

# PARTY HARDLY

## EPISODE 111

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\*BASED ON THE ANITA BLAKE SERIES  
BY LAURELL K. HAMILTON

THE NECROMANCER

"PARTY HARDLY"

TEASER

INT. ANITA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anita stands in front of her mirror in her room, looking at herself. She is dressed in her weapons: wrist sheaths and her pistol, a leg sheath and a thigh holster holding another gun. She smiles and puts on her outfit. It hides everything and still pulls off showing her scars. The top is backless and the shoulders open, the short skirt swings out, the thigh high boots fit the holster snug. She clasps a cross pendant around her neck. She smiles and exits.

ANITA

Now that's careful shopping.

INT. ANITA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Anita steps into her living room and sees Douglas has left a note. She reads it: *KNOCK 'EM DEAD...LITERALLY* She smiles and grabs her small purse. She tucks a small sized pistol inside.

ANITA

Just what I plan to do.

She leaves her apartment.

EXT. GUILTY PLEASURES - NIGHT

Anita pulls up in front of the club. PHILLIP stands on the corner. He is dressed even more extreme in a fishnet top and leather pants.

ANITA

Oh my God. He's passed the  
invisible line from flirt to  
hustler.

He opens the door and gets in.

ANITA (CONT'D)

That's a pretty aggressive little  
outfit there, Phillip.

He gets in. He puts his feet on the dash and looks out the window. He looks back at her. He is nervous and excited.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANITA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I tried to picture him at 12 and  
see the horrors, but I couldn't.  
He is what he is. I'm not a  
psychiatrist that can afford to  
feel sorry for the poor  
unfortunates. Pity is an emotion  
that can get you killed. The only  
thing more dangerous is blind  
hate...And love.

PHILLIP  
Take Seventy West.

She drives off.

BLACK OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. ANITA'S CAR - NIGHT

Anita is driving on the highway and steals glances at Phillip. He is staring intently at her, never looking away.

ANITA

What?

He slides over and puts his arm around her, breathing heavy. She moves out of the way.

ANITA (CONT'D)

What do you think you're doing?

PHILLIP

(whispering)

Is this aggressive enough for you?

Anita laughs. Phillip pulls back and sulks by the passenger door. Anita realizes she hurt his feelings.

ANITA

I'm sorry, Phillip. It's just I didn't expect fishnet and leather this evening.

He leans over again, very close to her.

PHILLIP

What do you like then?

Anita glances at him.

ANITA

Get on your own side of the car.

Phillip whispers in her ear.

PHILLIP

What turns you on?

She takes a deep breath, fed up with his behavior.

ANITA

So, how old were you when Valentine took you the first time?

Phillip goes back to his side and punches the arm rest.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHILLIP

Damn you.

ANITA

I'll make you a deal. You don't  
have to answer my question if I  
don't answer yours.

Phillip shakes.

PHILLIP

When did you see Valentine? Is he  
going to be here tonight? They  
said he wasn't coming.

ANITA

Hey, I didn't talk to Valentine  
about you, I swear. I.

(beat)

I paid money to find out about  
your background. It came up.

PHILLIP

Why did you do that?

ANITA

I needed to know if I could trust  
you.

PHILLIP

And can you?

ANITA

I don't know yet.

Phillip shakes and stretches his hands.

PHILLIP

You can, Anita. I won't betray  
you. I won't.

She nods and drives.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Get off at the next exit and turn  
down Strumbell Street.

She does as she is told.

(CONTINUED)

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Turn right here. Keep going until  
you reach the big house at the  
end and then go down the  
driveway.

Anita drives.

EXT. FREAK PARTY - NIGHT

They drive down the street and park next to a large house. Two  
other cars are parked by the house.

INT. ANITA'S CAR - NIGHT

Anita shuts off the car.

PHILLIP

Never leave the main room without  
me. If you do, I can't help you.

ANITA

Help me how?

PHILLIP

To get you in here, the story is  
I've been cultivating you. That's  
why I haven't been here in a  
while.

ANITA

Cultivating me?

PHILLIP

You were attacked and that's why  
you have the scars. I've been  
preparing you for the party.

ANITA

You told them I was your lover.

PHILLIP

I had to. It's the only way this  
will work.

Anita sighs.

ANITA

Have you ever given them someone  
before?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHILLIP

(snorts)

You don't think much of me, do  
you?

ANITA

We have to play this charade all  
night don't we?

He smiles.

ANITA

Bastard.

PHILLIP

Follow my lead. If I do anything  
that makes you uncomfortable,  
we'll discuss it.

ANITA

Fine.

They get out of the car.

PHILLIP

Oh, you might want to leave your  
cross in the car.

She grimaces and takes it off, putting it in the glove box.

EXT. FREAK PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

They get out of the car and go to the entrance. He holds his  
hand out to her and she reluctantly takes it. A WOMAN, MADGE,  
leans against the porch wall. She is thin and older. She wears  
only a purple pushup bra and purple garter with see thru black  
hose. Her 5" heels make her quite tall. She tries to hide her  
age with cake makeup.

ANITA

(whispering)

I'm overdressed.

Phillip smiles at the comment and nods to the woman. She smiles  
with hunger and greed at Phillip. He moves his hand to Anita's  
waist and fingers her scars on her arm. Anita's smile is grim.  
Phillip ushers her toward the entrance.

ANITA

Come in to my parlor said the  
spider to the fly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He touches her back and she jumps. The woman laughs.

INT. FREAK HOUSE - NIGHT

The house appears normal, furnishings and accents wise. Anita shoves Phillips hand off of her scars. He wraps his arm around her waist. There is A MAN, HARVEY, in the center of the room, dressed in leather bands criss crossed on his chest and leather pants. Madge walks up behind Phillip and rakes her nails against his arm leaving red welts. Phillip shivers. A BLACK WOMAN, ROCHELLE, stands from the couch. She wears a black bra and crimson mesh skirt. She has bites on her arm and neck. She crosses to Anita and walks around her.

ROCHELLE

The scar on your back; what is it? It isn't a vampire bite.

ANITA

A lare piece of wood was slammed into my back by a human servant.

She nods.

ROCHELLE

My name's Rochelle.

ANITA

Anita.

Madge walks up to her.

MADGE

I'm Madge. This is my husband, Harvey. Welcome to our home. Phillip has told me so much about you.

Harvey walks up to her too close for comfort. She backs away. Phillip glares at her. She smiles. Rochelle is swishing her skirt, Madge is licking her lips seductively. Harvey fingers his leather kilt. Anita smiles innocent. Harvey reaches out and takes her arm. He lightly touches her scars. She keeps the smile, but shivers. Harvey leers at her. He leans into her. She puts her hand on his chest to keep him away. He reaches to her waist.

HARVEY

I've been dying to meet you.

Phillip reaches out to her and pulls her to him. Anita hugs him.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

PHILLIP

Remember what I said.

MADGE

Sure, sure. No sharing, no  
halfsies.

She steps closer to him, playing up to him.

MADGE (CONT'D)

For now, but when the big guys  
get here, you'll share. They'll  
make you.

PHILLIP

I brought her here, I'll take her  
home.

MADGE

You're going to fight them?  
Phillip, sweetie, She must some  
piece of tail, but no bedwarmer  
is worth taking on the big guys.

Anita is angry. She pulls away and puts both hands against  
Madge's stomach.

ANITA

I am not a piece of anything, nor  
anyone's bedwarmer.

PHILLIP

Anita.

MADGE

(smiling)

Phillip, she has got a temper.  
Where did you find her?

Anita gets in her face.

ANITA

You know when you smile, you have  
two deep wrinkles by your mouth.  
You are over forty, right?

MADGE

You little bitch.

ANITA

Do not ever call me a piece of  
tail, again, Madge.

(CONTINUED)

Rochelle laughs inward. Harvey just stands straight. A DOOR OPENS DOWN THE HALL. A WOMAN, CRYSTAL, walks into the room. She is fifty and very blond. She is plump and wears a lot of jewellery. She wears a black negligee. She screams and runs at Phillip. She jumps in his arms. She kisses him everywhere.

HARVEY  
That's Crystal.

She is pulling up his shirt, kissing him wherever she can get to. Phillip tries to hold her off. Anita pats her cheek. she looks at Anita

ANITA  
Crystal, I don't mean to be rude,  
but you're pawing my date.

CRYSTAL  
(open mouthed)  
Date? No one has dates at these  
parties.

ANITA  
Well, I'm new to parties. I don't  
know the rules yet. Where I'm  
from one woman doesn't just grope  
another woman's date. At least  
wait until my back is turned.

Crystal's lower lip trembles and she starts to cry. Madge takes her and leads her away. She is sobbing.

ROCHELLE  
That was cruel.

Rochelle steps away to the liquor cabinet. Harvey backs up. Anita faces Phillip.

ANITA  
Jeez, you would've thought I  
kicked a puppy.

Phillip sits down on the couch and lets out a sigh. He places his hands on his knees.

PHILLIP  
I don't think I can do this.

Anita touches his arm. He is shaking.

ANITA  
We can go.

(CONTINUED)

PHILLIP  
What do you mean?

ANITA  
I mean we can go.

PHILLIP  
You want to not get your  
information because I'm having  
personal problems?

ANITA  
Let's just say I like you better  
as the overconfident flirt. You  
keep acting like a real person,  
you're going to get me all  
confused.

PHILLIP  
I can handle it. If I have a  
choice, I can handle it.

ANITA  
Why didn't you have a choice  
before?

He looks away.

PHILLIP  
I just felt I had to bring you if  
you wanted to come.

ANITA  
No, dammit, that wasn't what you  
meant at all.

She touches his face, making him look at her.

ANITA  
Someone sent you to me the other  
day, didn't they? It wasn't just  
about Jean-Claude.

Phillip's eyes widen, scard.

ANITA  
What are you afraid of? Who's  
giving the orders?

PHILLIP  
Anita, please. I can't. I'm just  
to keep you safe. That's all.

(CONTINUED)

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She pats his arm. Madge comes down the hall.

MADGE  
It's so great you came. Welcome.  
I'm Madge.

She escorts two people into the room, DARLENE AND EDWARD.  
Anita's face falls. Edward winks at her.

ANITA  
Oh my God.

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. DOUG'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Doug sits on her couch on the phone.

DOUG

So what should do? Should I wait?... Ronnie, come on...I need advice here...I guess I'll go with, do what I think is best...I just wish I knew what was going on...She doesn't want me to know.

INT. RONNIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ronnie is in bed.

RONNIE

What do you mean, doesn't want you to know?

DOUG (V.O.)

She's keeping something from me. For my own good or so she says.

RONNIE

Look I don't know a lot, but I do know that if you could tell you she would.

INT. DOUG'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

DOUG

I know we had this talk earlier. I just want to do the right thing and not scare her off.

RONNIE (V.O.)

What did she say?

DOUG

She said that I didn't have to wait and that she didn't want me to.

RONNIE

Go over there. Wait for her. I can't tell you it's the right thing, but that's what I would want you to do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DOUG  
Thanks, Ronnie.

RONNIE  
No problem. Glad I could help.

Doug hangs up and lets out a big sigh.

INT. FREAK HOUSE - NIGHT

Anita, Phillip, Darlene, and Edward sit on the furniture. Madge is making drinks.

PHILLIP  
What's wrong?

ANITA  
What's wrong? Someone is giving  
you orders, probably a vampire,  
and you're not telling me who it  
is. That's the problem.

Madge walks to Edward and hands him a drink. She kisses him, touching his scars. He plays along. Anita grimaces. Darlene crosses to Phillip and sits on his lap and giggles.

PHILLIP  
Anita, this Darlene.

Edward stands by the loveseat. Madge is with Harvey.

DARLENE  
This is Teddy? Isn't he  
scrumptious.

Anita chokes back a laugh. Edward smiles, kneels down and kisses Darlene's neck. She giggles on Phillip's lap. She leans over and takes Phillip's arm. She lightly kisses the scar on his inside elbow. He shudders. She continues kissing the scars. She slowly untucks his shirt. He puts his hand to stop her.

DARLENE (CONT'D)  
Dont' you want me to?

PHILLIP  
It's Anita. It's her first time.  
I don't think I can desert her.

DARLENE  
With scars like that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHILLIP

They're from a real attack. I convinced her to come. She's new and doesn't know the rules yet.

DARLENE

Phillip, please. I've missed you.

PHILLIP

You know what they'd do to her.

DARLENE

Leave her with Teddy. He'll take care of her. He knows the rules.

ANITA

You've been to other parties?

EDWARD

Yes.

They hold each other's gaze.

PHILLIP

No. No I can't.

He holds his hand out to Anita. She takes it. He stands and pulls her with him. They leave into the restroom.

INT. FREAK PARTY RESTROOM - NIGHT

Phillip locks the door and leans against it, sweating and nervous. Anita sits on the bathtub edge. Phillip takes a deep breath and goes to the sink, splashing cold water on his face. He breathes a few more times. He splashes more water and stands. Anita gets him a towel. He just stares straight. She mops the water from his face. He looks at her.

PHILLIP

I did it.

ANITA

Yes, you did.

PHILLIP

I almost let her.

ANITA

But you didn't. That's what's important.

He takes a few moments.

(CONTINUED)

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PHILLIP

We better get back to the party.

He is still shaking.

ANITA

Do you want to go?

PHILLIP

That's the second time you've offered. Why would you do that?

ANITA

Because...You're a junkie trying to kick the habit, sort of, and I don't want to screw that up for you.

PHILLIP

That's a very decent thing to offer.

ANITA

Do you want to leave?

PHILLIP

Yes, but we can't.

ANITA

Why can't we?

Phillip shakes his head. They are close together.

PHILLIP

I can't, Anita. I can't.

ANITA

Why? Who is behind this, Phillip? Tell me.

He stares at her. He slips his arms around her and leans forward. She stops him.

ANITA

Stop it.

He falls back a little, but his gaze is seductive. He takes off his shirt.

ANITA

Whoa. Stop right there. What is with this change of mood?

(CONTINUED)



PHILLIP  
I like you isn't that enough?

ANITA  
No. It's not.

He drops his shirt. She watches and looks at him.

PHILLIP  
Someone is watching us.

She looks out the window and sees Harvey staring in.

ANITA  
Did he hear us?

Phillip shakes his head. He reaches for her.

PHILLIP  
Time to play along. Do want  
Harvey to stop believing that?

ANITA  
This is blackmail.

Phillip just smiles and leans forward. He kisses her. She is uncomfortable, but tries to be convincing. He kisses her neck. Her eyes are closed. Phillip kisses along her neck and shoulder and suddenly bites her. She pushes him away.

ANITA  
Ow. You bit me.

Phillip's mouth has blook on it. She feels her neck.

ANITA  
Damn you.

PHILLIP  
Harvey will believe you now.  
You're marked. No one will  
question why you're here now. I  
won't have to touch you again.

ANITA  
Do you know how many germs are in  
the human mouth?

PHILLIP  
No. We need to go out so you can  
hunt for clues. Ready?

(CONTINUED)

He goes to the door and opens it. She shakes her head, lightly touching her bite, and walks out.

INT. FREAK HOUSE - NIGHT

Madge is in the hallway. She sees the bite and goes to touch it. Anita grabs her wrist midway.

MADGE

Touchy touchy. Don't tell me  
you've been with Phillip a month  
and he hasn't tasted you yet.  
It's his trademark. Didn't you  
know that.

ANITA

Uh, no.

They reach the living room. A YOUNG MAN is thrown to the floor in front of Anita. He looks up, scared, about to say something. Crystal jumps on top of him and kisses him with excitement. He quickly succumbs to Crystal. Anita shakes her head and walks fast out of the room. She heads to the door. Phillip stops her by putting his hand on the door.

PHILLIP

I'm sorry, Anita. It's better  
this way. You're safe from  
humans, now.

Anita looks at him.

ANITA

You don't get it. I just need  
air. I'm not leaving.

PHILLIP

I'll go out with you.

ANITA

That would defeat the purpose.  
Since you're one of the things I  
want to get away from.

He hides his hurt feelings and lets go of the door. She opens it.

PHILLIP

They'll be here soon. I can't  
help you if I'm not with you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANITA

Let's be honest. I'm a whole lot better at protecting myself than you are. The first vampire that crooks its finger will have you for lunch.

Phillip crumbles and starts to cry.

ANITA

Damn it, Phillip. Pull yourself together.

She walks into the night. CRICKETS AND CICADES SOUND.

INT. CHURCH FOR ETERNAL LIFE - NIGHT

CHURCH MEMBERS sit in the main hall. MALCOLM stands at the front.

MALCOLM

Who do these heathens think they are? They deliberately try to challenge all that is sanctified by us. These so called, Freak Parties, give us a bad name. They need to be stopped. I have gotten word that tonight is one of these parties. I have called you all here to help me stop these ruffians from spreading their disease and filth in this city. Let's let them know we don't want their kind here. Let's break up this abomination.

The members cheer and get up to leave.

EXT. FREAK PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

Anita walks behind the house. She stops and takes a deep breath.

ANITA

What the hell was I thinking.

She leans against the house. She closes her eyes. After a moment, her eyes fly open. She stands straight. The wind starts to blow. She walks toward the back area of the yard. She looks about, alert. A GOAT BLEATS SHRILLY. Anita goes toward the sound. THE BLEAT ENDS IN A GURGLE. She walks through the two trees on the side of the house.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Branches scrape her arm, she continues toward the goat. She sees tall hedges line the back yard. She approaches a rusted metal gate in the center of them. A MAN, ZACHARY, cries from the tall hedges in the back yard. THERESA yells.

THERESA  
Where is it? You promised you  
could raise it with a larger  
sacrifice.

ZACHARY  
It was too old.

THERESA  
I need that zombie.

EXT. GRAVE - NIGHT

She opens the gate. IT SQUEAKS. THE BLACK VAMPIRE stands guard. He is the same from Nikolaos' lair. He smiles at her.

VAMPIRE  
Come to watch, Animator?

He steps aside. Zachary is on the grave, lying down. He is covered in blood. The dead goat is off to the side. Theresa stands over him, hands on hips. She turns to see Anita approach. She smiles and faces back to Zachary.

THERESA  
Well, Zachary, where is our  
zombie?

Zachary is spent.

ZACHARY  
I can't. It's too old. There's  
nothing left.

THERESA  
It's only a hundred years old.  
Are you that weak?

Zachary glances at Anita and looks back down to the ground

THERESA (CONT'D)  
What good is a animator that  
can't raise the dead?

She bends down and takes Zachary by the shoulders. He is frightened. Three other vamps join in and surround him.

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Theresa takes his shirt and rips in down the back with her nails. It falls to the side. He has a voodoo charm around his bicep. It's a gris-gris. The other vamps grow hungry.

THERESA (CONT'D)

Maybe you're just fresh meat.

The vamps move silently toward him.

ANITA

Wait.

They do not listen and keep advancing.

ANITA

Doesn't he call Nikolaos master?

They hesitate.

THERESA

This is none of your business.

ANITA

I'm making it my business.

THERESA

Do you wish to join him?

The other vamps start to circle her as well.

ANITA

I just want to speak to him, one professional to another.

THERESA

Why?

Anita stands close enough to touch Theresa.

ANITA

(whispers)

Nikolaos wants me alive. How would it look if I was killed here tonight? You want to be locked in a cross sealed coffin?

She hisses at her.

THERESA

Damn you, mortal. Talk to him, then. But he will raise this zombie tonight or die. So says Nikolaos.

(CONTINUED)

ANITA  
If he raises it, he goes free,  
unharmd?

THERESA  
Yes, but cannot do it; he isn't  
stronge enough.

ANITA  
Which was what Nikolaos was  
counting on.

Theresa smiles wide.

THERESA  
Yes.

She strides through the vampire line. They part the way. Anita  
crosses to Zachary. She kneels down by him.

ANITA  
Are you hurt?

ZACHARY  
(shaking his head)  
I appreciate the gesture, but  
they will try to kill me anyway.  
There isn't anything you can do  
to stop them.

ANITA  
We can raise the zombie if you  
trust me.

ZACHARY  
(frowns)  
Why?

ANITA  
Because I can't let them have you  
if I can stop it.

ZACHARY  
I don't understand you, Anita.  
Not at all.

ANITA  
That makes two of us. Can you  
stand?

ZACHARY  
(nods)  
What are you planning?

(CONTINUED)

ANITA  
We're going to share talent.

His eyes widen.

ZACHARY  
Shit, you can act as a focus?

ANITA  
I've only done it twice. but it's  
the only shot we have.

THERESA  
Enough of this. Either leave now,  
or join us for the feast.

ANITA  
Are you having rare who roast  
beast?

THERESA  
What are you talking about?

ANITA  
Grinch who stole christmas?  
Feast, feast, feast? Who roast  
beast?

THERESA  
You are crazy.

ANITA  
So I'm told.

THERESA  
Do you want to die?

Anita stands and faces her.

ANITA  
I may die tonight, Theresa, but  
it sure as hell won't be by you.

Theresa stares at her and turns away. Anita gives herself a  
small smile.

THERESA  
Raise the zombie, or by all the  
blood ever spilled, I'll kill you  
both.

Anita looks at Zachary.

(CONTINUED)

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ANITA  
Stand up, Zachary. We've got work  
to do.

He stands, a little unsteady.

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT TWO



ACT THREE

EXT. GRAVE - NIGHT

Anita and Zachary stand over the grave. The six vamps and Theresa watch the scene.

ZACHARY  
I've never worked with a focus.  
You'll have to show me what to  
do.

ANITA  
No problem.

She sees the goat inside the circle.

ANITA  
We need to bring everything we  
need inside the circle.

He goes to help her. He takes off what's left of his shirt.

ZACHARY  
We can't kill the goat twice.  
What do we use?

ANITA  
Us.

ZACHARY  
What?

ANITA  
We need fresh blood. As much as  
you give.

ZACHARY  
Won't that drain you too much?

ANITA  
No, we just need to outline the  
circle. We don't need to redraw  
it.

ZACHARY  
I don't get it.

ANITA  
I'll show you.

Anita takes the knife and cuts her right forearm. She hands the knife to Zachary.

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CONTINUED:

ANITA

You do the right, also, so we can  
mirror each other.

He does so. He gasps at the sting.

ANITA

Kneel with me.

They kneel, facing each other.

ANITA

Press your arm to mine.

He hesitates, but does so. Their blood drips. They trace the blood circle. She dips her fingers in the goat blood and traces a line down Zachary's cheeks and down both arms. She shudders when she crosses over the charm. He does the same for her. They clasp hands.

ANITA

Hear us, Estelle Hewitt. We call  
you from the grave. By blood,  
magic, and steel. Arise and come  
to us.

Zachary squeezes her hand, squinting his eyes. Anita's narrow is suspicion. They continue to chant.

ANITA

Come to us. Come to us.

ZACHARY

Come to us.

ESTELLE pulls herself from the grave. She is badly decomposed. She get to her waist and gets stuck. Anita stares at the charm and looks back at Zachary. She is shocked.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Anita, Manny, and Jamison are all dressed in black. They stand in a viewing line for a funeral.

ANITA

Did you guys know him?

MANNY

Nah, I didn't. Just good practice  
to come and pay respects.

JAMISON

Yeah, me too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANITA

Poor bastard. It's never good to  
know another of us has fallen.

They stare inside the casket to see Zachary lying inside. They  
walk on past.

EXT. GRAVE - NIGHT

Anita is still shocked at Zachary before her. Estelle sits  
beside her grave, gathering her thoughts. She is in a white  
dress, tattered. She is almost skeletal, but not fully. Her hair  
is in a bun, thinning. Anita walks as far toward her as she can  
without exiting the circle. She squeezes the cut on her arm and  
gets blood on her fingers. She goes to Zachary. She reaches out  
to touch his gris-gris. He grabs her hand before she touches it.

ZACHARY

Not you.

ANITA

Then who?

ZACHARY

People who won't be missed.

The zombie starts crawling toward them.

ANITA

I should've let them kill you.

He squeezes her hand and smiles with a touch of malice.

ZACHARY

Can you kill the dead?

ANITA

I do it all the time.

She jerks her hand free.

ANITA

Feed it yourself. You son of a  
bitch.

Zachary kneels down. Estelle doesn't go to him.

ZACHARY

She doesn't want me. I guess my  
blood isn't fresh enough.

ANITA

Damn you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Estelle starts moaning and clawing at Anita. She offers her bloody arm. The zombie latches on and suckles the wound. Anita stares at Zachary. He does the same, smiling.

ANITA

How many people have you killed  
to keep yourself alive?

ZACHARY

You don't want to know.

ANITA

How many.

ZACHARY

Enough.

Anita lifts her arm. Estelle rises with her for a second and then drops back down. Blood is on her mouth. Anita looks away.

ZACHARY (CONT'D)

The circle is open. The zombie is  
yours.

Anita looks around and sees the vampires in the background. She walks out of the circle. Theresa blocks her way.

THERESA

Why did you let it suck on you  
like that? Zombies don't do that.

ANITA

The ritual had already gone  
wrong. I just offered myself as a  
sacrifice. It's not like you can  
start over.

THERESA

Yourself as a sacrifice?

ANITA

(shrugging)

It was the best I could do. Now,  
get out of my way.

She smiles and lets her go. The vamps close in on the zombie. Estelle screams. The wind picks up. JEAN-CLAUDE'S LAUGHTER IS HEARD ON THE WIND. Anita glances back. Estelle is getting tortured. She faces the house. The wind picks up stronger and more laughter on the wind. Anita runs toward the house. She slips on the grass and falls. She sits there.

(CONTINUED)

ANITA  
What next?

NIKOLAOS (V.O.)  
Greeting, Animator. You seem to  
be having a full night.

Anita looks into the dark and sees NIKOLAOS standing in the  
shadows. WILLIE MCCOY is with her.

NIKOLAOS (CONT'D)  
You seem agitated. Whatever is  
the matter?

ANITA  
Zachary raised the zombie. You  
can't use that as an excuse to  
kill him.

Anita starts to laugh and can't stop.

WILLIE  
Anita, are you all right?

ANITA  
(nodding)  
I'm fine.

NIKOLAOS  
I do not see the humor. You  
helped raise the zombie.

ANITA  
Yes.

They moved closer to her. Willie's footsteps are heard, not  
Nikolaos'. Anita studies the young girl approaching her.

NIKOLAOS  
You are staring at me as if  
you've seen a ghost.

Nikoloas kneels in front of her.

NIKOLAOS (CONT'D)  
Have you seen a ghost? Or maybe  
something just as frightening to  
You? Or is it something else  
entirely?

Anita is afraid. She shudders.

(CONTINUED)

ANITA  
I raised that zombie. I didn't  
want it harmed.

NIKOLAOS  
(giggles)  
It is only a zombie, animator.  
it's not like they have real  
minds.

ANITA  
It was a human being. I don't  
want it tortured.

NIKOLAOS  
Isn't that too bad?

ANITA  
Please.

NIKOLAOS  
Why is it so important to you?

ANITA  
It just is.

NIKOLAOS  
How important.

ANITA  
I don't understand.

NIKOLAOS  
What would you be willing to  
endure for your zombie?

Anita stands up looking down at her.

ANITA  
What do you want?

WILLIE  
Don't do it, Anita.

NIKOLAOS  
(calm)  
Quiet, Willie.

Willie quiets. Anita looks from one vamp to the other.

NIKOLAOS (CONT'D)  
I had Willie punished for failing  
to hire you the first time.

(CONTINUED)

ANITA  
Punished.

NIKOLAOS  
Surely Phillip told you of my  
methods.

ANITA  
A cross wrapped coffin.

Niko smiles and giggles.

NIKOLAOS  
He thought I was going to leave  
him there for months, even years.

Willie pales.

ANITA  
Vampires can't starve to death. I  
get the principle.

NIKOLAOS  
You smell of fresh blood. Give me  
a taste, I let your zombie go.

ANITA  
By taste, do you mean bite?

She laughs.

NIKOLAOS  
Of course I mean bite.

She moves fast and is right beside Anita. Anita flinches in  
fear. This makes Niko laugh again.

NIKOLAOS (CONT'D)  
It seems Phillip has beaten me to  
it.

Anita feels the bite.

ANITA  
No tasting.

NIKOLAOS  
Then let me enter your mind  
again. That's a form of tasting.

Anita shakes her head several times, frightened. ESTELLE SCREAMS  
IN THE BACKGROUND. It is more human like. Anita cringes.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLAOS (CONT'D)  
Let me taste the blood on your  
neck. I won't use teeth. You  
stand and not move, I'll just  
taste and not bite you.

ANITA  
It's not bleeding anymore. It's  
clotted.

NIKOLAOS  
(smiling)  
I'll lick it clean.

Anita swallows. ANOTHER SCREAM.

WILLIE  
Anita.

NIKOLAOS  
(forceful)  
Silence, or risk my anger.

Willie cowers.

ANITA  
It's all right, Willie. Don't get  
hurt on my account.

Willie looks at her, wanting to help. Anita smiles small.

ANITA  
What good is it going to do you  
if you can't feed off of me?

NIKOLAOS  
None. But fear is a kind of  
substance.

She touches Anita's wrist. She flinches.

NIKOLAOS (CONT'D)  
Call it shadow feeding. Blood and  
fear are always precious, no  
matter it's obtained.

She steps into Anita and breathes against her skin.

ANITA  
Wait. I want the zombie freed  
first.

Nikolaos stares at her.

(CONTINUED)



NIKOLAOS

Very well.

There is a breeze. Nikolaos closes her eyes a second. She opens them.

NIKOLAOS (CONT'D)

Theresa will chase them off and have the other animator put her to rest.

ANITA

You did all that, just then?

NIKOLAOS

Theresa is mine to command, didn't you know that?

ANITA

Yeah, I guess I did...How do I know you're not just telling me that?

NIKOLAOS

You'll just have to trust me.

She leans forward and breathes against Anita's neck. Anita tries not to flinch. Her lips touch her neck. Anita stiffens.

NIKOLAOS (CONT'D)

(whispering)

I'll try to be gentle...You're shaking. Are you cold?

ANITA

Cut the crap and just do it.

NIKOLAOS

Don't you want me to touch you?

ANITA

No.

Nikolaos stiffens.

NIKOLAOS

Where is the scar on my face?

ANITA

Your mouth.

She falls back a touch.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLAOS  
(hissing)  
How did you see that?

Anita swallows. Niko grabs her shoulder and squeezes.

NIKOLAOS (CONT'D)  
What have you been doing,  
Animator?

Anita shakes her head. Phillip breaks the anger. He rushes to her.

PHILLIP  
Leave her alone. You promised not  
to hurt her tonight.

NIKOLAOS  
Willie.

Willie attempts to stop him, but he misses. Anita looks to him. Niko pulls her back to face her.

NIKOLAOS (CONT'D)  
Do not force me to hold your  
attention. You would not like my  
methods.

ANITA  
(swallows)  
You have my full attention.  
Honest.

Nikolaos spins at the sound of footsteps and cuts Phillip off. Willie has caught him by the arm.

NIKOLAOS  
Release him. If he wants to keep  
coming, let him.

Willie lets him go.

PHILLIP  
Are you all right, Anita?

ANITA  
Go back inside. We made a deal  
that she wouldn't harm me.

PHILLIP  
(to Nikolaos)  
You promised she wouldn't be  
harmful.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLAOS

And I won't. I keep my word, most  
of the time.

ANITA

I'm fine, Phillip. Don't get hurt  
because of me.

Phillip is in conflict with himself.

ANITA

Please just go.

NIKOLAOS

No. If the little man is feeling  
brave, let him try.

He clenches his fist, debating. Nikolaos moves faster than the  
human eye. She is next to him in a flash and kicks out, knocking  
him to the ground. He is scared.

ANITA

Don't hurt him.

She lifts up her hand, claws out and barely touches his face. A  
deep cut appears on his cheek. He is jerked backward and he  
rolls to the side. Anita takes two steps forward.

ANITA

Nikolaos please.

SCREAMS ERUPT FROM IN THE HOUSE.

MALCOLM (V.O.)

Perverts.

Nikolaos loosk to the house. Anita looks, well.

ANITA

What is it?

NIKOLAOS

The Church for Eternal Life sent  
it's congregation.

She whirls around to face Anita, anger flaring.

NIKOLAOS (CONT'D)

How did you see my scar?

ANITA

I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

NIKOLAOS  
Little liar. We will finish this  
later. You can rest assured.

She flees. Anita crosses to Phillip. She kneels beside him. She touches him.

ANITA  
Can you hear me?

Phillip rolls over and sits up, holding his cheek.

PHILLIP  
We have to get out of here.  
Churchgoers are always armed.

She helps him stand.

ANITA  
Do they always invade the freak  
parties?

PHILLIP  
Whenever they can.

Willie steps up to them, wiping his hands on his pants.

WILLIE  
I know I don't have the right to  
ask, but can I help you to your  
car? And catch a ride?

ANITA  
Can't you just disappear like the  
rest of them.

WILLIE  
(shrugs)  
Don't know how yet.

ANITA  
(sighs)  
Oh, Willie. Come on, let's get  
out of here.

Willie grins and helps out. THE SCREAMING CONTINUES.

WILLIE  
somebody's going to call the  
cops.

They run to the car.

(CONTINUED)

ANITA  
If I would've known I would be  
running from crazed fanatics, I'd  
have worn lower heels.

She helps Phillip along.

EXT. FREAK PARTY - NIGHT

They reach the front yard and see THREE PEOPLE run from the house. One is human with a club, the other two vamps. She gets out her gun and carries it by her side. She tosses her keys to Phillip. He grabs them.

ANITA  
Start the car. I'll watch our  
backs.

PHILLIP  
I don't know how to drive.

ANITA  
Shit.

Willie grabs them from Phillip.

WILLIE  
I'll do it.

One of the vampires rushes them and misses. Anita shoots into the ground by his feet.

VAMPIRE  
Bullets can't hurt us, human.

She looks at him again and fires into his stomach. He winces and falls to the ground in pain.

ANITA  
Silver-plated bullets, fang face.

A few more vamps come from the woods. Phillips stays with her.

ANITA  
Get in the car, Phillip. I got  
it.

They start to go behind.

ANITA  
Stop where you are. Anyone so  
much as makes a gesture, I'm  
putting a bullet in their brain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VAMPIRE #2

It won't kill us.

ANITA

No, but it won't do you a hell of  
a lot of good either.

The human inches forward.

ANITA

Don't.

HER CAR STARTS. IT SCREECHES BEHIND HER. Phillip opens the door.  
Anita backs up.

PHILLIP

Anita, get in.

ANITA

Scoot over.

He does as he is told. She hops in as the human rushes her.

INT. ANITA'S CAR - NIGHT

She closes the door.

ANITA

Drive, now.

EXT. FREAK PARTY DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Willie peels out, showering the human in gravel.

EXT. CURVY STREET - NIGHT

Willie is reckless on a curve.

INT. ANITA'S CAR - NIGHT

The passenger's are jostled.

ANITA

You can slow down. We're safe.

Willie slows down and smiles back at Anita and Phillip.

WILLIE

We made it.

ANITA

(smiling)

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHILLIP

For now.

Anita pats his arm.

ANITA

Everything will be all right,  
Phillip.

PHILLIP

You don't believe that anymore  
than I do.

Anita stares out the window.

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Willie drives Anita's car toward town. He looks back at Anita.

WILLIE

Where to?

ANITA

Good question.

Anita looks at Phillip. He is resting. His cheek still bleeds a little.

ANITA

Phillip's face needs patching up.

WILLIE

You want to take him to the hospital?

Phillip stirs.

PHILLIP

I'm fine.

ANITA

You're not fine.

PHILLIP

You were hurt a lot worse last night.

She looks out the window.

ANITA

I'm all right now.

PHILLIP

(smiles)

And I'll be all right, too.

She looks at his smile.

ANITA

What are you thinking?

PHILLIP

I stood up to the master. I did it.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

ANITA  
(smiling)  
You were very brave.

PHILLIP  
I was, wasn't I?

ANITA  
Yep.

WILLIE  
I hate to interrupt you two, but  
can you tell me where I'm going?

PHILLIP  
Drop me off at Guilty Pleasures.

WILLIE  
You should see a doc.

PHILLIP  
They'll take care of me at the  
club.

WILLIE  
Ya sure?

Phillip nods and winces.

PHILLIP  
You want to know who was giving  
the orders? It was Nikolaos. You  
were right. That first day. She  
wanted me to seduce you.  
(smiles)  
Guess I wasn't up to the job.

ANITA  
Phillip.

PHILLIP  
No. You were right. I am sick. No  
wonder you didn't want me.

She touches his arm. She looks at Willie, then back at Philip.

ANITA  
You know that kiss...before you  
bit me...was nice.

He glances at her.

(CONTINUED)

PHILLIP  
You mean that?

ANITA  
Yes.

Willie drives. Silence is uncomfortable.

ANITA  
Standing up to Nikolaos was the  
bravest thing I've seen anyone  
do.

He smiles with pride.

ANITA  
And one of the stupidest.

He laughs.

ANITA  
Don't ever do it. I don't want  
your death on my hands.

PHILLIP  
It was my choice.

ANITA  
No more heroics, okay?

He looks at her.

PHILLIP  
Would you be sorry if I died?

ANITA  
Yes.

PHILLIP  
I guess that's something.

EXT. GUILTY PLEASURES - NIGHT

Willie pulls up to the front of Guilty Pleasures. Phillip gets out. He waves to Anita. She gets out and goes to the front. She waves back.

EXT. ANITA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Anita parks her car and gets out. She carries her heels with her. She locks the car and goes to her apartment. Doug sits waiting for her by her door. She smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANITA

You waited.

DOUG

Yeah. I debated what to do. Did I  
do the right thing?

She helps him up.

ANITA

Yeah. Come on in.

She opens the door. He follows her in.

INT. ANITA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Doug watches her as she faces him. He hugs her. She hugs him  
back.

DOUG

I knew I'd get to see the outfit.

She laughs. He weighs something in his mind.

DOUG (CONT'D)

How was the freak party?

She stiffens and looks at him.

ANITA

How did you know that's were I  
was?

DOUG

I work in the same world you do.  
It wasn't hard to figure out.

ANITA

Have you ever been to one?

DOUG

Hell, no. Couldn't pay me.

ANITA

Well, I wouldn't recommend them.  
Freak is definitely the right  
word for it.

DOUG (CONT'D)

How'd it go?

ANITA

I have no idea.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He pulls back and takes her bloody hand. He sees her neck.

DOUG  
You got a hickey.

Anita touches it.

ANITA  
I'm sorry. I just.

DOUG  
Don't explain yourself. You had a  
really hard night, not to mention  
the last couple of days.

He kisses her hand.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
Go draw yourself a bath. I'll  
make you some food.

She stares at him. She hugs him again. He rubs her back.

ANITA  
How do you do that?

DOUG  
Do what?

ANITA  
I am dog ass tired and yet you  
still make me feel...electric.

He pulls back and smiles.

DOUG  
We didn't start off too well.

ANITA  
What do you mean?

DOUG  
That first kiss was awkward. The  
second, you pretty much attacked  
me.

She blushes.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
Let me try my way.

He leans down and kisses her softly. It gets heated.

(CONTINUED)

ANITA  
Your way is much better.

He smiles.

DOUG  
Go take a hot bath. I'll get you  
some food.

She stops at the answering machine and presses the button.

RONNIE (V.O.)  
Hey Anita. I got that information  
on the HAV for you. I set up a  
meeting for tomorrow morning at  
10. Call if that's not a good  
time. See you then, Bye.

ANITA  
What time is it?

DOUG  
three.

ANITA  
Uck. That doesn't give me much  
time.

EDWARD (V.O.)  
Clock is ticking, Anita.

Anita balls her fist.

ANITA  
You like your games, don't you.  
You son of a bitch.

Doug watches her.

DOUG  
Let it go, Anita.

ANITA  
I know. I try.

She goes into the bedroom and on into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Anita sets her gun on the sink counter. She runs the bath water.  
She looks in the mirror. She sees her bite.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANITA

It does look like a hickey.

INT. BATHROOM - MINUTES LATER

She is resting in a bubble bath. Doug walks in and sets a tray of sandwiches in front of her. She looks up at him and smiles.

ANITA

Yummy.

He smiles and kneels down to her. She eats.

ANITA

Thank you. I'm surprised I had food in there.

DOUG

It was slim pickens.

He smooths hair from her face.

ANITA

This is quite a romantic gesture, Mr. Flynn.

DOUG

I have my moments.

ANITA

That you do.

He kisses her forehead.

DOUG

Remember what I told you the other night?

ANITA

Remind me.

DOUG

So much darkness and you said.

ANITA

Too much.

DOUG

Let me take it away.

She looks at him confused and then it hits her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANITA

No. I can't let you do that.

DOUG

I want to.

ANITA

That is way too much for you to handle.

DOUG

I can handle it. Let me do it for you.

ANITA

Then what could I possibly do for you?

DOUG

You already gave me something.

Anita laughs.

ANITA

That is really corny.

DOUG

(smiling)

Yeah, I know.

ANITA

Cheesy. Corn ball.

She smiles. He kisses her. The sandwich is forgotten.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anita is sleeping on her side, Doug behind her. She sleeps soundly. He is wide awake, clammy. His arm is entwined with hers.

DOUG

Anita? Are you awake?

She sleeps. He slips his arm away. She moves a little, but doesn't wake. He gets out of bed and crosses to the bathroom. He throws up.

ANITA (V.O.)

I wasn't any closer to finding the murderer, but I did learn a dead man can raise the dead. Peachy news.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANITA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I still had my same problems:  
Aubrey and Valentine both swore  
to kill me after Nikolaos was  
done with me. Hell, she probably  
was going to do that anyway.  
Edward is on my back wanting the  
daytime resting place, or he'll  
kill me. But all that is easy  
going. I'm used to dealing with  
that. It's this that's new.  
Nothing comes close to losing  
your heart.

(CONT'D)