

LUCTOR'S REVENGE



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FADE IN - OPENING TEXT: "TRANSYLVANIA"

EXT. NIGHT - CEMETERY - TRANSYLVANIA

It is night in a foggy cemetery in Transylvania. There is a sound of digging but we can't see where it is coming from. After moving through the thick fog we find ourselves looking down into an open grave as a GRAVEDIGGER is clearing dirt from the top of a wooden casket. There is a shadow across the open grave revealing the presence of an unseen individual. We look at the gravestone and see the name: VLAD DRAKUL - VAMPYRE. Beneath it is engraved the phrase "*Fi Mort Pentru Eternitate*".

A commanding voice comes from the unseen individual above the grave.

LUCTOR (V.O.)

Open it.

The Gravedigger opens the lid to reveal a skeletonized corpse with a wooden stake through the chest. The mouth is open, as if screaming, and bears the distinctive fangs of a vampire. (Possibly include a stone in the mouth like that of the so-called "Venice Vampire" even though Drakul's remains did not include one.)

LUCTOR (V.O.)

Give me the skull.

GRAVEDIGGER

(IN A THICK ROMANIAN ACCENT) No, I will not touch the body of Dracula. It is evil.

LUCTOR (V.O.)

(ANGRY) Give me the skull.

The Gravedigger reluctantly takes the skull (without the lower jaw) and hands it up. We finally see the man, LUCTOR, as he holds the gruesome artifact and laughs maniacally. (He is of course wearing an expensive tailored suit and his signature spiked silver mask.)

CROSS TO: OPENING TITLES (AND/OR "SIX MONTHS LATER...")

EXT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

Marquee reads: "Extreme-Style Roller Derby Bout Tonight! Aztecs vs Red Shirts".

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

Extreme-style roller derby is a sport involving 5-member teams (all female) competing on a sloped track, a flat track, or even a skateboard track. A baton is passed between members of a team, but the rules of the sport (and even what constitutes a score) are not explained in this story. All that we see are teams going around at high speed, handing off or passing the baton, and exhibiting amazing skating skills in the process. We open with a bout in full swing. We focus on Dana Brasuhn, the apparent captain of one of the teams (the Aztecs) as she helps her teammates achieve a hard-fought, brutal victory over the *Red Shirts* and their captain, LT. LESLIE (shown on the back of her red jersey).

ANNOUNCER

And there you have it, the Aztecs of Columbia State University have defeated the Red Shirts by a final score of 103-79.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

A short time later we see Dana in the locker room. Her teammates are there as well. She looks battle-hardened as she wipes blood from her face. A young woman, MAURA, approaches Dana.

MAURA

Professor Brasuhn, there's a Professor Clark and a Professor Carpathian to see you.

Dana is changing from her colorful uniform into more conservative -- though stylish -- attire.

DANA

Okay, send them in.

ROGER Clark and KANO Carpathian enter. They make their way through the other players until Roger sees Dana.

ROGER

Dana...

DANA

Hey, Roger, I thought I saw you in the crowd. What's up?

ROGER

Well, I'm actually here in my capacity as director of film studies. Dana, I'd like you to meet Professor Kano Carpathian. (TO KANO) Kano, this is Professor Dana Brasuhn.

DANA

I'm familiar with your work. It's great to meet you.

KANO

Likewise.

ROGER

(TO Dana) Kano would like to follow you and the team while doing some filming -- you know, to test out the new camera he's developed and to provide material for our film students to work with. We think it could lead to an interesting little documentary.

DANA

I'd have to clear it with the players, but I don't expect any objections. (TO KANO) What made you choose roller derby as a subject for filming?

KANO

Well, it's a visually compelling sport, and of course you're interesting yourself as a distinguished scholar of Greek history who competes at this level. I mean, I would expect most of the top players to come out of the mathematical sciences rather than the humanities.

DANA

You might be surprised, but roller derby actually has a very strong multidisciplinary appeal. One of our players is a professor of literature and another is an anthropologist.

ROGER

I should mention that Kano got his doctorate at Oxford, and as you know the sport is dominated there by physicists and mathematicians.

DANA

(TO KANO) Well, I look forward to seeing what you shoot. (TO ROGER AND KANO) If you'll excuse me, I'm heading back to watch the second bout of the evening.

Dana shuts her locker and begins to walk away. She has transformed her look from athlete to academic scholar.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

The second bout is in progress as one team, the Fivers, is completely outclassed by its opponent, the Acadames, who represent the Wrestling Women's Academy (and wear traditional Academy masks).

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Another slam for the Acadames!
That's four more points. Acadames 27, and the Fivers at 3 points, midway through the first period.

Meanwhile, in the press box, an older man, JOHN, is watching the event while holding an unlit cigar. A young woman, MARTHA Duval, approaches him.

MARTHA

Hi, my name is Martha Duval. Are you John Thorpe?

JOHN

That's me.

MARTHA

I'm a reporter from the Midwest Tribune. I was told you might be able to help me with some background information for my story on the Fivers.

JOHN

You can see the story right there. The Fivers are one of the oldest franchises in the sport, but these days they're simply not competitive. The Acadames, the ones in the masks, represent the Wrestling Women's Academy. They're the world champs. Their B-team could outplay the Fivers.

MARTHA

I wouldn't know. I'm not really very familiar with the sport.

JOHN

Well, you're in for a wild ride then. Let me give you a little introduction. You can see that each team has five skaters on the track. Two grinders, two jammers, and the captain.

MARTHA

Is that the captain there?

JOHN

Yes, the captain always has a contrasting helmet.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - HAREM ROOM - NIGHT

Inside Luctor's mansion, Luctor is looking over an assembled group of beautiful women in varied styles of exotic clothing. He is accompanied by his LIEUTENANT and a henchman with a name-tag giving his surname, TAGER. One woman, DOOMED WOMAN, steps toward them.

DOOMED WOMAN

(INDIGNANT) I don't know what kind of freak show this is, but whatever it is you can count me out.

LUCTOR

Of course. I apologize for any misunderstanding. Please let my associate here take care of you.

The Lieutenant gives a gentlemanly nod and motions toward a door and escorts her out of the room.

Luctor gives a stern glance toward Tager, who quickly motions for the attention of the remaining women. Luctor begins to look over each woman, sometimes stroking her hair or tilting her head, until he encounters a particularly striking one, Yutte.

LUCTOR
(NODS APPROVINGLY) What is your name?

YUTTE
Yutte.

Luctor turns and walks to the middle of the room as Tager escorts Yutte to a position between Luctor and the rest of the women. Luctor turns around and addresses her.

LUCTOR
(COMMANDS) Perform...

Yutte begins to perform a kind of rhythmic dance combining flexibility, strength, martial arts, and sensuality (especially toward Luctor). Yutte finishes her performance in a seductive pose with a longing stare into Luctor's eyes.

LUCTOR
Yes, she will do nicely.
(DISCREETLY TO TAGER) Prepare Yutte and bring her to the sanctum.

TAGER
Yes, Luctor.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

MARTHA
Okay, so when she's on the rail the grinder will try to slot the defender to set up the score. Is that right?

JOHN
(DRAWING X'S and O'S ON A NAPKIN)
Probably, but if her wing jammer has position, the team could try to maneuver for a penetration score.

John shows Martha what he's drawn on the napkin.

MARTHA

Ah, I understand: she can nose-slide into the lane and free her blocker.

JOHN

And then it's practically a sure score. You got it. So much depends on strategy, which is why the sport is often referred to as "chess on wheels."

MARTHA

Wow, when my editor assigned me this story I had no idea what it was all about. He just told me that the Fivers had been sold and that it was a big story.

JOHN

All I can say is that the sale was certainly a big surprise. Maybe the new owner got a good price, but it's a big financial gamble. They say that roller derby could really explode in popularity if the NCAA makes it an official college sport, even bigger than college football.

MARTHA

Really?

JOHN

That would make the strongest teams worth a lot of green. Unfortunately, the Fivers have had three consecutive losing seasons, and it's really killed recruiting. Their current captain doesn't even have a PhD.

MARTHA

(WITH PEN POISED OVER HER
NOTEPAD)

You seem to know a lot about the Fivers. So what do you know about their new owner?

JOHN

Just that it's some guy named Luctor.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - SANCTUM - NIGHT

Inside Luctor's mansion, Luctor sits in a throne-like chair in a large room adorned in a bizarre fashion. There is a cadre of henchmen. The skull of Dracula sits on a post beside him. A henchman with a name-tag giving his surname as RODALE approaches the Lieutenant and whispers something in his ear. The Lieutenant then approaches Luctor.

LIEUTENANT

Luctor, the SEC has announced that it won't challenge your purchase of the Fivers. The team is yours.

LUCTOR

Good. We are almost ready to begin the rebuilding process.

Luctor claps his hands, and Yutte (now in different clothing) enters and approaches him.

LUCTOR

My darling Yutte, are you ready to serve me?

YUTTE

Yes, Luctor.

Yutte extends her forearm and Luctor presses the fangs of the skull into it. There is a small stream of blood, and after a couple of seconds she appears to go into a trance as her head slowly drops.

LUCTOR

Do you feel anything?

Yutte whips her head up to reveal yellow eyes and fangs as she hisses.

LUCTOR

Excellent! (LAUGHS)

INT. MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES BUILDING - OFFICE - NIGHT

We see a woman, Prof. Sophie Le Blanc, as she locks the door to her office (which bears a nameplate saying PROF. SOPHIE LE BLANC to identify her).

EXT. MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES BUILDING - NIGHT

She exits the building (bearing a nameplate saying MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES) and proceeds to her car. It is night, but in the foliage at the edge of the parking lot we see the terrifying visage of Yutte with her pale skin, yellow eyes, and fangs as she observes Sophie.

As Sophie opens her car door she hears a young woman crying. She turns and sees Yutte, who appears in her pre-vampiric form but with dark glassy eyes and a slight pallor. She has tears in her eyes and appears to be frightened.

SOPHIE
Young lady, what's wrong?

YUTTE
My boyfriend - he attacked me.

SOPHIE
You need to inform the authorities.
There are support groups that can
help you. Now tell me what
happened.

Yutte faces her, fighting back tears as she speaks.

YUTTE
We were enjoying the moonlight and
were staring deeply into each
other's eyes.

SOPHIE
(STARING BACK) Yes...

YUTTE
And then he leaned toward me, like
he was going whisper something in
my ear.

Yutte leans toward Sophie's ear.

SOPHIE
And then what did he do?

YUTTE
And then... he did... this (BITES HER
NECK)

Sophie's eyes slowly close and we see her drop to the ground. Yutte turns and we see her (Yutte) in vampire form with blood on her fangs. We see the car with an open door in the background.

EXT. MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES BUILDING - NEXT MORNING

We see campus police officers (some possibly on Segways) and squad cars with flashing lights at the scene of the attack on Prof. Le Blanc. A group of students is gathered around. The chief of campus police, Marty Walker, approaches the students.

MARTY
(TO THE STUDENTS) Let's everyone
move along.

One STUDENT queries Marty.

STUDENT
Chief Walker... I got an "A" in my
forensics class. Would it be
possible for me to help out? You
know, get some field experience?

MARTY
If you got an "A" then you should
know the rules regarding custody of
evidence. Only campus police
officers are allowed to process a
crime scene.

INT. AREA OUTSIDE OF UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM - MORNING

From a hallway we observe through an open classroom door as Dana is lecturing.

INT. UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM - MORNING

We initially see Dana lecturing from a student POV.

DANA
And that was the conventional
understanding until we began
scanning the carbonized scrolls
from Herculaneum. (CHECKS HER
WATCH) We'll pick up here next
time.

The students begin to exit the classroom as Dana collects her notes. Department chair REYNOLD Faust enters the classroom.

REYNOLD
(knocking on the chalkboard)
Dana...

DANA
Oh, good morning, Reynold. What's up?

REYNOLD
Did you hear about Sophie?

DANA
No, what?

REYNOLD
She seems to have disappeared last night outside her building. Campus police suspect foul play.

DANA
What happened?

REYNOLD
Her car was found with the door open. Campus police identified blood spray at the scene, so they're not optimistic.

DANA
I can't believe it. She's the one who recruited me here.

REYNOLD
As a top-ranked chess grandmaster, she's a major recruiting draw for most of our campus sports. This could be a big blow to the university. (HESITATES) Actually, I stopped by about something else. Can we talk, I mean, in my office? It's a departmental matter.

DANA
Sure.

INT. REYNOLD'S OFFICE - MORNING

Reynold sits down behind his desk as Dana sits in a chair facing him.

REYNOLD

I hope I didn't sound too grave when I asked to talk with you here. It's really nothing too serious, but I feel like it's something we should discuss.

DANA

Come on, Reynold. What's up?

REYNOLD

It's about your extra-curricular activities.

DANA

(ANTICIPATING THE WORST) Yes...

REYNOLD

I heard you and the Aztecs scored a decisive victory in the match last night.

DANA

That's right.

REYNOLD

Well, that's what I want to talk with you about. And please understand, I'm talking now as the chair of the department.

DANA

Sure, Reynold, just tell me what's on your mind.

REYNOLD

I hear you're being considered for the presidency of the Aristotelian Society of North America... and you're also captain of the Aztecs.

DANA

That's right.

REYNOLD

With the university hosting the championship tournament, well, I imagine that will take a lot of your time.

DANA

It's single-elimination - and clearly we want to go as far as we can - so, yes, it does mean a significant time commitment.

REYNOLD

That's what I thought. (TAKES A BREATH) You're not going to like what I have to say, but the feeling among some of the faculty in the department is that you may be spreading yourself too thin.

DANA

I'm aware of the grumblings. I take it you're about to ask me to withdraw my candidacy as president of the society.

REYNOLD

Don't get me wrong. It's not that your work with that organization isn't valued, it's just that roller derby has a much higher profile -- not just for you, but for the university.

DANA

You know me, Reynold. Greek history and literature is my passion. I came to this university because I want to instill that same passion in my students.

REYNOLD

I respect that - and believe me - I have no doubt whatsoever about your ability to handle your various commitments. I'm just passing along the information. You know me, I like to keep everything above board.

DANA

I appreciate that, Reynold.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - DAY

Kano is track-side observing several young skaters practicing, including two sisters, JENNA and JESSICA Savage. Roger approaches.

ROGER

Kano, hey - scouting the location?

KANO

Just watching the practice. I understand these are all young, unsigned skaters.

ROGER

That's right. (POINTING) Those two, Jenna and Jessica Savage, are sisters. They're the best new players to come along in years. Every team is going to be after them.

KANO

I sure hope we get them.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

That evening we see the Savage sisters, JENNA and JESSICA, putting their skates into their lockers. Yutte and Sophie approach them. Sophie now has dark, dead eyes.

YUTTE

You girls were killer out there.

JENNA

Thanks.

YUTTE

We'd like you on our team.

JESSICA

(DISMISSIVE) Talk to our agent.

YUTTE

No, we'll talk to you.

Jenna and Jessica are visibly unhappy with her confrontational attitude.

JENNA

Who do you think you are?

SOPHIE

We're from a new team, the Vampyras.

JENNA

I've never heard of 'em.

YUTTE
We used to be the Fivers.

JESSICA
The Fivers? You gotta be kidding
us. Get lost.

Jenna and Jessica give a condescending look and begin to leave when Sophie and Yutte grasp each by an arm.

SOPHIE
I don't think so...

JESSICA
(PISSSED OFF) Now you've done it...

Jenna and Jessica throw their opponents to the ground, but when they (Yutte and Sophie) look up at them they're in full vampire form.

JENNA
Whoa, these are some batshit-crazy
bitches.

Yutte and Sophie jump and attack, and a huge battle commences. At one point Jessica is struggling to hold Yutte back as she (Yutte) tries to bite her neck.

JESSICA
(TO JENNA WHILE HOLDING WITH ALL
HER STRENGTH) These girls are
strong...

Jessica is able to break free and the brutal fight continues. Eventually Yutte and Sophie are able to pull their adversaries down and out of view. A short time later they (Yutte and Sophie) rise with blood on their fangs.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - SANCTUM - NIGHT

Later at Luctor's mansion, Luctor looks over his new recruits, Jenna and Jessica, who now have a vampiric appearance. (NOTE: Shots in Luctor's Mansion should include the skull on the post whenever possible.)

LUCTOR
Ah, the Savage sisters...

YUTTE
(IN A HISSING VOICE) Yes, Luctor.

Luctor walks around them.

LUCTOR
(TO THE SISTERS) I hope you like
your new look. Very attractive,
don't you think?

JENNA & JESSICA
(IN UNISON) Yes...

The two women look at each other admiringly and stroke each other's hair and neck. Luctor nods approvingly. He turns to the LIEUTENANT.

LUCTOR
All is going well. Soon I will have
the greatest team ever assembled.
(LAUGHS)

INT. COFFEE HOUSE - MORNING

The next morning Dana is sitting at a table in a coffee shop reading a book. Martha (the reporter) approaches.

MARTHA
Professor Brasuhn...

DANA
Yes.

MARTHA
Hi, I'm Martha Duval, a reporter
for the Midwest Tribune. Can I ask
you a couple of questions about the
Savage sisters?

DANA
I'm afraid I can't say anything
about ongoing contract
negotiations.

MARTHA
You mean you haven't heard?

DANA
Heard what?

MARTHA
They signed with another team.

DANA
(LOOKING UP) That's impossible. I
spoke with their agent yesterday.

MARTHA
It hit the wires this morning. They
signed with the Vampyras.

DANA
Vampyras?

MARTHA
You know, the Fivers. The new owner
changed the name.

DANA
He must have really deep pockets.
Their agent told me they were more
interested in being on a winning
team than they were in the money.

MARTHA
What do you know about the new
owner?

DANA
Not much, but it seems he's
planning to really shake things up.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF ROGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Reynold knocks on the open door of Roger's office.

REYNOLD
Hi, Roger, you got a minute?

ROGER
Sure, come on in.

INT. ROGER'S OFFICE - DAY

ROGER
Have a seat.

REYNOLD
I guess you've heard about the
Savage sisters.

ROGER
Of course, that's quite a shocker.
I know Dana had hoped to get them
for us.

REYNOLD

That's actually why I'm here.
(BEAT) You're friends with her,
right?

ROGER

Sure, I've known her for years.

REYNOLD

Then you know she's involved in a
lot of activities. Research,
athletics, charitable
foundations...

ROGER

Come on, Reynold, what are you
getting at?

REYNOLD

Okay, I'll be perfectly frank with
you. Do you think she dropped the
ball with the Savage sisters?

ROGER

I can't believe you're asking me
that.

REYNOLD

Then let me explain. I had a
meeting with the Chancellor this
morning, and he tells me that Dana
estimated a 95% chance that the
Savage sisters would sign with us.
So what happened?

ROGER

The other 5% chance.

REYNOLD

Yes, it may have just been a bad
break. That happens. But the
Chancellor is concerned that maybe
Dana was so busy with her other
commitments that she dropped the
ball on this.

ROGER

This is about the Aristotelian
Society, isn't it?

REYNOLD

Come on, Roger, you know I respect the work she does with that group, but this is a really big deal. (HESITATES, SWITCHES TO A QUIETER VOICE) Now this is highly confidential, but a committee from the Research-1 academic institutions is going to formally petition the NCAA to recognize and sanction roller derby as a semi-pro collegiate sport.

ROGER

I've heard rumors about that.

REYNOLD

Then you know that a successful program could generate millions for the university - money that could pay for conference travel, more research assistants, (SMILES) and maybe even some nicer offices.

ROGER

I know that, but what do you want me to do? I can't ask her to step down from the society.

REYNOLD

Of course not, and I would never ask you to do that. I'd just like you to impress on her how important these playoffs are. You know, help keep her focused. That's all. We're the only state university that actually owns a professional team, so we all have a lot riding on this.

ROGER

The team is practicing this afternoon. I'll drop by and see how she's doing.

REYNOLD

Thanks, Roger.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - SANCTUM - DAY

Luctor's Lieutenant approaches him as he is preparing a drink.

LIEUTENANT
Luctor, the tournament playoff
schedule has been announced.

LUCTOR
Really...

LIEUTENANT
We play the defending champions,
the Acadames, in the first round.
That will be a tough test, but I'm
just as concerned about the Aztecs.
It looks like we'll play them in
the second round.

LUCTOR
(LAUGHS) I have a feeling the
Aztecs won't make it to the second
round. (TAKES A DRINK)

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - DAY

Later at the rink we see the Aztecs practicing. Kano and Martha are observing from different locations. The team completes its run and then assembles together. Dana is standing in front of a whiteboard covered in elaborate schematics.

DANA
Okay, that went pretty well, but
not polished enough. We have to
close off any chance for them to
get into their signature diamond
formation at the rail. We have to
break them up and get lead on the
first pass through the pack.

AZTEC PLAYER 1
What if their slip grinder gets
lead? That would expose our seam.

DANA
Well, in chess we'd say that was an
absolute pin. But if we see the
diamond happening, we just need to
pull a two-man kick-out and make a
post run to the next rail. It's
just a matter of leveraging our
speed advantage. That's the beauty
of this new maneuver.

Roger approaches Kano.

ROGER
Kano, hi.

KANO
Hey Roger.

ROGER
(LOOKS AROUND) So, how are things going?

KANO
They're really on top of their game.

ROGER
That's good to hear. (BEAT) Say, Kano, you've probably already heard, but there are some concerns about Dana's focus, you know, what with things falling through with the Savage sisters.

KANO
I'm sure that shocked a lot of people.

ROGER
I should say so. And losing them to the Vampyras, that only made things worse. I don't know what that owner is up to, but he's either a genius or completely nuts.

KANO
I guess we'll find out by the end of the tournament.

Roger observes as the practice breaks and Dana heads off the track.

ROGER
Sorry, Kano, but I need to catch up with Dana.

Roger approaches Dana.

DANA
Hi Roger.

ROGER

Oh, hey Dana. I just thought I'd drop by to see how things are going before the big match this evening.

DANA

We should be able to take them. They're probably on par with us physically, but they've pretty much got just the one defensive formation. We should be able to dismantle them relatively quickly.

ROGER

That's great to hear.

DANA

(SMILING) It almost sounds as if you have some money riding on it.

Roger reacts defensively but then realizes that she's joking.

ROGER

(LAUGHS) No, but I'm sure a lot of people do.

EXT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - EVENING

Luctor's limousine arrives and parks. Luctor steps out with a beautiful woman on each arm. Luctor extends his hand, holding a large envelope, as a member of the Deckers team skates past and takes it. Luctor nods, re-links his arm with his companion, and the three proceed into the main building.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

It is the night of the first-round bout of the tournament for the Aztecs. The event announcer addresses the crowd.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to this first-round bout of the tournament between the Deckers and the Aztecs of Columbia State University.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Dana speaks to the team.

DANA
Well, we have the talent, we have
the preparation, so all that's left
is to win.

The team fist-pumps and chants in unison.

TEAMMATES
(CHANTING) Aztecs! Aztecs! Aztecs!

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

The announcer has just completed the Deckers introductions.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
And that completes the line-up for
the Deckers. Their opponents
tonight are the Columbia State
University Aztecs. Now entering the
track is their team captain, Dana
Brasuhn!

The crowd cheers as Dana circles the track.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
[Begins to introduce the remaining
skaters on the team]

We cut away to Roger and Reynold in the crowd. We then cut to
Luctor entering. Meanwhile, we see the Deckers examining the
contents of Luctor's envelope.

The event begins. It is very competitive, with numerous
highlights which elicit cheers from the crowd. Dana appears
ready to take things up a notch and calls a time out. The
Aztecs' team is shown huddled together.

DANA
Okay, it's time to open the
playbook and take it to them. Just
like we practiced.

TEAMMATES
(IN UNISON) Yeah!

Play resumes. The Aztec players seem very confident as they
maneuver around their opponents. As they approach the rail,
however, two of the Deckers make quick moves which cause
three Aztecs to go down.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Deckers score!

We see highlights of similar disastrous rounds for the Aztecs.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Deckers score again!

One of the Aztecs rolls up to Dana.

AZTEC PLAYER 1
(TO Dana) They're totally schooling us.

DANA
This is the last round before the half. Let's unleash our new maneuver so that we can go into the locker room on a high note.

As play resumes, the Aztecs exchange thumbs-up gestures and make their move. The Deckers exchange smirks and make their move. The result is disastrous as all of the Aztecs are bottlenecked and forced into a position where they all go down. The floored Aztecs look at each other in stunned disbelief. In the crowd we see Reynold put his hands on his head as Roger looks down and shakes his head. We see the shell-shocked Aztec players heading off the track.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

The team enters with Dana coming in last.

DANA
(ANGRY) We've been *Belichicked*!

AZTEC PLAYER 3
What?

DANA
Somehow they've gotten our playbook. It's like they knew every one of our next moves.

AZTEC PLAYER 2
(LOOKING AROUND) Do you think... one of us ratted our playbook?

DANA
No, I could never believe that.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

The crowd is entertained during halftime by a troupe of eclectic performers, including the IDAKTOR robot. As they continue to perform, the announcer addresses the crowd.

ANNOUNCER

Remember that we have heavy hors
d'oeuvres and champagne in the
refreshments lounge. (LOOKS AT SOME
NOTE CARDS) Now, as you enjoy the
entertainment I'd like to take this
opportunity to introduce some
prominent people in the audience
this evening. First, are two
members of the Salinian national
roller derby team. (LOOKS AROUND
AND POINTS) Ah, there you are...

The spotlight moves to two women dressed in their Salinian team track suits. The women stand and wave to the crowd.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

DANA

Our plan for the second half is
simple. We ditch the playbook and
kick some ass.

TEAMMATES

Aztecs! Aztecs! Aztecs!

The team exits the locker room with renewed confidence

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

The announcer is still addressing the crowd.

ANNOUNCER

Also present tonight is roller
derby superstar -- Dana Brasuhn.

Dana gives a brief wave to the crowd.

ANNOUNCER

And someone who has generated a lot
of headlines in recent weeks. The
new owner of the Vampyras, Luctor.
(LOOKS AROUND AND POINTS) There he
is...

Luctor is leaning over and saying something to the Salinian women when the spotlight illuminates him. He looks up and half-waves. We see many people in the crowd leaning over to one another, pointing, and whispering.

Dana and the rest of the team are now on the floor and observe Luctor's introduction.

AZTEC PLAYER 2

I hear he dumped all of the
original Fivers and hasn't even
assembled a full roster yet.

AZTEC PLAYER 1

And they're playing the Acadames in
their first-round bout. Talk about
a mismatch...

DANA

Even if Luctor has a full team, the
Vampyras won't be prepared for the
defending world champs. It's bound
to be an embarrassment.

Meanwhile, Roger and Reynold anticipate the second half.

REYNOLD

What do you think?

ROGER

We've seen them down before. They
always find a way to come back.

The half begins, and the Aztecs are now playing a much more physically aggressive style and are racking up points. Later it becomes clear that the Aztecs have attained an insurmountable lead. Roger and Reynold are happy, but Luctor is visibly upset as he wads up his program and throws it to the ground.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - EXIT AREA - NIGHT

The crowd is streaming out of the building. As the two Salinian women reach the doors, one of them looks at a piece of paper and points to a descending stairwell. The women look and then proceed down the stairs.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - BASEMENT - NIGHT

The huge space has lots of visually interesting features (e.g., ductwork, boiler, electrical devices, etc.) and a lot of shadows. The Salinian women enter. (They have thick Salinian accents)

SALINIAN PLAYER 1

Hallo...

We see glimpses of vampire eyes as they move through the shadows.

SALINIAN PLAYER 1

Mr. Luctor?

There is no reply.

SALINIAN PLAYER 1

Mr. Luctor? Are you here?

Suddenly Yutte, Sophie, and the Savage sisters emerge and surround the Salinian women.

SALINIAN PLAYER 2

Eisa vampyrias!

A huge battle ensues, but the Salinian women have excellent fighting skills. They demonstrate remarkable teamwork as they resist their attackers. At one point they execute a precision maneuver that throws Yutte up against a wall where she crashes through a wooden structure. Instead of falling, however, she is left impaled on a piece of broken wood. She screams as her flesh deteriorates and falls from her bones. As the Salinian women observe in horror, they are simultaneously attacked by the remaining vampire women. We cut as the vampire women stand up - fangs bloodied - with the corpse of Yutte on the wall behind them.

EXT. CAMPUS - QUAD - NEXT MORNING

Roger and Dana are walking across campus.

DANA

We clearly have to discontinue our open practices.

ROGER

Yeah, I spoke to Kano about the security breach, and he mentioned a female reporter who's been hanging around.

DANA

From the Midwest Tribune. She's doing a story about the new owner of the Vampyras. I spoke with her briefly.

ROGER

Any concerns there?

DANA

I don't think so, but to be on the safe side I won't have her name on the access list for our practices.

ROGER

(SURPRISED, POINTING) Dana, look at that...

We see a newspaper vending machine. The headline reads:
SALINIAN STARS JOIN VAMPYRAS.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - SANCTUM - EVENING

Luctor observes his newly-assembled team of vampire women. His Lieutenant and henchmen are looking on.

LUCTOR

Behold the greatest roller derby team ever assembled...

The women are in vampire form dressed in their roller derby outfits. The Lieutenant points to another group of women - the original Fivers - who are now vampires.

LIEUTENANT

I see that the original Fivers have also benefitted from your training regimen.

Luctor nods approvingly.

LUCTOR

Yes...

Luctor returns focus on the core team (Sophie, the Salinians, and the Savage sisters). He slowly walks past them as if conducting a military inspection.

LUCTOR
Superior talent and intellect
without the physical limitations of
the living. They are unbeatable and
will bring me wealth beyond
estimation. (LAUGHS)

EXT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - MARQUEE - NIGHT

The marquee reads: "Defending Champs Acadames vs. Vampyras".

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

Dana and several teammates are in the audience dressed in their normal, everyday casual attire. Also looking on from various locations are Reynold and Roger, Martha, and of course Luctor, who is accompanied by two beautiful women. Famous luchadora, LA TORCHA, and the legendary MIL MASCARAS approach Dana and her teammates.

AZTEC PLAYER 3
(EXCITED TO PLAYER 2) Hey, look,
it's La Torcha and Mil Mascaras.

La Torcha addresses the team, all of whom are amazed to see the legendary pair in person.

LA TORCHA
Hi, ladies, I hope you enjoy the
bout.

Dana stands.

DANA
La Torcha, it's great to see you.
Hopefully we'll be playing your
Acadames in the next round.

LA TORCHA
It should be quite a match. (BEAT)
Dana, have you met Mil Mascaras?
He's in town to formalize a project
with your school's film department.

DANA
(TO MIL) It's a great honor.

Mil gives a nod as they shake hands.

LA TORCHA

Mil, this is Dana Brasuhn, captain of the university team.

DANA

(TO MIL) I've heard so many good things about you from my uncle. You worked with him many years ago on a case involving a carnivorous cactus creature.

MIL

The one in Bolivia?

DANA

No, in Texas.

MIL

Ah, the Cactamal - a horrible creature.

LA TORCHA

(TO Dana) As you probably know, Luctor and Mil have a long and unpleasant history, so we're hoping to see his foray into roller derby end quickly.

The arena lights begin to dim.

LA TORCHA

It looks like we'd better get to our box.

La Torcha and Mil walk away as we focus attention toward the Announcer spotlighted on the other side of the arena.

ANNOUNCER

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the IDAK Industries Arena here on the beautiful campus of Columbia State University. Now entering is a team that requires no introduction. Coming here from the Wrestling Women's Academy, give it up for the Acadames!

The crowd goes wild as the Acadames circle the track. (Except for their captain, who is wearing a black and silver mask covering more of her face, the Acadames wear the narrow wrap-around masks that are traditionally worn by students of the Academy.)

ANNOUNCER

And I'm told that we have two very special guests here tonight... the legendary Mil Mascaras and La Torcha!

We see Mil Mascaras and La Torcha establishing their viewing positions. The arena lights focus on them as they acknowledge cheers from the crowd. (Some other luchadores are behind them.)

ANNOUNCER

And now entering is the new incarnation of a historic franchise: the Vampyras!

The lights begin to dim and the announcer seems confused about what is happening. Suddenly high-energy techno/trance music and colored lights come on to herald the entrance of the Vampyras. When they skate onto the track they are in full vampiric form (yellow eyes, fangs, etc.). The crowd is shocked by their appearance. Their captain, Sophie, has stylized face-paint that makes her virtually unrecognizable as the missing professor. We see that Luctor is reveling in the event.

AZTEC PLAYER 2

What the hell is that?

DANA

You gotta give 'em credit - that vampire gimmick sure establishes a new identity. No one would mistake them for the Fivers.

AZTEC PLAYER 1

(AMAZED AND IMPRESSED) How did they get that look?

DANA

I don't know, but what really matters is what they can do on the track.

Play begins, and from the first run around the track the Vampyras are able to dominate the Acadames.

At one point, the Vampyras use one of their players as a human catapult to take out two of the Acadames' players. The Vampyras are physically tougher, and at times their athleticism reveals hints of their supernatural abilities. The violence they inflict on their opponents is like nothing we've seen in the earlier matches. (During the match we occasionally cut to Mil, La Torcha, and the other luchadores as they watch the proceedings. Mil and La Torcha remain stoic throughout, but we see the other luchadores wince at the beating inflicted on their team.) Dana eventually decides she's seen enough. She gets up and leaves her seat, shaking her head.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - REFRESHMENT AREA - NIGHT

The refreshment area is luxuriously adorned. Roger and Reynold are already there holding long glasses with champagne. Dana approaches.

ROGER

I guess we all had the same idea.

DANA

I planned to watch until the end of the half, but I've seen enough.

A hostess brings a glass of champagne to Dana.

HOST/HOSTESS

Champagne?

DANA

Yes, put it my department's tab.
(TAKING THE GLASS) Thanks.

REYNOLD

Those women are just so strong.
I've never seen anything like it.

DANA

It's not just that. Their strategic play is amazing - and strangely familiar.

ROGER

Familiar?

DANA

It's like I've seen that style of play somewhere before.

REYNOLD

It could be the Salinian influence.

DANA

No, it's a much more subtle, nuanced style of play. Using your own grinder as a sacrifice to knock out their rail defense? Brilliant and cunning.

ROGER

I sure didn't see anything subtle or nuanced out there.

DANA

(SMILES) Yeah, their aggressiveness and athleticism attracts most of the attention.

REYNOLD

Are you two staying for the second half?

ROGER

I had planned to, but I have term papers that I should probably start grading.

DANA

Well, I'd like to stay and take notes for our match with them, but I have an Aristotelian Society meeting at nine. (SMILES TOWARD REYNOLD) If that's okay with you, Reynold.

Reynold smiles and shakes his head. Suddenly a horn sounds.

ROGER

Well, that's the end of the half.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

Though the half has ended, the crowd remains transfixed on what they see before them: the frightening-looking vampire women - with maniacal eyes and leering smiles - skating in formation around a track littered with the injured bodies of their opponents. As they continue to slowly circle the rink the crowd watches in horrified, stunned silence. Mil and La Torcha turn to leave. Luctor looks on, nodding his head with a sense of arrogant superiority.

EXT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - MAIN ENTRANCE - MORNING

Martha approaches the entrance, but Marty Walker stops her.

MARTY

Excuse me, but this is a closed practice.

MARTHA

Who are you?

MARTY

Marty Walker, chief of campus police. This is a campus venue, so I'm in charge of its security.

MARTHA

I'm Martha Duval. I'm a reporter for the Midwestern Tribune. I've been here all week working on a story about the Vampyras.

Marty looks at a sheet of paper.

MARTY

I'm sorry, Miss Duval, but your name isn't on the list. Besides, the Vampyras aren't even scheduled for a practice. Just the Aztecs. Come back at five when it opens to the public.

MARTHA

I'll be interviewing Luctor at that time, but thanks anyway.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - MORNING

The Aztecs are in their street clothes as Dana addresses them.

DANA

You saw what the Vampyras did to the defending champions. We have them in the next round, and I don't need to tell you that this may be the most difficult challenge we've ever faced.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - LOCKER ROOM - MORNING

We see the hands of an unseen person (Luctor) open a locker and take out a distinctively-adorned skate. We cut away as he is about to apply a small tool to one of the wheels.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - MORNING

Dana is still speaking to the team.

DANA

No team can beat us when we're at our best. So let's get into our gear and practice until we're at *our best*.

The players are confident and motivated as they head to the locker room.

EXT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - MAIN ENTRANCE - MORNING

Roger approaches Marty at the entrance.

ROGER

Hey, Marty, how are things here?

MARTY

Oh, well, pretty quiet. Dana and the team should begin their practice any time now.

ROGER

Have you had to turn away any suspicious characters?

MARTY

No, just a reporter - a cute gal.

ROGER

Martha Duval?

MARTY

Yes, that's her. Anything wrong?

ROGER

No, no, nothing wrong. (BEAT) Say, have you had any breaks in the Sophie Le Blanc case?

MARTY
Nothing. I sure expected a body to
turn up by now.

ROGER
It's very strange.

MARTY
And now the city police are pushing
to take over the case. If it were
up to them I'd be doing nothing but
looking for beer in dorm rooms.

They exchange smiles.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - MORNING

The Aztecs are on the track as Dana leads the practice.

DANA
Okay, let's begin with a few speed
laps.

As they begin circling the track in a tight pack we see a close-up of the player (DOOMED PLAYER) on the skate that was tampered with (emphasized in close-up). As the group goes faster and faster we see more and more close-ups of the wheel. At one point we see the central bolt gradually coming loose. Later we see the bolt fall out and in a wide shot we see sparks shooting out from the wheel. In a final close-up we see the wheel come off amidst the sparks. (The idea here is to parallel the Hollywood cliché of mounting tension resulting from something, e.g., a bus wheel that's been tampered with or otherwise damaged, as it becomes progressively more unstable before a catastrophic failure occurs. The novelty here, of course, is the ridiculously small scale of a skate wheel.)

In the wide shot we see Doomed Player go down with tremendous force. She slides into the wall as the burning wheel continues ahead.

EXT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Later we see Doomed Player loaded into an ambulance. She gives a feeble thumbs-up to her teammates. Dana turns and approaches Marty.

DANA

She'll be fine - just a broken collarbone and a few fractured ribs. She'll be back on the track in a few weeks.

The other teammates gather around.

MARTY

That's great news. (LIFTS THE BURNT WHEEL) I've been looking at what's left of that wheel. There's clear evidence of tampering.

DANA

I'm not surprised to hear that. Everyone on my team is diligent about the maintenance of their gear. It's potentially a matter of life and death, as we learned today. Whoever did this must be trying to sabotage our chances in the tournament.

MARTY

That's my conclusion as well. (TO THE ENTIRE TEAM) There's no way to know who may be targeted next so everyone needs to be vigilant at all times.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - SANCTUM - DAY/NIGHT

Luctor is looking out a window as his Lieutenant approaches.

LIEUTENANT

It worked. I just got word that their best jammer will be out for the rest of the tournament.

LUCTOR

Good. Now we just need to eliminate their captain.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

We see Dana, alone, developing an extremely sophisticated and detailed plan on a whiteboard when she hears a sound. She peeks out and sees Martha slowly open a door to the stairwell, peek through, and then exit. Dana goes to the door, apparently planning to follow her.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - STAIRWELL

Dana descends a flight of stairs and goes through a door to the parking garage.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - PARKING GARAGE

Dana is in a darkened parking garage. She looks around.

DANA

Step out - I know you're there.

Suddenly one of Luctor's henchmen steps out of the shadows and threatens with a pair of nunchucks. Other henchmen (not including Tager, Rodale, and the Lieutenant) emerge from the shadows. Dana cartwheels behind a post just as another henchman throws a pair of ninja stars. The stars stick into the post. The henchmen look around when Dana suddenly emerges and takes out two of them in one maneuver. Now she is forced to engage the group. The result is an immense battle. Dana eventually subdues and kills most of the henchman. As she is finishing off one of the last two remaining henchmen, the final henchman approaches from behind and is about to stab her. Suddenly there is the muffled sound of a gunshot from a silencer. The final henchman drops and we see Martha holding a fancy chrome gun.

MARTHA

Are you okay?

DANA

Yes. (BRUSHES HERSELF OFF) I didn't know that reporters carried that kind of metal (SMILES).

MARTHA

You're right. I'm actually from Interpol, Bucharest office.

DANA

Interpol?

MARTHA

Yes, I'm investigating Luctor in connection with the theft of a priceless artifact from my country.

DANA

So you're from Romania? Your American accent is nearly perfect.

MARTHA

Standard training. Anyway, I saw one of Luctor's men exiting the rink and I decided to follow. I took up a position to observe what they were doing when you arrived.

DANA

You have my gratitude, of course.

MARTHA

Then please repay me by not reporting anything about this. I can't afford to have any evidence of my investigation compromised at this point.

Dana nods.

DANA

I understand.

INT. COFFEE HOUSE - MORNING

The next day Roger, Reynold, and Dana are in the coffee shop. Roger is reading an article about the melee in the parking garage.

ROGER

(LOOKING AT THE NEWSPAPER)

It says that seven men were killed in a fight involving guns and other weapons in the parking garage of the arena. Campus police suspect that it may have been the result of a rift between members of rival gangs. Fortunately no students were involved.

DANA

It's a troubling event.

ROGER

First Sophie's disappearance and now this. It's a public relations nightmare for the university.

REYNOLD

Not necessarily. I know something that can push those negative stories off the front pages...

DANA
What's that?

REYNOLD
A roller derby championship.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - SANCTUM - DAY/NIGHT

Luctor is furious at the news from his Lieutenant.

LUCTOR
All of your men dead? How could
this happen?

LIEUTENANT
I don't know.

LUCTOR
(CALMING DOWN) Well, it's no
matter. I have the most brilliant
captain and the most skilled roller
derby players in the world, and
with the powers of the undead, they
will prove unbeatable.

We pan across the assembled team members (in vampire form) as
they stand shoulder-to-shoulder almost salivating in
anticipation.

EXT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

The marquee reads: "Aztecs vs. Vampyras". A stereotypical
STUDENT JOCK is at a podium in front of the arena addressing
a crowd of students. He is a white male who is painfully
struggling to read a prepared speech.

STUDENT JOCK
(PASSIONLESS, DIFFICULTY WITH
UNFAMILIAR WORDS) And when the
imperialists came to the Americas
from across the sea, they found
gentle, peace-loving peoples to
welcome them. But the imperialists
cared only about wealth.
(MORE)

STUDENT JOCK(cont'd)

This began a long history of exploitation and discrimination against native Americans, people of color, women, persons with disabilities, and peoples of many different ethnicities, creeds, colors, religions, sexual orientations, and gender identities. The Aztecs fought the imperialists and that is why they are good symbols for our university. (LOOKS UP, EXCITED) Go Columbia State! Beat Vampyras! Yeah!!!

The crowd cheers.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

Before the event begins, Dana and her teammates are gathered near the track. Dana is diagramming a play on a sheet of paper on a clipboard. Martha is watching beside the group as Marty approaches Dana.

MARTY

Professor Brasuhn, may I have a word with you?

Dana turns to him.

DANA

What is it?

MARTY

We just found a body in the basement.

DANA

A body? Is it Sophie - I mean Professor Le Blanc?

MARTY

No. It *is* a female, but we've established from the maintenance schedule that she must have been killed within the past 24 hours.

DANA

How did it happen?

MARTY

We don't know, but the body has undergone some kind of rapid deterioration. The reason why I'm informing you about this is because of her teeth. They were somehow fashioned to look like fangs.

DANA

Fangs?

MARTY

That's right. I'm thinking it might be some nutcase trying to send you a warning - you know, because of your big bout against the Vampyras. These kinds of sporting events generate heated passions, and sometimes people go over the edge.

Martha approaches.

MARTHA

Excuse me... I overheard your description of the body, and I was wondering if you ran a Helsing scan.

MARTY

A Helsing scan? Are you joking?

DANA

Have them run it right away.

MARTY

That's an expensive test. I can't justify...

DANA

Marty, I hate to pull rank, but as a professor I'm afraid I have to insist.

Marty raises his hands.

MARTY

(RELUCTANT) Okay...

A voice is heard over the loudspeaker.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Players, to the track.

DANA
Gotta go.

Dana and the team walk away as Kano approaches Marty.

MARTY
(TO KANO) Professor Carpathian...

KANO
Hey Marty, I saw you talking to the team...

MARTY
Yes, we found a body in the basement.

KANO
That's shocking.

Meanwhile, Martha is walking toward her seat when she turns and sees Kano and Marty talking. When they finish, Kano goes into a room. Martha follows.

She knocks on the door and enters.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - ROOM - NIGHT

Kano is picking up a folded suit jacket from a table. His back is to Martha when she enters.

MARTHA
Excuse me...

Kano turns to her. The jacket is draped over his left arm.

KANO
More questions for your article?

MARTHA
What? (CONFUSED) Oh, so you're aware of that. Well, my name is Martha Duval. I've seen you filming the Aztecs' practices.

KANO
(SLIGHTLY FLUSTERED) Yes, well, and I've seen you around and heard that you're a reporter.

MARTHA
The truth is that I'm with
Interpol...

KANO
Interpol?

MARTHA
Yes, I'm investigating the owner of
the Vampyras. I suspect that you
may have filmed something that
could be crucial evidence.

KANO
What kind of evidence?

MARTHA
I believe Luctor may have had
access to sensitive areas within
this venue.

KANO
How can that be?

MARTHA
Well, without his mask he may have
been able to move about unnoticed.
For all we know he may even be one
of the people on staff here.

KANO
(REFLECTING) Yes... yes of
course... I'm sure I know who it
is.

He begins to walk as if in thought.

MARTHA
Who?

Kano walks behind a column (or a whiteboard) as he replies.

LUCTOR
Well... it was...

He emerges from behind the column - in the mask of Luctor.

LUCTOR
.. ME!

Luctor pulls a blowgun from beneath the jacket. Martha draws
her gun but Luctor shoots a dart into her neck before she can
fire.

She drops to the ground, gasping with her eyes wide open.
Luctor approaches and stands above her putting on the jacket.

LUCTOR

That is the venom of the Columbian
death spider. It will all be over
for you in a few seconds.

Luctor laughs maniacally.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

Meanwhile, the two teams are on the track as the first half begins. The physical intensity is so great that the referees have difficulty keeping control. The Vampyras take every opportunity to cheat, including striking one of the Aztecs during a time out. The intensity of play continues to increase, and it becomes clear that the Vampyras are specifically targeting Dana for devastating hits. She falls several times in a row as Sophie and the Savage sisters take turns knocking her to her knees. She gets up quickly each time, but eventually she has to call for a substitution. Roger checks on her as she flops onto the bench.

ROGER

Dana, hey, those were some vicious
hits. Are you okay?

DANA

(BREATHING HEAVILY) That last one
really knocked the wind out of me.

We hear a sound that turns out to be from Dana's cell phone (she apparently even carries it during the match).

DANA

(ANSWERING HER PHONE) Yes... I
understand. Thanks, Marty.

Dana has a look of grave concern as she slowly lowers her phone.

ROGER

Dana, what is it?

DANA

(STARING BLANKLY) That was campus
police. They ran a Helsing scan on
a body they found earlier. (LOOKS
AT ROGER) It tested positive for
vampirism.

ROGER
Vampirism? In this day and age?

DANA
(REALIZING) Of course! I knew I recognized that style of play. I used to play chess with Sophie every week when I first came to the university.

Dana looks at the Vampyras captain - Sophie - as she circles the track. Roger looks in the direction of her gaze and then back at her.

DANA
That's her. That's Sophie! Sophie Le Blanc.

ROGER
No, Dana, if we're dealing with vampires then that's just her animated corpse. Sophie is gone.

DANA
You're right, Roger.

Meanwhile, Luctor has assumed a position on his special viewing box/platform where he can oversee his team's dominance of the Aztecs. With every vicious hit on one of Aztec players, Luctor laughs with satisfaction.

Dana gets up off of the bench to line up with her teammates for the next round.

ROGER
(SURPRISED) You're going back in?
(FRUSTRATED) Dana, has it not sunk in? Those are vampire women. We need to get the police here and stop the match.

DANA
No, Roger, all we have at this point is speculation. We need proof.

Dana produces a stun gun (a small hand-held device that produces a high-voltage spark). She demonstrates the continuous blue spark, but Roger motions for her to put it away.

ROGER

Dana, something like that is a major penalty. It could cost us the match.

DANA

Vampires are highly vulnerable to lightning and fire. (GRAVELY) I have to get out there and do it - *no matter the cost.*

Dana skates onto the track.

The round begins and Dana paces herself for an opportune moment before applying the stun gun to Sophie. Immediately upon receiving the jolt, Sophie bursts into flames. Dana slows, still holding the stun gun, but Sophie continues forward as a human fireball. The crowd expresses shock and the referee signals a penalty. Sophie veers off the track and falls in a burning heap. A close-up reveals only skeletal remains within the embers.

Dana points up and across the track at Luctor.

DANA

Stop him! Somebody get him!

Two of Dana's teammates skate off the track toward Luctor, but he sees them coming and suddenly shoots out from his viewing platform in the opposite direction on skates. Two of the Vampyras who have been circling at high speed leave the track, take his hands, and propel him forward at higher speed. Dana proceeds to knock the two Vampyras aside and begin her pursuit of Luctor. The rest of the Aztecs follow.

EXT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

We see Dana following Luctor through the parking lot as the other Aztecs come out of the arena at high speed. A short time later we see the Vampyras skate out at high speed to join the chase.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

The players proceed on a dangerous high-speed chase through the city. The outer rear wheels of Luctor's skates are scythed with screw-like blades. He skates next to a car and uses the blades to rupture the tire. As Luctor passes, the car weaves and then flips sideways across the road and explodes into a fireball. This forces the pursuers to make evasive maneuvers.

INT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - NIGHT

Marty is talking on a large military-style walkie-talkie.

MARTY

This is Chief Walker. Get me a
black and white to the west
entrance.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

The high-speed chase continues with Dana a short distance behind Luctor with the rest of the Aztecs trailing behind. The Vampyras are catching up and proceed to pick off a trailing Aztec skater, causing her to crash off the side of the road.

EXT. UNIVERSITY ARENA - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

A campus police car pulls up to Marty, who is still talking on the walkie-talkie. Marty opens the passenger door and addresses DRIVER 1.

MARTY

They just crossed the intersection
of Providence and Stadium going
north.

Marty hops in and the car takes off.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

The Vampyras proceed to pick off another Aztec, but their next attempt fails as the Aztec pushes one of the Vampyras into a spike sticking out the back of a parked tow truck. As she is impaled and dies, another Vampyra knocks the Aztec skater into the back of a parked car. She rolls over the top of the vehicle and is clearly injured. The three remaining Vampyras reach the last remaining Aztec skater. They hit her hard, but she is able to grab one of the Vampyras and pull her off the road. As the Aztec drops and rolls, the Vampyra slams into a road sign and is decapitated. Marty's car pulls in front of the final two Vampyras (still at speed).

INT. MARTY'S CAR - NIGHT

MARTY
Keep her steady - I'm going to
spill the fuel tank. Hopefully
their wheels are hot enough.

DRIVER 1
How will we maintain pursuit after
that?

MARTY
(INTO WALKIE-TALKIE) I'm going to
need another cruiser. North Stadium
near Crest Avenue.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Dana is getting close to Luctor, but he maneuvers to avoid
her attempts to grab him.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

The cruiser maintains its position ahead of the Vampyras.

INT. MARTY'S CAR - NIGHT

Marty reaches under the dash.

MARTY
Here goes...

He pulls something and looks back through the rear window.

EXT. CITY STREETS - REAR OF MARTY'S CAR - NIGHT

We see (in CU) fluid pour out the rear of the vehicle. In a
wide we see the Vampyras skating through the spill. In CU we
see a skate wheel produce a spark before the frame goes
orange with fire.

INT. MARTY'S CAR - NIGHT

We see Marty looking back as the inside of the vehicle is
illuminated with orange light from behind.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

We see flaming bodies trailing behind the cruiser.

The police car rolls to a stop. Marty gets out to inspect the burning bodies. A motorcyclist passes at high speed in the direction of the chase.

Meanwhile, Luctor continues fending off Dana's attempts to reach him.

Back at the site of the conflagration, another cruiser arrives. DRIVER 2 exits the vehicle and approaches Marty.

DRIVER 2
Chief, did you see that maniac on
the motorcycle?

MARTY
Forget him. I'll take over the
pursuit. You secure this area.

DRIVER 2
(SALUTING) Yes sir.

Meanwhile, Luctor continues to thwart Dana's attempts to charge him as they hear the sound of motorcycle approaching. The cyclist pulls in front of Luctor. We see through his helmet that the cyclist is the Lieutenant. Luctor grabs onto the back of the bike as it speeds away.

INT. MARTY'S SECOND CAR - NIGHT

We see Dana ahead, bent over with her hands on her knees, totally exhausted. Marty slows and pulls up to her. He calls to him through the passenger window.

MARTY
Are you all right?

DANA
I'm fine, but Luctor escaped behind
a motorcycle.

MARTY
Hop in.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Dana gets in and the car speeds away.

INT. MARTY'S SECOND CAR - NIGHT

Dana observes the motorcycle ditched at the entrance to the drive up to Luctor's mansion.

DANA
That's the motorcycle. (POINTING TO
THE MANSION) He must be in there.

As they pull into the driveway we hear the sound of approaching sirens.

EXT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Later we see Marty and Dana standing in front of one of the main entrances. They are bathed in the flashing lights of police cars. Marty speaks into a bullhorn.

MARTY
(INTO BULLHORN) Luctor, you're
surrounded. The game is over.

Marty waits for a response and then throws down the bullhorn.

There is a crowd of onlookers and many civilian cars as well. Marty addresses OFFICER MARKIE.

MARTY
What are all these people doing
here?

OFFICER MARKIE
There's been live news coverage
since the chase began. We're going
to have a lot more gawkers before
we're done here.

MARTY
Well, keep 'em back.

Another officer, OFFICER COLDWELL, approaches Marty while carrying a fire ax.

OFFICER COLDWELL
(TO MARTY) This place is sealed
like a fortress. The windows are
bulletproof glass and the doors
can't be dented with an ax.

MARTY
Fetch one of the liquid nitrogen
guns from the TAC vehicle.

OFFICER COLDWELL
Aye.

Officer Coldwell dashes toward one of the vehicles.

DANA
What kind of person are we dealing
with here?

Officer Coldwell returns wearing retro-futuristic chrome
tanks on his back with something that looks like a
flamethrower.

MARTY
(POINTING TO THE DOOR LOCK) Freeze
the lock mechanism.

Officer Coldwell points and fires a blast of freezing gas at
the lock. Marty hits the lock with the bullhorn and then
opens it with his hand covered in a handkerchief. Suddenly
there is the sound of a gunshot from inside the mansion and
(in a wide) we see a flash through a window. Marty and Dana
rush in, followed by a few campus police.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - HALLWAYS - NIGHT

Inside Luctor's house Marty, Dana, and others make their way
to Luctor's sanctum.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - SANCTUM - NIGHT

Luctor appears to be on the throne with a self-inflicted
gunshot wound to the head, but the skull of Dracula is
missing from its post (emphasized in CU).

DANA
After so much mayhem and
destruction his reign of terror
ends with a single gunshot.

Marty approaches the body and prepares to remove the mask.

MARTY
So let's see who he really is.

Marty pulls off the mask to reveal the Lieutenant.

MARTY
Well, that's Luctor. Look familiar?

DANA
No. Not at all.

EXT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

Outside, a crowd of onlookers watch as Dana, Marty, and the others come out. As Dana makes her way through the crowd she is stopped by a young girl, TESSA.

TESSA
You're Dana Brasuhn, captain of the Aztecs, aren't you?

DANA
Yes I am.

TESSA
I'm your biggest fan. Can you sign this?

The book is UNDERSTANDING ARISTOTLE, by Dr. Dana Brasuhn.

DANA
Sure (PROCEEDS TO SIGN IT).

INT. REYNOLD'S OFFICE - MORNING

The next day Roger, Reynold, and Dana are in Reynold's office (which could actually be Roger's office or anywhere else). Roger is looking at a newspaper with a headline about recent events.

ROGER
(SHAKING HIS HEAD) What a crazy week. (TO Dana) Have you heard anything about what the league is going to do?

DANA
The rules say that if one team forfeits or is disqualified the other team shall be awarded the win, so both teams can't be disqualified. I have to give my statement to the league at a hearing tomorrow afternoon. It'll be a time-consuming process, but I'm confident we'll come out okay.

REYNOLD
(TO Dana) Which reminds me, I hear
you're reducing your commitments to
the Aristotelian Society. Is that
true?

DANA
Let's just say that I have a
greater appreciation now for what
you said about the benefits of a
higher profile.

Suddenly Roger calls to someone outside of the door.

ROGER
Hey, Kano, we're about to head over
for some coffee. Want to join us?

Kano sticks his head in.

KANO
Sorry, I have an appointment to
help a professor who's looking for
a new house.

EXT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF REYNOLD'S OFFICE

We observe Roger, Reynold and Dana over Kano's shoulder. Kano
turns toward us and we pull to very shallow focus only on his
eyes.

KANO
Maybe next time...

Kano moves out of view (the shot into the office remains out
of focus) and we... FADE TO BLACK.

END PART I

LUCTOR'S REVENGE

PART II



PART II

(TEXT OVER:) TWO YEARS LATER...

EXT. CAMPUS FILM VENUE - NIGHT

We see a marquee: "Campus Film Premiere: Luctor's Revenge"

INT. CAMPUS FILM VENUE - NIGHT

Inside we see a packed cinema watching the film's opening credits. We see the title followed by the credits for the current film, intercut with shots of the audience.

Roger Clark is approached by a YOUNG LADY.

YOUNG LADY
Professor Clark, the Chancellor is
leaving and would like a word with
you.

ROGER
Sure.

Roger gets up and exits as we see another clip from the film.

INT. CAMPUS FILM VENUE - LOBBY - NIGHT

The Chancellor and his wife, EVELYN, are waiting at the door.

CHANCELLOR
Hi Roger. (TO EVELYN) Evelyn, I'd
like you to meet Roger Clark. He's
the director of film studies. A lot
of his students worked on the film.

EVELYN
(SHAKES HANDS WITH ROGER)
It's a pleasure to meet you.

ROGER
Likewise. I'm sorry you can't stay
to see it.

CHANCELLOR
We'd like to, but I have to speak
at a reception for the Linking Arms
Across America campaign. I just
wanted to congratulate you on this
outstanding event.

ROGER

Thanks.

CHANCELLOR

By the way... Kano has assured me that this Luctor thing in the film isn't going to cause any problems. Are you confident as well?

ROGER

Uh, you know, that was Kano's call. I think he's right that it'll generate a lot of publicity.

EVELYN

(CONCERNED) What's this about Luctor?

Roger and the Chancellor begin to speak at once.

ROGER & CHANCELLOR

Well...

ROGER

Sorry...

CHANCELLOR

No, please, you can explain.

ROGER

Well, as you know, Luctor shot himself after that horrendous vampire incident last year.

EVELYN

Oh, it was simply awful. With that spiky mask he was just dreadful.

CHANCELLOR

Of course the whole vampire business was blown out of proportion. The university concluded that there's no evidence at all to support it.

ROGER

Right. Well, Kano's script has Luctor as the villain for the film.

EVELYN

That seems to me to be in very bad taste.

CHANCELLOR

And I understand that Kano even played the part of Luctor in the film.

ROGER

That's right. I have to admit that I was a bit uneasy about it, but as they say in Hollywood: any publicity is good publicity.

CHANCELLOR

But this isn't Hollywood, and I don't want anything coming back to bite us when the legislature is debating our budget for next year. I'll tell you, if even one representative points to this as a reason to cut our funding I'll pull the plug on your whole program.

ROGER

I'm sure there's nothing to worry about.

CHANCELLOR

It's good to hear you say that. (SMILES) I didn't mean to put a damper on things. Congratulations again.

ROGER

Thanks.

EVELYN

(AS THEY EXIT) It was a pleasure meeting you.

ROGER

A pleasure meeting you.

The Chancellor and his wife exit. Roger has a nervous look on his face as he approaches the door to the cinema and peeks in. We see Mil strapped to a platform in a laboratory as a mad scientist is about to attach alligator clips with high voltage wires to his groin.

INT. CAMPUS FILM VENUE - NIGHT

We intercut between the audience and clips from the film with cross fades to convey the passing of time. We see hero shots of Mil on a motorcycle and in various costumes.

We also see a scene of Dana and La Torcha battling henchmen. Near the end of the film-within-a-film we see a shot of Mil Mascaras throwing Luctor out of a window. The audience cheers enthusiastically. Later we see a "THE END" card and the rolling of credits as the audience claps. An EMCEE steps beside the screen and speaks through a microphone.

EMCEE

I just want to remind everyone that members of the cast will be joining me on stage for a Q&A session, and I think you'll want to stay around for that.

INT. LAAAM VENUE - NIGHT

The Chancellor is at a podium giving a slide-based presentation before a sizeable crowd.

CHANCELLOR

The Linking-Arms-Across-America campaign is one of the most ambitious demonstrations of peace and goodwill ever conceived, and the University is proud to be one of the principal organizers.

As you know, the goal is to assemble between 100 and 120 million people to link arms in an unbroken harmony chain from coast to coast. If current estimates are to be believed, the total participation could reach 150 million people, including leaders from over 100 nations and visitors from around the world.

One end of the chain will have the mayor of New York City standing in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean with the mayor of Los Angeles at the other end standing in the waters of the Pacific. In between will be a cross-section not just of America but also the world. And it will pass directly through our campus. (THE ATTENDEES APPLAUD)

It has been quite a challenge to unite people from both ends of the political spectrum to support this historic event.

(MORE)

CHANCELLOR(cont'd)

For almost twelve years the project has been stalled in debate over the wording of the event's mission statement. As you probably know, two years ago a bipartisan panel developed a proposed statement that broke the logjam and really got everything going.

Their mission statement had this wording (POINTS TO A SLIDE): "To Promote Diversity Awareness of Different Cultures, Religions, Ethnicities, Sexual & Gender Identities, Body Size Diversity, and to Promote Traditional Family Values and the Intrinsic Value of Human Life". Yep, that's a mouthful, but it got the ball rolling.

Then last year things fell apart over the parsing of the phrase (SUBSEQUENT QUOTED PHRASES ARE DEPICTED ON SLIDES) "Traditional Family Values". Does the mission statement promote "Traditional (Family Values)" or "(Traditional Family) Values"? This was debated in meetings and in the press for months before things unraveled further over other aspects of the mission statement. It appeared that the event would never happen.

Fast forward to February of last year when a new blue-ribbon bipartisan panel was assembled. After months of work, they announced their revised statement: "To Promote Diversity and Celebrate Traditional Values". This led to the formal scheduling of the event, which was scheduled for next week. The late-breaking news, of course, is that controversy erupted again over this new mission statement.

Well, I'm here to announce that an official resolution has been reached with the help of a blue-ribbon arbitration panel.

(MORE)

CHANCELLOR(cont'd)

The new statement reads: "To Celebrate Diversity Awareness and Traditional Values". The event is back on! The harmony chain will be a reality! (THE CROWD APPLAUDS)

INT. CAMPUS FILM VENUE - ON STAGE - NIGHT

Seated on stage are Dana, Kano, and La Torcha. The Emcee is at the podium as the Q&A is already in progress.

LA TORCHA

(ANSWERING A QUESTION) So when I became senior lecturer at the Wrestling Women's Academy I had to curtail my wrestling schedule, which meant a lot less travel. That freed up time to provide more assistance to local law enforcement. As for my relationship with Mil, we're still close, but his plate is very full since becoming Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations. That's why you don't see him much in the film. He could only be here for a couple of days of filming.

We see QUESTIONER 1 standing in the audience.

QUESTIONER 1

Thanks. (SITS)

EMCEE

Okay, another question? (LOOKS AROUND, POINTS)

QUESTIONER 2

Yes, my question is for Kano. Can you tell us how you first met Mil Mascaras?

KANO

Sure. Around 25 years ago I co-authored a paper with the Magister establishing the 4-flex-point model for analyzing wrestling moves. Mil was there in El Paso for a championship defense against Luctor, and I sent a message asking if I could meet with him beforehand to discuss my research.

(MORE)

KANO(cont'd)

We got to talking about his strategy for the match and, well, that's how I met him. He ended up being defeated by Luctor, but afterward he and La Torcha invited me out for drinks. They were the super couple of that time and the paparazzi were like locusts. Anyway, we've been friends ever since.

QUESTIONER 2

And what was his relationship with Luctor?

KANO

They started out as competitors in the ring. Later Mil worked with the authorities on quite a few cases involving Luctor's alleged criminal activities, but somehow Luctor always managed to stay one step ahead.

EMCEE

Do we have another question? (LOOKS AROUND AND POINTS)

QUESTIONER 3

There have been lots of rumors that Luctor is actually still alive. What do you think?

KANO

I hope he isn't alive or he might sue us for using his character in the film. (LAUGHTER FROM THE CROWD) In all truthfulness, though, Dana here is in the best position to answer that question because she was there when he died.

DANA

That's right, there's no doubt about Luctor's demise. I was there on the scene when he shot himself in the head. We removed the mask and he was most definitely dead.

QUESTIONER 3

And what about the skull of Dracula?

DANA

Pure myth. For those of you unfamiliar with the case, Luctor created a cadre of vampire women, and somehow rumors started that he had used the skull of Dracula. The truth, as is often the case, is much more mundane. The police suspect he found an unfortunate young lady who suffered from a spontaneous case of vampirism. It happens from time to time, especially in countries with indigenous populations of vampire bats. It's no different from Ebola, lycanthropy, and other diseases which sporadically appear.

EMCEE

Okay, we have time for one last question? (LOOKS AROUND, POINTS)

QUESTIONER 4

Dana, you say you were there when Luctor's mask was removed. Does Kano resemble him?

There are laughs from the audience.

DANA

No, I'm afraid not, but with the mask they do look uncannily similar.

EMCEE

Actually, if I can pull them up... I have a picture of the real Luctor and one of Kano as Luctor. (THE IMAGES COME UP - ONE SHOWS LUCTOR WITH HIS LIEUTENANT BESIDE HIM) There they are. You'd be hard pressed to tell them apart.

Dana looks at the pictures and exhibits a look of surprise and concern.

EMCEE

Well, we're over our time limit, so join me in thanking our guests.

The Emcee and the audience give their applause. We pull in close on the projected face of Luctor.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

We pull back from the close-up of Luctor to reveal it to be on a large screen TV.

MALE NEWSCASTER (ON SCREEN)

And the event ended just over two hours ago with a Q&A session with some of the stars of the film. There was no controversy, but one audience member did ask about rumors that Luctor might still be alive. Distinguished scholar and roller derby star, Dana Brasuhn, assured the audience that Luctor was (SMILES) positively, absolutely, undeniably and reliably dead.

Luctor is sitting at the head of a table and laughs at what he sees. Several vampire women and henchmen (including Tager and Rodale) are also watching the TV.

FEMALE NEWSCASTER (ON SCREEN)

To summarize our top story, it was announced tonight that a breakthrough has occurred on the drafting of a final mission statement for the Linking Arms Across America harmony chain event. Sources close to the organizing committee say that there is nothing now that can stop the event from occurring one week from today.

LUCTOR

(NODDING) Good...

EXT. WRESTLING WOMEN ACADEMY - MORNING

We see a sign establishing the Mil Mascaras Wrestling Women Academy.

INT. LA TORCHA'S OFFICE - MORNING

La Torcha and an ACADEMY STUDENT are looking at a report when there's a knock at the door.

LA TORCHA

Come in.

Dana enters.

DANA
Is this a bad time?

LA TORCHA
(TO Dana) No, we're just finishing.
(TO STUDENT) So if you revise the
section we discussed, and correct
your proof of theorem 3, I can give
you back those points.

ACADEMY STUDENT
(HAPPY) Thank you so much. I'll get
on it right away.

The student exits as Dana approaches La Torcha's desk.

LA TORCHA
It's been awhile, Dana. What's up?

DANA
Well, something that might be
important.

LA TORCHA
What is it?

DANA
There's a potential -- I'm not sure
how to describe it -- issue that
could prove problematic for the
university.

LA TORCHA
How can I help?

DANA
As you know, that Linking Arms
event is scheduled for next week,
and I have some... concerns. They
may be unfounded, but if I disclose
anything to anyone at the
University, well, they may be
obligated to take actions in
response, possibly derailing the
entire event unnecessarily. I
thought maybe I could disclose my
concerns to you...

LA TORCHA
I understand, but I do a lot of
consulting with the University.
(MORE)

LA TORCHA(cont'd)

Some weeks I actually spend more time there than here at the Academy.

DANA

I see, I'd be placing you in the same quandary.

La Torcha's phone rings and she answers it.

LA TORCHA

(ON PHONE) Torcha... Yes... Yes, I know where it is. I'll be right there. Bye. (TO Dana) It seems the University police are wanting some of my time right now. I'm sorry I couldn't be more helpful.

DANA

Actually you've been very helpful. I realize I should probably be handling the situation myself.

EXT. MIL MASCARAS WRESTLING WOMEN'S ACADEMY - MORNING

We see the front of the building as Dana exits. As she's walking down the stairs we see La Torcha drive out of the building's garage on a motorcycle. She turns and drives between us and Dana.

INT. UNIVERSITY VAULT ROOM - MORNING

The campus POLICE CHIEF and several officers are present, as is a SCIENTIST in a lab coat with an insignia saying "IDAK". There is a large vault door, which is open. The Police Chief addresses his officers as they work.

POLICE CHIEF

Remember, those of you who were on scene before the DNA sweep need to provide your DNA signatures for discrimination reference.

La Torcha enters.

POLICE CHIEF

Ah, La Torcha. Thank you so much for coming.

LA TORCHA

No problem, I'm happy to help.

POLICE CHIEF

Well, this is pretty serious, which is why I want you involved every step of the way. An 8 kilogram, high-purity silver tiger was stolen last night. It was a gift from the Korean government to President Truman, who willed it to the University. It's worth over two million dollars.

LA TORCHA

Wow, that's quite a score. How can I help?

POLICE CHIEF

The fact is, we're stumped on this. As you can see, the vault hasn't been damaged at all. No sign it was forced in any way. In fact, from what I'm told this is the most secure vault design in the world. It's on a time lock and not even a small nuclear weapon should be able to open it - or at least that's what the company guy says. (MOTIONS TO THE SCIENTIST) Here, let him tell you.

SCIENTIST

(SHAKES HANDS WITH LA TORCHA) Hi, I'm with IDAK security. We provided the vault and stand behind its integrity 100%. There is nothing that can open it except the time lock. Any attempt to force it will cause it to go into total lockdown mode, at which point it can only be opened with special arc-plasma torches applied to a secret set of release points. This vault could not have been opened last night.

LA TORCHA

So the tiger must have been taken before the vault was closed last night or after it was opened this morning.

POLICE CHIEF

No way. I mean we're in the process of confirming, but it appears that the item had to have been taken sometime during the night.

LA TORCHA

How can you be sure?

POLICE CHIEF

The lock mechanism requires two people to insert keys at opposite sides of the door before it can be opened or closed. Everyone present when the vault was locked yesterday afternoon or when it was opened this morning has been questioned and polygraphed. What's more, surveillance video outside captured everyone entering and exiting during daylight hours. Nobody was transporting a large, heavy silver tiger.

LA TORCHA

Of course the polygraphs are not 100% reliable, but you know that.

POLICE CHIEF

I do, and I always take them with a grain of salt, especially if the results are not clear-cut. In this case, though, we have at least one witness in the evening and one in the morning whose polygraph results are unambiguous. I have no doubt they're telling the truth.

LA TORCHA

So the only window of opportunity was during the night when the time lock was activated.

POLICE CHIEF

That's right. Between roughly 10pm and 5am it was too dark to make out any details of the entrance to this building, so that's when it must have happened.

LA TORCHA

That implies that the time lock must have been circumvented.

POLICE CHIEF
(POINTS TO LARGE OBJECTS) These things on the floor appear to be powerful ceramic magnets that were left by the perpetrators. They're what caught the attention of the two individuals who arrived on the scene this morning. The magnets must have been used to spring the lock.

LA TORCHA
(TO THE SCIENTIST) Is that possible?

SCIENTIST
I tell you, there's no way magnets could be used for anything. It's just not possible. This is all tungsten and nickel-osmium alloy. A magnetic field won't affect it at all.

POLICE CHIEF
All I know is that these are here and the tiger is gone.

LA TORCHA
I'd like to question everyone from yesterday afternoon and this morning. In the meantime I want to read through the technical documentation for the vault.

POLICE CHIEF
Of course.

The Police Chief starts to turn when La Torcha asks another question.

LA TORCHA
Oh, has an inventory been taken to determine if anything else is missing?

POLICE CHIEF
I'll know as soon as I get an inventory list from the admin office. It's not really necessary, though. We know that they just wanted that tiger.

LA TORCHA
How's that?

POLICE CHIEF
On the shelf there are stacks of cash -- over \$50,000 belonging to the athletic department -- that wasn't touched.

LA TORCHA
Get in, acquire the target, and get out. It appears to be a very professional job.

INT. VIDEO LAB - DAY

Kano is sitting at an editing bay as Roger enters.

ROGER
Kano, hey, do you have a minute?

KANO
Sure, what's up?

ROGER
I'm getting nervous about this Luctor thing. The Chancellor cornered me at the screening last night and made it clear that he doesn't want any negative publicity. He even raised the possibility of yanking funding for the program.

KANO
Come on Roger, he's not going to do that.

ROGER
What makes you so sure?

KANO
Do you know how much money these films generate?

ROGER
Well, I saw in the faculty newsletter that you personally have made over twenty million from them.

KANO

Right, and I only get 30% of the profits. The University gets 50%. It's like lottery money for the state or heroin for an addict -- once they're hooked they're not giving it up.

ROGER

Trust me, Kano, if they start feeling enough heat they'll yank the film and it'll never be seen again. You're pretty well set, but I don't want anything threatening my budget.

KANO

Okay, Roger, let me fill you in on a little secret. Now this is in the strictest confidence...

ROGER

Sure, what is it?

KANO

I waived half of my stake in this film and assigned the revenue to support the Linking Arms Across America event. That's how the University was able to beat out sponsorship bids from all those big competitors and get the harmony chain to come through our campus.

ROGER

(STUNNED) What?! (PUTS HIS HANDS ON HIS HEAD) You helped make that happen? But you hate that kind of crap. I swear, I have no idea what goes on in your head sometimes.

KANO

Actually, it makes perfect sense. This thing will generate huge amounts of publicity for the university. You're right that it's not the kind of event I'd want my name associated with, which is why the arrangement has been kept private.

ROGER

So the university's bid was based on money that's expected to come from this movie?

KANO

Right. That's why there's no way they can yank it.

ROGER

(SMILES) So let me ask you, Kano, was your goal really to promote the university or to get away with making this movie?

KANO

Hey, if I just wanted to make the movie I could have done it outside of the university and paid for it myself.

ROGER

I don't know, sometimes I get the feeling you just like to see what you can get away with.

INT. DARK TUNNEL - DAY

We see an ELECTRICIAN with a hard hat and full gear climbing down into a tunnel. He uses a flashlight to examine a set of cables. He walks along, focused on the cables, when he stumbles slightly. He turns the light downward and is shocked to see a body. It's a female lying face down. Her skin is very pale and she appears to be dead.

ELECTRICIAN

Holy shit...

He bends down over the body and looks more closely using his flashlight. While still in a squatted position he takes a walkie-talkie from his belt.

ELECTRICIAN

(INTO WALKIE-TALKIE) Yeah, this is Brian down in east-33...

Suddenly the woman twists her head toward him and hisses with fangs bared. She is one of Luctor's vampires. The Electrician jumps up and starts stepping back as she slowly rises. As we follow his motion backward we suddenly see another pale face behind him. He turns and is shocked to see the other vampire woman.

The two then lunge at him and he is barely able to scream as he is taken down. One of the women mounts him. He repeatedly punches her face with full force, but she seems unaffected. He throws her off and gets up to one knee when he is brought down again by the other vampire woman. There is commotion in the shadows but we can't make out the details. Then there is silence. We see a close-up of a distinctive-looking set of keys on the man's belt as one of the vampire women removes them. We then see her stand up with a maniacal look in her eyes as blood runs down her fangs, her neck, and onto her chest. The other woman slowly approaches her from behind, places her hands on her shoulders, and begins licking the blood from her neck.

INT. UNIVERSITY VAULT ROOM - DAY

La Torcha is pacing as she reads a technical manual. The Police Chief and Scientist approach.

POLICE CHIEF

Is there anything we can get you?

LA TORCHA

No, but I think I've found a vulnerability.

SCIENTIST

That's impossible.

LA TORCHA

It's true that the nickel-osmium alloy prevents the magnets from being used to induce mechanical forces to manipulate the locking mechanism, but what if the purpose was to induce a current?

SCIENTIST

What do you mean?

LA TORCHA

(POINTING INTO THE MANUAL) A current induced here would scramble the clock register.

SCIENTIST

Amazing...

LA TORCHA

It's just a matter of hitting on a value that satisfies the inequality check.

POLICE CHIEF
(TO THE SCIENTIST) Is that correct?

SCIENTIST
Yes, I can't believe it. We've expended literally thousands of man-hours to identify and eliminate all possible vulnerabilities. (TO LA TORCHA) You found this in less than one hour.

POLICE CHIEF
Okay, so the clock can be manipulated, but wouldn't the keys still be needed?

LA TORCHA
No. The keys simply complete the circuit so that the time check is performed. The induced current would do that directly.

SCIENTIST
(TO THE POLICE CHIEF) She's right.

POLICE CHIEF
Great, so now we know how it was done.

LA TORCHA
Not so fast. We only have a possible explanation. I still have a lot of questions about the details. I'd like to go back to the Academy and run a battery of simulations.

SCIENTIST
I hate to say it, but this seems to point the finger at someone in my company.

LA TORCHA
Not necessarily. This doesn't look like a back-door that was specifically built into the system. In fact, it's probably a vulnerability common to any locking mechanism that uses a digital clock. I'll know more after I finish my analysis.

EXT. MARTY'S BACK YARD - AFTERNOON

Marty Walker is cooking over a charcoal grill when he hears a voice.

DANA

Hey, Marty... Your wife said I'd find you back here.

MARTY

Dana! Wow, it's great to see you.

DANA

It looks like retirement is suiting you pretty well.

MARTY

Absolutely. I should've done this earlier. So what brings you around here? The smell of good barbecue?

DANA

It does smell good, but actually I'm here about something very different.

MARTY

What's that?

DANA

I'd like you to take a look at this.

Dana holds up his phone with the image of Luctor with his Lieutenant that was shown at the Q&A.

MARTY

Luctor?! Why would you want to ruin my appetite with that?

DANA

No, look at the face of the man beside him.

Marty adjusts his eyes and takes a close look.

MARTY

Yeah, what about him?

DANA

That face doesn't look familiar?

MARTY
Should it?

DANA
When we pulled off Luctor's mask...
Isn't that him?

MARTY
What? (FUMBLES TO PUT ON HIS
READING GLASSES) Here let me see
that?

Marty proceeds to examine it closely.

DANA
Well, what do you think?

MARTY
I see what you mean. There's
definitely a resemblance, but what
are you thinking?

DANA
It sounds pretty farfetched, but is
it possible that the person under
the mask that night wasn't actually
Luctor?

MARTY
Not Luctor? Of course it was
Luctor. We chased him there. We
were there when he shot himself.

DANA
All we really know is that it was
someone wearing Luctor's mask. I
think the person with Luctor in
this picture is the person who died
that night.

MARTY
You gotta be kidding. I'll grant
you that there's a resemblance.
Maybe it's his brother, who knows?
One thing we know is that Luctor
hasn't been seen since.

DANA
You're probably right, but that
face is still burned into my
memory, and when I saw this
picture...

MARTY

Have you ever gone mushroom hunting?

DANA

Mushrooms?

MARTY

When I was a kid my parents would sometimes take us mushroom hunting. I never liked to eat the things, but my brother and I would compete to see who could find the most. I'll tell you, when you have an image of a mushroom in your head you'll see 'em everywhere in the woods even if there are none there.

DANA

(SMILES) Thanks, Marty.

We pan up to the bright sun.

INT. SUBTERRANEAN POWER BOX - DAY

We pull back from a shot of a bright welder's torch to see several henchmen in a sewer tunnel working on something involving a large electrical breaker box. Suddenly our view of the activities is obscured as Luctor rises in front of us. We see a close-up of the back of his spiky head, which is blurry but clearly recognizable. We pull focus as Luctor turns toward us and nods with satisfaction.

INT. LA TORCHA'S LAB - DAY

We see a close-up of La Torcha. We pull back to see her in a highly-sophisticated laboratory. She's working at a table with the two ceramic magnets and the lock mechanism from the vault. She flips a switch which results in an electric hum. She looks at a display device in her left hand as she moves a probe around the lock mechanism. After a thorough scan she flips the switch again and the hum stops. She puts down the display and probe and puts a phone to her ear.

LA TORCHA

(INTO PHONE) Yes, get me campus police. (PAUSE, LISTENS) I need a direct patch to the chief. This is La Torcha. (PAUSE, WAITS) Chief, Torcha here. I just analyzed the lock mechanism and the magnets.

(MORE)

LA TORCHA(cont'd)

The field gradient is nowhere close to what would be needed to affect the timer circuit. (PAUSE, LISTENS) Right, it was all a diversion. Collect the two people from the morning shift. I think I can explain exactly what happened.

INT. CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The Chancellor is talking at a desk with DANIEL KEEN, a pompous lawyer, as Roger and Kano enter.

ROGER

Chancellor...

CHANCELLOR

Roger, Kano, come on in. We're just finishing up. Guys, you probably haven't met Daniel Keen. He's the University's chief legal representative. Dan, these are professors Roger Clark and Kano Carpathian.

ROGER

(SHAKING DAN'S HAND) Nice to meet you.

Kano shakes his hand also.

CHANCELLOR

(TO DANIEL) We're meeting about the Linking Arms Across America event. You know, the harmony chain. Anyway, you might want to sit in and advise us if you identify any legal issues we should be aware of.

DANIEL KEEN

(ARROGANTLY) I think my pay rate is a bit too high to justify spending time on something like this. If you come up with any specific questions you can set up an appointment with my secretary.

CHANCELLOR

You're right, we'll do that.

Daniel proceeds toward the door.

ROGER

It was nice meeting you.

Daniel does not respond as he exits (strutting arrogantly).

CHANCELLOR

Okay, well, have a seat. (ROGER AND KANO SIT DOWN) The reason why I wanted to meet with you is because I think it might be a good idea to organize some filming of the harmony chain activities here on campus. This is a big event and we want to get as much publicity out of our participation as we can.

KANO

That sounds like a great idea. What did you have in mind?

CHANCELLOR

I don't know, I'm sure we'd want to determine the best locations for press coverage to show off the campus. And if we put together a documentary of the event - you know, to send out to alums - it might be good to shoot some of the preparation activities.

ROGER

I'm sure we can do that.

CHANCELLOR

Kano, I know you have a couple of students working on the special platform where I'll be positioned in the harmony chain. Maybe it would be good to film what they're doing.

KANO

I'm not sure that would be of much interest to anyone.

CHANCELLOR

I don't know, it seems interesting to me. You could interview them and get their thoughts on what it's like to be involved in something as historic as this. It's always good to show off our students.

KANO

I agree, it's just that I'm so busy right now...

ROGER

I have a journalism student in one of my classes who would love to take on a project like that.

KANO

No, that's okay. I'll take care of getting the interview. Your student would probably prefer to cover some of the more exciting stuff.

A phone rings.

CHANCELLOR

Sounds like you all have a plan of action. Let me know if there's anything you need from me.

The Chancellor picks up the phone.

ROGER

Okay, good seeing you.

The Chancellor acknowledges with a wave and then begins talking on the phone. Roger and Kano exit.

INT. OUTSIDE OF CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY

ROGER

This is the first I've heard about a special platform.

KANO

Oh, it's just something I thought might look good in press photos to highlight the university dignitaries in the chain.

ROGER

Well, like I said, if you want me to get someone to interview your students...

KANO

(EMPHATIC) No, no, I can take care of that.

INT. UNIVERSITY VAULT ROOM - DAY

The Police Chief and the two people from the morning shift, RICK Stevens and ANDREA Jones. Some other officers are also positioned around the space. La Torcha enters.

POLICE CHIEF

Torcha, I'd like you to meet Rick Stevens and Andrea Jones. They were the ones who opened the vault and discovered the theft. Rick, Andrea, this is La Torcha.

LA TORCHA

(SHAKING HANDS WITH THEM) Nice to meet you.

POLICE CHIEF

I understand that you've solved the case.

LA TORCHA

That's right. I've determined that the theft could not have occurred before the vault was opened that morning.

ANDREA

That's not true. It was gone when we opened it.

LA TORCHA

I've read over your statements and I think otherwise.

RICK

That's impossible. I've worked here seven years and have been a manager for three years. There's no way I'd be involved in a crime like this.

LA TORCHA

Chief, if you don't mind I'd like to re-enact the events of that morning.

POLICE CHIEF

By all means.

LA TORCHA

(TO RICK AND ANDREA) Okay, let's start with the turning of the keys.

Rick and Andrea step to their respective locks and act as if they're turning keys.

RICK

Then I opened the door. I saw that the tiger was gone so I told Andrea to call the police. She called from that phone over there and we waited together until the campus police arrived.

LA TORCHA

Andrea, is that how you recall it.

ANDREA

Yes. Rick went into the vault and yelled that the tiger was gone. I looked in, saw it was gone, and he told me to call the police.

POLICE CHIEF

And you saw that he wasn't carrying anything when he left the vault, is that right?

ANDREA

That's right. I was facing it the whole time during the call, and we were together until the police came.

LA TORCHA

Chief, has the crime scene been secured up to now?

POLICE CHIEF

Yes. If you hadn't gotten us together for this we would have released it today.

LA TORCHA

Then I'm certain the tiger wasn't stolen.

POLICE CHIEF

What?

LA TORCHA

I suspect that you'll find it in one of the strongboxes. (TO RICK) Isn't that true, Mr. Stevens?

Rick gives a defiant look but doesn't reply.

POLICE CHIEF
I don't understand.

LA TORCHA
I recall that he's the one who
conducted the inventory.

POLICE CHIEF
That's right.

LA TORCHA
When he entered the vault he put
the tiger in an empty strongbox
that he placed there sometime
earlier, maybe the day before. I'm
sure you had officers overseeing
his actions as he inventoried
everything, so he couldn't have
removed it. Fingerprints should
confirm my theory.

POLICE CHIEF
(TO ONE OF THE OFFICERS) Place Mr.
Stevens under arrest.

An officer cuffs him.

RICK
(CONFIDENTLY) If the tiger is still
there then there's no crime.

POLICE CHIEF
(TO RICK) I think we can make a
pretty solid case for conspiracy.
That's 3 to 5 years even with good
behavior.

RICK
(SNEERS) We'll see.

POLICE CHIEF
(TO THE OFFICER) Take him away.

The officer takes him out of the room.

POLICE CHIEF
(TO LA TORCHA) What about her?

He motions toward Andrea.

LA TORCHA
I'm confident that she was not
involved in the crime.

POLICE CHIEF
(TO ANDREA) Okay, you can go.

ANDREA
(IN SHOCK) I just can't believe
it...

LA TORCHA
(TO ANDREA) Thank you for your
cooperation.

Andrea exits.

POLICE CHIEF
(LOOKING TO THE DOOR) It was a
clever crime. He just needed to
wait until we released the crime
scene to retrieve the tiger. (TO LA
TORCHA) Excellent work, La Torcha.
I certainly won't have any problem
justifying a renewal of your
consulting agreement next year.

LA TORCHA
I'm happy to help.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

Luctor is standing and addressing his entourage.

LUCTOR
And when the switch is thrown, it
will initiate a crime that will be
recorded in the annals of history.

Rodale looks around nervously.

RODALE
Hey, I'm not up for something like
that. (STANDS) You can count me
out.

Luctor points the end of his cane at him.

LUCTOR
I trust I can count on your silence
in this regard.

RODALE
Of course - I don't rat out anyone.

LUCTOR
Of course.

Luctor fires a small dart from the cane into Rodale's neck. Rodale seems to be paralyzed as he slumps back into his chair. He makes a small gurgling sound, his eyes close, and his head slumps slightly to the side. He is clearly dead.

LUCTOR
(LOOKS AROUND THE TABLE) Any other comments or questions?

TAGER
Yeah. I'm completely in on this, but I don't see the payoff.

LUCTOR
Imbecile! Prior knowledge of an event of this magnitude can be exploited to generate wealth beyond your wildest imagination.

TAGER
(WITH A SLEAZY SMILE) That's all I need to hear.

Luctor laughs and everyone joins in. Luctor then addresses the lifeless Rodale.

LUCTOR
I'm sorry. Are we boring you, Mr. Rodale? (LAUGHS)

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF A CLASSROOM - NEXT MORNING

Roger exits the classroom and runs into Dana.

DANA
Hey, Roger...

ROGER
Dana, hi.

DANA
I hear you're helping out with the harmony chain.

ROGER
Not by choice, really. I'll have some students filming it.

DANA
Well, they'll be filming me in it.

ROGER
Really? You?

DANA
It's not really my thing, but Kano told the Chancellor that it would be good publicity to have me in it.

ROGER
I don't know what he's up to.

DANA
What do you mean?

ROGER
I think Kano's trying to finagle some good B-roll for the next film.

DANA
I should have guessed. I hear they're going to have lots of coverage, including helicopters, and he probably needs me in it for whatever he's planning.

ROGER
Maybe, but he could do that digitally if he wanted. He's a real whiz when it comes to image processing.

DANA
Well, I'm happy to help out no matter what it's for.

Dana rushes off.

INT. UNIVERSITY VAULT ROOM - DAY

The Police Chief is outside the vault as someone is surveying the items. The Police Chief makes a call to La Torcha. (We'll cut back and forth for the conversation.)

POLICE CHIEF
Hey, Torcha, I just wanted to let you know that we recovered the tiger. I have someone here right now doing a complete inventory.

LA TORCHA

I'm sure that's a relief. Was there anything else missing?

POLICE CHIEF

An old set of blueprints, that's all so far.

LA TORCHA

Blueprints?

POLICE CHIEF

Nothing important. They're for the sewer and power network below campus. The person here thinks they were probably borrowed at some point and didn't get returned.

LA TORCHA

Maybe. Has Mr. Stevens given a confession?

POLICE CHIEF

He hasn't said a thing, and he doesn't appear very concerned. Maybe he has a relative who's a hot-shot attorney.

LA TORCHA

Or maybe he was working for someone he thinks will take care of him.

POLICE CHIEF

You don't think he acted alone?

LA TORCHA

There's no way he could fence an artifact like that.

POLICE CHIEF

Maybe he planned to melt it down and sell the pure silver.

LA TORCHA

The value of that wouldn't be much greater than the cash in the vault, so why didn't he just hide the cash instead?

POLICE CHIEF

Hmm, I hadn't thought of that.

LA TORCHA

I'd like to ask him some questions,
if that's okay with you. I'll be
finished here at the Academy around
9pm.

POLICE CHIEF

I won't be available to join you,
but you're on the access list if
you want to talk to him in his
cell.

LA TORCHA

Thanks. I think there's more to
learn from him than we realize.

INT. KANO'S LAB - AFTERNOON

Kano is working with some students in a lab as Dana enters.

KANO

Hey, Dana, what brings you here?

DANA

I need to ask you about something.

KANO

Sure. What is it?

DANA

It's a bit sensitive.

KANO

Oh, okay, no problem. (TO THE
STUDENTS) Let's take a break.

The students exit.

DANA

You're going to think this is
crazy, but I think maybe there's a
chance that Luctor is alive.

KANO

(SURPRISED) What?

DANA

Actually I just need to be
reassured that he isn't. The other
night at the Q&A for the film they
showed a picture of Luctor. (HANDS
KANO A PICTURE) This one.

KANO
(LOOKING AT THE PICTURE) What about it?

DANA
(POINTING AT THE PICTURE) This guy beside Luctor. He looks just like the person I saw when Luctor's mask was removed.

KANO
I'm not sure I understand. He's standing right there next to Luctor.

DANA
I know. I just need to get rid of this nagging feeling.

KANO
Okay, how can I help?

DANA
I wanted to examine the autopsy photos of Luctor, but it seems that the entire case file was lost or stolen.

KANO
That's shocking.

DANA
But I managed to find an X-ray that was taken when he arrived at the hospital. I was wondering if you could match it to the person in this picture.

KANO
That shouldn't be a problem. I can't actually establish a match with complete certainty, but I might be able to confirm that they aren't the same individual.

DANA
That would be great. It's one of those nagging loose ends I'd like to tie up.

KANO
I understand.

EXT. CAMPUS POLICE STATION - NIGHT

La Torcha parks her motorcycle in front of the campus police station. There's a van parked in an alley beside the station. La Torcha enters the front door.

INT. CAMPUS POLICE STATION - NIGHT

La Torcha approaches the front desk and addresses the DUTY OFFICER.

DUTY OFFICER
May I help you?

LA TORCHA
Yes, I'd like to speak to one of the prisoners. I should be on the access list.

DUTY OFFICER
Your name?

LA TORCHA
La Torcha.

DUTY OFFICER
Oh, of course, I should have recognized you. Who do you want to see?

LA TORCHA
Rick Stevens, the suspect in the tiger theft.

DUTY OFFICER
That may be a problem - they're moving him to the city jail right now.

LA TORCHA
What?

La Torcha hurriedly turns and exits.

EXT. CAMPUS POLICE STATION - NIGHT

La Torcha runs around the side of the building where she sees Tager loading the prisoner into the van.

LA TORCHA

Stop!

TAGER

(TOWARD THE VAN) We have company!

From the sides and back of the van emerge three vampire women. They engage La Torcha in a massive battle, during which Tager gets into the van and drives away. Each of the vampire women is subjected to horrific injury (e.g., a neck twisted - with a loud cracking sound - into an impossible position) but is able to recover. (Maybe the physical effects of their injuries are retained during the rest of the film, e.g., one woman is missing her lower jaw, one has her head twisted at an impossible angle, etc.)

EXT. UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - MORNING

INT. CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE - MORNING

The Chancellor, Daniel Keen, the Police Chief, and La Torcha are discussing the events of the previous evening.

CHANCELLOR

As long as we have the tiger,
that's all that matters.

DANIEL KEEN

And I've advised the university not
to press charges so that there's no
crime, ergo no bad publicity.

POLICE CHIEF

I'm afraid it's not that simple. We
have criminal escape...

DANIEL KEEN

(INTERRUPTING BY SPEAKING OVER HIM)
And I have advised the same in
regard to the alleged escape. If no
charges are filed, there is no
criminal escape.

LA TORCHA

Listen here, we're talking about
much more than a jail break. We're
talking about vampire women.

CHANCELLOR

My God!

POLICE CHIEF

That's right. La Torcha fought three vampire women who aided in the escape. There's no way to sweep that under the rug.

DANIEL KEEN

The events happened on university premises, and I may remind you that you are a paid employee of the university.

LA TORCHA

If you know so much about the law you should know that any case of vampirism must be reported to the Centers for Disease Control.

DANIEL KEEN

Correction, any *confirmed* case must be reported to the CDC.

LA TORCHA

I can confirm 100% that they were vampires. They attacked me with fangs bared.

DANIEL KEEN

And what are your credentials in this regard? Do you have the required medical certification to diagnose a case of vampirism? All we have here is a wild story that may involve some women with Halloween fangs.

LA TORCHA

Those were no Halloween fangs.

DANIEL KEEN

(SMUG) So now you have expertise in the field of dentistry?

La Torcha raises her arm but the Police Chief puts his hand on her shoulder.

POLICE CHIEF

Torcha...

DANIEL KEEN

When more resources are available after the harmony chain event, a full investigation will be conducted. If proof of vampirism is discovered, then of course the university will honor its legal responsibility to report the findings to the CDC.

LA TORCHA

(FRUSTRATED) That may be too late...

CHANCELLOR

La Torcha, you know that I have the highest respect for you, but I'm entrusted with the welfare of this institution, and in that capacity I cannot go against the advice of legal counsel. I think it's best if we all just take a deep breath and take some time to reflect on the situation. It is my decision to wait until after the harmony chain - when things are a bit more settled - before we take any action in this matter.

LA TORCHA

I'm afraid I can't accept that. The welfare of the community is at stake and I *will* inform the proper authorities.

DANIEL KEEN

Let me remind you that you are bound by the confidentiality terms of your consulting agreement. Should you violate those terms we will have no choice but to file a massive civil suit against you. And because you undertake your responsibilities as an agent of the Wrestling Women Academy, we will have no choice but to bring action against it as well.

LA TORCHA

I can't believe what I'm hearing.

Daniel Keen steps face to face with La Torcha.

DANIEL KEEN

You better believe it or you will feel the full force of the university's legal resources as they are wielded to financially bankrupt both you and your beloved wrestling academy. (TO THE GROUP) I think we're done here (SMILES SMUGLY).

INT. OUTSIDE OF CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE - MORNING

The Police Chief and La Torcha exit the Chancellor's office with the door closing behind them.

LA TORCHA

I swear, lawyers disgust me more than vampires.

The door opens and Daniel Keen exits as if nothing has happened.

DANIEL KEEN

I hope you don't take any of what was discussed personally. You have to understand that I'm only acting in my capacity as a good faith advocate for this great institution.

POLICE CHIEF

We understand.

DANIEL KEEN

(AS HE STRUTS AWAY) Good day.

POLICE CHIEF

(TO LA TORCHA) I'm very sorry about all of this.

LA TORCHA

What's important now is that we determine the best course of action within the current constraints.

POLICE CHIEF

We're free to investigate, but there's not much to go on.

LA TORCHA

There's something I didn't mention about the events last night.

POLICE CHIEF
What's that?

LA TORCHA
The man who drove the van was
dressed like one of Luctor's
henchmen.

POLICE CHIEF
So you think the vampire women you
encountered might have a connection
to the vampire women Luctor was
involved with?

LA TORCHA
Yes. It's possible that his
criminal enterprise survived the
loss of its leader.

EXT. NUCLEAR REACTORS - DAY

We pan down from the reactor towers through the ground to:

INT. SUBTERRANEAN POWER BOX - DAY

Tager is standing by the breaker box that now includes a
large cable leading to a separate module with a large lever.
Backlit, we see Luctor and a bevy of vampire women
approaching. When they arrive Luctor looks over the breaker
box and lever.

TAGER
When this lever is pulled the
entire generating capacity of the
university reactors will be
diverted to your grid.

LUCTOR
And the people of the world will
tremble before me.

INT. DANA'S OFFICE - DAY

La Torcha knocks on the door as Dana is grading papers at her
desk.

LA TORCHA
Dana, do you have a second?

DANA
Sure, what's up?

LA TORCHA
The other day you wanted to talk with me about something - something that might create bad publicity for the university.

DANA
It turns out that it was a false alarm.

LA TORCHA
Maybe not. Tell me about it.

DANA
I saw a photo of one of Luctor's henchmen, and he looked like the face I saw when Luctor was unmasked.

LA TORCHA
So Luctor might be alive?

DANA
No. As I said, it was a false alarm. Do you know Kano Carpathian?

LA TORCHA
Of course.

DANA
Well, I had him check the picture against an X-ray of the person I saw unmasked. Kano confirmed that they were not the same person.

LA TORCHA
Regardless, it appears that Luctor's gang is still active. Can I borrow the pictures?

DANA
Kano didn't return them, but there are copies on here.

Dana hands La Torcha a 10" floppy disk.

LA TORCHA
Thanks. I need any clues I can get.

INT. CAMPUS POOL HALL - NIGHT

Roger and Reynold are playing pool. Luctor's henchmen are playing at adjacent tables.

REYNOLD

I don't know why you're so down on the harmony chain. It's such a beautiful concept.

ROGER

I don't disagree, but nothing of lasting value comes out of all that time and money spent on it.

REYNOLD

I guess my outlook isn't as utilitarian. I'm slotted to be next to the Chancellor in the harmony chain and I couldn't be more excited about it.

Roger takes his winning shot.

ROGER

Rack 'em up again?

A TOUGH HENCHMAN steps up to the table.

TOUGH HENCHMAN

(INTIMIDATING) I think you're done here.

A couple of other henchmen take the cues from Roger and Reynold and prepare to play. Reynold and Roger exit.

EXT. CAMPUS POOL HALL - NIGHT

Roger and Reynold exit into a parking lot. There are several motorcycles in front of the pool hall.

REYNOLD

It seems to me that a campus pool hall should be strictly for students and faculty.

ROGER

Yeah, those were some rough-looking characters.

Roger takes note of a cloaked man approaching a waiting limo.

REYNOLD
You know, we should bring this up
at the next security committee
meeting.

As the cloaked man is getting in, he removes his hood
revealing that he is Luctor.

ROGER
(POINTING) Reynold, look...

The door closes and the limo drives away.

REYNOLD
(LOOKING) What?

ROGER
The person who just got in that
car. It looked like, well, Luctor.

REYNOLD
(INCREDULOUS) Oh, come on - Luctor?

ROGER
I said it looked like him. I think
I should report it to the campus
police just to be on the safe side.

EXT. CAMPUS POOL HALL - NEXT DAY

The Police Chief and La Torcha are walking around the near-
empty parking lot.

POLICE CHIEF
Roger couldn't provide any other
information. I suspect this has
more to do with poor lighting and a
few beers.

LA TORCHA
Dana thought she saw someone who
looked like Luctor without his
mask. It could be the trauma of
last year's events still has people
on edge.

The Police Chief points at a security camera.

POLICE CHIEF
I could submit a request to look at
the video from that security
camera.

They begin walking toward the camera.

LA TORCHA
What are these other buildings
around here?

POLICE CHIEF
Next door is a campus utilities
building, but it isn't open to the
public, and on the other side is a
sandwich shop.

As they reach the wall below the security camera, La Torcha
examines where a wire passes through a metal fastener. She
gently pulls the wire and an end pulls out from the fastener.

LA TORCHA
(EXAMINING THE END OF THE WIRE) The
wire to the camera has been cut.

POLICE CHIEF
Cut?

LA TORCHA
(SHOWING HIM THE END) Look at the
degree of cupric tarnish. This was
cut more than a week ago but no
more than a month.

POLICE CHIEF
That's unfortunate.

LA TORCHA
On the contrary, it tells us that
somebody wants to hide something.

POLICE CHIEF
Now that I think about it, Roger
did mention that some disreputable
characters have been frequenting
the pool hall recently. Do you
think there's a connection?

LA TORCHA
I think we need to conduct a
stakeout before we can be sure of
anything.

POLICE CHIEF
I'll organize some men for this
evening.

LA TORCHA
No, we need to maintain a low
profile or the legal office might
shut us down.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - DAY

Tager approaches Luctor.

TAGER
Luctor, I just got a report from
the access point.

LUCTOR
What is it?

TAGER
La Torcha was seen outside the pool
hall earlier today.

LUCTOR
She does consulting for the
university so she's on campus quite
a bit. It's likely nothing, but if
she does anything suspicious -
eliminate her.

TAGER
Understood.

EXT. CHANCELLOR'S PLATFORM AREA - LATE AFTERNOON

There is a decorated platform in the middle of a street. The
Chancellor and some other dignitaries are standing there as a
small crowd looks on. The Chancellor approaches a microphone
stand.

CHANCELLOR
(INTO MICROPHONE) It is my great
pleasure and honor to dedicate this
platform marking the symbolic
midpoint of next-week's harmony
chain.

There is polite applause from the crowd. Suddenly a group of
perky men and women SINGERS in matching costumes skip in
front of the platform, link arms, and begin to sing.

SINGERS
(WITH RICH HARMONIES) Harmony
chain, harmony chain, harmony
chain, harmony chain...

EXT. CAMPUS POOL HALL - NIGHT

The Police Chief and La Torcha are in the parking lot surveying the area. They approach the pool hall and look into the window where they see the henchmen inside.

POLICE CHIEF
Those are probably the disreputable
characters Roger mentioned.

LA TORCHA
They certainly don't look like
students.

The Police Chief turns and observes the motorcycles.

POLICE CHIEF
Those are probably their bikes.

As La Torcha turns to look, we see a henchman inside turning his head and taking note of their presence outside the building. The Police Chief and La Torcha approach the bikes.

LA TORCHA
Can you run the tags?

POLICE CHIEF
(LOOKING CLOSELY AT ONE OF THE
PLATES) Nah, these aren't real.

La Torcha kneels down to read the VIN number on one of the bikes.

LA TORCHA
Maybe we'll have better luck with a
VIN number.

Just then a group of henchmen approach them from behind.

TOUGH HENCHMAN
What are you doing with our bikes?

POLICE CHIEF
Let's stay calm. I'm with campus
police.

TOUGH HENCHMAN
I don't care who you're with.
You're both going down.

As the henchmen attack, the Police Chief gives a quick jerk with both forearms. This causes rods with brass knuckles to extend from his shirt sleeves. He places his fingers in them and throws a punch just as one of the henchmen reaches him. A tremendous battle ensues. Despite being outnumbered, La Torcha and the Police Chief are able to fend them off. During the fight a DOOMED HENCHMAN is knocked unconscious. When the pummeled henchmen realize that they can't subdue their adversaries they hop on their motorcycles and drive away. The Police Chief is clearly in pain as he approaches La Torcha, who is trying to catch her breath.

POLICE CHIEF
Torcha, are you okay?

LA TORCHA
I'm fine. (CATCHES HER BREATH) You
handle yourself pretty well.

POLICE CHIEF
I'm certainly not in your league,
but I try to keep my skills up.

La Torcha points to the unconscious henchman.

LA TORCHA
Well, we got one of them.

POLICE CHIEF
Let's get him back to the station
and see what this is all about.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

Luctor is furious after hearing news from Tough Henchman.

LUCTOR
And you had them outnumbered? How
did this happen?

TOUGH HENCHMAN
I don't know, Luctor. (HESITATES)
There's something else...

LUCTOR
What?

TOUGH HENCHMAN
My brother - he was captured. We
didn't notice he was missing until
we returned.

LUCTOR
(FURIOUS) This puts the whole plan
at risk.

TOUGH HENCHMAN
(WITH A CONFIDENT SMIRK) Don't
worry, Luctor, he won't talk.

INT. INTERROGATION AREA - NIGHT

La Torcha observes as the Police Chief exits the
interrogation room and approaches her. We see the Doomed
Henchman seated inside.

INT. INTERROGATION AREA - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

The Doomed Henchman leans his head over and bites a button
off his collar. He elicits a smirk of satisfaction as he
chews it.

INT. INTERROGATION AREA - NIGHT

POLICE CHIEF
He's not going to talk. Maybe you
can conduct a civilian
interrogation of him while I get us
some coffee.

LA TORCHA
Will do.

She steps toward the door and is shocked by what she sees.

LA TORCHA
No!

INT. INTERROGATION AREA - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

La Torcha and the Police Chief rush in and see that the body
of the Doomed Henchman has been reduced to a foam-covered
skeleton.

POLICE CHIEF
A suicide pill. I should have
checked him for that.

La Torcha uses her hand to waft the odor of the foam to her
face.

LA TORCHA
It's xenochromic acid. It causes
DNA to spontaneously uncoil in a
propagating chain reaction.

POLICE CHIEF
I'll make sure the clean-up crew is
careful to avoid exposure.

LA TORCHA
(STILL LOOKING OVER THE BODY) This
man may not be able to speak, but
his foaming remains tell us a lot.

POLICE CHIEF
What's that?

LA TORCHA
(DRAMATIC, LOOKING UP) We're not
dealing with common criminals.

INT. UNIVERSITY MEETING ROOM - DAY

Members of the Campus Security Committee are meeting. The
committee includes RUTH Stennis, KURT Mirtsching, and others.

RUTH
With official business completed,
the security committee will now
enter into closed session. Members
are to turn off recording devices
and must not take notes of anything
discussed from this point.

KURT
Let me start things off. I'm sure
we've all heard the rumors going
around: the Silver Tiger was
stolen; a jailbreak involving
vampire women; the horrific
incident at the campus jail last
night. I just don't know how these
things are supposed to fit
together.

REYNOLD

(INDIGNANT) I concur. It turns out the missing tiger was still in the vault. Supposedly there were some vampire women, but where's the evidence? Some guy turns into a bar of soap after taking a suicide pill. Well, sometimes criminals do that to avoid going to prison. Frankly, I don't see any reason to make something out of all of this that could end up tarnishing the harmony chain event.

ROGER

With all due respect, Reynold, our principal responsibility is the welfare and safety of our students - not the harmony chain.

REYNOLD

Come on, Roger, nobody is putting the harmony chain ahead of the safety of our students.

DR. PAL enters the room and disrupts the discussion as he makes his way to his seat.

DR. PAL

Sorry I'm late.

RUTH

I think we're all in agreement that recent events, as ambiguous as they are, certainly justify increased vigilance. I just don't see any specific response warranted from this committee at this time.

ROGER

Well, I'd like to make a motion that an emergency session be called for this committee if any new events should transpire.

REYNOLD

Any events?

ROGER

Okay, I amend my motion to leave the decision to the discretion of the chair.

KURT
I second the motion.

RUTH
I have a second. Is there any
discussion? (LOOKS AROUND) All
right, I'll have a show of hands in
favor of the motion.

All of the members raise their hands.

RUTH
The motion passes unanimously.
Session is adjourned. Good day,
gentlemen.

Ruth bangs her gavel, the sound of which coincides with:

INT. POLICE CHIEF'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

La Torcha knocks and enters. The Police Chief unrolls a
blueprint.

POLICE CHIEF
This is a copy of the missing
blueprints you asked for.

LA TORCHA
Great. I'm confident that it will
provide the key to the entire case.

POLICE CHIEF
I'm not so sure. As the archivist
suggested, it's likely the
blueprints were simply borrowed at
some point over the years and not
returned.

LA TORCHA
I'm not discounting that
possibility, I just prefer to focus
first on the hypothesis that offers
the greatest explanatory potential.

La Torcha carefully examines the document.

POLICE CHIEF
Do you see anything?

LA TORCHA

That campus utilities building next to the pool hall - it provides direct access to all of the utility tunnels beneath the campus.

POLICE CHIEF

What do you think it means?

LA TORCHA

I'm not sure, but it may be the base of operations for some criminal group. That would explain why their members frequent the campus pool hall next door.

POLICE CHIEF

We obviously can't ask for search authorization from the legal office, but we can make an unofficial visit sometime after the crew leaves at 5pm.

LA TORCHA

I can't do it this evening because of Lucharama.

POLICE CHIEF

I understand. I'll put plans in place for tomorrow night.

We focus in on a miniature microphone somewhere in the office.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - AFTERNOON

Luctor and a henchman are listening in.

LA TORCHA

(V.O.) Send me the details and I'll be there.

Luctor strokes his face in contemplation.

EXT. WRESTLING VENUE - NIGHT

INT. WRESTLING VENUE - NIGHT

The match is about to begin as the WRESTLING ANNOUNCER addresses the crowd from the center of the ring. La Torcha is in one corner and her opponent is in the other.

WRESTLING ANNOUNCER
Good evening ladies and gentlemen,
and welcome to the first night of
Lucharama here at the new Wrestling
Women Academy Auditorium. There's
no need to introduce these two
legendary ladies, so without
further ado, it's time to rock this
ring!

The crowd goes wild as the Wrestling Announcer exits the ring and the REFEREE signals for the match to commence. We observe the match for a minute or so.

INT. CAMPUS POLICE STATION - NIGHT

The Police Chief is speaking to the duty officer when RICK Stevens (the escaped perpetrator of the tiger theft) enters through the front doors of the station. He has a small bandage on the side of his neck. His face is pale and his eyes are dark.

INT. WRESTLING VENUE - NIGHT

The wrestling match continues, but now there is interference by one or more mini-wrestlers. Again we observe for a minute or so.

INT. INTERROGATION AREA - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

With only the sound of the wrestling match, we observe a montage of Rick as he seems to be telling everything to the Police Chief.

INT. WRESTLING VENUE - NIGHT

We observe the end of the match as La Torcha emerges victorious.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

LUCTOR
(LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW) Tomorrow
La Torcha will look at the
chessboard and see that her
position has become untenable.

We hear a woman's voice.

VAMPIRE WOMAN 1
(PLEADING, SEDUCTIVE) Come to bed,
Luctor...

We then see that two beautiful vampire women are in a large
bed waiting for Luctor. Luctor looks toward them, smiles, and
begins loosening his tie.

INT. POLICE CHIEF'S OFFICE - MORNING

The Police Chief is sitting at his desk when La Torcha knocks
on the open door and enters.

LA TORCHA
Is it true?

POLICE CHIEF
Yes, it's true. (MOTIONS TO A
CHAIR) Please, sit down.

LA TORCHA
(SITTING) Is he giving names?

POLICE CHIEF
Yes. He's given a full statement.

LA TORCHA
That's great news. Fill me in.

POLICE CHIEF
(UNCOMFORTABLE) I'm afraid things
are a bit complicated.

LA TORCHA
Complicated?

POLICE CHIEF
On the night of his escape... well,
his description of events differs
significantly from yours.

LA TORCHA
In what way?

POLICE CHIEF
He doesn't know anything about any vampire women.

LA TORCHA
How can that be? Who does he say they were?

POLICE CHIEF
Well, actually, he denies seeing any fight at all. According to his statement he did see you, but...

LA TORCHA
But what?

POLICE CHIEF
He claims that you aided in the escape.

LA TORCHA
What?

POLICE CHIEF
Now of course I know that can't be true...

LA TORCHA
I can't understand it. He must have some ulterior motive.

POLICE CHIEF
I don't know, but it puts me in a very awkward position.

LA TORCHA
Let me question him. I'll sort out what's going on.

POLICE CHIEF
That's not possible because he's not in custody. And you can't have contact with him because his eyewitness report and sworn statement implicate you for criminal interference with a prisoner.

LA TORCHA
Are you saying that I'm under arrest?

POLICE CHIEF
You know I don't want to do that. It would mean a mug shot - you'd have to remove your mask.

LA TORCHA
Trust me, I understand the implications.

POLICE CHIEF
The audio recording will have to be transcribed and drafted into an official statement. You can count on that being processed as slowly as possible, but it doesn't give you much time.

LA TORCHA
I'll make sure it's enough.

EXT. DINNER CLUB - EVENING

Roger and Reynold enter the restaurant.

EXT. CAMPUS UTILITY BUILDING (NEXT TO POOL HALL) - NIGHT

La Torcha is waiting as Dana arrives.

DANA
I got here as soon as I could. What is it?

LA TORCHA
I need some help. It may be dangerous.

DANA
Whatever you need, I'm ready to help.

LA TORCHA
I believe that the remnants of Luctor's gang has set up operations in the tunnels below campus.

DANA
For what purpose?

LA TORCHA
I don't know, but I suspect that it
involves vampirism.

DANA
Then let's take 'em down.

INT. DINNER CLUB - NIGHT

Roger and Reynold take their seats at a table facing a small stage.

REYNOLD
I hear they just got a case of sea
brandy from an 18th Century wreck.

ROGER
Sounds great. My wife won't touch
the stuff so this is a good
opportunity to check it out.

INT. TUNNEL BENEATH CAMPUS - NIGHT

Dana and La Torcha are searching a tunnel when they see light coming from an adjoining tunnel.

LA TORCHA
That's it.

DANA
I'll backtrack around so that we
can establish a squeeze pin.

LA TORCHA
Perfect. I'll wait in my down
position until I hear your signal.

INT. DINNER CLUB - NIGHT

Reynold and Roger are served their meals as they are enjoying glasses of brandy. They begin to eat when the lights are brought down as the stage is illuminated. Roger and Reynold and the other diners politely clap in anticipation of the show.

INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

Luctor, a vampire woman, and a hoard of henchmen are gathered around as one of the henchmen hooks together a pair of electrical conduits. Suddenly the sound of Dana's voice is heard.

DANA

Luctor, the game is up!

We see Dana at one end of the tunnel in a commanding pose.

LUCTOR

Ah, Dr. Brasuhn, so you think you
can stop me now?

At the other end of the tunnel we see La Torcha in a similar pose.

LA TORCHA

No, we'll stop you together.

LUCTOR

(TO HIS HENCHMEN) Get them!

A tremendous battle ensues. We intercut between the battle and the mundane scene at the dinner club as Reynold and Roger watch the show.

During the course of the battle Luctor's vampire woman bares her fangs and tries to bite Dana while she is restrained by a couple of henchmen. Dana is able to pull one arm free, grab a metal rod, and shove it through the vampire woman's abdomen. The vampire nonchalantly pulls it out and refocuses her attention on Dana. Dana is able to pull free of the henchmen. The vampire woman returns to Luctor as Dana and La Torcha continue to battle. She and Luctor slip away as Dana and La Torcha finish off the last of the henchmen.

INT. DINNER CLUB - NIGHT

Immediately after the end of the battle involving Dana and La Torcha we see Roger and Reynold applauding the end of their show.

EXT. CAMPUS UTILITY BUILDING (NEXT TO POOL HALL) - NIGHT

Dana and La Torcha are briefing the Police Chief, the Chancellor, and Daniel Keen.

LA TORCHA

We've confirmed that Luctor is alive and has at least one vampire consort.

CHANCELLOR

Okay, well, we have to take some sort of action.

DANIEL KEEN

Please, please, let's everyone try to remain calm and discuss this situation rationally. Maybe someone was wearing a mask like Luctor. Maybe there was a woman pretending to be a vampire.

DANA

There was no pretending. She showed her fangs and I ran a metal rod through her. She pulled it out with almost no loss of blood. She was definitely a vampire.

CHANCELLOR

All I know is that we need to begin some sort of administrative procedure to deal with this.

DANIEL KEEN

I concur, but there's no reason to put this fine institution's reputation at risk by involving an outside agency. We have a campus security committee for dealing with events like this. Let's make use of it.

LA TORCHA

A campus committee? For an arch villain involved in vampirism?

DANA

That's insane.

CHANCELLOR

Now wait a second. He makes a good point. We need to follow procedures. We can take this to the campus security committee for a decision on how to proceed.

Frustrated, La Torcha steps a way from the group and makes a phone call to Mil Mascaras. We intercut between the two halves of the conversation.

MIL
Hello. (LISTENS) Ah, La Torcha.

LA TORCHA
Mil, we have a situation here.
Luctor is alive.

MIL
Luctor?

LA TORCHA
Yes. He has vampire women and seems
to be planning something here at
the university.

MIL
I'll be there as soon as I can.

INT. KANO'S LAB - AFTERNOON

La Torcha enters.

KANO
La Torcha, what brings you here?

LA TORCHA
Dana gave me some photographs and
an X-ray that she said you
analyzed.

KANO
Ah, yes, that's right.

LA TORCHA
And can you tell me what you
determined?

KANO
Yes, well, of course. I presume
you've already conducted your own
analysis.

LA TORCHA
Yes. With four-sigma confidence the
X-ray matches the skull structure
evident in the picture of the
henchman with Luctor.
(MORE)

LA TORCHA(cont'd)

Dana says that you arrived at an opposite conclusion.

KANO

Ah, I think I understand the source of the confusion. I compared the X-ray to the image of Luctor, not the henchman, and informed Dana that they weren't a match. She must have misunderstood what I reported.

LA TORCHA

So let me understand, you determined that the person killed last year was not Luctor. What was your reaction to that finding?

KANO

It was shocking, of course.

LA TORCHA

Let me ask you something. What do you think I'll find if I perform an analytic comparison of an image of Luctor to an image of you?

Kano considers his next move.

KANO

We'll never know...

Kano aims Luctor's cane at La Torcha and shoots a poison dart into her neck.

EXT. UNIVERSITY BUILDING WITH MEETING ROOM - DAY

We see Dr. Pal rushing inside and almost bumping into a woman (facing away from us) in front of the door. We pull in as the woman turns toward us, revealing herself to be one of Luctor's vampire women. She has dark eyes and we can see her fangs.

INT. UNIVERSITY MEETING ROOM - DAY

The Police Chief is at a podium before the campus security committee. Dana is next to him. Dr. Pal is taking his seat.

RUTH

Dana, do you bring this witness before the committee?

DANA

Yes.

RUTH

And do you advocate or otherwise stand behind the statements he intends to provide?

DANA

I do.

Dana steps back and takes a seat.

RUTH

Chief, you are hereby authorized to address this closed session of the campus security committee. You understand that you are to be forthright in all statements and complete in answers to all questions from members of the committee.

POLICE CHIEF

I do.

RUTH

You may now present to the committee.

POLICE CHIEF

Thank you, Dr. Stennis, and esteemed faculty. It is with a heavy heart that I must inform this committee that a preponderance of evidence suggests that Luctor is alive and that vampirism may exist on this campus.

The committee members gasp.

KURT

If this is true, why hasn't a warning been issued and the campus locked down? I mean, what are we doing here?

RUTH

(BANGING A GAVEL) Please, we must respect the rules of order.

POLICE CHIEF

University counsel has emphasized to me that evidence is not equivalent to proof, and the risk of panic and consequent mayhem resulting from a premature announcement of this kind is too great. That's their position, not mine.

ROGER

So if Luctor is alive, what is he up to? Does this have anything to do with the silver tiger?

POLICE CHIEF

The encounter with Luctor and his associates occurred in a utility tunnel beneath the campus. An examination of the tunnel reveals that his target was access to the campus power grid. The theft of the tiger was a diversion to hide the fact that he had stolen blueprints detailing the grid.

REYNOLD

For what reason?

POLICE CHIEF

It appears that his goal was to divert the full power capacity of the university reactors to disrupt the harmony chain event.

REYNOLD

Disrupt?

POLICE CHIEF

More specifically, it appears that he intended to induce an electrical power surge from the Chancellor's platform on this campus to the terminals of the harmony chain in Los Angeles and New York.

RUTH

What does that mean? A high-voltage current through the people in the chain?

POLICE CHIEF

That's right. We believe that he intended to electrocute over 100 million people.

REYNOLD

Attack the harmony chain? That's the most horrific, cynical thing I've ever heard of.

The Police Chief points to an image on the screen showing the electrical box (shown earlier) with a large cable that has clearly been cut.

POLICE CHIEF

Fortunately, as you can see on the screen, we have severed the cable linking the reactors to the platform, so the immediate threat has been eliminated.

REYNOLD

But there's still a madman on the loose. And you mentioned something about vampirism...

POLICE CHIEF

That's right. He is believed to be in the company of one or more vampire women.

KURT

This almost defies belief. So what's the response from campus police?

POLICE CHIEF

Clearly Luctor will be arrested on sight, but we have reason to believe that he's fled the area now that his plan has been thwarted.

KURT

How can you know that?

POLICE CHIEF

Earlier today I spoke with Prof. Carpathian, and he informed me that La Torcha is now pursuing evidence that Luctor is hiding out somewhere near Montreal. In fact, she's there as we speak.

REYNOLD

So there's no reason for any of this to interfere with the harmony chain.

ROGER

(FORCEFULLY) Reynold, over a hundred million lives were potentially at risk.

REYNOLD

But they're not now. This can show that cooperation and harmony wins out over greed and cynicism.

RUTH

Actually, the question of how to respond to this event is what the Chancellor has tasked this committee to answer. Under the circumstances, should we cancel the Linking Arms Across America harmony chain?

REYNOLD

No. I mean, speaking for myself, I see no reason at this point to cancel it. In fact, cancelling it will draw more attention to this sordid mess than if it is held as scheduled and is a great success.

ROGER

I'm afraid I have to agree with Reynold about that. If the event is a big success the whole scandal involving Luctor will just be a footnote, but if we cancel the event then there'll likely be intense media scrutiny of every detail. It will look terrible for the university.

RUTH

Is there any other discussion? If not I'll put it up for a vote.

EXT. UNIVERSITY BUILDING WITH MEETING ROOM - DAY

The vampire woman is applying makeup. When she smiles we don't see fangs, and she looks like a pleasant and attractive woman.

INT. UNIVERSITY MEETING ROOM - DAY

RUTH

And the final order of business:
what position and/or policy should
the University take in regard to
Luctor?

ROGER

I recommend that we establish a
fact-finding subcommittee to
determine how Luctor was able to
access critical campus
infrastructure.

DR. PAL

We need external review, so I
recommend a fact-finding panel.

KURT

A blue-ribbon fact-finding panel.

DR. PAL

Maybe a blue-ribbon fact-finding
commission.

REYNOLD

Given the gravity of the situation,
I propose a blue-ribbon fact-
finding task force charged with
making specific recommendations.

RUTH

Dana, would you like to express an
opinion on what we should do about
Luctor?

Dana steps to the podium.

DANA

Yes. Kill him.

The committee members exchange nervous looks.

EXT. UNIVERSITY MEETING ROOM - DAY

As the committee members exit the building, Reynold is
walking with Dana when she receives a phone call.

DANA
(ON THE PHONE) Yes, I'll be there
right away.

She waves to Reynold as they proceed in opposite directions.
We follow Reynold as he is approached by Luctor's vampire
woman. Her goal is clearly to seduce information from him.

VAMPIRE WOMAN 2
(APPROACHING REYNOLD) Hello, there.
You must be a professor.

REYNOLD
Yes, that's right.

VAMPIRE WOMAN 2
I hear there was a meeting in there
about the harmony chain.

REYNOLD
I'm afraid I can't discuss the
details of the meeting.

VAMPIRE WOMAN 2
I'd be so sad if they cancelled the
harmony chain.

REYNOLD
Now don't you worry about that.

VAMPIRE WOMAN 2
Really? Well, I guess you'd know.
As a professor you probably can
find out anything you want. Or
access anything you want...

EXT. HOSPITAL - EVENING

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - EVENING

Dana rushes into the room and finds the Police Chief standing
over La Torcha, who is unconscious with an oxygen mask over
her (masked) face.

DANA
I got here as soon as I heard. What
happened?

POLICE CHIEF

She staggered down a hall in one of the engineering buildings before collapsing. The doctors say she's been poisoned with some sort of neurotoxin.

DANA

Neurotoxin?

POLICE CHIEF

They say that she's alive only because she's been exposed to similar toxins in the past.

A cell phone on the bed stand begins to ring. The Police Chief picks it up.

POLICE CHIEF

(LOOKING AT THE PHONE) It's from Mil Mascaras. (TO Dana) Should I answer it?

La Torcha pulls the oxygen mask from her face and lifts her head.

LA TORCHA

I'll take it.

The Police Chief opens the phone and hands it to her.

LA TORCHA

(INTO PHONE) Mil, I know where to find Luctor...

EXT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

The Police Chief pulls up to the mansion and parks. He, Dana, and La Torcha exit the car. For the first time we see a mailbox with "PROF. KANO CARPATHIAN" written on it. As the three rush to the door a group of henchmen and vampire women come out and engage them in a tremendous battle. We see that Rick is now a vampire before he is killed by La Torcha. Dana kills Tager. Dana and La Torcha team up to kill two of the vampire women.

During the fight a sports car drives up and stops. Out steps Mil Mascaras. With a look of determination he walks straight into the melee, slowing only to punch a vampire woman and to snap the neck of a henchman.

LA TORCHA
(TO MIL AS SHE CONTINUES FIGHTING)
Mil, he's inside.

Mil knocks away another henchman and enters the house as Dana, La Torcha, and the Police Chief continue the fight outside.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

Upstairs, Luctor is casually sipping a glass of whisky when Mil enters.

LUCTOR
Ah, Mil, long time no see.

MIL
This will be the last time.

LUCTOR
So now you know how I've been able to stay one step ahead and anticipate your every move over all these years. Well, nothing has changed. My lawyers will have an easy task making this look like a cover-up by La Torcha and the university to protect their reputations. I've planned everything meticulously down to the last detail.

MIL
Not this time.

LUCTOR
(CONFIDENT) Really? With my wealth I can buy my way out of anything. You'll see, I'll get the last laugh.

EXT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

The battle continues as students and other bystanders gather to watch. Suddenly a van speeds onto the scene and stops. A dozen henchmen jump out and assume fighting poses.

POLICE CHIEF
(INTO RADIO) We have an E5 conflict with negative assym. Need backup at the Carpathian house.

DISPATCHER V.O.

Copy. Boots already dispatched from earlier call. Re-routing live helo. ETA sub minute. Should I engage city police?

POLICE CHIEF

Negative on the cee-pees. Light the helo.

DISPATCHER V.O.

Roger, helo will be bright.

The Police Chief twitches his arms and raises his fists with brass knuckles. The helicopter arrives and illuminates the area with its spotlight. The Police Chief exchanges nods with La Torcha and Dana, and the three rush toward the henchmen. The battle is intense, but the orchestrated maneuvers of the three heroes mitigate their numerical disadvantage.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

The room is illuminated from the outside and the sound of the helicopter can be heard. Luctor glances out the window and then back to Mil.

LUCTOR

There appears to be some commotion outside. (BEGINS WALKING TO THE DOOR) Shall we head down and see what's happening?

Mil grabs his arm.

MIL

No, the next stop is the police station.

Luctor pulls his arm away and begins removing his tie.

LUCTOR

I think I know what you really want. (MOTIONS TO A CHAMPIONSHIP BELT MOUNTED ON THE WALL) That's the belt I took from you that night in El Paso thirty years ago. You've always wanted a rematch...

MIL

You played your little game and got the best of me that night, but we both know who has the superior skills.

LUCTOR

It's all a game, Mil, but tonight the stakes are much higher than a gold belt.

Luctor assumes a fighting pose and Mil does the same.

EXT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

A squad of university police in riot gear with shields has arrived, but more henchmen have arrived as well. The battle is escalating as a pickup truck pulls onto the scene with a Gatling gun mounted on the bed. A henchman pivots the weapon and fires at the arriving police as they are attempting to join the melee. Fortunately the bullets bounce off their shields. As the bullets fly Dana yells to the assembled bystanders.

DANA

Everyone, seek cover!

Meanwhile, several other henchman with machine guns have maneuvered atop a row of parked cars nearby. As they begin to lift their weapons, La Torcha jumps on to a car and dives toward the henchman on the pickup. She grabs him by the neck, and as he pulls the trigger she swivels him so that the bullets rip apart the row of henchmen who were standing on cars with machine guns.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

Now the sound of the helicopter is very loud as intense shafts of light stream through the blinds. The two combatants maneuver, each testing the other with quick jabs and subtle feints. Then Luctor grabs Mil and throws him hard into a bookcase. Mil leaps up and crashes into Luctor, forcing him across the room, pinning him face-first into the wall. Luctor smirks as his face is pressed to the wall.

LUCTOR

Well, it seems the old man still has some moves.

Luctor then drops and flips Mil. Mil rolls to his feet and the fight erupts into a war of master fighters. (We intercut back and forth between the inside/outside battles.)

EXT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

Dana, La Torcha, and the Police Chief lead the fight outside. The university officers have dispensed with their shields and are engaged in direct martial arts-style combat with the henchmen. All of the combatants are highly skilled, but it is clear that the henchmen are outclassed.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

The battle between Mil and Luctor culminates in a final clench, from which Mil maneuvers Luctor into a submission hold that is clearly inescapable.

MIL
Are you ready to concede?

LUCTOR
(IN PAIN, STRUGGLING TO SPEAK) Yes.

Mil releases and Luctor struggles to stand.

MIL
I wish you had followed a different path, but I've always respected you as my most capable adversary.
(BEAT) I'll drive you to the station.

Suddenly Luctor swings his cane backward, striking Mil in the head and knocking him unconscious.

EXT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

The battle is over and the university police are rounding up the surviving henchmen. Two large trolley-like vehicles (labeled "University Police") are on the scene. Henchmen are placed with their backs to the vehicle as hinged metal restraints are closed on their ankles, wrists, and around their chests. One vehicle drives past us carrying a long row of restrained henchmen with dispirited facial expressions.

INT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

Luctor is finishing tying his tie as Mil regains consciousness.

LUCTOR

As I was saying before, everything is just a game. The difference is that I play by different rules. You prevailed in our little tussle this evening, but I will walk out of here unscathed like I always do.

MIL

You're right that I adhere to a strict code of honor that respects the rule of law, but there is something you failed to consider.

LUCTOR

What's that?

MIL

There are limits...

EXT. LUCTOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

Roger approaches Dana, La Torcha, and the Police Chief.

ROGER

I just can't believe all of this.
Dana, are you okay?

Suddenly there is a crashing sound as Luctor flies out of a window. The group approaches the location of impact. The Police Chief takes his radio from his belt.

POLICE CHIEF

(INTO RADIO) I need a coroner assist and two uniforms.

La Torcha kneels down and checks the body.

LA TORCHA

He's dead.

DANA

I wonder what happened in there.

Mil approaches.

MIL
Luctor couldn't face going to
prison.

POLICE CHIEF
It's probably better this way.

EXT. HARMONY CHAIN FROM COAST TO COAST - DAY

We observe a news copter covering the magnificent harmony chain. We see wide shots and close-ups of happy smiling people with arms linked from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

REPORTER (V.O.)
We couldn't have a more beautiful day for Linking Arms Across America. Current estimates place the number of people who will link up in the Harmony Chain at around 135 million. There's a bit of a delay right now, but we'll bring you the moment of linkage as soon as it happens.

EXT. CHANCELLOR'S PLATFORM AREA - DAY

On campus we see the Chancellor and Daniel Keen on the platform. There seems to be some sort of problem as several reporters are angrily arguing with university officials. We see Dana and Roger looking on from the crowd.

DANA
Any idea what the problem is?

ROGER
The university is demanding that reporters sign over copyright to all video and photos that they take of the event while on campus.

DANA
That's crazy.

ROGER
On the plus side, it gives Reynold a bit more time to get here. He's supposed to be up there on the platform next to the Chancellor.

DANA

He certainly wouldn't want to miss that.

EXT. HANGAR FOR MIL'S JET - DAY

The Police Chief is with Mil and La Torcha as they prepare to board Mil's plane (we see his logo on the side).

POLICE CHIEF

I'm sorry you aren't staying around for the festivities, but you two have earned a break. Where are you going?

MIL

I have a place near Acapulco.

LA TORCHA

It's on the beach and has a landing strip that leads right up to the house. Mil hasn't flown me there in years.

POLICE CHIEF

Well, rest assured that I'll have things under control here.

MIL

Don't let your guard down just because Luctor is gone. He insisted that he would have the last laugh, and I wouldn't put anything past him.

POLICE CHIEF

Semper Vigilans, that's my motto.

Mil gives a thumbs-up. He then takes La Torcha's hand and they turn to board the plane.

EXT. CHANCELLOR'S PLATFORM AREA - DAY

While some of the reporters continue to argue with university officials, many continue filming and photographing the events on the platform. The harmony chain singers continue to repeat their chorus and provide separation between the reporters and the platform. On the platform, Daniel Keen is smiling smugly as he overlooks the angry reporters. The Chancellor is leaning down as a man in a suit whispers in his ear. The Chancellor then stands with a look of concern.

CHANCELLOR

Dan, the reporters aren't going to sign. They say that the university has no right to do this. You need to go down there and talk to them.

DANIEL KEEN

I think you should go talk to them. If they have any questions they can come to me.

The Chancellor nervously looks around and then steps down from the platform. Suddenly there is the sound of electricity. Daniel Keen exhibits the rigid posture of electrocution. In close-up we see his head smoking before it explodes. The Chancellor is stunned as people are running and screaming around him.

CHANCELLOR

My God, what's happened?!

INT. SUBTERRANEAN POWER BOX - DAY

We pan along the cables that were earlier shown to be severed but are now reconnected with electrical tape. We then pan up to see the body of the person whose hand is on the lever. Then we see his face: it is Reynold with a maniacal grin. We then focus on bite marks on his neck and...

FADE TO BLACK.