us to the ground! (BEAT) And I'm helping the Duskborn back in Seattle.

CYNTHIA: Really? You?

CASSANDRA: I've changed, a lot, since I last saw you. I helped get a contingent of Duskborn to join the Anarchs.

CYNTHIA: Get out.

CASSANDRA: I mean it. SILVER's Anarchs.

SILVER: Seriously?

CASSANDRA: LOREA brought them in. I have a lot to tell you.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Like what?

CASSANDRA: Oh, you're going to love this, SABBAT. The Masquerade is broken.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Hell yeah.

CASSANDRA: By the PRINCE herself.

LAUGHING SABBAT: SOPHIA?

CASSANDRA: (SIGHS) New Regent. HELENA.

SILVER: I'm going to start turning the plane. Slowly. Hope ground control keeps everyone off us.

CASSANDRA: We're military. We should be a priority. (BEAT) Let me start from a few days ago. Elder ENOCH of the Ventrue arrived to hold an inquest into the death of Prince AARALYN.

/SFX/ SOUND FADES OUT, FADES IN

RUTH: SILVER. How's the fuel situation?

SILVER: We still have some.

CASSANDRA: How much is "some?"

SILVER: Not a lot.

/SFX/ PILOT'S BODY TWITCHES

PILOT: (GASPS AWAKE)

LAUGHING SABBAT: At last. My childe. Relax.

PILOT: What the fuck?

LAUGHING SABBAT: Welcome back. You live again. You're hungry.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Fuck you, death spawn.

LAUGHING SABBAT: You have a Beast inside you, that demands blood.

PILOT: What's happening to me? How do you know this?

LAUGHING SABBAT: Because I'm your sire. Go on.

/SFX/ FIRST LIGHT LEAD IS THROWN TO METAL FLOOR

LAUGHING SABBAT: Enjoy your first meal.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: May you rot before the plane hits the soil.

/SFX/ PILOT BITES FIRST LIGHT LEAD, DRINKS

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: Aaaaaaah!

LAUGHING SABBAT: That's it. Good.

FIRST LIGHT LEAD: I won't. Give you. The satisfaction. Monster.

/SFX/ FIRST LIGHT LEAD SLUMPS TO GROUND, DEAD

PILOT: (PANTING) That was incredible.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Wasn't it? Now, we have a very tiny problem on our hands.

SILVER: Can you land this plane?

PILOT: Yeah. Of course.

/SFX/ SILVER UNBUCKLES SEAT BELT, SLIDES OFF OF SEAT

SILVER: Land us. Anywhere.

CASSANDRA: Not at a major airport.

LAUGHING SABBAT: You're Kindred now. The humans hate you. You'll need to hide from them, from now on.

RUTH: Hi. I don't hate you. You don't need to hide from me.

LAUGHING SABBAT: This one's an exception.

PILOT: Thank you.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Just land us away from any human population, if you can.

PILOT: I can do that.

/SFX/ PILOT SITS IN PILOT'S CHAIR, BUCKLES SEAT BELT

LAUGHING SABBAT: Ah. No radios.

PILOT: What do you mean, no radios?

LAUGHING SABBAT: No radios. We're on the run.

CASSANDRA: We're over Montana. Take us somewhere accessible by truck. So we can get the fuck out of there before the authorities arrive.

PILOT: (PAUSE) Guess I don't have a choice here.

LAUGHING SABBAT: If it helps, you're already a murderer.

RUTH: You have a long future ahead of you. Just get us down safely.

PILOT: All right. (REMEMBERING) You were all the cargo in the back, right?

CASSANDRA: And you're one of us now. It's amazing how quickly you change sides in our world.

/SFX/ FADE INTO EXTERIOR, PLANE LANDING, SCREECHING TO A HALT

SCENE 13. — MONTANA FREEDOM (EXT: MONTANA PRAIRIE, NIGHT)
- CASSANDRA, SAMAEL, RUTH, SILVER, CYNTHIA, LAUGHING SABBAT, PILOT, RONNIE

/SFX/ LOW WIND OVER PRAIRIE AMBIANCE

/SFX/ METAL CRATES ARE HEAVED AWAY FROM THE DOOR, FOOTSTEPS WALK DOWN DOOR STEPS, WALK ON DIRT, STOP

CASSANDRA: We made it.

SAMAEL (ECHO): We did.

CYNTHIA: We fucking did it.

LAUGHING SABBAT: In the middle of Montana prairie. (BEAT) Now what?

RUTH: I memorized my boss' passcode on his phone.

/SFX/ RUTH TAPS ON PHONE, IT BEEPS

RUTH: Aw. No signal.

CASSANDRA: How about the plane's radio?

CYNTHIA: They'll know where we are.

PILOT: They already know. (BEAT) The plane can connect to satellite internet, but it'll be traced. And going through military routers.

SILVER: I say we risk it. I'll make the call.

CASSANDRA: You got this? LOREA's waiting for me to contact her.

SILVER: Yeah. We're a little far from Seattle. I know who can help, fast.

LAUGHING SABBAT: All of us?

SILVER: All of us.

LAUGHING SABBAT: If you don't mind, I think we'll skip the wait and start walking.

PILOT: I have to show SILVER how to set up the call first.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Do it.

/SFX/ TWO FOOTSTEPS WALK UP METAL STEPS INTO PLANE, FADE OUT

LAUGHING SABBAT: You owe me, CASSANDRA.

CASSANDRA: Thank you for saving us.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Elixir and I will call in this favor someday. (BEAT) How'd you score an Embrace?

CASSANDRA: I found my love again.

LAUGHING SABBAT: That explains your aura.

CASSANDRA: We'll be together forever. And RUTH?

RUTH: Yeah?

/SFX/ CASSANDRA KISSES HER

CASSANDRA: I hope we'll be, too. (BEAT) As long as you live.

RUTH: That'd be so nice.

LAUGHING SABBAT: You break the Masquerade and cavort with humans. Are you sure you're not SABBAT?

CASSANDRA: Please tell your comrades what RUTH and I risked to free you.

LAUGHING SABBAT: I will. And that you cast me into that pit in the first place.

CASSANDRA: I don't think a war between us would advance either of our causes.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Agreed. (BEAT) If my voice carries any weight in Elixir still, I'll see that any planned retaliation is set aside.

CASSANDRA: I appreciate it.

LAUGHING SABBAT: We'll see how adept you are at honoring agreements, if Elixir ever finds you again.

CASSANDRA: Goodbye, SABBAT. Be sure you're inside somewhere before the sun rises.

/SFX/ TWO FOOTSTEPS WALK DOWN DOOR STEPS, WALK ON DIRT, STOP

SILVER: Message sent. We'll see how fast it takes them to get here.

PILOT: I'm ready to go.

CASSANDRA: Good luck finding shelter.

LAUGHING SABBAT: Be seeing you.

CASSANDRA: I look forward to it.

LAUGHING SABBAT: (BEAT) Childe, let's go southwest. I have a good feeling about southwest.

/SFX/ TWO FOOTSTEPS ON DIRT WALK OFF

CASSANDRA: Your friends better arrive soon, SILVER. (BEAT) Let's see how the Prince is doing.

RUTH: Probably not great. She still hasn't moved since we loaded her in the plane.

/SFX/ TWO FOOTSTEPS WALK UP METAL STEPS INTO PLANE, SOUNDS FADE OUT, FADES IN, BANGS ON METAL, FOOTSTEPS RUN ON DIRT, STOP

CYNTHIA: I see them!

SILVER: There they are!

CASSANDRA: Yes!

/SFX/ TRUCKS AND MOTORCYCLES PULL UP, STOP

RONNIE: Hey! Hey, SILVER!

SILVER: RONNIE! This is RONNIE, everyone. Montana Anarchs.

CASSANDRA: We need to rush.

RONNIE: We've got you.

CASSANDRA: We have a dozen Kindred who need to disappear.

RONNIE: We can hole you up for the day, then get you on the highway and you can get to wherever you need going to.

CYNTHIA: Thank you so much.

CASSANDRA: We need to contact friends in Seattle.

RONNIE: Soon as you're in our hideout, we can do that. (BEAT) Hold up. What's with the human?

CASSANDRA: She's with us. She's my Blood Doll.

RONNIE: Ah.

RUTH: I'm her Blood Doll. It's great. I love it.

/SFX/ THEY KISS

CASSANDRA: Mmm. We also have the Prince of Seattle. HELENA. She's currently in torpor.

RONNIE: Likely to wake soon?

CASSANDRA: No, ma'am.

RONNIE: All right, then. We'll get a good ransom off of that one. Okay. Everybody in the trucks!

/SFX/ TRUCKS DOORS OPEN

RUTH: Fuck. We actually got out.

CASSANDRA: Thank you for saving me, love.

RUTH: Just returning the favor.

CASSANDRA: You're free now, too. You can go anywhere. Do whatever you want.

RUTH: (SMILES) I want to be yours.

CASSANDRA: Mine. All right. Let's go home.

-END-