

LUCY

Drat! You're right. It's clearly more acute than that. It seems to have gone directly to her blood.

SFX: RUMBLE.

Dr. Westfeldt enters.

DR. WESTFELDT

Just finished testing her blood. The arsenic doesn't seem to have helped. Maybe we should get her some of that new "cocaine" everyone's so hyped up about.

LUCY

You think that's a good idea?

DR. WESTFELDT

Van Helsing will surely have insights. He's the most accomplished doctor in all of Germany. There's nothing he hasn't seen.

SFX: DOORBELL CHIMES

DR. WESTFELDT

Ah, speak of the devil. That'll be them now!

LUCY

Thank goodness. You hear that Mina? You're on your way to recovery, now that Dr. Van Helsing is here. And he came all the way from the Continent! Isn't that something?

DOCTOR VAN HELSING, a woman in her 40's with handsome face and sturdy comportment (a la Trunchbull), enters. It's the same performer who plays Mina.

START

Westfeldt
(Renfield)

VAN HELSING
Excuse me, Doctor Westfeldt?

Lucy

DR. WESTFELDT
Hello there! So nice to meet you. You must be...Mrs. Van Helsing?

Van Helsing
Harker

VAN HELSING
Doctor Van Helsing.

DR. WESTFELDT

Yes, Doctor Van Helsing's wife. Is your husband lifting the heavy bags from the carriage?

VAN HELSING

I have no husband.

Beat. He starts LAUGHING again.

LUCY

Father!

DR. WESTFELDT

(sarcastic)

Ah, that famous German sense of humor! I'll go help him with the bags.

He leaves.

LUCY

Apologies, doctor. My father is under a great deal of stress with my sister's illness. Could you please take a look at her right now? Time is of the essence.

Van Helsing approaches the bed, looking under the covers.

VAN HELSING

She looks depleted. Any other symptoms?

LUCY

(taking stock)

She complains of terrible dreams, some... sexier than others, and a weakness, a bloodlessness, that confounds her doctors.

VAN HELSING

How long have these bite marks been visible?

HARKER

Bite marks?

VAN HELSING

Right where her carotid artery and jugular intersect.

Renfield pops his head in from proscenium. (We only see his head.)

RENFIELD

Did someone say insects?

HARKER, LUCY

No!

Renfield pops his head out. (Actor removes wig.)

LUCY

Where's my father.

Actor TWO immediately re-enters as...

DR. WESTFELDT

Sorry about that. Carriage seems to have gone.

VAN HELSING

Peculiar butler you have.

HARKER

He's also a patient.

DR. WESTFELDT

We're wasting precious time. Where is Dr. Van Helsing?

VAN HELSING

I am here.

DR. WESTFELDT

No, you're not! I sent for Doctor Jean (Jhhhon) Van Helsing. As in, Jean (Jhhhon) Valjean (Val-Jhhhon.)

VAN HELSING

No, you sent for Doctor Jean (Gene) Van Helsing. As in...Jean (Gene) Val-Gene.

DR. WESTFELDT

So I sent for...a lady doctor?

VAN HELSING

Correct.

Dr. Westfeldt starts laughing.

VAN HELSING (CONT'D)

I wouldn't be laughing if I were you. Your daughter is in grave danger. This is no ordinary insect bite.

DR. WESTFELDT

What do you mean?

VAN HELSING

It appears she may have been
bitten...by something more
sinister.

SFX: MUSICAL STING. WOLVES HOWL.

VAN HELSING

(interrogating)

Have any of you been out of the
country?

HARKER

I was in Eastern Europe.

VAN HELSING

Did you bring back any fruits or
vegetables?

HARKER

(pulls out the bag of garlic)
Just this garlic from the farmers
market in Bucharest. But she wasn't
exposed to it.

VAN HELSING

Anything else? Maybe something from
Duty Free?

HARKER

No.

VAN HELSING

(dead serious)

Good. The savings are minimal. Have
you noticed anything or anyone
unusual in the area lately?

HARKER

Just the regular, workaday English
life. Soggy sandwiches, lots of
rain, ghost ship washed up on
shore. Nothing out of the ordinary.

VAN HELSING

Hold on. What was that?

HARKER

Nothing out of the ordinary.

VAN HELSING
No, go back a word or two.

HARKER
Shore. On. Up. Washed?

VAN HELSING
Continue--

HARKER
Ship. Ghost?

VAN HELSING
A ghost ship! The very thing. Was
there a manifest?

LUCY
Yes! I found it on the beach. There
was no cargo at all, apart from
some bird seed, canned tuna, and
six coffins of Transylvanian earth.
Nothing out of the ordinary.

VAN HELSING
Hold on. What was that?

LUCY
Nothing out of the ordinary.

VAN HELSING
No, go back a word or two.

LUCY
Earth. Transylvanian. Of?

VAN HELSING
Continue--

LUCY
Coffins. Six?

VAN HELSING
Six coffins! That could be the key.

DR. WESTFELDT
They key to what? The make up
counter at Selfridge's? This female
medicine is not for me, I'm afraid.
I'm going out to pick up some
leeches and tape worms to drain her
evil humours. Like a real doctor.
I'll be back before nightfall.

He exits.

END