

QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

screenplay by

Scott Abbott

based on the novel by Anne Rice

previous revisions by

Michael Petroni

current revision by

Michael Rymer

REVISED DRAFT (B)

February 4, 2000

FADE IN:

1 EXT. HOUSE (NEW ORLEANS) - NIGHT 1

A figure stands atop a turreted roof of a French-style house, silhouetted against the moon like a large, black bird.

2 ANGLE ON FIGURE'S BOOTS 2

Nineteenth-century winkle-picker style, standing steadily on the roof's steep gable. We PAN UP the leg TO the figure's hand, holding a leather-bound journal.

VOICE (V.O.)

There comes a time for every vampire when the idea of eternity becomes momentarily unbearable. The wounds suffered from love and failed friendships don't heal like a human's, but seem to only gape larger. The longing to be mortal returns, a longing for finiteness.

The hand drops the journal down the chimney.

3 EXT. LA FAYETTE CEMETERY (NEW ORLEANS) - NIGHT 3

An empty breeze blows across a deserted cemetery as the figure's boots come INTO FRAME, strolling past headstones.

The sound of a HORSE and CARRIAGE ECHO in the distance.

4 WIDER - FIGURE 4

enters an alabaster tomb and closes the door.

VOICE (V.O.)

In 1883 I suffered such a spell and decided to cease feeding on blood. Just lie in the earth and let time return to its natural state...

As the WIND PICKS UP, the LEAVES of a fledgling vine growing up the side of the tomb begin to RATTLE FASTER and FASTER, until curiously, time seems to speed up. Night passes to day and back to night.

Shadows from the sun and moon drift across the tomb.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As days and months fly by, the vine winds and grows in circuitous patterns all around the tomb.

VOICE (V.O.)

I had hoped the sounds of the passing eras would fade out, and a kind of death might happen. A kind of forgetting where I would be healed from my wounds.

The CLIP-CLOP of HORSES and the SQUEAK of PERAMBULATORS DISSOLVE INTO the THUMP and SCRAPE of INDUSTRIAL ENGINES.

VOICE (V.O.)

But as I lay there, the sounds didn't fade but grew with the world.

The BUZZ of PROP ENGINES MELT INTO the sound of a JET STREAMING overhead. CARS, MACHINES, RADIO BROADCASTS MERGE INTO a medley of MUSIC from this century -- JACK BENNY, MUDDY WATERS, ELVIS, HENDRIX, SEX PISTOLS.

VOICE (V.O.)

And gradually the world didn't sound like the place I had left, but something different... better...

As we DRAW CLOSER to the now vine-covered tomb... SOUNDS OF the '70S, '80S, '90S PERSIST...

VOICE (V.O.)

A new fearless attitude had possessed the world, brave and Godless. I began to wonder if it was not time to resurrect. But the thing that eventually brought me back -- the decisive thing really -- came like a bolt out of the blue.

GUITARS STRIKE, DRUMS CRACK and the MUSIC SLAMS OUT, raw and dark.

Slender hands with long, painted nails, Gothic rings, and a half-pound of silver bracelets play their instruments. Long hair, body-piercings, Celtic tattoos, and brightly-colored nylons show a lot of pale, smooth flesh. In the confusion of glimpses, it's hard to tell who's a boy or girl, but they're all young, thin and beautiful. Breaking in on the CACOPHONY of MUSIC COMES ONE GUITAR CLOSER and LOUDER than all the rest.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

A SCRAPING ROAR, like a bandsaw being twisted into the most gorgeous, powerful chords, almost religious in its emotion.

VOICE (V.O.)

A music so sublime, so deeply vampiric, I had no doubt it could be heard in Hades. I had no choice.

An ULTRA-FAST TECHNO BEAT BEGINS and the FULL-SOUND of a BAND RUSHES IN, creating a sense of vertigo with its energy.

5 INSIDE TOMB

5

The BAND'S sounds ECHO about the stone chamber, thrumming a deep, life-giving pulse.

Suddenly, the LID of a sarcophagus SCRAPES and slides to one side.

6 EXT. LA FAYETTE CEMETERY (NEW ORLEANS) - NIGHT

6

The figure re-emerges from the crypt, his cape now in tatters -- posture bent. He creeps across the cemetery in unnatural, staccato movements as if hindered by the physics of distance and time.

All the while the SONG plays, drawing the figure toward it.

7 EXT. FRENCH QUARTERS - NIGHT

7

The figure moves through the shadows avoiding the spill of yellow light from the street lamps.

Stopping in a darkened alleyway, he gasps for air, exhausted by his movements. He listens again to the mesmeric tune of the band in the distance, when...

From down the alley, a voice...

DEALER (O.S.)

Hey... Need somethin'?

8 CLOSE ON FIGURE'S EYES

8

stare hungrily at...

9 BACK TO SCENE

9

A DEALER proffering a little parcel wrapped in foil. His LOOKOUT stands by, watching for cops.

Pulling deeper into the shadows, the caped figure beckons the Dealer over. As the two men approach, their faces twist in disgust.

DEALER

What's that smell?

LOOKOUT

Damn! Somethin' crawl inside you and die?

With a wild animal cry the figure lunges like a phantom.

A flash of teeth...

The Dealer is on the ground, the figure set upon him. OVER this scene the BAND'S SONG RUSHES IN LOUD again, reaching an incredible CRESCENDO as the violent frenzy continues -- the monster gnawing at the dealer's neck.

The Lookout is frozen with fear, the knife in his hand trembling as he stabs...

A skeletal claw shouts out, grabs his hand. The Lookout screams -- pain turns to fright.

The caped figure lunges.

10 CLOSE ON FIGURE'S HAND

10

It's vein refilling with the flow of warm blood -- skin regaining a youthful tautness.

The dead Lookout's body drops to the ground. PULL BACK to reveal...

11 VAMPIRE LESTAT

11

Twenty-five years old before he was made immortal -- long, blonde locks, pale blue-grey eyes and perfect skin like a marble statue. He is now dressed in a hip, tight shirt, leather jeans and coat -- youthful but expensive. He douses the corpses with gasoline, lights a match and watches the inferno, a boyish grin playing on his full lips.

A ROCK VIDEO featuring the latest "Gothic Rap" craze -- hip-hop kids rapping over spooky heavy-metal rhythms. We PULL BACK to reveal the members of Satan's Night Out watching TV and getting high. JAMES (18), ALEX (20), LOUISA (20) and their lead singer/keyboard player MAUDY (17), lying over each other with a level of intimacy that would suggest they were all sleeping together, if they could be bothered.

JAMES

We're as good as these clowns...

ALEX

Forget those losers. If we could just get a decent gig...

Maudy climbs up to change the channel...

MAUDY

Yeah yeah yeah... 'If we could just get a decent gig, we'd rule and everything'd be cool.' Talk talk talk...

Something causes her to freeze. Slowly, she rises to her feet.

JAMES

Maudy, move your ass...

Seeing Maudy's stunned face, Alex and James turn to see Lestat perched like a raven on top of the stack of speakers. He drops to the floor without a sound.

ALEX

Who the hell are you?

LESTAT

An admirer.

JAMES

How did you get in here?

LESTAT

The door, of course.

Alex and James look at the door on the other side of the attic -- they should have seen him.

Meanwhile, Maudy stares at Lestat, quite taken by the handsome vampire's looks.

Drinking Maudy in with his eyes...

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT

Your music woke me from the longest sleep. It's sublime. In two hundred years I've never heard anything quite like it.

JASON

Who the hell are you?

LESTAT (V.O.)

The question provoked an irresistible urge...

LESTAT

I am the vampire Lestat.

As we REMAIN ON the stunned looks of the band's faces --

LESTAT (V.O.)

It just rolled out of my mouth. With one simple sentence I had betrayed everything about my kind.

ALEX

What the hell is this?

Suddenly from across the room --

LESTAT

Your lucky day.

They spin around to see Lestat right behind them, smiling.

as the distinctive dark sound of SATAN'S NIGHT OUT KICKS IN to join LESTAT'S SOARING VOCAL.

LESTAT (V.O.)

It was a bold move, I admit. It took a little more convincing, but from that moment on, or close to that moment, they were my friends, my children, my band. Together we rode on the wave of my preternatural ambition to superstardom, giving the world a new god... me. Well, that's the way I remember it. It all doesn't matter now, only to say that I don't regret what happened, not one thing.

(CONTINUED)

13

CONTINUED:

13

We COME ACROSS the city lights of L.A... smoldering in their yellow night haze.

Below, police cars section off a few blocks of Sunset Boulevard where a huge crowd has gathered.

SUPERIMPOSE: LOS ANGELES (6 MONTHS LATER)

Through the crowd a limousine snakes its way toward the Tower Records building, where a video-clip of Lestat and his band play on a huge outdoor screen.

14

INT. STRETCH LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

14

ROGER SMYTHE, their business manager (40s), sits oblivious to the "thump thump" of screaming fans pressing their breasts and necks up against the limousine, as he initials a few pages of the documents on his lap.

In the back of the limousine, Lestat sits, smiling devilishly, between two huge mastiff dogs as "thump, thump, thump," fan after female fan flings herself on the car.

Opposite Lestat, Alex and James in a drugged-out haze, ogle at the sight of nubile flesh as Maudy, totally jazzed by the whole scene, writhes in her seat, highly aroused.

Pressing his face right up against one of the windows, Lestat rolls his tongue out its full six inches and licks the window.

Outside, groupies scream with pure excitement.

LESTAT

I think I've got my pulse back.

The band laughs.

Waving the legal documents in his hand.

ROGER

(all business)

I need you guys to sign off on the recording rights to the concert this week. And I don't want this interview to go over ten minutes, alright -- want to avoid any personal questions.

In the back seat, Maudy points to a near-naked fan outside.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

MAUDY

Check that out.

ROGER

(craning his neck
around)

Is anybody listening to me.

As they pile out of the car...

LESTAT

Of course not.

The two MASTIFFS SNARL at Roger who gives them a snarl
back.

15 EXT. TOWER RECORDS - NIGHT

15

Confusion of screams, security guards trying to hold the
line of hysterical fans.A very long, black limo pulls up and James, Alex, Louisa
and Maudy climb out. Rows of fans dressed as Goths,
ghouls and vampires scream out "Lestat! Lestat!"
Hysteria in the air.

FANS

Where's Lestat? Where is he! Oh
God, I have to see him. Please!

The fans scream and moan.

FANS

I want him! I want his blood!

Maudy and James exchange looks -- this is all too weird
and out of control even for them. Roger is by their
side, hustling them through the crowd.

ROGER

Just buy your tickets for the
concert! Let's keep it moving...!Finally, Lestat emerges from the limousine. A wave of
hysteria hits the crowd.

16 LESTAT - SLOW MOTION

16

scans the crowd, smiles as FLASHBULB'S POP.

17 LESTAT'S POV - SEA OF ADORING FACES

17

mouthing his name, reaching out to touch him.

18 BACK TO SCENE

18

Roger goes into action and hustles Lestat and the band through the crowd and up the stairs into Tower Records past the giant billboard with their own images written huge, Lestat's smiling face above them all and the announcement -- LESTAT -- LIVE & UNDEAD -- OCTOBER 31, ALL HALLOW'S EVE, DEATH VALLEY. We PUSH IN RAPIDLY ON the GIANT SCREEN playing the latest "VAMPIRE LESTAT."

19 INT. TOWER RECORDS - SOON AFTER

19

The CD racks have been removed to make room for a podium, a long table and a giant promotional display in the b.g. They are faced by an audience of over fifty journalists and then another fifty photographers and TV cameras. Lestat sits in the center, flanked by Roger and the band. A straight CNN-type LIFESTYLE JOURNALIST is standing, in mid-question.

LIFESTYLE JOURNALIST

How do you account for your popularity, because frankly, I haven't seen anything like this...

LESTAT

I represent something to my fans they can't get anywhere else.

LIFESTYLE JOURNALIST

What's that exactly?

LESTAT

Reality.

The journalists laugh.

LESTAT

No, I'm serious. I'm here to show the world 'there are more things in heaven and earth...'

A pretty FRENCH JOURNALIST stands.

FRENCH JOURNALIST

So, you are the real thing.

LESTAT

That's correct.

FRENCH JOURNALIST

(flirting)
You don't look that different.

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT

I've been feeding -- it gives me a rosy complexion, so I don't frighten you all away.

FRENCH JOURNALIST

Could you prove it. You know, give us a demonstration of your powers.

Lestat gives her an evil smile.

LESTAT

If you like, I'll give you a private demonstration in your hotel room tonight.

The journalists laugh again. The French Journalist sits down, a little frightened/fascinated by Lestat's leer. A younger, hipper MUSIC MAGAZINE JOURNALIST pipes in...

MUSIC JOURNALIST

I was listening to your C.D. before the show today and well, it's very cool.

LESTAT

Thank you.

MUSIC JOURNALIST

Its sort defies all categories. How would you describe your influences?

MAUDY

Sex, blood and rock 'n' roll.

Laughter. Maudy and Lestat exchange smiles -- partners in PR.

MUSIC JOURNALIST

There are rumors flying 'round the internet 'bout the hidden meanings in your songs.

LESTAT

Only when you play them backwards.

MUSIC JOURNALIST

I was.

Laughing.

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT

Everything is there for those who can hear. My music is for everyone, including other vampires.

This time an older TABLOID JOURNALIST stands.

TABLOID JOURNALIST

Is it true you hung out with Marilyn Manson?

LESTAT

We exchanged eyeliners once.

MUSIC JOURNALIST

Correct me if I'm wrong, but what I remember about vampires, you know from all the movies and things, you guys usually keep quiet about your identity.

LESTAT

I've hidden in the shadows for centuries. Now, it's time to share myself with the world.

LIFESTYLE JOURNALIST

Doesn't hurt the record sales, huh?

LESTAT

Our label isn't complaining, no.

MUSIC JOURNALIST

Come out of the closet.

LESTAT

Out of the casket.

Laughter.

LESTAT

I'm like the Pied Piper. Ratting them all out.

An appreciative laugh from the press core -- they're enjoying this performance although no one seems to be taking it very seriously.

(CONTINUED)

TABLOID JOURNALIST

Any relationships you'd care to share with the audience. I mean, does the 'Vampire Lestat' have a...

LESTAT

A girlfriend?

TABLOID JOURNALIST

Or boyfriend, we're open minded.

LESTAT

Anything with a heartbeat is the general rule of thumb.

TABLOID JOURNALIST

(snickers)

You'd starve in New York then.

Laughter.

MUSIC JOURNALIST

These other vampires, aren't they going to be pissed that you're, you know, giving away their secrets?

LESTAT

I imagine I am, yes.

LIFESTYLE JOURNALIST

Do you have anything to say to the other vampires listening out there?

LESTAT

Yes, as a matter of fact, I do...

Leaning slightly into the light, Lestat smiles at the TV camera.

MATCH CUT TO:

showing the same video.

LESTAT (V.O.)

(on TV)

Come get me if you can.

CAMERA BOOMS DOWN to reveal...

21

INT. HICK BAR (BAKERSFIELD) - NIGHT

21

We SETTLE ON a group of dangerous VAMPIRE BIKERS with face tattoos staring stony-faced up at the screen, their eyes glowing strangely in the ultra-violet light.

TATTOOED VAMPIRE #1

That fucker gonna get us all killed.

TATTOOED VAMPIRE #2

I say, he gets on that stage, we kill him, 'fore this shit gets outta hand. Bleed him dry. You know what I'm sayin'.

TATTOOED VAMPIRE #1

I'm with that. When I was up in Seattle, they was sayin' the same thing. They was sayin' they're comin' from all over.

TATTOOED VAMPIRE #3

I dunno... if he's as old as they say, he's gotta be pretty strong...

TATTOOED VAMPIRE #1

Yeah... let's see how he handles a hundred of us at once.

They get up from the bar, pick up their motorcycle helmets and exit as we REVEAL Lestat sitting in the corner, smiling.

CUT TO:

22

STARING EYE

22

PULL BACK to reveal a 19th-century porcelain doll, beautiful, perfect but with those staring unsettling eyes. We TRACK ACROSS rows and rows of dolls from different eras, all exquisitely detailed. TRACK PAST the billowing floor-to-ceiling curtains to reveal a five-year-old girl lying awake in bed, Jesse, green eyes and long red curls. LAUGHTER wafts in with the breeze. Everything seems big -- the bed, the door, the room -- too big for a child.

23

INT. CORRIDOR

23

Jesse's bare feet pad down the endless corridor. The little girl is dwarfed by the stone pedestals, all lit with candles. LAUGHTER ECHOES through the halls.

24 INT. GREAT HALL 24

Jesse moves past rough-hewn columns, watching with great curiosity.

25 JESSE'S POV 25

A grand party is in progress. There are about thirty vampires, all thin, pale and beautiful. An eclectic bunch, elegantly-dressed in Indian silks, Arabic veils, mixed with a few gaudy Versace outfits.

26 BACK TO SCENE 26

Jesse stands watching. Behind her, we GLIMPSE a giant mural of names cut into the stone walls. A family tree, extending up onto the ceiling and down to the floor.

27 JESSE'S POV 27

Guests lean into each others necks showing blood-red tongues and fangs.

28 BACK TO SCENE 28

A young VAMPIRE picks Jesse up and puts her on his knee.

VAMPIRE

When you're grown up, you can be with us forever. You'll like that, won't you?

WOMAN (O.S.)

(urgent)

Jesse!

VAMPIRE

Would you like that?

WOMAN (O.S.)

(more urgent)

Jesse!

29 INT. JESSE'S BEDROOM - PRESENT 29

JESSE sits up with a start. She is 18 -- a budding beauty with the same red locks and green eyes.

JESSE

Weird.

(CONTINUED)

- 29 CONTINUED: 29
- CAMERA FOLLOWS as Jesse heads for the john in her T-shirt and socks. She EXITS FRAME to reveal a wall devoted to the Vampire Lestat -- posters, magazine cutouts.
- 30 EXT. LONDON BUS - NEXT DAY 30
- Lestat's image pasted on a red London double-decker bus. The bus CLEARS FRAME to reveal...
- Jesse, her arms overflowing with books and magazines.
- 31 EXT. TALAMASCA HEADQUARTERS - SOON AFTER 31
- Jesse runs in the driveway of an old Tudor manor.
- JESSE (V.O.)
I don't have the complete picture yet... and I'm going to need approval for a field trip to L.A... but...
- 32 INT. TALAMASCA HEADQUARTERS - TALBOT'S ROOM - SOON AFTER 32
- Floor-to-ceiling books, Persian rugs and old leather couching. Jesse stands before the grand old desk, looking tired, nervous and excited.
- JESSE
... I think that I might have found a vampire.
- Her audience is DAVID TALBOT (60s), distinguished, white-haired, handsome. Talbot sits in his old leather chair and examines the folder while Jesse continues her presentation.
- JESSE
He calls himself the 'Vampire Lestat,' and claims to be several hundred years old...
- Talbot looks up over his reading glasses.
- TALBOT
You're talking about the rock 'n' roll group?

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

Yes, David, he's in a rock band. It's not exactly 'rock,' it's more neo-Gothic metal, with a hip-hop groove and a strong lyric component...

Talbot gives Jesse a knowing, ironic look -- she knows he has no idea what she's talking about.

JESSE

... If you study the lyrics, you'll see that most of these references could be derived from years of research in the Bibliothec de Paris, which seems unlikely for a young rock star in his early twenties, but...

(leans over table for emphasis)

... there are historical details Lestat describes that don't exist in any book, letter, parchment, engraving or any of the major library catalogues... except in our library within the Talamasca. As you can see, they refer to 'Marius, the great white lord' who ruled over a group of islands off the bay of Naples in the late eighteenth century.

Talbot studies the photocopies in front of him.

TALBOT

Hmmm, yes... this is very good, Jesse.

JESSE

There are several accounts of a similar figure -- the 'Great Master, Ruler of the Night,' etcetera.

Jesse waits for Talbot to respond. Finally, he looks up, nods, is about to speak when...

... door opens and another TALAMASCA MEMBER comes in with a stack of files.

TALAMASCA MEMBER

The transcripts you asked for. We have five different confirmations of the poltergeist sightings...

(CONTINUED)

Jesse rolls her eyes impatiently and sits down.

TALBOT

Thank you, just put them down.

Talbot waits for his underling to leave. As soon as the door shuts, Talbot stands.

TALBOT

Jesse...

Jesse looks up with distressed eyes.

JESSE

What...?

TALBOT

My dear, are you ill?

JESSE

No! No, I'm fine. I haven't been sleeping. I guess I get a little too wired.

Talbot stands, moves around to the front of the desk.

TALBOT

Is there something on your mind?

She shakes her head.

JESSE

I feel stupid talking about it...

Jesse takes a deep breath.

JESSE

When I can't sleep, I go out... just walking around. I go places...

TALBOT

Go on.

JESSE

I go to dangerous places. Bad neighborhoods. Dark alleys. The worse it is, then I have to go. I can't help myself.

Talbot considers, looks into Jesse's eyes.

(CONTINUED)

TALBOT

I think you're right. That is a problem.

JESSE

... I feel this terrible sadness. Like I don't belong here.

TALBOT

Well, that's not so unusual...

JESSE

There's something else.

Talbot waits.

JESSE

The reason I'm not sleeping...
(deep breath)

I keep having these... dreams. I dream I'm a little girl, and I'm living in this house with all these... vampires.

TALBOT

Vampires...

JESSE

Real vampires. They're so real! But they're so beautiful. And I feel so happy when I'm with them. In the dream, I love them.

Jesse looks up, afraid to see what Talbot might be thinking. Talbot comes to a decision, rises to his feet.

TALBOT

Jesse, when you came to apprentice here three years ago, I felt badly that you'd lost your parents. I must admit I fell in love with that precocious teenager immediately. You demonstrated such extraordinary instincts -- I was proud as a peacock. But I feel that I've done you a disservice.

JESSE

David, please... I can handle it. I love my work here.

Talbot pauses as the door opens again and Talbot's secretary comes in with a pile of old books.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (4)

32

TALBOT
(impatiently)
Yes, yes, just leave them there.

He sighs as his secretary beats a hasty retreat.

TALBOT
I don't know if I'm making a
mistake here. What will be will
be...

He crosses to the bookshelf, reaches deep inside, and the
entire wall swivels to reveal a hidden door.

33 INT. LESTAT'S MANSION - SOUND STUDIO - NIGHT

33

Lestat and his band rehearse one of their numbers. Music
and voice melding into a grand, almost operatic harmony.

34 INSIDE CONTROL BOOTH

34

Two SOUND ENGINEERS work the board.

SOUND ENGINEER #1
When's the concert?

SOUND ENGINEER #2
Four days.

SOUND ENGINEER #1
These guys are gonna kill.

Behind them, Roger sits pensively watching.
Surreptitiously, he glances down at a book on his lap --
its title Vampires -- The Occult Truth.

Looking back up he catches eyes with Lestat who stares at
him intensely while he sings.

35 STUDIO

35

Lestat slides into a high 'C' leaning into the microphone
catching his own reflection in the booth's window, and
CRACK -- GLASS SPLINTERS.

Roger jumps out of his skin, stifling a cry.

SOUND ENGINEER #1
(dumbfounded)
Shit.

(CONTINUED)

James, Alex, Louisa and Maudy "whoop" with excitement, thinking it was their music.

JAMES

We rock.

LESTAT

Yes, I'd say I'm down with that.

They all laugh.

Through the broken glass we see Roger slump into a chair, his nerves totally frayed.

ALEX

Think we can call that a night.

Unhooking their instruments, Alex, James and Louisa start to pack up as Maudy slowly approaches Lestat and nuzzles his neck.

Closing his eyes he shivers with temptation. Her hand moves down the front of his pants, when..

Lestat pulls her into his arms. Leaning into her neck he breathes in her scent...

Closes his eyes and...

Suddenly opens them right at Roger who looks on, extremely perturbed.

Smiling like the devil...

LESTAT

Oh, the sweet song of her blood.

Roger stares on terrified.

LESTAT

I'll hear it in my head all night.

Gently letting Maudy go...

LESTAT

Roger...

He goes directly to Roger, reaches into his open shirt, studies the crucifix around his neck.

LESTAT

I didn't know you were religious.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

Lestat sniffs and reaches into Roger's pocket. Pulls out a string of garlic flowers.

LESTAT
(smiles)
Roger...

Roger has stopped breathing. Lestat puts the garlic back in his pocket and walks away, laughing to himself. Roger exhales with relief.

36 INT. TALAMASCA HEADQUARTERS - TALBOT'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS 36

The lights switch on and Jesse looks around -- the room is enormous, almost endless, stacked with paintings and ancient relics from every era going back to Babylon. Jesse is drawn to the first painting on the wall.

An eighteenth-century painting.

The interior of an enormous Italian villa, it's open terraces painted in with the spectacular view of the surrounding islands. The moon glitters on the black Mediterranean sea. There's a man in his forties with long white hair, back to us, but his face is reflected in a standing mirror.

TALBOT
What do you see?

JESSE
(entranced)
It's a nightscape.

TALBOT
What else?

JESSE
The detail...

Talbot smiles -- unable to contain his excitement in sharing his secret. Jesse moves to the next painting. A giant medieval tableaux, circa Brugel.

JESSE
This one too... it's amazing...

TALBOT
Look up at the battlements of that castle.

(CONTINUED)

SWISH ACROSS AND UP to detail standing on the battlements, impassively watching the bloodshed of gory battles and sacrifice of saints burned at the stake, is the same man with the long white hair.

Jesse moves to the next painting, then the next large authentic paintings, all set and painted in the style of different eras, all featuring a portrait of the same white-maned man.

TALBOT

I've carbon-tested the different paint samples and they're authentic. All painted at the time of that particular style.

Jesse finally stops at a Marius self-portrait, Warhol style.

JESSE

Who is he.

TALBOT

His name is Marius. I believe that he is not just the subject, but the painter.

Jesse is almost demented with the discovery...

JESSE

He's a vampire, isn't he? You found a real vampire! And he's the one in Lestat's songs!

TALBOT

I've never set eyes on him... although I'd like to think that one time in Istanbul... the white-haired man in the crowd...

Talbot shakes off the memory, rises, frustrated.

TALBOT

For all I know, these paintings are as close as I'll ever come to the Ancient Ones.

JESSE

The Ancient Ones?

Drawing Jesse's attention to a series of sketched portraits mounted on one of the office walls.

(CONTINUED)

TALBOT

Vampires older than history. Just names, legends long forgotten.

JESSE

I have to go to Los Angeles.

TALBOT

Jesse, listen to me. These creatures are powerful and dangerous beyond our understanding.

Jesse rolls her eyes in frustration but Talbot persists.

JESSE

What am I doing here if you're just going to sit on every lead I find? I have to be at that concert.

TALBOT

The Talamasca has a West Coast chapter, with members much more experienced than yourself. Field work requires refined mental skills, the most important being patience and self-control. You have yet to develop either. However, I do offer a consultation prize...

Talbot goes to his desk and hands Jesse a folder with some photo copies, newspaper articles and old photographs.

TALBOT

... A field trip to New Orleans.

JESSE

Lestat's house?

TALBOT

Here's an old title on the house you mention in your report this dates back to the late 1800's. The name on the title is the Marquis Lestat D'Lioncourt.

Jesse sits down on the leather couch, frustration overtaken by wonder.

JESSE

You already know about Lestat...

(CONTINUED)

36

CONTINUED: (3)

36

Her head spins. There's more to this than she understood. Talbot sits beside her.

TALBOT

This is my personal area of interest, and you, my bright spark, have a lot to learn. I would rather you live to learn it. You may help me with my work, but I'm not letting you within a thousand miles of Lestat. And, Jesse, please, no more wandering around at night. Do we have an understanding?

37

INT. JESSE'S BEDROOM - LATER

37

Jesse lays awake, unable to sleep as usual.

38

EXT. LONDON STREET - LATER THAT NIGHT

38

Fog floats in the yellow vapor lights. Jesse emerges from the tube station, and makes her way across the deserted intersection. The only movement at this time of night is the giant street-cleaner that pushes past her.

39

EXT. STREET

39

Jesse walks up the street and pauses at the intersection of a narrow alley. She hesitates then turns down the lane.

40

EXT. ALLEY

40

The CLOP of Jesse's chunky, trendy heels ECHO around the flagstones and corrugated back fences.

Jesse walks, the ambient light becoming darker and darker with every step.

41

EXT. ALLEY INTERSECTION

41

Jesse makes a left, going deeper into the labyrinth of allies. A BOTTLE SMASHES close by, causing her to start. She increases her pace; looking over her shoulder, she runs straight into a bulky figure. A primal scream rises from her stomach.

(CONTINUED)

The figure is a homeless drunk who bellows back in her face, more frightened than she is. He scuttles off into the night.

Jesse presses her back against the wall and breathes. Something catches her eye.

These are figures moving in the distance through the fog.

Jesse squints, tries to get a better look. She moves along the wall in the shadows.

There's a man handing out cards. Another dark figure takes a card and... flits away at unnatural speed...

Jesse gasps. The man hears her and turns. His face is unnaturally pale and gaunt it almost glows in the darkness. His eyes shine with a strange reflective light, like a cat. A strange HISS seems to come from all directions.

Jesse, paralyzed TIME SLOWS to a crawl as her HEART POUNDS.

The man flies towards her. A flash of movement. Leather jacket catching the air by her cheek, as he passes...

Jesse jumps back against the corrugated iron with a bang.

Then there is nothing. No sign of life or movement. Did she imagine what she just saw? Something catches her eye.

On the ground, a business card has fallen. Jesse picks it up and reads...

"Private Club. 13 Crowley Lane. Invitations Only."

The sign reads "CROWLEY LANE." Jesse moves along the street with determination.

This neighborhood is worse than the last. Darkened warehouses, junkyards, factories. The flicker of a fire looms in the distance.

Several bonfires line the lane, illuminating rows of prone bodies cardboard shelters, garbage, empty bottles. A city of the homeless.

The drunks look up at her with dead eyes.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

Jesse pulls up the high collar of her coat, but there's no hiding her young legs beneath her short skirt.

13 Crowley Lane. There's a solitary door in the wall up ahead, with a dull blue light mounted above. Another figure flits to the door. Knocks. The door opens. The figure hands over the card and vanishes inside.

Jesse approaches, hears MUSIC and VOICES must be some kind of nightclub. Jesse knocks.

The door opens, and a vampire peers out curiously.

43 VAMPIRE'S POV

43

Jesse holds up the card, face averted, her hand hidden by the cuff of her coat.

44 BACK TO SCENE

44

He takes the card and steps back. Jesse moves forward, the door shuts behind her.

45 INT. VAMPIRE NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

45

The MUSIC is part blues, part Kurt Weil, part Gothic -- dark and ominous as if the pianist and electric guitar player on the small stage knew exactly the sort of trouble Jesse was in.

The bar is comprised of elaborately-carved Chinese dragons, a TV mounted incongruously in the corner showing a silent Vampire Lestat video.

The couples dance cheek to cheek, rotating like figures on a music box. Another couple are necking hot and heavy in the corner. The small tables are occupied by vampires, but no drinks or food anywhere.

Jesse moves through the tables, passing a mortal a YUPPIE-TYPE sitting with a VAMPIRE GIRL he's obviously just met.

YUPPIE

... This place is cool! You sure you don't want a drink?

VAMPIRE GIRL

Soon.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: 45

Vampire Girl smiles, glances up at Jesse as she passes unnatural pale skin and a wicked knowing smile. Jesse looks away quickly, moves on...

The guitar player and pianist watch as she passes by also unnaturally pale...

The couple necking in the corner begin to get even more aroused. A mortal girl sips on her drink while her lover a vampire kisses her shoulder, her throat...

46 UNKNOWN POV 46

Unaware that she is being watched, Jesse completes her circuit.

47 BACK TO SCENE 47

as Jesse ends up back at the bar where THREE PUNK VAMPIRES slouch, looking up at Lestat on the video.

PUNK VAMPIRE #1
Breakaway's gonna start a whole
new inquisition.

PUNK VAMPIRE #2
Not if we can help it.

PUNK VAMPIRE #1
You going to L.A.?

48 UNKNOWN POV 48

We watch the Punk Vampires and hear every word they say as the other SOUNDS FADE AWAY.

PUNK VAMPIRE #3
'Course we are. Whole coven's
going. Wouldn't miss that show if
you drained me dry.

49 LESTAT 49

leans forward out of the shadows of the corner, smiling, loving the drama he is creating... But again his attention moves to this strange mortal girl...

50

JESSE

50

moves past the Punk Vampires. They fall silent as she pauses at the bar.

PUNK VAMPIRE #1

Come here often?

Jesse turns to see that Punk Vampire #1 is leaning towards her.

JESSE

Sure, all the time.

She is distracted by...

51

JESSE'S POV

51

The Yuppie Guy is being led into the bathroom by his vampire date, oblivious. They pass the necking couple...

... a brief glimpse of the tiny trickle of blood on the mortal girl's neck as she swoons...

... an even briefer flash as her vampire lover comes up for air, his lips and teeth shiny with blood...

52

JESSE

52

stares, horrified. Suddenly, she is brought back to her own predicament as the Punk Vampire pulls down her collar.

PUNK VAMPIRE #1

Don't see any marks.

JESSE

You haven't seen the rest of my body.

PUNK VAMPIRE #2

Is that an invitation?

Jesse finds herself surrounded by the Three Vampires. She shakes her head, too frightened to get out a response.

PUNK VAMPIRE #3

So, where's your host?

JESSE

Host...

(CONTINUED)

52

CONTINUED:

52

PUNK VAMPIRE #3

This is a special club. You have
to come with a member.

JESSE

I know that. He's here somewhere.

She peers into the darkness, looking for her host.

PUNK VAMPIRE #1

Silly boy to leave you alone.

She knows she's in serious trouble, starts moving towards
the door.

JESSE

You know, I think he went outside.
I'll just go check see if he's
okay.

She turns and finds herself blocked by Punk Vampire #2,
who has supernaturally moved around.

PUNK VAMPIRE #2

Your host. What's his name?

Jesse looks around, trying not to panic. Pale faces,
pale eyes watch...

JESSE

Lestat...

53

LESTAT

53

hearing his name. He leans forward, listens, studies
this strange mortal, fascinated.

PUNK VAMPIRE #2

(hisses)

Lestat...

The Punk Vampires laugh.

JESSE

You got a problem with that?

All around her, vampires are turning to look. The MUSIC
DIES, leaving a frightening silence.

54

LESTAT'S POV

54

Jesse keeps up her defiant front. Slides between the two
Vampires blocking her and makes it to the exit...

55 EXT. ALLEY NIGHT

55

Jesse backs out and steps around the immobile doorman.

JESSE

'Scuse me...

She turns and starts up the alley. The Three Vampires from the bar have somehow gotten outside and are blocking her path.

Heart racing, Jesse turns, walks back past the doorman and into the darker part of the alley.

Figures flit past her at super-human speed.

56 EXT. ALLEY - T-SECTION - NIGHT

56

Jesse bolts, scrambling, as the Vampires land in front of her, beside her, behind her. They close in, smiling.

VAMPIRE #3

Don't worry, darlin'. This ain't gonna hurt. You might even enjoy it...

He runs her hand up and down her body. Jesse starts to shake. The others grin.

He picks her up by the throat. Jesse gags, chokes. Her legs flail in the air. Looks like this is it.

Suddenly, the two Vampires turn and hiss like cats.

Jesse hits the flagstones hard with a grunt. She gasps for air, looks up. Can't believe her eyes.

The Vampires have gone but a new figure emerges from the fog.

Jesse squints, still woozy.

Is that Lestat standing, silhouetted by the orange vapor lights? Is that Lestat smiling? Or is she delirious from her brush with death? Finally, Lestat comes INTO FOCUS...

JESSE

Lestat...

Lestat moves closer, revealing himself in the light. He smiles, examines Jesse curiously.

LESTAT

Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

Jesse stares, struggles to her feet. She looks down as she steadies herself, but when she looks up...

Lestat is gone...

57 INT. LESTAT'S MANSION - NIGHT (LATER)

57

The CAMERA TRACKS WITH TWO young GROUPIES as they walk THROUGH the over-scaled modern palace. Rows of white columns stretch in all directions. There's a living room area facing out onto a pool and the sparkling lights of Los Angeles.

GROUPIE #2

... I have a cousin who's boyfriend was doing wiring on his private recording studio, and he said that Lestat only ever comes by at night.

GROUPIE #1

I heard that, too. Like, he gets clothing stores to open up at three in the morning.

GROUPIE #2

You know what I heard. I heard that he keeps all these girls locked up in his cellar, and it's really nice, and they give you food and cable and weed.

GROUPIE #1

Oh, please...

GROUPIE #2

That's what I heard. But you have to let him suck you on your neck whenever he wants. Doesn't sound too bad.

GROUPIE #1

You've done worse.

GROUPIE #2

Damn straight.

58 INT. LESTAT'S MANSION - STAIRS - MEANWHILE

58

Roger wears an expensive open shirt and blazer, but he still manages to look seedy as he comes up the stairs and enters through two oversized doors.

CAMERA FOLLOWS as...

59

INT. LESTAT'S MANSION - SUITE - CONTINUOUS ACTION

59

Roger takes us on a walking tour of the grand bedroom, the grand bathroom/spa...

Lestat's dressing room stretches off into the distance, rows of beautiful suits made from the finest wools and silks. The gradation of colors is spectacular.

Lestat is reflected in rows of mirrors trying on different jackets.

ROGER

When did you get back?

Lestat ignores him, stands before an enormous mirror trying on different jackets.

ROGER

The... girls you asked for. They're already downstairs.

LESTAT

Yes, I can hear.

Lestat moves off towards the door.

ROGER

Do you want me to take them home later?

Lestat smiles at the clumsy attempt to protect the girls.

LESTAT

No, thank you, Roger. I'll make sure they're taken care of.

Roger nods, trying to hide his nervousness. Lestat smiles...

60

INT. LESTAT'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - SOON AFTER

60

CAMERA MOVES OUT INTO the large empty space of the living-room, TURNING DOWNWARDS TOWARDS the two girls who are now dreamy, floating with the effect of the joint they are smoking... BOOM DOWN to reveal Lestat as he approaches the girls.

GROUPIE #1

Oh my God...

GROUPIE #2

It's really you, isn't it?

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT

Yes.

GROUPIE #1

Oh my God...

GROUPIE #2

No one's even gonna believe this.
(offers her joint)

Want some?

Lestat calmly shakes his head.

GROUPIE #1

Want me?

Circling the couches.

LESTAT

Eventually.

BROOKE

You hungry?

LESTAT

I'm always hungry.

GROUPIE #1

We've got the munchies?

LESTAT

Minch-ies?

GROUPIE #2

(laughing)

You got any food?

LESTAT

Vampires don't eat... food.

They laugh nervously...

Lestat laughs dangerously...

Pacing across the room, he stands before the girls. He curls his finger around the first girl's hair.

LESTAT

Your hair is so fine... reminds me of the time I danced with Marie Antoinett at the Court of Versailles.

(CONTINUED)

GROUPIE #1

Who?

Lestat loses enthusiasm, walks away and drops himself into a couch.

GROUPIE #1

Is Marie one of your girlfriends?

With a clap of his hands, the TV SWITCHES ON. He silently watches one of his video clips.

LESTAT

Never mind. She was a spoiled, dull woman until she lost her head.

Groupie #2 coquettishly crawls over toward Lestat...

GROUPIE #2

Did someone say 'head'?

She starts putting her hands all over him, but he recoils at her touch and slides out of the armchair onto the floor with grace.

LESTAT

Don't do that.

Groupie #2 giggles.

GROUPIE #2

Are you ticklish?

LESTAT

(deadpan)
I'm very ticklish.

Groupie #1 giggles as well and at once they both start after Lestat on all fours to tickle him.

He smiles and laughs and gets down on...

All fours as well, as he leads them around the room in a childish game as they try to tickle him, but he stays just a few feet ahead of them the whole time.

The girls giggle and giggle as they pursue...

Lestat crawling just ahead of them across the floor and...

Up the wall.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED: (3)

60

The teenagers keep giggling as they watch him ascend the wall like a spider, and then they begin to giggle and half-cry as they can't believe what they're seeing as...

Lestat reaches the wall's top and now crawls upside-down across the ceiling.

The girls sit open-mouthed with terror as they arch their necks all the way back to see...

Lestat swoops down from the ceiling onto one of them...

His teeth sink into the first young throat...

The Groupies scream over...

61 EXT. HOLLYWOOD SIGN - NIGHT

61

Below the Hollywood Sign is nestled Lestat's immodest little folly -- a sprawling mansion of modern white lines.

Lightning strikes. As the THUNDER RUMBLES...

CUT TO

62 CLOSE ON JESSE

62

She swings open the wrought-iron gate and makes her way up the over-grown path towards the...

63 EXT. NEW ORLEANS HOUSE - DAY (SEVERAL DAYS LATER)

63

Jesse makes her way up to the front door which has now been sprayed with graffiti by obsessive fans. "Lestat Rules," "Lestat Livz Hear" (sic)... etc.

SUPERIMPOSE: NEW ORLEANS (TWO DAYS LATER)

64 INT. NEW ORLEANS HOUSE - ENTRY HALL

64

Jesse pushes open the door which is almost ajar. She takes a step forward -- the papery floorboards nearly give way. We FOLLOW as Jesse MOVES THROUGH the corridor INTO the...

65 LIVING ROOM

65

... which has been transformed into a shrine to Lestat.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

Even though it's day outside, the windows are boarded up, allowing only the thinnest fingers of light to poke through the dusty air. It's still very gloomy.

The only sounds are the DISTANT STREETCARS of St. Charles Ave., and the SLOW CREAKING of Jesse's steps.

The walls are plastered with posters announcing the concert. In the center of the room are remnants of a small fire someone built from using old bits of furniture.

There are strange symbols and bits of writing that suggest rituals -- not exactly Satanic, but creepy none the less.

Jesse sighs, puts down her satchel -- takes off her coat and gets to work...

DISSOLVE TO:

66 UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - HOURS LATER

66

Jesse searching the walls of the upstairs corridor...

DISSOLVE TO:

67 THROUGH WINDOWS

67

translucent with smoke, dust and age, we see the sun move across the sky...

DISSOLVE TO:

68 WALK-IN CLOSET - MORE HOURS PASS

68

Jess, covered in dust, knocks and feels along the inside of a walk-in closet...

DISSOLVE TO:

69 SHADOWS

69

deepen as the darkness encroaches...

DISSOLVE TO:

70 LIVING ROOM

70

Jesse returns to the living room defeated. There must be something... down at the fire on the floor... back at the surrounding room...

Jesse gets an idea.

JESSE

The fireplace. There must be a fireplace.

She opens her satchel and empties it on the floor -- a pocket camera, a flashlight.

Jesse taps along the walls.

DISSOLVE TO:

71 JESSE

71

taps along the other wall... tap, tap, tap, tap... there is a hollow base sound as she finds the false wall.

SMASH CUT TO:

72 JESSE

72

Rip! Jesse tears at the layers of posters. She pulls at the crumbling wallpaper behind. Layers and layers come away to reveal a plaster wall. Bingo. She taps harder and harder, then takes a good whack and the wall collapses into a cloud of plaster dust.

She steps back, coughing, trying to get the dust out of her eyes. She grabs her flashlight and looks in the fireplace. Jesse crouches as low as she can and looks in -- there's something lodged up there. Carefully, she reaches in and extracts a very old, very dusty book.

Jesse stares at the book, almost trembling with reverence. It sticks -- but with great gentleness she slowly pulls open the pages to reveal -- florid handwriting in thick black ink...

ZOOM IN RAPIDLY ON the first lines which read...

JESSE (O.S.)

(reading)

'Je suis le Vampire Lestat...'

(whispers)

Oh my God...

73

FLASHBACK - EXT. MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND - FULL SHOT

73

A solitary paradise in a rough, nighttime sea.

LESTAT (V.O.)

It was the winter of 1788 and I
was brought to a Mediterranean
Island by the man who made me...

A lightning flash illuminates a sprawling 18th Century
sea-front villa.

LESTAT (V.O.)

... If a man is what you'd call
him.

74

INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - NIGHT

74

A great round room encircled with candles, their
reflections flickering in the great glass windows braving
back the outside STORM. A Roman-style bed overflowing
with exotic silks and cushions sits in the room's center,
and on it...

Lestat De Lioncourt lays feverish and fitful, dressed in
a soft linen nightshirt. His neck wears a swollen bite.
Another flash of lightning jolts him awake.

Lestat sits up as if escaping a nightmare and looks
around the strange room to find himself in a new and
perhaps darker dream. His hands feel the inflamed wound
as his eyes mark the candles and...

An indistinct shape of a man dressed in draping red
velvet, sitting asleep in a chair across the room.
An easel stands before him, holding an unseen painting.

Lestat rises out of the bed and grabs his clothes from a
nearby Louis IV chair. He makes for a door when...

Lestat stops. He looks back to see the painting that
stands on the easel.

It's a portrait of himself in ancient Roman garb, like a
Mars god, complete with his blond hair and fiery blue
eyes. Unable to help himself, he approaches the painting
and studies it, completely fascinated by his own image,
when...

Suddenly, the sleeping man leaps up, grabs Lestat
unmercifully and again plunges his teeth into the young
man's neck. Young Lestat fights as best he can but his
strength is no match as he's slowly drawn down to the
floor. Finally...

(CONTINUED)

The strange man lifts himself up from Lestat's neck to reveal the face of the vampire MARIUS (whom we remember from Talbot's studies). Wiping his bloodied mouth on his painter's cloth --

MARIUS

Lestat. That's a handsome name.

Weakened and helpless, Lestat drags himself back across the floor in terror.

LESTAT

Who are you?

The stranger just stares.

LESTAT

Do I know you?

MARIUS

I'm unknowable by nature.

Marius advances again on the young man...

MARIUS

But you may call me Marius.

Lestat is weakly dragging himself away.

LESTAT

My father is the Marquis D'Lioncourt. They'll send men, an army of men to look for me.

MARIUS

I doubt they'll find you, my impetuous young nobleman. You're a long way from home.

His strength leaving him, Lestat slumps flat on the floor.

MARIUS

You're weak... near passing. I can barely hear your heart beat.

LESTAT

I'll kill you...!

Marius smiles, nods, impressed.

MARIUS

You really do fear nothing...

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT

What do you want with me?

MARIUS

I have chosen you to receive a great Dark Gift. Why you? Because you are a rebel. The future hastens -- an age of revolution beyond my antique reason. You will help me understand the new world.

Bending down he strokes his victim gently with the back of his hand. Lestat flinches.

MARIUS

You've lost a great deal of blood.

LESTAT

(nears tears)

I'm dying.

Suddenly Marius draws an ancient knife from a Roman sheath on his belt. With the last of his strength, Lestat grabs his attacker's wrist.

MARIUS

Then drink.

Guiding Lestat's hand with the knife, Marius smiles and cuts his own arm, opening his veins. Lestat stares in true terror... as Marius lets his blood drip onto Lestat's lip. Lestat pulls away as the blood slides into his mouth...

MARIUS

Good, is it not?

And indeed... it does taste good. That's the new terror that's gripping him. He crosses himself and stares up into Marius's gentle eyes. Marius bends down, cups Lestat's chin tenderly.

MARIUS

Drink and live. You've been brave enough for one night.

Marius brings his open vein to Lestat's lips. Lestat hesitates, but then...

Feeds hungrily as Marius's face fills with the bond. He slowly sinks down to his knees as Lestat feeds and feeds.

As Lestat drinks, IMAGES flood his mind and ours...

82 VAMPIRE MARIUS 82

who gasps with the creation of his child.

83 BACK TO LESTAT 83

whose body grows stronger, his back arching up as he draws the "life" into him with full force, as... Marius begins to weaken, himself.

MARIUS

There... there... that will do.

Lestat keeps feeding.

MARIUS

No... no more. De Lioncourt...
Lestat, no more!

With one great move Marius pulls Lestat off his arm and tosses him across the floor.

Marius reels back, clamping his open vein with his hand as Lestat curls on the ground, gasping ecstatically from the rush.

Slowly, Lestat starts to feel something... pain begins travelling through his body, consuming him until he screams.

Marius crosses to Lestat convulsing on the floor. He kneels and gently wipes his brow.

Lestat's body thrashes as he grabs at his own limbs...

MARIUS

Don't be afraid, it's only your
body that dies...

DISSOLVE TO:

84 MARIUS 84

wiping Lestat's brow as he dies...

DISSOLVE TO:

85 EXT. MARIUS'S VILLA - GARDEN - NIGHT 85

Below the brightest of summer night skies, Lestat wanders through a grove of fruit trees. He studies the color of the flowers, the texture of the leaves...

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED:

85

LESTAT (V.O.)

My senses ran amok, like a new born child. Night after night, I marvelled at the texture of a leaf, or the pungent smell of a flower...

86 LESTAT'S POV (VAMPIRE VISION)

86

not like night at all really -- everything is very bright and shiny, all the colors saturated, fluorescent.

87 MACRO SHOTS

87

Giant flowers... insects crawling along leaves... their FOOTSTEPS THUD... their ANTENNAE CLICK and WHIR... a spider spinning its web... a bat swooping around.

88 INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - NIGHT

88

Lestat takes the stance of a gymnast -- he launches upwards... flies up into the air several feet... he lands laughing.

Marius reclines on a couch, watching his fledgling with amusement.

LESTAT (V.O.)

... and as for my new powers, I was beside myself with the pleasure of it all.

Lestat prepares himself again and this time leaps... but he doesn't know his own powers and tumbles through the air, collecting a few ancient vases and relics as he crashes to the ground.

Marius winces then laughs as Lestat emerges from behind the furniture, covered in bits of pottery, a small cut on his cheekbone.

DISSOLVE TO:

89 LESTAT

89

stares at himself in a mirror as he watches...

... the cut on his cheekbone vanish...

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

89

LESTAT (V.O.)

I had impressed my maker with my thirst for things. He set out to educate me in the unknown. Taught me all about the world and its hidden history... and about myself.

90 EXT. MARIUS'S VILLA - BEACH - NIGHT

90

An old fisherman cries out as Lestat bites into his throat. Marius watches as the fisherman's body relaxes. He pulls Lestat away.

MARIUS

That's enough, Lestat... When you feed, you must hold back from the moment of death, or it will draw you in.

CUT TO:

91 SAME - SOON AFTER

91

The moon reflects on the beautiful island alcove. Lestat floats along above the sand, while Marius walks like a mortal.

MARIUS

We become stronger with age but no necessarily wiser. We are doomed to be who we always were... only more so.

LESTAT

How old are you, Marius?

MARIUS

Older than Jesus Christ. But there are Ancient Ones, much older than me.

LESTAT

Who are 'those that must be kept'?

Marius pauses, considering.

MARIUS

All in good time, Lestat.

Before Lestat can protest, Marius moves to an outcrop of rock to hide. He gestures for Lestat to join him.

(CONTINUED)

91

CONTINUED:

91

Down on the beach some young villagers have built a bonfire. Two young couples not that different from a teenage beach party -- the girls dance while one of the boys plays balalaika, while other claps time with his hands.

LESTAT

But why do we hide? We're so much more than they are! We're living gods...

Marius pulls Lestat down out of sight.

MARIUS

(hushed)

We must sleep during the day, when we are vulnerable. Mortals must never know about us. It is forbidden, for the sake of all our kind.

LESTAT

(incredulous)

You fear them?

MARIUS

No, Lestat, I love them. I love their ideas, their stories, their art...

92

THEIR POV - SENSUAL DANCE

92

as the girls gyrate their hips and sway sensuously. One of the young men joins them, flagon in hand, his bare torso shining in the firelight.

MARIUS

... I love their passions... I love the way they move. As long as I've lived, human destiny is the greatest mystery. I have never been able to see what was coming around the corner. That is what keeps me going -- I want to see what happens next. If they discovered the truth about us... it would ruin everything.

Lestat watches, as the sad realization begins to sink in...

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED:

92

LESTAT (V.O.)

How I longed to join them -- not
to watch and admire from the
shadows, but to be an actor on the
stage of the great human drama.

A SOLO VIOLIN begins to play.

CUT TO:

93 INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - NIGHT

93

BOOM DOWN to reveal Lestat, standing before a full-length
mirror, playing the violin with great skill and passion.

LESTAT (V.O.)

With my new powers, I was quickly
able to master any instrument I
chose. But who could I play for?
How could I share these wonders,
if I must hide in the darkness?

His playing picks up speed as he works himself into a
Paganini furor -- bow bending across strings with a
maestro's speed and precision. Finally, his anger takes
over and he hacks at the poor instrument in a wild fury.
A low RUMBLE and the SCRAPE of STONE causes him to stop.

He peers over into the corner behind him. Crosses, and
listening, carefully, rolls back the great Persian carpet
to reveal...

An Egyptian eye carved into the stone.

... slowly the stone block rises and falls aside to
reveal a staircase that goes deep into the rock of the
island.

LESTAT

Marius!

No answer. Lestat looks around wondering what to do.
Taking a candelabra off the table, he ventures down the
stairs, peering down into the darkness.

94 INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - SECRET STAIRCASE - NIGHT

94

Lestat negotiates a circling flight of stone steps,
winding its way into the lowest bowels of the villa,
still carrying his violin.

Lestat finds himself facing a steeply descending passageway that stretches into darkness. He tests the stones ahead of him with caution...

Suddenly, the sconces along the passageway come to life... in quick succession, they flare up and burn with an unnatural intensity.

Lestat, struck with curiosity and wonder, puts down his candelabra and ventures forth.

We FOLLOW Lestat as he rounds the corner and stops.

There is an open foyer area leading to two great wooden doors, held firm by a tree-sized carved wooden bolt that bars the door shut from the outside. Suddenly, the BOLT flies up and SPLINTERS with a SHRIEKING CRACK. The doors fly open revealing a bright light from within...

Lestat looks a little more apprehensive than usual, but continues towards the open doorway.

Lestat enters, squinting through the bright light from scores of burning sconces.

At the far end of the sanctuary Lestat makes out the shape of two statues, an Egyptian man and an Egyptian woman sitting stone still, seemingly staring straight at him. ENKIL and his queen, AKASHA...

Stepping closer, they appear not to be statues at all but rather alabaster humans with the palest skin imaginable.

He approaches the two beings...

His eyes widen at the sight of their clothes -- the most valuable Egyptian finery; bracelets of gold, headdresses of incredible gems, clothes of silk.

Staring up into their faces, Lestat is struck with the realization...

LESTAT

... this cannot be... they're...
alive...

Lestat is drawn to the woman -- her form and beauty is exquisite even in its absolute stillness. As if this strange statue had just asked him to play, Lestat holds out his violin.

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT

Would you like me to play for you?

Her eyes still bore into him...

Lestat smiles.

LESTAT

At last a captive audience...

He raises his violin and begins to play.

The song of the VIOLIN ECHOES around the walls...

Lestat plays, with increasing abandon...

Akasha and Enkil sit frozen...

Lestat plays and plays, lost in the music. He throws a glance up at the throne and stops...

Akasha is moving...

Slowly, her eyelids pull back to reveal pale green eyes.

Lestat stares in amazement...

Her arm rises up, her wrist extended outward towards Lestat. The PULSE of a HEARTBEAT begins...

Lestat moves towards her as if beckoned.

A green vein appears beneath the marble surface of her skin. The vein pulses as the blood courses around. The HEARTBEAT POUNDS LOUDER, deeper.

The sound fills Lestat's head as he is drawn closer to Akasha's wrist. Lowering himself, as if genuflecting, Lestat bends closer to the vein which looks like the very font of life to him.

Marius sits under the stars painting, when his hand begins to tremble...

Suddenly he drops his brush, startled by an unexpected feeling that passes through him.

He stands bolt upright as a frightening gust of wind sweeps across him.

98 BACK TO SCENE 98

Lestat sinks his teeth into the vein, drawing in the unimaginable font.

A burst of image and color floods into him, as...

99 SERIES OF IMAGES 99

flows through his mind.

Lestat grabs the wrist and hungrily drinks...

The two statues now alive, as vampires in Ancient Egypt...

The passage of time and years flowing into years brings...

Two Ancient Egyptian vampires' eyes up from the orgy of flesh they feast on and stare at a...

Sphinx in the distance -- its pristine stone face weathers and decays before us...

The two rise and sit back on the thrones behind them...

Their eyes on the sky that moves over...

The Sphinx's face crumbling and cracking as...

The two Ancient's faces turn white as chalk and harden as...

100 BACK TO SCENE - MARIUS 100

approaches looking around the sanctuary with trepidation. Lestat lays on the stone floor, catatonic.

101 INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - NIGHT 101

Lestat lays in bed, feverish, his skin paler than ever. At the foot of the bed, stands Marius.

MARIUS

(quietly)

Lestat?

The young vampire's eyes bulge open. Marius is sitting beside him. Lestat realizes that he is shackled to the bed with manacles and chains.

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT

What are you doing...?

MARIUS

Be still. These are for your protection.

Lestat squirms as he feels his own body.

LESTAT

... I can feel her inside me...

Lestat is in a swoon, and not one that is entirely unpleasant. Marius watches, distressed.

MARIUS

How did this happen?

LESTAT

She wanted me, she called me to her. Oh God, her blood is like liquid fire.

(squirms)

Who are they?

MARIUS

They are the reason you are what you are. The original reason. He is Enkil. And she... she is your mother, my mother... Akasha, the queen of all who are damned.

LESTAT

But how?

MARIUS

They ruled over Egypt before the Sphinx, before the great Pyramids. No one knows how they were created.

LESTAT

(horrified)

How long have they been sitting there like that? Is that what will happen to us?

MARIUS

Their previous keeper went mad with such questions, dragged them out into the open sky. When the sun rose, immortals across Europe were destroyed in flames.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

Only the oldest ones were left alive. Even then, Akasha and Enkil did not move to save themselves. Who knows? Perhaps they cannot die.

Lestat is fascinated enough to control the impulse within him.

MARIUS

In all the years I've cared for them, talked to them, prayed... not once have they moved...

LESTAT

Until tonight.

Suddenly, Lestat roars and the manacles explode off his ankles and wrists. The cast iron scatters across the marble floor. Marius is surprised and curious at Lestat's strength.

Lestat leaps to his feet and heads towards the trap door.

MARIUS

Lestat, no!

LESTAT

Oh, Marius, just one more time.

MARIUS

Something's happening to you...

Marius blocks his way.

LESTAT

(snarls)
You'll not stop me...

Marius shocked.

MARIUS

(hushed)
Lestat... I hear her blood in your voice.

LESTAT

Get out of my way!

MARIUS

Akasha is the harbinger of death. A force malignant beyond your comprehension. If she were ever to truly rise, she would drink the earth dry.

(CONTINUED)

101 CONTINUED: (3)

101

LESTAT

She chose me, not you!

Flash.

Marius moves at super-speed, grabs Lestat by the neck, and pins him against a pillar. He does this with such force that the pillar almost collapses.

Lestat looks at Marius, newly aware of his true powers.

Marius horrified that he should lose control, moves away.

MARIUS

You are young and cruel, my son...

He looks at his fledgling with great sadness.

MARIUS

It was a mistake to bring you here.

Lestat is thrown out onto the balcony by a great force.

102 INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - NEXT DAY

102

THROUGH the balcony we see the last warm colors of the sunset vanish into the blue of night. Lestat emerges, having just risen. He stretches and scratches himself as any mortal would, but something causes him to stop...

... something has changed. Marius's paints have gone. Some of his paintings remain, but his easel and paint boxes are removed, leaving splattered outlines on the faded marble floor.

LESTAT

Marius!

No response.

103 INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - SECRET STAIRCASE

103

Lestat runs down the staircase, which is dark except for the candelabra in his hand.

104 INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - UNDERGROUND SANCTUARY

104

Lestat throws open the doors and enters to find...

(CONTINUED)

104 CONTINUED:

104

Akasha and Enkil have gone, as have the thrones and most of the royal paraphernalia. Only the shell of open stone faces and columns remains...

LESTAT

Marius!

105 EXT. MARIUS'S VILLA - BEACH - NIGHT

105

... the sand below. Lestat runs down the beach... the sand showing no footprints.

LESTAT (V.O.)

Many times since, I have called to Marius. I howled into the night in loneliness and pain.

Lestat disappears off into the night.

LESTAT (V.O.)

But there was no answer -- just the endless procession of days, months, years...

106 INT. NEW ORLEANS HOUSE - NIGHT (PRESENT)

106

Under candlelight, Jesse sits cross-legged on the parlor floor.

JESSE

... my teacher left me to my darkest lesson -- that in the end, we are alone.

Reverently she closes the diary.

107 INT. TALBOT'S STUDY - LATER

107

Talbot sips his tea and studies an old manuscript. His PHONE line BUZZES. He picks up the line.

TALBOT

Talbot speaking...
(listens)
Jesse, slow down.

INTERCUT WITH:

108 INT. NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT

108

Jesse on a pay phone.

JESSE .

... it has everything in it!
Marius, the villa, everything!

TALBOT

Excellent work. I can't wait to
see it. What time do you arrive?

JESSE

David... I'm going to Los Angeles.

Talbot is horrified.

TALBOT

Jesse, you can't... You must not!
You'll return to London
immediately...

JESSE

Don't worry about me. I know what
I'm doing...

TALBOT

You know nothing. The Talamasca
observes, we do not intervene.
Lestat is a killer. You must not
go near him, do you understand me!

JESS

I have to find him. I have to...
see him.

TALBOT

Jesse, please...

JESSE

I don't have a choice. Good-bye,
David. I'm sorry...

Jesse hangs up the phone.

TALBOT

(dazed)

Jesse...

109 EXT. DOWNTOWN SKYLINE (LOS ANGELES) - NIGHT

109

Lestat sits high above the sparkling lights of downtown
L.A.

(CONTINUED)

109 CONTINUED:

109

PULL OUT to see Lestat sits on the edge of a large, metal satellite dish on top of a building.

Lestat closes his eyes as if to listen closely to the communications being beamed out by the dish.

As we DESCEND INTO the center of the satellite dish, a LESTAT SONG BEGINS to play and magically we are in the music and with a visual splash we are...

MOVING SWIFTLY ACROSS the globe with the MUSIC -- there's a subliminal CHORUS BARELY DISCERNIBLE through the guitars, Lestat's lyric repeating over and over, "AKASHA, AKASHA, AKASHA," as we CUT ACROSS the world into the west and into...

The night fallen over Asia where we soon find ourselves in...

110 ASIAN FACTORY

110

where LESTAT'S MUSIC PLAYS for the evening shift over a sweatshop BOOM BOX.

111 INDIAN MARKETPLACE

111

where LESTAT'S MUSIC plays from SPEAKERS in a shop window.

We TRAVEL WESTWARD TO...

An ancient graveyard, where the...

Ground splits open before our very eyes.

From out of the dirt, a beautiful teenage boy stands naked...

112 VAMPIRE ARMAND

112

He pulls the pieces of a worm-eaten coffin from his person, as we...

CUT TO:

113 TIBETAN TEMPLE

113

where another resurrected figure rises from beneath the structure's stone steps and reveals itself it be...

114 VAMPIRE PANDORA

114

With one self-assured twist of her head, she shakes the red dust from her hair to reveal long curling black tresses falling down over her dark-skinned shoulders.

The MUSIC travels further to...

A PORTABLE RADIO held by a camel driver camping out in the Sahara Desert.

He cooks his dinner over a late-night fire, and taps his utensil to the MUSIC, when...

His CAMEL BRAYS fearfully...

The camel driver stops and looks before him, drop-jawed and terrified, and we now see what he sees...

115 CAMEL DRIVER'S POV

115

A corner stone of a desert sarcophagus begins to shift and move, as...

The driver drops the...

RADIO in the sand, which keeps playing LESTAT'S MUSIC as...

A figure in tattered rags emerges from the sarcophagus and unbandages his face and neck, shakes the sand from his hair and eyes to reveal a skeletal form with white leathery skin bulging with strange blue veins...

The VAMPIRE KHAYMAN offers the driver a polite smile.

The driver faints back into the sand as the camels bolt off.

And still LESTAT'S MUSIC plays as we finally END UP...

116 INT. LESTAT'S MANSION - STRANGE POV - EVENING

116

We find ourselves in the strange blue-grey world of a vampire's POV walking THROUGH Lestat's mansion.

PAST his band, James, Louisa, Alex and Maudy, laying in the studio in a hazy sleep from yet another night of debauchery.

We MOVE menacingly INTO...

(CONTINUED)

116

CONTINUED:

116

Lestat's living quarters, PAST the huge glassed-in space and into Lestat's private hall, leading to his bedroom door.

We ENTER easily, PASSING the familiar room with the enormous bed, and CONTINUE THROUGH INTO a smaller, darker chamber.

OVER TO Lestat's coffin, stealthily APPROACHING his "sleeping" figure laying closed-eyed and almost peaceful-looking, when...

Lestat bolts up and looks around the room to see... nobody.

Lestat's instincts are as alive as they could ever be as he scans the room with all his powers, and to his utter surprise finally sees...

A painting sitting by the wall, turned front-side-over.

Lestat gets out of his coffin and goes over to the painting with trepidation. He turns it over and then smiles to himself.

It is a portrait of Lestat as a rocker. The hand and style are unmistakable.

LESTAT

(whisper)

Marius...!

117 INT. LESTAT'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION 117

Lestat bursts out the doors of his bedroom and looks down into the living room. Marius reclines on a couch, still dressed in red velvet, his legs crossed in the most human fashion, flicking through a magazine.

Marius puts down the magazine.

MARIUS

Lestat.

Lestat is overcome with conflicting emotions. The two vampires regard each other... then, slowly, smiles rise to their faces.

LESTAT

How did you manage to discreetly get through the 1950's in red velvet?

(CONTINUED)

MARIUS

I slept.

LESTAT

Don't think you missed much.

MARIUS

Elvis.

LESTAT

Elvis, yes.

MARIUS

You're bigger than he is now.

LESTAT

I'd say a few pounds lighter. Though, if you ever catch me wearing a white jumpsuit, you have my permission to slice off my head.

MARIUS

This is what you always wanted.

LESTAT

Fame? Yes, although I can't go out in public anymore. It's become impossible for me to hide.

MARIUS

It's good to see you, Lestat.

LESTAT

Is it?

MARIUS

Don't look so sullen. I know that you've called to me many times. But the world's changed so quickly.

LESTAT

You just lost track of time.

MARIUS

Please, come down, I want to look at you.

Lestat jumps down and lands gently beside Marius. Marius holds out his arms. Lestat moves closer but doesn't give Marius the satisfaction he wants. Marius lowers his arms.

(CONTINUED)

MARIUS

You know, you still manage to amaze me. You're not at all frightened that you might be killed for what you've done.

LESTAT

Is that what you've come to do?

MARIUS

Kill my own child? I'd miss you too much. No, it's not me you should fear.

LESTAT

Those fledgling idiots on motorcycles? I can handle them.

MARIUS

I don't mean the young ones. There are stirrings... I've sensed them..

LESTAT

(rolls his eyes)
Them...? Who are 'them'?

MARIUS

The Ancient Ones, much older than even me.

Lestat is surprised, but doesn't want Marius to see it. He covers with bluster.

LESTAT

So, let them come. Let them all come.

Marius looks amused.

MARIUS

Your wish may come true my brat prince. Your music has woken your most dangerous admirer.

Lestat looks confused until it dawns on him.

MARIUS

Yes... And she hasn't just lifted her arm this time.

LESTAT

Akasha...

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED: (3) 117

MARIUS
Akasha has risen.

SMASH CUT TO:

118 FLASHBACK - INT. SANCTUARY OF AKASHA AND ENKIL 118

The same throne room, but this time we seem to be in some sort of ice cave.

Enkil's throat gapes, torn open. He is a hollow, transparent shell, like the abandoned skeleton of an insect.

And next to him...

Akasha's throat sits empty. A god again walks the earth.

119 MARIUS 119

dressed in heavy furs encrusted with ice enters.

ENKIL CRACKS, SPLINTERS and falls into dust.

120 INT. LESTAT MANSION - LIVING ROOM (BACK TO PRESENT) 120

Lestat's eyes are wide with excitement.

LESTAT
Akasha...

MARIUS
She has taken her King's blood. I think she has absorbed his power.

LESTAT
She's left you. All those years you've sacrificed and bound yourself to their service. And she kept her mysteries to herself, and she never gave you anything.

Marius becomes eerily still. A deep somber TONE starts to VIBRATE. The GROUND RUMBLES with a sigh. Lestat looks around, a little taken aback, sensing the scope of Marius's power.

(CONTINUED)

120 CONTINUED:

120

MARIUS

Lestat, if you cannot forgive me,
so be it. But I beg you, don't
provoke her. If you perform at
this concert, you will be
vulnerable. I cannot protect you.

LESTAT

Did I ask for your protection?

Lestat goes to the window, trying to contain his
excitement.

LESTAT

I waited for you two hundred
years, and all you have to say is
'don't' and 'can't.'

(shakes his head)

You can kill me right now if you
choose, but I will make my debut
at that concert. And it will be a
sensation.

MARIUS

Hmmm... that I don't doubt.

121 INT. VAMPIRE'S NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

121

Same as when Jesse was here, except there are no mortals
in sight. The Vampire Lover we remember feeding on the
girl in the corner is there at the bar... The BARMAN
polishes glasses, talking to one of the Punk Vampires who
tried to attack Jesse.

VAMPIRE LOVER

Slow tonight...

BARMAN

Should be some mortals here soon.
I gave out a heap of cards.

122 EXT. VAMPIRE NIGHTCLUB (SOUTH LONDON) - NIGHT

122

We SWOOP DOWN ON a desolate urban spot TO a deserted old
house surrounded by junkyards and car-parks.

CUT TO:

123 EXT. VAMPIRE NIGHTCLUB - FRONT DOOR

123

The vampire doorman opens the door and peers out... The
same strange MUSIC emanates and we conclude that this is
the same Vampire nightclub moved to a new location.

- 124 VAMPIRE DOORMAN'S POV 124
The street is empty.
- 125 ANGLE ON VAMPIRE DOORMAN 125
as he peers into the night. A figure floats towards him...
- 126 AKASHA 126
moves towards him, still more statue than human.
The vampire doorman is frightened, but mesmerized as she moves in...
- 127 INT. VAMPIRE BAR 127
The Barman looks up at the sound of the DOOR SLAMMING. He does a double-take and watches in awe as...
Akasha floats in, wiping her mouth, looking more human as if the doorman's blood has helped bring her back to life. She is distracted by the TV -- another Vampire Lestat video PLAYS.
The Vampire Lover Jesse saw feeding on the mortal girl looks up from his position by the stage. Seeing Akasha, he slides up next to her.
- VAMPIRE LOVER
You like Lestat, do you?
- AKASHA
Yes.
- VAMPIRE LOVER
Jeez, luv. You're lookin' a wee stiff. Wait a bit -- there'll be some choice pickin' comin' in here soon. Nice suck of the ol' red 'n' bubbly to loosen you up.
- But Akasha isn't listening. Absentmindedly she takes him in her arms and begins kissing him, just as he kissed the mortal girl. He swoons, knowing he's in trouble, but unable to stop himself.
- AKASHA
Come here often?

(CONTINUED)

127

CONTINUED:

127

The Barman looks up as the Vampire Lover collapses on the floor, withered to a brittle shell. Now Akasha is moving to the bar. He starts as...

The DOOR LOCKS itself loudly.

AKASHA

Where is Lestat?

BARMAN

I dunno... I guess he's in L.A.
for the concert...

Akasha reaches over, places her hand on his throat.

AKASHA

Don't worry. This won't hurt...
too much.

Akasha pulls the Barman lightly over the bar and attacks him as if she were just reaching for a snack. He flails but is overwhelmed by her strength...

The Vampire Girl who Jesse saw vanish with the Yuppie, flies towards Akasha, knife raised, but Akasha just turns, smiling...

Suddenly there is an explosion of flames. The Vampire Girl screams as she is consumed.

The piano player and guitar player go up in flames...

All hell breaks loose as the other vampires run for the door. The lock won't budge and it's too late anyway as the flames overwhelm them...

And THROUGH the flames, we see Akasha, looking still more human, smiling...

LIGHTNING STRIKES.

128

INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

128

A tall, shapely female flight attendant sways down the first-class aisle of an airplane, her BACK TO us.

She stops by a seat where Jesse sleeps uncomfortably.

Pulling out a blanket, the attendant drapes it over Jesse, tucking it closely around her neck, then, curiously, the stewardess leans down.

129

CLOSE ON LIPS

129

begin to sensually kiss Jesse's neck...

We begin to hear the BEATING of a HEART, getting LOUDER...

The lips part to expose fangs... slowly sinking themselves into Jesse's skin.

She murmurs in her sleep...

JESSE

Lestat.

She stirs awake to see...

The face of Akasha, her green eyes flashing bright.

CUT TO:

130

JESSE

130

wakes with a start.

JESSE

Akasha!

Jesse looks around to find herself in a plane. No vampires anywhere in sight. The real ATTENDANT is standing next to her, offering her a tissue.

ATTENDANT

Bless you.

Jesse takes the tissue, pretends to clear her voice.

ATTENDANT

We've started our approach into L.A. You should fasten your seat belt.

Jesse nods and fiddles with her belt obediently.

131

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD - LATER

131

A bleak, flat day. Jesse makes her way down the boulevard, which is crowded with the usual punked-out homeless kids gathered around McDonald's. But there's an unusual number of Goth kids hanging in bunches up and down the street. A Goth SCALPER passes.

SCALPER

... Tickets?

(CONTINUED)

131 CONTINUED:

131

JESSE

How much.

SCALPER

One for two hundred, a pair for three-fifty.

JESSE

Just one, thanks.

She takes out her money, he looks around casually, makes the exchange...

JESSE

You wouldn't know where Lestat lives, would you?

The Scalper smiles -- another Lestat groupie -- slides closer, more familiar than she'd like.

SCALPER

C'mon...

132 EXT. DARK ALLEY - SOON AFTERWARDS

132

The Scalper and Jesse squat next to some wasted GOTH KIDS who are huddled on the ground, smoking and sipping from paper bags.

WASTED GOTH

... They got this stupid fake castle set up on Franklin, but Lestat doesn't live there. It's like a decoy. He's living up 'round Lake Hollywood. Fuckin' surveillance fortress.

JESSE

Thanks.

WASTED GOTH

I wouldn't be going up there if I was you.

JESSE

Why's that?

WASTED GOTH

I know three girls been up there... never seen 'em again.

Marius looks out on the panorama of West Los Angeles from a ledge above the museum.

Planes hover above LAX like fireflies.

He looks out across the city.

People bustle along the streets. Through the crowds, here and there, a few figures move with that strange staccato speed, moving in and out of the bounds of time and distance... Other vampires.

Marius observes all this with a deep concern, it seems, for the world and its fate.

He suddenly looks up to see...

A tall, hooded figure standing across the courtyard.

Before he has time to react, the figure streaks toward him with supernatural speed, knocking him clear off the ledge...

And onto the glass atrium roof below.

Looking up from his rough landing, Marius stares into the face of Mael, the Druid vampire who captured Marius 4000 years ago.

MARIUS

Mael...

DRUID

(in strange tongue;
subtitled)

Marius, you are a great
disappointment to me.

Rising to his feet, Marius dusts himself off. Looking around he sees the ancients have gathered, standing like awesome gargoyles. Pandora, the dark-haired beauty in her sari; Armand, the boy sage, in his medieval robes; Khayman, the desert vampire, his robes discolored with dust, his face obscured by rotting bandages and -- Mael. It's like a living gallery of the mythical drawings we saw hanging in Talbot's office.

MARIUS

Pandora, Armand, it's been a long
time. Khayman, to what do we owe
this honor?

(CONTINUED)

They all keep their distance from each other. They speak softly, but their VOICES seem to carry a great distance, ECHOING around the Getty architecture.

KHAYMAN

Your child has woken us all.

PANDORA

He's quite the devil.

ARMAND

Keep your amorous thoughts to yourself, Pandora. He is a brat and must be dealt with.

PANDORA

He's just doing what all of us have wanted to do.

They all look at her.

PANDORA

To live in the light.

MARIUS

Our problem is not Lestat.

ARMAND

Your child has violated our code. He has put us all in danger. You cannot protect him.

KHAYMAN

Marius is right. Our real problem is Akasha.

MAEL

Yes, Akasha...

ARMAND

We've all felt her presence, even as she hides from us.

The others nod, acknowledging the truth of this.

KHAYMAN

She is killing the young ones to build her strength.

MAEL

You failed in your duty.

(CONTINUED)

MARIUS

I kept them both safe for three thousand years! As if I had the power to control her!

ARMAND

What does she want?

MARIUS

I don't know. She's sucked the life out of her King like a preying mantis. I feel that there is terrible danger.

PANDORA

How do you know, Marius? She might not do anything. She might go back to sleep...

There's a LOW RUMBLE. They turn to see a female figure float from the shadows. She is beautiful, slender with long, red hair, alabaster skin. She is so old and powerful that the others step back in awe. And yet there is a suppleness about her that is quite different from the others.

PANDORA

Who are you?

MAHARET

I am Akasha's enemy.

The others stare.

KHAYMAN

Maharet...

They all turned to Khayman, surprised by the depth of feeling that rises from this creature's chest.

MAHARET

Khayman...

KHAYMAN

I didn't know...

MAHARET

... that I survived? It's what I wanted...

KHAYMAN

You look... beautiful.

(CONTINUED)

133 CONTINUED: (3)

133

MAHARET

It's good to see you.

Khayman looks away ashamed.

KHAYMAN

I would not have you look on me as
I am...The others exchange looks, immediately understanding that
there is history between these two.

MAHARET

Yes, we know Akasha.

MARIUS

Please, tell us...

Maharet and Khayman turn to the others.

KHAYMAN

I served at her court as the Royal
Steward, before she made me what I
am.

ARMAND

But how is this possible?

The other Ancients are fascinated as Khayman continues.

KHAYMAN (V.O.)

All traces of my world are gone...
because that's the way Akasha
wanted it. In the time I was
born, immortals did not hide and
feed in secret. They ruled the
world by night.134 FLASHBACK - 2000 YEARS B.C.

134

Egypt before the Great Pyramids, before the great Sphinx
-- a more feudal-looking fortress city.

KHAYMAN (V.O.)

We prayed to these great creatures
for help and guidance, which they
sometimes gave. But mostly we
made sacrifices to appease their
hunger.Rows of naked men and women hang upside down like sides
of beef. They scream in terror as Akasha and Enkil
stroll forward hand in hand, fangs smiling.

(CONTINUED)

KHAYMAN (V.O.)

Our elders volunteered their lives. Still Akasha came to our houses by night and took our children. So we became a people of warriors. Our aim -- to enslave others, so we ourselves might be spared.

A deep pit, covered by a grate, filled with living men and women, struggling to breathe.

Khayman slips morsels of bread and water to a young red-haired woman Maharet, who passes the food on to her pregnant sister, Makare.

MAHARET (V.O.)

My sister Makare and I were two such unfortunates, kept in the palace crypts like animals until it was our time to die...

Khayman, wearing fine robes and the Royal Seal on his chest, flinches as Akasha and Enkil's shadows swoop down on the twitching victims.

MAHARET (V.O.)

... Perhaps Khayman felt sorry for us. Perhaps had witnessed too much horror... He resolved to save us, or die trying.

The sun burns over the ancient city...

Khayman lifts the grate over the pit, and helps Maharet and Makare climb out.

MAHARET (V.O.)

... my sister was with child, so we left her in the care of Khayman's family, and we set out alone...

Khayman and Maharet flee on camel across the desert.

The sun sets swiftly...

Khayman and Maharet huddle around a campfire, when it flares up unnaturally. They stand back to see Akasha, walking towards them smiling...

(CONTINUED)

134 CONTINUED: (2)

134

MAHARET (V.O.)

I did not think Akasha would follow. I did not understand the depth of her spite.

Akasha rises up looking for vengeance, and floats TOWARDS CAMERA. BLACKNESS.

135 BACK TO PRESENT

135

The others listen transfixed...

KHAYMAN

She forced the dark gift on us both. Then sealed me beneath the cliff where I remained for a thousand years, until my body was nothing but bone and dust, my mind made mad by the pain of the hunger.

PANDORA

Why have you hidden from us?

MAHARET

After a couple of millennia, I found that I had very little left to say. Besides, I've been occupied...

ARMAND

Can Akasha be killed?

MAHARET

Perhaps.

PANDORA

Perhaps. What does that tell us?

MARIUS

If Akasha dies, then so do we all.

Maharet knows something she's not willing to share.

PANDORA

How do we even find her?

MAHARET

You would be wiser to hope she does not find you. There is a reason Akasha has awoken.

(CONTINUED)

135 CONTINUED:

135

PANDORA

Lestat.

ARMAND

Lestat is the reason that Akasha has woken. So Lestat must die. When Akasha learns of Lestat's death there will be no reason for her to remain and she will return to her slumber.

MARIUS

That is simple-minded logic.

ARMAND

Marius, in this, your voice does not count.

MAHARET

Akasha bides her time until Lestat's concert. She loves an audience...

Khayman nods his agreement.

MARIUS

You think she means to punish him.

MAHARET

I don't know... I do know that she is cruel, and takes pleasure in destroying life. If she cannot be stopped, I fear for the mortal world.

As we remain on the Ancient Ones. Akasha's HEARTBEAT creeps back in over...

136 INT. LESTAT'S SOUND STUDIO - NIGHT

136

Loud, intense music as the band rehearse and we PULL BACK to reveal...

137 LESTAT

137

magically hanging upside down from the studio's ceiling creating a fantastic melody around the beat while below, his band plays along oblivious to his antics totally into their music.

138 INT. SOUND STUDIO CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION 138

While Lestat and the band continue playing on the other side of the glass, Roger talks on the phone, his finger stuck in his other ear cutting out the noise of the band.

ROGER
(down phone)
So just give me the numbers again
... Good.

Lestat finishes up the song with one last soul-quaking note.

139 INSIDE STUDIO 139

Lestat lets the note trail off, eyes closed, the reverb still ringing in the room...

LESTAT
I do love the Twenty-first
Century.

140 EXT. HOLLYWOOD HILLS 140

Meanwhile, Jesse makes the long climb up through the hills. In the distance she sees the Hollywood sign, and Lestat's sprawling mansion below it.

141 EXT. LESTAT'S MANSION - SOON AFTER 141

Jesse makes it to the cul-de-sac where Lestat's mansion sits, encompassed by a huge stone wall.

She walks over to the high, iron gates -- its top covered in spikes and barbed wire.

142 INT. LESTAT'S MANSION - SOUND STUDIO 142

Meanwhile, as the technicians pack up for the day, Roger and the band watch the TV in the corner.

143 ANGLE ON TV 143

TV REPORTER (V.O.)
Scalpers are making a killing on
the Lestat concert tickets,
selling for up to \$500.

(CONTINUED)

ANCHOR (V.O.)

Do we assume they'll be scheduling more dates?

TV REPORTER (V.O.)

No, rumors have been flying, but I heard directly from a Lestat spokesperson that there will be only one show.

Lestat reads an issue of Rolling Stone with himself on the cover.

LESTAT

What does 'Metal God' mean?

JAMES

Where?

LESTAT

In this newspaper, they're calling me a 'Metal God.'

MAUDY

Ouch! That hurts, man.

JAMES

We're not head-bangers.

LESTAT

(delighted)

Head-bangers?

Maudy and James immediately start throwing their hair up and down and playing air guitar like a heavy metal act.

JAMES

This is a head-banger.

MAUDY

Head-bangers are boys with long, greasy hair and no clothes sense. It's not cool.

LESTAT

Yes, of course. We mustn't be uncool.

Suddenly, Lestat looks around, like a cat sensing its prey.

Jesse's leather jacket lands on top of the wire and she pulls herself up.

Jesse hoists herself up, gingerly trying to avoid the razor wire and embedded glass.

Finding her balance she gets ready to jump down when...

Two GREAT BARKS break the night's silence...

Looking down, she sees Lestat's MASTIFFS staring up at her. They BARK again.

JESSE

(in a loud whisper)

Nice boys.

The dogs fall silent. Relieved, she smiles and turns to see...

Lestat staring right at her.

LESTAT

Boo.

Losing her balance, Jesse tumbles clear off the high wall, disappearing down its steep angle and...

Falls... disappearing down the steep incline towards the ground.

Jesse is about to hit the ground when Lestat swoops down saving her.

The two stare at each other for a moment. Jesse stares into his entrancing grey eyes.

Lestat drinks her in with his eyes, marking the soft paleness of her skin, her long red hair.

JESSE

Hi.

LESTAT

I know you...

Remembers the nightclub.

LESTAT

It's you... You must be very keen to die.

Jesse's heart pounds but she fights hard not to panic.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

That's supposed to scare me. If you want to kill me, go ahead.

Lestat doesn't know what to make of this one. He drops her unceremoniously on the ground and watches as she brushes herself off.

LESTAT

Why are you following me? Are you a fan? No...

(reading her mind)

Ah, you're Talamasca. Are they still at it?

JESSE

You know about the Talamasca...?

LESTAT

Of course. I used to tease them back in the last century, make the odd appearance. You don't look like Talamasca -- much too young and much too pretty.

Jesse pushes her hair back self-consciously. Did Lestat really just say she was pretty? Lestat smiles, knows that he has her wrapped around his finger.

LESTAT

What have you got there?

Jesse gasps. Lestat is beside her. Reaches into her backpack and takes out his old journal as if Jesse were a coat rack.

LESTAT

Look at this, I had completely forgotten about this old thing.

Flips through the pages.

LESTAT

You are a busy little thing, aren't you.

JESSE

Oh, and you can talk...

Jesse falters, realizing she might have gone too far. This is one of those rare moments when Lestat is speechless. He smiles, examines Jesse for the first time.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

I mean, you... you've, you know,
done so much.

Lestat turns back to the book.

LESTAT

(flipping)

I have a reasonable style, don't
you think? Perhaps a bit
florid...

JESSE

I think you write beautifully.

LESTAT

You do?

JESSE

You write from the heart. There's
no artifice. It's the same thing
in your songs. There's... truth
in them. That's what makes your
music so timeless.

Lestat blinks at Jesse.

LESTAT

Timeless -- that's good... Time...
less. Good title for the new
album? What do you think?

JESSE

I haven't heard the songs.

LESTAT

Yes, it's a pity I have to kill
you. I'd love you to hear them.

Jesse's heart jumps. She keeps her cool as Lestat
circles her like a shark.

JESSE

You won't kill me.

LESTAT

You're so confident. Are you
brave or stupid?

JESSE

I think both. You already saved
me twice.

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT

Doesn't mean a thing. I could save your life one minute, snuff it out the next.

JESSE

You enjoy this, don't you?

Lestat smiles, moves closer, trying to intimidate. Jesse holds her ground.

LESTAT

You're a curious one. Why have you come here?

JESSE

I don't know...

LESTAT

Are you sure about that? You've gone to a lot of trouble.

Now they are very close, Jesse is a deer caught in the headlights of his eyes.

JESSE

I... I can't explain, but I had to meet you. I had to see you and...

LESTAT

... make sure I was real?

Jesse nods.

LESTAT

Well, what do you think? Am I the real thing?

JESSE

It's weird. I feel like I know you...

LESTAT

You read my journal.

JESSE

No... I know you.

LESTAT

Because you're special? Because only you know the real me?

JESSE

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

144 CONTINUED: (4)

144

LESTAT

You think perhaps we're 'soul mates'?

Jesse is almost defiant against his cynical tone.

JESSE

Yes...

LESTAT

And if you no longer have a soul?

He can't help himself -- he takes her face in his hands.

Jesse's eyes are wide in surprise, but she closes them and waits... Lestat smells her hair, brushes her neck with his mouth...

145 LESTAT'S POV

145

The PULSE of Jesse's HEART is LOUD in his ears. Jesse's soft white skin glows, and he can see the blood coursing through just under the surface.

146 BACK TO SCENE

146

Lestat can't help himself -- draws out his fangs. Jesse's eyes are shut tightly, expecting his teeth, grimacing but hoping for it at the same time...

147 CLOSE ON LESTAT

147

... as he catches himself. His head flails as he tries to stop his natural impulse.

Jesse slowly opens her eyes. Lestat is gone.

148 INT. LESTAT'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY

148

Roger comes through the entrance hall, whistling and humming a "Vampire Lestat" tune. He goes into the kitchen and comes out with a bag of rice crackers on his way downstairs to the studio, when he stops.

Jesse lies curled up on the rug. Mouth full, Roger gives Jesse a nudge with his foot.

ROGER

Hey, sleeping beauty. How'd you get in here?

(CONTINUED)

Jesse sits up groggy, interrupted in her sleep.

JESSE

Where am I?

ROGER

You're in the Vampire Lestat's living room is where you are. And if he finds you here, you'll be leaving nine pints lighter if you know what I mean.

JESSE

He already found me.

ROGER

He... saw you in here?

Jesse nods.

ROGER

You were here with... with Lestat?

JESSE

Uh huh.

Roger edges over, tries to get a not-too-discreet gander at her neck.

JESSE

Lestat told me to stay.

ROGER

He told you?

JESSE

He said I should wait for him here.

ROGER

(squinting)

You sure 'bout that?

Jesse shrugs, looks nonchalant.

JESSE

S'what he said.

ROGER

All right. You'd better come with me...

The band sit around jamming half-heartedly. Roger enters, followed by Jesse who stays in the control booth, while Roger comes in all business handing out envelopes.

ROGER

I don't hear any practicing.
C'mon, get to it... Here's your
advances. Much more generous than
you deserve but that's not up to
me.

MAUDY

Roger, grow a dick.

ROGER

Don't have to, Maudy. You got
enough for both of us.

Roger remembers Jesse who is standing looking out of
place. Roger gestures for Jesse to come in.

ROGER

Oh, and this is...

JESSE

Jesse...

ROGER

Right, Jesse is Lestat's... she's
a house guest.

He pulls a face on his way out.

ROGER

Keep an eye on her will ya...

Roger is gone.

JAMES

What an asshole...

ROGER (O.S.)

I heard that!

Awkward silences as they stare at her, trying to figure
it out.

JAMES

You're... with Lestat?

JESSE

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

149

CONTINUED:

149

Maudy approaches, examines her, tries to get a look at her neck -- she looks normal.

MAUDY

You sure?

Jesse shrugs. Maudy, James, Alex and Louisa exchange looks.

JESSE

So... you know...? You all know?

They catch her meaning.

MAUDY

That Lestat really is a...?

Jesse nods.

MAUDY

I knew.

ALEX

I'm pretty sure I knew.

They all look stupefied.

JAMES

The weird thing is... it doesn't bother us. It's like having a bunch of Hell's Angels for friends. As long as they're on your side, you're cool.

ALEX

He needs us to play.
(thinks about it)
Doesn't he...?

150

EXT. LOS ANGELES - TIME LAPSE

150

The sun spins across the sky... the L.A. freeways flow with light.

151

INT. LESTAT'S MANSION CRYPT - NIGHT

151

Lestat rises.

152

INT. LESTAT'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM

152

Lestat emerges from the stairwell.

(CONTINUED)

152

CONTINUED:

152

He stops in surprise as he sees Jesse standing waiting for him.

LESTAT

You're still here.

Jesse nods.

LESTAT

I'm glad.

JESSE

You are?

LESTAT

I'm surprised about that myself.
Strange, last night...

JESSE

What?

LESTAT

I haven't felt that comfortable in centuries.

Jesse smiles.

JESSE

Me neither.

LESTAT

As tempting as it is, you must leave.

JESSE

But you just said...

LESTAT

We have no future.

JESSE

You're kidding me... what are you frightened of?

LESTAT

Me? Frightened?

Lestat is amused.

LESTAT

Jesse, you think you know what you want. You're so passionate that I could almost believe you know what you're saying...

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

I'm the only one who understands
how alone you are.

LESTAT

Ah, now I'm lonely...

JESSE

You can sneer all you want. But
that's what this concert's about
isn't it? You hoped being famous
would fill the emptiness inside
you.

Lestat's smile fades -- he doesn't like his inner life
being probed.

JESSE

You know it won't work -- to feel
whole, you need someone to love.
Someone who will love you for who
you really are.

LESTAT

What could you know about
loneliness. You're a child. I
have lived since before your
grandfather's grandfather.

JESSE

And look at where that's got you.

LESTAT

Don't push your luck.

JESSE

Maybe I haven't lived three-
hundred years. But I know about
loneliness. The kind that's
inside you, even when you're
surrounded by people.

LESTAT

And you're here to save me from
this terrible fate.

JESSE

We can save each other.

Again, Lestat is taken by her frankness.

LESTAT

Jesse it's not what you think.

(CONTINUED)

But now Jesse smiles, knowing that he has given in...

JESSE

It's not?

LESTAT

Not at all. It's like possessing great talent, like a genius for music or art -- and yet you can never really share it with anyone.

JESSE

Show me. Show me what it's like to be you.

Lestat smiles, admiring her courage, admiring the way she looks into his eyes. He wraps his arms around her.

LESTAT

(murmuring)

All right. This may be a little painful for a mortal -- you're still attached to your skin.

JESSE

I don't care.

LESTAT

Do you trust me?

JESSE

Yes.

LESTAT

Close your eyes. Don't breathe.

Fluttering her eyes closed, Jesse holds one deep, hesitant breath and...

Flash -- with preternatural speed Lestat and Jesse whisk through the night, flashing past trees and houses -- down roads...

Opening her eyes for a moment Jesse watches the world whizz past her at incredible speed and suddenly --

They stop on a dime.

Jesse gasps, catching her breath to find herself at Hollywood's highest peak overlooking the city laying out before her like a glimmering blanket.

Looking out over the observatory's ledge, Jesse can't believe what's just happened. She laughs intoxicated by the experience.

JESSE

Do that again.

Lestat laughs, impressed by her bravado. He comes up behind her -- leaning close to her neck.

LESTAT

Don't move. Don't turn.

Lestat leans into her neck and then slides down it, past her back and waist. Jesse shudders with a rush of desire, when suddenly...

She rises off the ground.

Looking down she sees...

Lestat lifting her up by her foot with...

One finger.

JESSE

What are you doing now?

LESTAT

Helping you see the view better.

Lestat lifts Jesse even farther up and...

Over the precipice as she literally stands in mid-air...

Balanced on Lestat's finger.

LESTAT

Do you still trust me?

Jesse steels herself as she looks at the death-drop below.

JESSE

Yes.

LESTAT

How's the view?

JESSE

I can't see you.

Gathering her nerves she turns her foot around on Lestat's finger to face him.

(CONTINUED)

Lestat gets slightly unnerved at her daring and keeps her balanced with all his skill until finally...

Jesse faces him full-on, still balancing on his finger.

JESSE

There. That's much better.

Lestat lowers her back down.

They both look at each other deeply.

Lestat wants to kiss her.

Jesse knows he does, moves closer...

Lestat hesitates, a little perturbed by her willingness...

Closing his eyes, his lips hover close to her skin...

JESSE

I know you want me. I can feel it.

LESTAT

There is still trouble for me... I can't protect you.

JESSE

I can look after myself.

Lestat smiles.

JESSE

I want you.

LESTAT

You want the dark gift.

JESSE

If that's what it takes. I don't care. For the first time in my life I know where I belong.

LESTAT

You still have no idea...

Jesse's eyes flash in anger.

JESSE

I know!

(CONTINUED)

153 CONTINUED: (2)

153

She moves into his arms. Lestat doesn't move. Allows himself to be embraced.

JESSE

You're a killer, but it's in your nature. You need blood to survive.

Lestat shakes his head.

LESTAT

No, it's not the blood, although the taste is so rich and sweet... It's the taking of the life that feels so good. You feel the heart strain and weaken. It struggles even though there is no hope.

Jesse closes her eyes, lost in the gentle rhythm of his voice.

LESTAT

You feel the life slipping away, the flicker of those brief years. The taste of mortality you can no longer experience. There is such courage and innocence in that moment, it always touches me...

Jesse kisses him on the lips.

JESSE

Please, give it to me. Let me be with you.

Lestat smells her, begins to melt.

LESTAT

(groans)
I can smell your blood.

JESSE

(murmurs)
Uh huh... Do you like it?

LESTAT

(losing himself)
Yes...

JESSE

(whispering)
Do it...

(CONTINUED)

153

CONTINUED: (3)

153

Lestat lets out a desperate cry and throws her backwards sprawling on the ground. He looms over her, angry.

LESTAT

You want to be with me? All right then, come...

154

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK - NIGHT

154

Lestat and Jesse quietly move among the trees. Lestat stops on a dime -- senses tuned. Jesse gasps.

JESSE

Don't...

LESTAT

Be quiet!

He looks into the dark.

Jesse is about to speak when Lestat raises his finger to her lips and points at...

A couple of lovers moving across the meadow. They sit on a park bench. The woman giggles drunkenly.

Jesse watches and gasps as she realizes... the male lover is a vampire.

Lestat moves forward. Jesse gingerly follows.

Taking his lover in his arms the vampire begins to bite her neck...

Lestat looks over at Jesse who watches, fascinated and disturbed.

The vampire senses another's presence -- stops and turns to reveal his vampire eyes shining in the dark.

Lestat steps into the halo of a street lamp and hisses.

Sensing Lestat's power, the vampire hisses and instantly... the vampire is gone.

Jesse turns to Lestat but he has disappeared, too. Spinning around again she sees...

Lestat hovering over the mortal woman who is still in a swoon. Checking to see that the vampire is gone, Jesse moves closer to the bench.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

Is she alright?

Lestat looks up to her face revealing his blood-stained lips.

LESTAT

Come here, Jesse... I'll show you how it's done...

Jesse reflexively looks away.

A beat as he marks her reaction.

LESTAT

What are you waiting for?

Jesse tries to be brave, but she can't help herself.

JESSE

No, stop...

LESTAT

This is what you want, isn't it?
This is what you begged me for.

JESSE

No...!

Lestat's expression turns cold as ice -- he arches his back like a great cat and goes in for the kill. The woman's body convulses...

Jesse watches in horror as...

... the woman's hands clutch at Lestat, her back stiffens... finally her legs relax in an obscene parody of orgasm.

Jesse gasps, backs away. Lestat finishes and, wiping his mouth, approaches Jesse.

LESTAT

Do you still want the dark gift?

They stand apart, wanting to move closer but stuck.

JESSE

No...

Lestat lowers his head, nods his acceptance. There's a great sadness between these two lovers -- stranded from each other by this insurmountable divide.

(CONTINUED)

154 CONTINUED: (2)

154

LESTAT

Marius was right, but I never understood until now.

JESSE

What?

LESTAT

You are beautiful to me, because you are human... your frailty, your short years, your heart even as you think it's breaking -- all that is suddenly more precious than anything I have ever known.

(resolved but sad)

Good-bye, Jesse, I had a wonderful evening.

Then Jesse reaches for her cheek as if she were touched by something when...

... the image of Lestat's lips kissing her cheek flashes by in vampire time as...

Jesse's face is completely still in human time.

As her hand drops from her cheek she realizes what just happened and smiles.

There's a SWISH and the sound of RUSHING AIR. Jesse turns, expecting Lestat...

Jesse screams, backs away.

It's not Lestat at all but Mael, the Druid vampire. With great speed he glides towards her, envelops Jesse in his cloak, muffling her cries...

155 BLACKNESS

155

The sound of WIND and the CLICK of the FREEWAY SEAMS causes Jesse's eyes to open...

156 INT. LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

156

Jesse sits up and looks around -- she's in a limousine -- the older kind with mahogany paneling and fresh-cut flowers. The CRYSTAL GLASSES TINKLE with the rhythm of the road. Jesse scrambles to the front and raps on the glass partition.

(CONTINUED)

156 CONTINUED:

156

JESSE

Hello?

The driver ignores her. She taps more insistently.

JESSE

Hello!

Slowly the driver turns his head -- it's Mael -- he smiles and turns back to the road. Jesse recoils and goes back to her original seat. Frightened, confused.

157 JESSE'S POV - FREEWAY SIGN

157

flashes by -- "PALM DESERT." A high-tech windmill, like an airplane propeller, flashes by.

158 EXT. DESERT MANSION - NIGHT

158

A sprawling adobe mansion sits under the stars of the California desert.

CUT TO:

159 STARING EYE

159

PULL BACK to reveal a porcelain doll, beautiful, perfect but with those staring, unsettling eyes. We TRACK ACROSS rows and rows of dolls from different eras, all exquisite detail. TRACK PAST the billowing floor-to-ceiling curtains to reveal Jesse -- still an adult, but lying awake in bed just as she had as a little girl.

Jesse gets out of bed, trapped in her own childhood memory. Is she dreaming now?

160 INT. DESERT MANSION -- HALLWAY - NIGHT

160

Making her way down a long hall she passes an amazing array of medieval tapestries.

161 FLASHBACK - INT. HALLWAY

161

Jesse as a child picking at the thread of a wall-hanging in a large room.

- 162 BACK TO SCENE (PRESENT) 162
- She stands wondering -- eyes moving back and forth with rapid thoughts when...
- She sees a door at the end of the hall.
- Walking a little faster now she draws toward it as...
- 163 FLASHBACK - INT. HALLWAY 163
- Jesse as a little girl, wanders down a similar hall toward what sounds like a COCKTAIL PARTY. Reaching the thick wooden door she peeps through to see...
- 164 BACK TO SCENE (PRESENT) 164
- Jesse stares up at an enormous mural dominating the far wall -- a mural of names, a family tree -- extending up onto the ceiling and down to the floor.
- 165 FLASHBACK - MURAL 165
- Jesse, as a little girl, looks up at the mural.
- YOUNG JESSE
- I don't want to go...
- Maharet walks beside her.
- MAHARET
- I know, darling. I don't want you to go either but you must.
- YOUNG JESSE
- (furious)
- Why? Why can't I stay with you!
Please, Auntie Maharet!
- A tear of blood trickles down Maharet's cheek.
- YOUNG JESSE
- Auntie, you're bleeding...
- Jesse takes the tear and goes to put it to her mouth but Maharet violently grabs her hand. Young Jesse is frightened.
- MAHARET
- You must be with your own, my sweetest girl. I'll always be watching over you.
- YOUNG JESSE
- I want to stay with you forever.

166 BACK TO SCENE (PRESENT)

166

Jesse stares into nothingness. Again the voice, but much gentler.

MAHARET

Forever is a very long time.

Jesse looks up out of her memory to see in the doorway down the end of the hall... Maharet.

MAHARET

Hello, my princess.

JESSE

Maharet...

Maharet approaches.

JESSE

You haven't aged... you haven't changed at all...

Now we see Jesse's aunt's eyes glow with that vampiric greyness, her skin that strange pallor.

JESSE

You're a...?

Maharet nods.

Jesse stands there soaking it in.

MAHARET

Your life has been an instant in mine.

Maharet smiles at Jesse's full realization.

JESSE

(mind is blown)
All these years.

MAHARET

Come...

Jesse follows Maharet to the mural of the family tree.

MAHARET

You are the most precious of my great family...

JESSE

What family? Am I...?

(CONTINUED)

166 CONTINUED:

166

MAHARET

No.

(beat)

I haven't always been this... I was once mortal, too. My sister died before her child was one year old. I took care of that child, and her children, and her children's children...

Pointing up to the huge family tree...

MAHARET

This is our family -- my way of coping with eternity.

Her finger trails down the great line to one single name -- "Jessica Reeves"...

Jesse stares at Maharet, amazed.

MAHARET

When your parents died I took care of you...

167 FLASHBACK - BALCONY

167

Jesse as a girl sitting on the balcony with a vampire...

From across the balcony, Maharet yells --

MAHARET (O.S.)

Jesse!

168 BACK TO SCENE (PRESENT)

168

Jesse is putting the pieces together.

JESSE

You sent me away.

MAHARET

I stopped a terrible thing happening. And I will again. Jesse, Lestat is not for you.

Jesse blinks. Maharet smiles.

MAHARET

Yes, I know about your new friend. You're in love with him.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

No, I'm...

Maharet waits. Jesse knows she can't lie.

JESSE

It's not what I thought it would be.

MAHARET

You thought you could kill as he does without remorse.

Jesse stares at Maharet, surprised that there is someone who can understand her so well.

JESSE

How do you know...?

Maharet smiles sadly, feeling Jesse's inner turmoil.

MAHARET

You want him.

JESSE

Yes...

Jesse sits on a stone beach, confused and miserable.

JESSE

I thought it would be easier.

MAHARET

You wanted to be like him.

JESSE

He offered me the dark gift. I couldn't do it...

MAHARET

I know...

JESSE

Even now... I still want him.

Maharet shakes her head, disturbed. Just then the gloom of the pre-dawn's light begins to illuminate the windows of the great hall.

MAHARET

You should leave here in the morning. Go home to London.

Jesse calmly holds Maharet's eyes.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

This is my home. This is where I belong. You're not getting rid of me that easily again.

MAHARET

Oh, Jesse...

Maharet melts, sits beside her, touches her face gently.

MAHARET

I never wanted to be rid of you. You are my most precious child. You are the reason I wish to go on living. But there are things I cannot tell you now.

JESSE

Is it Lestat?

MAHARET

Lestat is in terrible danger. You will only make it worse.

JESSE

What danger?

MAHARET

You must trust me and do as I say. Go back to London.

JESSE

What danger!?

Squinting, Maharet stands...

MAHARET

Promise me.

Jesse says nothing.

Beaten by the sun, Maharet exits into the shadows.

MAHARET

Promise me.

ON Jesse's reaction.

The sun breaks through the date palms, illuminating Maharet's spectacular garden -- a lush oasis of waterfalls and tropical flora.

Jesse moves through the garden.

170 EXT. MAHARET'S DESERT MANSION - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY 170

Jesse moves to the front entrance, past the expensive cars, the limousine that brought her here, to the walls surrounding the front gate.

She tries the driveway gates -- locked -- held by a type of electronic lock.

She tries the smaller door -- locked.

Jesse stands back and studies the height of the adobe wall...

Looking around, she climbs the nearest tree to the top of the wall.

On top of the wall, Jesse tries to keep her balance, but it's a long way down, and nothing to climb on to. She leaps.

171 EXT. MAHARET'S DESERT MANSION - DAY 171

Maharet's sprawling compound sits alone in the empty desert canyon. Nothing for as far as the eye can see. Jesse walks away from the house.

Coming to a highway, she reads a sign -- "DEATH VALLEY 120 miles."

Just then, a VW minibus barrels down the road in Jesse's direction.

She sticks out her thumb...

The minibus pulls to a stop on the shoulder in a cloud of dust. A VAMPIRE DRIVER leans out the window -- not a real vampire, just a kid with white face-paint and fake fangs.

VAMPIRE DRIVER

Need a ride?

JESSE

Where are you going?

VAMPIRE DRIVER

Where does it look like?

Jesse peers past the driver to a crowd of Goths and fake vampires. "THE VAMPIRE LESTAT" BLARES from the distorted SPEAKERS.

CUT TO:

172 INT. VW MINIBUS - DAY

172

Packed with kids drinking, smoking pot and touching up each other's ghoulish makeup. Jesse sits watching, completely fascinated by kids her own age. They offer her a joint but she shakes her head. A slutty GOTH GIRL moves over next to Jesse.

GOTH GIRL

You have great hair. You want me to make you up?

JESSE

No thanks.

Jesse smiles, trying not to offend. But the Goth Girl is cool -- she takes the joint and sways to the MUSIC.

GOTH GIRL

I've been waiting for this so bad. This is going to be the best night of my life.

VAMPIRE DRIVER

I hear there's going to be real vampires there...

GOTH GIRL

Hey, maybe I'll get lucky.

The others laugh. Jesse settles down, feeling part of them and yet apart -- if only they knew...

173 EXT. DEATH VALLEY - FROM HIGH ABOVE - DUSK

173

we see a line of traffic snake out along a desert road toward a strange red glow rising into the dark night sky.

A distant sound of DRUMS BEATING chaotic rhythms is heard.

As we FLY CLOSER, the DRUMMING becomes LOUDER and clearer.

Until we are right ABOVE an incredible scene...

A mass of people (30,000) gather in a valley of red rock.

CUT TO:

174 EXT. CONCERT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

174

Jesse jumps out of the van...

(CONTINUED)

174 CONTINUED:

174

VAMPIRE DRIVER

We'll be in the mosh pit up front
if you want to hang with us.

JESSE

Cool.

Looking at the scene, Jesse is bedazzled. Pushing
through people, she disappears into the throng as...

MAN (O.S.)

Jesse!

175 ANGLE ON TALBOT

175

as he pushes through the sea of white paint and plastic
vampire teeth.

TALBOT

Jesse! Jesse!

176 ANGLE - JESSE

176

sees Talbot. Shit! Not now. Now is a bad time -- she
must get to Lestat. She turns away and pushes towards
the stage.

177 TALBOT

177

struggles to follow.

TALBOT

Jesse!

Talbot is jostled, dropping his glasses on the ground.

VOICE (O.S.)

Sorry, Grandpa!

Talbot crouches down and finds his glasses. Reemerging,
he senses something and looks up.

178 FULL SHOT - MARIUS

178

watching him at a distance. Next to the real thing, all
these fake vampires look ridiculous.

MARIUS

(quietly)

Hello, David.

Speechless.

MARIUS

I must show you my new paintings
sometime.

Marius smiles. Talbot is awestruck -- the goal of a lifetime's searching. He tries to say something, but it's too late.

FLASH. Marius is moving through the crowd at unnatural speed.

Enormous pipes spout flames high into the sky, run like a corridor of red light along the crowd, leading to two enormous Egyptian effigies, flanking a stage at the top end.

And before the stage stretches a mass of human bacchanalian debauchery...

Woodstock on mescaline.

Naked bodies, pierced and tattooed, mingle with the strangest of fashions as crowds gather in circles around their own lit fires, drumming out awesome rhythms.

People bleed themselves with knives, letting anyone drink their blood.

The whole place is an enormous flaming mosh pit -- naked bodies walk across heads of people while others get tossed and thrown. This crowd is determined to get what they were promised... nothing like they've ever seen.

A new world, it seems, a world of the initiated who have somehow managed to include themselves in the select number of attendees to a sacred rite.

And among the mortals move the immortals...

We sense them, moving through the crowd with a quieter confidence.

Amidst them we see the Punk Vampires and the Tatt Vampires, now dressed in cloaks which they use to hide their knives and sickles.

Standing openly on the strange rocks are the Ancient vampires, some of whom can't help but smile at the scene below.

(CONTINUED)

180 CONTINUED:

180

PANDORA
 (wistful, to Armand)
 It's just like Nero's day.

They scan the horizon, the darkening sky.

ARMAND
 She won't come here.

KHAYMAN
 Akasha will come. She'll not be
 able to resist this...

The crowd begins to clap -- drums from different circles
 begin to impatiently beat into one deafening rhythm.

181 INT. BACKSTAGE (TENT CITY) - NIGHT

181

Backstage is all abuzz with pre-show energy; press
 everywhere. Roger still worrying and sweating.

James, Louisa, Alex and Maudy sit in their own circle,
 jamming with their unplugged instruments, psyching
 themselves up for the biggest night of their lives.

182 INT. LESTAT'S HONEY-WAGON - NIGHT

182

Lestat stretches out with his eyes closed as the sounds
 of the DRUMMING crowd begin to make the whole van
 shudder.

Suddenly opening his eyes he sees Marius standing before
 him.

MARIUS
 Impressive, in an infantile sort
 of way. Reminds me of mad old
 Druids running around chanting in
 the forest. Very primitive stuff.

LESTAT
 You're too old to understand.

They share doleful smiles.

MARIUS
 The truest words you've spoken.
 You certainly know how to put on a
 show.

LESTAT
 I hope you bought a ticket.

(CONTINUED)

182 CONTINUED:

182

Marius laughs.

MARIUS

This is what you've always wanted.

LESTAT

With all my heart.

MARIUS

I've always enjoyed your company,
Lestat.

LESTAT

Then stick around.

MARIUS

(hesitantly)
There's still time to leave.

LESTAT

And disappoint my fans?

MARIUS

Yes, maybe even me.

Lestat smiles, appreciates the sentiment.

MARIUS

Give me a yell from hell, won't
you?

LESTAT

When I think of you.

MARIUS

Good-bye, Lestat.

Lestat just closes his eyes again and listens to the call
of his name from the CROWD. Lestat opens his eyes again.
Marius has gone.

Roger pops his head in.

ROGER

They're getting pretty worked up
out there.

183 INT. BACKSTAGE (TENT CITY) - NIGHT

183

Lestat emerges from his honey-wagon, splendid in his
concert costume. He looks ready for business, whatever
may happen.

(CONTINUED)

- 183 CONTINUED: 183
- The band look at each other, then look to Lestat. This is the moment. He smiles like a father at them.
- LESTAT
Come on, children.
- Alex, Maudy, Louisa and James start beating out the rhythm with the CROWD as they move through the van. The DRUM-BEATS rise to a CRESCENDO.
- 184 EXT. CONCERT AREA - NIGHT 184
- Jesse still makes her way through the throng, edging closer to the stage. Suddenly -- the torches go out sending the place into utter darkness.
- A stunned moment...
- The place goes berserk. We see the dim figures of the band take their places.
- Jesse pushes desperately toward the front.
- 185 INT. BACK STAGE (TENT CITY) - NIGHT 185
- Lestat readies himself as he scans the valley from behind a speaker, and sees...
- 186 LESTAT'S POV - VAMPIRES 186
- wait here and there in the audience, set to attack.
- 187 BACK TO LESTAT 187
- Who smiles to himself.
- 188 BACK IN CROWD 188
- "BOOM," the TORCHES relight and an enormous CHORD surges through the crowd louder than a jet on takeoff.
- The mass surges forward, bringing Jesse with it, toward the stage, as...
- The stage lights up in a huge halo of blood-red light.
- The band plays a hypnotic tune that would put the devil in a spell, as...

(CONTINUED)

188 CONTINUED:

188

We wait for Lestat.

The band keeps playing the pounding cadence, as...

The audience doesn't see Lestat anywhere and cheers over the sound, and it seems as if the whole of Death Valley is shaking, when...

Lestat appears above the stage, inhumanly levitating and...

LESTAT

I'm so glad I decided to rise...

(shouting)

After tonight, Death Valley will
live up to its name!

The place erupts into one solid scream as the band kicks it in.

He swoops down through the air over the stage and into their very midst.

Lestat takes the microphone and leans his lips into it, letting his voice soar into an inhuman note, literally filling the valley like a demon demanding heaven be replaced with hell.

189 AT BACK OF CONCERT - MIXING BOARD

189

TWO STUDIO ENGINEERS sit dazed.

ENGINEER #1

(Cockney accent)

Could we turn it down a tad?

The Second Engineer looks to the mixing panel.

ENGINEER #2

His mic's not even up.

They stare, dumbfounded.

190 BACK TO CONCERT

190

The pulsing strain moves into a faster beat as the whole place resonates with the most incredible harmonics, the energy throbbing, the crowd almost genuflecting in front of this papal devil. All move and sway except for...

(CONTINUED)

190 CONTINUED:

190

Jesse, who stares enraptured, drawing toward the stage unconsciously, managing to maneuver closer and closer to...

Lestat, who commands the place with his ECHOING VOICE.

Jesse keeps moving forward, squeezing through bodies and finds herself...

Right under Lestat, who holds the place in the palm of his hand.

Lestat's dark soul seems ready to burst as he moves his voice into an even higher unworldly octave, and then...

191 LESTAT'S POV

191

The vampires move through the crowd.

Goth girls in the front row, weeping...

Maudy, James, Louisa and Alex off in the clouds, playing the best music of their lives.

The place has gone wild, living off its own energy now, as waves of sound bounce through the valley and up into the night sky.

192 BACK TO SCENE

192

LESTAT

You want more?!

The crowd screams...

CROWD

Yes!

LESTAT

This one's for those who've come for me!

All yell that they have, but the covens know it's for them.

Lestat launches the band into a new number that makes the previous song seem like a lullaby. He eyes the coven-assassins here and there and sings straight to them.

His lyrics challenging the assassins, flaunting them with satire.

(CONTINUED)

192 CONTINUED:

192

The covens need no more encouragement as they begin to move through the crowd toward the stage.

We RISE UP OVER the crowd to see a dozen assassins snaking at preternatural speed, unseen to all except us in our inhuman vantage.

CUT TO:

193 INT. BACKSTAGE (TENT CITY) - NIGHT

193

Marius spies the covens slipping through the crowd at a strange velocity. Sizing the danger, he looks to Lestat to warn him, but...

194 BACK TO STAGE

194

Lestat knows well enough as the assassins move in.

The assassins approach closer -- Lestat assaults with relentless lyrics...

Reaching the stage, they are suddenly on it -- roadies run in and are immediately cast aside by inhuman powers.

We SPEED INTO VAMPIRE TIME as...

The assassins draw knives and lunge.

Lestat does an acrobatic leap, dodging the knives. He rips the microphone from the stand and holds it up just in time...

... as an assassin is impaled. The assassin squirms and convulses...

The crowd goes insane...

Lestat snarls at the audience as if this really were part of the performance...

The assassins attack again...

Marius, despite himself, flies over equipment and roadies, up into the air, and...

195 ON STAGE

195

He lands square in the middle of the fray...

BACK TO MORTAL TIME.

(CONTINUED)

195 CONTINUED:

195

The crowd cheers at the sudden appearance of the figure stage, loving the show.

The band keeps playing.

Marius slices two of the assassins with a knife.

Lestat is struck down, his singing stopped.

CUT TO:

196 ANCIENT VAMPIRES

196

watch from their rocks.

PANDORA

There are too many of them!

Armand holds Pandora's arm firmly, enjoying the show.

ARMAND

Good...!

197 BACK TO STAGE

197

Assassins corner Lestat and Marius -- blades reflecting the spotlight. Lestat raises his arms for the crowd.

MARIUS

Enjoying yourself?

LESTAT

Absolutely.

The crowd jeers now.

Lestat looks to Maudy and the band.

LESTAT

Get out of here!

The band scamper off stage as the assassins fly past...

Jesse looks up at Lestat on stage. She joins the screaming crowds.

JESSE

Lestat!

She is pulled around by a dark figure -- it is one of the Punk Vampires from the bar. He recognizes her, smiles. He holds her, is about to bite...

(CONTINUED)

- 197 CONTINUED: 197
 Suddenly, Mael is beside her. He wraps his arms around her... WHOOSH.
- 198 JESSE'S POV 198
 Traveling through the crowd with Mael at VAMPIRE SPEED. The sea of painted faces SLOW DOWN.
- 199 JESSE 199
 held tight in Mael's arms, stares wide-eyed...
- 200 BACK TO STAGE 200
 The killer vampires make their final move, when...
 One after the other they spontaneously combust, body after body turning hot-white to black ash and drift up into the air like strange supernatural kites.
 Maudy, Alex, Louisa and James down their instruments and run -- the REVERB from their GUITARS WHISTLES into a DEAFENING PITCH.
 The crowd hollers and screams, not quite believing what they saw or how it was done, when...
 Down in the throng, vampires also begin to combust -- hot flashes of white exploding throughout the crowd, turning into black paper dolls -- wafting up over the valley -- crumbling into fluttering puffs of soot.
 Panic takes over the mass of people, running in all directions, trying to escape this mysterious fate.
- 201 LESTAT 201
 stands in wonder as Marius stares up into the high darkness.
- MARIUS
 (soft, to himself)
 Akasha.
- The valley fills with burning "kites" floating like black ghosts.
- Khayman, Pandora and Armand are now moving through the crowd, looking up at the sky.
- KHAYMAN
 She is here...

202 INT. BACKSTAGE (TENT CITY) - MEANWHILE

202

Roger is trying to manage the building chaos backstage as the FIRE MARSHALL and several firemen follow after him.

FIRE MARSHALL

You don't have a permit for any of these stunts!

ROGER

I told you I don't know anything about it!

A WALKIE-TALKIE distracts the Fire Marshall long enough to allow Roger to run.

ROGER

Last time I work for a bloody vampire...

Looking up at the sky, he stares in awe...

There is a low powerful RUMBLE...

Dark storm clouds boil and tumble above the stage...

The mortal crowd looks around, distracted from their panic, as they sense something truly awesome...

203 LESTAT

203

senses it too. He looks up, not knowing from which direction the attack will come...

The STAGE starts to SHUDDER and SHAKE violently...

Marius moves back towards Lestat...

MARIUS

Lestat!

The WOODEN PLATFORM beneath Lestat begins to BUCKLE under his feet. Fragments of WOOD EXPLODE upwards around Lestat. Marius loses his balance and staggers backwards...

Akasha rises up through the stage. Beautiful and terrifying. Her green eyes glow as she smiles at Lestat.

Lestat is dumbstruck. Suddenly, a great force throws him towards her. He stares as he finds himself in Akasha's arms. She smiles and raises her face to the sky...

The crowd stare in awe...

(CONTINUED)

203 CONTINUED:

203

Roger... the Fire Marshall... the band... everyone is frozen...

Even the Ancient Ones are stunned to see their Queen come to life...

KHAYMAN

Come!

Khayman speeds through the crowd, with Pandora and Armand behind... but they are too late.

Akasha and Lestat shoot up into the air... SCAFFOLDS COLLAPSE in an EXPLOSION of ELECTRICAL SPARKS...

The Ancient Ones stop and stare up into the sky as...

Akasha and Lestat vanish.

204 EXT. SKY - EVENING

204

In a blur, Lestat is whisked up into the dark clouds.

BLACKNESS.

205 EXT. HOLLYWOOD SIGN

205

Lestat opens his eyes and finds himself at the base of the enormous letters.

Lestat whirls around to suddenly see behind him...

Akasha in an extravagant Egyptian robe, its sheer cloth of gold draping her godly form.

Lestat is awestruck. Akasha come to life...

LESTAT

Akasha...

Akasha still says nothing -- she advances with a luscious, curling smile.

AKASHA

Why so surprised, my love? You called, and I have come.

Lestat is awestruck. There is such an unearthly power in Akasha's voice. Everything seems to HUM and VIBRATE with her every breath. Akasha approaches...

(CONTINUED)

AKASHA

Never fear me, Lestat. Your wishes have all come true.

LESTAT

My wishes...?

AKASHA

You have yearned for a companion to share eternity. You have cried out to the world. I have answered your call.

Akasha spreads her arms. Lestat is seized by an unseen force and thrown into Akasha's arms. She smiles as he gasps for air.

AKASHA

You think that little mortal girl can satisfy you. I know you, Lestat. I know that you crave to have the world at your feet. Now, I have come to give it to you.

Akasha bites her own lip.

Blood trickles slightly across her chin.

Lestat stares at the blood, yearns towards it, as the PULSE of her BLOOD INCREASES...

Akasha rises above him and...

Hovers over Lestat, letting a single drop of blood...

Spills into his mouth.

Lestat levitates above the ground to meet her as...

Akasha hovers higher drawing him into the sky until...

Their mouths finally meet and her blood flows freely into him.

Flashes of brilliant light strobe over them as Lestat sucks. There's a powerful RUSH of WIND that engulfs them as they spin together, detached from time and space.

The Great SPHINX CRUMBLING, Pyramids, stars streaking across the sky, all INTERCUT WITH Akasha's golden skin, her body taut and arching.

(CONTINUED)

206 CONTINUED:

206

Lestat falls back in ecstasy. He shakes out his body and lets out a howl of pleasure -- feels his arms, his chest, his groin as Akasha's blood courses through his veins.

Akasha watches and waits. Finally Lestat grins boyishly through bloody teeth and wipes his lips with the back of his hand.

LESTAT

Can we try that again?

Akasha smiles in that strange statue-like way then throws back her head and opens her mouth with a deafening howl of laughter. The GROUND RUMBLES and her laughter multiplies as it REVERBERATES LOUDER and LOUDER.

Lestat grimaces and has to cover his ears it's so painful. He steps up and puts a finger to her lips.

LESTAT

Give me the world...

Akasha's mouth spreads into a smile and she yanks him up into the air and off...

... into the night.

207 INT. MAHARET DESERT MANSION - GARDEN

207

Jesse wanders through the moonlit garden. Something looks different -- there are forms -- statues in the shadows. Jesse's eyes widen in terror as the statues come to life: Armand, Pandora, Khayman.

ARMAND

Why is this mortal here?

MAEL

I was instructed to bring her.

Marius moves out from a wall -- as if he were completely camouflaged.

MARIUS

By whom? Why have we been summoned here?

Pandora is beside Jesse, touching her curls...

PANDORA

She is Lestat's plaything. She might be of use.

(CONTINUED)

207

CONTINUED:

207

Jesse looks around, eyes agog, surrounded.

MAHARET (O.S.)

Leave her alone, Pandora.

Jesse spins to see Maharet beside her. Pandora gives a sulky hiss and slips backwards.

MAHARET

I have tried to keep you from this.

She puts her arm around Jesse.

ARMAND

And what is she to you?

MAHARET

She is of my blood.

The other Ancients look confused. Only Khayman remains frozen, inscrutable.

MAHARET

My mortal blood.

MARIUS

How is this possible?

208

INT. MAHARET DESERT MANSION - GRANDE HALL - NIGHT

208

Jesse watches from a distance as Maharet, Khayman, Pandora, Armand, Mael and the Druid and Marius are gathered before Maharet's "Great Family Tree."

MAHARET

... since my sister's death, I have watched, I have guided and cared for my human family, generations beyond memory...

CAMERA SWEEPS OVER the endless lines, the rows of names that stretch down the stone wall -- ACROSS the floor, filling room after room.

They all stare, moved...

PANDORA

... But this cannot be...

ARMAND

It is... beyond words...

(CONTINUED)

MARIUS

Yes.

Marius turns back to Maharet, points.

MARIUS

This...! This is why we must fight Akasha. For the sake of your Great Family.

MAHARET

For the sake of all mortals. She must be stopped, or the mortal world will end.

The Ancients fall silent as the significance of this sinks in.

MARIUS

But how? How can we stop her?

PANDORA

It's impossible.

MAHARET

There might be a way. Khayman...

KHAYMAN

When she opens herself to give her blood, she is vulnerable.

MARIUS

(realizing)

As we all are... but still, she is so powerful...

MAHARET

Not so much more powerful than Khayman or myself. We have her blood in our veins.

ARMAND

You think you can destroy her?

MAHARET

We all hear her because we are all connected. If we combine our efforts, it might be enough.

MARIUS

Then so be it.

(CONTINUED)

ARMAND

If we destroy her, if we can
destroy her, we will all die.

MARIUS

We have no choice.

ARMAND

And if it doesn't work?

MARIUS

Then we shall die anyway.

Marius looks around, determined, challenging each of the
immortals. One at a time, they nod, understanding the
sacrifice they will have to make.

PANDORA

And what of the brat prince?

MAHARET

Lestat has joined with Akasha as
we speak.

Marius lowers his head, knowing Maharet is right.

MARIUS

Yes...

JESSE

What are you saying?

They turn to Jesse, as if they had forgotten she could
speak.

JESSE

You're going to kill him.

MAHARET

Lestat is lost to us now.

PANDORA

Listen to your Auntie. These
mixed marriages never work.

Pandora chuckles until Maharet stops her with her coldest
glare.

ARMAND

This is a stupid waste of time.

Maharet turns on Armand and Pandora -- there's a deep
RUMBLE. They back away.

(CONTINUED)

208 CONTINUED: (3)

208

MAHARET

Show respect, little ones.

(to Jesse)

Jesse, if you wish to remain with
me now, you must not speak.

Jesse bows her head.

MAHARET

If Lestat has joined with her,
then there is no hope.

CUT TO:

209 LESTAT

209

Beaming with a possessed look, his eyes brimming with
visions.Lestat opens his eyes and sees an island approaching. In
the distance lights sparkle as an enormous plantation
villa is revealed, nestled into the far shore.

CUT TO:

210 EXT. AKASHA'S PLANTATION VILLA - NIGHT

210

Lestat and Akasha stand on a cliff-top. WIND RIPS
through the trees. The steps leading back to the house
are lined with torches. Everywhere, there are torches,
and a million candles light the vast house.Lestat and Akasha glide past the forest of exotic
flowers... past the fountains and statues -- up the steps
to the open French doors. Long white curtains billow in
the sea wind.

LESTAT

Where are we?

AKASHA

We are home.

LESTAT

You live here?

AKASHA

We live everywhere and anywhere we
choose. The world is our garden.

211 INT. AKASHA'S PLANTATION VILLA - NIGHT

211

Lestat steps in through billowing curtains, stops...

There are three West Indian girls, young, voluptuous, beautiful, dressed in simple working clothes and traditional head-wraps. They stare at Lestat, nervous, yet fascinated. They move towards him.

Lestat finds himself surrounded by hands, touching him, reaching beneath his shirt, pulling his clothes from his body. Lestat swoons, closes his eyes, smiles.

LESTAT

So warm...

Sniffs their skin...

LESTAT

... their blood...

AKASHA

... yes...

LESTAT

... they're mortal...

AKASHA

... of course. They serve the living Goddess, and her consort... they find you beautiful, Lestat. You are a God in their eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

212 SERIES OF SHOTS

212

... golden dark hands pull clothes away from Lestat's white skin...

... breasts strain through white linen as they press themselves closer to him...

... the surface of water, scented with red rose petals. Lestat's white skin breaks the surface.

... Lestat is lowered into the bath, his skin alive with the dancing candles reflected in the water...

... the water laps gently -- strange sighs of pleasure as girls' hands caress Lestat's torso...

... their hands reach down lower and lower through the water...

(CONTINUED)

212 CONTINUED: 212

... Lestat's eyes remain closed but his mouth opens...

Now it's Akasha kissing him. Lestat responds, but his eyes sneak a peak...

Akasha smiles -- takes his head in her hands -- she kisses him, pushes him back -- he tries to resist -- he can't, startled by her strength...

Akasha kisses his neck... his chest... bites...

Lestat arches in ecstasy...

Akasha rises up from his breast, blood on her lips, smiles, goes back down and drinks.

DISSOLVE TO:

213 AKASHA AND LESTAT 213

now moved to the bed, surrounded by the fine nets...

... kissing, probing each other's bodies floating above the bed...

Akasha rolls him over -- smiles down at him -- a fang exposed... She draws her wrist across her mouth...

... a globule of blood smacks Lestat's open lips...

214 FLASH 214

A thousand images in a second.

Lestat jolted as if by a million volts.

... blood smears their bodies -- they bathe in it.

215 CLOSE ON LESTAT 215

The most lascivious smile spreading over his face, even as the waves of pleasure still course through him, causing his mouth to twitch and tremble. He closes his eyes...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

216 LESTAT 216

opens his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

216 CONTINUED: 216

He sits up alone in the canopied bed, disoriented. Akasha is nowhere to be seen. He looks around and gasps...

... the servant girls' bodies, now grey with death, lie decorated around the edge of the bath...

... the roses are now black and the water is colored a rich deep red...

217 INT. PLANTATION HOUSE - HALLWAY 217

Lestat steps into the hallway, which is now sprinkled with dead bodies -- both servants formally dressed, and guests in white tropical evening dress...

218 INT. PLANTATION HOUSE - DINING HALL - CONTINUOUS ACTION 218

The candles have all melted, forming pools that spread across the lace cloth. Food sits uneaten on plates. Thirty dead bodies sitting around the table, some slumped onto their food, some freezing sitting up in death...

Lestat moves through the room -- a feeling of dread spreading... we FOLLOW as he MOVES INTO the...

219 EXT. PLANTATION HOUSE - GARDEN - CONTINUOUS ACTION 219

... out the French windows onto the lawn which is now a field of dead bodies, mostly servants and villagers...

220 EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS ACTION - NIGHT 220

Bodies move as the surf carries them forward and backwards like driftwood.

Lestat's feet step down the wooden stairs through more bodies, and onto the sand...

We TILT UP to reveal the beach covered with dead bodies as far as the eye can see...

AKASHA

Behold our Kingdom.

Lestat looks up to see Akasha standing on the cliff above him.

LESTAT

Why?

(CONTINUED)

220 CONTINUED:

220

AKASHA

(puzzled)
Why not?

Lestat is furious.

LESTAT

This is the reason you have risen?

AKASHA

They believed in nothing, now they are nothing. But you and I will change all that. We will give the world something to believe in.

Suddenly, Akasha is beside him pulling him tighter to her.

AKASHA

Come, my king. We have a score to settle.

Lestat gasps as they swiftly fly up into the darkness.

221 INT. MAHARET'S MANSION - GRANDE HALL - NIGHT

221

The Ancient Ones sit waiting.

MARIUS

She comes...

The whole place begins to SHAKE and...

KHAYMAN

Maharet...

Khayman draws Maharet aside.

MAHARET

Yes, Khayman.

KHAYMAN

What are you planning?

Looking into each other's eyes -- a secret message passes between them. Khayman's mouth falls open as he shakes his head...

KHAYMAN

No...

Maharet touches Khayman tenderly on the cheek.

(CONTINUED)

MAHARET

There is no other way...

A shadow passes over the Ancients' faces as...

The WINDOWS along one side of the hall EXPLODE with a startling GUST.

The Ancient Ones look up to see...

Akasha's silhouette looming, dark and foreboding.

AKASHA

My children... it warms my heart
to see you all gathered, plotting
against me.

They trade glances and begin to fan out around the room.

MAHARET

Akasha.

AKASHA

Maharet, you're looking very well.
You will address my king first...

Lestat enters, his possessed eyes showing only evil.

Unable to help herself...

JESSE

Lestat!

He turns slowly to the corner where she sits.

They lock eyes.

Lestat's face stares cold and hard.

JESSE

What has she done to you?

Taking his arm, Akasha draws Lestat to her.

The Ancient vampires subtly position themselves under the medieval weapons hanging on the walls, as Marius moves toward his son.

MARIUS

Lestat. Stand away.

Marius looks for some recognition in Lestat's eyes.
There is none.

(CONTINUED)

The Ancient One's eyes warn all to wait for the right moment.

KHAYMAN

Akasha. The world has changed since you reigned.

AKASHA

Then we shall change it back.

MAHARET

We've found other ways to co-exist.

AKASHA

Yes. In the shadows. In silence. In shame. All for what? For respect of mortals? They are nothing to us. They are only... food.

She casts a dangerous eye towards Jesse. Maharet instinctively moves forward to protect her.

AKASHA

Poor Maharet. Still trying to hold onto what I took from you.

Maharet doesn't even flinch.

MARIUS

Akasha, please... There is so much more. Let us show you the world.

AKASHA

Oh, I've been listening for a long, long time. And all I can hear is ignorance and stupidity.

MARIUS

There's still a long way to go, but mortals have learned.

AKASHA

They have learned more efficient ways to slaughter. Nothing more.

(venomous)

You think you can change my will? I'm tired of this... discussion. Join me, or die.

MAHARET

We will not.

(CONTINUED)

AKASHA

I want to hear it from every one
of you. What will it be?

Akasha scans the faces of the Ancient Ones staring deep
into their souls when...

Marius steps forward -- the very face of bravery.

MARIUS

We will not.

Khayman speaks up as well.

KHAYMAN

No, Mother, we will not.

ALL OLD ONES

We will not.

Akasha is beyond fury, yet she keeps her temper under
control and smiles to Lestat.

AKASHA

What do you think, my king.

Stealing himself he looks back to Akasha.

LESTAT

I'm bored with these old relics.
Let's you and I leave here and
take our pleasure without all this
whining.

AKASHA

You need something to steel your
nerves?

Smiling, she bites her lip, letting a drop of blood
glisten there, tempting Lestat.

AKASHA

Do you love me?

He draws closer.

Jesse stares in mortified jealousy.

LESTAT

Yes...

Akasha and Lestat's mouths almost meet when Akasha pulls
away.

(CONTINUED)

AKASHA

There is no such thing as love.
Only proofs of love.

Akasha slowly turns to Jesse.

AKASHA

Kill her.

Lestat keeps his composure, ever careful.

LESTAT

She's nothing to me...

AKASHA

Just the same, I'd like you to
kill her. For me.

Maharet steps between Lestat and Jesse.

MAHARET

You will not touch her!

Akasha flicks her wrist...

Maharet is hurled against a pillar, pinned by Akasha's
hand.

AKASHA

You still think to challenge me,
Maharet?

MAHARET

I beg you, spare this child.

Lestat doesn't make a move one way or another.

AKASHA

Now.

Maharet struggles but Akasha is too strong.

Stepping forward.

JESSE

It's all right, Maharet.

Maharet stops, standing fixed with the sound of Jesse's
newly strong and calm voice.

Jesse looks to Lestat and sees his face secretly
searching for some way out, some way to save her. She
looks straight into his dark irises, her gaze absolutely
unwavering.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

I'm not afraid. It's what I want.

Lestat now makes the connection. He begins to advance, seemingly with a killing gait, but we know better as...

Jesse keeps her gaze steady into Lestat's.

AKASHA

(smirking)

How sweet...

Lestat moves closer and closer to her as...

Jesse watches him with absolute trust, absolute love, and it seems to us that...

Lestat returns the love and trust, and though his face wears a dangerous mask, his look lets her know he understands. He reaches her.

Maharet flies across the room, but Akasha meets her halfway. Grabs her by the hair. Maharet struggles but Akasha is much more powerful.

Jesse offers up her neck to his bite. Maharet looks away and Akasha looks pleased as...

Lestat sinks his teeth into Jesse's neck.

Jesse gasps with the bite, but then relaxes and even puts her arm around Lestat as he draws her into him, draining her of her very life-force as she holds him.

With that Maharet's great family mural begins to weep blood from every name.

It's a murder to everyone's eyes, especially...

Maharet, who for the first time in centuries, looks like she just might shed a tear, then she sees...

Akasha staring straight at her, waiting for her to break.

Maharet steels herself and refuses to look away from Akasha's cruel gaze as...

Lestat brings Jesse down to the hearth rug in front of the fire and lays her onto what is surely her death-bed.

To our eyes, it's a lover's embrace.

Lestat drinks and drinks and...

(CONTINUED)

221 CONTINUED: (6)

221

Jesse sighs with intimacy, clutching his neck and back, and drawing his bite deeper into her flesh. She slowly crumples to the floor, being drawn down until finally...

Jesse lies on the floor, eyes closed and pale...

To all appearances, dead.

222 BACK TO SCENE

222

Maharet offers Lestat a killing look, as Akasha offers him the kindest of smiles.

AKASHA

You've just earned your crown.

Lestat smiles with a blood-stained mouth. Walking back to Akasha.

LESTAT

And now for my reward.

Akasha approaches Lestat and offers him her vein. She looks scornfully at the others as he cradles her wrist and...

Sinks his teeth into its original font. He drinks as Akasha gasps with pleasure at giving so much pleasure to him. She keeps smiling to the others.

Lestat doesn't stop drinking. Akasha looks back to him, her face changing.

AKASHA

That's enough, Lestat.

Still Lestat doesn't stop.

AKASHA

Lestat. Enough. Stop!

Lestat grabs onto Akasha and clamps down even harder...

Locking eyes with her in a death challenge.

Akasha fights like hell, thrashing this way and that to release herself from Lestat and to throw him off, and would but...

MAHARET

Now!

Akasha looks up gasping in time to see...

(CONTINUED)

222

CONTINUED:

222

Mael flying towards her...

Akasha lets out a hiss...

Which causes Mael to ignite in mid-air. He CRASHES through the GLASS.

Mael's skin bubbles...

Mael screams, the veins in his face rise up and explode as if his blood were burning acid...

Pandora flies towards Akasha, but not quick enough. She also is burned horribly from the inside. She falls to the ground and crawls along as she is eaten by fire from the inside out.

Akasha smiles but turns to see...

Khayman... Armand... Marius... flying at her.

They swarm over Akasha. She rises into the air, but they hang on, forming a flying mass of flailing limbs.

The THUMP of Akasha's HEART accelerates as they drain her dry...

Her golden skin turns deathly blue white...

Maharet watches as they are flung around by Akasha's great strength, but they all hold on, until the thrashing begins to subside. They finally pull back to reveal...

223

AKASHA

223

frozen in horror as her face transforms back to its frozen statue state. There's no blood left to flow from gaping holes in her flesh... she is both pathetic and horrifying.

AKASHA

You kill me, you kill yourselves.

The Ancient Ones wipe their mouths, intoxicated with the blood, swooning even as Akasha swoons.

AKASHA

Lestat, my king...

Lestat stares at Akasha -- he's no longer under her power, and yet feels remorseful at his betrayal. He moves towards her as she struggles to rise...

(CONTINUED)

223 CONTINUED:

223

MARIUS

Lestat, no!

Suddenly, Akasha rises, her eyes flare green...

Lestat cries out as smoke rises from his limbs... In agony, he stares at his own hands...

224 LESTAT'S POV - HIS HANDS

224

The veins become transparent under his skin as the blue blood turns into a seething black mess...

He screams, staggers towards Akasha, as the skin on his face bubbles and burns.

Even as he burns, Lestat bites into Akasha's throat, this time for the kill.

Akasha slowly sinks to the ground, real fear in her eyes as her strength vanishes.

MAHARET

Wait! You must stop!

Lestat pulls away, leaving Akasha hanging in a twisted, unnatural angle. Akasha lets out a frightening hiss and rises up towards Lestat for one last desperate attack.

Maharet is suddenly in her way. Her fangs bared...

Maharet sinks her fangs into Akasha's neck. Akasha struggles but this time she cannot even rise up...

Akasha's skin begins to harden back to stone. A HOWLING sound as if from hell itself fills the room.

The Ancient Ones step back in awe...

Lestat sits up, burned but still alive to see...

Akasha, as her skin returns to marble.

CRACKS multiply, becoming fissures.

Finally, AKASHA literally falls to pieces, SMASHING on the stone floor like porcelain.

The Ancient Ones look at each other then stop in shock as they see...

225 MAHARET 225

as a whiteness spreads across her face and skin like a fast-creeping disease...

Khayman is staring, mouth open, moving towards Maharet.

KHAYMAN

Maharet...

Marius is struck dumb with wonder...

226 ARMAND 226

also stares...

227 MAHARET 227

has now become a statue, as Akasha was...

Khayman kneels, touches Maharet's face but there is no response, no movement.

KHAYMAN

She... gave herself for us.

PANDORA

Is she... dead?

KHAYMAN

No, she sleeps. She sleeps, and dreams of us.

Khayman stoops to Maharet and whispers in her ear.

KHAYMAN

I will care for you always.

ARMAND

Behold, our queen...

But Lestat is only concerned about Jesse as he's instantly to her and picks up her lifeless head.

Lestat takes a dagger from the floor and slices his wrist.

He brings the open vein to Jesse's mouth, but she's not moving. Lestat bends down to her ear and whispers.

LESTAT

Drink deep and live.

(CONTINUED)

227 CONTINUED:

227

Jesse's lips slightly move and quiver as she tastes the blood. She begins to take the blood inside her and then finally truly drink and revive as Lestat cradles her. She pulls away, gasping. Lestat looks into her eyes.

JESSE

I thought I'd lost you...

LESTAT

Drink, my love.

Jesse suddenly screams... convulses as her body begins to die. Lestat strokes her hair, soothes her.

The Ancients look on impassively. Only Marius watches the lovers, a little wistful.

JESSE

My body is dying, isn't it?

Lestat nods. Jesse gasps again as pain courses through her. Their eyes are locked together.

LESTAT

I will never leave you again.

DISSOLVE TO:

228 EXT. TALAMASCA HEADQUARTERS (LONDON) - EVENING 228

The sun has long disappeared as the darkness settles.

229 INT. TALAMASCA HEADQUARTERS - EVENING 229

The shadows creep up the doorway.

230 INT. TALBOT'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS ACTION 230

David Talbot sits at his desk covered with news clippings.

231 CLOSE ON CLIPPINGS 231

Images from the concert...

... "Mass Hysteria"...

... "Rock 'n' Roll nightmare"...

... "Drugs in Water Supply"...

(CONTINUED)

231 CONTINUED:

231

... "Where is Lestat?... Monster of Charlatan?"...

... images of Maudy, Louisa, James and Alex and the headline "Band starts World Tour... but where is Lestat?"...

... "Lestat's Mystery Woman." A shot of Jesse on stage with Lestat, with a closeup insert.

JESSE (O.S.)

You're not going to start
collecting paintings of me now,
are you?

Talbot looks up to see Jesse and Lestat.

TALBOT

Jesse.

Talbot sees the change in her instantly.

TALBOT

Jesse...

Jesse smiles.

TALBOT

My God...

JESSE

This is Lestat.

He looks at Lestat, fear in his eyes.

TALBOT

How do you do?

LESTAT

Charmed, I'm sure.

JESSE

We came to say good-bye.

Talbot stands, shaking.

TALBOT

But... please, sit down. You'll
have to excuse me... it's just
so... so...

LESTAT

Unexpected?

Talbot thinks...

(CONTINUED)

231 CONTINUED: (2)

231

TALBOT

... strangely, no...

Talbot looks sadly at Jesse.

TALBOT

I failed you, didn't I?

JESSE

David, please don't be sad. I'm
where I belong.Lestat, content for the first time since we've known him,
looks lovingly to Jesse.

A flicker of curiosity crosses Talbot's face.

TALBOT

Excuse me for asking but...

Jesse smiles.

JESSE

What's it like?

TALBOT

Yes.

JESSE

Do you want to find out?

TALBOT

What? Me...?

Talbot sits down, considering the offer, considering the
possibilities.

TALBOT

I don't believe I could. Once
maybe, but not now. I'm too old
to live forever.

LESTAT

Well, if you should change your
mind...

(to Jesse)

Shall we?

TALBOT

Take care of her, Lestat.

LESTAT

As you would.

(CONTINUED)

231 CONTINUED: (3)

231

Talbot looks to Jesse, once his spiritual daughter.

TALBOT

(sadly)

Good-bye, Jesse.

Talbot closes his eyes to shut out a tear, and...

Jesse is at his side and leans down to...

Whisper in his ear...

JESSE

Good-bye, dear friend.

Talbot opens his eyes to say something, but...

They're gone.

232 EXT. LONDON SKYLINE - NIGHT

232

We FLY ACROSS the sky.

LESTAT (V.O.)

And so there you have it. All right, I admit that I made some mistakes. In the end, Marius was right, as usual. We are all doomed to be who we always were... only more so...

We DIP DOWN TO the city below, and amongst the crowd two figures, zipping through the streets at that strange preternatural speed.

ZOOMING DOWN ON the two, we see they are Lestat and Jesse.

Stopping on a street corner, they hold hands and... vanish into the night.

FADE OUT.

THE END