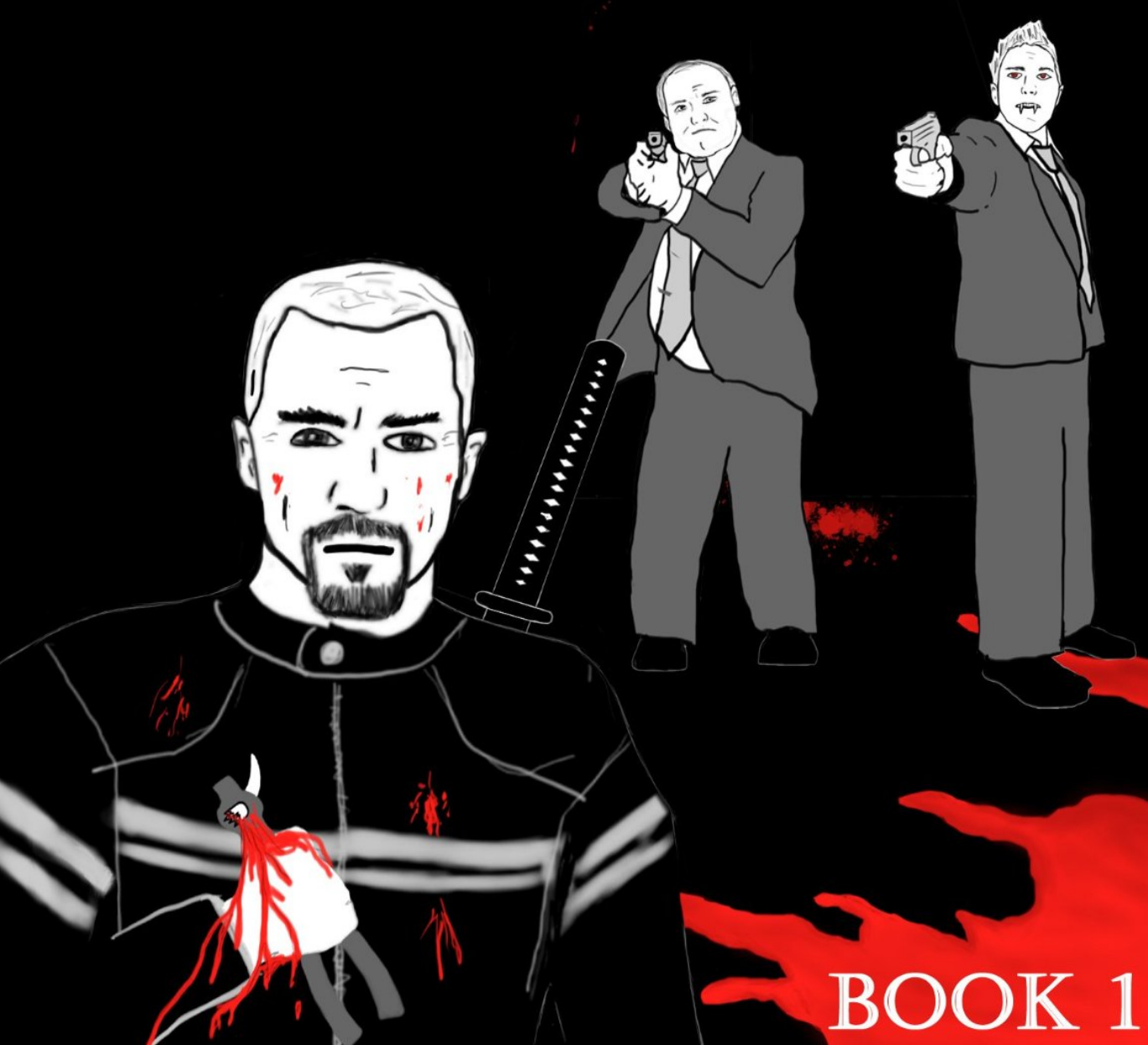


# THE SPIRIT & THE SHADOW

Written By  
**THOMAS LAVALLE**

Illustrated By  
**BRANDON SWOPE**



**BOOK 1**

# THE SPIRIT & THE SHADOW

Book One

Written By:  
Thomas Lavalley

Illustrated By:  
Brandon Swope

## THE SPIRIT AND THE SHADOW

### Book One

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*For our families who supported this project*

*Danielle*

*Jen*

*Hayley*

*Aiden*

*Maya*

*Olivia*

*Dennis*

*Fred*

*Marianne*

*Jody*

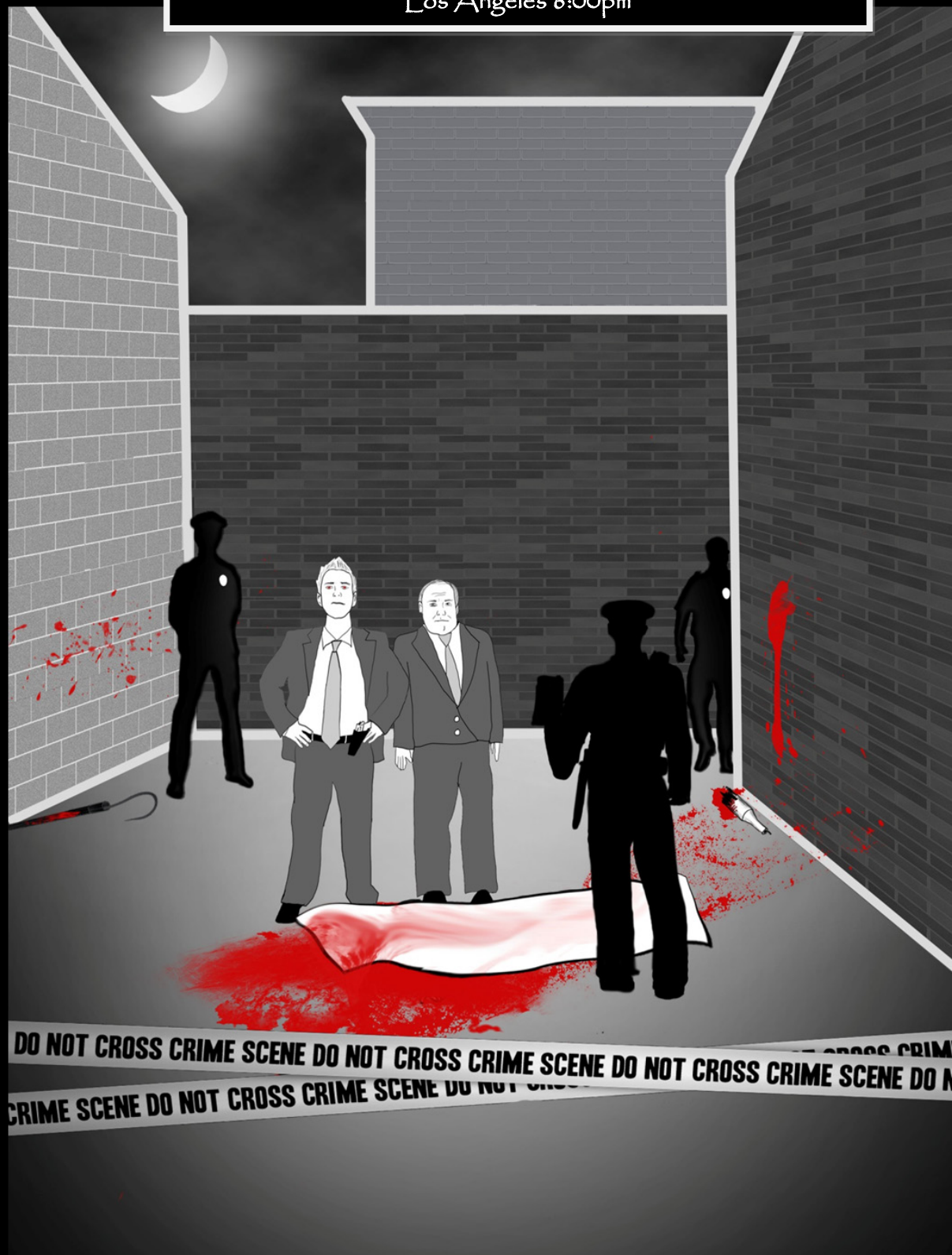


*There will be blood*

# NIGHT 1

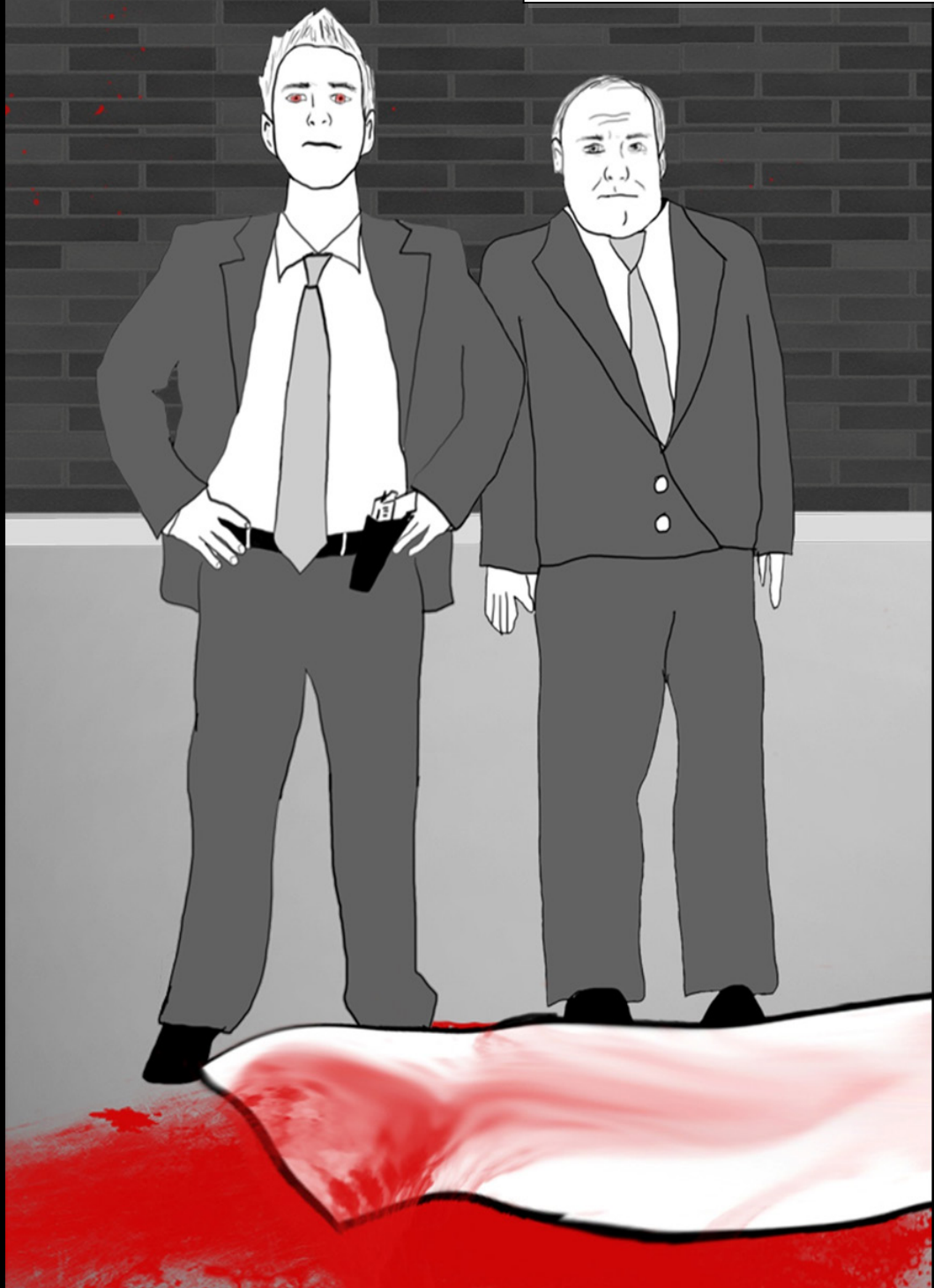


Los Angeles 6:00pm



Detective Aiden Lawson  
Vampire-Human Incident Division  
**VAMPIRE**

Detective Robert Garrison  
Vampire-Human Incident Division  
**HUMAN**



ROBERT

I told you Aiden, it's a mess.

AIDEN

You weren't exaggerating about the blood.  
When did you arrive on the scene?



ROBERT

A couple of hours ago ... Officer Tomich has been here all day. Officer, this is my partner, Detective Aiden Lawson.

OFFICER TOMICH

Good to meet you, detective. You got here quicker than I expected.

AIDEN

Thanks for staying around. I came here as soon as the sun set. I don't want to keep you any longer, so let's get a rundown of what you've got so far.



OFFICER TOMICH

I'm in no rush, I need the OT. Also, I had a buddy who worked ***“fang”*** division years ago and ... I mean ... no offense.

AIDEN

None taken – It's one of the kinder names for ***VHID*** I've heard in recent years.

OFFICER TOMICH

We were called in before noon. As soon as we got down here, we brought in our local homicide detectives. They confirmed our initial suspicions that this was a vampire attack based on the wounds and secretions around the bite marks. We cordoned off the area and kept the crime scene in tact till your partner arrived to coordinate the investigation.



ROBERT

Victim I.D. is Samuel Kane. He's originally from the area. He was carrying a fake passport with an alias, but we were able to match his fingerprints to find his true identity through school records. A background check had him out of the country for the past five years.

AIDEN

So he's home visiting. Have you notified his family?

ROBERT

Only family to speak of is a brother. He contacted us an hour ago to report Samuel missing. What do you think, Aiden? Pretty aggressive for a feeding?

AIDEN

This wasn't a **feeding**, Bob. This was an act of violence. Did anyone witness the attack?

ROBERT

So far, no one has stepped up.

OFFICER

TOMICH

Have to tell ya, this is pretty unusual. We never get vampire attacks around here.



AIDEN

It **is** unusual – a vampire attack like this is almost unheard of. When a vampire strikes, the victim is almost always kept alive. They're compelled to forget what has happened, and the vampire uses his blood to heal and conceal the wound. The fact that he left the body here shows that he was in a rush to get away.

OFFICER TOMICH

Maybe he got scared after he killed the guy and ran off?

AIDEN

That's a human reaction. A vampire knows how to dispose of his prey, but you are right. He was in a rush, and he didn't think his escape through. If you look over here, you'll see the signs of a struggle. There must have been at least one other involved based on the blood spatter covering the walls.

OFFICER TOMICH

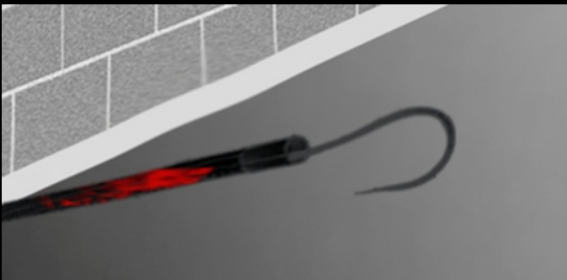
A hate crime, maybe? A couple guys saw the vamp and jumped him?

ROBERT

Guy just gets home after being away for five years, and starts a fight with a vampire? No way. I have a hard time with that. This vampire took these men out, and left one dead.

AIDEN

Maybe ... though something is definitely not right about this entire crime scene. What I am more interested in is this...



OFFICER TOMICH

What is it?

AIDEN

You fish?

OFFICER TOMICH

No sir.

AIDEN

It's a gaff.

OFFICER TOMICH

What would that be doing here?

AIDEN

Something other than fishing ... Bob, remember the La Costa case in Sacramento...?

ROBERT

You're reaching, Aiden. To me, this looks like a fight that a vampire took too far. We need to investigate further before we start speculating.

OFFICER TOMICH

Detectives, I think we just found a suspect. We have a vamp trapped in an apartment nearby.

AIDEN

Trapped?

### OFFICER TOMICH

A tactical vampire response unit is on the scene. They're saying he's been exposed to the sun and has severe burn wounds. They're taking him into custody. I'll take you both over there.





Vacant Apartment 7:00pm



ROBERT

What the hell happened here?

OFFICER RUSSO

We got multiple complaints from tenants of screaming in the apartment. When we arrived we found him like this.

ROBERT

How did he get in?

AIDEN

Look around, the apartment is vacant. Since this is no one's actual home, he was able to enter without invitation.

OFFICER RUSSO

What's that, like some vampire loop hole?

ROBERT

Hey, shut it. Let's get him downtown. Have blood ready for him so he can start healing and we can get some answers.

AIDEN

Keep him bound at all times. Only give him enough blood to heal but not enough to regain full strength. Have forensics scan his fangs. We will need to see if they match our alley victim's wounds. I also want an ID on him. Let's see who he is, and who he was before he was changed to vampire. Maybe there's a connection between him and the victim.

ROBERT

Officer Tomich – have the victim in the alley processed, and contact this brother of his. We'll want to have a word with him.

## The Morgue 9:00pm

MEDICAL EXAMINER  
Just need a positive ID, sir.



NIKLAS  
This is him. I haven't seen my brother in eight years, but I would know him anywhere. Close it up. I've seen enough.

MEDICAL EXAMINER  
I'm sorry for your loss.

NIKLAS  
Officer, are there any leads?

OFFICER TOMICH

It's with the Vampire Human Incident Division.

NIKLAS

What are the names of the detectives?

OFFICER TOMICH

The vampire's name is Detective Aiden Lawson and his human partner is Detective Robert Garrison. They're going to want to speak with you at the precinct.

NIKLAS

I'm sure.

OFFICER TOMICH

I shouldn't tell you this, but losing a family member is tough enough – if it was my brother – I'd want someone to tell me right away. We already arrested a suspect. He was holed up in an apartment just a couple of blocks from the incident – burned pretty bad by the sun and could barely move. We have him in lock up. The detectives are going to question him once he heals.

NIKLAS

Thank you, I appreciate the information.

OFFICER TOMICH

Hey, you need a ride to the precinct? Like I said, the detectives want to speak with you.

NIKLAS

Thank you for the offer, but I will make my own way down there. I have a call to make first.

OFFICER TOMICH

Family?

NIKLAS

Something like that.

OFFICER TOMICH

Of course.

NIKLAS

This is Niklas Kane. Voice Confirm – Alpha-Tango-Bravo-Charlie-Echo-1-7-7-9.

I need to speak with my handler.

DANIELLA

Hello Niklas, how may I assist?

NIKLAS

I looked into the alert you received on my brother's fingerprint ... Sam is in Los Angeles – he has been murdered.

DANIELLA

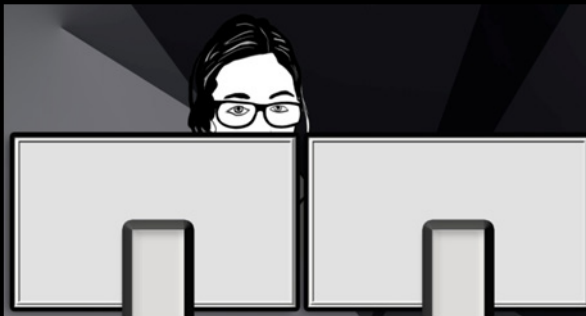
How may I help?

NIKLAS

There's a suspect in custody at the downtown precinct. Please make arrangements for my arrival with the Lieutenant in charge. I want to speak with the suspect before the VHID investigators begin their interrogation.

DANIELLA

Is there anything else?



NIKLAS

Yes. Upload a full profile of Detectives Aiden Lawson and Robert Garrison to my phone. I'll also need a full work-up on my brother's whereabouts and activities for the past eight years. Send me anything and everything you can dig up.

DANIELLA

I will make the necessary arrangements and have the data uploaded in a few minutes.

NIKLAS

While you're at it, find out why no one fucking informed me that my brother was back in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Police Department 9:30pm

ROBERT

Thank you for the assistance on this case. Your officers have handled everything well, and very cooperative.

LIEUTENANT JOHNSON

It's our pleasure to support VHID. We are lucky not to have too many cases in our area that require your presence.



LIEUTENANT  
JOHNSON



AIDEN

The warm and sunny climate of Los Angeles is not ideal for my people. We prefer the dark and the cold of the North.

LIEUTENANT

Do you have many incidents in the States?

AIDEN

Across the U.S.-Canadian border – usually during the winter. The North American vampire population is now primarily in Canada by the Kingdoms in Vancouver and Montreal.

LIEUTENANT

I've never been up that way. Been meaning to, but I'm sorry to say the wife and kids have no desire in heading to vampire country.

AIDEN

It's a natural feeling. Vampires are blood predators by nature. All the animal and synthetic blood in the world will never completely abate the desire for human blood.

LIEUTENANT

I've heard the Kingdoms themselves are an incredible sight to see.

AIDEN

They are – I don't mean to cut the small talk short, but do you have the report?

LIEUTENANT

Of course, yes...

AIDEN

It says the bite wounds of the victim do not match our suspect's fang scan.

ROBERT

How can that be?

AIDEN

I'm just reading the report.



ROBERT

It's too much of a coincidence that he was holed up next to the victim's location.

AIDEN

Lieutenant, we need to speak with him at once.

LIEUTENANT JOHNSON

Well, hold on, he needs to be cleared first by medical. You don't want this thrown out on a technicality, do you?

AIDEN

We're running short on time. If the vampire we have in custody didn't kill Samuel Kane, we have to find out what he knows immediately. He may very well have information that will lead us to the actual killer.

ROBERT

Can you make a call and push medical to let us in?

AIDEN

He should be fine by now Lieutenant – blood has instantaneous effects.

LIEUTENANT

Ok, easy boys – your killer isn't going anywhere. If we can't find him tonight he'll be grounded by the daylight in the morning. I will put out an A.P.B. immediately for vampires in the vicinity. There aren't many vamps in the city. We will turn up the heat and see if we can get him to stick his neck out.

AIDEN

Lieutenant, we can't let a full night get between us and the...

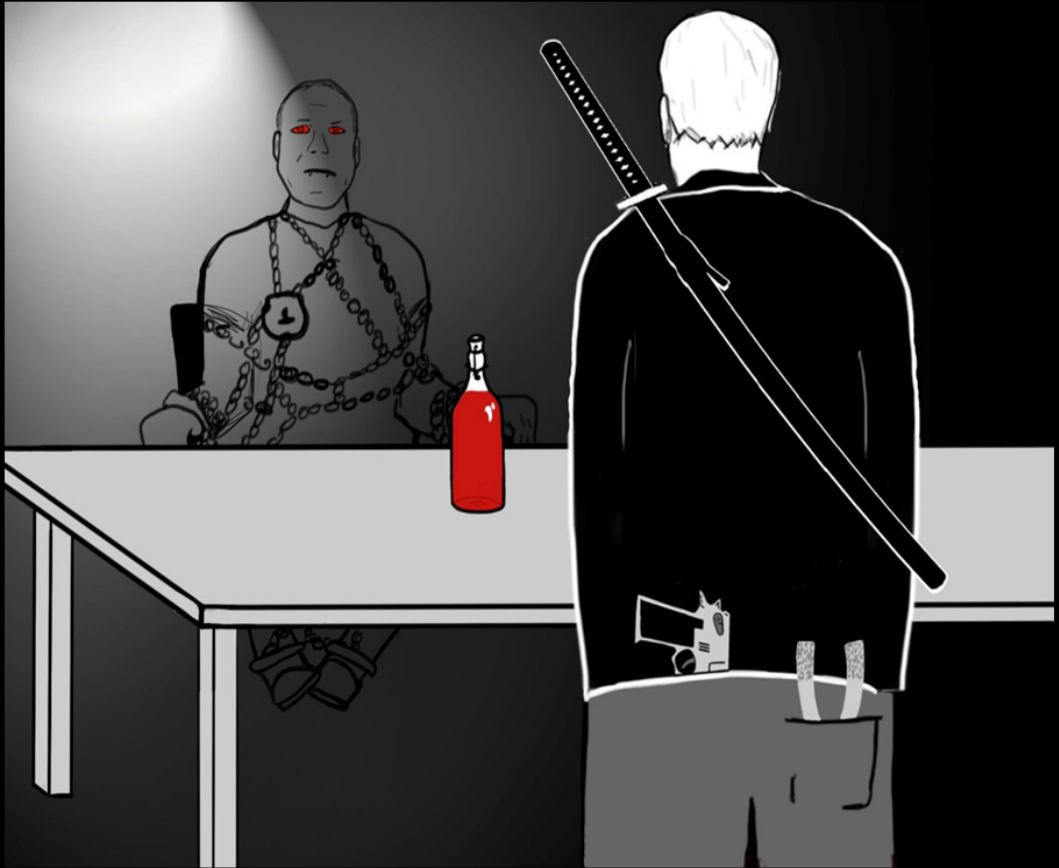
ROBERT

Thank you, Lieutenant. We'll wait to hear from you, but please appreciate the fact that we've done this for a long time, and we need to question that vampire as soon as possible.

LIEUTENANT JOHNSON

Once he is cleared, you'll be the first in to speak with him.

Interrogation Room 9:45pm



NIKLAS  
Feeling better?

VAMPIRE  
Like shit. They've been spoon feeding me this fucking synthetic blood since I got here.

NIKLAS  
Perhaps this will make you feel better. 100% Type-O Negative.



VAMPIRE

Are you from the VHID? I thought you worked in pairs. You know ... one human and one vampire?

NIKLAS

No. I'm not part of VHID. I'm something else entirely.

VAMPIRE

Are you with them?

NIKLAS

Who is *them*?

VAMPIRE

Never mind. Who are you?

NIKLAS

I'm someone who doesn't have a lot of time and very little patience.

VAMPIRE

What's the catch?

NIKLAS

No catch.

VAMPIRE

Why would you give me that?

NIKLAS

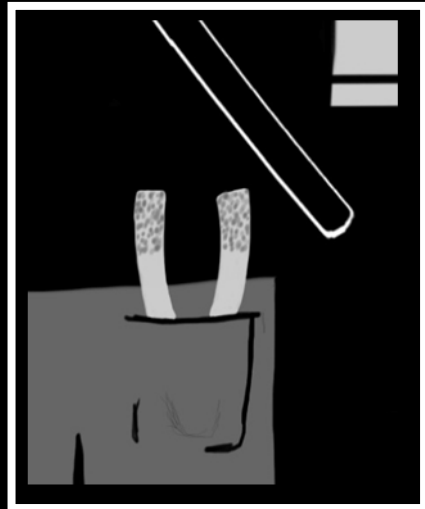
'Cause you're going to need it after what I am about to do to you.

VAMPIRE

Listen, I...

NIKLAS

No, no – I'm going to stop you right there, 'cause your lies are only going to make me angrier than I already am. I'm going to ask you very simple questions. You have one chance to answer them. If you don't, I'm going to put you through pain that will make that little sunburn of yours feel like a warm bath.



AIDEN

You shouldn't have cut me off like that.

ROBERT

Nothing you said was going to make this move any faster. Lieutenant Johnson is in no rush to let us see him, and he's going to follow the book to cover his own ass.

AIDEN

Sun set hours ago, and our killer is on the run. That vampire in there is our only hope in catching him. The longer we are out here waiting, the better chance he has to get away.

ROBERT

He put out the APB. With all the cops circling the area looking for suspicious vampires – he won't get far.

AIDEN

You know what? Forget what the Lieutenant said – we need to talk to the ME and find out what's going on.

ROBERT

We don't want to piss off the locals, Aiden.



AIDEN

Bob, there is a killer on the loose. Pissing off the locals is the least of my concerns.



Interrogation Room 10:05pm

VAMPIRE

You bastard! Look what you did to me!



NIKLAS

I'm only getting started! Give me the name!

VAMPIRE

What's it to you? Who are you?

NIKLAS

Who killed that man in the alley? Tell me now, or so help me I'll pull out the other fang with my bare hands!

VAMPIRE

You psychopath! I ain't telling you shit!

NIKLAS

Wrong answer.

Outside the Interrogation Room 10:10pm

OFFICER CLARK

I'm sorry, he's in with the medical examiner – I have strict orders not to let anyone else in until I hear from the Lieutenant.



AIDEN

Listen, I don't care what your Lieu...

ROBERT

Wait Aiden, look ... is that?

AIDEN

What the hell is going on in there?

Interrogation Room 10:10pm

NIKLAS  
I'm running out of  
patience! I promise  
you, this is not  
going to end well if  
you don't start  
talking! Give me  
the name!

VAMPIRE  
No, don't!

NIKLAS  
A name and where  
he's headed!

VAMPIRE  
I swore I ... I can't!  
No! No!

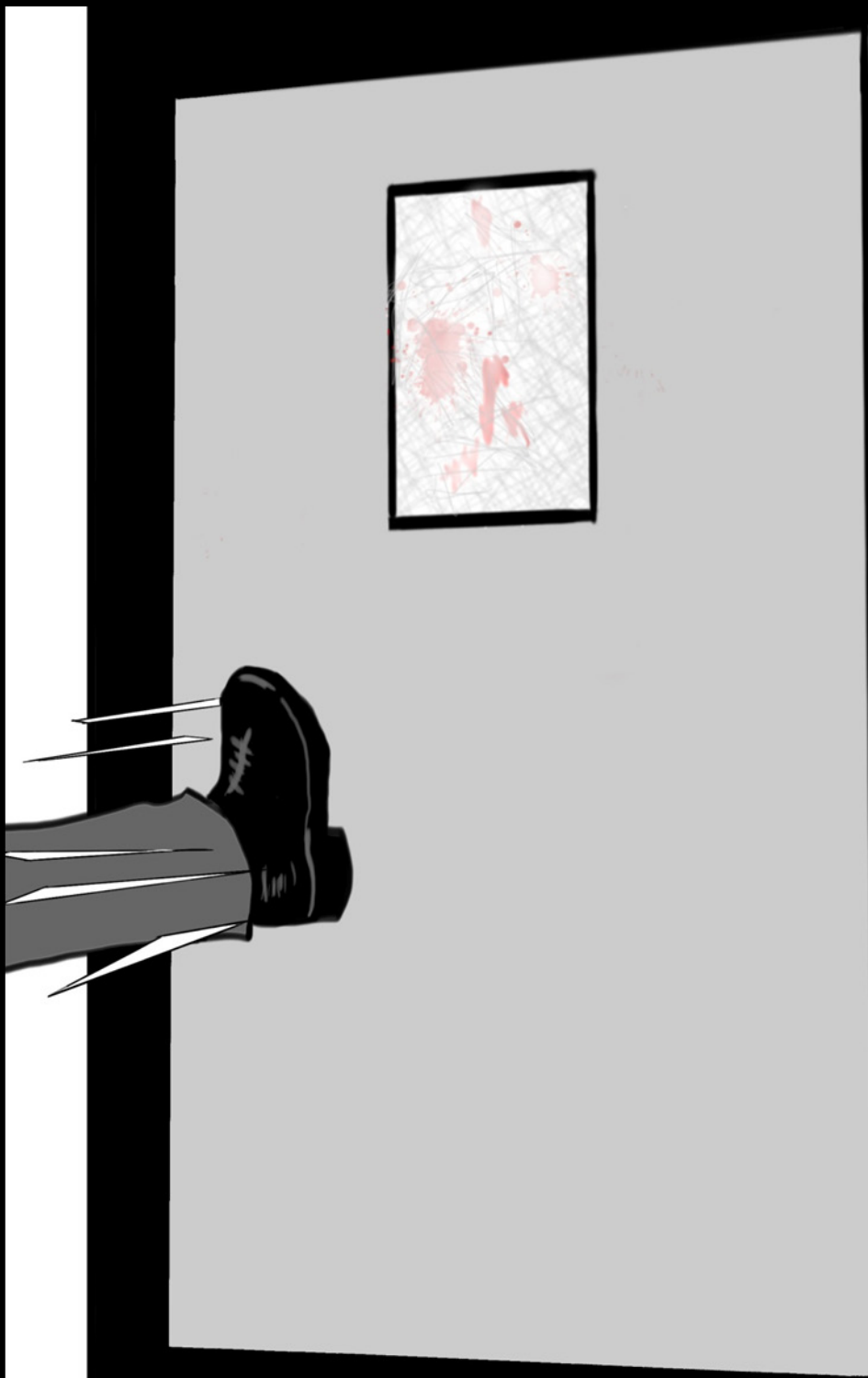
NIKLAS  
The eyes are next.

VAMPIRE  
No, please! Ok ... I  
will tell you, just  
please stop. I don't  
know his name, I  
swear, but he is  
headed north to the  
Shaw Kingdom in  
Canada.

NIKLAS  
What's he look like?

VAMPIRE  
Fuck man, I don't know! He has long **silver** hair, and he is old – like really,  
really old – he carries a black bag with him everywhere ... he's never without  
it.











AIDEN  
Back away. Now.













SILVANO

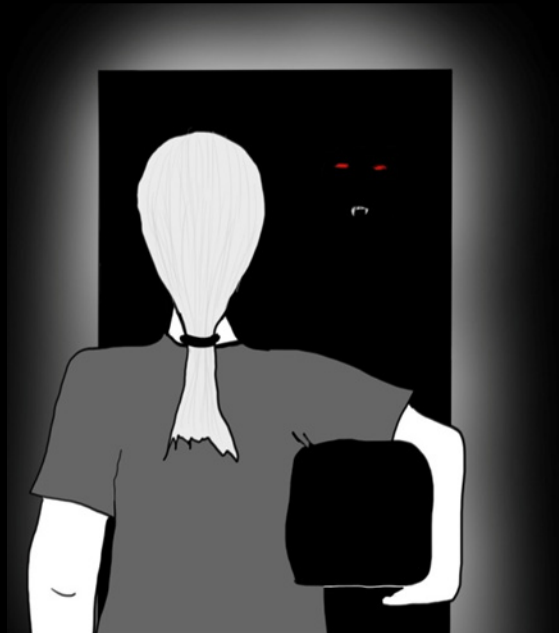
I'm told this is a safe place  
for vampires to rest.

VAMPIRE

It is. What is your  
affiliation?

SILVANO

You know my family  
emblem.





VAMPIRE

Of course – and it's an honor.  
You are a long way from home,  
friend. Please enter. You will find  
shelter from the sun and plenty  
of blood inside.

SILVANO

I must know all the escape  
routes as a precaution.

VAMPIRE

Our den mother, Jennifer, will  
address all your needs.

JENNIFER

Welcome to my vampire den. It's small, but you'll find we have all you need  
here. Are you being hunted?

SILVANO

By many, I fear. I need to get to the border and find refuge in the Shaw  
Kingdom.

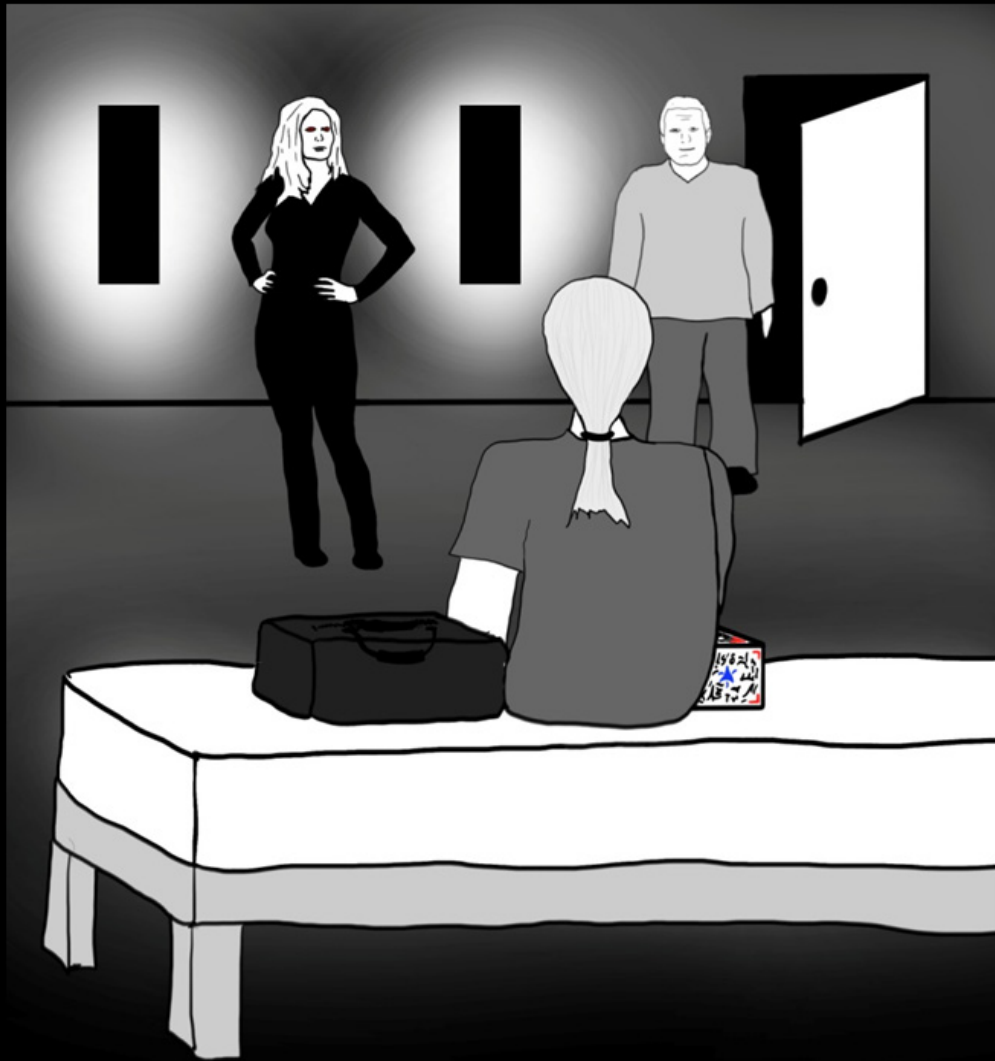
JENNIFER

We not only provide sanctuary, but can arrange for your transportation.  
There are many here that are heading north like you.

SILVANO

I need the fastest way possible. My pursuers are close and I am out of time.





JENNIFER

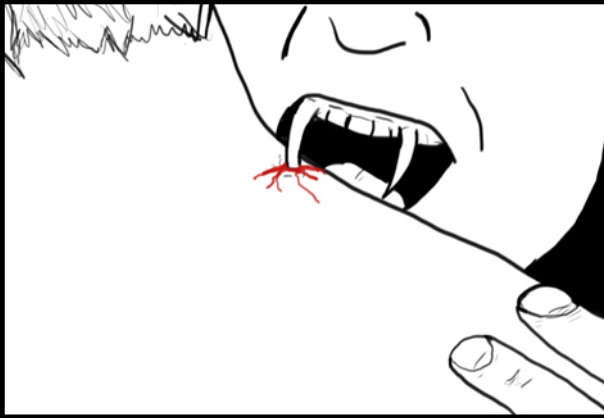
The type of travel arrangements you require will cost you.

SILVANO

I have money.

JENNIFER

Good, you will need it. This is Daniel – he will be your donor this evening. Please respect him. Our donors volunteer because we ensure their safety. If you hurt him, you will be forced to leave. Night or day.



DANIEL

You can hurt me a little, I might like it.

JENNIFER

Rest and feed, brother.

DANIEL

Would you like to take a bite?

SILVANO

Yes. Come closer.

Los Angeles Police Department 2:00am

AIDEN

Explain yourself now, Lieutenant! Who was that and what's he doing in there torturing our suspect?!?

ROBERT

Aiden, please, calm down! This isn't helping!

LIEUTENANT

You should listen to your partner, Detective.

AIDEN

Look me in the **eye** and tell me to calm down!

LIEUTENANT

Let me remind both of you that you are still guests in my precinct, so watch how you speak to me!

AIDEN

Watch how **we** speak? You are not my authority, and I will speak to you...

ROBERT

Easy Aiden. I would suggest you not anger my partner any further, Lieutenant.



## LIEUTENANT

And I would suggest you two sit, or I will continue to detain that vampire for as long as I please. Now put your fangs away and listen.

Let me explain something. Sometimes you get a phone call – at the other end of that call is someone who tells you to do something and **you do it**. It's that simple.

Just a few minutes before you two arrived in my office, I received such a phone call. So, you two can get all upset if you want and cry up whatever chain of command you want – but I can assure you – they will tell you what I am about to.

Get on with your investigation. Your suspect is being fed blood to heal, which he will. Sunrise is in just a few hours, so I wouldn't waste any time.



## Interrogation Room 2:30am



## VAMPIRE

Great, you two ... are you going to rough me up like your buddy? He almost killed me!

## ROBERT

The man that did that to you is not with us. You saw for yourself, he shot my partner here and almost knocked my damn head off!

## VAMPIRE

Is that supposed to make me feel better? ***Try having your fangs pulled out by a pair of pliers, asshole!*** Who the fuck was that?

ROBERT

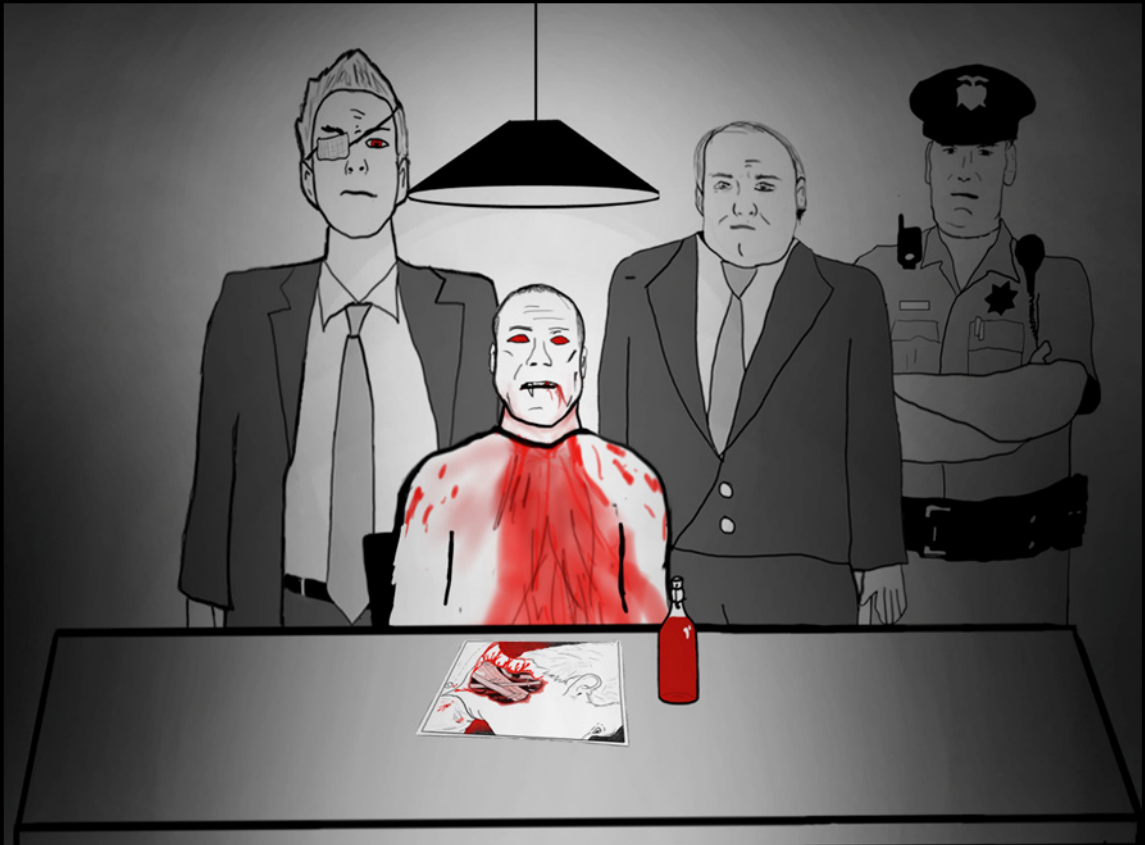
Just take it easy. Believe me, we want to know the same thing.

AIDEN

I give you my word – whoever he was – I will find him. So please work with us and tell me – what did he want from you?

VAMPIRE

The same thing I expect you two want to know. What I know about that guy who was killed and who did it.



ROBERT

We know you didn't kill him, but what was your involvement?

VAMPIRE

I had no involvement. When I got to the alley he was already dead.

AIDEN

It was no coincidence you were at that alley.

VAMPIRE

No, but I was meeting someone ... another vampire who I've been traveling with since La Jolla.

AIDEN

La Jolla? When?

VAMPIRE

About three weeks ago. We were both staying at a vampire den and got to talking. He needed some protection – he was in some kind of trouble I didn't need to know about. In return he promised he would help me up north ... said he had connections with the Shaw royal family.

ROBERT

Did you tell this all to...?

VAMPIRE

No way. I just told him he was heading north, that's all! No name – nothing.

AIDEN

And what was this vampire's name?

VAMPIRE

Silvano.

AIDEN

Silvano? Are you sure?

VAMPIRE

That's what he told me. Fuck him now though, he never told me he was in this much trouble. He's not worth losing my life over – believe me – that guy that came in here was ready to rip out my heart.

AIDEN

Silvano...



ROBERT

I know what you're thinking Aiden, and it can't be the same. If Silvano was in America, everyone would know.

AIDEN

It says you were Fred Manning before you were changed. How long ago was that?

VAMPIRE

Four months ago.

AIDEN

Where is the vampire who resurrected you?

VAMPIRE

She was killed two months after I was re-born.

AIDEN

I'm sorry – the loss of your Sire isn't easy – especially for one as young as you. Who has taken you on as her replacement?

VAMPIRE

Nobody – that's why I was heading north – so I could be with my own kind and someone could help me ... teach me.

ROBERT

How much of your life as a human do you remember?

VAMPIRE

Memories come in and out, but it's as if they are someone else's – like I watched a movie of someone's life and did not experience them for myself. Do you know what I mean?

AIDEN

Yes I do - and it's because they **were** someone else's memories. I do not know what your Sire told you, but you are no longer Fred Manning. You have been re-born into this world. Do you have other memories, memories of your **previous existence?**

VAMPIRE

... no, not exactly. There is something ... it's not clear.

AIDEN

It's from where you came. What can you tell me?



VAMPIRE

Just ... just ... pain and torment.

AIDEN

You will regain those memories as you age.

VAMPIRE

How long will that take?

AIDEN

Don't be in a rush. You will not like what you remember, I promise you.

ROBERT

What can you tell us about the man who Silvano killed in the alley?

VAMPIRE

I wasn't there. Silvano had asked me to find some humans to feed on. He was supposed to find us a place to sleep. We'd heard of a vampire den in the area, but we were having trouble finding it. It was getting late and it was almost morning. So we separated – we were supposed to meet up in the alley. When I got there I saw the body, so I ran.

I had nowhere to go, so I followed a woman into her apartment building. Once we got to her apartment I tried to enter but I couldn't walk in. I tried to compel her, but it didn't work.

AIDEN

You must be invited into someone's home of their free will, you can't compel an invitation.

VAMPIRE

Yeah, well that would've been good to know. Anyway, I couldn't go outside - too many cops and the sun was coming up. Then I found the vacant apartment, a god damn studio apartment with no closets. The morning was fine, but there were these two windows and nothing to cover them. When the sun began to set, the light came through those windows like a flame thrower. I kept trying to find shaded corners in the room.

AIDEN

It's over now. Dawn is close. You are welcome to sleep here tonight and regain your strength.



VAMPIRE

Is it safe? I mean, what about that guy?

AIDEN

I'll be sleeping here, as well. We'll feed together and rest.

VAMPIRE

Thank you.

ROBERT

You've been a great help.

AIDEN

Officer Clark will take you to the sleeping quarters. I just have to speak with my partner for a few minutes, and then I'll be right with you.

VAMPIRE

I would appreciate that.

AIDEN

Bob, I...

ROBERT

You don't have to say it.



AIDEN

He puts this Silvano in La Jolla at the same time as our last vampire related homicide.

ROBERT

It's a strong lead. I'll pull up the case file and see if there's anything in there. I'll also get a list of vampire dens in the area and try to track down where he could be sleeping today.

AIDEN  
Silvano...

ROBERT  
It can't be the same, Aiden.

AIDEN  
I just have this feeling.

ROBERT  
What do you want to do about this other guy? What was he, Aiden?

AIDEN  
He wasn't vampire...

ROBERT  
No way he was human.

AIDEN  
We will have to let it go for now, but I'm sure we haven't seen the last of him.

## Highway Motel 3:00am

NIKLAS  
Is this all you have?

DANIELLA  
There is very little about your brother after he turned sixteen and left the United States. There is literally zero activity over the last two years. He was last reported as being somewhere in South America by your previous handler.

NIKLAS  
***Somewhere?*** Are you kidding me?

DANIELLA  
I'm afraid we –

**FILE COPY**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

NAME: Samuel Kane  
A.K.A.S:  
STATUS: Under Surveillance

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: \_\_\_\_\_  
PLACE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ HAIR COLOR: \_\_\_\_\_  
HEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ EYE COLOR: \_\_\_\_\_  
WEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPLEXION: \_\_\_\_\_  
BUILD: \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE: M  
OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA

REMARKS: Last known to be traveling through South America. Section 9 to notify Agent Kane of any unusual behavior or if in any danger

PAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ **CONFIDENTIAL**

NIKLAS

Aren't we an intelligence agency? 'Cause the intelligence is severely lacking, Daniella. You can tell me where half the world's terrorists are located, but you don't know anything about my brother. God, I have the worst fucking handlers.

DANIELLA

I respect that you just lost your brother and are under emotional distress, so I'll let that little jab at me slide.

NIKLAS

Can you tell me why I wasn't told he was back in the States?

DANIELLA

We have no record of his re-entry.



NIKLAS

Don't you have a flag on his passport?

DANIELLA

Yes, we do, and there was no alert. It's as if he disappeared the last two years. No financial records, no passport records, no forwarding addresses. He was completely off the grid. Looking how clean this is it's almost as if...

NIKLAS

As if, what?

DANIELLA

It's as if there was outside assistance in wiping his record – ***intentionally*** keeping him off the map.

NIKLAS

So what does that mean?

DANIELLA

I don't know what any of this means.

NIKLAS

I should have tried to find him years ago.

DANIELLA

You gave up your previous life when you joined Section 9.

NIKLAS

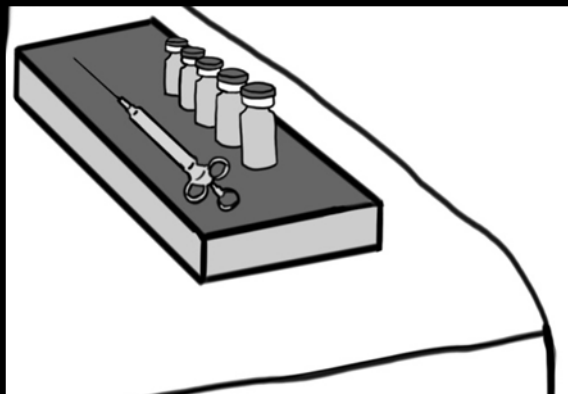
It doesn't matter. I trusted Section 9 to keep tabs on him. I should have known better.

DANIELLA

Niklas, our vitals monitor says it's time for your...

NIKLAS

I know. I'm in the middle now. I'll be unconscious for several hours after this. I need a few things while I'm out.



DANIELLA

Such as?

NIKLAS

I want a list of every vampire den north of downtown L.A. in a 15 mile radius. The vamp I'm searching for could not have gotten farther than that.

DANIELLA

What else?

NIKLAS

Weapons. Have them delivered here as soon as possible.

DANIELLA

What kind of weapons?

NIKLAS

The kind to deal with a lot of vampires.

DANIELLA

I'll have them delivered to your location within the hour.

NIKLAS

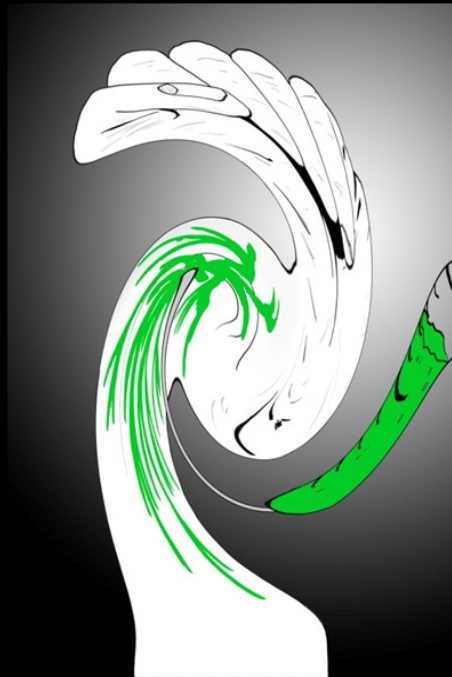
Daniella...

DANIELLA

Yes, Niklas?

NIKLAS

Sorry about the whole "lacking intelligence" thing...



DANIELLA

Just take your serum and get some rest. You're going to need it.



# END OF NIGHT ONE

# NIGHT 2





Vampire Den - Sunset























NIKLAS

Now tell me. Where is the vampire with the silver hair?

Los Angeles Police Department 5:40pm

ROBERT  
The sun has set, partner. How  
ya feeling?



AIDEN  
Ready.

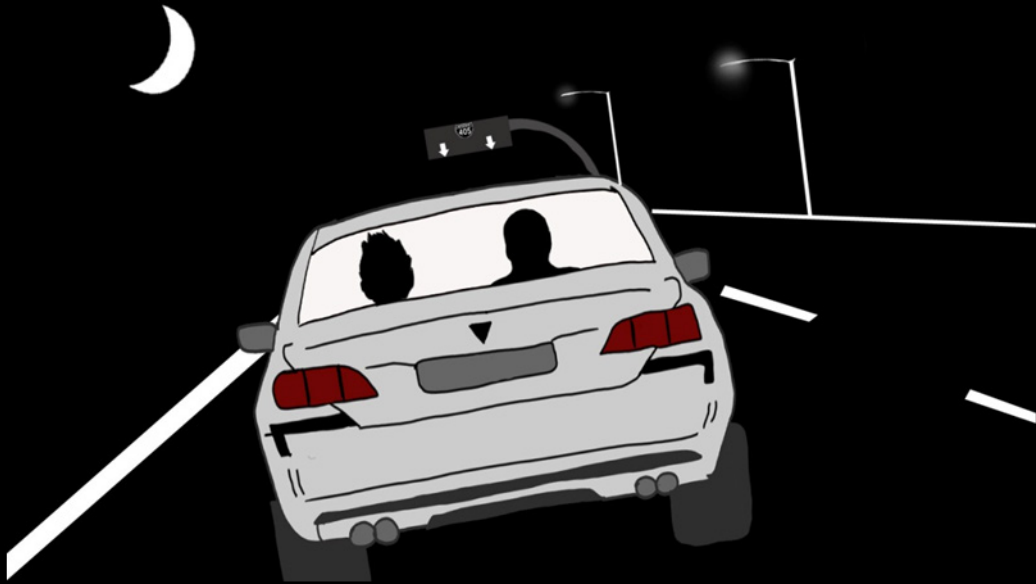
ROBERT  
Your eye?

AIDEN  
Fully healed.

ROBERT  
Good. Let's go ...  
lots to update you  
on. I got a couple of  
pints of blood  
waiting for ya in the  
car.



En Route to Vampire Den 6:00pm



ROBERT

C'mon Aiden! You're going to get us killed driving this fast.

AIDEN

Relax.

ROBERT

Easy for you to say.

AIDEN

We should've left 20 minutes ago. Why didn't you take care of Fred Manning's travel arrangements as I asked?

ROBERT

I was busy with trying to find Silvano. Would you rather have me fucking around buying bus tickets?

AIDEN

No, but it is our duty to help vampires like him.

ROBERT

I know ... listen, I'm sorry ... but there's a lot going on with this investigation.

AIDEN

I understand, but helping vampires like Fred is as important as anything else we do. An orphaned vampire with no one to guide him is so dangerous. It's why the kingdoms outlaw abandonment.

ROBERT

Were you able to help him?

AIDEN

There are vampires in the North that help orphans like him. I gave him a name to call and some cash.



ROBERT

He should be alright then.

AIDEN

You can't imagine what it's like, Robert. I still remember my resurrection ... I was lost. I don't how I would have survived without my Sire. Humans don't understand – ***you can't***. Being reborn as vampire is impossible to comprehend without experiencing it.

ROBERT

Well, you've never really tried to explain it to me, partner.

AIDEN

No, I guess I haven't. It's not easy to talk about ... for all vampires – we are reborn with no memory from where we come from. Over time – decades over decades, centuries over centuries – they return. But when we are first resurrected, we have only one feeling – the unending hunger – the blood thirst.

ROBERT

Yeah, I know all about the blood thirst.

AIDEN

After you satisfy the hunger, you begin to become aware of what has happened. You realize you are now **someone** else. You are **somewhere** else ... and, for the first time in an eternity, you are **free**.

ROBERT

But go back ... when you're resurrected – is it like having amnesia?

AIDEN

Yes, in ways ... but more complicated than waking up with no recollection of who you are or how you got here. To be reborn vampire also means to have taken over that human's life. Everything from the former person's life is now yours. All their pain, sorrow, happiness, loss, love, anger, and guilt are now yours to take with you.

ROBERT

But you said you do begin to remember your ... what do you call it? Your, **previous existence**? Those memories still come to you?

AIDEN

All of the time. Each time a new one resurfaces, that fear I had when I first awoke is relived again – as if it is meant to be a slow torture and constant reminder that there is that other world waiting for me to return. It has been that way for nearly 400 years now.

ROBERT

Do you still have **his** memories? You know, of the guy before?

AIDEN

Some. His name was Aiden. I kept it to honor him. Aiden was a good man and a friend to the vampire that would be my Sire. A better friend than he ever deserved. He believed my Sire could be redeemed, and it's why he offered to allow his body to be resurrected as vampire. What he did not realize was that my father was beyond redemption, and the demon inside him was more evil than he could ever imagine.

ROBERT

You never speak about your Sire.

AIDEN

And I don't plan to now. Let's get back to the case. Working backwards, starting with three weeks ago in La Jolla, what have you found out?

ROBERT

Well, I followed up with what Fred Manning told us last night. It's a fair guess that Silvano was involved in the murder in La Jolla, even though Manning wasn't with him at that point.

Looking back at the case file, we had no leads, the victim was not from the area, and the entire crime scene seemed to be completely random, until now.

AIDEN

Samuel Kane.

ROBERT

Tracing back Samuel Kane under the alias he used to get into the country, we can place him in La Jolla three weeks ago as well. But get this – we can also trace him back to several locations he has been to since he came back to the U.S. In three of those locations there have been unsolved murders, all vampire related. Each case has been described the same way by the VHID Investigators on the scene – unmotivated and uncharacteristic of a vampire attack.

AIDEN

What about the victims?

ROBERT

Victims were all male, and like Samuel Kane, had been out of the country until recently.

AIDEN

Are there any other connections between the victims to Samuel Kane?

ROBERT

We've not been able to place all of them together yet, but keep in mind no one has thought that any of these incidents were related. So we need more time before all the connections can be made.

AIDEN

Let's assume they all knew each other...



ROBERT

A group of men are running from a vampire with some vendetta ... maybe Silvano's hunting them down?

AIDEN

Does this vampire seem like he is on the *hunt* to you? Because it sure seems like he is on the *run* to me.



ROBERT

Aiden! What the hell happened!?!

AIDEN

What I feared. He got here first.

ROBERT

Who?

AIDEN

Whoever threw those pliers in my eye.

Bus Station 6:30pm









XAVIER

This is Xavier. Target is down.

GIOVANNI

Excellent. Proceed to the rendezvous point. Await further instruction.

XAVIER

As I suggested in La Jolla, it is time to increase your ground effort. Primary target is advancing to the border. He will be making one last push. Are you ready for me to engage?

GIOVANNI

You will not engage, Xavier. You are still an outsider to our organization – the primary mission belongs with our own team.

XAVIER

Well, you may want to reconsider. Another Section 9 agent left the precinct last night and I believe he is tracking your primary target.

GIOVANNI

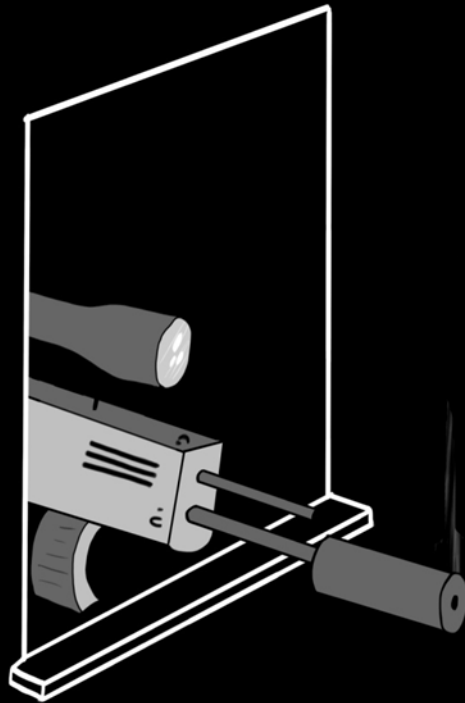
Can you eliminate him?

XAVIER

With pleasure – but I must warn you – your team better not fail this time. If Silvano crosses the border, even *I* won't be able to help you.

GIOVANNI

Trust us, Xavier, the next time we have him in our sights, he will be taken down. Silvano will not escape us again.



AIDEN

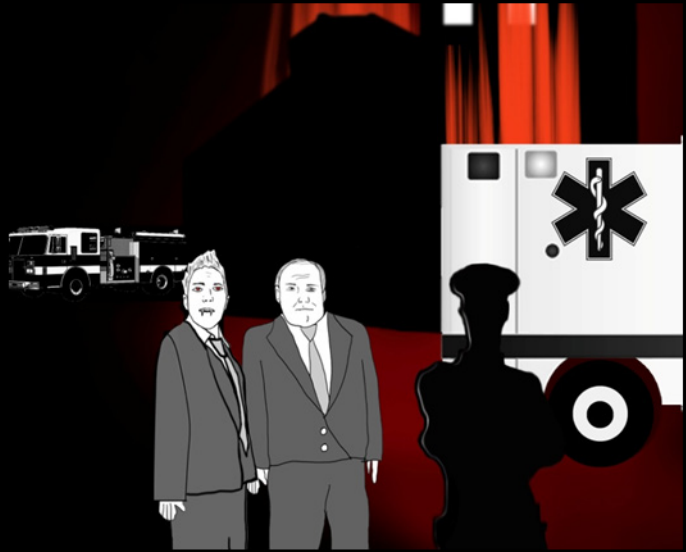
Give me the rundown.

OFFICER

TOMICH

The assailant was about six feet tall, human, Caucasian with light hair, goatee, brown eyes, and heavily armed. No identifiable tattoos or markings.

He came in through the front door right at sunset. Most dens don't open their doors till nightfall. My guess, the assailant knew this and was waiting to catch them by surprise as they were opening up for the evening.



ROBERT

That's a fair assumption. What happened next?

OFFICER TOMICH

After the initial attack on the door man, the assailant shot and sliced his way through the entire den looking for a vampire "with silver hair".

ROBERT

You're sure the assailant was human?

OFFICER TOMICH

I know, sounds crazy, right? All the survivors are sure he was a human.

AIDEN

Just like the man from last night.

OFFICER TOMICH

Last night? I don't follow.

ROBERT

You heard what happened at the precinct – with the vamp we took in last night involved in the alley murder?

OFFICER TOMICH

Yeah, everyone is talking about it.

ROBERT

We're pretty sure the same man did this.

OFFICER TOMICH

Oh shit! Really?

ROBERT

Yeah.

AIDEN

How many dead?

OFFICER TOMICH

Count is up to nine, but here's the strange part ... there were close to twenty vamps inside. So far, and we are only going by the survivor statements, the only ones that were killed during the attack were the den mother's bodyguards. All the rest are dead from the fire.

AIDEN

No one else was killed during the assault?

OFFICER TOMICH

Plenty of injuries and lost limbs, but it was the fire that killed them. The vamps that died couldn't escape because they were incapacitated by the attack. It seems as if the assailant went to a lot of trouble not to kill anyone, just to then torch the place when he was done, right?

ROBERT

Sick bastard.

AIDEN

This doesn't make any sense, Robert...

ROBERT

You saw what he did to our vampire in custody last night! This guy is a psychopath! Of course it makes sense!

AIDEN

He's chasing the same vampire we are, so why would he stop to burn down the den, and lose time?

ROBERT

Why is he de-fanging vampires, Aiden? You can't rationalize his actions!

AIDEN

It doesn't add up.

OFFICER TOMICH

Detectives, I think the real question is – how was this guy able to take out a den full of vamps? I don't care how many weapons you have, there were twenty vampires in there. I've never heard of a human taking on and beating twenty vamps.

AIDEN

What did the den mother have to say?

OFFICER  
TOMICH

She claims he threatened to de-fang her with a pair of pliers if she didn't talk ... said she told him that the vampire he was looking for was headed to a truck stop on the 405.

AIDEN

But that's not true.

OFFICER TOMICH

Yeah ... How did you know?

AIDEN

Because ... for a vampire on the run, it's the worst option. He would have to know exactly where he was going, and be able to reach that destination before sunrise. He would likely have to compel someone for their vehicle and they would call the cops soon after the compulsion wore off.

He could bring that person along, but then he would have an abduction on his hands. If he kills that person, he'd have to dispose of the body. He won't drive a stolen vehicle with a dead body in the trunk with this much heat on him.

No. He is not taking the highway. He needs to get to a vampire kingdom quickly and the closest is Shaw. He has only one option to get there – the airport. If I know that, I'm sure this man who is hunting him has figured that out as well. Officer Tomich, have Lieutenant Johnson connect with Homeland Security and the TSA ... we need to stop all vampire flights to Canada.

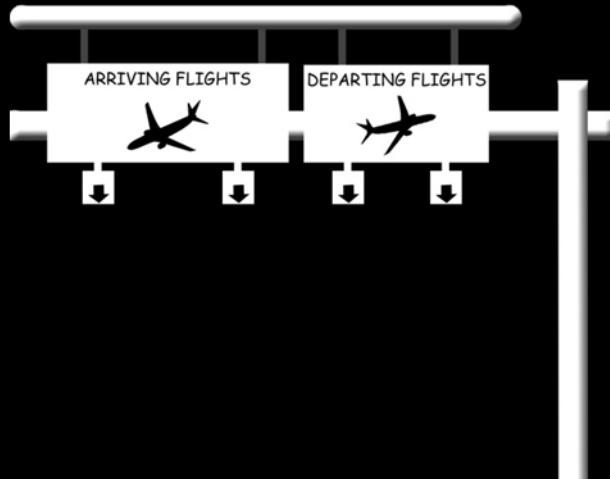


DANIELLA

Niklas, all flights to Canada with vampire seating have just been delayed.

NIKLAS

I need you to cross-reference those flights with seat purchases made in the last 12 hours.



DANIELLA

Done. What next?

NIKLAS

Narrow down flights to Vancouver. He is headed to Shaw's Kingdom.

DANIELLA

There are three flights that land before sunrise into Vancouver this evening. All have had purchases made in the last hour.



NIKLAS

He's staging decoys. Which of the three have checked in?

DANIELLA

All of them, and they have all started boarding.

NIKLAS

Fuck. Purchase tickets for each of those flights, check me in, and send the boarding passes to my phone ... and Daniella ... ***hurry.***

DANIELLA

Really? Did you ***really*** need to ask me to hurry?





LAX 8:15pm

SILVANO

Excuse me, what is the cause of the delay?

B22



GATE AGENT

Just got the call – all vampire flights to Canada have been grounded. I believe it's weather related.

SILVANO

*Open the doors, and allow me to board the plane. Call the pilots and have them meet me outside the flight deck. Do not tell anyone you have done this. Do not let anyone else board. Stop them with your life if you have to.*

8:45p VA 56



GATE AGENT

As you wish.

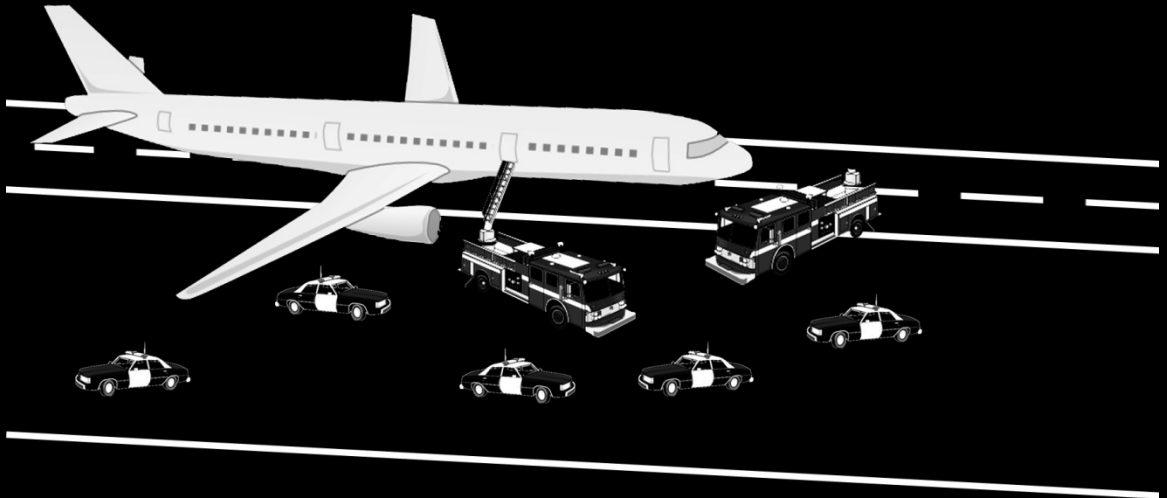
LAX 8:45pm

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

Sir, we have a plane taxiing, it looks like it is attempting to take off. It's one of the vampire flights scheduled for Vancouver.

AIDEN

Get airport police out there immediately and whatever you do, ***DO NOT let that plane take off!***



LAX 9:30pm

AIDEN

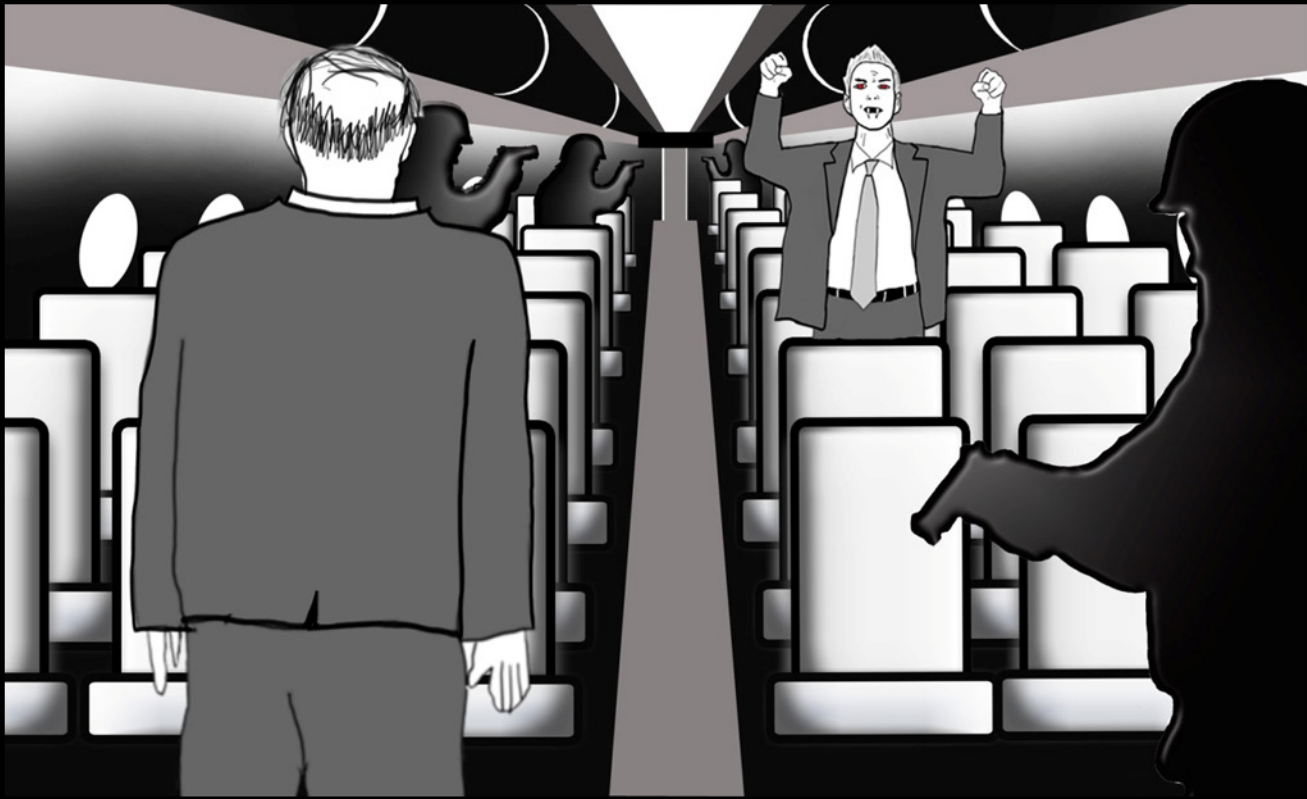
Nothing. There is no one here but the pilots.

ROBERT

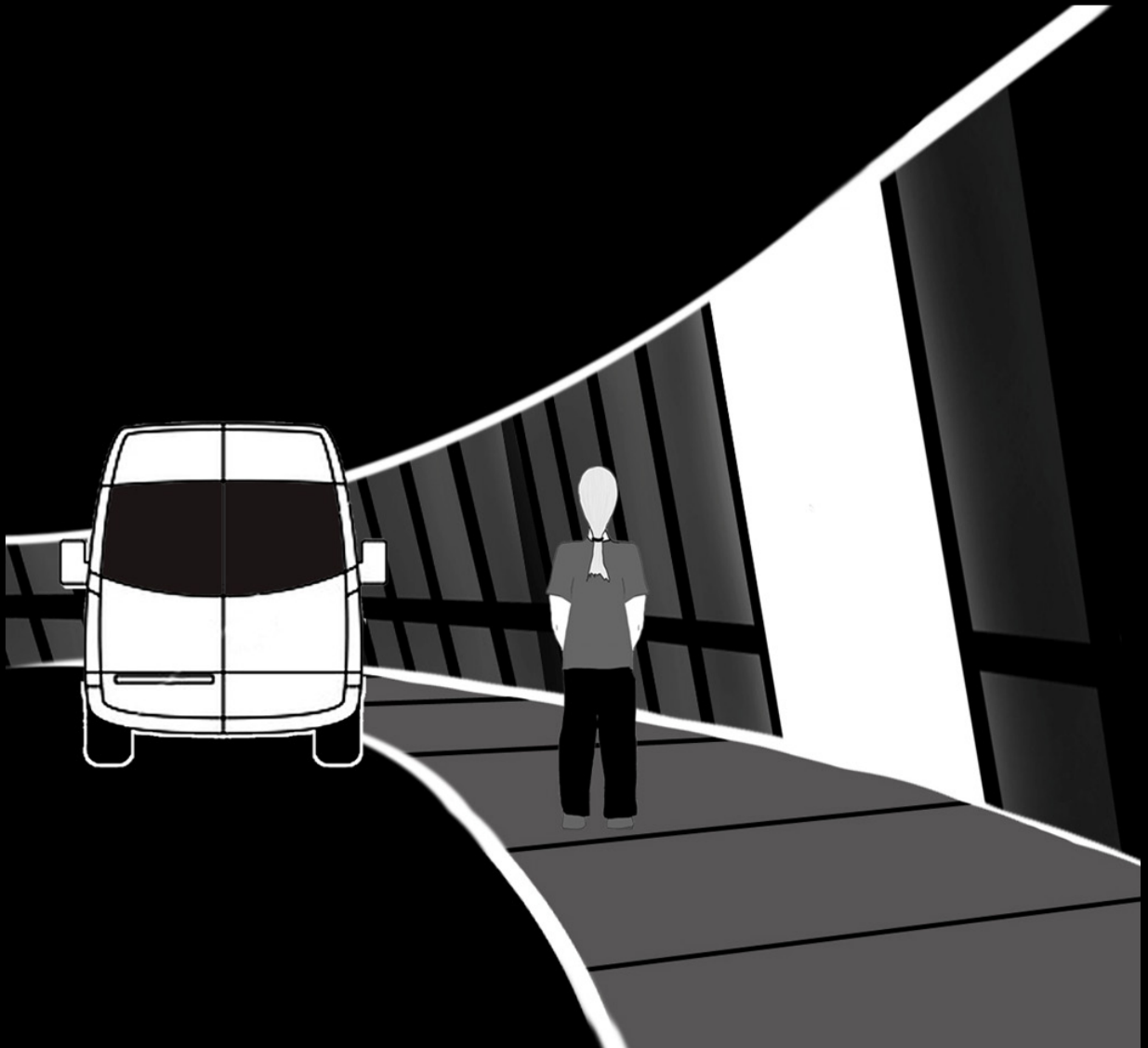
What? Where is he?

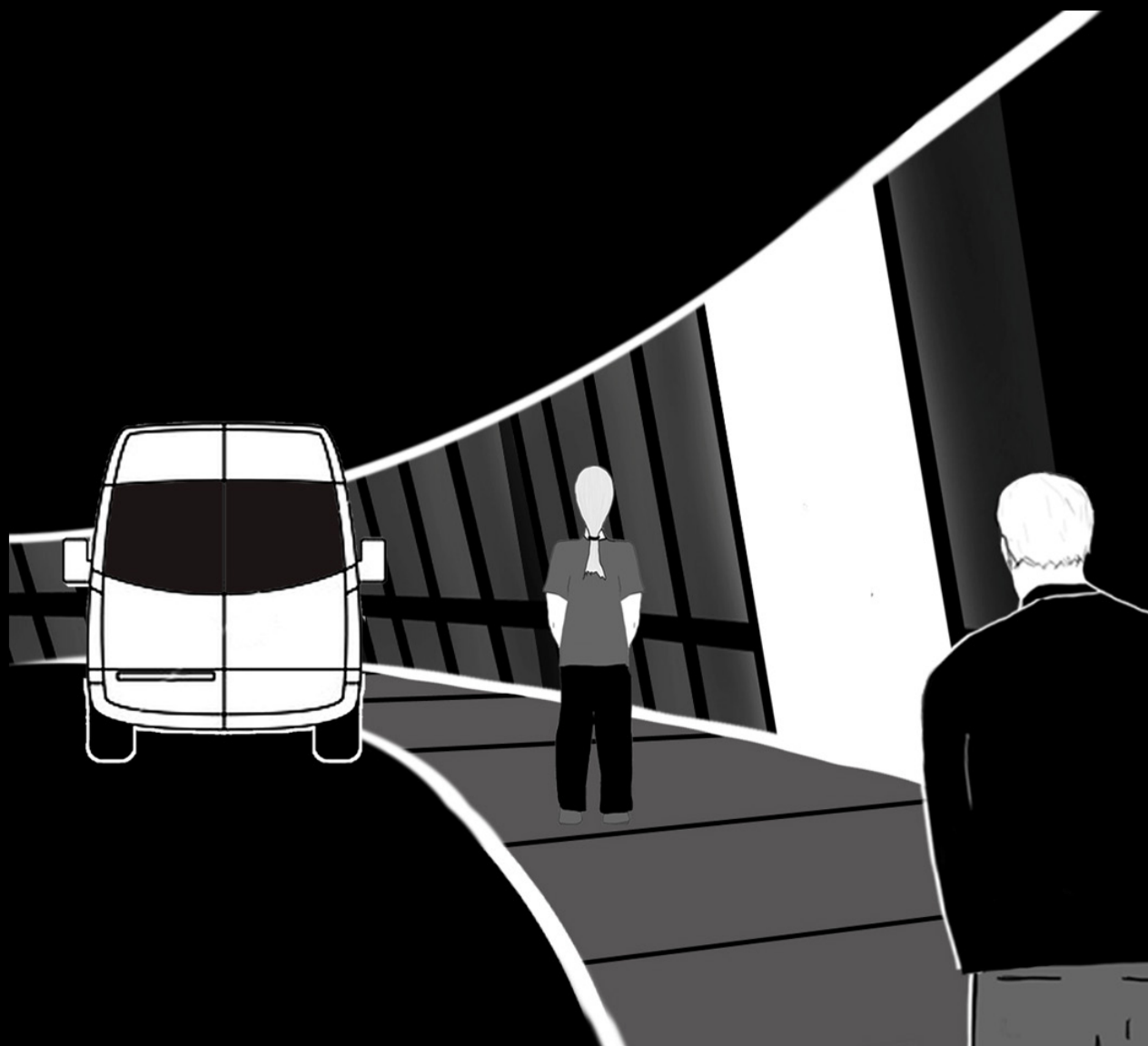
AIDEN

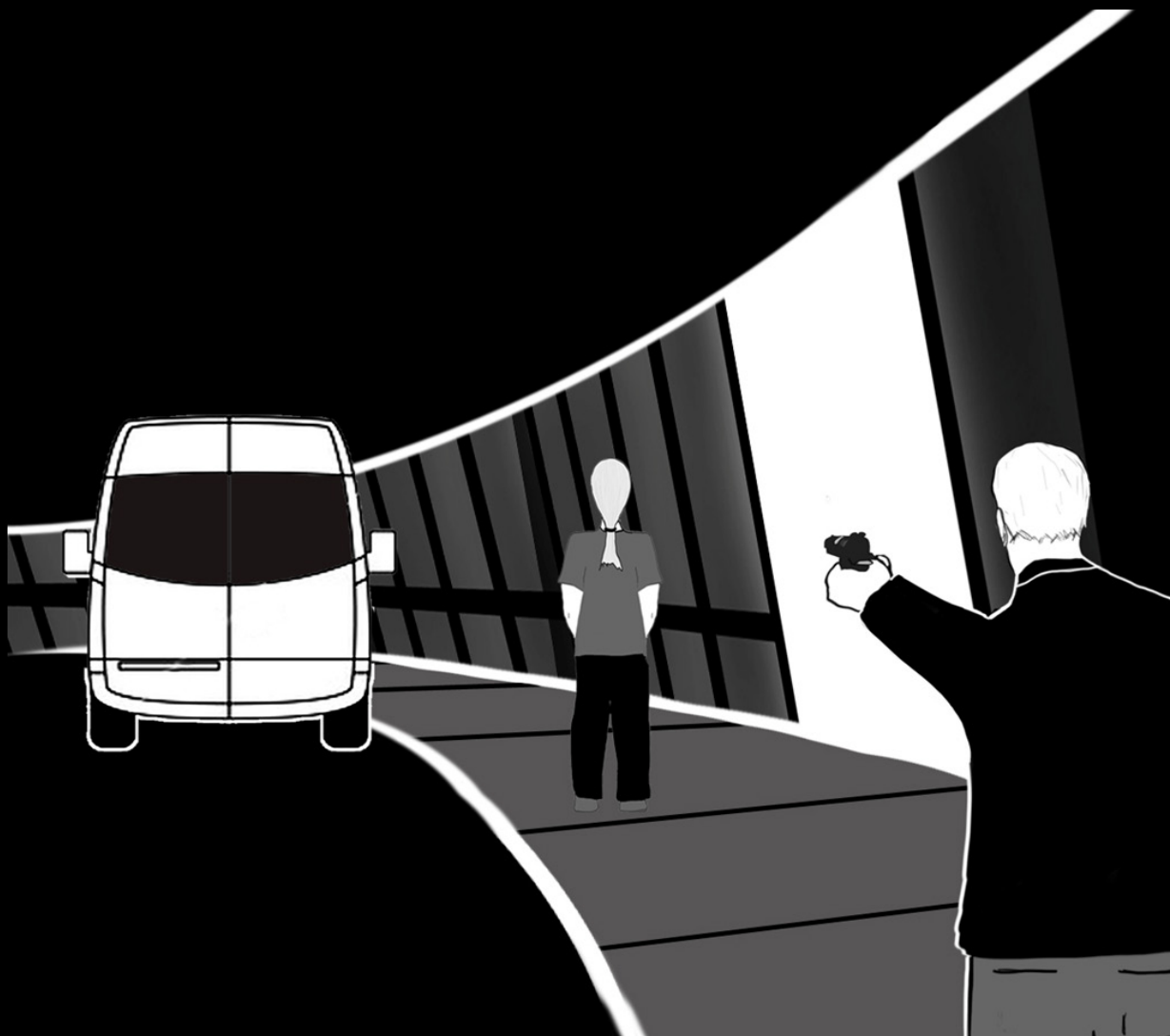
This is a distraction. Quickly, we have to close off all of the airport exits!

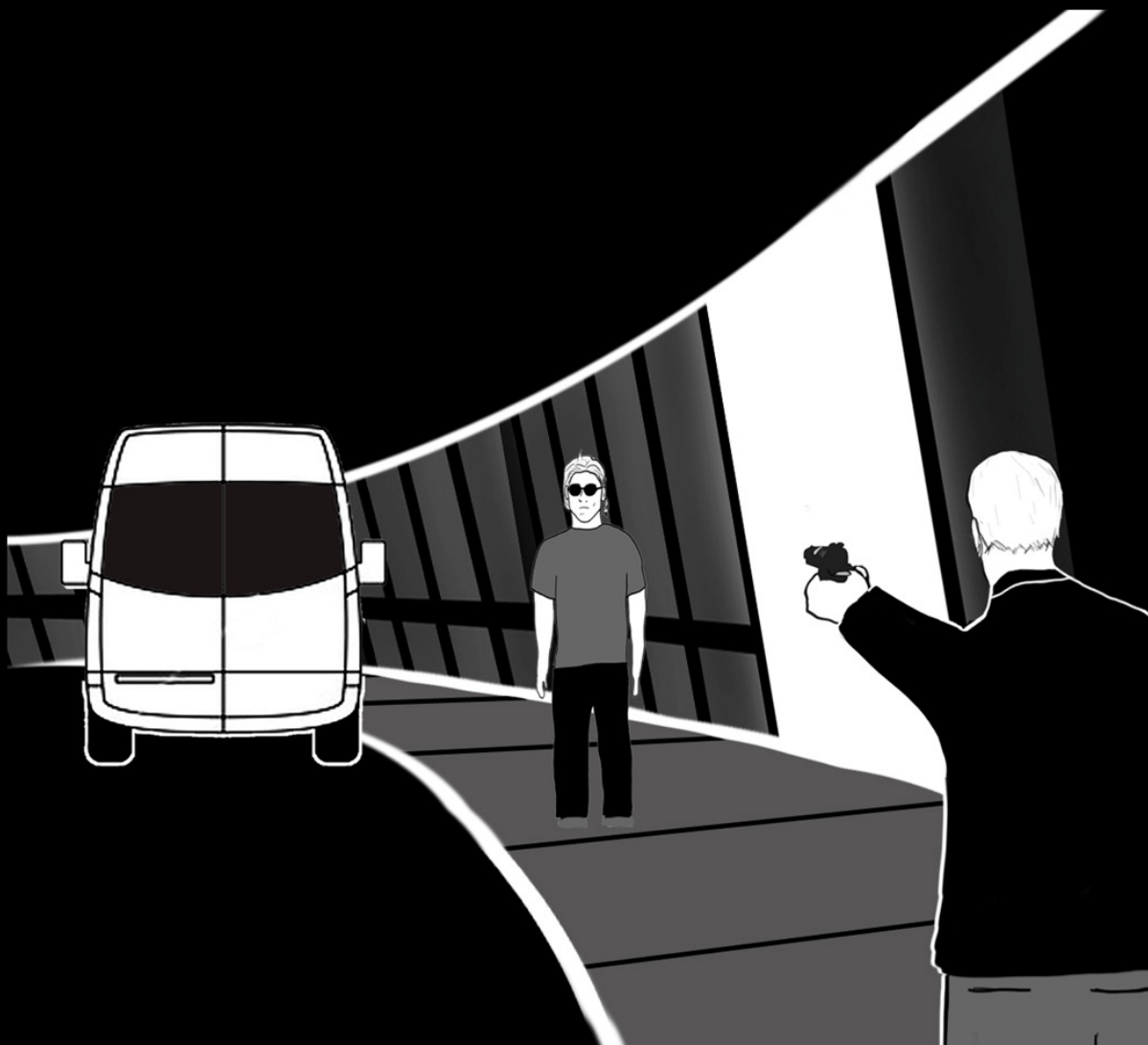


LAX 9:45pm







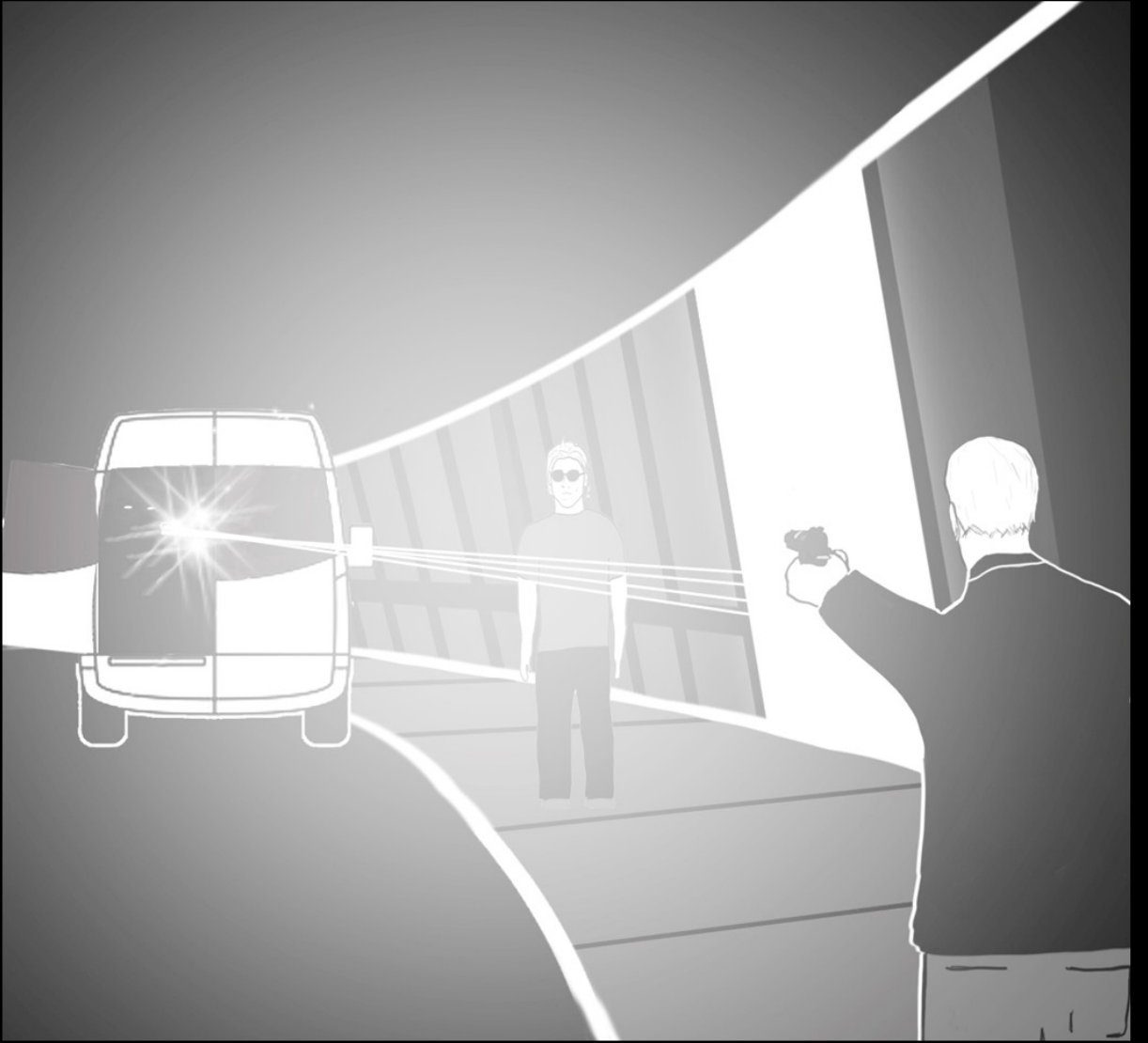


XAVIER

Silvano has left the airport. I have sight confirmation. Section 9 Agent is in pursuit. Initiating abduction – I will take down the Section 9 Agent.



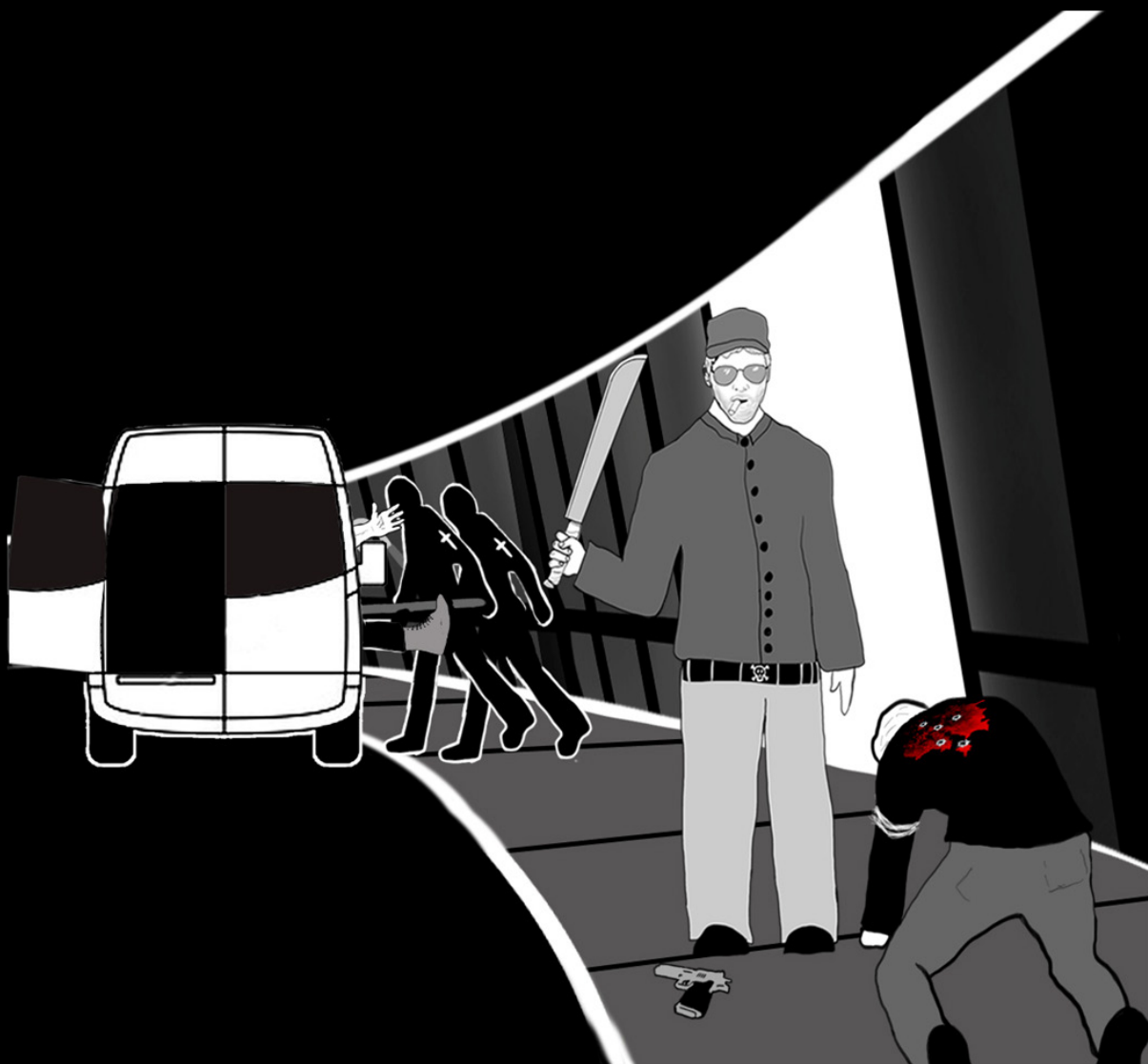












ASSASSIN  
Hello, Kane.

NIKLAS  
Xavier?

LAX 9:50pm

ROBERT

Pull up Gate B22, between 8:15pm and 8:30pm.

AIRPORT SECURITY

Monitor seven, pulling up now.

AIDEN

Stop right there, go back just a second.

ROBERT

It can't be...



AIDEN

It's *him* Robert, it's *Silvano*.

ROBERT

Are you sure? It has to be years since you last saw him.

AIDEN

A hundred and seven years, but it makes no difference, I know it's him.



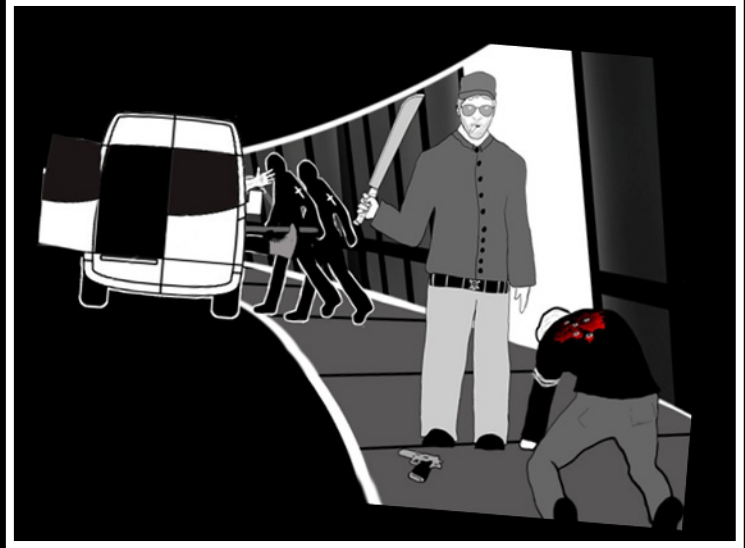
ROBERT  
I can't believe it. What does this mean?

AIDEN

...

AIRPORT SECURITY  
Detective Lawson, we've got gun shots at Terminal 1.

AIDEN  
Pull up the cameras!



ROBERT  
Aiden! That's the guy from last night!



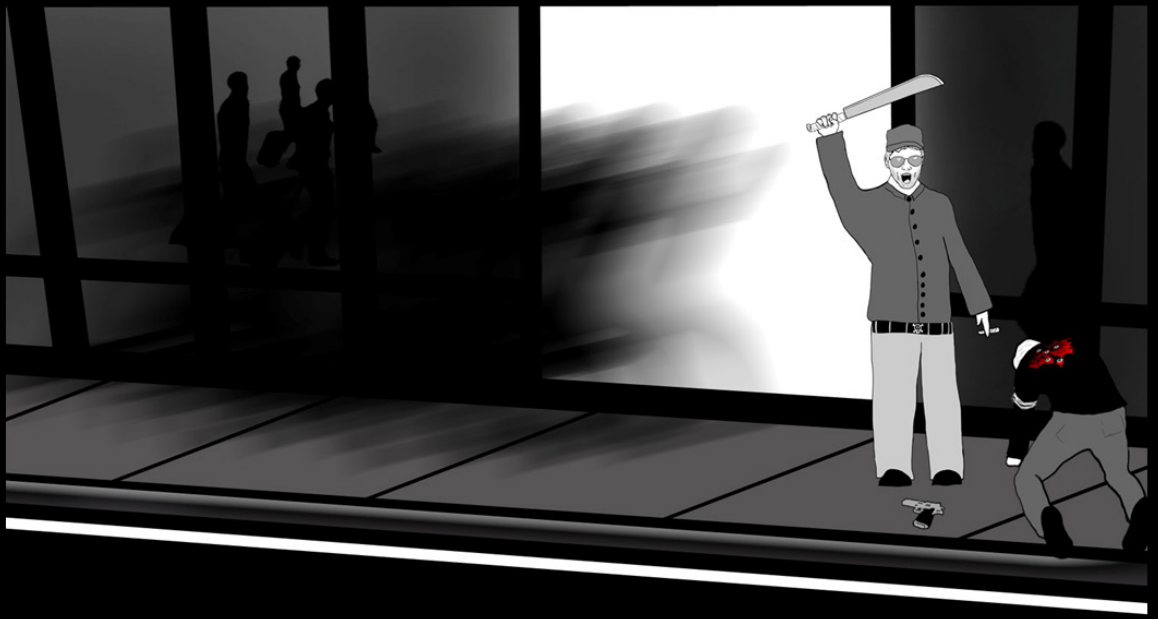




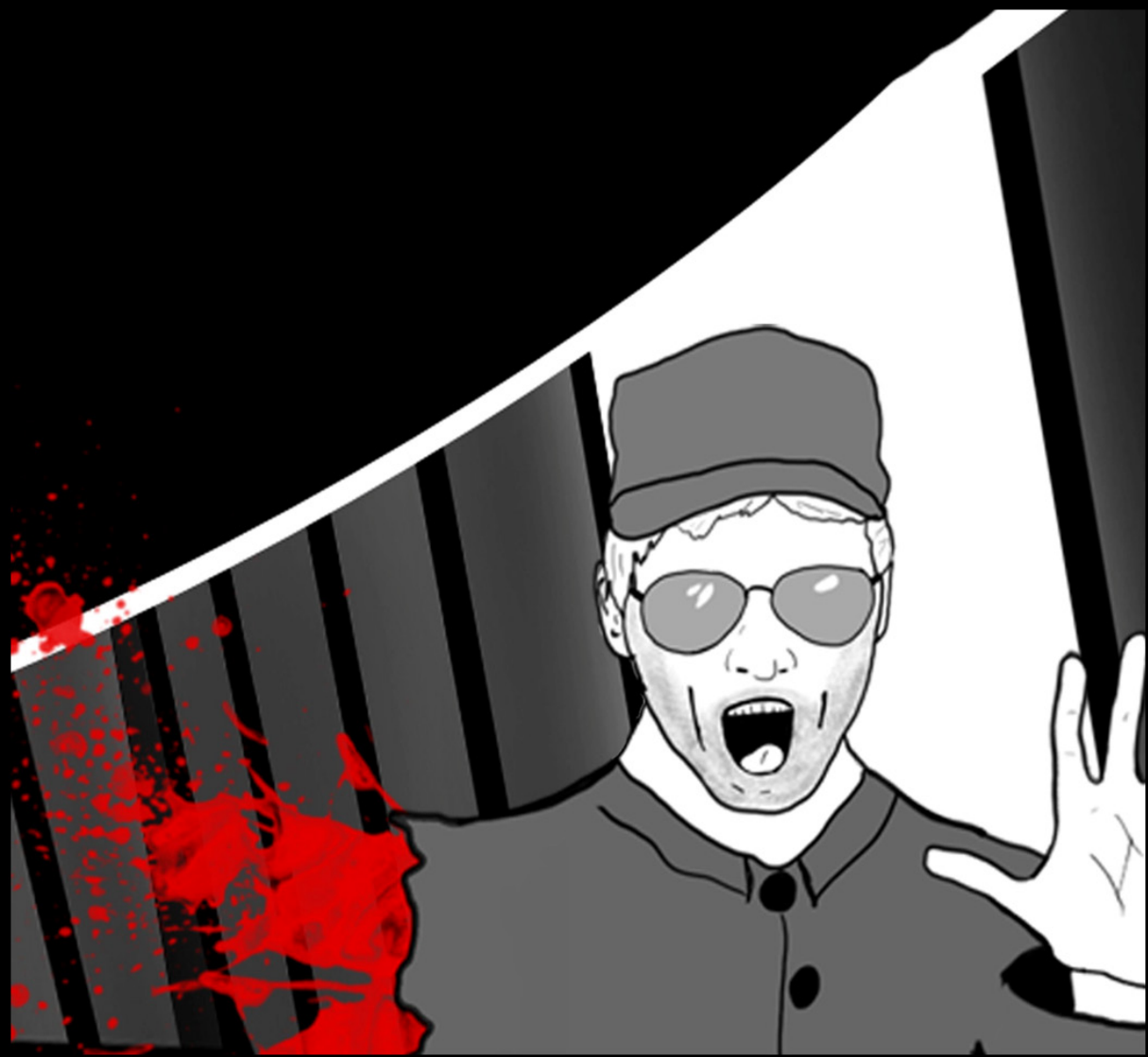
XAVIER

Been a long time, Kane ... don't know how you're mixed up in this, but wrong place, wrong time I guess. You remember ***"Demon's End"***, don't you? You remember I keep her dull 'cause it is so unsatisfying killing vampires to quickly. So I apologize in advance if your head doesn't come off on the first strike.











AIDEN

Robert, come in. Silvano is gone. Repeat, Silvano is gone.

ROBERT

Damn it! What about the guy from last night?

AIDEN

He's here. We need a medical team and a clean-up crew ... I lost control.



# END OF NIGHT TWO

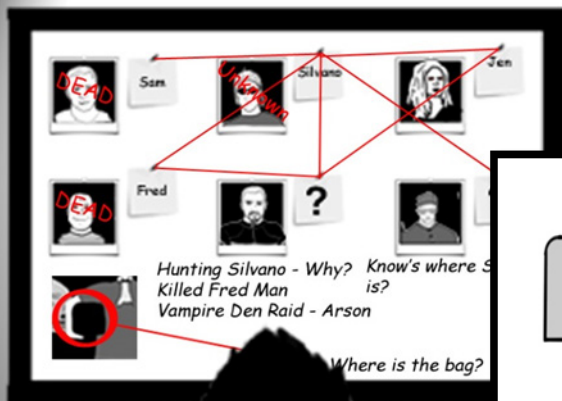


# NIGHT 3



NIKLAS

SILVANO



AIDEN



XAVIER

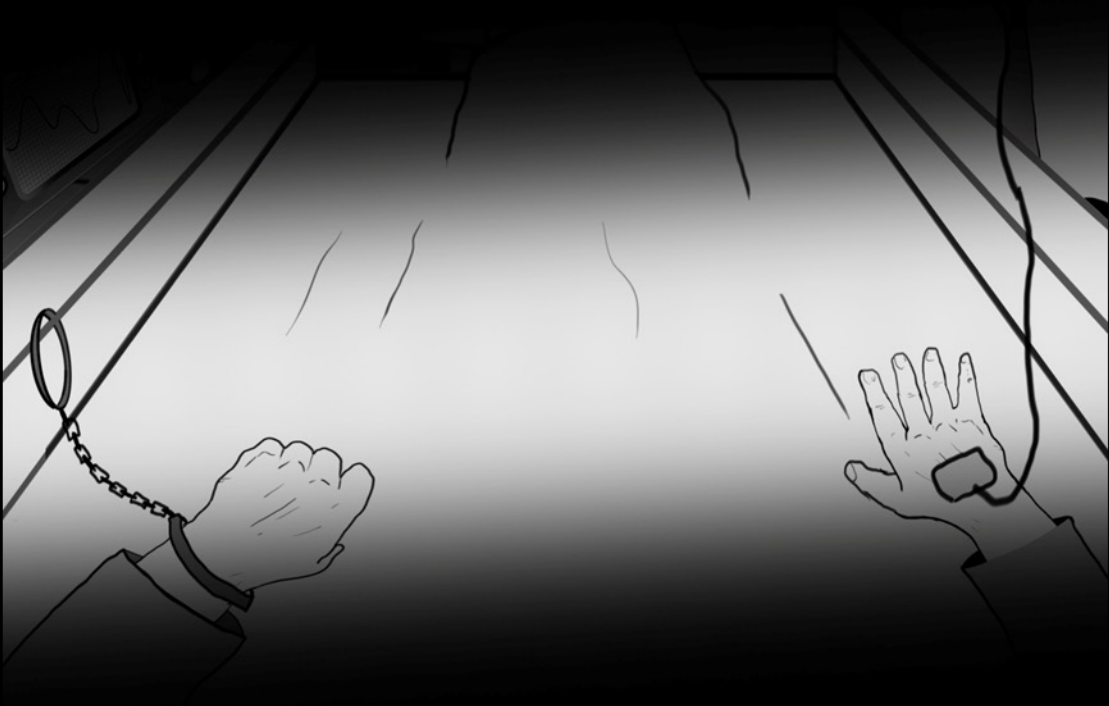
Niklas 5:30pm

DOCTOR

His wounds are healing at an accelerated rate. I've never seen anything like it, at least not in a human.

ROBERT

What're ya saying? He's a vamp?



DOCTOR  
I can assure you he is **not** a vampire.

ROBERT  
Well, what is he then?



DOCTOR

He *is* human as far as I can tell, but I will need to do more tests. He should be coming to...



ROBERT  
Wakey, wakey.

NIKLAS  
Where ... where am I?

ROBERT

You're in a hospital, under custody of the VHID. You were shot last night at LAX airport, do you remember that?

NIKLAS

I ... I do. Where is the man that shot me?

ROBERT

He was apprehended. You're lucky my partner got there in time.

NIKLAS

I need ... I need to make a phone call.

ROBERT

What ya need to do is answer some questions, cause just two nights ago you attacked me, my partner, and pulled the fangs out of a vampire with a pair of pliers. So, let's start with an easy question. What's your name?

NIKLAS

I need to make a phone call.

ROBERT

What's your connection to this vampire?

NIKLAS

I need to make a phone...



ROBERT  
What do you know of this  
man? He's the one who shot  
you last night.

NIKLAS  
I need to make a...

ROBERT  
Why did you burn down  
that vampire den yesterday?

NIKLAS  
Burn down?

ROBERT  
Right after you left all the  
vampires inside  
incapacitated, you decided  
to burn the place down!  
Why?



NIKLAS  
But I...

ROBERT  
And why, after you tortured  
Mr. Manning, did you shoot  
and kill him as he was leaving  
the city?

NIKLAS  
Impossible.

ROBERT  
Impossible?!? Then explain  
this!







ROBERT

It seems you make a living at doing the impossible.

NIKLAS

Where is the man who shot me?

ROBERT

Listen up. My partner, who is very anxious to meet you, is going to wake up soon. When he does, he's gonna do the vampire hypnotism thing and then you're gonna start talking. It'll be much easier, and beneficial to you, to come clean right now.

NIKLAS

I need to make a phone call.

ROBERT

Have it your way. I'm going to go see how your friend from last night is doing; maybe he'll be little more talkative.

NIKLAS

*So ... Xavier is here.*

Silvano 6:00pm

GIOVANNI

Hello, Silvano. You gave us a good chase, but it was only delaying the inevitable. You know that right?

SILVANO

You still don't have it.

GIOVANNI

I will admit; I was surprised you didn't have it when we captured you. I didn't think you would be so foolish as to part with it.

SILVANO

Maybe I destroyed it.

GIOVANNI

No. You wouldn't do that – you can't do that, can you? You don't know how, otherwise you would have already.

But what **did** you do with it? You wouldn't give it to someone. You don't trust anyone enough to hand something that precious over to, do you? No, you must have hidden it right before we caught you. So tell me, Silvano ... where is it?

SILVANO

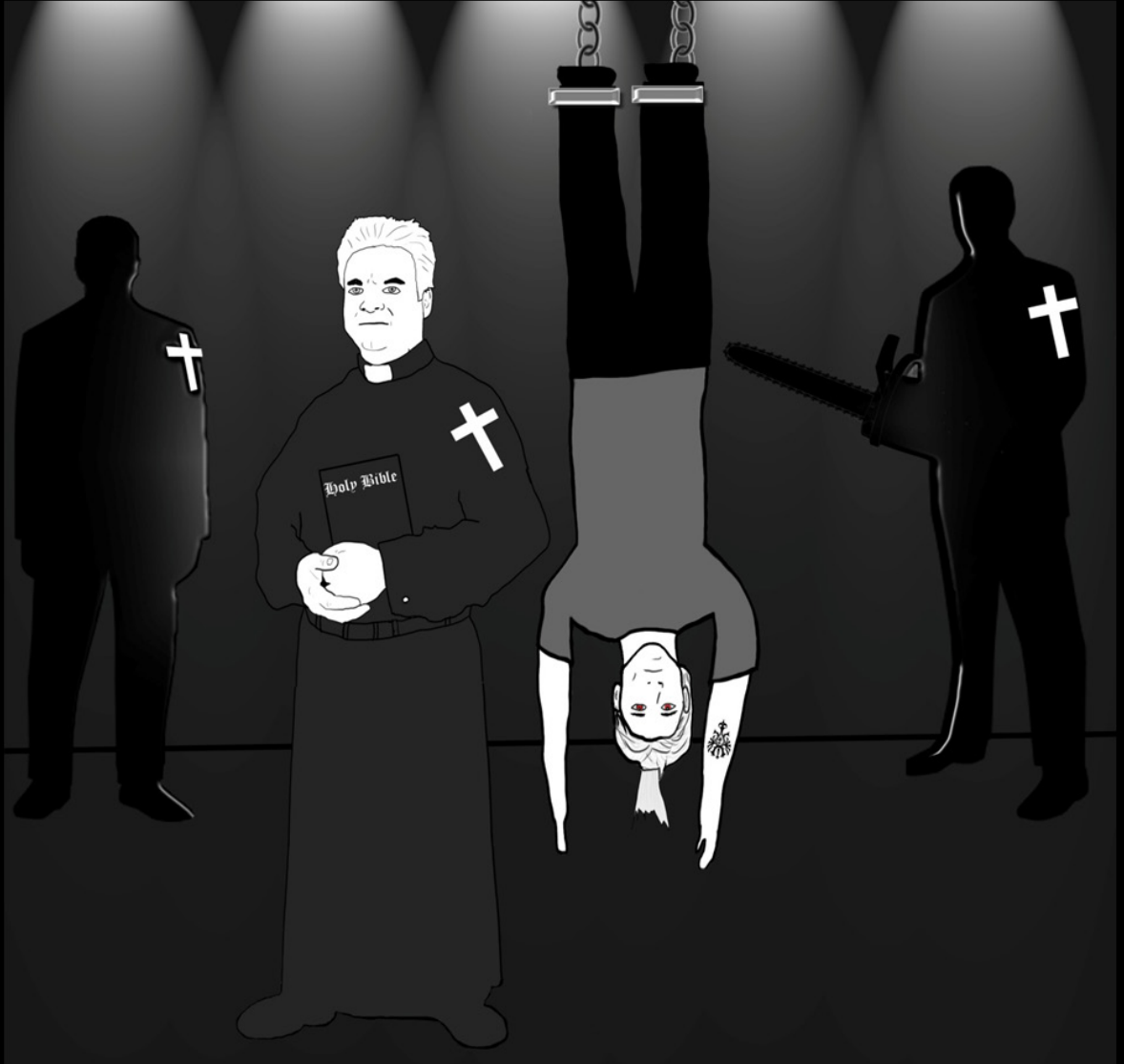
...



## GIOVANNI

There are many advantages to being a vampire: speed, strength, immortality – but immortality does have a flip side to it. Doesn't it, Silvano? Death would certainly be easier than living through what I have planned for you.

I bet I can make you wish for death, demon.



## SILVANO

There is no torture you can imagine, Giovanni, that could compare with the hell death would send me back to.

NURSE

Good evening, officer. How is our patient doing?

OFFICER CLARK

He'll survive.

NURSE

I have to re-dress the patient's wounds, can you please assist?





OFFICER CLARK

Alright, we are going to do this slowly ... understand? Please stand back – even though he's sedated, he's still...





NURSE

Guns, serum, clothes, and of course – your sword. The two guards in the hall have been taken care of.

NIKLAS

Where is the other man that was brought in last night?

NURSE

4<sup>th</sup> floor – room 407. Well guarded.

NIKLAS

I will take care of that.

NURSE

Daniella wants to speak with you. She's isn't happy.

NIKLAS

Is she ever? Hello.

DANIELLA

You have seven minutes till the second guard on room duty returns.

NIKLAS

I have something to take care of first.

DANIELLA

Hopefully, better than you've been taking care of yourself these past two nights.

NIKLAS

Your condescending comments are noted, Daniella.

DANIELLA

You know I hate having to send an agent into the field to assist you, Niklas.

NIKLAS

Why don't you become someone else's handler if I am such a hassle?

DANIELLA

You act as if I haven't put in a request.



Aiden & Robert 6:35pm

ROBERT

Aiden! Wait up! Where ya headed?

AIDEN

I just finished updating Lieutenant Johnson on our investigation – headed over to review the video from the airport. How did it go at the hospital?

ROBERT

Both men we took in last night are conscious. Neither are talking. Ya need to get over there and compel some answers out of them.



AIDEN

Those two can wait. I want you to see the footage from last night. The investigators and I have reviewed the video and found something.

ROBERT

You don't want to question them first? Aiden, c'mon! One of the guys is responsible for torching a vampire den and killing Fred Manning.

AIDEN

Trust me, Bob, I want answers, but Silvano is the priority. Those two have a lot to answer for, but they don't know where Silvano is. The video is our only lead.

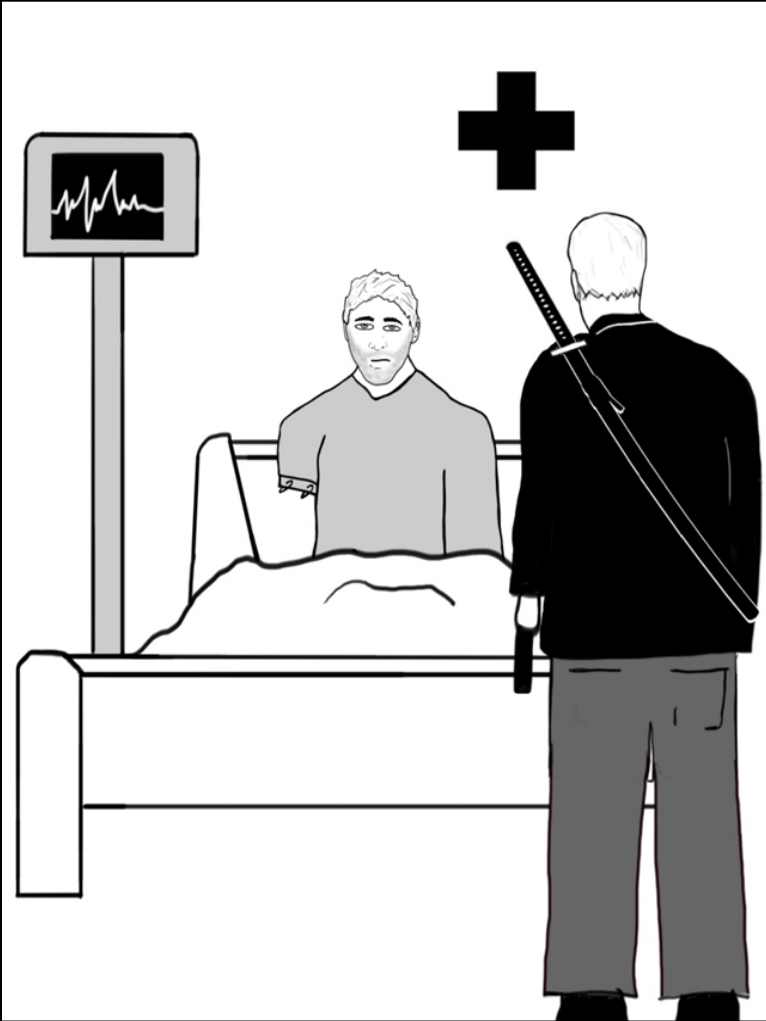
ROBERT

Aiden, your history with Silvano...

AIDEN

My history with Silvano has nothing to do with it! Nothing is more important than finding him, Robert!

Xavier 6:45pm



NIKLAS  
How is it you're  
here?

XAVIER  
I believe the  
diagnosis is that I  
had my arm ripped  
off.

NIKLAS  
No. How is it  
possible? How are  
you not dead?

XAVIER  
You believe  
everything they tell  
you, Kane?

NIKLAS  
Who is supplying your serum?

XAVIER  
**My serum?** Does it look like I have the serum running through me? If I had the serum, I wouldn't even be here!

NIKLAS  
Tell me then, how is it possible? The **withdrawal** from it is **fatal**.



XAVIER

They just want you to think it will kill you, Kane, and when you do get off it, you really wish it did. It takes years, but you can survive.

NIKLAS

I don't understand. Why would they...

XAVIER

You have much bigger problems than that, Nicky boy! You've gotten yourself into a mess now! You don't even know what you're dealing with! Why are you involved, anyway? I've been tracking this vamp since South America, and all of a sudden you pop up?

NIKLAS

Since South America? How long have you been following him?

XAVIER

Three fucking months.

NIKLAS

So, you were the one that killed that vamp at the bus station and burnt down the vampire den.

XAVIER

That was to keep the heat off my clients, and little extra cash for me.

NIKLAS

Why were you tracking him?

XAVIER

'Cause that's what I was paid to do. Bunch of amateurs I'm working for. They fucked up every time I led them to him. And this last time, idiots turned LAX into a war zone!

NIKLAS

Why wouldn't they just let you finish the job?

XAVIER

They didn't trust me with it.

NIKLAS

With what?



XAVIER

With what they want from him. Jesus, Kane! You really don't have any idea what's going on, do you? Why are you in this?

NIKLAS

It's personal.

XAVIER

Personal! Are you kidding?

NIKLAS

How can I find them? I'm running out of time.

XAVIER

Oh, don't worry, you have plenty of time. They don't even know where it is – fucking amateurs!

NIKLAS

They have the vamp I'm after.



XAVIER

It doesn't matter, he doesn't have it either!

NIKLAS

Wait a second, then why...

XAVIER

No one seemed to notice that this asshole vamp entered the airport with a bag, and left without one!

NIKLAS

He left it on the plane.

XAVIER

There you go, Nicky boy! See! You're not as clueless as everyone in Section 9 thinks you are.

NIKLAS

What is it?

XAVIER

What is what?

NIKLAS

This thing they're after. What's in the bag?

XAVIER

If I knew that, I wouldn't be here. Normally, I would've stolen the bag and sold it back to these chumps for a few mil. Whatever it is, *it's dangerous*, and I'm not fucking with something that has this much heat when I don't even know what it is.

NIKLAS

Well, I think I got everything I need from you then.

XAVIER

Alright, so get me out of here.

NIKLAS

Get you out?

XAVIER

Yeah, one professional courtesy for another – I told you what you needed and now you help me get out of here.

NIKLAS

I don't think so, Xavier.

XAVIER

Kane, we go way back, and I know you can't be pissed about the airport! This is our job, man! I mean, c'mon ... I lost my fucking arm over this!

NIKLAS

I'm not mad about the airport, Xavier.

XAVIER

Then what is it?

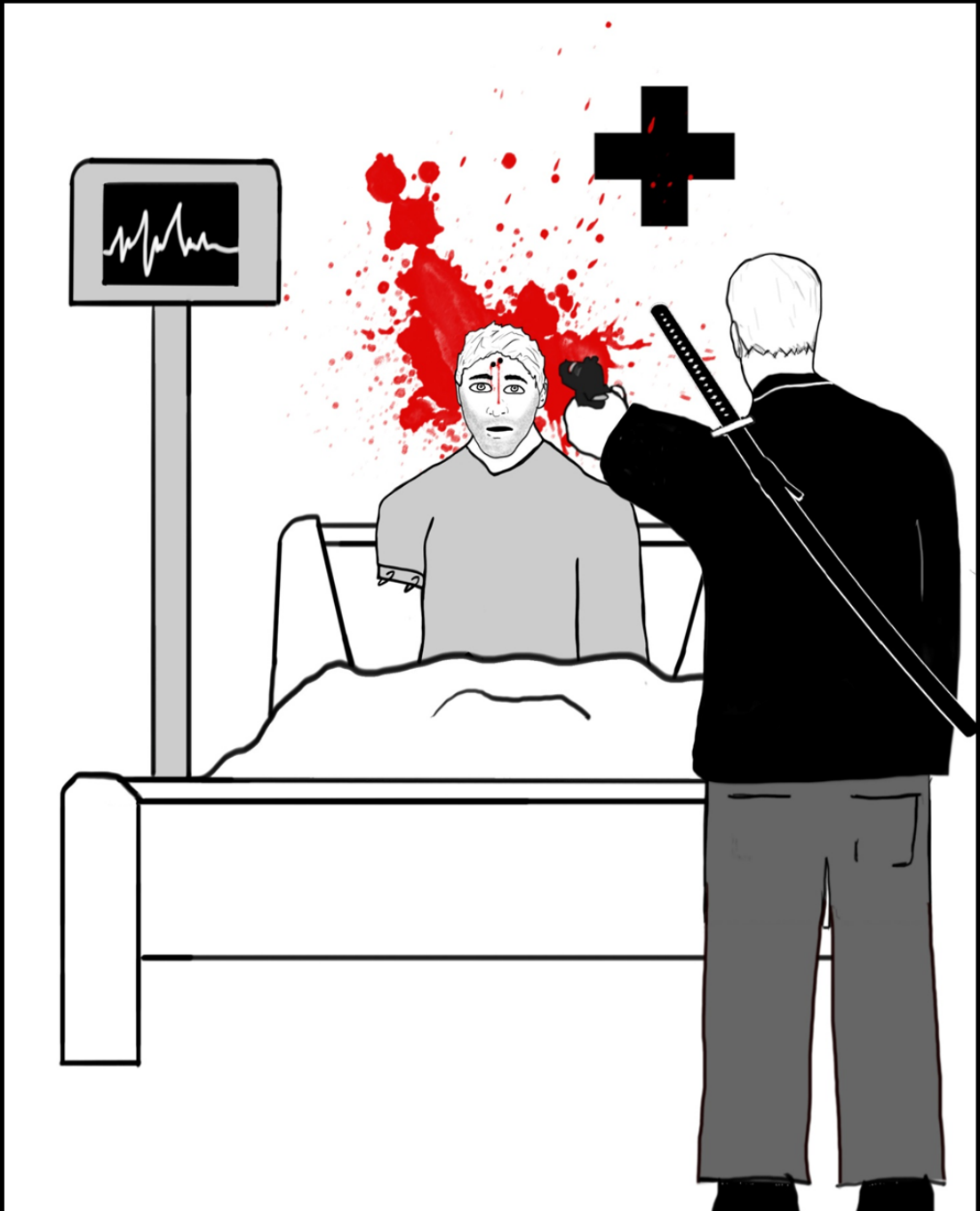
NIKLAS

Budapest.



XAVIER  
Budapest? Oh, fuck y--





Aiden & Robert 6:55pm

### INVESTIGATOR

We were going through all the tapes, looking for something useful – a possible ID on the assailants or someone accompanying him at the airport – and that's when we noticed it.

### AIDEN

He left the airport without his bag.

### ROBERT

We need to have that airport shut down and every hand available looking for that bag!

### AIDEN

What makes you think it's the bag they're after?



ROBERT

Isn't it obvious? They could've killed him, instead they abducted him!

AIDEN

There are many people who would want Silvano captured. He is more valuable alive than dead.

ROBERT

They want something from him, Aiden! My gut tells me whatever it is – it's in that bag!

AIDEN

I happen to think you're right.

ROBERT

So what are we waiting for?

AIDEN

The bag is not in the airport – at least not, LAX.

ROBERT

Well then, are you going to tell me where it is?

AIDEN

Vancouver. He stowed the bag on the plane. It doesn't matter now anyway. It's out of our jurisdiction and more importantly, we have a positive ID on Silvano. We have to notify the Kingdom.

ROBERT

Slow down, let's think this through. You said to me we have to find Silvano – "that is the priority" ... your words, Aiden. We make **that** call to the Kingdom, and that's it. We lose our track on these guys. We lose our case. And **you know** we lose Silvano.

AIDEN

Robert, we must notify the Kingdom!

ROBERT

Okay, okay, listen ... I'm not saying we don't tell them. I'm saying we wait.

AIDEN

Wait?

ROBERT

I'm tellin' ya, they want the bag. Either Silvano will lead his captors there or they'll figure out what he did with it. We know where the bag is. One call to the Vancouver Airport, and we have it secured. We fly there tonight – set the trap and bring them all in.

AIDEN

The stakes are too high to be taking this type of gamble.

ROBERT

The stakes are too high not to! Once they get that bag or figure out that they don't need him, he's as good as dead!

AIDEN

You know who this vampire is, Robert. You know the consequences for me if we fail.

ROBERT

Let's fly there, get on the ground and make the call ... that way, you and I don't have to go through all the paperwork to cross borders and enter vampire country. Ya have to trust me on this, Aiden.

AIDEN

Alright, we will leave tonight, and notify the Kingdom once we land.

ROBERT

This is the right move, partner ... no one's better suited to find Silvano than us. I'm gonna make the travel arrangements and call the wife ... tell her we're headed to Canada tonight. I will meet you back here in 20.







#### INVESTIGATOR

Detective Lawson, here is the full report on Samuel Kane. We have found links between him and all of the other victims. They are definitely connected, and they are not the only ones. We can identify at least ten more men that may be involved; all with the same patterns of movement throughout the U.S. since the time they entered the country.

#### AIDEN

And what of the two men we arrested last night? Can we connect them?

#### INVESTIGATOR

**Nothing. No.** No fingerprint matches, photo matches, dental records, **nothing**. These two are spooks.

#### AIDEN

Thank you, great work.

#### INVESTIGATOR

I have done this for a few years, and we have access to every agency database ... I've never seen a name with zero hits. Who do you think these guys are?

#### AIDEN

I don't know.

#### INVESTIGATOR

There's a call coming in for you – from the hospital.

#### AIDEN

What now?

#### INVESTIGATOR

There's been an incident. One of the men has escaped. The other is dead.



GIOVANNI

Excellent. We will depart immediately. Soon the artifact will be ours!

SILVANO

Listen to me Giovanni ... you are making a grave mistake. You must give up your quest; there is no good that can come from this crusade!

GIOVANNI

Gag him. We do not want this demon to speak his manipulations. Get the team ready to leave. We are heading to Vancouver.

GUARD

Are we bringing the prisoner?

GIOVANNI

Yes. He may still prove useful. **Cut** him down.

# END OF NIGHT THREE

# NIGHT 4



Vancouver 8:55pm





ROBERT

This is Detective Robert Garrison; we have secured the package, and are en route to Vancouver VHID Headquarters. We have two local police escorts to expedite our travel.

DISPATCH

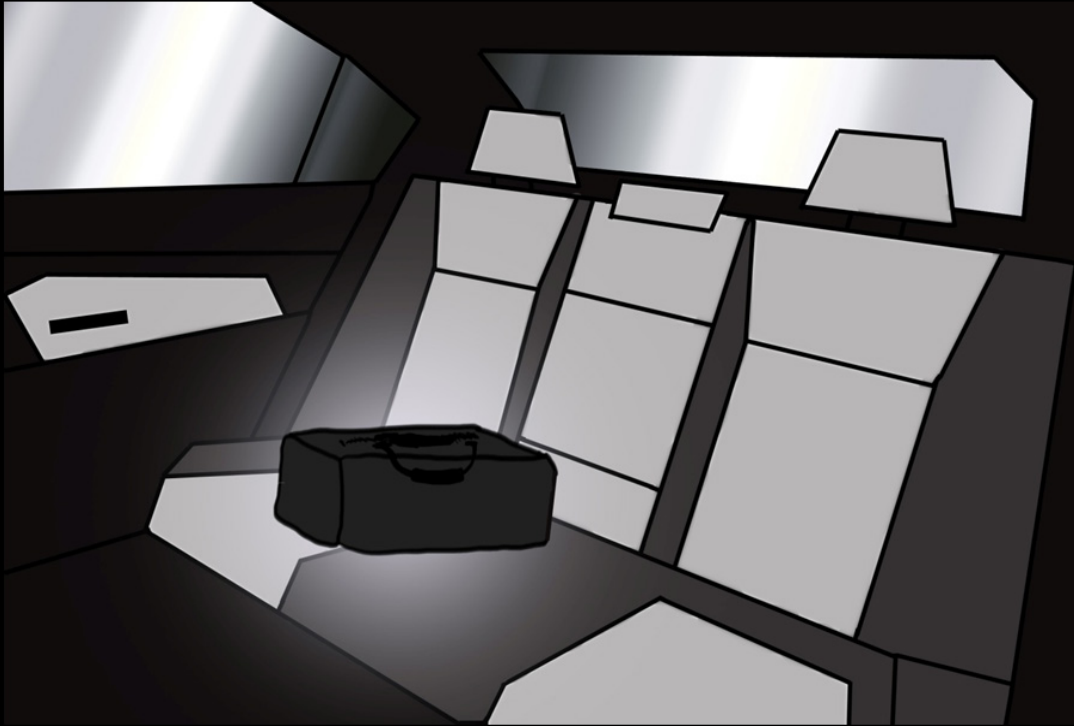
We're ready for your arrival, Detective Garrison.

AIDEN

Once we arrive, we will brief the Vancouver VHID Station Chief, turn over the package, and ask how they want to inform the Kingdom of the Silvano situation.

ROBERT

I'm with ya, partner. I know you're uncomfortable breaking procedure, but I wanted to make sure we got the package. Now, they can come to us.



AIDEN

Let's hope it's that simple.

ROBERT

So, ya wanna take a look?

AIDEN

A look? No.

ROBERT

Aren't you curious what's inside?

AIDEN

No.

Robert

C'mon, it's not like we're tampering with evidence. We have...

AIDEN

*Oh no.* ROBERT! GET DOWN!











SOLDIER

Father Giovanni, we have the package.

GIOVANNI

At last ... bring it to me at once!



SOLDIER

What of the detectives?

GIOVANNI

Leave them. They **both** must live, for now.



GIOVANNI

...and now my brothers – witness God's wonder.





GIOVANNI  
Everyone out. Now!



GIOVANNI

Who is this?

NIKLAS

The man with the package.

GIOVANNI

No, you are a dead man.

NIKLAS

I hope you're not counting on Xavier to kill me. I left him dead in LA.

GIOVANNI

And I burned down half of Los Angeles to get what you are holding. Imagine what I will do next.



NIKLAS

Big words, but not the best way to convince me to give you the package.

GIOVANNI

What do you want for the artifact?

NIKLAS

Simple. I want the vampire you abducted at the airport. ***The vamp for the package.***

GIOVANNI

You can have him – he is of no more use to us.

NIKLAS

You have two hours. Meet me at Stanley Park, at the totem poles. Midnight. Don't be late, otherwise you will never see the artifact again.







NIKLAS

Daniella, I need you to arrange an extraction for me.

DANIELLA

Have you completed this self-appointed mission?

NIKLAS

Almost. I believe I've figured this all out.

DANIELLA

Oh, have you now? Just like that time in Germany?

NIKLAS

What's that supposed to mean?

DANIELLA

It means, last time you thought you "figured" something out, you nearly killed the 1985 Nobel Prize winner for physics.

NIKLAS

Anyone could have made that mistake.

DANIELLA

No. Nobody would make that mistake.

NIKLAS

What's your point?





DANIELLA

The point is that you are an assassin. You kill people we've already determined need to be dead. You don't investigate these cases on your own. You're not a detective, Niklas.

NIKLAS

No, but I know someone who is...



AIDEN

Hello?

NIKLAS

Good, you're alive. I was worried you didn't make it.

AIDEN

Who is this?



NIKLAS  
The man you met at the LA Precinct.

AIDEN  
The one who threw those pliers at my head?

NIKLAS  
In all fairness, you weren't supposed to be there.

AIDEN  
And Fred Manning? Was he not supposed to be at the bus station?

NIKLAS  
I didn't kill that vamp, and I sure as hell didn't torch that vampire den – All that was done to misdirect you from the real enemy.

AIDEN  
Who is...?

NIKLAS  
The men who abducted our mutual interest at the airport. The same men who tried to kill me.

AIDEN

Why should I believe you?

NIKLAS

If I wanted to kill you I would have. I stopped you from following me. I put two in your leg, not through your brain.

AIDEN

You still haven't answered my question.

NIKLAS

My name is Niklas. Niklas Kane.

AIDEN

So?

NIKLAS

Aiden, think about my name. **Kane**.

AIDEN

Kane ... hold on. The brother? You're Samuel Kane's brother?

NIKLAS

That's right.

AIDEN

Wait ... as his brother, there are things you need to know!

NIKLAS

No time. I just made an arrangement to trade the package for their captive.

AIDEN

You have the package?

NIKLAS

Aiden, please, I was here hours before you arrived. I took the package and expected you to open the bag and find a cell phone with instructions to call me.

Instead, these assholes called me after they took you down on the highway.

AIDEN

How are you able to do all of this? You are not vampire, but your abilities...

NIKLAS

I will explain later. Right now, I need your help. You have to be at Stanley Park at midnight, by the totem poles. That's where I've arranged to make the trade.

AIDEN

Why tell me now? Why involve me at all? You have the package, and it seems you have the means to protect yourself.

NIKLAS

Two reasons. First, after what I saw at the airport and what they did to you on the highway, I will need back up. Second, whatever this package is, it must be pretty damned important and I'm sure we don't want them to get their hands on it.

AIDEN

I can have the entire VHID there.

NIKLAS

**No, Aiden. You can't trust anyone. You have a mole.** Someone is setting me up and tipping off these men. How else would they have been tracking him? How else would they know where to get you tonight? It's been too well timed for coincidence.

AIDEN

How do you know it is not me? How do you know I am not the mole?

NIKLAS

You're a 400 year old vamp who has spent the majority of his life on the right side of the law. If you're the mole, it would directly contradict everything in this hefty file I have on you.

AIDEN

I won't be much back up by myself.

NIKLAS

Any vamp is as good as twenty men, and you're well trained.

AIDEN

Even if we are successful, I can't let you kill him, Niklas. There are things about this case you do not know.

NIKLAS

He killed my brother, Aiden. He is going to pay.

AIDEN

You're not talking justice, Niklas. You are talking revenge.

NIKLAS

In this case, they are one in the same.

ROBERT  
Who was that?

AIDEN  
Headquarters.

ROBERT  
What did they say?

AIDEN  
To get you to the  
hospital.

ROBERT  
Forget the hospital;  
we've got to find  
these guys!

AIDEN  
Don't worry about it,  
Robert. You are  
lucky to be alive.



ROBERT  
Damn it, Aiden, I know what this means for you. This was our chance to  
find Silvano!

AIDEN  
I may have another lead.

ROBERT  
What?

AIDEN  
Don't concern yourself with it now ... let's get you to the hospital first.

ROBERT  
I'm fine, Aiden. Tell me, what do you know?

AIDEN  
Nothing – just a hunch. C'mon, you're going to the hospital.

# Stanley Park - Midnight





NIKLAS  
I'm here. Come out where I can see you.



GIOVANNI

I have come as you requested with the vampire you seek.

NIKLAS

Along with a few friends, I see. Tell them to come out. **Now.**





GIOVANNI

I would have been foolish to come without protection.

NIKLAS

They can't protect you.

GIOVANNI

Then you won't mind them staying.

NIKLAS

This is how it will work. Have the vamp walk towards me. When he is half way, I'll throw the package to you. Then, we leave. You take the package. I take the vamp. Don't try anything stupid.

You know what I did to Xavier.

You know who I work for.

You know what I'm capable of.



GIOVANNI

A fair set of rules, but first prove you have the artifact.



NIKLAS  
Satisfied?

GIOVANNI  
Go to him.

SILVANO  
What you are doing will  
bring about the end of  
the world, Giovanni!

GIOVANNI  
Only the end of vampire,  
Silvano. Now *walk*.



GIOVANNI  
As soon as the artifact hits the  
ground, ***take him out.***



















NIKLAS  
Open your eyes.





NIKLAS  
For my brother.

AIDEN  
Niklas! Stop!



NIKLAS  
That thing they're after is lying on the ground over there. Take it and leave.

AIDEN  
I can't let you kill him, Niklas.



NIKLAS  
You don't have a choice, Aiden.

AIDEN

You are not faster than me – and this time – I am ready for you.

NIKLAS

Don't test me. You know why it has to end this way.

AIDEN

No, Niklas, you do not understand! He did not murder your brother, he killed him in self-defense! This is **Silvano Carpathia**.



NIKLAS

**Carpathia**? The **crowned** prince?

AIDEN

Yes. Silvano Carpathia. **Eldest Son of King Demetreus Carpathia!** Look at the insignia on his arm!

NIKLAS

No, it can't be. Silvano Carpathia is a recluse, rumored to have **grounded** himself 50 years ago.

AIDEN

It is him, Niklas. I was once a Minister of Justice for the Carpathian Kingdom. I left Carpathia just over a hundred years ago. This **is** the Prince. He did not murder your brother.

NIKLAS

Are you Silvano Carpathia?

SILVANO

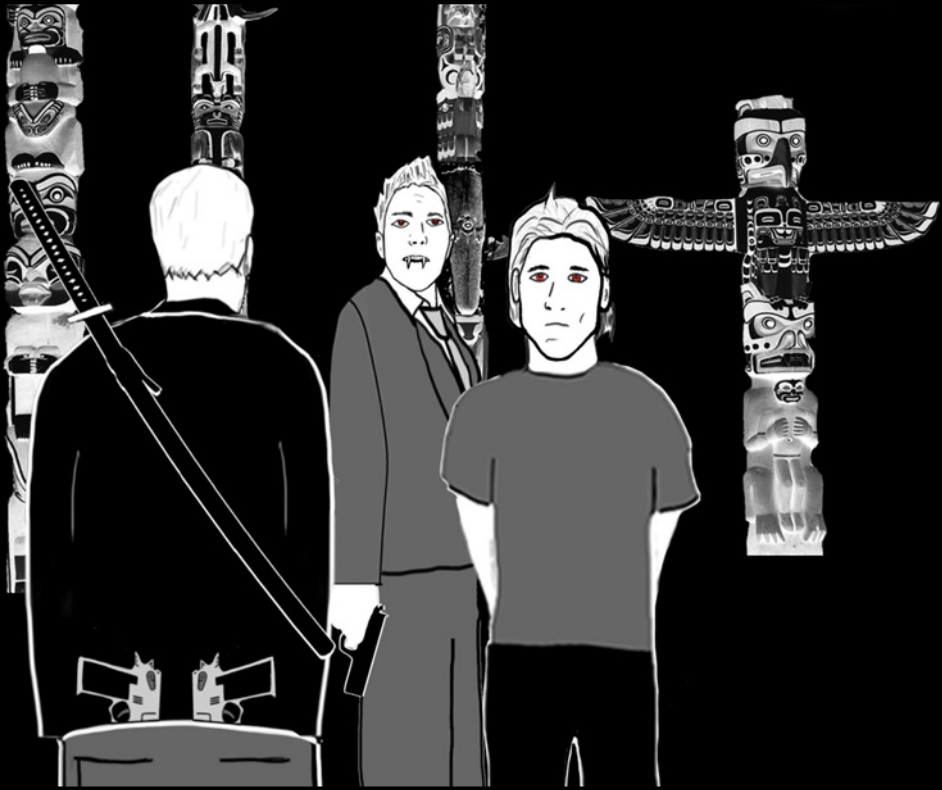
I am. I remember you, Aiden. I remember the service you did for our family and why you left our kingdom.





AIDEN

Trust me, Niklas. Silvano killed your brother in self-defense. Your brother was part of the same organization that has been hunting Silvano for that artifact.



SILVANO

Your brother was working for a very rich and powerful sect of the Vatican. He was following the orders of the man you just killed. His name was Giovanni, and he led these men in their chase for the relic.

AIDEN

Our investigation into your brother placed him at the same locations as three other unsolved vampire related homicides. Sam was connected to all of them. We have tracked this all the way back to when he returned to the States from South America.

SILVANO

The organization had obtained an ancient relic. In their hands, it would bring the dawn of a very dark age on earth. I had set out to stop them.

NIKLAS

On your own? With no help from your family?



SILVANO

My family has been compromised – I had to do this alone. It was the only way.

AIDEN

Where were you headed with *it*?

SILVANO

Shaw. I know where their allegiance lies.

NIKLAS

This “relic”, what makes it so dangerous?

SILVANO

It contains the key to *resurrecting the seraphim*.

AIDEN

Impossible! That is a myth!

SILVANO

No Aiden, it is written in the ancient scrolls. I have read it myself. I know it to be true.

AIDEN

Explain.

SILVANO

There is no time. We must get to Shaw. Giovanni’s men will arrive shortly.

NIKLAS

No one is going anywhere until I know what you’re talking about.

SILVANO

The seraphim is an ancient vampire legend – angels who walked the Earth thousands of years ago. When the first demons were resurrected as vampire; so too, were angels as seraphim. They were extinguished – destined to rise again. Should they rise, the war between heaven and hell will be brought to Earth.

NIKLAS

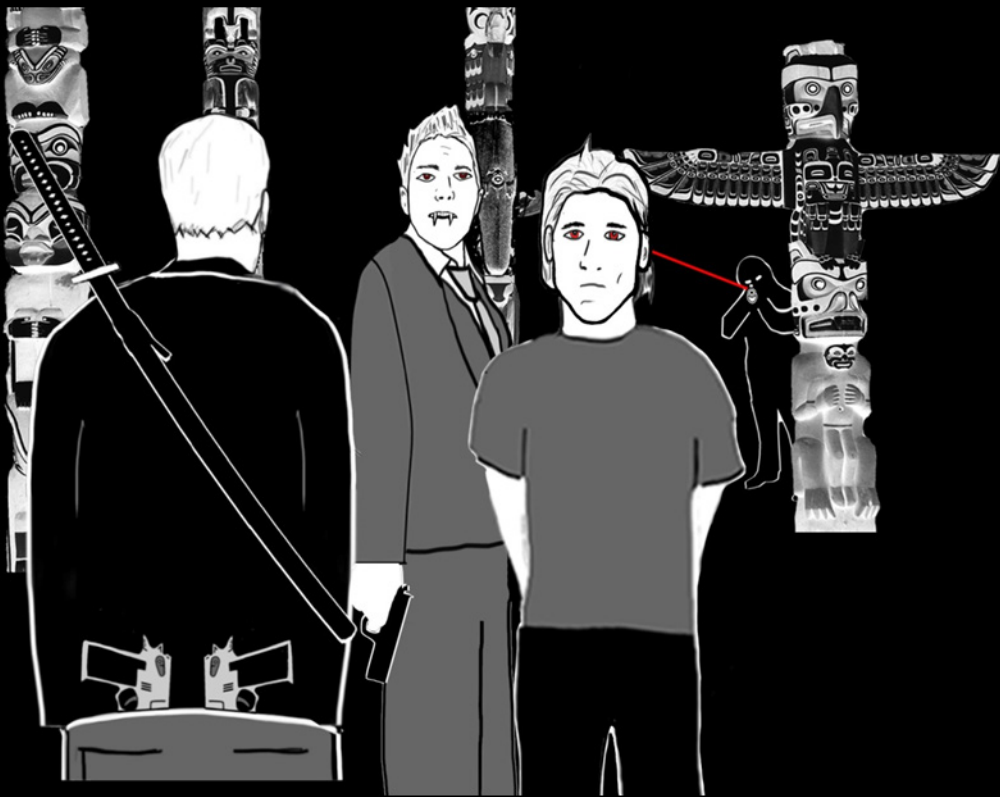
The war?

AIDEN

Yes. The eternal war between God and His enemy – fought by His army of angels, against an army of demons. Only the eldest of our kind can remember.

SILVANO

I have seen 1800 years. Over the last decades, the memories of our previous existence have become absolutely clear. It is why I came out of seclusion. I am on the verge of total recall ... only our most ancient have experienced it. The eternal war is real. Please ... I will explain it to you both, but quickly, we must hurry!





AIDEN  
**NO!** Robert! What  
have you done?!?



ROBERT  
I just took down a  
suspected murderer,  
recovered a priceless  
artifact, and made  
myself rich while  
doing it.





AIDEN

What you have done  
is ignite a new war  
between man and  
vampire!

ROBERT

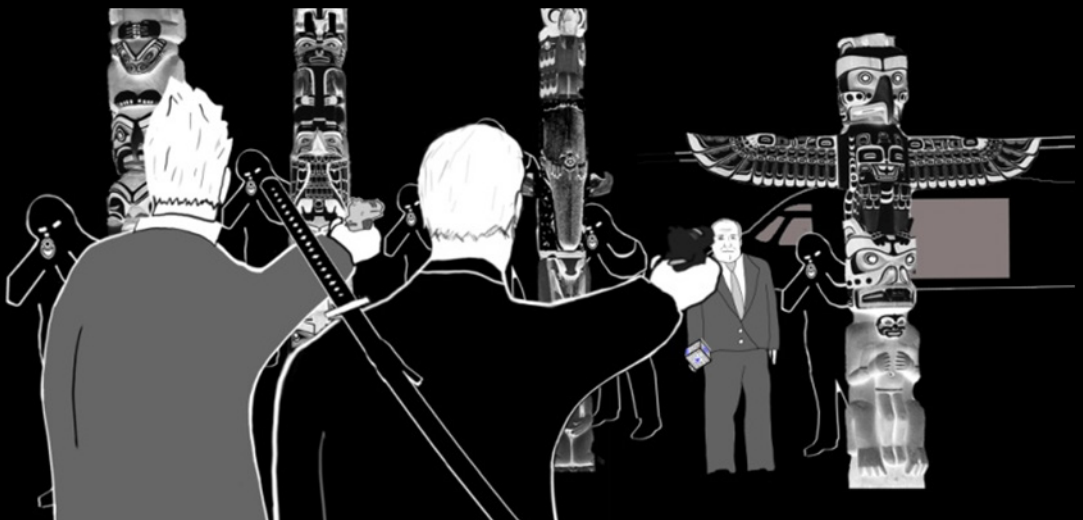
Lucky for me, I'll be  
thousands of miles  
away from it all on  
my new retirement  
package. Goodbye,  
Aiden.

AIDEN

Robert, we are  
partners!

ROBERT

No, you're just another vampire. *Kill them both.*



AIDEN

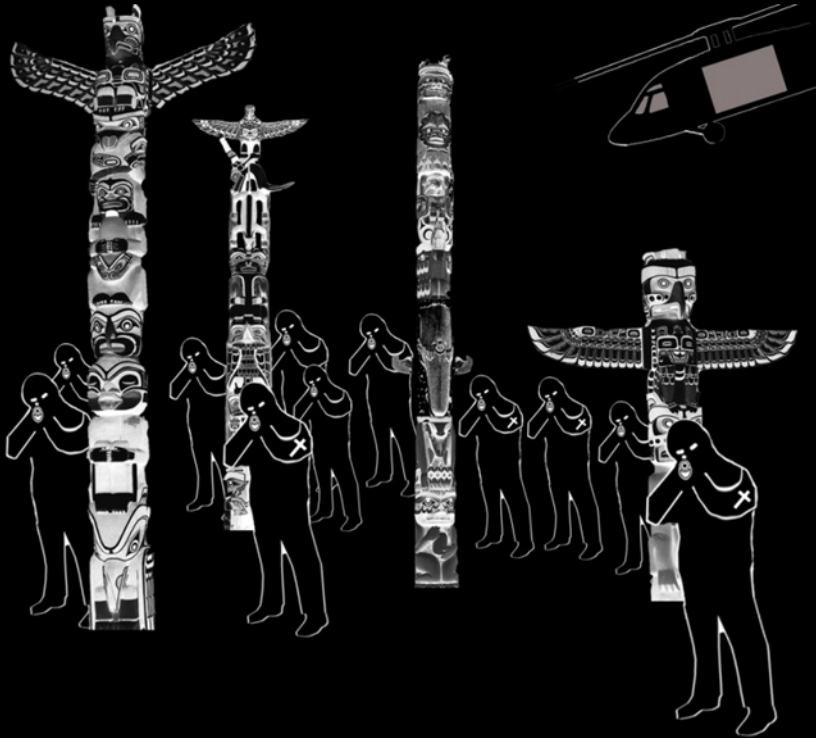
If what Silvano said was true, we cannot let them keep the relic.

NIKLAS

What do you propose we do?

AIDEN

We track Robert down. We find him – find the men your brother was working for – and take them all out.



NIKLAS

...and this  
small army?

AIDEN

They're first.

NIKLAS

Then take this...



AIDEN

How did you get...?

NIKLAS

I'll answer all your questions later...

AIDEN

I'll hold you to that.





# END OF NIGHT FOUR



# Epilogue

# South America





FATHER MATTHEW

Your Eminence, I have received word from our men. The artifact is in our possession! They are en route to our location.

CARDINAL OUELLETTE

How soon until Giovanni arrives here with it?

FATHER MATTHEW

Father Giovanni is dead.

CARDINAL OUELLETTE

The Lord has passed his judgment for Giovanni's incompetence these past months. How long until they arrive?

FATHER MATTHEW

Twenty-four hours.



CARDINAL OUELLETTE

Excellent. Too long has God's true intent for this world been obstructed! But no longer! The Lord's will, shall be done! For the first time in two thousand years, an angel will be reborn. An army of **seraphim** will fly with the sole purpose to extinguish the demon vampires and save all of our souls!

*To be continued in...*



THE SPIRIT & THE SHADOW  
BOOK 2: CARPATHIA