LOVE BITES

Written by

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Act One

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INT. THE CRYPT BAR - NIGHT

A grimy bar with posters and flyers tacked on black walls. Dingy overhead bulbs illuminate a stage where the band LOVEBITE performs a GLAM ROCK SONG.

The lead singer is NIKOLAI DELACOUR (28), tall and lithe with high cheekbones and long blonde hair. His effeminate features do nothing to soften the harshness of his gaze.

NIKOLAI
(singing)
Lay down with me in our decay...

A few LOVEBITE FANS scream the lyrics. The rest are PUNKS with dark clothing and piercings.

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)
Won't live to see another day...

To the side is EDITH EDWARDS (23). She sports a purple leopard print coat and plays a THREE-NECKED HEART-SHAPED GUITAR at a rapid pace.

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)
You let me drown in my own fears!

Edith winces as he wails the lyrics. The LoveBite Fans squeal with delight. The Punks bop their heads.

PUNK GIRL
They're good!

She turns to her BOYFRIEND, who totes a tall spiked mohawk.

BOYFRIEND
Yeah! But you can't mosh to this.

NIKOLAI
And yet I still--

A sudden GUITAR CHORD. Edith walks to the front of the stage and plays a heavy metal guitar solo. Her fingers fly across the strings.

PUNK GIRL
That chick fucking shreds!

Edith bends backwards, guitar held away from her body, then plays in midair. The crowd erupts into WILD CHEERS. Bodies thrash together as people mosh.

NIKOLAI
And yet I still count your tears...

Edith strums faster and louder. She plays behind her back. The audience ROARS.

EDITH
We are LoveBite!

She ends the solo with a SCREECHING NOTE. The crowd goes wild. Nikolai storms off stage.

Edith smiles as she basks in the applause. Then she exits.

INT. THE CRYPT BAR - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Nikolai stares Edith down as she comes backstage.

NIKOLAI
What the fuck was that?

EDITH
I freestyled.

NIKOLAI
You ruined the tempo!

Nikolai turns on drummer JASPAR JONES (26), bald and tatted, and bassist SEBASTIAN PARKER (25), scrawny with a ratty mullet. Childhood bullies all grown up into trailer trash.

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)
And you two went along with it!

JASPAR
Picking up the pace helped.

SEBASTIAN
The crowd loved it.

NIKOLAI
I write our music and I decide how it should be played! You can't change it on stage in the middle of a performance!

EDITH
So what? I made the song better!

Nikolai GRABS Edith by the throat and pulls her close.

NIKOLAI
Don't disrespect me!

EDITH
Let go of me!

Nikolai's pupils EXPAND and his eyes go BLACK. He bares his teeth and two SHARP FANGS descend from his canines.

NIKOLAI
Apologize to me.

Edith flashes her own fangs and snarls.

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)
Now.

BARRY (O.S.)
There are my superstars!

Nikolai's fangs RETRACT and he releases Edith. She blinks rapidly and covers her mouth.

Enter BARRY BUXLEY, the band's manager. Late 40s, overweight, always sweating and smiling too much.

BARRY (CONT'D)
That was a helluva show! I can't wait to see what y'all do on tour!

Nikolai RIPS Sebastian's bass off his body and SMASHES it on the ground. The wooden body SPLINTERS into dozens of pieces.

NIKOLAI
My band members need to follow my fucking lead!

He storms off. Barry pats Sebastian on the shoulder.

BARRY
I'll get that replaced.

Barry runs after Nikolai.

JASPAR
He's done for the night. So what's the plan?

SEBASTIAN
Wanna go chat up those girls at the front?

He grins and FLASHES his FANGS.

EDITH
Hey, creeps. Fans are off-limits, remember?

Sebastian's fangs retract and he flips her off.

SEBASTIAN
You're no fun.

JASPAR
Fans aren't the only ones off-limits.

EDITH
The hell does that mean?

SARAH (O.S.)
Hey, Edith!

Enter SARAH WATSON (22), the band's stagehand. Her youthful and delicate features reflect an innocence to the true horrors of the world--and her employers.

JASPAR
My point exactly.

SEBASTIAN
Take care of my guitar, would ya, Sarah?

He kicks a piece of it at her.

SARAH
Sure, but there's not much guitar left.

Jaspar and Sebastian leave, laughing together.

SARAH (CONT'D)
What's up with them?

EDITH
Probably drunk.

SARAH
That sounds like a plan.

She hugs Edith and whispers in her ear.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Buy me a drink? And give me a kiss?

Edith pulls away.

EDITH
Somewhere I won't be seen committing a breach of my contract.

SARAH
Of course. Can't let these rabid fans know you're off the market.

EDITH
Ticket sales are better if they think they've got a chance with me.

SARAH
You're making a noble sacrifice, and I understand.

Sarah gathers up the broken mess of guitar in her arms. She WINKS at Edith and walks away. Edith smiles to herself.

EXT. 50 VOLTS CLUB - NIGHT

A red neon sign glows atop a rundown club. The doors open and a FLOOD OF PUNKS exit. They chat and smoke cigarettes.

On top of the building are shaggy-haired JAMIE MITCHELL (31) and buzzcut ALEC FORD (34). Jamie sprawls on his stomach and Alec sits cross-legged. Both wear silver "VHA" badges.

JAMIE
Third show of the night and still nothing.

ALEC
Be patient.

JAMIE
This club always attracts vampires. Where the fuck are they?

ALEC
We'll find some.

JAMIE
Unlike them, us hunters don't live forever.

Alec and Jamie monitor the crowd. A fight breaks out between TWO PUNKS. They SCUFFLE and EXCHANGE BLOWS. A WOMAN intervenes and a stray punch knocks her back.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
Damn!

The woman's nose BLEEDS. The head of a YOUNG PUNK snaps up and he stares at her. He grins and reveals a pair of FANGS.

ALEC
Hey. Look.

He points. He and Jamie watch the woman walk away from the crowd. She heads into an alley and the punk follows.

JAMIE
Gotcha.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Jamie and Alec RUN into the alley to see--

The Young Punk PRESSES the woman against the brick wall and BURIES his face in her neck.

ALEC
Hey, you filthy vampire!

The young punk whirls around, mouth open in a snarl, SHARP FANGS bared. BLOOD covers his face and neck.

JAMIE
Let her go!

The VAMPIRE smirks and bites the woman's neck. Blood SPRAYS from the wound and she collapses.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
No!

He pulls out a SILVER FLASK WITH A CROSS ON IT. He uncorks it and SPLASHES the Vampire with CLEAR LIQUID. The vampire hisses and claws at his face. His skin SIZZLES as it BURNS.

Alec LUNGES and STABS the Vampire in the heart with a LONG WOODEN STAKE.

The Vampire SCREAMS as his body BURSTS INTO THOUSANDS OF ORANGE SPARKS before DISINTEGRATING into dust.

Jamie kneels by the woman and tries to stop the bleeding.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
You're gonna be okay!

The woman CHOKES. Her body shakes and goes still. She stares blankly up at the sky.

Jamie lowers his head. Alec grips his shoulder.

ALEC
What matters is he’s dead. Let’s go.

INT. THE CRYPT BAR - ONSTAGE - LATER

BRIDGETTE LUX (23), with jet-black spiked hair and a devilish grin, pounds the snare. ANYA ANDERS (22), with safety pins jutting out of every orifice, shreds an electric guitar and screams gutturally into the mic.

WOMAN (O.S.)
Quite the spectacle, aren't they?

Edith turns. CAROL WEATHERS, mid-40s in a gray pantsuit and shoulder pads, appears at her side. Edith sighs and eyes Carol warily before turning back to the performance.

EDITH
What now?

CAROL
Hey, I’m just making polite conversation.

Edith shakes her head and continues to watch the band.

EDITH
Yeah, sure. I know your spiel.

CAROL
I’ll keep it brief. I want you to join The Shapeshifters. You’re too hardcore of a guitarist for LoveBite’s glam rock sound. I know it. You know it. Any musician with ears knows it.

EDITH
I can’t just abandon my band!

CAROL
You don’t have to answer me now. Just think about it.

Edith sighs. Carol pulls out a pack of cigarettes and offers one to Edith. Edith shakes her head and Carol lights up.

CAROL (CONT’D)
This is my last time bothering you. We’ve got a tour coming up, and I’ll give you until the end of that to make a decision.
(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)
But I really want you to think about what you want.

Edith nods and Carol struts off. The Shapeshifters finish their set. Anya dives off stage with a howl and the crowd goes wild. Edith stares longingly at the stage.

Sarah approaches with a cable wrapped around her arm.

SARAH
Come on, daydreamer. Help me finish packing up and we'll hit Ginger's.

Through the curtains, Edith watches Bridgette and Anya sign autographs and talk with fans.

INT. GINGER'S BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

Edith, Sarah, Anya, and Bridgette crowd together in a velvet-lined booth in the back of a dimly lit bar. Bras and pride flags hang from the ceiling. Pierced, leather-bound LESBIANS crowd the dance floor and mosh to the loud punk music.

Anya sloppily raises a toast and yells over the music. The rest of the girls raise their glasses.

ANYA
To the tour of a lifetime!

ALL
To tour!

They share a triumphant cheer and clink their glasses. Anya and Bridgette share a kiss. Sarah glances at Edith, who pensively stares ahead.

BRIDGETTE
Oh my fucking God, headlining a tour. I can't believe it. I'm glad to have you with us, Edith, but I might have to kill Nikolai.

ANYA
The look on his face when he finds out that LoveBite is our opening act will be priceless!

BRIDGETTE
I don't know how you put up with those douchebags. They're all so pathetic.

Anya downs the rest of her drink and puts an arm around Edith.

ANYA
You should just join our band. We already have Sarah on board.

EDITH
What?

BRIDGETTE
Sarah’s our new stagehand!

ANYA
I know you’re a punk at heart. We all see that you don’t mesh with LoveBite’s sound! They’re holding you back. Sarah showed us the songs you wrote.

Edith shoots a look at Sarah.

BRIDGETTE
They so rocked.

SARAH
That’s what I've been telling her. She won’t listen.

EDITH
Nikolai and I have known each other forever, and he’s not all bad. Sure, he can be a douchebag, but we’ve both worked so hard for so long and it feels like it’s finally paying off. I can’t abandon him or LoveBite.

SARAH
God, why are you always defending him?

EDITH
Can you give it a rest?

Sarah gets up from the booth and STORMS OUT of the bar. Edith stands, drops a fifty dollar bill on the table, and chases after Sarah.

EXT. GINGER’S GAY BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Sarah attempts to flag a taxi with no luck. Edith runs towards her.

EDITH
Sarah, wait!

SARAH
What?

EDITH
Can we just talk?

SARAH
There’s nothing to talk about.

EDITH
Really? You’re leaving LoveBite and didn’t tell me!

SARAH
You don’t tell me anything! Like why you’re so devoted to Nikolai when he treats you like shit!

Sarah turns her back on Edith and walks away.

EDITH
Wait!

Sarah halts.

EDITH (CONT’D)
You don't understand. Nikolai and I have history, more than just the band. There are things about me you don’t know.

SARAH
And what? Nikolai does?

EDITH
I want to join The Shapeshifters. I don’t want to hide anymore. But--

SARAH
But what? I want to be with you, but not like this. I won’t watch you sacrifice yourself for him.

EDITH
You don’t know what he’s capable of.

SARAH
Please. You think I’m scared of that asshole? I can protect you.

Edith shakes her head and grabs Sarah's hand. She opens her mouth to speak, but a HARSH LAUGH erupts behind her.

Nikolai stands behind them at the end of the alley.

NIKOLAI
Am I hearing this right? Joining The Shapeshifters? Dating a human? How revolting.

SARAH
Human?

NIKOLAI
How sweet. She thinks she can protect you.

SARAH
God, you're insufferable.

NIKOLAI
You don't know Edith like I do.

SARAH
Bite me.

NIKOLAI
(laughing)
Poor choice of words!

Edith grabs Sarah's arm and pulls her down the alley. Nikolai punches the wall and a crack shoots up the side.

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)
Don't turn your back on me! She can never love you like I do! She doesn't know what you really are!

Sarah stops.

SARAH
What's he talking about?

NIKOLAI
You would abandon all that we've made together, all that I gave you. An eternity together.

EDITH
I love her.
(beat)
I'm done, Nikolai. I can't stay with you and LoveBite anymore.

With a snarl, Nikolai grabs Edith and SLAMS her into the brick wall. She groans and coughs as dust rains down upon her.

Nikolai GRABS Sarah by the neck and effortlessly LIFTS her into the air.

Edith SNARLS loudly. From her canine teeth descend a pair of RAZOR-SHARP FANGS that gleam in the moonlight.

With a scream, she LUNGES at Nikolai and sinks her fangs into his arm.

NIKOLAI
I made you. You're mine and you always will be. You've forgotten your place.
(beat)
Kneel.

Edith FREEZES. She withdraws and falls to her knees.

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)
Much better.

Nikolai turns back to Sarah. She struggles against his grip.

SARAH
Edith!

NIKOLAI
I've known Edith for an eternity longer than you have, human. You're nothing. No one. A blip in her eternal existence. You were born to be forgotten.

Nikolai smiles, and his own FANGS descend. He lowers Sarah to her feet and buries his fangs deep into her neck.

EDITH
No!

Sarah violently twitches. A gurgling sound escapes her throat and BLOOD SPLATTERS her lips. Nikolai drops her limp body in disgust.

NIKOLAI
(grinning)
I had forgotten the taste of fresh blood.

Edith STARES WITH HATRED as tears well-up.

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)
Oh, don't be so pathetic. You couldn't have possibly loved a human. She would've turned on you the minute you revealed yourself, and The Shapeshifters will do the same. It's what humans do. You belong with me, with LoveBite. With your own kind.

Nikolai waves a hand and Edith's body RELAXES. She instantly charges at him.

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)
Ah-ah-ah. It's time to feed.

Edith's eyes WIDEN. Her body falters and changes course.

She walks towards Sarah's corpse, and each step takes the utmost of effort.

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)
I said... <u>feed.</u>

Edith kneels over Sarah's body.

EXT. DARK ALLEYWAY - LATER THAT NIGHT

A POLICE CRUISER with flashing blue lights illuminates the crime scene. Caution tape surrounds a body sprawled in a pool of blood. <u>It's Sarah.</u> OFFICERS crowd the scene.

DETECTIVE FRANK NOBLE (late 40s), with deep lines etched into his face, crouches over the body. He holds a tape recorder and wears a serious expression.

FRANK
(into recorder)
Victim appears to be early to mid 20s. Bruises extend around the neck alongside four puncture wounds. There seem to be no other signs of trauma on the body.

Frank turns to OFFICER MORTON (23), the clean-shaven, doe-eyed new recruit.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Morton, grab the camera.

Morton grabs a Polaroid camera from the cruiser's trunk. He hands it to Frank who snaps photographs of the scene.

An unmarked police cruiser pulls up. Alec, Jamie, and ROBIN WILSON (22), the slender, overly-eager rookie step out.

Frank hands the camera back to Morton and quickly slips a polaroid into his pocket. Frank sighs as Alec motions at him to back away from the body. Jamie pulls out an FBI badge.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Here we go.

JAMIE
FBI. We'll take it from here.

FRANK
This is the fourth case this month. That makes one every week. Your crew doesn't seem too capable.

ALEC
This case is now under federal jurisdiction. We ask that you vacate the premises and turn over all evidence.

FRANK
Listen here! I've been in this goddamn precinct for twenty-five years, and I've never seen anything like this! Swooping in in the dead of night and stealing our cases. Seems to me like you and your guys are hiding something.

ALEC
I ask again that you vacate the premises and turn over all evidence. If not we'll be forced to charge you with obstructing justice and tampering with a crime scene.

Frank glares at Alec but raises his hands in surrender.

FRANK
Aye-aye, captain.

Frank motions to Morton and the other officers. Frank and Morton walk towards the cruiser. Jamie stops him and gestures towards the Polaroids.

JAMIE
We need <u>all</u> evidence.

Frank presses his lips together and hands over the photos.

I/E POLICE CRUISER - MOMENTS LATER

Frank slams the door shut.

FRANK
They treat us like children. This is the fourth weird case this month and you're telling me they have no leads? Either they're completely incompetent, or they're hiding something.

Frank pulls out a cigar and lights it. He blows out a puff of smoke. Morton coughs.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Each victim was a young girl and each victim had those bizarre puncture marks on her neck.

Frank takes another puff and watches Robin remove her jacket to cover the victim's body.

FRANK (CONT'D)
What're those bastards up to?

Alec removes a device similar to an EMF meter from his pocket and walks around the perimeter. Jamie waves Frank and Morton off.

Frank rolls his eyes and reverses the cruiser.

Sarah's photo peeks from his shirt pocket.

INT. GRIMY STORAGE UNIT - 2 WEEKS LATER

A cluttered desk sits in the middle of a small, stifling room. A single exposed bulb hangs from the ceiling.

Red string connects crime scene photos and victim profiles on a cork board. A photo of The Shapeshifters is pinned next to Sarah's obituary.

From the corner, Jamie and Alec watch Robin write furiously in a notepad.

JAMIE
What's with these arts and crafts? Does she really think Adam's gonna let her on the mission because she pinned some pictures to a cork board? She's useless.

ALEC
All this blind ambition is gonna get her killed. What does she think she's gonna find that we can't?

Robin rolls her eyes and throws a crumpled piece of paper into an overflowing trash bin.

ROBIN
I have ears, you know!

Jamie awkwardly COUGHS and approaches. He places a hand on Robin's shoulder and she shifts in discomfort.

JAMIE
Why don't you just quit while you're ahead. You know you're not gonna be put on this case, anyway. You're just a kid.

Robin opens her mouth to speak when a rhythmic KNOCK sounds at the door. The three share a glance. Alec moves to open it.

ADAM GRAY (mid 50s), the hardass head of the Vampire Hunting Division, waits outside. He glances at Robin's cork board.

ADAM
Terrorizing the rookie, are we?

Jamie quickly removes his hand from Robin's shoulder.

JAMIE
No, sir, we were just--

ADAM
That's enough. I'd like to see Ms. Wilson.

Robin stands. Alec and Jamie remain at her side.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Alone.

ALEC
Yes, sir.

JAMIE
Uh, yes, sir.

Alec and Jamie quickly scramble away.

Adam takes a seat at the cluttered desk. Robin stands rigidly in the center of the room.

ROBIN
I want you to put me on the case.

ADAM
Why don't you take a seat.

ROBIN
No. I'm ready for this!

Adam sighs.

ADAM
Letting you go on that ride along was a risk. You're making me regret that decision.

ROBIN
Just me on the case!

ADAM
You're not ready.

Robin slams her hands on the desk.

ROBIN
Yes, I am! Those girls, Sarah! Whatever vampire did that to them, to her-- it needs to pay. And I'm gonna kill that monster myself.

ADAM
You're ruled by your emotions, Robin. Until you can detach yourself from your work, you won't be ready. This case is already getting too personal for you.

Robin, exasperated, sits down.

ROBIN
I'm getting closer. I can feel it! Sarah was hanging out with a band called The Shapeshifters the night she was killed. All of these victims have been involved with bands in some way. I think--

ADAM
That's enough! You're letting this case eat you alive. When's the last time you slept?

Robin averts her gaze and remains silent.

ADAM (CONT'D)
I should've knownk you weren't ready.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)
Leave this to the real hunters. I'm sending you back to the training division.

Robin abruptly stands in disbelief.

ROBIN
What? You can't do this!

ADAM
I can, and I will. This is for your own good.

Robin STORMS OUT. The door SLAMS behind her. Adam rubs his temples.

INT. WOODFORD POLICE PRECINCT - NIGHT

Cigar smoke and old moving boxes fill the cramped office. An ash tray and a cold cup of black coffee rest on a wooden desk with chipped paint.

Frank and Morton stare intently at a cork board. Sarah's stolen polaroid is pinned in the middle, surrounded by news paper clippings and obituaries.

Sarah's neck wounds are circled with red marker, the words "SERIAL KILLER?" scrawled across the top.

FRANK
No living relatives. No boyfriend. Not even a pet goldfish. Who the hell was this girl?

MORTON
Witness testimonies say she was fighting with a woman outside of a bar the night she was killed. And we know she was at that bar with a band called The Shapeshifters.

Frank pins a police sketch of a woman to the board. <u>She resembles Edith.</u>

FRANK
All these victims, they were involved with bands in some capacity, and they all had these strange markings on their neck. All drained of blood.
(beat)
Hand me another cigar, would ya?

MORTON
Don’t you think we should question The Shapeshifters?

Morton stumbles around the desk and grabs a cigar from the drawer. Frank lights the end and takes a drag.

FRANK
This case is no longer under our jurisdiction. Meaning we’ve got to go about this carefully. One wrong move could mean both of our necks. Are you sure you’re ready for this?

Morton straightens up. He grabs another cigar, lights the end, and takes a long drag. He breaks into a fit of coughs.

MORTON
I’m-- I’m sure, sir.

Frank nods.

FRANK
These wounds. No weapon could’ve done this. It could be an animal-- or something else.

MORTON
Something else?

FRANK
That woman outside of the bar is our key. And to find her, we need to talk to The Shapeshifters. If the higher-ups catch wind of this, we’re finished.

Morton regains his composure and sets the cigar down.

MORTON
They leave for tour next week, sir.

FRANK
Then I guess we better get a move on.

Frank grabs a phone book and it hits the desk with a THUD. Morton grabs the phone.

INT. EDITH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Simple furniture. A few guitars and flyers from LoveBite shows hang on the walls. A framed photo of Edith, Sarah, and The Shapeshifters sits on the bedside table.

Edith sits on her bed and listens to a Shapeshifters record.

A KNOCK on the door. Nikolai enters.

NIKOLAI
Are you feeling alright?

EDITH
Why do you care?

Nikolai sits down on the bed next to Edith. He flicks the record needle off with a loud scratch.

NIKOLAI
There hasn't been a threat on my life all day. Are you not up to it?

Edith's eyes widen. Nikolai smirks.

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)
You think I haven't noticed your little revenge plot? Rosary beads in my closet and holy water in my tea! The latter I'm impressed by. How does a vampire even acquire such a thing?

EDITH
You make me sick.

NIKOLAI
Surely you've noticed they're all futile attempts? You can't harm your maker. It's impossible.

Nikolai takes Edith's arm and DIGS his nails into her skin.

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)
You've forgotten how to play nice with others. We're going on tour soon, and you will not ruin it.

Nikolai lets go and gets up to leave. Edith winces at the bleeding cuts left behind.

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)
Jaspar and Sebastian are making a run and I want you to join them.
(MORE)

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)
Maybe some fresh air will clear your head of murderous desires.

EDITH
I'm not in the mood.

NIKOLAI
I'm not asking. You can go freely or I will make you go.

Edith STARES WITH FURY.

EDITH
Fine.

NIKOLAI
Good. And be careful. Ever since your little girlfriend turned up dead, there's been more hunters than normal sniffing around.

He leaves. Edith glances at the picture on her table. Then she sits up straight.

EDITH
Hunters...

EXT. BLOOD BANK - NIGHT

A nondescript white building. THE LED BOX LIGHT out front has a bright red BLOODDROP ICON on it.

Edith, Jaspar, and Sebastian stand outside the front door. Edith SCANS the surrounding buildings. No one.

JASPAR
Are you gonna stand around all night and stare or are you gonna do the thing?

EDITH
What thing?

JASPAR
Pick the lock!

EDITH
Do it yourself.

SEBASTIAN
You're in a shitty mood.

JASPAR
Can you and Nikolai kiss and make up already?

EDITH
Not interested.

Sebastian KICKS the door open with a loud BANG.

JASPAR
So much for being subtle!

He and Jaspar enter. Edith rolls her eyes and follows.

INT. BLOOD BANK - NIGHT

Sterile white hallways and plain walls. Edith, Jaspar, and Sebastian walk toward the back of the building.

SEBASTIAN
The usual?

JASPAR
Yeah. Twelve total, three for each of us and Nikolai.

SEBASTIAN
I'll grab some extra for him. Someone has to extend a fucking olive branch.

The three approach a METAL DOOR labeled "Storage Freezer."

JASPAR
Well, we already kicked down the front door...

SEBASTIAN
On three. One, two, *three!*

Edith, Jaspar, and Sebastian throw their weight against the door. It SWINGS OPEN and hits the wall with a CRASH. They enter and see--

INT. STORAGE FREEZER - NIGHT

Row after row of METAL RACKS and GLASS DOOR REFRIGERATORS filled with PLASTIC BLOOD BAGS.

JASPAR
Jackpot!

The three spread out and make their selections, three bags each. Jaspar continues to search.

SEBASTIAN
Would you hurry up?

JASPAR
Where’s the AB negative blood? It’s Nikolai’s favorite.

SEBASTIAN
I don’t know.

EDITH
It’s the rarest blood type. They might not have it.

JASPAR
Are you gonna help?

EDITH
Looks like you’ve got it.

JASPAR
I can’t find any!

SEBASTIAN
Then get O negative! Everyone likes O negative!

EDITH
Nikolai doesn’t.

SEBASTIAN
It’s the universal blood type! He won’t know the difference!

EDITH
Yes, he will.

JASPAR
Shit!

Jaspar groans and grabs as many bags of O negative blood he can fit in his arms.

JASPAR (CONT’D)
Let’s get out of here.

INT. BLOOD BANK - NIGHT

Edith, Jaspar, and Sebastian EXIT the storage room and see--

A LAB TECHNICIAN, early 20s with thick glasses. She holds a PHONE to her ear.

SEBASTIAN
Ah, shit.

I/E - POLICE CRUISER - NIGHT

Alec and Jamie sit in an UNMARKED POLICE CRUISER. POLICE OFFICERS talk over the radio.

RADIO (V.O.)
--gathering is broken up now, people are dispersing...

ALEC
Slow night.

JAMIE
We need to hit the streets.

ALEC
Agreed. Let’s check on some blood banks, make sure no vampires are lurking in the area.

The radio CRACKLES. Jamie SMACKS the POLICE SCANNER on the dashboard.

JAMIE
Piece of shit.

RADIO (V.O.)
--report coming in about a potential break-in at a blood bank--

JAMIE
Speak of the devil!

ALEC
Shut up!

RADIO (V.O.)
--305 Magnolia Street, officers are being dispatched now--

JAMIE
Vampires?

ALEC
It must be! Drive!

Jamie puts the car in gear and ZOOMS down the road with a SCREECH of the tires.

INT. WOODFORD POLICE PRECINCT - NIGHT

Morton sifts through a PHONE BOOK and writes down names and numbers. Frank makes phone calls. They all go to voicemail.

A KNOCK at the door. Frank snatches the EVIDENCE BOARD off the wall and hides it behind his desk. He opens the door to an OFFICER.

FRANK
What is it? I said no interruptions!

OFFICER
There's been a break-in at a blood bank, sir.

FRANK
A blood bank?

MORTON
A blood bank?

MORTON (CONT'D)
Who the hell breaks into a blood bank? They don't even keep money there.

FRANK
We're about to find out.

The two grab their coats and hurriedly exit.

INT. BLOOD BANK - NIGHT

Edith, Jaspar, and Sebastian stand motionless and stare at the lab technician.

EDITH
We don't want to hurt you. Just let us go.

The lab technician TREMBLES.

JASPAR
Who'd you call?

Sebastian and Jaspar take a slow step forward.

SEBASTIAN
You can tell us.

Edith turns her head and listens to the faint voice on the other end of the call.

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)
Ma'am? Ma'am, are you still there? We've got officers on the way now.

EDITH
She called the police.

JASPAR
She shouldn't have done that.

EDITH
We need to go.

SEBASTIAN
She's seen our faces. She can identify us.

Jaspar LUNGES and grabs the lab technician by her throat. Sebastian snatches the phone and crushes it in his fist.

EDITH
Leave her alone!

JASPAR
You're no fun.

Jaspar THROWS the lab technician against the wall with a LOUD CRACK. She crumples to the ground. A STREAM OF BLOOD runs from her temple and pools on the ground.

EDITH
What the hell!

They all look at the lab technician. The sight of FRESH BLOOD makes them SHUDDER.

EDITH (CONT'D)
We need to leave. <u>Now.</u>

SEBASTIAN
Yeah, yeah...

He INHALES DEEPLY and TWITCHES. The blood bags fall from his arms.

EDITH
Sebastian. Don't.

Sebastian's eyes go COMPLETELY BLACK.

SEBASTIAN
Fuck that.

He snarls and his FANGS descend. He POUNCES atop the lab technician and bites her neck.

EDITH
Sebastian, no!

Edith and Jaspar reach for Sebastian but he pushes them back.

SEBASTIAN
Wait your turn!

He DRINKS GREEDILY. The lab technician SCREAMS.

EDITH
Stop it!

She bares her FANGS and bites down on Sebastian's forearm. He shouts in pain.

Jaspar grabs Sebastian, pulls him off the lab technician, and shoves him to the ground.

JASPAR
Snap out of it! The cops will be here any second!

Sebastian shakes his head. His eyes return to normal.

SEBASTIAN
Shit...

Edith presses her hands against the lab technician's wound to stop the bleeding. With a weak GURGLE, the lab technician goes still.

EDITH
She's dead...

JASPAR
No shit! Let's go!

Edith stands and slips on the blood on the floor. She slams a hand against the wall for balance and leaves a BLOODY HANDPRINT behind.

EXT. BLOOD BANK - NIGHT

Edith, Jaspar, and Sebastian run outside. An unmarked police cruiser RACES into the parking lot and SQUEALS to a stop.

Alec and Jamie LEAP OUT, wielding WOODEN STAKES.

JASPAR
Shit, hunters!

SEBASTIAN
We can take ‘em!

In the distance, POLICE SIRENS WAIL.

EDITH
We can’t take them and cops!

She pockets one blood bag and shoves the rest at Sebastian and Jaspar.

EDITH (CONT’D)
I’ll distract them!

SEBASTIAN
Are you insane?

EDITH
Just go!

She faces the hunters and bares her fangs.

JASPAR
This is a bad idea.

SEBASTIAN
Nikolai’s gonna kill us!

Sebastian and Jasper RUN OFF at SUPERHUMAN SPEED and DISAPPEAR.

Jamie and Alec rush toward Edith. She drops her fighting stance.

Alec REARS BACK to STAB Edith--

EDITH
I invoke Code 666!

JAMIE
Seriously?! Fifth time this week!

ALEC
Do all you filthy vampires know about it?

JAMIE
C'mon, we literally have her red-handed! Do we really have to listen to ancient rules right now?

Alec lowers his stake.

ALEC
It's hunter law. We swore to abide by it.

JAMIE
Are you serious?

The police sirens GROW LOUDER.

ALEC
I'm not arguing with you. Bind her and put her in the car.

Edith holds out her hands. Jamie grumbles and ties them with rope. He takes out his silver flask and splashes the rope. Edith hisses as her skin BURNS.

JAMIE
Just to be safe.

I/E POLICE CRUISER - MOMENTS LATER

Frank and Morton pull into the blood bank.

Alec and Jamie SPEED PAST in an unmarked police cruiser with Edith slumped in the backseat.

FRANK
It's those FBI bastards!

MORTON
They must've found something already if they're leaving so soon.

FRANK
What the hell were they doing here?

MORTON
What should we do, sir? Should we follow them?

Frank eyes the busted front door.

FRANK
Looks like they left the front door wide open.

INT. VAMPIRE HUNTER AGENCY HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Clusters of desks fill a well-lit and spacious room. Crates of wooden stakes and racks of weapons line the walls. Hunters pause and stare as Jamie and Alec march Edith through.

INT. VAMPIRE HUNTER AGENCY HEADQUARTERS - ADAM'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Plaques and vampire hunting weapons adorn the walls. Adam sits behind a large mahogany desk.

Alec and Jamie shove Edith into a chair in front of the desk before flanking the door.

ADAM
So you invoked Code 666. Why?

EDITH
I knew it would grant me temporary protection and the chance to negotiate.

ADAM
Emphasis on temporary. And we've got a dead body sitting in a blood bank that you robbed, so I don't know what there is to negotiate.

EDITH
Please listen to me--

ADAM
Code 666 is not the magic spell you vampires think it is. You use it to get yourselves landed here, expecting all your sins to be forgiven once we hear your sob story.

EDITH
You have to help me! I'm sired to a very powerful vampire--

ADAM
It's always the same. You're all bound to an evil vampire who makes you do horrible things against your will. But it doesn't matter. Blood on your hands is grounds for execution, no matter how you got there.

He turns his back on Edith.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Thank you for wasting my time. My hunters will be courteous and bring you home before executing you.

He SNAPS his fingers. Jamie and Alec seize Edith and drag her toward the door.

EDITH
My master is Nikodemus Delavigne!

Adam turns around to face Edith.

ADAM
Untie her.

JAMIE
What?

ADAM
Do it!

Jamie unties Edith. She GASPS in relief and rubs her wrists.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Leave us.

ALEC
But, sir--

ADAM
Now!

Alec and Jamie nod and exit the room.

EDITH
Do I have your attention now?

ADAM
You're lying.

EDITH
I'm very old. I knew him when he was Niko the Nefarious. And Nicasio the Noble. And many other names.

ADAM
You've kept his secret for so long. Why are you coming to your mortal enemies with this now?

EDITH
It’s the only way. I can’t lift a finger against him. I need your help, a hunter’s help!

ADAM
You want him dead.

EDITH
And so do you. Taking down a vampire this old and powerful will bring an entire collective to its knees. Think of all the vampires he’s sired over the centuries.

ADAM
What’s stopping me from sending the whole goddamn agency after him?

EDITH
His current alias is Nikolai Delacour, lead singer of LoveBite. Our band is about to go on tour with The Shapeshifters, aka the biggest punk rock band in music. You can’t just barge in and kill him with all that publicity around.

ADAM
The Shapeshifters...

EDITH
Give me a hunter who can blend in. A young woman, someone non-threatening, not like those two meatheads who brought me in. She could be the band’s new stagehand.

ADAM
Who’s to say we won’t kill you when this is all over?

EDITH
Nikolai took the most important thing in my life away. I have a chance to start fresh, but he’s in my way. I’m taking my only chance, no matter the odds.

ADAM
I believe we have a deal.

The door SWINGS OPEN. Jamie and Alec shove Robin inside. She clutches a thick BINDER.

ALEC
Found her lurking outside.

Robin RECOILS when she sees Edith and drops the binder. Newspaper clippings and photographs spill everywhere.

ROBIN
What's a vampire doing here?

ADAM
Just who I wanted to see! This vampire is your new partner. Consider yourself officially back in the hunting division for your first case in the field.

Edith and Robin STARE WITH DISGUST.

ADAM (CONT'D)
I think you two should shake on it.

Edith slowly extends her hand. Robin hesitates but grabs it and gives it a firm shake.