WELCOME, ADDICTS

(SECOND DRAFT)

WRITTEN BY

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INT. COMMUNITY CENTER. CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

The words “Welcome, Addicts” are painted roughly in red on a large white banner that hangs across the length of the room. Five people sit in a loose circle. DIANE, 30s, a homely woman with a kind set of eyes, addresses the room.

DIANE
(sweet)
Hello! Welcome addicts! Haha. We all know we have a problem, and talking about it is the first step to recovery. So good for you.

(Applauds. Stares to her side)
...I see a new face tonight, so how about we go around the room and introduce ourselves. I’m Diane. After my husband left me for my younger sister, I tried to fill the void with gambling and well, one thing led to the other...and here I am.

The camera makes a circle around the addicts as they make their introductions. BRADLEY, 20s, a typical FRAT BOY.

BRADLEY
Wow. Way to over-share, Diane.
I’m Brad or B-man! Booze!

DAVID, 30s, seats hunched over in his seat, tapping his heels against the floor with a manic energy.

DAVID
(Quick)
David. Recovering coke addict.

David holds up a token
3 weeks sober.

COURTNEY, 20s, a typical valley girl blonde, complete with a Starbucks in one hand and her phone in the other.

COURTNEY
(tapping on phone)
Courtney. Alcohol.
VLAD, 40s, A handsome man with a very pale complexion.

VLAD
(accented)
Vladimir or just, Vlad. Bloo..

Bradley throws Courtney an angry look.

BRADLEY
(Re: Courtney.)
You can’t be booze!

COURTNEY
What?

BRADLEY
I’m booze.

COURTNEY
...and?

BRADLEY
One of us needs to change.

COURTNEY
Two people can be addicted to the same thing, idiot.

BRADLEY
Yeah? What’s in the cup, Cee?

Courtney shakes her Starbucks coffee.

COURTNEY
A half-caff pumpkin spice latte, obvi.

BRADLEY
Well, I got vodka in mine.

Bradley whips out a hip-flask and uncorks it. The whole room reacts.

BRADLEY
Dedication, Bitch!
DIANE
BRADLEY!

DAVID
(plugs nose)
Jesus! Brad, that smells like death!

COURTNEY
(rolls eyes)
Ugh, Fine. I’ll go sex or whatever.

Bradley smiles triumphantly. Diane sternly holds out a hand to Bradley. He rolls his eyes as he gives her the hip flask.

DAVID
Why are they even here?

COURTNEY
(snarky)
Because we have an addiction.

DAVID
Do you?

DIANE
Settle down, guys. Let’s give our new guest a chance to speak.

Diane sees Vlad staring wildly at the group.

DIANE
(re: Vlad)
I’m sorry, sweetie. What’s your poison?

Courtney goes back to her phone.

VLAD
Blood.

The room goes silent. Only the tap tapping of Courtney’s fingers on her phone can be heard.

DAVID
What?
VLAD

DIANE
Umm...what do you do with the blood, sweetie?

VLAD
I drink it. I’m a vampire.

Diane and Brad react with a chorused “Ohhh”. David is shocked. Courtney is still on her phone.

DIANE
How exciting! We never had a vampire before.

BRADLEY
What about Pete? He drank blood.

DIANE
Pete was just a psychopath, dear.

David is staring aghast at the group.

DAVID
Seriously, guys?! A vampire?!

BRADLEY
(confused)
What’s up?

DAVID
What’s? Up? He’s a vampire! A blood-sucker!

DIANE
(stern)
David! Language!
(re: Vlad)
I’m sorry, Vlad.

Vlad shrugs it off.

VLAD
It is not a concern. I am used
Vlad eyes Diane.

Vlad
But your kindness is very...what’s the word?

Diane
Refreshing?

Vlad
Appetizing.

Diane lets out a bubbly giggle.

David
Your kindness is appetizing? You realize how creepy that sounds, right?

Diane
David, hush!
(re: Vlad. Flirty)
Go on.

Vlad favours her with a wry smile. David is disgusted. He whispers to Bradley who is busy grinning at his phone.

David
Are you listening to this?

Bradley
I’m busy, Brah.

David
(incredulous)
There is a vampire in the room. What could be more important?

Bradley
I’m sexting Cee.

Bradley looks up from his phone and sees Courtney grinning slyly at him. He blows her a kiss. He sees David staring back at him, disgust written on his face. David is absent-mindedly pawing at his fore arm. Bradley raises a brow at
the action. David notices and immediately stops.

DIANE
How did you become a vampire, Vlad?

VLAD
The usual. My soul for immortality...

Courtney drops her coffee through the air beside her. It spills noisily on the floor. She reacts.

COURTNEY
(interrupts)
What the hell? Where’s the table?

The whole room turns to her outburst.

DIANE
The table?

COURTNEY
The coffee table that used to be right here!

Courtney addresses the empty space beside her.

BRADLEY
David burned it down when he thought it was possessed, remember?

COURTNEY
Wow. Thanks, Dave!

DAVID
(self-conscious)
I was shaking off a high! And that was a month ago! More importantly, is no one going to address the issue?

The group narrows their eyes at David, missing whatever point he’s trying to make.
DAVID
The vampire!

VLAD
I have a name.

COURTNEY
Vampire?

Courtney raises her brows at Bradley.

DIANE
That would be, Vlad.

COURTNEY
Who’s Vlad?

Diane points to the casual vampire.

COURTNEY
(disbelieving)
Are you for real? A vampire?

Vlad throws her a charming nod. Diane looks disturbed at the exchange.

COURTNEY
Wait, Like Pete-vampire? Or Edward-vampire?

BRADLEY
Edward-vampire.

COURTNEY
This needs a selfie.

Courtney squashes herself against Vlad, makes a duck face and snaps a photo with her phone. The vampire takes a deep breath as she nears him. His eyes fast on her neck. She stares at the screen.

COURTNEY
(wide eyed)
O.M.G. Babe, look!

Courtney shows her phone to Bradley. David sneaks a peek.
Gasps. Vlad is invisible in the photo.

DAVID
He’s not in...

BRADLEY
(overlapping)
Babe, you look amazing!

David is dumbstruck. Courtney is ecstatic. She stares pleased at the photo

COURNEY
The lighting makes me look gorgeous. It just needs a good filter.

Courtney swiping through the selection on her phone.

DAVID
Seriously?!

COURNEY
(annoyed)
Now, what?

David is about to retort when he’s distracted by the look Vlad is giving Courtney. Thirsty. There is an ominous red glow that shines in the vampire’s eyes. Vlad lets out a wispy hiss of breath. Bradley and Diane share a scared look.

DIANE
Maybe you should take your seat, Courtney.

Courtney looks up from her screen and sees Vlad staring at her neck.

COURNEY
Wow, creepy.

Courtney slips back onto her chair. She pulls out a nail file and starts working on her fingers, unconcerned. Vlad sees the worried looks the group is giving him.

VLAD
I apologise. Temptation is
harder to resist when you’re...thirsty.

DIANE
How long has it been since you last...er...?

DAVID
Killed?

Diane glowers at David. Vlad shows the first signs of irritation at David.

DIANE
Drank.

VLAD
A week.

Diane lets out a small happy cheer. She fishes around in her bag and pulls out a token. She hands to Vlad. Vlad stares at the small coin confusedly.

DIANE
(cheerily)
One week sober.

Vlad pockets the coin.

VLAD
Abstaining is quite difficult.

DIANE
(sympathetic)
I know how you feel, Dear.

DAVID
(sarcastic)
Really? You know how it feels to need to drink blood to survive?

Diane throws David an angry look.

BRADLEY
(struggling to think)
Hold up, you NEED to drink blood as a vamp, right? So that’s not
an addiction, that’s like a necessity. Right?

Bradley looks around the room for confirmation.

VLAD
Yes, but not necessarily Human blood. I can make do with animals, but I’ve grown addicted to humans.

He eyes Courtney as he delivers the last line.

COURTNEY
Omg. Good catch, babe. Smart is so sexy.

Bradley glows at the compliment. He shares a dirty look with Courtney.

DAVID
(sarcastic)
Yeah, good job figuring out that the monster doesn’t need to kill, it likes to.

Bradley looks away, clearly stung by the words.

VLAD
Monster?

DIANE
David!

DAVID
What? He IS a monster. Literally! Look it up. Every sense of the word, right there!

VLAD
(angry)
You are getting on my nerves, human.

David narrows his eyes at Vlad.
DIANE
That is just rude, David.

Diane leans in towards Vlad
Are you okay, dear?

DAVID
Will you stop flirting with him?!

Diane blushes.

DIANE
(stammers)
Flirting? I wasn’t...what do you mean?

COURTNEY
Don’t be such a prude, David.
(re: Diane)
It’s been forever since that D-bag left. You do you, girl!

Diane smiles at the encouragement.

BRADLEY
(re: David)
Yeah, you had your shot, douche.

DAVID
She was talking about Diane’s Ex.

BRADLEY
I knew that...you’re still a douche, though.

The room nods in agreement. David growls.

DAVID
Of course, I’m the asshole for trying to keep everyone alive from Angel over there.

COURTNEY
OMG! What is wrong with you?
Courtney leans subtle towards Diane.

COURTNEY
Who’s Angel?

DIANE
Not now, dear.

VLAD
What did I ever do to you?

DAVID
Let’s see, between the divorcee, who is so desperate for attention she is LITERALLY flirting with death! And the bored hipsters, who don’t have anything better to do on a weekend than fake an addiction! I seem to be the only one who ACTUALLY cares about staying alive from the leech in the room!

The room reacts angrily to his outburst with cries of divorcee and hipsters.

VLAD
(angry)
Leech?! You judgemental shit! I wouldn’t touch such tainted blood even if it were the last drop in the world.

David shuts up and slouches in his seat. Diane stares curiously at Vlad.

DIANE
Tainted?

VLAD
(dismissive)
His blood stinks of drugs. It’s very off-putting.

The room stares at David, surprised. Fear and shame written clearly on his face. He looks cornered.
DAVID
I...relapsed...


DIANE
(softly)
Oh, David. That’s why we’re here.

David continues to bawl in place. Diane and Bradley reassuring him. Vlad looks taken aback by the sudden display of emotion.

COURTNEY
Wow. This totally explains why he’s being such a bitch.

BRADLEY
Cee, chill. He’s hurting.

Courtney looks offended. She huffs in place and goes back to aggressively filling her nails.

COURTNEY
Ow!

Courtney accidentally scraps off some skin. A drop of blood forms. Vlad takes in a deep breath and stares at Courtney. Thirsty. Diane continues to reassure David.

DIANE
You should’ve called us, David.
I’m sorry but I’m going to need your token back.

David digs in his pocket and pulls out the coin. He hands it to Diane.

DAVID
I really tried, Diane, but the stress from work just got to me.

David dries his tears on his sleeve.
DAVID
And I’m sorry, Vlad. I’ve been dealing with a lot of shame and I shouldn’t have been so harsh…JESUS!

David, Diane and Bradley all stare horrified at Vlad eating into Courtney’s neck. Blood spilling everywhere. Vlad finally notices the group. He lets go of the body, ashamed. Courtney’s corpse slips off the chair, like a sack of potatoes.

VLAD
Sorry.

DIANE
See! This is an extreme example of what happens when you give into your addictions!

Diane holds out a stern hand to Vlad. The vampire pulls out his token and hands it over.

END