

Blood Poison

by
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FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

SUPER - KARAKUY, MOLDAVIA 1734

Rain clouds darken the sky and a layer of mist covers the ground.

A small church stands in the centre of the cemetery, surrounded by gravestones. A number of the graves are topped with fresh dirt.

A group of VILLAGERS are gathered around an open grave.

A wooden coffin stands nearby.

A middle aged WOMAN and a LITTLE GIRL, both dressed in shabby old clothes, stand at the foot of the grave.

The woman weeps.

A PRIEST, his face wrinkled and his hair thin and grey, emerges from the small church. He walks past the mourners and stands by the woman and girl.

He opens up his bible.

EXT. CEMETERY OUTSKIRTS - DAY

TWO MEN on horseback watch the proceedings. DRAGOS, the eldest brother and NICOLAE, the younger. Both are dressed in long coats fastened high. Their hats pulled low, hiding their faces.

Nicolae removes his hat and leans forward on his horse to improve his vision. A small scar is visible on his forehead.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

The woman wipes away her tears with a small cotton handkerchief.

The wooden coffin is lowered through the mist into the ground by two GRAVE DIGGERS.

The priest, book open.

PRIEST
forgive this soul and may the
earth consume this body for
eternity.

He closes the book.

The grave diggers pick up their shovels and slide them into a nearby mound of dirt.

The mourners begin to leave, passing their condolences to the woman and girl who remain by the grave.

EXT. CEMETERY OUTSKIRTS - DAY

Dragos and Nicolae turn their horses and ride away.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

The little girl looks up at her mother, who stares blankly for a moment, then turns and makes eye contact with her daughter. She wipes a final tear and drops the handkerchief into the grave.

They turn to leave.

One of the grave diggers throws a shovel of earth into the grave.

The woman stops and closes her eyes.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Rain is falling.

Dragos and Nicolae ride across a field. They approach the cemetery.

EXT. CEMETERY OUTSKIRTS - DAY

Dragos and Nicolae dismount just outside the grounds.

Nicolae places a long leather bag on the ground. He quickly rummages inside.

DRAGOS

Ready?

Nicolae nods back. He stands with the bag in hand.

They look around the area and enter the cemetery.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

The sky darkens and the rain continues to fall.

Dragos sits under a nearby tree taking shelter. His hat covers his face.

Nicolae digs up the freshly filled grave with a small shovel. The long leather bag is nearby.

Dragos remains unmoved.

DRAGOS

Best be quick Nicolae. The sun will soon set.

Nicolae stands waist deep in the grave. He stops and looks up, a miserable and tired look on his face.

NICOLAE

It would be quicker if you were to lend a hand.

DRAGOS

I seem to recall that it was I who dug the last one up.

Nicolae empties another shovel of earth.

LATER

Nicolae continues to dig. He throws a shovel of earth out of the grave, a dirty handkerchief lays atop.

He thrusts the shovel down into the dirt, the sound of shovel on wood is heard.

Nicolae looks up, Dragos doesn't stir.

He looks skyward, the sun has set. He quickly throws dirt out of the grave, revealing the coffin.

Nicolae reaches out of the grave for the leather bag but can't reach it. A KNOCKING noise is heard. Nicolae looks down at the unearthed coffin that he is standing on.

It RUMBLES.

The sound of CRACKING wood is heard. The coffin lid JOLTS and Nicolae falls backwards.

NICOLAE

Dragos. . . Dragos!

The coffin lid breaks open. An arm emerges, then another. A VAMPIRE begins to drag itself out.

The vampire has lacerations to the neck and face and missing fingers on one hand. Its eyes stare red.

NICOLAE

Shit!

The vampire pulls itself out of the coffin and slowly stands in the grave.

It lets out a GRUNT.

Nicolae reaches into his jacket, without breaking eye contact with the vampire. He removes a small dagger.

The vampire bares its sharp teeth, saliva drips from its mouth.

Nicolae pushes himself up from the coffin and STABS the dagger into the vampires chest and drops back onto the coffin.

The vampire SCREECHES in pain as blood oozes from the wound. It looks down at Nicolae.

An axe strikes the back of the vampires head with a loud THUD. It hits above the neck and wedges in the skull.

Dragos holds the axe with both hands and struggles to free it, as he pulls on the axe, the vampires head is jerked back and forth.

He pulls it free and blood pours from the open wound.

The vampire turns to face Dragos. He swings again, striking down on the vampire in the grave. He hits it in the neck, beheading it.

Blood pours from its open neck. The body remains standing for a few seconds before falling onto Nicolae, who quickly rolls it aside.

Nicolae wipes the blood from his face.

NICOLAE

What took you so long?

Nicolae reaches his hand toward Dragos.

DRAGOS

Apologies Nicolae.

Dragos drops the blooded axe in the open leather bag and offers his hand in return.

EXT. A WOODED AREA - HOUSE - NIGHT

A small stone house, topped with a thatched roof, is concealed by trees. Light shines from a window, glowing in the darkness.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Two YOUNG BOYS sit in front of a blazing fire. The elder is in his early teens, the other a few years behind.

Their mother ILEANA is sat nearby. She has long dark hair, is of slender build and wears a small silver crucifix around her neck.

She is sewing a garment.

Their father RADU enters and sits with them. He is of stocky build with rough features.

RADU
Would you like to hear a story
before bed.

The two boys nod eagerly.

RADU
It is a strange tale, but I fear
it may be too frightening, even
for the bravest young men.

The boys edge closer.

OLDER BOY
Tell us father please.

YOUNGER BOY
Yes do tell us.

Ileana and Radu share a glance.

RADU
Very well but you must pay
attention to what I tell.

Radu leans in.

RADU
It was many years past and the
war with the Ottoman Empire
raged.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

SUPER - MOLDAVIA 1488

A fierce battle is being fought.

The battlefield is covered with bodies. The dead and dying are trampled underfoot as the two armies fight with ferocity.

RADU (V.O.)

The Sultan's invaders fought not only for the empire but also for religion. Their aim was to rid the Christian faith.

A KNIGHT carries a flag that bears a Christian symbol. He swings his sword ferociously, slashing an Ottoman soldier across the face. He quickly turns to strike another who comes from behind, slicing off an arm.

He takes a quick breath and looks around at the mass bloodshed.

The SCREAMS of the dying can be heard.

The knight is confronted by another Ottoman. Their swords clash together. The knight stands on an injured soldier beneath him and loses his footing.

He tries to get to his feet, using the flag as an aid but is stabbed in the chest by the Ottoman.

The flag falls and drapes across his body.

EXT. SMALL TOWN - NIGHT

A band of OTTOMAN SOLDIERS, led by a KNIGHT, ransack the town. They carry with them swords and flaming torches.

They kick open doors and enter houses with little regard, dragging an ELDERLY MAN and his SON out with force.

A WOMAN rushes up to the Ottoman knight.

WOMAN

Stop this, please!

He brushes her aside and barks orders.

OTTOMAN KNIGHT

Kill them.

Soldiers grab the shaken villagers and kill them.

The woman drops to her knees.

WOMAN

(in tears)

Please...stop this bloodshed

The Ottoman knight looks directly at the woman.

OTTOMAN KNIGHT

Kill them all.

A MAN runs from his house, two soldiers give chase. They catch him quickly, outside a small church.

The man struggles with the soldiers but is pushed to the ground and stabbed through the neck.

RADU (V.O.)

To resist the invaders threat, a church was erected following every victory. Religion drives many a man to war.

The two soldiers look up at the church and enter.

INT. CHURCH

A small wooden cross stands alone in the sparse interior. There are no pews and little else of interest. In the floor is set a silver cross.

The Ottoman knight enters, looking around, he is unimpressed.

OTTOMAN KNIGHT

Burn it to the ground

The soldiers set alight the drapes with torches.

A PRIEST emerges from the rear and confronts the Ottoman knight.

PRIEST

Stop this, I beg of you.

OTTOMAN KNIGHT

I do not see you beg.

PRIEST

This place is not as it seems.
It is not as you think.

Two soldiers point at the silver cross embedded in the stone. They attempt to prize it out with their swords.

OTTOMAN KNIGHT

You believe this to be a place of your God and so it must be destroyed.

PRIEST

God, no. This is no place for any God.

The soldiers remove the cross. They attempt to lift it but drop it. It CLUNKS as it crashes on the hard stone floor of the church.

The priest turns and sees the soldiers actions.

PRIEST
NO! You mustn't.

The Ottoman knight swings his sword.

He cuts down the priest.

Blood spills over the floor and pools around the knights feet.

OTTOMAN KNIGHT
You are right. This is no place
for God. Your God does not
exist.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Radu continues.

RADU
The soldiers did not know the
consequences of their actions.
You see the cross they removed
was more than a symbol of God.
It was a key that kept an evil
locked within the church walls.

The boys share a look.

RADU
Now removed, a poison spread
across the land.

The Boys look toward their mother and move closer to each other.

OLDER BOY
Are we safe from the poison
father?

RADU
Quite safe, do not be frightened.

Radu smiles.

RADU
So long as you are good in God's
eyes, you have nothing to fear.

Radu stands and places his hands on the heads of his sons.

RADU
God will take care of you. Say
night to your mother.

ILEANA
Good night boy's.

BOY'S
Good night mother.

YOUNGER BOY
(whispering)
I'm scared.

The two boy's take each other by the hand and leave.

ILEANA
Why tell them that story now,
they are surely too young to
understand?

RADU
I fear the time is near and they
will need to know the truth.

Ileana stops sewing and looks at Radu.

ILEANA
It has been a long time. Why do
you believe it to be now?

Radu approaches Ileana, she stands and they embrace.

RADU
I have word that he was seen, two
nights ago.

Ileana breaks the embrace. Her eyes widen and stare beyond
Radu. Fear overwhelms her.

ILEANA
Then we must leave.

RADU
Nothing is certain.

Radu pauses for thought and then nods.

RADU
Very well, we will leave at
sunrise.

The sound of bushes being RUSTLED. (O.S.)

Radu glances round.

KITCHEN

Radu enters. He picks up an axe that rests against the
wall and walks towards the door.

Ileana enters.

RADU
Do not venture outside, stay with
the children.

He goes out into the night, leaving the door open.

ILEANA
Radu. . .

EXT. WOODED AREA - HOUSE - NIGHT

Radu searches in the darkness, illuminated by the light from the open door. He looks into the darkness before turning back.

He nears the door.

A claw SLASHES across his neck opening a deep wound. He falls to his knees clutching the torn flesh and desperately trying to stem the flow of blood. He looks through the open door and sees Ileana, she looks back in silent shock.

A large FIGURE stands tall over Radu.

The creature is AZRAEL. He is unclothed, covered by hair on his lower half and a muscular upper body. Claws like razors protrude from his fingers and wings of dark feathers span from his back.

His wings extend and retract, he looks down over Radu. He crouches slowly, placing a claw on the back of his head. Gently tilting Radu's head, he inhales. Radu breathes rapidly.

Azrael opens his mouth to reveal large jagged teeth. Saliva drips onto Radu's bloodied face.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM

Ileana rushes into the children's bedroom.

ILEANA
Come quickly.

The boy's jump from their beds.

LIVING ROOM

Ileana and the two boys enter.

Ileana moves a rug on the floor to reveal a hatch underneath. She opens it and ushers them down.

ILEANA
Stay silent boys, no matter what
you hear.

The older boy descends the ladder.

The younger brother follows but stumbles and hits his head. He raises his hand to his forehead and winces as he touches the wound. He has a small cut on his forehead.

Ileana looks at the younger boy.

ILEANA
Are you alright Nicolae?

He nods back at his mother.

Ileana looks at the older boy.

ILEANA
Take good care of your brother
Dragos. Promise.

He nods.

Ileana closes the hatch.

EXT. WOODED AREA - HOUSE - NIGHT

Azrael tears into Radu's flesh with his razor teeth. He stops and looks up into the house, he sees a silhouetted figure through open doorway.

Blood and flesh drip from his fangs. He lets out a deafening GROWL.

Slowly he crawls over Radu's twitching body, toward the house.

INT. KITCHEN

Ileana looks round and sees Azrael approaching the house. Turning quickly she picks up a broom.

Azrael stands tall in front of Ileana, her husbands flesh and blood drip from his teeth and claws. He breathes slow and heavy.

ILEANA
(trembling)
Azrael... I... I did not believe.

Ileana swings the broom with great rage. In a flash Azrael strikes out with his claw, breaking the broom and forcing Ileana to lose her grip of it.

The broom skates across the floor.

Ileana backs away from Azrael. She clasps her crucifix in her hand and wrenches it from around her neck, breaking the chain.

Azrael takes a slow step forward.

Ileana thrusts her hand out in front of her, revealing the small silver crucifix held tight in her fingertips.

Azrael stops and glares at the crucifix for a moment.

Ileana, noticing Azrael's reaction, hesitantly takes a step forward.

Azrael backs off.

Ileana takes another step.

Azrael GROWLS and lunges at Ileana.

The crucifix lands on the stone floor.

A severed hand lay nearby, blood pours from its open end and collects in the enlarging pool of dark liquid.

Ileana looks down at her arm, her hand missing. Her face contorted with pain.

She lets out a curdling SCREAM.

AZRAEL

Who were they to imprison me when
God did not.

Ileana opens her mouth but no words exit, the pain is too overbearing.

AZRAEL

You will all be punished for your
families actions.

Azrael wings outstretch and he LEAPS forward, landing on Ileana pinning her to the floor. He bites down, ripping at her throat.

LIVING ROOM

Young Dragos creeps towards the door.

Young Nicolae looks on from the open floor hatch. A small trail of blood runs down his face.

YOUNG NICOLAE

(whispering)
Mother said not to leave.

He wipes his face clean.

Young Dragos looks back before slowly opening the door. He stares transfixed.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - WOODED AREA - NIGHT

Dragos and Nicolae ride across a field.

WOODED AREA - NIGHT

Riding down a dirt track amongst the trees, they approach a stationary travellers wagon. The wagon is wooden with a door on the rear and two horses attached to its front.

Dragos and Nicolae near. IANCU appears from inside the wagon.

Iancu is in his early fifties and of slight build with grey hair.

Dragos and Nicolae slow their horses.

Nicolae drops the long leather bag at the feet of Iancu, who picks it up, puts it in the wagon and climbs aboard. He takes up the reins and together they ride away.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

SUPER - CHADYR, MOLDAVIA

The body of a man lay face down outside a house, a pitch fork lay beside. The body has a large bite wound on its inner arm and is covered in dried blood.

Nearby is the body of a woman, with a neck wound, propped up against a tree. The body is pale in colour, drained of blood. Its eyes wide open with a deathly stare.

TWO MEN approach leading a horse and cart. One man is of smart dress, the other less so.

The smart man is MIHAIL, he is clean in his appearance and slightly overweight.

The other man is BOGDAN, he dressed in workers attire and is muscular.

The two men stop at the body of the man. Mihail takes hold of the mans hands, Bogdan the mans feet.

MIHAIL

This makes six in as many nights.

Bogdan flicks his head in the direction of the woman's body.

BOGDAN

Seven.

Mihail glances round.

MIHAIL

Seven.

With a jerk, they lift the body. The badly bitten arm comes away at the elbow causing Mihail to drop his end of the corpse.

MIHAIL

You begin to wonder who will be next. Mr. Alexandrel is surely worried.

BOGDAN

It does not show.

MIHAIL

He hides it well, but for not much longer I think. The village is falling into fear and he too for his families safety.

Mihail grabs hold of the body again.

Dragos and Nicolae, on horseback, approach. Iancu rides the wagon behind him.

Mihail lifts the body.

MIHAIL

He fears he himself is somewhat responsible for these terrible murders.

BOGDAN

Why is that?

MIHAIL

Did you yourself not hear him condemn Clergyman Litovoi for his outburst in front of the others.

BOGDAN

Clergyman Litovoi, you think he blames Mr. Alexandrel?

They lift the body onto the cart, turn and look over at the second body.

MIHAIL

An evil such as this. . . I know
not who is responsible, but it
must end before it consumes the
life of us all.

The two men stare at the woman's body. Her eyes open,
piercing back at them. Bogdan's attention is broken as
Dragos, Nicolae and Iancu pass by them.

Bogdan stares at the strangers.

MIHAIL

For some it is already too late.

Bogdan nudges Mihail who breaks his stare.

He turns to see the strangers ride into the village.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

A small well is in the centre of the square. The
surrounding Gothic buildings, although small, create a
claustrophobic atmosphere.

The village is quiet and appears empty of life.

Dragos and Nicolae halt their horses. They look around and
see a LOCAL MAN approaching.

The local man's eyes are hollow and dark.

DRAGOS

Good morning sir. I wonder if
you could be of help. We seek
somewhere to rest for a few days.
A warm bed and plenty of ale are
all we ask.

LOCAL MAN

I'm afraid I couldn't recommend
anywhere. Best you leave sirs.

Iancu rides the travellers wagon into the village square.

NICOLAE

It would appear there is nowhere
for us to stay.

IANCU

Nonsense.

DRAGOS

Or we are not welcome.

Iancu turns to the local man.

IANCU

I could not help but notice that there seems to have been some trouble in the village last night.

LOCAL MAN

I wouldn't know about that sir.

IANCU

Murders by the look.

LOCAL MAN

Even if so, I don't see it is of your concern.

DRAGOS

If we wish to stay, then it may become our concern.

The Local turns to face Dragos.

LOCAL MAN

I don't wish to be rude sir but have I not already said that there is nowhere for you to stay.

DRAGOS

You said you could not recommend, now you say there is nowhere. I wonder which is the truth?

The local man fidgets a little.

LOCAL MAN

I say this because it would be safer if you leave.

DRAGOS

Safer for whom?

Dragos climbs down from his horse.

DRAGOS

I think it would be safer for everyone if we were to stay. So if you could be so kind as to point us toward a suitable establishment we would be exceedingly grateful.

INT. VILLAGE INN

The Inn is empty except for Dragos, Nicolae and Iancu who sit by an open fire, each with a tankard of ale.

SANDA, the Inn keeper, works behind the bar. He is an over weight fellow with untidy facial hair.

DRAGOS
(shouting over)
Three more ale's here landlord.

IANCU
And three meals if possible?

SANDA
Simple meals are all I can offer
I'm afraid.

IANCU
That will be fine.

Sanda leaves.

NICOLAE
Could he not have brought the ale
first?

Mihail enters and rests his weary frame on the bar.

Sanda returns carrying a large jug.

MIHAIL
A drink of your strongest please.

Sanda walks past Mihail and looks back.

SANDA
A moment Mihail.

Sanda puts the heavy jug down on the table, spilling some on the table top.

SANDA
This should last sirs, the food
won't be long.

IANCU
Thank you.

Iancu begins to fill the tankards from the large jug of ale.

Sanda returns to the bar.

Mihail gestures with his head.

MIHAIL
Who are the strangers?

SANDA
I don't know, but they wish to
stay two nights at least.

Sanda places a small glass on the bar.

MIHAIL
And you are letting them?

Sanda picks up a bottle.

SANDA
The money will be most helpful.
We get few travellers now as you
well know.

Sanda removes the bottle's cork and pours.

MIHAIL
Yes but...

SANDA
(interrupting)
But nothing my friend. We have
nothing to hide.

MIHAIL
Nothing. You said nothing to
them?

Sanda places the cork in the bottle neck.

SANDA
I have not.

He slams his hand down on the cork forcing it into the
bottle.

MIHAIL
Then I will.

Mihail clasps his glass in his hand, stands and downs the
liquid.

SANDA
As you wish.

Sanda places the bottle back behind the bar.

SANDA
They have already paid for their
rooms.

Mihail looks at Sanda and shakes his head at the last
comment.

EXT. NORTH WOODS - DAY

Tall trees and dense foliage block out most of the sunlight, but some strips of sunshine break through the leaves.

A small stone building, without a roof, is well camouflaged in its surroundings. Almost hidden.

A horse and cart stand nearby.

Bogdan emerges from inside the building. He wipes sweat from his brow with a cloth and pushes it into his pocket.

He walks over to the horse and cart and drags off the body of a man by its feet. It is the body of the man from the village.

The bodies head THUMPS into the grass covered ground, bouncing up slightly from the impact.

Bogdan drags the body by the ankles into the building.

INT. VILLAGE INN

Dragos, Nicolae and Iancu sit drinking ale.

At the bar, Mihail talks with Sanda.

DRAGOS
What do you think?

IANCU
Maybe more than two days.

Dragos takes a gulp of ale.

DRAGOS
My thoughts too.

Nicolae looks toward the bar.

NICOLAE
Where is this food?

DRAGOS
All you think of is your stomach Nicolae, whether it be food or drink.

NICOLAE
Is that such a bad thing.

Nicolae takes a drink.

IANCU
It could be for your horse.

Iancu and Dragos laugh.

NICOLAE
Very amusing Iancu but I'm just
keeping my strength up.

IANCU
From what we've seen here, you
will need it.

Dragos' laughter fades.

IANCU
This is a frightened place.

Mihail approaches.

MIHAIL
Good afternoon.

Iancu, Dragos and Nicolae turn and look up at Mihail.

MIHAIL
I'm sorry for the intrusion, let
me introduce myself.

Mihail offers his hand.

MIHAIL
My name is Mihail.

Iancu shakes his hand.

IANCU
Iancu.

MIHAIL
Pleased to make your
acquaintance.

DRAGOS
I am Dragos and this is my
brother Nicolae.

Mihail looks toward Dragos and then Nicolae.

NICOLAE
Good morning sir.

There's a moment of uneasy silence.

MIHAIL
I hear you are staying here a few
days.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Open countryside is dissected by a damp dirt road. In the distance a large house is visible, TWO FIGURES stand by a gate house that leads up to the house.

Dragos and Nicolae ride their horses at walking pace along the dirt road.

Iancu and Mihail follow behind on the travellers wagon, its wheels churning up the wet dirt.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - GATE HOUSE - DAY

The two men standing by the gate are DUMITRU and GAVRIL.

Both are in their early twenties and are dressed in old worn coats. They lean on their muskets.

The flintlock muskets are clean except for their butts which are being pressed into the soft dirt by the weight of the men.

Dragos and Nicolae, nearing the two men, allow Mihail and Iancu to pass ahead of them.

Dumitru and Gavril raise their muskets waist high as the wagon approaches.

DUMITRU

Halt!

The wagon slows and Mihail stands from his seat.

MIHAIL

It is alright Dumitru, they are clean.

Dumitru lowers his weapon, Gavril points his at Dragos and Nicolae.

MIHAIL

I wish them to speak with Mr. Alexandrel, they may be able to help.

Gavril looks at Dumitru with unsure eyes.

There's a moments pause.

Gavril lowers his weapon and lifts a large latch with a CLUNK and the gate opens.

Dumitru waves his musket toward the house.

MIHAIL

Thank you.

Iancu snaps the reins and drives the wagon on.

Dumitru looks at Dragos.

DUMITRU

You may pass.

Dragos nods his head toward the two guards as he and Nicolae ride through the gate.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - GARDENS - DAY

TRAVELLERS WAGON

IANCU

May I ask what you meant when you say we are clean?

Mihail shuffles his frame on the wagons seat.

MIHAIL

I do not say this to alarm you, but there is rumour of an epidemic in the village. Many have fallen to the infection and so the panic is rife.

IANCU

Infection? What infection tears into the flesh of men?

MIHAIL

I too doubt this explanation but I will explain more later my friend, first I wish you meet with Mr. Alexandrel.

HORSES

Dragos and Nicolae ride close to one another.

NICOLAE

Was not the friendly welcome I had imagined.

Dragos looks back at Dumitru and Gavril, who have resumed their positions of leaning on their muskets.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - DRAWING ROOM

The walls of the room are a wash with literature and portraits. A large table sits in the centre of the hard wood floor, TWO MEN sit either side.

MR. ALEXANDREL sits facing CLERGYMAN LITOVOI.

Alexandrel is a large man in his 40's, clean shaven and well dressed. He leans over the table and searches through several documents laid out on its surface.

Litovoi is of small build, in his 50's and wears a black suit which buttons high. His hat rests on the table. He reads silently from a document.

Alexandrel leans back in his chair and sighs.

ALEXANDREL

So it is true?

Litovoi looks up from the document.

LITOVOI

It would seem so. From what is written I would say it is beyond question.

Alexandrel removes a handkerchief from his pocket and softly dabs his brow.

LITOVOI

Do you have nothing else to say?

ALEXANDREL

I need to think.

LITOVOI

The time to think has passed, it is now a time for action. . . The village will soon surely demand it.

ALEXANDREL

I know but I am unsure of what the best action?

Litovoi looks back at the document.

LITOVOI

There were two more last night I hear.

ALEXANDREL

I have had it taken care of.

LITOVOI

That is little consolation for the deceased. May I suggest you employed guards in the village, some deterrent needs to be noticed.

ALEXANDREL

(slightly raised voice)

An answer on how to end this would be more welcome than your opinions on how to reassure the village.

Alexandrel stands and walks to the window.

ALEXANDREL

Do you still not have an answer?

A KNOCK is heard on the door (O.S.)

Alexandrel spins.

MIHAIL (O.S.)

Mr. Alexandrel sir, may I intrude?

ALEXANDREL

Come.

The door opens, Mihail and the others enter.

ALEXANDREL

Ah Mihail, have you taken care of. . .

Alexandrel notices Mihail is not alone. Clergyman Litovoi also eyes the strangers.

MIHAIL

I am sorry to disturb you sir but I bring news that might be of interest.

Alexandrel and Litovoi share a glance.

MIHAIL

These men talk of slaying creatures such as those that breath the fear into the hearts of the village.

LITOVOI

Is this the truth?

DRAGOS

It is. We have helped many like you.

Alexandrel raises an eye brow.

DRAGOS

Excuse our intrusion, Mr. Alexandrel I presume. I am Dragos Tomescu, this is my brother Nicolae and our dear friend Iancu.

Dragos offers a hand.

DRAGOS

Please to make your acquaintance.

Alexandrel nods in response.

Dragos lowers his welcome.

Iancu steps forward.

IANCU

I feel we could shed light on your situation.

ALEXANDREL

And what situation would that be? An infection, are you a medical doctor?

IANCU

This is not an infection as you think it is. This is a poison spread by the dead.

Alexandrel lets out a chuckle.

ALEXANDREL

You must think us stupid. How is it the dead can spread a poison...they are dead.

MIHAIL

They talk of the dead rising again, just as those in the village.

ALEXANDREL

Mihail you should not believe everything you hear. This talk grows from folklore, there is no truth in it.

MIHAIL

Sir I have seen terrible sights
that are not from the hands of a
man.

ALEXANDREL

(sarcastically)

And you suggest they are from the
hand of the dead?

NICOLAE

Does folklore not evolve from the
truth.

All eyes turn to Nicolae.

IANCU

Nicolae speaks well. Our history
contains many of these stories,
you cannot suggest all are empty
of truth.

ALEXANDREL

I do not wish to offend as we
have only just acquainted, but
shall we agree to disagree.

MIHAIL

But Sir, you must surely confess
that something must be done.

ALEXANDREL

I do Mihail, and that is why I
intend to employ guards in the
village tonight. They will catch
this murderous fiend and bring us
back to normality.

Mihail shakes his head.

ALEXANDREL

You do not think he will be
caught?

MIHAIL

(softly)

It is them who will be caught.

Alexandrel stares at Mihail.

ALEXANDREL

My men will catch him.

A moment of silence.

IANCU

Then we will leave.

ALEXANDREL

I thank you for your offer but it is not needed here, we can fight our own battles.

IANCU

As you wish.

DRAGOS

This could be a battle much greater than you imagine.

Clergyman Litovoi shares a glance with Alexandrel and then looks over at the documents strewn across the table.

IANCU

Well we bid you good day Sir's.

Iancu, Dragos and Nicolae leave.

MIHAIL

Good day sir.

Mihail turns to leave.

ALEXANDREL

Where is Bogdan, Mihail? Has he not yet returned?

Mihail looks back.

MIHAIL

I'm not sure sir. Do you wish to see him?

ALEXANDREL

No, bit he has much work to do.

MIHAIL

Then I will tell him when he returns sir.

Mihail leaves.

LITOVOI

He does not seem pleased that you have so readily dismissed their offer.

Alexandrel picks up a document.

ALEXANDREL

Mihail would do well to remember that this is our business and that we do not need the help from any outsiders.

LITOVOI

You know very well that this goes
further than just our business.

Alexandrel looks up from the document he holds.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - DAY

A YOUNG MAN, early 20's, stands by his horse, the reins in one hand while the other gently strokes and pats the horse. He talks to a nearby YOUNG LADY, again early 20's, who sits on her horse.

The young man is TIMUR, he is fresh faced, well dressed and has well kept shoulder length hair.

The young lady is DORA, she too is fresh faced and well dressed. She has long dark hair tied back revealing her striking beauty.

Iancu, Dragos and Nicolae exit the house and into the courtyard. They approach their horses and the travellers wagon.

Nicolae mounts up while Dragos releases the two horses.

LAUGHTER is heard (O.S.)

Dragos turns to see Timur and Dora. He keeps them in view while he mounts his horse and takes up the reins.

MIHAIL (O.S.)

I appologise for having waisted
your time here.

Mihail walks toward the travellers wagon as Iancu boards.

MIHAIL

I confess, I did envisage this
outcome. Mr. Alexandrel is a
stubborn man.

IANCU

Not to worry my friend. You know
where we can be found should he
have a change of mind.

Dragos walks his horse near.

DRAGOS

(gestures with his head)
Who is the girl?

MIHAIL

She is Lady Dora, a mirror of her
mother.

(MORE)

MIHAIL (cont'd)

The boy is Timur, as stubborn as his father. So far we have managed to keep most of what is happening from them.

DRAGOS

Why do you feel that necessary? They far from children.

MIHAIL

Mr. Alexandrel's wishes. He shows little compassion but he cares very much for their well being.

DRAGOS

The girl, she is very pretty.

MIHAIL

He also very protective.

Dragos smiles.

Nicolae rides his horse closer.

NICOLAE

Are we ready, my stomach talks to me again.

IANCU

Do you never fill?

Iancu turns to Mihail.

IANCU

Good day Mihail.

MIHAIL

Good day.

Iancu rides the wagon out of the courtyard, closely followed by Nicolae.

Dragos glances over at Dora one last time before hastening to catch the others.

Dora rides over toward Mihail. Timur walks his horse into a nearby stable.

DORA

Who were they Mihail, do they seek work?

MIHAIL

Of sorts Lady Dora.

DORA
I feel a little ignorant, a lady
should always introduce herself.

Mihail looks out after the visitors.

MIHAIL
I believe you will have another
chance.

DORA
Do you think so?

EXT. EDGE OF SOUTH WOODS - NIGHT

TWO MEN stand guard, COSTEL and PANUT. They are both middle aged and wear old scruffy jackets. Costel holds a musket, Panut a lantern which illuminates their faces in the darkness.

A RUSTLE is heard in the nearby trees (O.S.)

The two men jump with shock. They cautiously look into the darkness.

INT. VILLAGE INN

Flames flicker and burning wood CRACKLES in an open fire.

Local men sit by the bar drinking ale.

Dragos and Nicolae sit at the same table as earlier. A large empty jug and two empty tankards on the table, its surface swimming with spilt ale.

Iancu stands by the window holding his drink. He looks out into the night.

Sanda walks over to the table and plants another large jug down on the wet surface.

NICOLAE
Thank you sir.

Sanda nods, collects the empty jug and retreats to the bar.

Dragos picks up the jug.

DRAGOS
Are you joining us Iancu?

Iancu looks out through the window.

IANCU
They just sit and wait.

Dragos fills the tankards from the jug.

NICOLAE
Who just sits?

IANCU
The guards.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

TWO MEN, FILIP and GRIGORE, sit on the edge of the well. Both are tender aged and dressed in old untidy clothes.

Filip holds a musket by the long barrel and rests the butt on the ground. A lantern, on a long staff, rests against the well providing minimal light.

INT. VILLAGE INN

IANCU
What do they hope to stop with one musket?

Dragos turns to Iancu.

DRAGOS
Better they have something than nothing.

IANCU
(sarcastically)
Yes. How generous of Mr. Alexandrel to provide them with something they surely know not how to use.

Nicolae takes a large gulp of ale.

NICOLAE
Then they will need to learn quick.

EXT. EDGE OF SOUTH WOODS - NIGHT

The trees that surround the village silently sway in the gentle wind.

Costel and Panut face the trees trying to see into the darkness.

A CRACK of wood is heard from the trees.

The two guards share a glance and then refocus their stare back into the night.

COSTEL
(breathing heavy)
We would be foolish to venture
into the woods.

PANUT
Agreed. We should wait.

Another CRACK emanates from the nearby trees.

PANUT
What makes that noise, a wolf?

Costel raises his musket to eye level and slowly pans left to right, searching for a target.

COSTEL
I see nothing.

Panut takes a few steps nearer the trees and stretches the lantern out in front. The light shakes from his nervous hand.

PANUT
It is too dark.

Costel's aim follows the light and scans the foliage. He turns away and begins to retreat.

COSTEL
Our minds play tricks. There is
nothing in the shadows.

Panut remains near the tree line. He again holds the lantern up in an attempt to see into the darkness. Slowly he sweeps the lantern across the tree line.

PANUT
(whispering)
Nothing.

He turns away. A louder CRACK, closer this time.

Costel, now some distance away, spins to face the trees.

Panut turns sharply and thrusts the lantern out in front of him. He breathes heavy.

He again pans the light slowly across the tree line. As he stares, the light catches the outline of something. He pauses the lantern a moment.

COSTEL
What do you see?

SOUTH TREES

Panut moves a step into the trees. Moving the lantern slowly a strange shaped tree comes into focus. He lets out relieved SIGH.

COSTEL (O.S.)
What do see Panut?

PANUT
Nothing but my imagination.

Turning to leave the woods, the lantern flashes it light across a FACE with piercing eyes.

Panut, unsure of what he has seen, swings the light back. The face of a VAMPIRE comes into focus. It lunges toward him with glowing eyes and rabid fangs.

EDGE OF SOUTH WOODS

Costel stares into the darkness. His musket is raised at eye level.

A TERRIFYING SCREAM comes from the woods. (O.S.)

Costel's eyes widen and his musket trembles uncontrollably.

SOUTH WOODS

Panut lays on his back, the vampire on top of him.

The lantern lays close by in the short grass lighting his feet and silhouetting his upper body and the vampire.

The lantern provides just enough light to show the ferocity of the attack.

The vampire repeatedly bites down hard at Panut's face, throwing its head back, it tears off chunks of flesh.

Still conscious, Panut SCREAMS and jerks.

The vampire bites down again and Panut falls silent and limp.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

Filip and Grigore sit on the edge of the well.

A MUSKET SHOT is heard. (O.S.)

Both guards jump to their feet in a fluster and look in the direction of the south woods.

There's a moment of pause.

Filip raises his musket to his waist, Grigore grabs the lantern and slowly they walk to the edge of town square.

INT. VILLAGE INN

Iancu looks out of the window. He suddenly turns to the others.

 IANCU
Something?

 DRAGOS
What?

 IANCU
I do not know, but something...wait, they are on the move.

 NICOLAE
On the move?

Dragos stands and walks to the window.

 IANCU
They are leaving the square.

 NICOLAE
It could be nothing.

 DRAGOS
And it may something.

Sanda and the local man at the bar, look toward Iancu and Dragos.

 SANDA
What is it sirs?

Iancu turns from the window.

 IANCU
I am not sure. Why would they leave the square?

 NICOLAE
Shall we ready.

 IANCU
No Nicolae, it is not our place. Mr. Alexandrel was insistent.

Nicolae looks at Iancu with confusion in his eyes.

IANCU
We must be patient, our help is
not wanted at this time.

Dragos peers out of the window, he nudges Iancu for his attention.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

Filip and Grigore halt and stare. Filip raises his musket to his shoulder and readies to fire.

Running FOOTSTEPS are heard (O.S.)

The musket starts to shake and the light from the lantern starts to fleet.

The FOOTSTEPS grow louder.

Filip lowers the musket.

Costel runs into the light. He stops a few yards from the other Guards.

He drops his musket, it CLUNKS on the hard stone ground. He starts to shake uncontrollably.

FILIP
What? What have you seen? Are
you alright?

Costel looks back with an empty expression.

IANCU (O.S.)
Have you been bitten?

Costel looks over at Iancu, who stands in the doorway of the Inn.

IANCU
Have you been bitten?

Costel shakes his head.

IANCU
Then take shelter in here.

Iancu steps aside to welcome Costel out of the night and into the haven of the Inn.

INT. VILLAGE INN

Costel sits by the fire, his face is pale and his body spasms every few moments.

The Inn's occupants are gathered around.

Filip and Grigore stand by the Inn's entrance, the door slightly open. Filip glances out to view the Square.

Sanda hands a shaken Costel a small, but strong, drink.

COSTEL
Thank you Sanda.

Sanda nods back with a sympathetic look.

IANCU
What did you see?

COSTEL
(breathing deeply)
I...I am unsure.

He looks down at the drink he holds tightly. Swiftly he downs the liquid and COUGHS to clear his warm throat.

COSTEL
I fired and it did nothing. I'm
certain I hit it.

Costel shakes his head.

COSTEL
But it did nothing.

DRAGOS
It. You say you hit it, not him.

COSTEL
No sir, it was no man. Not of
this world, that I am sure.

SANDA
Then what?

DRAGOS
A vampire.

The locals hush and squirm.

Costel looks up at Dragos.

SANDA
Then it is true.

IANCU
You do not believe it to be an
infection?

COSTEL
Not one of us really believed
that.

Sanda walks back to the bar.

SANDA
Now we know it is something more.

FILIP (O.S.)
We will know for certain soon.

All eyes turn to look at the guards by the door. Filip
looks out into the square.

IANCU
What do you see?

FILIP
Whatever it is, it's here.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

Slow footsteps are heard (O.S.)

The vampire moves slowly into the Square silhouetted by the
moon light.

Its back is arched as it sneaks along and it GROWLS with
every breath. Its eyes search back and forth into the dark
corners of the Square.

Filip and Grigore move out of the Inn and into the Square.

The vampires vision locks onto the two guards as they come
into view.

Filip and Grigore move slowly across the vampires path.
Grigore holds up his lantern and lights the vampires
features.

Filip stands near, he raises his musket barrel and readies
to fire.

The vampire GROWLS.

IANCU (O.S.)
Wait.

Iancu, Dragos and Nicolae exit the Inn. Sanda stops in the
doorway and watches from afar.

FILIP
For what?

GRIGORE
Fire with haste.

The vampire stops and eyes up Iancu and the brothers.

IANCU
Wait, we must be patient.

DRAGOS
Nicolae fetch the bag.

NICOLAE
Do I take it our help is now
wanted.

Iancu gives Nicolae a wide eyed look.

Nicolae walks quickly out of view.

IANCU
Make no sudden move.

The vampire moves toward Iancu and Dragos. Its eyes bulge from its brow and its mouth drips saliva.

Filip lowers his weapon and watches the vampire.

It stops, straightens its back and fills its lungs with air. It lets out a deafening SCREAM.

The guards share a look with Iancu and Dragos.

The vampire hunches its back again.

Filip raises his weapon and pulls back the flint lock, clicking it into place.

The vampire hearing this turns.

IANCU
No. Do not fire.

GRIGORE
We may do well to listen, Filip.

FILIP
I will end this now.

He fires the musket, hitting the vampire in the chest.

It rocks back on its heels from the impact but does not fall. It lets out a GROWL.

IANCU
Nicolae, hurry.

Filip and Grigore look on in panic as the vampire takes a deep breath and runs toward them.

Grigore drops the lantern pole, smashing the light on the stone floor, and runs into the darkness.

Filip frantically snatches the bag of gunpowder from his belt in an attempt to reload the musket.

The vampire leaps onto Filip who lets out a sickening SCREAM.

Dragos readies to run to Filip's aid but Iancu grabs him by the arm anchoring him back.

IANCU
That would be a ill-advised
Dragos.

The vampire tears into Filip's arms as he tries in vain to defend himself. The attack is ferocious.

Iancu and Dragos watch on helplessly.

DRAGOS
We must do something Iancu.

Iancu reluctantly frees Dragos from his grip.

Nicolae runs into view, carrying an axe in one hand, and the long leather bag in the other.

He drops the bag at the feet of Iancu and Dragos as he passes.

Nicolae runs up to the vampire as it continues to bite down on Filip. He raises the axe and brings it down hard smashing it into the vampires spine.

The vampire SQUEALS out and jerks with the impact.

It turns and swings its claws at Nicolae in one quick motion.

Nicolae flinches away.

Dragos frantically removes a sword from the bag.

DRAGOS
Nicolae!

The vampire gets to its feet, blood dripping from its jaws.

Filip lays twitching with pain from his wounds.

Nicolae backs away tentatively.

The vampire slowly crouches, its claws out stretched.

Dragos looks on with panic.

DRAGOS

Nicolae.

Dragos charges toward the vampire with the sword tight in his grip.

The vampire glances at Dragos and pauses. It turns and leaps in one motion toward him.

Dragos flashes his blade and slices deep into the vampires right arm.

The vampire lands and crouches. Its arm hangs suspended by only tissue and cloth. Blood streams and puddles at its feet.

It SCREAMS out.

Dragos stares into the vampires empty eyes and with a ROAR swings his sword with the strength from both arms.

The sword's razor sharp blade strikes at the heart of the vampire's SCREAM, slicing through its open jaws and breaking through its skull.

The headless corpse remains upright for a brief moment before falling.

Iancu tentatively approaches the stricken Filip, who spasms in agony. Iancu is joined by Nicolae, who stands over the guard.

Filip is semi-conscious. His eyes fuelled by pain, glisten with tears. His arms, torn by the vampire's fangs, lay motionless at his side.

Dragos walks over to the dying guard but makes no eye contact with him.

DRAGOS

(whispering)

I am sorry.

Iancu and Nicolae turn their backs.

Dragos raises his blood-stained sword and brings it down, banging the blade on the stone floor and beheading Filip.

GRIGORE (O.S.)

No, what are you doing!

Iancu and Nicolae look into the darkness, from where the voice emanated. Dragos leans on his sword and doesn't look up.

Grigore emerges from the shadows.

GRIGORE

Why did he do such a thing?

IANCU

There was nothing that could be done. The poison was already passed.

GRIGORE

How are you sure?

DRAGOS

Once bitten it is already too late.

IANCU

The poison is in the blood.

Grigore glances down at Filip's decapitated corpse, he turns away placing his hand over his mouth.

Dragos walks past the group.

NICOLAE

Dragos.

Iancu puts his hand on Nicolae's shoulder. Nicolae faces back.

IANCU

Best leave him be.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - DAY

Dora swings her leg over and mounts her horse. She takes up the reins.

Alexandrel walks across the courtyard and up to Dora.

ALEXANDREL

Dora my dear, must you ride today?

DORA

Father, why do you worry so? Did you not say it was the night that harbors the killer.

Alexandrel takes hold of the horses reins and smiles up at his daughter.

ALEXANDREL

That I did.

DORA

Then I shall be fine.

ALEXANDREL

I would worry less if you rode
with your brother.

DORA

But father you have him working.
Besides I saw Mr. Mihail leave
earlier, you do not worry for
him?

ALEXANDREL

I do not.

He releases the reins and gently pats the horses neck.

ALEXANDREL

Be back before night fall, that I
insist.

DORA

I promise.

Dora rides out of the courtyard, Alexandrel watches her
leave.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - GATE HOUSE - DAY

Dora rides past Dumitru and Gavril, who stand guard at the
Gate.

Mihail approaches on horseback with Dragos and Nicolae
close behind, Iancu rides on the travellers wagon.

Dora gallops past them at great speed.

Dragos spins on his horse and watches Dora fade into the
distance.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - DAY

Mihail and the others ride into the courtyard, dismount and
tie up their horses. Iancu climbs down from the wagon.

Timur exits from a stable across the courtyard and notices
the others.

TIMUR

My father is expecting you
Mihail.

Mihail turns.

MIHAIL
Why do you not ride with Dora
today?

Timur shakes his head.

TIMUR
My father insists I should now
work.

Mihail looks back with a blank stare.

TIMUR
Now that he has his workers in
the village, the work here will
not be done.

NICOLAE
Nor in the village.

TIMUR
I'm sorry sir but I do not
believe we have been introduced.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - DRAWING ROOM

Mr. Alexandrel sits at the table with Clergyman Litovoi seated opposite. Again there are many documents scattered across its surface.

Both men sit in silence.

A KNOCKING is heard (O.S.)

ALEXANDREL
Come.

The door opens, Mihail and the others enter.

ALEXANDREL
Ah, gentlemen.

Alexandrel stands to greet the guests.

ALEXANDREL
Come, please sit.

IANCU
Thank you.

Alexandrel quickly collects the documents together and places them in the draw of a nearby dresser.

Iancu, Dragos and Nicolae sit themselves around the table.

MIHAIL

Mr. Alexandrel sir, you have allowed Lady Dora to ride alone.

ALEXANDREL

Unfortunately I cannot shackle her and she gave her word she would be back before night fall.

MIHAIL

Should you not have let Timur ride...

ALEXANDREL

(angrily)

My son is working and will continue to do so while my workers are in the village.

DRAGOS

Well...

ALEXANDREL

(angrily)

Yes I am aware of last night's events. If we could concern ourselves with the present.

Alexandrel sits at the table.

IANCU

Do you now wish us to help?

ALEXANDREL

You are here, surely that tells you that I do.

Iancu turns to Dragos and Nicolae.

LITOVROI

I apologise, for it has been a stressful time of late.

Litovoi gives Alexandrel a stare.

ALEXANDREL

(sighs)

I am sorry for my outburst, please accept my apologies. If I may continue, we have much to discuss.

IANCU

You may.

Mihail clears his throat loudly and catches Alexandrel's attention.

MIHAIL
 Sir, before you begin, I wonder
 if you know of Bogdan's
 whereabouts?

ALEXANDREL
 He is working Mihail, as should
 you be.

MIHAIL
 Of course sir.

Mihail turns to leave.

ALEXANDREL
 He is disposing of the deceased.

MIHAIL
 Thank you sir.

Mihail leaves.

There's a moment of silence.

LITOVOI
 Gentlemen, shall we begin.

EXT. NORTH WOODS - DAY

The sun is blocked by the dense foliage, only strips of
 light pierce through. The sound of flies BUZZING nearby
 can be heard.

Dora slows her horse and stops as she comes across a horse
 and cart in a clearing.

She looks left and right and sees the small stone building
 in the trees.

She climbs from her horse and takes a few steps toward the
 building.

DORA
 Hello.

Dora's horse GRUNTS, breaking the eerie silence.

She turns quickly, looking back at her horse and glancing
 over the horse and cart.

She turns back to the building and takes another step. She
 sniffs the air and repulses at the stench.

DORA
 Bogdan?

She steps into a glaring strip of sunlight, blinded by the contrast she freezes and covers her eyes.

She turns and hastily makes her way back to her horse. Taking the horse by the reins, she looks back at the building for a moment and then mounts.

She rides away.

In the nearby undergrowth lays Bogdan's body, his throat has been bitten through.

A few feet away, a VAMPIRE hides in the shade, shielding itself from the sun's rays. The vampire is the dead man from the village with its arm missing. Blood is smeared across its face.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

The dining room is grand. Drapes from floor to ceiling guard the windows and a beautiful chandelier catches and disperses the light around the room.

Mr. Alexandrel and his son Timur dine with their guests, Clergyman Litovoi, Iancu, Dragos and Nicolae.

They are seated around a huge table, bare of food, with only cutlery and glasses upon it.

ALEXANDREL

Where is your sister, Timur? Our guest grow hungry.

TIMUR

Do you wish me to look for her father?

ALEXANDREL

No, but I am growing anxious. I should have been more forceful.

LITOVOI

You have no reason for such worry. The sun does not set for hours.

Iancu looks at Litovoi.

IANCU

Why do you say such a thing as to not worry during the hours of day. Surely a murderous fiend would care not whether it were day or night.

There is a silence.

A CLUNK is heard (O.S.)

ALEXANDREL
Ah, is that the sound of your
sister?

FOOTSTEPS are heard approaching, growing louder (O.S.)

All eyes turn to the dining room door.

Dora enters.

ALEXANDREL
Now we may eat.

Alexandrel picks up a small bell and RINGS it twice.

Dora sits at the table.

DORA
Sorry for my lateness father.

ALEXANDREL
I was growing worried...

A MAID enters the dining room. She wears a black dress with her hair tied back.

ALEXANDREL
Ah, you may serve dinner now.

MAID
Very good sir.

The maid leaves.

IANCU
Do you not expect your good lady
to join us?

Alexandrel slowly and carefully places the bell back on the table. His family look at him awaiting his response.

ALEXANDREL
I do not I'm afraid.

IANCU
I am sorry if I have spoke out of
place.

ALEXANDREL
You have not.

A moment of silence.

Dragos turns to Dora.

DRAGOS
Pleased to make your acquittance
again Lady Dora.

DORA
And yours sir.

Alexandrel shift his stare between Dragos and Dora.

The maid enters carrying a large tray which displays a succulent turkey roast.

LATER

Only a turkey carcass remains on the tray. Bowls containing left over vegetables are also strewn across the table.

IANCU
I must commend you for that was
delicious.

Nicolae leans over and removes the last pieces of turkey from the tray and stuffs them into his mouth.

NICOLAE
That it was that.

ALEXANDREL
My pleasure gentlemen.

Iancu takes a sip from his glass.

IANCU
Tell me, if you may, for how long
has the village been in the grip
of this terror.

ALEXANDREL
Timur, Dora, you may be excused.

Dora stands, Timur does not.

DORA
I bid you good evening gentlemen.

She passes a glance toward Dragos as she leaves.

ALEXANDREL
Timur.

TIMUR
I would like to stay father? I
would like to know why I now must
work.

After a moments hesitation, Alexandrel nods his approval.

LITOVOI

It seems an age, but I believe only a few weeks now since the first murder.

DRAGOS

A man will murder, not a vampire. A vampire simply feeds.

LITOVOI

Vampires, the dead rising, poison. You seem to know much?

IANCU

The poison is in the blood. Once bitten the body becomes infected.

Alexandrel stands and walks with his glass. He takes out a handkerchief and dabs his brow.

ALEXANDREL

Do you know how this began?

IANCU

Vampires are scavengers, they will feed on a village until it is exhausted.

Alexandrel leans on the table and looks into the eyes of Iancu.

ALEXANDREL

You misunderstand. I ask if you know how this all began?

Iancu leans forward in his chair.

IANCU

What you ask, may not be what you want to hear.

ALEXANDREL

Go on.

IANCU

This poison was unleashed upon the earth.

ALEXANDREL

Unleashed by whom?

IANCU

God.

Alexandrel LAUGHS. Litovoi shakes his head in disbelief.

LITOVROI
Blasphemy is a sin.

IANCU
But the truth is not.

LITOVROI
Truth, I think not. Theories as
this have no place here.

IANCU
I understand your disbelief but
it is the truth. I too did not
believe when I was told the story
but I have seen, and the eyes
never lie.

EXT. SMALL CHURCH - DAY - FLASHBACK

A PRIEST stands just outside the church doors, his face
fresh and young.

A MAN walks toward him. He holds the hands of young Dragos
and young Nicolae. They are a young Dragos and Nicolae.

As they meet the priest, the man frees the boys from his
grasp.

MAN
Go inside boys.

Young Dragos and his brother enter the church.

MAN
Father, I have come to you for
help. You must save them. They
are orphans and have no one.

The priest glances back into his church.

PRIEST
Orphans. Many children are
orphans, why are these so
special.

MAN
They have experienced a great
lose farther. A terrible lose at
the hands of the Devil and I fear
for their safety.

PRIEST
The Devil? What would the Devil
want with two innocents?

The man shuffles his frame.

MAN

They may be cursed by their
parents actions.

PRIEST

The Devil does not curse.

MAN

If not the Devil then a creature
in keeping. Please farther.

The priest sighs with reluctance.

PRIEST

Very well, God will care for
them.

The man shakes the priest by the hand.

MAN

Thank you father Iancu. Thank
you.

END FLASHBACK

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

The group continue their discussion.

IANCU

Many Angels grew tired of God and
sought power for themselves. God
had to punished them and banished
them to earth.

ALEXANDREL

Angels on earth?

LITOVOI

Fallen Angels. Is it these what
you speak of?

IANCU

It is. The Fallen Angels walk
the earth for eternity, forever
banished from an afterlife. They
feed on the men and women of our
world to survive.

ALEXANDREL

I struggle to believe such a
thing.

DRAGOS

It is true sir and they must be
stopped.

(MORE)

DRAGOS (cont'd)
More and more fall victim to
their poison and so to must walk
with them.

ALEXANDREL
I thought they feed, therefore
kill.

DRAGOS
Not always sir. If...

NICOLAE
(interrupting)
If the body is bled dry the
spirit is freed, if it is not,
the spirit is consumed by a
thirst.

All eyes turn to Nicolae.

NICOLAE
A thirst for blood.

A deafening silence falls.

ALEXANDREL
So you believe these Fallen
Angels attack us.

IANCU
Perhaps not sir. Their number
are few, maybe three or four. It
is their victims who attack your
land, their number is far
greater.

TIMUR
So what of the winged creature I
hear talk of?

Dragos' eyes bolt onto Timur in an instant.

TIMUR
Is this one of your Angels?

DRAGOS
Who speaks of this?

TIMUR
A few, from the village.

Dragos turns to Alexandrel.

DRAGOS
Is this true?

ALEXANDREL

(nervously)

I...I have not heard such stories.

LITOVROI

Exaggerations of the mind, that is all.

IANCU

The Fallen are indeed winged creatures and if one is here, the danger is far worse.

ALEXANDREL

Then we must be prepared.

NICOLAE

We are always.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

The moon glows in the clear sky.

Dumitru and Gavril stand guard with their muskets.

Light shines from the windows of the Inn, casting a shadow from a lone figure watching from inside.

INT. VILLAGE INN

The fire ROARS and CRACKS.

Sanda stands by the bar intently polishing a glass with a cloth. He stares at Iancu.

Iancu stands by the window, staring into the darkness outside.

EXT. VILLAGE CEMETERY - NIGHT

The cemetery is dark, lit only by the brightness of the moon.

A small church is enclosed within dense trees. There are many gravestones scattered around.

Dragos and Nicolae sit on a small wooden fence which surrounds the cemetery. A lantern and the long leather bag are at their feet.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - DRAWING ROOM

Alexandrel is seated in a chair by the fire, he holds a glass in one hand and an open book in the other.

Timur sits opposite his father.

Mihail sits at the table, an empty glass nearby.

MIHAIL

There is still no word.

Alexandrel looks up from his book and glances at Mihail. He then looks back down again.

ALEXANDREL

You may retire for the night if
you wish Mihail?

Mihail stands from his chair and moves to confront the window.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

Gavril is seated on the edge of the well, his musket leaning against the stone side.

Dumitru paces back and forth with his musket ready.

GAVRIL

You will wear your shoes thin.

Dumitru looks back at Gavril. He readies to speak.

A GROWL is heard (O.S.)

Dumitru turns quickly, facing the direction from which the noise emanated. He raises his musket.

Gavril slowly stands from the well and fumbles to pick up his musket. The musket slides down the side of the well and fires as it hits the ground. The shot ECHOES round the square.

Dumitru jumps from the sound of the shot. He turns to look at Gavril.

Gavril picks up his musket.

EXT. VILLAGE CEMETERY - NIGHT

Dragos remains perched on the fence, Nicolae stands nearby looking into the dark deserted cemetery.

A faint musket shot is heard (O.S.)

Both Dragos and Nicolae turn to face the village. Dragos stands and picks up the long leather bag. The brothers share a glance and then set off with haste toward the village.

The lantern remains on the ground, lighting the nearby grass.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

Dumitru looks at Gavril, who shakes his head. A shadow passes by Dumitru's feet. He turns in an instant, flashing his musket back and forth searching for a target.

A VAMPIRE emerges from the darkness, breathing heavy. The creature's back is arched with its head sunk into its shoulders, its eyes stare wildly.

Dumitru stands frozen as the creature slowly approaches.

GAVRIL
(loudly)
Why do you wait!

Dumitru points his musket and fires.

The shot pierces the vampire's chest, rocking it back on its heels. It looks at its chest and runs its rotting hand over the entry wound, blood seeps out. It looks up, locks its stare on Dumitru and advances.

Gavril starts to load his musket. He pours powder down the barrel and spills much on the ground. In a panic he drops the musket ball and begins to rummage for another.

Dumitru steps back, glancing at Gavril, as the vampire edges closer.

Gavril cocks his musket and pushes past Dumitru. He fires, hitting the vampire in the face.

The musket ball buries into the creature's cheek, leaving a gaping bloody hole. The vampire clasps its face and lets out a deafening HOWL.

Both Gavril and Dumitru frantically start to reload their muskets.

The vampire again advances.

The vampire is within a few feet of Dumitru. His musket not loaded, he jabs the barrel into the vampire's face. The vampire does not halt.

The vampire lunges at Dumitru, who sidesteps and brushes it passed with the aid of his musket. As he does his musket ball pouch falls to the ground from his belt.

The vampire now closer to Gavril, lurches for him. Gavril swings the butt of his musket round and smashes it across the head, sending the vampire crashing to the ground.

The vampire lays silent.

DUMITRU

Is it dead?

DRAGOS (O.S.)

It is not. You must remove its head.

Gavril and Dumitru look into the darkness. Dragos and Nicolae, breathing heavily, emerge into the dim light.

The vampire stirs and begins to stand.

DRAGOS

Your weapons are worthless here.

Nicolae drops the long leather bag to the ground.

Gavril and Dumitru watch on as Nicolae removes an axe from the confines of the bag.

NICOLAE

Stand back.

Nicolae approaches the vampire.

The creature catches a glimpse of Nicolae and faces him.

It pounces.

Light from the window of the Inn reflects brightly off the blade of the axe as it flashes across the vampire. A thud and the vampires head rolls across the stone ground.

DRAGOS

Now it is dead.

Dumitru and Gavril stand motionless, staring at the beheaded vampire as it falls to the ground. Both men sigh with relief.

Dragos leans over the corpse and looks closely. The others gather.

Dumitru notices he is missing his musket pouch.

DUMITRU

Where is that?

He turns, looking to the ground. He sees a pair of shoes. Slowly looking up he is confronted by the decomposing face of the one armed VAMPIRE. It stares back, only inches from him.

He startles back and lets out a GASP.

The vampire lunges, snapping its teeth.

Dumitru defends himself with his musket, pushing it into the vampire's face.

Dumitru panics, swinging his musket back and forth. The vampire blocks with its remaining arm and the musket is lost from Dumitru's grasp.

The musket clatters to the ground, alerting the others.

DUMITRU

Help me!

DRAGOS

Back away!

DUMITRU

Help me please!

DRAGOS

Move away from it.

It attacks again, Dumitru parries with his arms. He pushes his hand into the creature's face, his fingers forced into its mouth. The vampire clamps its jaws down on his hand.

Dumitru lets out a PANICKED SCREAM.

Gavril aims his musket. Nicolae clutches his axe.

GAVRIL

Stand aside Dumitru!

Dragos snatches a sword from the long leather bag and moves behind the vampire.

The vampire pulls its head back, ripping off Dumitru's fingers at the knuckles.

Dumitru lets out a SCREAM and drops to his knees, clutching his blooded hand.

Dragos swings his blade and strikes the vampire in the neck, gashing it open. The vampire stems the blood flow with its hand.

It looks into Dragos' eyes with anger.

Nicolae smashes his axe down into the back of the vampires head. It slumps to its knees.

Dragos swings his sword and slices through the remaining neck muscle. The creatures body falls, its head remains attached to Nicolae's axe.

Nicolae lowers his axe to the ground, places his foot on the vampire's head and pulls his weapon free.

All eyes turn to Dumitru. His face is pale and he shivers, clutching his finger less hand.

A bright light emits from the open door of the Inn. All eyes now turn to see Iancu emerge.

The sound of Dumitru being beheaded is heard (O.S.)

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - DRAWING ROOM

Alexandrel sits with his son, Timur.

The door bursts open and Dragos enters. He carries his blood stained sword. Nicolae and Iancu follow.

ALEXANDREL
Gentlemen, from your intrusion I
gather things did not go well?

Dragos marches over to Alexandrel and thrusts his sword into his face, stopping inches short of the skin.

Alexandrel flinches back in his chair. Timur leaps out of his.

DRAGOS
Sit down!

Timur freezes. Alexandrel's eyes twitch at the wavering blade tip.

IANCU
Dragos, calm yourself.

ALEXANDREL
(nervously)
What is the meaning of this.

DRAGOS
I wonder if you wish us to fail.
There can be no other
explanation.

ALEXANDREL
Explanation for what?

DRAGOS
I said sit down.

Timur slowly lowers himself back into his chair.

NICOLAE
Dragos, calm yourself.

Dragos' eyes flicker from Alexandrel to Nicolae. He takes a deep breath and lowers his sword.

IANCU
I see that your Clergyman is not here. I had wished to inform him of a number of fresh bodies which need burying, but then maybe it is not he who I need to speak with.

ALEXANDREL
I am sorry, I do not follow.

DRAGOS
Why were we not informed that your cemetery is redundant?

Timur stands from his chair.

TIMUR
Redundant?

Dragos stares at Timur with hateful eyes.

Timur sits back down.

ALEXANDREL
(directed at Timur)
Timur, will you inform the maid that we have guests.
(directed at Dragos)
Would you care for a little food?

Timur tentatively stands while looking at Dragos.

DRAGOS
No thank you Sir.

NICOLAE
I could...

DRAGOS
(interrupting)
We thank you for your offer but we do not wish to dine so late.

Timur hovers by his chair.

ALEXANDREL

Then may I can tempt you to some refreshments gentlemen?

DRAGOS

Very well.

Timur leaves.

ALEXANDREL

Please sit, let me explain.

IANCU

Please do.

Dragos, Nicolae and Iancu sit.

ALEXANDREL

Well, were shall I begin.

NICOLAE

The beginning is always the most useful.

Alexandrel looks at Nicolae with a wry smile.

ALEXANDREL

The dead, or shall I say the deceased, were buried in the cemetery but unfortunately they did not wish to stay there. As you are well aware.

DRAGOS

So where are they buried now.

ALEXANDREL

In a small neglected building which can be found in the north woods. Although they may not have been buried in such a word.

IANCU

Then in what word?

ALEXANDREL

More, disposed of.

IANCU

Disposed of how? Just a moment past you informed us that you were aware the dead were returning.

Alexandrel fidgets in his chair and glance toward the door.

ALEXANDREL

I begin to wonder if the refreshments are coming at all.

Alexandrel takes a long breath.

ALEXANDREL

The village is in panic, the dead returning from the grave. It all seems so inconceivable. Following the first few occurrences we were in agreement that the recently deceased should be placed somewhere outside of the village.

IANCU

The we includes your Clergyman?

ALEXANDREL

Clergyman Litovoi and myself have tried to dispel the hysteria that swells within our community. Unfortunately to no avail, as you well know the villagers are terrified.

NICOLAE

And rightly so.

ALEXANDREL

Our intentions were conflicting though. I myself favoured for the bodies to be cremated but this was not acceptable and so never carried out.

IANCU

It is a shame you were not stronger in your argument. This would have indeed been successful.

DRAGOS

But it would only have contained the problem and not dissolved it. You must stop the source of the problem.

ALEXANDREL

I believe that is now your business.

Nicolae nods in agreement.

DRAGOS

Which is why your lies are so bewildering. I ask again if you wish us to fail?

ALEXANDREL

Lies, that is such a strong word and I believe not appropriate here. Not answering questions you failed to ask is not construed as a lie. But I do now apologise.

Iancu leans forward in his chair.

IANCU

Perhaps now would be an appropriate time to divulge anything else of relevance.

There is a BANG on the door (O.S.)

Alexandrel's eyes focus on it.

Another BANG on the door.

ALEXANDREL

Would someone be so kind.

Iancu and Dragos turn and look at Nicolae.

Nicolae sighs and walks toward the door. Opening it, he is confronted by Timur, who carries a tray holding a large bottle and five glasses.

ALEXANDREL (O.S.)

Where is the maid, Timur?

Timur slowly enters, the glasses teetering on the tray as he walks.

TIMUR

She is sleeping father.

ALEXANDREL

Then you should have woken her.

Alexandrel looks over at the tray as Timur places it down on the table.

ALEXANDREL

Four glasses would be sufficient.

TIMUR

But father I thought I may...

Alexandrel looks at his son with wide eyes.

TIMUR
 Good night father, gentlemen.

Timur leaves, closing the door behind him.

Alexandrel approaches the table, pours himself a drink and gulps it down in one.

ALEXANDREL
 Perhaps the truth needs to be told.

IANCU
 Perhaps.

ALEXANDREL
 I know of the one who terrorises the village, the one who carries the poison in his blood.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

The sun shines, burning just above the rooftops, casting long shadows across square.

The decapitated corpses of Dumitru and the vampire lay in the shade from the suns glare. The surrounding area stained with the dried blood of dead.

Mihail walks into the square, leading a different horse and cart. He stops near the bodies. He grabs hold of Dumitru under the arms and heaves the deadweight off the ground.

Sanda exits his residence and approaches Mihail. He grabs a hold of Dumitru by the ankles and the two men lift the headless body onto the back of the cart.

SANDA
 Still no word of Bogdan?

Mihail shakes his head.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - DAY

Timur holds the reins as Iancu releases his horse from the travellers wagon.

Nicolae appears from behind the wagon, he carries the long leather bag in one hand and a saddle in the other. He drops the heavy items down near Iancu.

Dragos adjusts his saddle.

DRAGOS
 More care Nicolae.

NICOLAE

Sorry.

Iancu picks up the saddle and begins to attach it to his horse.

Dora enters the courtyard wearing her nightdress, attracting the attention of Nicolae.

She turns to Dragos.

DORA

Are you leaving us?

Dragos spins to face Dora. He glances at her attire.

DRAGOS

I am afraid so. We must uphold our contract with your father.

DORA

Contract?

DRAGOS

It is not for me to say.

Dragos mounts his horse.

DORA

I am under no illusions, I know we are in the grip of something terrible and I fear my imagination is playing tricks. I hear noises in the night and see shadows in the dark.

DRAGOS

Worry not, it will soon be over.

DORA

I trust you're right.

DRAGOS

Your father will see you safe.

Nicolae attaches the long leather bag to his horse.

DORA

My father has bigger worries.

DRAGOS

I believe not. It must be difficult with the weight of the villages hopes and the dependence of two children.

Nicolae and Iancu mount their horses.

DRAGOS
I must go now.

DORA
Will you return?

DRAGOS
I have every intention.

DORA
I hope you do not misunderstand.
I do not ask if you believe you
will accomplish your business. I
ask if you will return here.

IANCU (O.S.)
Dragos, we must take advantage of
the long day.

Dragos smiles at Dora.

DRAGOS
I have every intention of
returning Lady Dora.

Dragos, Nicolae and Iancu ride out of the courtyard.

Timur stares at Dora.

DORA
What is it that bothers you.

TIMUR
Nothing sweet sister, nothing at
all.

Timur strides into the stables.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Open fields are bordered by ominously dark woods on one
side and a gently flowing stream on the other.

Dragos, Nicolae and Iancu ride their horses alongside each
other, across the open fields.

Their pace slows as they approach the end of the field, and
are forced to enter the claustrophobic confines of the
woods.

EXT. NORTH WOODS - DAY

Sunlight scarcely pierces the branches that intertwined
above.

Dragos, Nicolae and Iancu now ride in single file through the dense trees.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - DRAWING ROOM

The table is awash with scattered documents concealing its surface.

Clergyman Litovoi bursts into the room.

He scans the four corners before settling his sight on the table. He marches over and begins to forage through the documents.

Alexandrel quietly enters.

Litovoi doesn't turn from the table.

LITOVOI

It is true then. You told them everything.

ALEXANDREL

It is nothing they did not already know.

Litovoi turns to face Alexandrel.

ALEXANDREL

Did they not say from the very outset that it was we that did not know of what we faced.

Litovoi holds up a specific document.

LITOVOI

Everything?

Alexandrel walks to a chair and sits.

ALEXANDREL

They knew even of the curse that hangs around the neck of the family like a noose waiting to be tightened.

Litovoi places the document on the table.

Alexandrel lifts himself out of his chair and points at the document.

The document is tree of names and dates. At its top is a group of names and the date 912 A.D.

Alexandrel's finger maps up to the top of the document and rests under the name ILEANA TOMESCU.

ALEXANDREL

It is a curse that has already
taken from them.

EXT. NORTH WOODS - DERELICT HOUSE - DAY

The sun is almost entirely blocked by the foliage.

Numerous large decomposing animal carcasses strewn the
surrounding area.

Three horses are tied to a large tree stump.

A large derelict house hides itself in the dense trees.

INT. DERELICT HOUSE

Constructed of stone, it is damp and decaying. Furniture
is scarce and the walls are bare.

Dragos, wielding an axe, and Nicolae, clutching a sword,
stand in the hallway. Iancu stands, shielded, behind them.

Nicolae sniffs the air and pulls a face of disgust.

NICOLAE

That is not an appetising smell.

DRAGOS

Not at all brother, the smell of
death is never pleasant.

NICOLAE

Mr. Alexandrel spoke of a smaller
place than this.

IANCU

Indeed, but we may find the
source here Nicolae.

DRAGOS

It will not take an age to check.

Slowly the group edge forward into the heart of the house.

DINING ROOM

A dining table stands coated in dust. Its chairs pushed
neatly underneath.

A large fireplace stands on the far wall. Two human
CORPSES lay at its foot. One face down, the other on its
back.

The group move quietly into the room.

Nicolae walks to the corpse that lays face down and gently rolls it over. He looks away at its sight.

The corpse has been stripped to the bone, its rib cage empty of its organs.

The corpse on its back is almost skeletal, its eyes bulge from its gaunt face.

DRAGOS

Perhaps we should move on. If he were here, he is not now and not for some time by the looks.

IANCU

We have much area to cover before nightfall.

They leave the room.

The skeletal corpse lets out a sudden breath and blinks.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

Darkness fills the windows of the room but the glow of the moon is present.

Alexandrel and Clergyman Litovoi are seated around the table which bares nothing.

The silence is deafening.

Suddenly the door bursts open and Dora rushes in.

Alexandrel bolts out of his chair.

DORA

(breathing heavily)
Father I...

ALEXANDREL

What is it?

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - GATE HOUSE - DAY

Dragos, Nicolae and Iancu halt their horses at the gate. There is no one in view.

Dragos dismounts and opens the gate. Catching his eye, Gavril is sat by the wall, his face pale and emotionless.

DRAGOS

Hey.

Gavril doesn't respond.

Dragos turns to the others and shrugs.

He mounts his horse and they ride through the open gate.

Iancu looks back at Gavril, who stares blankly into nothingness.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - DAY

Mihail stands waiting as Dragos and the others ride into the courtyard.

DRAGOS

Mihail, your guard does not look well.

Mihail remains straight faced.

DRAGOS

Can you inform Mr. Alexandrel that our search was fruitless on this occasion, but believe that what we search for will find us.

MIHAIL

I'm afraid it has already found.

The group share a silent moment.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM CHAMBER

The room is dark, long curtains close out the light.

A beautiful four poster bed stands on a large and decorative rug.

MIHAIL (V.O.)

Mr. Alexandrel does not wish to be disturbed. He is not at all well.

Alexandrel sits upright in the bed, his eyes bloodshot red.

MIHAIL (V.O.)

It has come as a terrible shock, the family is distraught.

The covers are turned down on the opposite side of the bed.

MIHAIL (V.O.)

And it was poor Lady Dora who witnessed such a macabre sight.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - DAY

Dragos and the others stand by Mihail, their horses now tied.

MIHAIL
Last night, while you searched,
we were found.

DRAGOS
You were attacked here?

MIHAIL
It had concluded before we knew
it had begun.

INT. COURTYARD - STABLE - FLASHBACK

The stable is lit by a lantern that hangs still.

Straw covers the ground.

MIHAIL (V.O.)
I will find it hard to forget
such an image.

A pitch fork lay on the floor, its prongs stained with blood. The straw covered floor soaks up the red liquid.

MIHAIL (V.O.)
As if etched into my eyes.

Timur's body lay on the floor, his arms outstretched.

His stomach sliced open and his throat ripped out. His flesh is pale, his life drained away.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Dora runs from the house and freezes, standing a few feet from the stables entrance. She is distraught, her head sinks into her hands.

Alexandrel, shocked and in a panic, rushes out of the house and into the courtyard. He slows at the sight of Dora.

Gavril emerges from the stable, his face pale and his eyes wide. He turns away from Dora, placing his outstretched hand against the wall to take his weight. He hangs his head.

Clergyman Litovoi exits the house and stands beside Alexandrel.

Alexandrel slowly moves forward.

Gavril COUGHS, his legs buckle and he falls to his knees.

Alexandrel stops.

Gavril wretches and vomits violently.

Alexandrel looks toward the stable and tentatively edges closer, passing Dora, he enters.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - DAY

The group pray silent for a moment.

Dragos places his hand on Mihail's shoulder.

DRAGOS

You must get word to Mr.
Alexandrel that we will return
before nightfall. We will wait
for the fight to come to us.

MIHAIL

I will my friend.

IANCU

We offer our deepest condolences
in this darkest of hours.

MIHAIL

Thank you.

Nicolae and Iancu walk away and begin to attach one of the horses to the travellers wagon.

DRAGOS

This perhaps is not the time but
if any of your guards are
willing, they would be a help.

Mihail nods.

Dragos walks to join the others.

Mihail turns and enters the house.

Nicolae and Dragos mount their horses. Iancu tightens the final few straps on the horse and wagon.

NICOLAE

Do you think it wise that we
waste the day and wait.

DRAGOS

We searched a day and a night and found nothing and we could do the same again. No, we will wait and prepare for the fight here.

NICOLAE

You think he will return tonight?

DRAGOS

I do Nicolae. Timur was not why he came. He has not yet finished.

NICOLAE

I wonder why? There were few guards to stop him.

DRAGOS

Perhaps he waits for us.

NICOLAE

Perhaps.

Iancu climbs aboard the wagon and takes the reins.

IANCU

I feel much sorrow for the family. The death of a loved one is such a dreadful time for all concerned, especially in a way such as this.

DRAGOS

Better by he than by your own hand.

Dragos rides out of the courtyard.

Nicolae and Iancu share a glance. Nicolae gallops out of the courtyard.

Iancu raises the reins, glancing up at the house his eyes catch Alexandrel standing in the window. He pauses for a moment, then snaps the reins and the travellers wagon jerks into movement.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - DRAWING ROOM

Alexandrel stands by the window, looking out.

Mihail enters the room.

MIHAIL

Sir, I think it best that you return to your bed and rest.

(MORE)

MIHAIL (cont'd)
I will wake you should I hear of
any news.

ALEXANDREL
(unemotionally)
News of what?

Mihail glances out of one of the windows overlooking the courtyard.

The travellers wagon exits.

MIHAIL
They will guard the house
tonight. I must try to encourage
some from the village to help
again, but I fear it will not be
easy after recent events.

Alexandrel's focus remains in the courtyard.

ALEXANDREL
Who were they?

Mihail frowns.

MIHAIL
Sir I must insist that you rest.

Alexandrel wanders out of the room.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

Dark clouds blacken the night sky.

A number of VAMPIRES emerge from the woods, scarcely illuminated by the obstructed moonlight.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - GATE HOUSE - NIGHT

Dragos and Nicolae rest their weight on the gate.

Dragos leans on a long handled axe. Nicolae rest his swords blade across the gates top.

Their eyes stare into the pitch black surroundings.

NICOLAE
It seems especially dark tonight
Dragos.

DRAGOS
As if intended to hide the view
from the heavens.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

Three vampires, barely visible, creep down the dirt track toward Alexandrel's house.

Two more of the scavengers sneak along in the grassy trough beside the track.

A few yards behind the pack, a LARGE FIGURE stands in the darkness.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - NIGHT

A few yards outside the village stands a tall wooden pole. At its top, a large bucket shape stuffed with straw. Resting against its length is a tall ladder.

Iancu and a small group of villagers stand close by.

A MAN, carrying a flaming torch, climbs the ladder with care and ignites the straw which burns bright in the darkness.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - GATE HOUSE - NIGHT

Dragos and Nicolae remain posted by the gate.

Gavril approaches from behind. He carries a sword in his grasp.

A bright light appears on the horizon, catching their attention.

GAVRIL

Is that the signal?

DRAGOS

Ready yourself and the others.

Gavril stares past the brothers and out into the countryside.

DRAGOS

Ready yourself, it will not be long until they are upon us.

Gavril breaks from his momentary trance and hurries back toward the house.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Costel and Grigore sit on the steps of the house. A lantern nearby provides a little light in the dark courtyard.

PETRE stands a few feet away. He swings a large sword from side to side.

Petre is slight in build, in his mid teens with a face fresh and unblemished.

Costel struggles his hand into his trouser pocket, while remaining seated, and produces a hip flask. Opening it, he takes a gulp.

He offers it to Grigore, who accepts. He takes a swig and hands it back.

Costel offers it to Petre.

COSTEL

Hey, boy.

Petre rests his sword for a moment.

PETRE

Thank you.

Petre pauses a second, looking at the flask, and then touches it to his lips. He tilts back and swallows.

He coughs and wipes his mouth on his sleeve.

Costel and Grigore share a brief laugh.

FOOTSTEPS are heard (O.S.)

Costel and Grigore grab their swords and stand with urgency.

Gavril runs into the dim light.

GAVRIL

They're near.

Gavril stops with a sudden jolt and stares away from the group. His eyes fixed on a VAMPIRE that stands on the roof of the stable.

He raises his sword, pointing toward the figure.

The group turn slowly and look skyward. The vampire leaps from the rooftop toward Petre and releases a GROWL.

Petre SCREAMS and thrusts his blade upward, piercing the advancing vampire's chest. The weight of the impact forces Petre onto his back foot.

COSTEL

They are the Devil's henchmen.

The vampire waves its claws at Petre but is unable to reach with the blade lodged deep in its rib cage. Petre SCREAMS in terror, tears rolling down his cheeks.

COSTEL

We must send them back from which they came.

Gavril stands silent and still.

COSTEL

Kill it, kill it!

Costel, ROARING with anger, frantically stabs at the vampires torso. Blood begins to seep through its clothes.

COSTEL

I will send you back to hell!

Grigore joins Costel and they repeatedly stab the vampire.

Petre's grip on his sword loosens as the vampire swings its arms with fury. His remaining fingers slip from its handle and he stumbles backward onto the floor.

Now free the vampire advances on Petre.

Petre, crying for his life, covers his head with his arms.

Gavril snaps to life. He drops his sword and charges at the vampire with great speed.

With both hands outstretched, he grabs hold of Petre's sword. He pushes the vampire backward and forces the tip of the sword into the wooden wall of the stable.

Gavril stares at the vampire, only inches from its grasp.

GAVRIL

(whispering)

Do you know you are dead?

Costel approaches Gavril, behind them Grigore crouches beside Petre and consoles him.

Gavril and Costel stand and stare at the vampire as it struggles with the sword.

It tries to pull the weapon from its chest, grasping its hands around the blade, blood starts to stream from its palms as it tries to extract the blade.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM CHAMBER

Alexandrel lies asleep in his bed, a shape under the covers keeps him company. Beside him a single candle burns low.

A CREAKING sound is heard from outside the room (O.S.)

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - GATE HOUSE - NIGHT

Dragos and Nicolae stand behind the gate, they hold their weapons ready.

Five vampires approach along the dirt track. Their backs arched, their bodies swing as they walk and they breath heavy.

NICOLAE

Their eyes sparkle with death.

DRAGOS

Then we shall close them Nicolae.

Dragos lifts the gates latch and swings it open.

Nicolae glances over at his brother and then back toward the advancing vampires. He lifts his sword and readies it with both hands.

Grigore, carrying his sword, rushes up from behind the brothers.

Dragos turns with a startle.

DRAGOS

Why are you not at the house?

GRIGORE

(out of breath)

They are already at the house.
Well one at least.

The leading two vampires edge closer.

DRAGOS

You have killed one at the house?

GRIGORE

Yes...well I think so.

DRAGOS

What do you mean?

GRIGORE

Is it not already dead?

A vampire, now only feet away from the brothers, GROWLS through its rabid fangs.

The vampire lunges.

Dragos, leaning on his back foot, smashes his axe upwards, striking the vampire under the chin. Its jaw hangs from the one side that remains attached only by tissue.

The vampire staggers from the impact and then advances again.

Dragos' axe drips blood, Nicolae itches his sword back and forth.

DRAGOS

They are dead, but we must kill them again.

Dragos swings his axe, crashing it into the vampires head.

A second vampire leaps over the fence, aiming for Nicolae.

Nicolae sidesteps, bringing his sword skyward in an instant and severs an arm.

The vampire lets out a SCREECH.

Dragos wrestles to free his axe from the vampires head.

The armless vampire turns to Grigore. Nicolae, from behind, stabs his sword through its neck. It swings its remaining claw and drops to its knees.

Dragos frees his axe and the vampire falls to the ground. Blood pools around its head as it twitches. Dragos lets out a GRUNT and brings down his axe, decapitates the creature.

Nicolae jerks his blade to the side, ripping through the flesh of the vampires neck. Blood spurts from the open arteries and its head swings and falls to the side. The lifeless corpse drops forward and lays silent.

Grigore stands wide eyed and points past the two blood stained brothers.

GRIGORE

There are more.

Three more vampires SNARL and GROWL as they advance on the brothers.

DRAGOS
Go back to the house.

Grigore stands and stares at the oncoming creatures.

DRAGOS
You must go back to the house and
protect Alexandrel and the
others.

Grigore snaps back to life, turns and runs back toward the courtyard.

Dragos and Nicolae face up the approaching vampires.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Grigore runs into the courtyard and stops in his tracks.

Petre swings his sword back and forth to repel an advancing vampire. Tears stream down his cheeks.

Gavril stands over another vampire, his sword buried in its chest. It struggles to free the blade.

Costel lays slumped on the house steps, clutching an open wound on his forearm. Blood runs freely, staining the steps below.

Two further vampires lay beheaded in the centre of the courtyard.

Grigore breathes deeply. He takes a tentative step and is pounced upon by a vampire.

It tears vigorously into his throat, pulling away his flesh. He drops to his knees and the vampire crawls on top of him and continues to bite down.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - GATE HOUSE - NIGHT

Dragos and Nicolae take a breath, three more vampires approach. Behind them a larger figure lurks toward them, stepping into the moonlight to reveal itself as Azrael.

The three vampires attack the brothers.

Nicolae slashes one across the chest with his sword but it continues to attack.

Dragos readies his axe as a second vampire attacks. He pushes it to the ground with both hands, using his axe as a shield.

Azrael runs toward the brothers, his pace quickens as he nears.

The vampire in front of Dragos gets to its feet, as the third vampire passes it and closes in on him.

Dragos, seeing Azrael approaching at speed, swings his axe low and hits the vampire in the thigh, it SCREAMS and immediately drops to its knees.

Nicolae spikes his attacking vampire through the stomach but it keeps walking, digesting the blade up to the handle. He quickly removes a small dagger from his coat and stabs the vampire in the face.

Azrael runs up to the fighting brothers and his wings outstretch from his back. He jumps thirty feet into the air and glides gracefully overhead, landing gently beyond the brothers.

Dragos turns quickly and watches Azrael walk toward the house. He turns back and is face to face with the vampire he pushed to the ground.

The vampire lunges and again Dragos holds it off with the aid of his axe.

The vampire with the leg wound begins to crawl nearer to Dragos.

Nicolae frees his sword from the vampires stomach and beheads it with a flash of his blade.

Dragos continues to wrestle with the creature.

DRAGOS

Nicolae, we must get to the house.

Nicolae stands over the crawling vampire and calmly decapitates it.

NICOLAE

I know, we must hurry.

Nicolae grabs the vampire which struggles with his brother, and drags it away with brute force. The vampire falls backwards to the ground, its claws searching for Nicolae's flesh.

EXT. NORTH WOODS - NIGHT

Iancu rides the travellers wagon at speed through the dense claustrophobic wilderness.

The wagon creaks and bangs along the uneven track.

Iancu slows the wagon for a corner, eases it round and then snaps the reins to pick up the pace again.

The wagon bounds along the dark track. Iancu fights for control as it jars left and right.

A vampire steps out from the trees a few yards in front. It SNARLS and braces itself.

The vampire thuds into the rushing horses and crunches under their stampeding hooves.

Iancu is not phased and continues.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM CHAMBER

Alexandrel remains in his bed, the covers pulled up to his chin. His companion still screened by the bedding.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - GATE HOUSE - NIGHT

Dragos stands over the fallen vampire and smashes his axe down, slicing through its neck with ease.

Iancu approaches, travelling up the dirt track.

INT. VILLAGE CHURCH

The church is small, only a single candle lights its dark corners.

Clergyman Litovoi kneels at the foot of a large crucifix.

The silence is broken by a door opening (O.S.)

Litovoi turns to see a figure in the shadows.

LITOVOI

Who is there?

The figure moves slowly forward into the dim light. It is Bogdan, he is now a vampire.

Litovoi stands, his eyes wide and transfixed on the decomposing remains of Bogdan.

Bogdan advances.

Litovoi turns and lifts the crucifix from its stand. He struggles with the weight but manages to thrust it out in front of him.

LITOVOI
 God will protect me. God will
 protect me.

Bogdan brushes the crucifix aside.

Litovoi stands in shock.

Bogdan SNARLS and savagely attacks, ripping into Litovoi's soft flesh about his neck and face.

Litovoi's SCREAMS echo through the Church.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM CHAMBER

Alexandrel lays in his bed. The covers beside him now pulled back to reveal an empty side.

The Chamber door CREAKS open and stirs Alexandrel.

He pulls his tired body up and squints into the dark.

Mihail sluggishly enters.

ALEXANDREL
 What is it Mihail, do you bring
 news?

MIHAIL
 (whispering)
 I do sir.

Mihail stands at the foot of the bed.

ALEXANDREL
 Well, what news do you bring?

MIHAIL
 (whispering)
 I bring news from the heavens.

Alexandrel rubs the sleep from his eyes.

ALEXANDREL
 What? What do you mean Mihail?

Mihail covers his face with his hands and lets out a deep breath.

ALEXANDREL
 (angrily)
 What do you mean?

Mihail's hands begin to shake slightly. His finger nails crack and split and he lets out a GRUNT.

Alexandrel stares in fear.

Long jagged claws push through Mihail's broken nails.

ALEXANDREL
What in God's name!

Mihail drops his hands from his face to reveal the face of Azrael. His eyes now red and his flesh withered.

ALEXANDREL
What do you want with me? I am
not to blame.

Azrael bares his sharp teeth, saliva drips from his jaws.

AZRAEL
You know you must pay for your
sins.

Azrael clammers onto the foot of the bed on all fours and crawls slowly up the blanket.

Alexandrel shakes with fear.

ALEXANDREL
(terrified)
What sins, this is not my doing?

Azrael GROWLS. His body convulses and his shirt splits at the back. Two large feathery wings ease their way through the torn garment and spread wide.

AZRAEL
Your family played their part in
my imprisonment.

ALEXANDREL
They did not, please you are
mistaken.

Alexandrel gasps and leaps from his bed, blowing out the nearby candle.

The room falls into complete darkness.

HEAVY BREATHING is heard.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - DRAWING ROOM

Mihail stands over the table, resting his hands on its surface. He reads one of the many documents that lay upon it.

Alexandrel enters quietly. He holds a dagger in his hand.

He walks up behind Mihail and slowly rests the daggers cold blade against his throat.

Mihail freezes.

ALEXANDREL
(whispering)
I thought you to be a friend.
But I know it is you.

MIHAIL
Mr. Alexandrel Sir...I...

ALEXANDREL
(whispering)
Quiet now. I will send you back
to God. He will punish you for
this.

MIHAIL
Sir, you are confused. I beg
you...

ALEXANDREL
I think not.

Alexandrel pushes pressure on the blade.

MIHAIL
Sir, I...

Alexandrel whisks the blade across Mihail's throat.

Mihail rushes his hands to his neck. Blood begins to trickle through his fingers. His eyes blink with panic and he screams silent.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Grigore's mutilated body lays face down in a pool of blood in the entrance to the courtyard.

Costel is slumped over the steps. His face grey in colour, drained of his blood.

Petre lays in the centre of the courtyard, his sword close by. His torso is severely damaged, almost in two parts. His intestines spewed out on the cold stone floor.

The travellers wagon rides into the courtyard. Aboard are Iancu, Dragos and Nicolae.

DRAGOS
I fear we may be already too
late.

Dragos and Nicolae jump from the wagon.

Iancu looks over the corpse littered courtyard.

IANCU
God bless them.

Dragos gently nudges the body of Costel with his axe, there is no response. Dragos and Nicolae stride over the body and on into the house.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - HALL

Dragos and Nicolae stare at a figure who stands in the doorway to the drawing room. A long white nightdress covers the slender body of a LILIANA.

DRAGOS
Dora?

Liliana is unmoved. She is slender with long dark hair.

The stairs CREAK (O.S.)

Dragos and Nicolae turn in flash, their weapons ready.

Dora emerges down the dark stairs.

DORA
Mother.

Confusion is written over the faces of the brothers.

Dragos slowly approaches the woman and gently rests his hand on her shoulder, breaking her from her concentration.

NICOLAE
She is your mother?

DORA
Yes, why do seem so surprised?

NICOLAE
Your father did not say anything of her. We assumed...

DORA
It is her you are protecting.

The woman slowly turns and looks deep into the eyes of Dragos.

DRAGOS
You must come with us.

Dragos grows a reassuring smile.

DORA
 Mother, what has happened, are
 you alright?

Dragos gently brushes past Liliana and looks into the
 drawing room.

DRAGOS
 Nicolae, keep them safe.

Dora throws her arms around her mother.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Iancu stands in front of the vampire pinned to the stable
 by the sword.

It claws out at Iancu and GROWLS. Iancu is out of reach of
 its anger.

A RUSTLE is heard (O.S.)

Iancu turns to see Gavril appear from a stable. He carries
 his sword, his clothes stained with blood. He is looks
 exhausted.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - DRAWING ROOM

Mihail's body lay motionless on the floor. His blood
 stained hands clasped around his own neck.

Dragos raises his axe and slowly nears.

ALEXANDREL (O.S.)
 It is over. I have done what you
 could not.

Dragos, startled, spins to see Alexandrel seated at the
 table. His hands and clothes soaked with the blood.

DRAGOS
 What happened here?

ALEXANDREL
 I have ended it, it is over.

Dragos looks at the corpse of Mihail.

DRAGOS
 You killed Mihail?

ALEXANDREL
 He is not Mihail.

DRAGOS
What do you mean?

Alexandrel leaps from his chair.

ALEXANDREL
He is not Mihail! He came for me
in my dreams. He thought me
weak, but he was mistaken. I
could see past his disguise.

Dragos stares down Alexandrel.

DRAGOS
You killed Mihail.

Alexandrel falls back into his chair.

ALEXANDREL
(whispering)
He is not Mihail.

Alexandrel stares into nothing.

NICOLAE (O.S.)
Dragos.

Dragos turns to the door.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - HALL

Dragos enters.

Dora and Liliana stand together.

Nicolae and Gavril press their weight against the front
door. It THUDS repeatedly.

Iancu stands behind them.

IANCU
There are more in the courtyard.

NICOLAE
We must move from here. Keep
them safe.

DORA
Is it not over?

DRAGOS
It is not.

DORA
What of my father? Is he safe?

Dragos looks back into the drawing room and closes the door.

DRAGOS

He is not himself but he is safe.

The door THUDS louder than before. Nicolae and Gavril are knocked back from the impact.

They share an inquisitive stare.

The door bursts open and Azrael slowly enters the house.

DRAGOS

Move!

Nicolae and Gavril stand firm, their swords itching.

Dora and Liliana SCREAM.

Iancu shepherds the women down the hall.

Azrael steps closer.

Gavril moves in front of Nicolae.

GAVRIL

Go, go now.

Gavril swings his sword, Azrael parries the blade with his claws. He swings the back of his claw and smashes Gavril hard against the wall.

DRAGOS

Nicolae, back away.

NICOLAE

We must end this now. We have our chance.

DRAGOS

We have no chance here Nicolae.

Azrael steps over Gavril, who lays stunned and dazed on the floor. He bares his fangs and GROWLS.

Nicolae faints his sword one way and then strikes the other. His sword strikes Azrael in the side.

Azrael winces with pain and retreats a fraction.

He comes again and swings his razor claws.

Nicolae dodges and blocks with his sword. The impact knocks his weapon from his grasp.

Azrael strikes out and Nicolae ducks the attack.

DRAGOS

Nicolae!

Dragos cocks his arm back and fires his axe at Azrael.

Azrael dodges and the axe flashes past, clipping feathers from his wings and embedding in the wall.

Nicolae rolls away from Azrael, stands and races behind his brother.

Azrael glares at the unarmed brothers. He spreads his wings from his back and surveys the damage from the axe. A few feathers are clipped, he ROARS with anger.

Dragos and Nicolae slowly back away.

Saliva drips from Azrael's jaws, he draws a deep breath and moves slowly forward.

The drawing room door opens. Alexandrel stands in the doorway, inches from Azrael.

Alexandrel gasps at the sight before him.

Dragos and Nicolae stand motionless.

Azrael clamps his claw around Alexandrel's skull.

Alexandrel SCREAMS.

His skull crunches and cracks as Azrael squeezes.

Dragos and Nicolae take their chance and run.

Alexandrel falls silent, blood running from his face. Azrael tosses his rag doll corpse through the open doorway.

INT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - DRAWING ROOM

Alexandrel's body lay only a few feet from Mihail's.

The blood from both bodies merge into one.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Iancu stands by the travellers wagon, holding the horses still.

Dora and Liliana board the wagon.

DORA

Where are we to go?

IANCU
The village should be the safest
place, for now.

DORA
Then why do you hesitate?

Iancu looks back at the house.

The vampire pinned to the stable breaks it's silence with a
HISS, attracting Iancu's attention.

A vampire emerges from the house, behind Iancu's view.

It runs at speed toward him.

Liliana SCREAMS at the sight of it.

Iancu turns as the vampire leaps at him. He flinches and
the vampire glances off him as it jumps past. It slides on
contact with the ground, crouching and turning in one fluid
movement.

It SNARLS.

The vampire locks eye contact with Iancu. Both stare for a
moment.

Iancu remains still and locked in the vampires stare.

IANCU
(quietly)
Pass me a weapon from the
bag...slowly.

Dora rummages through the long leather bag and produces a
dagger.

Iancu stretches out his hand and clasps his grip around the
daggers handle. He looks down with disappointment at the
weapon.

The vampire displays its fangs and springs at Iancu.

Iancu side-steps and slashes the dagger.

The vampire lands beyond him. It looks down at the cut
across its chest and lets out a CRY of anger.

Iancu breathes heavy with panic, his chest pounding.

The vampire readies another attack.

Iancu waves his dagger in defence.

The vampire leaps on Iancu, pushing him to the ground. His
dagger buried in its throat.

Iancu lays on his back, clutching the dagger with both hands. The vampire hovers over him. He struggles to hold the creatures weight on the dagger.

Blood spews over Iancu's hands and face.

The vampire claws at Iancu, ripping flesh from his face.

Dora leaps down from the travellers wagon. She grabs the sword that lays beside Petre and rushes to Iancu's aid.

LILIANA

(weeping)

Dora, what are you doing? Get back here.

Dora pauses a moment, the sword wavering above the vampire. She strikes down and slashes it across its back.

The vampire squeals and squirms with pain.

Liliana covers her eyes.

Dora strikes again.

The vampire rolls off Iancu. The daggers blade slicing through more flesh. It twitches and jerks.

Iancu lay exhausted and shaken.

LILIANA

Dora.

Dora stabs the vampire through the chest.

IANCU

(shaken)

The head, you must remove the head.

Dora grimaces and slashes the sword down.

DORA

Mother, we must help him.

Dora tends to Iancu.

Dragos and Nicolae emerge, running from the darkness.

They stop at the sight of Iancu.

Dora looks up at the brothers.

DRAGOS

Has he been bitten?

DORA

What?

Dragos kneels beside Iancu and takes his hand. Iancu looks up at Dragos, his face torn and bloodied.

IANCU

Do not worry yourself Dragos, you will find no bite.

DRAGOS

You are getting too old Iancu, you must leave the fighting to myself and Nicolae.

Dragos smiles and wipes blood from Iancu's face. He looks at his stained palm and clenches his fist.

IANCU

From now, I give you my word.

NICOLAE (O.S.)

Dragos.

Dragos stands and turns.

Azrael walks into the courtyard, his wings twitching.

He ROARS at a deafening pitch.

Nicolae leans over the wagon and opens the leather bag. He carefully removes a round object wrapped in cloth, placing it on the seat, he takes out two swords and places the object back inside.

He hands Dragos a sword. The brother stand between Azrael and the others.

Liliana climbs from the wagon and aids Dora. They carefully drag Iancu toward the travellers wagon.

Azrael marches menacingly forward.

Dragos swings his sword with anger. Azrael parries with his razor sharp claws. The blade bounces back with force, causing Dragos to stumble.

Azrael crashes the back of his other claw in to the chest of Dragos, sending him sliding across the courtyard.

Dragos lay stunned.

Nicolae readies his weapon.

Azrael breathes heavy, filling his chest.

Dora rushes to Dragos. Liliana rests with Iancu, only a few feet from the wagon.

Azrael spreads his wings and leaps over the head of Nicolae, landing beside the travellers wagon.

In a swift movement he flips it over with ease, sending it crashing to the ground. Belongings scatter the courtyard.

The horses panic and break free of the wreckage.

Iancu struggles to his feet and stands in front of Liliana. His wounds bleed and his legs weak.

DORA

Mother!

Dora picks up a sword and charges, stabbing Azrael in the back. The blade penetrates his wings and sticks in his flesh. She frees her grip, leaving the sword protruding.

Azrael SCREAMS out and turns.

Nicolae races and grabs Dora by the arm, spinning her to the side. He pushes his sword deep into Azrael's stomach.

Azrael slashes Nicolae across the shoulder.

He drops to his knees, clutching the wound.

DRAGOS

Nicolae!

Dragos gets to his feet with the aid of his sword.

DRAGOS

You want revenge, as do I.

Dragos holds his sword with both hands.

Azrael glances at Liliana and then at Dora. He reveals his fangs.

AZRAEL

You will fail.

Dragos' hands shake, his eyes flicker. His strength wavers and the blade slowly drops.

Nicolae moves quietly behind Azrael.

He spins and GROWLS.

Nicolae freezes.

Dragos drops to one knee, he struggles to keep his weapon ready.

Azrael leaps forward toward Dragos, his wings spread.

Dragos raises his sword with a jerk, letting out a GRUNT.

Azrael lands on the blade. It slices through the bottom of his jaw, spiking his mouth closed. Blood gushes, painting Dragos red.

Nicolae takes his chance and slams his sword into the back of Azrael's neck.

Azrael staggers and twitches. He takes a few steps.

The two swords are the image of a crucifix.

Azrael coughs and spits blood. He sinks to his knees and falls forward.

Nicolae helps Dragos to his feet. Dora and Liliana help Iancu.

NICOLAE
Are you alright?

Dragos looks over to Iancu.

DRAGOS
I am Nicolae, are you?

Nicolae nods.

Dora stands beside Dragos. She brushes his hand with hers.

DORA
Where is my father? Is he safe
in the house?

Dragos takes Dora's hand and gently squeezes it.

Azrael splutters and gargles the blood in his throat. His movements slow.

Gavril emerges from the house, unsteady and shaken.

Nicolae picks up a blanket from the wagon debris. He dabs blood from Iancu's wounds.

Dragos picks up the long leather bag and pears inside.

EXT. ALEXANDREL'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - DAY

The sun is a glimpse on the horizon.

The bodies of the vampires litter the courtyard.

Dragos and Gavril lay blankets over the dead villagers.

GAVRIL

It will be strange now in the village, with so many lost.

DRAGOS

Will others help you here.

GAVRIL

Yes sir...some will help.

Iancu, his wounds covered, rides beside Nicolae. They ride up to Dragos and Gavril.

Gavril looks over the courtyard.

GAVRIL

Is this the last of them?

DRAGOS

The remaining will continue to scavenge but...

GAVRIL

But what?

DRAGOS

Elsewhere...they will not return here.

GAVRIL

And what of these remains, are they now dead?

DRAGOS

The sun will consume them.

Dora enters the courtyard, her eyes teary red.

Dragos approaches.

DRAGOS

How are you feeling Lady Dora?

DORA

I have lost my father and my brother but I must stay strong somehow for my mother.

DRAGOS

Time may ease the pain but never shall you forget and nor should you. Now I must go and end my own pain.

DORA

Will you return?

DRAGOS

I will, I promise...but this is something I've waited an age to rest.

Dragos takes hold of Dora's hand. He kisses it gently. Dora smiles through her sadness.

DRAGOS

I will return, you have my word.

Dragos mounts his horse and they leave the courtyard.

Dora watches, then enters the house.

Gavril looks up, the sun pierces over the rooftop. He closes his eyes and feels the warm glow on his face.

A GRUNT is heard (O.S.)

Gavril looks over to the vampire still pinned to the barn. A beam of sunlight nears its face.

Gavril stares intently at the vampire.

The light passes over the face of the vampire. It SCREAMS. It's skin smoulders and burns.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Nicolae and Iancu sit on their horses. Dragos' horse stands beside them. They watch Dragos as he walks toward a large tree. He carries the long leather bag.

COUNTRYSIDE - LARGE TREE

Dragos stops beneath the tree. He drops the leather bag to the ground.

DRAGOS

It is not home, but it is beautiful.

Dragos looks back to Nicolae and Iancu.

DRAGOS

It may soon be home.

He looks up at the sky.

DRAGOS

You will like it here.

He opens the bag and takes out the round object wrapped in cloth. He places it on the ground.

He takes out a small shovel and digs into the turf.

DRAGOS

I hope you can now forgive me
father.

He digs again at the turf.

FADE OUT.