

# FANGS OF JUSTICE

by Kamron Klitgaard

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# FANGS OF JUSTICE

*A Full Length Courtroom Comedy*

**by Kamron Klitgaard**

**SYNOPSIS:** The vampire, Count Orlock, is on trial for murder! To the prosecution, he is a ruthless vicious bloodsucker with a violent history. To the defense, he is a poor misunderstood victim of society with a history of persecution. To the court, he is someone who could taint its precious reputation. What will Count Orlock be to you? The answer to this question is up to the jury, a panel of audience members who must decide if the Count is guilty or not guilty. Will they base their decision on the truth and facts of the case? Or will they decide that their own reputations are more important, even if it means their complete destruction. This sidesplitting comedy features many quirky and fun to play characters, while revealing the embodiment of human weakness to choose reputation over truth.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(10 female, 4 male, 10 either; gender flexible)*

ORLOCK (m) .....	Vampire from Transylvania. <i>(17 lines)</i>
BAILIFF (m/f) .....	The Court Bailiff. <i>(12 lines)</i>
JUDGE HARKER (m/f) .....	The Judge. <i>(99 lines)</i>
MS. HUTTER (f) .....	Prosecuting attorney. <i>(103 lines)</i>
MR. HELSING (m).....	Prosecuting attorney. <i>(124 lines)</i>
MR. RENFIELD (m) .....	Defense attorney. <i>(97 lines)</i>
MS. SCHRECK (f) .....	Defense attorney. <i>(137 lines)</i>
CLERK HOLMWOOD (m/f) .....	Court clerk. <i>(42 lines)</i>
GUARD ONE (m/f) .....	Special guard for the accused. <i>(7 lines)</i>
GUARD TWO (m/f) .....	Special guard for the accused. <i>(6 lines)</i>
PROFESSOR SIEVERS (m/f).....	Expert on vampires. <i>(24 lines)</i>
DAX STOKES (m/f).....	Vampire Historian. <i>(31 lines)</i>
MINA HARKER (f).....	Medical Examiner. <i>(34 lines)</i>
LUCY GIOVANA (f) .....	Dancer. <i>(20 lines)</i>
CHERSTI (f).....	Police officer. <i>(52 lines)</i>

VERONA (f).....	1 <sup>st</sup> bride of Orlock. (29 lines)
MARISHKA (f).....	2 <sup>nd</sup> bride of Orlock. (28 lines)
ALEERA (f).....	3 <sup>rd</sup> bride of Orlock. (28 lines)
NORA BINGHAM (f).....	Waitress. (27 lines)
MIKE (m).....	Mini golf attendant. (30 lines)
LADY DEMAIIO (f).....	Extremely proper. (38 lines)
DR. WHISTLER (m/f).....	Expert on vampire culture. (27 lines)
COOKIE SPATULASON (m/f).....	Lunch lady. (39 lines)
JURY MEMBER 12 (m/f).....	Jury Foreman. (3 lines)

**DURATION:** 90 minutes.

**TIME:** Present day at night.

**SETTING:** A Courtroom.

### PROPS

- Laptop
- Gavel
- Papers and Briefs
- Wolfsbane (Leafy Vine)
- 4 Wooden Crosses
- 2 Squirt Guns/Spray Bottles
- Several Garlic Cloves
- Garlic Powder Shaker
- Bible
- Restaurant Receipt
- Phone Records
- Medical Examiner's Report
- Cross (made of Popsicle sticks)
- Passport
- Purse
- Dog Stuffed Animal
- Tea Cup and Thermos
- Wooden Spatula
- Garden Sheers

## SET

A Courtroom. Judge's stand and chair, prosecution table and 2 chairs, defense table and two chairs, a clerk's table and chair, a witness stand and chair, Jury box and twelve chairs, which could be on stage or in the front row(s) of the audience seating.

## COSTUMES

ORLOCK – Traditional black vampire outfit with cape and red trim.

BAILIFF, GUARD ONE and GUARD TWO – Uniforms or suits.

JUDGE HARKER – Black robe.

ATTORNEYS – Business attire.

CLERK HOLMWOOD – Business attire.

PROFESSOR SIEVERS – Bow tie.

MINA HARKER – Business attire.

LUCY GIOVANA – Medical attire.

CHERSTI – Uniform or Business attire.

VERONA, MARISHKA and ALEERA – Female vampire attire with capes.

Optional, orange prison shirts.

NORA BINGHAM – Waitress outfit.

MIKE – Casual attire.

LADY DEMAIIO – High society with fur, wears a watch.

DR. WHISTLER – Hippie attire.

COOKIE SPATULASON – Kitchen wear with apron, hairnet and food stains.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

**ALTERNATE ENDING:** This play has two endings, one for a guilty verdict and another for a not guilty verdict. This also makes it fun for the audience to see the play a second time and perhaps see a different ending.

**THE JURY ROOM:** Jury Member 1-11 will need to vote when offstage. The Jury Foreman tallies the votes, majority wins. Optional Voting Method: backstage, provide Jury Members 1-11 with two slips of paper. On one is written *Guilty* and on the other is written *Not Guilty*. They will hand the Jury Foreman the slip of their decision.

**SPECIAL EFFECTS:** Dance music. If you have the equipment, a disco ball or dance lights will add to the humor of the dance scene.

**NORA BINGHAM** – The more she butchers the pronunciation of the Spanish words, the funnier it is. If the actress is Hispanic and speaks Spanish, you can increase the hilarity by directing her to speak the English lines with a Hispanic accent and then butcher the Spanish lines with an American accent.

**OFFICER CHERSTI** – The actress playing this part has the challenge of switching all the “sh” sounds in her speech with “ch” sounds. So, make sure you cast the part with someone who doesn’t easily get tongue-tied. The result is a hilarious character and an audience favorite.

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

### ACT ONE

- SCENE 1 – Jury Selection
- SCENE 2 – Introducing Count Orlock
- SCENE 3 – Nora Bingham
- SCENE 4 – Mini Mike
- SCENE 5 – Mina the Medical Examiner
- SCENE 6 – Professor Sievers
- SCENE 7 – Dax the Vampire Historian
- SCENE 8 – The Missing Witness and Officer Chersti
- SCENE 9 – Lucy Giovana’s first appearance

### ACT TWO

- SCENE 1 – Whistler
- SCENE 2 – Lady Demaio and Poopie
- SCENE 3 – Orlock’s Brides
- SCENE 4 – Lucy Giovana’s Second Appearance
- SCENE 5 – Orlock Testifies
- SCENE 6 – Cookie the Cook
- SCENE 7 – Closing Arguments
- SCENE 8 – While the Jury Is Out
- SCENE 9 – The Verdict

## PRESHOW

*As the audience enters the theatre, CLERK and BAILIFF ask several of them if they would be willing to be JURY MEMBERS (or this could be arranged ahead of time). They write down the names of the twelve people who agree and instruct them that when they are called, they will need to come onstage and follow the instructions and answer any question asked of them. Before the curtain rises, they give the list of names to the ATTORNEYS. The juror seats could be set up on stage or 12 seats could be reserved in the front rows. ALL the witnesses, except VERONA, MARISHKA, and ALEERA are seated in the audience.*

*NOTE: The JURY MEMBERS may be timid and will probably not speak loud enough, so the ATTORNEYS asking them the questions may need to repeat their answers. They can also encourage the Jury Members to expand their answers beyond “yes” or “no” because it doesn’t matter what the Jury Member says; they will still be chosen as a Juror.*

## ACT ONE, SCENE 1

### Jury Selection

**AT RISE:** *BAILIFF and CLERK enter and take their places. CLERK opens a laptop used to log in evidence and to record the proceedings. MS. HUTTER, MR. HELSING, MR. RENFIELD and MS. SCHRECK enter and address the audience.*

**MS. HUTTER:** Ladies and gentlemen, we are almost finished with the voir dire process. We just have one more question for you and with that question we will be able to make our final selections.

**MR. RENFIELD:** If your answer is satisfactory, you will be asked to take your place in the jury seats which are located right over there. When your name is called, please join us right here, so that we may ask you the final question.

**MR. HELSING:** *(Reading the jury list.)* [Insert JURY MEMBER 1 Name]. *(Waits for JURY MEMBER 1 to join them.)* Are you

creeped-out by people who have extra-long incisors? (*Waits for JURY MEMBER 1 to answer.*) I see. You will be our first juror. Please take your seat in the jury box?

*BAILIFF escorts JURY MEMBER 1 to the jury seats.*

**MS. SCHRECK:** (*Reading next name on the jury list.*) [Insert JURY MEMBER 2 Name]. (*Waits for JURY MEMBER 2 to join them.*) Do you prefer sun tan lotion or sun block lotion? (*Waits for JURY MEMBER 2 to answer.*) Thank you. You are acceptable. Please take your place in the jury box?

*BAILIFF escorts JURY MEMBER 2 to the jury seats.*

**MS. HUTTER:** (*Reading next name on the jury list.*) [Insert JURY MEMBER 3 Name]. (*Waits for JURY MEMBER 3 to join them.*) If you were to get a cut on your finger and you didn't have any bandages, in order to stop the bleeding, would you a) use an article of clothing, or b) stick your finger in your mouth? (*Waits for JURY MEMBER 3 to answer.*) Excellent. We'll take you. Join the jury box.

*BAILIFF escorts JURY MEMBER 3 to the jury seats.*

**MR. RENFIELD:** (*Reading next name on the jury list.*) [Insert JURY MEMBER 4 Name]. (*Waits for JURY MEMBER 4 to join them.*) Have you ever been the victim of a supernatural crime? (*Waits for JURY MEMBER 4 to answer.*) Very good. Welcome to the jury.

*BAILIFF escorts JURY MEMBER 4 to the jury seats.*

**MR. HELSING:** (*Reading next name on the jury list.*) [Insert JURY MEMBER 5 Name]. (*Waits for the JURY MEMBER 5 to join them.*) Earlier, you answered that, when you were a child, your brother, Charlie, bit your finger. Did it hurt? (*Waits for the JURY MEMBER 5 to answer.*) You can join the jury.

*BAILIFF escorts JURY MEMBER 5 to the jury seats.*

**MS. SCHRECK:** *(Reading next name on the jury list.)* [Insert JURY MEMBER 6 Name]. *(Waits for JURY MEMBER 6 to join them.)* Have you ever had a bat get stuck in your hair and then it's wing keep flapping on your forehead, impairing your vision and causing you to fail your driving test? 'Cause that's what we heard. *(Waits for JURY MEMBER 6 to answer.)* You can join the jury.

*BAILIFF escorts JURY MEMBER 6 to the jury seats.*

**MS. HUTTER:** *(Reading next name on the jury list.)* [Insert JURY MEMBER 7 Name]. *(Waits for JURY MEMBER 7 to join them.)* It says here that you recently visited Transylvania. Did you travel by boat or by stagecoach? *(Waits for JURY MEMBER 7 to answer.)* You can join the jury.

*BAILIFF escorts JURY MEMBER 7 to the jury seats.*

**MR. RENFIELD:** *(Reading next name on the jury list.)* [Insert JURY MEMBER 8 Name]. *(Waits for JURY MEMBER 8 to join them.)* Hypothetically, if you were walking home late, one dark and stormy night, and you came upon the cemetery, would you walk around or cut through? *(Waits for JURY MEMBER 8 to answer.)* Please join the jury.

*BAILIFF escorts JURY MEMBER 8 to the jury seats.*

**MR. HELSING:** *(Reading next name on the jury list.)* [Insert JURY MEMBER 9 Name]. *(Waits for the JURY MEMBER 9 to join them.)* You stated earlier that you are afraid of the undead. Is this because you are a) afraid of being eaten, or b) afraid of becoming undead and having to eat others? *(Waits for JURY MEMBER 9 to answer.)* You can join the jury.

*BAILIFF escorts JURY MEMBER 9 to the jury seats.*

**MS. SCHRECK:** *(Reading next name on the jury list.)* [Insert JURY MEMBER 10 Name]. *(Waits for JURY MEMBER 10 to join them.)* Earlier you stated, and I quote, "I once kissed a zombie." For

clarification sake, was this kiss a short peck or long and passionate? *(Waits for JURY MEMBER 10 to answer.)* You can take your place with the jury.

*BAILIFF escorts JURY MEMBER 10 to the jury seats.*

**MS. HUTTER:** *(Reading next name on the jury list.)* [Insert JURY MEMBER 11 Name]. *(Waits for JURY MEMBER 11 to join them.)* You said that you didn't mind the taste of blood. Do you consume blood often? *(Waits for JURY MEMBER 11 to answer.)* You can join the jury.

*BAILIFF escorts JURY MEMBER 11 to the jury seats.*

**MR. RENFIELD:** *(Reading next name on the jury list.)* [Insert JURY MEMBER 12 Name].

*JURY MEMBER 12 joins them.*

**MR. RENFIELD:** If you saw a vampire walking toward you, would you, a) stab it in the heart with a wooden stake, b) strike up a conversation and become life-long friends, or c) both?

**JURY MEMBER 12:** [picks option a, b, or c.]

**MR. RENFIELD:** Please take the final jury spot.

*BAILIFF escorts JURY MEMBER 12 to the jury seats.*

**MS. HUTTER:** Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, the jury is now selected. We'd like to thank the rest of you for fulfilling your civic duty and although you have not been selected to sit on the jury at this time you are still considered an alternate juror. If, for some reason one or more of our jury is not able to continue for any reason, you will be expected to take their place. *(Takes her place at the prosecution table.)*

**MR. RENFIELD:** The trial will begin momentarily.

*MR. RENFIELD and MS. SCHRECK take their places at the defense table and MR. HELSING heads to the prosecution table. They shuffle papers and ad lib preparations.*

**MS. SCHRECK:** *(To the prosecution.)* We're gonna win this time.

**MR. HELSING:** Good luck with that, Councilor.

**MS. SCHRECK:** You're so smug! Just because you won the last verdict, you think you're unbeatable.

**MS. HUTTER:** Not just the last verdict, Councilor; try the last eight verdicts. Eight times you've gone up against us and eight times you've lost. History is not on your side.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Yeah? Well, history is about to change! We've got a new strategy.

**MR. HELSING:** What's that?

**MS. SCHRECK:** We're gonna—

**MR. RENFIELD:** Whoa there, Ms. Schreck. Let's not reveal anything before the trial starts.

**MS. HUTTER:** Just a friendly piece of advice, Councilors; if you want to start notching some victories, then stop representing the slime of humanity.

**MS. SCHRECK:** You pompous windbag! If we weren't about to start, I'd—

## ACT ONE, SCENE 2

Introducing Count Orlock

*JUDGE enters.*

**BAILIFF:** All rise!

*ALL stand.*

**BAILIFF:** Superior Court of the State of [Insert State] is now in session.  
The Honorable Judge Edward Harker presiding.

*JUDGE sits at the Judges Stand.*

**BAILIFF:** You may be seated.

*ALL sit.*

**JUDGE:** (*Whispering to BAILIFF.*) I'm supposed to say that! (*Addressing the court.*) The people of the State of [Insert State] verses... Ms. Schreck, Mr. Renfield, where is your client?

**MS. SCHRECK:** (*Rising.*) Your Honor, the prosecution smugly insisted on special precautions in this case, of which the defense would like to enter an objection as these precautions show undo prejudice against my client.

**MR. HELSING:** (*Rising.*) Your Honor, these "special precautions" as Ms. Schreck puts it, are the only way the defendant could be in attendance in the courtroom. To bring the defendant in without these precautions would be putting the lives of everyone present in danger, including Your Honor and the defendant's own lawyers.

**JUDGE:** Very well. Are these special precautions in place?

**BAILIFF:** (*Pokes his head out the exit.*) They're ready now, Your Honor.

**JUDGE:** Then bring in the defendant.

*GUARD ONE and GUARD TWO enter with ORLOCK whose hands are bound by wolfsbane. GUARD ONE and TWO have big wooden crosses and squirt guns. GUARD ONE and TWO bring ORLOCK to the defendant's table when suddenly ORLOCK breaks free of GUARD ONE'S grasp and shoulder bumps GUARD TWO, knocking them to the ground. BAILIFF grabs ORLOCK from behind but he is thrown to the ground as well. GUARD ONE raises the cross to ORLOCK who hisses and covers his eyes. GUARD TWO gets up and raises their cross. They all get control of ORLOCK and grab his arms.*

**BAILIFF:** Sorry, Your Honor.

**JUDGE:** Bring the defendant before me.

*BAILIFF, GUARD ONE, and GUARD TWO stand ORLOCK in front of JUDGE.*

**MR. RENFIELD:** I apologize, Your Honor, it's just that my client—

**JUDGE:** Just a moment, Mr. Renfield. Guards, what is that around his wrists?

**GUARD ONE:** Wolfsbane, Your Honor.

**JUDGE:** Why isn't he restrained with handcuffs?

**GUARD TWO:** He's too strong for cuffs, Sir. Wolfsbane is the only thing that can hold him.

**JUDGE:** I see, Mr... (*Checking his briefs.*) Orlock. Do you think that you can control yourself in my courtroom?

**MS. SCHRECK:** (*Approaching JUDGE.*) Your Honor, my client has been subjected to—

**JUDGE:** I am addressing the defendant, Ms. Schreck, not you.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Sorry, Your Honor.

**JUDGE:** Now, Mr. Orlock, I will not tolerate any more of these outbursts. So, I ask you again: Can you control yourself in my courtroom?

**ORLOCK:** No.

**JUDGE:** I beg your pardon?

**ORLOCK:** If I get the chance, I will drink your blood.

**JUDGE:** Well, Bailiff, let's make sure that he doesn't get that chance. Please escort Mr. Orlock to his seat.

**MS. SCHRECK:** One moment please, Your Honor. My client wishes to be addressed as Count Orlock or The Count. In his home country, he holds the title of Count, and I wish to respect my client's culture as I'm sure you do.

**JUDGE:** Of course. The defendant will be addressed as Count Orlock or The Count. Bailiff, please escort Count Orlock to his seat.

*MS. SCHRECK gives MS. HUTTER a smug smile. BAILIFF, GUARD ONE, and GUARD TWO drag ORLOCK to his seat and force him to sit. GUARD ONE puts several garlic cloves around the table and GUARD TWO sprinkles a circle of garlic powder from a shaker around ORLOCK on the floor.*

**BAILIFF:** All set, Your Honor.

**JUDGE:** What was that?

**GUARD ONE:** Garlic cloves, Your Honor.

**GUARD TWO:** And Garlic Powder. It's just a precaution.

**JUDGE:** A few more ingredients and we could make a nice pizza.

Now, the people of the state of [Insert State] verses Count Orlock.

**MR. RENFIELD:** *(Rising.)* The defense is ready, Your Honor. *(Sits.)*

**MS. HUTTER:** *(Rising.)* The prosecution is ready, Your Honor. *(Sits.)*

**JUDGE:** The clerk will swear in the jury.

**CLERK:** *(Rises with Bible and approaches JURY.)* Jurors, please raise your right hands. Do you swear to well and fairly try this case and render a true verdict, so help you God? Say, "I do."

**ALL JURY MEMBERS:** I do.

*CLERK goes and sits at their table.*

**JUDGE:** Ladies and Gentlemen, you have been sworn in as the jury who will try this case. When we have finished, you will be escorted to the jury room where you will be required to cast a vote to render your verdict. I admonish you to listen to all the testimony prudently so that you might extract a fair and impartial judgement using the best calculations of your mind and especially the feelings of your heart. You are tasked to the determination of whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty of the murders of Michael J. Vulpes and Karen S. Tesar. His fate rests in your hands. We'll now proceed with opening statements.

**MS. HUTTER:** *(Rises and approaches JURY.)* Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury, make no mistake, what I am about to tell you is a love story. It began on a night not long ago, in January. Mike and Karen, two people, inescapably in love, were walking home from a date. They had been out earlier that night, to dinner, miniature golfing, and probably helping out at the local soup kitchen. A few minutes after midnight, as they made their way back to Karen's apartment to say goodnight and, no doubt, for a passionate goodnight kiss at the doorstep, it began to rain. They were just passing the old abandoned Jenkins mansion when thunder and lightning crashed through the sky. The rain poured down as in Noah's day. Karen held Mike's hand as they ran to the old porch for protection. Yes, protection. But protection is far from what they received. During the course of this trial, the prosecution will prove, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the defendant betrayed and murdered the young

couple in a most cruel and violent manner, not only taking their lives but also snuffing out their love. Thank you.

*MS. HUTTER sits. MR. RENFIELD rises and approaches JURY.*

**MR. RENFIELD:** I can see you're all impressed with Ms. Hutter. Heck, I'm impressed! But do you realize what she actually said? She said that Mike and Karen were probably helping out at the local soup kitchen. Probably? They were probably? Why would she use the word "probably?" It's very simple. You see, there is a space of one hour on the night in question where the prosecution cannot explain where Mike and Karen were. Yes, they went to dinner and then they went miniature golfing. After that? It's a complete mystery. The prosecution would cleverly suggest to you that they were "probably" helping out in a soup kitchen. Well, I can do the same thing. They were "probably" at a pro-Nazi rally. "They were "probably" clubbing baby Harp seals. They were "probably"—and please excuse my language—at a math teacher's convention. Yes, we could sit here and play the "probably" game all day, but "probablys" do not make it so. Throughout the course of this trial you're going to hear a lot of fancy terms thrown out by the prosecuting team, like "radical vampire extremist," but these things will not be able to divert your attention from the fact that Count Orlock is not guilty. Thank you. *(Sits.)*

### ACT ONE, SCENE 3

Nora Bingham

**JUDGE:** The prosecution may proceed.

**MR. HELSING:** *(Rises.)* Your Honor, the prosecution calls our first witness, Ms. Nora Bingham.

**CLERK:** *(Rises and approaches witness stand.)* Nora Bingham to the stand!

*NORA enters from the audience and goes to CLERK who offers the Bible. NORA puts her left hand on the Bible.*

**CLERK:** Raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

**NORA:** I do.

*NORA sits on witness stand and CLERK sits.*

**MR. HELSING:** Will you state your name for the record?

**NORA:** Nora Bingham.

**MR. HELSING:** What is your occupation?

**NORA:** I'm an actress.

**MR. HELSING:** An actress?

**NORA:** (*Bummed.*) And a waitress.

**MR. HELSING:** Where do you waitress?

**NORA:** (*Murdering all the Spanish pronunciations.*) At La Tortilla Quemada.

**MR. HELSING:** And were you working on the night of January 17<sup>th</sup>?

**NORA:** Yes.

**MR. HELSING:** And do you remember seeing Michael J. Vulpes and Karen S. Tesar on that night?

**NORA:** Yes, I was their waitress. She had a chicken quesadilla con pico de gallo and he had a beef fajita with The Guac [pronounced gwack].

**MR. HELSING:** The Guac?

**NORA:** Guacamole [pronounced gwack-a-mole].

**MR. HELSING:** Gwack-a-mole. Do you mean guacamole?

**NORA:** I guess. We call it The Guac [pronounced gwack]. . It's a house specialty. Then they shared an Helado Delisioso. It's a scoop of fried ice cream placed on top of an order of churros y chocolate [pronouncing the Spanish word "y" as "why"] drizzled with caramel sauce. Michael dripped some on his shirt and had to go clean it up in el baño.

**MR. HELSING:** I see. You seem to remember the night in question very well.

**NORA:** Mike and Karen were regulars. I waited on them quite a bit.

**MR. HELSING:** What time were they at the restaurant?

**NORA:** They got there around 8:00 p.m. and left just a little before nine.

**MR. HELSING:** In your opinion, did they seem to be in a good mood?

**NORA:** Oh yes. They were always in a good mood but that night they were extra happy.

**MR. HELSING:** Do you remember why?

**NORA:** Mike had just got a big promotion and it seemed like he was ready to take their relationship to the next level.

**MR. HELSING:** The next level. So, they were a serious couple. Romantic.

**NORA:** Absolutely.

**MR. HELSING:** In love.

**NORA:** At La Tortilla Quemada, we call it “amor.”

**MR. HELSING:** After they left the restaurant did you see which way they went?

**NORA:** No, but they did say that they were going miniature golfing.

**MR. HELSING:** Thank you. I have no more questions.

*MR. HELSING gives the defense a look and then sits. MS. SCHRECK rises.*

**MS. SCHRECK:** Ms. Bingham, what time did you say they left the restaurant?

**NORA:** Just a little before nine.

**MS. SCHRECK:** *(Pulling a receipt from the table.)* Your Honor, I submit into evidence, a copy of the credit card receipt from La Tortilla Quemada, dated January 17<sup>th</sup>, and signed by Michael Vulpes. Miss Bingham, would you please read the time stamp?

**NORA:** 9:33.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Ah, ha! 9:33 p.m.! You testified that Michael left the restaurant a little before nine, so how could he have signed the credit card receipt if he was already gone?!

*NORA looks around, confused. MS. HUTTER rises.*

**MS. HUTTER:** Objection. Your Honor, does the defense have to exclaim “Ah, ha?” It sounds like she’s badgering the witness. Besides, is a thirty-minute discrepancy in the time Mike and Karen left the restaurant really relevant when the murders took place hours later?

**MS. SCHRECK:** Your Honor, I'm only trying to establish that Ms. Bingham may not remember the night in question as well as she is letting on.

**JUDGE:** Overruled.

*MS. HUTTER sits. MS. SCHRECK hands the receipt to JUDGE who hands it to BAILIFF who hands it to CLERK who logs it in as evidence.*

**MS. SCHRECK:** (TO PROSECUTORS.) Ha. (To NORA.) Now, Ms. Bingham, did you see Michael make a phone call at any time during dinner?

**NORA:** No.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Is it possible you missed it? You were too busy with other customers, perhaps?

**NORA:** Anything's possible, but it was after the dinner rush, so they were the only ones sitting in my section. I never saw either of them take out a phone.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Would it surprise you to learn that Michael made a phone call at 9:21 that lasted four and a half minutes?

**NORA:** Yes.

**MS. SCHRECK:** (Taking phone records from her table.) Your Honor, I'd like to submit into evidence, Michael's phone records which show that such a call did take place.

**NORA:** It must've been when he went to el baño to clean off the Helado Delisioso.

**MS. SCHRECK:** That's exactly what I was thinking. Because it would be very rude to talk to another woman while out on a date with Karen. The phone records show that Michael called a Lucy Giovana, a single woman who works as a dancer at the South Seas club. Is it possible that the picture of Mike and Karen's perfect romantic relationship that you painted for us is not entirely accurate?

*MS. SCHRECK hands the phone records to JUDGE who hands it to BAILIFF who hands it to CLERK who logs it in as evidence.*

**NORA:** (Embarrassed.) I guess so.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Thank you. (*Returning to her table then suddenly turning around.*) Nora! One more thing. Does the chicken quesadilla con pico de gallo or the beef fajita with The Guac happen to have garlic in it?

**NORA:** They both do.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Huh. That's all.

**JUDGE:** The witness is excused.

**NORA:** Gracias.

*MS. SCHRECK sits. NORA exits back to her seat in the audience.*

## ACT ONE, SCENE 4

Mini Mike

**MS. HUTTER:** (*Rises.*) The prosecution calls Mike Savage.

**CLERK:** (*Rises.*) Mike Savage to the stand.

*No one approaches.*

**MS. HUTTER:** I'm sorry about this, Your Honor, but if you'll just indulge me for a moment. The prosecution calls... (*Like a pro-wrestling announcer.*) ...Mike "The Regulator" Savage!

*CLERK looks confused, MS. HUTTER encourages CLERK with a look.*

**CLERK:** (*Like a pro-wrestling announcer.*) Mike "The Regulator" Savage! ... (*Normal voice.*) to the stand.

*MIKE enters from the audience and goes to CLERK who offers the Bible. MIKE puts his left hand on the Bible.*

**CLERK:** Raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

**MIKE:** I does.

*MIKE sits on the witness stand and CLERK sits.*

**MS. HUTTER:** Now, on the night in question—

**JUDGE:** Excuse me Ms. Hutter. Can the witness please state his name for the record?

**MIKE:** Oh yeah. Sure, sure. No problem. My name is Mike “The Regulator” Savage.

**JUDGE:** What’s “the regulator” for? Is that your real name?

**MS. HUTTER:** I’m sorry, Your Honor, but the witness refused to testify unless we agreed to announce his name like that.

**MIKE:** Yeah, sees, I works at Wedgies; it’s the miniature golf place uptown. And everybody calls me “Mini Mike.” But I don’t likes it, see? I mean, do I looks mini to you? If I was like five foot two or something likes that, then yeah, I could see the reason for the nick name. Or if I was shorter than that, like that goblin in Harry Potter, I can’t remember his name, then yeah, “Mini Mike” would make sense. I ain’t mini, and I don’t ever plans to be mini, but they still calls me that anyways. So, I decided to change all that by going by Mike “The Regulator” Savage.

**JUDGE:** Why “The Regulator?”

**MIKE:** Because I hands out the clubs and the golf balls at the miniature golf place. So like, I controls the club size and what color of ball you get. I figure, that’s like regulating. So, I’m the regulator, not Mini Mike ‘cause I’m not mini.

**JUDGE:** Hmm. Very well. You may proceed, Ms. Hutter.

**MS. HUTTER:** Mike... The Regulator, were you working at the miniature golf place, Wedgies, on the night of January 17<sup>th</sup>?

**MIKE:** Yes. Yes, I was.

**MS. HUTTER:** And do you remember Michael Vulpes and Karen Tesar playing a round of golf that night?

**MIKE:** Yes. Yes, I does.

**MS. HUTTER:** Do you remember what time they arrived?

**MIKE:** Yes. Yes, I does.

**MS. HUTTER:** And will you please tell the court what time they arrived?

**MIKE:** Yes. Yes, I wills.

**MS. HUTTER:** Go ahead.

**MIKE:** It was about quarter to ten. I remembers ‘cause we close at eleven and I remembers looking at the clock and thinking, ‘Oh good, we close in an hour and a quarter.’

**MS. HUTTER:** And how do you happen to remember Mike and Karen?

**MIKE:** Oh, that's an easy one. 'Cause Mike had the same name as me. He saw my name tag and goes, "Hey we have the same name! I'm Mike too." So I go, "Let me axe you somethin'. Do people ever calls you 'Mini Mike?'" And he goes, "No." And I go, "Yeah, cause that wouldn't make sense, right? Cause you're not small, right?" And he goes, "I guess not." And I go, "Do I look small to you?" And he goes, "No." And I go, "totally." And he goes, "Maybe they calls you Mini Mike because you work here." And I go, "What's that got to do with the price of China." He goes... (*Making an "I don't know" gesture.*) I can't believe he goed that.

**MS. HUTTER:** He goed that? What is goed?

**MIKE:** The past tense of "goes." In my testimony, he, present tense, "goes..." (*Repeats the "I don't know gesture."*) Then after my testimony, I look back in time and make the comment "I can't believe he," past tense, "goed" that. Didn't you never take no English class in high schools?

**MS. HUTTER:** I see. Did Michael and Karen seem like they were in love?

**MIKE:** Absolutely.

**MS. HUTTER:** How so?

**MIKE:** They wanted the same color ball.

**MS. HUTTER:** Why would that make a difference?

**MIKE:** You don't golf much, do you? If you haves the same color ball, they'll get mixed up on the course. You won't know whom's ball is whom's.

**MS. HUTTER:** Wow, the same color ball, even though it would make the game more difficult. (*Gives a smug smile to MS. SCHRECK.*) That's extremely romantic. One last question, Mr. The Regulator: What time did they leave?

**MIKE:** It was about 11:10, 11:15.

**MS. HUTTER:** Thank you. Your witness, Councilor. (*Sits.*)

**MR. RENFIELD:** (*Rises.*) Mike Savage... a.k.a. Mini Mike.

**MIKE:** Don't ever calls me that. I'm Mike "The—

**MR. RENFIELD:** "...Regulator" Savage, I know. Tell me, did it ever occur to you that perhaps the reason everyone calls you "Mini Mike" is not because you're mini, but because you work at a mini golf place?

**MIKE:** Uh... well, no, I mean, you know, like, uh... no.

**BAILIFF:** Well said, Mike.

*JUDGE gives BAILIFF a stern look.*

**MIKE:** You mean, it isn't because they thinks I'm short or somethin' likes that? It's because I works at mini golf?! Mini Mike. Hey, I likes that! I wants everyone to calls me Mini Mike, 'cause I works at the mini golf place. Mini Mike. It's clever!

**MR. RENFIELD:** It's certainly better than Put-Put Mike. Now, Mini Mike, you stated that the couple arrived at quarter to ten.

**MIKE:** That's right, I looked at the clock.

**MR. RENFIELD:** (*Pointing out to audience.*) Then tell me, can you look right there at that clock on the wall and tell me what time it is now?

**MIKE:** (*Looking out at audience.*) Oh, uh. That clock right theres?

**MR. RENFIELD:** Right there. (*Waiting for MIKE to read the clock.*) Mike? Can you read it for us?

**MIKE:** (*Embarrassed.*) Sure, I can. I just don't feels like it right now.

**MR. RENFIELD:** Read the clock, Mike.

**MIKE:** I can't.

**MR. RENFIELD:** So, you want us to believe that on the night in question, you know exactly what time the couple arrived at Wedgies because you looked at a clock... when you can't even tell time!

**MR. HELSING:** (*Rises.*) Objection, Your Honor! He's badgering the witness!

**MIKE:** I can tell time!

**MR. RENFIELD:** Then please look at that clock and tell us what time it is!

**MR. HELSING:** Your Honor, objection!

**MIKE:** I can't.

**MR. RENFIELD:** If you can't do it here, then why should we believe you can do it at Wedgies?!

**MR. HELSING:** I object!

**MIKE:** Because the clock at Wedgies don't have no arms and numbers goin' in a circle. It's digital.

**MR. RENFIELD:** Oh... uh, sorry. Way to go public school system.

**MR. HELSING:** (*Sitting.*) Objection withdrawn.

**MR. RENFIELD:** One last question, Mini Mike. You said that the couple wanted the same color golf balls.

**MIKE:** That's right. I was gonna give 'em a blue one and a pink one. But they requested the same color.

**MR. RENFIELD:** And what color was that?

**MIKE:** Yeller.

**MR. RENFIELD:** Yellow. I see. No further questions.

**JUDGE:** The witness is excused.

**MIKE:** Mini Mike is excused!

*MR. RENFIELD sits. MIKE exits back to his seat in the audience.*

## ACT ONE, SCENE 5

Mina the Medical Examiner

**MR. HELSING:** *(Rises.)* The prosecution calls Mina Harker.

**CLERK:** *(Rises.)* Mina Harker to the stand please.

*MINA enters from the audience and runs to the witness stand.*

**MINA:** Yes! Whoohoo! That's me! Come on down! This is so exciting! I knew they'd call me! I just had a feeling! This is awesome!

*MINA approaches CLERK who offers the Bible. MINA just looks at it.*

**MINA:** You want me to read?

**CLERK:** No, ma'am. I need to swear you in.

**MINA:** Oh, I never curse. Not indoors anyway.

**CLERK:** Ma'am, put your left hand on the Bible like the other witnesses did.

**MINA:** They did?

**CLERK:** Haven't you been paying attention? Just put your left hand on the Bible!

*MINA complies.*

**CLERK:** Now raise your right hand.

*MINA raises her right hand high into the air.*

**CLERK:** *(To MR. HELSING.)* Are you sure you want this one as a witness?

*MR. HELSING nods.*

**CLERK:** Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

**MINA:** I certainly ringy dink dink do.

**CLERK:** Just say, “yes” or “I do.”

**MINA:** Yes, I do.

*MINA sits on witness stand. CLERK sighs and sits.*

**MR. HELSING:** Will you state your full name for the record?

**MINA:** Of course. Mina Louise Harker.

**MR. HELSING:** And what is your profession?

**MINA:** I am the medical examiner for [Insert County Name] County. Yeah, [Insert County Name] County is number one!

**MR. HELSING:** Okay, Ms. Harker. Do you enjoy your job?

**MINA:** It’s freakin’ awesome! I get to examine dead bodies and stuff.

**MR. HELSING:** And in the course of your duties, what were you assigned to do on the night of January 17<sup>th</sup>?

**MINA:** Nothing.

**MR. HELSING:** I beg your pardon?

**MINA:** Nothing. It was a super slow night. Absolutely nothing happened so I went to bed early.

**MR. HELSING:** Are you saying that on the night of January 17<sup>th</sup>, you did not examine the bodies of Michael J. Vulpes and Karen S. Tesar?

**MINA:** That’s what I’m telling you.

**MR. HELSING:** *(Picking up medical examiners report.)* Ms. Harker, I have a medical examination report signed by you—

**MINA:** On the morning of January 18<sup>th</sup>. Ha! Gotchya! Okay, it was about 2:00 a.m. I’m lying in bed, fast asleep, just bored out of my mind, when the phone rings. I wake up and answer the phone. It’s

Officer Chersti. I love Officer Chersti, she's so cool. Do you know her?

**MR. HELSING:** Yes, we've met. And what did she want?

**MINA:** She said she had a couple of bodies I needed to look at. So, I jump in my car and drive to the scene.

**MR. HELSING:** And where was that?

**MINA:** The old abandoned Jenkins mansion.

**MR. HELSING:** And what did you do when you got there?

**MINA:** I immediately drove home.

**MR. HELSING:** You drove home?!

**MINA:** Yeah, I was so excited that I forgot that I was still in my jammie jams. Luckily, I live right down the street, so I changed into my med stuff and got back really fast. That's when Officer Chersti led me to the bodies.

**MR. HELSING:** And did you examine them?

**MINA:** Yes.

**MR. HELSING:** And what was their condition?

**MINA:** They were dead.

**MR. HELSING:** Anything else?

**MINA:** They looked like this. *(Makes a dead expression.)*

**MR. HELSING:** Were you able to determine the time of death?

**MINA:** Yes. See, I do a preliminary examination at the scene and then the bodies are transported to the morgue where I do a complete examination. There I was able to determine that they died about 12:25 a.m. on the morning of January 18th.

**MR. HELSING:** 12:25 a.m. And were you able to determine the cause of death?

**MINA:** Oh yes. It was quite obvious. Both bodies were completely drained of blood.

**MR. HELSING:** Isn't that unusual?

**MINA:** Extremely.

**MR. HELSING:** How do you think it was accomplished?

**MINA:** The blood was drained from the carotid external artery and the internal jugular vein by masticating the scalene muscles.

**MR. HELSING:** What would that mean in layman's terms?

**MINA:** Someone bit the victims in the throat and sucked all their blood out.

**MR. RENFIELD:** (*Rises.*) Objection to the word “victims,” Your Honor. It hasn’t been established that they were actual victims. It could be that they wanted to have all their blood sucked out and did it to themselves.

**JUDGE:** Sustained. The court instructs the witness to not use the word “victims.”

*MR. RENFIELD sits.*

**MINA:** Sorry about that, Your Honor.

**MR. HELSING:** Ms. Harker, in your expert opinion, did Mike and Karen suck their own blood out their bodies?

**MINA:** No. There were signs of struggle and there was slobber all over their necks.

**MR. HELSING:** Is there any way that it was their own slobber? I mean, maybe they were passionately necking and it got out of hand?

**MINA:** No. The DNA results prove that the slobber found on the necks of the deceased matches the defendant, Count Orlock.

*Gasp from ALL. MINA sticks out her tongue at ORLOCK.*

**MR. HELSING:** Thank you, Ms. Harker. (*To DEFENSE.*) Your witness. (*Sits.*)

**MS. SCHRECK:** (*Rises.*) You stated that the DNA that was found on the necks of the vict... guys it was found on... belonged to my client. Is it possible that this could’ve come from a sneeze or some other accidental contact?

**MINA:** No.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Dang it.

**MINA:** Count Orlock’s slobber was found inside the necks, mixed with the little remaining blood.

**MS. SCHRECK:** But you said that they were completely drained of blood.

**MINA:** Yes. Completely drained of all blood that would be able to be pumped through the body to keep one alive. But there were traces coating the internal muscles. It’s like when you or I eat a Snack Pack pudding cup; there’s always a little bit on the sides and bottom

of the container that we can't get. (*Points at ORLOCK.*) You're under arrest, pal!

**MS. SCHRECK:** Whoa, whoa, Ms. Harker, such hostility.

**ORLOCK:** There was some blood left?

**MS. SCHRECK:** Shhh! One last question, Mina. Why do you hate vampires?

**MR. HELSING:** (*Rises.*) Objection, Your Honor! The question is irrelevant to her examination of the bodies.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Ms. Harker opened this door when she stuck her tongue out at my client. I'm simply trying to determine if there is any undo prejudice against The Count.

**JUDGE:** I'll allow the question.

*MR. HELSING sits.*

**MS. SCHRECK:** Yes! (*To MR. HELSING.*) In your face, Helsing! (*To MINA.*) Once again, Mina, why do you hate vampires?

**MINA:** Several years ago, in September, my parents were working late when a group of giant bats flew right into the side of their office building. They crashed through the windows and once inside they revealed their true selves. Vampires! They killed everyone. Then with their super strength they smashed the interior structure and brought the building down, leaving the bodies in a pile of rubble. My parents were killed by vermin like Count Orlock! You're a monster! You're a vile, evil creature! You deserve to die! Die!!! Diiiiieeee!!!

**MS. SCHRECK:** Thank you. No more questions.

**JUDGE:** The witness is excused.

*MS. SCHRECK sits. MINA exits back to her seat in the audience. While the PROSECUTION looks through their papers, ORLOCK turns around and finds LUCY sitting in the audience. ORLOCK stares at her. LUCY stares back and goes into a trance. ORLOCK turns back around and LUCY stays in her trance.*

**ACT ONE, SCENE 6**

Professor Sievers

**MS. HUTTER:** (*Rises.*) The prosecution calls Professor M. Sievers.

**CLERK:** (*Rises.*) Professor M. Sievers to the witness stand.

*SIEVERS enters from the audience and sits on witness stand. CLERK offers the Bible and SIEVERS puts left hand on it.*

**SIEVERS:** I am ready.

**CLERK:** Raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

**SIEVERS:** Yes.

*CLERK sits.*

**MS. HUTTER:** Professor Sievers, you are considered to be the world's foremost expert on vampires, are you not?

**SIEVERS:** Many believe so, yes.

**MS. HUTTER:** Could you please tell us your credentials?

**SIEVERS:** Ah, yes. I have degrees in both psychology and parapsychology, and a P.H.D in Vampiric Studies. I am on the executive board of the Supernatural Studies Association and have published many articles with the Journal of Chupacabra. I have been a professor for 17 years at the Institute for the Advanced Study of Nosferatu. I have been a Vampiologist for over 30 years, in the field, working for the government as an agent for the B.I.A.

**MS. HUTTER:** The B.I.A.?

**SIEVERS:** Bloodsuckers Intelligence Agency. I've also seen the Scooby-Doo episode where vampires are scaring people away from the bad guys' counterfeiting operation. (*Awkward silence.*) Ha! That's just a little joke I like to throw in there.

**MS. HUTTER:** Ah, very good. Professor Sievers, what are vampires?

**SIEVERS:** Except for the first vampire, they were once humans who have been turned into vampires by other vampires.

**MS. HUTTER:** And how is one "turned?"

**SIEVERS:** Blood is life, Ms. Hutter. Without blood, we could not be alive. This is also true for the vampire. Because they are undead,

their bodies do not produce oxygenated blood on their own. In order to survive, they must drink the blood of the living. In essence, drinking this blood allows the hideous looking vampire to appear human. The opposite is also true. If a human drinks the blood of a vampire, it will turn him into the undead and the line of vampires continues.

**MS. HUTTER:** What other characteristics do vampires have?

**SIEVERS:** In appearance, vampires are very much human-like, after-all, they used to be human. However, the vampire has a physical strength much stronger than the average mortal; I would say the equivalent of five or six good men. The older vampires have the ability to change themselves from human form into another, a sort of shapeshifting. Some were known to transform into creatures such as the *Rattus Norvegicus* or the *Antrozous Chiroptera*.

**MS. HUTTER:** Chiroptera?

**SIEVERS:** A bat. Many vampires also have the ability to spellbind their prey. It is a mental power, almost like hypnosis, in where the vampire can mentally grasp the psyche of a weaker mind.

**MS. HUTTER:** To what end?

**SIEVERS:** To cause fear and terror. And sometimes to impose their will.

**MS. HUTTER:** Is there any defense against this kind of attack?

**SIEVERS:** Yes. When the vampire is trying to mentally exert his will, it is important not to make direct eye contact. (*Makes eye contact with ORLOCK.*) The eyes are the window to the... (*Falling into a trance.*) ...soul. I... (*Shaking his head out of the trance.*) I'm sorry, what was the question?

**MS. HUTTER:** (*Looking between SIEVERS and ORLOCK.*) They sound very menacing. Do they have any weaknesses?

**SIEVERS:** Oh, yes. The vampire can be held at bay by the *Aconitum* plant.

**MS. HUTTER:** What is that?

**SIEVERS:** Wolfsbane. You can see some of it right over there, used to bind Count Orlock's wrists. Wolfsbane can negate the strength advantage of the vampire.

**MS. HUTTER:** Are there any other weaknesses?

*SIEVERS pulls out a cross made from Popsicle sticks and holds it up. ORLOCK looks away with a hiss.*

**SIEVERS:** A vampire cannot bare the sight of a cross. It cannot advance upon it and will shrink from its presence. (*Putting the cross away.*) It may seem odd, but a vampire cannot breach a barrier of garlic. Also, Holy Water will burn the vampire but not kill it.

**GUARD ONE:** That's what our squirt guns are filled with!

**GUARD TWO:** We read about it online.

**MR. RENFIELD:** (*Rises.*) Objection.

**JUDGE:** Sustained. The guards will refrain from comment.

*MR. RENFIELD sits.*

**GUARD ONE:** Sorry, Your Honor.

**GUARD TWO:** We never getta talk.

**MS. HUTTER:** So, Holy Water won't kill them. Is that because vampires are immortal and cannot die?

**SIEVERS:** Not at all. Being immortal simply means that one will not die of natural causes like old age or disease. But a vampire can be killed.

**MS. HUTTER:** How?

**SIEVERS:** There are two sure ways to kill a vampire: Piercing its heart with a wooden stake and direct sunlight.

**MS. HUTTER:** I guess that's why Mr. Renfield and Ms. Schreck requested a night trial.

**MS. SCHRECK:** (*Rises.*) Objection. Is there a question?

**JUDGE:** Council will refrain from speculation while questioning the witness.

*MR. SCHRECK sits.*

**MS. HUTTER:** Sorry, Your Honor. Professor, what about silver?

**SIEVERS:** Silver does have an adverse effect on vampires. There is some disagreement surrounding the reason why. I believe it is because of the deep ties silver has to ancient religion.

**MS. HUTTER:** No further questions. (*Sits.*)

**MR. RENFIELD:** *(Rises.)* Professor Sievers, you have explained many ways to harm or kill vampires. And while your credentials are rather extensive, every vampire organization you belong to is dedicated to... *(Looking at his notes.)* Let's see, how does the B.I.A. describe its purpose? Ah here it is: "...cleansing the earth from these vile creatures."

**SIEVERS:** Yes, that is correct.

**MR. RENFIELD:** Would it be safe to say that you are prejudice against my client?

**SIEVERS:** Yes. He is one of the vile creatures that must be cleansed from the earth.

**MR. RENFIELD:** Ah ha! So, you admit that you're prejudice against vampires!

**SIEVERS:** Yes, I do.

**MR. RENFIELD:** Great! Then I guess I have no further—

**MS. SCHRECK:** *(Rises.)* Wait! *(Pulls MR. RENFIELD aside.)* This is gold! He admits his prejudice, we need to capitalize on this. *(To SIEVERS.)* Uh... just one other thing, Professor... Um... Do you promise that you're prejudice against our client?

**MS. HUTTER:** *(Rises.)* Your Honor, the witness is already under oath! Everything he says is a promise!

**JUDGE:** I'll allow it.

*MR. HUTTER sits.*

**MS. SCHRECK:** Well, Professor Sievers?

**SIEVERS:** Yes. I promise.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Pinky swear?

**MS. HUTTER:** *(Rises.)* Your Honor!

**JUDGE:** Do you pinky swear, Professor?

**SIEVERS:** I pinky swear.

*MS. HUTTER sits. SIEVERS locks pinkies with BAILIFF.*

**MS. SCHRECK:** Thank you, Professor. No further questions.

*MS. SCHRECK and MR. RENFIELD high five each other and sit.*

**JUDGE:** The witness is excused.

*SIEVERS exits back to his seat in the audience.*

## **ACT ONE, SCENE 7**

Dax the Vampire Historian

**MR. HELSING:** *(Rises.)* The prosecution calls Dax Stokes.

**CLERK:** *(Rises.)* Dax Stokes to the witness stand.

*DAX enters from the audience and sits on witness stand. CLERK offers the Bible and DAX puts left hand on it.*

**DAX:** Thank you.

**CLERK:** Raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

**DAX:** Yes.

*CLERK sits.*

**MR. HELSING:** Thank you for being here Mr. Stokes. Can you please tell us your credentials?

**DAX:** I'm a historian, a vampire historian for the Smithsonian. I have categorized the existence of vampires, back to their earliest beginnings, back to, what is believed to be, the very first vampire.

**MR. HELSING:** The first vampire. Who was that?

**DAX:** This is rather controversial. Some believe that the first vampire dates back 6,000 years ago in the Edimmu of Mesopotamia. The legend goes that a violent criminal was put to death and because of his vile reputation he was given an improper burial. When anyone passed by the dishonored grave, the dead man would spring forth, bite the person and drink their life force. However, the records of this event are found in copies of copies of copies. The original written records have long turned to dust. So, this is not a reputable source.

**MR. HELSING:** Then where do vampires come from?

**DAX:** Well, Mr. Helsing, there is a strong connection between Mesopotamia and where vampires actually come from. It lies in the homeland of the first documented and most famous vampire of all... Count Dracula.

*A buzz from ALL.*

**MR. HELSING:** So, Dracula was a Count; just like Count Orlock?

**DAX:** Yes.

**MR. HELSING:** And how did Count Dracula become a vampire?

**DAX:** It is said that he struck a deal with the devil himself, and then used necromancy to obtain immortality.

**MR. HELSING:** It sounds rather terrifying. And where was Count Dracula from?

**DAX:** He was from the Carpathian Mountains inside an area of Romania known as Transylvania.

**MR. HELSING:** So, the first vampire was from Transylvania?

**DAX:** That is correct.

**MS. HUTTER:** *(Pulling out passport and approaching DAX.)* Your Honor, we submit into evidence the passport of Count Orlock. Dax, will you read the permanent address listed?

*MR. HELSING sits.*

**DAX:** Three two six, Carpathian Way, Transylvania.

*A buzz from ALL. MS. HUTTER hands the passport to JUDGE who hands it to BAILIFF who hands it to CLERK who logs it in.*

**MS. HUTTER:** So, vampires come from Transylvania.

**DAX:** Yes. But let us make one thing perfectly clear: All vampires originate from Transylvania, but not everyone from Transylvania is a vampire.

**MS. HUTTER:** Of course. One last thing, Professor. You said that vampires suck the blood of humans because they need oxygenated blood to survive. Couldn't they get this blood from a blood bank or some other way where they wouldn't have to kill anyone?

**DAX:** Yes, I suppose that arrangements could easily be made.

**MS. HUTTER:** Then why do they kill?

**DAX:** (*Looks at ORLOCK.*) They are evil.

**MS. SCHRECK:** (*Rises.*) Objection! Evil is relative and speculative and has not even been proven to exist.

**JUDGE:** Sustained!

**MS. SCHRECK:** (*Doing a victory dance and teasing in sing song voice.*) Evil is relative! Evil is speculative! Evil is relative! Evil is speculative!

*MS. SCHRECK stops when she realizes that everyone is staring at her. Embarrassed, she sits.*

**MS. HUTTER:** Since we can't say that they kill because they are evil, can you think of another reason they kill?

**DAX:** No.

**MS. HUTTER:** Your witness. (*Sits.*)

**MR. RENFIELD:** (*Rises.*) Vampire Historian Dax, what happened to Dracula?

**DAX:** He was hunted down and stabbed through the heart with a wooden stake.

**MR. RENFIELD:** That's rather gruesome. Wasn't he given a fair trial?

**DAX:** Well, in the 1800's in London there was no way to—

**MR. RENFIELD:** They had courtrooms, didn't they?

**DAX:** Yes. But—

**MR. RENFIELD:** He was accused of murder, wasn't he?

**DAX:** Yes.

**MR. RENFIELD:** So, what happened?

**DAX:** Like I said, the vampire cannot abide the sunlight and must sleep in a coffin during the day. This is where they found him and pierced his heart with a wooden stake.

**MR. RENFIELD:** You mean to tell me that instead of apprehending him to stand trial, they found him asleep in his bed and murdered him?

**DAX:** Well, uh... in a sense, I guess that could be accurate. Dracula was a cold-blooded killer and there was no way that mere mortals could—

**MR. RENFIELD:** Thank you, Mr. Stokes. The prosecution has tried to make a connection between my client and Dracula by stating that

they both held the same title. Is everyone who holds the title of Count a vampire?

**DAX:** Certainly not.

**MR. RENFIELD:** I see. You stated that all vampires originate from Transylvania, but not everyone from Transylvania is a vampire.

**DAX:** That is correct.

**MR. RENFIELD:** So, there are people just like you and me from Transylvania?

**DAX:** Of course.

**MR. RENFIELD:** Are there any peaceful vampires?

**DAX:** There are examples of vampires who do not kill humans and simply want to live out their lives in peace: Stefan and Damon, Edward Cullen and his family, Count Chocula, Angel, and of course the loveable Count from Sesame Street who would rather count humans than viciously slaughter them.

**MR. RENFIELD:** Then tell me, Mr. Stokes, isn't it possible that being a Count and being from Transylvania is just a coincidence and that Count Orlock is just like any other citizen who wants to live out his life in peace?

**DAX:** That is a good question. I recently returned from a trip to Transylvania on a fact-finding mission. You see, Castle Dracula had been purchased by an investor who opened it as a tourist attraction. You could take a guided tour through the castle; workers would dress up in the old traditional costumes, and some would even use sheets and what not to give the patrons a scare. It was all in good fun, you see, and quite successful.

**MR. RENFIELD:** What does this have to do with my question?

**DAX:** However, soon after it opened some of the workers mysteriously disappeared; some guests could not find their way to the castle, and those who did, could not remember what had happened as if a mist had clouded their mind. The castle was closed, and the investor was forced to sell.

**MR. RENFIELD:** Mr. Stokes, please answer the question.

**DAX:** There is a small village nestled at the base of the Carpathian Mountains where I stayed the night before journeying to the castle. I was warned by everyone in the inn not to visit the castle. They said that an evil had returned that had not existed for over a hundred years.

**MR. RENFIELD:** Answer the question! Isn't it possible that being a Count and being from Transylvania is just a coincidence and that Count Orlock is just like any other citizen who wants to live out his life in peace?!

**DAX:** The villagers said that the castle had a new name: Castle Orlock.

*Gasp from ALL.*

**JUDGE:** (*Rapping his gavel.*) Order! Order!

**GUARD ONE:** I'd like a bacon cheese burger with extra onions and a small fry.

**GUARD TWO:** And a Diet Coke. Let's get a Diet Coke.

**GUARD ONE:** And a Diet Coke.

**MR. RENFIELD:** Orlock is a very common name in Transylvania. It's like Smith or Johnson to us. Just because the castle has the same name as my client doesn't mean that he is the Orlock who lives there. Now, Mr. Stokes, please answer my question.

**DAX:** After several days, I found the castle. It had been completely restored as it was in Dracula's day. And above the grand fireplace in the main hall, Mr. Renfield, was a large painted portrait of your client, Count Orlock.

*Gasp from ALL.*

**JUDGE:** (*Rapping his gavel.*) Order! Order! I won't tolerate these outbursts!

**ORLOCK:** (*Rises.*) You entered my home?! You will pay for that, Dax Stokes! I will drink your blood, every drop of it. You will die! Diiiiieeee!

*ALL react, and DAX pulls out his cross and holds it up to ORLOCK. LUCY, screams and runs out of the room. GUARD ONE, GUARD TWO, and BAILIFF jump into action with their own crosses and force ORLOCK back into his seat. ORLOCK hisses and resists but he is forced to sit.*

**MR. RENFIELD:** Uh... no further questions.

**JUDGE:** The witness is excused.

*DAX exits back to his seat in the audience. As he walks by, ORLOCK hisses at him.*

**MR. RENFIELD:** Objection, Your Honor.

**JUDGE:** Objection to what?

**MR. RENFIELD:** I move to have that sound my client just made be stricken from the record.

**JUDGE:** On what grounds?

**MR. RENFIELD:** It makes my client look bad. I wouldn't want my client to be judged on his looks. That would be discriminatory.

**JUDGE:** *(To CLERK.)* How was that sound entered into the record?

**CLERK:** H-H-H-H-G-G-G-H-H.

**JUDGE:** Read that part back.

**CLERK:** *(Reading from the laptop.)* Renfield: Uh... no further questions. Judge Harker: The witness is excused. Count Orlock: *(Imitating the ORLOCK'S hiss.)* Hhhhggghh.

**JUDGE:** I guess that's as close a spelling as one could expect. What would you call that sound?

**CLERK:** I would say it's like a hiss – without any S's.

**JUDGE:** Alright, let the record show that this court is without prejudice or discrimination and it is so ordered to strike that hiss from the record. The jury will disregard the hissing sound that Count Orlock made at the witness. And Councilor, if you want any other noises your client makes to not be entered into the record, I suggest that you keep your client from making said noises.

**MR. RENFIELD:** Thank you, Your Honor. *(To ORLOCK.)* You're not helping your case.

*ORLOCK hisses at MR. RENFIELD. MR. RENFIELD looks at CLERK. CLERK enters the noise into the record.*

**CLERK:** *(Typing.)* H-H-H-H-G-G-G-H-H

*MR. RENFIELD sits.*

**ACT ONE, SCENE 8**

## The Missing Witness and Officer Chersti

**MR. HELSING:** (*Rises.*) Your Honor, the prosecution calls Lucy Giovana.

**CLERK:** (*Rises.*) Lucy Giovana to the stand. (*Waiting for LUCY.*) Lucy Giovana.

*BAILIFF exits.*

**MR. HELSING:** She is here, Your Honor. She had some reservations about testifying but we convinced her that it was the right thing to do.

**MS. SCHRECK:** (*Rises.*) Perhaps she's changed her mind.

**JUDGE:** Was she properly subpoenaed?

**MS. HUTTER:** (*Rises.*) Yes, Your Honor.

*BAILIFF enters and whispers to JUDGE who whispers something back. BAILIFF exits.*

**JUDGE:** Your witness is missing. I've ordered the Bailiff to search the building.

**MR. HELSING:** The prosecution requests a short recess while we locate the witness.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Your Honor, we've only just begun. If we recess for every witness that the prosecution loses we'll never get through, denying my client's right to a fair and speedy trial.

**MR. HELSING:** We've barely even looked for her. She could be in the bathroom for all we know.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Giving the prosecution this leeway looks like discrimination against my client, and the court needs to appear non-prejudicial, Your Honor.

**JUDGE:** I'll be the judge of what the court needs, Ms. Schreck. But I'm inclined to agree with you. No recess granted. Call your next witness, Mr. Helsing.

**MR. HELSING:** Your Honor, a simple recess won't make you look—

**JUDGE:** I've made my decision. Now call your next witness, Mr. Helsing!

*MS. HUTTER and MS. SCHRECK sit.*

**MR. HELSING:** Sorry, Your Honor. The prosecution calls Officer DeeAnn Chersti.

**CLERK:** Officer DeeAnn Chersti to the stand.

*CHERSTI enters from the audience and takes the stand. CLERK offers the Bible and CHERSTI puts her left hand on it.*

**CLERK:** Raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

**CHERSTI:** Yes.

*CHERSTI sits on witness stand and CLERK sits.*

**MR. HELSING:** Office Chersti—

**CHERSTI:** Shersti.

**MR. HELSING:** What?

**CHERSTI:** It's pronounced Shhhhhersti.

**MR. HELSING:** But it's spelled with a C-H.

**CHERSTI:** I know how it's spelled. It's pronounced Shersti.

**MR. HELSING:** Shersti. Is that French?

**CHERSTI:** I don't know.

**MR. HELSING:** Officer Shersti, you were the arresting officer in this case?

**CHERSTI:** Yes, I was.

**MR. HELSING:** Can you tell us what transpired on the night of January 17<sup>th</sup>?

**CHERSTI:** My partner and I got a call about a disturbance at the old Jenkins' mansion. When we got there, we found the bodies of Mike and Karen on the porch.

**MR. HELSING:** Was that in the driveway?

**CHERSTI:** What?

**MR. HELSING:** You said the bodies were on top of the Porsche. Was the Porsche parked in the driveway?

**CHERSTI:** They weren't on a car! They were on the porch. The front porch! You walk up the stairs and you're on the front porch. There's a porch swing next to the front door.

**MR. HELSING:** I see. Was there anything else on the front porch?

**CHERSTI:** Yeah, a share.

**MR. HELSING:** I'm sorry?

**CHERSTI:** A share! A rocking share!

**MR. HELSING:** Oh. So, the bodies of Mike and Karen were on the porch near the rocking chair.

**CHERSTI:** That's correct.

**MR. HELSING:** What did you do next?

**CHERSTI:** The door was ajar. We drew our weapons and headed inside. My partner said that he never liked the old house; it gave him the creeps and he wanted to wait for backup. Then I said, "Well I'll be, it's as though someone still lives here." Then my partner said, "What's that covering the furniture? Is it dust?" And I said, "No, it's cheets."

**MR. HELSING:** Cheets? What's that?

**CHERSTI:** You know, cheets. Like you put on your bed? Cheets.

**MR. HELSING:** I see. Continue.

**CHERSTI:** And my partner said, "Cheets? What's that?" And I said "You know, cheets. Like you put on your bed? Cheets." And then I didn't want him to feel bad so I said, "But there's dust on the cheets." So then, we heard this voice. It said, "I bid you, Velcome."

**MR. HELSING:** And did you see who it was that said this?

**CHERSTI:** Yeah, it was Orlock.

**MS. SCHRECK:** *(Rises.)* Objection! The court has already ordered that my client will be called Count Orlock.

**JUDGE:** The witness will refer to the defendant as "Count Orlock."

**CHERSTI:** Fine. Count Orlock was standing in the corner with blood all over his face.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Objection! How does the witness know it was blood?

**JUDGE:** Sustained.

*MS. SCHRECK sits.*

**MR. HELSING:** So, you saw Count Orlock standing in the corner?

**CHERSTI:** Yes. There was a red liquid smeared all over his face and dripping from his mouth.

**MR. HELSING:** Was forensics able to identify the red liquid?

**CHERSTI:** Yes. The red liquid was positively identified as blood; Mike and Karen's blood, to be exact.

*MR. HELSING looks at the defense.*

**MS. SCHRECK:** (*Bummed.*) No objections.

**MR. HELSING:** Were you frightened?

**CHERSTI:** Chure.

**MR. HELSING:** Chure?

**CHERSTI:** Chure! Chure, I was frightened!

**MR. HELSING:** Oh, sure! What happened next?

**CHERSTI:** We identified ourselves as police officers and ordered him to lie down. But he said, "I want to suck your blood." And then he advanced on us. I gave him one more warning, but he didn't stop so we fired. I hit him in the shest three times.

**MR. HELSING:** Shest?

**CHERSTI:** (*Pounding her chest.*) Shest! Shest! I chot him in the shest! It just seemed to annoy him. He got to me and threw me across the room. My partner wasn't so lucky. He's still in the hospital.

**MR. HELSING:** Yes, I spoke with him. Thankfully, he will recover. How did you survive?

**CHERSTI:** After knocking out my partner, Count Orlock came after me again. He picked me up by my neck with one hand. I was able to grab my taser from my belt and dis-sharge it into his side. He winced but didn't go down. Then I hit him in the face several times. This must've made him angry because he threw me out the front window.

**MR. HELSING:** You're lucky to be alive.

**CHERSTI:** Tell me about it. I landed on the porsh next to the bodies. He walked out the front door and looked down at me. That's when back up arrived. Six officers fired into him. The force of the bullets sent him back into the house.

**MR. HELSING:** Was he dead?

**CHERSTI:** No, he's sitting right over there.

**MR. HELSING:** So that's when you apprehended him?

**CHERSTI:** No, that's when the shase began.

**MR. HELSING:** Shase? Oh, the chase began.

**CHERSTI:** Yes, the shase began. He escaped out the back door and fled a few blocks until he ran into the old shursh.

**MR. HELSING:** Shursh, shursh. Oh church.

**CHERSTI:** That's what I said, shursh. I don't think he realized what the building was when he entered it because as soon as he got inside, he was incapacitated.

**MR. HELSING:** And that's how you captured him?

**CHERSTI:** Yes. He's been kept under control with garlic and wolfsbane ever since.

**MR. HELSING:** Thank you, Officer. And thank you for your service. Your witness, Ms. Schreck. *(Sits.)*

**MS. SCHRECK:** *(Rises.)* Officer Shersti... did I pronounce it right?

**CHERSTI:** Yes, you did, Ms. Chreck.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Did you have a warrant to enter Count Orlock's home?

**CHERSTI:** With two dead bodies on the front porsh and the front door ajar there was probable cause to enter the home without a warrant.

**MS. SCHRECK:** So, you didn't have a warrant. Interesting. You testified that Count Orlock said, "I vant to suck your blood." You pronounced "want" as "vant." Were you making fun of how my client speaks?

**CHERSTI:** No. That's what he said.

**MS. SCHRECK:** I see. There seems to be a discrepancy between the time you chased my client from his home to when you found him praying in a church.

**CHERSTI:** He wasn't praying. He was rolling around in agony.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Did you ever think that maybe that's how vampires pray?

**CHERSTI:** Yes. I asked him if he was praying and he said, "No, I'm rolling around in agony."

**MS. SCHRECK:** Oh. What happened between my client's home and the church?

**CHERSTI:** Well, after he shoked me, he was chocked by the taser and chot by the officers. One chot pierced his sheek so he ran into a field of birsh trees and climbed into one. We shecked the trees and found him pershed on a limb where he lurshed at us.

**MS. SCHRECK:** I'm sorry, he—

**CHERSTI:** Chuch! I'm not finished. Cheech! He jumped from the birsh and sharged us. I got off a chot and hit him in the chin.

**MS. SCHRECK:** But his chin looks undamaged.

**CHERSTI:** (*Showing her shin.*) His chin... chin! That's when he made it to the shursh. We apprehended him, and I went back to the house and outlined the bodies in shalk.

**MS. SCHRECK:** You were in shock?

**CHERSTI:** Shalk! I outlined the bodies with white shalk! Cheech!

**MS. SCHRECK:** One last thing, Officer. Do you like vampires?

**CHERSTI:** I've only known one: Count Orlock.

**MS. SCHRECK:** So, you admit you don't like him?

**CHERSTI:** Yes, I admit I do not like him.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Why not?

**CHERSTI:** Because he put my partner in the hospital and he tried to kill me.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Are you sure it's not because he's a vampire?

**CHERSTI:** Did he attack me because he's a vampire?

**MS. SCHRECK:** I'm asking the questions, Officer. Do you dislike my client because he is a vampire?

**CHERSTI:** I can only answer that if I know the answer to my question. (*To ORLOCK.*) Did you attack me because you're a vampire?

**ORLOCK:** Yes.

**MS. SCHRECK:** (*To ORLOCK.*) Don't answer that!

**CHERSTI:** Too slow, Councilor. Since he attacked me because he's a vampire, then I don't like him because he's a vampire.

**MS. SCHRECK:** So, you admit that you don't like my client because he's a vampire.

**CHERSTI:** Yes, I do.

**MS. SCHRECK:** (*To JURY.*) So, when considering your testimony, we should all take into account the fact that you're prejudiced against vampires?

**CHERSTI:** No. The word "prejudice" means that I pre-judged him. I only judged him after his actions against me, and I only judged him as a vampire, not all vampires.

**MS. SCHRECK:** Your Honor, let the record show that Officer Shersti, does not like my client because he's a vampire.

**JUDGE:** Her testimony has been recorded.

**MS. SCHRECK:** No more questions.

**JUDGE:** You're excused, Officer Chersti.

**CHERSTI:** Shersti.

**JUDGE:** What?

**CHERSTI:** It's pronounced Shhhhhersti.

**JUDGE:** Is that French?

**CHERSTI:** I don't know. Why does everyone keep asking me that?

**JUDGE:** The witness is excused.

*MS. SCHRECK sits. CHERSTI exits back to her seat in the audience.*

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