

Charlie:

Hi, everyone. I'm so excited for you to hear [evil] The Suckening, which has been months and months in the making. But I also wanted to tell you first that it's the one year anniversary of my last mini campaign, Blood in the Bayou. To celebrate, you can buy your very own Camp Galloway T-shirt at jrwishow.com. Pre-orders start right now (November 18th) and end on December 3rd. So if you want to support our show and the cozy town of Galloway where nothing has or will ever go wrong, go get yours at jrwishow.com right now. That's jrwishow.com. And to the \$25 patrons who've supported us since our last drop, you'll be getting a super duper exclusive alternate color version of the shirt. Details over on our Enjoy the episode or let me know if it [evil] sucks. Oh, and I totally forgot. You don't have to wait a week for episode two because it's out right now on Patreon. Go check it out after this.

Charlie:

Oh, what's up rollers?

Charlie:

And welcome to the second most requested game that we play for a T-T-R-P-G,

Charlie:

which is Vampire~

Condi:

Vampire 'ze Masquerade~

Charlie:

Everyone, everyone, chime in with little vampire voice, little sucky sucky.

Bizly:

I 'vant to suck your blood.

Grizzly:

Three, ha ha ha~

Charlie:

To get in character, make sound you make when you suck blood.

Charlie:

(sucking sounds)

Charlie:

Yay. A feast. A feast of blood cells. Do I smell some O? Do I smell some ab? Very good, very good.

Condi:

I think this is O negative actually.

Charlie:

Fuck! (spits out blood) Well guys, I am feeling very - O positive about this.

Bizly:

Ah, ha ha ha.

Charlie:

Oh, geez.

Charlie:

So yeah, I guess there's not much more to say about this.

Charlie:

I'm very excited for this as I hope the boys are too.

Charlie:

We're basically going to explore these vampires they've created in this world and see where it goes.

Charlie:

Unlike Blood on the Bayou, I have basically no pre-written plan

Charlie:

because I thought it could be very, very exciting if we try to follow the characters this time

Charlie:

and just see where it takes us. So uh...

Condi:

Yeah, let's see where that goes.

Charlie:

Yeah, not that that's ever gone wrong, on Just Roll With It before.

Condi:

That would never go wrong, ever. I just don't know why we-

Charlie:

Monster Control.

Bizly:

Do not watch the Monster Control one shot.

Charlie:

Do not watch Monster Control. Do not watch Monster Control.

Charlie:

We're recording the rest of this in person, but this is session zero

Charlie:

just to get everyone cozy and comfy with their characters and to try stuff out, so...

Charlie:

And if you guys are ready. I can, uh... get right into it.

Condi:

I'm nervous. Let's do it.

Charlie:

Yeah, so you guys listening will learn the rules of Vampire as we go.

Charlie:

We are playing Vampire the Masquerade V20 edition

Charlie:

just 'cause I thought it better fit the themes of the campaign,

Charlie:

but we will stop when something new comes up to explain it, but it's actually a lot simpler than DnD, so.

Charlie:

Yeah.

Condi:

Yeah.

Charlie:

Unless you guys have any funny vampire related maybe puns or like, rhymes

Charlie:

or like, cool little things to say, we can get right into it.

Condi:

Um, I don't...

Charlie:

Sort of setting you up here to, uh...

Condi:

Uh...

Charlie:

To maybe say a cool vampire.

Condi:

This is gonna suck.

Charlie:

YEEEEES!

Condi:

Alright.

Charlie:

Alright. Anyone else?

Condi:

Any, like, more positive ones? Maybe.

Charlie:

Anyone else got any?

Charlie:

[Silence]

Charlie:

...Okay.

Grizzly:

Enjoy the ride as the stakes rise as this campaign will be to die for.

Condi:

Yeah, that's the best one actually.

Charlie:

Oh fuck. That was the best one by far, guys. Fuck.

Charlie:

I feel my canines unlodging.

Condi:

Well I feel outclassed and a little bit downtrodden now.

Charlie:

I feel impotent.

Condi:

Me too.

Charlie:

I feel, feel infertile.

Bizly:

I feel my sperm count dropping rapidly.

Charlie:

I feel my swimmers dying.

Charlie:

I feel my swimmers drowning. Okay, you guys ready?

Grizzly:

Yeah. I've got enough dice now.

Charlie:

Welcome to session zero of...

Charlie:

Z suck-!

Charlie:

(Laughter)

Charlie:

Welcome to session zero of... Z Suckening.

Condi:

Is that really what we're going with?

Charlie:

Title - Title that thing.

Condi:

Okay.

Charlie:

Welcome to a story that has yet to be written,

Charlie:

a story which will determine the fate of your world and the one that hides in the shadows.

Charlie:

Welcome to Story about Vampire! Ah ha ha ha ha!

Charlie:

Let us begin.

Charlie:

So we're going to start as we pan down on a beautiful smoggy sunny day in Los Angeles.

Charlie:

We see the glittering city skyline, but we move over

Charlie:

as the camera pans along the horizon and into a side neighborhood,

Charlie:

something that's a bit more suburban as we see someone walking down the street going about their day with a spunk in their step.

Charlie:

Condi, do you want to introduce your character?

Condi:

So you see this sort of this young blonde-haired kid

Condi:

with kind of, it's all spiky and rough around the edges wearing this sort of furry coat

Condi:

with fur that comes around the collar and a blue sort of v-neck wearing some tech pants and sneakers.

Condi:

And he's just kind of bouncing a tennis ball on the sidewalk as he's walking along.

Condi:

He looks very casual, but you wouldn't want to look at him the wrong way, y'know?

Charlie:

Yeah.

Charlie:

Someone walks by and looks at him kind of the wrong way.

Condi:

He trips them.

All:

(Laughing)

Charlie:

Oh fuck!

NPC:

Oh, Jesus, what the-

Blonde kid:

Watch where you're stepping, huh?

NPC:

Okay, sorry. Sorry. Geez.

Blonde kid:

That's my foot, asshole.

Charlie:

He keeps walking. And what is Emizel doing today?

Charlie:

It's just a day like any other.

Condi:

I mean he's got like, a strict schedule. What day is it? Of the week? Exactly?

Charlie:

Let's say it's a Thursday.

Condi:

Oh, okay. He's robbing a corner store.

Charlie:

Is that- Wait, for real?

Condi:

I mean, like, maybe. Maybe that would be on the agenda for the day, but like-

Grizzly:

You thought this was vampires? No, we're playing Grand Theft Auto Five, bitch!

All:

(Laughter)

Charlie:

Press Y.

Condi:

No, he's probably heading out to the hideout, y'know? Where he goes to hang.

Charlie:

Oh, very cool. Very cool. Yeah.

Charlie:

As you're kicking the ball along the street, you see...

Charlie:

your dad, Jeffrey, right before you pass around the corner,

Charlie:

poke his head out with this fading head of hair and burly mustache and says,

Jeffery:

Hey, Emizel, if you're going out the least you could do is us up some more oil.

Emizel:

Oil? Alright.

Jeffery:

Yeah.

Charlie:

He gestures up at the, uh - above him to the sign of the car shop.

Condi:

Yeah,

Charlie:

Which is called No Brakes.

Bizly:

Emizel's dad endorses fracking.

Emizel:

How about you oil these nuts? Old man.

Charlie:

Holy, holy shit.

Charlie:

He starts fucking coming after you with this stride.

Condi:

Yeah, I run, I run. I'm running.

Charlie:

And you hear a voice from inside.

NPC:

Sir? Sir, you going to help me with my car?

Charlie:

He just.

Jeffery:

Yep. Yep. Ma'am. Sorry, just had to chase off a RAT. Who didn't bring me any oil.

Condi:

I flip him the finger as I'm running off.

Jeffery:

Don't forget this time!

Charlie:

And you race around the corner and start running through the city to the hideout of your gang.

Charlie:

And I mean, what does the hideout look like? Where are these guys situated?

Condi:

So they're in sort of like an abandoned building at this point, right?

Condi:

Probably like a old store or abandoned warehouse.

Condi:

The area is kind of like you're not in the suburbs anymore. This is more rundown.

Charlie:

Yeah, it's a lot more rundown.

Condi:

And probably as you're approaching it, there's probably a little neon sign above it that doesn't work.

Condi:

Just says some nonsense, like 'Demons' or something. They probably got it custom commissioned.

Charlie:

Oh, that's fucking hype, yeah.

Condi:

And as he kind of kicks open the door, or hip checks it,

Condi:

on the inside you see this kind of dirty and kind of smelly old couch with probably a few guys hanging out on it.

Condi:

Just nasty rug, mini fridge full of beer and whatever nonsense somebody like this would be drinking, y'know?

Charlie:

Absolutely, yeah.

Condi:

Just very run down and kind of cheap looking place, y'know?

Condi:

They use what they got.

Condi:

They're probably playing Smash Bros on a fucking old TV or something.

Grizzly:

Let's fucking go!

Charlie:

Yep. They're smashing it up.

Charlie:

You see a few of them that you know a lot better clock you as you walk in.

Gang Member 1:

Yo Emizel! Want to tap in, man? They go up to eight players now.

Emizel:

Eight players? Holy shit.

Emizel:

No, that shit's- I can't, I'm not good with those controllers.

Emizel:

You know me. They're too small for my big hands.

Charlie:

(Laughs)

Gang Member 1:

Yeah, you do have huge hands man. Jesus. Real meat paws.

Emizel:

Yeah, real fucking big.

Gang Member 1:

That's why you're here dude.

Charlie:

One of 'em stands up and says,

Gang Member 2:

Don't worry about me guys, I'm done with Smash. I'd rather drink soda.

Charlie:

And he runs over to you and says,

Gang Member 2:

Yo, what's up man?

Charlie:

Daps you up.

Emizel:

Yo Soda! Dude!

Condi:

Give him a nice little, like-

Soda:

Oh man, that's my name. Don't wear it out. Unlike soda, which you can never wear out!

Charlie:

You see he pulls a can of Mountain Dew out of his back pocket, cracks it open,

Charlie:

it sort of fizzes over his hand and he just gives it a good old swig.

Emizel:

Not even the baja blast today, huh?

Soda:

Oh no, man. No. Not on Thursdays, dude.

Emizel:

You must be running low on a little on Moula, huh?

Soda:

No, if I can be honest, I don't even feel like blasting today man.

Condi:

Soda... is everything, like, okay man?

Condi:

Look at me, okay? You're always blastin', what's wrong with you?

Soda:

I know, I know. I'm always blasting and I know I'm always ice cool.

Charlie:

And you see he cracks open a Gatorade, drinks that too.

Soda:

Honestly man, every beverage just does it for me.

Soda:

Every beverage that isn't water, which I haven't drunk in three years, but...

Soda:

(sighs)

Emizel:

It's okay. That big water wants you to drink that shit.

Soda:

I'm not doing so hot, man.

Soda:

It's the Fangs man.

Charlie:

And you see as the other smashers in the room seem a little-

Charlie:

like a cloud is hanging over them as well.

Charlie:

And you know that the fangs are a rival gang of the Demons in this area

Charlie:

that you guys have various disputes with, you've had plenty of turf wars with

Charlie:

and they've sent you home with a few bruises before.

Emizel:

The fucking Fangs, huh? What are they up to this time,

Soda:

Man, I mean, usually it's just the typical stuff, turf wars and shit, but...

Soda:

This time we sent a couple guys out, we saw 'em on Demon turf and those guys haven't come back, man.

Soda:

We're all starting to get a little worried but I don't know, I guess we were waiting to see what you'd think.

Condi:

Well Soda, how about me and you?

Condi:

We crack open a soda and go crack some skulls.

Soda:

You had me at soda!

Charlie:

You see he clinks a soda with you.

Charlie:

Chugs it back, crushes it on his forehead, takes him a couple tries.

Soda:

Shit. Fuck!

Soda:

Yeah!

Charlie:

Throws it in the thing.

Soda:

Alright, what do you say boys?

Soda:

Want to teach those suckers a lesson?

Charlie:

You see the guys get up from playing Smash.

Demons:

Yeah!

All:

(Laughter)

Charlie:

They make sort of punk rock symbols and now that we all get a better look at this kind of room,

Charlie:

you can see that they dress it with various things like that neon sign.

Charlie:

There's a lot of spray paint, you can see a few iterations of the Demons logo,

Charlie:

some different suggestions for how to change it.

Condi:

There's like, little sharpie notes next to it, like pointing at things like 'maybe we change this.'

Charlie:

There's a whiteboard, there's a drum set, a guitar and things in the corner,

Charlie:

like more musical instruments and everyone here has at least a few piercings.

Charlie:

Soda's got a bandana around his head that says 'Soda' and like, some dyed hair.

Condi:

I love this guy.

Charlie:

Yeah, Soda's fucking great. He loves soda. Soda loves you.

Charlie:

Yeah, everyone here looks very, very punk though.

Charlie:

And you see as they pick up just various implements around,

Charlie:

one guy picks up his trusty pipe, gives it a kiss.

Condi:

Yeah, I was going to say, there's definitely baseballs or baseball bats, y'know.

Charlie:

Baseball bats, all sorts of shit. So soda picks up a...

Condi:

Pillowcase full of soda?

Charlie:

(Deranged laugh)

Charlie:

Yeah, so you see Soda, walks over to the fridge, pulls out an eight pack of LaCroix and says

Soda:

Only one thing this shit's good for.

Charlie:

And he ties a fucking rope around it and swings it around like a flail

Charlie:

and he walks over to you and says,

Soda:

Alright, you ready to send 'em home with a few more bruises today?

Emizel:

We're going to send him home fangless.

Soda:

Fuck yeah.

Charlie:

He dabs you up. Go ahead.

Condi:

We all kind of, everybody just one at a time walks past Emizel

Condi:

they kind do the elbow, the forearm kind of high five thing, y'know?

Condi:

Where they kind of tap the forearm.

Charlie:

Oh, I love that. Yeah, it's fucking sick

Condi:

And Emizel kind of takes the rear after everybody heads out. Yeah.

Charlie:

You guys spend some time gearing up,

Charlie:

you see a few of your gang mates put on some extra leather,

Charlie:

some extra studs and you guys know better than to go out during the day.

Charlie:

You know that not a lot of cops look this way,

Charlie:

but you know better than just to have a fucking gang war in the middle of the-

Condi:

Full on- Yeah, fight. Yeah.

Charlie:

What I do want to know though is...

Charlie:

How serious do the Demons take this kind of shit?

Charlie:

Do they just have stuff to beat people up?

Charlie:

Or do they have full on guns and shit?

Condi:

I wouldn't say that at this level they have guns.

Condi:

I would say it's mostly just fucking melee weapons and street fights.

Condi:

Probably the higher up in the actual gang you go,

Condi:

the more likely they are to be fucking guns and shit.

Condi:

But at this point where they are, no, probably not.

Charlie:

And you guys basically have orders from the top dog, right?

Charlie:

To keep this area secured. Right?

Charlie:

To keep this part of town clear so they can do their runs and the shit they need to do.

Charlie:

So having Fangs encroaching in, not a good look.

Condi:

Yeah.

Charlie:

But you guys head out, after a couple more rounds of Smash, gear up and you start walking out.

Condi:

Yeah, Emizel gets a smash game in.

Condi:

Of course he plays some Donkey Kong.

Charlie:

Okay, bet. Alright, first roll of the night.

Charlie:

So here's what we're going to do. I want to see if you win this.

Condi:

Okay, yeah, absolutely.

Charlie:

So in Vampire, rolls are decided by rolling a bunch of D10s, basically.

Condi:

Uh huh.

Charlie:

And trying to get as many successes on them as you can.

Charlie:

So for this, I'm going to say you just got to hit a DC of 6

Charlie:

and you're going to be playing a contested Smash round against Soda.

Condi:

Okay.

Charlie:

So, it's going to be your Dexterity plus-

Condi:

I have a specialization Dexterity that's Lightning Reflexes.

Condi:

Would that count for smash?

Charlie:

Absolutely. Dude, you got to get those frame perfects.

Charlie:

I'm going to say this is Dexterity plus Computer.

Condi:

Plus Computer? Okay. I don't think - do I have anything computer?

Condi:

I have 1 in computer.

Charlie:

So Soda's going to roll.

Condi:

What is a Specialty when it applies to a situation?

Condi:

What does that do again, sorry?

Charlie:

It means that if you score - if you roll a 10,

Charlie:

you count it as two successes instead of one.

Condi:

Okay, let's see.

Charlie:

You see Soda picks Ganondorf.

Emizel:

Oh we're - we're doing the big boys, huh?

Condi:

I'm going to roll quickly. I don't have Acceleration on. Fuck.

Grizzly:

Actually, you guys should just bring up smash right now and see who wins.

Condi:

Probably Charlie. (Laughs)

Charlie:

Changed my tag to Soda.

Condi:

Okay, so we got, um...

Condi:

An 8, 7, 5, 8 and 9, so I think that's four successes, right?

Charlie:

Holy shit. Yeah, no, the difficulty you were aiming for was 6.

Condi:

Yeah.

Charlie:

Okay. Who do you pick and how do you beat 'em?

Condi:

What happens is I pick Donkey Kong and the first two kills,

Condi:

I kind of pick 'em up and throw 'em off and then edge guard him,

Condi:

so he just kind of gets slammed into the zone.

Soda:

Yo man, how the fuck did you do that? What the shit?

Emizel:

Dude, come on, you know this.

Soda:

You get two jumps in the air? Bro, this character's broken.

Condi:

I pick him up, I pick him up again and I jump off the edge

Condi:

and suicide with him for the final kill.

Charlie:

Yeah, he tries to do that thing with Ganondorf where he tries to grab you

Charlie:

and drag you down and you just grab him out of it and do it to him.

Condi:

Yeah, and I grab him out of it and he's just dead.

Condi:

He's dead, 'cause I can grab him midair. I'm Donkey Kong

Soda:

Shit man.

Charlie:

He throws down his controller and you see it immediately knocks

Charlie:

over a can of soda and spills it all over the controller. He botched the roll.

Soda:

Fuck. Alright. No that's my bad. I shoulda known better.

Soda:

I should have known better. Stay in my lane, drink soda.

Soda:

And beat up Fangs, man.

Emizel:

Speaking of.

Condi:

He looks down, he doesn't have a watch, he looks up at the wall

Condi:

and there's a big kind of old school clock there on the wall and he's like,

Emizel:

It's getting dark out. I think it's time to head out.

Soda:

Alright, you lead the way man, let's do it.

Condi:

And sort of this really almost excited grin kind of takes over Emizel's face

Condi:

so you can tell he's super fucking pumped to go kind of, y'know, beat some heads.

Charlie:

Oh fuck yeah dude.

Charlie:

And as you guys leave the warehouse, and this sort of dusk is falling over LA,

Charlie:

it almost looks like you all have these glowing red eyes as you walk into the moonlight

Charlie:

towards this spot and it takes a bit to get there.

Charlie:

You guys sort of take the back alleys, try to avoid too much notice,

Charlie:

and when you finally roll up into this alley,

Charlie:

you see that there's just, it's pretty quiet.

Charlie:

There's not a lot of people there and there's just one guy

Charlie:

in sort of that punk rock, classic Demon outfit just kind of holding his ribs

Charlie:

and is sort of slumped up against a metal scaffolding on the side of the thing.

Condi:

Yeah, so it's just like a Demon guy?

Charlie:

Yeah, it's just like a single Demon looking kind of beat up.

Soda:

Oh shit man. Are we late?

Emizel:

Fuck.

Condi:

He'd kind of run up to the guy and,

Emizel:

Hey. Hey man, Brian, are you good man?

Charlie:

He looks up at you and he looks fucking scared man.

Brian:

Oh shit.

Brian:

Emizel, is that...? Fuck, is that you man?

Emizel:

Yeah. What happened to you man?

Brian:

It was like - it was like a blur, man.

Brian:

We came out just to face some Fangs, thought maybe we could beat you guys to it, get a good promotion out of it.

Brian:

But something else, something else happened.

Brian:

There was some Fangs and it was going well. We were beating their asses like always

Brian:

and then one of them was just so fucking fast, man.

Brian:

I mean, fuck, I can't even feel my leg. Can you help?

Condi:

I looked down to his leg. What's the situation down there?

Charlie:

You see, it looks like that he got hit against this thing really hard.

Charlie:

The scaffolding is bent and it looks like maybe

Charlie:

his hip has dislocated or something. It does not look good.

Condi:

Okay. Can I do, like, I have a decent amount of Medicine in my Knowledges

Condi:

I would like to grab, I'm going to reach back for a baseball bat

Condi:

and snap it in half over my knee and try to make a splint for him.

Charlie:

Oh, that's fucking awesome. Yeah, go ahead and roll me Intelligence plus Medicine.

Condi:

So I got one 10, a 4 and a 1.

Charlie:

That is not going to do it unfortunately.

Charlie:

You snap this thing and you start to try and put it in place and he immediately,

Brian:

Oh, ow fuck! No, man. Not that hard. Jesus!

Emizel:

Sorry man.

Charlie:

And even applying a little bit of pressure to it looks like it's really, really hurting him.

Condi:

Listen, okay, you stay here unless you can get back to the hideout somehow, alright?

Brian:

Yeah. I mean about an hour ago I was like there.

Charlie:

And he kind of points over at three feet to his right, so um...

Brian:

Yeah man! Yeah man. I'll do my fucking best.

Brian:

You think maybe you could give me a guy to help me back?

Condi:

Yeah, I was going to say, how many people do we have?

Charlie:

I'm going to just roll a...

Charlie:

You've got you and Soda. I'm going to roll a D10.

Charlie:

I rolled a 2.

Charlie:

So you've got you, Soda and two other guys.

Condi:

That's really funny 'cause I-

Charlie:

The rest of 'em broke off.

Charlie:

They started talking about how fun it would be to rob a gas station and they did that instead.

Condi:

(Laughter)

Emizel:

Assholes.

Condi:

Yeah, funnily enough I was going to send two off with him, so I guess I'll just send the two randoms off with him.

Charlie:

Holy shit. Yeah.

Condi:

Yeah, so it's me and Soda.

Charlie:

Alright. Alright, so you turn around to these fucking two huge beefing guys,

Charlie:

the muscle of the Demons and they say,

Demons:

Yeah boss, we got it.

Charlie:

They easily pick him up and start dragging him off.

Condi:

Make sure he's taken care of.

Buff Demon:

Will do. Hey man who do you main?

Brian:

Zelda.

Buff Demon:

What the fuck man?

Condi:

Yeah, other burly man definitely plays jiggly puff.

Buff Demon:

Yeah, dude. Puff's the stuff.

Charlie:

And you see as he starts walking back,

Buff Demon:

Hey Soda, you take care of him. All right. Don't let him get in too much trouble.

Soda:

Yeah man, don't worry, I'm Soda.

Soda:

Hey, Emizel, sometimes I say shit man, I don't even know what it means.

Soda:

I feel like the soda thing's going really far.

Emizel:

I mean listen, you have a name, you've got to hold it up man.

Soda:

I know, I just...

Emizel:

It's just like the reputation ever since the soda incident.

Soda:

I know the soda incident was really -

Soda:

and it's not like anyone would even call me my real name anymore?

Emizel:

Well yeah, but I mean like...

Soda:

We both know it, right? You - you know it-?

Emizel:

Yeah, I know your name but Soda is funner.

Soda:

Yeah. I mean you know that my name is...?

Emizel:

Yeah, T- T- T- (struggles)

Emizel:

...Theo, how do you say your name?

Soda:

Yeah man. You know I'm Theo. Alright.

Emizel:

Yeah,

Soda:

Sorry. Sometimes I can't tell what's man and what's...

Emizel:

What's soda? Yeah.

Soda:

What's Soda?

Emizel:

I get you.

Soda:

Shit dude, this looks bad.

Condi:

We've had worse.

Soda:

What's the game plan?

Emizel:

Well, we're going to walk in there, just the two of us.

Emizel:

There's probably going to be five of them, so I'll take three. You take two.

Emizel:

And we're just going to beat the shit out of 'em.

Emizel:

I don't think it needs to go any deeper than that.

Emizel:

Usually when they're laying half dead on the ground, that solves our problems, yeah?

Soda:

Alright, alright. We just tell 'em 'don't fuck with the Demons!'

Soda:

and then we get 'em out of here, right?

Emizel:

Yeah, I want at least one kneecap needs to be broken by the end of the night.

Soda:

Alright. Alright, I'm going for a knee. Okay, first one to get the kneecap.

Emizel:

Yeah, first one to get the kneecap wins,

Soda:

Get the Soda.

Condi:

Y'know, where does the bit end and the person begin Soda?

Soda:

I dunno man. I don't know.

Soda:

I mean I've got real hopes and dreams too, but I'll tell you them

Soda:

when we're, you're not in this, on this such,

Emizel:

It's okay man. I know... one day you're going to be a great nurse.

Soda:

It's actually not it man, but clearly, clearly you're not going to be

Soda:

based on that earlier. Alright?

Emizel:

Okay, well I thought I had a good vibe read on you, but my bad.

Soda:

Let's do it man. If we make it out of this, I'll tell you my dreams.

Emizel:

Yeah, we've been friends for so long.

Emizel:

I just figured you would've told me by now.

Soda:

Yeah,

Condi:

Emizel just looks a little hurt.

Condi:

And he's going to kind as they enter the area,

Condi:

I want to say he's probably not going to use it in combat because he's more of a fisticuffs kind of guy,

Condi:

but he's going to be dragging that metal pipe behind him,

Condi:

kind of making a bunch of noise so that they know he's coming.

Charlie:

Okay, I love that. So you're pretty much alerting them that you're on the way.

Charlie:

Go ahead and make me a... this is a pretty stressful situation.

Charlie:

Go ahead and give me a Wits plus Alertness roll.

Condi:

Wits plus Alertness...

Charlie:

To see if you see anything. Yeah, I'm going to do the same for Soda.

Charlie:

He's not super alert or anything.

Condi:

Okay, so four of them.

Charlie:

You got four, 6 or above?

Condi:

Yeah, all of them.

Charlie:

Did you get any ones?

Condi:

I got a 5 is the lowest I rolled.

Charlie:

Oh shit. Okay, you got four successes. Okay.

Charlie:

Alright, I'm going to roll something really, really quick.

Charlie:

You guys make your way around the corner of the alley,

Charlie:

you see that there's telephone lines strung up above it, almost like suffocating it,

Charlie:

keeping you from seeing the skyline and as you turn...

Charlie:

you see what looks like a bunch of Demons

Charlie:

lying on the ground with sort of blood slightly pooling under all of them

Emizel:

Shit.

Charlie:

With that Wits roll, you see through that sort of webbing of electric infrastructure above you,

Charlie:

you see something move and it almost looks like at first just the way that they're overlapping in the clouds,

Charlie:

it looks like there's some kind of just vague movement.

Charlie:

It's like when you're looking through a mesh screen, it's kind of hard to tell what's happening,

Charlie:

but you see the silhouette of it looks like a figure trying to disguise himself amongst those cables

Charlie:

and you notice him and he doesn't notice that you notice him,

Charlie:

but he is perched above watching over this sort of scene.

Charlie:

He clocks that you're dragging the pipe, but he doesn't know that you've seen him.

Condi:

I wouldn't say anything, 'cause...

Condi:

I think Emizel would register that he's trying to hide and maybe...

Charlie:

He's like above. He's like...

Charlie:

I mean the rooftops are not super high, but he's a floor up or two floors.

Condi:

Yeah, I would definitely be keeping my eye on it

Condi:

or keenly listening to see if I hear him trying to approach every...

Condi:

is there anybody on the ground other than the Demons?

Charlie:

As you get closer it looks like it's pretty much...

Charlie:

It's just demons. There are four of 'em lying there.

Condi:

Yeah, I run up to 'em.

Emizel:

Come on, Soda. Hey, hey.

Condi:

I go up to one of them, kind of lift their head a little bit off the ground.

Condi:

And are they conscious at all?

Charlie:

When you lift their head off the ground,

Charlie:

you see that their face has basically been smashed into the ground and there's just a bunch of blood

Charlie:
coming from their nose and on the ground

Charlie:
and as your attention is on them,

Emizel:
Jesus...

Charlie:
I'm going to say because you saw this guy, he doesn't take you by surprise,

Charlie:
but you see as suddenly this silhouette drops from the rooftop,

Condi:
He doesn't take us by surprise?

Condi:
How does this, do we do Initiative?

Condi:
'Cause I would start swinging. Absolutely.

Charlie:
Oh. Oh, you start swinging right away? Okay.

Charlie:
He drops from the rooftop and says,

Stranger:
Well,

Charlie:
And fucking go to clock him right in the head.

Charlie:
Go ahead and roll Initiative.

Condi:
Yeah, it's kind of like he drops as well and I'm like

Emizel:

Asshole!

Condi:

Kind of swing my fucking pipe at him.

Stranger:

Oh fuck!

Charlie:

Yeah, so to roll Initiative, you are going to roll your Wits plus Dex. Yeah.

Condi:

46.

Charlie:

What? Oh no, sorry, sorry, sorry.

Charlie:

It's how many successes? How many over 6. And 1s cancel successes.

Condi:

I think there's two, four. I'm going to say just to be safe, I got three fails, one - or four successes.

Condi:

I think that's probably a safe bet. I saw a few 7s and 6s.

Charlie:

Okay. Oh, you got four? Okay, four successes. Alright.

Condi:

Yeah, I'm going to say just to be safe, I don't want to give myself a needless advantage here.

Charlie:

All right, so just going to roll too.

Charlie:

Let's go Soda!

Condi:

Let's go.

Charlie:

Yo, it's on a roll, two 10s. Holy shit.

Charlie:

You absolutely take this guy by surprise. He rolled one success.

Charlie:

So the first thing he does, he drops down and he starts to talk.

Charlie:

You immediately go to fucking swing for his head.

Charlie:

Go ahead and give me a Dex plus Brawl roll.

Condi:

Five. Five successes.

Charlie:

You absolutely fucking clock this guy with a metal pipe across the face.

Charlie:

What is your - This would be probably Strength plus two.

Charlie:

So what's Strength plus two for you?

Condi:

Like plus two dice or it's three plus two, so five?

Charlie:

Five. Okay. All right. You clock this guy across the face.

Charlie:

You see as you swing into this guy as hard as you possibly can, basically full baseball bat style,

Charlie:

the pipe, you feel it collide with his jaw and you keep swinging,

Charlie:

but it's like hitting a cement block and your hands and your bones are ringing.

Condi:

Yeah.

Charlie:

You see that his hood flies back and now you see this...

Charlie:

looks like a boy probably about your age with short brown hair sort of paler skin.

Charlie:

It almost looks like you can see the veins in it,

Charlie:

and he has a little blood around his mouth and his eyes are glowing red.

Condi:

Okay. Yeah. So I do one big fucking baseball swing at this guy's head, right?

Condi:

And it probably stops right as it collides with him and it leaves my hands just ringing

Condi:

and I'll lock eyes with him and I just say,

Emizel:

Heh. You're a tough one, aren't you?

Stranger:

Ohhhh, that's one strike buddy! You get two more.

Emizel:

Are you the one who did this to my guys?

Stranger:

Yeah, and I'm going to do it to your guy right there too,

Stranger:

and then I'm going to do it to you.

Emizel:

Where do you get off? Huh? You know this is Demon territory.

Stranger:

Not anymore.

Condi:

He cracks his knuckles quickly,

Stranger:

But I did, I did only roll one success and it looks like your fucking friend rolled two, so I'll get back to you in a second.

Charlie:

Soda looks at you.

Soda:

Uh, uh - man, what the fuck, dude? What's going on here?

Soda:

What do I do? What do you want me to do, man?

Emizel:

We do what we do best.

Soda:

Drink soda??

Emizel:

Crack open the LaCroix.

Grizzly:

That response was so fast.

Charlie:

Okay, Soda runs at this guy.

Soda:

Um... Soda Swing!

Charlie:

You see as he grabs this rope and basically hurls his shoulder into this,

Charlie:

sending this pack of LaCroix over his shoulder towards this guy.

Charlie:

Soda, you'd know is not the best fighter,

Condi:

Yeah, but he's always got my back, so.

Charlie:

But he's always got your back.

Grizzly:

Soda is me, bro. That's me. I'm that guy.

Charlie:

Soda's going to aim right for this guy's fucking head. He hits him in the head.

Charlie:

And you see as this blow explodes over his head, sending a shower of LaCroix fucking everywhere,

Charlie:

sprinkling all over and it knocks this guy's head down.

Charlie:

He sort of looks up now soaked in this fizzling liquid.

Emizel:

LaCroix: Fang's weakness,

Stranger:

Okay, you're going to fucking die first. That guy? He's dead.

Stranger:

What's your name?

Soda:

Uh... S-Soda?

Stranger:

What?

Charlie:

You see this shadow of a person darts past you

Charlie:

and this is going to go right for fucking Soda. Who pissed him off.

Condi:

Is there anything I can do? And I'm guessing not.

Condi:

I had to declare my action beforehand.

Charlie:

You've already taken a swing on him.

Charlie:

Unfortunately, there's nothing you can do to stop him.

Condi:

Gotcha.

Charlie:

Going for Soda. You see as he clenches his fist and this sweatshirt almost

Charlie:

bulges up to accommodate these muscles and Soda says

Soda:

Emizel it's all right I can block it!

Charlie:

And this guy darts out.

Emizel:

No, don't-! DODGE!

Charlie:

Lightning fucking speed, and Soda immediately takes...

Condi:

Don't kill Soda, don't kill Soda on me.

Charlie:

Soda tries to get out of the way. He does not do it fast enough.

Charlie:

He gets knocked in the stomach, you see the wind gets knocked out of his lungs

Charlie:

and he goes spiraling into a wooden palette that just bursts basically apart as he hits the ground.

Charlie:

He's still conscious, but you can tell that he is not in great shape.

Charlie:

And then this guy turns to you, he sees you raising your pipe and he says,

Stranger:

Oh, not yet, it's still my turn.

Condi:

You son of a bitch.

Charlie:

And you see as those veins in his face pump for a second with this crimson liquid

Charlie:

and you blink and he is right in front of you and he is going to try and grab you.

Condi:

Okay.

Charlie:

Like handling a child basically, runs up to you and just puts a hand around your throat

Charlie:

and it feels like a iron vice grip that you absolutely cannot break,

Charlie:

and he starts to bring you basically closer to his face.

Condi:

Oh no, he's not going to use the kiss action on me, is he?

Charlie:

Not yet. That's what he does with his turn.

Charlie:

It's your turn.

Stranger:

I see how you fight, but let me see how you taste.

Emizel:

(choked) What the fuck?

Stranger:

Fuck, man. Sorry, that kinda- it doesn't matter.

Stranger:

It doesn't matter how it came out because you're going to be dead.

Stranger:

You can't tell anyone that I said that. Alright. You can't tell anyone I fucking said that.

Emizel:

So-

Condi:

I'm going to try to, through choked breath, I'll probably try to yell to Soda to get out of here.

Condi:

'Cause that was a fucking mighty hit. I can handle myself so he'll be like

Emizel:

(choked) Soda, get out of here-!

Soda:

No man! I'm not leaving you, man! I can take him. I can still take him.

Condi:

What - I'm going to do - I dropped the metal pipe as soon as he picked me up by throat.

Charlie:

Okay,

Condi:

I'm going to try to grab his head and just slam it into my knee basically

Condi:

and then see if that's enough to break his grasp on me.

Charlie:

Fuckin. Love it. Let's call it a kick. Go ahead and roll Dex plus Brawl then.

Condi:

Okay,

Charlie:

You're aiming for stuff above 7, so your difficulty is 7

Condi:

4, 4. One of them is a 10.

Charlie:

Absolutely, yes. Hits him.

Charlie:

You see that this one actually does affect him. He is not expecting it at all.

Charlie:

You see as he opens his mouth and you drive your knee into the bottom of his jaw,

Charlie:

like sending his basically bottom teeth up into his top teeth and he winces back.

Charlie:

Doesn't let go of you but says,

Stranger:

Fuck man. I just fucking got these.

Emizel:

I told Soda over there I was gonna leave you defanged, and that's just what I'm gonna do, fucker.

Condi:

I don't know if I can do any more actions though, right? Unless I announced it was a multiple action.

Charlie:

No, that's going to be it. You can tell you gave him a bruise.

Condi:

Yeah, but he didn't drop me.

Charlie:

Yeah, he didn't drop you and he leans you in real close and he says,

Stranger:

I think you'll find that these fangs work just fucking fine.

Charlie:

And he tilts your head out of the way with just his thumb.

Condi:

What is Soda doing by the way?

Charlie:

Soda is...

Condi:

Is he just sitting there unable to do anything?

Charlie:

Oh, you're right you're right, you're right. No, hang on. Soda gets a turn.

Charlie:

Soda is fucking beat up. Soda runs at him.

Soda:

No, man, you don't touch my fucking friend, dude!

Charlie:

He has no soda left.

Condi:

Oh no. His only weapon!

Charlie:

He picks up the pipe you dropped and just goes for a swing on this guy.

Charlie:

Completely misses unfortunately.

Condi:

Oh fuck.

Charlie:

You see as you both basically swing out of the way

Charlie:

and he just hits the asphalt, sending sparks flying up.

Condi:

Yeah,

Stranger:

Too little, too late. Little LaCroix

Condi:

Probably right before it goes for his bite here.

Condi:

I'm probably going to make eye contact with Soda, be like,

Emizel:

Soda. Run.

Soda:

I'm not leaving you, man!

Charlie:

You can tell he is shaking.

Condi:

That's the most I can do for him right now.

Charlie:

Yeah, yeah. But he is backing up. He drops the pipe. It's not even like he intended to.

Emizel:

It's okay. Soda. Go!

Charlie:

And you see as this guy opens his mouth,

Charlie:

glittering sharp, white fangs are the last thing you see before your eyes almost involuntarily shut, closed

Charlie:

Chomps into you and at first it feels like a searing pain almost,

Charlie:

and then it feels oddly peaceful.

Charlie:

You...

Charlie:

Open your eyes really suddenly.

Charlie:

And you feel like you're floating in a sensory deprivation tank.

Charlie:

And you're floating in this thick crimson liquid that seems to stretch on forever around you

Charlie:

and in front of you as your eyes kind of flick open, it's almost like looking through a lens.

Charlie:

Like you can see through your eyes, but they're in the sky.

Charlie:

Like you're not really in your body and it's almost like a third person perspective as you see...

Charlie:

Soda crying out to you, hand outstretched, and you see...

Charlie:

this man, this fucking boy who got one over on you. You didn't even get his name, who is something else entirely.

Charlie:

And you see as he is teeth in your neck, blood splattered across his face

Charlie:

and you can make out a smile on his face and you feel yourself getting weaker

Charlie:

as you're floating here just watching this.

Charlie:

What do you do?

Condi:

He probably sits there and it's probably like time is moving in slow motion,

Condi:

kind of just comprehending everything that he's seeing underneath him

Condi:

from this almost eagle eye view. It's how I'm imagining it, right?

Condi:

But eventually he kind of figures it out and comprehends what's happening to him

Condi:

and I want to use a point of Willpower to kind of regain control of my body here.

Charlie:

Yeah.

Condi:

As he kind shakes off this sort of trance that he he's been put in.

Charlie:

Yeah, you can feel as if you've been forced into this place.

Charlie:

And what do you think to yourself as you use this point of Willpower?

Condi:

Can I not think something but instead say something out loud to this guy?

Charlie:

Yeah, absolutely.

Condi:

He's probably just kind of groaning a little bit, but he kind of perks up a little bit and says,

Emizel:

You piece of shit,

Emizel:

don't you know Demons have fangs too?

Condi:

And he's going to launch his mouth towards this guy's neck

Condi:

to take a bite out of him.

Stranger:

(muffled) Oh fuck, what the fuck?! OW!

Charlie:

Go ahead and go ahead and make me a Dex plus Brawl roll.

Condi:

Well, can I use a second Willpower or is only one per turn?

Charlie:

I mean, I'm going to say you could use a second Willpower, you'll just be down two Willpower.

Condi:

Yeah, that's fair. I think this is important to succeed.

Condi:

So 9, 6, 8, 8, 9.

Charlie:

Yep. You were trying to beat an 8, so that's more than enough.

Charlie:

You feel as this guy is essentially taking your life from your body,

Charlie:

you start to feel like this gnawing, grinding sensation in your gut like this is wrong.

Charlie:

And as you snap back to reality, it's a combination of this Willpower and something inside you,

Charlie:

almost beckoning you to do this as you fucking chomp into this guy and draw blood

Charlie:

and almost involuntarily you swallow and basically lurch back and he lets you go,

Stranger:

Oh fuck, what the hell man, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck!

Stranger:

What's wrong with you!?

Condi:

He's going to start swinging again.

Charlie:

You start swinging again at him??

Condi:

Unless I'm in a state where I can't do that, I don't know.

Charlie:

Yeah, I mean I was going to say you guys are out of turn order

Charlie:

unless you want to go back in and start still beating him with this crowbar,

Charlie:

which is totally cool. Yeah.

Charlie:

You know what I'll say is you go to hit him again with a pipe

Charlie:

and you suddenly hear like a, 'bum bum'

Charlie:

and your vision almost flashes red and you feel this pain in your chest.

Condi:

Yeah.

Charlie:

As you fall to the ground dropping this pipe,

Condi:

It's probably like I'm halfway through my swing, I'm winding up the swing

Condi:

and I go and launch it towards him and I freeze up halfway.

Condi:

And I just grab my chest and fall over onto my side

Charlie:

And you hear it starting to speed up at first.

Charlie:

Bum-bum, bum-bum, bum-bum.

Emizel:

What the hell did you do to me?

Stranger:

What the fuck did you do to you?

Emizel:

You piece of shit, I'll kill you.

Condi:

He's like probably slowly falling more to the ground as he kind of gets weaker

Charlie:

And...

Charlie:

Bum-bum...

Charlie:

Bum bum...

Charlie:

Bum...

Charlie:

Emizel dies.

Condi:

Damn. It was a good run.

Grizzly:

We've all been there buddy.

Charlie:

And then just like that, I need you to make a Frenzy check.

Condi:

Oh boy. What's a Frenzy check again? What do I roll for that?

Charlie:

This is going to be a Self-Control role.

Condi:

Okay, so I have four in Self-Control.

Charlie:

The difficulty is going to be 8.

Condi:

Yikes. And that's including the weakness, right?

Charlie:

Oh fuck, your weakness

Condi:

Because that's a plus two, man.

Condi:

Okay, that would make it a 10. That would be rough.

Charlie:

So you have to hit a 10?

Condi:

Yeah.

Charlie:

Oh fuck. Okay.

Condi:

Let's see it. I guess. So it's only Self-Control?

Charlie:

It's just Self-Control, man,

Condi:

I got one 10. Please say it.

Charlie:

Holy fuck! Holy shit. Holy shit.

Condi:

I got a 3, 8, 6 and 10.

Charlie:

Okay, your eyes snap back open and you feel as your pupils like...

Charlie:

Shift over to Soda and you feel this voice inside your head that just says

Internal Voice:

Itch. Take it back

Charlie:

And you fucking, you think about everything that's happened today.

Charlie:

You think about the Demons, you think about Soda and you shove that voice down.

Condi:

No, I think how it would end up going is

Condi:

I'd probably stumble up to my feet and start approaching him. Totally.

Condi:

Considering the difficulty of it, I'd probably get right up to him

Condi:

and get real close right up to his ear

Condi:

and then I snap out of it and I sort of understand what's going on

Condi:

and I look at Soda and my voice comes out a lot more dry and raspy and I just say,

Emizel:

(raspy) I told you to run.

Soda:

Yeah man, alright, I'll follow your fucking advice this time!

Charlie:

And Soda runs off into the street and Soda is totally okay.

Condi:

Bless. My boy.

Charlie:

You see as this guy turns back to you.

Stranger:

Wha-?

Charlie:

He's stunned to see you look like this and I mean you look rough.

Charlie:

What do you do? What do you want to do?

Condi:

Wait, who looked at me? The vampire.

Charlie:

This silhouetted guy who is now his hood has been blown back.

Charlie:

You still don't know this guy's name but this vampire. Yeah,

Condi:

Yeah. Honestly, in my mind? After I tell Soda to run and resist the Frenzy,

Condi:

I probably would just pass out.

Charlie:

Okay. Alright. Okay.

Charlie:

You see the last thing this guy does is he says,

Stranger:

What the fuck?

Charlie:

And that's the last thing you hear before you hit the ground.

Grizzly:

Man, is he just going to kill you now?

Condi:

That's a good question.

Charlie:

You don't know. You hit the ground.

Charlie:

Let me roll something real quick.

Grizzly:

No plot armor here, okay.

Condi:

Yeah, plot armor exists, surely.

Charlie:

Dies in the flashback, epicly.

Condi:

(Laughs)

Charlie:

Dies in session zero.

Grizzly:

That would be so funny.

Condi:

I'm ready with a new character.

Charlie:

You have flickers of consciousness as...

Charlie:

You see this guy in front of you basically pacing back and forth,

Charlie:

you keep kind of coming in and then coming out again,

Charlie:

with his hands on his head just like,

Stranger:

Fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck. I had one fucking chance!

Stranger:

I was supposed to fucking prove myself, not make a mess! Shit!

Charlie:

And he looks over at you and he pulls up his hand,

Charlie:

almost at first as if to deliver some sort of final blow

Charlie:

and then looks at you.

Stranger:

(sighs) Alright, don't ask for any more favors

Stranger:

and don't try to fucking find me.

Charlie:

And he drags you over into this sort of open kind of warehouse garage, dilapidated shack situation

Charlie:

just through a gap in the fence as your eyes shut, Emizel...

Charlie:

we fly up into the sky and towards that big, bright glowing moon.

Charlie:

And when we come back down, we are in the Romanian countryside.

Charlie:

And atop atop a great hill that almost looks like a mountain is this dark, dark castle.

Charlie:

You can see the windows faintly illuminated by torch light and the moon is perched directly behind it.

Charlie:

As bats fly in front of it and overhead, we fly in along with a bat,

Charlie:

through a window higher up in the palace and into a room

Charlie:

where we see someone lying on the ground, like Emizel was,

Charlie:

as they stir as the night begins.

Charlie:

Bizly, would you like to introduce your character?

Bizly:

So first thing you see are his eyes as they open wide.

Bizly:

Bright red with very thin, slit-like pupils. Golden hair that's a little unkempt at this point, but,

Bizly:

as he gets up and walks over starting his morning, starting his day,

Bizly:

you see that he puts on these dress pants and this dark green dress shirt,

Bizly:

buttons it in very slowly and meticulously.

Bizly:

Putting on a vest over top of it that is a little bit of a lighter green

Bizly:

with these golden adornments all over it,

Bizly:

wrapping it all in nicely with a belt just around his waist.

Bizly:

He opens a wardrobe and pulls out a cape, flaps it over his back,

Bizly:

the emerald fabric cascades down his back all the way down to his dark shoes with golden toes

Bizly:

as he ties them beautifully and he looks over into the mirror and slicks his hair back.

Bizly:

He looks very, very, very similar to Emizel, almost too similar

Bizly:

and he applies eyeshadow just around these red glowing eyes.

Bizly:

This is Shilo.

Grizzly:

Slay dude, holy shit.

Charlie:

Let's fucking go.

Bizly:

Oh, and he is got one of those funny frilly ties in the front.

Bizly:

I don't know what you call 'em.

Charlie:

Let's go! Yeah, I know what you're talking about.

Bizly:

And like a big cone around the bag of the head too.

Charlie:

He got the friller.

Bizly:

There's art. You could see it.

Charlie:

It's good. What does Shilo's room look like?

Bizly:

Very well put together. Everything is in its place exactly where it needs to be.

Bizly:

Not a paper out of order, not a pencil, not in its case.

Bizly:

The bed, very much made like as if maid service had come through the room.

Bizly:

No posters or anything like that.

Bizly:

Walls of stone, very cold, but in the corner you can see the start of a massive bookshelf

Bizly:

covering one of the walls and as he walks over to it, plucks one out, opens it up

Bizly:

and you can see he uses just a little drawing he made of his view outside of the one window in here as a bookmark.

Bizly:

And as he sits with perfect posture in his high backed chair, flips a page and continues to read and await his orders for the day.

Charlie:

And then you hear a knock.

Charlie:

Not on the door, but somewhere in the corner of the room.

Bizly:

Is this a familiar knock?

Charlie:

It is.

Charlie:

It is the knock you hear every morning for breakfast.

Shilo:

Just one moment.

Bizly:

He closes the book very carefully and places it slowly into its slot and walks down his heels clicking against the floor.

Charlie:

It's not the front door to your room. It is like this side latch, almost like, trap door on the wall.

Charlie:

And you open it up and just see these

Charlie:

Bright yellow eyes looking back at you.

Ghoul:

Your breakfast is ready, Prince Emizel.

Charlie:

And there's just like a gnarled pale hand that outstretches this golden goblet

Charlie:

filled with this crimson liquid and it ushers you to take it.

Grizzly:

I think you said Emizel.

Condi:

You did say Emizel, was that...?

Ghoul:

Fuuuck...

Grizzly:

You could ADR now.

Ghoul:

Your breakfast. Your breakfast is ready. Sheloh.

Ghoul:

Shilo.

Condi:

Y'know, no,

Ghoul:

I'm going to be fucking executed.

Charlie:

He leaves the goblet. I had the door, the trap door slams and you hear a

Ghoul:

yeEOOOWW!

Charlie:

As he fucking is killed forever off screen.

Shilo:

Thank you.

Bizly:

He takes the goblet and holds it daintily in his hand and sips slowly on the blood.

Charlie:

It's rich, it's good, and it tastes the same as it has these past...

Charlie:

However many years you've been locked up here.

Bizly:

Nice.

Bizly:

I continue to sip on this for a while.

Bizly:

Well, I'll probably continue my day the same way I always would with my morning fencing lessons.

Charlie:

Yeah, absolutely.

Charlie:

And I'll pull a dummy out from behind that high backed chair

Charlie:

and bring out my fencing foil and hold it at attention.

Charlie:

Excellent, excellent, excellent.

Charlie:

Do you make your way there yourself or do you wait for basically it to come to you?

Bizly:

It'll come to me as it always does.

Charlie:

As everything does.

Charlie:

Eventually you hear a knock at your actual actual door.

Shilo:

It is open.

Charlie:

You see the door creaks open and there's no one there.

Shilo:

Hello?

Charlie:

And then from below the window sill,

Uncle:

Ahhh! Goodnight! Goodnight!

Shilo:

You know, can only hide there so many times until I start to expect it, right?

Uncle:

My beautiful nephew. My beautiful nephew, surprise is the key in battle.

Shilo:

Yes, I know.

Uncle:

It's me, your favorite funniest uncle.

Shilo:

I mean it was surprising the first three times.

Shilo:

Now it's just where I expect you to be.

Charlie:

Yes, but you must expect the expected as well as the unexpected lest I expect it first. En guard!

Bizly:

And I hold out my foil to him.

Charlie:

Awesome. Your uncle, you know him as Uncle Lazarus,

Charlie:

is a stout man built kind of like a thumb, which makes it even creepier in a way

Charlie:

that he always is kind of floating like an inch off the ground.

Charlie:

He's dressed in a very similar suit to yours, but a lot more white and a little bit more modern.

Charlie:

And you see that he has spectacles on as well as just this big round nose and this grinning fanged mouth.

Charlie:

Happy to see you.

Uncle Lazarus:

Let's hope you remember when I touch you.

Shilo:

That and more. I've been practicing this one, let me show you-

Uncle Lazarus:

You're distracted, you're distracted, you're distracted, argh!

Charlie:

And he takes some stabs at you. Let's go ahead and do contested checks here

Charlie:

to see if tonight is the night that you best Uncle Lazarus.

Charlie:

Okay, so go ahead and roll me a Dex plus Melee.

Bizly:

What's the difficulty?

Charlie:

6 is the number to beat here.

Bizly:

6 is the number to beat.

Charlie:

Tell me how many successes you get.

Bizly:

Three.

Charlie:

You see as he starts to float towards you until his feet touch the ground

Charlie:

and he goes for the same thrust that he went for yesterday.

Charlie:

Tell me, because he botched it and only got one success.

Charlie:

How do you best Uncle Lazarus tonight as he goes for this strike?

Bizly:

I want to just hook my rapier into the hilt of his and whip it out of his hand.

Charlie:

Holy shit.

Bizly:

Fling it over to the wall.

Charlie:

His rapier goes flying out the window and he steps back for a second.

Shilo:

Oh uncle, I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to do that, I just-

Uncle Lazarus:

My beautiful boy!

Uncle Lazarus:

With moves like that, with moves like that

Uncle Lazarus:

one day the whole countryside will fear you when you get out of here.

Charlie:

You see as another set of eyes like ghoulish eyes, peer over the window sill.

Uncle Lazarus:

Joke. Joke. Just joking. Just joking, just joking.

Uncle Lazarus:

You are to stay here at your will. We continue your studies indefinitely.

Uncle Lazarus:

Oh, good fucking shit, Shilo. Well...

Shilo:

It's really nothing, uncle. I read it in this book here.

Shilo:

There's an entire book about fencing. I've been studying it nonstop.

Shilo:

I stayed up all night reading it. Please don't tell mother about that.

Charlie:

What is this book? Is it just like a fencing instruction book or is it something in particular?

Bizly:

Yeah, pretty much. It would just be a fencing instruction and more about the mental state when fencing.

Uncle Lazarus:

I know it's about fencing and I know it's rather limiting to have this restriction,

Uncle Lazarus:

but you know how she feels about you reading *Mortal Works*.

Uncle Lazarus:

I know that really cuts it down to books written about fencing by vampires. But...

Shilo:

What does a vampire know about fencing? They just bite.

Uncle Lazarus:

Well, okay, alright alright en guard again. En guard again.

Uncle Lazarus:

Clearly, clearly you have much more to learn.

Charlie:

You see his rapier levitates back over to him through the window as he swishes it.

Shilo:

Yes uncle,

Uncle Lazarus:

You are lucky I was easy on you that time, boy.

Shilo:

That, or you were the one who was distracted that time, right?

Shilo:

(Nervous laugh) That was a joke.

Charlie:

You want to go at it again?

Bizly:

Yeah, absolutely.

Charlie:

You want to go at it again? Alright.

Charlie:

You see as this time something changes in his demeanor as

Charlie:

he was looking over that book that you were reading and he was sort of reading along to it.

Charlie:

And you see this time, instead of standing on the ground, he floats and inch off the ground again.

Charlie:

You see this time he sort of switches his hands and you see is there's this almost

Charlie:

pulse of this red energy underneath his skin that works its way into the fingers holding the rapier.

Charlie:

And he dexterously flips it around.

Uncle Lazarus:

Let me show you what books written by man cannot teach.

Charlie:

And go ahead and roll me another Dex plus Melee.

Bizly:

Ooh, that's two successes.

Charlie:

So he got five successes.

Bizly:

Oh my God.

Charlie:

You see, as he expertly knocks the sword off balance in your hand

Charlie:

and holds out his other hand, flicks his finger forward and your sword goes like flying of its own accord

Charlie:

into his hand where he just holds it at his side.

Uncle Lazarus:

Could a mortal do that?

Shilo:

Well, I wouldn't really know, would I? I've never gotten to meet one.

Uncle Lazarus:

Okay, they can't. They can't, they cannot do that.

Uncle Lazarus:

You are better here associating with us. Better, better than them.

Uncle Lazarus:

They could not do that. They can't make fucking swords fly.

Shilo:

Of course, I believe you.

Uncle Lazarus:

They just have regular meat hands. What are they going to do?

Shilo:

I get it uncle. I'm safer here in the castle, away from the meat hands.

Shilo:

I just... I wonder sometimes, y'know?

Uncle Lazarus:

Listen, Shilo, you know I love you, but if your mother catches word,

Uncle Lazarus:

that you've been thinking these thoughts again.

Shilo:

Yes, I know. I know what she will say.

Uncle Lazarus:

She's already uptight. She executed a ghoul less than three minutes ago.

Shilo:

Yes, I actually heard that.

Shilo:

These walls may be thick, but I can actually hear a lot.

Uncle Lazarus:

Bet you can, you grow stronger with every passing day.

Uncle Lazarus:

If it's any condolence. I do hope that one, you get to see that outside world.

Uncle Lazarus:

Take it for yourself.

Shilo:

Well, has she said anything about that recently?

Uncle Lazarus:

No. No, definitely not. Definitely not. Ever. But it's your mother.

Uncle Lazarus:

She keeps her true intentions close to her chest.

Shilo:

Of course. And I trust her.

Shilo:

She only wishes to protect me. And I - I understand.

Shilo:

And in the meantime, maybe you could help me with just a couple more books?

Shilo:

Nothing crazy, just like one or two. I don't know. Something about birds.

Uncle Lazarus:

Birds.

Shilo:

Specifically like a pheasant actually, because I keep seeing references to something called a pheasant.

Shilo:

I don't know what it is, but I'm very interested.

Uncle Lazarus:

As long as it's pheasants, not peasants. Am I right, boy?

Shilo:

Of course, uncle.

Charlie:

Go ahead and give me a,

Uncle Lazarus:

I hate poor people. Shilo.

Charlie:

Go ahead and give me a,

All:

(Laughter)

Charlie:

I'm going to say this is going to be - how're you-?

Charlie:

You're trying to basically persuade him into teaching you some stuff

Charlie:

that you're not, that's not on the schedule, right?

Bizly:

Pretty much looking for that. Yes.

Charlie:

Go ahead and give me a, I'm going to say Manipulation plus whatever you're using in this moment.

Charlie:

So it depends on how you're trying to do it.

Charlie:

If you're batting your eyes, if you're trying to use the fact that you're definitely his favorite.

Bizly:

Definitely trying to use the fact that I'm his favorite, and that guilt of

Bizly:

'I never get to go outside. I should get something.'

Charlie:

Okay, so roll Manipulation plus Subterfuge.

Bizly:

Subterfuge.

Charlie:

He's going to try and resist it, but for you, he's going to take two dice away.

Bizly:

So that's one 10, that's another 10. That's another 10.

Charlie:

Oh fuck.

Bizly:

What's the difficulty?

Charlie:

You're rolling contested. So anything above a 6, 6 or above is a success.

Charlie:

So just tell me how many you get.

Bizly:

That's five with three 10s, three of them being 10s.

Charlie:

Holy fuck, fuck. Okay.

Charlie:

I thought he rolled good because he rolled four successes.

Charlie:

You see as for a second he steals himself and then you just

Charlie:

Make the very, very vaguest, slightly wider eyes at him and he goes,

Uncle Lazarus:

...aw, Okay, okay. Okay.

Uncle Lazarus:

So this is a pheasant. Some are gray and some are...

Uncle Lazarus:

...other colors.

Charlie:

Let me look up pheasant facts.

Bizly:

I have some right here. Roosters will range in weight from-

Bizly:

I'll give you the whole fucking page.

Uncle Lazarus:

That's a rooster fact, Shilo. This is why-

Bizly:

Male pheasants are called roosters.

Uncle Lazarus:

-this is why you need Great Uncle Lazarus to teach you-

Uncle Lazarus:

Shit, you learn something new every day.

Uncle Lazarus:

Did you know that male pheasants are able to fly fast for short distances?

Uncle Lazarus:

They prefer to run.

Shilo:

Really?

Uncle Lazarus:

I actually am that way too.

Shilo:

Woah...

Uncle Lazarus:

Their flight speed is 38 to 48 miles per hour.

Shilo:

Wow!

Uncle Lazarus:

Yeah.

Uncle Lazarus:

They wouldn't stand a chance

Uncle Lazarus:

Against your uncle.

Shilo:

That is so cool...

Shilo:

Do you think one day I can see one of these pheasants?

Shilo:

Just one time please!

Shilo:

I can hide him in the right there behind the chair...

Uncle Lazarus:

I don't know, I much prefer mortal blood.

Shilo:

Oh, I'm not going to drink the pheasant!

Shilo:

I am going to love it...

Uncle Lazarus:

Oh, you mean to keep, not to eat.

Shilo:

Yes.

Uncle Lazarus:

Oh, Geez, um...

Uncle Lazarus:

You'll-

Uncle Lazarus:

You'll what it?

Shilo:

...I will love it? Care for it and feed it...

Uncle Lazarus:

Well... tell you what,

Uncle Lazarus:

Tell you what, these are some really interesting, pheasant facts, and...

Uncle Lazarus:

I'll be honest, I'm interested to see what I'm close myself, so...

Uncle Lazarus:

Next time I'm out? I'll do my best for my favorite nephew.

Shilo:

You will? Really??

Uncle Lazarus:

But don't go babbling about this, or it'll be my head.

Shilo:

No, no, of course not. My lips are sealed.

Shilo:

Thank you, uncle. Thank you.

Uncle Lazarus:

Alright, consider your pheasant all but secured.

Uncle Lazarus:

Uncle Lazarus...

Uncle Lazarus:

AWAY!

Charlie:

You see as he runs towards the window and dives out

Charlie:

and there's this sort of shimmer of darkness as he turns into a bat

Charlie:

and flies up towards the top of the castle.

Grizzly:

That's awesome.

Shilo:

Great.

Bizly:

And, I pull out a little journal and I'll write down everything he said about pheasants.

Charlie:

Okay. I have to make a note that he has promised you a pheasant.

Grizzly:

Two different worlds, bro.

Grizzly:

Listening to Condi's and then this one is so good.

Charlie:

Alright, well that's fencing done with.

Charlie:

What is Shilo doing next?

Bizly:

So, Shilo would probably spend a little while just kind of pacing the room,

Bizly:

not doing too much, maybe just sitting still and looking at the wall for a while.

Bizly:

After a while he'll get up and go over to this fencing dummy

Bizly:

and just walk up to it and kind of look at it and go,

Shilo:

Hello, I am Shilo Petra.

Shilo:

Nope. Got to give it more power, okay...

Shilo:

Hello! I am Shilo!

Shilo:

Now I'm shouting, um...

Shilo:

Hello. I am Prince Bathory. That's just stupid. Oh dear...

Bizly:

And I'll just continue greeting this thing and practicing talking.

Charlie:

That's really cute. I love that.

Charlie:

Alright, yeah, you do that for a bit.

Charlie:

I mean, you feel like you've done this a thousand times,

Charlie:

there's only so many times you can do it and...

Charlie:

you know that the best way to learn for you to go from here is to...

Charlie:

is to see the real deal.

Bizly:

So, what I will do is go over to the door

Bizly:

and just kind of put my ear to it, listen for a moment.

Charlie:

(chuckles) Yeah, go ahead...

Charlie:

Do you have any sort of enhanced senses or anything like that?

Bizly:

No.

Charlie:

That's totally cool. Go ahead and give me a Perception plus Alertness roll.

Bizly:

Four passes over 6, one 10.

Charlie:

I'm going to say with that, you can hear the guards outside your door talking.

Charlie:

'Cause there are guards stationed there.

Guard 1:

Hey man, I heard Lazarus in there.

Guard 1:

I mean, I'll never understand how those two get along so well.

Guard 1:

That guy's a monster.

Charlie:

The other guy goes,

Guard 2:

Yeah...

Guard 2:

Dude, I'm sorry, you just...

Guard 2:

I was spacing out for the past three hours and you completely fucked it.

Guard 2:

And now I feel like I've got to spend 40 minutes to get back in that sort of trance state.

Guard 1:

Oh yeah, sorry man.

Guard 1:

I realize we don't really get along the best, but I was kind of hoping tonight would be tonight.

Guard 1:

I mean, we're both here y'know,

Guard 1:

we're both watching over Prince Shilo.

Guard 2:

Nah man, nah man I'm just gonna...

Guard 1:

Yeah, it's whatever.

Guard 2:

Yeah, we're vampires, man, so I don't even care.

Charlie:

This is basically just these two guard vampires.

Charlie:

Pretty familiar voices. You know that they change 'em out only occasionally,

Charlie:

but you're pretty familiar with the voices of these guards at this point

Bizly:

I want to just kind of knock onto the door and go,

Shilo:

[knocks] Hello, I need to go through the bathroom.

Guard 1:

Oh, okay, um... Yeah! Prince Shilo-

Guard 1:

Hey man, I haven't done this bathroom shit, how does this work?

Guard 2:

Oh, you just give him the pass.

Guard 1:

Okay, cool.

Shilo:

Don't worry. I'll show you.

Charlie:

One of 'em opens up the door and says

Guard 1:

Yes, all hail Prince Shilo. Here is your...

Guard 1:

Says on here 'Do-do pass'.

Guard 1:

Jesus, okay.

Shilo:

Yes. Thank you very much for my do-do pass. I will take that.

Guard 1:

Is this a prank? Okay.

Shilo:

You are not always here.

Shilo:

I mean you are here sometimes, but never at this time.

Shilo:

Did you get your shift changed?

Guard 1:

I was doing possibly a little snoozing on the job last time, um...

Guard 1:

so I might've had my shift extended.

Shilo:

That's okay, we all get tired-

Guard 1:

I'm very sorry. Very sorry. I should be watching you at every waking

Guard 1:

every waking minute.

Shilo:

It happens. Don't worry.

Guard 1:

I'm very fortunate to have this position and I do not wish to lose it.

Guard 1:

I'm sorry I've been talking too much to you.

Guard 1:

If you want to kill me, you can.

Shilo:

I'm not going to kill anyone, I'd just like to use the bathroom.

Shilo:

Just come with me.

Shilo:

And relax a little bit, it's okay.

Guard 1:

Okay. Alright. Sorry. Sorry, Prince Shilo.

Shilo:

It's all right.

Charlie:

He takes a more relaxed, still rigid stance and follows you to the bathroom.

Shilo:

So how long have you been in the Guard?

Guard 1:

Um...

Charlie:

He's like sweating up a storm, he's so worried.

Charlie:

'Cause - he is so worried, no one is really supposed to be interacting with you at this level.

Guard 1:

Prince. Maybe it's better if we just...

Guard 1:

I'm sorry. I've been in the Guard for... this is my third month, so pretty new.

Shilo:

Third month? You're pretty new!

Shilo:

Okay. How do you like it so far?

Guard 1:

Okay, um, it is...

Charlie:

He looks you in the eyes.

Guard 1:

It's a living!

Shilo:

Ah, I get it! You're not alive, are you?

Guard 1:

Oh, it's an...

Guard 1:

It's an Unliving.

Charlie:

He kind of winks at you.

Shilo:

You're very funny.

Charlie:

You see as there's a more regal person that's passing by you as he winks at you and they go

NPC:

Mm.

Charlie:

And make a note.

Grizzly:

Oh no.

Shilo:

Uh oh,

Guard 1:

Oh no.

Condi:

Poor guy.

Guard 1:

Uh oh.

Bizly:

As we're walking, like...

Shilo:

That did not look very good, did it?

Guard 1:

No, I believe he saw me wink at you, Prince Shilo.

Shilo:

Oh...

Shilo:

Well, very sorry. I will miss you!

Grizzly:

Oh God.

Shilo:

For what it's worth...

Shilo:

Look, no, okay.

Bizly:

As we kind of walk closer, I want to wait until we're in a spot where there might be less people.

Charlie:

Okay, yeah.

Charlie:

You walk through the halls of this castle, it is fairly empty tonight.

Charlie:

You pass by a couple nobles and maids and people you recognize.

Charlie:

You even pass by one of the five very important people in this castle,

Charlie:

under your mother, that you would recognize. You pass by.

Charlie:

He is kind of cloaked in shadow and if you unfocused your eyes for a second, you wouldn't see him,

Charlie:

but you see as this silhouetted figure, with these sort of tendrils of shadow following behind him,

Charlie:

makes his way down the hall and gives you sort of a solemn nod and keeps going.

Bizly:

I nod.

Charlie:

You would recognize that as Orpheus.

Charlie:

And then he stops and looks back at you

Charlie:

and looks at the guard and makes a note.

Charlie:

He's going, (snickers)

Guard 1:

Prince, I am so fucked.

Shilo:

That's okay. You'll be all right.

Bizly:

I want to look back at him and look into his eyes once we've reached a spot where there's less people,

Shilo:

Maybe that will be not so good for you, but if you...

Shilo:

perhaps go and plead your case now and apologize, then it'll be okay!

Bizly:

And I'd like to use my Dominate Discipline.

Charlie:

Oh shit! Okay.

Bizly:

To implant a false thought that if he goes and apologizes right now, it'll be okay and they may spare him.

Charlie:

Holy fuck. Alright, what do you roll for this?

Bizly:

It's Manipulation plus Leadership.

Bizly:

Difficulty is equal to the target's Willpower points.

Charlie:

This guy does not have a lot of Willpower.

Charlie:

I mean, he's a fucking guard for you, no offense.

Charlie:

So go ahead and roll and let me know every number you get above 2,

Bizly:

So I'm just going to count them out above 2.

Bizly:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Charlie:

Jesus Christ.

Bizly:

Nine.

Charlie:

Okay. What does that do for him?

Bizly:

Anything above five makes them do anything except harm themselves or go against their true nature.

Charlie:

Okay, well, you don't need to worry about that. He says,

Guard 1:

Yes Prince, you're right as always,

Guard 1:

Who should I apologize to?

Shilo:

Your higher up. Just stay away from the queen.

Guard 1:

Okay. Apologize to the queen?

Shilo:

No, not the queen.

Guard 1:

Okay.

Guard 1:

Should I - every higher up then?

Guard 1:

Anything for you, Prince.

Shilo:

Good luck.

Guard 1:

Okay.

Shilo:

He's going to die.

Charlie:

He runs up to the man made of shadows. And says

Guard 1:

Sir, I would just like to apologize for my behavior before,

Guard 1:

I believe I winked and was talking with Shilo and I actually heard them saying something about pheasants

Guard 1:

and I don't think I was supposed to hear that.

Bizly:

I'm going to slip away.

Charlie:

Yeah, that sounds good. The shadow just turns to him and says

Orpheus:

Swallow.

Charlie:

And it just fully envelops him. He's gone.

Bizly:

Oh my God.

Charlie:

And you slip away completely unabated from this.

Bizly:

Okay.

Bizly:

I'd like to try and make my way towards wherever I think the queen might be at this point.

Bizly:

Maybe a council chamber or anything like that. Wherever she'll be.

Charlie:

You would know the queen is wherever she's needed, but you've got pretty good at figuring that out by now.

Charlie:

You would know that she would most likely, there's no meetings around this time

Charlie:

and you just saw one of the council members walking away,

Charlie:

so she maybe is still in the council chamber or she could be in the study one of the two.

Bizly:

I will first try the council chamber and I want to sneak my way there if possible.

Charlie:

Okay? Alright. Absolutely, absolutely, absolutely.

Charlie:

Go ahead and give me Dexterity plus Stealth.

Bizly:

So I've got a 5 and an 8.

Charlie:

You only get two dice?

Bizly:

Yep.

Charlie:

You start to slip towards the council chamber

Charlie:

and you see as the other guard you recognize from being stationed at your door,

Charlie:

kind of scoots around the corner really fast.

Guard 2:

There you are. This isn't the way to the bathroom!

Shilo:

Oh, sorry. The other guard told me I could come this way, that there was a different bathroom.

Guard 2:

I'm - I'm sorry about that. He's he's new here,

Guard 2:

but Shilo, you can't be, let's get you back to the chambers.

Guard 2:

You shouldn't be here.

Shilo:

Well, hang on now. I've still got to go to the bathroom.

Shilo:

Maybe you could take me to this new bathroom. I've heard nothing about,

Charlie:

I'm going to say, because he fears for his fucking job and life right now, he looks around.

Guard 2:

Okay. Yes, Prince.

Charlie:

And he starts walking you back towards that bathroom the same as before.

Shilo:

How well did you know this friend you had? The other guard.

Guard 2:

Oh, I mean I actually like to keep to myself, so he was kind of,

Guard 2:

I mean if you pardon my French, he was a bit much and just kept trying to get on with me,

Guard 2:

which was, I mean - we're both here for the job, do you know?

Guard 2:

We're not here to be friends, right?

Shilo:

You're about the business and he's trying to mix in the pleasure, it's not...?

Guard 2:

That's right.

Guard 2:

That's right. I'm about the business

Guard 2:

And sometimes the business is pleasure, but the pleasure's not business.

Guard 2:

Does that make sense?

Shilo:

Exactly, yes,

Guard 2:

Exactly.

Shilo:

Of course. Queen would be very proud.

Guard 2:

You really think so?

Shilo:

Yes. She might be even more proud if you were to escort me on a recreational visit to the study?

Charlie:

Okay. Do you want to go ahead and give me a Manipulation plus Leadership roll?

Bizly:

Bet.

Charlie:

Dear God, wait, I'm going to say you don't even, okay.

Charlie:

I just looked at how many die you have for this.

Charlie:

You don't even need to. You say this to him and he says,

Guard 2:

Yes, my Prince.

Charlie:

And he starts taking you there.

Charlie:

You do hear though, as you got closer to the council chamber,

Charlie:

you did start to hear your mother's voice, I will say.

Bizly:

Shit.

Charlie:

You only notice it now as walking away since you kind of botched that stealth roll

Charlie:

or he caught you rather, but yeah, he's taking you on this recreational walk.

Shilo:

Okay,

Bizly:

I guess I'll still go to the study, maybe I'll steal a book or two.

Charlie:

He takes you to the study. This guy's a man of few words.

Charlie:

He doesn't really talk as much as the other one.

Charlie:

You see that the people walking in the hallway appreciate that.

Charlie:

He takes you there, opens the door for you, lets you into this study

Charlie:

and stands there at the door watching you.

Shilo:

I'd like a little privacy please.

Shilo:

Most guards don't sit there and watch, they guard.

Guard 2:

But wh-

Shilo:

I'm not the danger! There is danger elsewhere. Look elsewhere.

Guard 2:

Yes, my prince.

Charlie:

And he closes the door and watches outside.

Charlie:

'Cause I just looked back at your sheet to see how many dice you had for that.

Charlie:

It's just so crazy. Yeah, he's just outside now. You're good.

Shilo:

Okay.

Bizly:

I'd like to look around and if my mother has a desk

Bizly:

where there may be any kind of letters or any correspondence with the outside world,

Bizly:

I just want to know what's out there. I just want to know what's going on.

Charlie:

Okay, absolutely.

Charlie:

Go ahead and give me a Perception plus Investigation.

Charlie:

And the DC you're trying to hit here...

Charlie:

With more successes, you'll find something juicier.

Bizly:

That is three successes.

Charlie:

You start to go through her things, you find her desk and just start digging through it.

Charlie:

There's a locked cabinet that you can't seem to get into,

Charlie:

but you do manage to look through some of these papers and see transcriptions of...

Charlie:

events that happened in the council chamber.

Bizly:

Mmhm.

Charlie:

And you see that it looks like those Primogen, especially the one that you saw,

Charlie:

which is the name of those five sort of council members,

Charlie:

are currently in a bit of a heated dispute over territory line.

Charlie:

And it seems like things are heating up as each one feels entitled for separate reasons.

Charlie:

You see that one point of contention is a particular city, Los Angeles.

Charlie:

You see that in terms of mortal correspondence, there's not really anything.

Charlie:

I mean it seems like - you know your mom and you know that she's here a lot of the time -

Charlie:

but I mean, is there anything in particular you're looking for?

Bizly:

Just any letters from people on the outside or just I'm really just looking for anything.

Bizly:

The correspondence is good, but now there is a locked cabinet. Yes?

Charlie:

Yes.

Bizly:

I'm just curious. That's all this really is.

Bizly:

I just want to know.

Charlie:

You want to know what's in the locked cabinet?

Bizly:

Oh yeah. Oh yeah.

Bizly:

I want to go over to the door and kind of knock.

Shilo:

Excuse me?

Guard 2:

Yes, my Prince?

Shilo:

Would you mind coming in here for a second?

Guard 2:

Oh yes, sure, my Prince.

Charlie:

He comes on in.

Shilo:

Shut the door. I don't want anyone misunderstanding.

Guard 2:

Of course, of course.

Shilo:

There is a cabinet down there that I seem to have lost my key for

Shilo:

and you would be very helpful to open it up for me.

Bizly:

I want to Dominate once again.

Charlie:

Yeah, go ahead. This guy's got a little more Willpower.

Charlie:

I'm going to say number to beat is 4.

Bizly:

Alright. That's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Charlie:

You can implant any sort of command.

Bizly:

He now thinks that it would be in his best interest to open this.

Bizly:

It's very vague kind of thing. He just - opening it is a part of his duty, now.

Charlie:

He walks over to this cabinet and you see as he looks around for a second,

Charlie:

he's going to look for a key, I guess.

Guard 2:

Anything for you my prince.

Shilo:

Careful not to break anything!

Shilo:

Unless you break the lock, then... well,

Charlie:

He does not beat the required thing to find the key.

Charlie:

He looks around,

Charlie:

sorry, did you say do not break anything?

Bizly:

I said unless you want to break the lock.

Charlie:

Okay. You did say that after he walked away,

Charlie:

so he is going to try and break the cabinet open.

Bizly:

Okay.

Charlie:

Because you told him to basically get it and it was his job,

Charlie:

so he takes it very, very seriously.

Bizly:

Oh shit.

Charlie:

You see as this guy, what's this fucking guy's thing? What's his discipline?

Charlie:

He just pulls his hand back and just fucking punches the lock as hard as he can.

Guard 2:

Anything. For. You. My. Prince!

Shilo:

Hey-!

Shilo:

Hey quiet please-!

Charlie:

And he's going to go ahead and try and make some rolls.

Charlie:

He's pretty good at this.

Charlie:

He smashes open the cabinet,

Charlie:

and you see there's almost this moment of daze over him and he says,

Guard 2:

It is done, my prince,

Shilo:

Thank you very much.

Guard 2:

My royal duty.

Bizly:

I want to go into it, and...

Bizly:

Does it sound like people are approaching because of the banging?

Charlie:

Go ahead and if you want to take a second to listen, you can.

Bizly:

I don't, I don't.

Bizly:

I want to go into the cabinet, grab whatever I can and hide it just under my vest.

Charlie:

You grab it and hide it under your vest.

Charlie:

Just as two more guards step into the room.

Shilo:

Don't hurt him! I told him to do it! It's not-

Shilo:

Please.

Guard 3:

Oh, it's just the- (sighs)

Guard 3:

Prince, what are you doing away from your room?

Shilo:

Exploration!

Guard 3:

That was a loud 'exploration.'

Shilo:

Right...

Shilo:

Take me away...

Bizly:

And I hold up my hands like I'm in shackles.

Charlie:

First they're going to see if they notice anything.

Charlie:

It's a smashed cabinet. It was a loud noise.

Charlie:

I'm going to say DC is not super high. Probably a 5.

Guard 3:

Prince, that's - that's the queen's files.

Shilo:

Yes, and you caught those before we could look at anything.

Guard 3:

Right, but the cabinet is clearly smashed open

Guard 3:

as if perhaps you were not meant to be here, but instead in your room.

Guard 3:

So before we shackle you up, which we are not going to do,

Guard 3:

we're just going to lead you back to your room. Cough it up.

Guard 3:

What did you take?

Shilo:

Did not take anything.

Charlie:

Okay, go ahead and give me a...

Charlie:

...is there a Deception in this game?

Condi:

I think it's just Subterfuge.

Charlie:

There is- Yeah. Manipulation plus Subterfuge.

Charlie:

I'm gonna have these guys-

Charlie:

I'm going to have these guys try and work together to see if they figure this out.

Bizly:

I've got seven successes and three 10s.

Charlie:

Oh.

Condi:

Jesus, how are you rolling so good?

Bizly:

I don't know.

Charlie:

There's no way that they could possibly beat that.

Charlie:

So they say,

Guard 3:

Yes, my prince. That makes sense. Back to your room now.

Charlie:

They take you, escort you back to your room

Charlie:

and put you inside unless you do anything.

Bizly:

Nope. I let 'em take me away.

Charlie:

You are back in your room.

Bizly:

Once that door shuts, I want to dart over to my bed and fucking-

Bizly:

Pull it all out onto the bed.

Charlie:

Yeah, absolutely.

Bizly:

I'll shut the curtains.

Charlie:

You pull all of this shit out.

Charlie:

You find, there are dates and there are locations.

Charlie:

So...

Charlie:

you see that - every week basically - and you see that the locations that come up a lot,

Charlie:

they're all in Los Angeles, California and you see the location that keeps coming up

Charlie:

is No Brakes, car repair stop and you see

Shilo:

No brakes...

Charlie:

At one point something just comes up that says 'with Jeffrey'.

Shilo:

Jeffrey? Who's Jeffrey?

Charlie:

But it's basically almost like a weekly report.

Charlie:

It almost looks like...

Shilo:

Okay...

Charlie:

Go ahead and give me Intelligence plus Investigation.

Bizly:

That is three successes.

Charlie:

You would deduce with this, with that success,

Charlie:

this is not something you've ever heard of before.

Charlie:

This is not a location you've ever heard of before and

Charlie:

it's pretty clear that these are records of keeping tabs on something or someone.

Charlie:

And you would notice also on one of them, like a dirty cat's paw print

Charlie:

and you would know in terms of cats, there is a cat

Charlie:

that frequents the halls of Umbre Castle, this gray cat with these yellow eyes,

Charlie:

but that's what you get.

Shilo:

Okay. What are they keeping tabs on?

Shilo:

Strange.

Bizly:

If that's it, then I'll just hang out in my room for the...

Bizly:

Forever.

Charlie:

Okay, um...!

Charlie:

Alright. You hang out in your room?

Bizly:

Unless...

Charlie:

Unless.

Bizly:

Unless that...

Bizly:

You spoke of a trap door, yes?

Charlie:

Yes, in the corner of the room.

Bizly:

In the corner of the room?

Charlie:

Yes, that's right.

Bizly:

Does it open both ways or could I get it open?

Charlie:

You could. You could fucking jangle dangle it open.

Charlie:

Here's what I'll say is go ahead and give me a...

Charlie:

Dexterity plus Larceny and if you fail, it'll be how loud you are.

Grizzly:

Larceny crime, yay.

Charlie:

Larceny crime, doing crime.

Condi:

Crime. I love crime.

Grizzly:

Crime...

Charlie:

You try to kind of pick this lock open and swing this door open.

Bizly:

It's two successes.

Charlie:

I'm going to say the difficulty for this would probably be 7 instead 6.

Charlie:

How many success?

Bizly:

Oh, then that's just one.

Charlie:

One success? Okay, cool.

Charlie:

You manage to get it open, but it does kind of creak real loud towards the end

Charlie:

and make it sort of unnatural sound.

Bizly:

Yikes.

Charlie:

As you wince.

Bizly:

Okay, then I'll just leave it kind of cracked but not move.

Charlie:

You leave it kind of cracked and you start to see your front door open.

Bizly:

Holy shit.

Bizly:

I'm going to...

Bizly:

Okay, so can I do two actions?

Charlie:

Okay, yeah. Before the-? Yep, go for it.

Bizly:

So it'll be harder to do it, right?

Bizly:

That's the thing in this game.

Charlie:

Yes. Yes it is.

Bizly:

I'm going to split the dice.

Bizly:

I want to slip maybe just one of my gloves off and hold it open

Bizly:

so that it's kind of like slit open.

Charlie:

Oh, love that. Yeah.

Bizly:

And then I want to grab a book with my other hand and open it

Bizly:

And look like I'm reading it almost just kind of like, standing there.

Charlie:

Okay. Alright. All right. Here's what you got.

Charlie:

This would be a... God,

Charlie:

I'm going to say this is another Dex plus Larceny and you're going to combine it with something else,

Charlie:

but since your max in Dex plus Larceny is two, I'm going to say you effectively have two dice, right?

Charlie:

One for each task, you just need to roll both above a six and you'll do both well.

Charlie:

So we've got one die for the glove maneuver and we've got one die for the book maneuver.

Bizly:

What's the difficulty for the glove?

Charlie:

Both are six.

Bizly:

Both are six? Right. I failed the glove.

Charlie:

Okay.

Condi:

Uh oh.

Bizly:

I failed the other one. They're both 1s

Bizly:

I've fucked up.

Condi:

No, you got 1s??

Grizzly:

Botched. You botched both.

Condi:

Oh my god, you botched-!

Charlie:

You tossed the glove - toss the glove into the trap door,

Charlie:

trap door basically floats closed with a latching sound

Charlie:

and then you try to grab a book, kind of scuffle and fall.

Bizly:

I fumble over and I fall onto the ground.

Charlie:

Door opens up.

Guard 3:

Prince, please don't tell me you're trying to escape again.

Shilo:

No!

Guard 3:

Please, look me in the eye- No, look me in the eyes please.

Shilo:

It's so boring in here!

Guard 3:

The other one, the other one, Jeff?

Guard 3:

He's dead isn't he?

Shilo:

Probably, but that is not my fault!

Shilo:

They're crazy around here!

Guard 2:

Just - can you please at least sit still until my shift is over?

Shilo:

Yes, I can do that.

Shilo:

You seem nice.

Shilo:

You have children?

Shilo:

Maybe you can sit in here and entertain me!

Guard 3:

Don't do this to me. Don't do this to me.

Guard 3:

Everyone that talks to you makes it maybe - a day, max.

Shilo:

Right...

Guard 3:

You've marked me for death.

Guard 3:

You've marked me for death, Prince Shilo,

Guard 3:

Please, just sit there and read your book about - birds.

Shilo:

Can you at least send word out to Lazarus to come and see me please?

Shilo:

I need to talk to someone.

Bizly:

I also want to Dominate and I want him to do that.

Charlie:

Fuck man. Yeah, this guy's got a Willpower at 3.

Charlie:

Go ahead and roll your Domination.

Bizly:

That's five.

Charlie:

That'll do it. So what does he have to do now basically?

Bizly:

He just has to get Lazarus to come see me. My uncle.

Charlie:

Alright, yep. He turns to you.

Guard 3:

Yes, my Prince.

Charlie:

And he just starts running off to go get your Uncle.

Shilo:

Why're they always running? I'd just walk there.

Bizly:

I walk over, I shut the door and I'll spend a little while cleaning up the mess I made,

Bizly:

making it look as immaculate as it was before.

Bizly:

And then I'll lay on my bed, just like, hands crossed.

Bizly:

Is it a coffin? Do I sleep in a coffin?

Charlie:

Do you sleep in a coffin? Do you?

Bizly:

Totally sleep in a coffin.

Bizly:

I go and I just kind of shut the coffin, but I've got a little slit in the front

Bizly:

and I open it up and I'm just staring out.

Charlie:

You're staring out and I'm going to say after a couple minutes,

Charlie:

you feel something wet, fall onto your forehead and you reach up and touch it

Charlie:

and it's a little blood and more of it.

Bizly:

I freak out, I start flailing in the box.

Charlie:

This is not new to you actually.

Bizly:

Oh, okay. Okay. If it's not new to me then it's fine.

Charlie:

It's familiar because as more of it starts to fall from the cracks in the ceiling

Charlie:

and ooze down to the ground, it's almost like a waterfall

Charlie:

and then that waterfall parts

Charlie:

and out of it steps your mother.

Charlie:

She is keen on dramatic entrances, but this is the queen.

Bizly:

I would like to open the coffin and rise straight up out of it and stand like at attention.

Charlie:

You see her in her full form.

Charlie:

She is a tall, slender lady with very sharp features. She has long black hair.

Charlie:

She wears this sort of black regal gown with this crimson pendant and this crown that rests very gently on her head.

Charlie:

She's very ethereal and just as soon as she appears,

Charlie:

the blood finishes falling to the ground and you blink

Charlie:

and it is gone and your mother is - in the room with you.

Shilo:

Mother.

The Queen:

Oh... Shilo.

The Queen:

How many times?

Shilo:

I... I know you are disappointed, I apologize.

The Queen:

I see we are down another guard.

The Queen:

And, it seems like you've been dominating the others? Again?

Shilo:

Not domina- I ask them to do things and they do it.

The Queen:

In a 'vampiric blood magic' way,

The Queen:
that's dominating, Shilo.

The Queen:
And it is a power meant to be used responsibly.

Shilo:
I'm not using any powers, I'm just talking to them-

The Queen:
Not on the guards that I have appointed to protect you and keep you safe in this room.

Shilo:
Yes, mother.

The Queen:
I was in a very important meeting when I heard an interesting sound coming from the study

The Queen:
and when I went, what do I find?

The Queen:
But a broken latch and some missing papers that you should not be reading.

Shilo:
What are you keeping tabs on, Mother? I know it is someone!

Charlie:
You see she inhales sharply.

Shilo:
They talk about this place, this 'No Brakes, car repair'? I don't even-

The Queen:
(Whispers) Shit.

Shilo:
What could you want with this person? To hide it?

Shilo:
You can tell me.

The Queen:

Shilo, it matters not to you, to your life.

Shilo:

I'm not a boy anymore.

Charlie:

Go ahead. This is going to be a really hard roll.

Charlie:

Go ahead and give me a Charisma plus Subterfuge.

Charlie:

I think that she knows you well enough at this point that this would be based on your Charisma,

Charlie:

not your Manipulation, if that makes sense. She's going to roll the same.

Charlie:

She's very good at this.

Bizly:

I've got some numbers.

Charlie:

Oh fuck, she botched. Oh shit.

Charlie:

She botched two. Oh Christ.

Bizly:

Oh. Oh.

Charlie:

Okay. Okay.

Condi:

Maybe this all comes up Bizly.

Charlie:

How many above 6 did you get?

Bizly:

Five, with a 10. I don't know if that matters.

Bizly:

I don't know if I need to call out my 10s.

Grizzly:

10s are auto successes I believe, and then 1s are auto fails.

Charlie:

So 1s negate successes.

Charlie:

She unfortunately got seven successes.

Charlie:

And she leans in and sighs.

The Queen:

What is it that you seek? What is it that you want?

The Queen:

You know I keep you here for your own safety.

Shilo:

I know.

The Queen:

The others, they don't understand.

Shilo:

I trust you... It is hard.

Shilo:

It's hard to look out that window and know there is a world out there I can only look at and not touch.

The Queen:

I know, but...

The Queen:

If you touch it, it has a way of hurting back.

The Queen:

Now, Shilo, I suggests to you, as your mother,

The Queen:

you tell no one of these documents of this place.

The Queen:

It's very, very important to me.

Shilo:

Can't you at least tell me why?

Shilo:

I won't tell a soul.

The Queen:

Perhaps things have changed. Perhaps.

Charlie:

What's your willpower?

Bizly:

My willpower is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. I got six little dots.

Charlie:

She looks around nervous.

Charlie:

She sees the latch that is broken over in the corner of the room as well

Charlie:

and she sighs.

Charlie:

And she looks at you.

The Queen:

Perhaps I have not been strict enough.

Charlie:

And she looks you right in the eyes and she says,

The Queen:

Shilo, you will tell no one of this place and you'll give me back those documents.

Bizly:

Oh shit.

Charlie:

And you immediately feel your hand reach up and give them back to her.

Charlie:

I had her roll for this same thing that you were doing to people mesmerizing as you give them back to her

Charlie:

and you feel as if even if you wanted to, you could not let this information pass your lips.

Bizly:

Oh shit.

Charlie:

And she says,

The Queen:

If you thought this was bad, well I've got worse news for you.

The Queen:

You are grounded. Indefinitely.

Charlie:

And she twists up her cape and practically vanishes

Charlie:

as you hear her footsteps continue out the door. The door doesn't even open.

Shilo:

Great. Great talk.

Charlie:

And I'm going to need you.

Charlie:

You've basically found something you've never seen before and your mom just made a fool out of you.

Charlie:

You feel something not in your gut, something twists and you are trained well,

Charlie:

you have a great etiquette, but no vampire can resist that beast inside them.

Charlie:

And as you feel this shame, I want you to go ahead and make a Frenzy check.

Bizly:

Ooo shit. It's just Self-Control?

Charlie:

It's Self-Control. The difficulty on this is...

Charlie:

I'm going to say 7 because this is pretty- This is all- Yeah.

Bizly:

Yeah, that's...

Bizly:

I don't pass on any, but I get two blunders.

Charlie:

You botch it??

Bizly:

I botch it. There are botches. Yeah, I botched it twice.

Condi:

Oh fuck.

Charlie:

Oh fuck. Oh fuck!

Charlie:

Here's what I'll say. Oh my god.

Charlie:

Alright, let me find something for this real quick.

Charlie:

You feel this blood boiling in you as your mother basically ignores you

Charlie:

again and again and again and you finally found something,

Charlie:

some connection to the outside world, that she never ever lets onto

Charlie:

and you feel as a part of you breaks like you have to get out of this cage now.

Charlie:

And I will say for the purposes of this Frenzy, you've had it.

Charlie:

You want to get out of here, you want to get to wherever this place is because your mom told you the fuck not to.

Charlie:

And I will also say you know, this is pretty common knowledge in the Umbre Castle,

Charlie:

there is a place in the castle towards the bottom called the Darkened Door

Charlie:

that will take a vampire to wherever it is they need to go.

Charlie:

You've never used it. You don't know how it works. You know it exists.

Charlie:

What do you do? As you feel this anger and this betrayal overtake you?

Bizly:

As I'm feeling these emotions, my eyes are just closed and I open them and that red glows a little brighter,

Bizly:

But I don't behave as an animal or anything.

Bizly:

I walk calmly over to the door. Is there a guard?

Bizly:

I want to open it just, oh, I'm not even going to listen. I'm just going to open it.

Charlie:

Yep. There's two again. They both look nervous after seeing the queen.

Bizly:

What was the door called again?

Charlie:

The door you're looking for is called the Darkened Door.

Shilo:

Both of you will take me to the darkened door or I will scream

Shilo:

and tell them that you have threatened my life.

Charlie:

Holy shit. Go ahead and roll...

Charlie:

I'm going to say Manipulation plus Intimidation. Probably.

Bizly:

That is three successes.

Charlie:

You see as they straighten up and without even a word.

Charlie:

Having basically heard all of the chaos in the castle so far today, they start to lead you down towards the door.

Charlie:

I'm going to need you to, it's a bit of a far way.

Charlie:

It's not like a super quick way there and I think you're going to need to kind of blend in.

Charlie:

People have seen you all about the castle basically fucking around dicking around today

Charlie:

and I'm going to say, why don't you roll...?

Bizly:

I don't think I want to be stealthy about this in any way.

Charlie:

Oh really? Okay.

Charlie:

How do you want to do this then? They start leading you there.

Charlie:

They just stiffen up and start leading you there.

Guard 3:

Yes, my prince.

Bizly:

I am going to use...

Bizly:

the Forgetful Mind and I'd like to try and change their memories.

Charlie:

Holy shit!

Bizly:

As we're walking,

Charlie:

Okay,

Bizly:

I'd like to do it with one and then the other pretty much I can do it one at a time.

Charlie:

How does it work?

Bizly:

So it is, I just roll Wits plus Subterfuge and the difficulty is equal to the target's Willpower points

Bizly:

and the more detailed my description is, the stronger the memories are.

Charlie:

Okay. They both have 3 Willpower.

Charlie:

Why don't you just make me one roll and we'll see how it goes for both of them.

Bizly:

Four successes, I can alter or remove an entire scene from the subject's memory.

Charlie:

Oh my god.

Charlie:

Yeah, this is a scene, man.

Charlie:

This is a scene.

Charlie:

What do you want them to remember?

Charlie:

Or do you want them to just completely forget?

Bizly:

I want them to... as I'm walking,

Bizly:

kind of just explain to them a conversation that we just had, even though we didn't,

Bizly:

where I explained to them how they should follow me and not the queen and that they also think I need to be out there.

Charlie:

So, basically their memory after the fact is that they agreed with you.

Bizly:

Yeah, pretty much that's the alteration is that we had this conversation and they've agreed to it and this is on their choice.

Charlie:

Well, so yeah, you're really fucking these guys over. Alright.

Charlie:

You look into both of their eyes and you see as both of their eyes snap back up into their heads

Charlie:

and just start kind of flickering there as they continue to walk with you.

Charlie:

It's like when they're walking, their memories actively being rewritten, right?

Charlie:

So they're walking with you, but in their minds, right?

Charlie:

You guys are talking, you're saying how much you agree,

Charlie:

how much of a fucking bitch the queen is being,

Charlie:

all this stuff, and you see as they're both almost mouthing words, just walking with you.

Charlie:

Just give me a, we're just going to do a flat fucking Luck check

Charlie:

to see what kind of obstacle you run in on the way there.

Bizly:

Okay.

Charlie:

Go ahead and roll me a D10. Low is bad, high is good.

Bizly:

10.

Charlie:

Oh my god. Okay.

Charlie:

You walk through these halls confidently

Charlie:

and you just manage to basically stop and start your stride as people are turning corners.

Charlie:

You see your Uncle Lazarus again floating around a corner, accosting just one of the staff.

Charlie:

You see, open door on the way there with your mother in there.

Charlie:

It looks like she is regaining her composure and is stroking this gray cat on her lap with these yellowed eyes.

Charlie:

It almost looks like she has stains of red below her eyes, but...

Bizly:

She cries blood, bro? Holy shit.

Charlie:

You can't even bring yourself to focus on it as you snap your head forward

Charlie:

and start walking down towards what you know is the Darkened Door.

Charlie:

You've never been this deep in the castle before and you wind down this staircase with these two guards.

Charlie:

The torches at the top are orange and as you go further, they begin to become green and then blue

Charlie:

as the sort of unnatural flame you find does not scare you as most fire would,

Charlie:

it emboldens you and you walk down

Charlie:

into this dark, dark part of the castle where you see at the end of the hall,

Charlie:

this wide gateway, almost like a puncture in space with just sort of this black oozing out of the cracks.

Charlie:

And next to it in this chair is what looks like this old purplish woman

Charlie:

that looks up at you quizzically and just says,

Purplish Woman:

Interesting...

Charlie:

As you stride towards this door with these guards in tow,

Charlie:

What are you doing?

Charlie:

You basically walked through the whole castle, you timed your strides just right.

Charlie:

You memorized the routines of everyone didn't run to a single fucking thing.

Charlie:

You're here. What do you do?

Bizly:

I open the door.

Charlie:

There's no door. It's literally just like a gateway, like a dark gateway.

Bizly:

I'll walk through it.

Bizly:

Wait, no, no, no, no. I won't.

Bizly:

I'll look over to one of the guards next to me.

Charlie:

Okay.

Shilo:

Walk through this. Make sure it is safe.

Charlie:

The guard, eyes still flickering.

Guard 3:

Yes, my prince.

Charlie:

...walks through it and you see as he walks in and is immediately

Guard 3:

AAAGH-!

Charlie:

torn into fucking shreds in every which direction

Charlie:

as his blood and viscera is stretched basically into the abyss and then it vanishes.

Charlie:

The lady goes,

Purplish Woman:

Oh, you have to think about where you're going to go.

Purplish Woman:

Didn't seem like that one had much on his mind.

Shilo:

My mind is clear. Come.

Bizly:

And I want to - actually, I'll say,

Shilo:

Does it work if I think and then bring him with me?

Shilo:

Or is he going to get (kill sound) like that guy?

Charlie:

The lady shrugs.

Charlie:

Just kind of smiles.

Purplish Woman:

It's good magic, maybe find out.

Charlie:

You can see as she looks up, she's sort of like an old crone almost.

Shilo:

It's not like a better fate awaits you after, so...

Shilo:

Think about LA.

All:

(Laughter)

Guard 4:

Okay, I've only seen it in movies, my prince.

Shilo:

Well, I'm about to see the real deal.

Bizly:

And I walk through, thinking about...

Charlie:

Yeah, he looks over at the lady,

Guard 4:

Can't argue with this guy.

Bizly:

I'm thinking about No Brakes, car repair stop, this place that keeps coming up.

Charlie:

You think about that. The lady says,

Purplish Woman:

I never saw you.

Charlie:

And basically gives you a tap and you fall forwards into this thing with this poor fucking guard.

Guard 4:

Los Angeles. Los Angeles. Los Angeles. Los Angeles.

Guard 4:

The city of angels, the city that never sleeps.

Guard 4:

Wait, fuck, that's New York. AAAH!

Charlie:

You basically step into this thing and you see as your vision is enveloped in shadow,

Charlie:

and then we will cut over.

Bizly:

Sweet. That was awesome.

Charlie:

Was that good?

Bizly:

That was so cool.

Charlie:

And, as your vision goes dark, Shilo...

Charlie:

We see fading in through the eyes of someone else headed to the city of angels.

Charlie:

How is Arthur getting there?

Grizzly:

Uh, hitchhiked

Charlie:

With someone else in the shotgun of a truck essentially under the night sky,

Charlie:

the starry night sky that gradually fades into just black as the smog of the city covers it

Charlie:

and the man next to you...

Grizzly:

Can it be like a hillbilly?

Charlie:

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Absolutely. Absolutely.

Grizzly:

Like a big trucker kind of.

Crazy Randy:

Well-e, we are here feller!

Crazy Randy:

Thanks for taking Randy's one way trip.

Crazy Randy:

That's my name, Crazy Randy!

Grizzly:

I just look at him, say no words.

Crazy Randy:

Yeah!

Crazy Randy:

That'll be 4- 40- \$40.

Grizzly:

I keep looking at him.

Crazy Randy:

I'm just messing with ya! That's a little Randy joke.

Crazy Randy:

I do gotta get going though.

Grizzly:

My cat crawls over his back onto his shoulder and onto his lap.

Charlie:

Onto Randy's lap?

Grizzly:

Mmhm. From the passenger seat over to me.

Crazy Randy:

Well looky here! An itty bitty kitty, I didn't see this feller.

Crazy Randy:

Guess it's my lucky day! I've always wanted a cat.

Grizzly:

I want her to give him the cutest meow and it just fill him with dread.

Crazy Randy:

I've done so much wrong in my life and I need to change.

Arthur:

Let's get going, Void.

Crazy Randy:

Tell you what,

Charlie:

He gives you \$40.

Crazy Randy:

Thank you. And your incredible cat.

Grizzly:

I gesture at the cat so that she jumps onto my shoulders.

Charlie:

Yeah, she does. She just leaps on effortlessly

Grizzly:

In a way that says 'not him'.

Arthur:

Let's leave him be.

Charlie:

Yeah.

Grizzly:

Well I take his money though, 'cause, anyway.

Charlie:

You take his 40 bucks?

Charlie:

And I mean he lets you out basically in the outskirts of the city.

Grizzly:

Alright.

Charlie:

Unless you do anything else.

Grizzly:

So, we're not downtown. Where are we?

Charlie:

You would probably be on,

Charlie:

God, what the fuck is a hillbilly doing here? You would be...

Condi:

Truck.

Grizzly:

He's just passing through.

Charlie:

He's just passing through, he's passing through.

Grizzly:

Maybe he's driving to Bikersfield or something, I don't know.

Charlie:

Yeah, let's say that.

Charlie:

I mean he can let you off wherever you would want to be left off, basically.

Grizzly:

In that case, I have a question.

Charlie:

Yep.

Grizzly:

Do I know which parts?

Grizzly:

I'm actually looking for a place that, if I know already,

Grizzly:

isn't territory of a clan here, perhaps a residential area, maybe studios.

Charlie:

I'm going to say...

Grizzly:

Burbank something.

Charlie:

Yeah. Have you ever been to LA before?

Grizzly:

No.

Charlie:

Go ahead and give me a...

Charlie:

Wits plus Streetwise roll.

Grizzly:

Yikes.

Charlie:

Because you've never been here, you're going to basically have to operate on context clues

Charlie:

on where you think these clans are going to be.

Charlie:

It's difficulty 7. You don't know the dynamic here yet.

Grizzly:

Any of my friends give me any hints before I left?

Charlie:

I don't think they would've given you anywhere to sta-

Charlie:

Hang on. Lemme see. Lemme see. Lemme see.

Grizzly:

I rolled one 8 and one 2.

Charlie:

Here's what I'll say.

Charlie:

Because of your allies, you got tipped off here and you know that,

Charlie:

at least for a few nights, your boy Magnus has got you.

Charlie:

And he's got you an Airbnb

Grizzly:

Actually looking for a residential area with low clan activity

Grizzly:

and I'm not looking to sleep.

Charlie:

Okay. In that case, you got one success?

Grizzly:

Mm.

Charlie:

Yeah...

Charlie:

You make your way through the streets on sort of the outskirts.

Charlie:

What you end up finding is that the areas that are most likely unclaimed

Charlie:

are kind of around the parks and the more barren places at night.

Charlie:

Sort of those liminal spaces where it's just long grassy fields under street lamps basically,

Charlie:

and I'll say with your roll, with one success,

Charlie:

you can find an area like that with some sort of people kind of wandering around

Charlie:

that weren't lucky enough to find a place to stay tonight that doesn't seem like it's managed by a particular clan,

Charlie:

but every neighborhood you walked through,

Charlie:

there was sort of a telltale raising of hairs on the back of your neck, like someone else had marked it.

Charlie:

That's the best you're able to find with one success, unfortunately.

Arthur:

It can never be easy.

Grizzly:

I'm going to enter a neighborhood of houses even if it is already marked.

Charlie:

Okay.

Grizzly:

My goal here is to find someone to feed on.

Grizzly:

I'm going to heighten only one of my senses, my hearing

Grizzly:

once I arrive in this neighborhood, if I can get to one.

Charlie:

Yeah. Yeah. I mean you can get to one, you're just not confident that it's unclaimed.

Charlie:

What are you listening for?

Grizzly:

I'm listening into the houses...

Grizzly:

...for slow beating hearts.

Grizzly:

Not a single one active enough to mean that they're awake.

Charlie:

Okay.

Grizzly:

Preferably someone that lives alone.

Grizzly:

I'm using one of my Disciplines to heighten only my hearing.

Charlie:

Okay. Give me Perception plus Alertness plus your Auspex, which is to heighten your hearing, right?

Grizzly:

Sure.

Grizzly:

I can add those dots or you can just subtract the difficulty. It's up to you.

Charlie:

Yeah, go ahead and give me all those rolls.

Charlie:

You're listening for something pretty crazy here, a lot of heartbeats through the walls.

Charlie:

I'm just going to give it a high difficulty. I'm going to say this is probably a difficulty...

Charlie:

Honestly? Let's give this a 9. This is pretty intense, but you've got a lot of die here.

Grizzly:

Perception, Alertness and Auspex. Is that what you said?

Charlie:

Yep. To find basically a sleepy house by hearing in this night, LA traffic is not kind to the ears.

Grizzly:

Now, do 1 cancels 10?

Grizzly:

Does a 1 cancel a 10?

Grizzly:

I know 10 is like auto success and 1...

Grizzly:

If you want. Just look that up for me.

Charlie:

Let me look it up. Lemme look it up.

Charlie:

It does. It cancels out. It cancels out anything.

Charlie:

You don't botch the roll if it's even, but if you have a 10 and a 1, it would be a fail. Yeah.

Charlie:

Unless you have a specialization here that would help.

Grizzly:

No, I'll just take the fail and walk into a random house.

Charlie:

Okay. Alright. Yeah, you can't seem to find anything that is what you're looking for.

Charlie:

So you just cut your losses and follow your cat.

Charlie:

What is your cat's name by the way?

Grizzly:

Void.

Charlie:

You follow Void, who just starts purring near this particular sort of nicer, nicer home on this pretty decent street.

Arthur:

Someone is hungry.

Void:

Meow.

Arthur:

Just remember to keep quiet.

Void:

Meeow.

Grizzly:

So we walk in. I'm going to try and be very stealthy.

Charlie:

How are you getting in?

Grizzly:

Well, I guess I'll try the doorknob.

Charlie:

You want to see if they-?

Charlie:

Fucking alright. Alright. All right.

Charlie:

I'm going to roll at D10 on a 10 they left the door unlocked.

Charlie:

They did not leave the door unlocked. How are you gettin' in?

Grizzly:

Can I...?

Void:

Mreow.

Arthur:

What a pain.

Grizzly:

Can I just...?

Void:

Meow.

Grizzly:

Can I just force it open?

Grizzly:

Is it a twist?

Charlie:

Yeah, roll Strength.

Grizzly:

Okay.

Charlie:

It's a... I mean, okay. You know what?

Charlie:

Let's just see what happens guys! Let's just see what happens.

Grizzly:

Really putting that two Intelligence to use.

Charlie:

Yeah, you really are.

Grizzly:

Oh, I rolled a 10! I got a 10. I got a 10.

Charlie:

How many successes did you get?

Grizzly:

That's just one, but it's a 10.

Charlie:

That's great, but it doesn't help.

Charlie:

It's just one success. Okay.

Charlie:

Yeah, I mean you do it, you wrench this door open,

Charlie:

you basically push it in and you hear it crack and break.

Charlie:

You are in, it was fairly loud and the sound almost echoes down the street

Charlie:

and you feel, with those keen hearing senses,

Charlie:

you hear some things moving in the shadows after that.

Grizzly:

And they're all around me?

Charlie:

Yeah. Not like, in the shadows literally, but something just sort of stirred or took notice.

Grizzly:

Do I hear anything in the house?

Charlie:

No, you're all good.

Grizzly:

Well, that's all that concerns me.

Grizzly:

I'll wait, see if anyone in the house is awake.

Charlie:

Sure, I'll roll for him.

Charlie:

Oh shit. Okay.

Charlie:

You see as a man is walking downstairs with a baseball bat.

NPC:

Who is that? Is someone there? Hello?

Charlie:

I rolled four dice and they all came up.

Charlie:

So he's here now.

NPC:

Is someone there? I've got a bat. Metal. Metal bat.

Grizzly:

Does he see... me?

Grizzly:

I can see him, right? 'Cause the door is wide open, so does he see me?

Charlie:

Yeah, the door's wide open. He just sees a silhouette of you basically.

Grizzly:

Do I need to be invited in?

All:

(Laughter)

Charlie:

Oh my god! Fuck! I don't know. Do you?

Grizzly:

I don't-

Condi:

Is that one of your flaws?

Charlie:

Because that's really fucking funny!

Charlie:

I mean, I don't know. I don't think so. But if you want to be, you can try.

Condi:

Imagine breaking down somebody's door and then being like, 'aw shit man, I need to be invited in.'

Charlie:

(mock voice) How many sugar...?

Charlie:

Do you have to be invited in?

Grizzly:

Not in the rules, but I think it's so funny.

Charlie:

I mean, if you want, we can give you a fucking flaw right now where you have to be invited into places

Charlie:

and I'll give you some extra points to play with, but that is a-

Grizzly:

Wait.

Charlie:

That is going to be a hard bargain, my guy.

Charlie:

That's a hefty flaw.

Grizzly:

That's so hard, dude.

Charlie:

Just saying, just saying. Hey, I mean, choice is all yours.

Grizzly:

I allow my cat to walk in first,

Charlie:

Okay.

Grizzly:

and I'm going to try to use her as a distraction.

Grizzly:

To sort it.

Charlie:

You're going to try and make him think the cat broke in? Through the door? Okay, alright.

Grizzly:

Wait, nonono, okay, so as soon as his eyes move away from my silhouette

Grizzly:

to the cat on the floor,

Charlie:

Yeah, that'll happen for sure.

Grizzly:

I'm gonna try and move in.

NPC:

Oh cool, a cat.

NPC:

But whoever's out there, stay back!

Grizzly:

Alright, um...

Charlie:

You going to try and move in?

Grizzly:

This is such a pain.

Charlie:

I know, it's all gone so bad.

Grizzly:

I'm going to walk-

Grizzly:

Fucking hell. I'm just going to walk in and look at him directly in the eyes.

Charlie:

Okay. You walk in, he sees you and go ahead and describe your character

Charlie:

as this man looks at you, horrified, holding a baseball bat.

Grizzly:

I did not mean to be a fucking himbo.

Charlie:

You are now.

Grizzly:

So I walk in and even though it's probably still a bit dark,

Grizzly:

you can see my character is tall, young, at least in appearance though his skin is very ashy.

Grizzly:

He has these dark round sunglasses that he just sort of moves down slightly on the nose

Grizzly:

to reveal these narrow, cat-like, silver eyes.

Grizzly:

Slicked back, black hair.

Grizzly:

A very cynical, kind of a jaded and tired expression

Grizzly:

looking like he just stepped out of a modern gothic fashion show

Grizzly:

with this long black trench coat or tailcoat over a monochromatic sort of patchwork dress shirt

Grizzly:

with a few buttons open at the top, just some slacks.

Grizzly:

The shirt and the inside of the trousers have stripes, some black dress shoes,

Grizzly:

but other than his cat with these very bright eyes, the one thing that sticks out is his hands.

Grizzly:

It's like as if there's ink underneath the skin that crawls up his veins.

Grizzly:

One hand hidden by a glove, the other exposed and covered with jewelry,

Grizzly:

and as I meet his gaze, I'm going to just immediately say,

Arthur:

(sighs) Please don't.

Charlie:

Okay.

Charlie:

As you do that, he says

NPC:

Hot Topic's closed, Spooky!

Charlie:

And he is going to try and-

Charlie:

I'm going to need you to roll Wits plus Dex and just see who comes out here

Charlie:

basically first in Initiative, 'cause I think he's going to go right for you.

Charlie:

You basically just walked into his house, so if you beat him on Initiative, you can absolutely do that.

Grizzly:

Okay.

Charlie:

He's not very good at this, just a heads up.

Grizzly:

That's fine.

Charlie:

Okay, cool. All right, go for it.

Grizzly:

Alright. That's a 9...

Grizzly:

A 9, a 5...

Grizzly:

A 7 and a 3.

Charlie:

I rolled two successes and two 1s, so it canceled out.

Grizzly:

I got three successes.

Charlie:

Yeah, you absolutely go first.

Charlie:

You see his muscles tense up, almost as if you can see the blood beneath them,

Charlie:

moving to those fibers, as he starts to go to take a crack at your head.

Grizzly:

I say,

Arthur:

Stop.

Charlie:

Is it like a vampiric power?

Grizzly:

Yeah. Yeah, I command.

Charlie:

Okay. If you just tell him to stop.

Charlie:

Yeah, what's the thing you're using on him?

Grizzly:

Just command. So, it's... we just did it earlier.

Grizzly:

It's going to be my Manipulation plus Intimidation against his Willpower.

Charlie:

You've got...

Grizzly:

I'll roll it right now.

Charlie:

Yeah. He's only got 4 Willpower.

Arthur:

More than me, motherfucker.

NPC:

I'm a father!

Grizzly:

That's 1, 2, 3. So two, because it cancels.

Grizzly:

So three, four successes.

Arthur:

Stop.

Charlie:

Okay, yeah. Yeah.

Charlie:

He stops in his tracks.

Grizzly:

Then I do it again and say

Arthur:

Shh... Silence.

Charlie:

Okay.

Grizzly:

Do I need to roll again?

Charlie:

Let's just say, yeah. Let's say, yeah.

Grizzly:

Two successes.

Charlie:

That's all you need. He freezes.

Charlie:

You just hold a finger up, he just stops in his tracks

Charlie:

and he goes to shout almost like a yelp of protest and his lips just seal themselves.

Arthur:

Where is your dining room?

Charlie:

He can't move, he's like fully frozen.

Charlie:

He sort of eyeballs you and, like, eyeballs in the direction of the kitchen nervously,

Charlie:

and then eyeballs back at you, like he didn't mean to do that.

Grizzly:

I'm going to have, using another one of my Disciplines,

Grizzly:

I'm going to have his shadow casted behind him,

Grizzly:

sort of creep up and cover his eyes and his mouth and his ears like a little blindfold.

Charlie:

Holy fuck.

Charlie:

Yeah, he watches in horror as his shadow begins,

Charlie:

begins spinning around him as if there's a light source rotating above his head

Charlie:

and his eyes grow wide as the shadow twists up him

Charlie:

and you see his own shadow puts a finger to its lips before smothering his face,

Grizzly:

Not aggressively, just to block all his senses.

Charlie:

Yeah. I mean, yeah.

Charlie:

Smothering it in the way that it is covered basically by this darkness

Arthur:

In the kitchen... Is the water on?

Arthur:

No, right? Good.

Charlie:

Is the tap on right now?

Grizzly:

Yeah. I'm just making sure.

Charlie:

No, no, no. He didn't leave the tap on.

Charlie:

It's a pretty nice kitchen too. It's like a very sterile, there's an island.

Grizzly:

No, I just have to check. It's important.

Charlie:

Yeah, I know.

Charlie:

I had to tell you there was an island.

Charlie:

'Cause I just really want to emphasize what kind of people these are.

Charlie:

They're island people. They have islands.

Bizly:

What's wrong with an island?

Charlie:

It's actually two islands.

Condi:

Oh my God...

Bizly:

Okay. That's a little much.

Charlie:

Yeah, that's like, a lot.

Grizzly:

I'll have his own shadow sort of puppet him, if I may.

Charlie:

Yeah. You're pretty much in control of this guy.

Grizzly:

I'm just going to walk him down the steps.

Grizzly:

Sit him down at the table. The dining room table.

Charlie:

Yep. I mean, he's looking around very terrified, but he can't do anything.

Grizzly:

He can't see, it should be covering his eyes.

Charlie:

Oh, okay.

Charlie:

You see him - looking around, terrified, but I guess he's just, yeah.

Charlie:

Is the shadow completely black?

Grizzly:

Yeah. Devoid of light, pretty much.

Charlie:

So yeah, in that case, it's almost like this black bundle.

Charlie:

Very occasionally you can see flickers of his clothes and skin

Charlie:

underneath as the shadows are sort of enveloping him.

Charlie:

But for the most part, he's just this mummy of shadow.

Grizzly:

I'll sit him down at the dining room table and pull out a chair for myself.

Grizzly:

Since I have dulled teeth, I'll gesture at Void

Grizzly:

to open him up, biting either his wrist or his neck.

Charlie:

Yep. The cat has no trouble as he's sitting here immobilized.

Charlie:

The cat just,

Void:

Meow.

Charlie:

and just gives him a chomp on the wrist

Charlie:

and you see as the cat starts to drink a little bit,

Charlie:

sort of looks up towards you afterwards,

Void:

Meow.

Charlie:

Uses a paw to wipe its face.

Arthur:

That's enough.

Arthur:

We don't want another accident.

Void:

Mrrw.

Grizzly:

Pull out from my coat pocket, a small, sort of little, flask

Grizzly:

that is ornate, like looks handmade, silver,

Grizzly:

has a crest on it that matches one clipped to my jacket

Grizzly:

and also has the initials MB inscribed and just sort of uncork it and then hold it beneath the wound.

Charlie:

Okay.

Grizzly:

Going for about one Blood Point here.

Charlie:

Okay. You can safely take the blood that it takes to fill this vial

Charlie:

and you would know that you could probably take another vials worth safely.

Grizzly:

I just do one.

Charlie:

Okay. Then you do it.

Charlie:

The blood wells and oozes until it's up to the top of the vial,

Charlie:

until it's almost spilling over and you see a hardy meniscus.

Arthur:

Void, close it.

Charlie:

Okay. Yep. The cat corks the bottle.

Void:

Mew,

Arthur:

He should be chill now, right?

All:

(laughter)

Charlie:

What?! Should he??

Grizzly:

I'm pretty sure when you're bitten, you kind of calm down.

Grizzly:

It feels nice from what I hear.

Charlie:

Yeah, it does. It does.

Grizzly:

I don't know if that applies to the cat though.

Grizzly:

Kinda be funny if it did.

Charlie:

Oh, you mean is the cat calmed down?

Grizzly:

No, no, no, no. I thought-

Grizzly:

Maybe thought - maybe he would calm down when he got bitten by Void.

Charlie:

Oh. Yeah, I mean his body relaxes a bit.

Charlie:

It's hard to tell because he's - y'know,

Grizzly:

Right right right.

Charlie:

you can't hear him and you can't see him and he's covered by his own shadow slowly-

Grizzly:

Yeah, I just leave him, I just leave him covered.

Grizzly:

And I'll start sipping away.

Charlie:

How much are you taking after that one vial?

Grizzly:

I'm sipping from the-

Charlie:

Oh, from the vial?

Grizzly:

Yeah, from the flask.

Charlie:

Oh, I see, I see. Okay. Yeah.

Grizzly:

So the safe amount.

Charlie:

Yep. You savor the blood as it goes down.

Charlie:

It's not, even though it's only been in the flask for a second,

Charlie:

it is not nearly as warm and fresh as it would've felt straight from the wound.

Charlie:

But in a way you feel like that's better and you savor every sip

Charlie:

as you empty this vial and you feel this power coming to you.

Grizzly:

As I drink it, sitting with him. In his dining room.

Charlie:

Yeah, it's a very nice one.

Grizzly:

With my cat on my lap,

Grizzly:

I'll pull out a little book and to myself,

Grizzly:

I'll just read through a list of names on the pages as I drink.

Charlie:

And what are those names?

Grizzly:

Well, it goes on for at least 30 minutes.

Charlie:

Okay. You drink it, read names for 30 minutes,

Grizzly:

Just casually sipping, kind of hoping he falls asleep.

Charlie:

Yeah, he seems to stop struggling after a while.

Grizzly:

As I read, every name has a date next to it.

Grizzly:

The first four in 1913,

Grizzly:

Michael,

Grizzly:

Danielle,

Grizzly:

Emily,

Grizzly:

Michael Jr.

Charlie:

'Soda', no just kidding.

Grizzly:

And so on, up until the present day.

Charlie:

And you're able to read them all and finish your drink.

Grizzly:

I just try to remember their faces.

Arthur:

(sighs) Alright.

Grizzly:

And then I leave the house and release this one from the shadows.

Charlie:

He is clearly - I guess you don't see it, you just hear the body.

Charlie:

You just hear a body thump against the ground basically.

Charlie:

Do you close the door or anything of the like?

Grizzly:

I try.

Grizzly:

Dunno if it's broken,

Charlie:

It's a bit broken. I mean you're able to kind of put it back in-

Grizzly:

Force it back into place?

Charlie:

-in place, yeah. But it's very clearly slightly off axis now.

Grizzly:

I'll just stand in the middle of the street, and...

Grizzly:

wait for those shadows to approach me.

Charlie:

Oh,

Charlie:

Interesting.

Charlie:

Okay.

Charlie:

So you're waiting to see who basically took notice?

Grizzly:

Mmhm.

Charlie:

Good shit, man.

Grizzly:

Put the flask back in my coat.

Charlie:

And as you do that you start to hear...

Charlie:

Like, a clopping of hooves.

Condi:

LA?

Grizzly:

I was thinking the same thing.

Charlie:

Riding into view. (Laughs)

Grizzly:

My character? Doesn't flinch.

Charlie:

On a cantering black horse accompanied by,

Charlie:

it looks like some other, I mean, you'd recognize them as vampires.

Charlie:

You see this vampire ride into sight.

Charlie:

He has a thick, thick sort of upside down frown mustache.

Charlie:

This brown leather cowboy hat with this sort of studded rim around it

Charlie:

and this medium length brown hair

Charlie:

along with just this big, chunky leather coat with this star badge on it.

Charlie:

You see there's other vampires with him that are not, really dressed the part, the same at all.

Charlie:

You see that they are wearing, I mean, pretty traditional, just regular clothes, t-shirt pants kind of thing.

Charlie:

One of 'em is more of a hot topic, vampire with sort of a dark coat.

Charlie:

And one of them is trying their best to emulate this guy.

Charlie:

And he's sort of just in a Party City cowboy costume.

Charlie:

And this guy rides on up to you.

The Sheriff:

Well, well, well.

Grizzly:

I push my sunglasses back up to cover my eyes

Grizzly:

and Void sits on my shoulder, but faces my back like to watch my back.

The Sheriff:

Not often we get a new vampire out here.

The Sheriff:

Especially not one so bold.

The Sheriff:

Could I have the honor of knowing your name, partner?

Grizzly:

Stare him down.

The Sheriff:

Want to know if I'm dealing with a friendly face...

The Sheriff:

Or otherwise?

Charlie:

And you see he flips the coat back and there's like a glint of metal.

Grizzly:

He's a vampire that uses a gun?

Charlie:

Yeah, he's got a fucking piece, dude.

Grizzly:

Do I-? Um...

The Sheriff:

I'm going to start circlin' around you now.

Charlie:

He just starts to walk his horse around you.

The Sheriff:

Come on, sunshine.

Charlie:

You see this black horse.

Charlie:

Almost - He's very similar to Void in a way.

Charlie:

You see as they sort of have a little kinship in what they are

Charlie:

as he circles around you and these other vampires follow suit.

Arthur:

Good evening.

Arthur:

I'm new to town and clanless.

The Sheriff:

Well, shit,

The Sheriff:

that explains a lot, 'cause this ain't clanless turf.

Arthur:

Clearly.

Arthur:

My apologies.

The Sheriff:

But...

The Sheriff:

Most K Tiff would know that.

Arthur:

I know how to arrange a meeting.

Arthur:

So whose territory?

Charlie:

Venture. Proud and true.

Charlie:

Just do things a little differently.

Charlie:

Servin' the crown in my own little special way.

Charlie:

I'm a man of my time.

Charlie:

What can I say?

Charlie:

But what about you? What kind of man are you?

Charlie:

He flicks his coat back. You see a glint of metal.

Grizzly:

So...

Charlie:

He's basically, I mean, you would know the social cues.

Charlie:

He's just trying to figure out who you are, what you're doing here, basically

Charlie:

Yep, yep, yep.

Charlie:

And I mean, you can do - if you want, you can do a sort of roll

Charlie:

to see what his motives are here, what he's looking for from you, what this is.

Grizzly:

No, that's okay. It's okay.

Arthur:

I assumed this was the fastest way to make my presence known to the ones truly in power here.

Arthur:

As per the masquerade.

The Sheriff:

Not a bad idea, then.

Arthur:

I'd be so grateful to learn from the Ventrue.

Deacan Keller:

We'll get to that. My name's Deacon Keller.

Deacan Keller:

What do I have the pleasure of callin' you?

Arthur:

Bennett. Arthur Bennett.

Deacan Keller:

Bennett, huh? Interestin'.

Deacan Keller:

Well, Arthur...

Deacan Keller:

I hate to say it, but roomin' don't come free.

Deacan Keller:

Everyone's got to pay rent some way or another.

Deacan Keller:

At least here in this city.

Arthur:

Don't worry.

Arthur:

I've got a BnB.

Deacan Keller:

Oh shit, nice.

Deacan Keller:

Superhost or not, Arthur?

Arthur:

Does it even matter?

Deacan Keller:

You'll find it matters a whole lot whether or not it's a superhost.

Deacan Keller:

You come to this city?

Deacan Keller:

You knock down my door?

Deacan Keller:

What brings ya?

Deacan Keller:

If we know you a little better, we might let you stay.

Deacan Keller:

Gettin' real dizzy from all this circlin'.

Grizzly:

Could I...?

Grizzly:

When I try to read auras, is it possible to read the strength or age of a particular aura?

Charlie:

Do you have to roll for reading auras?

Grizzly:

You do.

Charlie:

I'm going to say if you roll really, really good, like four or five successes, I'll tell you, yeah.

Grizzly:

Alright, alright, alright. Let me try then, if I may.

Charlie:

Yeah, just tell me how the power works.

Grizzly:

I have to stare at them for at least a few seconds.

Charlie:

Okay, yeah.

Grizzly:

And then roll.

Charlie:

You can that.

Grizzly:

And then each success indicates how much I understand of their aura.

Charlie:

Oh, cool.

Charlie:

Alright, so who are you going to read?

Charlie:

You're going to read Deacon?

Grizzly:

Yeah. Yeah, because he's addressing me

Grizzly:

and these are his goons I suppose.

Charlie:

Give it a go man. Give it a go.

Grizzly:

I didn't get any successes.

Grizzly:

Wait, one second. I got nothing from him.

Charlie:

Yeah, you squint at him and you see as his-

Charlie:

the kind of aura starts to fizzle around him,

Charlie:

but he sort of tips his hat down and he's a bit harder to read right now. Yeah,

Grizzly:

I'm out of practice. He knows the strats.

Deacan Keller:

Oh, I know the strats.

Grizzly:

So I just say.

Arthur:

I'm not here on any business, just looking for somewhere new.

Arthur:

New people.

Charlie:

Is that true, Arthur?

Grizzly:

I mean, it's not - false.

Grizzly:

Okay, um...

Charlie:

You are kind of here looking for something.

Grizzly:

Yeah,

Charlie:

Just figuring out if you need to roll is all.

Arthur:

You'll find I'm not one cause any trouble.

Arthur:

I actually don't mind being alone.

Deacan Keller:

Well, all right.

Arthur:

Though, I know how this works. I need to earn your trust.

Deacan Keller:

How about this? I'll make things a lot easier for ya.

Deacan Keller:

We got a lot of different clans in this city,

Deacan Keller:

A lot of different folk, a lot of different groups,

Deacan Keller:

but they all fall under one umbrella.

Deacan Keller:

The Ventrue Crown.

Deacan Keller:

So if you do something for us, I'll put you in the good books.

Deacan Keller:

You don't have to worry about introducing yourself to anyone.

Deacan Keller:

You'll have the Deacon's protection, 'n that means a lot.

Arthur:

Elaborate.

Deacan Keller:

Well...

Deacan Keller:

To put it bluntly, you came at a bad time or maybe a good time for you.

Deacan Keller:

We are already stretched pretty thin through the city.

Deacan Keller:

Lots of struggles going on, not that you'd know, but...

Deacan Keller:

something popped up on the old Keller's radar just a few days ago.

Deacan Keller:

It seems like we might have a potential Masquerade breaker on our hands

Deacan Keller:

and I figure, if you're looking to prove yourself and stay in the great city of LA,

Deacan Keller:

what better way to do it?

Deacan Keller:

Than bringing this guy to justice. Or girl or ghoul or other?

Arthur:

Rather progressive of you.

Arthur:

Forgive me, I didn't expect such inclusivity from a cowboy.

Deacan Keller:

Listen, I take the good parts of being a cowboy,

Deacan Keller:

I try to discard some of the bad.

Deacan Keller:

I'm a man of my time.

Deacan Keller:

That doesn't mean I have to bring all the prejudice with me.

Bizly:

Episode one: Not all cowboys are racist.

Grizzly:

Not all cowboys are bigoted.

Deacan Keller:

So what about you Arthur?

Deacan Keller:

Are you racist?

Condi:

What??

All:

(Group hysteria)

Condi:

What a fucking conversation, okay.

Deacan Keller:

Whaddya say?

Grizzly:

I just look at him and pretend he did not ask that.

Deacan Keller:

I hate to break it to you, but if you don't take me up on this deal,

Deacan Keller:

I don't know how much longer you'll be able to stay here.

Deacan Keller:

Without someone vouching for ya.

Deacan Keller:

Easy to get lost in the night.

Arthur:

I've been lost in darker places.

Arthur:

And I refuse to beat anyone's soldier.

Deacan Keller:

Well, you don't have to fight the guy, per se.

Deacan Keller:

Just figure out what's causing this breach and put a stop to it.

Deacan Keller:

I don't care if that's killin'.

Deacan Keller:

I don't care if that's silencin'.

Deacan Keller:

I don't care if that's moving someone some other city

Deacan Keller:

make it someone else's problem.

Deacan Keller:

Oh, maybe you can even get good in -

Deacan Keller:

in good with the person. Other stuff, um...

Deacan Keller:

Shit, I just met you, man. I mean there's plenty of other stuff, but I-

Arthur:

Fine.

Deacan Keller:

Let's save that.

Arthur:

Where were they last seen?

The Sheriff:

Well, last we heard something about 'em,

The Sheriff:

they were in the part of town controlled by this...

The Sheriff:

kind of funky little gang called the Demons.

Arthur:

Cringe.

Charlie:

Yeah, you said it. And I'm a cowboy.

Charlie:

I marked it on your mini map.

Charlie:

It's right here, I don't really believe in phones.

Charlie:

So here's a full paper map of Los Angeles

Charlie:

with a reference point for where you are and where this is.

Condi:

And also a compass.

Deacan Keller:

And also a compass to find all relevant landmarks.

Arthur:

And after I find this person, how will I find the Ventrue?

Arthur:

Is there a hideout?

Deacan Keller:

Well, I got full faith after this tonight...

Deacan Keller:

We'll be able to find you when you need us.

Grizzly:

What check do I make to know what that means?

Grizzly:

What fucking, what did they do?

Charlie:

That was just basically saying

Charlie:

'you broke down this door so we found you like I'm sure we could find you again'

Charlie:

is basically what it means.

Charlie:

You don't need to do a check for that.

Grizzly:

Oh, okay. Okay,

Deacan Keller:

So that's a yes?

Arthur:

What do I do with them when I find them?

Charlie:

That's your problem, Arthur.

Charlie:

Just stop the breach and we'll talk.

Charlie:

And I hope we do get to talk again.

Charlie:

Sunshine...

Charlie:

Away!

Sunshine:

Ee, he he.

Sunshine:

Horse sound.

Bizly:

What?

Charlie:

He hits the back of this horse with his spurs

Charlie:

and starts trotting off into the mist of the night

Charlie:

where it almost appears like he vanishes

Charlie:

and these fellow clan members look at you.

NPC:

Yeah, we'll be going too.

Charlie:

They run off sort of scatter and you're left to your own devices.

Arthur:

What a pain.

Condi:

Now, there is a tower nearby

Condi:

and you can use it to fill out your map a little more.

Grizzly:

Okay, I climb the tower...

Charlie:

That's not real.

Charlie:

Okay. Alright. Alright. Make me Dex plus Athletics.

Grizzly:

I'm kidding. I'm kidding.

Bizly:

There are members of your clan that have been captured nearby.

Bizly:

If you've release them, you get xp.

Charlie:

You have to free them.

Charlie:

There's actually 18 separate locations where they've been captured at identical outposts.

Grizzly:

I was going to say,

Grizzly:

he didn't say what section of the city.

Grizzly:

He just said there is a city section, right?

Charlie:

He said - he told you where it was

Charlie:

and he literally gave you a fucking map and compass,

Charlie:

bro is old fashioned. He's old fashioned.

Grizzly:

He didn't say what they did to break the masquerade? Is it just-?

Charlie:

No, he didn't. He didn't. Yeah.

Charlie:

Maybe you could have found out, but he's gone.

Grizzly:

All right. Is it within walking distance?

Grizzly:

Do I need to pay for public transit? Am I going to hitchhike again?

Charlie:

It's across the city. How do you get there?

Grizzly:

We're in Los Angeles, right?

Charlie:

Yep. We're in Los Angeles.

Grizzly:

I guess I hitchhike again.

Grizzly:

Or no, I call a taxi.

Grizzly:

I know how to do that, right? I'm not that-

Charlie:

Yeah, you can hail a taxi. You got 40 bucks.

Grizzly:

Oh, I do! I got 40 bucks.

Charlie:

You got 40 bucks.

Charlie:

I'm going to say pretty easily you're able to hail a taxi

Charlie:

and get to the other side of the city,

Charlie:

where it is said that this sort of breach happened.

Grizzly:

Does the taxi driver try to make any small talk?

Grizzly:

I'll kill him if he does.

Charlie:

Already thinking of my next bit, yeah.

Grizzly:

I'm not in the mood.

Grizzly:

Alright. Alright, alright, alright.

Crazy Randy:

Well hey, what are the chances?

Crazy Randy:

I do Ubers... too.

Crazy Randy:

Good to see ya again.

Arthur:

Classical music, cold air, and no conversation.

Crazy Randy:

Well, all right!

Charlie:

Swerves in and out of all the cars, gets there in two minutes. Puts you out.

Crazy Randy:
That'll be 40 bucks!

Arthur:
On the dot, really?

Crazy Randy:
Yep.

Grizzly:
Alright. I give him \$40.

Crazy Randy:
My life is a vicious cycle!

Charlie:
He drives off in the taxi.

Charlie:
You get put out here in this pretty ramshackle part of town.

Arthur:
LA is cheap.

Arthur:
Back in New York, the cabs are like 60 to \$80.

Charlie:
Yeah, you got a good deal.

Charlie:
Yeah, it's not a super great looking place.

Charlie:
You see some flickering neon signs that are still on,

Charlie:
maybe shops, the owners just forgot to turn off.

Charlie:
Most things are closed with iron grates or shutters over them.

Charlie:

You see some flickering lights of multiple stores.

Charlie:

You see a haircut place, cafe, some food places

Charlie:

and one that catches your eye.

Charlie:

It's a bit bigger, is No Brakes. It's car mechanic shop.

Grizzly:

I will slowly walk forward to No Brakes.

Grizzly:

And is there anyone inside?

Charlie:

As you look inside No Brakes.

Charlie:

You peer in and at first there's nothing.

Charlie:

And then there's a flash of shadow

Charlie:

that licks at the corners inside this building

Charlie:

and then another, and then all of a sudden... (woosh)

Charlie:

this fucking doorway shoots up out of the ground

Charlie:

and out of it steps this incredibly regal looking sort of dressed in these emerald clothes-

Grizzly:

(chuckles) Oh my god.

Charlie:

-vampire that you've never seen before.

Charlie:

As well as someone that looks like they're in this sort of slight armor,

Charlie:

sort of more regal, almost templarish clothes

Charlie:

with sort of this dark hair looking around very, very confused.

Condi:

I honestly thought he was going to end up in New York.

Charlie:

Yeah, no. That's what you see,

Charlie:

as Shilo steps out of the portal in No Brakes in front of you.

Grizzly:

Can I have a fucking Willpower point, dude?

Grizzly:

Everywhere I step, there's chaos.

Grizzly:

The guy had a bat. No, I was fucking,

Grizzly:

I got pulled over by the cowboy.

Charlie:

I'll give you a Willpower point for a cowboy showing up

Charlie:

when you fucking tried to feed on someone, yeah.

Grizzly:

Thank you. Thank you.

Charlie:

So Shilo, you're now there in No Brakes.

Charlie:

You pop in and you see through the window of this place that there's just this

Charlie:

creepy, pasty, young, scary shadow vampire man watching you.

Grizzly:

He looks fucking like, just - scowl on his face.

Bizly:

As Shilo walked out of this doorway, you can see

Bizly:

just the red glow in his eyes, at first,

Bizly:

it fades a little bit and he looks down at his arms and legs.

Shilo:

Oh dear.

Shilo:

I'm going to need a rag, or something. I'm covered in-

Shilo:

Uh, and could you find me one? There's got to be-

Guard 4:

Yes my prince!

Charlie:

He walks over, he throws you a car wren-

Guard 4:

Oh, I'm sorry. That was dirty, my prince.

Guard 4:

Oil. Oil, my prince, please.

Shilo:

Oil!

Guard 4:

Your complexion, your complexion.

Shilo:

My gloves, my-

Shilo:

I lost my other glove!

Shilo:

This is the worst day of my life.

Shilo:

Who is that?

Bizly:

I'm like, I'm not looking away from the window,

Bizly:

now that I've looked up to it, I just go in and

Bizly:

I am smacking the guard's face.

Shilo:

Who is that?

Guard 4:

Who is-?

Guard 4:

Oh. That must be one of the lo-

Guard 4:

Nope, that's definitely a vampire, my prince.

Guard 4:

I can't say I've seen them before.

Shilo:

That is a vampire.

Guard 4:

Yes, my prince.

Shilo:

Are there only vampires?

Guard 4:

I don't know my prince. I've never been to LA, my prince.

Shilo:

Well, here we are.

Shilo:

What is your name?

Shilo:

I don't really want to keep calling you guard. It feels rude.

Grefgore:

My name, Prince, is... Grefgore.

Shilo:

I'm not going to call you that.

Grizzly:

While they're distracted, I'm dippin'.

Shilo:

Can I just call you Gref? Gref?

Shilo:

It's a little shorter.

Grefgore:

Gref is good, my prince, if you wish to be on these terms.

Shilo:

Alright, Gref, we need to talk.

Grefgore:

Can I call you Shi? Can I call you Shi, my prince?

Shilo:

Prince Shilo.

Grefgore:

I am sorry.

Grefgore:

If you wish to behead me, now would be the moment.

Shilo:

No one is beheading- where did he go?

Grefgore:

Where did who go, my prince?

Bizly:

I bust out the door and I'm looking for him.

Charlie:

Yeah, absolutely.

Charlie:

You kick out the door.

Charlie:

Where are you going Arthur?

Grizzly:

I just kind of ducked around the corner into the darkest place of the-

Grizzly:

I don't know - the corner?

Grizzly:

And I'm just stealthing because I was going to listen to them speak.

Charlie:

Okay. Are you trying to hide from them deliberately

Charlie:

when they come out here or no?

Grizzly:

Yeah, but I'm standing in the shadows and kind of like it's my thing.

Charlie:

Alright. If you're going to try and hide, you do have to roll.

Grizzly:

Can I be at least obscured by the shadows?

Charlie:

Yeah, absolutely. Yeah, you would be.

Grizzly:

I add something to it.

Charlie:

Yep, go for it. Go ahead and roll.

Charlie:

Shilo, if you wish to figure out where this guy is,

Charlie:

if you're looking for him,

Charlie:

go ahead and give me a Perception...

Charlie:

plus, I'm going to say Awareness because it's supernatural.

Bizly:

Okay.

Charlie:

Grifore is going to try his best too.

Bizly:

With Perception, I have the little Expertise thing.

Bizly:

Is it called an Expertise?

Bizly:

It's called One Of Us, so I can - see vampires, I guess?

Bizly:

It's easy to call out a vampire.

Charlie:

Yeah, so if you roll a 10, you can count it as two successes instead of one,

Bizly:

Two tens! Oh my god.

Charlie:

Holy shit!

Bizly:

Are you fucking serious?

Charlie:

We're going to go ahead and add Grefgore's successes to you.

Charlie:

Grefgore got two successes, so that's a total of seven on that side.

Grizzly:

Alright, alright.

Grizzly:

They clearly see me.

Bizly:

It's still creepy though, like I still want to walk slowly.

Shilo:

...hello?

Grizzly:

I just slowly walk out of the shadow like a fucking vampire does.

Grizzly:

Slowly revealed as if uncovered by a shadow.

Grefgore:

Oh shit, my prince!

Bizly:

I'm kind of just peering around the corner.

Shilo:

Go and talk to him!

Grefgore:

Me? You mean me?

Shilo:

Introduce yourself!

Grefgore:

I've never- I haven't-

Shilo:

I believe in you.

Shilo:

You are my special boy.

Grefgore:

And I in you, Prince Shilo.

Charlie:

He walks up.

Grefgore:

Hello.

Grefgore:

I am a special boy.

Grefgore:

And I- And I serve-

Grefgore:

Prince-

Arthur:

I'm not here for you.

Grefgore:

I'm sorry.

Arthur:

Unless you're the one causing trouble.

Grefgore:

Wait, no! I'm not!

Grefgore:

I protect - Prince - Shilo.

Grefgore:

My name is Grefgore, and if you wish to harm him,

Grefgore:

you must go through me.

Shilo:

Please don't harm him.

Arthur:

Is it you two that are breaking the Masquerade?

Shilo:

No.

Shilo:

...are we?

Grefgore:

I would never dream of it - Prince - Shil-

Grefgore:

I guess we are kind of out in the open right now, if that counts.

Grefgore:

But otherwise, no!

Arthur:

Then I have no more business with you.

Grizzly:

And I just walk away. I'm going to keep looking for the game.

Charlie:

Okay,

Bizly:

As he walks away, I want to follow him, but from a safe distance.

Charlie:

Yeah.

Charlie:

Your guard,

Grefgore:

Alright, my prince. I guess we-

Grefgore:

Okay, there you go.

Grefgore:

Oh, God damnit. Alright, fine.

Shilo:

Quiet, we're going to follow him.

Grefgore:

Yes, my prince.

Grefgore:

Anything for you.

Shilo:

Keep an eye out for if anyone is watching him

Shilo:

and keeping tabs.

Grefgore:

Yes, my prince.

Charlie:

Can I ask...?

Charlie:

Emizel.

Condi:

Yeah, hey...

Charlie:

Since you turned, it's been...

Charlie:

I'm going to roll a D10 to see how many days.

Charlie:

It's been three days since you turned.

Charlie:

What have you managed to do in three days?

Condi:

I imagine in three days, or I guess more so night, I don't know.

Condi:

How bad does the daylight affect you when you're freshly turned? Is it instant?

Charlie:

So, the first day it just kind of seared really bad

Charlie:

and by the second day it was already too much.

Condi:

Well, he definitely would've spent his nights out and about

Condi:

doing his thing and by doing his thing,

Condi:

I mean he probably would've enacted vengeance upon the Fangs

Condi:

really hard and not subtly either.

Condi:

Hence why people would probably be a little concerned about some

Condi:

Masquerade breaking going on in this area.

Charlie:

Yeah, so you basically obliterated-

Charlie:

I'm going to roll...

Charlie:

You have three nights.

Charlie:

How many nights did you just spend a fucking destroying?

Condi:

I'd say probably the first night I was probably just trying to sort myself out.

Condi:

So I'm going to say two nights.

Charlie:

Alright.

Condi:

Totally fair that they catch on after one night, so like - I think-

Charlie:

You've basically destroyed or torn apart otherwise, however you want,

Charlie:

12 Fangs by now.

Condi:

And I've absolutely been looking for the guy

Condi:

who turned me or I turned myself with. Whatever.

Charlie:

It was weird. Yeah.

Condi:

Situation's just strange.

Charlie:

I have a question for you, 'cause

Charlie:

this is something you mentioned before the session.

Condi:

Yeah.

Charlie:

Where does Soda land in all this?

Condi:

Oh god, I don't know.

Condi:

I don't know if it would - in three days?

Condi:

I don't know if anything would've happened there.

Charlie:

So you've basically been out on the hunt trying to exact revenge.

Condi:

I probably would've hung out with them a little bit,

Condi:

but I would've quenched my thirst for blood a little bit with the Fangs.

Charlie:

Yeah, you're very much learning on the ropes here.

Charlie:

You're basically, yeah, you're pretty much killing and enjoying it.

Condi:

Soda probably knows, that's what I'll say.

Condi:

I trust him enough that he probably know that some shit's going on.

Condi:

I'm super awesome now,

Condi:

but I don't think he'd be like a ghoul or anything,

Condi:

if that's - yeah.

Charlie:

And can I ask what you'd be doing on this night then?

Condi:

On this night?

Charlie:

This fourth night, yeah.

Condi:

It's really funny, because I really wanted to be doing something casual,

Condi:

just working on a car in the shop,

Condi:

but I think that's already gone past a little bit.

Charlie:

Oh yeah, I'm sorry.

Charlie:

I just figured it would make more sense to introduce one at a time, but...

Condi:

You know what?

Condi:

Probably still on the prowl.

Condi:

Looking mostly - hunting for this guy.

Condi:

So I'd be running across rooftops and shit, 'cause that's where-

Condi:

The first time I saw him he was on the rooftops

Condi:

and that's how he got around, so I'm lookin'.

Charlie:

Absolutely.

Charlie:

Emizel, you're running through these rooftops,

Charlie:

the wind in your hair, kind of circling around this territory that you know so well

Charlie:

and something catches your eye,

Charlie:

as you see a silhouette very similar to that first one that jumped you,

Charlie:

followed by two other very ghoulish looking people

Charlie:

moving down the street actually close to the car shop.

Charlie:

What do you do?

Emizel:

So that's how it is, huh?

Emizel:

Gotcha bitch.

Condi:

I'm going to jump down.

Condi:

I'm going to jump down and try to fucking-

Condi:

kick the one who you said like the silhouette that I saw the first time.

Condi:

I'm going to just try to,

Charlie:

Holy fucking Christ,

Grizzly:

I cannot be surprised.

Charlie:

Holy shit!

Charlie:

Okay, in that case, both of you guys,

Charlie:

I guess everyone roll Dex plus Wits.

Charlie:

Tell me what you get. How many successes.

Bizly:

I got one success.

Grizzly:

Five, including one 10.

Condi:

You go - you go before me then, I got four.

Charlie:

Top of the round is Arthur.

Charlie:

Arthur, you are looking for this person who broke the Masquerade,

Charlie:

just kind of idly walking and watching Void,

Charlie:

when you hear a scream and look up to see

Charlie:

a boy plummeting directly towards you.

Emizel:

I've got you now motherfucker!

Grizzly:

I do not even flinch or hesitate.

Grizzly:

I use one of my Disciplines.

Charlie:

Okay,

Grizzly:

So I'm going to spend a Blood Point here.

Grizzly:

So, what happens is you come charging at me

Grizzly:

and right from behind me, from my own shadow,

Grizzly:

a black inky tendril shoots out about six feet long from my shadow.

Grizzly:

Attempts to, I guess basically stop you and restrain you.

Condi:

Oh, is there anything I had to roll against this?

Grizzly:

Shiiit, I don't know.

Grizzly:

It didn't tell me that. But I can try and look.

Charlie:

Alright, let's see, what power are you using against him right now?

Grizzly:

Alright, so this is called Arms Of The Abyss.

Charlie:

Oh my god. Jesus Christ.

Condi:

And you know what, just for flavor,

Condi:

because I like painting myself into corners.

Condi:

Emizel? Absolutely. Probably in a Frenzy.

Condi:

The second he saw a silhouette.

Charlie:

Wonderful! Wonderful, great.

Condi:

I'm not even going to roll for it.

Condi:

He saw a silhouette that looked like the guy and that's all it took.

Grizzly:

So yeah,

Grizzly:

it can constrict, which is...

Grizzly:

Inflicts damage per turn, but I don't know how to constrict in this-

Charlie:

Yeah, you've got the-

Charlie:

Whatever you have in Obtenebration is how much Strength and Dex it has.

Charlie:

So go ahead and roll me a...

Charlie:

You're trying to grab him with it, right?

Grizzly:

Yeah. Alright, so what do I roll?

Charlie:

Go ahead and roll...

Charlie:

I'm going to say plus your Brawl,

Charlie:

roll your Obtenebration, which is your shadow power.

Grizzly:

Okay, five successes.

Charlie:

Holy shit, alright, five successes on that.

Charlie:

Okay, how does fucking dodging work?

Condi:

That's a good question.

Charlie:

Okay, I got it.

Charlie:

Yeah, so if you want, you can basically abandon your turn

Charlie:

and roll Dex plus Athletics and try and get five successes or more to cancel it out.

Condi:

Oh, that's going to be rough.

Condi:

If I get a 10, I can maybe feasibly do it.

Charlie:

Yeah, but you don't have to do that.

Charlie:

You can just get hit by this thing.

Condi:

Yeah, I'll just get hit I think.

Charlie:

Yeah, you see this shadowy tendril flying straight towards you

Charlie:

and it just wraps around you.

Charlie:

You see even constricting your shadow binding it to you

Charlie:

as you are basically held here like six feet off the ground by this person.

Emizel:

Bastard.

Emizel:

Got some new moves, huh?

Grizzly:

I slowly lower my sunglasses and look at them.

Grizzly:

Does this, looks like, can I read if this-

Grizzly:

Actually, can I just read his aura?

Charlie:

Go for it!

Condi:

Yeah.

Grizzly:

You guys look like kids? Like teenagers?

Grizzly:

What am I looking at?

Condi:

Young adult.

Bizly:

Like 18.

Grizzly:

A young adult?

Condi:

Yeah.

Grizzly:

Oh, okay. I'm just trying to see if I can determine

Grizzly:

if he looks like a young, like a new vampire.

Grizzly:

I wish there was an easy way to determine that.

Condi:

I feel like there's enough signs.

Charlie:

I'm going to say it's pretty easy to tell this is a new vampire.

Charlie:

Just based on the sort of coloration and it looks like his sort of human features

Charlie:

are still vaguely there have not yet disappeared or fully changed.

Charlie:

And you are experienced enough to recognize someone that's fresh

Charlie:

versus someone that's fucking ancient.

Charlie:

You are held six feet off the ground,

Charlie:

Emizel, it's your turn.

Condi:

Am I held around the sort of waist stomach area,

Condi:

like tying my arms together sort of deal?

Grizzly:

You'd probably be like your arms and now pinned to your sides kind of thing.

Grizzly:

You're just held up. You're held up by a tendril.

Condi:

Yeah, okay. Well anyway,

Condi:

I'm going to loosen my shoe with my other foot

Condi:

and try to flick it at you really hard.

Charlie:

Oh my God.

Charlie:

Okay, go ahead and just roll me-

Charlie:

Just go ahead and roll me Dex plus brawl.

Condi:

Dex plus brawl? Okay.

Charlie:

Add a difficulty to this. So difficulty 7 instead of 6.

Condi:

So, three.

Charlie:

Yep. You absolutely kick the shoe off.

Charlie:

Slaps him right in the face.

Charlie:

Go ahead and-

Charlie:

What's your Strength plus one?

Condi:

It's four.

Charlie:

Arthur, go ahead and give me a soak roll

Charlie:

for 4 damage coming right at you.

Grizzly:

I got six successes.

Charlie:

You're completely fine.

Charlie:

The shoe just leaves a shoe print on your face and then just falls off.

Arthur:

(deep sigh) What a pain.

Arthur:

I don't know who you are kid, but I'm hundreds of years older than you,

Arthur:

so unless you want your new unlife to end as quickly as it started,

Arthur:

I suggest you calm down,

Condi:

I flick the other shoe. (laughs)

Grizzly:

You only have one action per turn.

Charlie:

Okay, okay, okay. Alright, alright.

Charlie:

First Grefgore and Shilo get to go.

Charlie:

Would you like to do anything Shilo?

Bizly:

So, as I watch Emizel jump down and they were just fighting,

Bizly:

I look over at Gref, I go

Shilo:

Gref, we have to go, everyone in LA

Shilo:

Is big and trying to kill each other!

Shilo:

We have to leave!

Bizly:

And I run.

Grefgore:

My prince, it's chaos in the streets.

Grefgore:

It's chaos in the streets, my prince-

Shilo:

Chaos everywhere!

Shilo:

We've been here for five minutes!

Grefgore:

It's just like the movies, my prince!

Shilo:

Exactly like them!

Shilo:

Let's go!!

Bizly:

And I start fucking sprinting.

Charlie:

He starts sprinting away with you.

Bizly:

I go back to the No Brakes, car repair

Bizly:

and we fucking hide.

Charlie:

Yeah, you run back over,

Charlie:

you see that the shadow gateway, whatever was there

Charlie:

is not there anymore.

Shilo:

No, bring it back. Please, please!

Shilo:

Make shadow door!

Grefgore:

I cannot, my prince, I cannot, my prince,

Grefgore:

this is not within my power, my prince, not within my power.

Shilo:

Shit! Don't tell my mother. I swear.

Shilo:

Come back!

Grefgore:

Prince, I- Prince, I think she, knows-

Shilo:

Alakazam!

Grefgore:

Oh, that's a good idea!

Grefgore:

No, hang on, hang on. Abracadabra!

Grefgore:

Then you say Alakazam, my prince.

Shilo:

Alakazam!

Shilo:

This did nothing, we just look stupid.

Charlie:

You look back, he's like, hiding behind a desk.

Shilo:

We are going to die.

Charlie:

Are you actually trying to hide, hide-

Bizly:

Yes.

Charlie:

-or are you just trying to - okay, alright!

Charlie:

Give me dex plus stealth.

Bizly:

Nothing above a 6 and one 1.

Charlie:

Oh fucking Christ, this just got really messy.

Charlie:

Alright, you run into the shop, you start looking for someplace to hide

Charlie:

and bump into a table and the shock you send through the table

Charlie:

knocks a bunch of wrenches down over off this fucking bench

Charlie:

and you hear from upstairs

Jeffery:

Emizel? What are you doing up so late?

Bizly:

I look over at Gref

Bizly:

and then I go

Shilo:

Pretend I am dead.

Bizly:

Then I lay down.

Grefgore:

My prince, would you like me to dispose of the voice?

Shilo:

No!

Shilo:

Just wait.

Shilo:

Pretend we are dead.

Grefgore:

Good idea, my prince.

Shilo:

Lay down, lay down!

Charlie:

Okay-

Shilo:

I am already covered in blood, I - it's fine.

Grefgore:

No! That would never kill a vampire, my prince.

Charlie:

You see he runs over to some sort of wooden workbench

Charlie:

and rips it off so it looks almost like a steak.

Grefgore:

Here, my prince. Hold this to your chest.

Shilo:

Screw it.

Bizly:

I hold it to my chest.

Charlie:

He grabs one too and you guys just fall.

Bizly:

I lay on the ground and I hold it to my chest

Bizly:

and I'm like,

Shilo:

How do dead people look?

Shilo:

I don't know how dead people - I have not seen many-

Grefgore:

Like us, my prince, like us!

Charlie:

And he holds it to his chest and just makes like a 'bleh!' face.

Bizly:

I put my tongue out.

Shilo:

Aa, ehh-

Charlie:

He does the same.

Charlie:

Well this is getting horribly messy.

Charlie:

Up next is Arthur.

Grizzly:

Do I know how to break someone out of a Frenzy?

Grizzly:

In my experience?

Charlie:

In your experience, someone can will themselves out of a Frenzy,

Charlie:

or if the situation is calm or if enough time passes, basically.

Charlie:

I mean the best option here, if you were dealing with this situation

Charlie:

and someone was frenzying, would be to basically

Charlie:

stuff them at a locker and make them wait until it wears off.

Grizzly:

Could I Dominate him out of one?

Grizzly:

That sounds so silly.

Grizzly:

Could I use my Discipline Dominate to get him out of it?

Charlie:

...maybe, if you roll real good, maybe. Yeah.

Grizzly:

Alright, maybe what I say will trigger his Willpower,

Grizzly:

but I also use Mesmerize just in case it doesn't.

Condi:

It depends on how you approach this situation.

Condi:

But there's a chance I will myself out of this Frenzy.

Grizzly:

So why I still have him grappled.

Grizzly:

with my extremely heightened hearing, I heard the mortal speak, correct?

Charlie:

You are in sort of the frenzy of battle here and it's sort of down the street,

Grizzly:

But this is a heightened sense for Discipline.

Charlie:

Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Charlie:

Fuck it. Sure you did.

Grizzly:

So I look directly into your eyes and I use Mesmerize in the beginning,

Grizzly:

but keep going.

Arthur:

Lesson one on vampire society,

Arthur:

If a human sees us,

Arthur:

They must lose their memory

Arthur:

Or lose their life.

Arthur:

There's a man in that store nearby and he's approaching.

Arthur:

If he sees you being a foolish, uncontrolled beast,

Arthur:

you will have to kill him.

Arthur:

And if you care about him?

Arthur:

I'll kill him.

Arthur:

Understand?

Condi:

Okay. Is it my turn after you say that?

Grizzly:

Oh, every turn you take Lethal Damage strength plus one.

Condi:

Okay.

Charlie:

Holy shit, okay.

Charlie:

Are you going to basically squeeze him with the shadow tendril?

Grizzly:

Yeah, I'll do it at in half power if I can.

Charlie:

I don't think you can do that, man.

Grizzly:

Okay.

Condi:

That's okay. I'm strong.

Charlie:

You either squeeze him or you don't.

Condi:

Can he choose to just not damage me?

Charlie:

Yeah, surely. Surely he can. Yeah,

Grizzly:

You can. Alright, I'll not squeeze you.

Condi:

Not yet.

Charlie:

You can squeeze him to show that you could,

Charlie:

but you can't squeeze him at half power, you know what I mean?

Grizzly:

Yeah, but I can't Intimidate and use Mesmerize, so.

Grizzly:

Or maybe I don't use Mesmerize. I'll just Intimidate him.

Condi:

All you need to do right now, and this is what kind of informs my next decision, is-

Condi:

Can I see your face?

Grizzly:

Yeah. I lowered my glasses a little bit to lock eyes with you.

Condi:

Okay, yeah. That informs my next decision then we're good.

Charlie:

Yeah. I mean if you want to try and Intimidate him, I'm just going to say-

Grizzly:

That's all right. I don't have to Intimidate.

Charlie:

Yeah, we're sort of in PVP right now.

Charlie:

I'm just going to say if you want to be intimidated by that, you are.

Charlie:

If you don't, you're not.

Condi:

I wouldn't be because of my Frenzy. No, that's what I'll say.

Charlie:

Okay.

Condi:

But this'll resolve in a different way.

Charlie:

In that case. Emizel, you're up next.

Condi:

So, I flick my other shoe off

Condi:

and then I kind of actually get a look at who it is I'm fighting right now.

Condi:

And I will use that Willpower to lower myself out of the Frenzy.

Charlie:

I'm going to say, you don't even need to spend a Willpower.

Charlie:

You see that the source of your Frenzy, this is just not who you thought it was.

Charlie:

And after struggling in this shadowy tendril for a few more seconds

Charlie:

and meeting his gaze, you realize that your rage is misplaced here

Charlie:

and it kind of fades.

Emizel:

Huh-? What the fuck?

Emizel:

You're not the guy that bit me.

Emizel:

Wait, you had to kill the guy in there?

Arthur:

Do you know him?

Emizel:

Yeah, that's my father.

Arthur:

Then you go deal with him.

Grizzly:

I drop him.

Arthur:

Make sure he doesn't see you.

Grizzly:

And I point - are the other two really hidden?

Condi:

No, I don't think they are.

Bizly:

No, we're in the middle of the floor in the shop.

Charlie:

They're not - so you can't see where they are right now.

Charlie:

But, for us, they are currently playing dead,

Charlie:

pretending to be staked in the middle of a car mechanic shop.

Grizzly:

Oh my God.

Charlie:

Not even regular dead, like,

Charlie:

'we're vampires and we got staked' dead.

Arthur:

Make sure he doesn't see the other vampires.

Emizel:

(sighs) Alright.

Condi:

I put my hands in my pocket and kind of-

Condi:

I saunter over very casually.

Arthur:

Quickly.

Charlie:

Okay. Here's the problem,

Charlie:

is that I had Jeffrey roll Initiative and he rolled right below you.

Charlie:

So, what I'm going to do right now,

Charlie:

is I'm going to make a little roll for him

Charlie:

to see if he comes down the stairs or not.

Condi:

Okay. I mean,

Condi:

his funeral I guess.

Charlie:

So let's do this...

Charlie:

Shilo...

Charlie:

you start to see feet and legs

Charlie:

moving down the stairs of this mechanic shop.

Bizly:

I play dead still.

Charlie:

Oh my God.

Charlie:

Yeah, and he starts to say,

Jeffery:

What are you doing down here Emizel?

Jeffery:

You knocking shit over again?

Condi:

I'm guessing I'm not close enough to do anything.

Charlie:

You would hear him from outside, but that's it.

Charlie:

But what does everyone do at this point?

Charlie:

We're going to be out of Initiative.

Grizzly:

Oh, I can do something?

Charlie:

He's basically about to stumble in on this, yeah.

Condi:

I'm probably grumbling under my breath.

Emizel:

Why the fuck'd they go in there?

Condi:

Yeah. So I'll probably jog a little bit more quickly.

Grizzly:

I don't do fucking nothing.

Condi:

Okay, word.

Condi:

And outside, there's probably a - what is it called?

Condi:

What would you store oil in?

Charlie:

Barrel?

Condi:

I guess a barrel.

Condi:

Or would they be in a canister, for a mechanic shop?

Condi:

Would they have barrels?

Bizly:

Oil? It would, no,

Bizly:

I mean you could just get a thing of oil in a plastic container.

Condi:

Yeah, okay.

Charlie:

Yeah, okay.

Charlie:

That works out.

Condi:

Surely there's just one sitting outside, empty or not, doesn't matter.

Charlie:

Yeah, totally. Totally. Totally.

Condi:

And I pick it up,

Bizly:

Pull up with the 10W30.

Condi:

And I opened the door. I'm like,

Emizel:

Just bringing in the oil, Jeffrey.

Emizel:

Got it, just like you asked.

Charlie:

He walks down the stairs.

Jeffery:

About time, you're days late.

Charlie:

And then he looks over,

Charlie:

and sees two fucking vampires lying on the ground,

Charlie:

holding stakes to their chest and says,

Jeffery:

Emizel, what the FUCK?

Charlie:

And that's where we'll end the session for tonight.

Condi:

God, okay.

Charlie:

Jesus Christ.

Condi:

Dad, you're fucking dead.

Charlie:

As your dad stumbles in on this thing,

Charlie:

that is where we will end session zero!

Charlie:

How did everyone enjoy it?

Shilo:

Great.

Condi:

It was very good, I had fun.

Charlie:

Yes, my prince. Very good, my prince.

Bizly:

It was fucking awesome.

Condi:

I love how the most stoic character

Condi:

had the most nonsensical bullshit happening the entire time.

Charlie:

Dude, I felt so bad.

Charlie:

'Cause he was like, he messaged me this whole routine beforehand too.

Charlie:

And then like walks in and immediately breaks the door

Charlie:

off and hinges and just smothers a guy?

Charlie:

Oh fuck. That's awesome.

Condi:

LA built different.

Charlie:

Well, thank you guys so much for listening to this session zero.

Charlie:

I'm very excited because the next episode you hear,

Charlie:

we'll all be in person picking up the adventures

Charlie:

of Shilo, Arthur and Emizel, so!

Charlie:

We will see you then.

Charlie:

But in the meantime, catch us over on Just Rolled With It!

Charlie:

Where we'll talk about what just happened guys!

Charlie:

What did just happen?

Condi:

What was that?

Charlie:

There's freaking vampires in my freaking car shop!

Condi:

What the heck?

Charlie:

Stake you later.

Credit:

(Transcript by Gabethiene)