

The blood is love

By Nick Marshall

Characters

- Lilith

A centuries old vampire. She appears to be in her mid-twenties. She is striking but goes out of her way to look and dress innocuously.

- Dawn

A vampire wannabe. She is about nineteen. She has fully adopted the Emo look. Think Avril Lavigne.

- Adam

A man in his late twenties.

- 2nd man, 3rd man, 4th man.

Cattle.

Notes

For the first two scenes, the place is New York. The first scene takes place in a small café. The café is deserted except for our characters. The time is now. The second scene occurs in a nondescript apartment bedroom. It is several days after the first scene.

The third scene. A void.

The setting for the fourth scene is an ornate bed chamber, at some indeterminate point in antiquity.

Within the text an / indicates that the following character speaks across the character speaking. The [] indicate what the character was about to say.

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Scene 1

LILITH sits at a table in a café. 'Taste you' by Melissa Auf Der Maur plays in the background. LILITH is plainly dressed and unobtrusive. She is reading a book, something obscure. DAWN enters. LILITH immediately looks up from her book and watches her come in with evident interest. DAWN senses she is being watched and turns towards LILITH, who immediately returns to her book. Seemingly recognising LILITH, DAWN crosses to her table in a state of visible excitement.

DAWN Oh. My. GOD!!! You're her. Aren't you? They told me you hung out near here. I've wanted to meet you ever since, like, forever! This is SO totally exciting! You're SO not like I imagined. But, well, I suppose you have to keep a low profile, right?

DAWN sits.

DAWN You as old as they say? Angelique says you're, like, hundreds of years old...

LILITH Thousands.

DAWN Ah! I knew it!!!

LILITH Ah. You got me.

DAWN Don't go getting me all, like, wrong, okay? I got into the scene five years back and it was ab-so-lute-ly the best thing that EVER happened to me.

LILITH Really?

DAWN But enough about me. I can't believe I'm meeting you. I'm all Christian Slater and shit. *(Pause. DAWN examines LIZ critically)* Still low profile or not, I kind of expected you to look a little more...*(Pause. LIZ lowers her book and gives DAWN her undivided attention)* well, a little more, er, impressive?

LILITH Would you prefer me to be wearing black leather, an ankle length black coat and mirror shades?

DAWN Yeah! Bitchin'!

LILITH *(Amused)* Subtle. You've watched too many movies.

LILITH returns to her book, seemingly signalling the close of the conversation.

DAWN So how old are you, Lilith?

LILITH suppresses a smirk.

LILITH 'Lilith'?

DAWN Uh. Yeah. You know...your name? Duh.

LILITH *(Putting the book down)* My name isn't 'Lilith'. I have never and would never call myself 'Lilith'.

Beat.

LILITH *(Sighs)* I'm Elisabeth. Umm, Liz.

DAWN 'Liz'? You shittin' me? That just doesn't have that kind of 'ancient' ring to it. Y'know?

LILITH Well, it isn't my real name.

DAWN So, what is?

LILITH *(Pause)* I can't remember.

DAWN *(Giggles)* No, like, come ON! You think I'm stupid? How do you/ [forget your own name?]

LILITH I've had so many names... how do you expect me to remember the first? I don't even remember when I forgot it. I don't remember my mother's face. I don't remember the feel of sun on my skin...

Beat.

DAWN Cool!

LILITH What?

DAWN Ooh, this is TOO perfect. I KNEW you were the person to turn me. It HAD to be you, no-one else. I'll be really good, I know I will. *(DAWN takes LILITH's hand)* It'll be fun.

LILITH Fun.

DAWN You and me.

LILITH *(Pulling her hand away)* Go home, little girl.

DAWN Hey! I'm not a kid, y'know. I'm not. No.

LILITH Why do you want...

DAWN Um, to live forever? E-ter-nal life? Hello?

LILITH And that's what you think you want?

DAWN Who doesn't?! Geez, I thought living so long would make you all smart and stuff.

LILITH *(Sighing)* Only one in twenty make it past their first five years. Know why? You live your life by the clock. Get caught out by seconds and / [you're gone.]

DAWN *(Bored)* Yeah, yeah, yeah...

LILITH smiles, stands and moves around DAWN examining her thoughtfully.

LILITH Heart rules head, remember? Tell me your name.

DAWN Um... *(Sighs)* No. No, I'm tired of this.

LILITH *(Irritated)* Just tell me your name.

DAWN Dawn. For now.

LILITH That's a pretty name.

DAWN stands and grabs LILITH.

DAWN Enough! Okay? Enough. You want to go fuck, we can go fuck. But you holding this over me... I've had it.

LILITH Jesus. Where has this come from?

DAWN shrugs.

LILITH I... it's just a game. I thought you liked to play...

DAWN Stop it. Just stop.

LILITH I don't understand.

DAWN I can't deal with being your fucking inferior anymore. Okay?

LILITH I MADE YOU. We belong to each other.

DAWN Maybe. But, *I* don't belong to *you*. Do you understand? I won't... I can't keep dealing with all this fear.

LILITH (*Shaken*) Okay. Okay. Let's go. Let's just go.

LILITH takes DAWN's arm and ushers her out of the café. Exit LILITH and DAWN.

Scene 2

A small but comfortable bedroom. The furnishings are a confused melange of modern and antique. The small room is dominated by a large, ostentatious bed. ADAM is upon it. He is shivering and has clearly been severely beaten. We hear LILITH and DAWN's voices from offstage. LILITH is very drunk.

LILITH Come in. (*Giggling*) Come. In.

DAWN You don't need to invite me. We've come here before.

LILITH Oh yeah. (*Giggling*) You fucked me in the ass with a...

DAWN I remember. Look...

LILITH No, no, no. Fun, fun, fun. I haven't been naked with you for whole hours. (*Mock indignant*) That won't do!

DAWN You need to...

DAWN is cut off as she is dragged, at pace, onto the stage by LILITH. Once in the bedroom, LILITH pins DAWN against the wall and kisses her. They stare into one another's eyes as they kiss.

DAWN Wait...

DAWN is all but thrown across the bed by LILITH who eagerly clambers onto her, ignoring ADAM.

ADAM You're back! I've been lying here for ages! Did you/ [just forget about me or something?]

LILITH It's talking to me again. Must it talk to me?

LILITH swats ADAM disinterestedly. He flies off the bed and rolls into a corner. He whimpers and is silent. Returning her attention to DAWN, LILITH begins to pull off DAWN's clothes. DAWN finally struggles out from beneath her, rolls off the bed and rearranges her dishevelled clothing.

DAWN Fucking hell! I can't wait anymore. If I don't do this now, I swear I'll go mad.

LILITH Get back here. I want to pull your panties off with my teeth.

There is an awkward pause.

DAWN It's unfair to do this when you're pissed, but... Look, it's over.

LILITH *(Momentarily sobered)* That isn't funny. *(Leering)* Oh! I get it! What a very bad girl you are. I think you're going to have to be punished.

LILITH rises and grabs DAWN roughly, as if to throw her back across the bed. DAWN pushes LILITH away. She moves away from her. There is another awkward pause.

LILITH What the fuck is this, huh? *(Beat)* We're not going to go through that whole Moscow thing again, are we?

DAWN *(Groans)* How does it always end up being about you?

Beat.

LILITH *(Horrorified)* You're not... You're not for real. Tell me you're joking?

DAWN shakes her head. LILITH at first looks bewildered, then as if she is about to burst into tears.

DAWN *(Unconvincingly)* Oh... I swear if you start to cry, I'll slap you silly...

LILITH *(Quietly)* Don't you love me anymore?

DAWN glares at LILITH.

DAWN Of course I bloody do! How can you say that to me, damn it? But... I don't know... this is the first relationship I've been in that has lasted hundreds of years, you know?

LILITH is amused in spite of herself.

DAWN I'm sorry, but... I just don't think its enough.

LILITH There's someone else.

DAWN *(Sighs)* There will be. Soon.

LILITH I'm sorry.

DAWN Don't be sorry. It's just you attempting to take responsibility. To be the author of us. I'm grateful for what you gave me. But it doesn't make me yours.

LILITH I just need you so badly. You don't understand how much I ache for you. *(Beat)* I know you never felt as strongly as I do...

DAWN moves to stare out of the window.

DAWN I didn't. Well, I don't think so. I wish I could remember.

LILITH You blame me.

DAWN No. No, I'm not sorry. It was all so visceral. I couldn't see any further than that. But I learned to love you. *(They stare at each other)* I mean, is that really enough for you?

LILITH Would you hate me for saying yes?

DAWN *(Returns to staring out of the window)* I'm afraid I would.

LILITH What do I have?

DAWN I don't know.

LILITH You'd miss the feel, the scent, the taste of me.

DAWN I already do.

DAWN leaves.

LILITH Please don't go. If you need time... I can wait. For you. I knew I'd always need... *(she trails off)* I'm just as desperate for you as I was a thousand years ago. You're... *(she trails off)*

LILITH stares after DAWN. Beat. LILITH screams. She races to the door, but checks herself. She scans the bedroom wildly and begins to destroy things in a fit of rage. Finally, she overturns the bed and sees ADAM huddled in the corner. She moves across to him, grabbing him by the throat, slamming his head into the wall.

LILITH You. You wretched fucking carcass. This is your fault. This is all your fault. You won't let me be happy? Then you can pay the price.

Lights out. ADAM cries out in horror and agony. He gags and wretches. Finally there is silence.

Scene 3

A void. There are four seats facing the audience. Towards the rear of the stage stands a table. An empty syringe, a line of rubber tubing and a straight razor, opened, lie upon it. ADAM and three other men enter. They sit in order. Simultaneously, with both their hands, 2ND MAN covers his eyes, 3RD MAN covers his mouth and 4TH MAN covers his ears. Adam looks at all three of them, then lazily scratches his testicles. The other three lower their hands and stare at him. He stops scratching. All four face the audience.

ADAM She wanted it. The slag.

2ND MAN Wanted.

4TH MAN Slag.

Beat.

ADAM She wanted it. The slag.

2ND MAN She wanted...

3RD MAN ...it. The...

4TH MAN ...SLAG.

Beat. ADAM looks very pleased.

ADAM They came in here...

2ND MAN ...sticking their tits in my face they was.

3RD MAN Fucking dykes...

4TH MAN ...I've got something that'd soon sort 'em out.

Beat. ADAM begins to laugh. The other three men look at him and join in. They cease in unison.

ADAM Slut.

2ND MAN Whore.

3RD MAN Bitch.

4TH MAN Tart.

Beat. The sound of animal noises begins. It gets progressively louder.

ADAM You love it.

2ND MAN You can't get enough of it.

3RD MAN You need it, don't you?

4TH MAN You want it, don't you, you dirty slag.

Beat. LILITH enters. She moves to the table. She ties a tourniquet on her right arm with the rubber tubing. She steadies herself against the table. She scans the stage, seeking something she clearly doesn't find. She picks up the syringe and moves to the front of the stage and stands behind ADAM. She inserts the syringe into the back of his neck and draws blood. ADAM does not react. LILITH returns to the table, slumps down beside it, raises a vein and shoots up. She rests her head against the table.

ALL 4 Asking for it.

Continuing to stare at the audience, the 4 men begin to lob permutations of 'Slut, Whore, Bitch, Tart' at her. Suddenly, LILITH rises and snatches up the straight razor. In their turn, she slits the throats of 4TH, 3RD and 2ND MAN. The animal noises abruptly cease. LILITH licks the blood off the razor's blade. She turns to ADAM.

LILITH Thank me.

ADAM *(Without looking at her)* Thank you.

LILITH slits his throat. DAWN enters. She smiles at LILITH and holds her arms out to her. LILITH drops the razor. Delighted, she runs to DAWN. They embrace. Lights out.

Scene 4

An ornately decorated bed chamber. The time period is difficult to discern, but is clearly at some stage in antiquity. DAWN lies asleep. There is blood on the sheets. LILITH stands in the shadows on the far side of the room watching her sleep.

LILITH You're part of me now, a dripping redness.
 In sickness. In health. In memoriam.

LILITH moves to stand over DAWN. She stares down at her. Tears stream down her face. DAWN stirs. LILITH wipes the tears away and smiles at DAWN instead.

DAWN What? Hey...

LILITH How do you feel?

DAWN *(Smiles up at LILITH)* Like we should do that again.

LILITH Yeah. Me too.

DAWN If you can afford it.

LILITH It will be different now. It will be better.

DAWN Yeah. You said that last night.

LILITH gives DAWN a mirror.

DAWN Oh... fuck me.

LILITH Yes.

DAWN I don't know if I half believed you or half disbelieved you. I mean... it isn't real is it? Not what I've become, because I can see...or rather I can't see...what I am. I mean actually being...some...thing. That is...I'm a fairy story. No, a nightmare. No, a nightmarish/ [fairy story...]

LILITH You're babbling.

DAWN Oh. So I am. Silly babble box.

LILITH No. It's fine. Everything is going to be fine now.

DAWN Is it? I'm so glad.

LILITH gets onto the bed and squats on her haunches beside DAWN. She looks at her intently.

LILITH I love you.

DAWN stares at LILITH querulously.

DAWN Love me? Last night I'm a few silver coins and a couple extra to let you get rough. How do you now love me?

LILITH Please understand. I've been waiting for you.

Beat.

DAWN Right. Where are my clothes?

LILITH If you go outside now you'll burn. You'll die. Stay here.

DAWN scans her decadent surroundings.

DAWN Um. Until tonight?

LILITH Forever.

DAWN wraps herself in the silk sheets.

DAWN Okay. We should go back to your being in love with me?

LILITH I know how it sounds. But, I saw you and I knew my years of waiting were done. I wouldn't be lonely again. We can only make each other happy. You'll see.

DAWN That is so sweet. Can I have some breakfast?

LILITH You can have anything you want.

Beat.

LILITH I can see you changing.

DAWN I am?

LILITH It becomes you. It becomes us. Rejecting what he inflicted upon us.

DAWN What, my father?

Beat.

LILITH Yes.

DAWN He makes me sick.

LILITH I know.

DAWN So. Will I...?

LILITH What?

DAWN I was going to ask if we would end up burning in hell. But I've been told often enough that I would anyway. So I suppose it doesn't really matter.

They smile.

LILITH God is a bastard. No man gets to judge me. To judge us.

They stare at each other.

LILITH You're beautiful.

DAWN So are you. You're like music.

They laugh.

DAWN Did that come out wrong?

LILITH Not at all. It was a wonderful thing to say.

They kiss.

LILITH No charge?

DAWN No. I mean, heart rules head. It has to. Don't you think?

LILITH nods. DAWN runs her fingers through LILITH's hair.

DAWN I think so.

LILITH I need to tell you something.

LILITH reaches out and caresses DAWN's face.

LILITH There will never be an ending. There is no need of one. All that there is, is you and me. Forever...

DAWN And ever.

They kiss.

LILITH (*Drawing the razor*) Let's see about getting you some breakfast.

Exit LILITH and DAWN.