

SCARLET SEAS

By

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EXT. THE BLACK SEA, ROMANIA (1721 AD) - NIGHT

The full moon slices through ebony clouds as an icy wind whips up white caps on the pitch tar surface.

The GISETTE, a tall-masted merchant ship, flies a French flag as she struggles against the chop.

TITLES

EXT. THE TRADER SHIP GISETTE - NIGHT

On deck, the seasoned CAPTAIN (40's) and his broad-shouldered HELMSMAN (30's) fight to hold the wheel.

CAPTAIN
Steady. Steady on now.

HELMSMAN
Wind's picked up. Bad enough we're in strange waters, capitaine. The men hear stories about Carpathia.

THE BLACK SEA

Rain starts to pour down, as the Gisetite crashes through rough surf. The ship forges on, turning into a river delta.

CAPTAIN (O.S.)
Superstitious lot! Old wive's tales of risen dead? Drinking blood?

GISETTE'S HELM

The captain spots a silhouette in the gloom and points.

CAPTAIN
There! See? We reached the Danube.

HELMSMAN
Oui, capitaine. Sooner we're there, sooner we go back to warmer waters.

EXT. ROMANIAN COUNTRY SIDE - NIGHT

Below, the Gisetite disappears from view. Sea gives way to mountains, sparse farms and an ancient stone castle.

Overlooking a peaceful valley hamlet, a shadow moves over the rooftops and swoops down to a stone plaza below.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

Locals mill quietly about a plaza market as a town guard lights street lamps. A FATHER (30s) and his LITTLE GIRL (9) stand at a vegetable cart; she pretends to feed her doll. Her father tepidly smiles, but the lamps suddenly dim.

The dark shroud passes overhead. Looking skyward, he scoops her up and runs as villagers scatter. In the panic, she drops her doll. In the safety of their doorway, he sets her down, but the girl darts back toward the plaza.

FATHER

Katerina!

Reaching her doll, she looks back - just as the dark form swoops down and snatches her father into the air.

She SCREAMS.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Around a massive oak desk; a uniformed CONSTABLE (40's), several distraught villagers and the LORD MAYOR (50's), a heavy bearded gent in his bed robe, are in heated debate.

CONSTABLE

Another attack Lord Mayor, I cannot just stand by and let-

MAYOR

Good people... we're waiting for-

ANGRY VILLAGER

Typical politician! Cower in fear while your people are hunted off the very streets they live!

CONSTABLE

Sir, I must protest! Give me the men I need and we can-

The mayor raises a hand to silence them.

MAYOR

We wait... for word from Hans Von Illsbrook.

ANGRY VILLAGER

Von Illsbrook? From Vienna?

MAYOR

The same. He and his colleagues arrived from Austria in secret to hunt this thing. I hoped we could have avoided a panic... but tonight...

CONSTABLE

We cannot wait much longer. For tonight I will post a man here.

MAYOR

Thank you, Constable. Though I doubt many of us will be sleeping.

The Constable clicks his heels, then directs citizens out.

CONSTABLE

Back to your homes. Keep a sharp eye. My men will be on patrol.

ANGRY VILLAGER

And what good have they been so far? Our village has been cursed!

The Constable nods to the Mayor, who ascends the stairs. As they exit, a guard takes a seat by the door. He clutches a crucifix. Beyond a nearby window, the plaza is now empty.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

In the morning sun, the doll remains on the cobblestone, by a small pool of blood. A man's hunting boot steps beside it.

HANS VON ILLSBROOK, a weathered but hardy elder man attired for a safari, kneels beside the toy. Picking it up, he strokes his moustache as he examines it.

HANS

A little girl must be missing you..

ALANA (O.S.)

She misses her father more.

He turns to ALANA VON ILLSBROOK (20s), a young, statuesque woman with Romani features and long, raven hair. He tosses the doll to her. She lowers her crossbow to catch the toy.

HANS

Yes... but him, we can't bring back.

Behind him are two imposing Russians - the burly GUSTAV (30's) and younger MIKHAIL (20's) are also dressed for the hunt. Mikhail ties their horses' reins to a nearby post.

ALANA

Same as when we tracked the blood into the forest three days ago.

Hans snorts an exhale, then scans the horizon.

HANS

Three days apart is too soon; for a wampyr as old as this one must be.

ALANA

Then, there are more?

He turns to her and smiles weakly.

HANS

There are always more.

Hans gestures for his hunters to follow him across the square. In the daylight, the quaint town appears deserted.

ALANA

Quiet.

MIKHAIL

No guard at the gate either.

HANS

They probably rise and sleep as the wampyr. Hard to rest, knowing a beast is stalking.

ALANA

Or weary of strangers. You know the undead better than the living, father.

GUSTAV (O.S.)

We are being watched.

Gustav points to a window in the Lord Mayor's house. A moment later, the mayor and constable step out.

MAYOR

Herr Von Illsbrook! You don't know how your presence allays our fear.

Hans steps ahead, extending his hand. The two men shake.

HANS

Thank you, Lord Mayor.
(Gesturing to the others)
My daughter Alana, and assistants Gustav and his brother, Mikhail of St. Petersburg. I'm afraid, you will not find our news comforting.

MAYOR

Have you not found this monster?

ALANA

Gustav tracked it into the forest and found your missing man. Some woodsmen from the lumber camp are taking the body to his family.

GUSTAV

The trail led to a stone wall of an estate at the foot of the mountain.

CONSTABLE
 Dragonuv castle. The beast could be
 hiding in the caves nearby.

Hans raises an eyebrow.

CONSTABLE (CONT.)
 The Dragonuv heir, Lady Scarlet
 resides there with her servants.
 Secretive woman but she may allow
 you permission to search her land.

Gustav glances at Alana. She in turn looks at her father.

ALANA
 Do you know this lady well?

MAYOR
 Somewhat. My wife and I had dinner
 with her. Lovely creature, though
 she barely ate much, if anything.
 Maintaining her rather prim figure.

Hans nods.

HANS
 Lord Mayor, have you seen her
 abouts during the day?

CONSTABLE
 Of course! Are you implying our
 Lady Dragonuv is this... wampyr?
 Preposterous. There, see yourself.

He points to an ornate carriage across the plaza. A tall
 FOOTMAN tends the horses. A noblewoman exits a shop, her
 face hidden by a parasol. He helps her into the carriage.

HANS
 I think I shall.

They cross the courtyard to the carriage. A silhouette of
 the lady is seen behind a curtain. The Footman steps up.

FOOTMAN
 Good Morrow, Lord Mayor.

MAYOR
 I was hoping we might have a word
 with your mistress about this
 horrid business. She'll be pleased
 to hear Herr Von Illsbrook is here.

FOOTMAN
 Milady is overdue already. I will
 tell her for you.

The Mayor nods. The Footman approaches the carriage and
 talks through the curtain. Alana leans toward her father.

ALANA

Lady Scarlet shies from the light.

HANS

Doubt that thin veil is enough to protect a wampyr from the sun.

The Footman approaches.

FOOTMAN

Her ladyship says having Herr Von Illsbrook here is a great comfort and she wishes him good fortune.

The mayor bows. The Footman returns to the carriage and climbs aboard. The mayor motions to Hans.

MAYOR

I hope that dispels your concerns.

But Alana has stepped past and approaches the carriage.

ALANA

Come now, it's a beautiful day. You should step out of that dark, cramped carriage... take some air.

The shadow moves away from the window. Alana grabs the handle to open the door, but a gloved hand reaches out, grips the window sill and holds it fast. Alana struggles.

ALANA (CONT.)

Quite... strong... for a noblewoman.

Hearing the commotion, the Footman looks down.

FOOTMAN

Get away!! What are you doing?

CONSTABLE (O.S.)

Now see here, young woman!

The Footman leaps to the ground. He grabs Alana by the shoulder. In turn, Hans, Gustav and Mikhail seize him.

But, all three men are can barely contain the raging man. The constable tries to intervene, unsure whose side to take.

FOOTMAN

No! Stop!

Alana cannot budge the carriage door. She pulls a gold crucifix from her neck and holds it through the window.

There's a SHRIEK! And the gloved hand retreats.

INT. CARRIAGE

Alana whips open the door and climbs inside.

ALANA
Let us view your beauty in the
sunlight, milady.

The veiled figure has shrunk into the shaded corner. Alana grabs hold of an arm, but the figure doesn't resist.

Instead, the passenger hisses and lunges at her.

What rushes at Alana is not the fair frame of a woman, but a pale, gaunt male GHOUL with red eyes. His thin arms and exposed shoulders are covered with healed scars.

The crucifix is batted from Alana's hands and she scrambles to grasp it back.

ALANA
Father!

VILLAGE SQUARE

The Footman struggles to pull free from the hunters as he staggers closer and closer to the coach.

FOOTMAN
You will... pay with... your lives!

Hans draws a pistol and whips the Footman across the head. He slumps as Mikhail and Gustav take hold of his arms.

HANS
Hold him!!

Hans runs to the carriage to aid Alana.

CARRIAGE

Fallen back, Alana flails against the ghoul who now grips her throat. He snarls a laugh as he strangles her.

GHOUL
Where's-s your s-spirit now, girl?

ALANA
Foul... beast!

Reaching through the open door, Hans grabs his daughter under her arms and pulls.

As her body moves into the sunlight, the ghoulish creature lets go and retreats back inside the dark carriage.

VILLAGE SQUARE

The constable and mayor stare in stunned silence by what they are seeing. Gustav and Mikhail turn their attention to the carriage. But, at that moment the Footman rouses.

He tears loose from Mikhail, bashing Gustav with his freed arm. Before the men can recover, he flees down the street.

The constable blows an alarm tweet on his whistle.

CONSTABLE

See to them! My men will capture
that one! Guards!! Guards!!

He gives chase down the cobblestone, a baton stick raised. Gustav and Mikhail rush to Hans and Alana.

Kneeling, Von Illsbrook keeps a wary eye on the carriage as he tends his daughter.

HANS

Not Lady Scarlet, I take it.

Coughing, Alana nods and tries to stand.

ALANA

I do not think it's wampyr.

HANS

No. Not yet.

Hans pulls a dagger from his belt. He cuts off the bridle and a length of reins from the carriage horses.

HANS (CONT.)

A recent convert, maybe. Still part
human. But already exhibiting some
of the beast's traits.

He glances at Gustav, rubbing his bruised cheek.

HANS (CONT.)

The driver seemed human enough.

GUSTAV

He just fights like a demon.

INT. CARRIAGE / GHOUL'S P.O.V.

The carriage door swings open as the hunters peer inside. Hans holds up the length of carriage reins.

HANS

Now beast, where is your mistress?

EXT. CASTLE DRAGONUV - NIGHT

The narrow pass is walled off by a stone wall and an iron gate as the hunters approach from the darkness. Hans leads the way; the ghoul leashed on the carriage reins. The bridle has been put in its mouth and it's arm are bound behind.

HANS
Best to camp here, I think.

ALANA
Camp? And give her time to fortify
or attack us in the night?

HANS
We need that time to strategize.

The ghoul chokes a laugh. Alana removes the bridle.

ALANA
What is it, beast?

GHOUL
Does-s-s not matter when you come!
She knows. She will kill all of y-

A wooden stake bursts from the ghoul's chest. Hans drives the creature to the ground, straddling its back.

HANS
There. Now, if she was observing us
through him, she won't expect us
until morning. Time to move.

INT. CASTLE CORRIDOR

A MAID shuffles along a passage of a once opulent dimly-lit palace; her ghoulish red eyes piercing the darkness. She carries a silver pitcher on a serving tray.

BED CHAMBER

Lamps burn in the corners of large, stone-walled room. In the center, is an ornate tub surrounded by veiled curtains.

The Maid enters. Another servant tends to a woman in a bath. LADY SCARLET DRAGONUV (eternally 30's) sits with her back to us; red tresses pinned up over her shoulders.

SCARLET
Getting cold...

MAID
Apologies, milady.

She hands the pitcher to the servant, through the veil. The servant pours the dark crimson contents down Scarlet's back. She lets the blood pour down her arms.

Scarlet exhales contently as the servant bathes her with a blood-stained cloth. Her coal-black eyes turn to the Maid.

SCARLET

My carriage has yet to return?

MAID

All other preparations are nearly complete. Should I send someone?

SCARLET

My footman is quite resourceful. I'm certain he'll be along shortly.

The servant holds up a silken robe on her. Pausing, Scarlet dips a finger into the tub, then puts it into her mouth.

SCARLET

But, we should expect guests.

EXT. VILLAGE STREET - NIGHT

Stealthily, the Footman slips around the corner - checking back over his shoulder. Turning back, he spots a hay wagon tied at a hitching post.

The burly fugitive grabs up the reins and jumps aboard.

A moment later, the wagon is thundering down the cobblestone, leaving a trail of hay behind.

EXT. COURTYARD

Gustav climbs down the wall on a rope. He scans the area as Alana drops down behind him. She pulls her crossbow off her back and covers them. Gustav holds the rope steady to aid Mikhail down. The Russians then help Hans.

GUSTAV

Maybe an hour 'til sunrise. Work fast, little brother.

MIKHAIL

Hand over hand.

Mikhail and Gustav heave on another rope, hauling a crate up from the other side; a large tree limb acting as a pulley.

HANS

From here on, we're in her domain.

Opening the crate, they pull out additional weapons, stakes, crosses, etc. Armed and ready, the hunters cross the courtyard and push through a door leading inside.

INT. CASTLE DRAGONUV

Scarlet descends a stairwell into the cellar; escorted by two vampire servants. Her Footman meets them coming up.

SCARLET
I was afraid I would have to find
another coachman.

FOOTMAN
Hunters, milady. Von Illsbrook was
among them. I barely escap-

She silences him with a knowing smile.

SCARLET
All is well. Go back and seal the
chamber. Soon, we shall be ready.

The servants escort her through a side door. The Footman bows and heads back down.

BED CHAMBER

The hunters burst in. Hans holds a crucifix while Gustav and Mikhail fan out beside him. Alana holds up her crossbow.

ALANA
Scarlet Dragonuv... your time has
come to rest in peace!

The chamber appears deserted.

HANS
Stay together.

NOISES outside cause the hunters to stop.

SCARLET (O.S.)
Willkommen, herr Illsbrook...

A pack of ghouls and vampire servants rush in from a dark archway opposite. They form a ring around the hunters.

Scarlet emerges from the shadowed archway.

SCARLET (CONT.)
...to Dragonuv castle. Regretfully
your stay will be short. I do not
have time to be a proper hostess.

The creatures snarl and hiss as they close in.

SCARLET (CONT.)
 Enjoy your feast, my children.
 Farewell, vampire hunters.

As Scarlet turns to leave, the creatures surge at the hunters. But, Alana aims her crossbow at Scarlet's back.

ALANA
 We will see you in Hell!

She fires. Moving inhumanly fast, the Maid leaps into the path of the crossbow bolt to save her mistress. THWACK! The bolt strikes the Maid in the chest. She collapses.

The monsters attack. The hunters fire their bows, then draw swords and stakes. In the ensuing bloody brawl, a ghoul and two servants swarm upon Mikhail. He flails at them.

GUSTAV
 Brother!! I... I'm coming!

Gustav hacks and slashes his way to help, but not before the creatures bite, claw and eviscerate poor Mikhail, whose SCREAMS fill the hall.

GUSTAV (CONT.)
 NO! Beasts! I kill... you all!

Gustav, with a sword in one hand and a stake in the other, flies at the creatures. Downing the last, Gustav kneels by his brother, dropping his weapons to the floor.

HANS (O.S.)
 This way!

Hans points Alana to the archway. They see Gustav, holding his fallen brother. Hans grips Alana's shoulder.

HANS (CONT.)
 We've no time! She will barricade herself in her sanctuary.

CATACOMBS

Hans and Alana descend the same stairs the Footman went down. Alana cranks and reloads her crossbow as she runs.

CAVERN

The Illsbrooks reach the bottom of the stairs, crossbow and stake ready. They encounter a massive door, but its ajar.

HANS
 Dawn is not far off now. Why aren't the doors locked?

SANCTUARY

The iron door CREAKS open to an antechamber lit by dwindling torches. A stone slab lay in the center, but nothing more. Footprints in the dirt lead into a cavern beyond. In the distance, an light can be seen.

ALANA

Were we wrong?

Hans follows the debris to the cave entrance, where it stops at a set of carriage wheel ruts.

HANS

No, just late. Damn!

EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT

As the first hints of dawn appear on the horizon, Hans, Alana and Gustav burst out a door into the empty atrium.

Suddenly, the stolen wagon thunders around the corner. It bears down on them; the Footman driving and CRACKING a whip. Two surviving servants have climbed aboard behind him.

The hunters scatter as it roars past. An ornately decorated coffin lay in the back of the rattling wagon. The servants cover it and themselves with a heavy canvas for protection.

The hunters watch the carriage barrel through the gate.

HANS

This move was planned. We just accelerated her time table. But, wherever she's going, death will travel with her.

GUSTAV

This was all for nothing? Mikhail?

Hans ponders as the wagon disappears into the valley. Alana lowers her weapon, and then puts an arm around Gustav. Hans pats him on the back as the larger man sadly slumps.

EXT. WHARF - NIGHT

The Gissette is moored at an isolated dock. The Footman talks to the Captain as servants load Lady Scarlet's things.

CAPTAIN

You're a full early. I have not restocked provisions. We'll be out of food before we reach Istanbul.

FOOTMAN

Then, provision there... it is urgent we get under way.

The captain glances up and sees the hooded servants bring the coffin aboard. It startles him.

CAPTAIN
You there, stop!

He scowls at the Footman.

CAPTAIN (CONT.)
What is that? You're bringing a dead person aboard my vessel?

FOOTMAN
A family heirloom. I assure you it does not contain any dead.

CAPTAIN
It goes below. I don't want my men having to look at it.

FOOTMAN
Agreed. It will stay with us.

The Footman turns and walks up the gangplank.

CAPTAIN
Heirloom... bah. Cast off!

LATER

The vampire hunters thunder down the dock on their horses, only to see the Gisette sailing into the darkness.

GUSTAV
There's the carriage! But...

ALANA
But it appears our quarry has flown or rather, sailed.

They dismount the horses. Hans inspects the carriage. He lifts up the fabric. The wagon is covered in loose dirt.

HANS
The beast's coffin must be kept in native soil. So, she takes soil with her.

Scouting the dock, Alana spies a worker reeling in a rope. She points to the fleeing Gisette as she approaches him.

ALANA
What was the name of that vessel?

WORKER
Some cargo ship from France... the Gisette, I believe.

ALANA

Do you know where it was going?

WORKER

My job is to tie a ship up, cast it off... help load.

She takes a gold coin from a pouch and puts it in his hand.

WORKER (CONT.)

Someone said Istanbul.

ESTABLISHING SHOT - ISTANBUL - DAY

The sprawling port city is in all its glory as the sun rises over golden Islamic minarets and Constantine architecture. Sailing ships of all types fill her harbor.

INT. HARBOR MASTER OFFICE - DAY

Hans and Alana enter the sandstone and cedar building. Behind a counter, the HARBOR MASTER, a thick well-dressed Turk with an oiled moustache glances from his papers.

ALANA

Good day, sir. We're looking for a ship that may have made port.

The man doesn't react. Hans sets a coin on the counter.

HANS

French cargo ship... the Gisette.

HARBORMASTER

Certainly, beyefendi. One moment...

The man nods and turns in his chair to a massive log book.

ALANA

He did not even acknowledge me.

HANS

Keep in mind where we are. There's a reason why this city is no longer Constantinople.

The harbor master scans the pages with a large magnifying glass mounted on a swing arm.

HARBORMASTER

Gi-sette... Yes. She put in four days ago and left yesterday.

ALANA

Does your book say where the Gisette is headed?

Again, the man pays her no mind, but turns to Hans.

HARBORMASTER
Is there anything else, beyefendi?

Alana SLAMS her fist down onto the counter.

ALANA
Yes! Her destination?

The Turk glares at her, but she glares right back.

HARBORMASTER
Impudent woman!

ALANA
Now, he sees me.

HANS
Alana! Let us not offend this man.
He has been very helpful.

Hans gestures at her, but she storms out and slams the door behind her. The Turk sneers.

HARBORMASTER
That girl should be lashed.

HANS
That young woman is my daughter,
sir. She's young, impulsive, and
may not respect traditions. But,
threaten her again and I will
become very impulsive myself. Where
is the Gisette headed? Please?

Hans' polite grin goes ice cold. The Turk looks at his book.

HARBORMASTER
The Gisette took provisions and a
load of farm tools for Puerto Rico.

HANS
The Americas, eh? It appears I am
in need of a ship to charter.

Hans places another coin on the counter.

HARBOR MASTER
In the coming week, there be
several ships heading West.

HANS
Nothing sooner?

HARBORMASTER
Perhaps one ship I know of. But I
advise waiting until next week.

EXT. HARBOR MASTER'S OFFICE - DAY

Alana stands in the street by her horse as Hans exits.

ALANA
What did that pig tell you?

HANS
Oh, he was quite apologetic.
Pleasant fellow. Sends his best.

He smiles. His daughter rolls her eyes, but then laughs.

INT. GISETTE CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS - DAY

The captain, in his sleeping robe, opens the door. The Helmsman stands just outside.

HELMSMAN
Sir, the cook's boy is missing.

CAPTAIN
Overboard?

HELMSMAN
Not sure. The cook sent him down
for vegetables last night. He never
came back. I have men searching.

CAPTAIN
If he went over in the dark, we'll
never find him. Keep searching.
Let's hope he's still onboard.

ISTANBUL MARKET - DAY

Hans and Alana browse various food stands.

ALANA
We should be chartering a ship to
take us home. Instead, we're
chasing the beast across the ocean.
You need rest, father. We destroyed
her nest and saved that village.

Hans picks up a few pieces of fruit and sniffs at one. He sees a small girl standing nearby as her mother shops.

HANS
And why do we pursue?

ALANA
I assume it's not just because she
knew your name.

HANS

This Lady Dragonuv is more powerful than any other we've dispatched. I do not want to leave this task to my heirs. You should return home. Gustav and I will continue on.

ALANA

Mother's death was avenged.

HANS

I know...

Hans gives the vendor a few coins and pockets the fruit, glancing again at the little girl.

FLASHBACK - EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

Dressed as a traveler, YOUNG HANS sits by a campfire with ALANA'S MOTHER, a beautiful Romani woman and YOUNG ALANA. He writes in a journal as she sings softly to the child.

A shadow falls over them. The girl's eyes widen fearfully.

Hans turns as a dark figure descends. Alana's mother SCREAMS as she fights to protect her child and fend off the attack.

EXT. WHARF - DAY

Hans looks down at the local girl. He pulls a fruit from his pocket and gives it to her. She smiles and darts away.

HANS

I drove the stake into that beast myself. But they are a plague we must stomp out or it will spread.

ALANA

You speak as though you're still a physician. This is a disease you cannot cure alone.

HANS

If not us, then who?

Hans and Alana turn to see their assistant approaching.

GUSTAV

That harbor master was telling the truth. No ship to the Americas is departing for at least a week.

HANS

I guess that leaves us one option.

EXT. GISETTE - DAY

The captain ascends to the deck. The Helmsman and another anxious crewman meet him.

HELMSMAN

The cargo master is now missing.
The men are on edge. They say our
passengers are murderers or worse.
Sir, we must return to port.

CAPTAIN

This far across the Atlantic? We're
not turning back. We will make
Puerto Rico. Double the watch.

HELMSMAN

We are talking about your crew!

CAPTAIN

Who knew the dangers when they...

LOOKOUT (O.S.)

Ship ahoy! Vessel port side!

The captain goes to the rail and opens a spyglass. Another ship can be seen on the horizon.

CAPTAIN

Change course. Give us room.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - DAY

The Gisette's mast swings out as she turns, but the closing galleon matches the move. The larger vessel bears down on them. As it closes, a row of gun ports swings open and a Jolly Roger flutters from her mast.

GISETTE

The captain lowers his spyglass, his jaw slack.

CAPTAIN

Heaven protect us... Hard a'
starboard! Full sail!!

GALLEON

The larger vessel closes on the cargo ship. A single cannon erupts, the shot arcing across the Gisette's bow.

FROST (O.S.)

Heave to or join the depths!

EXT. GISETTE - DAY

The ship's crew kneels on deck, hands on their heads. The captain holds his sheathed sword before him.

A plank bridges the vessels and a gang of rogues surge from the pirate ship and onto the deck, weapons ready.

CAPTAIN
 We surrender. I ask only for the
 lives of my men and passengers...
 (Gasps)
 Jeremiah Frost...

The vicious pirates give a surly laugh. From behind them, CAPTAIN JEREMIAH FROST (40s), a giant of a man with a shock of white hair and braided beard, steps forward.

He takes hold of the offering and draws the captain's sword from the sheath. It gleams in the sunlight.

FROST
 Fine weapon. Ever use it?

CAPTAIN
 I... I trained with it as an officer
 in King Louis' fleet.

FROST
 Ever used for its intended purpose?

The captain swallows the words, sweat forming on his brow.

CAPTAIN
 Sir, we have surrendered. The cargo
 is yours to take.

FROST
 No! This ship is now mine and I
 decides what I take from it...

He runs the captain through with the blade, twists it and pulls it out. The wounded man wheezes, gasps and collapses.

FROST (CONT.)
 Fine blade indeed. Lads, take what
 ye will! But the special hold and
 captain's quarters are mine!

CARGO HOLD

Scarlet's coffin sits on a raised platform. The two vampire servants stand in the dark corners of the room, asleep. The Footman frets as more NOISE erupts from above.

FOOTMAN
 You must awake! Protect our
 mistress! Awake!

Neither rouses. The doorknob RATTLES. The Footman douses his lantern and the room goes black.

CORRIDOR

Several pirates wait at the door as Frost approaches. One timidly rattles the door handle.

SCARED PIRATE
Locked.

FROST
When has that ever stopped us?

The men laugh as Frost thrusts a hard kick. The door shudders. Two others join him and they break it open.

FROST (CONT.)
One side...

CARGO HOLD

Frost stomps in, pointing his sword ahead. He stays inside the light from the corridor.

FROST
Can't see blazes in...

Something leaps out of the darkness and tackles Frost to the deck. As they struggle, the other pirates rush in.

It's the Footman. The pirates pull him off Frost and bash him unconscious. Frost gets to his feet.

FROST (CONT.)
Cur! Wonder what's in here worth all that fight.

Frost grabs up the lantern and lights it. A dark figure appears in the newfound light.

The pirate leaps back. A vampire appears before him but it's deep asleep. Frost pokes it. No response.

FROST (CONT.)
What kind of bleedin' statue is that beastly thing?!?

Frost sees Scarlet's decorative casket. He runs a hand over the ancient hardwood. Frost hands the lantern to a crewman.

SCARED PIRATE
Should we be disturbin' the dead?

FROST
They'll pay us no mind...

Frost tries to lift the lid, but it won't budge. He takes dagger from a crew man and tries to pry it open, but only proceeds in bending the blade. Frost huffs.

FROST
Bring it along!

DAGGER PIRATE
A coffin, captain?

FROST
No one locks a coffin. There be more in there than a corpse!

EXT. GISETTE - NIGHT

The pirates haul the last of their take to their vessel, including the casket. Frost crosses the deck, glaring at the frightened crew as he walks to his ship.

FROST
I honored your cap'ns wish and spared your miserable lives. We thank ye for your hospitality.

The plank is lifted and the galleon raises her sails. As the ship departs, the Helmsman watches over his captain's body. A SAD CREWMAN stands and puts a hand on his shoulder.

SAD CREWMAN (O.S.)
Sir, what do we do now?

HELMSMAN
We complete our journey... and bury our captain.

SAD CREWMAN
At least we're rid of that casket.

A GROAN is heard below, then SCRATCHING and clawing. The vampires have awakened to discover their mistress gone.

HELMSMAN
What in God's name?

The crew turn to the darkened stairwell leading to the hold. An inhuman CRY bellows from the blackness.

EXT. ISTANBUL WHARF - DAY

GIUSEPPE MURANO (30's), a short but thick-armed Italian sailor comes down a gangplank of the Antonia Maria, a small brigandine. He greets Hans, Alana and Gustav with a wave.

HANS
Signor... Murano?

GIUSEPPE

Giuseppe Murano, I am first mate.
Your cargo is aboard, signore.

HANS

Excellent. Can we meet the captain?

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN - DAY

Using his old Royal Navy officer's coat as a blanket, an unshaven CAPTAIN ROBERT ASH (30s), slumbers at a table littered with charts in the dark, cluttered quarters.

An empty bottle hangs from his fingertips as Giuseppe, Hans, Alana and Gustav enter.

GIUSEPPE

Capitan? Signore Illsbrook is here.

CAPTAIN ASH

Hmmm?

GIUSEPPE

Illsbrook, capitan. Our charter?

Ash manages to open one eye. The bottle slips from his fingers, clatters to the deck and rolls out of reach.

CAPTAIN ASH

Mister Murano, can you not see I'm deep in thought about our impending journey to the Americas?

GIUSEPPE

Excuse', Capitan.

Ash opens both eyes and struggles up out of the chair. He shakes Gustav's hand, looking up at the towering Russian.

CAPTAIN ASH

Of course, Illsbrook... expecting you. Captain Robert Ash.

Giuseppe discretely points to Hans. Without breaking the handshake, Ash turns to Hans.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)

And this stout gentleman must be one of your assistants.

HANS

Yes, this is Gustav...

Ash switches to shake hands with Hans. Then, spots Alana.

CAPTAIN ASH
Honor having you aboard, Herr
Illsbrook... and who might this
lovely creature be?

HANS
My daughter, Alana.

CAPTAIN ASH
At your service.

Ash reaches for her hand, but she doesn't offer. He looks at his own hand for a moment as though it might be dirty.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
Welcome aboard the Antonia Maria.

HANS
Danke. Our quarters?

GIUSEPPE
We made bunk space for three but we
were not expecting the signorina.

Ash glances back to Alana and grins.

CAPTAIN ASH
Sailing men believe women aboard
are ill-fortune. Perhaps, best you
stay in my quarters, ma'am.

Alana rolls her eyes and exits.

EXT. ANTONIA MARIA - DAY

Ash leads them all onto the deck as Giuseppe gathers the crew to work. Glaring sunlight causes Ash to squint.

CAPTAIN ASH
Bloody sunset. We should be under
way at first light.

HANS
It is first light, captain.

Ash looks at the sun, then around to gain his bearing.

CAPTAIN ASH
Yes, just waiting for the tide.

GIUSEPPE (O.S.)
Tide is going out, Capitan.

CAPTAIN ASH
Then, what the bloody Hell are you
waiting for? Weigh anchor!

Captain Ash stomps across the deck to the helm.

GIUSEPPE

Si, Capitan!

CAPTAIN ASH

Cast off fore and aft! Hoist main
sails! Secure those lines!

The crewmen stare at Ash. Giuseppe takes a breath.

GIUSEPPE

Lanci fuori avanti e indietro!
Sollevi le vele principali!
Assicuri quelle linee!

In a flurry, the men get to work. Ash nods.

CAPTAIN ASH

Just have to show who's in charge.

EXT. ISTANBUL HARBOR - DAY

The Antonia Maria cruises out of the harbor at full sail,
passing other arriving and departing craft.

EXT. FROST'S SHIP - NIGHT

On the deck of the pirate vessel, lanterns blaze brightly
and MUSIC can be heard as BELLS toll the hour.

INT. FROST'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

As the REVELRY goes on above, Scarlet's coffin lay alone on
the captain's table, like an altar. It is surrounded by
other plunders. Something SHIFTS inside it. The lamp
flickers and dims as the heavy wood lid CREAKS open.

GALLEY

Crewman dance and carouse as two men play an accordion and a
violin. Frost guzzles from a mug. A pile of stolen trinkets
lay on the table before him. He throws a handful to the
gathering, starting a brawl.

Suddenly, there is a bloody SHRIEK. All goes silent. Some of
the sailors draw weapons. Frost stands.

FROST

Is one a' you holding out on me? We
took no prisoners.

No response. Some of the men shake their heads.

FROST (CONT.)

Gents, if we have a lady aboard,
she needs to join us in a drink!

Laughter. Frost points to three men. They nod and exit.

CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS

Bursting into the chamber, the pirates stop dead. The coffin sits on the floor, in earth taken from a nearby broken crate. Scarlet stands before them, still dressed in her silken robes. Her pale form almost glows in the dark room.

SCARLET
Gentlemen, these accommodations are not to my liking. I need to speak with your captain.

DAGGER PIRATE
You there! How'd ye get in 'ere?

SCARED PIRATE
Were you... hidin' in that coffin?
(Voice trembles)
Cap'n Frost wants you... wants us, to take you to 'im.

SCARLET
And if I refuse his hospitality?

The pirates snicker. DAGGER holds up his wicked-looking blade, pointing at Scarlet's throat.

DAGGER PIRATE
We take ye to him still, after we're finished... persuading ye.

The pirates laugh. Scarlet laughs... and laughs. It unsettles the men and they stop. Then, she snarls a smile - her elongated canines bared. As they recoil, she lunges.

SCARED PIRATE
AAAH! Demon!

She throws herself at them, clawing and thrashing. The lamp falls off the table and goes out. SCREAMS fill the dark.

GALLEY

The room is filled with the echoing CRIES. Pirates shudder in panic. Frost growls and pulls out his pistol.

FROST
Be still!

ACCUSING PIRATE
You brought some haunt upon us bringing that casket aboard!

FROST
I said quiet! I am captain of-

SCARLET (O.S.)

Not. Any. More.

The men turn. Scarlet, now dressed in a collection of her victims' clothes and hat, stands in the doorway. She is still barefoot, holding out a pair of old boots.

SCARLET (CONT.)

You have just been demoted. I am in command of this vessel now, *Mister* Frost. I require appropriate quarters and... better footwear.

She tosses the boots aside and strides toward the captain, inspecting his men. Frost sights her with his pistol.

FROST

Demoted, says you?

Scarlet nods, but she isn't looking at him, rather the polished high boots being worn by another pirate. She saunters slowly toward him. He's frozen by her gaze.

FROST (CONT.)

I were gonna' give ye a drink and a dance. But we'll forego that.

BANG! The flintlock erupts and the lead ball clearly hits its mark in her back, but Scarlet doesn't fall. The men are stunned as she turns to face the captain and smiles.

FROST (CONT.)

What the devil?

SCARLET

Oh captain... It's been so long since a man has offered me a dance.

Scarlet turns back to the pirate with the polished boots; her eyes now blood red, canines flashing white.

SCARLET

But, I choose my partner.

She snatches him in an embrace, plunging her fangs into his neck. The man SCREECHES and flails, but can't escape. They twirl about the galley, others too frightened to react.

As they shuffle across the floor in a waltz of death, blood runs down the man's shoulder. Finally, he goes limp. Scarlet releases and her pale, drained partner flops dead to the floor. She licks her lips at Frost, he draws a sword.

FROST

Get back, demon!!

Scarlet continues to gaze at him as she kneels down to pull off the dead man's boots. He snarls.

FROST (CONT.)
Lads, cut this devil to ribbons!
She can't kill us all!

The unnerved pirates draw weapons but none attack.

SCARLET
Do not be so sure. But I do not
wish to kill you, Mister Frost.

She surges at Frost. Grasping hold of his sword arm, she effortlessly forces his sword back into its sheath. Twisting his arm, she compels him to kneel and glowers at the other pirates. They relent and lower their swords and guns.

FROST
What do you want of us... beast?

Scarlet takes Frost's captain hat and places it on her head. Then, seats herself in the his dinner chair like a throne.

SCARLET
First...

She crosses her legs, pointing her toes towards him and holding up the dead man's boots.

SCARLET (CONT.)
Put my new shoes on me.

EXT. ANTONIA MARIA - DAY

The chartered ship plows onward. Up in the mast, a LOOKOUT points at something on the horizon.

INSERT - SPYGLASS P.O.V.

A flock of gulls swarm over something unseen. Then, moving downwards, the Gisette's mast and sails come into view.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)
Ship ahoy, Capitan'!

EXT. MEDITERRENEAN SEA - DAY

The Gisette is adrift as the Antonia Maria pulls alongside.

EXT. GINETTE - DAY

The sun is setting as Hans, Gustav and Alana climb aboard. Captain Ash follows; cutlass in hand. Bodies lay strewn on the ransacked deck. There's no sign of life. The hunters hold their weapons and crucifixes at the ready. The rest of the Antonia Maria's crew remain aboard their ship.

CAPTAIN ASH
Aren't you lads coming?

GIUSEPPE
We provide cover, Capitan'!

Giuseppe holds up a musket. Hans looks over the carnage.

HANS
This is definitely the Gisette.

CAPTAIN ASH
Mr. Illsbrook, I see no reason to stop our expedition and get drawn into someone else's... squabbles.

Gustav searches as Hans examines a body. Ash keeps his distance, glancing back to his ship.

GUSTAV
Pirates?

HANS
Not this man, unless pirates bite people's throats.

ALANA
It would be fanciful to think they managed to kill the wampyr.

CAPTAIN ASH
Killed the... what?

Ash gazes down at the corpse.

HANS
Captain, we shant be long. Were I to explain the situation, it would take some faith on your part. But, for now - let us say that if there are any survivors, it is imperative we find them.

CAPTAIN ASH
The hold and crew's quarters will be down those steps. All the same sir, I choose to remain topside and... check the captain's quarters. Perhaps, I can find a logbook.

HANS
Excellent idea.

ALANA
Suit yourself.

Alana sneers at him as she primes her crossbow. Ash watches them descend the stairs.

CAPTAIN ASH
 Logbook and anything else that
 strikes my fancy. Maybe a drink.

INT. GISETTE / CARGO HOLD - NIGHT

The broken entry door hangs open, but the hold is pitch dark. Gustav picks up the oil lantern and lights it.

GUSTAV
 If she is here, it would be best to
 set the ship aflame.

HANS
 We must know for certain. Then, we
 can burn this ship of death.

The hunters step into the emptied storage area. A few overturned crates hinder their progress.

ALANA
 Maybe some of the crew are still
 alive; in hiding somewhere?

HANS
 Another reason not to burn it yet.

Gustav's light falls on the platform where the coffin once sat. One of the vampire servants lies on the pile of earth.

GUSTAV
 Here!

It MOVES. Gustav steps back as it snarls, leaps up and swipes at him. The lantern clatters to the floor, throwing harsh shadows on the walls.

ALANA
 Get back!

Gustav stumbles into a cargo crate as Alana whips up her crossbow and fires. The heavy bolt hits the creature in the chest, but not the heart. It flops back from the impact. Gustav pulls a stake from his belt and pounces.

GUSTAV
 Hold it!

Hans clambers over the crates to get to them, but he is suddenly seized upon by another figure - the Footman. Hiding among more boxes, he grabs Hans from behind.

FOOTMAN
 Where is our mistress?

HANS
 Alana!

His daughter cranks the cable to reset her crossbow.

FOOTMAN

You!

Alana cocks the weapon and aims at the Footman. Overhead, the other vampire servant is on the CEILING. It moves into the sharp lamplight and prepares to pounce.

GUSTAV

Above!

Still straddling the first vampire, he draws a dagger and throws. It strikes the creature. Startled by its SHRIEK, Alana glances up. She drops to the floor and fires.

The bolt hits home, striking the creature. Alana rolls aside, just as the wounded monster flops to the deck. The first vampire shoves Gustav off and flees out the door.

FOOTMAN

Come back! They must pay!

Hans struggles, but the Footman is just too strong. Gustav gets to his feet and grabs a stake like a club.

The Footman pulls Hans dagger from his belt and places it against the older man's neck.

FOOTMAN (CONT.)

You will die, hunter... and then we find those accursed pirates!

Gustav raises his weapon, but the Footman threatens to cut.

ALANA (O.S.)

Just go!

Reloaded, Alana aims her crossbow at the Footman.

ALANA (CONT.)

Stop the monster!

Gustav nods and dashes out.

FOOTMAN

Go ahead, girl! Miss and you save me the trouble.

ALANA

One problem, minion...

THWACK!! The bolt flies and pierces the Footman's eye impaling him into the wall behind. The impact is so instant he makes no sound. His fingers twitch; dropping the knife.

ALANA (CONT.)

...I don't miss.

HANS
 (Coughing)
 So grateful... you skipped piano lessons.

She manages a grin as her father recovers, then realizes the fight is far from over. They race to the stairs.

CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS

The door CREAKS open and Captain Ash peeks in.

CAPTAIN ASH
 'ello... 'ello...

The room's been tossed. He goes through the Captain's desk, pocketing a glass flask and a curious little statue. Flipping through the pages, Ash reads some of the log.

CAPTAIN ASH
 Coffin? Bad luck, mate.

From outside, comes a SHRIEK. He hurries to the door.

EXT. GISETTE - NIGHT

On deck, the Italian crew yells in fright as Gustav and the vampire grapple over an oar. BLAM! Giuseppe FIRES his musket. The ball strikes the creature in the head, knocking it sideways with a massive bloody wound.

GIUSEPPE
 Dado demone!

The blast barely slows the creature, but Gustav rips the oar away. The vampire lunges toward the rail and Antonia's crew panics. Gustav strikes the beast in the back with the oar.

GIUSEPPE (CONT.)
 La plancia! Rimuova la plancia!

Giuseppe and a crewman pull away the plank as the vampire rushes the railing. Ash, sword in hand, comes running.

CAPTAIN ASH
 Lads!! What are you doing!?!

The vampire turns and bellows at him. Seeing the creature for the first time, Ash stumbles back in terror. Gustav swings and strikes the creature across the back again.

Alana and Hans ascend the stairs to the deck, just as the Antonia Maria's sails catch wind and she pulls away.

GUSTAV
 No!! You fools!! Come back!!

GIUSEPPE
Vada con il dio, Capitan!

Giuseppe salutes as the ship turns away. Captain Ash throws a pail at the fleeing ship.

CAPTAIN ASH
Mutinous swine!! This is why the
Roman Empire fell!

The vampire chortles a laugh. Ash turns back to face it.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
Someone please tell me what the
bloody Hell is that!?!

Gustav, Alana and Hans move in front of Ash; who finds himself with no place to run.

ALANA
Vampire. Spawn of Satan... soulless
beast that stalks the night,
drinking blood of the living.

CAPTAIN ASH
Satan spawn would have covered it.

VAMPIRE SERVANT
Pitiful things... what to do now?

All three hunters pull up their crossbows and crucifixes.

HANS
Oh, I think we can manage.

EXT. COVE - NIGHT

Frost's galleon sails into a foreboding harbor, where a collection of other privateer and pirate vessels are moored.

In the ramshackle town beyond, torch and lamplight fill the streets and bawdy taverns of the rough port of call.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Rowdy rogues party and carouse as Frost, Scarlet and several of the newly converted vampiric pirates filter through the crowd. At a back door, two men stand guard. One is a mammoth Samoan. The smaller, red-haired Irish DOORMAN stops them.

DOORMAN
And where ye be headed, Frost?

FROST
To see the Frenchman.

DOORMAN
So, who be this then?

FROST
This here...

SCARLET
Lady Scarlet Dragonuv of Walachia.
Mr. Frost and I wish to -

The doorman sneers at her.

DOORMAN
Woman speak for you, Frost? This a
joke?

FROST
That lady... is my captain.

SCARLET
I speak for myself, Mr. Frost. Know
your place.

Frost glares silently. She looks down at the smaller man.

SCARLET (CONT.)
And you, toady - watch your tongue
or I'll rip it out and feed it to
my servants.

One of the vampires licks his lips. The Samoan chuckles and
opens the door. Scarlet and Frost step inside.

DOORMAN
Toady? She just call me a frog?

TAVERN / BACK ROOM

THE FRENCHMAN (40s), a foppishly dressed man in a powdered
wig sits at a table and talks to a pair of Nigerian sailors.

FRENCHMAN
...my sources in Raleigh's company
are good, I can tell you that a
tobacco packet ship will be
returning ten days hence. It's a
British vessel, Sir Walter's Hope.

NIGERIAN PIRATE
Protection?

FRENCHMAN (CONT.)
Practically none.

He sees Frost.

FRENCHMAN (CONT.)
I will know whether your efforts were successful and expect my percentage when you return.

NIGERIAN PIRATE
Of course.

He escorts the two men out, then turns back to his guests with a reptilian smile.

FRENCHMAN
Capitaine Frost, back so soon?

FROST
Aye. And I brought a guest.

FRENCHMAN
And a stunning one at that..

He steps forward, takes Scarlet's hand and kisses it. Turning, he pulls a hanky from a pocket and dusts a chair.

FRENCHMAN (CONT.)
Forgive, mam'selle. These environs are hardly passable for someone of your obvious... refinement.

The Frenchman guides her to the chair and she sits.

SCARLET
A true gentleman among thieves?

FROST
Begging your pardon, your ladyship, he's the worst thief I know. How you think I knew about your ship?

The Frenchman glares at Frost as he returns to his seat.

SCARLET
Mr. Frost does speak the truth, I can tell. But I am in need of a thief more than a gentleman.

FRENCHMAN
This sounds like a proposal..

SCARLET
I need someone who can facilitate transactions with the independent ship captains in the region.

FRENCHMAN
And what is my end?

Scarlet smiles, coldly and leans toward him. She tilts her head so he can see her corseted bosom.

SCARLET

Oh, Monsieur... I can grant you many rewards. More than mere money...

The Frenchman finds himself glancing at her bosom and then into her piercing gaze. He's unable to turn away.

FRENCHMAN

Your offer intrigues me, chere'.

EXT. GISETTE - NIGHT

Captain Ash stands on deck and puts away his sword. He stares upwards at the ship's mast.

CAPTAIN ASH

Tell me again... why?

Hans approaches and puts a hand on his shoulder.

HANS

Captain, this monster is just one of many... sired by a creature far more hideous.

Ash continues to stare upwards. Hans pats Ash's back. In front of them, Gustav and Alana finish tying the surviving vampire to the mast. It thrashes violently.

HANS (CONT.)

We are hunting for that creature. And he will lead us to her.

CAPTAIN ASH

Us?

HANS

Yes. Captain, I take it you can get this vessel under way?

Ash glances around the bloody deck, damaged helm wheel and sails. The French flag hangs in tatters.

GUSTAV

This vessel appears seaworthy.

CAPTAIN ASH

Appears? Bloody Hell. And who will crew this tub, Russian? You, an old man, a girl...

Alana jumps down from the mast to the deck to glare at him.

ALANA

And a drunk?

CAPTAIN ASH
 Yes, but a drunk with experience.
 Right. We'll have to make do.

He fishes the glass flask from his pocket and takes a swig.
 As it goes down, he channels his old Navy days.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
 All right! Look smartly, then!
 Mister Illsbrook, hoist that line..

HANS
 Captain?

CAPTAIN ASH
 Take that rope, there and pull.

Hans grins to himself and nods. He takes up the rope slack
 on the main sail. It quickly gets difficult.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
 You there...
 (Points to Gustav)
 Heave ho! Help get that sail up!

ALANA
 And me, captain?

Ash grins. He points to a mop and bucket lying nearby.

ALANA (CONT.)
 You best be joking.

He shakes his head.

CAPTAIN ASH
 This deck is awash in blood, Missy.
 Blood is slippery. I didn't see any
 sand aboard, so it must be cleaned.
 Step to!

She jerks up the pail and mop from the deck.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
 No swabbing! Find a brush.

She glowers at him and stomps off. Gustav and Hans continue
 to heave until the sail is fully raised.

GUSTAV
 Making Alana do cleaning? This man
 takes his life in his hands.

CAPTAIN ASH (O.S.)
 Tie off that line. We have many
 more to go!

INT. TAVERN / BACK ROOM - NIGHT

The Frenchman takes a scrolled map from a cabinet filled with rows of maps tucked into pigeonholes. He spreads it on the desk. Scarlet stands to get a better view.

FRENCHMAN

I am not a surveyor mind you, but there are a string of islands here, if you're looking to start a settlement, and access to the shipping lanes.

SCARLET

What about here?

She points. The Frenchman smiles. Frost bellows a laugh.

FRENCHMAN

You have a good eye. Unfortunately, someone already has laid claim.

Frost points to a spot on the map near her finger.

FROST

Puerto Libre. Tis' a small trading town with a cane plantation.

SCARLET

All the better.

FRENCHMAN

Yes, but the Spanish control the island and Governor Claros is not likely to share his home. We will find a suitable place for you.

SCARLET

Perhaps, I should speak with him.

FRENCHMAN

Only Spanish ships can approach the fortress at Puerto Libre safely. The stone manor houses nearly two hundred soldiers. Please, let us not be foolish.

SCARLET

A stone manor? Now, I am the one intrigued, monsieur.

She grins mischievously. Frost growls.

FROST

It would take us an army and more than the twenty guns we have now.

Scarlet glances back at the map; the island calling to her.

SCARLET
How many guns would it take?

EXT. CARIBBEAN - DAY

The Gisette moves silently across the water. A string of little white islands in its wake. There is a SPLASH, and another appears, rippling the dark surface.

EXT. GISETTE - DAY

Bodies of crew men lie arranged at the aft rail. Hans uses a dagger to cut an old canvas sail into sheets. Gustav and Alana wrap the bodies. As they finish, Hans gives a quick last rite and the hunters heave the body into the sea.

HANS
Amen...

GUSTAV AND ALANA
Amen...

CAPTAIN ASH (O.S.)
Cheers!

They glance to Ash, who takes a swig from his flask as he lounges by the helm wheel.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
Fare thee well, mates.

EXT. CARIBBEAN - NIGHT

A heavy sloop is anchored off the shore of some uncharted isle. Not far away, Frost's ship is moored and a long boat makes its way to the smaller vessel.

FROST (O.S.)
Ahoy, Captain Anders!

EXT. ANDER'S SLOOP - NIGHT

ANDERS, a young Swede with bulging arms, and another man watch Frost and some of his crew pull up in the boat. Scarlet, face veiled under a parasol, sits in the back.

FROST
Greeting to ye, Cap'n...

ANDERS
So, this is the Lady Scarlet?

FROST
Aye.

ANDERS
Making me wait til' sunset?

FROST
The sun be harsh on her fair skin.

ANDERS
Come aboard, then. Better be worth
my time, Frost.

The captain steps back to let his guests ascend the ladder.

ANDERS (CONT.)
Keep your guns trained, lads. I
give the word, blast that barge
from the water.

FROST
Ye don't trust me?

ANDERS
Frost, your reputation precedes,
but this Scarlet is no one I know.

Frost moves aside as Scarlet steps onto the deck. She holds
out her hand. Anders just looks at it, then points to the
aft deck. She walks past, handing Frost her parasol.

INT. ANDERS SLOOP / CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

The door opens into the cramped and dingy space. Anders
enters, then stops and turns back.

ANDERS
Have a seat, then.

Frost steps inside; followed by Scarlet. She turns to Frost
and he visibly shivers at her gaze.

FROST
I suppose I will wait outside with
the lads, then.

ANDERS
Has a drink on me... Mister Frost.

Anders cracks a smile. Frost snarls and stomps out, slamming
the door behind. Scarlet scans the collection of empty
bottles and dirty clothes, then takes out a hanky.

On reflex, Anders whips out a knife. She smiles.

SCARLET
May I sit?

ANDERS
Men in these waters don't trust
easily. Me, even less.

SCARLET
So, I've noticed.

She nods, waiting for him to help her sit, finally seating herself. He pulls up another chair, dumping off some garbage, and sits with the seat turned backwards.

SCARLET (CONT.)
I came to speak with you because I am establishing a haven here and find I am in need of men of your... character. A good opportunity for those who participate.

Anders grabs up an open bottle and takes a swig.

ANDERS
And what do you want of me?

SCARLET
Your crew and your ship.

He bellows a laugh, then takes a swig and wipes his mouth.

ANDERS
Is that all? Well, you nobility types have your sense of humor.

SCARLET
It will be worth your while. I'm sure you will see things my way.

Smiling, she stands and steps toward him. She lifts her veil. He meets her gaze and becomes captivated, lowering the bottle. Scarlet seats herself in his lap, eyes penetrating his. She lifts off his hat. Anders' jaw goes slack.

ANDERS
You are more lovely than any serving wench I've ever bedded.

SCARLET
Best for you not to speak.

She kisses him, deeply. He brings his hand up to her face, but she moves it aside and kisses at his neck. As he closes his eyes, she smiles, revealing her elongated canines.

BLACK

PASSAGEWAY

The door to Ander's quarters opens. Anders steps out in a daze; a small mark can be seen on his neck. Frost and several of Ander's crew wait expectantly.

ANDER'S MATE
Captain?

FROST
Must have gone well I'd say.

Anders shakes his head, as though waking up.

ANDERS
Stop lollygagging! Get topside!

His men dash up the steps and Anders follows close behind. Frost waits for Scarlet. She steps out and licks her lips.

FROST
Is he onboard, then?

SCARLET
He saw things my way.

She turns to go, but Frost puts up a hand.

FROST
Speakin' a havin' things.

SCARLET
Yes?

FROST
You've already made some a' me own crew inta' beasties like you. I be wantin' that power for meself.

SCARLET
Your men are weak... easy to control. You are a hard enough man, Frost. You serve me best being mortal.

FROST
Wretched bitch.

SCARLET
We're moving on, Mister Frost.

EXT. GISETTE - NIGHT

The cargo ship skates across the placid Caribbean, the moon reflected on the black surface. Gustav tends the wheel as Captain Ash ascends the stairs.

CAPTAIN ASH
I'll be relieving you then...

GUSTAV
Thank you, captain.

CAPTAIN ASH
I should be thanking you for fighting off that monster. So... thank you. Now, get some sleep.

GUSTAV

I will try. You know, my brother hated sailing. Poor wretch. He would spend a whole journey sick.

As Gustav heads for the steps, Alana comes topside. She has removed her heavy coat and boots. Ash nods as she passes.

CAPTAIN ASH

The warm water suits you?

ALANA

I've never been to the New World. Is the air always this warm?

CAPTAIN ASH

Some parts. But I've heard the Northern territories have winters that rival Russia's.

ALANA

Nothing rivals a Russian winter.

He smiles. She sits at the rail, gazing at the horizon.

ALANA (CONT.)

I have heard stories of blood-thirsty criminal who prey on passing ships.

CAPTAIN ASH

How different is that from blood-thirsty vampires?

Alana shrugs and gazes at the horizon.

ALANA

I've never seen a pirate.

She saunters over to Ash, watching him casually make slight adjustments to the wheel. He notices.

CAPTAIN ASH

Keeping a vessel on course can be quite the challenge in itself.

ALANA

Really?

He gestures for her to try. Alana can't hide her eagerness as she takes the helm. She turns the wheel a bit each way.

ALANA (CONT.)

It's not difficult.

CAPTAIN ASH

Nary hard to turn when the currents
are going your way. A skilled
sailor has to ford against the wind
and current. Check the compass.

Alana looks to the direction finder, mounted on the rail.

ALANA

So, the compass points north... and
we're going that way - between
south and west.

CAPTAIN ASH

Correct. You'll want to turn the
wheel a little to your left.

She does and they both check the compass.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)

See the arrow now? That's the point
it should stay at.

He moves behind her, brushing her back. She bristles.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)

Can you feel it?

ALANA

Captain, must you be so close?

He sighs and takes a hold of the wheel with her.

CAPTAIN ASH

Plant your little feet, lass. Grip
that wheel. Hear the waves? Feel
that wind?

She closes her eyes, shifts her stance and adjusts her grip.
She's no longer bothered their hands are touching.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)

Now, look out to the horizon. Feel
the deck rolling under you?

ALANA

I can...

CAPTAIN ASH

Out here, you're just one of God's
creatures in this mass of water.
But you can seize the power of
those waves and the force of the
wind... to go where you will.

She smiles and glances back to him.

ALANA

You're a romantic, captain.

CAPTAIN ASH
Aren't you?

He gives a devilish grin. She shakes her head with a smirk. Ash relents and steps back. Alana seems content to steer, so he plops down on the deck. Ash takes out his flask and has a sip, then tips his hat forward to sleep.

ALANA
Captain, you cursed this vessel
but, she seems to do well.

CAPTAIN ASH
This tub be your first. None rarely
compare to that. Like first love.

She turns her head back at him.

ALANA
What was your 'first love'?

Ash tips up his hat.

CAPTAIN ASH
HMS Valkyrie... just an old frigate.
Weren't much to look at. I was a
young lieutenant fresh from academy.
Third week out, helmsman fell ill...
captain put me on the wheel.

Alana glances at the compass and makes an adjustment.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
Smartly done, Mister.

She grins. But their friendly moment is broken when an inhuman HOWL breaks the stillness. The dark shadow of the vampire, still lashed to the mast, growls and hisses.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
I heard that beast in my sleep.

Alana stomps across the deck to the creature, but keeps her distance. She pulls out a dagger.

ALANA
We should have just dispatched it.

She steps closer, the blade hanging in her hand.

ALANA (CONT.)
Cut off the head... pulled out the
heart... tossed them into the sea...
left the rest for the birds.

The vampire hisses a laugh.

VAMPIRE SERVENT
Such... harsh words... from a child.

ALANA

A child whose mother was taken from her... by a monster like you. Because of wampyr, my father knows no other life. And neither do I.

VAMPIRE SERVANT

Pitiful prey angry at the hunter? You are all... just cattle. Does the calf hate you for eating its father? Do you even care?

Alana grimaces, until finally a shriek of rage escapes. She lunges forward, gripping her knife. The vampire cackles.

HANS (O.S.)

No! We need him!

Hans ascends the steps, a blanket over his shoulders. He gestures for her to stop. Alana turns and hurls the knife.

THUNK! The dagger punctures through the vampire's jaw and into the mast. The pinned creature squirms in agony. Alana grabs up a length of rope and ties it around the creature's head and gags it, before pulling her dagger out.

ALANA

We may need him... but I do not have to hear him.

HANS

Once he needs to feed, that will do little to mute his torment. But torment is what we want.

CAPTAIN ASH

It's still some hours before dawn.

HANS

I'm rested enough. When the hunger overtakes this beast, he will lead us to Scarlet. Once she is no more, then I can truly rest.

Hans sits next to his daughter. She leans against him and closes her eyes. Hans observes the vampire on the mast as Ash goes back to the helm.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

The Frenchman enters, carrying papers and escorted by his guards. Several pirates stand guard at Scarlet's table. A wench brings mugs for the men. Scarlet waves her away.

FRENCHMAN

Another vessel has agreed to your terms, ma'amselle.

He hands her the papers.

SCARLET
You have a talent, monsieur.

FROST
We still need more men.

FRENCHMAN
Quite a few more...

SCARLET
Suggestions?

She looks around the table at the gathering.

FROST
Someone who commands fear among
these islands.

FRENCHMAN
Not afraid of the Spanish...

FROST
A true bastard. Gash?

The two men grin and nod.

FRENCHMAN
Gash, it is.

EXT. TRADING POST - DAY

A mixture of colonists and sailors peruse the tables of
wares and goods.

INT. TRADING POST - DAY

An elder Spanish GROCER works the counter when the door
opens. GASH, a towering Jamaican wearing a tattered red
British officer's coat, enters with several roughs. He has a
jagged tear in his face, where scar tissue has filled in
several shades lighter.

His men have a shopping spree, grabbing food, drink, and
whatever interests them. The clerk steps around the counter.

GROCER
Señor!

Gash turns, a hand on the hilt of his large cutlass.

GASH
Old man, the next words you speak
may be your last. Best be poetic.

GROCER
Por favor, señor...

Gash's scowl fades.

GASH
Well, it rhymed. Do you think we
won't be paying for what we take?

The little man nods. Gash smiles like a snake.

GASH (CONT.)
I only take gold.

The men filter out, their arms loaded. Gash lays a stack of coins at the counter. The grocer grins feebly as they exit.

A moment later, the door swings open. Gash steps back in, his sword drawn.

GASH (CONT.)
I be taking your gold now.

INT. TAVERN LOFT - NIGHT

The party is winding down as Gash's men lounge about on chairs and cushions with a few women. Gash, himself, is being tended by two girls when Scarlet enters.

SCARLET
Captain Dunham?

Gash groggily glances up.

GASH
Someone calls me by me father's
slave name, must be important...

One of the women glares at Scarlet and stands.

PROSTITUTE
The man chose me already, and
agreed to my price.

She whips out a knife, but Scarlet grabs her wrist.

SCARLET
I only require the man's ear... and
only for a moment. You can have the
rest when I'm done.

Gash jumps to his feet as Frost and Scarlet's minions follow her in. Scarlet slings the girl toward Frost.

SCARLET (CONT.)
Mister Frost, keep her... entertained
for me. She's already paid for.

FROST
Aye, milady.

Frost grins and bats the knife out of the girl's hand before grabbing her. She squirms, but cannot escape.

GASH
Frost? You come all this way just for me to kill you?

FROST
You'll be wanting to hear the lady out before you do.

SCARLET
I'd prefer Mister Frost in one piece if you please. But, believe me, you would not get two steps before I finish what someone else has started with your face.

Gash draws a pistol.

GASH
Enough!

FROST
I wouldn't. Bullets only irritate the lady.

Gash turns to shoot, but Scarlet moves inhumanly fast. She is upon him, past the pistol at the end of his arm.

The flintlock BOOMS, but there's no target. She grabs hold of his collar, her eyes blazing red.

SCARLET
Yes, that is quite enough.

She glares at him, but he glares right back.

GASH
I am a dead man now, devil?

She pouts and leans forward. Reaching up, she gazes into his eyes and strokes the scar. He flinches.

SCARLET
Whatever did this to you... it still pains you, doesn't it?

He squints as she grins. Her hand glides over his chest, then pulls up his shirt. Another scar cuts across his ribs.

SCARLET
And it's not the only pain.

GASH
No...

He gazes deeper into her eyes, but manages the willpower to pull the shirt back over the body wound.

SCARLET
There is something deeper still.

GASH
Slave masters left me for dead.

He snorts. The red fades from her eyes.

GASH (CONT.)
I was a boy... they sold me sister.
When they came to take her, I
fought them and they did this to me
face. To a boy's face.

SCARLET
If only you were stronger... you
could have stopped them. I can make
your pain go away.

One of Gash's men gets to his feet. Frost draws his sword.

GASH'S CREWMAN
This woman is a demon, Gash! Don't
listen to her...

SCARLET
I can give you the sight you need
to find your sister...

Gash closes his eyes, seeing her in his memory. When he opens them, Scarlet is no longer there - CLAIRE DUNHAM, a frail young Jamaican girl stands in her place. His eyes widen and he stumbles back, his voice faint.

GASH
Claire.

The girl smiles and opens her arms.

CLAIRE
(Scarlet's voice)
Come with us, brother, Come with
me. We can be together soon.

GASH'S CREWMAN
Captain?

Gash shakes his head and she is gone, Scarlet stands before him once more. He eyes her suspiciously, and then turns.

GASH
Gather the men. We cast off.

EXT. CARIBBEAN - NIGHT

The Gisette rolls on the black waves under the light of a full moon. A soul-wrenching cry echoes over the water.

EXT. GISETTE - NIGHT

Still lashed to the forward mast, the imprisoned vampire thrashes under a heavy canvas. Hans pulls the tarp down, revealing the red-eyed monster. It snarls and growls as it struggles violently. The knife left scars on its cheeks.

HANS
Rise and shine. Good evening..

VAMPIRE SERVANT
You torture me..

HANS
I'm sure you are hungry. It's been
how many days since you fed?

The monster gnashes its teeth at Hans, but he's too far.

HANS
Five? Six?

VAMPIRE SERVANT
I... will NOT... give what you want.

Hans steps closer.

GUSTAV (O.S.)
Master Illsbrook, please!

The elder man looks back. Gustav and Alana both stand ready, alerted by his proximity to the beast. He raises an assuring hand, and then turns back to the vampire.

HANS
Really?

Hans draws out a dagger. He cuts himself across the forearm. A trickle runs down his arm. The vampire shudders.

ALANA
Father?

VAMPIRE SERVANT
What... What are you doing?

HANS
Can you smell that?

He wipes some of the blood on the gleaming blade and holds the dagger to the vampire.

HANS

It must overwhelm your senses,
knowing it's there - out of reach.

He places the tip of the knife inches away. The vampire laps at the blood, eagerly.

HANS

I can give more... just tell us where
your mistress is.

VAMPIRE SERVANT

Puerto... Libre... head south...

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE BEACH - NIGHT

Frost's galleon is anchored in the lagoon, as long boats full of Scarlet's monstrous crew row ashore. They pull up on the beach. As pirates unload weapons, one escorts Scarlet out of her long boat. Frost stomps past them, sword drawn.

FROST

Gash and Anders are holding off the
point. They await our signal.

SCARLET

Any moment now.

He scans the wooden fortress wall and the town beyond.

FROST

No man has ever attempted to seize
Puerto Libre and lived.

SCARLET

As you may be aware, Mr. Frost - I
am not a man... and dying is of no
longer a concern to me - or mine.

She turns to the gathering. The human pirates are uneasy standing next to their hideous vampiric shipmates.

SCARLET (CONT.)

My children... I bid you go forth and
feed! When you're satiated, bring
any survivors to me.

The creatures snarl and hiss in celebration.

FROST

Lads, with these beasties at our
side, we cannot fail! Puerto Libre
is ours for the taking!!

Frost turns to Scarlet and she nods. He raises a lantern and waves it back and forth. In the distance, the CANNONS of his ship open fire. Several blasts strike the fortress walls. The throng cheers wildly and then charges.

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE BAY - NIGHT

Three armed vessels lie just beyond the mouth of the island harbor. No lanterns can be seen.

EXT. GASH'S SLOOP - NIGHT

The Jamaican peers through a spyglass. He snarls a laugh.

INSERT - GASH'S SPYGLASS P.O.V.

The fortress wall shatters as Frost's galleon continues her assault. But, now cannons from the fort are firing back.

GASH'S SLOOP

Gash grins and turns to his crew. The surly men wait for his words. Gash draws his cutlass.

GASH
Now, is the time!

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE BAY - NIGHT

The three ships unfurl their sails and open their gun ports. In moments, their broadside cannons erupt.

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE FORTRESS - NIGHT

Spanish soldiers spill out of the barracks, grabbing rifles and pouches as commanders call out orders over the cannons.

SPANISH COMMANDER
(Subtitled Spanish)
To the wall! Load your weapons!

Above, a pair of vampires creep over the wall like flies.

SPANISH COMMANDER (CONT.)
(Subtitled Spanish)
Defend the fort! Defend the town!
For King Philip!! Man the guns!!

The creatures leap down onto the unsuspecting men - their fangs and claws tearing and ripping.

FORTRESS GATE

Frost and his men fire muskets and pistols at the defenders as small bombs are thrown down at them. The massive gate swings open. As the pirates charge, they meet a bloody sight of massacred soldiers and feeding vampires.

PUERTO LIBRE TOWN

Citizens panic as the pirates riot in the streets. They attack and smash everything around them. The vampires stalk the frenzied crowd. The beasts leaping upon fleeing people and feeding on those they capture.

Spanish soldiers fire rifle volleys into the melee, but their ranks are soon overwhelmed. The remaining troops flee toward the governor's mansion on the hilltop.

INT. GOVERNOR'S MANOR - NIGHT

Soldiers barricade the door and set up rifle ports at the windows. An OFFICER talks to the pale, fretful GOVERNOR CLAROS (40s) while soldiers escort his family upstairs.

CLAROS

Who are these killers? The British?
The French?

OFFICER

They fly no flag, Governor.

CLAROS

Captain Guevara and the Isabella
are still at sea. Can we hold out?

OFFICER

The jungle trail prevents any
artillery from coming up and my men
have clear sight of the road.

CLAROS

We should protect the people..

OFFICER

Senor Claros, I've lost nearly a
hundred men this night. The men who
did make it here say people are
being slaughtered in the streets.

The governor hands the officer a letter.

CLAROS

At least send word that they can
flee here. Send a messenger to the
coast for those seeking refuge.

SOLDIER (O.S.)

Capitan!

The men rush to the windows, grabbing their rifles as the officer peers into the darkness.

EXT. GOVERNOR'S MANOR - NIGHT

Moans and cries emanate from the darkened road leading into town. Shadows appear on the horizon. A line of red eyes blazes out of the pitch and they are growing closer.

INT. GOVERNOR'S MANOR - NIGHT

The officer draws his pistol.

OFFICER

Fuego!

The concussion of rifle blasts fills the room. The officer directs the governor to the stairs.

OFFICER (CONT.)

Please, your Excellency!

The governor ascends, but looks back - just as two vampires EXPLODE through the windows and into the midst of the soldiers. A bloody melee ensues.

The governor cries out and flees up the stairs.

SUITE

The governor huddles with his weeping children, his terrified wife and their servants. SCREAMS and sounds of CARNAGE penetrate the heavy door.

Claros pulls a pistol from a nightstand drawer and takes several tries to cock it. But, then suddenly... silence.

CHILD (O.S.)

Papa?

CLAROS

Silencio..

He tries hard to listen for a sound, but none comes. He stands, pointing the wavering flintlock toward the door.

Still nothing. He creeps across the room.

Claros leans against the door and puts his ear to it. He clutches the gun... waiting. Finally, he turns back to his family just as the door SHATTERS into splinters.

He stumbles to the floor. His wife SHRIEKS, wrapping her arms around the children. Lady Scarlet, her eyes gleaming crimson and her nails elongated into claws, steps inside. The horrified man turns to shoot, but the pistol fizzles.

SCARLET

Ah... Herr Governor... you are a difficult man to reach.

She grabs him by the belt and jerks him to his feet.

CLAROS
Aiiieeee!

SCARLET
I decided to see you personally. I
am Lady Dragonuv of Walachia.

She flings him across the room, where he bounces across the
bed to the floor. Grinning, she stops to pick a few wood
fragments from her hand. He staggers to his feet.

CLAROS
I beg you. Spare my family.

SCARLET
I will not lay a finger on them.
But this colony no longer requires
your services.

Frost, Gash and Anders enter from the hallway.

FROST
As I live and breathe... I never
thought I'd see the day Puerto
Libre would fall this easily.

GASH
What now... milady?

SCARLET
Gentleman... the town is yours to do
with as you please. But the manor
and estate are mine.

Frost and Gash chuckle, but Anders pauses.

ANDERS
Who gets what?

SCARLET
Not my concern. Once the jubilation
has subsided, we have work to do.

FROST
And them?

SCARLET
I agreed I would not harm them.

She leads the pirates out. As they exit, three vampire
pirates stalk into the room, their canines gleaming.

SCARLET (O.S.)
I leave them to my children.

CLAROS
Madre dios...

The heavy door slams shut to SHRIEKS and SCREAMS.

EXT. SAN JUAN / BEACH - DAY

CG - San Juan, Puerto Rico

The Gisette is moored off-shore of the small farming settlement. Hans, Ash and Alana paddle a boat to the beach.

INT. ISABELLA'S CROWN CANTINA - DAY

Hans, Ash and Alana enter the din, crowded with locals and sailors. An elder woman BARKEEP (60's) snorts at the new arrivals. A few of the drinkers turn their heads.

SAN JUAN SAILOR
More refugees from the storm.

HANS
Storm?

The sailor turns in his seat and sneers.

SAN JUAN SAILOR
The diablo that is Scarlet the Dragon and her cutthroats.

ALANA
Scarlet the Dragon... a pirate?

ANGRY SAILOR
Pirate?
(Snorts)
A pirate plunders and steals, lass.
This beast just murders.

He snarls as though Scarlet personally wronged him.

BARKEEP (O.S.)
She sacked Puerto Libre!

SAN JUAN SAILOR
Si! And lay siege to any ships they come across! They join or they die.

ANGRY SAILOR (O.S.)
The few who fled say she drinks the blood of her victims!

Patrons murmur fearfully. Ash leans toward the hunters.

CAPTAIN ASH
Your monster made herself to home.

HANS
So, it appears.

Hans turns to the collective.

HANS (CONT.)
 Good people, please. We are heading to Puerto Libre. We can destroy this... Scarlet the Dragon. We have the knowledge and weapons to do so, but we need assistance.

The room goes deathly quiet. Some stare blankly at him, others shake their head or stare at their drinks.

ALANA
 Not a man in here? No real men?

SAN JUAN SAILOR
 Men, si! But, no fools.

She looks at her father, then at Ash. He shrugs.

ALANA
 Four of us have destroyed many like her! The monster you fear can be killed. If not by us, then who?

No response. Her father puts a hand on her shoulder.

HANS
 We will gain provisions and be on our way.

He points to the door.

HANS (CONT.)
 Our vessel is laden with tools and seed. We can trade them for food and ammunition.

Patrons glance at each other. The old woman coughs.

BARKEEP
 I can take some goods off your hands, senior. But then you go.

HANS
 Thank you, good lady.

He sees Ash, who eyes the fearful expressions in the room.

HANS (CONT.)
 You know, Captain-

CAPTAIN ASH
 I know what you're going to say, and believe me, sir... parts of me are thinking these lads have the right idea. Those are the parts that fear death.

HANS
Nothing is holding you to us.

Ash grins and nods, but then catches Alana's eyes.

CAPTAIN ASH
Well, sometimes a man can find a
thing worth fighting for or finds
it again. Let's get provisioned.

EXT. SAN JUAN / BEACH - DAY

The hunters paddle back to the Gisette, the dinghy filled with boxes of food. On shore, the old bar matron and a small boy load the last box of tools onto a wagon.

As she departs, the boy waves goodbye. Then, a moment later - he darts along the beach to a small cabin.

INT. CABIN - DAY

The door creaks open. The boy is outside, but dares not venture beyond the edge of the sunlight. A shadow moves.

FIGURE
Are they still here?

CANTINA BOY
No. They go to Puerto Libre.

FIGURE
Good lad...

A pale scar-covered hand reaches out, but the boy keeps his distance. The hand tosses a coin into the sand beside him.

EXT. GINETTE - NIGHT

The sky is starless as they ford the winds, heading West. Gustav mans the wheel as Alana and Hans make stakes out of belaying pins. Ash is loading several pistols.

CAPTAIN ASH
So, this Scarlet Dragonuv... she will
be quite the adversary?

HANS
She will be very strong. She can
command the weak-minded, move
incredibly fast and convert
selected victims to become as she.

Alana notes Ash's face get paler.

ALANA

Wampyr can reproduce by leaving a victim alive, then replenishing blood with their own tainted kind.

CAPTAIN ASH

You're saying she may have an army of beasts by the time we arrive. How do you fight that?

INSERT - CARIBBEAN

As the Gissette plows the waves, a darkened vessel closes behind it with unearthly silence.

HANS (V.O.)

Her main enemy is the sun. Its rays can kill. They shun bright light, especially fire. It can also kill.

EXT. GISETTE - NIGHT

Alana holds up the sharpened belaying pin.

ALANA

A stake into the heart immobilizes but won't kill. They must still be burned or beheaded to finish them.

CAPTAIN ASH

Ghastly way to go. But then, a fate not much worse than what his majesty does to pirates. Maybe we should hang this wench out in the sun. Rather fitting I'd think.

ALANA

So long as it's done.

GASH (O.S.)

You will prefer a quick death...

They all turn. The tall Jamaican, his eyes glowing red, stands at the rail. Several other vampires clamber onto the deck behind him. They quickly free their bound comrade.

GASH (CONT.)

Unlike the one that awaits you!

He draws two pistols, pointing them at Gustav and Ash.

CAPTAIN ASH

What the blazes!?! So, I suppose they can fly?

Alana shrugs.

ALANA
Short distances, yes.

CAPTAIN ASH
This is why ships have lookouts.

He reaches for his cutlass, but Gash cocks the hammer.

GASH
My first warning shot... I put
between you eyes.

GUSTAV
Demon!

GASH
Settle down, blood sack. I only
come here... for the old man.

The hunters glance at one another, puzzled. Hans nods.

HANS
If I go, you leave in peace?

Gash grins, until his fangs are exposed.

GASH
The mistress wants you alive. Said
if you don't come, your daughter
were to be punished until you did.

Alana rushes up and grabs her father's arm.

ALANA
You can't! I won't let you!

She turns and lunges with the stake in her hand. Gustav follows her lead, and grabs up a crossbow. Ash steps back and draws his sword and a pistol.

Alana manages to plunge the stake into one young vampire, before it can react. Gustav's bolt hits Gash's shoulder.

BLAM!! The pirate blasts both pistols. Everyone freezes.

GASH
That is enough!

Gustav staggers and falls. Alana and Ash rush to him, blood pooling on the deck in the silence.

HANS
No more! I will go with you. Spare
them, as you agreed to.

GASH
Agreed. Take them below.

The vampires drag Alana and Ash to the steps. Gash stares down at Gustav's body.

GASH
What a waste.

Behind him, his sloop pulls alongside the Gisette. The crew tie up to the rail.

GISETTE'S HOLD

Alana and Ash are bound to a support post. At the far end of the room, the main door SLAMS shut and is bolted.

CAPTAIN ASH
Brave man...

ALANA
She'll torture him first... for her amusement.

CAPTAIN ASH
I meant Gustav. He knew he'd probably die facing those pistols. No man knows how he'll act when the time comes, until the time comes.

She nods.

ALANA
You were prepared to fight them.

CAPTAIN ASH
Self-preservation, love. Maybe were just a reflex.

He smiles thinly at her look of disappointment.

EXT. GASH'S SLOOP

Hans, Gash and his men watch as they pull away from the Gisette. Hans sighs as a pirate binds his hands.

HANS
I kept my word. You kept yours.

Gash turns to his crew with a smile on his face.

GASH
Gentlemen... target practice.

The pirates laugh. Hans surges at Gash, but held fast.

HANS
Wait!!

BOOM. BOOM. BOOM. The sloop's cannons erupt.

EXT. CARIBBEAN

Cannon fire pounds the Gissette's hull, sending splinters flying, and debris splashing into the sea.

Another barrage wallops the wounded ship. Gash's crew whoop and holler on deck. The Gissette begins to list as she takes on water. The sloop's sails catch the wind. As she plunges into the darkness, her guns deliver a final blow.

INT. GISSETTE / HOLD

Alana and Ash watch in startled terror as the barrage punches through the bulkhead beside them. And sea water rushes in through the blast holes.

CAPTAIN ASH
Should have known that bastard Gash
wouldn't keep his word!

They struggle with the bonds holding them to the beam. She turns back to him as they try and slip loose.

ALANA
You knew that man, captain?

CAPTAIN ASH
Oh, he were a monster long before
your Lady Scarlet took hold of him.
Wicked man. Guess it'd been too
long for him to remember me. That
were a lifetime ago.

He lifts a pant leg to reveal a small knife in his boot.

CAPTAIN ASH
A lifetime getting shorter by the
minute for us two. Here-

She nods. He bends his leg, so she can reach the blade.

EXT. GASH'S SLOOP

Hans gazes wide-eyed as the ill-fated Gissette lists farther to one side. He lets out his breath.

HANS
I have doomed us all.

INT. GISETTE / HOLD

Alana and Ash batter at the hold door, but a rope has tied the handles on the other side. Finally, the hinges give. The floor is now awash in more than a foot of water and debris.

ALANA
We must hurry, captain!

CAPTAIN ASH
Hurry to where, missy?

She ascends the stairs.

EXT. GISETTE

Alana and Ash step on the deck. Gash's sloop is almost out of sight. The Gisetite is tilted so they can barely stand.

CAPTAIN ASH
Where do you suppose we go?

Alana runs to the rigging, but most of the lines have been cut. She ties off a loose end and heaves.

ALANA
Help me, damn you!

The sail unfurls, but it's been shredded. Ash walks up to her and pats her shoulder. She relents.

CAPTAIN ASH
Take hours to patch that canvas and
this ship has minutes.

Alana gets a spark in her eyes.

ALANA
The launch?

CAPTAIN ASH
You mean that one?

He points.

INSERT - LONGBOAT

More than twenty yards off, the launch bobs on the waves.

GISETTE RAIL

Ash sits down on the rail and pulls off one of her boots.

ALANA
It's not far! We can go after-

She stops. Ash hasn't moved.

ALANA
Don't you know how to swim?

He shakes his head with a grim smile.

CAPTAIN ASH
Never came up... even when the
Valkyrie went down.

Tossing off the other boot, Alana huffs and scours the deck. She grabs a bundle of rope and ties one end around herself.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
Considering hanging yourself? Going
about it all wrong, lass.

She goes to the rail and ties off the other end.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
Belay that, mister! These waters
aren't your bathing tub!

Alana climbs over the rail and leaps into the black water.

CARIBBEAN

As Ash watches, she paddles out to the dingy and ties the rope from her waist to the bow. Then, she climbs inside.

GISETTE

Ash takes hold of the line and pulls the line towards him.

CAPTAIN ASH
Could learn to love that girl.

LONG BOAT

The launch bobs up and down next to the Gisetite as Alana holds onto the line tying the two craft. Ash is not seen.

ALANA
Captain?!?

No response. She nervously watches the rail.

ALANA
Captain Ash!

CAPTAIN ASH (O.S.)
Hold the caterwauling!

Her boots land with a thump in the dinghy. Ash appears at the rail, a sack over his shoulder. She smiles as he descends. As soon as he's seated, she hugs him. He's surprised at her reaction, but then she quickly retreats.

ALANA

You took long enough.

CAPTAIN ASH

Supplies, lass! You plan on traversing to Puerto Libre without a morsel of food, a warm blanket or...

He pulls out a bottle.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)

Rum to sustain us?

He draws a dagger and slices off the line, setting them free of the doomed Gisette. They begin to row.

LATER

Ash and Alana gaze at the Gisette in her final moments, as she slowly tips over and slides into the depths. Alana notices the wetness in her eye and wipes it away.

CAPTAIN ASH (O.S.)

Nothing like your first love...

ALANA

So, I've lost mine. She was cursed once that vampire set foot on her.

CAPTAIN ASH

That vessel was doomed for sure. No ship should suffer such a fate.

Ash takes a blanket from the bag and lays it across her shoulders. Alana manages a grin.

ALANA

Still the romantic?

CAPTAIN ASH

Practical, missy. No compass and a sextant's useless under the clouds. Best to bed down for the night.

ALANA

Bed? But we cannot wait a single moment! Grab the oars! We can row!

He moves beside her, pulling the oar from her hands and wraps part of the blanket over his own shoulders. She raises an eyebrow, but he shrugs innocently.

CAPTAIN ASH
Without bearings we could end up
anywhere or nowhere. Need light.

She relents, nods and leans against him.

ALANA
Just the thought of my father in
the hands of that demon. Chills me
to the bone, captain.

The wind picks up and she shivers. Ash pulls up the bottle.

CAPTAIN ASH
Something to warm ye bones.

He pulls the cork with his teeth and hands her the jug. She takes a sip, watching him.

ALANA
Can I have that?

She takes the cork from his mouth and digs into the bag. Ash takes a drink as she rummages.

CAPTAIN ASH
You're ruining a lovely moment.

Alana pulls out a small bowl. She scoops water into it from the sea and places it onto the seat. Then, she takes one of her crossbow bolts and breaks off the metal tip.

CAPTAIN ASH (O.S.)
I take it you're not making soup?

ALANA
A lode stone? Sharpening stone?

He puzzles at her request, but fishes a small square-cut block from a pocket. She rubs the bow tip on it vigorously.

ALANA
I need some light, captain.

Ash, still confused, takes out a long match and strikes it. In the glow, he watches her run the bolt through the cork. She lays it in the water and the cork bobbles.

CAPTAIN ASH
Wonderful little toy.

ALANA
A compass is a magnet.

INSERT - MAKESHIFT COMPASS

The cork slowly turns in the water, it's not steady, but points consistently in one general direction.

CAPTAIN ASH (O.S.)
Well, I'll be.

LONGBOAT

Alana inspects her creation and smiles.

ALANA
And magnets point North. We have a heading, captain.

CAPTAIN ASH
So, we have.

Seeing him disheartened, she kisses his cheek as she takes the oars back. Ash points where the compass directs.

CAPTAIN ASH
I am sorry about Gustav. And we'll find your father. I promise. Now, let's move Mister Illsbrook...

ALANA
Aye, aye sir.

EXT. CARIBBEAN - DAY

The Isabella, a massive Spanish warship, plows the waves as she approaches the bobbing dinghy. The boat appears empty.

GUEVARRA (O.S.)
(Subtitled Spanish)
Bring her about! Cast a line!

EXT. ISABELLA - DAY

Captain Hector Guevarra (40's), a stout and proud Spaniard stands at the rail as the galleon pulls alongside the tiny craft. Looking down, he and the men can see Ash and Alana asleep inside; her arm is draped over his chest.

GUEVARRA
Buenos dias!

The two stir. Startled, Alana sits up quickly.

ALANA
Ash? Get up!

CAPTAIN ASH
Well, aren't you the early riser...

GUEVARRA (O.S.)
Hola! Ingles?

Ash flutters his eyes and squints up at all the Spaniards.

CAPTAIN ASH
Buenos dias, amigos!

GUEVARRA
I trust we are not interrupting?

ALANA
Of course, not... thank you.

CAPTAIN ASH
Yes, we were quite finished.

She slaps him. The Spaniards LAUGH. Ash glares at her.

CAPTAIN ASH
Yes, we would have been quite finished... 'til you fine gentlemen came to our rescue. Permission to come aboard, Capitan?

Guevarra laughs and nods.

GUEVARRA
Granted, if the lady allows...

EXT. ISABELLA / DECK - DAY

Guevarra helps Alana over the rail, as well as their collected belongings. He sees the array of weapons.

GUEVARRA
Welcome aboard his majesty King Philip's ship Isabella. I am Capitan Hector Guevarra.

ALANA
Alana Von Illsbrook, thank you.

GUEVARRA
I take it you had some troubles.

ALANA
Indeed captain. We were attacked by the worst kind of bloodthirsty-

CAPTAIN ASH (O.S.)
Pirates!

Just stepping over the rail, Ash moves in front of her.

CAPTAIN ASH
Yes! Bloody pirates! Seized our goods, scuttled our ship. Even set her ablaze for sport.

GUEVARRA
Diablos! I'm surprised they didn't take you away, senorita.

CAPTAIN ASH
Fought like a lioness, she did.
Robert Ash at your service, sir.

ALANA
A word, Mr. Ash?

He turns to keep their talk private.

CAPTAIN ASH
He would nary believe the truth.

She nods in agreement, and then turns to Guevarra.

ALANA
Captain, we were on route for
Puerto Libre. Could you take us?

GUEVARRA
We were already bound there.

CAPTAIN ASH
You've heard of the attacks, then.

ALANA
Captain, I feel it only right to
warn you how dangerous these beasts
are. They are not ordinary...

The captain puts up a reassuring hand.

GUEVARRA
Senorita. We carry forty guns and
thirty-six armed marines...

Ash shrugs at Alana and points her at the armed men.

CAPTAIN ASH
They do sound quite formidable.

ALANA
These are not men... but demon-
spawned, blood-thirsty monsters.
They are wampyr! Ummm... vampiro!

CAPTAIN ASH
She does go on. It was frightful...

GUEVARRA
Senorita, I hunt pirates and have
brought many to justice. Either at
the end of a blade, musket barrel
or the noose.

Guevarra ascends the stairs to the helm.

ALANA
I am NOT speaking in metaphor!

GUEVARRA
 (Subtitled Spanish)
 Hoist sails! Take us back to our
 original course!

Alana tries to pursue him, but Ash grabs her arm.

CAPTAIN ASH
 He will never believe these fanged
 creatures exist. Hell, I didn't.

ALANA
 I am the only one left, Mr. Ash.
 That monster has my father. I
 cannot sit idly by-

CAPTAIN ASH
 What do you propose we do?

Alana glances up at Captain Guevarra, who tends his maps.

ALANA
 At least take us with you! We can
 help you fight them.

Guevarra stares down at her, puzzled.

GUEVARRA
 I admire your courage, but I could
 not have your blood on my hands,
 senorita. We will drop you off when
 we stop for provisions.

ALANA
 Captain, please... you must...

Guevarra glares at her. He points to a soldier nearby.

GUEVARRA
 Find our guests some quarters.
 (To Alana)
 I am a patient man, senorita. But,
 do not press me.

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE DOCKS - NIGHT

Gash's sloop is tied up at the wharf. The pirates and one of
 Scarlet's vampires lead Hans down the gangplank.

GASH
 Smartly now, the lady is waiting.

INT. GOVERNOR'S MANSION / BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

Scarlet sits in the governor's chair, on a dais. The whole
 space has been converted into a throne room.

Anders kneels before her. She puts out a hand and he kisses it. She nods and he moves to her side. Scarlet leans toward him and kisses his neck, then tenderly almost playfully bites at him. He barely seems to notice.

Hans enters, escorted by Gash and a crewman. She stops.

SCARLET
I should be grateful I was not
disturbed in the bath.

Hans is marched before her. She dismisses Anders, who moves to stand protectively behind her.

HANS
Am I supposed to bow, milady?

SCARLET
Herr Illsbrook, the lads would
happily have dispatched you at sea
had I not ordered them to spare
you. How is your lovely daughter?

HANS
I won't give a response you want.

She steps down towards him, judging her captive.

SCARLET
Hans Von Illsbrook, the mighty
hunter, surely you knew your
murderous ways would catch up to
you. Now, reckoning is at hand.

Scarlet moves to his left, taking a slow walk around him.

SCARLET (CONT.)
You see me as a monster, but you
are as much a monster yourself. How
many of my kind you have put to
death on your crusade of genocide?
Dozens? Maybe, even a hundred?

He tenses as she stands behind him.

HANS
And how many lives have you ended?

SCARLET
I am not the one on trial. You have
murdered enough of my children.

She continues around his right side.

HANS
You don't wish to kill me?

SCARLET

Just kill you? Some pain and then
you slowly fade into a slumber?
Younger wampyr cannot stop
themselves... they just devour.
Control of one's instincts comes
with time. And that control to stop
before death is how one like myself
creates offspring.

She runs a finger along his neck and under his chin.

SCARLET (CONT.)

So, justice will come to you, in
due time... but first, we don't want
you running off. And I hunger.

With Gash and the crewman holding his arms, Hans can only
watch as Scarlet bares her fangs at him.

EXT. CUBA / DOCK - DAY

CG - Baracoa, CUBA

Ash and Alana are led down a gangplank with their belongings
by Guevarra's marines. He watches from the rail.

GUEVARRA

I wish you well. You could wish us
good hunting in finding those
murderous pirates for you.

At the dock, the marines stop and guard the ramp.

GUEVARRA (CONT.)

Vaya con dios.

Ash and Alana nod and walk away. As they move into the
crowd, Alana pulls Ash by the arm into an alley.

ALLEYWAY

Alana peers at the Isabella as dock workers haul supplies
aboard and marines guard the gangplank. She drops her gear
on the ground. Ash eyes her.

CAPTAIN ASH

What are you plottin', Missy?

She continues to observe the ship and think.

ALANA

Captain, you are free to part my
company anytime. You were only
hired to take us to the New World.

CAPTAIN ASH

Yes, miss...

(He grins)

But I have had two ships taken from me in as many weeks and no way home. As I see it, your father and this Scarlet each owe me a ship and the only way to get either... is to find him for you.

ALANA

Really? Is that it?

She turns to him, a thin smile forms on his lips.

CAPTAIN ASH

I have grown accustomed... to your company, Miss. Besides, there's more than one way to board a ship.

EXT. CUBAN DOCKS - DAY

The massive vessel rocks in the wave swells as Alana and Captain Ash paddle around the far side to the massive anchor chain. He uses a floating keg to stay afloat until he can grab onto the chain.

Alana climbs up the length as Ash watches for witnesses. Ash ascends after her, their belongings bundled in a sack, is tied around his waist. He reaches the top and slips quietly over the rail.

EXT. ISABELLA - NIGHT

Two Spanish marines walk the deck, their muskets slung over their shoulders. They pass each other, as they have several times during their watch. Both scan the horizon, lazily. One of them passes by the helmsman, who is fighting sleep.

INSERT - CARIBBEAN

The Isabella passes silently. But a large dark shape blots out the stars, just aft of the warship and its closing.

ISABELLA

One guard leans over the rail. The helmsman turns to see.

SPANISH HELMSMAN

(Subtitled Spanish)

What is that?

SPANISH MARINE

(Subtitled Spanish)

Lookout! Do you see? Port aft!

CROW'S NEST

A sleepy-eyed young boy stirs and looks downward.

SPANISH LOOKOUT

Senor?

The men point and the youth takes out a spyglass.

EXT. CARIBBEAN

Captain Ander's sloop, cloaked in darkness, trails the larger Isabella. Dark figures lurk about the deck.

P.O.V. - ATTACKING VAMPIRE

Through the creature's eyes, we watch the sloop disappear behind and galleon grows quickly closer. The young lookout sees the shape coming at him. He shrinks down into the crow's nest and SCREAMS in terror.

EXT. ISABELLA / DECK

The guard and helmsman hear the STRUGGLE above, but can't see the source.

SPANISH HELMSMAN

Nino!! Nino!

The guard leans back over the rail and can now clearly see the ship coming at them.

SPANISH MARINE

Piratas!!

He turns to the helmsman, but finds himself face to face with a snarling vampire. He SHRIEKS.

INT. ISABELLA / HOLD

Ash stirs awake as sounds of the FIGHTING and the ship's CLANGING bell filter down from the deck. He glances over. Alana is already gathering her gear and weapons.

CAPTAIN ASH

Why have we stopped? And what's the bloody commotion... was having my first pleasant dream in ages.

ALANA

Captain Guevarra has guests.

CAPTAIN ASH
I was afraid you would say that.
You know, you were in that dream.

She puts on her crucifix, and then loads the bow.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
And where are you going?

ALANA
We have to help.

Alana hands him a wooden stake.

CAPTAIN ASH
I was afraid you'd say that, too.

She crosses to the door. Ash grabs up his cutlass.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
You did hear Guevarra say that part
about thirty-six marines? And what...
forty guns?

ALANA
You know it won't be enough.

EXT. ISABELLA / DECK - NIGHT

The pirates, aided by the vampires, are slaughtering the Spanish soldiers and sailors. The monsters merely absorbing the bullets as they cut the defenders down.

Guevarra and his lieutenant lead a contingent of men holding out at the helm as the attackers press in on them.

GUEVARRA
(Subtitled Spanish)
Stand your ground! These bastards
will not take his majesty's ship!

INT. ISABELLA / CORRIDOR

Alana leads along the passageway, crossbow in hand. Ash keeps an eye behind them. A pair of pirates appear at the next doorway. She raises a crucifix, but they merely laugh.

SWORD PIRATE
On our way to church are we, miss?

They both draw blades and move toward her. She fires the bow, downing one of the cutthroats.

SWORD PIRATE (CONT.)
Now, that just ain't sport!

He swings for her head. CLANG! Only to have the sword deflected by Captain Ash's weapon. He winks at her.

CAPTAIN ASH
One side, lass. Tis my specialty.

The two men exchange blows, each parried by the other. The pirate snarls a laugh. But then he is belted in the forehead by the hilt of Ash's cutlass. Ash runs him through.

Just as the man slumps to the deck, another pirate appears. Ash takes a fencing posture, but this man's eyes glow red and he bares vampire fangs. Ash nods at Alana.

CAPTAIN ASH
Trade you!

He steps clear as Alana fires her crossbow. The bolt downs the creature. She pounces on it, whipping out a dagger from her belt and slicing. Ash grimaces as she dispatches the beast. Standing, she holds onto the bloody blade.

ALANA
Cursed monsters...

CAPTAIN ASH
Done this before have you?

He wipes a blood splatter from her cheek. She grins at him.

ALANA
This part... be my specialty.

EXT. ISBELLA - NIGHT

A hatch cover pops up as Ash and Alana ascend into the midst of the bloody fracas. She points to where Guevarra is still managing to make a stand at the helm deck.

ALANA
The captain is cornered.

CAPTAIN ASH
Caught with their pantaloons down.

The phrase puzzles her as she pulls up her crossbow.

ALANA
Surprise... yes. But that's also what we'll have.

They make their way forward, striking pirate and vampire alike from behind.

Alana pivots and fires a bolt upward - striking a vampire that was scaling the mast towards Guevarra. With a quick throw of a dagger, Ash downs another pirate trying to ascend the rigging. Alana cups her hands to her mouth.

ALANA
 Captain Guevarra!! Guevarra!!

HELM DECK

In the thick of the melee, Guevarra turns. He can hear her, but cannot see in the midst of the flurry. Suddenly, a vampire drops from above and lands right in front of him. With a snarl, the beast tosses a hapless Marine aside.

GUEVARRA
 Muerte!

Guevarra plunges his cutlass into the beast. It only laughs and Guevarra struggles to pull his impaled weapon back.

INSERT - GUN DECK

Alana cocks and fires.

HELM DECK

Guevarra is stunned as the bolt emerges from the vampire's chest in front of him. He jerks his sword free.

ALANA (O.S.)
 The head!!

He glances to see Alana and Ash fighting their way to him. Several pirates have spotted them, and move to attack.

ALANA (CONT.)
 Cut off its head!!

Guevarra nods and swings his arm back. Struggling, the vampire wrenches the crossbow bolt free, just as Guevarra strikes. The blade severs the beast's head from the neck.

The creature's body goes limp and collapses onto the charging pirates. Alana rams a stake through another vampire as Ash hacks it with his sword.

Anders sees the tide is turning. He holds his sword aloft.

ANDERS
 Back to the ship! We'll pepper
 these Spanish bastards!!

As the pirates retreat, Guevarra points at his marines at their ship - where the deck guns are being leveled.

GUEVARRA
 (Subtitled Spanish)
 Fire on their cannons!

A smattering of surviving Spanish soldiers open fire on Ander's crew, keeping the pirates pinned down.

GUEVARRA
(Subtitled Spanish)
Starboard guns, fire!

There's no response from the Isabella's cannons. Guevarra leans out over the helm deck rail.

GUN DECK

Crew bodies litter the deck. The cannons unmanned. Scattered survivors tend each other in the fading melee.

Descending the steps, Guevarra crosses himself at the sight of the carnage.

GUEVARRA
Madre dios...

Captain Ash and Alana meet the Captain at the stair rail.

GUEVARRA (CONT.)
I don't know how you are here, but
you are my gunner's mates now!

Guevarra leads them to a cannon. He grabs up a ramrod.

GUEVARRA (CONT.)
¡Cargue rápidamente!

ALANA
What can we do?

ASH
Powder! I'll grab a ball!

Ash snatches up a bag of gunpowder and tosses it to her. She crams it into the cannon barrel.

A moment later, Ash heaves up small, heavy cannonball down the barrel on top of it.

GUEVARRA
Bueno! Do the next one!

The makeshift gun crew load a neighboring weapon as Guevarra rams the charge down the first.

SLOOP

Anders' crew cut their mooring lines as they retreat aboard. A few Spanish marines randomly fire muskets at them.

ANDERS
Load shot! We'll clear her decks!

ISABELLA / GUN DECK

Guevarra rams the second barrel, then points to a pulley.

GUEVARRA

Heave! It will take all of us!

All three pull on the thick ropes and the gun slowly rolls into place at the rail. Guevarra grabs up a cannon wick.

GUEVARRA (CONT.)

Cover your ears!

He taps the end of the fuse rod to the cannon.

REVERSE ANGLE

The heavy cast iron barrel ERUPTS.

SLOOP

The blast slams into the stern, thudding the wooden hull. Several pirates topple over themselves as the vessel rocks.

ANDERS

Hard a' starboard! Get us clear!

But, it's too late.

The second to last cannon rolls to the rail and - BOOMS!

This time, the heavy lead ball shatters the sloop's exposed rudder to splinters. The vessel sways back towards the Isabella. On the deck, the Spanish whoop and yell.

ANDERS

Stand your ground, you swine!

His eyes blood red, Anders points an accusing finger as he snarls. He bellows a bestial roar and pulls his sword.

ANDERS (CONT.)

This isn't over!

ALANA (O.S.)

You there!! BEAST!

Anders turns. Crouched at the gun rail, Alana holds up sharpened stake threateningly. The vampire captain laughs.

ANDERS

The hunter's child will die last.

His laughter fades as Alana holds up a blunderbuss. She shoves the stake, butt-first, into it. Then, aims.

The flintlock THUNDERS. Launching the heavy wooden spike right into Ander's chest.

Pirates and Spaniards watch in stunned silence. As Anders writhes on the deck in bloody agony, his men surrender.

ALANA
Now, it's over...

ISABELLA

The remaining pirates are led in shackles by the Spanish marines to the ship's hold.

INT. CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS

Guevarra bursts in, blood from the battle splattered across his shirt. He drops his sword on his desk, gathering his breath. Ash and Alana follow him in.

ALANA
We must make haste to Puerto Libre.
I fear my father's a prisoner
there.

GUEVARRA
I left you in Cuba for a reason.

He flops into his chair, exhausted and still in shock.

GUEVARRA (CONT.)
But I am grateful you didn't.

ALANA
Captain, these creatures are not
alone. There are more.

GUEVARRA
These are the monsters that sacked
the town? Killed the governor?

ALANA
Yes. Wampyr... vampire... vampiro.
Undead who feed on the living.

Guevarra runs a hand through his sweat-soaked hair, sighs.

CAPTAIN ASH
Devil spawn, one might say.

GUEVARRA
So, how do you kill that which is
already dead, senorita? We can't
line them up for beheading.

CAPTAIN ASH
The beasties are tough, but not
they're not invincible.

ALANA
I can teach you how to fight them.

MONTAGE

Guevarra, Ash and the Isabella crew set about repairs.

Alana teaches the men vampire weaknesses (crosses, holy water, fire, etc.)

Improvised stakes and crosses are built from belaying pins and lumber. The ship's chaplain blesses a bucket of water.

As they prepare, Alana and Ash catch each other's eye. He grins and she averts her gaze, then looks back and grins. Ash catches her and winks. She rolls her eyes.

INT. CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS - DAY

Guevarra points to a map on his desk.

GUEVARRA
Puerto Libre is a fortress. If this
Scarlet seized it, we'd be facing
our own guns and whatever other
vessels under her control. She
killed a lot of my men. Good men.

ALANA
Killed good women and children,
too... and she'll continue to do so.

GUEVARRA
There's an old cave entrance that
leads into the Governor's manor on
the far side. But, they'll see us
coming from miles away.

Ash steps forward, scanning over the map.

CAPTAIN ASH
Been giving that some thought,
captain... I have an idea, but you'll
need to strike your colors.

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE HARBOR - NIGHT

Frost's galleon sits at the mouth of the inlet. Flying high in her mast is a large flag with a skull and red dragon wings. Far off, the Isabella appears on the horizon.

EXT. FROST'S GALLEON - NIGHT

Frost quietly walks the deck.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)
Ship ahoy, port aft!

The captain goes to the rail, but he can only see a shadow. He calls up to the lookout.

FROST
Is it Anders?

High up the mast, the lookout watches through a spyglass.

LOOKOUT
Too many masts!

Frost takes out his own telescope as a crewman runs up.

INSERT - SPYGLASS VIEW

No one is seen on deck as the Isabella plows the dark water, coming right at them. The lens moves aft, where Scarlet's flag flutters and Ander's damaged sloop is towed behind.

EXT. FROST'S GALLEON - NIGHT

Frost bellows a laugh.

FROST
That wily Swede! He's bringing her home quite a prize!

EXT. ISABELLA - NIGHT

As the warship surges through the waves, the hunters and the Spaniards crouch along the ship's rail. Guevarra holds up a spyglass, keeping as low as possible.

LIEUTENANT
(Subtitled Spanish)
We are going to be completely vulnerable to their guns.

GUEVARRA
(Subtitled Spanish)
That brit best be right. We will only have one pass. Steady as she goes. No one fires until I say.

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE BAY - NIGHT

The two massive vessels grow dangerously close. Pirates on Frost's ship come to the rail to watch the Isabella pass.

EXT. FROST'S GALLEON - NIGHT

Frost peers again through his glass. No one is visible.

FROST
Still no sign a' life. Someone
shoulda' spoke up... Load the guns!

The men quickly run to their stations. Gun ports pull open.

EXT. ISABELLA - NIGHT

The pirate ship looming ahead, Guevarra rises. He strikes a match and lights the wick on a hand-fashioned oil bottle.

GUEVARRA
On my mark...

Guevarra stands up on the rail, holding on to a rope line.

EXT. FROST'S GALLEON - NIGHT

Frost blinks in disbelief as he spots the captain alone.

FROST
What manner of... You! Heave to!

Guevarra glares at the pirate, the flaming bottle in his grip. He hurls the flask.

The glass shatters on impact, burning liquid sets the deck ablaze. Frost, himself, stands in the midst of the inferno. He staggers back, batting at the flames on his sleeves.

GUEVARRA (O.S.)
Now!!

The Spaniards rise up and fire a volley as the ships come within a few dozen yards of each other. Pirates on the deck pull weapons, but several are blown down in the exchange.

FROST
Kill the Spanish dogs!!

Frost aims his flintlock and BLASTS a Marine trying to reload his musket.

EXT. ISABELLA - NIGHT

Guevarra draws his sword and calls down at his deckhands.

GUEVARRA

Fuego!!

The Isabella unleashes a brutal broadside as her main guns pound the galleon's hull, shredding and splintering it.

EXT. FROST'S GALLEON - NIGHT

Amid the chaos, Frost fires a second pistol at the Spanish.

FROST

Fire, you scum! Fire back!

His men pull the cannons into position to return fire, but the Isabella has sailed past. Frost growls.

FROST

Full cover! Bring her about!!

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE BAY - NIGHT

As the Spanish warship sails on, Ander's sloop passes in front of the damaged galleon.

EXT. ANDER'S SLOOP - NIGHT

Captain Ash and Alana stand at the prow. Ash salutes.

ALANA

FUEGO!!

The smaller ship unleashes its own broadside into the pirate vessel. The explosive barrage shattering hull beams.

CAPTAIN ASH

Couldn't have said it better.

The two vessels continue on, leaving Frost's galleon aflame and crippled. They spot Guevarra at the Isabella's aft rail. He cups his hands to shout.

GUEVARRA

Quite a plan you had!

CAPTAIN ASH

Figured two full broadsides should do the job.

A collection of Spanish gunners pass Ash and scale the rope from the sloop back to the Isabella.

GUEVARRA

We'll be in range of Puerto Libre's guns soon enough! On the East side, look for an old light house. The cavern will be nearby. It leads into the manor's cellar.

CAPTAIN ASH

Aye... Good hunting to you, then!

ALANA

Good luck, captain!

GUEVARRA

Vaya con dios, mi compadres!

Ash cuts the lines tying them to the Isabella. He heads back to the helm, pointing for her to take the wheel.

ALANA

Steering without a rudder?

CAPTAIN ASH

Half a rudder. A fitting image of my life, luv. Just point the bow and steer by the wind. The tide will pull us in. Just watch the compass, Mister Illsbrook.

ALANA

Aye, captain.

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE BAY - NIGHT

As the warship plows into the bay - guns erupting, Ander's sloop veers away and disappears into the night.

The massive warship charges through the dark water as cannonades from the walls and other ships pour down on her.

Her next broadside obliterates one of Scarlet's ships as marines fire volleys at the fort's cannon crews.

BEACH

Ander's sloop has run aground. Standing a few feet offshore, Ash aids Alana in jumping down. They gather their things and dash toward a nearby cave entrance.

INT. GOVERNOR'S MANOR / CATACOMBS - NIGHT

Cave walls give way to cut stone as Captain Ash and Alana make their way along racks of wine bottles and casks.

She leads with her crossbow, while he follows with a pistol drawn. He takes a bottle off a shelf and reads the label.

CAPTAIN ASH
Man knows his sherry.

He breaks off the end and takes a long drink. He holds it out for her. Alana grimaces at him.

ALANA
Best if we face our enemy with
clear heads.

CAPTAIN ASH
According to you, mum - we're
meeting the devil herself. I think
I'd rather have my senses dulled.

He takes another pull. She holds out her hand. He smiles warmly and gives her the bottle as they walk.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
Make a sailor out of you yet.

She grins and shakes her head at him, but takes a large drink. Up ahead comes the sound of VOICES. Ash takes back the wine. They quickly head up the corridor.

CELLAR PIRATE (O.S.)
Just make it easy on yourselves...

At the bottom of a set of stone stairs, three Spanish soldiers and several servants are prisoners of a gang of pirates and two vampires.

CELLAR PIRATE (CONT.)
Just sit still it'll be over. But,
if you fight it, you suffer...

THWACK!! A crossbow bolt strikes one vampire square in the chest, impaling it to a heavy oak cask. As the gathering turns, Ash points his flintlock at them.

CAPTAIN ASH
Evenin' gents.

CELLAR PIRATE
Clear off, bilge rats! Our mistress
will have you skinned!!

ALANA
You're not the first to threaten.

CELLAR PIRATE
And what do you plan to do, missy?
All of us here, and just two of
you. Once he fires that noise-
maker, you be dead..

Alana gestures at the prisoners.

ALANA

If you fight, you may suffer... but
if you don't - you surely die.

As the other vampire pounces, the soldiers rise up against their captors.

The servants join them, trying to restrain the pirates. Ash fires his pistol, but the vampire only staggers for a step.

Unable to reload in time, Alana swings the bow like a club - bashing the creature's head. The vampire rears back from the hit, bits of the wood stock splintered in its face.

CAPTAIN ASH

Step aside, Missy. This'ns mine.

Ash steps around Alana and slashes at it with his cutlass.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)

You help them folks! Now, beastie...
let's dance.

The pirates are unable to draw their weapons as they're being mobbed, but they are beating back the prisoners in the ensuing brawl. Alana slings the crossbow and draws out a sharpened stake. She clubs the pirates with it.

ALANA

Fight back, use whatever you have!

As the pirates fall back, they pull out daggers and cutlasses. The prisoners grab wine bottles from the rack.

CAPTAIN ASH

Not the sherry!!

BANQUET HALL

Scarlet holds court with Gash and her minions. Hans is chained on a dais nearby. One of Gash's crew runs in.

GASH'S CREWMAN

We are under attack, milady!

She glances at Hans and sneers.

SCARLET

Yes. By his underfed daughter.

GASH'S CREWMAN

No, mistress. A Spanish warship!
Her guns sank two of our ships and
now their marines are entering the
town square!

She grips the arms of her chair, eyes aflame.

SCARLET
 Impossible! Gash! My children will
 feast on those Spanish bastards!

Gash nods. He pulls his sword and points to the door.

GASH
 What are you waiting for? MOVE!!

CELLAR

Alana and Ash, followed by the prisoners, ascend the steps. A doorway at the top appears to lead into the house. At that moment, several pirates rush past - weapons drawn.

GASH'S CREWMAN (O.S.)
 Death to the Spanish dogs!

Ash raises his hand. The Spaniards nod and lie in wait.

ALANA
 Captain Guevarra seems to have Lady
 Scarlet's attention.

CAPTAIN ASH
 Then, we best make use of it.

They continue upwards to the doorway.

CAPTAIN ASH
 So, should this beastie die... what
 happens to the creatures she made?

ALANA
 I'm told if they've not consumed
 innocent blood since, they may
 return to being human.

CAPTAIN ASH
 Some of those bastards weren't so
 human to start.

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE BAY - NIGHT

Guevarra and his men press on, using their improvised weapons to fight the vampires with swords, stakes and fire.

LIEUTENANT
 Capitan!

The young officer blasts a pirate with a flintlock, as he was about to strike. Guevarra nods, but a vampire lunges out of the melee and pounces on the officer.

GUEVARRA
 Ai!! Monstro!

Guevarra rushes up as the vampire struggles to bite the terrified youth. He plunges a belying pin stake through its back. The creature turns to him.

GUEVARRA
Via tu Hades, Diablo!

Guevarra follows his words with a strike from his sword.

INT. GOVERNOR'S MANOR / OFFICE - NIGHT

Scarlet shrieks and staggers to her feet. She grips her ears; feeling the languishing CRIES of her dying children.

SCARLET
Stop! Stop it!!

She snarls at Hans, her composure overrun with rage.

SCARLET (CONT.)
Your bitch of a daughter has her
hand in this! Doesn't she?

She grips his throat.

SCARLET (CONT.)
Doesn't she?! She's taught them!

Scarlet pulls him closer, her eyes reddening. She grins.

SCARLET (CONT.)
We have no time to lose then.

As Hans watches, helplessly, she turns his head and plunges her canines into his neck.

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE BAY - NIGHT

Frost and a company of men pull into the wharf in a skiff.

FROST
Get yer hides to the manor! Protect
the mistress!

The pirates draw weapons and clamber up the dock.

INT. GOVERNOR'S MANSION / HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ash and Alana move along the empty corridor toward the makeshift throne room. He stops and takes hold of her hand.

CAPTAIN ASH
Alana...

She stops and looks back.

ALANA

Captain? Is something wrong? You've never called me by name before.

CAPTAIN ASH

Was never so worried before.

She glances quick to check the corridor, then back at him.

ALANA

Worried, Captain Ash?

CAPTAIN ASH

Robert... yes. Worried I'd have no time to say this. I lost my first love, my last ship and nearly all I have in this world. I'm not sure I could bear losin' anything else.

There's an awkward moment. He's gazing into her eyes and she finds herself gazing back.

ALANA

All I have left in this world, Robert Ash is you and my father. And I have no intention of losing either of you.

The soldiers behind them appear uncomfortable watching. He glances at the onlookers.

CAPTAIN ASH

Well, then we need to be rescuing him, do we not?

She leads the way. Ash looks back at the men. They seem to be resisting the urge to smile, but can't help to.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)

Andele'!

BANQUET HALL

The hunters enter Scarlet's makeshift throne room, which appears empty. The soldiers fan out; their improvised weapons ready. Across the room, Hans Von Illsbrook is shackled at the head of a long dining table.

ALANA

Father? Father!

She kneels by him, trying to see, but he is slumped over.

ALANA (CONT.)

Oh God, no! Father, please...

Hans rouses, his eyes flutter and he moans.

HANS

A... Alana? Is that you, Alana?

ALANA

Thank heaven! Still alive.

Only then, does she see the bites on his neck. As she leans closer to see, his eyes snap open. They are blood red. His canines elongated into fangs.

CAPTAIN ASH

Get back!

Ash pulls her away, just as her father tries to take hold of her, but he is stopped by the chains.

SCARLET (O.S.)

Good evening, Miss Von Illsbrook.

Scarlet steps from behind the throne. Gash and several pirates and vampires enter from various hiding spots. Surrounded, the Spanish soldiers lower their weapons.

SCARLET (CONT.)

What a sweet vision... father and daughter reunited.

Alana's courage returns and she examines her father, who snarls but seems dazed and saddened. She pivots around and aims the crossbow at Scarlet's chest.

ALANA

You monstrous bitch!

SCARLET

Such language. But you do strike me as an ill-mannered girl.

ALANA

Come closer, beast and I will strike you all right.

Scarlet grins at the resistance as she crosses to them.

SCARLET

Useless gesture. You plan on killing me in front of my children and then escape... or kill us all?

Ash draws his sword and thrusts, but Scarlet merely moves enough for the blow to glance by.

CAPTAIN ASH

Has a bloody answer for everything, doesn't she?

Scarlet thrusts her palm into Ash, sending him tumbling.

ALANA

Robert!!

Alana fires. Scarlet catches the bolt and snaps it in half. She moves closer, smiling as Alana brings up her crucifix.

CAPTAIN ASH (O.S.)

No!

Scarlet turns as Ash strikes from behind. The cutlass pierces her side, but no blood comes.

She grabs his arm and pulls the weapon out, then twists him around until she's strangling him. He flails helplessly.

SCARLET

Maybe I will simply crush his throat and drink my fill...

ALANA

Please! Stop!

SCARLET

Indulge me then...

Scarlet flings Captain Ash aside. She takes Alana by the hand, leading her over to Hans. Ash staggers to his feet.

SCARLET (CONT.)

You and your father are most tenacious, Miss Von Illsbrook.

GASH

Ten-na...

SCARLET

Stubborn.

CAPTAIN ASH

(coughing)

I would heartily agree with that.

SCARLET

Gash... take him away. The young lady and I have a duty to perform.

GASH

You know I coulda' just had them shot at the door.

Scarlet shakes her head, slightly.

SCARLET

And miss this? Perish the thought.

Gash grabs Ash by the arm to lead him out.

CAPTAIN ASH

Wait!

He slips free of the pirate and embraces Alana. He kisses her passionately. She is startled at first, but then sees the wooden stake he takes from her belt. As he tucks it into his own, Alana kisses him back.

GASH

Enough!

ALANA

Goodbye, Robert Ash.

The pirates lead the prisoners away.

MANOR HALLWAY

As he is dragged out, Ash glances back. The door closes.

GASH

Robert Ash... I know that name. Yes...
The Valkyrie. Was that you? Too bad
about all those poor souls.

Ash stops in his tracks.

CAPTAIN ASH

A lot of innocent young men... just
trying to protect the seas from
dregs like you. Deserved better.

Gash sneers and pushes him forward.

GASH

The way I hear it, there was an
inexperienced helmsman on the wheel
the day Valkyrie pursued me.
(Grins to himself)
Too bad. If he hadn't got that old
gunboat hung on the reef, they may
have caught me. I remember now.

CAPTAIN ASH

Living through it once was enough.

Captain Ash pulls out the glass flask from his coat.

GASH

Were you drunk that day, too?

The pirates laugh. Ash holds up the flask.

CAPTAIN ASH

One last drink for the condemned?

GASH

Why not?

Ash salutes with the flask, and then tips it up to drink.

CAPTAIN ASH
To your... health.

Suddenly, he SMASHES the flask against Gash's forehead. It shatters, dousing him with the contents.

GASH
Dog!! You will die slow!!

As he speaks, the water begins to smolder.

CAPTAIN ASH
You first, mate. That was holy water. I hear tell you blood sucking types don't care for it.

Gash is overcome by searing pain. The holy water burns new scars into his flesh, like acid. In the confusion, Ash pulls Gash's cutlass from his belt.

The guards are taken by surprised as the prisoner runs one of them through.

The other pirates manage to pull their weapons, but are attacked by the Spanish soldiers. Gash is SCREAMING in pain, yet still manages to draw a dagger. He swings wildly at Ash, who can barely manage to duck.

GASH
I... will feast... on your blood!

The two sailors strike and parry; neither make contact. But then, Gash drives himself into Ash, cutting into his sword hand. The shock causes Ash to drop the weapon and now the vampire presses in on him - backing him to the wall.

Ash recoils at the hideous scars on Gash's face.

CAPTAIN ASH
You're a wreck, mate.

GASH
Scars are no matter to me! Death does not matter to me! Soon, I will be with my sister again.

Gleefully, Gash edges closer. Ash tries to hold him back, but the dagger grows nearer to his throat. He manages to reach into a pocket. He pulls out a small silver knife.

GASH (CONT.)
Quite the little pig sticker.

Gash chuckles. But then Ash turns the gleaming blade over in his hand; holding it inverted, it looks like a crucifix. Gash's eyes grow wide. He's compelled to release Ash.

CAPTAIN ASH
Get back!

Ash steps forward and Gash retreats, his eyes fixed on the silvery cross. Ash reaches for the stake from his belt. Gash growls, then lunges into Ash. The two men crash together.

CAPTAIN ASH

Go then... join your sister.

Gash's eyes glaze over and he stares into the distance. The borrowed stake plunged into his chest when they collided.

GASH

Claire? Is that you?

Gash for a brief moment is blissful, he winces and staggers, staring skyward. Ash snatches his sword from the floor and mercifully fells the wounded vampire with a single stroke.

SWISH!

BANQUET HALL

Resigned to her fate, Alana watches Scarlet as she strides around the bound Hans.

SCARLET

You have dedicated yourself to destroying vampires. So, I am going to help you, child.

Alana cautiously looks at her father, her crucifix regretfully held before her. He winces.

SCARLET

Fulfill your sworn oath.

ALANA

What?

Scarlet stands behind him, her hands massage his shoulders.

SCARLET

Destroy this monster.

Alana's heart sinks. She closes her eyes.

SCARLET (CONT.)

Why the hesitation? You wish me to help you?

Scarlet tightens her grip on Hans, until he groans and struggles to get free.

ALANA

Stop! I can do no such thing!

Even undead, he cannot match Scarlet's strength. She pulls his arms aside, away from his chest.

SCARLET

Oh, but you must. Now, just plunge the stake in. Then, you can behead him. It doesn't get any easier.

Alana's hands are trembling. She affirms her grip on her stake and her crucifix.

HANS

Alana...

SCARLET

You uphold the family honor. I get my vengeance. Consider it... mercy. Otherwise, I assure you he will suffer for untold days in torment. Even now, he is starving. I've not allowed him a single drop.

The frightened girl glances at two pirates behind her, swords in hand. Scarlet's smug grin widens.

SCARLET (O.S.)

Do it now... vampire hunter.

CAPTAIN ASH (O.S.)

Beg pardon, milady.

They turn to see Ash in the doorway, sporting a pair of pistols. He BLASTS BOTH of the men guarding Alana.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)

There's been a change of plans.

Seeing him, Alana's eyes brighten. He winks at her, the pistols still smoking. With renewed hope, she turns and drives the stake at Scarlet.

ALANA

You demon, can go to Hell!

Scarlet moves just enough to avoid the assault, but is still stabbed in her shoulder. She snarls like an animal, her fangs bared, as Alana unslings her crossbow.

Scarlet snaps the chains binding Hans to his chair and pulls him up to her as a hostage, blocking Alana's shot.

SCARLET

I see Frau Illsbrook is not the only one who is tenacious.

CAPTAIN ASH

Stubborn? No, milady. I am just bloody Hell pissed off!

He drops the spent guns and draws his sword. The freed Spanish soldiers rush in behind him.

ALANA
Scarlet Dragonuv... it is time for
you to rest in peace.

Scarlet chuckles as she see the cocked crossbow aimed at her. She pulls Hans along with her, toward the terrace.

GUEVARRA (O.S.)
Muerte a todos los vampiros!!

From the opposite end of the room, the door is battered open. Captain Guevarra and his marines charge inside. He is a bit haggard, helping his wounded lieutenant walk.

Surrounded, Scarlet retreats to the terrace archway, dragging Hans with her.

CAPTAIN ASH
Nice of you to join us, Capitan.

GUEVARRA
Are we too late for the fiesta?

ALANA
On the contrary...

The adversaries square off.

SCARLET
Listen to yourselves. You talk as
though you have a future.

ALANA
Your future is burning in Hell.

CAPTAIN ASH
She seems pretty set on that
sending you to Hell part.

The hunters close in, as the standoff becomes more tense. Scarlet gives a knowing smile.

SCARLET
I've been waiting for you to
finally arrive, Mister Frost.

Jeremiah Frost and his crew of both human and vampire pirates flood in behind Captain Ash.

CAPTAIN FROST
The tide's turned I see.

SCARLET
So, it has. Kill them all! We will
adorn the manor with the remains!

The pirates let out a cry and surge at the soldiers. A wild melee ensues. The battle is met with a clash with swords, daggers, what have you. Captain Guevarra draws his sabre.

GUEVARRA

Jeremiah Frost! In the name of his majesty the King of Spain, I place you under arrest for piracy on the high seas and murder.

Frost holds up the stolen French captain's sword.

FROST

I take it that be a formality. And my reply will come from this!

The two men come to blows, their blades clanging loudly against the din of the brawl behind them.

Alana tries to keep her eye on Scarlet, but a lunging vampire causes her to quickly turn and fire her crossbow. As the wounded monster continues to close, it is struck down by Ash's sword. He hands her Gash's cutlass from his belt.

CAPTAIN ASH

You may need that.

As the fighting continues, the tide appears to be slowly leaning to the hunters' favor. Dueling with Captain Guevarra, Frost sneers as he lunges.

FROST

Ye thought ye could best me at sea, Capitan... and now ye think I won't best ye here?

The white-haired pirate slashes away, backing Guevarra across the room, but the trained officer parries each blow with controlled restraint.

FROST (CONT.)

When my lads are done butchering your green-horned crew, I'll carve you up for Christmas dinner!

Frost lunges, but Guevarra skillfully matches him. His counter knocks the sword from Frost's hand.

GUEVARRA

Christmas will have to wait.

The crafty old pirate raises his hands behind his head.

GUEVARRA (CONT.)

I'll be sure your hanging is a quick one, senior.

Frost's raised hands draw a hidden knife from his collar.

FROST

What more could a man ask for?

He hurls the knife at Guevarra, the blade hitting him in the arm. Frost snarls a laugh as Guevarra stumbles back. The pirate lunges forward, intent to finish the job. But, as Guevarra stumbles to the floor, he finds the stolen French sword and pulls it up - just as Frost reaches him.

The fighting stops as Frost is run through. He staggers a step, drops to his knees, then keels over. With the loss of their captain, several pirates lose their will.

SCARLET

Fight you dogs!

She sneers at the collective in disgust. The remaining vampires retreat to her side as human pirates surrender.

SCARLET (CONT.)

Curse you all!

Scarlet turns and bursts through the terrace doors, dragging the weakened Hans. In moments, she is out of sight, her vampire children protecting her escape.

GUEVARRA

Death to the beasts!

Guevarra holds up his sword and the soldiers rush at the creatures. Ash turns to join them, but Alana stops him.

ALANA

We cannot let her escape! She said my father has not consumed any blood. There's still a chance we can save him!

Ash nods and takes her hand, leading her to the door.

CAPTAIN ASH

The only way out is by sea.

EXT. GASH'S SLOOP - NIGHT

The ship is quietly moored at the Puerto Libre wharf, having been spared the Isabella's guns. Several crewmen are on alert, but still surprised to see Scarlet striding toward them, dragging Hans by the cuffs on his wrists.

SCARLET

We must get underway.

GASH'S CREWMAN

Where is the captain?

She grabs him by his collar and hurls him into the water.

SCARLET

We MUST get underway... now!

The remaining men on deck quickly get to work. She drags Hans to the helm and sets him down.

SLOOP SAILOR
Fore and aft lines are clear, we
can cast off, mum.

SCARLET
Just GO! Get us out to sea.

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE DOCKS - NIGHT

Alana and Captain Ash run down the wharf as the sloop pulls away. It has almost reached the end of the pier.

ALANA
Come on! We can jump!

CAPTAIN ASH
You know I can't swim!

ALANA
Just one of God's creatures in that
mass of water, remember? Swing your
arms and kick those legs, Mister!

At the end of the dock, the hunters leap into the water as the sloop sails past. Ash manages a few flailing strokes as Alana grabs onto a line dangling in the water. She hooks arms with him. A moment later, they're being pulled along.

EXT. GASH'S SLOOP - NIGHT

On the deck, Scarlet paces anxiously. She glances at the sky, which is already lightening.

SCARLET
They will pay for this. They will
all pay with their pitiful little
lives. The very idea of having to
hide in the belly of this tub-

She casts a glance at the men working on deck.

SCARLET (CONT.)
At least, I shall eat well.
(Turns to Hans)
You, however, will beg me to feed.

SHIP'S STERN

At the aft rail, Captain Ash quietly climbs up to pull himself aboard. He tries to remain out of sight as he steps over. But he's quickly grabbed by two sailors.

CAPTAIN ASH

I take it you gents cannot give me
passage to Martinique?

They take hold of him, but as they turn, Alana appears at the rail. She clubs one of the crewmen on the back of the head with a wooden stake. Ash grabs the other and subdues him in a stranglehold until the man is unconscious.

Ash puts his hand out to help her over the rail. As soon as her boots touch the deck, Alana unslings her crossbow. Then, they quietly toss the two unconscious men overboard.

SHIP'S BOW

Scarlet stands at the bow rail. She watches the placid sea as the ship flees the embattled island.

SCARLET

It was all going to be perfect... as
it was before. A fine new home...
servants... security...

She turns to Hans, who seems to be hovering on the edge of his remaining humanity. He looks around him, agitated and sniffing at the air. She sneers in disgust.

SCARLET (CONT.)

Only to be impeded by the cattle.
You are pathetic. Your kind no
longer respects true power.

Alana and Ash step out onto the deck. They watch her pull Hans to his feet, seemingly limp in her grip.

SCARLET (CONT.)

Well, I can still enjoy knowing I
will be rid of you.

She gestures the remaining few crewmen to her.

SCARLET (CONT.)

Lash him to the mast. He can watch
the sun rise for the last time.

The men take hold of him. Scarlet stops and kisses Hans.

SCARLET (CONT.)

Fair thee well, vampire hunter.

As the sailors hold Hans to the mast and bind his hands and legs, one of them is bashed with a sword hilt. The rest turn to see Alana and Ash standing before them.

ALANA

Cut. Him. Down.

She raises her loaded crossbow at them. Scarlet turns.

SCARLET
Is that really what you want?

ALANA
I want... you to die in horrible
agony... monster.

With a dismissive gesture, Scarlet sighs.

SCARLET
Let him go, then.

Confused, the men free Hans. He lunges, grasps a man's arm and is about to sink his fangs in. The pirate SCREAMS.

SCARLET
No... no... Them, my pet!

She points at Captain Ash. Hans dutifully obeys, stalking after Ash. As he closes, Alana can't bring herself to shoot. She pulls up her crucifix to ward him off.

SCARLET
Oh, we cannot have that...

Suddenly, Scarlet flies at Alana, snatching her clean off the deck. In a flash, they are out over the open water.

SCARLET (O.S.)
Kill him, my pet!

Ash holds up his cutlass and draws out a dagger with his off-hand as the crewmen draw their own weapons. Hans lunges, but Ash evades him while deflecting a sword blow.

EXT. CARIBBEAN SEA

Over the water, Alana struggles with Scarlet, but she is so much stronger. The vampire smiles a fang-filled grin.

SCARLET
Why do you bother?

EXT. GASH'S SLOOP

Ash parries a blade and plunges his sword into a crewman, only to barely evade being tackled by a hunger-driven Hans.

CAPTAIN ASH
Von Illsbrook, please! I don't wish
to hurt you!

He scan the horizon, only to see Alana flailing in Scarlet's grip as she flies away.

ALANA (O.S.)
ROBERT!!

Captain Ash hurriedly backs up to the helm. As he parries a knife attack, he slashes the guide rope on the wheel and pitches the ship hard to starboard. The vessel lists sharply and the crew and Hans go toppling.

EXT. CARIBBEAN SEA

Scarlet carries Alana out over a jagged reef.

SCARLET
I'm not going to kill you yet. I
will partake your essence first.

She grips Alana's shoulders tightly, moving to bite her. As the hunter valiantly squirms, a clove of garlic on a lanyard slips from under her blouse. Scarlet winces and grabs it. But Alana plucks the clove off the cord.

ALANA
Partake of this!

She shoves the garlic in Scarlet's mouth. The vampire recoils and drops Alana, who barely misses the reef.

EXT. GASH'S SLOOP / STERN

Fighting from the helm wheel against the three remaining crewmen and Hans, Ash stays a course after Scarlet. There comes a horrible scraping sound and they are thrown to the deck. But the ship keeps going.

SLOOP SAILOR
Are you mad?!? The reef will split
the hull wide open!

The men try again to retake control, but Ash draws out his pistol. He loosely aims it at all of them.

CAPTAIN ASH
And THIS will blast YOU wide open!

Seeing the reef coming at them, the men flee to the aft of the ship; leaving Hans and Ash alone. The old man stalks toward him - fangs bared, but Ash struggles to keep his eyes on the horizon.

CAPTAIN ASH
Of all the ships in Istanbul, why
did you have to charter mine?

Hans lunges. Ash manages to hold him off, making final adjustment to the helm.

EXT. CARIBBEAN

As Alana tries to swim, she hears something above her. She manages to dive under the surface as Scarlet swoops past, trying to grab her.

SCARLET
Curse you, you little wench!

She makes several passes, only to miss each time as Alana dives back under. A moment later, Alana surfaces; heaving.

But suddenly Scarlet is hovering over her and plucks Alana from the water. The vampire hauls her into the air.

SCARLET
Farewell, vampire hunter!

As she lifts Alana from the waves, Scarlet hears something.

CAPTAIN ASH (O.S.)
Ahoy, BEASTIE!!

Scarlet turns, just in time to see the sloop racing at her. The foremast rams her through the spine. The force of the blow causes her to drop Alana back into the water.

Impaled on the mast, Scarlet SHRIEKS and SCREAMS, but she cannot free herself from the large stake through her body.

Alana paddles out of the way. A moment later, a line is tossed out. She swims to it as the ship drops its sails.

EXT. GASH'S SLOOP

Alana steps over the rail and into Ash's arms. They hold each other and she kisses him. Then, they see Scarlet fighting for her life - still impaled. Suddenly, Alana realizes something.

ALANA
Father?

CAPTAIN ASH
He's fine, mum.

She glances to see her father lashed to the helm wheel.

CAPTAIN ASH (CONT.)
He can be a disagreeable sort.

ALANA
It's a family trait.

They kiss again, passionately this time. Scarlet's renewed CRIES startle them.

SHIP'S BOW - DAY

Struggling to get free, Scarlet SHRIEKS and flails uncontrollably. Then, she looks up. Dawn is coming. The first rays that peer over the water sear and burn her flesh. Her eyes widen. For the first time, Scarlet is afraid.

SHIP'S HELM

Alana turns back to her father, only barely in the shade.

ALANA

The sun! It will kill him!

She hurries to Hans. Ash takes his sword and cuts several lines; causing one of the lower sails to fall and drape over the helm, covering them all.

SHIP'S BOW

Scarlet's body is aflame and her cries fade into the sunlight as she is consumed. Then, silence.

SHIP'S HELM

Captain Ash pulls himself out from under the sailcloth. He puts out a hand for Alana. She puts an arm around him and buries her face in his chest. He comforts her, glancing at the bow - where Scarlet perished.

HANS (O.S.)

A... lana? Some... one?

They throw off the canvas. A pale, haggard but very human Hans Von Illsbrook is still lashed to the wheel. He squints at the sunlight.

ALANA

Father!

They cut him free and he embraces his daughter. Ash nods at him and the old man manages to smile at the new day.

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE - DAY

On the docks, Hans Von Illsbrook - appearing much healthier - is boarding a ship. Behind him, several crew men are loading his things. At the gangplank, Hector Guevarra stands in dress uniform. Captain Ash and Alana wait, arm in arm.

GUEVARRA

My Isabella will be sea-worthy again in a few days. I came by to see you off.

CAPTAIN ASH
The king may make you an admiral.

GUEVARRA
I hear they need a governor.

CAPTAIN ASH
Better still.

HANS
Thank you again, captain.

GUEVARRA
Via con dios, Senor Illsbrook.

He shakes Hans's hand. Hans picks up his things.

HANS
I could still hire you for the
return crossing, Captain Ash.

Ash shrugs.

CAPTAIN ASH
Forgive me, sir if I don't wish to
be on a ship with you ever again.

Hans turns to his daughter.

HANS
And you're sure as well?

She looks over at Ash, then smiles.

ALANA
Never more have I been. Be careful
in London. Write me?

HANS
Of course. I will try not to tarry
long. Can I expect grandchildren?

Alana squirms uncomfortably. Ash smiles.

CAPTAIN ASH
Won't be for the lack of trying.

She elbows Ash in the ribs, but then kisses him. Finally,
she gives her father a goodbye hug and he boards the ship.

LATER - AT THE OTHER END OF THE DOCK

Gash's sloop is moored here as Ash and Alana walk up to the
gangplank with Guevarra.

GUEVARRA
I would think you wouldn't want to
see this cursed ship again.

CAPTAIN ASH
Hopefully, I won't lose this one.

ALANA
Well, this ship will have two
skilled helmsmen.

CAPTAIN ASH
And a proper blessing.

The sailing men salute each other. Alana gives Guevarra a
kiss on the cheek.

As they board, Guevarra waves goodbye. He walks down the
pier. He glances at the bow of the ship.

Scarlet's charred remains have formed a perfectly petrified
figurehead, her mouth agape and arms spread.

EXT. PUERTO LIBRE - DAY

On the dock, Guevarra waves to his friends as they sail away
in the re-christened ship. The sloop's stern bears the name
- Valkyrie II. A hooded figure passes by, bumping into him.

FRENCHMAN
Pardon em moi, monsieur.

GUEVARRA
De nada, senor.

As Guevarra walks away, the Frenchman peers out from under
the hood; his eyes glowing red.

BLACK