

DRACULA + MAID (VIXEN)

56

DRACULA

VAN HELSING: What I AM saying is this...do you have any idea why Mr Renfield has tried twice to break into Carfax Abbey? Hmm?

DRACULA: Heaven knows...

(DRACULA and VAN HELSING size each other up in silence.)

~~VAN HELSING: ...Yes, I'm sure it does.~~

(The MAID enters the room, calling ARTHUR.)

*

MAID: 'Scuse me, sir, but you asked to know if the young miss were to wake up...she has, just this minute.

ARTHUR: Thank you...tell her and Jonathan we'll be up momentarily. (Beat) Better yet, we'll go ourselves now.

MAID: Y'sir.

ARTHUR: Could you, umm...see to the comfort of... Dracula...while we're gone?

MAID: Pleasure...

ARTHUR: Is that alright? We should only be a few...

DRACULA: Do what you must for the young lady, please... (Beat) I will wait for you here. Believe me, I have all the time in the world...

(DRACULA smiles warmly at the MAID as ARTHUR and VAN HELSING start for the door.)

VAN HELSING: Yes, see if the Count would like something to drink...

(ARTHUR and VAN HELSING exit.)

MAID: Is there...?

DRACULA: Yes, my dear?

MAID: Could I get a nice glass of something...sherry, perhaps?

DRACULA: No, I never drink...wine. (He moves to the French doors, opening them wide.) Ahh...the night.

SIDE 6

ACT TWO

57

MAID: Yes, 's quite beautiful, ain't it? Me mum says that the night is one of the most...

(DRACULA stops suddenly, raising a hand toward the MAID. She stops in mid-sentence and listens.)

DRACULA: Come to me...

(The MAID walks toward DRACULA.)

DRACULA: You have no will of your own, other than what I command of you. Do you hear me?

MAID: I hear you.

DRACULA: When I am gone you will remember none of this. (Beat) Now, when Doctor Van Helsing orders you to sleep in the room of your mistress, to watch over her carefully...you must do as she asks. Let no one enter, save myself. Your mistress is threatened by death, and only I can save her now. Hear me...

MAID: I understand...

(DRACULA moves to the MAID.)

DRACULA: Such a sweet young thing, you are...you...

(DRACULA leans down toward the MAID's neck. It seems as if she is lost, yet he only wipes a smudge away from behind her ear.)

DRACULA: ...must learn to take better care of yourself.

(DRACULA laughs to himself and crosses to the French doors. He holds them open dramatically, then closes them. He moves quickly to the library door and exits. The MAID immediately returns to the place in her story.)

MAID: ...Lovely times 'a day. 'Course, it ain't really day, I mean, "night", isn't it? (She looks around, puzzled.) Count? Count Dracula...? (Beat) Rich folks—all the same, ain't they?

(Music up as scene shifts to:)