***SIDE ONE***

***SCENE 10***

*Lights out. Music up.(10) We transition into guest room with Carmilla and Laura. It is a bed and table DS center. Carmilla is lying on the bed, and Laura is sitting on the bed talking with her.*

**LAURA:**

Well, you’ve had quite the frazzle this evening haven’t you?

**CARMILLA:**Yes. But I’m all right.

**LAURA:**So…your mother has left us in your charge.

**CARMILLA:***She smiles* Yes. I think I will quite like it here.

**LAURA:**Oh I hope so. We’ll see to it you are as comfortable as possible. *There is a pause as Laura stares at Carmilla.*

**CARMILLA:**What is it?

**LAURA:**Oh…Nothing. It’s just…You look so much like…no it’s silly.

**CARMILLA:**Tell me.

**LAURA:**You resemble a woman I saw many years ago. Well, I didn’t really see her. I had this dream. Nightmare actually. A woman coming into my bedroom. Scared me so.

**CARMILA:**

*Sits up* I had the same dream when I was young.

**LAURA:**

Honestly?

**CARMILLA:**

Yes. I mean not exact. But similar. A woman coming into my room and talking with me. She was beautiful.

**LAURA:**

Well, I was unable to sleep without the nurse in my room for almost 12 years after that!

**CARMILLA:**I’m aware.

**LAURA:**You are?

**CARMILLA:***Moving on* Twelve years! It really did have an effect on you! *She smiles.*

**LAURA:**

Yes. It did. Well….*Recovering from her memories* That’s enough talk of that. You need rest. I’ll see you in the morning.

**CARMILLA:**Thank you. I believe we are going to be very close, you and I. I feel like you have been chosen for me.

***SIDE TWO***

**MILARCA:**I have business. Very urgent business that I must get to. *She is staring at the portrait of herself above the fireplace, looks for a moment, turns around and looks deeply at Carmilla.* And I must be leaving.

**MOTHER:**You can’t possibly travel in this weather…

**MILARCA:**But I must. I cannot stay.

**MOTHER:**But your daughter…she is no shape. She needs rest.

**MILARCA:**That she does. *She looks deeply at Carmilla and nods.* She shall stay here with you.

*Carmilla understands and nods back*

**FATHER:**Now see here…

**MILARCA:**Or kick her out into the storm if you wish. But I must continue on. It is quite urgent. I will be back in three month’s time. If she is here when I return, so be it. And be warned, do not ask Carmilla about her past or her family. It is …a strain on her. *BEAT*  to Coachman, let us depart…NOW!

**MOTHER:**I guess we have a guest.

**FATHER:**For three months. What an odd evening this has turned out to be.

***SIDE THREE***

***SCENE 11***

*Lights out. Music up.(11) Transition from bedroom to dining room scene. It is slightly upstage of the previous set. It is the next morning. Breakfast. Laura, father, mother, Lucretia are at table. Servants are nearby doing servant work.*

**MOTHER:**Only a week to Christmas. I will need your help with some things to prepare Laura.

**LAURA:**Yes of course!

**LUCRETIA:**What of me? I want to help!

**MOTHER:**Of course dear. You can string the popcorn.

**LUCRETIA:**I’ll try not to eat most of it.

**LAURA:**Like last year!

*They all laugh*

**LAURA:**Are the Baron and the Dr. Not joining us for Breakfast?

**FATHER:**

They left early to continue their investigation in the village. They are running out of time. They only have 5 days left before the trial begins again.

**MOTHER:**Have they uncovered anything of consequence?

**FATHER:**Not that I know of. I haven’t talked with them much about it.

**LUCRETIA:**I heard in school another man has been murdered! Just yesterday! It was that man who some said stole money from the church offerings!

**LAURA:**And a woman claimed that same man had beaten her little boy with a horse whip.

**LUCRETIA:**And they could never prove it!

**MOTHER:**Let’s not make this breakfast conversation.

**LUCRETIA:**His heart was cut out! And no blood left in him and no other marks on him. And Anne at school said that she heard his face looked like this! *She makes a frightened face*

**FATHER:**Enough Lucretia. Eat your breakfast.

**LAURA:**Maybe he’ll leave and terrorize another village soon.

**FATHER:**Laura…

**LAURA:**

Aren’t you the least bit concerned or curious about the madman in the village? There have been 4 murders, all the same, in just under a few weeks?

**FATHER:**I’m concerned. But what am I to do? The Dr. and the Baron and the local law are doing their job. They’ll catch him, I have no doubt.

***SIDE FOUR***

**DELFINA:**Pardon my intrusion ladies. But could I interest you in a talisman?

**LAURA:**No thank you. I don’t believe in such things.

**DELFINA:**One should always keep their minds open to the possibilities of wonderous abilities beyond our comprehension. It’s always bad luck to witness a funeral of someone you do not know. Besides, with a madman loose in our village, you should have all the protection you can carry. I have many to choose from. Only a pence!

**LAURA:**I said no.

**CARMILLA:**Oh what could it hurt? I’ll take one of your superstitious charms.

*She takes one. Holds it up, places it on her forehead. Waits a beat. Nothing happens. Carmilla laughs hard.*

**DELFINA:***She has a look of realization. Not fear* I guess that proves you are not evil. *She smiles.*

**CARMILLA:**It proves nothing. Other than you don’t know how things like this work.

**LAURA:**Is that the funeral procession for the man who was found murdered yesterday?

**DELFINA:**It is. See how many attend? It is curious. He was terrible man. Beat a boy with a whip. Some say he did it just because he enjoys it. But It is why he is being buried in the woods and not sacred ground.

**CARMILLA:**Justice.

**DELFINA:**That it is my lady. That it is. Say…you have a very interesting tooth there.

*Carmilla does the same lunge and his she did to Lucretia earlier. Carmilla laughs. Delfina does not flinch. Laura looks bewildered. Woodsman enters and observes, but keeps hidden.*

**DELFINA:***To Laura* You seem like someone that perhaps would like their fortune read?

**CARMILLA:**No! ….That is just superstitious nonsense. We don’t need that.

**LAURA:**From the same person who just purchased one of her talismans? You just said “what could it hurt?”

**DELFINA:**Sit. I will read from the cards. *They Sit*. *She pulls out tarot deck. She flips first card.* For you  *To Laura –* Death card.

***SIDE FOUR***

**DR.**

A word if you please Chief Constable, and your honor.

*They move downstage away from the exiting crowd.*

Hear me. *Showing letters* I am convinced that we have the wrong man.

**CHIEF CONSTABLE CHASE:**

But Dr., the servant was the only one in the house and he has ample evidence he was the only one with opportunity. He should be convicted. We need to put this village at peace.

*The Baron steps into their conversation and grabs the letters from the Dr. The courtroom is now clear except for bertha, who is listening in to the conversation from upstage.*

**BARON:**

I agree with the Dr. I have been attending the trial because I too am convinced that there is more to this than meets the eye. And possibly of something supernatural not of this world, because of the nature of how the General died, and the similarity of these reports…

**CHIEF:**So, the great Monster Hunter Baron Vordenburg is here to save us. I won’t have you coming into *this* town and stirring everyone up with your nonsense and talk of demons. You are nothing more than an opportunist on another monster hunt. I will not stand here and listen to your wild theories and stories of existing monsters.

**DR.**

Chief Constable, the Baron’s work is well documented, and he is not the Charleton you make him out to be. I would ask for a little respect.

**BARON:**

It’s quite all right Dr. The Chief Constable is right to doubt. That is his job. And when it comes to turning a blind eye to evidence, he is quite remarkable at his job.

**DR.**

Your honor, all I ask for is some time to offer more proof. The Baron and I would like to visit Kapfenburg and investigate the murders that have taken place. I have a friend we can stay with in Kapfenburg, Lord Vinter. I beg of you, grant a stay in the trial until our investigation is over.

**JUDGE:**Well the last thing we want to do is convict the wrong man.

**CHIEF:**Your Honor you can’t possibly…

**JUDGE:**Chief Constable, I will make my rulings as I see fit. And I agree there is something to the similarity of these murders, and we must do our due diligence and investigate. The man on trial could not have possibly committed the murders in Kapfenburg. So either we have the wrong man or it’s a wonderous coincidence and we have the right man. I will grant you a stay of two weeks for further investigation, but no more. I can’t hold this town off any longer that. The entire village is at a fever pitch as it stands.

**DR.**

Thank you, your honor. You’re doing the right thing.

**JUDGE:**May God feel the same.