

Westfeldt / Harker / Lucy / Dracula

Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors 01.19.23

37.

DR. WESTFELDT

Ladies and gentlemen, I give
you...the bride and groom to
be...Jonathan Harker and my lovely
daughter Lucy Westfeldt.

SFX: APPLAUSE all around.

HARKER

So kind of you all to join us.

LUCY

Yes, we're thrilled to share this
magical evening with so many
special people...

DR. WESTFELDT

So drink up! And if anyone is
interested in my other daughter,
Mina. All offers will be
considered.

SFX: CONFUSED APPLAUSE. Westfeldt, Lucy and Mina cross away
to talk to other 'party guests' who may just be dress forms.

DR. WESTFELDT

Come, darling. Let's greet our guests
properly.

DRACULA

Jonathan!

HARKER

I don't believe my eyes! Dracula,
old man! You're alive!

DRACULA

I wouldn't go that far.

HARKER

But I thought everyone on that ship
perished!

DRACULA

I managed a narrow escape.

HARKER

Extraordinary! We must let the
papers know.

DRACULA

No, please. It was harrowing enough
to live through once.

HARKER

Yes, of course. But the story! It's tremendous. You'd be famous.

DRACULA

I prefer anonymity. I'm happy living in the shadows.

HARKER

Well, I'm so very glad to see you. And looking rather well, all things considered.

DRACULA

You don't think I need a haircut? Maybe a little off the top?

HARKER

There's a mirror over there if you want to take a look.

DRACULA

Mirrors aren't really my thing.

Lucy and Dr. Westfeldt approach.

LUCY

Jonathan, darling, your friends are absolute charmers.

HARKER

You haven't met them all. We've a late arrival.

DRACULA

Lucy! Your fiancé has told me so much about you.

LUCY

Has he? All good I hope.

HARKER

Naturally.

DRACULA

Count Dracula. You are even more compelling in person.

He kisses her hand too long.

LUCY

I don't believe anyone has ever... 'french kissed' my hand before. How...Continental.

DR. WESTFELDT

Count, where did you say you were from?

DRACULA

The Carpathian mountains.

HARKER

The Count just purchased Withering Manor.

DR. WESTFELDT

Really? Bit of a fixer upper, eh?

DRACULA

It's perfect as is.

DR. WESTFELDT

Even with the mold? And the bugs? And the smell?

DRACULA

Doesn't bother me. I lived in New York for a year after college.

HARKER

It seems this is a highly resilient man. He's the sole survivor of last night's ship wreck!

DR. WESTFELDT

Really? You certainly clean up well.

DRACULA

A little concealer goes a long way.

LUCY

Count, the ship's manifest reported six boxes of soil from abroad. You wouldn't know anything about that would you?

DRACULA

As a matter of fact, they are mine. I plan to grow some of my native herbs from back home. For baking.

LUCY

Fascinating.

DRACULA

Yes, baking appeals to the sensuality of my soul.

As he speaks, Mina is increasingly turned on.

DRACULA

Working the supple dough, watching
it slowly rise and give off heat,
then feeding it to a beautiful
woman as her eyes roll back into
her head while she moans and begs
for more.

THUNK! Mina drops to the bench. Uncomfortable beat.

LUCY

I actually meant the soil was
fascinating.

DRACULA

Oh, that? It's just dirt.

LUCY

I happen to have been an earth
sciences major at Oxford.

DRACULA

Oxford? Impressive.

LUCY

Nah, it wasn't like I came in top
of my class and then couldn't find
work because I was a woman. Oh,
wait.

DR. WESTFELDT

Bright side is - she's about to
start the most important job of all
- wife and mother!

LUCY

(unconvincing)
Yay!

DRACULA

Lucy, might I invite you over to
see my soil samples?

LUCY

That's very generous of you, Count.

DRACULA

Excellent. Come with me now.

LUCY

Now? In the middle of my engagement party? Silly. We'll find time in the next week or two.

DRACULA

Oh. So you don't want to--

LUCY

Go home with you?

She LAUGHS. They all join in, assuming Dracula is making a joke.

DRACULA

I usually don't have to ask twice.

They all continue LAUGHING. Dracula joins in for a moment, trying to play along, then:

DRACULA

I'm serious.

LUCY

Thanks for the laugh, Count.
Welcome to Whitby.

HARKER

Come Lucy, darling. I want to introduce you to my cousins, Mary and Shelly.

END

~~SFX: MUSICAL FLOURISH~~

~~MINA and DR. WESTFELDT approach.~~

~~MINA~~

~~Raise your hand if you're awkward
at parties!~~

~~She does. He does not.~~

~~MINA~~

~~Just me? Soooo how are you getting
on? Has Renfield offered you a
canapé?~~

~~DRACULA~~

~~Renfield?~~

~~DR. WESTFELDT~~

~~One of my patients. And my butler.
He's working the party to develop
his social skills.~~