

QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Written by

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Based on the novel by

Anne Rice

FADE IN:

1 EXT. LAFAYETTE CEMETERY (NEW ORLEANS) - NIGHT 1

An empty breeze blows across a deserted cemetery. We hear the sound of FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING, then nineteenth-century boots ENTER FRAME. We FOLLOW them strolling past the headstones and mausoleums. The sound of a HORSE and CARRIAGE ECHOES in the distance.

VOICE (V.O.)

There comes a time for every vampire
when the idea of eternity becomes
momentarily unbearable...

As we REACH an old stone tomb, the boots leap up and OUT OF FRAME. PAN UP to reveal:

A FIGURE stands steadily atop the roof of the tomb, silhouetted against the moon like a large, black bird.

VOICE (V.O.)

The wounds suffered from love and
failed friendships don't heal like
a human's, but seem to only gape
larger. The longing to be mortal
returns, a longing for finiteness.

A beat as the indistinct figure gazes out at the night...

CUT TO:

2 OMITTED 2
& &
3 3

4 EXT. TOMB - CONTINUOUS ACTION 4

The figure enters an alabaster tomb and closes the door.

VOICE (V.O.)

In 1883 I suffered such a spell
and decided to cease feeding on
blood. Just lie in the earth and
let time return to its natural
state...

As the WIND PICKS UP, the LEAVES of a fledgling vine growing up the side of the tomb begin to RATTLE FASTER and FASTER, until curiously, time seems to speed up. Night passes to day and back to night. Shadows from the sun and moon drift across the tomb. As days and months fly by, the vine winds and grows in circuitous patterns all around the tomb.

(CONTINUED)

VOICE (V.O.)

I had hoped the sounds of the passing eras would fade out, and a kind of death might happen. A kind of forgetting where I would be healed from my wounds.

The CLIP-CLOP of HORSES and the SQUEAK of PERAMBULATORS DISSOLVE INTO the THUMP and SCRAPE of INDUSTRIAL ENGINES.

VOICE (V.O.)

But as I lay there, the sounds didn't fade but grew with the world.

The BUZZ of PROP ENGINES MELT INTO the sound of a JET STREAMING overhead. CARS, MACHINES, RADIO BROADCASTS MERGE INTO a medley of MUSIC from this century -- JACK BENNY, MUDDY WATERS, ELVIS, HENDRIX, SEX PISTOLS.

VOICE (V.O.)

And gradually the world didn't sound like the place I had left, but something different... better...

As we DRAW CLOSER TO the now vine-covered tomb, SOUNDS of the '70s, '80s, '90s PERSIST...

VOICE (V.O.)

A new fearless attitude had possessed the world, brave and Godless. I began to wonder if it was not time to resurrect. But the thing that eventually brought me back -- the decisive thing really -- came like a bolt out of the blue.

GUITARS STRIKE, DRUMS CRACK and the MUSIC SLAMS OUT, raw and dark.

Slender hands with long, painted nails, Gothic rings, and a half-pound of silver bracelets play their instruments. Long hair, body piercings, Celtic tattoos, and brightly-colored nylons show a lot of pale, smooth flesh. In the confusion of glimpses, it's hard to tell who's a boy or girl, but they're all young and beautiful. Breaking in on the CACOPHONY of MUSIC COMES ONE GUITAR CLOSER and LOUDER than the rest.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: 5

A SCRAPING ROAR, like a bandsaw being twisted into the most gorgeous, powerful chords, almost religious in its emotion.

VOICE (V.O.)

A music so sublime, so deeply vampiric, I had no doubt it could be heard in Hades. I had no choice... it summoned me.

An ULTRA-FAST TECHNO BEAT BEGINS and the FULL-SOUND of a BAND RUSHES in, creating a sense of vertigo with its energy.

6 INT. TOMB 6

The BAND'S sounds ECHO about the stone chamber, thrumming a deep, life-giving pulse. Suddenly, the LID of a SARCOPHAGUS SCRAPES and slides to one side.

7 EXT. LAFAYETTE CEMETERY (NEW ORLEANS) - NIGHT 7

The Figure re-emerges from the tomb, his cape now in tatters -- posture bent. He creeps across the cemetery in unnatural, staccato movements as if hindered by the physics of distance and time. All the while the SONG plays, drawing the figure toward it.

8 EXT. FRENCH QUARTER - NIGHT 8

The Figure moves through the shadows avoiding the spill of yellow light from the street lamps. Stopping in a darkened alleyway, he gasps for air, exhausted by his movements. He listens again to the mesmeric TUNE of the band in the distance, when -- From down the alley, a voice...

VOICE #2 (O.S.)

(in French; subtitled)
Need a fix?

9 CLOSE ON FIGURE'S EYES 9

staring hungrily at...

10 BACK TO SCENE 10

A MAN proffering a little parcel wrapped in foil.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 10

Pulling deeper into the shadows, the caped Figure beckons the dealer over. The man approaches when -- With a wild animal cry, the Figure lunges like a phantom -- A flash of teeth -- The Dealer is on the ground -- the Figure set upon him. OVER this scene the BAND'S SONG RUSHES IN LOUD again, reaching an incredible CRESCENDO as the violent frenzy continues -- the monster gnawing at the Dealer's neck.

11 CLOSE ON FIGURE'S HAND 11

Its vein refilling with the flow of warm blood -- skin regaining a youthful tautness.

12 WIDER 12

Rising from his victim we see for the first time the revitalized face of this creature, a mane of blond hair frames the beautiful features of the VAMPIRE LESTAT -- his bulbous lips glistening red.

LESTAT (V.O.)

Whether it was that first meal, the music, or the 100 years of rest, I'm not sure, but suddenly I was feeling better than ever. My appetite for living was voracious. My hearing so exact I could locate precisely the source of the music...

13 EXT. NEW ORLEANS HOUSE - NIGHT 13

In the street, Lestat emerges from the shadows in the dealer's snug-fitting leather outfit. He looks up at an extremely run-down flophouse...

LESTAT (V.O.)

My old house.

High in the attic, a single window glows with dim light. The source of the MUSIC. The whole house is shaking from the sound of the BAND playing upstairs.

14 INT. ATTIC - JUST AFTER 14

The room booms with music, speakers stacked high on all sides, literally shaking the house to its foundations.

(CONTINUED)

REVEAL the band members of Satan's Night Out. JAMES, ALEX and MAUDY stare at each other as if in some tantric trance, as they play their music -- Alex's long fingers climbing up and down his guitar, Maudy's waifish body sensually curls around her keyboard, the waves of music flowing through them while James, on drums, drives them further into it.

LESTAT (V.O.)

It was hard to believe these beings were mortal -- so confident in their skin. Everything in my body wanted to be with them. I couldn't help myself.

Then, from somewhere in the room, an ANGELIC VOICE begins to hum the most hypnotic melody over the tune, melding in exquisite harmony. Arching her neck in some higher ecstasy, Maudy looks across the makeshift studio and suddenly stops playing.

ALEX

What the hell, Maudy.

Seeing Maudy's stunned face, Alex and James turn to see Lestat perched like a raven on top of the stack of speakers, eyes closed, still humming to the fading reverb of the guitars. Slowly opening his cool grey eyes --

LESTAT

Please don't stop.

JAMES

What the f-- How did you get in here?

LESTAT

The door, of course.

James and Alex look at the door on the other side of the attic -- they should have seen him. Maudy stares at Lestat, quite taken by the handsome vampire's looks -- Drinking Maudy in with his eyes --

LESTAT

Your music woke me from the longest sleep. It's sublime. In two hundred years I've never heard anything quite like it.

ALEX

Who the hell are you?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

LESTAT (V.O.)
The question provoked an
irresistible urge...

LESTAT
You may call me the vampire Lestat.

As we REMAIN ON the stunned looks of the band's faces --

LESTAT (V.O.)
It just rolled out of my mouth.
With one simple sentence I had
betrayed everything about my kind.
Betrayed our code of secrecy.

LESTAT
Your struggles are over.

Suddenly from across the room --

LESTAT
All that you've ever dreamed of
will be yours.

They spin around to see Lestat now right behind them,
smiling.

ALEX
(terrified)
What the hell is this?

LESTAT
Your lucky day.

They all stare at him, faces white. A beat. Then James
breaks into a big smile.

JAMES
Cool. We got our very own vampire.

Maudy and Alex look at each other getting used to it.
They break into smiles, going with it.

MAUDY
Hey, Vampire Lestat, I've always
wondered... about Keith Richards...

CUT TO:

15 EXT. SKIES - NIGHT

15

FLYING ACROSS night skies, as the distinctive dark sound
of SATAN'S NIGHT OUT KICKS IN to join Lestat's soaring
voice.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

LESTAT (V.O.)

It was a bold move, I admit. But from that moment on, they were my friends, my children, my band. Together we rode on the wave of my preternatural ambition to superstardom, giving the world a new god... me.

We COME ACROSS the city lights of London. Below, police cars section off a few blocks around a very sleek, ultramodern office building where a huge crowd has gathered.

SUPERIMPOSE: LONDON (6 MONTHS LATER)

16 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS ACTION

16

Through the crowd, a very long, black limousine snakes its way toward the building. Rows of fans dressed as Goths, ghouls and vampires scream out...

FANS

Lestat! Lestat!

Girls press their breasts and necks up against the limousine. Thump! Thump! Fan after female fan flings herself on the car. Groupies scream with pure excitement.

Confusion of screams as the door to the limo opens. The crowd's scream reaches a fever pitch as... James, Alex and Maudy climb out, ogle at the sight. ROGER SMYTHE, their business manager (40s), gets out next, hustling them through the crowd.

A wave of hysteria hits the fans. Roger hustles the band through the crowd and up the stairs into the church, past the giant billboard with their own images written huge, Lestat's smiling face above them all and the announcement --

LESTAT -- LIVE & UNDEAD -- OCTOBER 31, ALL HALLOW'S EVE, DEATH VALLEY, U.S.A.

17 INT. OFFICE BUILDING - SOON AFTER

17

A high-tech conference room. The band, sitting up front, is faced by an audience of over fifty journalists and then another fifty photographers and TV cameras. The room crackles with anticipation. Roger steps to the podium.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

ROGER

May I present the Vampire Lestat.

He pushes a button and a black curtain slides open to reveal a huge monitor on the wall.

Every eye is glued to the SCREEN... CRACKLE, CRACKLE. Nothing. Then suddenly, on the screen, a face in shadow appears... Lestat. His voice booms out over the crowd.

LESTAT

Good evening. I'm so sorry I'm late. I was just having my... breakfast.

18 OMITTED

18

19 BACK TO SCENE

19

Then Lestat leans forward into the light. Hushed whispers move through the crowd. Lestat's eyes burn unnaturally bright. His white skin absolutely glows, luminous. Lestat smiles out at them with a tight smile. Then grins wider, revealing his fangs.

JOURNALIST

Excellent makeup job. Marilyn Manson, look out...

A thousand questions suddenly burst out of the journalists.

ROGER

Hey, hey! We're gonna keep this short here! One at a time. You!

He points to a PRETTY FRENCH JOURNALIST.

PRETTY FRENCH JOURNALIST

So, Lestat. You say you're a real vampire. Correct me if I'm wrong, but what I remember about vampires is you guys usually keep your identity secret.

LESTAT

Yes. But why hide it in this day and age? I've hidden in the shadows for centuries. It's time to share myself with the world.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

In the corner, Roger gives a big winking smile to the camera crew. The journalists smile, playing along. A younger, hipper MUSIC magazine JOURNALIST pipes in...

MUSIC JOURNALIST

And it doesn't hurt the record sales, huh? Your album just topped all kinds of sales records.

LESTAT

Our label isn't complaining, no.

PRETTY FRENCH JOURNALIST

Could you prove it? You know give us a demonstration of your powers?

LESTAT

If you like, I'll give you a private demonstration in your hotel room tonight.

The journalists laugh. The French Journalist looks a little frightened/fascinated by Lestat's leer.

LIFESTYLE JOURNALIST

Why not a demo at your own house? I mean, what's with all the secrecy about where you stay? Is it true you move residences every few days?

LESTAT

(smiles, giving away nothing)

After calling one stone tomb home sweet home for so long, I like to experience as much diversity as I can. Wouldn't you?

The Lifestyle Journalist smiles.

MUSIC JOURNALIST

There are a lot of rumors flying around the internet about the hidden meaning in your lyrics, that you're giving away 'vampire secrets.' Something in all that?

20 SMALL TV SCREEN

20

In a dark room, the interview continues.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

LESTAT (V.O.)
 Maybe I'm trying to resurrect a
 few old friends with my words.
 Daring them to come out.

MUSIC JOURNALIST
 Of the closet.

LESTAT
 (smiles)
 The casket...

Laughter. They're enjoying this performance although no
 one is taking it very seriously. PULL OUT to reveal we
 are --

21 INT. PRIVATE CLUB - SAME TIME

21

A man in a dark suit plays pool. Looking up over his
 dark glasses, his strange, luminescent, grey eyes stare
 up at Lestat on the TV scornfully.

22 BACK TO PRESS CONFERENCE

22

MUSIC JOURNALIST
 Your first and only concert's in
 Death Valley, just days away. Why
 just the one?

LESTAT
 (grins)
 I don't like repeating myself.

MUSIC JOURNALIST
 But these other vampires, aren't
 they going to be pissed that
 you're giving away their secrets?

LESTAT
 I imagine they are, yes.

LIFESTYLE JOURNALIST
 Do you have anything to say to the
 other vampires listening out
 there?

LESTAT
 Yes, as a matter of fact, I do...

Leaning forward, Lestat smiles at the TV camera.

MATCH CUT TO:

LESTAT (V.O.)
Come out, come out, wherever you
are.

CAMERA BOOMS DOWN to reveal...

A group of dangerous-looking vampires dressed in various styles, staring stony-faced up at the screen, their eyes glowing strangely in the ultra-violet light. The pool player is in the b.g. Other vampires, dressed in black, eyes cold as ice, stare up at the TV.

VAMPIRE #1
Goddamn fool's going to bring back
the Inquisition.

VAMPIRE #2
I say we kill him, before this
gets out of hand. Bleed him dry.

VAMPIRE #1
Gotta find him first. Elusive
bloke. Never know where he's
going to turn up.

VAMPIRE #2
Well we know one place he's
definitely going to be...

Next to him sits a female VAMPIRE, Evian bottle in hand.

VAMPIRE #1
When I was in Manchester, the coven
there was saying exactly the same
thing. That we should nail him at
the concert...

FEMALE VAMPIRE #1
I don't know, if he's as old as
they say, he's gotta be pretty
strong... If you came within a
mile of him, he'd eat you alive.

She brings her Evian bottle to her lips. Drinks heartily.
The liquid inside glistens deep red.

VAMPIRE #1
Yes. Well let's see how he
handles a thousand of us at once.

Crack -- the pool player sinks the last ball on the pool
table. The TV suddenly EXPLODES.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 23

BACK TO LESTAT ON HUGE VIDEO SCREEN

He smiles at the journalists.

LESTAT
See you all in Death Valley.

CLICK. The screen goes black.

24 CLOSE ON LESTAT 24

in the flesh. REVEAL he is...

25 INT. LESTAT'S CHATEAU (LONDON) 25

All alone in his magnificent chateau. He sits in front of a video camera and monitor set up for the two-way remote feed. Lestat puts the remote down.

Laughs out loud with the pure pleasure of it all. He stands, crosses to huge doors. Opens them. Goes out to...

25A EXT. LESTAT'S CHATEAU GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS ACTION 25A

Lestat walks across his lavish grounds, gazes up into the night.

Staring up at the dark heavens, Lestat inhales like an emperor taking in his kingdom, stretches his arms out, still drinking in the adulation.

Slowly, his grin fades...

A melancholy look comes over Lestat.

LESTAT
(quietly, to world)
Come out, come out, whoever you
are.

As he lowers his arms, the CAMERA PULLS UP and OUT FROM Lestat, whirling into the dark night...

CUT TO:

- 26 CLOSE ON SET OF HEADPHONES 26
- as it plays LESTAT'S SONG.
- PULL OUT ON...
- A beautiful young woman, JESSE, 22, lays in black satin sheets. Her long red hair snakes over her slender neck as she sleeps to Lestat's voice, still as death. Flickering candles all over the room reveal her lithe, strong body, pale as the moon. She is surrounded by her work, ancient language books, her laptop computer. Another book is clenched in her hand. The Unconscious Vampire. We MOVE IN ON her fluttering eyes.
- CUT TO:
- 27 DREAM SEQUENCE - EYES 27
- opening. Blank. Still. Unsettling. PULL BACK to reveal these eyes belong to a 19th-century porcelain doll. We TRACK ACROSS rows and rows of dolls from different eras, all exquisitely detailed. TRACK PAST the billowing floor-to-ceiling curtains to reveal a six-year-old girl lying awake in a large bed, Jesse, green eyes and long red curls. LAUGHTER wafts in with the breeze.
- 28 INT. CORRIDOR 28
- Jesse's bare feet pad down the endless corridor. The little girl is dwarfed by the stone pedestals, all lit with candles. LAUGHTER ECHOES through the halls.
- 29 INT. GREAT HALL 29
- Jesse moves past rough-hewn columns, watching something with great curiosity. Behind her, we glimpse a giant mural of names cut into the stone walls. A family tree, extending up onto the ceiling and down to the floor.
- 30 JESSE'S POV 30
- A grand party is in progress. There are about thirty vampires, all thin, pale and beautiful. An eclectic group, elegantly-dressed in Indian silks, Arabic veils, mixed with a few gaudy Versace outfits. Guests lean into each other's necks, showing blood-red tongues and fangs.
- 31 BACK TO SCENE 31
- A young VAMPIRE scoops Jesse up and puts her on his knee.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

VAMPIRE

Ah, Jesse. You want to come and
play with us, don't you?

She stares at him, nervous, intrigued.

WOMAN (O.S.)

(urgent)

Jesse!

VAMPIRE

Soon, soon, little one. I'll make
sure you're with us forever.

WOMAN (O.S.)

(more urgent)

Jesse!

32 INT. JESSE'S BEDROOM (PRESENT)

32

JESSE

No!

Jesse sits up with a start. She stands, heart pounding, trying to shake the dream off. We see on a bulletin board behind her, a flyer for Lestat's concert. She takes off the headphones. Walking over to the mantel above her fireplace, she picks up a solitary, framed photo -- holds it tight...

33 CLOSEUP - PHOTO

33

Young Jesse (the girl from the dream) stares straight at camera. She is held in the arms of a red-haired woman, her back to camera.

34 BACK TO SCENE

34

Jesse puts the photo down, catches her reflection in a mirror, lit by flickering candlelight. Her face is distressed, troubled by the dream. She goes to the window, stares out into the black night. The dark waters of the Thames snake through the London cityscape. Jesse blows out the candles. Darkness.

CUT TO:

- 35 EXT. TUBE STATION (LONDON) - THAT NIGHT 35
- Fluorescence pierces the black night. Jesse comes out of the tube station in a tight, short skirt, boots. She looks down the street. In one direction, a busy, brightly-lit street. Jesse gazes at a group of tourists coming out of a pub, laughing. Then she turns, looks the other direction. A dark street. She hesitates a long moment, stares at the light, then can't help herself, plunges toward the darkness, the LAUGHTER ECHOING, then DYING.
- 36 EXT. ALLEY - JUST AFTER 36
- Jesse passes "rent-boys" stepping from the shadows as cars cruise by. Jesse, unable to look away, gazes as one gets in a car. He stares back at her, disappears into the car.
- 37 EXT. BRIDGE - JUST AFTER 37
- Jesse passes couples using the shadows for privacy in the dark, filthy streets. She strides past a girl leaning against a brick wall, the man grunting, moving rhythmically against her.
- 38 EXT. LONDON STREET - LATER THAT NIGHT 38
- Fog floats in the yellow vapor lights. Jesse pauses at the intersection of a narrow alley. She hesitates, nervous, then turns down the dark lane, disappearing into the blackness...
- 39 EXT. WAVERLY ARMS - NIGHT 39
- Jesse, from the shadows, gazes, wide-eyed, at the Soho private club's entrance, a solitary door with a faded sign and a dull blue light mounted above.
- Jesse hears strange whispering. She sees now figures moving through the fog. One pushes a buzzer. Jesse stares, barely breathing, her heart pounding.
- The figures have white, luminescent faces, strange, bright, glowing eyes. Their fingernails are glass-like. A moment later, a slot in the door opens. The glowing eyes of another creature stares out at them, scrutinizing them. The door closes quickly.
- Jesse stands there, deliberating. She takes a step closer to the door. Stops. Takes another nervous step. She hears something, whirls around.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

Another group of the strange figures walk steadily down the street towards her. Jesse begins backing away. A HISSING sound slowly fills the alley...

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON LESTAT

smiling, revealing his fangs.

REVEAL we are...

40 INT. LIBRARY - TALAMASCA INNER COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT 40

Lestat's face appears on a video screen in front of a room lined from floor to ceiling with leather-bound books, ancient scrolls. Subjects are marked, Werewolves, Poltergeists, Possession...

SUPERIMPOSE: SECRET ORDER OF THE TALAMASCA: CENTER FOR
PARANORMAL STUDIES: LONDON HEADQUARTERS

Jesse, making a presentation, stands before an impressive and imposing group of 10 TALAMASCANS, wearing demure suits.

Jesse is excited, a bit nervous, hoping to impress. She holds a remote which controls images appearing on the large video screen. Clips from Lestat's press conference continue. Jesse gazes out at the Talamascans.

JESSE

I have reason to believe Lestat's the real thing. A vampire. And an ancient one.

TALAMASCAN #1

I don't know, Jesse. It looks to me like the guy's got a good P.R. man with a flair for the theatrical.

JESSE

(leans forward,
eagerly)

It would appear that way. But have you listened to his songs? Read his lyrics?

The Talamascans glance at each other, surprised. Shake their heads. A few laugh. They're not Lestat's usual audience.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

Well, i have. In one of his songs he refers to a pub called the Sailor's Arms. I think it's a clue...

She pushes a button, the lyrics appear on screen.

JESSE

(reading screen)

'Where are you now? Back in the sailor's arms, somewhere in the back streets of Soho?' I tracked down the old leases in London. It turns out, in the late 1700's, there was a pub right in the backstreets of Soho called the Sailor's Arms.

The lyrics on screen are replaced now by an old engraving of a pub with the sign reading "SAILOR'S ARMS."

JESSE

And it had a reputation for dealing with black magic. Witches' covens, seances, that sort of thing.

Quick flashes of gruesome drawings appear -- animal sacrifices. A corpses floating above a table...

Jesse talks faster and faster with her enthusiasm.

JESSE

And most importantly, reports of people being lured there and subsequently attacked by bloodsucking fiends.

Quick flashes of gruesome period newspaper drawings, blood pouring from the neck of a screaming woman. A white-faced ghoul with fangs.

Jesse is smiling wider, excited by her discovery.

On screen, an old map of London appears.

JESSE

Here's where you could find the Sailor's Arms in old London.

A modern map appears, overlaying the old map.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

And here is where it would be today. Of course the Sailor's Arms is not there anymore. That part of London is mostly old warehouses, meat-packing plants.

TALAMASCAN #2

In a few years it will be artists' lofts and pretentious French cafes...

Jesse leans forward now as she talks.

JESSE

Yes, but right now there's only one place to get a drink -- of sorts. A private club -- in exactly the same place. The Waverly Arms.

On screen, a photo of the Waverly Arms.

JESSE

Well, what happens at the Waverly Arms now makes the Sailor's Arms look like a Happy Meal at McDonald's.

She pauses for emphasis, gazing at the faces of the Talamascans, gauging their reactions.

JESSE

It's a vampire coven. And Lestat's leading us to it.

Murmurs. Many of definite interest. Some of definite skepticism. Jesse's face shines bright with her enthusiasm.

TALAMASCAN #1

(skeptical)

And what makes you think so?

Jesse smiles. Pushes a button. Ready to receive the Talamascans' approval.

On screen, a new picture appears of several figures, white faces, dark clothes -- but they're very blurry.

TALAMASCAN #2

Jesse, can you, uh, focus that any better?

(CONTINUED)

JESSE
 (excitement dampened
 by embarrassment)
 Well... it was taken... while...
 (clears throat)
 ... in motion.

Talamascan #2 smiles at her sympathetically. Jesse gazes out at the other Talamascans, sees she's losing their interest.

JESSE
 (quickly, trying to
 cover)
 But listen, if you look closely,
 you can see they're vampires. I'm
 sure of it. And Lestat's leading
 us to them and --

TALAMASCAN #3
 (interrupting)
 Interesting. Perhaps we should
 assign someone to observe --

TALAMASCAN #1
 Oh please, based on this so-called
 'data'? That's a waste of time.

JESSE
 But... uh...

TALAMASCAN #2
 (looking up for a
 moment, interrupting)
 Wait a second. Who took this
 picture?

JESSE
 (a beat, softly)
 I did.

Murmurs bubble through the entire group now. They stare at Jesse, dismayed.

TALAMASCAN #2
 You went there?

JESSE
 Yes. Last night.

TALAMASCAN #1
 And who gave you this directive?

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

No one. I... just... went.

(quickly)

Look, I know it was breaking protocol and I'm really sorry, it's just I think --

TALAMASCAN #1

Jesse! You're just an apprentice here! You must follow our rules... Or perhaps we need to reconsider your position.

She stares at him.

TALAMASCAN #3

For 12 centuries our mission as Talamascans has been to observe and record paranormal behavior. But never get involved. You're getting far too close.

JESSE

(gesturing to photo,
defending herself)

Hey, does it look like I got involved? That is not called involvement. That is called running.

TALAMASCAN #2

(leaning forward,
trying to help)

But, Jesse, tell us, what did you see?

Jesse turns to her.

JESSE

Vampires. Gathering. I'm sure of it.

Jesse steps from the podium, moving through the Talamascans as she pleads her case. She talks a mile a minute, her passion rising...

JESSE

You have to listen to Lestat's lyrics. They're amazing.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JESSE (CONT'D)

Many of the references could only be derived from years of research in the Bibliothec de Paris, which seems unlikely for a young rock star in his early twenties. Plus there are historical details dating back hundreds of years Lestat describes that don't exist anywhere... except in our library. He refers to Marius, the great white lord, who ruled over a group of islands off the Bay of Naples in the late 18th Century. What I'm trying to say here, and maybe I'm not doing the best job of it, is that Lestat may be the oldest and most powerful vampire ever documented!

Jesse sees some of the Talamascans are again listening. But Talamascan #1 shakes his head...

TALAMASCAN #1

It doesn't make any sense. Why would he be forecasting this to the world? He's all but drawn a map and marked an X. What vampires hold sacred is keeping their kind a secret. You never name other immortals, tell where their lairs are. They'd be hunted down.

JESSE

Right. That's the best part. Lestat's not afraid to piss them off. He wants mortals and immortals to know he's there, to know he exists. I don't know why...

(glancing at skeptical
Talamascan #1)

But this has never happened before. Don't you see? He's a one man revolution.

All the Talamascans gaze at her a moment. Jesse holds her breath. Has she gotten them back?

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (6)

40

TALAMASCAN #1

And this photo is your evidence?
It's hardly conclusive.

(snorts)

C'mon. It looks like the Blair
witch!

The Talamascans burst out laughing, even Talamascan #2.
Jesse gazes at them, her face burning red. She's lost
them, blown it. Made a fool of herself.

Her frustration rises, she can no longer contain it. It
bursts out of her.

JESSE

Fine. Well then, I guess I'll
just have to go back and get
better, more conclusive evidence!
Maybe you just can't unravel all
the mysteries of the world out
there, by sitting around all day
in a dusty old library in here!

As they gaze at her, astonished, she gathers her
materials, starts out. Several start shouting back at
her. Amidst the uproar, a voice booms across the room.

TALBOT (O.S.)

Jesse.

Everyone turns. Quiets down. DAVID TALBOT stands in the
back of the room. He's clearly the superior Talamascan,
though younger than some, very charismatic.

TALBOT

My office. Now.

He turns, walks out. All the Talamascans look at Jesse.
It doesn't look good. Her face burning red, Jesse turns,
leaves.

CUT TO:

41 EXT. METROPOLITAN BAR (LONDON) - NIGHT (SAME TIME)

41

A line of hopefuls wanting to enter the exclusive club
wait for the judgement of two BOUNCERS, one buff, one
SLEEK.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

SLEEK BOUNCER

Okay, you, in. You. No...
 (smiles at a sexy
 girl)

You in...

(to UNATTRACTIVE GUY)

You, no.

UNATTRACTIVE GUY

C'mon, man, she's waiting for me
 in there. She said she was
 putting me on the list. My name's
 Norman --

BOUNCER #1

Yeah, yeah, right. Hey, get a
 life, alright?

(to another sexy
 girl)

You, in.

Across the street, a figure in the shadows watches.

42 EXT. AROUND CORNER - JUST AFTERWARDS

42

Bouncer #1 is now making out with one of the young sexy
 girls he let in, trying to get a hand up her dress.

A cold WIND suddenly blows, fluttering her skirt. He
 looks up. A dark figure stands in the shadows.

BOUNCER #1

Hey, perv, get the hell out of
 here.

The figure steps from the shadows. The Bouncer's face
 turns white.

It's Lestat...

The Bouncer starts to back way. The girl starts to
 scream. Lestat clamps his hand over the girl's mouth.
 To the girl...

LESTAT

You. In...

He gestures to the club. The girl turns and runs for her
 life. As the Bouncer backs away, terrified, Lestat turns
 to him.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

LESTAT

(softly)

You. No.

Lestat lunges like a phantom -- a flash of teeth -- as they FALL FROM FRAME, the distinct sound of BONE CRUSHING. Over this scene the BAND'S SONG rushes in.

CUT TO:

42A INT. LESTAT'S LONDON HOUSE - THAT NIGHT

42A

Lestat enters. Dabs his mouth politely with a white handkerchief, the sound of the BAND practicing from below.

43 INT. LESTAT'S HOUSE (LONDON) - SOUND STUDIO - JUST AFTER

43

Lestat and his band rehearse one of their numbers, music and voice melding into a grand, almost operatic harmony.

44 INT. CONTROL BOOTH

44

Two SOUND ENGINEERS work the board.

SOUND ENGINEER #1

When's the concert?

SOUND ENGINEER #2

Four days.

SOUND ENGINEER #1

These guys are gonna kill.

Behind them, Roger sits pensively watching. Surreptitiously, he glances down at a book on his lap -- its title Vampires -- The Occult Truth. He talks on a phone.

ROGER

Yeah, Phil. We'll need a limo from the airport. I don't know which airfield yet... I don't know the arrival time either.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

ROGER (CONT'D)
 (sighs)
 Yeah... I'll call you from the plane... Nope, I'll tell the driver where he's taking us... Hey I don't even know myself... pick up address in London?... Forget it... you'd never find this place. Christ we'll probably have changed houses again by then... What can I say, the guy's just...

Shaking his head, Phil glances down at his vampire book. Looking back up he see Lestat now staring at him intensely while he sings.

ROGER
 (softly)
 -- just uh... shy... that's it... shy.

45 INT. STUDIO

45

Lestat slides into a high "C" leaning into the microphone, catching his own reflection in the booth's window, and --

CRACK -- GLASS SPLINTERS.

Roger jumps out of his skin, stifling a cry.

46 INT. CONTROL BOOTH

46

SOUND ENGINEER #1
 (dumbfounded)
 Shit.

47 INT. STUDIO

47

James, Alex, and Maudy "whoop" with excitement.

JAMES
 We rock.

LESTAT
 Yes, I'd say I'm down with that.

They all laugh.

JAMES
 I'm ready for Los Angeles...

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

MAUDY

I'm ready for Death Valley.

(jazzed)

Two days till we go...

THROUGH the broken glass we see Roger slump into a chair, his nerves totally frayed.

ALEX

Think we can call that a night.

Unhooking their instruments, Alex and James start to pack up as Maudy slowly approaches Lestat and nuzzles his neck.

He shivers with temptation. Her hand moves down the front of his pants. Lestat pulls her into his arms. Leaning into her neck he breathes in her scent, closes his eyes and... Suddenly opens them right at Roger who looks on, extremely perturbed. Smiling like the devil...

LESTAT

Oh, the sweet song of her blood.

Roger stares on, terrified.

LESTAT

I'll hear it in my head all night.

Gently letting Maudy go...

LESTAT

Roger...

He goes directly to Roger, reaches into his open shirt, pulls out the crucifix around his neck.

LESTAT

I didn't know you were religious.

Roger tries to laugh it off. Lestat sniffs the air. As Roger backs away, he turns to open the door, stumbles, cutting his hand on a fallen shard of glass. Blood trickles from the cut. Roger looks up at Lestat whose dark eyes stare intensely at Roger's blood. Roger quickly sticks his hand in his mouth. With a horrified expression, he realizes he's sucking his blood. He quickly heads out. But Lestat is faster and reaches into Roger's shirt pocket. Pulls out a clove of garlic. Lestat shakes his head with a smile.

LESTAT

Roger...

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

Roger tries to laugh. Reaches for the garlic to put it back in his pocket. But Lestat grabs Roger's hand, blood trickling down his wrist. Lestat speaks intensely.

LESTAT

Be careful, Roger. Very careful.

Lestat walks away. Roger exhales with relief.

CUT TO:

48 INT. TALBOT'S CHAMBER - SAME TIME

48

A wood-lined room-- walls covered with books, artifacts, paintings. Jesse stands before Talbot. He fixes his eyes on her, pours her some coffee.

TALBOT

How's everything? You alright?
You sleeping okay?

JESSE

Yeah, I'm great. I just found a vampire.

TALBOT

(considers her)

Jesse... you're taking this Lestat stuff pretty seriously... why?

JESSE

Cause I think I'm on to something pretty big. The most important sighting Talamasca's had in years...

(beat, sighs)

Jesus, I don't know, David... I thought I was onto something... Maybe I didn't see anything...

Talbot takes in the dark circles around her eyes, how quickly she's emptied her coffee cup. He pours her more, smiles gently.

TALBOT

You know we work in a really strange field? The supernatural is beguiling at times. It doesn't like to just be observed, it is only satisfied when it has drawn us in completely. I know cause I've felt these things myself.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TALBOT (CONT'D)

That's what we have to resist, as
Talamascans...

(as a shadow crosses
his face)

It's not always easy.

JESSE

(leaning forward)

Talbot. C'mon. You know me. I'm
not freaking out on you. I'm just
onto what looks -- alright looked

-- like a good lead. You're the
one who taught me how to do all
this. You're the one who taught
me to keep pushing and pushing...

He still looks at her with a penetrating glance. She
looks back at him.

JESSE

David. There's nothing else.
Nothing is 'beguiling' me,
alright? Nothing. C'mon.

He gazes at her as she downs her whole coffee,
registering her strong denial. He smiles at her,
forcefully changes the mood.

TALBOT

Alright. Just checking...

Jesse starts out. Looking down at papers on his desk,
Talbot calls out, almost casually...

TALBOT

Well, all I can say is you're
really lucky you're not lying
dead in a gutter with two holes
on your neck.

JESSE

I'd be even luckier if that damn
picture came out...

(stops in her tracks,
turns back, gazes at
him, amazed)

Wait a second. So you do believe
me? You do think it's a vampire
coven.

(CONTINUED)

TALBOT

(looks up, eyes
sparkling)

Yes. But not exactly for the reasons you think. Though your research is top-notch of course...

(smiles)

Come back here. I'm gonna show you something.

He goes to the paintings hanging on a wall in the back of his office, covered with black velvet. Jesse follows. He unveils them.

They stand before an Eighteenth-Century painting. The interior of an enormous Italian villa. There's a man in his forties with long white hair, back to us, but his face is reflected in a standing mirror.

TALBOT

What do you see?

JESSE

They're all nightscapes. The detail is amazing. Mid-1500s. Florence.

TALBOT

Right. And what do you see in this one?

Jesse moves to the next painting. Another nightscape, a giant medieval tableaux, circa Bruegel.

TALBOT

And I know it's a Dutch pastoral.

Jesse runs her finger across the faces, then stops on the face of a gentleman with long white hair watching the bloodshed of gory battles and the sacrifices of saints burned at the stake.

JESSE

This man is in both.

TALBOT

Right. He's in all of them.

Jesse moves to the next painting, then the next and the next, all nightscapes set and painted in the style of different eras, all featuring a portrait of the same white-maned man.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

Have you --

TALBOT

Carbon tested? Yes. The different paint samples are all authentic. All painted at the time of that particular style.

Jesse stops at a contemporary self-portrait.

TALBOT

It's Marius, Jesse.

JESSE

(whirling around)
Marius?! From Lestat's lyrics.
I knew I was right.

TALBOT

Yes, you were. Good work.

She smiles at him, victorious.

TALBOT

I've been personally tracing him for decades. My little obsession. The oldest vampire ever documented. The closest we've come to the original vampire.

JESSE

What do you mean the original vampire?

Pointing to a larger depiction of a beautiful woman in Egyptian garb --

TALBOT

There's a Mesopotamian legend that there once was a queen of Egypt, Akasha, long before Tutankhamen or Nefertiti. She was believed to be the original vampire... Marius himself dates back to 400 B.C...

Jesse gazes at all the paintings, shaking her head in wonder, then speaks softly.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

David, you've been tracking Marius
your whole life. Maybe he's out
there waiting for you right now.

(without looking
at him)

Don't you ever want to just go and
find him and --

Talbot crosses to her.

TALBOT

No. Jesus, we are not talking
about having a drink at the
Dorchester, Jesse. You know that.
Especially with the ancient
vampires -- the older they are,
the more powerful, the more
dangerous...

He takes her by the arm, smiles down at her.

TALBOT

Anyway, you don't need to go and
stake out some club. Your time is
too valuable. I have something
far better for you...

JESSE

(surprised)

You do?

He steers her over to a locked cabinet.

TALBOT

Yes. And I'll tell you something.
I've never shown this to anyone.
No one else has proved themself
in the way you have.

JESSE

(touched)

Thanks. What is it?

As he unlocks the cabinet...

TALBOT

Oh you're gonna love this.

(glancing at her)

Although I'm sure it will keep you
up nights to come with nightmares...

He takes out an old leather-bound journal. Turns to
Jesse.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (5)

48

TALBOT
Lestat's diary. I found it some
years ago. This is where you'll
find the answers you need.

Jesse stares up at him in absolute awe, taking it in.
Talbot gestures in the direction of the Talamascans in
the library.

TALBOT
They don't need to know
everything, right?

She smiles at him. He gives her the diary.

JESSE
Thank you for this.

TALBOT
My pleasure. When I took you on
as an apprentice, I knew it was
the smartest thing I'd ever done.
Now you and I'll meet when you're
done... This will be our project...

As Jesse goes out, holding the journal, Talbot smiles
after her.

But after the door closes, his gaze turns again to
concern. He crosses back to the paintings, pauses a
moment, staring up into Marius's eyes. Then Talbot
covers each with the black velvet.

CUT TO:

49 INT. JESSE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

49

Jesse sits on the floor, curtains drawn, the room lit
with candles. A LESTAT SONG plays in the b.g. She
opens the journal.

JESSE
Je suis le vampire Lestat...
(a beat)
I am the vampire Lestat.

50 FLASHBACK - EXT. MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND - FULL SHOT

50

A solitary paradise in a rough, nighttime sea.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

LESTAT (V.O.)

It was the winter of 1788 and I
was brought to a Mediterranean
Island by the man who made me...

A lightning flash illuminates a sprawling 18th-Century
sea-front villa.

LESTAT (V.O.)

... if a man is what you'd call
him.

51 INT. VILLA BEDROOM - NIGHT

51

A great round room encircled with candles, their
reflections flickering in the great glass windows braving
back the outside STORM. A huge antique bed sits in the
room's center, and on it... Lestat lays feverish and
fitful, dressed in a soft linen nightshirt. His neck
wears a swollen bite. Another flash of lightning
suddenly jolts him awake. His hands feel the inflamed
wound as he sees...

An indistinct shape of a man dressed in draping red
velvet, sitting asleep in a chair across the room. An
easel stands before him, holding an unseen painting.
Lestat rises out of the bed and grabs his clothes from a
nearby Louis IV chair. He makes for a door when...

Lestat suddenly stops. He looks back to see the painting
that stands on the easel. It's a portrait of himself in
ancient Roman garb, like the god Mars, complete with his
blond hair and fiery blue eyes. Unable to help himself,
he approaches the painting, completely fascinated by his
own image, when suddenly...

The sleeping man leaps up, grabs Lestat unmercifully and
again plunges his teeth into the young man's neck.
Lestat fights as best he can but his strength is no match
as he's slowly drawn down to the floor. Finally...

The strange man lifts himself up from Lestat's neck to
reveal the face of the vampire MARIUS, the mysterious
figure. Wiping his blooded mouth on his painter's
cloth--

MARIUS

Lestat. Welcome.

Weakened and helpless, Lestat drags himself back across
the floor in terror.

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT

Who are you? Do I know you?

MARIUS

I'm unknowable by nature.

Marius advances again on the young man...

MARIUS

But you may call me Marius.

As Lestat keeps weakly dragging himself away.

LESTAT

I'm the lord of a great manor.
They'll send an army of men to
look for me.

MARIUS

I doubt they'll find you,
Lord De Lioncourt. You're a long
way from home...

His strength leaving him, Lestat slumps flat on the floor.

MARIUS

You're weak... near passing. I
can barely hear your heartbeat.

LESTAT

I'll kill you!

Marius smiles, impressed.

MARIUS

You really do fear nothing. It is
why I chose you. Because you
think things are possible which
aren't possible...

Lestat stares at him, his eyes wide.

LESTAT

Chose me? For what?

MARIUS

My companion. Someone to share my
burden.

Bending down, he gazes at Lestat.

MARIUS

You've lost a great deal of blood.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (2)

51

LESTAT
 (near tears)
 I'm dying.

Suddenly Marius draws a knife from a Roman sheath on his belt. With the last of his strength, Lestat grabs his attacker's wrist.

MARIUS
 Then drink.

Guiding Lestat's hand with the knife, Marius smiles and cuts his own arm, opening his veins. Lestat stares in true terror as Marius lets his blood drip onto Lestat's lip. Lestat pulls away as the blood slides into his mouth...

MARIUS
 Good, is it not?

And indeed... it does taste good. That's the new terror that's gripping him. He crosses himself and stares up into Marius's gentle eyes. Marius bends down, cups Lestat's chin.

MARIUS
 Drink and live. You've been brave enough for one night, my son.

Marius brings his open vein to Lestat's lips. Lestat hesitates, but then suddenly... Feeds hungrily as Marius's face fills with the bond. He slowly sinks down to his knees as Lestat feeds and feeds. As Lestat drinks, a barrage of IMAGES flood into him...

52 IMAGES

52

of Marius's life through the ages... Impressionistic, subliminal burst of IMAGES, color... the glory days of the Roman Empire to this very moment flash by...

53 BACK TO LESTAT

53

He keeps drinking from the vampire Marius who gasps with the creation of his child.

MARIUS
 Drink... drink and learn.

Lestat's body grows stronger, his back arching up as he draws the "life" into him with full force, as... Marius begins to weaken, himself.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

MARIUS

There... there... that will do.

But Lestat keeps on feeding hungrily.

MARIUS

No... no more. Lestat, no more!

With one great move, Marius pulls Lestat off his arm and tosses him across the floor twenty feet away. Marius reels back, clamping his open vein with his hand as Lestat curls on the ground, gasping ecstatically from the rush.

Slowly, Lestat starts to feel something. Pain begins travelling through his body, consuming him until he screams. Marius crosses to Lestat convulsing on the floor. He kneels and gently wipes his brow. Lestat's body thrashes as he grabs at his own limbs...

MARIUS

Don't be afraid, it's only your
body that dies...

Wiping his brow as he dies...

Then, Lestat's face still buried in his arms, he begins to laugh almost drunkenly. Raising his head, his metamorphosis is clear as his face pales and his eyes fill with a new kind of power.

LESTAT

More!

Lestat smiles with red glistening lips. A beat on Marius as he slowly smiles, too.

54 EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

54

A million stars...

LESTAT (V.O.)

I impressed my maker with my
thirst for things. He set out to
educate me in the unknown. Taught
me all about the world, its hidden
history... and about myself.

TILT DOWN to reveal an old fisherman who cries out as Lestat bites into his throat. Marius watches as the fisherman's body relaxes. He pulls Lestat away.

(CONTINUED)

MARIUS

That's enough, my son... When you feed, you must hold back from the moment of death. You must never take the last drop, or it will draw you in and you will die...

The fisherman is moaning. Looking down at the suffering victim, Marius swiftly snaps his neck and dumps him into a boat. He picks up an oar, and with vampire strength, drives it like a stake through the bottom of the boat. Water starts bubbling in.

MARIUS

Remember, there is wisdom in the flesh, Lestat. A man wears his history on his skin...

Marius feels Lestat's gaze, turns to him.

MARIUS

I'm talking about humanity.

As Lestat watches the water begin to fill the bottom of the boat...

LESTAT

Humanity?
(snort)
We're murderers.

MARIUS

We're more than that. Their blood that we take into us carries with it life... their life, their knowledge, their complexity. Appreciate your prey, Lestat.

Marius gazes at the fisherman, then, with vampire strength, shoves the boat far out into the ocean.

Below the brightest of summer night skies, Lestat and Marius walk along, talking intensely. The ocean appears to shimmer in the faint light of stars. In the distance, several bonfires burn on the sand, dancing figures gathered around.

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT (V.O.)

My senses run amok, like a newborn child. And as for my new powers, I was beside myself with the pleasure of it all...

MARIUS

The trick is to find the way to face eternity head on. The spirit can be annihilated by boredom just as the body can be destroyed by sun or fire. My solace, my delight, is witnessing the unfolding of human destiny...

Lestat gazes at Marius's eyes dancing with intellectual fervor. As they walk, they pass a group of teenagers, just younger than Lestat, at a bonfire, dancing, laughing.

Lestat gazes over at them as he and Marius pass, hidden in shadow.

MARIUS

... From Christ to the Dark Ages to the enlightenment, I've never been able to divine what was coming. That's what keeps me going -- I can't wait to see what human beings are going to do next...

Lestat nods, taking it in. They pass another bonfire. MUSIC floats through the night. An OLDER MAN, 50, plays balalaika while his daughter, 18, plays violin with great passion.

MARIUS

Who could've predicted the Enlightenment? Or Hannibal and his elephants?

Marius stops talking, turns. Lestat is no longer beside him. Marius turns back and sees Lestat standing in the shadows, listening to the music. The young woman, sensing something, turns towards Lestat in the shadows as she plays. Marius goes to Lestat, pulls him farther into the shadows.

MARIUS

Careful.

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT

But why must we hide, Marius? We are the powerful, we are the immortal. We should walk fearless in the open!

MARIUS

Shhh. The life of a vampire is a life of discretion. We must sleep during the day, when we are vulnerable to the sun. Mortals must never know about us. It is forbidden, for the sake of all our kind.

LESTAT

(gazing at violin player as it sinks in)
So I could never know her?

MARIUS

Not unless you wanted to kill her.

LESTAT

(beat, quietly, intensely)
So I can never be known?

MARIUS

You're known by me. I granted you that. There are others of our kind... though most are solitary creatures.

Lestat's eyes fill with some existential realization.

LESTAT

My God...

MARIUS

Forget God. You're no longer in his realm. Now we must leave.

Relenting, Lestat starts to follow. But the music quickens. Lestat pauses, turns back. As if the music is calling to him.

The girl still faces into the shadows towards him, and plays fast and wild, her fingers flying. Lestat stands there frozen to the spot. The music pulses through him. He gazes at her fingers, studying their intricate movements intensely...

(CONTINUED)

Impulsively, Lestat goes back to them, hovers, his face still somewhat obscured by the darkness. Lestat starts clapping along to the music, exuberantly.

The girl and Father smile, nod to him as they play. Marius, in the shadows, is fuming. Lestat's eyes fill with the moment, the girl's vitality. He notices that sitting on the ground by the girl are several instruments. Impulsively, he reaches over, picks up a violin. He studies the girl's playing again, then with his new powers, as if by osmosis...

Begins to play with exactly her skill, exactly her movements.

The girl and her Father laugh, delighted with this new musician. Lestat plays along with them, joyful, exhilarated. The girl's fingers fly. Lestat's fingers pick up speed. Faster. Faster. A glittering torrent of notes fly out of his violin as if made of gold.

Unconsciously, Lestat steps closer to the music, into firelight. The Father and his daughter become less certain, as they gaze at Lestat's strange, pale, glowing skin, the luminous shine of eyes. But Lestat is completely taken by the music, the moment. The Father and the daughter, sensing something strange, stop playing. Lestat looks up. Sees terror in their eyes. The Father is slowly backing away, pointing in horror at Lestat.

FATHER

Fantasma!! Teras!!

Lightning fast, out of the shadows, steps Marius. He grabs the Father. The girl drops her violin, turns, starts running down the beach to a bonfire in the distance.

MARIUS

Stop her, Lestat!

Lestat turns to Marius, shaking his head no in horror.

MARIUS

You must!

Lestat hesitates, then runs after the girl. She turns back, sees him getting closer, starts to scream... Lestat is suddenly in front of her with his hand over her mouth, covering her muffled scream. Her struggle is no use against his strength. Reaching up to her neck, he touches it. He looks into her terrified eyes...

CUT TO:

56 EXT. ISLAND'S SOUTH SHORE - NIGHT

56

Marius kneels over the body of the Father on the island's deserted shoreline. Tosses him in a boat. Lestat gazes at the lifeless body of the girl. Marius turns to Lestat, furious.

MARIUS

I will not have you put everything
at risk! You will mind our laws!

Picking up Lestat's victim, Marius tosses her into the boat as well.

MARIUS

We remain in the shadows. To do
otherwise is a road to
destruction...

Marius turns to Lestat, who stands in silence, gazing at the girl and her Father.

MARIUS

(quietly)
I see you still have a few
lingering mortal emotions. They
will serve you no good, Lestat.

Lestat turns to Marius, shaking his head, speaks in a horrified whisper...

LESTAT

My God, what have you done to me?

Lestat turns again toward the bodies of the dead girl and her Father, his face filled with pain, enormous sadness.

LESTAT

(whisper)
She's just a child... forgive me.

57 EXTREME CLOSEUP - LESTAT

57

closes his eyes. A violent VIOLIN STRAIN as we PULL BACK to see...

Lestat standing alone in the bedroom, in a deep reverie, playing the girl's violin with incredible passion. His playing picks up speed as he works himself into a Pagnani furor...

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

LESTAT (V.O.)

The faces of my victims haunted
me, rising behind my eyes,
reminding me of my fate... I
played for days trying to expel
the last bit of my human
feelings... and face the cold,
dark wasteland of eternity...

The violin dissolves into Lestat's ROCK MUSIC.

58 BACK TO JESSE (PRESENT)

58

Reading the journal, listening to LESTAT'S MUSIC. She
hears the lyrics... "Mine eyes dazzle, she died so
young..." She looks up, her eyes fill with tears, moved
by Lestat's loneliness. She gazes into the dark night...
then turns, sees her camera...

59 EXT. STREET (LONDON) - LATER THAT NIGHT

59

Jesse moves steadily along the street past darkened
warehouses. Several bonfires line the lane, illuminating
rows of prone bodies, cardboard shelters, empty bottles.
The drunks look up at her with dead eyes.

60 EXT. ALLEY - LATER

60

Jesse goes deeper into a labyrinth of alleys, the street
becoming darker with every step. In the distance she
sees the blue light. Figures moving through the fog.
Jesse moves slowly along a wall in the shadows trying to
get a better look... Suddenly, out of the shadows, a
BOTTLE SMASHES... She starts, quickens her pace...

Runs straight into a bulky figure. A primal scream rises
from her stomach. The figure is a homeless drunk, more
scared than she is, who scuttles off quickly into the
night. Jesse presses her back against the wall.
Breathes. She inches around the corner...

61 EXT. WAVERLY ARMS - CONTINUOUS ACTION

61

... and from the shadows, gazes at figures knocking on
the solitary door in the wall up ahead, with the dull
blue light mounted above. The slot in the door slides
open. A moment later, the figures vanish inside.

A moment later, two couples approach, dressed in black.
Jesse takes a deep breath, then...

(CONTINUED)

- 61 CONTINUED: 61
- ... falls into step behind them. One knocks on the door. A face peers out at the group. Steps back. The door opens. Jesse follows the couples in. The door shuts behind her.
- 62 INT. CLUB - NIGHT 62
- The music is part blues, part Kurt Weil, part Gothic, dark and ominous as if the pianist knew exactly the sort of trouble Jesse was in. The bar is comprised of elaborately-carved Chinese dragons, a TV mounted incongruously in the corner showing a silent Vampire Lestat video.
- Couples dance cheek to cheek, rotating like figures on a music box. Another couple is necking hot and heavy in the corner. Jesse stares at the patrons of this vampire coven. Many of the faces are unnaturally pale, gaunt. Their eyes shine with a strange, reflective light. Jesse moves through the tables, passing a mortal YUPPIE-TYPE sitting with a VAMPIRE GIRL he's obviously just met that night.
- YUPPIE
Wow. This is the coolest after hours club ever. You sure you don't want a drink?
- VAMPIRE GIRL
Soon.
- The Vampire Girl smiles, glances up at Jesse as she passes. Jesse looks away quickly, moves on... The pianist watches as she passes by. The couple necking in the corner begins to get even more aroused. A mortal girl sips on her drink while her lover, a vampire, kisses her shoulder, her throat...
- 63 UNKNOWN POV 63
- Unaware that she is being watched, Jesse continues her circuit.
- 64 BACK TO SCENE 64
- as Jesse approaches the bar where three PUNK VAMPIRES slouch, looking up at Lestat on the video.

65 UNKNOWN POV 65

We watch the Punk Vampires and hear every word they say as the other SOUNDS FADE AWAY.

PUNK VAMPIRE #1
Every coven's going...

66 REVERSE ANGLE 66

REVEAL unknown POV. A vampire, face hidden behind a hood, seems extremely interested in what the Punk Vampires are saying.

67 BACK TO PUNK VAMPIRES 67

A young girl dressed in Goth gear sits down at the bar. Punk Vampire #1 turns and smiles insincerely at her as she stares up at Lestat on the TV. Getting a sudden chill, the Goth girl takes her drink and moves back into the crowd as the vampire looks after her with murderous eyes.

68 JESSE 68

reaches the Punk Vampires. They fall silent as she pauses at the bar. She turns, stares at the necking couple...

69 JESSE'S POV 69

... a brief glimpse of the tiny trickle of blood on the mortal girl's neck as she swoons... an even briefer flash as her vampire lover comes up for air, his lips and teeth shiny with blood...

70 JESSE 70

stares, horrified.

71 BACK TO SCENE 71

PUNK VAMPIRE #1 (O.S.)
Come here often?

Jesse turns to see Punk Vampire #1 leaning towards her.

JESSE
Sure, all the time.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

The Punk Vampire pulls down her collar.

PUNK VAMPIRE #1
Don't see any marks.

JESSE
You haven't seen the rest of my
body.

PUNK VAMPIRE #2
Is that an invitation?

Jesse finds herself surrounded by the three Vampires.
She shakes her head, too frightened to get out a
response.

PUNK VAMPIRE #3
So, where's your host?

JESSE
My host... oh he's here somewhere.

She peers into the darkness, starts moving towards the
door...

Finds herself blocked by Punk Vampire #2.

PUNK VAMPIRE #2
Your host. What's his name?

Jesse looks around, trying not to panic. Pale faces,
pale eyes stare at her. A long, terrible pause...
Suddenly --

JESSE
Marius...

72 HOODED FIGURE

72

leans forward, surprised, studies this strange mortal,
fascinated.

73 BACK TO SCENE

73

PUNK VAMPIRE #1
Sorry. Don't know the guy.

The Punk Vampires laugh. Jesse desperately tries to
cover her terror.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

Marius has the blood of the
ancients flowing in his veins.

PUNK VAMPIRE #2

There aren't any ancients left.
They all turned to dust...

JESSE

That's a myth. Marius is around
here somewhere...

Jesse again heads for the door. But Punk Vampire #1 has
appeared in front of her. She stares at him, terrified.

JESSE

You... you really should meet him.

PUNK VAMPIRE #1

And why is that?

Jesse watches the other Punk Vampires slowly begin to
close in on her. As she speaks, she slowly edges to the
door...

JESSE

Because... because... he's wise, a
philosopher... he asks the big
questions. Like how are you going
to get through eternity? It's
easier for us mortals. Life is
brief, but for you...

She inches toward the door, desperately stalling. Their
white faces gleam menacingly as they close in. She
struggles to get the words out...

JESSE

I mean... what can you really do
with immortality besides just slip
from one day to the next, trapped
in a void of meaninglessness,
relieved only by your next victim?
How do you not give in to despair
and just wither away from boredom,
hopelessness?

The Punk Vampires pause, staring at her, as her words
sink in. The hooded figure leans forward revealing his
face...

It is Lestat. He stares at Jesse, amazed. Jesse glances
desperately at the door. It's just a few feet away now.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

You know, it's like they say --
the more things change, the more
they stay the same. For you
that's forever, right?

All around her, vampires are turning to look. The Punk Vampires stare at her, eyes narrowing. Jesse is now inches from the door. She can barely breathe. Punk Vampire #1 gazes at her, his confusion suddenly turning to anger.

PUNK VAMPIRE #1

You know, you're really a
downer...

He bares his fangs. Jesse bolts out the door... PAN ACROSS vampire faces staring after Jesse TO Lestat who gazes at her, absolutely entranced. He watches the Punk Vampires head after Jesse.

CUT TO:

Jesse hurries up the alley. Breaks into a run. But the three Punk Vampires from the bar have somehow gotten outside. They land in front of her, beside her, behind her. Heart racing, she shakes with fear. They close in, smiling.

PUNK VAMPIRE #3

Now this isn't gonna hurt. You
might even enjoy it...

He runs his hand up and down her body. Jesse starts to shake. She breaks out in a cold sweat. The others grin. He picks her up by the throat. Her legs flail in the air...

Suddenly, the two vampires turn and hiss like cats. Jesse hits the flagstones hard with a grunt. She gasps for air, looks up as the vampires are hurled out of the alley by an invisible force. Jesse alone, turns, still woozy. Finds herself staring at...

Lestat...

Jesse's eyes open wide, entirely stunned.

He drinks her in with his eyes, marking the soft paleness of her skin, her long, red hair, the flush on her cheeks, her pulsing jugular.

(CONTINUED)

Jesse stares into his entrancing grey eyes, tries to gather herself together, half fearful, half titillated. They gaze at each other, the air suddenly electric.

JESSE

You saved me.

LESTAT

Perhaps... So you know Marius...

Jesse notices her rucksack cast aside by the Punk Vampires -- Lestat's journal sticks out. She glances at Lestat. He mustn't see it. She steps away, tries to distract him.

JESSE

I know a lot of things.

He gazes at her. Moves closer, breathing her in, making her flustered. He smiles.

LESTAT

Not how to stay alive apparently.

JESSE

Well I guess we've got that in common. Although I think I'm a little ahead in the race here.

LESTAT

(a beat, surprised
at her brazenness)

Well, I can fix that.

He circles her. Jesse is shaking, terrified. Enjoying the game, Lestat smiles, moves closer. But Jesse suddenly blurts out.

JESSE

'Mine eyes dazzle, she died so young.' It's about the girl with the violin, isn't it?

That stops Lestat. He gazes at Jesse, surprised. Recovers his composure. Stares at her intensely, regarding her anew.

LESTAT

Is it? And what else do you think you know?

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

(desperate,
stalling)

I... I think you're a lot like
Marius, Lestat.

LESTAT

(staring into her
eyes, probing)

Am I? Tell me all about it.

JESSE

You're... you're both artists. He's
a painter. You're a singer...

As she speaks, Lestat guides Jesse over to a pile of
crates. She stares at some beer bottles shattered on
the top of one. He guides her hand downward, closer to
the shattered glass.

LESTAT

Is that so? What I do is art, is
it?

JESSE

Yes... From nothing... you try to
create... something beautiful...

(shaking now as her
hand gets closer
and closer)

... out of the... the cold, dark
wasteland of eternity...

He stares at her, the words oddly familiar, then scrapes
her finger along the bits of broken glass, gravel. She
gasps with pain...

Lestat gazes at the drops of blood that appear,
glistening on Jesse's finger...

LESTAT

(softly)

Something beautiful...

JESSE

(quickly)

But... but Marius isn't a rebel.
You're different in that way. You
don't want to hide, follow the
laws, concealed in the shadows
like some insect. You... you
still want to walk with the
living, don't you, Lestat?

(CONTINUED)

He stares into her eyes, slowly brings her bleeding finger toward his mouth.

LESTAT

Well, I'm not hiding now, am I?

As her bleeding thumb gets closer and closer to his mouth...

JESSE

No, but the only time you're not really alone is when you kill... But, Lestat, you can't help it... it's not your fault... He made you this way...

LESTAT

(with her blood on his lips, shakes his head)

Ah. Poor, poor me...

As he brings her finger closer and closer to his mouth.

Their eyes bore into each other, he stares at her rosy cheeks, the cold sweat on her forehead, taking in her remarkable, if foolhardy daring. Her eyes gazing straight into his...

He brings her bleeding finger into his mouth. She may swoon.

Lestat's eyes burn as he tastes her for mortality, her fragility a brief second, listening to her blood. there's something there that surprises him as he gazes at this mortal girl. He feels something. Desire...

Then her blood speaks to him as Lestat's eyes fall on her rucksack. He sees the journal. It all falls into place.

Lestat's lip curls in anger. He shoves Jesse away. Wipes his mouth. The mood suddenly changes.

LESTAT

Well, Talamasca, you're certainly a very clever librarian, aren't you?

She stares at him, found out. He turns from her, laughing, but not the kind of laugh to make Jesse think all's well.

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT

(shaking his head)

How sad, you people always trying to know the unknowable... So, was it a good read? My diary.

Jesse slowly nods, admitting to all. He shakes his head.

LESTAT

Talamasca's been following me for years. I've never known one to be so brave. Or is it just foolish?

JESSE

I... I'm only an apprentice.

He waves her off, dismissive.

LESTAT

Go. I'm through with you. Your kind never satisfies my thirst.

He turns, walks away. Jesse lets out a sigh of relief, then stares after him. She hesitates, then suddenly calls out:

JESSE

Does anything, Lestat?

A pause in his gait. But he keeps walking away. Jesse hesitates again, but still calls out.

JESSE

I mean, what's the point of coming into the light if not to have someone really know you?

But he keeps going. She takes one last chance --

JESSE

You want the world to see you're real, don't you, Lestat? Don't you? Well, here I am!

Suddenly Lestat spins. Stares at the fragile mortal girl risking everything. Flash. Jesse gasps.

He now stands right before her. He grabs her, pulls her to him close, tight, hard. He could just snap her neck and be done with it.

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT

You better just stick to your books, Talamascan. 'Cause you have it all wrong. I love all this. I delight in it. The dark, dreary world I went to sleep in has burnt itself out and been replaced by the 20th Century -- can you imagine my joy at waking up to discover such a world? It has outdistanced my wildest dreams of it. I scream of good and evil, and mortals stand and cheer. I adore being back in action... every moment, every single drop of it! Now consider yourself exceedingly lucky and go!

He pushes her away. She gasps, humbled by his physical power.

She retrieves her rucksack. Starts away. As she reaches the end of the alley, she pauses, takes a breath, turns back, daring everything.

JESSE

Lestat!

He turns back, stares at her, astonished.

JESSE

There's something you left out of your diary.

LESTAT

(amazed)

What?

JESSE

(stares right into his eyes)

You kept her violin, didn't you?

A beat, then Lestat shakes his head, laughs at the absurdity of what she's saying. But Jesse is undaunted.

JESSE

Hey, it's okay. I understand...

(softly)

After all, it's only human.

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED: (6)

74

That stops him. Their eyes bore into each other again. Electric. Then Lestat hisses at her, the inhuman sound filling the alley. Lestat lunges, fangs bared. Jesse screams. Turns. Runs. Finds herself --

EXT. BUSY STREET - CONTINUOUS ACTION

In the midst of traffic on a busy street. People walking by.

JESSE

Jesus Christ.

She stands there a moment, happy, amazed to be alive. Then it sinks in. She realizes -- Lestat let her go.

She glances back at the alley, but Lestat is gone.

She brings her finger to her mouth, slowly sticks it in, tastes her own blood, shivers with fear -- and something else -- desire.

What she doesn't see is...

Lestat in the shadows, silently watching her. He gazes at her youth, her bright eyes, her daring, her mortal passion. She has affected him.

He watches as she turns and runs away.

CUT TO:

75 INT. LESTAT'S HOUSE (LONDON) - NIGHT

75

The CAMERA TRACKS WITH two young GROUPIES as they walk through the lavish palace.

GROUPIE #2

I heard that Lestat keeps all these girls in all his wine cellars, and it's really nice, and they give you food and cable and weed.

GROUPIE #1

Oh, please...

GROUPIE #2

That's what I heard. But you have to let him suck you on your neck whenever he wants. Doesn't sound too bad.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

75

GROUPIE #1
 (grins)
 We've done worse.

GROUPIE #2
 (giggling)
 Damn straight... Hey, do you
 remember that cute guy's name at
 the Kid Rock concert? The one
 behind the bathroom.

GROUPIE #1
 Oh yeah. Let me think... his
 first name was Blow. And his
 second name was Me, I think.

They crack up.

76 INT. LESTAT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

76

Lestat enters the bedroom. Behind him, Lestat's dressing
 room stretches off into the distance, rows of beautiful
 suits made from the finest wools and silks. The
 gradation of colors is spectacular. Peering out at the
 near-dawn light, a look of loneliness clouds his face.

He crosses to the closet. Opens a panel to reveal a
 safe. Stares at it a moment. Punches in the code. It
 swings open to reveal something wrapped carefully in
 black velvet. Lestat unwraps it delicately. It's the
 ancient violin.

LESTAT
 (softly)
 Clever, clever librarian.

He quickly puts the violin back, closes the safe door.
 He shakes his head, tries to laugh it off. But a shadow
 remains on his face. Lestat hears a gasp. Turns. Roger
 has just entered.

ROGER
 I didn't see you come in.

LESTAT
 No, Roger, you wouldn't have.

ROGER
 So this house is fine I assume.
 To your liking?

LESTAT
 Yes. For the moment.

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED:

76

ROGER

We'll be here for what? A week
you think?

LESTAT

Well... I wouldn't unpack if I
were you.

ROGER

(sighs)

Right... the... girls you asked
for. They're in the guest wing.

LESTAT

Ah. Yes.

Lestat gazes at the door, pensive.

ROGER

Do you want me to take them home
later?

Lestat smiles at the clumsy attempt to protect the girls.

LESTAT

No, thank you, Roger. I'll make
sure they're taken care of.

Roger nods, trying to hide his nervousness. Lestat
smiles...

77 INT. LESTAT'S GUEST WING - SOON AFTER

77

CAMERA MOVES OUT INTO the lavish room TOWARD the two
girls who are now dreamy, floating with the effect of the
joint they are smoking. REVEAL Lestat as he approaches
the girls. Looking up, they smile childishly at their
host, then fall about laughing.

LESTAT

I don't think we've met.

GROUPIE #1

Oh my God... It's really you,
isn't it?

GROUPIE #2

We want to be your slaves.

LESTAT

Of course you do.

He smiles. She offers a joint.

(CONTINUED)

GROUPIE #1
Want some?

Lestat calmly shakes his head.

GROUPIE #1
Want me?

Circling the couches, he just smiles.

GROUPIE #1
You hungry?

LESTAT
I'm always hungry.

GROUPIE #1
We've got the munchies? You got
any food?

LESTAT
Vampires don't eat... food.

The girls laugh nervously. Lestat laughs dangerously...

GROUPIE #1
You hungry for something else?

She opens her legs provocatively. Pacing across the room, he stands before the girls. He curls his finger around the first groupie's hair when a shadow crosses his face.

LESTAT
Mine eyes dazzle, she died so
young.

GROUPIE #1
Huh?

LESTAT
It's a very old poem of mine.

Losing enthusiasm, Lestat walks away and drops himself onto a couch. With a clap of his hands, the TV switches ON. He silently watches one of his video clips.

The girls glance at each other, then, giggling, crawl over toward Lestat. Groupie #1 slides her hand slowly up his leg.

GROUPIE #1
C'mon, don't you want to have
some fun?

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED: (2)

77

She reaches for his belt. But he recoils at the touch and slides off the couch onto the floor with grace.

LESTAT
Don't do that.

GROUPIE #1
(giggling)
Are you ticklish?

LESTAT
(deadpan)
I'm very ticklish.

The Second Groupie giggles as well...

GROUPIE #2
Hey, you ever been tickled by four hands at once? Hey, can you take both us, Lestat? What'd'ya think?

And at once they both start after Lestat on all fours to tickle him. He gazes at them, torn, then laughs at the sight and gets down on...

All fours as well as he leads them around the room in a childish game.

LESTAT
I don't know. Let's see.

They try to tickle him but he stays just a few feet ahead of them the whole time. The girls giggle as they pursue...

Lestat crawling just ahead of them across the floor and... Up the wall. The teenagers keep giggling as they watch him ascend the wall like a spider. They can't believe what they're seeing as...

Lestat reaches the wall's top and now crawls upside-down across the ceiling. The girls begin to giggle and half-cry... as they arch their necks all the way back to see... Lestat crawling down the opposite wall. The girls sit open-mouthed with terror as Lestat reaches the ground--

He heads straight for them.

The girls begin to scream... SCREAMS CONTINUE OVER...

BLACKNESS.

78 INT. CORRIDOR - SAME TIME

78

CLOSE ON Jesse, her face bright, walking quietly, talking intensely on a cell phone.

JESSE

You're right, David. The journal has everything in it.

TALBOT (V.O.)

I knew you'd appreciate its scientific significance.

JESSE

David, listen...
(struggles a moment)
I'm going to Los Angeles for the concert.

TALBOT (V.O.)

What? You are not! I forbid it.

JESSE

David, I... I talked to him...
Look I'm sorry. But I... I have to see what's out there with my own eyes. I'm onto something. I just don't know what yet... I have to find out...

79 INT. STUDY - ON TALBOT

79

Holding the phone, stunned. He leans forward, speaks intensely, his face grave.

TALBOT

Jesse, you listen to me very, very carefully now. You are no longer seeing things clearly. Your emotions are clouding things.

80 BACK TO JESSE

80

JESSE

It's not emotion. It's instinct... I'll return when I have my findings. Good-bye.

TALBOT (V.O.)

(angry)
Jesse, wait!

She hangs up. Can't quite believe what she's doing.
REVEAL Jesse is heading for a boarding gate at Heathrow airport. She hands over the ticket, boards the plane.

84 INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - SECRET STAIRCASE - NIGHT 84

Lestat negotiates a circling flight of stone steps, winding its way into the lowest bowels of the villa, still carrying his violin.

85 INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - UNDERGROUND PASSAGEWAY 85

Lestat finds himself facing a steeply descending passageway that stretches into darkness. He tests the stones ahead of him with caution...

Suddenly, the sconces along the passageway come to life... In quick succession, they flare up and burn with an unnatural intensity. Lestat, struck with curiosity and wonder, puts down his candelabra and ventures forth. We FOLLOW Lestat as he rounds the corner and stops. There is an open foyer area leading to two great wooden doors, held firm by a tree-sized carved wooden bolt that bars the doors shut from the outside.

Suddenly, the BOLT flies up and SPLINTERS with a SHRIEKING CRACK. The doors fly open revealing a bright light from within... Lestat, apprehensive, continues towards the open doorway.

86 INT. SANCTUARY - CONTINUOUS ACTION 86

Lestat enters, squinting through the bright light from scores of burning sconces. At the far end of the sanctuary Lestat makes out the shape of two statues, an Egyptian man and an Egyptian woman sitting stone still, seemingly staring straight at him, AKASHA and her King, ENKIL. We recognize Akasha from the sketches in Talbot's office. Stepping closer, they appear not to be statues at all but rather alabaster humans with the palest skin imaginable. His eyes widen at the sight of their clothes -- the most valuable Egyptian finery; bracelets of gold, headdresses of incredible gems, clothes of silk. Staring up into their faces, Lestat is struck with the realization...

LESTAT
They're... alive.

Lestat is drawn to the woman -- her form and beauty is exquisite even in its absolute stillness. As if this statue had just asked him to play, Lestat holds out his violin.

LESTAT
Would you like me to play for you?

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED:

86

Her eyes still bore into him. Lestat smiles. He raises his violin and begins to play.

The song of the VIOLIN ECHOES around the walls...

Lestat plays, with increasing abandon...

Akasha and Enkil sit frozen...

Lestat plays and plays, lost in the music. He throws a glance up at the throne and stops...

Akasha is moving...

Slowly, her eyelids pull back to reveal pale green eyes.

Lestat stares in amazement... Her arm rises up, her wrist extended outward towards Lestat. The pulse of a HEARTBEAT begins... Lestat moves toward her as if beckoned. A green vein appears beneath the marble surface of her skin. The vein pulses as the blood courses around. The HEARTBEAT POUNDS LOUDER, DEEPER.

The sound fills Lestat's head as he is drawn closer to Akasha's wrist. Lowering himself, as if genuflecting, Lestat bends closer to the vein which looks like the very font of life to him...

87 EXT. VILLA ROOF - NIGHT (SAME TIME)

87

Marius sits under the stars, painting, when his hand begins to tremble... Suddenly, he drops his brush, startled by some unexpected feeling that passes through him. He stands bolt upright as a frightening GUST of WIND sweeps across him.

88 BACK TO SANCTUARY

88

Lestat sinks his teeth into Akasha's vein, drawing in the unimaginable font. A burst of image and color floods into him, as...

89 LESTAT'S IMAGES

89

of Ancient Egypt... power... supremacy... slavery... all impressionistic, subliminal... the bright burning sun, red lips, blood spurting like a fountain...

END OF IMAGES.

90 MARIUS

90

in the sanctuary, hovering over Lestat, who lays on the stone floor in a catatonic state, staring. Marius looks down upon him, the sconces above blazing high with flames. Marius's VOICE ECHOING furiously...

MARIUS

What have you done, Lestat?
Lestat!

91 INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - NIGHT

91

Lestat lays in bed, feverish, his skin paler than ever. At the foot of the bed stands Marius.

MARIUS

(quietly)
Lestat?

The young vampire's eyes bulge open in the grip of some incredible sensation, smiling the most wicked of smiles. Lestat's chest heaves upward, pulling his body with it, only to be jerked back by the manacles that hold him to the bed.

LESTAT

More!

MARIUS

I don't think so, my little lord.

Lestat writhes with a physical delight that is almost painful. Lestat realizes he is shackled to the bed with manacles and chains. Struggles against them.

LESTAT

Let me go!

MARIUS

No. You've drunk the purest blood. Seen the oldest of things -- far too much for one as young as you. You've been unconscious for days.

LESTAT

God, her blood is like liquid fire.

(squirms)

Who are they?

(CONTINUED)

MARIUS

She... she is your mother, my mother... Akasha, the Queen of all who are damned. And he is her King.

LESTAT

Release me!

Lestat struggles with all his might. One of his manacles splits, releasing a leg. Marius stares, surprised.

MARIUS

She made you quite powerful.
(withdrawing a saber
from its sheath)
Don't make me use this!

Lestat still struggles. The manacles strain.

LESTAT

Marius, please, just one more time. I felt the sun. The light, Marius, the light!

Suddenly pressing the knife to Lestat's throat --

MARIUS

Lestat, listen to me! I have watched over Akasha and her King for 2000 years! They must never awaken!

Lestat stares up at him.

MARIUS

Akasha and her King nearly drank this earth dry when they ruled over Egypt. They drank until they lost their will to drink. They became living statues. And yet Akasha still sustains the life force of all vampires. It is believed what happens to her, happens to all of us.

Lestat gazes up at him, taking it in. Marius moves slowly away.

(CONTINUED)

MARIUS

If she were ever to rise, she
would again desiccate the earth!
She has no respect for anything
except the taste of blood.
Immortal and human alike...

Lestat roars and struggles against his manacles.

LESTAT

You'll not stop me...

Marius stares at him, shocked.

MARIUS

I hear her blood in your voice...
In all the years I've cared for
them, not once have they moved...

LESTAT

Until tonight. And she chose me!
Me! Never you! You'll not stop
me!

Marius moves at super-speed, grabs Lestat by the neck,
and pins him down.

MARIUS

You are part of a great coven!
You take responsibility for your
kind!

LESTAT

(snarls)
I must have more!

Lestat, lost, looks at Marius, his eyes intoxicated with
Akasha's blood. Marius steps back. Looks at his
fledgling with great sadness, anger, disappointment.

MARIUS

I chose you for your bravery, but
I was wrong. You know only
selfishness. I can no longer trust
you... It gives me no pleasure to
look upon what I have created.

Marius turns his back on Lestat. Lestat stares after
him.

92 INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - NEXT DAY 92

THROUGH the balcony we see the last warm colors of the sunset vanish into the blue of night. Lestat awakens, his manacles removed. He stretches, shakes his head, as if clearing his head, but something causes him to stop... Something has changed. Marius's paints have gone. Some of his paintings remain, but his easel and paint boxes are removed, leaving splattered outlines on the faded marble floor.

LESTAT

Marius!

No response.

93 INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - SECRET STAIRCASE 93

Lestat runs down the staircase, which is dark except for the candelabra in his hand.

94 INT. MARIUS'S VILLA - UNDERGROUND SANCTUARY 94

Lestat throws open the doors and enters to find... Akasha and Enkil have been taken, as have the thrones and most of the royal paraphernalia.

LESTAT

Marius! Please!

95 EXT. MARIUS'S VILLA/BEACH - NIGHT 95

Lestat runs down the beach, the sand showing no footprints.

LESTAT (V.O.)

Many times since, I have called to Marius. I howled into the night in loneliness and pain.

Lestat screams into the darkness, filled with despair, grief. He disappears off into the night.

LESTAT (V.O.)

But there was no answer -- just the endless procession of days, months, years... My teacher left me to my darkest lesson -- that in the end, we are alone.

Lestat looks up from feeding on a mortal. Wipes the blood from his mouth, gazes into the dark night.

- 96 INT. PLANE - NIGHT (PRESENT) 96
- Jesse closes the journal, her eyes wide with the new knowledge of Lestat's past. She sits there a moment, speechless, then stares out at the vast, black night.
- TILT DOWN TO:
- 97 EXT. HOLLYWOOD SIGN (LOS ANGELES) - NIGHT 97
- SUPERIMPOSE: LOS ANGELES
- PAN DOWN to Lestat standing on the edge of a very high fence high above the sparkling lights of downtown, gazing into the dark night. The fence encircles his Hollywood Hills home, a high-tech modern version of a medieval fortress of steel and glass, hidden deep in the canyon, his only neighbors, chaparral and coyotes.
- Lestat closes his eyes as if listening to something. As we PULL BACK again, and RISE UP INTO the sky, a LESTAT SONG begins to play and magically we are in the MUSIC and with a visual splash we are... MOVING SWIFTLY ACROSS the globe with the MUSIC -- as we CUT ACROSS the world INTO the west and INTO... The night fallen over Asia where we soon find ourselves in...
- 98 ASIAN FACTORY 98
- where LESTAT'S MUSIC plays for the evening shift over a sweatshop BOOM BOX.
- 99 INDIAN MARKETPLACE 99
- where LESTAT'S MUSIC plays from SPEAKERS in a shop window. We TRAVEL WESTWARD TO...
- 100 ANCIENT GRAVEYARD 100
- where the... Ground splits open before our very eyes. From out of the dirt, a beautiful teenage boy stands naked...
- 101 VAMPIRE ARMAND 101
- He pulls the pieces of a worm-eaten coffin from his person, as the MUSIC travels further to...
- 102 MASSIVE ANCIENT STONES 102
- parting as another resurrected figure rises from the darkness and reveals itself to be...

- 103 VAMPIRE PANDORA 103
- With one self-assured twist of her head, she shakes the red dust from her hair to reveal long curling black tresses falling down over her dark-skinned shoulders. The MUSIC travels further to...
- 104 PORTABLE RADIO 104
- held by a camel driver camping out in the Sahara Desert. His CAMEL BRAYS fearfully... The camel driver stares before him, drop-jawed and terrified, and we now see what he sees...
- 105 CAMEL DRIVER'S POV 105
- A corner stone of a desert sarcophagus begins to move, as a figure in tattered rags emerges from the sarcophagus and unbandages his face and neck, shakes the sand from his hair and eyes to reveal a skeletal form with white leathery skin bulging with strange blue veins...
- 106 BACK TO SCENE 106
- The VAMPIRE KHAYMAN offers the driver a polite smile. The driver faints back into the sand as the camels bolt off. And still LESTAT'S MUSIC plays as we finally END UP AT...
- 107 SANCTUARY OF AKASHA AND ENKIL 107
- An OVER the SHOULDER SHOT of Enkil sitting motionless in his throne, not resurrecting at all. Akasha and her throne remain O.S. We MOVE CLOSER to reveal... Enkil's throat gapes, torn open, and whereas before his skin was pale, it's now a chalkish powder. And next to him... Akasha's throne sits empty. A god again walks the earth. A GUST of WIND suddenly blows and Enkil crumbles into white dust.
- 108 INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT 108
- A tall, shapely female flight attendant sways down the first-class aisle of an airplane, her back TO us. She stops by a seat where Jesse sleeps uncomfortably. Pulling out a blanket, the attendant drapes it over Jesse, tucking it closely around her neck, then, curiously, the stewardess leans down.

109 CLOSE ON LIPS 109

begins to sensually kiss Jesse's neck. We begin to hear the BEATING of a HEART, getting LOUDER...

The lips part to expose fangs slowly sinking themselves into Jesse's skin. She murmurs in her sleep...

JESSE

Lestat.

110 WIDER 110

She stirs awake to see -- the face of Akasha, her green eyes flashing bright.

CUT TO:

111 JESSE 111

wakes with a start.

JESSE

Akasha!

Jesse looks up to see the real ATTENDANT is standing next to her.

ATTENDANT

We've started our approach into L.A. You should fasten your seat belt.

Jesse nods and quickly fastens her belt, pulls it tight.

112 INT. LESTAT'S HOUSE (LOS ANGELES) - NIGHT 112

Lestat suddenly glides through an open door and calmly touches ground. He empties his pockets out on a coffee table. We see a --

113 CLOSEUP - BOX OF MATCHES 113

"Sky Bar."

114 BACK TO SCENE 114

Dabbing his mouth with a handkerchief, Lestat tosses it on top of the matches to reveal fresh bloodstains on the cloth... a look of loneliness clouds his face.

(CONTINUED)

114 CONTINUED: 114

LESTAT
I hate bedtime.

He turns, enters his bedroom, closing the door behind him.

115 INT. LESTAT'S MANSION - STRANGE POV - EVENING 115

We find ourselves in the strange blue-grey world of a VAMPIRE'S POV, walking THROUGH Lestat's mansion. PAST his band, James, Alex and Maudy, laying in the studio in a hazy sleep from yet another night of debauchery.

We MOVE menacingly INTO... Lestat's expensive living quarters, PAST the huge glassed-in space and into Lestat's private hall, leading to his bedroom door. We ENTER easily, PASSING the enormous bed, and CONTINUE THROUGH INTO a smaller, darker chamber... OVER TO Lestat's coffin, stealthily APPROACHING his "sleeping" figure laying closed-eyed and almost peaceful-looking, when...

116 LESTAT 116

bolts up and looks around the room to see... nobody. Lestat's instincts are as alive as they could ever be as he scans the room with all his powers, and to his utter surprise finally sees...

117 WIDER 117

A painting leans against a wall, turned front-side-over. Lestat gets out of his coffin and goes over to the painting with trepidation. He turns it over and then smiles to himself. It is a portrait of Lestat as a rocker. The hand and style are unmistakable.

LESTAT
(whisper)
Marius...!

118 INT. LESTAT'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION 118

Lestat bursts out the doors of his bedroom and looks down into the living room. Marius sits on a couch, still dressed in red velvet, studying the Rolling Stone with Lestat on the cover.

MARIUS
Lestat.

(CONTINUED)

Marius looks up. The two vampires regard each other for a long moment. Lestat is overcome with conflicting emotions. Guarded smiles rise to their faces.

MARIUS

It is good to see you, Lestat.

LESTAT

And you. Still wearing the old fashions, I see.

MARIUS

Old habits die hard.

LESTAT

How did you manage to slip through the 1950s in red velvet?

MARIUS

I slept.

LESTAT

Don't think you missed much.

MARIUS

Elvis.

LESTAT

Elvis, yes.

MARIUS

(holding up the
Rolling Stone)

You're bigger than he is now.

LESTAT

I'd say a few pounds lighter. Though, if you ever catch me wearing a white jumpsuit, you have my permission to slice off my head.

MARIUS

If someone doesn't get to you first.

Lestat grins, feeling Marius's disapproval.

LESTAT

Live and let live.

MARIUS

If it were only so simple, my son.

(CONTINUED)

118 CONTINUED: (2)

118

LESTAT

(a beat)

How did you find me?

MARIUS

You forget. We ancients have powers no ordinary vampires possess... And I know you. I remembered how you admired the medieval fortresses in the hilltowns of Lyon.

(gestures to house)

All you're missing is the moat and the cannons... which you may need.

Lestat doesn't want to hear it.

LESTAT

Come, let me show you what it means to live in the light.

119 EXT. SUNSET BLVD. - CONTINUOUS ACTION

119

Lestat and Marius sit perched on a giant billboard advertising Lestat's concert. Down below, Sunset Strip is filled with Goths, club hoppers, HONKING CARS, a traffic jam.

MARIUS

(sarcastic)

Impressive. Reminds me of mad old Druids running around chanting in the forest. Very primitive stuff.

LESTAT

Out there. My fans. Thousands and thousands. They worship me. Millions of arms reach out to embrace, beg me to come into their lives.

MARIUS

It's what you've always wanted.

LESTAT

With all my black little heart.

MARIUS

Do you think of anyone but yourself?

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED:

119

LESTAT
I only have myself.

MARIUS
It may be time to get ready for
some company.

LESTAT
What's that supposed to mean?

MARIUS
Your music's woken a very old
friend...

Lestat looks at Marius, trying to understand.

MARIUS
Can't you hear it? Or is the
applause all you can hear now?

Marius becomes eerily still. A deep, somber TONE starts to VIBRATE. The GROUND RUMBLES. Lestat taken aback, remembers the scope of Marius's power. Lestat stares at Marius, then closes his eyes...

120 CLOSE ON LESTAT'S EYES

120

As the sounds of the WORLD seem to FADE AWAY, revealing beneath the cacophony of mortals a DEEP PULSE like the beating of a heart the size of a planet.

121 BACK TO SCENE

121

Lestat suddenly opens his eyes as the sounds of the WORLD rush BACK IN. Marius stares for a beat, then --

MARIUS
Akasha has risen. She has taken
her King's blood. Absorbed his
power. You've done it this time.

Lestat stares at Marius, letting the knowledge sink in. Then he grins.

LESTAT
Good! I'm glad she's risen! Let
her come.

MARIUS
Don't you understand? You must
stop this concert!

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT
 (shakes his head at
 Marius)
 200 years and the same broken
 record.

MARIUS
 No. Not the same! You've only
 known Akasha dormant. She too
 will find you. She is choosing
 her moment. She has come to
 destroy you, Lestat. And in her
 wrath, she will devour everything
 that moves. Mortal and vampire
 alike.

LESTAT
 (smiles at Marius,
 softly)
 Well then, it's every vampire for
 himself. Just the kind of rules I
 like. The rules you taught me.

Marius is enraged, tries to control himself. Lestat
 gazes at him, speaks steadily.

LESTAT
 Do you remember your first words
 to me, Marius? 'I am unknowable.'
 (shakes his head)
 I'd rather not exist at all than
 have to live eternally as a ghost.

MARIUS
 And you're taking everyone with
 you, you fool! We were once
 mortals, too. It is our heritage
 we protect!

LESTAT
 (moving away)
 Such reverence for mortals! Then
 you should have left me as one!

MARIUS
 You're a monster.

LESTAT
 (shakes his head with a
 dark laugh)
 Said the vampire to his son.

Lestat turns, leaps off the billboard, disappearing into
 the black night. Marius stands alone.

CUT TO:

122 INT. VAMPIRE COVEN BAR (LONDON/SOHO) - NIGHT 122

No mortals in sight. Amongst various vampires, we spy the Vampire Lover talking to the Punk Vampire who tried to attack Jesse.

123 EXT. VAMPIRE BAR - FRONT DOOR 123

The vampire doorman opens the door and peers out. A figure moves towards him...

124 AKASHA 124

glowing, beautiful, majestic. The vampire doorman is frightened, but mesmerized as she moves in...

125 INT. VAMPIRE BAR 125

The barman looks up at the sound of the DOOR SLAMMING. He does a double-take and watches in awe as... Akasha steps in. Everyone in the bar turns. She smiles at all the undead staring at her.

AKASHA

Hello...

Her eyes sweep the room, taking in every inch, searching, then she hears a Vampire Lestat VIDEO PLAYING. She whirls around quickly to the TV -- gazes at the video intensely. Her eyes narrow, focus on Lestat, speaks as if to herself.

AKASHA

Hmmm... his scent is fading. He was here too long ago...

The Vampire Lover slides up next to her.

VAMPIRE LOVER

You like him, love?

AKASHA

(still staring at TV)

He reminds me of someone I know.

VAMPIRE LOVER

All he's gonna remind you of soon is a pile of bones. We're gonna dismember him. Bleed him dry.

AKASHA

Really? Is that what you're going to do?

(CONTINUED)

She turns to Vampire Lover, takes him in.

As if with a new idea, smiles at him, moves to the dance floor, moving to LESTAT'S MUSIC, her eyes closed, swaying sensually, her hips gyrating. The dance is seductive, slow, her head thrown back. The vampires turn, stare at her, mesmerized, aroused by her movements. They move to the dance floor, watching. Akasha opens her eyes, smiles at them, then turns to Vampire Lover, points to him, beckons. He smiles back, happy to be chosen, moves onto the dance floor. She dances a little farther away. A game. He laughs. Moves closer.

CLOSE ON VAMPIRE LOVER

He hears a LAUGH.

BACK TO AKASHA

But she's disappeared. He turns. Akasha's behind him now. He stares at her. Her hips are gyrating, her body slithering. A moan escapes from him. Again, he moves to her, reaches for her. She laughs.

CLOSE ON HIS PUZZLED FACE

He turns...

She's dancing across the floor now. Vampire Lover's smile is not so friendly now. He steps toward her, determined... She moves behind him. Her body pressed up tight against his. He smiles, shudders with a rush of desire. All the other vampires watch, envious. Her lips brush his neck, her hands run up and down his body pausing on his chest. He reaches for her. She kisses him just as he kissed the mortal girl. On Vampire Lover's face, pure pleasure...

AKASHA

Then again, you could always do this...

Akasha sinks her fangs into his neck and at the same time, plunges her hand down. We can't see where... We STAY ON Vampire Lover's face as Akasha disappears FROM FRAME. The sound of BONE SNAPPING, the SQUISH of RIPPING FLESH. LOUD SUCKING. A look of horror appears on Vampire Lover's face. Akasha REAPPEARS. In her hand, she now holds...

(CONTINUED)

... his dripping heart. She brings it to her lips, sucks again thirstily...

Vampire Lover gurgles as she sucks the heart to a dry husk, then tosses it. She turns back to Vampire Lover, his face frozen in a grotesque mask. She laughs, drops him unceremoniously to the floor...

Akasha turns to face the rest of the horrified vampires. They begin to back away. But the DOOR LOCKS itself LOUDLY.

Akasha sways again to the music, moving faster now, as if refreshed.

AKASHA
Turn up the music!

The terrified barman quickly COMPLIES.

AKASHA
(smiles, to herself)
Oh, I do love the 21st Century.

Akasha turns to the terrified barman again, pulls him over the bar and attacks him as if she were just reaching for a snack. He flails but is overwhelmed by her strength...

The Vampire Girl who Jesse saw vanish with the Yuppie, flies towards Akasha, knife raised, but Akasha just turns... Suddenly there is an EXPLOSION of FLAMES. The Vampire Girl screams as she is consumed. The piano player and guitar player go up in flames...

All hell breaks loose as the other vampires run for the door. The lock won't budge and it's too late anyway as the flames overwhelm them...

And THROUGH the flames, we see Akasha smiling, now sucking on the Punk Vampire's aorta like it's a straw. She tosses his body, her long tongue slowly licks her bloody, thirsty lips. She strides out through the flames. In a whispery, sing-song voice.

AKASHA
Lesta-at... come out, come out
wherever you are.

Marius stands in the hills by the Hollywood sign, gazing down, his brow furrowed, at Lestat's fortress-like mansion hidden in the canyon below. The WIND BLOWS the trees, bushes. Marius turns, uneasy, sensing something, peers into the shadows cast by the brightly-lit sign. Marius stares as a figure emerges from the shadows.

It is Mael, a vampire, his face hidden in a cloak.

MAEL

Marius, you've broken your oath.
You were to watch over Akasha
and Khayman. You are a great
disappointment to me.

Marius looks up to see all the Ancients now stepping from the shadows. KHAYMAN, the desert vampire, in Egyptian dress along with PANDORA, the dark-haired beauty in her sari, ARMAND, the boy sage, in his Mesopotamian robes. Last, MAHARET steps from her grand door. She is beautiful with long red hair, alabaster skin.

MARIUS

Pandora, Armand, it's been a long
time. Khayman, Maharet, to what do
I owe this honor?

KHAYMAN

You have been summoned because of
your errant child...

Khayman crosses to the edge, peers menacingly into the distance at Lestat's house.

PANDORA

(giving deep,
sexy laugh)
He's quite the devil, isn't he?

ARMAND

His music mocks us, Pandora!

PANDORA

His music moves my blood.

ARMAND

Keep your amorous thoughts to
yourself. His music is a threat
to all vampires. We will let the
covens dismember him at his
concert.

(CONTINUED)

MAEL

Yes. It will set an example.

MARIUS

I don't see how this solves things. This isn't thought through.

KHAYMAN

Marius, we understand your affection for Lestat, but your duty is to us!

He gazes again down at Lestat's house with a threatening glance. Turns to Marius with a look of warning.

KHAYMAN

We could always get rid of him right now.

MAEL

No. We will contact the covens. Let them know we condone the slaying. It will be better for all to see.

Marius, with a tortured expression, gazes at Mael. Maharet steps up.

MAHARET

Wait. Never mind Lestat! We have greater problems...

MARIUS

(stepping up)

Maharet is right. It is Akasha we face now.

PANDORA

(joyous)

Is it true, Maharet? Has our Queen really risen!

MAHARET

Don't be so happy, Pandora. I knew Akasha when she walked this earth. I was her slave. I am now her enemy. I know what she is capable of.

(CONTINUED)

ARMAND

Yes. We've all felt her presence,
even as she hides from us.

(as others nod,
acknowledging the
truth of this)

What does she want now?

MAHARET

She knows only one thing. Taking
pleasure in destroying life. She
is already killing the young ones
to build her strength.

MARIUS

She's sucked the life out of her
King like a praying mantis. I
sense she is getting closer.

MAHARET

She has come to destroy Lestat,
but he will only whet her thirst
more...

The Ancients look to each other, taking this in.
Pandora looks around, suddenly nervous.

MAHARET

If we act together, we have a
chance to destroy her.

They all gaze at Maharet, astonished.

MAHARET

Yes! We must destroy her
immediately! If she is not
stopped, I'm afraid of what will
happen to the entire mortal world.

MAEL

But can she be destroyed? I am
left to bear the scars of the last
attempt on her life. She was
dragged into the sun. She
survived. But we almost didn't...

Removing his hood, we see his terribly-burned face. They
all stare at him.

MARIUS

What happens to our Queen happens
to us. If Akasha dies, we die
as well.

(CONTINUED)

MAHARET

Then so be it! We must take that chance.

She gazes at them all intensely, as the meaning of her words sink in.

MAHARET

We must destroy Akasha. For the sake of humanity! We must find her. Now!

ARMAND

But perhaps she has come to kill Lestat and then will go back to her slumber. That is our only hope.

PANDORA

(eager)

Yes. That's right. She and the covens will take care of that brat. We must go to the concert and pay our respects to our great Queen.

MAHARET

How? With your own throat!
You've all been asleep too long!
You're still dreaming.

Marius steps up beside Maharet.

MARIUS

Maharet speaks the truth. It is our only hope.

Marius then goes and stands beside Maharet and Khayman. The others gaze at the three standing together now.

MAEL

No. Armand is right. We will go to the concert and first see what she does. There may be no need for action.

Pandora and Armand nod their assent. The two groups face each other. Maharet gazes at their faces, spits out the words.

(CONTINUED)

126 CONTINUED: (4)

126

MAHARET

Then you go to the concert and you
shall see!

(shakes her head)

And I thought the Ancients became
wise with their years.

As we REMAIN ON the Ancient Ones, AKASHA'S HEARTBEAT
creeps back in over... Marius gazes again down at
Lestat's house, anguish on his face.

INT. MERCEDES - CLOSER ON ROGER - NIGHT

cruising the Hollywood streets, wearing sunglasses,
hat. He sees something.

ROGER'S POV

A Goth girl on the street in front of a record store.

BACK TO ROGER

He sighs, pulls over. Gets out.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD STREET - CONTINUOUS ACTION

Behind him now we see a cab pull over. It's Jesse,
trailing Roger. She gazes at him intently.

JESSE'S POV

Roger's back is TO us as he talks to a Goth girl in a
whisper.

BACK TO JESSE

Jesse pays the driver. Gets out. Gazes at Roger.

127 INT. LESTAT'S HOUSE (LOS ANGELES) - SOUND STUDIO - NIGHT 127

LOUD, intense MUSIC as the band rehearses. Lestat
creates a fantastic melody around the beat. He lets
the note trail off, eyes closed, smiling, the
REVERB still RINGING in the room. Lestat hears
something, turns. Outside, in the Hollywood Hills,
DOGS are HOWLING across the canyons like wolves.
Lestat crosses to the huge glass doors, goes outside...

128 EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS ACTION

128

Lestat stares out at the ominous night. As Maudy and the band continue to play, the wolflike HOWLS in the night get LOUDER. And beneath it all, a DEEP PULSE BEATS. The song comes to an end. Lestat turns, gazes back at the band THROUGH the window, at their excitement. He comes back inside.

129 INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS ACTION

129

Roger now stands there, a nervous look on his face.

ROGER

The... girls you asked for, Lestat.
They're here, in the guest wing.

LESTAT

Ah. Yes.

Lestat gazes in that direction, pensive.

ROGER

I was uh... just gonna go catch a
movie at the Chinese. I don't
suppose you'd all want to...

Lestat smiles at the clumsy attempt to protect the girls.

LESTAT

No, thank you, Roger. We'll
entertain ourselves.

As Roger leads Lestat to the guest room, he can hear FAINT GIGGLING. Lestat turns back to the night. The PULSE of Akasha still ECHOES in his ears.

130 INT. GUEST WING - JUST AFTER

130

Roger and Lestat walk in. A young GROUPIE giggles nervously.

GROUPIE #3

Oh my God, it's him! It's really
him...

She turns in paroxysm of excitement to the girl next to her. Lestat stares, taken aback. It is Jesse. Dressed in Goth gear. Jesse stares back at Lestat brazenly. A long moment.

LESTAT

Perhaps you would like a tour
of the place... first.

(CONTINUED)

GROUPIE #3

Oh yeah, wow, we'd love that.

LESTAT

Roger... would you be so kind?

ROGER

(surprised, relieved)

Sure. Right this way, girls.

As they start off, Lestat puts up his hand, points to Jesse.

LESTAT

Roger. Not that one. Leave her to me...

The other groupie pouts, disappointed. She goes out with Roger. Lestat turns to Jesse... considers her...

LESTAT

You must be very keen to die.

Jesse's heart pounds with terror.

LESTAT

The Talamascans have become quite stealthy. I didn't know infiltration was quite their style.

JESSE

It's not. I... I came on my own.

He stares at her, taking her in.

LESTAT

How did you find me?

JESSE

I've been tracking your manager for days...

(gesturing to her
Goth outfit)

Then I figured out you simply have to look the part.

LESTAT

Clever librarian... You should know, based on all your research, that groupies don't ever find their way out of here again.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

I'm not a groupie...

Lestat gazes at Jesse's pulsing jugular. He steps closer.

LESTAT

Then why are you following me?
What do you want?

JESSE

(terrified, in
a whisper)
Are you granting wishes?

LESTAT

(smiles, in a whisper
playing with her)
Last wishes. What's yours?

JESSE

Show me what it's like to be you.
That's my last wish. Grant it,
Lestat.

He stares at her, feeling some connection with this strange mortal girl. She stares at him with penetrating eyes. He again finds himself drawn to her. Tries to fight it.

LESTAT

(turning away)
I don't have time for this.

JESSE

All a vampire has is time.

LESTAT

Maybe not.

JESSE

(softly)
Right. The covens are coming for
you.

(softly)
I understand why you're doing it.
You have to be who you are, no
matter what happens.

He turns, gazes at her. She steps forward.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

But how are you spending what may
be your last night on Earth,
Lestat? As you always have...
Alone.

Jesse takes a breath, crosses to him, stands very close,
stares up into his eyes. He stares down at her, amazed,
his heart pounding. He breathes in her hair, the scent
of her skin.

JESSE

Don't kill me yet. Let's spend
our last nights together. Share
it with me. Show me what it's
like to be you.

LESTAT

You don't know what you're asking!
I don't know what's in that
librarian's head of yours, but it's
not what you think.

JESSE

That's right. You don't know
what's in my head, Lestat. Do
you want to?

LESTAT

I'll know when I kill you.

JESSE

Gee, Lestat, that's a great way to
get to know someone. Here. I'll
give you a preview. Coming
attractions. This is what you'll
find.

She crosses to him, stands close.

JESSE

I have this recurring dream that
I'm a child and I'm living in
this big house filled with
vampires. And every night when I
go to sleep, I wish to God the
same thing... you know what that
is, Lestat?

He gazes at her. She leans forward.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

That I will have the dream again...
Because in the dream I'm happy.
And the dream is more real than my
life... I don't know how, but I
know you, Lestat... My life is a
big mystery and you, you have the
answer...

He gazes at her, being taken in, tries to resist it.
Jesse moves even closer. He stares down at her, the
softness of her skin, her penetrating gaze, the heat
of her body.

JESSE

I can't go on pretending this life
of mine is real. I can't live a
lie... I'm just like you Lestat.
We're the same...

LESTAT

(softly)

Are we? I seek the light. You
seek the shadows.

JESSE

No. We're looking for exactly the
same thing. You know it...
Please. Show me.

He stares at her. Her eyes gazing directly into
his... Suddenly...

LESTAT

Alright!

Jesse breaks into a smile.

LESTAT

This may be painful for a mortal.
You're still attached to your skin.

JESSE

(an excited whisper)

I don't care.

LESTAT

Close your eyes. Don't breathe.

Her heart pounding, fluttering her eyes closed, Jesse
holds one deep, hesitant breath and... Flash-- with
preternatural speed--

131 LESTAT AND JESSE

131

whisk through the night, flashing past trees and houses. Opening her eyes for a moment, Jesse watches the world whiz past her at incredible speed and suddenly-- they stop on a dime.

Jesse gasps, catching her breath to find herself at Hollywood's highest peak overlooking the city laying out before her like a glimmering blanket.

132 EXT. GRIFFITH PARK OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

132

Looking out over the observatory's ledge, Jesse can't believe what's just happened. She laughs, intoxicated by the experience.

JESSE

Do that again!

Lestat laughs, impressed by her bravado. Her trust. For a moment she laughs like a child. Then they look at each other deeply, feeling something. He wants to kiss her. She knows it. He turns away.

LESTAT

And now for my next trick.

Lestat pulls out a knife, quickly slices his arm open.

Jesse gazes at his blood dripping down his arm, something stirring in her. Magically, the wound heals up. She stares, impressed.

JESSE

Did it hurt?

LESTAT

Yes. For just a moment. But as the pain is more intense for us, so is ecstasy.

(gazes at her)

You see, we love our victims.

JESSE

Love? I thought it was the blood.

LESTAT

No, although the taste is so rich and sweet. Love is the essence of the dark gift. The connection is so much more satisfying, brief as it is, than anything else.

(CONTINUED)

Lestat again becomes aware of Jesse's pulsing jugular, the white flesh of her neck. He reaches out, touches her neck, strokes it. Jesse shivers under his touch, terrified, but wanting more. Lestat brushes his lips against her hair, her neck. Runs his hands down her arms. She closes her eyes, lost in the gentle rhythm of his voice.

LESTAT

As you drink, you feel the heart weakening... it struggles even though there's no hope. You feel the life slipping away, the flash of those brief years. The taste of mortality you can no longer experience... and it is beautiful...

(pulls away sharply)

No 'relationship,' no commingling can ever reach the heights of that experience.

But Jesse steps forward. Lestat turns, stares at her.

Her eyes burn with an urge that will not be silenced. One button at a time, her fingers quivering, she opens her blouse down to her navel.

Lestat stares as Jesse removes a long, silver hairpin from the mane of her red locks which then cascade about her shoulders. Her face remains aimed unwavering at Lestat's as she brings the hairpin down to her breast.

With her eyes moored to his, she draws a line with the point across her breast. She inhales through clenched teeth... then settles as we see:

The long incision go from pink to red; then the blood, like a hot spring pouring over the brim and dripping down her chest.

Lestat staggers. Breaking their stare, he accepts her gift, lapping up the overspill and then onto the wound itself. Lestat closes her eyes... He comes up to her face, brushing his lips against her cheek. She shivers...

LESTAT

(groans)
Your blood...

JESSE

(murmurs)
Do you like it?

(CONTINUED)

132 CONTINUED: (2)

132

LESTAT
 (losing himself)
 Yes...

He comes down to her slender neck. Stares at the soft, pulsing skin. He bares his fangs.

JESSE
 (whispering, overcome)
 Do it to me... Please... With your
 blood I'll know you...

133 CLOSE ON LESTAT

133

He can't help himself. He moves to Jesse's white neck... closer... closer...

JESSE
 I'll know everything...

But suddenly her words catch him... His head flails as he tries to stop his natural impulse. Lestat lets out a desperate cry and throws her aside. Jesse gazes at him, surprised. He looms over her, angry.

LESTAT
 You want to know everything. You
 want to see what it's like. Then
 come! I'll show you.

134 EXT. GRIFFITH PARK - NIGHT

134

Lestat and Jesse quietly move among the trees. Lestat stops on a dime -- senses tuned. He looks into the dark. Jesse is about to speak when Lestat raises his finger to her lips and then points at... A couple of lovers moving across the meadow. They sit on a park bench. The woman giggles drunkenly. Jesse watches and gasps as she realizes the male lover is a vampire. Lestat moves forward. Jesse gingerly follows.

Taking his lover in his arms the vampire begins to bite her neck... Lestat looks over at Jesse who watches, fascinated and disturbed. The vampire senses another's presence -- stops and turns to reveal his vampire eyes shining in the dark. Lestat steps into the halo of a street lamp and hisses. Sensing Lestat's power, the vampire hisses and instantly -- the vampire is gone. Jesse turns to Lestat but he has disappeared, too. Spinning around again she sees... Lestat hovering over the mortal woman who is still in a swoon. Checking to see that the vampire is gone, Jesse moves closer to the bench.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE
Is she alright?

Lestat looks up to face her, revealing his blood-stained lips. Jesse reflexively looks away.

LESTAT
Come closer, Jesse. You want to see? You want to know?

JESSE
Lestat, no!

Lestat's expression turns cold as ice -- he arches his back like a great cat and goes in for the kill. The woman's body convulses... Jesse watches in horror as... the woman's hands clutch at Lestat, her back stiffens... finally her legs relax in an obscene parody of orgasm. Jesse gasps, backs away. Lestat finishes and, wiping his mouth, approaches Jesse.

LESTAT
You see now? Are you ready? Now do you want it?!

He gazes into her eyes, finding himself desperately wanting her to say yes. The horror, the revulsion in Jesse's face says it all.

LESTAT
No. Of course you don't.

She backs away from him, now terrified. Something's changed in his eyes. They are cold, blank.

LESTAT
Well I didn't grant your final wish.
(shakes his head)
It was an impossible wish to begin with. You see, I am unknowable.

His eyes still as death, he starts moving away.

JESSE
Lestat! Wait!

Lestat turns toward her suddenly, grabs her forcefully, pulls her into his arms, gazes into her eyes.

LESTAT
Good-bye, Talamasca.

(CONTINUED)

134 CONTINUED: (2)

134

Jesse closes her eyes in terror, knowing her life is about to be over.

Then Jesse reaches for her mouth as if she were touched by something when... the IMAGE of Lestat's lips kissing her lips flashes by in VAMPIRE TIME as... Jesse's face is completely still in HUMAN TIME. As her hand drops, she realizes what just happened. And with that, Lestat disappears. She stares into the night. There's a SWISH and the sound of RUSHING AIR. Jesse turns, screams, backs away. It's not Lestat standing there at all but Mael, the Druid vampire. With great speed he glides towards her, envelops Jesse in his cloak, muffling her cries... WHOOSH.

CUT TO:

135 OMITTED

135

&

&

136

136

137 STARING EYE

137

PULL BACK to reveal a porcelain doll, beautiful, perfect but unsettling. We TRACK ACROSS rows and rows of dolls from different eras. TRACK PAST the billowing floor-to-ceiling curtains to reveal Jesse -- still an adult, but lying awake in bed just as she had as a little girl. Jesse gets out of bed, trapped in her own childhood memory. Is she dreaming now?

138 INT. DESERT MANSION - HALLWAY - NIGHT

138

Making her way down a long hall she passes an amazing array of medieval tapestries.

139 FLASHBACK - INT. HALLWAY

139

Jesse as a child picking at the thread of a wall-hanging in a large room.

140 BACK TO SCENE (PRESENT)

140

She stands wondering -- eyes moving back and forth with rapid thoughts when... She sees a door at the end of the hall. Walking a little faster now, she draws toward it as...

MAHARET

Hello, my princess.

JESSE

Aunt Maharet?

Jesse rushes to her. Stops. Stares at her aunt's glowing eyes, the strange pallor of her skin.

JESSE

You're a...?

MAHARET

Yes. Oh, Jesse, I've missed you so much, but I had to keep this from you.

Jesse stands there, soaking it in. Maharet takes her hands gently.

JESSE

Oh my God, this is why... I knew I was different. I knew --

MAHARET

(strongly)
Come...

Jesse follows Maharet to the mural of the family tree.

MAHARET

You are the most precious of my great family...

JESSE

Am I...?

MAHARET

(strongly)
No. You are not. I was once mortal, too. My sister died before her child was one year old. I took care of that child, and her children, and her children's children...

Pointing up to the huge family tree...

MAHARET

This is our family -- my way of coping with eternity. The labyrinth of life. The family teaches me the rhythms and passions of each age.

(CONTINUED)

144 CONTINUED: (2)

144

Her finger trails down the great line to a name --
"Jessica Reeves"...

MAHARET

You are my most prized light. You
are what keeps me connected to the
world of the living.

Jesse stares at Maharet, amazed.

MAHARET

When your parents died I took you
to India to take care of you.

JESSE

And something happened there.

MAHARET

I stopped it from happening. And
I will again.

Maharet stands close, gazes at her.

MAHARET

Jesse, you must stay away from
Lestat. You must forget all about
him.

Jesse looks at her, surprised. Maharet smiles.

MAHARET

Yes, I know about your new friend.
You think you love him, but it's
not as you thought it would be.

Jesse stares at Maharet, surprised she understands so
well.

JESSE

I thought I was like him.

MAHARET

I know, but it is not who you are,
not who you are meant to be. You
have found that out now.

Jesse sits on a stone bench, confused. Maharet smiles
sadly, feeling Jesse's inner turmoil.

JESSE

Lestat's all I can think about...
I felt like I belonged with him.
Now I know why...

(CONTINUED)

144 CONTINUED: (3)

144

Maharet sits beside her, speaks emphatically.

MAHARET

Jesse, you must forget about him.
You must trust me...

JESSE

(gazes up at her
a long moment)
I missed you so much, Aunt
Maharet.

MAHARET

Me too.

Just then the gloom of the pre-dawn's light begins to illuminate the windows of the great hall.

MAHARET

You will go home to London in the
morning.

Jesse holds Maharet's eyes.

JESSE

But this is my home. This is
where I belong. Why do you want
to get rid of me so quickly?

Maharet touches her face gently.

MAHARET

Now is not the time to be here...

The light is getting brighter. Maharet stands.

MAHARET

You were seeking answers. Now
you have found them. The family
is who you are.

Maharet goes to Jesse, wraps her arms tight around Jesse. Despite the coldness of her skin, Jesse warms to the embrace, closes her eyes, holds her tight. Then, beaten by the sun, Maharet stands, exits into the shadows, turns back to Jesse, gazes at her.

MAHARET

You will go home to London
tomorrow.

145 INT. LESTAT'S ROOM - NIGHT 145

Lestat stands by his bed, playing the ancient violin... a long mournful note. He stops a moment, lost in his thoughts. A flash of the first morning light reflects off the ancient wood. Lestat puts the violin away. A tear of blood trickles down his cheek. His face is filled with sadness at what will never be. A word escapes from his lips.

LESTAT
(whisper)
Jesse.

Lestat draws the curtains and enters his sanctum where his coffin sits in the safety of darkness.

146 EXT. MAHARET'S DESERT MANSION - DAY 146

The sun breaks through the date palms.

147 INT. MANSION - JUST AFTER 147

Jesse moves down the hallway past paintings of vampires. She pauses at one of Maharet. As Jesse shifts, the glass over the painting catches Jesse's reflection. Jesse moves slowly until her face just covers Maharet's. In the reflection, Jesse's eyes now glow with Maharet's luminescence. Jesse stares a long, long moment.

148 INT. MANSION - JUST AFTER 148

Jesse sits at a desk, writing a note, torment, confusion on her face.

JESSE (V.O.)
Dear Aunt Maharet, my whole life,
I've felt... kind of crazy I
guess, different from everyone,
and now I know why... You say I
now know who I am meant to be...
I have found my answers. You are
right...

She takes a deep breath.

149 EXT. MAHARET'S DESERT MANSION - FRONT ENTRANCE -
CONTINUOUS ACTION 149

Jesse moves to the front entrance, gazes at the walls surrounding the front gate.

(CONTINUED)

149 CONTINUED:

149

JESSE (V.O.)

I know you want me to be a regular human girl... but I'm not. I can't be...

She looks back at the house, then quickly slips out the gate.

150 EXT. MAHARET'S DESERT MANSION - DAY

150

Maharet's sprawling compound sits alone in the empty desert. Nothing for as far as the eye can see.

JESSE (V.O.)

Lestat is my destiny... I know that now. I love you, Aunt Maharet. Good-bye.

Jesse walks away from the house. Coming to a highway, she reads a sign -- "DEATH VALLEY 120 miles." Just then, a VW minibus barrels down the road in Jesse's direction. She sticks out her thumb... The minibus pulls to a stop on the shoulder in a cloud of dust. A VAMPIRE DRIVER leans out the window -- not a real vampire, just a kid with white face-paint and fake fangs.

VAMPIRE DRIVER

Need a ride?

Jesse peers past the driver to a crowd of Goths and fake vampires. THE VAMPIRE LESTAT BLARES FROM the SPEAKERS.

JESSE

(smiles)

Yeah.

151 EXT. DEATH VALLEY - FROM HIGH ABOVE - DUSK

151

We see a line of traffic snake out along a desert road toward a strange red glow rising into the dark night sky. A distant sound of DRUMS BEATING chaotic rhythms is heard. As we FLY CLOSER, the DRUMMING becomes LOUDER and clearer. Until we are RIGHT ABOVE an incredible scene... A mass of people (30,000) gather in a valley of red rock.

CUT TO:

152 EXT. CONCERT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

152

Looking at the scene, Jesse is bedazzled. Pushing through people, she disappears into the throng as...

(CONTINUED)

152 CONTINUED: 152

DAVID (O.S.)
Jesse!

153 ANGLE ON DAVID TALBOT 153

as he pushes through the sea of white paint and plastic vampire teeth. But she has disappeared. Talbot is jostled, dropping his glasses on the ground.

VOICE (O.S.)
Sorry, Grandpa!

Talbot crouches down and finds his glasses. Reemerging, he senses something and looks up.

154 FULL SHOT - MARIUS 154

watching him at a distance. Next to the real thing, all these fake vampires look ridiculous.

MARIUS
(quietly)
Hello, David.

155 ON TALBOT 155

Speechless.

MARIUS
I must show you my new paintings
sometime.

Marius smiles. Talbot is awestruck -- the goal of a lifetime's searching. He tries to say something, but it's too late. Flash. Marius is moving through the crowd at unnatural speed. Enormous pipes spout flames high into the sky, run like a corridor of red light along the crowd, leading to two enormous Egyptian effigies of Akasha and Enkil flanking a stage at the top end. And before the stage stretches a mass of human bacchanalian debauchery... Woodstock on mescaline. Naked bodies, pierced and tattooed, mingle with the strangest of fashions as crowds gather in circles around their own lit fires, drumming out awesome rhythms.

The whole place is an enormous flaming mosh pit -- naked bodies walk across heads of people while others get tossed and thrown. This crowd is determined to get what they were promised... Nothing like they've ever seen.

(CONTINUED)

155 CONTINUED: 155

A new world, a world of the initiated who have somehow managed to include themselves in the select number of attendees to a sacred rite. And among the mortals are the immortals. Amidst them we see the tattooed Vampires, the Armani Vampire, the others, now dressed in cloaks which they use to hide their knives and sickles.

156 HIGH ABOVE VALLEY 156

Standing on the strange rocks are the Ancient vampires, except for Maharet. Some of whom can't help but smile at the scene below. Marius is now with them.

PANDORA
(wistful, to Mael)
It's just like Nero's day.

They scan the horizon, the darkening sky.

MAHARET
Akasha will not be able to resist
this...

The CROWD begins to CLAP -- DRUMS from different circles begin to impatiently BEAT into one deafening rhythm.

157 INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT 157

Backstage is all abuzz with pre-show energy; press everywhere. Roger still worrying and sweating. James, Alex and Maudy sit in their own circle, jamming with their unplugged instruments, psyching themselves up for the biggest night of their lives.

158 INT. LESTAT'S HONEY-WAGON - NIGHT 158

Lestat stretches out with his eyes closed as the sounds of the DRUMMING crowd begin to make the whole van shudder. Roger pops his head in.

ROGER
They're getting pretty worked up
out there.

159 INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT 159

Lestat emerges from his honey-wagon, splendid in his concert costume. He looks ready for business, whatever may happen. The band look at each other, then look to Lestat. This is the moment. He smiles like a father at them.

(CONTINUED)

159 CONTINUED: 159

LESTAT
Come on, children.

Alex, Maudy and James start beating out the rhythm with the crowd as they move through backstage. The DRUM BEATS RISE to a CRESCENDO.

160 BACK TO CROWD 160

Jesse makes her way through the throng, trying to get closer to the stage. Suddenly the torches go out sending the place into utter darkness. A stunned moment. The place goes berserk. We see the dim figures of the band take their places. Jesse desperately tries to push toward the front.

161 INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT 161

Lestat readies himself as he scans the valley from behind a speaker, and sees...

162 LESTAT'S POV - VAMPIRES 162

wait here and there in the audience, set to attack.

163 BACK TO LESTAT 163

who smiles to himself.

164 BACK IN CROWD 164

BOOM, the torches relight and an enormous CHORD surges through the crowd louder than a jet on takeoff. The mass surges forward... The stage lights up in a huge halo of blood-red light. The band plays a hypnotic tune that would put the devil in a spell, as... We wait for Lestat. The band keeps playing the pounding cadence, as...

The audience doesn't see Lestat anywhere and cheers over the sound, and it seems as if the whole of Death Valley is shaking, when... Lestat appears above the stage, inhumanly levitating and...

LESTAT
I'm so glad I decided to rise...
(shouting)
After tonight, Death Valley will
live up to its name!

(CONTINUED)

164 CONTINUED:

164

The place erupts into one solid scream as the band kicks it in.

He swoops down through the air over the stage and into their very midst. Jesse, in the crowd, screams up to him... But her voice is lost in the thousands of screams for him. Lestat takes the microphone and leans his lips into it, letting his voice soar into an inhuman note, filling the valley like a demon demanding heaven be replaced with hell.

165 AT BACK OF CONCERT - MIXING BOARD

165

Two STUDIO ENGINEERS sit dazed.

ENGINEER #1
(Cockney accent)
Could we turn it down a tad?

The second Engineer looks to the mixing panel.

ENGINEER #2
His mic's not even up.

They stare, dumbfounded.

166 BACK TO CONCERT

166

The pulsing strain moves into a faster beat as the whole place resonates with the most incredible harmonics, the energy throbbing, the crowd almost genuflecting in front of this papal devil. All move and sway except for... Jesse, desperately squeezing through bodies trying to get closer and closer to...

Lestat, who commands the place with his echoing voice. Lestat holds the place in the palm of his hand. Lestat's dark soul seems ready to burst as he moves his voice into an even higher unworldly octave, and then...

167 LESTAT'S POV

167

The vampires move through the crowd. Goth girls in the front row, weeping... Maudy, James and Alex off in the clouds, playing the best music of their lives. The place has gone wild, living off its own energy now as waves of sound bounce through the valley band up into the night sky.

168 BACK TO SCENE

168

LESTAT
You want more?!

The crowd screams...

CROWD
Yes!

LESTAT
This one's for those who've come
for me!

All yell that they have, but the covens know it's for them. Lestat launches the band into a new number that makes the previous song seem like a lullaby. He eyes the coven-assassins here and there and sings straight to them. His lyrics challenging the assassins, flaunting them with satire. Jesse whirls around, spying the assassins in the crowd. She shakes her head no... The covens need no more encouragement as they begin to move through the crowd toward the stage. We RISE UP OVER the crowd to see fifty assassins snaking at preternatural speed, unseen to all except us in our inhuman vantage.

CUT TO:

169 ANCIENTS - NIGHT

169

Marius spies the covens slipping through the crowd at a strange velocity. He looks to Lestat, worried...

170 BACK TO STAGE

170

The assassins approach closer -- Lestat assaults with relentless lyrics... Reaching the stage, they are suddenly on it -- roadies run in and are immediately cast aside by inhuman powers. We speed into vampire time as... (NOTE: In camera, no C.G.I.)

The assassins draw knives and lunge, determined to dismember Lestat. Lestat does an acrobatic leap, dodging the knives. He rips the microphone from the stand and holds it up just in time... as an assassin is impaled. The assassin squirms and convulses. The crowd goes insane... Lestat snarls at the audience as if this really were part of the performance... The assassins attack again, this time hurtling massive light stands like they were small spears. Lestat dodges them. The assassins BREAK GLASS BOTTLES, lunge with the deadly shards. (NOTE: Band should not be seen in this part of sequence.)

171 MARIUS 171

can hold himself back no longer. He flies over equipment and roadies, up into the air. The Ancients gaze after him and...

172 ON STAGE 172

He lands square in the middle of the fray. Back to mortal time. The crowd cheers at the sudden appearance of the figure on stage, loving the show. Lestat grins at Marius. The band keeps playing. Marius hurls a huge LIGHT at the assassins. It EXPLODES as it hits them, pinning one with shards. But an assassin hurls a sickle at Lestat. Lestat is struck down, his singing stopped. The assassins move in.

CUT TO:

173 ANCIENT VAMPIRES 173

watch from their rocks. Pandora's face, filled with excitement.

PANDORA

There are too many of them!
They're going to dismember him.

Armand is enjoying the show.

ARMAND

Good!

174 BACK TO STAGE 174

Assassins corner Lestat and Marius -- blades, broken bottles reflecting the spotlight. Lestat raises his arms for the crowd. The crowd jeers. Lestat looks to Maudy and the band.

LESTAT

Get out of here!

The band scampers off stage as the assassins fly past, the reverb from their guitars whistle into a deafening pitch.

Jesse joins the screaming crowds.

JESSE

Lestat! Lestat!

(CONTINUED)

174 CONTINUED:

174

As the killer vampires make their final move, it looks bleak for Lestat... But one after the other they spontaneously combust, turning hot-white to black ash and drift up into the air like strange supernatural kites. The crowd hollers and screams, not quite believing what they saw or how it was done, when... Down in the throng, vampires also begin to combust -- hot flashes of white exploding through the crowd, turning into black paper dolls -- wafting up over the valley -- crumbling into fluttering puffs of soot. Panic takes over the mass of people, running in all directions. Jesse remains pinned to her spot.

175 LESTAT

175

stands in wonder as Marius stares up into the high darkness.

MARIUS
(soft, to himself)
Akasha.

The valley fills with hundreds of burning "kites" floating like black ghosts. Khayman, Pandora and Armand gaze up at the sky.

MAHARET
She is here...

176 JESSE

176

stares in wonder and terror at the burning "kites." Then seizes her chance. She pushes toward the stage against the tide of bodies fleeing.

177 INT. BACKSTAGE - MEANWHILE

177

Roger is trying to manage the building chaos backstage as the FIRE MARSHAL and several firemen follow after him.

FIRE MARSHAL
You don't have a permit for any of these stunts!

ROGER
I told you I don't know anything about it!

A WALKIE-TALKIE distracts the Fire Marshal long enough to allow Roger to run.

(CONTINUED)

177 CONTINUED: 177

ROGER
Last time I work for a bloody
vampire...

Looking up at the sky, he stares in awe... There is a low
powerful RUMBLE...

The mortal crowd looks around, distracted from their
panic, as they sense something truly awesome...

178 LESTAT 178

senses it too. He looks up, not knowing from which
direction the attack will come. The STAGE starts to
SHUDDER and SHAKE violently...

Jesse, now almost to the stage, screams to him.

JESSE
Lestat! Lestat!

Suddenly the wooden platform beneath Lestat begins to
buckle under his feet. Fragments of WOOD EXPLODE upwards
around Lestat. Marius loses his balance and staggers
backwards...

Fragments of sharp wood fly into the audience. Jesse
raises her hands to protect herself. She looks up.
Freezes. Akasha rises up through the stage. Beautiful
and terrifying. She grabs Lestat and the two of them
shoot up into the air. The crowd stares in awe. Jesse
is frozen.

Roger, the Fire Marshal, the band, everyone is frozen.
Talbot stares up at Akasha, his face white, unable to
believe his eyes. Even the Ancient Ones are stunned to
see their Queen come to life.

Scaffolds collapse in an EXPLOSION OF ELECTRICAL
SPARKS... (NOTE: Practical explosion.) The Ancient
Ones stare up into the sky as... Akasha and Lestat
vanish. Jesse stares in horror after them.

179 EXT. SKY - EVENING 179

BLACKNESS.

180 EXT. DEATH VALLEY PEAK - NIGHT 180

Lestat opens his eyes and finds himself high above the
desert, the tiny lights of the concert far below.

(CONTINUED)

Lestat whirls around to suddenly see behind him Akasha in an extravagant Egyptian robe, its sheer cloth of gold draping her godly form. Lestat is awestruck. Akasha comes to life...

LESTAT

Akasha...

Akasha still says nothing -- she advances with a luscious, curling smile.

AKASHA

Why so surprised, my love? You called, and I have come.

Lestat is awestruck. There is such an unearthly power in Akasha's voice. Everything seems to hum and vibrate with her breath.

AKASHA

Never fear me, Lestat. Your wishes have all come true.

LESTAT

My wishes...?

AKASHA

You have yearned for a companion to share eternity. You have cried out to the world. I have answered your call.

Akasha spreads her arms, moving ever closer to Lestat.

AKASHA

You are so bold, like your music. It woke me. You live your life in the open, like I did long ago, when I had a King.

LESTAT

Had a King?

AKASHA

He's no more. You are my consort. I've kept you safe -- alive.

LESTAT

You?

(CONTINUED)

AKASHA

You thought it was all you?

(laughing)

You have the ego of a king as well. I know you, Lestat. I know that you crave to have the world at your feet. I have come to give it to you.

Akasha bites her own lip. Blood trickles slightly across her chin. Lestat stares at the blood, yearns towards it, as the pulse of her blood increases... Lestat looks at it, both wanting and fearful. Wrapping her arms around Lestat, she braces him, licks his face.

AKASHA

Has your tongue lost its taste for blood?

LESTAT

(melting)

Never.

AKASHA

But you didn't kill the mortal girl.

Lestat looks caught.

AKASHA

Instead you kissed her. Now kiss me.

(NOTE: Shoot as practical, actor against plain night sky, as much as possible.) Akasha rises above him, hovers over Lestat, letting a single drop of blood spill into his mouth. Lestat levitates above the ground to meet her as...

Akasha hovers higher, drawing him into the sky until their mouths finally meet and her blood flows freely into him. Lestat pulls away as a great surge of power gathers in him and floods his body with an electric rush.

AKASHA

Be my King. Forget about everything else.

Lestat looks straight at Akasha, his face flushed. His eyes are empty of everything except her blood.

AKASHA

What's your answer?

(CONTINUED)

180 CONTINUED: (3)

180

Lestat looks at her and then smiles. Akasha's mouth spreads into a smile. Flashes of brilliant light strobe over them as Lestat moves to her, sucks again. There's a powerful rush of WIND that engulfs them as they spin together, detached from time and space.

181 FLASH CUTS - STOCK FOOTAGE

181

All INTERCUT WITH Akasha's skin, her body taut and arching. Lestat falls back in ecstasy. He shakes out his body and lets out a howl of pleasure -- feels his arms, his chest, his groin as Akasha's blood courses through his veins. Akasha watches and waits. Finally Lestat grins boyishly through bloody teeth and wipes his lips with the back of his hand.

LESTAT

Can we try that again?

Akasha smiles at him, then laughs a strange laugh, a kind of purr/growl. Lestat gazes at her as the sensual hissing seems to surround him. It is seductive and scary. Lestat steps up, puts a finger to her lips.

LESTAT

Show me the world...

Akasha's mouth spreads into a smile and she yanks him up into the air and off into the night.

182 INT. MAHARET DESERT MANSION - NIGHT

182

Mael leads Jesse down the hall. She stares ahead at what looks like statues standing in the shadows. Her eyes widen as the statues come to life: Armand, Pandora, Khayman, Marius are talking in hushed tones, gathered before Maharet's "Great Family Tree." CAMERA SWEEPS OVER the endless lines, the rows of names that stretch down the stone wall -- ACROSS the floor, filling room after room. The Ancients all stare, deeply moved. Maharet turns to them.

MAHARET

We see now what Akasha means to do. Rule as Queen again.

(pointing to the
great family)

This is why we must fight Akasha!

Maharet looks around, determined, challenging each of the immortals.

(CONTINUED)

MAHARET

For the sake of all mortals. She must be stopped, or the mortal world will end.

The Ancients fall silent as they take this in. They gaze again at Maharet's Great Family, humbled for a moment by her life's passion.

MAEL

But is there a way? We don't know.

KHAYMAN

When she opens herself to give her blood, she is vulnerable.

MARIUS

Then we weaken her. Drain her of almost all her blood, but leave her just one drop.

MAHARET

We can't take that chance. We must finish her.

ARMAND

If she dies, we all die.

PANDORA

We're damned no matter what happens.

MAHARET

Perhaps.

Maharet gazes at them, her mind working... Pandora, Khayman, Mael gaze at each other, still uncertain.

JESSE

And what about Lestat?

MAHARET

Lestat has joined with Akasha. He is lost to us now. He is never coming back.

JESSE

I don't believe that.

CUT TO:

183 LESTAT

183

Beaming with a possessed look, his eyes brimming with visions.

Lestat opens his eyes and sees an island approaching. In the distance lights sparkle as an enormous plantation villa is revealed, nestled into the far shore.

CUT TO:

184 EXT. AKASHA'S PLANTATION VILLA - NIGHT

184

Lestat and Akasha stand on a cliff-top. WIND rips through the trees. Everywhere, there are torches, and a million candles light the vast house. Lestat and Akasha glide past the forest of exotic flowers... Past the fountains and statues -- up the steps to the open French doors. Long white curtains billow in the sea wind.

LESTAT

Where are we?

AKASHA

We are home.

LESTAT

You live here?

AKASHA

We live everywhere and anywhere we choose. The world is our garden.

185 INT. AKASHA'S PLANTATION VILLA - NIGHT

185

Lestat steps in through billowing curtains, stops... There are three West Indian girls, young, voluptuous, beautiful, dressed in simple working clothes and traditional head-wraps. They stare at Lestat, nervous, yet fascinated. They move towards him. Lestat finds himself surrounded by hands, touching him, reaching beneath his shirt, pulling his clothes from his body. He swoons, closes his eyes, smiles.

LESTAT

So warm...
(sniffs their skin)
... their blood...

AKASHA

... yes...

LESTAT

... they're mortal...

(CONTINUED)

185 CONTINUED:

185

AKASHA

... of course. They serve the living goddess, and her consort. They find you beautiful. You are a god in their eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

186 SERIES OF SHOTS

186

... golden dark hands pull clothes away from Lestat's white skin... breasts strain through white linen as they press themselves closer to him... the surface of water, scented with red rose petals. Lestat's white skin breaks the surface. Lestat is lowered into the bath, his skin alive with the dancing candles reflected in the water... the water laps gently -- strange sighs of pleasure as girls' hands caress Lestat's torso... their hands reach down lower and lower through the water... Lestat's eyes remain closed but his mouth opens... Now it's Akasha kissing him. Lestat responds, but his eyes sneak a peek. Akasha smiles -- takes his head in her hands -- she kisses him, pushes him back -- he tries to resist -- he can't, startled by her strength... Akasha kisses his neck, his chest, bites... Lestat arches in ecstasy... Akasha rises up from his breast, blood on her lips, smiles, goes back down and drinks.

DISSOLVE TO:

187 AKASHA AND LESTAT - LATER

187

now moved to the bed, surrounded by the fine nets... kissing, probing each other's bodies, floating above the bed... Akasha rolls him over -- smiles down at him -- a fang exposed... She draws her wrist across her mouth... a globule of blood smacks Lestat's open lips... Flash -- A thousand images in a second. Lestat jolted as if by a million volts. Blood smears their bodies -- they bathe in it.

188 CLOSE ON LESTAT

188

The most lascivious smile spreading over his face, even as the waves of pleasure still course through him, causing his mouth to twitch and tremble. He closes his eyes...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

189 SAME SCENE - LESTAT (LATER) 189

opens his eyes. He sits up alone in the canopied bed, disoriented. Akasha is nowhere to be seen. He looks toward the window. The sun is just about to disappear below the horizon. Lestat stares, amazed, blinking... Shielding his eyes, Lestat goes to window, gazes in awe at the setting sun. As the last rays slice through the sky, Lestat closes his eyes, stretches his arms out, feels the warm sun on his skin. He smiles at this feeling he's craved for so long. Still smiling, he opens his eyes, blinking from the light. He turns, gazes towards the bath and gasps. The dying light illuminates... The servant girls' bodies, now grey with death, lying around the edge of the bath. The roses are now black and the water is colored a rich deep red...

190 INT. PLANTATION HOUSE - HALLWAY 190

Lestat steps into the hallway, stares at dead bodies sprinkling the ground -- both servants formally dressed, and guests in white tropical evening dress...

191 INT. PLANTATION HOUSE - DINING HALL - CONTINUOUS ACTION 191

The candles have all melted, forming pools that spread across the lace cloth. Food sits uneaten on plates. The last of the sun's rays strikes ten dead bodies sitting around the table, some slumped onto their food, some frozen in death. Lestat moves through the room, a feeling of dread spreading. We FOLLOW as he moves...

192 EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS ACTION 192

... out the French windows onto the beach, bodies of servants and villagers are scattered. Lestat's feet step down the wooden stairs, onto the sand, through the bodies...

Lestat, shielding his eyes, stares up in horror at the pink sky.

AKASHA
Behold our Kingdom.

Lestat sees Akasha standing further down on the beach.

LESTAT
Why?

(CONTINUED)

192 CONTINUED:

192

AKASHA
 (puzzled)
 Why not?

LESTAT
 This is the reason you have risen?

AKASHA
 They believed in nothing, now they
 are nothing. But you and I will
 change all that. We will give the
 world something to believe in
 again.

Akasha smiles, raises her hand, suddenly slices her wrist
 with a knife. Lestat stares at her dripping blood.
 She crosses to him, her eyes locked on his. She lifts
 her wrist, drips her blood into Lestat's mouth. Lestat's
 eyes glaze over again. He smiles, feeds hungrily, lost
 again. Akasha smiles.

AKASHA
 Come, my King. We have a score to
 settle.

The Queen and her King swiftly fly up into the darkness.

193 INT. MAHARET'S MANSION - GRANDE HALL - NIGHT

193

The Ancients are still debating. Suddenly, the whole
 place begins to shake. (NOTE: Practical shadows not
 C.G.I.) A shadow passes over the Ancients' faces.

MARIUS
 She comes...

The WINDOWS along one side of the hall EXPLODE with a
 startling GUST. The Ancient Ones look up to see...
 Akasha's silhouette looming, dark and foreboding.

AKASHA
 My children. It warms my blood to
 see you all gathered... plotting
 against me.

They trade glances and begin to fan out around the room.

MAHARET
 Akasha.

AKASHA
 Maharet. You will address my
 King first...

(CONTINUED)

Lestat enters, his possessed eyes showing only evil now. Unable to help herself...

JESSE

Lestat!

He turns slowly to the corner where she sits. They lock eyes. Lestat's face stares cold and hard.

JESSE

What has she done to you?

LESTAT

Made me see.

Taking his arm, Akasha draws Lestat to her. The Ancient Vampires subtly position themselves under the medieval weapons hanging on the walls, as Marius moves toward his son.

MARIUS

Lestat... step aside.

LESTAT

Never. She is my Queen.

Marius looks for some recognition in Lestat's eyes. There is none. Maharet turns to Akasha.

MAHARET

Akasha. The world has changed since you reigned.

AKASHA

Then we shall change it back. Humans are animals, brute creatures. Their destruction can only make sense.

MAHARET

We've found other ways to co-exist.

AKASHA

Yes. In the shadows. In silence. In shame. For what? For respect of mortals? They are nothing to us. They are only... food.

She casts a dangerous eye towards Jesse. Maharet instinctively moves forward to protect her.

(CONTINUED)

AKASHA

Poor Maharet. Still trying to hold onto what I took from you.

Maharet doesn't even flinch.

MARIUS

Akasha, please...

AKASHA

(venomous)

You think you can change my will?
I'm tired of this discussion.
Join me, or die.

MAHARET

I will not.

MARIUS

I will not.

AKASHA

I want to hear it from every one of you. What will it be?

Akasha scans the faces of the other Ancient Ones, staring deep into their souls. Akasha sees Khayman glance at the family tree. Akasha's eyes blaze with anger.

AKASHA

Don't tell me, you have feelings for these ridiculous mortals!

She crosses to the family tree, traces the names down to one. Jessica Reeves. Akasha is beyond fury, yet she keeps her temper under control and turns to Lestat.

AKASHA

Do you love me?

Smiling, she bites her lip, letting a drop of blood glisten there, tempting Lestat.

LESTAT

Yes...

He draws closer. Jesse stares, mortified. Akasha and Lestat's mouths almost meet when Akasha pulls away. Akasha slowly turns to Jesse.

AKASHA

Prove it. Kill her.

(CONTINUED)

LESTAT

She's nothing to me.

AKASHA

Just the same, I'd like you to kill her. For me.

(to the Ancients)

I've had enough of this 'great family.' It's time to end it.

Maharet steps between Lestat and Jesse.

MAHARET

You will not touch her!

Akasha flicks her wrist. Maharet is hurled against a pillar, pinned by Akasha's hand.

AKASHA

You still think to challenge me, Maharet?

MAHARET

I beg you, spare this child.

AKASHA

Now.

Maharet struggles but Akasha is too strong. Jesse gazes at Lestat. Then steps forward.

JESSE

It's all right, Maharet.

Maharet stops, standing fixed with the sound of Jesse's newly strong and calm voice. Jesse looks to Lestat, straight into his dark irises, her gaze absolutely unwavering.

JESSE

It's what I want. I am ready.

She reaches up, pulls aside her shirt, revealing the top of her breast. A thin, red scar remains from where she cut herself with the silver stick from the Chinese barrette.

Lestat gazes at her, begins to advance. Jesse keeps her gaze steady into Lestat's, risking everything.

AKASHA

(smirking)

How sweet...

(CONTINUED)

Lestat moves closer and closer to her, gazes into her eyes, hesitates for a moment, then continues on...

Jesse watches him with absolute love. He reaches her. Maharet flies across the room, but Akasha meets her halfway. Grabs her by the hair. Maharet struggles but Akasha is much more powerful. Jesse offers up her neck to his bite. Maharet looks away and Akasha looks pleased as...

Lestat sinks his teeth into Jesse's neck. Jesse gasps with the bite, but puts her arm around Lestat as he draws her into him, draining her of her very life-force as she holds him.

With that Maharet's great family mural begins to weep blood from every name. All the Ancients turn, stare at the mural as...

Lestat drinks and drinks and Jesse sighs with intimacy, clutching his neck and back, and drawing his bite deeper into her flesh. She slowly crumples to the floor, being drawn down until finally...

Jesse lies on the floor, eyes closed and pale. Dead.

AKASHA

Good-bye, great family.

She turns to the MURAL with a fierce gaze. Flash! It EXPLODES, CRUMBLING to a million pieces on the ground. Maharet stares in horror.

AKASHA

Now, my children, remember your real family! Or else.

She turns to them with a killing smile.

LESTAT

But, My Queen, you've forgotten my reward!

She turns to him.

AKASHA

That's right. My King, you've just earned your crown.

Lestat smiles with a blood-stained mouth. Akasha approaches Lestat and offers him her vein. She looks scornfully at the others as he cradles her wrist...

(CONTINUED)

AKASHA

You see how he obeys. You will or
you will all die!

Lestat looks once at Marius, then sinks his teeth into its original font. He drinks as Akasha gasps with pleasure at giving so much pleasure to him. She keeps smiling to the others. But Lestat doesn't stop drinking. Akasha looks back to him, her face changing.

AKASHA

That's enough, Lestat.

Still Lestat doesn't stop.

AKASHA

Lestat. Enough. Stop!

(NOTE: Scene as scripted here is quite different from what was analyzed in boards. Notable potential expense or savings indicated with brackets. [])

But Lestat clamps down even harder. Akasha thrashes, trying to release herself.

Maharet and Marius realize what he's doing, see the chance Lestat has gained for them. A silent signal passes between them as...

The Ancients make an instantaneous decision. Akasha looks up, gasping, in time to see Maharet, Marius, Khayman, Armand, Mael, Pandora flying towards her. Akasha lets out a hiss...

Most of the Ancients are thrown to the ground while Mael ignites in mid-air. Mael's skin bubbles. He screams, the veins in his face rise up and explode as if his blood were burning acid...

Pandora too bursts into flames. She falls to the ground.

But Lestat, strong with Akasha's blood, keeps his hold and Khayman, Armand, Marius, Maharet fly at her again. They swarm over Akasha. She rises into the air, thrashing about, but they hang on, forming a flying mass of flailing limbs.

The THUMP of Akasha's HEART ACCELERATES as they try to drain her...

Akasha turns on [Khayman to incinerate him. Flash. He screams as his blood boils, exploding out of his fingertips -- But he doesn't ignite... His wounds quickly heal. He moves in for another attack...]

(CONTINUED)

The Ancients are still flung around by Akasha's great strength, but they all hold on, as the thrashing finally begins to subside. The mass of bodies sinks to the ground. The Ancients pull back to reveal that...

Akasha's skin is deathly blue white. In horror, she manages to spit out her words.

AKASHA

You kill me, you kill yourselves.

The Ancient Ones look to each other, uncertain a moment.

Akasha gazes at them, then turns slowly, fixes her gaze on Lestat. He gazes back at her.

Suddenly, Akasha takes her chance, rises, her eyes flare green, marshalling the last of her wrath. Lestat cries out in agony as smoke rises from his limbs.

Fiercely determined, Lestat bites into Akasha's throat, this time for the kill. Akasha sinks her nails into his throat. He hangs on, his teeth deep. They are locked in mortal combat. Akasha slowly sinks to the ground, real fear in her eyes as her strength finally vanishes.

MAHARET

Wait, Lestat! You must stop!

Lestat pulls away, leaving Akasha hanging in a twisted, unnatural angle.

They all stare waiting to see what will happen...

... Maharet moves quickly. She strides over to Akasha and sinks her fangs into Akasha's neck. Akasha struggles but this time she cannot even rise up. Maharet does not stop. A HOWLING sound as if from hell fills the room.

The Ancient Ones stare at Akasha, step back in awe. Lestat sits up, burned but still alive to see...

Akasha's skin begins to grow horribly pale, to harden and cake into a chalk. There's no blood left to flow from the gaping holes in Akasha's flesh. She slowly begins to transform back to her frozen statue state. Her skin returning to MARBLE. CRACKS multiply, becoming fissures. Finally, Akasha literally falls to pieces, SMASHING on the stone floor like porcelain.

A silent moment. The Ancient Ones look at each other, astonished, as they realize they're still "alive."

(CONTINUED)

KHAYMAN
(whisper)
We survived!

The Ancients let out relieved hisses.

But Lestat is only concerned about Jesse. He rushes to her, picks up her lifeless head, takes a dagger from the floor and slices his wrist. He brings the open vein to Jesse's mouth, but she's not moving. Lestat bends down to her ear and whispers.

LESTAT
I left you one drop, my love.
Drink deep and live.

Jesse's lips slightly move and quiver as she tastes the blood. She begins to take the blood inside her and then finally truly drink and revive as Lestat cradles her. She pulls away, gasping. Lestat looks into her eyes.

JESSE
I thought I'd lost you...

LESTAT
Drink, my love.

Her lips move to his wrist. Lestat strokes her hair, soothes her. Jesse gasps as pain courses through her. Lestat holds her close. She looks up at him, their eyes are locked together.

LESTAT
I will never leave you again.

He holds her tight in his arms.

All the Ancients gaze at Lestat, now understanding what he did.

Slowly Jesse rises, gazes at Lestat, her face pale, her eyes glowing. Then Jesse turns, stares at Maharet. All the Ancients turn, follow her gaze.

A whiteness is spreading across Maharet's face and skin. Maharet stares at her arms and legs, slowly turning to stone. Jesse goes to her.

JESSE
Maharet...

(CONTINUED)

193 CONTINUED: (8)

193

MAHARET

My child, let me look at you...
 You are finally happy. It is as
 it should be now... I will watch
 over you always.

Maharet reaches out, embraces Jesse. Then Maharet sinks
 into a chair and freezes into a statue.

ARMAND

(a reverent whisper)
 She took Akasha's last drop, took
 Akasha's death into herself.
 Behold, our Queen... our new
 mother...

The Ancients slowly bow to Maharet. Jesse slowly slips
 from Maharet's arms. Goes into Lestat's arms.

JESSE

Is she... dead?

KHAYMAN

No, she will live forever. She
 sleeps. She sleeps, and dreams of
 us.

Jesse and Lestat hold onto each other, gazing at
 Maharet's face. On Maharet's lips is the most content of
 smiles. Jesse wipes away a tear.

Marius turns to Lestat. Their eyes meet. Then Marius
 bows at Maharet's feet.

MARIUS

My Queen, I will watch over you
 always.

DISSOLVE TO:

194 EXT. TALAMASCA HEADQUARTERS (LONDON) - EVENING 194

The sun has long disappeared as the darkness settles.

195 INT. TALAMASCA HEADQUARTERS - EVENING 195

The shadows creep up the doorway.

196 INT. TALBOT'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS ACTION 196

Talbot sits at his desk covered with news clippings.

197 CLOSE ON CLIPPINGS

197

Images from the concert... "Mass Hysteria"... "Rock 'n' Roll Nightmare"... "Drugs in Water Supply"... The headline "Band starts World Tour but where is Lestat?"...

JESSE (O.S.)
Good question...

198 BACK TO SCENE

198

Talbot looks up to see Jesse and Lestat looking over his shoulder. He leaps out of his seat. Sees the change in her instantly.

TALBOT
Jesse. My God...

JESSE
(smiles)
David, this is Lestat.

He looks at Lestat, fear in his eyes.

TALBOT
How do you do?

LESTAT
Charmed, I'm sure.

JESSE
I told you I'd return with my findings. Here they are.

David stares, shaken.

TALBOT
But please, sit down. You'll have to excuse me... it's just so... so...

LESTAT
Unexpected?

TALBOT
Strangely, no...

David looks sadly at Jesse.

JESSE
Please don't be sad. I'm where I belong. I'm happy now.

(CONTINUED)

Lestat, content for the first time since we've known him, looks lovingly to Jesse. A flicker of curiosity crosses David's face.

TALBOT

Excuse me for asking but...

JESSE

(smiles)

What's it like?

TALBOT

Yes.

JESSE

Do you want to find out?

TALBOT

Me?... No. I'm too old to live forever.

JESSE

Well, if you ever should change your mind... Oh. I have a present for you. From an old friend.

She hands Talbot a canvas. It's a painting. He stares at it. The painting shows Lestat's concert. And in the crowd, Talbot finds Marius, now looking straight out at the viewer, a smile on his lips. Talbot sees standing beside Marius is Talbot himself, dancing with a young, pretty Goth. Talbot smiles.

JESSE

And Marius sent a message. You were right. He doesn't go to the Dorchester. But he's gonna be at Claridge's later...

Talbot stares at them.

JESSE

Well, I guess this is good-bye.

TALBOT

Yes. Take care of her, Lestat.

LESTAT

Always.

Talbot looks at Jesse, once his spiritual daughter.

TALBOT

Good-bye, Jesse.

(CONTINUED)

198 CONTINUED: (2)

198

Talbot closes his eyes to shut out a tear, and Jesse is at his side and leans down to whisper in his ear...

JESSE

Good-bye, dear friend.

Talbot opens his eyes to say something, but they're gone. Talbot turns to the painting. Stares at Marius for a long moment. Then stands, grabs his coat, heads for the door.

199 EXT. LONDON STREET - NIGHT

199

Jesse and Lestat come out of the Talamascan headquarters.

He takes her hand and together they float up over the wall and out to the street. Lestat pulls Jesse into his arms.

They kiss. It's long, deep, romantic. They pull away, gaze sweetly, lovingly, into each other's eyes...

And exchange happy, fanged smiles...

LESTAT

Shall we go get a drink, love?

She smiles, nods. Lestat and Jesse take each other's hands, move into the crowd, zipping through the streets at that STRANGE preternatural SPEED...

... and vanish into the night.

FADE OUT.

THE END