

THE BLOOD QUEEN

written by

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EXT. LYSANDRIA'S HOME - DAY - DAY

LYSANDRIA ROTHSCHILD (30s) walks down a dirt road wearing a peasant's chemise dress.

She stops before her home and drops to the ground. Lysandria watches her home burn to the ground. Tears flow from her eyes.

An ARMORED SOLDIER approaches her and offers his hand to help her up.

EXT. FORREST - DAY

Lysandria, and VIKTOR COVAL (30s), armored in plate and chainmail like a knight, RIDES quickly through the forest on horses.

EXT. DARK CAVE - DAY

Lysandria and Viktor corral their horses around a tree where the forest's edge meets the mountain range. Cautiously, they approach the mouth of the cave.

LYSANDRIA

Hello...

VIKTOR

(whispering)

Are you certain about this?

LYSANDRIA

What choice do we have? The King's men ravage our homes and enslave our daughters.

Viktor grabs Lysandria's arm.

She stops and turns to him.

VIKTOR

We can keep her safe.

LYSANDRIA

Stay with me, my love, or stand guard. There's nothing I won't do to protect Aurora.

Viktor lets go and follows Lysandria further into the cave.

INT. DARK CAVE - DAY

Lysandria and Viktor approach three sister witches: GRETCHEN, ALYSIA, MORGANA (20s), and their brother JULIUS AUGUSTUS (30s). They are beautiful and horrifying, standing around a hand-drawn pentagram carved into the dirt.

GRETCHEN
Lysandria Rothschild.

Lysandria is startled.

LYSANDRIA
How do you know who I am?

GRETCHEN
We have eyes, dear.

ALYSIA
They see far and wide.

The witches laugh.

Lysandria stands before the pentagram.

LYSANDRIA
Then you know why I am here.

GRETCHEN
You seek an audience with the
Ancient One of the old religion.

Julius retrieves a jar of a red crimson substance that resembles blood and a pouch of black powder.

ALYSIA
Be careful, dear; the Ancient One's
deals come at a great cost.

Julius prepares for the ritual by pouring the crimson substance and black powder onto the pentagram, tracing the pentagram in the substances, and then stepping away.

LYSANDRIA
For Aurora, I will gladly pay.

WITCHES
(together)
Antiquus veni, ex tenebris
antiquis.

SUBTITLE: "Ancient one, come forth from the ancient darkness."

The witches' eyes turn black as they hold each other's hands.

WITCHES (CONT'D)
 (together)
 Anima vetusta, ex inferis venias.

SUBTITLE: "Ancient soul, come forth from the depths of hell."

The star in the pentagram catches fire.

WITCHES (CONT'D)
 (together)
 Deus antiquus, ex reliquiis
 antiquis.

SUBTITLE: "Ancient god, from the remnants of old."

The flames grow and light up the cave.

WITCHES (CONT'D)
 (together)
 Oblationem tibi offerimus.

SUBTITLE: "We offer you a sacrifice."

Black smoke rises from the pentagram. The witches smile as Lysandria's eyes widen.

Viktor readies his sword.

WITCHES (CONT'D)
 (together)
 Pactum nobis concede, nunc vocamus
 te.

SUBTITLE: "Grant us the pact. We now summon you."

There is a loud, eerie LAUGH.

In the center of the pentagram is a DARK ENTITY with glowing red eyes.

The witches open their eyes and smile.

ENTITY
 What do you desire?

LYSANDRIA
 Anima mea cape, da mihi potestatem
 inimicos delere, Amatos meos
 protegere, et potentiam
 inenarrabilem, Ut regna meae
 voluntati flectam!

SUBTITLE: "Take my soul, grant me unimaginable power to destroy my enemies, protect those I love, and bend the kingdoms to my will!"

ENTITY

Free from my prison and death's grasp. Reborn in the blood eternal. A vessel you become to wield my power, and our will be done.

The ground RUMBLES as a black tree rises from the ground.

Lysandria drops to the ground.

Viktor runs to Lysandria's side and bends down.

Gretchen approaches Viktor with a grin, her eyes black as night.

GRETCHEN

Her life and the night are intertwined. Cursed never to feel the warmth of the sun again. A prophecy of her doom will come to pass.

Viktor glares at Gretchen.

VIKTOR

What prophecy? Tell me witch!

Gretchen laughs and disappears.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - AURORA'S BEDROOM - BALCONY - NIGHT

The sky is dark, and the moon is bright. PRINCESS AURORA ROTHSCHILD (20s) wears a black and red ceremonial dress. She gazes out into the war-torn world below her.

SELENE LETCHNER (20s) enters and stands next to Aurora.

SELENE

Are you ready for this?

Aurora has a solemn look on her face.

AURORA

Mother has prepared me.

Selene playfully bows to Aurora.

SELENE

Your Majesty, what will be your
first royal decree?

Aurora gestures to the world below her.

AURORA

End the suffering.

SELENE

You truly are the Queen of hearts.

Selene holds onto Auroras hands.

SELENE (CONT'D)

Tonight, we'll celebrate your
birthday.

Aurora's face lights up as she mimics the Queen.

AURORA

After my royal duties, of course.

Their LAUGHTER echoes in the night.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Candles dimly light the hall. OBSERVER VAMPIRES wear dark robes. Queen Lysandria sits on the throne drinking a GOBLET of blood.

Aurora enters.

OBSERVERS

(chanting)

Ego sum nox, et tenebrae sum.
Progenies inferni sumus. Aeternum
habeat dominium!

SUBTITLE: I am the night, and I am the darkness. We are descendants of hell. Let us have eternal dominion!

Lysandria rises from her throne and sets the goblet down. She reaches for a crown, approaches Aurora, and places the crown on her head.

LYSANDRIA

You were born of the day; today,
you will be reborn of the night.

Aurora bends down to her knees, tilts her neck, and removes some hair.

Lysandria leans over, protrudes her fangs, and bites into Aurora's neck, and the blood seeps from the bite wound.

Aurora's body collapses to the ground.

An observer lifts Aurora from the ground and carries her into another room.

EXT. HASANI CASTLE - DAY

The sun peeks over the horizon. Four VAMPIRES are chained with silver to posts. SOLDIERS stand guard, and PRINCE DAMIAN HASANI (20s) circles them on horseback.

DAMIAN

You stand condemned as traitors to the crown.

VAMPIRE 1

We owe no loyalty to a human king.

DAMIAN

Loyal or not, the sun will judge you by royal decree.

VAMPIRE 2

Hell awaits you, Prince.

VAMPIRE 3

The Queen will rejoice at your demise.

The vampires' eyes turn black, their fangs protrude, and they yell in unison.

VAMPIRES

(together)

Long live the Queen!

The sun rises. The vampires SCREAM in agony as their bodies burn and turn to ash.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Aurora is cloaked in black to conceal her identity. She gazes from some bushes at a small human town. Her eyes sparkle with curiosity, and she approaches the human village.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Aurora enters the tavern, full of DRUNK PEOPLE. They LAUGH and TALK amongst themselves. A small SCUFFLE breaks out on the left side of the room.

Aurora watches five MEN fighting, including a CLOAKED MAN.

The cloaked man grabs a chair and hits one of the other men with it, breaking it over his head.

Another man grabs ahold of the cloaked man from behind.

The cloaked man headbutts him and then grabs a chair and breaks it over his back, knocking him out.

Another man pulls out a knife and approaches the cloaked man.

Aurora approaches behind, lifts the knifed man from the ground, and throws him against the wall.

The cloaked man pulls back his hood to reveal Damian.

DAMIAN

Impressive. How about we drink to this fine evening? Been a while since I've had such worthy company.

The men agree, pick up their friends, sit at the table, and order more beer. Damian gives Aurora an appreciative look.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Strong, beautiful, and fearless... Are you even human? Can I buy you a drink?

Aurora smiles.

AURORA

What kind of lady would I be to refuse a gentleman?

They head to the bar and sit down.

EXT. TAVERN - BAR - NIGHT

TWO DRUNKS stumble and exit the bar as the night draws on.

DAMIAN

Haven't seen you around before.

AURORA

Just passing through.

DAMIAN

Got a name?

Aurora glances away.

AURORA

Names are overrated.

DAMIAN

Mysterious. You must be
important... or running from
something.

Aurora turns back to Damian, a playful smile on her lips.

AURORA

A girl needs her secrets. Keeps
things interesting.

They CLINK their mugs together in a toast.

DAMIAN

To mysteries, then.

EXT. HUMAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

The sky is clear, the moon is full. Aurora and Damian walk
along the quiet streets and take a seat on two rocks
overlooking a lake.

AURORA

It's beautiful. Do you bring all
the ladies here?

DAMIAN

Only the ones who can fight.

They LAUGH.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

This is one of my favorite places.
Sometimes, you just have to get
away.

Aurora gazes at the lake and picks up a small stone. She
tosses it, which SPLASHES in the lake, sending ripples
through the moon's reflection.

AURORA

This place looks untouched by the
wars.

DAMIAN

It's small enough. Neither side cares... Sometimes, it feels good to be forgotten.

AURORA

Invisible to the world... Have the wars affected you much?

Damian's eyes reflect anger and sadness.

DAMIAN

My mother... She fell to the demon queen's promises of peace. Our world would be simpler without those monsters.

Aurora tries to hide the look of recognition on her face.

AURORA

So you don't think there can be peace? I'd like to believe there can be more than just suffering.

Damian gazes out into the lake, his expression solemn.

DAMIAN

We have nothing in common. We are humans, and they are monsters.

AURORA

Humans can be monsters too... Are we really that different?

Damian becomes angry.

DAMIAN

We are nothing alike. I'll have my revenge.

Damian gets up and storms off. Aurora watches him leave.

AURORA

You are more alike than you know.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - WAR ROOM - NIGHT

A map of the lands is spread out on a large circular table surrounded by Lysandria and three advisors: Viktor, SERGEI CONSTANTINE (40s), and BELARUS ROTHSCHILD (40s).

Lysandria paces, and stops before the table.

LYSANDRIA

We must strike the humans down. The King hides behind his grand walls as if they will protect him forever... My hatred is immortal.

SERGEI

Your Majesty, the walls lie under the land of the sun.

LYSANDRIA

Then we will fight at night. They see us as monsters... I'll show them nightmares and destroy them as they sleep.

BELARUS

Your Majesty, I have a plan.

Lysandria focuses on Belarus.

LYSANDRIA

What plan?

BELARUS

Your daughter.

LYSANDRIA

My daughter? What does she have to do with this?

BELARUS

I visited a human town. Aurora was there... with a human.

LYSANDRIA

Aurora doesn't remember the dark times.

Lysandria turns away, looking out the window.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)

They come under the banner of peace, trying to stake your heart. She will learn their hearts are darker than mine... leave me.

The advisors leave, but before Belarus reaches the door.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)

Belarus...

BELARUS

Yes, your Majesty?

Lysandria turns around with a devilish smile.

LYSANDRIA

Follow her. Her weaknesses might be
our greatest weapon against them.

EXT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - GARDEN - NIGHT

Selene and Aurora walk along the garden. The night flowers
bloom: a surreal beauty. They stop and sit by a water
fountain.

Selene expresses concern.

SELENE

Where do you run off to?

Aurora looks out into the garden.

AURORA

I love this garden.

SELENE

I'm serious...

Aurora turns to Selene.

AURORA

It's nothing... just a small town.

SELENE

A human town?

AURORA

It's not a vampire one.

Selene's expression turns to worry.

SELENE

Aurora, you could be killed.

AURORA

This is my mother's war, not mine.

SELENE

Promise me you won't go back.

AURORA

But I met a boy.

SELENE

Aurora, this isn't a game.

AURORA

When is it ever the right time?
(beat)
After all the good ones are either
staked or have their throats ripped
out.

SELENE

Your mother would stake us both if
you fell for a human. And for him,
a fate worse than death.

AURORA

War and hate consume her. Is there
no other way? Must it always be
hunt or hunted?

Selene takes Aurora's hand.

SELENE

Just be careful, please.
(smiles)
Now, tell me about this boy...

INT. TAVERN - BAR - NIGHT

Aurora sits next to the bar, and the barkeep places a mug of
beer in front of her. Damian enters the tavern and sits next
to Aurora.

Damian is nervous.

AURORA

Fancy running into you here.

Damian takes a moment before responding.

DAMIAN

About the other day... I'm really
sorry. I shouldn't have stormed off
like that.

AURORA

No harm done. War brings out the
worst in all of us.
(pause)
I'm Aurora, by the way.

Damian's tension eases, and he smiles.

DAMIAN

Damian.

They share a moment of genuine connection.

Suddenly, a loud COMMOTION erupts at the door. A man bursts into the tavern, breathless.

MAN

The demon queen's men are coming!

Fear flickers across Damian's face. He grabs Aurora's hand urgently.

DAMIAN

We need to leave. Now.

EXT. HUMAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

The sky is dark with clouds. Damian and Aurora exit the back of the tavern and scan the street: ten MEN approach, Belarus and Sergei among them.

BELARUS

Princess, we were just talking about you.

Damian turns to Aurora in shock.

DAMIAN

Princess?

AURORA

No time to explain... Go!

The men advance on Aurora and Damian.

Aurora faces off with Belarus. He quickly grabs her and holds her tight. She struggles to break free.

BELARUS

Playing with your food isn't wise.

AURORA

Release me! I am the crown princess.

Belarus LAUGHS.

BELARUS

You think you're fit to be queen?

The other men terrorize the INHABITANTS.

A COUPLE tries to flee but Sergei blocks their escape, then feeds off them. Their bodies drop to the ground.

BELARUS (CONT'D)

Grab the human!

The men swiftly move to Damian. Damian unsheaths a GOLDEN-ENCRUSTED SWORD.

SERGEI

That is an excellent sword for a poor man... Nevertheless, those who live by the sword will surely die by the sword.

Aurora yells out to Damian with fear in her eyes.

AURORA

Damian, save yourself.

Sergei smiles.

SERGEI

Damian... Prince Damian? It's never too late in the day for killing princes.

Sergei pulls out a sword of his own, and Damian SWORDFIGHTS with Sergei.

Damian rushes Sergei and pounds his sword. The CLASH of swords echoes in the night.

The fight is brutal as the two swords CLASH, almost like a duel to the death.

Sergei eventually overcomes Damian and thrusts his sword into Damian's stomach. He falls to the ground.

Sergei LAUGHS as he towers over Damian, clutching his stomach as the blood flows from his wound.

Aurora becomes angry. Her eyes turn black, and her fangs protrude. With primal rage, Aurora SLAMS Belarus into the wall.

Belarus lets go of her.

AURORA

Ego sum principesa noctis.

SUBTITLE: "I am the princess of the night."

Aurora moves like a blur and slices Sergei's head from his body. Sergei's corpse drops to the ground, and blood flows from his body.

Damian looks up in horror and fear.

Aurora, overcome by bloodlust, attacks the remaining vampires.

One of the men tries to flee, but she stabs him in the heart. As his body falls to the ground, she decapitates him.

The other vampires try to flee. Aurora turns and quickly disposes of each of them, biting into their necks. Their bodies drop to the ground.

She turns around, blood dripping from her lips. She approaches Belarus.

AURORA (CONT'D)

We've come a long way since the nursery tales, Uncle. I've shown mercy today; now, you must do the same.

BELARUS

And you live by your mother's mercy. Killing your own to save an enemy. How far we've fallen.

Belarus leaves.

Aurora finds Damian, but he passes out at the sight of her, fangs still out, covered in blood.

She picks him up and rushes to a nearby cave.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

The cave is dark, and water DRIPS. Outside the cave, the rain FALLS with intensity. Aurora, soaked, lies Damian on the ground.

DAMIAN

You're?

AURORA

Shhh.. you need to drink.

Damian turns his head in disgust.

Aurora's fangs protrude, and she bites into her wrist. She turns to Damian and offers her wrist to him.

AURORA (CONT'D)

Drink.

Damian is reluctant to drink.

Aurora expresses concern, and she pleads with him.

AURORA (CONT'D)
There has been enough death for
today.

Damian is hesitant but puts her wrist to his mouth.

Aurora pulls away her wrist, and her wounds close.

Damian passes out, and Aurora sits and watches over him.

INT. CAVE - POOL - DAY

Inside the cave is a translucent pool of water. Aurora sits next to the pool with her feet inside. Damian approaches and sits next to her.

The air is tense.

DAMIAN
So, the crown princess.

Aurora turns to Damian.

AURORA
And you're a prince!

Damian nods and turns to Aurora.

DAMIAN
Why did you save me? We're supposed
to be mortal enemies.

Aurora looks at the pool, kicking her feet in the water.

AURORA
When you look at me, do you see a
monster?

They gaze into each other's eyes.

DAMIAN
I see a princess. What do you see?

AURORA
I don't see an enemy.

DAMIAN
It's early.

They LAUGH. Damian turns to Aurora.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
Maybe we could even be friends.

AURORA
Careful, prince. With hopes like
that, they might call you a madman.

INT. CAVE - DAY

The sun shines, and the cave has a fire. Damian and Aurora sit in the shadows of the cave, eating fish.

DAMIAN
Killing your own... That'll
complicate things.

AURORA
You don't know my mother. She'd
stake the vampire who told her...
for being weak.

Damian stops eating and gazes at Aurora.

DAMIAN
What's she like?

AURORA
Still want to stake her?

DAMIAN
About that...

AURORA
She's powerful, irrational, and
prone to making catastrophic
decisions. But sometimes, I see
her... the real her.

Aurora turns to Damien.

AURORA (CONT'D)
What about your father?

DAMIAN
Maybe we're more alike than I
thought.

AURORA

She wasn't always like this. There was a time when she was almost a mother. We'd walk the gardens at night.

Aurora looks down.

AURORA (CONT'D)

Somewhere along the way, my mother died, and this is what remains.

Damian looks down at the ground.

DAMIAN

My father did the same. After my mother, everything changed. He started his quest to destroy the demon queen...

(clears throat)

Your mother.

They look at each other.

AURORA

She wants to groom me for this life. A life controlled by fear and hate, longing for an escape from this prison.

Damian stares ahead.

DAMIAN

Things were simpler when I thought you were just monsters.

AURORA

Sorry to disappoint. Seems I'm terrible at living up to expectations.

Aurora turns to Damian.

AURORA (CONT'D)

Would you join me in uniting the kingdoms?

DAMIAN

I wonder if too many have died already.

AURORA

Neither side needs an excuse to kill. The cycle of violence will continue if we don't try.

DAMIAN

And our parents?

AURORA

Dream big, right? I'd consider it a win if they just put away their swords.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - NIGHT

The library contains tomes, books, and magical symbols carved into the walls and columns. Aurora and Viktor sit at a table across from each other.

Viktor puts down the tome he is reading, and he studies her.

VIKTOR

The word is, you've been visiting the human village.

Aurora meets Viktor's gaze with intrigue.

AURORA

Denying it would be pointless. You clearly know... Does my mother?

VIKTOR

She's got eyes and ears everywhere.

AURORA

Can I ask you something?

VIKTOR

Of course.

AURORA

Tell me how this all began. I need to understand and accept my fate.

Viktor leans back, contemplating.

VIKTOR

It all began...

INT. HASANI CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

KING ATTICUS HASANI (40s) sits on his throne; Viktor, wearing royal armor, approaches and bows.

VIKTOR (V.O.)
 In those days, I served the King as his general, unwavering in my loyalty.

EXT. HUMAN VILLAGE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Viktor rides atop a horse as SOLDIERS capture the INHABITANTS.

VIKTOR (V.O.)
 But when the revolt came, the cost of that loyalty grew unbearable.

The soldiers tie the inhabitants in ropes and drag them behind the horses.

VIKTOR (V.O) (CONT'D)
 I didn't realize that day would mark a turning point... or how deep the shift would go.

Soldiers set fire to the houses.

VIKTOR (V.O) (CONT'D)
 Everything I believed in started to shift and following his lead wasn't an option anymore.

EXT. LYSANDRIA'S HOME - DAY - FLASHBACK

Lysandria hangs clothes over a line. The sun is out. She smiles, and soldiers APPROACH quickly on horses.

VIKTOR (V.O.)
 Back then... things had a different glow. Your mother... she had a way of making even the sun seem dim.

Lysandria turns to the direction of the horses.

VIKTOR (V.O.)
 But even the brightest day has to give way to the night.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S HOME - DAY - FLASHBACK

A MAN gets off his horse and tries to force himself on Lysandria. She fights him off and rushes inside her home to try and bolt the door, but the man is quick on her trail.

The man pushes through the door and grabs Lysandria. She claws at his face, she hits him, and the man pulls out his sword and runs it through her.

Lysandria lays on the floor, blood pours from her wound.

VIKTOR (V.O)

Some believe that moment changed her forever. But her heart carried more than any single scar could erase.

Viktor rushes in and stabs the man, and the man's body drops to the floor. Viktor bends down to pick up Lysandria and carries her to her bedroom.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Lysandria is lying in the bed and bandaged up. Viktor is next to her and nursing her to health.

VIKTOR (V.O)

My love for your mother ran deep. I brought her back from the brink, but sometimes, I question if I was truly selfless.

Viktor places his hand caressing the side of Lysandria's face.

Lysandria smiles at Viktor.

VIKTOR (V.O) (CONT'D)

Without her, I'd have wandered aimlessly, missing the only light that ever guided me.

INT. DARK CAVE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Lysandria and Viktor stand before the three witches and Julius.

The dark entity enters Lysandria, and she falls to her knees. Her eyes turn black, and fangs appear in her mouth. She SCREAMS.

VIKTOR (V.O)

She changed not long after you arrived—fear and weakness left her. She was given a power that no ordinary man could challenge.

INT. HASANI CASTLE - BANQUET ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The table is surrounded by GUESTS including Atticus, QUEEN ELIZABETH HASANI (30s) and Victor. A GIRL (20s) pours wine for the King.

VIKTOR (V.O)

Your mother sought peace between us. She risked everything for my life, even defying the King's wrath.

The guests CHEER as Atticus stands to toast Lysandria.

VIKTOR (V.O.)

Under her, both humans and vampires found a ruler who led with her heart, and the people adored her.

INT. HASANI CASTLE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Queen Elizabeth sneaks into the guest room where Lysandria sleeps with a wooden stake behind her back.

Elizabeth approaches the sleeping Lysandria and stops just before the bed. She raises the stake.

Lysandria's eyes dart open. She grabs Elizabeth's hands and quickly pushes the wood stake into Elizabeth's stomach.

Lysandria's eyes turn black, her fangs protrude, and she bites into Elizabeth's neck.

Blood pours from her wound, and her face expresses fear and pain as her body drops to the floor.

VIKTOR (V.O)

The dream of peace was lost that day. So many have suffered because of a Queen's choices.

Lysandria SCREAMS, blood dripping down her face.

VIKTOR (V.O) (CONT'D)
 What was once love in your mother's
 heart... became something else
 entirely.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - NIGHT - BACK TO SCENE

AURORA
 Surely, peace can still exist.

VIKTOR
 The seed of peace was planted years
 ago but hasn't been watered
 since... I see her, the real her in
 your eyes.

Viktor and Aurora rise and walk to the door.

VIKTOR (CONT'D)
 I will help as much as I can.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Lysandria sits on her throne, drinking a goblet of blood.
 Aurora enters the throne room, aligned with a few GUARDS, and
 approaches her mother.

AURORA
 Good evening, Mother.

Lysandria sets down her goblet, a sly grin spreading across
 her face.

LYSANDRIA
 Tired of mingling with mortals
 already?

AURORA
 Can we speak alone, mother to
 daughter? Perhaps a walk in the
 garden, like old times?

Lysandria rises from her throne. They exit together.

EXT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - GARDEN - NIGHT

Lysandria and Aurora walk the garden, and Aurora admires the
 beauty of the night-blooming flowers.

AURORA
 The garden is enchanting tonight.

Lysandria turns to Aurora.

LYSANDRIA

Spit it out, child. You didn't drag me from my throne to compliment the garden.

Aurora looks down.

AURORA

I know you disapprove.

LYSANDRIA

The sooner you accept your place, the better.

Aurora turns to her mother.

AURORA

I've met them, and some are even my friends.

They stop and sit at the water fountain. Aurora reaches for Lysandria's hands. They look into each other's eyes.

AURORA (CONT'D)

I understand your anger. You were wronged. For what it's worth, I'm glad they failed.

(looking around)

I miss times like this...

(looks at Lysandria)

I miss my mother.

Lysandria looks away, eyes brimming with tears. She composes herself.

LYSANDRIA

It's been too long.

AURORA

Maybe it's not too late to change.

Lysandria turns to Aurora.

LYSANDRIA

I'd like that...

(beat)

When you're immortal, time blurs. One day, you blink and realize how much you've missed.

AURORA

And the humans, is it too late for them?

Lysandria rises, then Aurora. They face each other.

LYSANDRIA

The lion doesn't apologize to the gazelle. It's the natural order.

(beat)

Humans exploit weakness. We are superior; they should fear us.

Aurora is frustrated.

AURORA

When does it end? After you kill King Atticus for his Queen's sins?

Lysandria becomes angry.

LYSANDRIA

You speak of what you don't know. I'll burn the world for that traitorous wench's sins.

Lysandria turns away from Aurora and walks into the castle but stops.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)

You won't understand. But every decision was to protect you... And protect you, I will, until my true death.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Lysandria enters the throne room to find Belarus, who bows to her.

BELARUS

Your Majesty.

LYSANDRIA

What do you know of this human town my daughter frequents?

BELARUS

I know where it is.

Lysandria sits on the throne; her eyes turn black, her fangs protrude, and she gives a devilish grin.

LYSANDRIA

Regina sanguinis ego sum.
 Misericordiam illis nullam ostende,
 veramque naturam patefaciunt.

SUBTITLE: "I am the queen of blood. Show them no mercy, and reveal their true nature."

EXT. HUMAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

MEN, WOMEN, and CHILDREN scatter like cockroaches, SCREAMING as BELARUS and several SOLDIERS follow.

Belarus grabs a fleeing woman and bites into her neck. She SCREAMS and tries to fight him off. He discards her body.

Other men enter the tavern and houses. SCREAMS echo in the night.

Damian rides in on a horse, sword drawn, heading towards Belarus.

Belarus smiles at Damian and draws his sword.

Damian STRIKES Belarus's sword. The CLINKING of swords intensifies.

The horse NEIGHS as Belarus knocks Damian off the horse. The horse runs away.

In the distance, Aurora moves in a blur. With sword drawn, she darts towards Damian.

Damian lies on the ground. Belarus POUNDS down on his sword, each swing closer to hitting Damian.

Aurora intervenes, a CLINK as her sword meets Belarus's.

Belarus turns to her.

AURORA

Stop this madness, Uncle!

BELARUS

I follow the Queen's orders. My
 loyalty is unshaken, unlike yours.

Damian rises and readies his sword. Aurora and Damian fight Belarus. Swords CLINK, the three battle.

Other men return to kill the remaining inhabitants.

Belarus laughs.

BELARUS (CONT'D)

Even under the Princess's
protection, they die in vain.

Aurora's eyes brim with tears.

AURORA

Why must I choose between you or
them? We were never enemies... Look
into my eyes and tell me my uncle's
love is no more.

BELARUS

Things change. Bloodshed is the
only outcome. You see an uncle, but
today, I am a soldier.

Aurora pushes forward with all her strength and presses
Belarus into a wall.

Damian thrusts his sword into Belarus's heart.

AURORA

So it's true. My uncle is dead, and
a soldier remains. Maybe in another
life, it will be different.

Aurora cuts off his head. Belarus's body falls. Aurora's eyes
burst into tears.

AURORA (CONT'D)

I will mourn the memories of you.

Other men turn, full of rage, and approach Damian and Aurora,
ready with swords.

Aurora looks around at the bodies and becomes angry. Her eyes
turn black, fangs protrude. She raises her sword.

Damian holds her and struggles.

DAMIAN

Return to the Queen; there's been
enough bloodshed today.

The men turn to each other and leave.

AURORA

Get off me. They must die for all
this death. It's too much to
endure.

Damian turns her around and looks into her black eyes. She
looks at him with ferocity.

DAMIAN

Look at me, Aurora, when does it end?

AURORA

When I kill them all.

Damian holds her. Aurora tries to fight him off, succumbs, and holds him tight. Her eyes return to normal, fangs retract.

DAMIAN

Are you listening to yourself? I won't let you lose yourself along the way. You're their Princess and my monster.

They compose themselves and LAUGH. She gently pushes him.

AURORA

I'll show you a monster.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Aurora and Damian sit across from each other around a fire.

DAMIAN

The sun will rise soon.

AURORA

The cave will protect me.

DAMIAN

I've lost count of how many times you've saved me.

Aurora looks at Damian.

AURORA

Maybe if your heroic deeds were less suicidal, I wouldn't have to. Aren't princes supposed to save princesses?

DAMIAN

Only from dragons, towers, and the odd sleeping spell.

AURORA

You are so infuriating. Sometimes I think I should kill you myself.

DAMIAN

You're immortal. That's a long time to miss my face.

AURORA

They say time heals all wounds. It might take me a week to get over you.

Damian LAUGHS.

DAMIAN

Do your worst.

Damian moves closer, sitting next to Aurora.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

I haven't won over your black heart yet? There are worse ways to go.

Aurora turns to face him, their eyes locking.

AURORA

Is this your way of courting all the ladies?

DAMIAN

Only the pretty and dangerous ones.

There is a pause. They gaze into each other's eyes, and then they kiss.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - SELENE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Selene is standing before a mirror, combing her hair. Lysandria, two guards, and Viktor enter.

Selene, surprised, turns and bows to Lysandria.

LYSANDRIA

Take her to the dungeons.

The men grab Selene. She pleads desperately.

SELENE

Please, Your Majesty...

Viktor steps forward, looking at Lysandria.

VIKTOR

Are you certain this is necessary?

LYSANDRIA

Humans will never find peace. She meddles in my affairs; now I'll meddle in hers.

Viktor studies Lysandria's face, then nods.

VIKTOR

As you command, Your Majesty.

Viktor turns and exits.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - DUNGEON - NIGHT

Behind the bars is Selene, and she talks with Viktor through the bars. Two GUARDS stand watch at the entrance.

SELENE

You have to help me, Viktor.

Viktor glances at the guards and then back to her.

VIKTOR

We're not alone...

Selene's voice trembles with fear.

SELENE

Where is Aurora?

VIKTOR

Focus on yourself. The princess has her own battles.

Viktor turns away, leaving.

Selene grips the bars, tears streaming down her face.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - NIGHT

Aurora enters the library and finds Viktor studying a tome. Viktor sets down his tome and darts to her.

VIKTOR

Your mother imprisoned Selene.

AURORA

When did this happen? Why would she do that? Where is she?

Viktor tries to calm her down, guiding her to a chair and sitting beside her.

VIKTOR

She knows everything... She'll stop at nothing to end your quest for peace.

Aurora's voice trembles.

AURORA

We have to rescue her. I can't give up on peace. If I did, what kind of woman would I be? I'd be the monster they already think I am.

Viktor embraces her, and tears streak down Aurora's face.

VIKTOR

There might be a way to save her and still achieve peace.

Aurora leans back, looks into his eyes, and a smile forms.

VIKTOR (CONT'D)

At least you are safe. Now, tell me what you have planned.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

The night is dark, and the trees RUFFLE from a stiff breeze. Viktor and Aurora stand inside the cave. There is a fire and the light flickers on their faces.

VIKTOR

So, do you trust the Prince?

AURORA

With my life... Though recent events make me question many things... What of my mother?

VIKTOR

What do you mean?

AURORA

You've stood by her the longest. This must be the hardest for you.

Viktor LAUGHS.

VIKTOR

Nothing in life is easy. Torn
between protection and duty.

(beat)

You were young when the King
crusaded against his people.

Viktor turns to Aurora.

VIKTOR (CONT'D)

I caution you only because I know
the King better than the Prince.

AURORA

Do you ever regret it? Wish for a
different life?

VIKTOR

Your mother refused to turn me. I
pleaded with her. Some men are
bound to their fates, but standing
guard over you both is my life's
greatest duty.

A RUFFLE in the bushes outside. Aurora and Viktor are on high
alert. Damien enters the cave. Aurora hugs him.

AURORA

Damien, you're late. This is
Viktor.

VIKTOR

If she trusts you... then I will,
too.

(beat)

For this to work, both sides need
to apply pressure. Will the humans
go along?

DAMIEN

Some are tired of the wars. The
people long for peace. Funerals
have become too common.

VIKTOR

And the King?

DAMIEN

Let me handle the King. There's an
old church nearby where we can meet
and discuss terms.

VIKTOR

How long?

DAMIEN
 Soon. I'll send word.

Viktor nods.

EXT. ABANDONED CHURCH - NIGHT

In the trees and bushes, a cloaked man with black eyes watches Aurora enter the church.

INT. ABANDONED CHURCH - NIGHT

The church is dark, and the light from Aurora's torch lights the room. In the front of the church are candles with cobwebs. Aurora lights the candles.

Damian and the royal envoy DENARIUS GUKOV (40s) enter wearing dark robes.

DAMIAN
 Where's Viktor?

AURORA
 He couldn't join us.

DENARIUS
 The King is interested in your proposal for peace. He demands the demon queen pay for her crimes.

AURORA
 Her crimes?

DENARIUS
 The murder of Queen Elizabeth.

Aurora's anger flares.

AURORA
 Your Queen dishonored the crown under the guise of peace. An attempted stake to the heart would enrage most vampires.

DENARIUS
 It does not matter who cast the first stone. She committed a crime against the crown. These are the King's terms.

AURORA

Both sides have blood on their hands. You come to me in hopes of betraying my mother. And these are your terms?

Aurora's eyes turn black.

AURORA (CONT'D)

Tell me, Damian, would you offer your father's head for the crimes he has committed?

DAMIAN

All the deaths... All of it started by us.

(beat)

The stories are true? All the crusades and endless death.

DENARIUS

You know the kind of man your father is, even if you are too blind to see.

Aurora pleads with Damian.

AURORA

I will not betray my mother as the King sits on his throne, washing his hands of the blood he has spilled.

DENARIUS

It seems she is only half committed to peace. Only the head of the monster will suffice as the payment for peace.

Aurora turns to Denarius, and he sees her dark eyes. Fear overcomes Denarius.

AURORA

Continue to threaten my mother, and you will see the monster I am capable of becoming.

Damian approaches Aurora and embraces her to calm her.

DAMIAN

We will find a way... Somehow.

Aurora leaves.

Denarius turns to Damian.

DENARIUS

Your Majesty, this is why we don't negotiate with monsters.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Lysandria sits on her throne. Viktor stands next to her, and the cloaked man enters.

The cloaked man unveils himself and reveals TOBIAS COVAL (40s), Viktor's brother. Tobias approaches Lysandria and bows.

LYSANDRIA

Tobias, what news do you bring?

TOBIAS

She met with the royal envoy, your Majesty.

Lysandria's face darkens with anger.

LYSANDRIA

She dares conspire against me!
After all, I've done for her.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)

Tobias, bring me my daughter. Now.

TOBIAS

At once, your Majesty.

Lysandria turns to Viktor, her eyes blazing.

LYSANDRIA

This rebellious streak... she gets it from you.

EXT. ABANDONED CHURCH - NIGHT

Lysandria's soldiers, led by Tobias, capture Aurora and Damian and exit the church.

Tobias and his men drag Aurora away from the church as she struggles.

She watches in fear as two soldiers drag Damian away into the bushes as he struggles to break free from his bindings.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - CATACOMBS - NIGHT

Tobias and two soldiers lead Aurora through the narrow catacombs, lit only by Tobias' torch.

Aurora fights to get away. She rams one of the soldiers into Tobias and pushes him into a wall.

Tobias turns and slaps Aurora, and a small amount of blood drips from her lips.

AURORA
You hit like a girl.

She spits on Tobias and LAUGHS.

The men grab Aurora and drag her through the catacombs.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - DUNGEON - NIGHT

Tobias and his men toss Aurora into the same cell as Selene, lock the cell, and exit.

Selene, conflicted between happiness and concern, approaches Aurora.

SELENE
What are you doing here?

AURORA
Fancy seeing you. It's been a while.

SELENE
Aurora, this is serious.

AURORA
First time in the dungeon?

SELENE
I don't make a habit of angering your mother.

AURORA
She's always angry.

SELENE
This time it's different. Your antics never reached me before. Look at me, Aurora!

Aurora turns to Selene.

AURORA

What do you want me to do?

SELENE

This time, it's the dungeon... Next time? We're like sisters, but I don't have a crown to protect me. My loyalty is torn between my love for you and my debt to her.

AURORA

I'm sorry.

Selene looks away.

SELENE

The King's crusades ravaged my town. I remember my family's faces. Lying there, beyond saving. Your mother gave me a life and a home.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - CATACOMBS - NIGHT

Viktor, dressed in dark robes and carrying a torch, moves discreetly through the catacombs as they empty into—

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - DUNGEON - NIGHT

Viktor approaches two guards, unsheathes his sword, and lunges at them.

The CLINKS gets Aurora and Selene's attention, and they watch from inside the cell.

One guard tries to stab Viktor, but he disarms the guard.

Viktor thrusts his sword into the guard's heart, and he falls to the ground in pain.

The other guard takes the opportunity to stab Viktor with his sword. Viktor clutches his side in pain as blood flows.

He turns around and angrily STABS the guard. As the guard's body falls to the ground, Viktor cuts off the head of the guard.

The other guard struggles to stand up.

Viktor swings and decapitates that guard, and the body and sword FALL to the floor.

Viktor reaches down, grabs the keys to the cell, and opens the cell.

VIKTOR
Hurry! Before others come.

SELENE
You risk too much, Viktor.

VIKTOR
Go! Leave me. I will just slow you down.

AURORA
You know me. I am terrible at following orders.

Viktor clutches his abdomen and puts his arms around both girls, and they exit.

INT. INN - ROOM - NIGHT

The room has three cot-like beds and candles that illuminate it. Viktor sleeps in one bed, bandaged, and Selene and Aurora sit on another bed.

SELENE
What's the plan now?

AURORA
Avoid my mother. She must know by now...
(glances at Viktor)
And that we had help.

SELENE
Is this really worth it?

AURORA
Peace?

Selene stares at the floor, deep in thought.

SELENE
Everything...
(looks around)
We're hiding. Not long ago, I was a prisoner with an uncertain future. Now, what do I have?

AURORA

We have each other. I know it seems bleak.

Aurora shifts closer to Selene.

AURORA (CONT'D)

Have you ever wanted something you can't have?

Selene looks up, meeting Aurora's gaze.

SELENE

You mean the Prince?

AURORA

Peace.

Selene turns away, her expression troubled.

SELENE

Sorry, Princess, not all fairytales have happy endings.

AURORA

I tend to skip those stories.

Selene rises, pacing towards the window in frustration.

SELENE

Is peace worth all this? Some battles aren't worth fighting. You were in that cell with me.

Aurora stands, moving to Selene's side.

AURORA

We're free now... and safe.

Selene turns to Aurora, her concern evident.

SELENE

At what point will the Queen—your mother—see you not as her daughter but as her enemy?

Selene glances at Viktor, then back at Aurora.

SELENE (CONT'D)

Others are risking far more for you.

(looks at Aurora)

Be careful. You're the only family I have.

INT. TOWN HALL - NIGHT

Aurora sits at a large table surrounded by Damian, Denarius, and three other human leaders: Julius, OCTAVIUS BONAPART, and TOMLIN CORDOVA (50s).

AURORA

I know there has been bad blood
between us...

Denarius sits next to Damian, and he secretly reaches for a knife, STABS Damian.

DENARIUS

There will be no peace. Death to
the demon queen!

Aurora's eyes turn black, and her fangs protrude. She moves like a blur, bites down, and rips out Denarius's neck with her fangs. Blood runs down her lips.

The other human leaders scramble and knock over chairs as they look with horror.

Damian's body drops to the floor, and blood flows from the wound.

Aurora rushes to Damian and slaps him to regain consciousness. She quickly bites her wrist and feeds her blood to Damian.

AURORA

Drink, you would think they were
allergic to peace.

Damian begins to heal, and she turns to the human leaders. Octavius is in shock.

OCTAVIUS

What sorcery is this demon?

Octavius crosses his heart like a catholic prayer.

OCTAVIUS (CONT'D)

Those eyes, the devil, it's all
real. Bless me, Father...

Tomlin unsheathes a sword and stabs Octavius, and his body FALLS to the floor.

In the heat of the moment, Julius moves closer to the door.

JULIUS

No. No. No... This is all wrong.

Damian struggles to get up from the chair and clutches his side.

DAMIAN
What's going on?

Tomlin rushes to the door and stabs Julius.

TOMLIN
You will die knowing today
accomplished nothing.

Julius's body FALLS to the floor, and Tomlin cracks open the door.

Aurora grabs him by the neck and throws him against the wall, and Tomlin FALLS to the floor. Aurora approaches and lifts Tomlin by his throat.

AURORA
Why?

Tomlin has a devilish grin on his face.

TOMLIN
Immortality... The Queen will honor
me.

AURORA
My mother won't even know your
name.

Aurora bites into his neck and drains him of his blood. She drops his body to the floor and licks her lips.

Aurora bites her wrist and offers her blood to Julius.

AURORA (CONT'D)
Drink, I'm not your enemy.

Julius hesitates but takes a drink.

Aurora offers her wrist to Octavius but he hesitates, then drinks.

OCTAVIUS
For what it's worth, thank you. I
have lost many due to the conflict,
and seeing it end would honor them.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Aurora, Damian, Julius, and Octavius walk through the woods.

Tobias watches the men leave.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Lysandria sits on her throne. Tobias enters and bows to her.

TOBIAS
Your Majesty...

Lysandria rises from the throne and approaches Tobias.

LYSANDRIA
News of my daughter?

Tobias bows his head.

TOBIAS
Forgive me, my Queen, she conspires
with the humans. The young prince
Damian is with her.

Lysandria's eyes darken as she turns away.

LYSANDRIA
They live by my mercy... I should
have severed the bloodline along
with the treacherous wench.

TOBIAS
Shall I retrieve her, Your Majesty?

LYSANDRIA
We're past retrieval. If she stands
with my enemies, she will feel the
weight of being one.

EXT. HUMAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

Tobias leads a battalion of SOLDIERS as they march through
the center of the town, enveloped by the fog of night.

Villagers SCREAM as they run away in fear.

Damian and Aurora exit the inn to find the soldiers. They
draw their swords.

AURORA
I'm the princess of the night. Go
home.

Tobias has a devilish grin on his face.

TOBIAS

From the Queen's lips to your ears.
She no longer has a daughter, only
enemies.

Aurora's face turns to recognition and sadness.

AURORA

My mother is not my enemy.

TOBIAS

We all must pick a side, Princess,
and you chose yours.

(looks around)

Today, you became hers. Kill them.

The soldiers fan out.

Tobias draws his sword, and they advance on Damian and
Aurora.

Aurora rushes Tobias, and their swords CLINK. They battle
fiercely in the street. Tobias swings his sword down full
force onto Aurora but she blocks it.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

If I didn't know better, I'd assume
I was fighting a human.

Several soldiers overtake Damian. He tries to fight them, but
they outmatch him. They push him to the ground and take his
sword.

Damian yells for Aurora as a soldier stabs him.

DAMIAN

Aurora!

Aurora turns to Damian, a look of fear in her eyes.

While distracted, Tobias stabs Aurora, and she falls to her
knees.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

No... Aurora!

Another soldier thrusts their sword into Damian, and he falls
to the ground.

Aurora looks up at Tobias. She closes her eyes, and when she
reopens them, they are black as night.

Tobias raises his sword.

TOBIAS
You are not worthy.

AURORA
My mother and I have something in
common... We don't like weak men!

She takes her sword, rises, and trusts it into Tobias's head.

Tobias's body drops to his knees, and Aurora bends down to
look into his eyes.

AURORA (CONT'D)
You feared my mother, but you
underestimated me.

Aurora takes Tobias's sword and decapitates him; his body
falls to the ground.

Rain starts to FALL and drenches Aurora. Bloodied, she turns
to the soldiers and yells.

AURORA (CONT'D)
Go tell my mother... I won't bend
to her will. I won't be the monster
she desires me to be.

The soldiers disperse and run away, revealing Damian on the
ground, blood flowing from multiple wounds.

Aurora runs to Damian and drops to her knees. She lifts his
head and bites into her wrist, offering her wrist, and Damian
drinks.

She pulls away her wrist.

Damian's lips are bloody. He smiles and passes out.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Damian lies on the ground, asleep. Aurora sits in the shadows
next to him. She leans over Damian and kisses his lips.

AURORA
Come back to me, my prince.

Aurora lies next to him, falls asleep, and cuddles him.

EXT. CLAN STRONGHOLD - NIGHT

Aurora and Damian are greeted at the stronghold's gate by two
GUARDS.

AURORA

We need to speak to your leaders.

Guard 1 laughs and turns to the other guard.

GUARD 1

Not every day, royalty comes to grovel to our leaders.

Aurora stares at Guard 1. Her eyes turn black, and her fangs protrude.

AURORA

Where are they?

The guard gets nervous and lets them through.

INT. CLAN STRONGHOLD - MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Aurora and Damian sit at a large table surrounded by four clan leaders: IVAN PETROV, NIKOLAI SOKOLOV, DIMITRI IVANOV, BORISLAV PETROV (40s).

Ivan turns to Aurora.

IVAN

Like others, this clan does not concern itself with matters between the blood queen and the king.

AURORA

We're not here on behalf of my mother.

Nikolai grows suspicious.

NIKOLAI

Then why are you here?

AURORA

Peace.

NIKOLAI

We have peace. The wars don't touch our borders.

AURORA

Your clans are untouched by the wars, but not out of reach. What will you do when the humans find you... or worse, my mother?

Dimitri laughs.

DIMITRI

Humans are of no consequence.

Aurora ignores him and turns to Ivan.

AURORA

Humans are resilient. They can fight during the day. Peace is the only way to ensure that neither side has to look over their shoulders.

DIMITRI

And your mother?

AURORA

If my mother sees me, her daughter, as an enemy, what chance do you have? You speak of neutrality, but what would you tell my mother when she arrives?

NIKOLAI

We have no allegiance to your mother.

Aurora is frustrated.

AURORA

It matters not. You are still her subjects... her blood courses through your veins.

NIKOLAI

You ask us to risk our lives for false hopes. We can defend ourselves and see no reason to risk anything more.

DIMITRI

If we were to offer you help, what guarantees would you offer? Future Queen.

BORISLAV

Having served in your mother's army, I know what we are against. I don't see a reason to kick the hive.

IVAN

You and the Prince can find refuge here while we talk and decide.

EXT. CLAN STRONGHOLD - NIGHT

Dimitri and Nikolai stroll through the camp, illuminated by a central fire, as vampires busily work around them.

NIKOLAI
Ivan let them stay?

DIMITRI
One's enemy is another's guest.

NIKOLAI
Nothing good will come of this.

DIMITRI
It plays into our hands.

NIKOLAI
How so?

DIMITRI
You heard her. The Queen sees her as an enemy. Keeping her here endangers us all. We use the Princess as leverage.

Nikolai grins.

NIKOLAI
What accommodations do we offer the Princess?

Dimitri's grin matches his.

DIMITRI
We have very accommodating cells and too few occupants.

NIKOLAI
Fit for a Princess.

They share a sinister laugh.

INT. CLAN STRONGHOLD - CELL - NIGHT

Damian and Aurora are in a dark, damp cell. Across from them is GRETCHEN (60s). The witch's clothes are ragged, and her eyes look otherworldly.

She laughs eerily.

GRETCHEN

In shadows deep and ages old, a
tale of prophecy is told. When
peace shall reign 'twixt night and
day, the first must meet their end,
they say. A stake from Death's own
tree you'll find, to end the one of
an ancient kind. Seek the heart
with courage bright, and bring the
dawn to the endless night.

DAMIAN

Who is she?

AURORA

She's a seer.

DAMIAN

She creeps me out.

Aurora and Damian turn to each other.

The old witch LAUGHS.

Aurora and Damian turn to the witch, but she is gone.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Lysandria sits on her throne, and Viktor stands beside her in
conversation. Dimitri enters.

DIMITRI

Lysandria...

Lysandria turns to him, intrigued. The guards approach, and
she waves them off.

LYSANDRIA

I'm your Queen. Do not speak to me
like we are equals.

DIMITRI

I know where Aurora is.

Lysandria rises from her throne and approaches Dimitri, a
grin spreading across her face as her eyes turn black.

LYSANDRIA

You will address me as your Queen
and Aurora as your Princess.

Dimitri bows as Lysandria gets closer.

DIMITRI
I'm sorry, my Queen...

Lysandria towers over Dimitri.

LYSANDRIA
You were a weak man in life. Now,
you stand before me even weaker.
You crawled out from under some
rock, and now you want something.

Dimitri raises his head.

DIMITRI
She is our prisoner now. I could
kill the Princess and her beloved
Prince in exchange for the crown.

Lysandria LAUGHS, reaches down, and grabs Dimitri by the
throat, lifting him into the air.

LYSANDRIA
You come into my house as if you
are my equal. You threaten my
daughter as if you are her equal.
And you think you are worthy to be
King.

Lysandria's fangs protrude. She bites into Dimitri's neck,
rips it out, and discards his body onto the floor. She sits
back on her throne, turning to Viktor.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)
Go get our daughter. Only I am
allowed to cast her into a cell.

INT. CLAN STRONGHOLD - CELL - NIGHT

Ivan unlocks the cell, and Viktor enters. Ivan bows to Aurora
as they leave.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Viktor, Damian, and Aurora walk through the woods in dark
cloaks.

Viktor turns to Aurora.

VIKTOR
How are you holding up?

AURORA

Better than most of my mother's enemies.

(looks at Damian)

Going from cell to cell was rough, but at least I had company.

VIKTOR

Matters of the heart are tricky, especially with your mother involved. Yours only makes it worse.

AURORA

What do you know about seers? There was one in the cell with us.

VIKTOR

Seers? There are no more seers.

DAMIAN

We saw her.

VIKTOR

I remember your mother slaughtering the seers after they spoke of a prophecy. Their faces still haunt me.

AURORA

She was there. Chanting... "In shadows deep and ages old, a tale of prophecy is told. When peace shall reign 'twixt night and day, the first must meet their end, they say..."

Viktor stops in his tracks.

VIKTOR

"A stake from Death's own tree, you'll find, to end the one of an ancient kind. Seek the heart with courage bright, and bring the dawn to the endless night."

Recognition dawns on Damian and Aurora.

AURORA

That's it. What does it mean?

VIKTOR

I have a tome in my library that might explain. Go with the Prince, and I'll meet you.

AURORA

I'm coming with you.

VIKTOR

You can't. Your mother isn't herself. It's too risky.

Aurora's frustration shows.

AURORA

You risk too much going alone.

VIKTOR

We have to be careful. If we're not, your mother will stake us both.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - NIGHT

Viktor and Aurora secretly enter the library. Viktor is looking for a tome. FOOTSTEPS are heard from outside the library.

VIKTOR

(whispering)

Hide, Aurora!

Aurora slips into a dark corner behind books and shelves. Lysandria enters the library, followed by four guards. She scans the room with piercing eyes.

VIKTOR (CONT'D)

Your Majesty.

LYSANDRIA

No need for titles. Where is our daughter?

Aurora's eyes widen in shock.

AURORA

(to herself)

Viktor is my father?

VIKTOR

She must have slipped away from the clan. When I arrived, she was gone.

LYSANDRIA

How disappointing. After all these years, you'd still dare lie to me? Guards! Take him to the dungeon.

The guards seize Viktor. Lysandria strolls around the library, her grin widening.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)

Daughter, are you here? Come out; let's talk like mother and daughter.

Aurora presses herself further into the shadows, holding her breath.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)

I guess not.

Lysandria smiles, turns, and leaves.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - DUNGEON - CELL - NIGHT

Lysandria enters the cell, and two guards stand at the entrance. Viktor is bound in chains and looks like he has been tortured.

Lysandria paces the cell.

LYSANDRIA

My love, why do you conspire against me?

VIKTOR

You torture me, hunt our daughter, and still speak of love. I look into your eyes and see a stranger.

Lysandria's eyes turn black.

LYSANDRIA

What are you and our daughter planning?

VIKTOR

Nothing.

Lysandria's fangs protrude, and she bites into Viktor's neck. Viktor SCREAMS in pain.

VIKTOR (CONT'D)

In shadows deep and ages old, a tale of prophecy is told.

Lysandria backs away, fear crossing her face. Viktor's eyes turn black. The voice of the old witch echoes.

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

The first must meet their end, they say. A stake from Death's own tree you'll find, to end the one of an ancient kind.

Lysandria drops to the ground, covering her ears.

LYSANDRIA

No!

The guards approach cautiously, try to help Lysandria to her feet, and escort her out of the cell.

EXT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - NIGHT

Aurora slips out of the library wearing a dark cloak.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - DUNGEON - NIGHT

Aurora hides in the shadows and waits for the guards to make their rounds.

She runs to Viktor's cell.

Viktor, battered and bloodied, grabs onto the bars.

AURORA

You're my father...

VIKTOR

Shhh. We don't have much time.

AURORA

I have to get you out of here. You're hurt... and she bit your neck.

VIKTOR

I can endure it. You have more pressing matters. Retrieve the Liber Mortis.

AURORA

The book of death? I can't leave you here... not now.

VIKTOR

You've become a greater woman and
future queen than I ever dreamt.

Aurora's eyes brim with tears as she grips Viktor's hands.

AURORA

But why keep it from me all these
years?

VIKTOR

Your mother isn't the only one with
enemies. Silence and ignorance kept
you safe.

AURORA

Even if it meant being distant from
your own daughter?

A tear falls from Viktor's eye.

VIKTOR

The burdens of love and duty are
heavy. For Lysandria and you, I
bear them gladly until my last
breath. You must go. She knows
everything now.

They hear FOOTSTEPS.

Aurora hesitates, rises, heads towards the exit, turns to
Viktor, smiles, and then leaves.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - NIGHT

Aurora sneaks into the library, searches through the
bookshelves, and finds the tome: "Liber Mortis." She takes
the tome and exits.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Aurora, on horseback, races through trees, the tome tucked
safely in her bag.

EXT. CLAN STRONGHOLD - NIGHT

Damian and Ivan greet Aurora at the clan entrance.

AURORA

She has Viktor... She knows
everything.

Damian and Aurora embrace.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Lysandria and SOLDIERS ride horses through the forest, tight on Aurora's trail.

EXT. CLAN STRONGHOLD - NIGHT

A guard sounds the ALARM.

GUARD 1
The Queen is coming!

Clan members dart in all directions. Some hide, others prepare for battle.

The front gate BURST opens, and Lysandria and her soldiers enter. Lysandria has her sword ready and a smirk on her face.

Panic and fear overcome the people of the clan.

Aurora and Damian stop in their tracks.

Lysandria turns to Aurora.

LYSANDRIA
My prodigal daughter.
(looks around)
Such interesting company you keep.

She rides over to them with a grin and readies her sword.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)
And the wench's son. Seeing this
with my own eyes... Surely, your
standards weren't this low.

Aurora gets in front of Damian to shield him.

AURORA
This is between us.

LYSANDRIA
You conspire against me. As Queen,
I expect betrayal but never from
you.

AURORA

No, I fell in love. I want peace between the kingdoms. You once desired that too. We can still achieve it together, Mother. It's not too late.

Lysandria turns to her men.

LYSANDRIA

Kill them all!

The soldiers start striking down the people. Many people fall one by one, but some escape with Borislav and Nikolai.

Ivan runs to Aurora and Damian.

IVAN

We must go...

Lysandria gets off her horse and raises her sword to strike Damian.

Aurora unsheaths her sword and BLOCKS Lysandria's sword.

LYSANDRIA

Even now, you defy me?

AURORA

You are my mother; I defy not out of anger or rebellion but a desire for a world where those I love can live. Peace is not treason. It's a necessity.

Lysandria's eyes soften, and she drops her sword by her side.

Ivan rushes Lysandria and thrusts his sword into her.

A look of pain crosses her face, but she does not scream.

LYSANDRIA

Insolent Fool.

Lysandria reaches for Ivan by the throat, bites into his neck, and discards his body.

AURORA

Let's go!

Aurora grabs Damian and starts to flee. But they are overwhelmed by soldiers. They apprehend Aurora and Damian.

Blood runs from Lysandria lips, and she smiles as she rips the sword out of her body.

AURORA (CONT'D)

Mother, stop! Look around you. How many more must die before your thirst for vengeance is satisfied?

Suddenly, a soldier STABS Aurora in the gut, and she clutches herself in pain. Lysandria's eyes brim with tears.

Lysandria approaches the soldier and runs her sword through him. The other soldiers back up with a look of fear on their faces.

Aurora looks at her mother.

AURORA (CONT'D)

No matter the cost, Mother, this must stop.

Aurora, clutching her side, breaks Damian free. They dart outside the stronghold.

Lysandria watches them disappear. A tear falls from her eye. She turns to her men.

LYSANDRIA

The foolish human hexes her with his charms. To love a human is the greatest betrayal of our kind. Ready the army.

Lysandria turns away from her men with a devilish smile.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)

I'm hungry, and it's been too long since I tasted king.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Aurora and Damian sit beside each other, looking at the lake.

Damian turns to Aurora.

DAMIAN

We have the tome.

AURORA

But at what cost? I don't even know how it will help. What if all of this was for nothing?

DAMIAN

Don't say that. We're making progress.

Aurora turns to Damian.

AURORA

How? Your father and my mother still want to kill each other. My father's in the dungeon. And the clan? You saw what happened.

DAMIAN

If a vampire princess and a human prince can fall in love, maybe peace isn't so unrealistic.

AURORA

If only they could stop their revenge long enough to notice. But their hatred blinds them.

DAMIAN

Then, we need to try harder to get their attention.

AURORA

You're not that charming, but you are full of hope. Hopefully, we'll achieve peace. I hope you survive long enough to see it. My Prince Hopeful.

They kiss.

INT. CLAN STRONGHOLD - MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Aurora, Damian, the human leaders Julius and Octavius, and the Vampire Clan leaders Borislav and Nickolai gather around the large table.

NIKOLAI

Are any of us safe now?

BORISLAV

My brother was a good man. The Queen must pay for her crimes.

JULIUS

Challenging the Queen directly will only end in a massacre. We can't stop her alone.

Damian turns to Aurora.

DAMIAN
Show them the tome.

Aurora hesitates.

AURORA
None of us can decipher it. Even if
we could, to what end? Maybe even
hers?
(looking at tome)
Holding it, I feel a dark power
calling to me. A darkness I've
never felt before.

Borislav rises.

BORISLAV
If this book can end her, then
we'll have justice for our men and
my brother.

Aurora, angry, looks at Borislav.

AURORA
Excuse me if I don't rejoice in the
idea of her death. You act as if
your hands are without blood.
(looks around)
My mother is no more guilty than
many sitting at this table.

Borislav, angry, SLAMS his fist on the table.

BORISLAV
You defend her even as his body
hasn't turned cold yet.

Aurora turns to Borislav.

AURORA
Your brother was a vampire. It's
been many moons since warm blood
flowed in his veins.

Damian stands up to calm the room.

DAMIAN
Let's figure out what it says.
Maybe there's a way... for a
peaceful resolution.

Borislav sits down.

BORISLAV

The only way is by the edge of my sword.

Damian turns to Aurora.

DAMIAN

Viktor can translate it.

Aurora shows remorse.

AURORA

He was weak when I last saw him. I fear he won't be with us much longer.

(beat)

Unlike others, his life teeters on the scales only because he holds her heart.

Julius stands up.

JULIUS

I know of a witch who can translate the tome.

AURORA

How do you know?

Julius smiles.

JULIUS

The author is my sister.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Soldiers stand in rows, ready to march, as Lysandria rides atop a horse.

LYSANDRIA

Vos estis filii Sanguinis Reginae.

SUBTITLE: "You are the sons of the Blood Queen."

Lysandria rides through the lines of soldiers, as they GRUNT and POUND their shields.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)

Immortalis ego sum, nulla me vetabit prophetia..

SUBTITLE: "I am immortal, no prophecy will stop me.."

Lysandria stops in front of the soldiers. Her eyes turn black, and her fangs protrude.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)
Rex meus est

SUBTITLE: "The king is mine."

Lysandria and the soldiers march forward.

INT. OLD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aurora, Damian, and Julius enter an old house looks deserted.

AURORA
Are you sure she's here?

JULIUS
She avoids guests, especially after your father's crusades and your mother's war against seers.

DAMIAN
No chance of a warm welcome, then.

An old witch CACKLES.

They turn to a corner where Gretchen sits in darkness.

GRETCHEN
Julius, blood of my blood. Daughter of the Blood Queen. Son of the Cruel King. Why disturb my solitude?

Damian starts to speak, but Julius raises his hand.

JULIUS
We need your help, sister. The prophecy.

GRETCHEN
We've waited many moons for this day.

The witch CACKLES rises and approaches Aurora. She points to the bag around Aurora's shoulder, holding the tome.

GRETCHEN (CONT'D)
Is it for me, child?

Aurora hands the tome to the old witch. She accepts it, sits, and opens it.

AURORA

What can you tell us about the prophecy?

The witch looks up and smiles.

GRETCHEN

In shadows deep and ages old, A tale of prophecy is told...

AURORA

(interrupting)

It was you in the cell. I thought all seers perished.

The old witch CACKLES.

GRETCHEN

Even the Blood Queen can't silence the sisters of fate. Her hands are stained with their blood, and the old religion demands penance.

AURORA

Penance?

The old witch CACKLES.

GRETCHEN

The sins against the old religion. My sisters laugh from beyond the grave, craving revenge.

Aurora's anger rises.

AURORA

Careful, witch. I have yet to commit any sins against the old religion.

Julius places his hand on Aurora's shoulder.

Gretchen smiles.

GRETCHEN

The apple never falls far from the tree.

JULIUS

What can you tell us about the tome?

The old witch stares at Aurora, her eyes turning black.

GRETCHEN

In the shadowed cave where the bargain was struck, find the ancient tree, cursed with ill luck. The Tree of Death, its branches wide, holds the secret you must confide. Sap or bark, forged with care, create a weapon beyond compare. The queen's reign ends when she's laid to rest. Only then will peace pass the test. Send the ancient one to eternal night, and only then will wrongs turn right.

The old witch CACKLES and approaches Aurora.

GRETCHEN (CONT'D)

Be careful, girl. The Tree of Death lives up to its name.

Aurora and Damian leave.

Gretchen grabs Julius's arm.

GRETCHEN (CONT'D)

Soon, brother, revenge will be ours, and the Ancient One will be free for our bidding.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Aurora, Damian, and Julius walk through the forest.

AURORA

Of course, we had to find the Tree of Death.

DAMIAN

My father never trusted the seers. He waged war on magic users long before the vampires.

(turns to Julius)

That must have been hard for you.

JULIUS

He never knew. I trust you'll keep it that way, Your Majesty.

DAMIAN

You won't have to hide much longer.
It must be tough, bearing this
burden alone. Your kind has
suffered from both sides, forced to
turn a blind eye.

Julius turns to Damian.

JULIUS

Thank you, Your Majesty. Your
father is a difficult man. A part
of me thinks he knew, at least to
some extent.

Julius looks ahead, and his eyes brim with tears.

JULIUS (CONT'D)

He made me lead those campaigns. I
saw the betrayal in their eyes, and
there was no way to ask for
forgiveness.

INT. CLAN STRONGHOLD - MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Aurora, Damian, and the vampire leaders Julius and Nikolai
sit around the large table.

Borislav enters.

BORISLAV

The queen is on the move!

They rise from their seats.

DAMIAN

Where's she heading?

BORISLAV

For the King.

Aurora turns to Damian with concern.

AURORA

Go. Your people need you.

Damian grabs her arm.

DAMIAN

You think you can get rid of me
that easily? My father can handle
things. You need me now.

Aurora becomes frustrated.

AURORA
Why must you be so stubborn?

Damian smiles.

DAMIAN
It's part of my charm.

AURORA
Just don't get yourself killed,
okay?

DAMIAN
I make no promises.

They leave.

EXT. DARK CAVE - NIGHT

Aurora, Julius, and Damian approach the cave with torches.

JULIUS
This is where it all began. The
eternal blood flowed here,
sanctifying the grounds for the Old
Religion.

AURORA
Hard to believe such a place holds
so much power.

DAMIAN
Power... and danger. We must be
careful.

They enter the dark cave.

INT. DARK CAVE - NIGHT

Inside the cave is a pentagram on the floor and a dark tree
in the back.

The air becomes tense and depressing.

JULIUS
The tree awaits. We must hurry.

AURORA
The stench of death...
This place drains my life.

JULIUS

Even true death can be met here,
Princess. Human nor vampire can
deny its power.

With each step closer to the tree, they weaken, feeling their
life force being sapped away.

Julius collapses. Aurora rushes to help him up.

JULIUS (CONT'D)

I can't go any further.

Damian presses forward as Aurora aids Julius.

AURORA

Are you okay?

JULIUS

Go. Before we succumb. Remember,
sap or bark will do.

Aurora leaves Julius to find Damian unconscious before the
tree.

AURORA

Dammit, Damian, your courage will
get you killed.

She struggles, managing to drag Damian to Julius. She slaps
him awake.

AURORA (CONT'D)

Wake up! This isn't the time... You
still owe me a dragon slaying.

Julius looks at Aurora.

JULIUS

Only you can resist its influence.

Aurora rushes towards the tree, but her energy wanes. She
collapses.

ALYSIA (O.S.)

Welcome, Princess of the Night.

Aurora strains to look up.

AURORA

Who's there? Show yourself.

ALYSIA (O.S.)

We have been waiting for you.

MORGANA (O.S.)

Push, child. This was our grave. We
do not share the same fate.

Aurora fights the tree's influence, crawling towards it.

ALYSIA (O.S.)

With your sword, make the tree
bleed.

Aurora unsheathes her sword, stabs the tree. Black sap runs
down her blade. She sheathes it, crawls back to Damian and
Julius, breathing heavily.

Damian wakes, looking at Aurora.

DAMIAN

Did we get it?

Aurora unsheathes the sword. They examine it.

JULIUS

The sword is now cursed by death
itself. No weapon forged by man can
compare.

AURORA

My hope is not to use it.

JULIUS

You know the prophecy. Some things
are destined, regardless of our
intentions.

AURORA

But she is my mother.

JULIUS

I do not envy your position or the
choice you must make.

They struggle to rise and leave the cave.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Nikolai rides a horse through the woods.

EXT. LYSANDRIA'S CAMP - NIGHT

The camp is full of soldiers and WORKERS, and Nikolai enters
it and approaches Lysandria's tent.

Selene secretly enters the camp carrying a basket. The guards let her through, and she conceals herself in a tent and scans the area.

Nikolai approaches two guards standing outside Lysandria's tent.

Selene follows him, and blends into the surroundings. She hides behind the tent, watching and listening through a small hole.

NIKOLAI

I must speak with the queen. I
bring urgent news about her
daughter.

GUARD 1 disappears into the tent. After a tense moment, he reemerges, nodding to Nikolai.

GUARD 1

You may enter.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S TENT - NIGHT

Nikolai enters the tent.

Lysandria leans against a table with a map of the kingdom.

Nikolai bows.

LYSANDRIA

It's almost like *déjà vu*. I shake
the nest, and the cockroaches
scurry out.

NIKOLAI

Your Majesty, I bring news of your
daughter that could change the
course of the war.

Lysandria is intrigued and approaches Nikolai.

LYSANDRIA

Do you bring this gift out of
loyalty to your queen, or is it
gold and power you seek?

NIKOLAI

Both. Soon, your glory will span
both kingdoms. The night will
reign, and you need loyal subjects
to execute your will.

Lysandria laughs.

LYSANDRIA
Ambitious... Just like the others.

Lysandria circles Nikolai.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)
Loyal, and carry out my will? Tell
me what you know, and then I will
decide.

Nikolai rises.

NIKOLAI
She knows of the prophecy... and
the Tree of Death.

Lysandria's eyes widen.

LYSANDRIA
When did she leave?

Lysandria turns away.

NIKOLAI
She should have reached it by now.
I came as quickly as I could.

LYSANDRIA
Thank you. You truly deserve your
reward.

Nikolai smiles.

NIKOLAI
Yes, your Majesty.

Lysandria's eyes turn black, and her fangs protrude. She punches through his chest, rips out his heart, and crushes it with her hand. Blood runs down Lysandria's arms.

Nikolai's body falls to the ground.

LYSANDRIA
My kingdom has no need for
traitors.

EXT. LYSANDRIA'S CAMP - NIGHT

Selene is horrified. She steps away from the tent and notices a cage that contains Lysandria's PRISONERS, including Viktor. She rushes to the cage.

SELENE
 (whispers)
 Viktor.

Viktor, battered and bloody, sits up and crawls towards Selene.

VIKTOR
 Where's Aurora?

Selene inspects Viktor.

SELENE
 You're hurt. What has she done to you?

VIKTOR
 Just scars from the war between us.

Viktor looks around.

VIKTOR (CONT'D)
 My fate is sealed, but I've found peace. Aurora needs you now more than ever. Go!

Selene hesitates.

VIKTOR (CONT'D)
 Find Aurora... go!

Selene puts on her hood and leaves in secret.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Selene rides through the forest rapidly. The hooves echo throughout the night.

INT. CLAN STRONGHOLD - MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Aurora, Damian, the human leaders Julius and Octavius, and the vampire leader Borislav sit around a table making plans.

Selene enters the room frantically.

Aurora approaches Selene. They embrace.

AURORA
 What's wrong?

SELENE
 The queen... she knows.

AURORA

Knows what?

SELENE

Everything. Something about a tree. Nikolai sold you out. She has Viktor in a cage. Her army is assembling.

JULIUS

Where's the traitor?

SELENE

No longer a concern. The queen dealt with him.

AURORA

And my father?

SELENE

Viktor sends his goodbye.

Aurora grows concerned.

AURORA

I must go to him.

Julius approaches Aurora.

JULIUS

We can't risk it.

AURORA

He risked his life for me. He's my father. I won't abandon him.

JULIUS

And she's your mother.

Aurora turns, frustrated.

AURORA

What would you have me do? What are we fighting for if I don't try to save my parents from themselves?

JULIUS

Time isn't on our side. Preparations are still ongoing.

Aurora turns to Damian.

AURORA
Fine, ready the men. I'll save him
myself or die trying.

Aurora leaves, and Damian follows.

INT. CLAN STRONGHOLD - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Damian rushes to Aurora. He grabs her arm, and Aurora turns,
her eyes brimming with tears.

AURORA
You can't stop me.

DAMIAN
I'm not going to stop you... Just
think this through. The queen is
marching on my kingdom.

AURORA
You can't ask me not to save my
father.

DAMIAN
We need to save our people. I can't
save them if I am worried for you.

AURORA
You do what you must...
(looking around)
The lengths you will go to save
your father.

DAMIAN
That's not fair... Not at all the
same.

AURORA
Maybe you are right... We are
different. Vampires and monsters.

Aurora darts to a horse, and Damian runs behind her.

DAMIAN
Aurora!

Aurora climbs the horse and rides off. Damian runs after her
but can't stop her.

EXT. CLAN STRONGHOLD - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Damian, the human leaders Julius and Octavius, and the vampire leader Borislav, who is now fully armored, sit atop horses in front of rows of vampire and human allies.

Julius rides over to Damian, who is concerned about Aurora.

JULIUS
She will return to us.

DAMIAN
I hope so.

Damian looks at Julius.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
May the gods favor us.

JULIUS
And the old religion.

Damian gives the order, and they march forward.

INT. HASANI CASTLE - KING'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The alarm bells RING. A SOLDIER enters the bedroom and bows to Atticus.

SOLDIER
The demon queen is assembling her forces.

ATTICUS
Ready the men!

The soldier bows and exits.

A SERVANT (20s) enters and helps Atticus put on his armor. The servant has a worried look on their face.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
Fear not, child. Today, it ends.
The gods favor us against the monster and her horde.

SERVANT
Yes, Your Majesty.

ATTICUS
Songs and stories will be written of our victory. My legacy will endure through the ages.

SERVANT
Long live the King!

INT. HASANI CASTLE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Armored SOLDIERS and PEOPLE RUN through the hallways, as the alarm bells RING.

EXT. HASANI CASTLE - NIGHT

ARCHERS line the walls of the castle and ready their bows.

INT. HASANI CASTLE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Rows of SOLDIERS line up in the center of the courtyard, waiting for Atticus's command.

INT. HASANI CASTLE - BALCONY - NIGHT

Atticus stands on the balcony overlooking his troops and waits for Lysandria's forces.

EXT. LYSANDRIA'S CAMP - NIGHT

Lysandria's soldiers prepare for battle.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CAMP - NIGHT

Aurora secretly enters the camp, hides behind tents, and works towards the prisoners, avoiding all soldiers.

Aurora finds the cage where Viktor is.

AURORA
(whispering)
Father.

Viktor crawls toward Aurora.

VIKTOR
You shouldn't have come.

Aurora's eyes well up with tears.

AURORA
I had no other choice.

VIKTOR

It warms my heart to see you, even
if it's for the last time.

Aurora notices his bloodied and dirty state.

AURORA

What has she done to you?

VIKTOR

The Ancient One consumes her. Your
mother is a prisoner in her own
body. Go, my child, while you still
can.

Several hands grab Aurora, pulling her away.

SOLDIER

What are you doing here, traitor?

Viktor reaches out, desperate.

VIKTOR

Let her go!

The guards drag Aurora and shove her before Lysandria.

LYSANDRIA

I was wondering when you'd show up.

AURORA

End this madness, mother.

Lysandria glances around, a wicked grin spreading.

LYSANDRIA

It's far too late for that. Lock
her up with her father... I want
her to watch her lover's kingdom
burn.

The guards nod and lock Aurora in the cage with Viktor.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CAMP - CAGE - NIGHT

She embraces her father.

VIKTOR

My girl, what's our next move?

Aurora and Viktor exchange a glance.

AURORA

My friends will come for us.

VIKTOR

They're no match for your mother...
Even the King's men will fall to
her power. His arrogance will be
his downfall, and many will die
today.

Aurora unsheathes her cursed sword in secret and shows
Viktor.

Viktor's eyes widen.

VIKTOR (CONT'D)

Your sword... it's cursed by death.
You found my tome.

Aurora looks down at the sword, conflicted.

AURORA

I see no other way, Father. It
pains me to choose between peace,
love, or my mother. The fates must
despise me.

Viktor takes the sword and looks at Aurora.

VIKTOR

This isn't a burden for a daughter
to bear. Let an old man carry it
for you. My final act of love.

AURORA

Is there no other way?

VIKTOR

We tried to defy the prophecy. I
believed we escaped it. I was
foolish to think all paths didn't
lead here.

AURORA

I can't let you!

VIKTOR

I was under a spell from the moment
I first held you, and you smiled.
No burden is too heavy. I have no
regrets when it comes to you.

Tears flow from Aurora's eyes as she embraces Viktor.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Damian, Selene, the human leaders Julius and Octavius, the vampire leader Borislav, and the human and vampire soldiers stop their marching.

DAMIAN
No sign of Aurora... Something's wrong.

JULIUS
She might be delayed.

DAMIAN
We need to find her.

JULIUS
The queen's preparing for battle.

DAMIAN
War is inevitable. We can't leave anyone behind.

JULIUS
Understood, your majesty.

DAMIAN
To the queen's camp.

INT. LYSANDRIA'S CAMP - NIGHT

The soldiers escort Aurora and Viktor to the pillory beside Lysandria's tent. The soldiers bind them, as Lysandria taunts them.

LYSANDRIA
You have front-row seats. At least now, neither of you will be in my way.

VIKTOR
Let our daughter go.

Lysandria approaches Viktor.

LYSANDRIA
You brought this on yourself by meddling in tomes and prophecies. I decide my fate, not some blabbering witches.

Lysandria paces.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)
 They speak of prophecies but can't
 even foretell their own demise.

Lysandria approaches Aurora.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)
 And our daughter is weak and unfit
 to be queen.

Viktor pleads with Lysandria as she walks away.

VIKTOR
 Was it worth it?

Lysandria turns to face Viktor.

LYSANDRIA
 The deal I made?

VIKTOR
 You hurt the only people who love
 you in pursuit of power. When does
 the pain become too much?

Lysandria's eyes soften, and sadness crosses her face. She
 turns away and composes herself.

LYSANDRIA
 Heavy is the burden of the crown
 and the cost to wear it.
 (beat)
 In time, I will transcend the pain,
 and my glory will be all that
 remains.

She walks away.

EXT. LYSANDRIA'S CAMP - NIGHT

Damian, Selene, Julius, Octavius, Borislav, and the soldiers
 hide in the dark.

Julius observes Lysandria's soldiers.

JULIUS
 We're outnumbered.

DAMIAN
 We'll need to slip in.
 (turns to Selene)
 Can you lead us?

Selene points to the back of the camp.

SELENE

There's a gap in the rear.

Selene, Damian, Borislav, and Julius secretly enter from the back of the camp. They conceal themselves.

Damian points to the pillory.

DAMIAN

There they are—Aurora and Viktor.

SELENE

How do we reach them?

Damian turns to Borislav.

DAMIAN

Can you and the men create a diversion?

Borislav unsheathes his sword.

BORISLAV

As long as I get to take down the queen.

Borislav leaves.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Borislav stands before the soldiers, unsheaths his sword, and holds it into the air.

BORISLAV

We fight for vengeance and glory.

Boris and the soldiers grunt and charge the camp.

EXT. LYSANDRIA'S CAMP - NIGHT

Borislav and his soldiers attack Lysandria's men, swords clashing, limbs severed, and cries of anger and anguish filling the air.

Borislav cuts through the vampire after vampire, each coloring his face crimson with blood.

BORISLAV

Ivan smile upon me, brother,
vengeance is mine.

The battle is deadly: vampires strike down humans; humans strike down vampires. Carnage covers the ground.

Lysandria draws her sword and VIOLENTLY works her way through Borislav's soldiers, killing them one by one. As she approaches Borislav, she is greeted by a smile.

BORISLAV (CONT'D)

Today, your reign of terror ends.

Lysandria laughs.

LYSANDRIA

I haven't had my fill of killing weak men yet.

BORISLAV

Death comes to us all, Blood Queen.

Lysandria smiles.

LYSANDRIA

No need to mourn your brother, for you'll see him soon.

Boris charges at Lysandria with his sword raised. It clashes against Lysandria's sword.

The two fight valiantly against each other, but Lysandria smiles as if she is toying with him.

Damian, Selene, and Julius approach the pillory and free Viktor and Aurora.

They turn towards Lysandria and Borislav. Lysandria runs Borislav through with her sword, as he falls to the ground, Lysandria cuts off his head.

Lysandria turns to the pillory and smiles.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)

Since I failed, maybe your friends can teach you about loyalty.

Viktor unsheaths the cursed sword and approaches Lysandria. Soldiers from both sides stop and watch.

VIKTOR

As much as this pains me, it ends today.

Lysandria smiles and watches Viktor.

LYSANDRIA

My love, you know my heart. This is only the beginning. Kingdoms rise and fall. Neither you nor a prophecy will change the outcome.

VIKTOR

Then you leave me no choice.

LYSANDRIA

We could have ruled the world together.

VIKTOR

Not like this.

Lysandria readies her sword.

LYSANDRIA

So you have made your decision.

VIKTOR

Once full of love, our journey ends at an impasse. How far we've come— from picnics in the field to now.

LYSANDRIA

Those times I will cherish until true death. A part of me fights even now, but fate has decided. It's time for the sun to set and the night to reign.

Lysandria rushes Viktor, and Viktor BLOCKS her sword.

The fighting intensifies, and Viktor cuts Lysandria on her shoulder.

She looks at the cut, gets angry, and runs Viktor through. He falls to his knees.

Aurora screams.

AURORA

Mother stop!

Lysandria looks at Aurora, conflicted, and her eyes brim with tears.

LYSANDRIA

It's too late. This is the cost of the crown.

Lysandria raises her sword and gazes down at Viktor.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, my love.

Viktor looks up at Lysandria.

VIKTOR
I will watch over you from the
stars.

Viktor turns to Aurora, teary-eyed.

VIKTOR (CONT'D)
My torment is that I'll never be
able to hold you again.

She cuts his head off, and his body drops to the ground.

LYSANDRIA
To the castle!

Lysandria and her soldiers leave.

Aurora's eyes flow with tears and rage subdues her. She grabs
a sword from the ground.

AURORA
You took him from me!

She runs after the soldiers and starts picking off
stranglers. Their bodies fall to the ground.

AURORA (CONT'D)
Face me, Mother!

Damian runs to her and grabs her as she kicks and fights his
hold.

DAMIAN
You can't honor him if you're dead.
We have to get the men and follow
her.

Julius picks up the cursed sword from Viktor's hand and hands
it to Aurora.

SELENE
What do we do now?

Aurora composes herself and grips the cursed sword.

AURORA
We stop my mother, or it's all for
nothing.

JULIUS
How do we get in the castle?

DAMIAN
There is a secret tunnel.

JULIUS
We have to move quickly, your
majesty.

They leave.

EXT. HASSANI CASTLE - FIELD - NIGHT

On the side of a hill, Damian and Aurora pull a metal grate cover off the entrance to the tunnel system.

EXT. HASSANI CASTLE - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Lysandria leads her soldiers into battle.

The soldiers push a battling ram towards the heavy wood door that leads into the castle. The ram POUNDS the door.

LYSANDRIA
Hac nocte infernum ad ianuam eius
deferimus.

SUBTITLE: "Tonight we bring hell to his door."

INT. HASANI CASTLE - BALCONY - NIGHT

Atticus stares down at the forces and yells.

ATTICUS
Archers!

The archers launch a wave of arrows that fly through the air and rain down on Lysandria's forces, and they block the arrows with their shields.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
Aim for their hearts!

The archers reload and launch another wave of arrows.

EXT. HASSANI CASTLE - NIGHT

Arrows strike the soldiers on their shields, faces, and limbs. The soldiers pull the arrows out of their bodies, and those that can't crumble to the ground.

Lysandria yells and points her sword towards the castle.

LYSANDRIA

Victory is ours. Ready your fangs,
men. Tonight, we feed.

The soldiers CHEER as the battling ram BEATS down the door.

Lysandria's forces rush through, striking down soldiers and COMMONERS and leaving a trail of bodies in their wake.

Lysandria enters the castle, striking down soldiers with each step she takes.

INT. HASANI CASTLE - BALCONY - NIGHT

Atticus looks down and sees Lysandria.

ATTICUS

Off with the demon's head!

Lysandria looks up and sees Atticus and smiles. She pushes through the courtyard.

INT. HASANI CASTLE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Lysandria's soldiers enter homes and shops to slaughter both residents and soldiers and set fire to everything.

The residents SCREAM in fear, and many run through the streets to escape.

Aurora and her forces rush into the courtyard.

Lysandria's soldiers are battling against Atticus's soldiers, but the chaos of the battle causes both sides to fight against Aurora's forces.

Damian and Aurora, back against each other, fight off Lysandria's soldiers.

Soon, Aurora's forces are overwhelmed; they duck behind a wall to regroup.

Octavius turns to Aurora and Damian.

OCTAVIUS
 You finish this, your majesties. We
 will hold them off.

Damian turns to Aurora.

DAMIAN
 Follow me; I know a shortcut.

Damian and Aurora run to a staircase.

Octavius turns to Julius.

OCTAVIUS
 Look at the bright side. We won't
 die alone.

Julius turns to Octavius and places his hand on his shoulder
 and stabs Octavius.

Octavius looks at Julius in shock. Bleeding profusely, he
 tries to grab onto Julius.

JULIUS
 Goodbye, my friend. Peace was never
 my end goal. Our plan is almost
 complete.

Octavius's body drops to the ground, and his sword FALLS
 from his hand.

Julius disappears up a staircase as the battle rages between
 Lysandria's soldiers and the soldiers of Atticus and Aurora.

INT. HASANI CASTLE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lysandria walks through the hallways and kills everyone along
 the way. Her sword drips with blood, and bodies line the
 floor.

INT. HASANI CASTLE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

LYSANDRIA
 The sun sets on your kindom.

Atticus who turns around on the balcony.

ATTICUS
 Ah, the demon queen. Too long since
 you stole the life of my beloved.

Lysandria smiles.

LYSANDRIA

She never learned a queen shouldn't try to stake her guest.

ATTICUS

She was loyal to the end. Her only mistake was failing.

LYSANDRIA

Failure isn't an option for me.

Several GUARDS enter the room with their swords drawn.

GUARD 1

Protect the King.

The guards approach Lysandria as two guards escort the King out of the room.

Several guards attack Lysandria, but she BLOCKS them. She turns to see the King escape and becomes angry.

LYSANDRIA

The chase always sweetens the feast.

Lysandria violently PARRIES the guards, killing each of them. Blood splatters against the wall, as their bodies drop to the floor.

INT. HASANI CASTLE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Aurora and Damian ascend the stairs to come face to face with Lysandria's men.

They draw their swords and hold the soldiers off, but one manages to stab Damian.

SOLDIER

Die a traitor's death.

Aurora turns around, grabs the soldier, and bites into his neck.

The soldier tries to fight her off, stabbing her with his sword, but it's too late. The soldier's body drops to the ground, lifeless.

Aurora licks her bloody lips.

Damian falls to the ground, clenching his side.

Aurora, in pain, bends down to Damian.

AURORA

I'm losing count of the many times
I have had to save you.

Damian looks up at Aurora, and he smiles.

DAMIAN

In my defense, you don't have
typical princess problems... I'd
rather be fighting dragons.

She helps Damian rise and puts his arm around her.

AURORA

Come, we have to finish this.

DAMIAN

Leave me. I'm just gonna slow you
down.

AURORA

Always, but we have far too much
left to do, and we don't have time
for you to die.

DAMIAN

As you wish, Your Majesty.

Damian laughs, and they exit the hallway.

INT. HASANI CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

The king enters the room, flanked by soldiers. They barricade
the door, which shakes as Lysandria pounds on it from the
other side.

GUARD 1

Don't let the demon queen in. Hold
her off until sunrise.

The POUNDING continues.

GUARD 2

She's breaching. Can't hold much
longer.

The door flies off the hinges and crashes into the guards.

Lysandria enters with a devilish grin.

LYSANDRIA

You can't hide from fate, Atticus.

Lysandria cuts down the remaining guards. She grabs Atticus and looks at him with black eyes and extended fangs. She gets ready to bite.

Aurora and Damian enter the throne room. Lysandria looks up.

LYSANDRIA (CONT'D)
Just in time, Daughter.

Damian unsheaths the cursed sword from Aurora. Aurora becomes conflicted.

ATTICUS
Kill her, son, like we planned.

Lysandria bites into Atticus's neck, drains him of his blood, and discards his lifeless body.

Aurora turns to Damian.

AURORA
Tell me it's not true. Does
betrayal run in your blood?

Aurora lifts Damian.

DAMIAN
Kill me if you must, but hear me. I
was angry... Then you showed me I
was wrong. I hated vampires, but
now I love one.

Aurora hesitates and sets Damian down and turns to Lysandria.

AURORA
It's over, Mother. You've had your
revenge.

Lysandria's grin turns devilish.

LYSANDRIA
You dream of peace. I'll unite them
under fear. Endless nights are upon
us! Just one more thing to do.

Lysandria launches through the air at Damian. Aurora pushes Damian out of the way, and Lysandria accidentally grabs Aurora in the heat of the moment and bites into her neck.

Aurora's eyes brim with tears.

AURORA

Is this the cost, Mother? Do you
hear that? The sound of my heart
breaking.

Lysandria's eyes reflect intense fear and regret. She lets go
of Aurora. She backs away, and tears fall from her eyes as
she watches Aurora fall to the ground.

Damian approaches Lysandria with the corrupted sword.

LYSANDRIA

Kill me... Kill me you insolent
fool.

Damian turns to Aurora conflicted.

Aurora comes to, and tears flow from her eyes.

AURORA

No... Damian.

Lysandria approaches Damian, and he slowly steps back.

LYSANDRIA

You can't have peace as long as I
exist. I almost killed my daughter.
(looks at Aurora)
Now, I am truly a monster.

Aurora rises and approaches Lysandria.

AURORA

You had your vengeance, Mother. We
can build a better world...
together, like you tried before.

Lysandria turns to Aurora with tears and regret.

LYSANDRIA

I will watch over you from the
stars, my torment being that I will
never be able to hold you again.

AURORA

Mother, no!

Lysandria grabs the cursed sword from Damian and stabs
herself in the heart.

The dark figure exits her body and disappears out the window.
Lysandria's body turns to ashes.

INT. HASANI CASTLE - DAMIAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Julius enters the room and bows, and Damian stands near the window. Damian is wearing his ceremonial clothing.

JULIUS

The people await your word, Your Majesty.

Damian gazes out at the crowd below.

DAMIAN

It's strange, isn't it? A battle raged here, a king was lost... yet life goes on as if nothing happened.

Julius steps closer, his expression solemn.

JULIUS

Grief manifests in many forms. You mourn a father; they embrace a new king.

DAMIAN

Julius, can I ask a favor?

JULIUS

Of course, Your Majesty.

Damian retrieves the cursed sword.

DAMIAN

Destroy this for me. It's done enough damage and stands as a painful reminder.

Julius takes the sword, nodding.

JULIUS

Consider it done, Your Majesty.

Damian and Julius exit.

INT. HASANI CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

The throne room consists of rows of people. Damian walks through the center of the people, and they bow. Damian stands next to the throne.

JULIUS

By the powers vested in me by the
crown, I crown you King Damian
Hasani.

DAMIAN

We have all endured hardships, and
your sacrifices will be honored.
Together, we will usher in a golden
age of peace and prosperity.

The crowd CHEERS and CHANTS.

CROWD

Long live the King!

Damian smiles and takes his seat on the throne.

EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT

Selene approaches Aurora, and they walk in the garden. Aurora
wears her black and gold ceremonial clothes.

Aurora reaches out to touch a flower.

AURORA

It feels so strange.

SELENE

Peace?

Aurora and Selene sit on the water fountain.

AURORA

I keep waiting for her to appear,
so we can walk these gardens again.

Selene looks at Aurora.

SELENE

I'm sorry.

Aurora looks around.

AURORA

The wind blows, and for a moment, I
think it's her. Then reality hits
me again.

SELENE

She will be missed.

AURORA
More than she'll ever know.

They rise and head inside.

INT. THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Vampires stand in rows and turn as Selene and Aurora enter the room. They walk down the center, and the vampires bow. Damian and Julius are in front of the vampires.

Aurora stands before the throne.

Selene retrieves the crown and places it on Aurora's head.

SELENE
By the power invested in me by the crown. Queen Aurora Rothschild.

AURORA
Today, we honor my mother and her forgotten dream. As Queen, we will live in peace eternal!

The crowd CHEERS and CHANTS.

CROWD
(together)
Long live the Queen!

INT. AURORA'S BEDROOM - BALCONY - NIGHT

Aurora looks out at her kingdom and smiles, with Damian's arms around her.

DAMIAN
Finally, peace reigns between the kingdoms.

AURORA
Is it too soon to discuss an alliance?

DAMIAN
I have something else in mind.

Damian reaches into his pocket, pulls out a ring, and kneels, taking Aurora's hand.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
Will you be my Queen?

Aurora's face beams with joy.

AURORA

Yes!

Damian slides the ring onto her finger, stands, and kisses her. He lifts and spins her around.

Aurora looks at the moon.

AURORA (CONT'D)

I need a moment.

Damian's expression shifts to concern.

AURORA (CONT'D)

(jokingly)

Just me and this ring. Sparkly things are the way to a woman's heart.

They share a laugh.

AURORA (CONT'D)

I'm fine... go on.

Damian nods and heads into the bedroom.

Aurora closes her eyes.

AURORA (CONT'D)

I hope to make you both proud.

A strong breeze tousles Aurora's hair, her face illuminated.

LYSANDRIA (O.S.)

My sweet Aurora, the love of my life. Long live the Queen!

EXT. DARK CAVE - DAY

Julius slips into the cave, the cursed sword clutched tightly. He glances back to ensure no one has followed. In the cave's darkness, a pair of glowing red eyes appear and vanish.

GRETCHEN (O.S.)

Welcome, brother. We've been waiting.

An old witch's cackle echoes through the cave.

JULIUS

Our plan was flawless. All who wronged us are dead. No one suspects a thing.

GRETCHEN

And the new king and queen?

JULIUS

They've united the kingdoms under one crown.

GRETCHEN

Are you ready, brother? It's time to welcome a new king.

Julius steps forward, placing the cursed sword at the center of a pentagram. Together, they begin to chant, their eyes turning pitch black.

FADE TO BLACK.