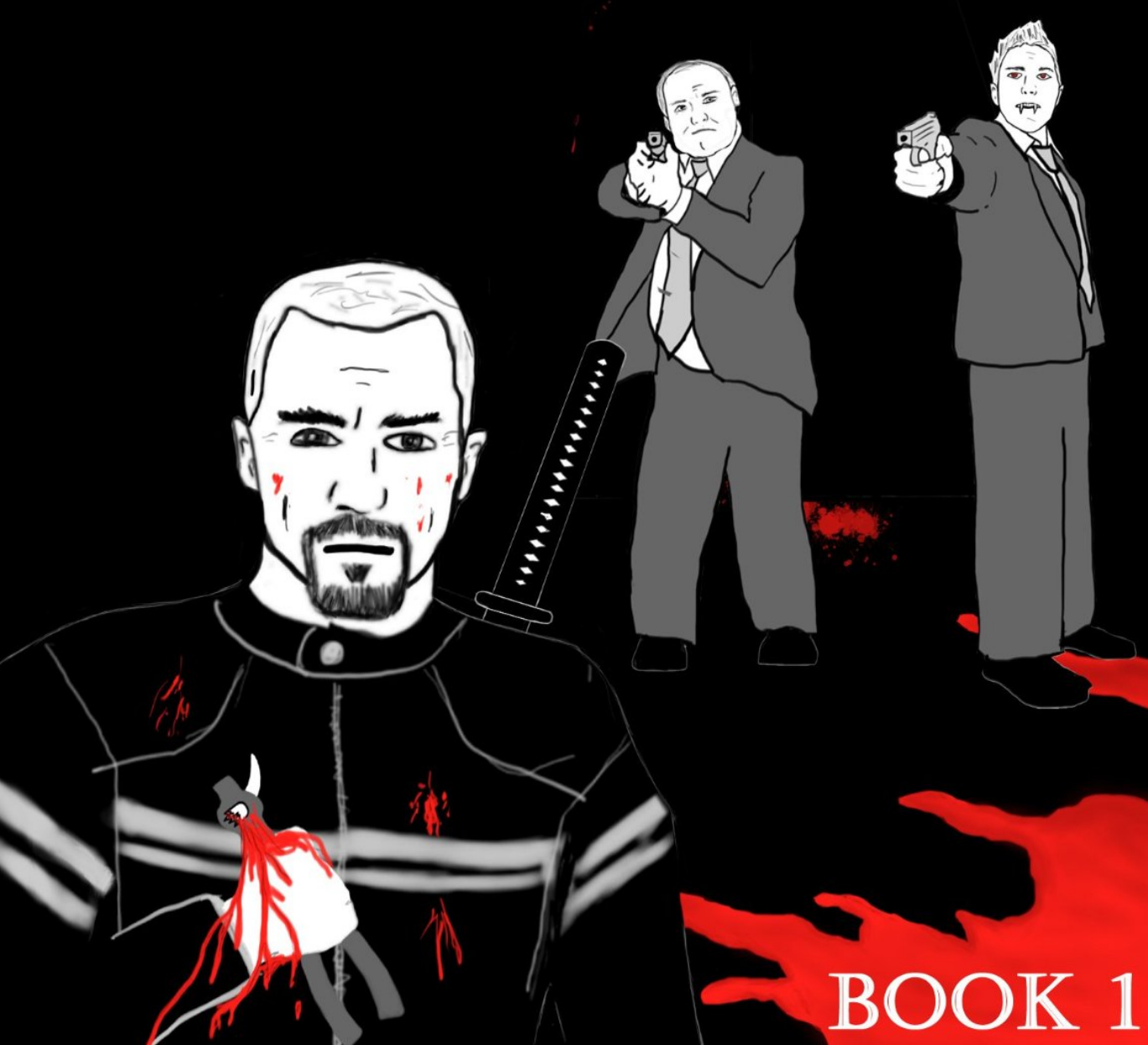


THE SPIRIT & THE SHADOW

Written By
THOMAS LAVALLE

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BRANDON SWOPE



BOOK 1

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Written By:
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For our families who supported this project

Danielle

Jen

Hayley

Aiden

Maya

Olivia

Dennis

Fred

Marianne

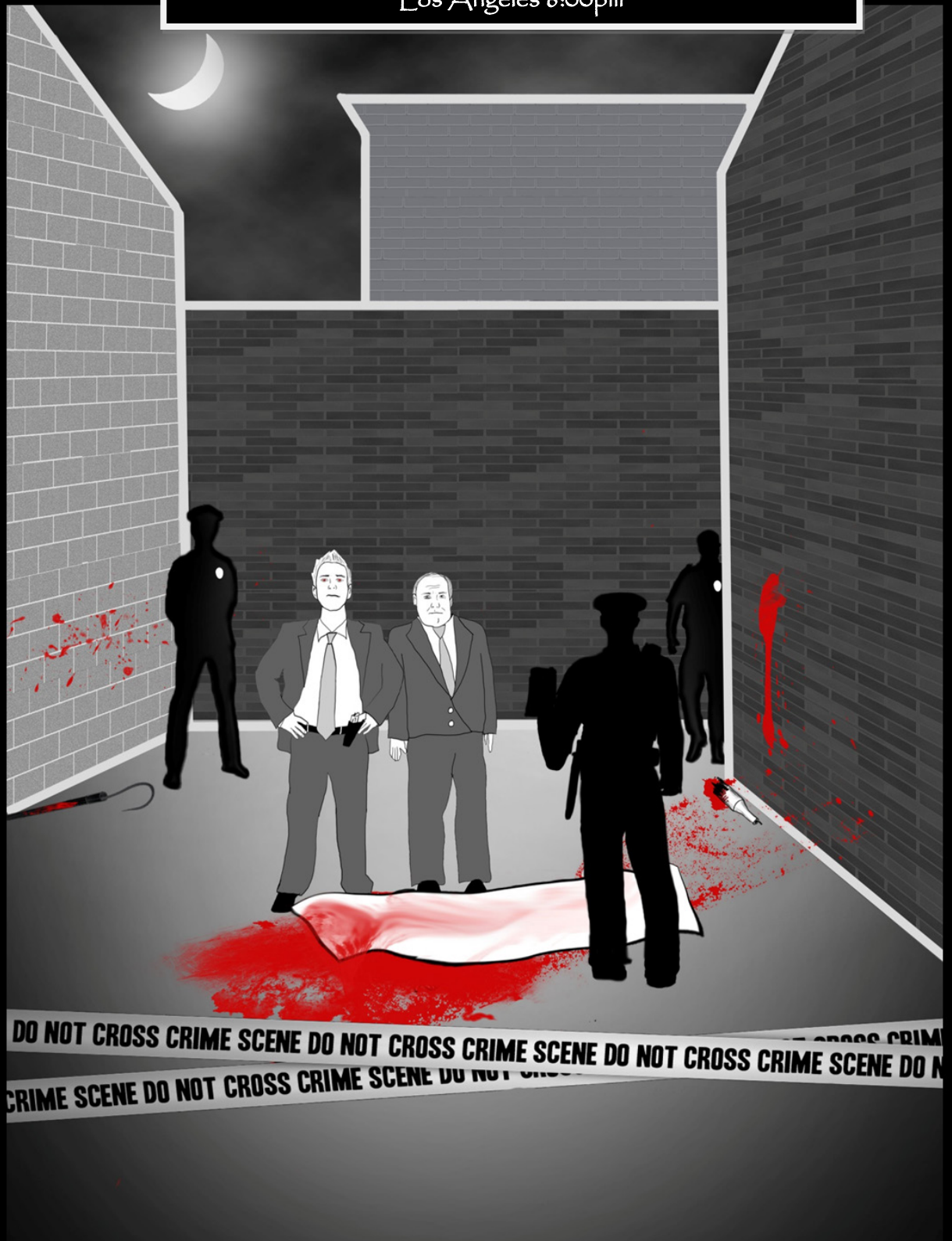
Jody

There will be blood

NIGHT 1

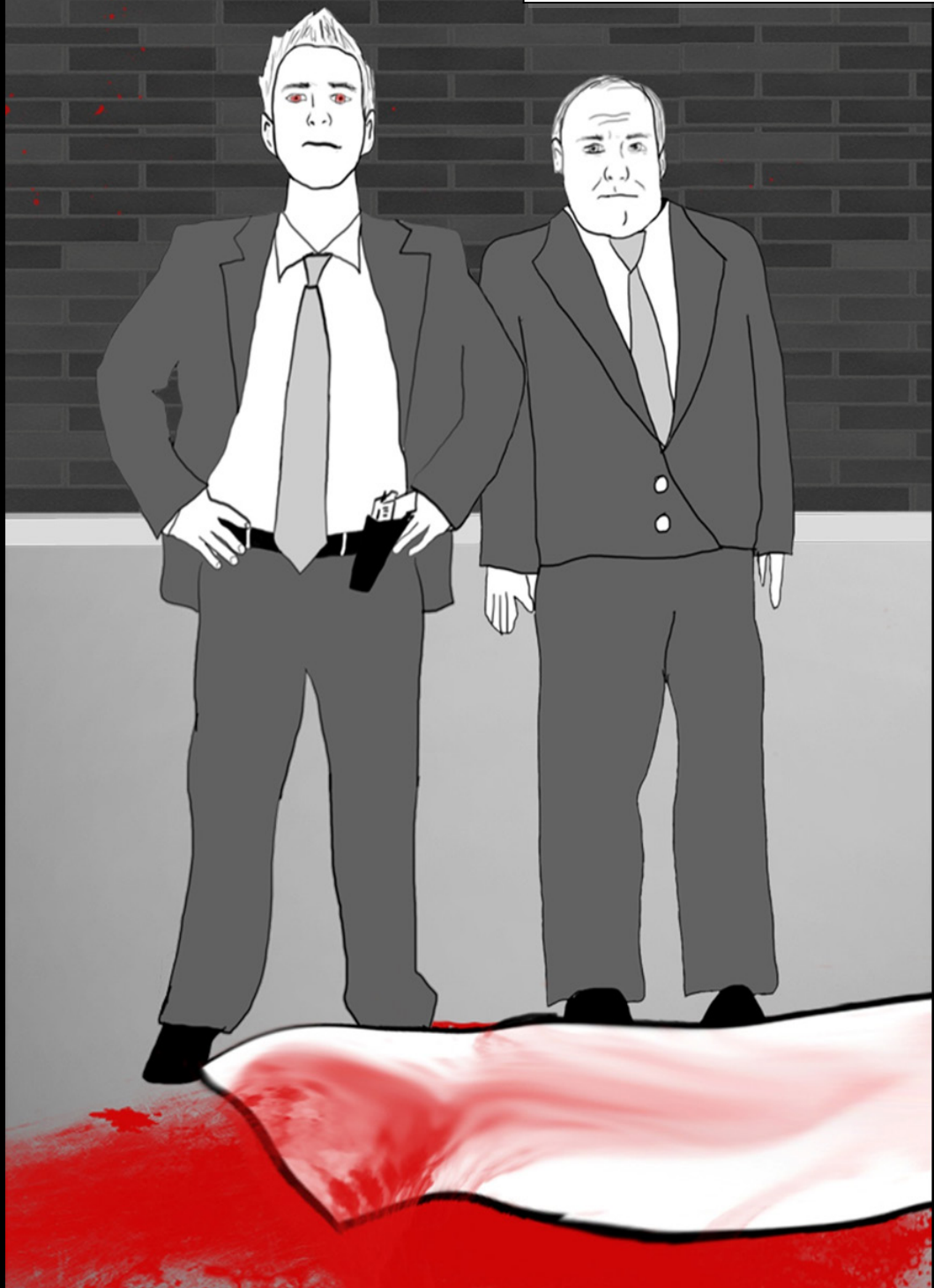


Los Angeles 6:00pm



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

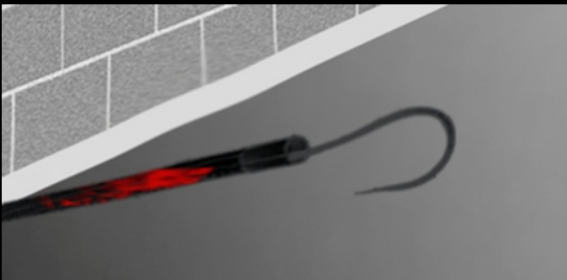
A hate crime, maybe? A couple guys saw the vamp and jumped him?

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

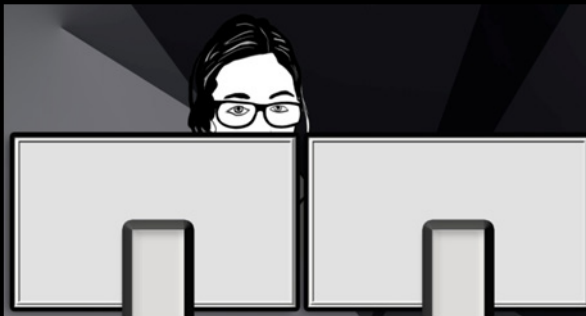
How may I help?

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...

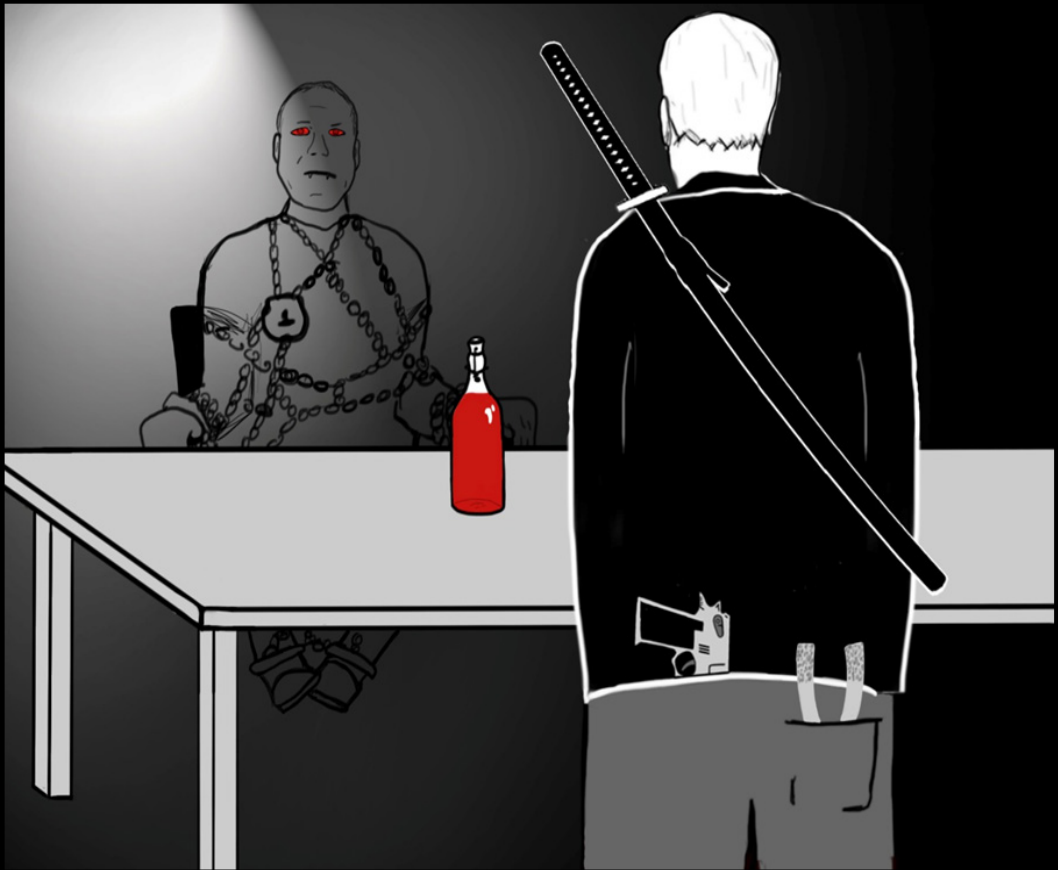
ROBERT

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

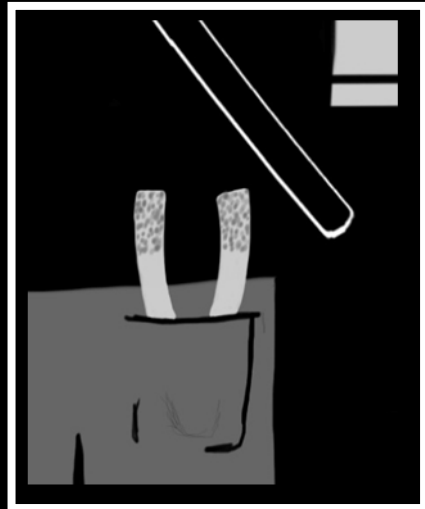
'Cause you're going to need it after what I am about to do to you.

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.