

SCENE FIVE

START

DR. WESTFELDT

15 October, 1897. To Doctor Jean (pronounced Jhhhon) Van Helsing, University of Schmutz, Brandenburg Campus, Department of Rare Infectious Diseases. Dear Doctor Van Helsing. I write to you now in dire need of your expertise. Three days ago, my youngest daughter Mina was at her sister's engagement party, with a ruddy complexion and full of life. The following morning, we found her bedridden and pale, her veins swollen with an odd colour, and unable to look at direct sunlight without wincing in pain. At first I assumed it was a female issue, but it's even more frightening than that. Samples of her blood have revealed her to be severely anemic, yet I cannot pinpoint the source of her distress. I beg of you to come see us straight away. Speaking man to man, I fear for her life.

END

MUSIC IN.

MINA'S SICKBED faces upstage, so we only see the back of the headboard. Her sister ministers to her, while Jonathan keeps his distance, a handkerchief close to his mouth.

LUCY

Oh, my dear sweet Mina. How it pains me to see her like this. Look at her face, Jonathan. She looks haggard and sickly.

He comes around to look, from a distance.

HARKER

Looks the same to me.

LUCY

Because you're standing on the other side of the room. Come closer, you can see her veins bulging, as if her blood is boiling.

HARKER

Oh yes, I can see now! Very troubling. Do you need anything from downstairs? Some towels?

(MORE)

SCENE FOUR

IN THE DRAWING ROOM

MUSIC

Dr. Westfeldt
Mondogve 1

Lucy and Mina's uptight and sexist father, DR. WALLACE WESTFELDT, presides. Mina stands by demurely with a fan.

DR. WESTFELDT

START

(tapping on a glass)

Ladies and gentlemen, friends and colleagues. For those of you I have yet to meet, I am Dr. Wallace Westfeldt, happy father of the bride. I'm so pleased to have you all here tonight to celebrate Lucy and Jonathan. I'm only sorry my beloved wife is not with us to share in this blessing. But I know she is smiling down from the heavens. So if you happen to feel a bit of damp in the air, think of it not as the residue of an English Autumn, but rather as her tears of joy.

~~MINA~~

~~(choked up)~~

~~And may I also take this opportunity to say--~~

DR. WESTFELDT

~~Not now, darling.~~

~~(back to the crowd)~~

While we wait for the happy couple, be sure to sample some of the delicacies cooked up by my staff, who are also my patients! That's right, everyone working here is clinically... what's the term? Batshit crazy! But remember, they are learning to blend into civilized society. So please treat them as poorly as you would anyone in the service industry! Cheers!

END

SFX: More APPLAUSE and approvals. MUSIC resumes.

MINA

Well done, daddy.