

UNDERWORLD 3

by

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BLACK SCREEN:

SONJA (V.O.)

A war has raged for the better part
of a thousand years. A blood feud
between vampires and lycans.

A RAPID MONTAGE - (SNIPPETS FROM UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION)

-- DARK RUINS - A TREMENDOUS WEREWOLF with pale fur and milky
eyes GROWLS from the shadows. This is WILLIAM.

SONJA (V.O.)

It is said that it all began with
William. The first lycan. The son
of Alexander Corvinus. Once bitten
by wolf, he never turned back.

-- MEDIEVAL VILLAGE - ROARS! CRIES OF PAIN! Mud, blood and
chaos as DEATH DEALERS battle WEREWOLVES.

SONJA (V.O.)

His rampage was legendary. His
bite, infectious. Villages were
burned, mass graves became all too
commonplace.

-- FOREST - WILLIAM is harpooned with nasty hooks fashioned
to chains. He ROARS! The chains snap taunt against steel
spikes anchored to the icy trees. Another harpoon is fired!
The mighty beast is finally brought to his knees.

SONJA (V.O.)

Even after his capture, his vile
disease lingered for centuries.

INT. DUNGEON

Torches flicker. DEATH DEALERS drag A WEREWOLF down a long
corridor lined with shadowy alcoves. The beast has been
muzzled, shackled, and wrapped with rusted chains.

They pass WEREWOLVES shackled to INSTRUMENTS OF TORTURE.

SONJA (V.O.)

The beasts he created were in his
own image. Soulless monsters, with
an insatiable appetite for carnage
and destruction.

The Death Dealers pass DISSECTED HUMAN CORPSES.

SONJA (V.O.)
Only upon death did they regain
their humanity.

The vampires react as the CRIES OF AN INFANT seep from the shadows. They stop, peer into a dark cell. To their utter shock, A NEWBORN HUMAN BABY is curled beside a WEREWOLF!

SONJA (V.O.)
Until... He was born. Lucian.

INT./EXT. DARK CELL - LATER

VIKTOR, the dark master of the Coven, glares down at the babe in disgust. The werewolf GROWLS at him, protective of her cub. He raises a CROSSBOW, opens fire, killing the beast.

Viktor enters the cell, stares down at the infant, raises his crossbow... but is unable to pull the trigger. The wheels begin to turn behind his eyes. He lowers the weapon.

SONJA (V.O.)
And though every fiber of Viktor's
soul screamed out for him to slay
this child... this abomination...
He did not.

EXT. BAILEY - A SERIES OF SHOTS - NIGHT

Viktor watches with calculating interest as YOUNG LUCIAN, 11, performs unnatural feats: bending steel bars, leaping from great heights, and easily besting men twice his size.

Viktor turns, there are DOZENS OF VAMPIRES gathered on the castle grounds. They too are watching Lucian. Viktor's attention falls upon the angelic face of a VAMPIRE CHILD, his daughter, SONJA, aged 8. She is spellbound by the lycan boy.

EXT. NIGHT SKY

The FULL MOON breaks through the clouds.

INT. LUCIAN'S CELL - DUNGEON

Viktor watches as YOUNG LUCIAN grits his teeth in agony. His eyes glaze into black orbs, his face contorts into a hellish mask of pain and hunger. He fights against it.

TERRIFIED HUMAN SLAVES are forced into his cell.

VIKTOR
I want them marked! Bite them!

Lucian reluctantly bares his fangs, does as commanded. The slaves instantly fall prey to the moon. CRIES OF PAIN soon become ROARS as the men TRANSFORM INTO RAGING BEASTS!

EXT. CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS

The FULL MOON SETS over the icy peaks in spectacular fashion.

INT./EXT. LUCIAN'S CELL - LATER

Viktor strides up. The beasts have once again taken human form. Lucian has created a new bloodline. Viktor smiles.

INT. DUNGEON

STEEL "MOON SHACKLES" are painfully fitted around the necks of YOUNG LUCIAN and his FELLOW LYCANS. The inner side of the collars are lined with nasty, silver-infused spikes.

SONJA (V.O.)
Unlike William's kind, this new
breed of lycan could be harnessed.
Controlled. Beaten into submission.
(beat)
Or so my father thought... all so
very long ago.

"UNDERWORLD LEGENDS"

EXT. FOREST PATH - CARPATHIA - 184 YEARS LATER - NIGHT

Dark, almost primeval. Branches, gnarled and twisted by time, interlock to form a creepy archway over the path. Without warning, a crescendo of THUNDEROUS FOOTFALLS--

-- A DARK HORSEMAN gallops from the mist, a hellish vision of war, clad in armor, the black steed beneath him snorting icy breath like a demonic steam engine.

His identity is concealed beneath the visor of a menacing helmet. He's gripping a BATTLE AX. Flapping behind him, like a standard caught in a storm, is a flowing black cape.

A SAVAGE HOWL tears through the night. The Horseman scans the surrounding forest. No movement. ANOTHER HOWL, this time louder... closer. He shoots a look over his shoulder--

-- the trail behind him is clear. Suddenly, in the trees above, branches begin to CREAK and MOAN. He looks up--

-- THREE WEREWOLVES are hurtling through the tree limbs at a fierce rate. ROAR! The FIRST BEAST pounces down at him! Four hundred pounds of savage intensity, jaws snapping!

Still riding hard, the Horseman twists in his saddle, swings his ax. THWACK! A plume of blood stains the night. The beast slams down in the mud, entrails spilled.

ROAR! THE SECOND BEAST pounces! The Horseman ducks to the side, swings his battle ax in high arc. THWACK! The beast sails right over him, decapitated.

BEHIND THE HORSEMAN

THE SEVERED HEAD tumbles across the path, bounces to a stop. THE THIRD BEAST drops from the trees and SLAMS DOWN right on top of it, smashing it into the mud.

A TERRIBLE ROAR! The beast explodes into motion, charging after the Horseman on all fours. The Horseman snaps his reins and spurs his mount, urging even more speed.

ANOTHER ROAR! The Horseman shoots a look over his shoulder, the beast is almost upon him. It pounces, fangs bared!

The Horseman rears back, hurls the battle ax. It tumbles end over end like a propeller, THWACK! The beast PLOWS headfirst into the mud, the ax buried deep in its skull.

EXT. FURTHER DOWN THE PATH

The Horseman charges around a bend. FOUR WEREWOLVES drop from the trees, blocking his path, their beastly muzzles curled back to flash hungry fangs.

He releases the reins, takes control of the horse with his thighs. He tugs TWIN SWORDS from hidden saddle mounts.

With a hellish grunt, he swings the blades in a figure eight pattern, faster and faster, until they become a deadly blur.

A FEROCIOUS ROAR! The werewolves pounce for the kill. THWACK-THWACK-THWACK! Carnage flies. The beasts are hacked to death before they realize what hit them.

The horse charges over the minced corpses, pummeling them into the ground, leaving a splattered trail of bloody mud.

EXT. HILLTOP

The Dark Horseman thunders from the forest and charges down a steep, rocky trail cut into the hillside. CAMERA CRANES UP TO REVEAL--

-- A FORTIFIED CITY, looming a mile or so in the distance, across vast fields of crops. A WAXING MOON hovers over the city, bathing it with eerie light.

The walls are cut with battlements and archer ports. And towering above it all: an IMPOSING CASTLE. It's currently under construction, about half finished. Its walls are ribbed with scaffolds. Ropes and chains dangle like spiderwebs.

As the Horseman charges into the valley, CAMERA TAKES FLIGHT, SOARING across the fields, skimming the crops. We rocket into the night sky and glide over the OUTER WALLS, passing VAMPIRE SENTRIES posted atop stone turrets. Down below--

EXT. BAILEY - CONTINUOUS

-- PEASANTS roam the environs. Dirt poor, they reside in HOVELS set alongside LIVESTOCK PADDOCKS, STORAGE SHEDS, DUMPS, and OPEN MARKETS. We glide over THE INNER WALLS--

EXT. CASTLE - DOMED TOWER - CONTINUOUS

-- and skim up the unfinished structure, twisting and turning as we rapidly navigate a wild maze of scaffolds and dangling chains--

-- and zoom towards A TRIO OF STAINED GLASS WINDOWS. Each is dominated by an ornate letter formed of Celtic braids: "V" for Viktor, "A" for Amelia, and "M" for Marcus.

Cleverly woven into each window is the Coven's coat of arms: A HELLISH VAMPIRE BAT, wearing an armored breast plate, wings spread, gripping a sword in each talon.

We glide through the glass and into--

INT. VAMPIRE CRYPT

-- a dark, cavernous chamber, with a domed ceiling. Embedded in the tile floor are three BRONZE PLATES: the tomb covers of the vampire elders.

Torches flicker, illuminating pale faces of MALE and FEMALE VAMPIRES. Eleven in all. THE HIGH COUNCIL. They are seated upon two sets of benches. Six vampires on one side, five on the other, with one spot conspicuously empty.

And presiding over the Council from an elegant throne is none other than VIKTOR, the vampire elder, dark master of the Coven. He eyes the empty seat with thinly veiled annoyance.

Behind him stands TANNIS, the archivist, quill to parchment, scribbling notes. KRAVEN, Viktor's assistant, hovers nearby, flanked by SOREN and FOUR DEATH DEALERS: Viktor's bodyguards.

THE COUNCIL functions much like THE SENATE of ancient Rome. A severe looking vampire named ORSOVA has the floor:

ORSOVA

... there is news of yet another pestilence, My Lord. The black death, spreading carnage in the lands to the West. Let us not forget the scores of slaves that perished last winter. Our slaves. Our property. Expensive property.

MURMURS OF AGREEMENT slither through the Council.

VIKTOR

Slaves and sickness. Have I not increased our lands tenfold since Marcus and Amelia took their rest? If our slaves die we simply go out and take more.

Suddenly, A SPINE-TINGLING HOWL tears through the night. Viktor glances up at the stained glass windows.

EXT. ENTRANCE ROAD

The Horseman gallops full bore down a dirt road lined with crops. He is nearing the city, but still a half mile out.

ANOTHER HOWL rips through the night. Then ANOTHER and ANOTHER, rising in a cacophony of doom. The Horseman snaps his reigns, scans his surroundings with a practiced eye--

-- ROWS OF CROPS whip by at a dizzying pace, flickering like an old silent film. Suddenly, movement, jittery images of DARK BEASTS are added to the mix.

CAMERA CRANES UP TO REVEAL DOZENS OF BEASTS cutting paths through the grain, rapidly converging upon the Horseman.

EXT. TURRET

A VAMPIRE SENTRY spots the movement. He rushes to a small alcove, tugs down on a rope, sounding an alarm bell. OTHER SENTRIES chime in, until THREE GREAT BELLS ARE TOLLING.

INT. FORGE

The Coven's weapons factory. A LYCAN BLACKSMITH, lit by a seething furnace, stands with his back to us, hammering a length of glowing steel.

Around his neck is a steel collar: a MOON SHACKLE. He hears the ominous tolling, dons an ARCHER'S HELMET and grabs a SCORPION CROSSBOW. We do not see his face.

INT./EXT. - A RAPID SERIES OF CUTS - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

-- CASTLE GROUNDS - PEASANTS gather their CHILDREN and rush for the safety of their hovels. HOWLS echo in the distance.

-- ARMORY - LYCAN GUARDIANS grab swords, bows and quivers.
NOTE: all lycans wear moon shackles.

-- GREAT HALL - Viktor, flanked by Kraven and Soren, strides through the crowded chamber, passing NERVOUS VAMPIRES.

EXT. FIELDS

As the Horseman thunders towards the outer walls, ROAR! A WEREWOLF rears up from the crops! THWACK! The beast is left with one arm as the Horseman thunders by.

EXT. TURRET

The sentry continues to ring the bell. CAMERA SUDDENLY DROPS DOWN THE STONE BLOCKS and come to a rest upon--

EXT. ARCHER PORT

-- CURIOUS PEASANTS staring through a narrow opening in the outer wall. They are angrily thrust aside as THE LYCAN BLACKSMITH forces his way up to the port.

He is bearded, but the nose shield of his helmet obscures his identity. Concern fills his eyes like storm clouds as--

EXT. FIELDS

-- DOZENS OF BEASTS come blasting from the crops, a black tide of death, surging after the Horseman.

EXT. ARCHER PORT - INTERCUTTING

-- The Blacksmith takes aim, lets loose an AUTOMATIC SALVO from his SCORPION crossbow.

-- METALLIC HISSING slices through the crops, barely missing the Horseman. Behind him, SEVERAL BEASTS tumble end over end, decimated by silver bolts.

-- The Blacksmith tries for another shot, but the Horseman and the surviving beasts vanish behind a curving battlement.

WITH THE BLACKSMITH - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - MOVING

The Blacksmith weaves through a daunting maze of vampires and slaves. He scrambles up a low wall, races across the top edge, hurdles to the next building, claws up another wall, then drops onto a balcony and scrambles through an archway.

He's an animal, so graceful and fast it defies imagination.

EXT. FIELDS

The Horseman is still riding hard. ROAR! A DOZEN BEASTS explode from the crops, in a desperate bid to outflank him. He snaps his swords up to his chest plate, blades crossed.

His thumbs move over METAL STUDS on the twin hilts.

CLOSE ON THE SWORD BLADES

What appear to be engraved designs are betrayed for what they really are: machined grooves along the center of the blades. They are packed with METAL DISKS the size of half dollars, flush with the blade and set edge to edge.

RESUME HORSEMAN - STILL RIDING HARD

CLICK! He activates the metal studs, then violently swings the blades outward--

-- WHOOSH-WHOOSH-WHOOSH! Inertia does the trick. THE DISKS rocket down the polished grooves and are launched into the night--

-- SHANK-SHANK-SHANK! The disks snap open, revealing razor sharp blades. MEDIEVAL THROWING STARS. TORTURED HOWLS echo through the crops as the blades find their targets.

EXT. CURTAIN WALL

LYCAN ARCHERS and DEATH DEALERS flood the battlements and open fire. SILVER TIPPED ARROWS rain down in the fields, taking out a good number of the beasts... but not all.

The Blacksmith charges from a stairwell, begins racing along the wall, dodging lycan archers, in a desperate bid to keep pace with the horseman.

EXT. BALCONY - CASTLE

Viktor, flanked by Kraven and Soren, strides onto a curved balcony with no railing. He watches as--

EXT. FIELDS

-- FOUR BEASTS cut off the Horseman and begin to circle him. He turns his horse, MORE BEASTS are approaching. His horse rears back, spooked.

A werewolf takes a swipe, nearly knocking the Horseman from his mount. ROAR! TWO BEASTS pounce for the kill.

EXT. CURTAIN WALL - INTERCUTTING W/ THE HORSEMAN

The Blacksmith drops to one knee, FIRES OFF AN AUTOMATIC SALVO--

-- A FLURRY OF BOLTS KILL THE BEASTS MID-AIR. The Horseman shoots a look at the wall--

-- the Blacksmith is already in motion, charging straight for the gate house.

-- the Horseman spurs his mount, makes his run. The outer gates are open, revealing a dark tunnel.

-- The Blacksmith dives between the battlements, flat on his stomach, and slides over the edge of the wall. His boots catch the stone, preventing him from falling.

He snaps to a stop, hanging upside down, over the entrance of the gate! His helmet tumbles off, drops to the mud below.

He is none other than LUCIAN, the future ruler of the lycans.
He squeezes off another automatic salvo as the Horseman
thunders beneath him--

-- FIVE BEASTS are riddled with deadly silver. The Horseman
thunders into the dark tunnel, with the four surviving beasts
right on his tail.

LUCIAN

DROP!

INT. GATE HOUSE - A SERIES OF SHOTS

-- THE PORTCULLIS DROPS, the nasty spikes of the heavy iron
gate impaling two beasts and smashing them into the ground.

-- LIGHT SPILLS FORTH as the inner gates crack open.

-- THE SURVIVING BEASTS POUNCE as the Horseman sails through
the narrow crack. The gates slam shut. The beasts CRASH into
the wooden doors and are left shaking off the impact.

INT. BAILEY

The Horseman slows to a halt, turns to make sure no beasts
have made it through. None have. Above him--

-- Lucian pounces from the wall, lands atop the roof of the
forge, then hurdles off, dropping a good twenty feet to the
castle grounds.

THE DARK HORSEMAN removes his helmet. However, he is not a
man at all, for under the helmet is--

-- THE VAMPRESS SONJA. Her classic beauty is matched only by
her ferocity and prowess with a weapon. Still simmering in
adrenaline, her eyes burn like hot jewels. Her skin is pale
as death itself, not unlike Alabaster.

EXT. BALCONY

Viktor stares down upon his daughter.

KRAVEN

She is truly brave, My Lord.

VIKTOR

The girl hasn't a trace of common
sense.

And with that, Viktor steps off the ledge: a leather-clad specter plummeting a good fifty feet into the courtyard below! Kraven and Soren step off after him.

EXT. COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Viktor lands with the elegance of a jaguar, quickly followed by Kraven and Soren. STABLE SLAVES are waiting nearby, with their horses.

EXT. BAILEY

Lucian charges through the crowd, takes the reigns of Sonja's horse. He is clearly relieved to see that she is uninjured.

Sonja locks eyes with Lucian, the hint of a smile touches her lips. His eyes blush with pride. Though they say nothing, there is clearly something more than air between them.

Lucian lowers his gaze in reverence as Viktor thunders up on his horse, flanked by Kraven, Soren, and HIS BODYGUARDS.

VIKTOR

You, my child, were sorely missed
at Council. Out for a moonlit ride,
were we?

SONJA

There are other demands on my time,
as you well know, father.

VIKTOR

None more necessary.

GROWLS emanate from behind the wooden gates. A grin slides up Viktor's face.

VIKTOR (cont'd)

We trapped a few in the pit.
(turns to Lucian)
Slave... finish them off.

A look of nervousness is betrayed in Sonja's eyes. Without the slightest hesitation, Lucian strides towards the gate.

DEATH DEALERS and LYCAN ARCHERS move to form a protective boundary around Viktor and Sonja.

INT. GATE HOUSE

The beasts GROWL from the shadows as the gates CREAK open. Lucian strides in, crossbow at the ready. The beasts back up against the iron portcullis. They are trapped.

They show their fangs and growl, but do not attack. It's as if they are held at bay by some magic. Lucian moves even closer, until he is looking them right in the eyes.

A look of sadness washes across him. He swallows hard, pulls the trigger. WHOOSH-WHOOSH-WHOOSH! The beasts HOWL in agony as they are riddled with silver bolts.

EXT. BAILEY - MOMENTS LATER

Viktor stares down upon Lucian as he exits the gate house.

VIKTOR

Tell me, slave, does it burden your heart to kill your own kind?

LUCIAN

They are mindless beasts, My Lord, no brethren of mine.

Viktor places the flat of his sword against Lucian's chin, lifts his head. Viktor's face contorts with disgust.

VIKTOR

Drivel. Your own parents were no different than the beasts you just slaughtered. You are not but a generation removed.

Sonja edges her horse closer, lowers her voice.

SONJA

Lucian has earned your praise, father, not your provocation. He assisted me greatly this night. As did the other lycans. They deserve nothing less than a reward.

Viktor locks eyes with her. A pregnant beat, he reluctantly bends to her will. He drops his sword from Lucian's face.

VIKTOR
(to Lucian)
You're a credit to your race, I'll
give you that. But know that I am
always watching.

He turns to survey the gathered lycans, swallows down his
reluctance to praise them.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
In light of your efforts, your
rations will be doubled for a
fortnight. By my daughters will,
you may honor Lucian for this
reward.

CHEERS erupt from the gathered lycan slaves.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
Eat up, rest well, for on the
morrow important guests arrive.
They are to be protected at all
costs. We shall not have our
schedules and affairs dictated by
animals!

He spurs his horse, gallops off towards the castle but Sonja
does not follow. Viktor brings his horse to a stop, turns--

-- Sonja is gazing down upon Lucian, who is basking in the
adulation of his lycan peers.

Viktor does not like the way Sonja is looking at the lycan.
Kraven notes this, files it away for later use.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
SONJA!

Sonja reluctantly turns, rides to catch up. Lucian watches as
they thunder off towards the castle. As he turns to head back
to the forge, his fellow LYCAN SLAVES greet him with smiles
and pats on the back.

INT. FORGE

Lucian enters, slumps back against the door, exhales deeply.
He has caused too much of a stir this night and he knows it.

INT. GRAND HALLWAY - CASTLE - LATER

Viktor and Sonja stride down a torch lit corridor.

VIKTOR

The members of the Council watch
your every move. And they grow
weary of your defiance.

SONJA

It was my night to ride patrol, no
one forced it upon me.

VIKTOR

You risk too much for a father to
ignore. You must leave these
dangerous matters to others.

Sonja slows, turns to face her father.

SONJA

And do they not risk as much?

VIKTOR

It is their duty. Yours is to sit
at Council.

SONJA

And hide behind my status, a
coward?

A facial tick betrays Viktor's annoyance.

VIKTOR

One day you will become an elder,
your birthright -- if you survive
to claim it. For now you will do
what is asked. You must learn the
dance of politics, the ways of the
Council, to be ruthless and
cunning. And, above all else, loyal
to your family. Loyal to me.

Sonja stares into his eyes, resolute yet calm.

SONJA

I am not one of your slaves.

She turns her back on him, strides off down the corridor.
Viktor sighs, what to do?

INT. SONJA'S QUARTERS

Large, opulent. Sonja storms in, slams the door shut behind
her. THREE SEXY SLAVE GIRLS are waiting to attend to her
needs. They are clearly pleased to see that she is uninjured.

The girls begin gently removing her armor. Draped around Sonja's neck is a familiar looking PENDANT. RENA, the prettiest of the three slaves, smiles and whispers:

RENA
It is good to see you in one piece,
My Lady. We feared the worst.

Sonja smiles, touches her arm.

SONJA
It is good to be home.

She reaches over to a small table, scribbles a note.

INT. FORGE - LATER

Lucian is hard at work, crafting weapons. Suddenly, the door creaks open. He turns to find Rena standing in the doorway.

INT. VIKTOR'S STUDY

Elegant, lit by candles. Viktor is seated at a large desk. Tannis looks on as Orsova and a ranking member of Council, a greying vampire named COLOMAN, press their case.

Nearby, is a SCALE MODEL of the CASTLE.

COLOMAN
It's the sixth attack in half as
many weeks. What mayhem would
follow if just one of William's
kind managed to breach our walls?

VIKTOR
Are we not protected by an army of
Immortals?

COLOMAN
Superbly, My Lord. However, many on
the Council would prefer to err on
the side of caution. We believe it
is time we ordered the turning of
our humans... En masse.
(beat)
Infection by canine. Let our slaves
be lycans one and all.

Viktor is appalled by his naivety.

VIKTOR

Hundreds of humans reside within these walls. If they were turned, we'd be outnumbered four to one.

ORSOVA

My Lord, our daylight guardians cannot be compared to their savage brothers. They have been mastered. The moon shackles have proven their worth.

VIKTOR

Lycans were born from beasts and the savagery of this despicable fact cannot be bred away. Mark my words, they would kill us while we slept if given half the chance.

ORSOVA

(smugly)

Perhaps, My Lord, would prefer it if the slaves were turned into vampires instead?

Viktor almost takes the bait, then smiles.

VIKTOR

Tempt me not, Councilman. My stance on Heresy is no fiction.

COLOMAN

My Lord, we can squabble till sunup, but it's unavoidable. The Council will bring this matter to the floor next session. It is in the best interest of the Coven.

VIKTOR

And how many of you parasites support my view?

ORSOVA

Five, My Lord. Though we have yet to hear your daughter's mind. But given her record of attendance, it is likely your side will come up short.

Off Viktor's look we CUT TO:

INT. BATH - SONJA'S QUARTERS

Candles flicker, illuminating Sonja, resting in a Roman bath. TWO SLAVE GIRLS are kneeling beside the tub, gently scrubbing the blood from her hands and arms.

The slave girls turn. Rena has returned. They trade smiles.

ON SONJA

A HAND sponges her shoulder in a gentle, caressing movement. Sonja's eyes drift shut for a moment. She is in bliss.

LUCIAN (O.S.)
It appears she likes it.

Sonja's eyes peel open. She is alone with Lucian. The slave girls have gone. Sonja tugs him into her arms. They kiss.

INT. VIKTOR'S STUDY

The Councilmen exit, leaving Viktor alone with Tannis. Viktor stares down at the MODEL OF THE CASTLE, drags his fingers along the curtain wall, deep in thought.

TANNIS
A simple bribe may be sufficient.
More Nobles are expected to arrive
with their yearly taxes. Surely we
can afford to--

VIKTOR
Servant!

The door opens, Kraven enters.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
Fetch Sonja this instant.

As Kraven exits to do his master's bidding, Viktor locks eyes with Tannis.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
She will vote in my favor or there
will be hell to pay.

INT. CORRIDOR

Kraven, flanked by Soren and four elite Death Dealers, steps up to Sonja's door, knocks. No answer. He knocks again, this time louder. Suddenly, the door creaks open just wide enough to reveal Sonja's face. A sour look washes over her.

SONJA

Kraven. And what calamity draws you out from under your rock?

Kraven peers over her shoulder, catches a bit of movement in her room. Sonja closes the door another inch.

SONJA (cont'd)

I'm relaxing with my servants, if that's to your approval. Oh, I almost forgot, you're nothing but a glorified servant yourself.

Kraven's eyes burn but he holds his anger in check.

KRAVEN

Your father has requested your presence, My Lady.

SONJA

I'll need a moment to prepare.

She moves to close the door. Kraven blocks it with his boot.

KRAVEN

Now.

SONJA

You intend to drag me before my father dressed as such?

She opens the door just a crack. Kraven immediately averts his eyes. She is all but naked, save for her pendant and a skimpy robe. Sonja laughs, slams the door in his face.

INT. SONJA'S QUARTERS

Sonja vanishes behind a screen, comes out wearing a dress. She enters her bedchamber. Lucian is gone. Disappointment washes over her. Suddenly, the closet creaks open. Lucian steps out, still dressing, looking nervous.

SONJA

Come, I know a place where we won't
be bothered.

LUCIAN

But your father?

SONJA

(a sexy grin)

Are you coming or not?

Lucian succumbs to her charm. She opens a large window. They
step onto the ledge, leap out, hand in hand--

EXT. COURTYARD

-- and gracefully land like panthers. They take off running
into the night and vanish into shadow.

INT. GRAND HALLWAY

Kraven trades a look with Soren. This is taking too much
time. He pounds on the door. No answer.

INT. SONJA'S QUARTERS

BOOM! The door flies open and Kraven enters. Curtains flutter
in the breeze. Kraven moves to the window, stares down into
the courtyard. Soren strides up next to him.

KRAVEN

I want her found. Quietly.

EXT. GARDEN

Sonja and Lucian race through a thriving garden and come to A
LARGE STABLE. There are several HUMAN SLAVES keeping watch.

SONJA

Return to your quarters.

INT./EXT. STABLE

As the slaves hurry off, Lucian follows Sonja into the
shadows. All is quiet.

LUCIAN
You risk too much, being seen with
me alone.

SONJA
Be warned, my love... you're
beginning to sound like my father.

Lucian takes her by the arm, gazes into her eyes.

LUCIAN
Our being together is a betrayal he
will not ignore. I fear for your
safety. I fear for us.

SONJA
If he won't abide by his own laws,
why should we?

LUCIAN
It is not wise to even whisper such
things.

Sonja presses her finger over Lucian's lips.

SONJA
Enough words for one night.

She undoes her shoulder broach, her dress slithers down her
shapely form and pools on the ground. She is left wearing
nothing but her pendant. Lucian is helpless. He takes her
into his arms.

EXT. COURTYARD

Soren moves through the shadows... searching. He makes his
way over to the stable, peers between the slats as he moves
down the side of the complex.

He stops, takes a step back. His eyes betray a look of shock.

INT. STABLE - SOREN'S POV

Lucian and Sonja are entwined in love making.

INT. GREAT HALL - LATER

VAMPIRE SOCIALITES roam the salon. Some are huddled in
groups, others are lounging on expensive divans. Viktor
weaves through the room, mingling with the upper crust.

We find Kraven standing in a dark alcove, Viktor's servant, eying the other vampires with envy. Soren strides up, whispers in Kraven's ear. Kraven's tries not to betray his shock. The wheels begin to churn behind his eyes.

KRAVEN

Do not spill a word of this.

He reacts as Viktor strides from the crowd.

VIKTOR

And what news of my daughter?

Kraven tells a believable lie.

KRAVEN

She is most defiant, My Lord. She has refused your request and locked herself in her quarters.

Viktor shakes his head, amused and annoyed at the same time.

VIKTOR

Women.

INT. STABLE

Sonja is snuggled in Lucian's arms.

SONJA

Is it true, what you told my father, that you feel nothing when you kill them?

LUCIAN

They have no purpose. No love. No humanity. Yet I find no pleasure being their instrument of doom.

Sonja touches his face. She feels for him.

SONJA

He enjoys it, watching you suffer. Promise me that one day we will leave this place.

LUCIAN

He will never let you go... but I am yours, here and now.

Sonja snuggles closer to him, they kiss. We DISSOLVE TO:

INT. STABLE - MORNING

Shafts of sunlight flicker from above, awakening Lucian. He panics, scans the stable. Sonja is gone.

EXT. CASTLE

Lucian weaves through the construction effort. HUMAN SLAVES are hard at work, chiseling stone, hoisting huge blocks, etc. The construction of the great pyramids is brought to mind.

Dust, grunts, and scarred backs glistening with sweat.

EXT. BAILEY

Lucian strides through the inner gates and makes his way into the main castle grounds. PEASANTS and LYCAN GUARDIANS move to and fro.

TWO ARMORED CARRIAGES come thundering through the main gate, drawn by teams of horses. Behind them are DOZENS OF HUMAN SLAVES, on foot, shackled together like animals. They stare up at the castle in wonder.

SEVERAL NOBLES (humans) exit the carriages. Lucian stares at the dirty faces of the slaves. The lack of dignity they are afforded is an affront to his sensibilities.

INT. FORGE

Lucian opens the windows, stokes the fire of his furnace. His eyes settle upon a small drawer. He opens it, lifts a false bottom to reveal a hidden compartment. Inside are TWO HAND-CRAFTED WEDDING BANDS. His jaw tenses as he stares at them.

An agonizing beat, then he closes the drawer.

EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - A SERIES OF DISSOLVES

The SUN SETS ON THE CASTLE and dips beneath the Carpathian mountains. The FULL MOON rises, slides behind the clouds.

EXT. FOREST PATH - NIGHT

A DEATH DEALER gallops from the shadows, comes to a stop. He turns, stares back down the trail--

-- SOMETHING LARGE AND OMINOUS is approaching. A tense beat, then an ARMORED CARRIAGE blasts from the mist, drawn by a team of horses. TWO DEATH DEALER are riding alongside.

The carriage is heavily armored with steel plates. There are small torches mounted on the side. As it RUMBLES by--

-- SIXTY HUMAN SLAVES are revealed. A rugged bunch, unkempt, battered and bruised. They are cuffed and shackled together in three columns. The chains are fastened to a sturdy hitch on the rear of the wagon.

The slaves are forced to shuffle along at a back breaking pace in order to keep from being dragged to their deaths.

The Lead Death Dealer's eyes fall upon--

-- A SLAVE of unequalled size and power. RAZE. A mountain of a man, with tree trunks for arms and a stare that could melt a diamond. Raze glares at Death Dealer. He would love nothing more than to kill the vampire with his bare hands.

INT. CARRIAGE

Lushly appointed. Candles flicker, illuminating A NOBLEMAN, his WIFE, TEENAGED DAUGHTER, and A FEMALE SERVANT.

Everyone is frightened, though the nobleman does his best to conceal it by busying himself with a stack of documents.

His DAUGHTER is shock white, hardly able to breath. She listens in terror to every CREAK and THUMP, fearing it will be the last thing she ever hears.

Finally, she is bested by her curiosity. She opens a VIEWING SLIT. Her eyes fill with horror as she peers outside--

EXT. FOREST PATH - DAUGHTER'S POV

-- THE LEAD DEATH DEALER reaches down from his mount, tugs Sonja's battle ax from the skull of a MALE CORPSE. The beast she killed the previous night has resumed his intended form.

EXT. HILLSIDE

The caravan rumbles from the forest. The Lead Death dealer rides to the crest of the hill and fires a flaming arrow skyward. A signal of their approach.

EXT. TURRET

A VAMPIRE SENTRY no sooner spots the arrow, when a TERRIBLE HOWL echoes through the night. BELLS BEGIN TO TOLL.

EXT. BAILEY - MOMENTS LATER

PEASANTS duck into their hovels as Sonja strides across the castle grounds, with TEN HARDENED DEATH DEALERS in tow.

INT. FORGE

Lucian is busily sorting weapons. Sonja rushes in flanked by her Death Dealers. They quickly make their way along the weapons racks, selecting maces, swords, and crossbows.

SONJA
(to her men)
Ready the horses.

The Death Dealers quickly exit, leaving Sonja and Lucian alone. Her face softens. Lucian seems worried.

LUCIAN
Has there been an ambush?

SONJA
A caravan approaches. We'll be riding escort.

LUCIAN
With only ten at your side? Last night there were scores of beasts.

SONJA
The odds are heavily in our favor.

Lucian seizes a broad sword.

LUCIAN
Then one more will do no harm. Let me ride with you.

Sonja takes his face, kisses him hard. They break. She gazes into his eyes, proud that he offered to help. But...

SONJA
A lycan is no match for William's kind. Not even a lycan as magnificent as you.

LUCIAN
Not with this...

He angrily seizes hold of his moon shackle.

LUCIAN (cont'd)
... but if you were to remove it...

SONJA
That, my love, I cannot do. My
father would have your head.
(touches his chin)
And I rather like this scruffy face
of yours where it is.

LUCIAN
(a grin)
As do I.

They lock eyes for a smoldering beat. Lucian draws a breath, prepares to say something, but Sonja beats him to the punch:

SONJA
You can watch over me from the
walls.

LUCIAN
As always.

He watches, with trepidation in his eyes, as she sweeps out into the night.

INT./EXT. GATE HOUSE

Sonja and her Death Dealers, now on horseback, thunder up to the gate house. Kraven, also on horseback, rides from the shadows, accompanied by Soren, and blocks their path.

KRAVEN
Lady Sonja, you've been ordered to
stay behind.

SONJA
I intend to see our guests safely
through the gates. Now move aside.

She draws her sword. Her Death Dealers follow suit. Kraven searches her eyes. She is definitely not bluffing. He moves.

Sonja locks eyes with the GATE MASTER, a burly slave with one eye, who's covered with battle scars.

SONJA (cont'd)
Gate Master.

GATE MASTER
HEAVE!

SLAVES begin to crank the wheels, wooden gears churn into action. The gates open, the portcullis is withdrawn. Sonja peers out into the night, her adrenaline already surging.

KRAVEN
This is not a request. Your father
is ruler of this Coven.

SONJA
Of the Coven, yes. But not of me.

With a grunt, she spurs her horse and charges off, with her Death Dealers in tow. Kraven locks eyes with Soren.

KRAVEN
You will be her shadow on this
field -- understood?
(Soren nods)
Then ride!

He smacks the horse on the flanks. Soren takes off after Sonja. Kraven turns, Lucian is standing nearby, gripping his scorpion crossbow.

His eyes are locked on Sonja as she gallops into the fields. Kraven leans down from his mount, whispers to Lucian.

KRAVEN (cont'd)
Careful, slave, lest your eyes
betray your secret.

He turns, rides off across the castle grounds, leaving Lucian jilted. How could Kraven possibly know?

EXT. OUTER WALLS

As the vampires rush into the fields, the gates close behind them with an OMINOUS THUD. Sonja and her Death Dealers charge towards the caravan. Suddenly, a MURDEROUS HOWL!

EXT. ENTRANCE ROAD - WITH THE CARAVAN

The Lead Death Dealer throws up his arm. The caravan slows to a stop. The vampires spread out to form a protective ring around the carriage. The slaves nervously scan the crops.

INT. CARRIAGE

Eyes closed, the wife and servant recite hushed prayers.

WIFE & SERVANT

(whispering together)

... we beseech Thee, O Lord, that
in the hour of our death we may be
refreshed by Thy holy Sacraments
and delivered from all guilt, and
so deserve to be received with joy
into the arms of Thy mercy.

ANOTHER HOWL. The Nobleman swallows hard. His daughter stiffens, terrified, squeezes his hand.

DAUGHTER

(overlapping the prayers)

... Father...

Without warning, A FEROCIOUS ROAR! The carriage is violently rocked to the side. They scream as the ceiling dents inward.

EXT. CARRIAGE

A BEAST has landed on the roof of the carriage. THE DRIVER turns to flee. Too late. THWACK! The beast removes his head with a vicious swipe of its massive claws.

ROAR! TWO BEASTS explode from the crops and pounce upon the horse team. Fangs, growls, slicing claws. As the horses are torn to shreds--

-- the three Death Dealers surge into action. ROAR! One is knocked from his horse and viciously mauled. The slaves panic, scream in horror, still chained to the carriage.

Raze grabs the chains, clenches his teeth and gives a mighty try, but is unable to break them. A second Death Dealer is torn from his mount and savaged, showering Raze with blood.

ATOP THE CARRIAGE

A BEAST peels back an armor plate with its MASSIVE CLAWS.

INT. CARRIAGE

The family screams in horror as, ROAR! THE BEAST'S HEAD comes thrusting through the hole in the roof, JAWS SNAPPING WILDLY.

The women dive for cover. The Nobleman pushes his daughter aside, saving her life, but losing his own in the process--

-- CRUNCH! His skull is crushed in the beast's maw. Blood splatters the luxurious carriage.

EXT. FIELDS - WITH SONJA - MOVING

Sonja and her Death Dealers charge towards the caravan. They are still two hundred of yards away, but there is little doubt those in the carriage are now dead.

Sonja looks down. WHAT? -- THE GROUND IS MOVING!

SONJA
TUNNELS!

Too late! THE DEATH DEALER closest to Sonja reacts as--

-- A WEREWOLF erupts from the ground and seizes the front leg of his horse. The horse plows into the mud. The vampire is sent flipping head over heels.

Sonja reacts as, BOOM-BOOM-BOOM! MORE BEASTS erupt from the ground. Horse legs snap and break. Vampires hit the ground and are instantly mauled by beasts. Riderless horses bolt.

EXT. BALCONY

A grave look washes over Viktor as the ambush unfolds. Without turning, he addresses Tannis.

VIKTOR
Ready the Death Dealers.

TANNIS
How many, My Lord?

VIKTOR
All of them. You and Kraven will accompany me as well.

The color drains from Tannis' face.

EXT. ENTRANCE ROAD - WITH THE CARAVAN

The surviving Death Dealer opens fire with a crossbow, kills two of the beasts. The last beast turns on him. The vampire is out of ammo. The slaves react as he spurs his horse and retreats towards the castle, with the beast in hot pursuit.

Suddenly, a strange sound emanates from the armored carriage. The door bangs open. It's dripping with blood. A GROAN. The teen daughter slumps from the carriage, falls to the ground.

She's been savaged. Her skin is barely hanging on. She turns, looks up at the slaves.

DAUGHTER
... Help me...

The female servant crawls from the carriage, falls down next to the teen daughter. Raze reacts as--

-- the women convulse, begin splitting through their dresses!

The slaves struggle to get free as the woman begin the painful transformation to beast. CAMERA TILTS UP--

-- THE FULL MOON breaks free from heavy clouds. Powerful moonlight spills down from the heavens.

EXT. CURTAIN WALL

Lucian grimaces in pain. All along the wall, his fellow lycans are doubled over in agony.

Lucian fights through the pain, fires off another salvo. The bolts fall short. He is simply too far from Sonja to help.

He grimaces again. His eyes turn black. The tendons in his neck snap taunt. His skin begins to flush with the change.

CAMERA RAPIDLY ZOOMS INTO AN ECU OF THE MOON SHACKLE around his neck. As his muscles pulsate, the silver spikes pierce his flesh. They burn. He grits his teeth, shakes it off.

His fellow lycans are now recovering as well. The shackles work, preventing their transformation to beast.

Lucian stares down on the madness in the field, helpless to assist Sonja. He notes the riderless horses. To hell with it.

He tosses the crossbow and dives off the wall!

EXT. FIELDS - BELOW THE WALL

Flipping head over heels, Lucian lands on all fours then charges off into the crops.

EXT. ENTRANCE ROAD - WITH THE CARAVAN

Raze struggles to get free as the SCREAMS of the transforming women become ROARS! There is ravenous hunger in their eyes. The pounce on the slaves, WOLFISH ZOMBIES, fangs bared!

Raze, though still shackled, loops his chain and throttles one of the beasts. It struggles as he tightens his grip.

EXT. FIELDS - MOVING

A RIDERLESS HORSE thunders through the crops at full gallop. Lucian charges into frame, grabs the pommel, swings himself into the saddle! Taking control, he draws his sword.

EXT. FIELDS - WITH SONJA - A RAPID SERIES OF ANGLES

SCREAMS. ROARS. HOWLS. Fangs flash in the darkness as a WEREWOLF mauls a DEATH DEALER with hellish fury.

A SPIKED MACE arcs through frame. IMPACT! The attacking beast is hammered into the mud, its cracked skull spurting blood.

A FEROCIOUS ROAR! CAMERA WHIP PANS - A BEAST is soaring right towards us, fangs bared! A FLASH OF METAL. THWACK! The creature plows into the dirt, minus half its head!

CAMERA TILTS UP TO REVEAL the slayer of the beast--

-- SONJA, on horseback, gripping her bloody sword. Her face and armor are covered with blood. It has been a busy night.

Without warning, her horse rears back. A MURDEROUS GROWL! A WEREWOLF unleashes a powerful swipe, slashing the horse's throat, spilling Sonja to the ground.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Soren charges between Sonja and the beast. It takes a swipe at him. Soren reacts, blocks the move with his shield, CLANG! The metal crushes inward, knocking Soren from his mount.

The beast pounces towards Sonja. A SWORD whips through frame. THWACK! The beast turns to face its new attacker, THWACK! Another strike. The beast drops into the mud to reveal--

-- LUCIAN. He slams his boot down on the beast, drives his sword through its skull.

LUCIAN
We need to go!

He tosses Sonja the reins of his horse. She climbs into the saddle. HORRIBLE SCREAMS sound out. They turn towards the caravan--

-- the slaves are being decimated. Still chained, they are violently jerked to and fro as their comrades are eaten.

SONJA
We're not leaving them!

She offers Lucian her hand. He takes it, swings up onto the horse, seated behind her. She spurs her mount, gallops off.

SOREN
To hell with the slaves!

BOOM-BOOM-BOOM! MORE BEASTS erupt from the ground. Sonja tugs the reins. The horse leaps, sails over the beasts.

EXT. GATE HOUSE

A HUNDRED DEATH DEALERS surge from the gate, with Viktor riding point, flanked by Kraven and Tannis, who both look less than thrilled with the honor.

EXT. ENTRANCE ROAD - WITH THE CARAVAN

Sonja and Lucian come thundering up. Lucian leaps off the horse, drives his blade deep into the back of a beast.

A TYRANNICAL GROWL! The beast whips around to face him, its maws dripping with blood and carnage. Lucian spins, tugging the blade free, and unleashes another strike--

-- THWACK! The beast's muzzle is sheared off. He turns to take on the other beast. SNAP! Raze finally succeeds in breaking its neck. The creature slumps to the ground.

Lucian is clearly impressed. After all, Raze is human.

Sonja rides up to the carriage, swings her blade down upon the hitch. Sparks fly. CLINK! THE CHAINS SNAP. But due to the number of dead slaves the chains are horribly tangled.

Sonja dismounts, struggles to get them free. Lucian rushes to her aid. He looks down--

-- THE GROUND BENEATH THEM BEGINS TO MOVE. CAMERA CRANES DOWN, SINKS INTO THE EARTH, TO REVEAL--

INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS

-- WEREWOLVES clawing through root infested tunnels, directly beneath Sonja and Lucian.

EXT. ENTRANCE ROAD

Sonja is still frantically trying to untangle the chains.

LUCIAN
Hurry.

SONJA
I know.

Finally, the chains fall free.

SONJA (cont'd)
RUN!

The slaves explode into motion, as BOOM-BOOM-BOOM! MORE BEASTS erupt from the earth. Lucian leaps onto the horse, tugs Sonja up. Now it's her turn to ride on the back.

EXT. CROPS

Raze and his fellow slaves run for their lives through chest high crops. One by one they are taken down by UNSEEN BEASTS.

Raze trades a look with A CELTIC SLAVE who is keeping pace with him. A BEAST pounces, takes the man down. Nearby--

-- Lucian and Sonja burst from the crops. A BEAST rises from the earth, seizes their horse's leg. Lucian and Sonja are sent tumbling. Lucian's sword goes flying.

Raze turns, rushes to help them, but is cut off as YET ANOTHER BEAST explodes from the earth.

CLOSE ON SONJA

She has been stunned by the impact. She looks down, she has fallen upon her sword! The blade is slick with blood and PROTRUDING from the side of her armor. She grabs the blade, metal squeals against metal as she begins to tug it free.

Nearby, Lucian rolls to his feet, sees Sonja. BOOM! TWO BEASTS explode from the ground, showering her with dirt.

LUCIAN

SONJA!

He rushes to help her, THWACK! One of the beasts unleashes a deadly swipe, sending Lucian into the mud like a rag doll.

He rolls onto his back. THE FULL MOON hangs in the sky above like a harbinger of doom. His eyes snap to black.

Lucian rolls to his knees, seizes hold of his moon shackle. The tendons in his neck stand taunt. His forearms quiver in agony. He screams! Finally, CLINK!

THE METAL SNAPS! He tosses the broken moon shackle and explodes into motion--

-- TRANSFORMING INTO A BEAST HIMSELF as he rushes to protect Sonja. He is ferocious beyond belief. With three or four slick moves he eviscerates his foes.

ON SONJA

She gazes up at Lucian-Wolf in awe. She has never seen Lucian in this form. He gently offers his hand, helps her to her feet. Blood courses down her armor. She winces in pain.

Suddenly, THUNDEROUS FOOTFALLS approach. Sonja turns--

ANOTHER ANGLE

-- Viktor is galloping towards her, flanked by Kraven and Tannis. Viktor sees Lucian-Wolf, raises his crossbow, unleashes three bolts -- WHOOSH-WHOOSH-WHOOSH!

Sonja reacts with preternatural speed. She spins, swiping two of the SILVER BOLTS from thin air just as they are about strike Lucian-Wolf in the chest and head. Unfortunately--

-- the third bolt zips past her, low, and strikes Lucian-Wolf in the thigh. He ROARS IN PAIN! Sonja throws herself in front of him as he drops to his knees.

SONJA

No! Cease your fire!

Lucian-Wolf torques in agony, the silver bolt forcing his body to regress. Viktor's face melts as the beast quickly reverts back to human form and collapses in the mud.

Viktor gazes down upon Lucian, shocked. In the background Soren arrives, dismounts.

VIKTOR
You dare remove your shackle?

SONJA
In order to save my life!

Leaping down from his horse, Viktor grabs Lucian by the hair, cranks his head back. Sonja moves to intervene, but is held at bay by Soren.

VIKTOR
Am I not master of this house?

He slaps Lucian across the face with his armored gauntlet, sending him tumbling. Viktor is upon him in an instant.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
AM I NOT MASTER OF THIS HOUSE?!

SONJA
Father!

Lucian looks up at Viktor, face bruised, teeth bloodied. He is barely able to speak.

LUCIAN
I am but your humble servant.

VIKTOR
Yet you break my laws. Your days of plush living are over, slave. You, I shall make an example of.

Viktor rears back to deliver another crippling blow.

SONJA
Father! LEAVE HIM BE! I told you,
he was merely--

Viktor turns to face her, his eyes boiling in rage.

VIKTOR
Hold your tongue! You have defied
my orders for the last time.

He turns to Kraven.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
Lock her in the crypt and see to
her wounds.

He glares down upon Raze, the only surviving slave.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
Check him.

Soren seizes hold of Raze, slams him to the dirt, flips him over. Raze is clearly stunned by the vampire's strength.

SOREN
He's not been marked.

Viktor surveys the ghastly carnage on the fields.

VIKTOR
Burn the bodies!

He turns, slowly rides off towards the castle, with Tannis at his side. Sonja locks eyes with Lucian. Kraven and TWO DEATH DEALERS ride up to flank Sonja.

KRAVEN
You should have listened.

EXT. FIELDS - WITH VIKTOR AND TANNIS

Tannis turns to Viktor as they ride back to the city.

TANNIS
Surely this will bolster your side
of argument.

A sly grin slides up Viktor's face.

VIKTOR
And it will cost me nothing.

TANNIS
What of his punishment?

VIKTOR
Played, severely, for all too see.

TANNIS
And Sonja?

VIKTOR
She risked her life... for slaves,
no less. She must learn, once and
for all, that you cannot rule from
the heart.

INT./EXT. BAILEY - NEAR THE GATE HOUSE

Orsova, Coloman, and the other members of the high Council have gathered on the bailey. Sonja rides through the gates, flanked by Kraven and his Death Dealers.

Viktor rides up to the Council members.

ORSOVA

Has she been injured, My Lord?

VIKTOR

Just enough to serve as a good reminder.

Orsova reacts as Lucian and Raze are led through the gate house by Soren.

ORSOVA

... Lucian?

VIKTOR

He removed his shackle and took the form of a beast. Let us hope this behavior does not catch on among the ranks. If they taste freedom, they will only crave it all the more.

The Councilmen are clearly concerned by this and Viktor is loving every minute of it.

INT. GREAT HALL

SHOCKED VAMPIRES step aside as Sonja, flanked by Kraven and TWO DEATH DEALERS, is escorted through the crowded chamber. She is covered head to toe with mud and blood. She grimaces in pain, yet does her best to stride proudly.

INT. CRYPT

Kraven escorts Sonja into the dark crypt. Above them, high upon the walls, are the three stained glass windows of the elders. Kraven glances down at the hole in Sonja's armor.

KRAVEN

How badly are you injured?

(no reply)

I can send for your servants.

He seems genuinely concerned but this only aggravates her.

SONJA

I have no need for your pity. Now
leave me be.

KRAVEN

As you wish.

Kraven turns, exits. Death Dealers close the heavy doors.
Sonja unlatches her chest plate, peels off her armor.

She grimaces, lifts her chain mail undershirt. The wound
would clearly have been fatal to a human. She touches the
wound. It stings, but is QUICKLY HEALING BEFORE OUR EYES.

EXT. BAILEY - LATER

Viktor and the members of Council are standing upon a low
platform. Below them--

-- Lucian has been chained to a whipping block. His lycan
comrades have been herded into a tight group. ARMED DEATH
DEALERS keep close watch over them.

Soren uncurls a WHIP lined with nasty silver blades.

VIKTOR

Let this serve as a warning to you
all. Vampiric decree is not be
broken! Fifty lashes!

The punishment commences. The lycan slaves scream in anger
and call out for mercy as Soren's whip does its damage.

ANGLE ON RAZE

He has been shackled to an iron ring on a stone wall. Hatred
washes over him as Lucian is whipped.

RAZE

Leave him be!

INT. CRYPT

Sonja gazes up at the stained glass windows. The terrible
REPORTS of Soren's whip can be heard over the ANGERED CRIES
of the LYCANS. Sonja slumps down, overcome with emotion.

EXT. BAILEY

The lashing continues. Viktor reacts as angry lycans surge forward. The Death Dealers use their shields to push them back.

LUCIAN
No! Do not struggle!

Soren rears back, whips him again, then again, and again. The lycans surge towards the Death Dealers, knocking several of them down.

LUCIAN (cont'd)
No!

All hell breaks loose. The Death Dealers fight back, killing a dozen or so lycan slaves. The lycans are quickly shoved against the wall and held at bay with crossbows and swords.

Viktor turns towards the Councilmen.

VIKTOR
Now do you see?!

He peers down upon the Death Dealers.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
I'll not tolerate another moment of this lawlessness. To the dungeon with every last one of them. Post human guards at the walls!

Orsova speaks up as the lycan slaves are herded away:

ORSOVA
As long as they're being punished, we might as well put them to good use.

Viktor shoots him a wary eye, then shouts down to Soren:

VIKTOR
By my count that's thirty five!
Continue.

Lucian grits his teeth as Soren gives him another taste of his silver whip.

INT. CRYPT

Sonja listens to each successive lash as if she herself was being whipped.

EXT. BAILEY - LATER

Lucian's back is a lattice open wounds and scars. Blood flows freely. Soren release his shackles. Lucian slumps to the ground. Viktor strides up, towering over him.

VIKTOR
Lock him in the deepest, darkest
hole you can find.

Soren clasps a MOON SHACKLE around Lucian's neck.

INT. CURVING STAIRWELL

Torches flicker. TWO DEATH DEALERS drag Lucian down a cramped stairway that resembles the entrance to hell. Soren follows behind them. Down and down they go.

INT. CRYPT - LATER

Viktor enters. Sonja turns, her eyes are heavy with emotion.

SONJA
Lucian has suffered enough. And for
what, saving my life? Surely that
must count for something, even to
you.

VIKTOR
Your affection for this pet has
clouded your judgement. You know
well the laws of this Coven.

SONJA
Lucian has earned his freedom many
times over... yet still you show no
mercy. He is your most loyal subj--

VIKTOR
(cuts her off)
He is an animal! And if you so much
as whisper his name again, I'll
have his head on a spike.

This stabs Sonja right in the heart. She swallows hard, glares at him, but knows full well that it would be a mistake to anger him further. Lucian's life is at risk.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
We are to meet with the nobles in less than an hour. Do not back yourself into a corner, my child, you will not like the outcome.

She chokes back emotion, tears spill down her cheeks. Viktor sighs, his face softens. He takes her by the shoulders.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
You are the most fearless warrior I have ever seen. And you make me proud. But you were born into stature. You have no idea what it means to earn it.

Sonja knows she is beaten. She nods.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
Now get yourself cleaned up.

INT. CURVING STAIRWELL

The vampires push Lucian down the last few stairs.

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER - DUNGEON

Lucian spills onto the floor, amid vile contraptions of pain and suffering. The entrance is fortified with a heavy door. The archway flanking it is lined with archer ports.

Raze is here, along with DOZENS OF LYCAN SLAVES. They are being assigned cells by PUSHY DEATH DEALERS.

The lycans go crazy as A DEATH DEALER kicks Lucian in the ribs. Raze whips free of his captors, slams the vampire against the wall, lays out another with his chain.

Suddenly, CRACK! A silver whip lashes Raze's face. He turns to find Soren staring back at him. CRACK! Raze drops to the floor, but Soren keeps lashing him.

LUCIAN
ENOUGH! ENOUGH! He is only human!

Soren turns, glares at Lucian, then lashes Raze again.

SOREN
Where's the brand?

A DEATH DEALER steps up with a BRANDING IRON. The tip is lined with adjustable blocks, each bearing numbers. It is glowing hot. He stamps it upon Raze's upper arm. HISS!

Raze grunts in pain. The vampire removes the iron, to reveal a FRESH BRAND, a large "V" along with a serial number.

INT. CELL BLOCK - LATER

Lucian and Raze are dragged down a narrow, torch lit corridor. The walls are lined with archways that form alcoves. Within each is a rusted metal door.

Raze and Lucian are locked in darks cells, side by side.

INT. LUCIAN'S CELL

Dark, cramped. The only light emanates from a rusted metal grate on the ceiling. Death Dealers routinely pass over it. Water drips from the stone walls.

There is a small port into the next cell. It is fitted with crossed iron bars. Lucian peers through the port--

INT. RAZE'S CELL - INTERCUTTING

-- Raze is crumpled on the floor, barely conscious, battered and bruised. Lucian tears a piece of his tunic, uses it as a sponge to soak up the dripping water. He reaches through the bars, squeezes the water onto Raze's lips.

The warrior's eyes peel open, just for a moment, as if to say thanks. Lucian smiles, squeezes his shoulder.

LUCIAN
I have never seen more courage in a
human. Don't lose heart, my friend.
You will survive this night.

INT. CRYPT - LATER

Viktor and the Council members take their seats. Sonja arrives, cleaned and dressed. She bows her head to her father. He smiles, feeling that things are back on track.

VIKTOR
Bring them in.

THE NOBLE ENTOURAGES are led in by Kraven and Soren. The humans split into four groups, each headed by a NOBLEMAN. HEAVY LOCK BOXES are set on the floor. The lids are opened.

The boxes are filled to the brim with silver. Viktor eyes the booty. One NOBLE has come empty handed. This is JANOSH.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
My dear, Janosh, do you not own the largest silver mine in these lands?

JANOSH
It has been over run, My Lord. Our workers... infected, turned to beasts.

VIKTOR
Most unfortunate... and costly. For our assistance, half the rights to your mine should cover the expense.

Janosh flushes with anger.

JANOSH
Why should I pay tribute when you cannot so much as protect your own house? You have all but bled me dry already!

Viktor's eyes begin to burn like hot jewels. His ire is now simmering just beneath the surface.

VIKTOR
Hardly.

Janosh turns to the other nobles.

JANOSH
We have all heard the stories. Look into his eyes, they are true, this place is cursed! They are no more human than the devils that invade our lands!

MURMURS OF AMUSEMENT slither through the Council. A grin slides across Viktor's face.

VIKTOR
Cursed? We are no less than your
protectors. If devils you call us,
rest be assured...

He leans forward and shoots a poisonous look at Janosh.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
Better the devil you know.
(to Soren)
Get him out of my sight.

Soren seizes hold of him.

JANOSH
Unhand me!

Viktor locks eyes with Soren.

VIKTOR
Yes, unhand him... the moment he's
hanging over the outer wall.

He turns his attention back to the other nobles.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
Now, are there any other
grievances?

The nobles bow their heads in reverence. Viktor turns to
survey the Crypt. Sonja is gone. He glares at Kraven.

INT. VIKTOR'S STUDY - LATER

Tannis looks on as Viktor disciplines Kraven.

VIKTOR
And did I not order you to stop her
from exiting the gates?

Kraven is sweating bullets. He lowers his gaze in shame.

KRAVEN
Yes, My Lord.

VIKTOR
From this point forth she will know
your face as if it was her own. Do
I make myself clear?

KRAVEN
Perfectly, My Lord.

VIKTOR

Sonja is very clever. Do not be tempted by her charms. Make no mistake, there is but one master of this house.

He flicks his hand. Kraven bows, turns to leave. Just as he is about to stride through the door:

VIKTOR (cont'd)

Servant.

(Kraven turns)

If you fail me again, it is you who will be tossed over the wall... in pieces.

Kraven swallows this down, exits.

INT. GRAND CORRIDOR - LATER

Kraven knocks on Sonja's door. No answer. He bites his lip, turns the knob. It's unlocked. He opens the door, peers in.

KRAVEN

Lady Sonja?

He cautiously enters, peers through the open window--

INT. COURTYARD - INTERCUTTING W/ KRAVEN

-- Sonja is racing through the shadows, making her way towards the entrance of the dungeon.

A SCREAM rings out. Kraven adjusts his eye line, watches as Soren tosses Janosh from the outer wall. The man plummets head first to his death.

Kraven swallows hard, leaps out the window, takes off after Sonja.

INT./EXT. LUCIAN'S CELL

Lucian sits in almost total darkness. Light spills in on him as a METAL COVER, low on the steel door, is slid open to reveal a heavily barred viewing window. Sonja appears behind the bars. Lucian reaches through, grasps her hands.

LUCIAN

Your injuries, are you--

SONJA
I am fine, my love.

They press their heads against the bars. Lucian is battered and bloody. Sonja's eyes flood with emotion.

SONJA (cont'd)
But I am to blame for everything
that has taken place this night.
How will you ever forgive me?

Lucian lifts her chin, stares into her eyes.

LUCIAN
There is nothing to forgive.

SONJA
It is time we did more than just
dream of leaving this place. We
must draw up plans.

A look of sadness washes over Lucian.

LUCIAN
We would be hunted... on the move
at all times.

SONJA
A risk I am willing to take. You
are everything to me. Nothing else
matters.

Lucian's eyes fill with pride, he touches her face. Further down the corridor, A VAMPIRE GUARD shuffles from the shadows. A tense beat, then he vanishes down another corridor.

SONJA (cont'd)
I should go.

She kisses Lucian through the bars. But as she turns to leave, Lucian grabs her hand.

LUCIAN
Be warned...
(off her look)
... Kraven knows about us.

CAMERA CRANES UP TO REVEAL--

EXT. CELL BLOCK - ONE LEVEL ABOVE LUCIAN'S CELL

-- KRAVEN, eavesdropping through the RUSTED GRATE mounted on the ceiling of Lucian's cell.

EXT. BALCONY - CASTLE - LATER

Viktor surveys his kingdom. Funeral pyres burn in the fields, sending smoke into the sky. There is a glow on the horizon. The sun is on its way.

He is just about to head back inside, when he spots--

EXT. ATOP THE INNER WALL

-- Sonja, gazing off into the glow of the coming day.

RESUME VIKTOR

He leaps from the balcony and sails across the courtyard--

EXT. ATOP THE INNER WALL

-- and lands next to Sonja.

VIKTOR

Morning is upon us, my child. It is time we left this wretched night behind.

Sonja turns, gazes into his eyes. She is too frightened for Lucian to tempt his ire.

SONJA

Yes, father. Gladly.

Viktor smiles, kisses her forehead. Then, as they stroll down the curtain wall:

VIKTOR

I have one last bit of business to discuss before we retire...

Sonja slows, turns to face him, the obedient daughter.

VIKTOR (cont'd)

The upcoming slave referendum.

INT. CASTLE - A SERIES OF SHOTS - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

VAMPIRE GUARDS prepare for sunrise. HEAVY SHUTTERS are closed and locked into place.

INT. GRAND CORRIDOR

Sonja turns a corner to find Kraven waiting by her door.

KRAVEN

It is urgent that I spea--

WHAM! Before he has a chance to react, she grabs him by the collar and SLAMS him against the wall. He looks down, there is a long dagger against his throat.

SONJA

What have you told my father?

(no reply)

What have you told him?!

Kraven locks eyes with her, swallows hard against the cold blade of her dagger.

KRAVEN

Nothing... Nor will I... if you and I can strike a bargain.

EXT. CASTLE

HUMAN GUARDS take their posts as THE SUN RISES.

INT. SONJA'S QUARTERS - LATER

Kraven and Sonja are just finishing up their discussion.

SONJA

My father will never allow it.

KRAVEN

He will. If I can convince him that you and Lucian are dead. If not, he will hunt you to the ends of the earth. It is the only way you will ever find peace. And you know it.

Sonja slumps down on a divan, stares at Kraven. She hates to admit it, but he may be right.

KRAVEN (cont'd)
And, of course, there will need to
be a hero in this story.

INT. LUCIAN'S CELL

Lucian reacts as his door squeals open.

GUARD
Move it, slave!

INT. CELL BLOCK

Lucian exits his cell. GUARDS are waiting. They affix a chain to his moon shackle. Nearby, Raze, still battered and bruised, is hauled from his cell.

LUCIAN
It is good to see you breathing.

RAZE
I know that you are not human. But
still you have my thanks.

GUARD
Get moving!

He angrily pushes Lucian. He remains calm. The slaves begin to shuffle down the corridor.

INT./EXT. CASTLE

SLAVE DRIVERS lead DOZENS OF HUMAN AND LYCAN SLAVES into the sunlight. Raze gazes up at the construction effort.

SLAVE DRIVER #1
Humans, this way to the quarry!

The human slaves are led off as Lucian and his fellow lycans shuffle up to the castle. ENORMOUS STONE BLOCKS are waiting to be moved and lifted into place.

INT./EXT. MONTAGE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY AND NIGHT

-- Lucian and his fellow lycans use their unnatural strength to move the enormous stone blocks. Other lycans turn huge wooden cranks. Chains move through pulleys.

-- nearby, Raze and his fellow human slaves are quarrying the stone blocks. Picks are flying. Chunks of stone are lugged away in heavy baskets.

-- HUMAN SLAVE DRIVERS hand out quick punishment if any of the slaves misbehave or work too slowly.

-- THE SUN SETS on the construction effort, but dust continues to fly as the work continues. As night falls, VAMPIRIC SLAVE DRIVERS replace their human counterparts.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - NIGHT

A LYCAN SLAVE pauses to take a drink from a barrel of water. CRACK! A VAMPIRIC SLAVE DRIVER gives him a lash.

VAMP SLAVE DRIVER #1
Back to work!

Lucian steps between the two and takes the second lash in his stead. He locks eyes with the vampire.

LUCIAN
Even we must drink.

The slave driver draws his sword, then kicks over the barrel.

VAMP SLAVE DRIVER #1
Fine. Drink that, slave.

Lucian glances down at the puddle. The vampire whacks him in the back of the knee with the flat of his sword. Lucian goes down on one knee. The vampire angrily kicks him in the ribs.

Lucian drops into the puddle. The vampire uses his boot to press Lucian's face into the mud.

VAMP SLAVE DRIVER #1 (cont'd)
I said... drink it.

Lucian, of course, refuses to do so. He chokes as the vampire applies more pressure. MORE SLAVE DRIVERS approach, laughing. The lycans grumble in protest.

A BRAVE LYCAN pushes forward through the crowd.

BRAVE LYCAN
Leave him be or you will choke on
your own blood!

The vampire releases Lucian, reacts to the outburst, swings his blade. THWACK! The lycan drops to the ground, headless.

VAMP SLAVE DRIVER #1
Anybody else!?

Lucian climbs to his feet, wipes the mud from his face, goes back to work, now fully aware of his desperate predicament.

EXT. BALCONY - NIGHT

Sonja exits her room, peers down on the courtyard as Lucian (covered with dried mud) and his fellow slaves are escorted back to the dungeon. Lucian appears miserable, broken.

INT. DUNGEON

TWO GUARDS are at their post. Rena and a SLAVE GIRL exit the stairwell. Rena smirks, whispers something to the guards. They trade a look then follow the girls into a DARK ALCOVE.

Sonja appears from the shadows. The coast is clear. She hurries off towards the cell block.

INT. DARK ALCOVE

Rena is backed against the stone wall as a guard hungrily kisses and explores her flesh. Nearby, much the same is happening with the other slave girl. They trade a look.

INT./EXT. LUCIAN'S CELL

Lucian reacts as the viewing port is slid open. It's Sonja. They clasp hands through the bars.

SONJA
I don't have much time.

She notes the mud on his face.

SONJA (cont'd)
What happened?

LUCIAN
We are being worked to death. And now the guards are now killing us for sport.

SONJA
It will not be much longer.

LUCIAN

You must find a way to free us all.
Every slave. I will not leave them
here to suffer.

Sonja runs her fingers down his face.

SONJA

With enough riches anything is
possible. I will speak to Kraven.

LUCIAN

I do not trust him.

SONJA

Neither do I. But I trust
wholeheartedly in his thirst for
power. I will be leaving an empty
seat on Council. He wants it, and I
am going to see that he gets it.

EXT. CASTLE - NIGHT

Viktor, Coloman, and Orsova tour the recent construction. An
impressive amount of work has been completed.

COLOMAN

Just think what could be done with
an army of lycans? Not only could
we rid our lands of William's kind,
this fortress would be complete by
first snow.

VIKTOR

A fools gambit, for the sake of
haste. Do not forget the uprising
that led to this experiment. We
keep lycans numbered for a reason.

ORSOVA

My Lord, if the rumors are true,
Lucian's actions were nothing less
than heroic. It hardly seems fair
to harshly judge the other lycans,
especially if Lucian acted out of
fear for your own daughter.

Viktor levels and icy gaze upon Orsova.

VIKTOR

Decisions such as this should not
be based upon idle gossip.

INT. LUCIAN'S CELL

Lucian awakens to the sound of CLANGING METAL. The door to his cell BANGS open.

INT. CELL BLOCK

Lucian, Raze, and other slaves emerge from their cells. They are now falling into a routine. They stand, obediently, as they are chained by their masters.

INT. SONJA'S QUARTERS

Sonja opens the doors of her armoire. Her pendant taps the wood. She lifts her pendant, rubs her fingers across it.

INT. VIKTOR'S QUARTERS - FLASHBACK

Viktor places the pendant around YOUNG SONJA'S neck, gently kisses her on the cheek. She gives him a loving hug. These were obviously better times.

VIKTOR

You, my child, are the most
precious thing to my heart.

INT. SONJA'S QUARTERS

Sonja releases the pendant, unlocks a large drawer. Inside, are PLUMP LEATHER SATCHELS. She dumps the contents of one into her palm. It's filled with glittering jewels.

She opens another, it's filled with ancient gold coins, bearing the name and likeness of Alexander Corvinus.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS AND TIMES

-- DARK ALCOVE - Kraven presses a satchel into the palm of a ELDERLY FEMALE VAMPIRE, a member of Council.

-- GREAT HALL - Sonja sits next a BEARDED COUNCILMAN, whispers in his ear. He locks eyes with her. She discretely passes him one of the satchels.

-- CRYPT - Kraven leads THREE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL into the crypt. Sonja is waiting for them.

INT. MAIN CHAMBER - DUNGEON

The slaves (lycans and humans) are given rank bowls of meat and stale bread. They drink from communal barrels of water.

Lucian takes a seat on the floor, next to Raze.

RAZE

This is no life for a man.

LUCIAN

Nor a lyan.

He pans a look around the chamber. The slaves are becoming like the walking dead, broken, exhausted. He turns, locks eyes with Raze.

LUCIAN (cont'd)

But if we lose hope, the vampires have won.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - EARLY MORNING

Lucian and a dozen lycans are tugging on long chains. High above them, an enormous stone dangles from block and tackle.

TWO SLAVES DRIVERS keep watch. One has a spear, the other has a small horse whip.

SLAVE DRIVER

Put your backs into it, you mangy beasts! HEAVE!

Suddenly, one of the chains gets caught in the pulley system. The stone block swings precariously overhead.

LUCIAN

No! Ease off, give it slack!

The lycans ease up, feeding some slack to the pulley.

SLAVE DRIVER #1

I said HEAVE!

He CRACKS his whip. The lycans again begin to pull the chain. Lucian nervously eyes the pulley system high above them--

-- CHINK-CHINK-CHINK! SEVERAL CHAINS SNAP! Lucian pushes two slaves out of the way as the block plummets--

-- BOOM! The block impacts the ground, THREE SLAVES vanish, crushed beneath it. As the dust clears, Lucian sees that a FOURTH SLAVE is down, his legs crushed beneath the stone.

Lucian drops down to help the injured lycan. Without warning, A SPEAR is thrust into the lycan's throat. Lucian looks up, stunned. The slave driver nonchalantly tugs his spear free, turns, spots LYCAN REPLACEMENTS.

SLAVE DRIVER #1 (cont'd)
You four, over here!

He could care less about the dead. As the replacements approach, the other slave driver CRACKS his whip.

SLAVE DRIVER #2
Back to work!

As Lucian tugs a broken chain free of the pulley, SLAVE DRIVER #1 approaches, spear in hand.

SLAVE DRIVER #1
From now on, keep your mouth shut!

He angrily jabs Lucian with his spear, right in the meat of his upper arm. A bad wound, but hardly fatal. Blood courses down his arm. Lucian glares at the man.

EXT. BAILEY - EARLY EVENING

Sonja strides through the inner gates, passing slaves being herded back to the dungeon. Her eyes fall upon Lucian. He passes by, downtrodden, covered with bruises and scrapes.

His arm is caked with dried blood. He heads into the shadows, leaving Sonja at a loss for how to feel or what to do.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS - LATER

Sonja meets with Orsova and Coloman.

ORSOVA
It is not wise to go against your father's wishes.

SONJA
Not alone. But if I had the backing of the entire Council...

COLOMAN
And what would we stand to gain?

Before she answers, we CUT TO:

INT./EXT. LUCIAN'S CELL

Lucian and Raze chat through the small port, almost as if it is a confessional.

RAZE

That night in the fields, the
beasts we fought... were they like
you?

Lucian shakes his head.

LUCIAN

Sad, mindless creatures. Not like
me at all. Only upon death do they
regain their humanity. We lycans
have thoughts and dreams, even when
the full moon takes control.

RAZE

And you will live forever?

LUCIAN

That I cannot say. But I have been
drawing breath for near two
centuries. I grew to a man and have
aged little since.

RAZE

You were born like this?

LUCIAN

The first of my kind. Our bites are
infectious. Viktor used me to
create others. They created more.
And we are slaves, one and all.

He locks eyes with Raze, lowers his voice.

LUCIAN (cont'd)

I have lived by their rules my
entire life. I have envied them,
protected them, crafted their
weapons... but no more, my friend.
No more.

EXT. BAILEY

Sonja watches from the shadows as Viktor, accompanied by Soren and FOUR DEATH DEALERS, rides off into the night.

INT. MAIN CHAMBER - DUNGEON

VAMPIRE GUARDS pass out rancid scraps of meat and bowls of gruel. Lucian digs in. Nearby, A HUNGRY LYCAN pushes a SMALLER LYCAN and steals his food.

A fight breaks out, lots of pushing and shoving. The vampire guards, gazing down from the upper level, laugh.

Lucian drops his bowl, breaks up the fight.

LUCIAN

Fighting amongst ourselves only
strengthens their hand. Look--

He motions to the vampire guards on the upper level.

LUCIAN (cont'd)

-- it's as if we are nothing more
than wild beasts, here to entertain
them. Is that what you want?!

He drags an icy gaze across the gathered lycans.

LUCIAN (cont'd)

We must be of one mind if we hope
to survive.

HUNGRY LYCAN

And what about getting out of here?

LUCIAN

Patience, my brothers. We are
immortal. Our time will come. The
vampires will not rule us forever.

FOUR VAMPIRE GUARDS approach, wearing demonic helmets with full visors. They angrily seize Lucian and clip a chain to his moon shackle.

His fellow lycans become unruly as he is dragged off into the shadows, but they are kept at bay by the vampire guards.

INT. DARK CORRIDOR

Lucian is dragged down the tunnel and thrust into...

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER

The guards quickly retreat, leaving Lucian alone with the LEAD GUARD. A tense beat. He removes his helmet. It's Sonja.

For a moment they stare at each other. A tear glides down her face. Lucian pulls her into his arms. She tries to hold back her emotions but cannot. They fall into each other's arms.

LATER

They have made love and are lying together amid the instruments of Medieval torture.

SONJA

The wheels are in motion. Soon you will have an army behind you.

Lucian is taken aback by this.

SONJA (cont'd)

The Council is set to vote. We will order all human slaves to be marked by lycans. A mass turning.

LUCIAN

Your father will never allow that to happen.

SONJA

He won't have a choice, not if the Council has spoken in unity.

LUCIAN

It is not wise to back him into a corner.

SONJA

The truce between elders is a tenuous thing. They would not be pleased to learn my father still feeds upon human blood.

Off Lucian's reaction, we CUT TO:

INT. GREAT CHAMBER - FLASHBACK - CENTURIES EARLIER

Viktor's first castle. It is packed with VAMPIRES. Sonja and the COUNCIL MEMBERS are here. LYCAN SLAVES watch from the shadows. Lucian takes heed as Viktor addresses his subjects.

VIKTOR

We are no doubt the strongest of the species. But the fact remains, we need the blood of others to survive. A war with humanity, even though our Death Dealers would inflict massive carnage, would nonetheless end in our demise. From this point forward, we will feed upon the blood of livestock.

A GRUMBLE OF DISSENT slithers through the chamber.

VIKTOR (cont'd)

It is the only way. And it is thus commanded! If the humans were to discover what we truly are, they would unite against us. It is the precise reason we must hunt down and destroy William's kind. When they feed upon humans they put our very existence at risk.

RESUME TORTURE CHAMBER

LUCIAN

Without proof, it's nothing more than rumor.

SONJA

I have seen it with my own eyes. This very night he is out hunting.

Lucian is stunned by this revelation.

SONJA (cont'd)

He's partial to young children. Claims their short memories make the drink all the much sweeter.

INT./EXT. HOVEL - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

Viktor, flanked by Soren and his bodyguards, peers through a window. A FAMILY OF PEASANTS is gathered at a small table, breaking bread. Nearby, Sonja watches from the shadows.

SONJA (V.O.)

Once he is under the spell, he pays
little attention to anything else.
He still believes I drink my fill,
though I haven't tasted human blood
in centuries.

(beat)

But I still remember...

LATER

Viktor snatches a YOUNG GIRL from her bed and drains her dry.
A QUICK SUCCESSION OF CUTS as he gorges himself on the rest
of the family.

SONJA (V.O.) (cont'd)

There's a rush of warmth. Memories.
The sun on your face, tender
moments between lovers...

ON SONJA'S FACE as Viktor drinks. She clearly resents the
taking of human life. She slips out the door, unnoticed.

RESUME TORTURE CHAMBER

Sonja lies in Lucian's arms.

SONJA (cont'd)

... it's addictive.

LUCIAN

It's forbidden, by his own decree.

SONJA

And we can use it against him.

Lucian ponders this. A beat, Sonja begins to dress.

SONJA (cont'd)

What you've been saying to the
other slaves is dangerous. You
should not upset the balance. Not
yet.

LUCIAN

If they lose hope, violence will follow. More will die. I cannot stand by and let that happen.

SONJA

They will have their freedom soon enough.

EXT. COURTYARD - THE NEXT MORNING

As the slaves are led to work, Lucian takes pains to scope out the number of guards and defenses of the inner walls.

INT. MAIN CHAMBER - LATER

Dinner time. Crowded. Lucian is tracing lines upon the dirt. Raze approaches, takes a seat next to him.

RAZE

Ten guards are posted at the rear gate, near the quarry.

Lucian adds a small "X" to one of the lines. CAMERA MOVES TO REVEAL that the lines are a deceptive layout of the city.

INT. LUCIAN'S CELL

Lucian and Raze trade whispers through the port.

LUCIAN

Soon we will have our freedom. And you can be a part of it. One of us.

RAZE

I am ready.

LUCIAN

Fear not, my friend. You will not feel the burning of the moon for nearly a month. But your strength will increase within the hour.

Hen bares his fangs, sinks them into Raze's forearm. Raze grits his teeth in pain. Blood flows. Raze's heartbeat pounds within Lucian's head.

A pregnant beat, Lucian releases him. He slumps back, eyes burning with hunger, and wipes the blood from his face.

LUCIAN (cont'd)
Next full moon shall see a warrior
of unmatched size. And a new life,
deserves a new name. Raze.

Raze nods, takes hold of Lucian's hand. The pact is sealed.

INT. CRYPT

The full Council is seated, including Sonja. The confidence drains from Viktor's face as the votes are tallied, eleven "Ayes" right down the line. Finally...

SONJA
Aye.

A look of disgust washes over Viktor's face.

ORSOVA
The measure passes by unanimous
consent. Our slaves are hereby
ordered turned.

Viktor calmly rises from his throne.

VIKTOR
Do with your own slaves what you
will. Mine are another matter.

He turns, sweeps out of the crypt.

INT. DUNGEON - LATER

HUMAN SLAVES have been separated into three lines.

VIKTOR
All slaves bearing my mark will be
spared this indignity. You are
hereby reassigned to the walls as
daylight guardians.

Those bearing Viktor's mark are led away by Soren.

SOREN
Get moving!

This is nearly half of the slaves. Raze is among them. He trades a look with Lucian as he is led away.

ORSOVA
Proceed.

DEATH DEALERS angrily crack their whips. The remaining human slaves begin to shuffle past rows of lycans. The lycans bare their fangs, sink them into the humans' shoulders. Lucian does the same.

As the slaves move down the line they are fitted with MOON SHACKLES. It's like an assembly plant. Sonja tries her best not to smile as she watches. Viktor notes this.

EXT. BAILEY

Raze and his fellow human slaves (all bearing Viktor's mark) are led through an archway in the outer wall.

INT. OUTER WALL - CELL BLOCK

Raze and his fellow slaves are locked in CELLS.

INT. CORRIDOR - LATER

Sonja strides to her room, to discover a CONTINGENT OF DEATH DEALERS, led by Kraven and Soren. Rena and her fellow slave girls are there as well, under guard. They begin to cry as Sonja is placed in cuffs and led away.

INT. TOWER STAIRWELL

DEATH DEALERS escort Sonja and her servants up a winding staircase. Kraven follows. As they reach the top, the servants are left waiting as--

INT. TOWER CELL

-- Kraven leads Sonja into a STARK ROOM at the top of the tower. The windows are heavily barred. Viktor is already here. Kraven exits, leaving them alone. Viktor smiles.

VIKTOR

Very clever, bribing members of Council behind my back. It seems you have picked up a few tricks of your own. But there is a price to be paid for crossing me, daughter. When the sun sets on the morrow... Lucian dies.

This stabs Sonja in the heart. Her eyes fill with emotion as he turns to exit. Finally, she can hold back no more.

SONJA
Know this... I will reveal your
darkest secret.

Viktor stops in his tracks, slowly turns.

SONJA (cont'd)
The entire Coven will know about
your feeding habits.

Viktor's blood boils, but he keeps his anger in check.

VIKTOR
You yourself are no stranger to the
pleasures of human blood.

SONJA
It has been centuries.

VIKTOR
I have witnesses who will state
otherwise.

He whirls around, strides out. Sonja's servants are shoved
into the room.

INT. TOWER

Kraven closes the doors, bars them shut. Viktor pauses to
speak with the Death Dealers.

VIKTOR
She is not to leave this room under
any circumstance.
(to Kraven)
You, servant, will tend to her
needs.

INT. TOWER CELL

Sonja is huddled with Rena, whispering in her ear.

INT. TOWER

A KNOCK SOUNDS OUT. Kraven unlatches the door, opens it.

RENA
Lady Sonja would like me to fetch
some warmer clothes.

Kraven peers into the room, trades a look with Sonja.

INT. SONJA'S QUARTERS - LATER

Kraven enters with Rena, closes the door.

RENA
You must act tonight.

Kraven takes a deep breath.

EXT. CASTLE

The stars and planets swirl across the night sky.

INT. CURVING STAIRWELL

Soren leads Kraven down the dark corridor. They are both gripping Scorpion crossbows. Kraven is clearly nervous.

INT. DUNGEON

Soren peeks from the stairwell, fires his crossbow, killing TWO VAMPIRE GUARDS. Kraven steps from the shadows, quickly takes their keys.

Soren grabs the bodies, tosses them into a SEETHING FURNACE.

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER

Kraven and Soren sneak through the shadows. FOUR GUARDS are bunked out, dead to the world. Kraven raises his crossbow, slays them while they sleep.

INT. LUCIAN'S CELL

Lucian reacts as his door squeals open to reveal Kraven.

KRAVEN
The time has come.

He steps up to Lucian, unlocks his moon shackle.

LUCIAN
Where's Sonja?
(off Kraven's look)
(MORE)

LUCIAN (cont'd)
You are gravely mistaken if you
think I'm leaving without her.

KRAVEN
It was her decision.

He tosses the moon shackle key to Soren then hands Lucian a note. Lucian unfolds it to reveal Sonja's elegant script.

SONJA (V.O.)
Circumstances have changed, my
love. You must go without me, just
before sunup. It is the only way
your army will survive. Next full
moon we will be together.

Lucian flips the note over. There is a detailed pen and ink map, showing the Danubius river flanked by the Carpathian mountains. She has drawn an "X" on a mountain fortress.

INT. DUNGEON - A SERIES OF SHOTS

Lucian, Kraven, and Soren quickly make their way down various corridors and alcoves, unlocking cells as they go. Soon there are several hundred slaves. ALL LYCANS.

Soren moves down the line, removing their moon shackles.

INT. DUNGEON ARMORY

Kraven unlocks the door. Lucian watches as lycans swarm into the armory.

KRAVEN
If you ever decide to attack this
place... remember who helped you.

LUCIAN
Is it true, that you desire peace?

KRAVEN
What's the use of eternity if it's
spent at war? We've been given a
gift. We ought to enjoy it.

Lucian mulls this over, nods.

LUCIAN
You have my thanks.

Kraven hands him a large set of keys.

KRAVEN
Now you are on your own.

He turns, hurries off with Soren.

INT. CURVING STAIRWELL

ARMED LYCANS swarm up the stairs, with Lucian at their lead.

INT./EXT. DUNGEON ENTRANCE

Lucian unlocks the heavy doors, cracks them open, peers out. Sunrise is near. All along the walls and battlements, HUMAN GUARDS are relieving their VAMPIRIC COUNTERPARTS.

Lucian then spots Raze, who is taking a position atop the outer wall. Suddenly, a SHOUT from a nearby TURRET! Before Lucian can even react--

-- WHACK-WHACK-WHACK! Three SILVER BOLTS SLAM into the door, only inches from his face. He quickly ducks back inside.

He turns, he is backed by two hundred angry and ferocious lycans. Armed lycans. He nods to himself. This is it.

EXT. CURTAIN WALL

THE WARNING BELLS TOLL. Raze watches from the outer wall as--

EXT. COURTYARD

-- TWO DOZEN VAMPIRIC GUARDS race towards the entrance to the dungeon. Suddenly, BOOM! The doors explode open and LUCIAN'S ARMY surges forth, mowing over the advancing guards.

Swords clash against shields. SCREAMS of pain and anger.

INT. VIKTOR'S QUARTERS

Tannis rushes before Viktor.

TANNIS
My Lord, the lycans have escaped.

EXT. STABLES

The lycan slaves, led by Lucian, rush towards the stables. A VAMPIRIC GUARD fires an arrow at Lucian. He bats it aside, as if was nothing but an annoying insect.

He throttles the vampire, crushes his throat. He locks eyes with SEVERAL HUMAN SLAVES. They drop their swords, terrified.

LUCIAN

You are more than welcome to join
us.

The humans nod. Lucian charges off, towards the outer walls.

EXT. CURTAIN WALL

HUMAN GUARDS flee for their lives as LYCANS come surging from the stairwells, with Lucian at their lead. THE DEATH DEALERS stand and fight. All hell breaks loose. Down below--

EXT. BAILEY

-- DOZENS OF LYCANS, on horseback, come thundering through the inner gate. HUMAN GUARDS flee into the peasant quarter.

EXT. CURTAIN WALL

Chaos. Swords clanging. Lucian is fighting hard, he turns to find Raze next to him, fighting the vampires with just as much passion. They trade a look. Lucian reacts as--

-- LYCAN HORSEMAN thunder through the gate and charge into the fields. In the background, THE HORIZON is growing even brighter. Sunrise is not far off.

SEVERAL VAMPIRES drop their weapons and flee, leaping from the walls and into the bailey, in hopes of beating the sun's first rays.

EXT. BAILEY

Viktor and his DEATH DEALERS swarm from the inner gates, on foot. Some of the vampires stop in their tracks. The sky is growing lighter by the second.

EXT. FIELDS

The sun crests over the mountains. A brilliant sunrise.

EXT. BAILEY

Viktor and his vampires react as--

EXT. CURTAIN WALL

-- SUNLIGHT FLASHES over the outer walls. VAMPIRIC GUARDS scream in agony, drop to their knees, their skin crisping.

EXT. BAILEY

Vampires flee for the safety of shadow as sunlight invades the castle grounds. SEVERAL VAMPIRES are too slow. They drop to the earth, their flesh sizzling in the morning light.

EXT. CURTAIN WALL

Lucian gazes down upon the bailey--

EXT. BAILEY

-- vampires continue to retreat as shadow is consumed by creeping sunlight. Only Viktor remains. He glares up at Lucian. They lock eyes.

Sunlight moves across the ground, inching closer to Viktor. He finally turns, strides back towards the inner gates and the safety of shadow. An eruption of LYCAN CHEERS!

EXT. CURTAIN WALL

Lucian turns to survey his troops. The morning sun is upon their faces. He smiles. Lycans begin leaping from the walls.

Those slaves who have only recently been marked (bitten) are afraid to follow suit.

LUCIAN

You are lycans now. Do not fear!
Jump!

Raze trades a look with him, then leaps off the wall. He plummets headfirst, flailing his arms, and lands like a panther. He looks up, amazed. Other slaves begin to jump.

INT. TOWER STAIRWELL

Anger bubbles up from the depths of Viktor's soul as he ascends the stone steps.

INT. TOWER

DEATH DEALERS panic as Viktor storms their way.

DEATH DEALER

My Lord. Lady Sonja has been under guard the entire night. As have her servants.

Viktor angrily knocks him aside.

INT. TOWER CELL

Sonja reacts as the doors bang open. Viktor sweeps in, seething with anger. He locks eyes with her servants.

VIKTOR

Leave us!

Rena and her fellow servants flee. Sonja takes a step back as her father approaches.

SONJA

I had no hand in this. I swear it.

He raises his hand, lip quivering, but is unable to strike her. A tense beat. Then he turns and strides out.

EXT. HILLTOP - DAY

The lycans charge up the steep path. Lucian is at their lead, on horseback. He turns, gazes across the fields. The CASTLE is now bathed in harsh daylight.

LUCIAN

(to Raze)

We've been given a twelve hour head start. Let's not waste it.

INT. GREAT HALL

Vampires clear a path for Viktor as he storms through the great hall. Tannis hurries to catch up with him.

VIKTOR
We ride at sunset.

TANNIS
That may be a bit of a problem.

Viktor stops, glares at him. Tannis swallows hard.

TANNIS (cont'd)
They took over half the horses.

EXT. FOREST PATH - SUNSET

The lycan army trudges through the forest.

EXT. OUTER WALLS - NIGHT

The gates open and A HUNDRED DEATH DEALERS spew forth, about a third of them on horseback. Viktor is at their lead.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The lycans have made camp. LARGE fires are burning. Firelight flickers across Lucian's face as he addresses his army.

LUCIAN
We cannot defeat them like this. We are too few and their weapons are far better.

LYCAN #1
You made their weapons. Now you must do the same for us.

LUCIAN
Their weaknesses are different than our own. And, unfortunately, I cannot make sunlight.

RAZE
We have escaped. That proves they have other weaknesses.

LUCIAN

We've proven nothing, my friend.
They will come after us in greater
numbers. We must search for an
alternative.

RAZE

Peace?

LUCIAN

If they'll agree... yes.

LYCAN DISSENTER

With Viktor? Never.

LUCIAN

There are those amongst the
vampires who do not see us as the
enemy.

LYCAN DISSENTER

Viktor's daughter?

MURMURS OF SUSPICION course through the lycan crowd.

LUCIAN

She is the one who set us free.

LYCAN DISSENTER

I did not see her there!

LUCIAN

Tread carefully, brother.

The dissenter turns to his comrades.

LYCAN DISSENTER

How can we trust a vampire?!

SHOUTS support his view. He turns towards Lucian.

LYCAN DISSENTER (cont'd)

If you have been deceived, she
could lead them here this night.

Lucian throttles the lycan, tugs him close to his face. The
lycan squirms but is powerless against Lucian.

LUCIAN

Death Dealers will undoubtedly be
on the hunt... and they will
eventually find us. But not by her
doing. I trust Sonja with my life.

(MORE)

LUCIAN (cont'd)
And as long as I am in command, so
shall you.

He angrily tosses the lycan to the ground.

A SERIES OF DISSOLVES - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

As Viktor and his Death Dealer scour the countryside, riding through small creeks, up steep inclines, through glades, etc.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Viktor peers down upon a valley. Tiny fires are flickering in the distance. It's Lucian's camp, but it's miles away.

TANNIS
My Lord. If we return now, we just
might make it home before sunup. We
cannot waste another minute here.

The muscles in Viktor's jaws tense.

VIKTOR
Blast!

He turns his horse, digs his spurs into its side, takes off into the night.

EXT. FOREST PATH - THE NEXT MORNING

The lycans charge through the forest. Lucian holds up his hand for them to stop. He proceeds forward, exits the forest. A few hundred yards in the distance is a FORTIFIED HOUSE. The residence of a nobleman. A grin slides up Lucian's face.

EXT. FIELDS

PEASANTS flee as the Lucian, Raze, and a FOUR LYCANS ride up to the gates of the noble residence.

INT. BEDCHAMBER

A SERVANT rousts a NOBLEMAN from deep sleep. We last saw this noble at Viktor's castle, arriving with slaves.

SERVANT
My Lord!

EXT. GATES

The nobleman peers down from the wall, hair a mess, still in his robe. There are only a SIX LYCANS below, including Lucian and Raze.

LUCIAN
Release your slaves... or this
house will burn.

The nobleman stares down at the ragged crew.

NOBLEMAN
(amused)
You and what army commands this?

Suddenly, THE LYCAN ARMY surges from the forest. The nobleman's face melts.

INT. ARMORY

Raze breaks down the door. The armory is flooded with SLAVES. They grab swords, shields, and crossbows.

EXT. ESTATE GROUNDS

The noble's house is aflame. Thick smoke rises into the sky. Ash falls like snow. Lucian, on horseback, addresses a MOB of HUMAN SLAVES.

LUCIAN
Any man who fights with me, shall
have his freedom. And if he wishes
it, immortality!

The slaves CHEER, brandish their weapons.

EXT. GATES

SLAVES and LYCANS surge from the gates as the estate burns.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

-- MOUNTAINS - the lycan army, with Lucian at its lead, winds up a treacherous path.

-- VALLEY - PEASANTS and SLAVES come bursting from the crops to join Lucian. His army has swelled in size. Behind them, far off in the distance, a castle burns.

-- HILLS - Lucian's army negotiates the harsh terrain. They are lean and hungry. Lucian spies a LARGE ESTATE in the distance.

INT. VIKTOR'S STUDY

Viktor meets with Coloman and Orsova.

COLOMAN

There is news that Lucian has sacked yet another estate, My Lord. His army grows as we speak. Our nobles are begging for protection and our city is being flooded with refugees.

VIKTOR

And whom, I wonder, do we have to thank for that?

A SERIES OF CUTS - VARIOUS LOCATIONS AND TIMES

-- QUARRY - A HUMAN SLAVE chips rocks with his COMRADES.

HUMAN SLAVE #1

They say that Lucian burns slave owners out of their houses.

-- DUNGEON - HUMAN SLAVE #2 is waiting in line for his gruel.

HUMAN SLAVE #2

... runs them off their own lands.

-- GATE HOUSE - HUMAN GUARDS trade gossip.

HUMAN GUARD

... his army is invincible.

Rena, Sonja's servant, passes by. She has overheard this.

INT. TOWER CELL

A grin slides up Sonja's face as Rena whispers the tales of Lucian's exploits in her ear.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE

Lucian unfolds Sonja's note, holds her map level with the horizon. He suddenly lowers it to reveal a large valley, flanked by THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS.

And cut into the mountainside is A SILVER MINE. A SMALL FORTRESS has been built to protect the entrance. It's fortified by with a turret and cut with battlements.

INT./EXT. MOUNTAIN FORTRESS

Lucian leads his men through the fortress. HUMAN CORPSES, some partially skeletal, have been torn apart and left to litter the grounds.

INT. MINE ENTRANCE TUNNEL

Dark, menacing. Nooks and crannies, jagged walls. No shortage of deep, dark places for preternatural creatures to hide. Lucian, Raze, and DOZENS OF LYCANS enter, carrying torches.

There are MORE CORPSES. This is a place of death. The walls are heavily supported by wooden beams. Water drips from above. Every so often, the support beams CREAK and MOAN.

INT. TUNNEL JUNCTION

Lucian and his team enter a large chamber. There are several tunnels leading off in different directions, as well as HUGE STEEL DOORS that are partially open.

A STRANGE SOUND seeps from the darkness behind the doors. An inhuman sound, not unlike THE BREATHING of a dragon.

Lucian holds up his arm. He draws his sword, steps through the steel doors, vanishes into the shadows.

INT. STORAGE CHAMBER

Lucian enters an enormously deep chamber littered with bins of ore. He tops in his tracks as his torch illuminates--

-- HUNDREDS OF WEREWOLVES, William's kind, beasts until death, packed into the shadowy chamber. A DEN OF BEASTS!

Lucian hesitantly steps towards them. They back up, but do not attack. Against his better judgement, he takes another step towards them. Still they do not attack.

He reaches out, strokes the fur of one of the beasts. They are clearly under his spell. A grin slides up Lucian's face.

Raze enters, is clearly taken aback by the sight of so many werewolves. The GROWL and HISS but do not attack.

LUCIAN

Do not fear, my friend. Sonja has chosen well. This place could not be more perfect.

INT. TOWER CELL

Sonja is nervously pacing the floor. She gazes out the heavily barred window as--

EXT. BAILEY

-- Viktor and his DEATH DEALERS come charging through the gates. They are exhausted, fed up. The castle grounds are choked with REFUGEES. Viktor's eyes are drawn to Lucian's previous place of employment: the forge.

INT. FORGE

Viktor enters, vents his anger at Lucian by tossing weapons, smashing furniture, and rifling drawers. A full ransacking.

He suddenly comes across the wedding bands. He examines them. To his shock and horror he sees that Sonja and Lucian's names have been etched upon the inside of the rings.

INT. TOWER

Kraven steps aside as Viktor storms up the stairs.

INT. TOWER CELL

Sonja reacts as the doors bang open. Viktor enters, he seems off balance, shocked to the core. He thrust out his hand to reveal the two wedding bands.

VIKTOR

What are these?

SONJA

I have never seen them before.

VIKTOR

Yet your name is here, inscribed
alongside his.

The fear of God appears on Sonja's face.

VIKTOR (cont'd)

Have you... *been* with that animal?

Sonja takes a step back, in pure fear of her father.

VIKTOR (cont'd)

HAVE YOU?!

Her eyes tell him all he needs to know. A look of absolute
heartbreak washes over him.

INT. TOWER

Viktor bursts from the room, knocking Death Dealers aside and
storms down the stairs. Kraven trades a grave look with Sonja
as he closes and bolts the door.

INT. GREAT HALL

Vampire step aside as Viktor storms through the great hall.
He passes a huge fireplace, hurls the rings into the flame.

INT. TOWER STAIRWELL - LATER

The VAMPIRE GUARDS stationed at Sonja's door fight boredom.
Kraven is here as well. He cringes to a burst of METALLIC
HISSING. The guards are riddled with metal arrows.

They drop to the floor. Soren step from the shadows, nods to
Kraven. Soren notes that one of the guards has lived. He
draws his sword, stabs the vampire in the heart.

INT. TOWER

Sonja reacts as her door is unbolted. It swings open to
reveal Kraven. He tosses her a sword, she catches it with a
lightning quick move.

As she exits, Soren begins dragging the dead vampires into
the tower cell.

EXT. CASTLE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Sonja leaps from the tower, lands atop another section of the castle. She races across a dangerously steep roof, then drops off the side and--

INT./EXT. SONJA'S QUARTERS

-- lands on her balcony. She sneaks inside, opens an armoire, tugs out her battle gear. As she moves to don her chain mail--

-- she catches a look at her reflection in the mirror. She pauses, gently presses her fingers against her belly: it's slightly distended. She closes her eyes for a moment.

Her eyes peel open. A look of realization takes hold.

EXT. TOWER

Kraven and Soren lead Viktor down the corridor.

INT. TOWER CELL

Viktor strides in, discovers the bodies of slain guards.

VIKTOR
Now she kills her own kind.

INT. SONJA'S QUARTERS

BOOM! The door flies open and Viktor surges in. Kraven and Soren follow suit. The room is empty. Sonja is gone.

VIKTOR
Find her and bring her to me.

EXT. CASTLE - A SERIES OF ANGLES

Sonja quickly sneaks through the shadowy city as Death Dealers search for her.

EXT. CURTAIN WALL

Sonja leaps from the wall and slips unnoticed into the crops.

EXT. DARK ROAD

Sonja races from the crops. Her horse has been tethered to a tree. She leaps into the saddle, takes off into the night.

INT. VIKTOR'S STUDY

It has been converted into a war room. A large map is draped over the desk. Tannis is taking notes as Viktor maps out his strategy. His troops are represented by SILVER FIGURINES.

He looks up from the map as Kraven enters.

KRAVEN

We've searched everywhere, My Lord.
She is not on the grounds.

Viktor paces to the window, gazes into the night.

VIKTOR

So she's fled... to be with him.

TANNIS

If the Council hears word of
this... she will burn.

Viktor turns, levels and icy gaze upon Tannis.

INT. TUNNEL JUNCTION

Throngs of lycans are gathered. They are an unruly bunch, prone to outbursts.

LYCAN DISSENTER

We should find William and set him
free. With him at our lead, our
army would be invincible!

His fellow lycans enthusiastically agree. Lucian tries to calm them.

LUCIAN

William was captured when I was a
boy. If he even lives at all, he
would be of no use. Not even his
own brother could control him.

LYCAN DISSENTER

His brother is a vampire. You are
the first born of our kind.

(MORE)

LYCAN DISSENTER (cont'd)
You have sway over these beasts, we
have seen it!

LUCIAN
They create nothing but carnage and
destruction. The humans have
suffered enough. We are the new
breed. And we must act like it, by
using our minds.

They suddenly realize that SOMEONE is approaching from the
shadows. They grab their swords, prepare to engage.

Raze explodes into motion, grabs the SHADOWY FIGURE. But to
his surprise, he is violently whipped around and pinned to
the stone wall! Sonja steps into the firelight.

SONJA
I come as an ally, not a servant of
my father.

She drops Raze. Her stares at her, amazed. She could have
killed him and he knows it. Lucian embraces her, whispers:

LUCIAN
You are early, my love.

SONJA
I had no choice.

INT. SMALL CHAMBER

Sonja, Raze and Lucian plan their next move.

SONJA
It is only a matter of time until
they find us. We should strike
first, while they slumber.

Lucian seems taken aback by this.

SONJA (cont'd)
We must be every bit as ruthless as
my father. If not, we will never
survive.

Lucian thinks on this for a moment, then turns to Raze.

LUCIAN
Spread the word, we ride within the
hour.

RAZE
Yes, Lucian.

Raze heads off to do Lucian's bidding.

SONJA
If you can gain entrance to the
crypt, we could have two powerful
bargaining chips.
(off his look)
Marcus and Amelia.

The thought of this strikes fear into Lucian's heart.

LUCIAN
That is a bridge I am not certain
we should cross.

Sonja reminds him of the stakes.

SONJA
Every bit as ruthless. He will show
us no mercy. Our victory must be
nothing less than decisive.

Lucian nods. He knows she speaks the truth.

INT. VIKTOR'S STUDY

Viktor confers Tannis.

VIKTOR
Tomorrow is full moon. We'll wait
and attack when they cannot change.

TANNIS
But what if they attack first? She
knows where we sleep and how we use
our guards.

VIKTOR
I've already taken precautions.

INT. TUNNEL JUNCTION

Lucian leads Sonja past heavily barred doors. Behind them are
William's beasts. TERRIBLE GROWLS emanate from the darkness
as they pass. Lucian bangs on the metal.

LUCIAN
Settle down!

Sonja pauses, locks eyes with Lucian. He smiles.

LUCIAN (cont'd)
The hounds of hell.

INT. CORRIDOR

Lucian leads Sonja into a narrow tunnel. They climb steps hewn from the rock and enter...

INT. UTILITY CHAMBER

Candles flicker, illuminating a room packed with crates and supplies. Items have been moved to clear room for Sonja.

Blankets have been placed over a row of boxes, creating a comfortable place for her to rest.

LUCIAN
You'll be safe here, until I
return.

They embrace. A long moment passes.

SONJA
My father found your rings.

LUCIAN
No wonder you left early. It was
reckless of me. I never should have
made them.

SONJA
No. My father's archaic ways are
reckless. The rings were lovely.

LUCIAN
I may have been a slave, but my
heart has never been chained.

They kiss. As they break, Sonja gazes into his eyes. She opens her mouth to speak, but then thinks better of it.

LUCIAN (cont'd)
What is it?

She smiles, rubs her hand down his cheek.

SONJA
Nothing. Be careful.

EXT. HILL - EARLY MORNING

Lucian and Raze peer out from an outcropping of rock. Lucian scans the valley below. Viktor's castle is off in the distance. There is no movement.

LUCIAN

The fields... they're empty.

He turns back towards the forest. HUNDREDS OF LYCANS creep from the shadows. A mixture of HORSEMAN and FOOT SOLDIERS.

EXT. CURTAIN WALL

BELLS TOLL. HUMAN GUARDS (the last remaining slaves bearing Viktor's mark) flood the walls as--

EXT. FIELDS

-- Lucian and Raze, both on horseback, lead a cavalry charge towards the outer walls. Behind them, a thundering army of lycan foot soldiers SCREAMING LIKE HELLIONS!

LUCIAN

Prepare for archers!

The horseman ready their shields, but to Lucian's shock, no arrows rain down upon them. He trades with look at Raze then scans the approaching wall--

-- SCORES OF HUMAN GUARDS are holding their positions along the battlements but they are not firing. In fact, are those smiles on their faces?

RESUME LUCIAN

He throws up his arm. His army slows to a stop. Above them--

EXT. CURTAIN WALL

-- the human guards CHEER LIKE MAD! Smiles all around, weapons are waved in the air. A grand welcoming.

EXT. FIELDS

Lucian trades a look with Raze, stunned. Suddenly, the portcullis is withdrawn and the gates are opened.

RAZE

This may be easier than we thought.

INT. BAILEY

The lycans ride through the gates. Lucian is greeted like a conquering hero. Human slaves surge towards him:

SLAVES

LUCIAN! LUCIAN! LUCIAN!

Lucian and Raze ride deeper into the castle grounds.

EXT. PEASANT QUARTER

The alleys and hovels are eerily deserted. Lucian slows to a stop. He spots a CHILD'S DOLL abandoned in the mud. He locks eyes with one of the human slaves.

LUCIAN

Where are the peasants?

HUMAN GUARD

They were taken into the castle,
just before daybreak. There were
also hundreds of refugees. No one
has seen them since.

EXT. COURTYARD

Lucian leads his army through the inner gates. They make their way towards the castle. HUMAN GUARDS, posted at the entrance to the castle, throw down their swords.

INT. GRAND FOYER - CASTLE ENTRANCE

BOOM! MASSIVE DOORS swing open. Lucian, Raze, and a large group of LYCAN WARRIORS enter. The sunshades have been closed. The castle is cold and dark.

INT. GRAND HALLWAY

Lucian, Raze, and their LYCANS make their way down the grand hallway. Suddenly, WHOOSH-WHOOSH-WHOOSH! Silver bolts take down several lycans.

DEATH DEALERS explode from the shadows. All hell breaks loose. Swords CLANG against swords.

Lucian calmly strides over to a LARGE WINDOW. It is covered with a HEAVY SUNSHADE. He grabs the lock, SNAPS it in his grip, then throws the shutters open.

SHAFTS OF DEADLY SUNLIGHT come streaming into the dark corridor. SEVERAL VAMPIRES drop in agony, blisters boiling across their faces.

The surviving Death Dealers turn to flee. Too late--

-- Raze is at the other end of the corridor. He throws open the shutters. SCREAMS OF AGONY ring out as the vampires are caught in a crossfire of sunlight. Raze smirks, satisfied.

INT. CASTLE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

DEATH DEALERS flee as LYCANS rush through the castle like looters, prying open the SUNSHADES, breaking windows, etc. Sunlight floods the musty castle as furniture is overturned.

Other than a FEW DEATH DEALERS, who are badly outnumbered, the castle is empty.

INT. GREAT HALL

Lucian, Raze, and several lycans, charge through the great hall, towards the crypt.

INT. DARK CORRIDOR

CRYPT GUARDS (vampires) spring into action as Lucian, Raze, and their lycans appear. A GUARD takes a swipe at Lucian with his sword. Lucian catches the blade, twists it from his hand, removes his head.

The other vampires drop their swords. They are beaten and they know it. Lucian locks eyes with the LEAD CRYPT GUARD.

LUCIAN
Where is everyone?

The vampire eyes him with contempt. Lucian takes another step towards him. The vampire backs down.

LEAD CRYPT GUARD
The dungeon. They're all in the
dungeon.

Raze steps forward to kill the vampires. Lucian wards him off with a look.

LUCIAN
They surrendered. They'll be left
with their lives.

INT. CRYPT

Lucian and Raze use SPEARS to pry open Marcus' tomb cover. Concern washes over Lucian as he peers down into the hole. The SARCOPHAGUS is gone. He trades a look with Raze.

LUCIAN
This is not a good sign.

INT. MAIN CHAMBER - TOP LEVEL - DUNGEON

TWO ORNATE SARCOPHAGI are resting in a dark alcove. One is marked with an M, the other with an A. SLAVES are walling them in, brick by brick. CAMERA MOVES TO REVEAL--

-- VIKTOR, with his back to us, flanked by the Council. They are peering down upon the lower level, where--

-- PEASANTS and REFUGEES are being turned into vampires!

As with the lycan turning, this is a systematic affair, much like an assembly line. Humans are routed past vampires, who quickly and efficiently bite the humans.

RESUME UPPER LEVEL

Coloman turns to Orsova.

COLOMAN
So much for heresy.

Nearby, Kraven, Tannis, and Soren are watching as well.

TANNIS
Why doesn't Viktor take part?
Surely, his bite would create more
powerful vampires.

KRAVEN
Why create potential rivals?

INT. CURVING STAIRWELL

LYCAN WARRIORS charge down the stairs, come to a dead end. The HEAVY DOORS at the entrance of the dungeon have been bolted shut.

LYCAN
Come on! PUSH! PUSH!

The lycans push against the door with all of their might.

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER

DEATH DEALERS spring into action as the DOORS RATTLE. The vampires are carrying Scorpion crossbows.

INT. CURVING STAIRWELL

Lucian and Raze force their way through the crowd. Down a few dozen stairs, the lycans are still pushing on the doors.

Lucian immediately notes the archer ports along the walls flanking the heavy doors. The ports are set at harsh angles, to allow for maximum protection of the dungeon entrance.

LUCIAN
NO! Get back!

Before the lycans can react, A BURST OF METALLIC HISSING! SILVER BOLTS comes slicing through the narrow archer ports, catching the lycans in a terrible crossfire.

Lucian and Raze watch, helpless, as a dozen of their men are cut down and left in a GORY PILE blocking the doors.

RAZE
We should burn them out.

LUCIAN
No. There are humans in there as well. We should leave now, while we still can claim victory.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE

Lucian and Raze exit the dungeon. Lycans are streaming out of the castle with fancy clothes, jewelry, and other finery. Lucian shakes his head, disgusted.

LUCIAN
We've become nothing but a mob.

Suddenly, POOF! A FIREBALL rises from the construction site. Lycans have set the scaffolds ablaze with barrels of pitch. More barrels catch fire. Thick smoke pours into the sky.

EXT. BAILEY

Lucian and Raze, now on horseback, make their way towards the gate. Lycans are still acting like drunken fools. Lucian passes his old stomping ground: the forge. He dismounts.

INT. FORGE

Lucian enters the forge. It now lies in ruins, everything has been smashed. This is the only life he has every known and even though he is glad to be free, it is a jarring sight.

EXT. BAILEY

Lucian exits the forge. His lycan army is quickly amassing on the castle grounds. He takes his mount, turns to his men.

LUCIAN
Back to the mines!

EXT. OUTER WALLS

Lucian and his army surge from the gates.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE - SUNSET

Lucian leads his army into the valley.

EXT. VIKTOR'S CASTLE - NIGHTFALL

Fires continue to smolder. The castle has not been destroyed, but large sections have been scorched black.

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER

DEATH DEALERS unlatch the fortified doors, slowly edge them open, pushing--

INT. CURVING STAIRWELL

-- lycan corpses aside. Suddenly, one of the CORPSES gives an AGONIZED MOAN. As it turns out, he's not quite dead.

INT. MINE ENTRANCE

Lucian enters, finds Sonja waiting in the shadows.

LUCIAN

There were only a few dozen guards.
No peasants...

SONJA

He's increasing the size of his
army, creating more vampires.

LUCIAN

We have another problem.
(off her look)
Marcus and Amelia were not in their
tombs.

SONJA

He must have hidden them away.

LUCIAN

What if they've been awakened?
Facing one vampire elder is
difficult enough.

SONJA

I know my father. It would make him
look weak. He will deal with us
alone.

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER

The lycan who survived the assault on the dungeon entrance is
down on his knees. Viktor glares down upon him, disgusted.

VIKTOR

You are no more than a pack animal.
And beasts of your ilk stick
together. Where are the others?

The lycan stares up at Viktor with contempt.

VIKTOR (cont'd)

Very well.

He draws his DAGGER, drives it into the lycan's skull. He
spasms, then collapses on the ground. Blood pools.

VIKTOR (cont'd)

I was hoping to avoid this.

He dips his fingernail into the blood. Then, with obvious disgust, tastes it.

MONTAGE - GENETIC MEMORIES - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

The lycan's memories flood into Viktor's head: the Carpathian Mountains, lycans making their way towards the entrance of the mine, Lucian giving orders, Sonja mingling with lycans.

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER

Viktor's face contorts. Taken aback by the magnitude of the assault on his palate, he stares at the dead lycan in shock.

VIKTOR
Foul... vile creature.

Then, regaining his composure, he turns to face Tannis.

VIKTOR (cont'd)
They are in the mines of Carpathia.
And Sonja is with them. Gather the
troops.

TANNIS
But, My Lord... it's full moon.

Viktor glares at him.

VIKTOR
Then they'll not be expecting us.
Will they?

EXT. COURTYARD

Viktor and the Council stride through the courtyard, to survey the damage. The scaffolds are still smoldering.

VIKTOR
I will kill him myself.

INT. STAIRWELL - TURRET - MINE ENTRANCE

Lucian leads Raze to the top of the turret. Raze seems to be more winded with each successive step.

LUCIAN
Are you beginning to feel it?

Raze grits his teeth in pain, nods, pauses for a moment. He climbs the last few steps, comes to a large door. Lucian throws the door open and--

EXT. TURRET

-- steps into the moonlight. Raze walks through the doorway, doubles over in pain. He looks up at the FULL MOON.

LUCIAN
Her sway is very powerful.

Raze's eyes snap to black. He grimaces in agony. Lucian raises his face to the moon. His eyes snap to black, his muscles tense... but he quickly fends off the change.

Raze sees this, speaks through his gritted teeth:

RAZE
How?

Lucian smiles, holds up his hand. He is palming a small silver dagger. Blood flows. It's pressed into his skin.

LUCIAN
Silver prevents the change.

He smiles, pats him on the back.

LUCIAN (cont'd)
Do not fight it.

Raze lets go. Muscles and bone shift beneath his flesh as he tears through his clothes and takes the form of a WEREWOLF. He is a MONSTROUS beast. Lucian gazes up at him with pure satisfaction. Suddenly, down below--

EXT. FORTRESS

-- A LYCAN SLAVE comes charging from the shadows.

LYCAN SLAVE
They're coming!

EXT. TURRET

Lucian shifts his gaze. Across the valley--

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE

-- torches flicker in the distance as a DARK LINE OF DEATH DEALERS rides from the forest.

EXT. TURRET

Lucian turns, looks up at Raze-Wolf.

LUCIAN

Forgive me, but we do not have much time.

He flips his dagger around, jabs it into RAZE-WOLF's thigh. He ROARS in pain. Lucian watches as he begins to regress.

INT. TUNNEL JUNCTION - LATER

GROWLS and HISSES seep from the shadows as Lucian bars the steel doors of the storage chamber.

RAZE

Why do you lock them away? They can help us.

LUCIAN

Reserves, my friend... in case we live to fight another day.

EXT. MINE ENTRANCE - LATER

Lucian and Sonja, on horseback, gallop from the mine. Behind them, Raze leads HUNDREDS OF LYCAN FOOT SOLDIERS. They surge from the mine entrance at full speed.

EXT. VALLEY

VAMPIRIC HORSEMAN charge towards the lycans, with Viktor at their lead. Behind them are hundreds of DEATH DEALERS.

Lucian shouts out a BATTLE CRY and the lycans start streaming down to the plains. The lycans (all in human form when they start running) dash toward the oncoming vampires.

Just as the two armies come together, about a third of the sprinting lycans transform into raging beasts!

The two armies collide. Swords, maces, axes, and crossbows are unleashed with fury. METAL CLANGS AGAINST METAL. SCREAMS OF PAIN AND HORROR RING OUT AMID GROWLS AND SLASHING CLAWS.

The fighting is even for a moment, but the vampires are outnumbered by armed lycans and beasts.

Sonja suddenly spots her father.

A SERIES OF ANGLES

-- AS SONJA goes on a rampage, cutting a swatch of carnage through the field in order to get to her father.

-- Lucian hacks his way through the fighting in a desperate attempt to follow her.

-- Viktor is killing anyone who dares attack him.

-- Suddenly, Sonja and her father are face to face.

VIKTOR

How dare you raise a weapon at me!
I am still your father!

Sonja's not having any of it. She swings her sword. Viktor blocks the blow, but Sonja viciously flips her sword around and uses the hilt to bash him in his armored chest plate.

Viktor falls back, hits the mud, Sonja leaps from her horse, swings her blade down for the kill. Viktor blocks it, leaps to his feet, spins. Their swords clang together, locked.

VIKTOR (cont'd)

I am older and stronger.

Sonja leans close to his face.

SONJA

And I was born a vampire.

She explodes into motion, with an incredible series of sword swings and moves. It's as if every bad memory, all of her hatred, is flowing out of her at once.

VAMPIRES and LYCANS see this astonishing turn of events.

Sonja parries, sending Viktor's sword spiraling into the night. Viktor hits dirt, Sonja levels her sword upon his throat. He is stunned to find himself in this position.

SONJA (cont'd)
We've won, father. You will leave
this field in peace, defeated, or
you will die here and now.

Viktor can see it in his daughter's eyes, she will kill him
if necessary. He pans a look around the battle field. The
surviving vampires are stunned that he has fallen. If she
kills him, the battle is over.

Viktor stares at the victorious lycans with contempt.

SONJA (cont'd)
Please, for the sake of your
grandchild.

Viktor's jaw drops. He shoots a look at Lucian, who seems
just as shocked by this revelation.

SONJA (cont'd)
A miracle, father. A union of the
bloodlines. Vampire and lycan
together as one.

Sonja drives her sword into the mud, opens her battle armor,
exposing her midsection. It is slightly distended.

SONJA (cont'd)
Feel the future.

Slowly, as if hypnotized, Viktor reaches toward his
daughter's stomach.

As his palm touches her flesh, his head is instantaneously
flooded with the thunderous sound of TWO HEARTBEATS. The
power nearly knocks him unconscious. He falls back as if he
has been shocked.

Who knows what powers this child will bear? He gazes up at
his daughter, more disgusted than we have ever seen him.

VIKTOR
I rue the day your mother gave her
life to bring you into this world.
This... *thing* that grows within
your womb is an abomination.

His reaction flows through Sonja like poison.

SONJA
So be it.

She raises the sword, prepares to kill him. Suddenly, A LOW RUMBLE is heard from the horizon. Sonja turns to see--

EXT. OFF IN THE DISTANCE

-- the newly transformed VAMPIRE REINFORCEMENTS approaching on horseback. It is a massive number, led by Kraven.

RESUME SONJA AND VIKTOR

Viktor takes advantage of the distraction to tug a LARGE AND NASTY LOOKING DAGGER from his belt. Lucian reacts as--

-- Viktor swings the razor sharp blade towards his daughter's exposed mid-section.

-- Lucian dives in to stop the blow but the dagger slices through his hand and cuts DEEPLY into Sonja's belly!

A painful scream so loud it deafens the warriors nearby rises from Sonja's soul. Lucian snatches her in his arms.

-- Raze comes riding up, dismounts.

RAZE

GO!

Lucian leaps into the saddle, tugs Sonja onto his lap. He turns to face Viktor, but the vampire elder has stolen a horse and is fleeing towards the approaching army.

Lucian spurs the horse, gallops off towards the dark woods.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD

The VAMPIRE REINFORCEMENTS arrive, like a thundering tide of death and overwhelm the exhausted lycans. The fight quickly becomes a slaughter.

Raze, gripping two battle axes, fights like a warrior but can see that the battle is lost. He turns, flees into the forest with the surviving lycans, which number no more than forty.

EXT. FOREST

Lucian sets down Sonja. She is bleeding severely and quite heartbroken.

SONJA

I'm so sorry I didn't tell you.

LUCIAN

You must rest and heal. Do not
worry about such things.

Sonja touches her stomach, closes her eyes. The damn bursts.
Tears flow down her cheeks. She breaks into uncontrollable
sobs.

SONJA

Our child is dead.

Lucian gathers her into his arms, does his best to comfort
her. Suddenly, THUNDEROUS FOOTFALLS approach. He grabs his
sword, leaps to his feet. His face runs pale as--

-- FIFTY DEATH DEALERS come thundering from the shadowy
forest, encircling him. Viktor rides through his troops,
glares down upon Lucian.

Lucian whips up his sword, explodes into motion, hell bent on
slaying Viktor. ARCHERS open fire--

-- SILVER BOLTS rocket towards Lucian. He reacts with
preternatural skill, batting them aside with his sword.
Unfortunately, THREE sail past his blade.

His upper body is RIDDLED with silver bolts. He drops to his
knees. The archers rush forward to finish the job.

VIKTOR

No! I want him alive!

FOUR DEATH DEALERS seize Lucian. Soren steps up, angrily
fastens a moon shackle around his neck, then plucks the
silver bolts from his flesh. Lucian is delirious with pain.

Viktor rides closer to Sonja. She is still sobbing. Blood
continues to flow from her belly.

SONJA

How could you? ... How could you?

VIKTOR (cont'd)

You have forced this upon yourself.

He turns, rides away, his eyes heavy with emotion.

INT. CURVING STAIRWELL

Sonja and Lucian, both in shackles, are led down the curving
steps to the dungeon.

INT. CELL BLOCK

Lucian and Sonja are placed in adjacent cells.

INT. LUCIAN'S CELL

Lucian and Sonja hold hands through the barred port. Words are inadequate to describe their loss. They sit there, in silence, knowing their future is grim.

INT. LUCIAN'S CELL - LATER

Lucian is violently awakened by vampire guard kicking him.

GUARD

Get up you mangy beast!

Lucian is dragged out of his cell. He looks down, sees that Sonja is gone.

LUCIAN

No! Where have you taken her?!

INT. CRYPT

Viktor and his fellow Council members are seated. Lucian is dragged into the chamber. Sonja has been shackled to a stake.

Lucian is forced to his knees, then secured by shackles to a pair of iron rings protruding from floor. He gazes up. Sonja is only a dozen or so feet away. Orsova takes the floor.

ORSOVA

There is but one punishment for those who break the Covenant.

Tears flood Sonja's eyes as she stares at Lucian.

ORSOVA (cont'd)

Death by burning.

Sonja scans the faces of the Council. There is no love, no pity, just cold disgust. Lucian screams out to Viktor.

LUCIAN

She's your own daughter for God's sake. You can't allow it!

Viktor shoots a look at Soren.

VIKTOR
Silence him!

Sonja struggles against her bonds as, CRACK! Soren gives Lucian a taste of his silver whip!

SONJA
No! Leave him be!

But the whipping continues. Nearby, is an IRON CELL PACKED WITH CAPTURED LYCAN SLAVES. They go berserk, furious to see Lucian whipped yet again.

INT. TUNNEL JUNCTION - SILVER MINE

Raze and the other lycans react as TERRIBLE HOWLS AND GROWLS issue forth from the storage chamber.

Suddenly, CLANG! The doors BREAK OPEN! The lycans scramble out of the way as WEREWOLVES SURGE from the chamber and thunder down the tunnel.

EXT. MINE ENTRANCE

WEREWOLVES pour from the mine and thunder off into the night.

INT. CORRIDOR

Viktor and the Council members flow from the crypt. The heavy doors are bolted shut. Two Death Dealers step forward and begin to crank a wooden wheel.

INT. CRYPT

Lucian has collapsed, bloodied and exhausted. Panic floods his face as iron gears mounted on the wall begin to squeak and grind. Sonja gazes into his, terror-stricken.

SONJA
I love you.

Then, on the domed ceiling above, a wooden hatch CREAKS OPEN--
-- A DEADLY SHAFT OF DEADLY SUNLIGHT beams down upon Sonja.

LUCIAN
No, no... NO!!!!

Sonja SCREAMS in agony. The mighty chains snap taunt as Lucian lunges forward. The shackles cut into his flesh. He strains with all his might, working himself into a furious lather of blood and sweat -- but he is powerless to save her.

He's forced to watch as smoking lesions appear, popping and snapping across Sonja's delicate skin. A painfully slow and excruciating way to go.

LUCIAN (cont'd)
SONJA!!!

INT. VIKTOR'S QUARTERS

Viktor enters, closes the door behind him. SONJA'S SCREAMS echo through the castle. He presses his forehead against the door, tears begin to stream down his face. He breaks down.

INT. GRAND HALLWAY

Kraven trades a look with Soren. He simply cannot believe that Viktor went through with the punishment.

INT. SONJA'S QUARTERS

Sonja's servants are huddled together, crying.

INT. CRYPT

Sonja's screams are finally silenced as her lungs are seared to ash. Lucian crumbles forward, wracked by terrible sobs as her body smolders. WE DISSOLVE TO:

HOURS LATER - NIGHT

Lucian, still shackled, is emotionally spent and drained of tears. Hours have gone by. It's night. Storm clouds sweep past the ceiling shaft.

Sonja has been reduced to a disturbing statue of charred bone and seared flesh. Suddenly, the doors BANG OPEN and WIND comes HOWLING into the crypt.

Viktor, wearing an elegant sword, strides in with two Death Dealers in tow. Lucian watches in shock as ashes from Sonja's charred body swirl past him like gray snowflakes.

Viktor, long-faced and solemn, approaches Sonja's body. Ash and sinew CRUNCH beneath his boots.

He stops next to Sonja, gently removes the necklace from her charred neck. The leather strap breaks, leaving the pendant in the palm of his hand.

A flash of emotion, but he chokes it right back down. Drawing his sword, he turns, glares down upon Lucian. A tense beat.

VIKTOR

On second thought. Fetch my knives.

As a DEATH DEALER hurries off to do Viktor's bidding, pale moonlight spills down upon Lucian's face. He looks up. THE FULL MOON has escaped the angry storm clouds.

His eyes glaze into black orbs. What happens next is almost too fast for the human eye to register--

-- Lucian surges forward, SNAPPING the mighty chains as he MORPHS into a WEREWOLF. Viktor raises his sword, too late. Lucian-Wolf knocks him aside.

Sonja's pendant skitters across the floor as Viktor stumbles backwards and hits the bars of the holding cell. A BURST OF GROWLS! He whirls around--

-- the cell is now packed with FEROCIOUS WEREWOLVES, trying like hell to chew their way through the iron bars!

-- LUCIAN-WOLF snatches the pendant, then leaps to the ledge beneath the trio of stained glass windows. He crouches there, a heartbroken monster clutching the pendant as if it was the most valuable thing on earth.

DEATH DEALERS flood the crypt. The open fire with crossbows. Lucian-Wolf glares down at Viktor for one last time then dives through the center window as SILVER BOLTS impact all around him. AN EXPLOSION OF GLASS!

EXT. CASTLE

LUCIAN-WOLF drops eighty feet, amid shards of colored glass, slowing himself by grabbing hold of chains and ropes.

EXT. COURTYARD

DEATH DEALERS surge after Lucian-Wolf. He leaps atop a stone wall, goes charging across a series of rooftops on all fours.

EXT. NARROW ALLEY - PEASANT QUARTER

Lucian-Wolf drops from above, lands in the shadows. He shudders as his body begins to regress to human form.

EXT. BAILEY

Death Dealers scour the grounds, hovel by hovel.

INT. HOVEL

Lucian creeps through the shadows. He dons a tunic, finds several pieces of armor, puts them on. He opens a cabinet, finds a broad sword.

He pauses, looks down at Sonja's pendant. He fights back tears. Then, tying the broken leather strap, he tugs the necklace over his head.

He looks up, steely-eyed, ready for vengeance.

EXT. NARROW ALLEY

TWO DEATH DEALERS sweep through the shadows. A FLASH OF METAL. BLOOD SPRAYS. The vampires drop to reveal Lucian.

A RAPID SERIES OF CUTS - PEASANT QUARTER

LUCIAN stalks the shadows, ambushing DEATH DEALERS with reckless abandon. He is vicious, shows no mercy.

EXT. CURTAIN WALL

Lucian, now covered with blood, explodes from a stairwell, killing TWO VAMPIRES then dives off the wall.

EXT. FIELDS

SILVER TIPPED ARROWS rain down around Lucian charges off into the crops. Suddenly, HOWLS ring out. Lucian reacts as DOZENS OF WEREWOLVES come bursting from the crops and surround him.

But they are not there to attack. They flank him, creating a living barrier as he races through the fields.

INT. GRAND CORRIDOR

Kraven strides along with Soren.

KRAVEN

This is it. We ride tonight. We're going to need men we can trust.

SOREN

How many?

KRAVEN

At least two dozen.

He tosses him one of Sonja's satchels. Soren feels the weight of the packet, nods.

EXT. FOREST PATH

Lucian strides from the shadows, steely-eyed, resolute, flanked by SCORES OF BEASTS, a lycan pied piper.

INT. VIKTOR'S STUDY

Viktor stands at the window, peering out into the night. His face is written with a mixture of sorrow and nervousness.

He watches as--

EXT. OUTER WALLS

-- A HUNDRED DEATH DEALERS surge from the gate and thunder off into the night. They quickly split into four hunting parties. Kraven leads Soren and his group towards the forest.

RESUME STUDY

Tannis enters. Viktor addresses him without turning.

VIKTOR

He took Sonja's pendant.

This means nothing to Tannis. Viktor turns to face him.

VIKTOR (cont'd)

It's the key to William's cell.

The blood drains from Tannis' face.

TANNIS

If he were to find the man who made it, he could discover the location.

VIKTOR

Yes. But two keys are needed to open the sarcophagus.

He tugs open a drawer. Inside is the LARGER HALF OF THE KEY as seen in Underworld: Evolution. Tannis watches in silence as Viktor opens his jacket and unsheathes a dagger. He flips it around, drives it into his flesh.

Viktor slides the blade along the bottom of his sternum. This is excruciating, but he fights through it.

He grabs the key, slides it into the wound. Then, CRUNCH! He forces it beneath his rib cage. He slumps back into his chair, sucking air, and watches as it QUICKLY HEALS.

EXT. MINE ENTRANCE

Kraven and Soren ride up, with a DOZEN DEATH DEALERS in tow. Lucian, Raze, and TWO DOZEN LYCANS come striding from the shadows. Kraven leaps down from his horse.

INT. VIKTOR'S QUARTERS - THE NEXT DAY

Kraven briefs Viktor.

KRAVEN

The cave system is intricate. It goes on for miles.

VIKTOR

He escaped with that pendant and I want him found. I don't care if it takes the rest of your miserable life.

KRAVEN

Many survived, My Lord. The caves are filled with beasts. William's kind. It's much to risk. I want certain assurances.

Viktor is intrigued by this.

VIKTOR

Such as?

KRAVEN
Power, status, wealth. All the
things any man desires.

Viktor chokes back laughter.

VIKTOR
Is that all?

KRAVEN
I have served you faithfully for
nearly a Century. It is time, My
Lord, I am through living in the
shadows.

Viktor locks eyes with him. A tense beat, then:

VIKTOR
We will ride at sunset. And you, my
servant, will lead the charge into
the caves. If you succeed, you just
might get what you desire. But if
you fail me again... you die.

EXT. BAILEY - NIGHT

Viktor addresses his army.

VIKTOR
Tonight we end the scourge of
lycans once and for all!

The vampires CHEER and bang their swords against the shields.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE - CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS - NIGHT

Tannis, Soren, and a contingent of ELITE DEATH DEALERS are
defensively arrayed around Viktor. A striking display of dark
armor and ghoulish helmets lit by flickering torchlight.

VIKTOR is gazing off into the distance. Suddenly, a break in
the storm clouds. A wintry moon peaks out, gleams down upon
the icy peaks of the Carpathian mountains.

HUNDREDS OF DEATH DEALERS are slowly marching towards the
mine entrance. In the distance, the Danubius River, like an
evil serpent, slithers across the eerie landscape.

INT. TUNNEL JUNCTION

Lucian throws open the metal doors. HORRENDOUS GROWLS echo through the mine.

EXT. VALLEY

The ground begins to tremble. The vampires react as WEREWOLVES pour from the mine like black tide.

THE ARMIES COLLIDE. Vampires versus Werewolves, just as Selene read about in the history books of UNDERWORLD.

A SERIES OF ANGLES

Fast and brutal. Mud, blood, chaos and carnage. Fanged jaws snap at vampiric shields. Swords and battle axes hack limbs from howling beasts. Automatic crossbows unleash hell.

A WEREWOLF snatches a VAMPIRIC SOLDIER by the head. The beast drives its jaws shut. BONES CRUNCH. Suddenly, METAL FLICKERS. THWACK-THWACK-THWACK! SILVER THROWING STARS hit their mark, the razor-sharp blades chewing deeply into the beast's skull!

Nearby, A DEATH DEALER issues a bloodcurdling scream as A WEREWOLF tears into his abdomen and begins to eat him alive!

The beast looks up, jaws dripping with carnage, and lets loose a growl you certainly wouldn't want to hear twice.

VAMPIRIC ARCHERS rush through frame like Medieval commandos, WHOOSH-WHOOSH-WHOOSH! Flaming arrows hit with a vengeance. The beast twists in agony as purifying flame sears its flesh.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE

Tannis spots movement on the road leading to the mine.

TANNIS

My Lord, they've broken through!

Viktor steadies his mount, shifts his eye line. He peers across the valley as DARK HORSEMEN make a dramatic push towards the mine entrance.

EXT. DARK LANDSCAPE

HOOVES trample through frame, breaking loose clumps of earth. CAMERA TILTS UP as 24 Death Dealers thunder past us, their torches angrily hissing and snapping against the icy wind.

(Note: these are the Death Dealers that Selene read about in the history book in the first Underworld film.)

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE

Viktor turns to Tannis.

VIKTOR

At last we shall test the true mettle of this upstart.

TANNIS

If he survives.

A mischievous grin slides up Viktor's face.

VIKTOR

Indeed.

EXT. VALLEY - WITH THE HORSEMEN - MOVING

The nervousness of the horsemen is palpable, even from behind their devilish helmets. Before them, looming like an ominous portent, is the fortified entrance of the silver mine.

The vampires nervously ready their swords and shields. Their leader throws up his arms.

LEAD HORSEMAN

Stow your weapons!

His underlings trade a look. Is he mad? They turn, gaze back towards the entrance of the fortress.

EXT. MINE ENTRANCE

Lycan warriors rush to defend the entrance. Spears are lowered, creating a barrier of certain death.

RESUME HORSEMEN

Again their leader motions to them.

LEAD HORSEMAN
Do as I say! Stow them!

One by one the vampires do so, reluctantly. Their leader reaches into his chest plate and tugs out SONJA'S CAPE. He thrusts it into the air, lets it unfurl.

EXT. MINE ENTRANCE

Lucian spots the fabric, chokes back emotion. Raze stands watch nearby.

LUCIAN
It's him.

RAZE
Let them through!

WITH THE HORSEMEN - MOVING

The vampires watch with relief as the spears are finally lowered. The crowd parts, revealing the mine entrance.

INT./EXT. MINE ENTRANCE

The lycans watch pensively as their mortal enemies thunder into the mine. The close proximity is too much for a SCAR-FACED LYCAN to bear. Lunging out with hatred, he swings a BLACK SCYTHE--

-- THWACK! A DEMONIC HELMET CLUNKS against the stone as the vampires charge down the dark tunnel.

INT. TUNNEL JUNCTION

The vampires bring their horses to a stop. One vampire lost more than just his helmet. He slumps off his horse, headless.

Lycan warriors surround the horses as the vampires dismount.

In the background, moving in shadow, WEREWOLVES keep watch over the Death Dealers. Lucian steps from the shadows, with Raze is at his side. Tension immediately fills the air.

Sonja's pendant hangs from Lucian's neck. THE LEAD HORSEMAN removes his helmet. It's Kraven, of course.

KRAVEN

My ranks were twice this strength
before we reached the fortress. You
gave me your word I'd have safe
passage.

LUCIAN

Viktor is anything but a fool. A
bloodless advance was never part of
the deal.

Kraven's eyes burn like hot jewels at the tongue lashing.

KRAVEN

The trinket...
(holds out his hand)
... it's time you parted with it.

Lucian touches Sonja's pendant. He is taken aback by the
request. Why on earth would Viktor want it?

KRAVEN

It's either the pendant or your
head. Viktor wants both. I would
think it's an easy choice.

LUCIAN

Never.

Lunging forward, Kraven angrily draws a long dagger and lifts
the pendant from Lucian's chest with the tip of the blade!

His DEATH DEALERS brandish their crossbows. A SERIES OF
METALLIC CLICKS.

KRAVEN

Do not force me to ask again.

The werewolves GROWL. Warding them off with a look, Lucian
grabs the dagger with a lightning quick move and expertly
wrenches it from Kraven's grip.

He levels the blade at Kraven's throat.

LUCIAN

You shall have your proof... on my
terms. And I choose to give you the
least painful to part with.

Lowering the knife, he rolls up his chain mail sleeve to
reveal a nasty, V SHAPED SCAR, burned into his flesh.

A look of disgust washes over Kraven's face.

KRAVEN
The mark of slavery?

Lucian angrily corrects him:

LUCIAN
Viktor's mark.

He flips the dagger around.

LUCIAN (cont'd)
Proof undeniable.

Biting his lip, he begins to slice the brand from his arm!
Needless to say, this is beyond agonizing. He speaks through
the pain as he guides the sharp blade through his flesh:

LUCIAN (cont'd)
And I am all too pleased to give it
back.

The swatch of skin pulls loose. He sneers, tosses it to
Kraven. The vampire inspects the bloody trophy.

KRAVEN
Viktor will search these mines.

LUCIAN
This place has been rigged to burn.
When the supports go, so shall the
walls. Viktor will have a pleasant
time excavating without the benefit
of slaves. It will take him
decades.

KRAVEN
How will I find you?

LUCIAN
When the time is right, I'll find
you... And, Kraven, I would not
stray so much as an inch from that
mark.

Kraven glances down. There's nothing out of the ordinary. A
sincere look washes over Lucian.

LUCIAN (cont'd)
God's speed.

He turns, strides into the shadows.

HIGH ANGLE - LOOKING DOWN ON THE VAMPIRES

A WALL OF FEROCIOUS ROARS! The vampires react as WEREWOLVES, too many to count, come flooding into the chamber like an unstoppable black storm.

ON KRAVEN

He stands there, cringing, as the attacking beasts swirl past him. A beat, then it's over. Kraven turns, heart pounding like a freight train.

To his utter disbelief, he is all alone! The beasts have cleared the room, leaving no witnesses. Well, save one: Kraven himself.

Suddenly, light flickers across the walls. He feels heat on his face. He peers down the passageway, flaming pitch is oozing his way, barrels of it, each igniting the next.

He turns, the only way out is through the way he came.

INT. CAVE

Raze and Lucian pause as fire engulfs the tunnel. Raze tugs a discarded sword from the fire. It is glowing hot. He presses it against his brand, thus erasing it with a fresh scar.

RAZE

Never again will I bear the mark of
a master.

Lucian smiles, places his hand on his back.

LUCIAN

Come, my friend, it is time we put
our feet to good use.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - LATER

The war has all but ground to a halt. The vampires have defeated William's brood once and for all.

Viktor, flanked by Tannis, Soren, and a host of Death Dealers watch as thick smoke pours from the cave.

TANNIS

No one could survive that.

Viktor surveys the battlefield, sniffs the breeze.

VIKTOR

As long as one lycan draws breath,
William's location must be
safeguarded. This war is far from
over.

Suddenly, Kraven, his face blackened by the smoke and ash,
staggers from the entrance of the burning mine.

EXT. MINE ENTRANCE

Viktor and his entourage come thundering up on their horses.
Kraven is coughing and gagging, barely able to speak.

VIKTOR

Where's the pendant?

KRAVEN

He did not have it, My Lord.

Suddenly, the GROUND BEGINS TO SHAKE. Viktor and the others
turn as THE MINE COLLAPSES with a THUNDEROUS AVALANCHE of
rock and smoke, demolishing the fortress walls.

Viktor gazes down upon Kraven with disgust.

VIKTOR

You have failed me for the last
time.

He leaps down from his horse, sword at the ready. Kraven
rolls over, coughing.

KRAVEN

The fire... it was my doing. The
walls gave way. Lucian was
pinned... helpless. I killed him,
then cut this from his flesh.

He holds up Lucian's brand. Viktor swipes the bloody trophy
from Kraven's grip, inspects it, gives it a sniff.

He tosses it Tannis, who tugs out a small book: a catalog of
the various brands of ownership and names of slaves. They
each have a unique serial number.

TANNIS

The numbers match, it is Lucian's
brand for certain, My Lord.

Viktor stares back down at Kraven, duly impressed. Kraven's
stock has just increased a thousand fold.

Viktor motions for a DEATH DEALER to approach. The vampire does as commanded. Viktor pushes him off of his horse.

VIKTOR
Take your mount... Lord Kraven. We
have one last bit of unfinished
business.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE

Lucian and Raze scramble from a small cave. A FEW DOZEN LYCANS, the only survivors of the army, follow suit.

Lucian and Raze peer down into the valley as the vampires ride off towards the Danubius river.

RAZE
What now?

LUCIAN
We build another army. And another.
And another. As long as it takes.

CUT TO:

INT. DARK BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

SELENE'S FATHER awakens to the sound of approaching horses. He grabs his sword.

EXT. SELENE'S HOUSE

Selene's father creeps outside.

INT. BARN

Selene's father enters the barn, sword at the ready. Suddenly Viktor appears. Selene's father seems nervous.

SELENE'S FATHER
How can I assist you, Sire?

VIKTOR
The keys... can they be duplicated?

The blood drains from the man's face.

SELENE'S FATHER

(carefully)

I have destroyed the molds... as
you commanded, My Lord. It cannot
be done.

VIKTOR

Then you are worthless to me.

With a lightning quick move, he snatches hold of Selene's
father, drives his fangs into his neck, drains him dry.

INT. SELENE'S HOUSE - A SERIES OF SHOTS

Viktor attacks Selene's MOTHER and SISTER.

INT. SELENE'S ROOM

Selene awakens to their SCREAMS. She is terrified. She climbs
from bed but cannot summon the courage to help them. Outside,
TERRIBLE SOUNDS issue from the stable.

EXT. STABLE

The animals panic as Soren, Kraven, and SEVERAL DEATH dealers
quench their thirst on the livestock.

INT. BEDROOM

Viktor creeps in, finds Selene's TWIN NIECES, glorious little
angels, age 5. They are terrified, having been awakened by
the screams. He snatches them from bed, drains them dry.

INT. SELENE'S ROOM

Selene reacts a shadows play under her door. She opens her
window, climbs out onto the slanted roof, terrified.

INT. SELENE'S ROOM

The door creaks open. Viktor peers inside.

EXT. ROOF

Selene slides down the roof, grabs the edge, nervously drops
to the ground.

EXT. SELENE'S HOUSE

Soren and Kraven set fire to the house as Viktor comes striding out. Suddenly, his sixth sense kicks in.

INT. STABLE

Viktor enters to find SELENE hunched over her dead father, sobbing. She turns, gazes up at Viktor with tear streaked eyes.

INT. CRYPT - FLASHBACK

Tears spill down Sonja's cheeks. She gazes into her father's eyes, heartbroken.

INT. STABLE

Selene somehow captures the essence of Sonja's spirit. Viktor is helpless against this. He wipes the blood from his chin then steps out into the light.

VIKTOR

There, there, my child. You are safe now... No more tears.

He gathers her into his arms. But this is hardly the Selene we know. This is a downy innocent, pale, traumatized, lips trembling with shock... all too human.

VIKTOR (cont'd)

The lycan beasts may have killed your family, but the gift which I will bestow upon you will provide eternity to harvest revenge.

He gazes into her eyes for a moment then sinks his fangs into her neck. Selene gasps, tries to escape, but is powerless against his iron grip.

Kraven and Soren watch from the shadows as--

-- Selene is drained to within an inch of her life. Her eyes drift shut. The SCREEN FADES TO BLACK. Dialog from the first Underworld film plays over the next two scenes:

KRAVEN (V.O.)

Let me tell you something about your beloved Dark Father. Viktor.

SOUND UP-CUT - RUSHING WIND, TORRENTIAL RAIN as WE FADE IN:

INT./EXT. BELL TOWER - GOTHIC CITY-SCAPE - NIGHT

ON SELENE, 600 years later, hunched in a gravity-defying pose, not unlike the gargoyle, her leather trench coat snapping and fluttering in the wind.

KRAVEN (V.O.)

It was he who crept room to room,
 dispatching everyone close to your
 heart... but when he got to you he
 just couldn't bear the thought of
 draining you dry. You, who reminded
 him so much of his precious Sonja.
 The daughter he condemned to death.

CLOSE ON SELENE. Frigid rain slashes the night, yet her face remains a mask of unearthly concentration.

SELENE (V.O.)

... Lies...

SMASH TO BLACK:

THE END