

Malleus Maleficarum

CHAPTER EIGHT
"To Wage a War"

Written by Li Robb

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. "LES MAGIQUE" - NIGHT

BOOM!

AVELINE screams, backing away as the counter EXPLODES in a fiery orange energy!

She looks up, shocked, as Ashaera stumbles to the side, clutching her head.

JEAN-PAUL stands behind her, a large book raised to attack. He SWINGS it once more, hitting Ashaera in the face and sending her flying!

AVELINE

Dad! What are you doing?!

She jumps over the smoking debris of the counter. Jean-Paul grabs her arm, pulling her away from the recovering Ashaera.

JEAN-PAUL

She was trying to attack you, Aveline. From behind.

(beat)

Are all your friends capable of turning evil at a moment's notice?

Aveline frowns, staring as Ashaera rises back to her full height. Her eyes have turned JET BLACK.

AVELINE

(beat)

That isn't Ashaera.

Aveline steps in front of Jean-Paul, slowly pushing him back towards the door.

AVELINE (CONT'D)

No sudden movements.

ASHAERA

I'm not a lion, Aveline.

AVELINE

I know what you are. And I know *who* you are. You don't frighten me.

Ashaera smirks, stepping towards them.

ASHAERA

Sure doesn't look that way to me.

(to Jean-Paul)

(MORE)

ASHAERA (CONT'D)

What about you, stud? Think she's scared?

AVELINE

You leave him out of this and deal with *me* you twisted piece of shit.

JEAN-PAUL

Aveline, what's going on?

ASHAERA

I'll tell you what's going on, papa bear. Your daughter's gonna die. I'm going to tear the heart from her chest and feed it to the most *unbelievable* creatures this disgusting world has ever spat out.

(beat)

And, just for fun, I'm gonna make you watch. How about that?

Jean-Paul glares.

Ashaera looks down at her hand, smirking at the orange ENERGY creeping around it.

ASHAERA (CONT'D)

I mean, this body isn't as powerful as mine. But she's pretty good.

Using her free hand, Ashaera grabs one of her breasts.

ASHAERA (CONT'D)

Plus, these are pert and bouncy.

AVELINE

Why not just come in person? We could've ended this right now.

ASHAERA

(shrugs)

I'm not ready yet. Mostly, I just wanted to fuck with you a little bit. Just another test, just like the rest of them.

(beat)

But trust me honey, the games are almost over. Then real life begins.

AVELINE

I'm looking forward to it.

Ashaera laughs.

ASHAERA

Oh, baby. Me too.

She THROWS her energy.

Aveline PUSHES Jean-Paul to the floor and DEFLECTS the blast with an open palm.

The energy SIZZLES across the room, BLASTING a hole in the opposite wall!

Aveline raises a hand, sending Ashaera FLYING. She hits the wall by the stairs and crumples to the floor.

AVELINE

You're a coward. You send things after me, hide behind false prophecies ... and now you're hiding behind someone else's face?

(beat)

I guess you are just a fucked up little kid. Why don't you come back once your *testicles* drop?

Ashaera rises back to her feet.

ASHAERA

Ouch. That stings. But I'm the smart one, really, if you think about it. You wouldn't hurt this body. I mean, I know you're not going to just let me kill you, but then that wouldn't be any fun.

JEAN-PAUL

(worried)

Aveline ...

Ashaera glances at Jean-Paul, looking up from his position on the floor. She smirks.

AVELINE

Don't even think about it.

ASHAERA

But if that's what it's gonna take to get you in the game ...

Ashaera moves towards him. Aveline rushes forward, grabbing her arm. She PUNCHES her in the face!

Ashaera cries out, grabbing her bleeding lip. She pauses, looking down at the blood.

ASHAERA (CONT'D)

Wow. I've never been punched before. Nice.

Aveline SHOVES her up against the wall.

AVELINE

I'd hurt her. If it meant keeping everyone else safe.

(MORE)

AVELINE (CONT'D)

She knows that because she *taught* me that. Take a look.

Ashaera frowns, as if remembering.

ASHAERA

Guess I was wrong. Oh well. Let's get to it then. How are you gonna kill her?

Ashaera's face lights up with excitement. Aveline leans in very close, placing her hands either side of Ashaera's head.

Ashaera leans in, as if she might kiss her. It's all a bit seductive.

ASHAERA (CONT'D)

Come on, baby. Do me.

AVELINE

(whispers)

What's your name?

ASHAERA

Why?

AVELINE

Because I want to know who it is who's supposed to be such a big part of my life.

ASHAERA

You'll find out soon enough. Not long now.

AVELINE

(beat)

Fine. I'm sorry, Ashaera.

Aveline leans in to kiss her softly on the lips. When she pulls back, Ashaera GASPS for breath.

ASHAERA

What ... what ... is that?

Aveline SPITS on the floor. A black MIST escapes from her mouth.

AVELINE

Power. Power you will *never* know, you sick, twisted son of a fucking Trempak demon.

(beat)

It's called love.

Aveline THRUSTS her hand INTO Ashaera's chest! Ashaera SCREAMS as a blazing energy surrounds them both!

Gritting her teeth, Aveline reaches around inside Ashaera's chest before finding what she's looking for -

She YANKS her hand back, looking down at the CRACKLING white energy in her hand!

JEAN-PAUL

What the ... hell is that?

She looks up at him.

AVELINE

A soul.

She THROWS the energy at the door and it SMASHES through the wood, disappearing into the beyond!

Aveline turns back to Ashaera, who is breathing heavily, holding onto the wall in a desperate attempt to keep herself up right.

She looks down at her chest, which hasn't been harmed by the spell. She lays a hand over her heart.

ASHAERA

Fucking hell, Aveline.

Aveline grins and they both grab each other, relieved. Jean-Paul watches as the girls hug tenderly.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. "LES MAGIQUE" - NIGHT

Ashaera sits in a chair, taking a shaky sip of water from a glass. Jean-Paul stands opposite her, not sure what to do with himself.

JEAN-PAUL

I'm, uh ... sorry about the book.

ASHAERA

It's cool. I'm just glad you were here.

She lifts a hand to gingerly touch the back of her head.

ASHAERA (CONT'D)

Besides, at least it wasn't a sword. And now we know these books are actually good for something.

Jean-Paul smiles and they turn to look as Aveline descends the stairs.

ASHAERA (CONT'D)

Any word?

AVELINE

(sighs)

I can't reach any of them. I don't get it. What are they doing?

ASHAERA

I don't know, but you were right; we've got some serious shit to talk about.

(beat)

Where's Emily?

AVELINE

I don't know. Nicholas left her with someone, I didn't get the details.

Ashaera frowns, disturbed.

ASHAERA

Okay then. Here's how it is. I slaughtered a really nice chunk of *really* gross fucks, some of the more prestigious demons in Europe and Asia. But everywhere I went, I heard whispers about something called the Order.

AVELINE

The guy in the robe?

ASHAERA

(nods)

The demons had noticed that they'd suddenly become quite active again, and what little information I could get from them told me that the Order would only get so hands on if something was happening with the prophecy.

AVELINE

So you know Emily isn't the one.

ASHAERA

Oh yeah, I know. And I've spent the last week really wishing I'd never been stupid enough to go face them by myself.

AVELINE

You found them?

ASHAERA

And *him*. I thought ...

(laughs)

God, I thought he was going to kill me. I couldn't even fight him Aveline, he's so strong. And then when I opened my eyes ... I couldn't move, I couldn't speak. I could hear him in my head, trying to get control, creeping into my memories.

Aveline shivers, disturbed.

JEAN-PAUL

I'm a little lost.

AVELINE

Ashaera was possessed, her body was taken over by this boy ... who one day I'm going to have to fight. And probably kill.

A beat.

Jean-Paul turns away, not sure what to say to that.

ASHAERA

His name is Adam. From what I can tell, he's almost sixteen, an orphan thanks to the Order, American, which really doesn't make me feel too patriotic right now.

(MORE)

ASHAERA (CONT'D)

(beat)

And he's a twisted little shit.
Completely brainwashed by these
freaks.

A beat.

AVELINE

Okay. We've got some time to worry
about this. But right now, we have
more imminent problems. Can you
fight?

Ashaera nods.

ASHAERA

It's what I do, honey.

AVELINE

Good. We're going to need everyone
on board. Just have to find them
first.

ASHAERA

I'll keep calling.

AVELINE

Okay. I have my cell phone. I'm
going to go to the woods where we
fought Estoria.

ASHAERA

I'm sorry, what? Estoria?

AVELINE

I'll tell you later. I just need to
check things out.

She heads towards the door.

ASHAERA

What things?

AVELINE

Numbers.

And she's gone. Jean-Paul hurries after her.

EXT. "LES MAGIQUE" - CONTINUOUS

Aveline strides up the street. Jean-Paul jogs after her,
grabbing her arm to slow her down.

JEAN-PAUL

Aveline, stop. You're scaring me.

She pauses, sighing.

AVELINE

I'm sorry Dad. A lot's ... just happened, okay? Things are getting really bad and I ... I don't know if I can do this.

JEAN-PAUL

So don't.

Aveline laughs bitterly.

AVELINE

I don't really have a choice, do I? Stand and fight or run and let the whole world fall to shit.

(beat)

Have you seen what's happened here?

She motions around at the MESS the street is in; buildings in various states of disrepair, cars turned over on the road.

JEAN-PAUL

Of course I have. I saw it on the news, it's why I came back. You weren't answering the phone, I was worried and -

AVELINE

Well this, and worse, is what happens when I run.

(beat)

So I have to go.

She turns to leave.

JEAN-PAUL

(beat)

Do you need a lift?

She pauses, turning back to him. She smiles.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

GRACE barges through the door, the limp and bleeding EMMANUEL in her arms. NICHOLAS, OLIVIER and LUNETTE run through behind her, Nicholas carrying EMILY in his arms.

LUNETTE

(subtitled from French)

We need a doctor!

A DOCTOR emerges from the nurses' station, two NURSES quickly following.

DOCTOR

(subtitled from French)

What happened?

Grace lays Emmanuel down on a gurney dragged over by a nurse.

LUNETTE

He's been shot, he's not breathing

...

She looks down at the BLOOD all over her hands, panicking. Olivier lays a comforting hand on her arm.

LUNETTE (CONT'D)

I think he's ...

DOCTOR

(to the nurses)

We need to start resuscitation and stop that wound bleeding.

The medical team hurry off with Emmanuel. The others linger in the doorway, not sure what to do.

Olivier wraps an arm around Lunette's shoulders as she starts to cry.

OLIVIER

(beat)

What do we do?

NICHOLAS

We have to get Aveline back. Now.

GRACE

But how? We don't even know where she is.

NICHOLAS

I don't know! But this is getting serious.

OLIVIER

Like it wasn't before?

NICHOLAS

Emmanuel's ... look, let's face it. He's dead. And Aveline is in all kinds of shit the moment she gets back here. We're going to find her first.

(to Lunette)

Let's go back to the shop and we'll keep looking.

Lunette nods, wiping the tears from her cheeks.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

(to Olivier)

Stay here and ...

(sighs)

Just stay here with him.

Olivier nods.

Nicholas takes Lunette's hand and they turn to leave. Olivier and Grace turn to the room where the medical team are working on Emmanuel.

Olivier closes his eyes, disbelieving.

EXT. ROADSIDE - NIGHT

A CAR pulls up alongside a wooded area. The headlights are quickly switched off, plunging the area into darkness.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Aveline looks out of the passenger window, peering into the trees. Jean-Paul watches her with concern.

AVELINE

Nice car.

JEAN-PAUL

(shrugs)

It's a rental.

Aveline smiles, turning to look at him.

AVELINE

I saw Selene. You remember her?

He nods.

AVELINE (CONT'D)

I know this stuff is all still new to you ... it kind of is to me too, but ...

(beat)

I was in another *world*, Dad. I was speaking to a woman who's died twice, talking to ... to *actual* gods.

Jean-Paul frowns, not sure how to process that.

JEAN-PAUL

And what they told you wasn't good.

AVELINE

Not really.

(beat)

But Selene also told me Mum was dancing with the stars, that she was safe and happy.

Jean-Paul smiles, tears in his eyes.

AVELINE (CONT'D)
I do this for her. Can you
understand that?

He nods, overwhelmed.

 AVELINE (CONT'D)
Good. Stay here. If I'm not back in
half an hour then ... I'm not
coming back.

He turns very pale, watching helplessly as she gets out of
the car and jogs into the trees.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Aveline creeps cautiously through the trees, staying as
covered as possible. Hearing a noise, she turns, raising her
hand to cast -

Jean-Paul raises his hands in defence.

 JEAN-PAUL
It's me!

 AVELINE
What are you *doing*?! Get back in
the car!

 JEAN-PAUL
Not a chance!

 AVELINE
Dad -

 JEAN-PAUL
No, Aveline! I don't care who you
are, whether you're a witch, a
toad, a fucking pro-golfer - you
don't just tell me you're in over
your head and that you're probably
going to die and expect me to sit
in a *car* waiting for it to happen!

 AVELINE
And what are you going to do out
here? What happens if they see us?
Are you going to throw a law book
at them Dad?

 JEAN-PAUL
I'd throw *myself* at them if it
meant protecting you Aveline!

She pauses, a little stunned.

JEAN-PAUL (CONT'D)

I know this isn't my world and I know I haven't exactly earned your trust but I am still your father and you are *still* my little girl!

(beat)

I've stood back for far too long and watched as you ... attract all this danger to yourself. And it's getting worse, I can see that in your eyes.

He grabs her arm roughly, forcing her to look at him.

JEAN-PAUL (CONT'D)

I've kept my distance, tried to stay neutral in all of this, because as ever I've been selfish.

(beat)

I keep biting my tongue because I want you to forgive me for everything I've done. Really *forgive* me. But I can't do it anymore; this world is *poison* and I know you didn't choose it but I'll be damned if I just sit back and let it consume you. You and I, Aveline, we're in this together whether you like it or not. I am *not* going to lose anyone else because I was too fucking weak to stand up.

A beat.

She removes his hand from her arm and smiles up at him, a sweet, loving smile.

AVELINE

I forgave you a long time ago.

He smiles back at her, shaking his head as if not quite sure he heard her right.

JEAN-PAUL

I did have another reason for coming here. I've applied to transfer permanently to Paris.

AVELINE

What?

JEAN-PAUL

I still have some business to sort out in Toronto, it's not going to be for a while, but ... I'll be living here again. And I want to help you through this in any way -

He pauses, looking at something behind her. His eyes widen in fear.

AVELINE

What?

He points, his mouth flapping around uselessly. Frowning, Aveline turns.

Five DEMONS stand in the trees behind her; burly, disgusting creatures of pure muscle, teeth and slime.

AVELINE (CONT'D)

(beat)

Are you sure about that?

JEAN-PAUL

Starting to reconsider.

AVELINE

Go!

She turns, pushing him to run in the opposite direction. The demons SNARL as they give chase!

INT. "LES MAGIQUE" - NIGHT

The door flies open and Nicholas and Lunette hurry inside. Nicholas passes the baby to Lunette and heads into the bookcases.

LUNETTE

Do you even know what you're looking for?

He reappears, half a dozen books in his arms.

NICHOLAS

No. Not a fucking clue Lunette, but no one knows these books better than us. If there's something in here, we'll find it.

A NOISE catches their attention. They pause.

LUNETTE

What was that?

Nicholas shakes his head and turns towards the counter to put his books down.

Then he realises it's in bits and pieces on the floor.

NICHOLAS

What the hell happened here?

ASHAERA (O.S.)

Sorry. PMS.

They turn to look, stunned, as Ashaera descends the stairs. She grins.

ASHAERA (CONT'D)

What? Don't I at least get a hello?

NICHOLAS

Oh my God.

She hurries forward; they hug tightly, both of them grinning like fools.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

You're alright.

ASHAERA

No, I'm really not.

They pull apart; Ashaera and Lunette share a smile.

ASHAERA (CONT'D)

But I'm alive. That's what counts.

NICHOLAS

As if we ever had any doubt.

ASHAERA

(scoffs)

Yeah right. You all thought I was croaked like a frog.

(to Lunette)

No offense.

Lunette smirks and passes Emily to her. Ashaera stares at the baby like she's never seen her before and holds her close.

ASHAERA (CONT'D)

Hi baby. Hello. Did you miss mommy?

Emily gurgles happily. Ashaera chuckles.

LUNETTE

It's good to see you, Ashaera.

ASHAERA

(genuinely)

It's good to be seen.

Ashaera proceeds to make baby noises at Emily. Nicholas and Lunette watch on, smiling.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - NIGHT

A heart monitor lets out a long, shrill BEEP. A DOCTOR pumps at Emmanuel's chest, nurses inserting catheters into his arms, using a respiratory bag.

Olivier stands in the doorway, hand over his heart as he watches the medical team work.

DOCTOR
(subtitled from French)
Clear.

He lifts the paddles of a defibrillator, and the nurses obey. Olivier cringes as he shocks Emmanuel.

NURSE
(subtitled from French)
No response.

DOCTOR
Clear.

He tries again. Emmanuel's body shudders but the monitor continues its continuous BEEP.

The doctor glances at one of the nurses and slowly, he lowers his paddles.

OLIVIER
(subtitled from French)
What are you doing? You can't stop!

DOCTOR
I'm sorry. He's just been gone too long. There's nothing else we can do.
(looks at watch)
Time of death; 00:21.

OLIVIER
You have to keep trying. He can't die, he's ... he's important to people. You can't just let him die!

He pushes the doctor out of the way, grabbing Emmanuel by the shoulders. He shakes him vigorously.

OLIVIER (CONT'D)
Emmanuel!

DOCTOR
Sir, that's enough -

The doctor tries to pull him away; Olivier shakes his hand off.

OLIVIER
Emmanuel, please. Just ... wake up.

GRACE (O.S.)
 Olivier.

Olivier looks up, trying desperately not to sob. Grace approaches and lays a hand on his cheek.

GRACE (CONT'D)
 He isn't Christian. You need to take a breath.

A beat.

He nods and allows Grace to pull him away from the body.

GRACE (CONT'D)
 I just got a call from Nicholas. We need to go to the shop now.

OLIVIER
 But ... someone should stay with him. We can't just leave him here all alone.

GRACE
 They need us.

Olivier nods. Grace maneuvers him towards the door - then pauses.

Olivier frowns.

OLIVIER
 What?

Slowly, she turns back to the bed, a thoughtful frown in place.

GRACE
 (beat)
 He's alive.

The doctor looks at her like she's crazy. His English isn't great but he knows those words.

DOCTOR
I'm sorry, but -

GASPING, Emmanuel springs up on the bed, clutching in pain at his chest!

The nurses SCREAM, backing away in surprise as the heart monitor starts to BEEP in a steady rhythm.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

(beat)

That's not possible.

Olivier stares in shock. Emmanuel SCREAMS in agony, BLOOD pouring from his chest!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Aveline and Jean-Paul race through the trees, Jean-Paul glancing back fearfully at the GROWLING coming from behind them.

He stumbles. Aveline grabs his arm, dragging him alongside her.

 AVELINE

 First rule of running from a horde
 of demons Dad; keep running!

 JEAN-PAUL

 Yes, well some of us are nearly
 fifty!

Aveline smirks, shoving him through a clump of branches. She turns as a demon BURSTS from the trees behind her.

SLICING through the air with a hand, the ground RUMBLES as Aveline GLOWS with a bright energy!

The demon ROARS, flying full throttle back the way it came.

EXT. ROADSIDE - NIGHT

Aveline and Jean-Paul burst from the trees, scrambling down a grass verge towards the car.

They stop by the car, Aveline looking back at the trees as Jean-Paul searches his pockets.

 JEAN-PAUL

 (beat)
 Shit.

 AVELINE

 What?

 JEAN-PAUL

 I've, uh ... lost the keys.

Aveline quirks an eyebrow.

 AVELINE

 Really? A time like this?

He frowns.

JEAN-PAUL

Well I'm sorry, I didn't really plan on being chased by a pack of ravenous demons. If I had, I would have tied my keys -

AVELINE

Okay, okay, enough with the sarcasm already. You're nearly fifty, remember? It's a young people thing.

She lays a hand on the car and the doors CLICK as they swing open.

Jean-Paul stares.

AVELINE (CONT'D)

Well come on, get in. Or do you need someone's arm to hold?

JEAN-PAUL

Okay. Enough with the old jokes.

He climbs into the car and Aveline smirks as she runs to the passenger side to get in also.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jean-Paul frowns.

JEAN-PAUL

Though of course we do have the same problem.

Aveline leans over to place a hand over the ignition.

AVELINE

And the same solution.

(beat)

Anhelo vita.

Her hand SPARKS with electricity and the car's engine RUMBLES with life.

Jean-Paul looks at her incredulously. She shrugs.

AVELINE (CONT'D)

That's me. Your swiss army knife daughter.

He quirks an eyebrow and puts his foot down - the car skids to a halt.

Jean-Paul stares as two DEMONS block the road, staring back at him through the windscreen.

JEAN-PAUL
What do we do?

AVELINE
Do you really have to ask?

Aveline nods her head.

ANGLE:

The floor of the car, as Jean-Paul's foot is forcibly PRESSED DOWN on the accelerator pedal.

ON SCREEN

Jean-Paul SCREAMS as the car speeds towards the two demons, holding onto the wheel for dear life.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Nicholas, Lunette and Ashaera hurry through the entrance, Emily clutched tightly in Ashaera's arms. They pass through the busy lobby, glancing around.

LUNETTE
Which way?

OLIVIER (O.S.)
Over here!

They find Olivier waving at them through the crowd, and rush in his direction.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - NIGHT

Emmanuel sits up in a bed, grimacing as a NURSE inserts another catheter into his arm. Grace stands by the window, watching.

The nurse looks up as the others enter, and quickly excuses herself.

NICHOLAS
I guess she's not pleased to see us.

EMMANUEL
I think it's the fact that I should by all medical science be dead right now that's freaking them out a little.

Lunette joins him at the bedside, taking his hand with a smile.

LUNETTE

We're so glad you're okay. We thought ...

NICHOLAS

And how is that, by the way?

EMMANUEL

The bullet wasn't silver.

He says this with such confidence as if that should be an obvious explanation. Nicholas and Lunette share a frown.

OLIVIER

Apparently werewolves are very hard to kill.

EMMANUEL

(shrugs)

There are a couple of diseases that can do it, old age, magick ... and silver.

OLIVIER

And how did we not know this?

EMMANUEL

(smirks)

It's not something we really like to advertise.

NICHOLAS

So that whole dying thing was just you being an attention seeker then was it?

They share a grin, as Emmanuel taps the wire of his drip.

EMMANUEL

Still hurts like hell. I'm thanking whatever's listening for morphine right now.

ASHAERA

We should call Aveline then, let her know what's happening.

A beat.

Everyone turns to look at her.

ASHAERA (CONT'D)

What?

LUNETTE

Aveline's back?

OLIVIER
Why didn't you tell us that?

ASHAERA
Well gee, it's good to see you too
Olivier, how you been?

He rolls his eyes.

ASHAERA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry okay? There's a lot going
on. I've been *possessed* for the
past week in case anybody's
interested.

GRACE
Yes dear, I can smell it on you.

ASHAERA
(frowns)
Why are you still here?

GRACE
(shrugs)
Oh, you know, city of love and all
that.

NICHOLAS
Right, okay, enough. I'll call
Aveline.

He hurries out of the room. Lunette turns to Ashaera.

LUNETTE
And while we're here, there's
someone else you should see. He got
hurt pretty bad.

ASHAERA
Who?

Lunette frowns.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Jean-Paul drives like a madman, quickly turning on his
windscreen wipers; but all they do is SMEAR blood and chunks
of flesh all over the windscreen.

JEAN-PAUL
I don't think this rental company's
ever going to rent me a car again.

Aveline smirks.

AVELINE

Well, you're going to have to learn to get demon guts out of things if you're planning on sticking around.

JEAN-PAUL

Yes, I see that.

(beat)

Are you happy Aveline?

She pauses, thrown by the question.

AVELINE

What?

JEAN-PAUL

In general, in life ... are you happy?

She considers that.

AVELINE

I don't know. I suppose. I could use a bit more time in the day for everything I have to do but ... I love my friends, I love Emmanuel -

JEAN-PAUL

Wait, what? You're in love?

He grins.

JEAN-PAUL (CONT'D)

Why did I not know this?

AVELINE

Because I don't want you giving him some awkward father talk about how he should treat me.

JEAN-PAUL

How *does* he treat you?

AVELINE

He's an eighteenth century gentleman.

He pauses.

JEAN-PAUL

That was sarcasm, right? I can't be sure anymore.

AVELINE

(smirks)

Yes, Dad.

JEAN-PAUL

But you still haven't answered the -

They're interrupted as Aveline's pocket begins to RING. She frowns, answering her phone.

AVELINE

Oui?

(beat)

Oh, Nicholas, hi. How are -

(beat)

What?

Jean-Paul glances at her in concern.

AVELINE (CONT'D)

Yeah, okay, I'll be right there.

Thanks.

She hangs up and turns to look at her father.

AVELINE (CONT'D)

We need to go to the hospital. Now.

JEAN-PAUL

Is someone hurt?

She nods, suddenly very worried.

INT. HOSPITAL - JAQUE'S ROOM - NIGHT

JAQUE lies in his bed, idly watching a French news station on the TV. He glances up as someone enters - and quickly sits up.

Ashaera smiles as she closes the door behind her.

JAQUE

(stunned)

Ashaera ...

ASHAERA

Hey.

She comes into the room and sits down on the edge of the bed, laying a hand on his arm.

JAQUE

I ... I thought you were ...

He smiles, trying to hide how teary he's getting.

ASHAERA

Yeah I know, everyone thought I popped it. It's a recurring theme.

JAQUE
You know, you didn't say goodbye.

She pauses.

ASHAERA
I didn't?

JAQUE
(shakes head)
You just disappeared and I know we said this wasn't anything serious, but when your friends started telling me they hadn't heard from you, and all this stuff started happening and I thought ...
(beat)
I realised how much it hurt that something could have happened to you and I wouldn't even know where you were.

He sighs.

JAQUE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, I didn't mean to get ... sappy. Is that a real word?

Ashaera considers that for a moment before lifting her hand to gently trace the heavy bruises on his face.

ASHAERA
What you tried to do for Emily, for me, *that* was serious. These wounds ... they're serious.
(beat)
That makes us serious.

He looks up at her, surprised.

ASHAERA (CONT'D)
And the truth is, I missed you. And you know what? I'm not good at this stuff, but I'm gonna try. So next time I run off to go get myself killed, I'll let you know.

He smirks. She leans in to gently kiss him.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - NIGHT

Aveline hurries to Emmanuel's bed, Jean-Paul and the others lingering in the doorway.

She grabs hold of him desperately, looking down at the bandages around his chest.

AVELINE
Demons. What else?

GRACE
So that's what I felt.

AVELINE
(nods)
Passing through the worlds tore the walls between them, it was an imbalance. Living things shouldn't pass into ... whatever that place was.

OLIVIER
So demons escaped through the tears?

AVELINE
Yeah. And they're going to be strong. Stronger than your average demon.

ASHAERA
So we saddle up, load up, and fuck them up. Plan.

AVELINE
We might need a bit more than that. Lunette, Grace?

LUNETTE
I'll see if I can get them back. But after the last time ...

AVELINE
Just do what you can.

Lunette nods, turning to leave the room.

GRACE
Oh yes, I'm sure there are still a few of them lingering about. I'll be back.

She follows after Lunette.

ASHAERA
And what the hell is everyone talking about?

Nicholas smirks.

INT. "LES MAGIQUE" - NIGHT

GABRIELLE, ERIC, KATHERINE, ALDEN, THEA, CAMILLE and numerous other WITCHES and VAMPIRES are gathered in the shop, talking amongst themselves, preparing for battle.

Coming down the stairs, Olivier frowns in annoyance as a VAMPIRE follows him, a young blonde woman who speaks in a very quick American accent.

VAMPIRE

I'm just so glad to meet you! It's like you're a rockstar or something, everyone knows your name and I'm *actually* here talking to you!

Grace wanders past, nose in a book.

GRACE

She'll be asking you to sign her breasts in a minute.

She hands the vampire a pen.

GRACE (CONT'D)

There you are, dear.

Olivier frowns at her as Grace continues on her way. He turns back to the blonde, finding her looking at the pen as if to say "that's a great idea!"

OLIVIER

(beat)

No. Go away.

He hurries into the crowd, leaving the vampire to pout, crestfallen.

IN THE BOOKCASES

Nicholas looks up from flicking through a book as Grace approaches.

NICHOLAS

How we doing?

GRACE

Well, it all seems to suggest that reanimated demons *can* be killed. But we will have a struggle on our hands ... and a bloodbath if they make it to any populated areas.

NICHOLAS

We won't let that happen.

GRACE

You seem awfully sure.

NICHOLAS

We don't have a choice. There are enough things in this world already without us bringing new ones in. They go down, we go get drunk. That's how it works.

GRACE

Well, speak for yourself. Vampire metabolism doesn't actually allow me to get drunk.

(beat)

Though I am told morphine has a particularly hilarious effect on vampires. Perhaps I should have taken some from the hospital.

Nicholas grins. Grace turns as Lunette approaches from behind them.

A beat.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Oh, that's wonderful news.

NICHOLAS

She didn't say anything.

Grace nods, glancing between the two of them awkwardly.

GRACE

Right. I should ... go.

She disappears in a flash. Nicholas frowns.

NICHOLAS

What was that about?

LUNETTE

She was probably reading my mind.

Lunette holds up something glittery in the light. It's a diamond RING.

LUNETTE (CONT'D)

Found this in your bedside table.

NICHOLAS

(beat)

I'm sorry, I know it's not the most original hiding place.

He reaches for it.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
I'll put it away.

She doesn't let go of the ring, the two of them staring at each other, hands joined.

LUNETTE
Ask me again.

NICHOLAS
What?

LUNETTE
Ask me again.

He hesitates - but only for a moment.

NICHOLAS
(grins)
Lunette, will you marry me?

She looks up at him, wide-eyed, trusting. She holds her left hand out.

LUNETTE
Yes.

Unable to contain his smile, Nicholas slides the ring onto the appropriate finger. They cling onto each other, kissing passionately.

Grace WHOOPS from behind a bookcase. They pull apart, grinning.

GRACE (V.O.)
(telepathically)
Can I be a bridesmaid? I look lovely in taffeta.

NICHOLAS
Go away!

He turns back to Lunette, stroking her hair out of her face.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
What made you change your mind?

LUNETTE
You. Since Aveline's been gone, you've taken charge. You're still doing it now, arranging this lot, making an army.
(beat)
You've grown so much and despite everything that's happened ... I've never been so glad to know you. I realised that ...
(MORE)

LUNETTE (CONT'D)
 if we die tonight, I want you to
 know how much I love you.

She looks down at the ring on her finger.

LUNETTE (CONT'D)
 Besides, can't have an expensive
 ring like this sitting around in a
 drawer. What a waste.

They share a grin.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - NIGHT

Jean-Paul sits in a chair by Emmanuel's bed. They both look up as Aveline and Ashaera enter, Aveline carrying a large duffel bag, Ashaera carrying a sleeping Emily and a baby bag.

ASHAERA
 Are you sure about this?

JEAN-PAUL
 Aveline has expressly forbidden me
 to go anywhere near the woods, so I
 should at least be doing something
 to help.

Ashaera nods, passing him Emily and putting the bag down by his side.

ASHAERA
 She shouldn't wake up, but if she
 does just sing to her. She likes
 that.
 (beat)
 Unless you sound like an elephant
 having an orgasm, in which case
 don't bother.

JEAN-PAUL
 I'll, uh, bear that in mind.

She smirks, handing him a GUN. He looks down at it with a frown.

JEAN-PAUL (CONT'D)
 And this is for what exactly?

AVELINE
 You really don't want to see the
 last person who babysat.

He nods, gingerly putting the gun into the baby bag.

EMMANUEL
 I should be with you.

AVELINE

You should be here in this bed
until that gaping hole in your
chest is healed. Don't make me
knock you out.

ASHAERA

We should be back by morning. And
if not ...

Aveline and Ashaera glance at each other.

JEAN-PAUL

Be careful. I mean it.

AVELINE

We will.

Turning, the girls leave without another word. Jean-Paul and
Emmanuel watch them go, worry etched all over their features.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. ROADSIDE - NIGHT

A number of CARS are parked alongside the road. The small ARMY, 60 at least, are gathered by the trees, deadly silent.

At the front of the crowd, Aveline turns to look as Grace and Gabrielle, a SWORD strapped to her back, quickly emerge from the trees.

GABRIELLE

They've started to wander, but they seem to be quite at home in the woodland.

AVELINE

For now.

GABRIELLE

I suggest that we try to keep them contained. If they get past us, it won't take them long to find civilians.

Aveline nods.

NICHOLAS

Okay. Teams of ten. We spread out around the circumference and work our way in, wide formation.

(to Aveline)

Uh ... if that's okay.

AVELINE

(smirks)

Carry on, commander.

NICHOLAS

Right then. Aveline, Gabrielle, Ashaera, Grace, Olivier and I will be leading teams. Contain the demons at all costs; if they reach the city, there will be even more carnage than there already is.

(beat)

Let's go.

The crowd immediately start to move, breaking up into smaller groups and checking their weaponry.

Aveline, Nicholas, Lunette, Ashaera and Olivier gather together, looking around at each other as the crowd moves around them.

AVELINE

So ... here we are again. Army of demons.

OLIVIER

Yeah, I'm getting bored of that. For once, I'd just like to fight an army of feathery soft pillows.

NICHOLAS

Or feathery soft pints of Guinness.

OLIVIER

Yeah.

ASHAERA

(scoffs)

Dude, you drink *martinis*.

OLIVIER

That is very true, but I'd still prefer a pint of Guinness over this.

ASHAERA

We make it through this, I'll buy you all the Guinness you want. Mostly 'cause it'll be funny shit watching you try to drink it.

LUNETTE

When was the last time we all went for a drink?

AVELINE

About four hundred thousand demons ago.

LUNETTE

Well, we should do something after we're done here. We ... might have something to celebrate.

OLIVIER

Like what?

Lunette and Nicholas glance at each other, smirking.

LUNETTE

I don't know. Averting a massacre of downtown Paris seems like a good thing to celebrate.

OLIVIER

Yeah, it we hadn't done it a *million* times before. It's getting old.

A beat.

The gang smile at each other, glancing around.

Without another word, Nicholas grabs Lunette's hand and they turn, heading off into the darkness with their team.

Ashaera picks up her bag of goodies and with a quick wave, turns to go in the opposite direction.

Aveline and Olivier look at each other.

AVELINE

Are you up to this?

OLIVIER

Well, if I really have no choice in half the world's vampires licking my ass so hard I'm going to need stitches ... I might as well do something useful with it.

He lays a comforting hand on her shoulder and turns, disappearing into the night with his team.

Aveline sighs and turns back to the trees, looking up at them cautiously.

AVELINE

Okay. Let's do this.

Katherine, Alden, and several other VAMPIRES and WITCHES gather behind her. Drawing the du Miette SWORD from her bag, she leads them into the unknown.

INT. WOODS - NIGHT

Lunette and Nicholas walk cautiously through the undergrowth, Nicholas with his gun raised. CAMILLE and several VAMPIRES follow.

NICHOLAS

How we doing back there?

CAMILLE

Feeling a little outnumbered actually.

She glances wearily back at the vampires.

LUNETTE

We're just grateful you came. After what happened last time ...

CAMILLE

People die, Lunette. At least they died for a good reason.

Lunette turns to look at her.

LUNETTE

They died because I wasn't entirely honest about how dangerous the situation was. They probably wouldn't have come otherwise.

CAMILLE

I would have.

She pauses, reaching forward to grab Lunette's left hand.

CAMILLE (CONT'D)

Wait, is that what I think it is?

Lunette grins.

CAMILLE (CONT'D)

You're getting *married*?! Why didn't I know this? Oh, congratulations!

LUNETTE

Thank you.

VAMPIRE (O.S.)

Uh, hello?

A VAMPIRE approaches them, a tall, tattooed brunette man with a Geordie accent.

VAMPIRE (CONT'D)

Might want to pay attention, lass.

Frowning, the girls turn to find Nicholas backing towards them, his gun raised.

A large group of DEMONS have emerged from the trees ahead, staring hungrily in their direction.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Olivier and ERIC walk together, leading a group of WITCHES and VAMPIRES. Olivier has a large sword in his hand.

ERIC

Nice weapon.

OLIVIER

Christian gave it to me in Berlin. Taught me how to actually handle a sword without stabbing myself.

Eric smirks.

ERIC

I suppose hand to hand isn't really your thing anymore.

OLIVIER

Well it was much easier when I could tear things apart with my bare hands. Kind of missing that at the moment.

Eric nods.

ERIC

But your heart's actually beating. So that's a plus.

(beat)

I'm sorry about Christian. We all miss him. He was ... a good friend.

Olivier smiles in gratitude.

OLIVIER

I just keep thinking that -

Eric raises a hand, silencing him.

OLIVIER (CONT'D)

What?

The witches look around in worry as the vampires SNARL collectively, looking around into the trees.

A DEMON flies from the trees - Eric SWATS the slobbering beast from the air, SLAMMING it down into the crowd.

OLIVIER (CONT'D)

Look out!

Olivier raises his sword as MORE DEMONS burst from their surroundings!

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

With a BLAST of searing energy, a tree is OBLITERATED, splinters of wood flying in all directions!

SNARLING, a demon staggers past, bleeding heavily from a large wound in its abdomen.

With a cry, a VAMPIRE grabs hold of the demon, kicking it in the gut and wrapping a solid arm around its neck.

THEA runs past them, jumping over a fallen tree. She SLAMS into a DEMON, taking it down to the ground!

THEA

Fio unus per nex!

A golden LIGHT flows from her body, and the demon SCREAMS as it penetrates its skin.

Grimacing in pain, Thea looks up as Ashaera grabs her arm, helping her to her feet. Ashaera KICKS the demon over as SMOKE billows from its mouth.

THEA (CONT'D)

Thanks.

They glance around as CHAOS erupts all around them; energy flies, SMASHING into demons, the ground, trees blown to bits by the ferocious power.

VAMPIRES and DEMONS fly through the air, clashing in animalistic fury.

ASHAERA

Thank me when we get through this,
honey.

Ashaera turns as a demon BARRELS towards them. She sends it FLYING with a sharp BLAST of energy!

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Grace walks through the undergrowth, arms folded sulkily as Olivier's blonde groupie follows after her, chatting away.

VAMPIRE

I just think it's amazing. You've spent all this time with him, you've been to his home, and ... oh my God, have you ever *touched* him?

Sighing, Grace turns to look at her.

GRACE

Right dear, you really need to stop talking now. Even *I'm* getting annoyed by you, and quite frankly I'm the annoying one around here and I don't really appreciate the competition.

(beat)

And additionally, you want to put some toner in that hair. I don't know who did your colouring but it's *bloody* awful.

Grace turns and walks away. Blondie frowns, not sure how to respond.

Something GROWLS behind her. Slowly, she turns - and SCREAMS as a pair of CLAWS tear into her!

Grace quickly returns, watching in shock as the unfortunate vampire lasts only a few moments. The hairy BEAST looming over her has ripped her to shreds, her blood POURING from its mouth.

GRACE (CONT'D)

(beat)

Oh, balls.

The beast flies at her. Grace SNARLS.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Gabrielle marches through the trees, cutting through the branches with her sword. Her team are all VAMPIRES.

Gabrielle pauses by a clump of trees, peering through the darkness. She holds up a hand and the others stop behind her.

GABRIELLE

Do you feel that?

RYAN, a young Irish vampire steps up next to her.

RYAN

The temperature's changed. How far are we from the circle?

GABRIELLE

Not far.

RYAN

An effect of the gateway?

Gabrielle frowns, as if trying to decipher whatever she's feeling.

GABRIELLE

No. Something's wrong.

She glances at him.

GABRIELLE (CONT'D)

She's going to die.

Eyes full of fear, Gabrielle turns and SPEEDS away into the trees. The others follow at a quick pace.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Aveline and her team hide crouched in the trees around the standing stones, peering cautiously into the clearing.

There are still DOZENS of demons lingering about, grunting at each other, moving bits of broken stone around.

KATHERINE (V.O.)
 (telepathically)
What are they doing?

Aveline shakes her head, frowning in worry. She rises to her feet.

KATHERINE (V.O.)
*Aveline, wait. Something doesn't
 feel right. I don't like this.*

ALDEN
 (quietly)
 Neither do I.

Aveline glances at them solemnly.

AVELINE
 Doesn't matter. We end this now,
 one way or another.
 (beat)
 So who wants to kill some demons?

Katherine and Alden glance at each other, and rise to their feet. The others quickly follow.

AVELINE (CONT'D)
 That's what I like to see.
 Enthusiasm.

YELLING, Aveline CHARGES from the trees!

A demon is quickly FELLED, the silver of the du Mienne sword FLASHING in the moonlight as the surprised beast is taken down before it can even register her presence.

Katherine SPEEDS across the clearing, SLAMMING into an equally surprised demon and sending it FLYING!

Spinning, she KICKS OUT as another charges at her, SNAPPING its neck with an audible CRUNCH!

Alden bursts from his hiding place, a GUN in each hand, FIRING with enthusiasm at the nearest gathering of demons.

ROARING, the demons run for cover, BLOOD spraying into the air as they're ravaged by flying bullets.

Fighting cries and terrible, furious roars echo across the clearing; the vampires have entered the fray, flesh and bone on both sides simply being torn apart.

Aveline marches across the clearing, her sword already DRIPPING with blood.

A young male WITCH steps up beside her, sending a BLAST of searing energy to SMASH a demon out of their path!

There's a ROAR to their left and Aveline quickly ducks - as a chunk of ROCK the size of a crate is thrown in their direction.

With a CRUNCH the young witch beside her, too slow, is crushed under the projectile!

Aveline rises to her feet, glaring across the clearing at the DEMON marching towards her.

She turns her eyes towards the sky, eyes GLOWING with ferocious energy.

AVELINE (CONT'D)
Levitas, audite mihi, offendo iam!

The sky LIGHTS UP and the demon pauses, staring dumbly as LIGHTNING spears towards it from the night's sky!

It barely has time to ROAR before it is INCINERATED by nature's awesome power!

Aveline turns, hurrying to the crushed witch. She tries to move the rock but can't budge its heavy weight.

A brunette VAMPIRE woman steps up next to her, looking down at the unfortunate witch.

VAMPIRE
He's dead, Aveline. Move on.

AVELINE
(beat)
I didn't even know his name.

A demon GROWLS behind them and the vampire quickly turns - the demon catches her viper leg in a gnarled claw, swinging her around to launch her into the air!

Its back to her, the creature doesn't see Aveline raise her sword, STABBING the point deep into its back.

It dies with an agonising ROAR.

Turning, Aveline looks around at the bloodshed all around her. Energy flies in all directions, vampires and demons locked in ferocious massacre.

She looks up as Lunette tumbles from the trees nearby, already suffering a deep head wound. Nicholas quickly follows her, holding her up with his good arm.

She turns to the opposite side of the clearing, watching as Eric comes flying through the trees, landing on the ground with a CRASH!

A DEMON follows, SNARLING like an angry dog as Olivier and another VAMPIRE try to subdue it.

Before her, a group of ten demons are TEARING into one poor vampire, blood and flesh being sprayed into the air.

It's MAYHEM.

With a look of determination, Aveline turns to the nearest whole standing stone, raising a hand towards it.

AVELINE (CONT'D)
*Ego precor vos, phasmatis calx.
Tribuo mihi vestri vires!*

The ground RUMBLES as Aveline grits her teeth in pain; the stone SHAKING down to its foundations.

With an almighty CRUNCH, the tall, heavy stone is TORN from the ground, rising a foot above it.

Turning back towards the massacre, Aveline motions with her hand and the stone follows her direction - FLYING across the clearing to SMASH into the demons ganging up on the vampire!

With equal ROARS, the demons are thrown in all directions, several being CRUSHED as the heavy stone shatters into quarters!

Furious, Aveline continues her march towards the demons.

The ground RUMBLES. Aveline pauses, glancing around wearily. A DEMON stands by the demolished altar, still piling bits of broken stone in a heap. She frowns.

ON NICHOLAS

As he leans Lunette against a tree, checking her wounds.

NICHOLAS
Are you okay?

LUNETTE
It just surprised me, that's all.

She lifts a hand to her wound, grimacing at the blood on her fingers.

LUNETTE (CONT'D)
Looks like it's yet another
concussion for me. I wish people
would stop hitting me in the head.

Nicholas glances around cautiously.

NICHOLAS
I'm not sure these lot really
qualify as people.

Lunette nods, determined, and moves away from the support of her tree.

LUNETTE

Exactly.

She lifts a hand towards the clearing.

LUNETTE (CONT'D)

Exuro!

A fleeing demon SCREAMS as its immolated by fierce FLAMES. Nicholas quickly puts it down with a bullet.

ON ASHAERA

As she limps through the clearing, her face already covered with bruises and cuts.

She pauses to kneel by a fallen witch, checking for a pulse. Sighing, she rises back to her feet and continues on her way.

She RAKES her fingers at a charging demon, sending it FLYING backwards, its skin smoking like she threw acid at it!

ON OLIVIER

As he tells, STABBING his sword down into a fallen demon. Scrambling away, he grabs Eric's hand, helping the vampire back to his feet.

OLIVIER

See, those supernatural reflexes are severely overrated.

ERIC

It surprised me.

He kicks the demon's corpse.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Brainless beast.

OLIVIER

If you say so.

They turn as Grace emerges from the trees, grimacing in pain, one hand held over her heavily bleeding midsection in a desperate attempt to cling onto her internal organs.

OLIVIER (CONT'D)

Shit.

They hurry to her side as her legs give way, laying her down carefully on the ground.

ON AVELINE

As she marches towards the demon behaving strangely. She SWIPES with her sword, SLASHING at a demon trying to intercept her!

ON GABRIELLE

As she bursts from the trees, glancing around at the chaos erupting all over the clearing.

She spots Aveline in the distance.

GABRIELLE (V.O.)
(telepathically)
Aveline, no!

ON AVELINE

As she turns, frowning, trying to find the source of the voice.

Something GROWLS behind her and she slowly turns back, finding the stone-building demon looming over her.

In the light it's tall, muscular, amphibious-looking. Black mucus drips from every inch of its scaly skin.

It ROARS with enough force to blow her hair back over her shoulders. She grimaces.

AVELINE
And what the fuck have you been
eating? Sewage?

She SWINGS the sword at the demon - but it catches the wicked blade in a strong, clawed hand. Aveline frowns, watching as the demon's eyes start to GLOW.

The demon raises its other hand to attack. Aveline raises hers too.

AVELINE (CONT'D)
Repello!

The demon ROARS but the spell has little other effect; the demon STRIKES hard enough to send Aveline tumbling to the ground!

A hand to her jaw, her lip bleeding profusely, Aveline looks up in fear.

Her eyes widen as she realises the demon still has the sword in its hands. It turns it around, aiming the blade down at her.

Gabrielle's screams echo from across the clearing, but Aveline can only stare as the demon raises the sword high above - and brings it down in a swift arc!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

The demon ROARS in fury as a strong hand GRABS the end of the blade. Aveline looks up in shock, the point of the sword mere INCHES from her face!

Gabrielle SNARLS at the demon, using all her strength to force the sword up, SLAMMING the butt of the handle into the demon's face!

GROWLING, Gabrielle spins, TEARING the weapon from its hand.

GABRIELLE
Stay back, Aveline.

AVELINE
(scared)
What is it?

GABRIELLE
(beat)
The demons have returned in a particular order. This one was the first to be killed ... and the first to be born.

Aveline stares in horror as the demon approaches once more. Gabrielle raises the sword.

GABRIELLE (CONT'D)
Come then, beast.

The demon FLIES at her.

ON ASHAERA

As she SCREAMS, struggling in the hands of a slimy, tentacle-covered creature. With so many arms wrapping around her, she can barely fight back.

ASHAERA
Get your fucking *disgusting*
tentacles off my alabaster skin you
ugly bitch!

LUNETTE (O.S.)
Sino!

There's a FLASH of light and the demon SHRIEKS, its tentacles unravelling as it collapses on the ground, shuddering and convulsing in pain.

Ashaera looks up, surprised, as Lunette steps out of the shadows.

ASHAERA

Wow. You're saving me now.

Lunette smirks.

LUNETTE

Come on.

Lunette holds out her hand. Ashaera looks at it for a moment before smiling. She takes her hand and they move on together.

ON OLIVIER

As he uses Eric's shirt as a press, putting pressure on Grace's severe wound.

OLIVIER

I can't stop the bleeding.

GRACE

Well, it hurts like hell dear, but let's face it; I'll live.

(beat)

Kind of.

ERIC

Stay with her.

Olivier nods, and the shirtless Eric turns to rejoin the fight.

GRACE

He's nice. He likes the penis too.

OLIVIER

I think I've had my fair share of vampire love for one lifetime thank you.

Grace shrugs.

ON KATHERINE

As she viciously BEATS a demon down to the ground. SNARLING, she SNAPS its neck with her bare hands!

ON ALDEN

As he staggers into a tree, holding onto the trunk to keep himself upright. He's badly beaten, clutching one broken arm painfully.

A demon runs past him, perhaps attempting to escape. Grimacing, he raises his gun with his good arm - and FIRES.

ON NICHOLAS

As he DRAGS an unconscious WITCH to safety, glancing around wearily as the battle RAGES around him.

ON AVELINE

As she scrambles backwards across the ground, the demon and Gabrielle dancing around each other as they avoid each other's blows.

So fast she's almost a blur, Gabrielle SMACKS the demon back and SPINS gracefully through the air, feet above the ground, the sword in her hand WHIPPING through the air as she SLASHES!

The demon ROARS, drawing back, its chest BLEEDING heavily. But it quickly counters, SLICING Gabrielle across the midsection as she lands.

SNARLING, Gabrielle KICKS OUT - but the demon catches her calf and SLAMS its fist down, SNAPPING bone!

ROARING in pain, Gabrielle stumbles, but brings the sword up once more as the demon flies at her.

SLASHING into its neck, Gabrielle YELLS triumphantly as the demon clutches its throat.

It stares at her for a beat, sickly black blood pouring from its wound, before it keels over onto the ground. Gabrielle throws the sword down by its side.

A beat.

AVELINE

You killed it.

Gabrielle turns to look at her, smirking slightly.

GABRIELLE

Well, I've had a lot of -

AVELINE

Gabrielle!

Gabrielle turns but she's not quick enough - she SNARLS as the du Miette blade is buried into her chest!

She looks back at the FIRST DEMON in horror - it's alive!

GABRIELLE

That is not possible.

ROARING, the beast TEARS the sword up through her shoulder!

Gabrielle SCREAMS as the blade is ripped through her body, collapsing on the ground and quickly bleeding out.

GABRIELLE (CONT'D)

(weak)

Aveline ... go ...

Aveline scrambles to her feet but she holds her ground as the demon marches towards her. She glances around in fear. She's out of ideas.

AVELINE

Shit.

She raises her hands towards the sky.

AVELINE (CONT'D)

*Abbas divum, ego ingenero vos;
solvo vestri rabies!*

The WIND picks up, quickly becoming a gale. THUNDER rolls in the distance.

But the demon is on her and with a vicious BACKHAND sends her tumbling across the ground.

Grimacing in pain, she looks up as the demon once more looms over her.

AVELINE (CONT'D)

(beat)

I can't do this.

The demon lifts the blade once more, and brings it down in a stabbing motion.

SQUELCH!

Aveline stares in horror.

MONIQUE looks back at her, the blade of the sword PROTRUDING from her chest!

MONIQUE

You ... have to.

SNARLING behind her, the demon KICKS Monique in the back, releasing the sword from her body as she hits the ground!

Aveline hesitates, overwhelmed. But only for a moment.

AVELINE

(furious)

*Solvo vestri rabies! Nisi vestri
vox! Purgo is malum!*

The winds picks up again; this time the GALE is so powerful the demon is BLOWN backwards, the sky lighting up with LIGHTNING!

Aveline scrambles to Monique, lifting her head up into her lap as she presses a solid hand to her wound.

 AVELINE (CONT'D)
 You *stupid* bitch! What are you
 doing here?!

 MONIQUE
 I had to ... had to help.

She coughs, BLOOD pouring from her mouth.

 MONIQUE (CONT'D)
 This is all ... my fault, if any
 ... anything happened t-t-o -

 AVELINE
 (crying)
 Stop it. You need to, um, I mean we
 need to get you to -

 MONIQUE
 Just stop. Listen to me.
 (beat)
 I'm ... sorry. For everything.

 AVELINE
 (beat)
 I know that.

 MONIQUE
 Just ... please, promise me ... my
 mum, I ... I need her to be ...
 okay, I need you ... to ...

Aveline stares, horrified. Monique stares back up at her, glassy-eyed. She's DEAD.

Aveline lets out one, heart-wrenching SOB. She quickly covers her mouth with her hand.

 AVELINE
 No, no, no. Monique. I'm sorry,
 okay? I'm sorry, but you need to
 ...

She shakes her head, realising its too late.

 AVELINE (CONT'D)
 Fuck!

Aveline lays Monique's head down on the ground and rises to her feet. She looks around at the CHAOS all around her.

LUNETTE and ASHAERA

Are being backed into the trees, sending BLAST after BLAST of energy at the large group of demons quickly surrounding them.

But they keep coming, more and more demons joining them as soon as one falls.

NICHOLAS

Flies across the clearing, SLAMMING into a tree with enough force to knock him out cold. A DEMON looms over him.

CAMILLE

Lies DEAD next to him, her throat viciously torn open.

OLIVIER

Struggles in the hands of a demon, yelling in fury as he tries desperately to protect the motionless Grace.

GABRIELLE, a few metres away, struggles to drag herself across the ground, barely conscious herself.

AVELINE

Turns her eyes back to the FIRST DEMON as it approaches once more.

AVELINE (CONT'D)
Orbis telum, pulsus lemma tergum!

Aveline's whole body PULSES with a burning ENERGY - and it EXPLODES from within her in a wide ARC!

The demons in the clearing SHRIEK their horrible cries as every single one of them is THROWN by the exploding energy!

OLIVIER

Looks on in shock, the energy having simply passed straight through him.

LUNETTE and ASHAERA glance at each other.

ASHAERA
Round two?

Lunette shrugs.

AVELINE

Motions towards the fallen First Demon and the du Mienne sword FLIES from its grasp, back into its rightful place.

She looks down at the blade, testing its weight, and turns to what's left of her army.

AVELINE
Kill them all!

With renewed vigor, the battle begins once more; the small army TEARING into the incapacitated demons!

Side by side, LUNETTE and ASHAERA grasp hands, sharing power. They both LIGHT UP with golden energy, the air BURNING in front of them as they launch handfuls of SIZZLING energy at the fallen demons!

Groaning in pain, NICHOLAS struggles to get back to his feet. Rummaging around in the undergrowth, he finds a discarded KNIFE - and quickly buries it in the skull of the nearest demon!

OLIVIER looks up, breathless, as GRACE staggers to his side, still holding her midsection in pain.

GRACE

Come on. I reckon I still have a few punches left in me.

Olivier grins and they march towards the nearest demon together.

GABRIELLE grabs hold of a rock, struggling to pull herself up. ERIC is suddenly there, supporting her.

AVELINE

Marches towards the First Demon as it weakly gets up onto its hands and knees.

She looks down at it mercilessly.

AVELINE

I really don't know if there's a hell. I was never one for theology. But if there is ... I sincerely hope you rot there.

And she brings to sword down - swiftly DECAPITATING the defenceless demon!

Breathing heavily, she looks down at the corpse disdainfully. One hand is still TWITCHING.

AVELINE (CONT'D)

Yeah, I don't think so.

(beat)

Exuro.

The corpse BURSTS into flames. Aveline simply turns and walks away, leaving a roaring bonfire in her wake.

FADE TO:

INT. "LES MAGIQUE" - NIGHT

Olivier grimaces as he tightly wraps bandages around Gabrielle's upper torso. She grips the arms of a chair so hard the wood is CREAKING dangerously.

OLIVIER

Sorry. I was never very good at this.

GABRIELLE

It will pass. Just make sure the flesh is aligned, and all will heal well.

He nods.

Across the room, Eric is tending to Grace and several other VAMPIRES. He looks up as Aveline approaches, handing him more bandages.

AVELINE

Anyone else?

ERIC

These are the only ones who will heal. Ryan might have had a chance but ...

(beat)

He chose to stay, wait for the sun to take him.

Aveline nods solemnly, and glances around at the dozen or so vampires left alive.

AVELINE

Thank you all for being here. I'm truly sorry for the sacrifice your friends and family made tonight.

(beat)

I won't forget them.

Eric gives her the tiniest of smiles and she moves over to Olivier and Gabrielle.

OLIVIER

Have you heard from the others?

AVELINE

(nods)

They're fine, just a little beat up. They've getting treatment now.

(to Gabrielle)

That demon. What was it doing?

GABRIELLE

From what little I glimpsed of its mind, its energy ...

(MORE)

GABRIELLE (CONT'D)

I believe it was trying to open the gateway before the residue of energy had completely dissipated.

AVELINE

Why?

GABRIELLE

To offer itself as a sacrifice, a physical being stuck between the worlds as you were.

AVELINE

(sighs)

Which would break down the walls and bring back more of them ... *all* of them.

OLIVIER

(beat)

We wouldn't have been able to stop them.

AVELINE

And every time we killed a demon, they'd just ... come back.

They glance at each other, shaken.

GABRIELLE

But you stopped it, Aveline.

AVELINE

And at what cost?

GABRIELLE

Whatever cost necessary. I'm sorry that both of us have lost friends tonight, but this is it Aveline. The war has been waged. You're a general now, and unfortunately that means watching people die for something they believe in.

She glances at Olivier.

GABRIELLE (CONT'D)

That is something you must all come to terms with.

Aveline nods, considering that.

INT. HOSPITAL - LUNETTE'S ROOM - DAY

A bandage wrapped around her head, Lunette sleeps peacefully. Nicholas lies next to her, his arms wrapped around her protectively.

He looks down at her sleeping face, smiling.

INT. HOSPITAL - JAQUE'S ROOM - DAY

Jaque blinks sleepily, looking up as the door of his room is pushed open.

Ashaera enters, Emily wrapped in her arms. She smiles.

ASHAERA

Hey.

JAQUE

Hey.

He smiles, watching as she closes the door behind her and comes further inside. She sits on the edge of the bed, grasping his hand.

INT. "LES MAGIQUE" - LUNETTE/NICHOLAS' ROOM - DAY

The curtains are drawn, keeping the sunlight out. Olivier helps Grace down into the bed.

She looks up at him, smiling.

GRACE

You're a good leader, you know.

(beat)

I wouldn't be so quick to dismiss your potential.

Olivier smiles.

OLIVIER

Just don't bleed in the bed.

Grace smirks and he turns, leaving her to heal.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - DAY

Emmanuel lies in his bed, Aveline sitting beside him as they talk quietly and seriously. They look up as Jean-Paul enters.

JEAN-PAUL

I just got off the phone with Toronto. I can stay for a few more days.

Aveline smiles.

AVELINE

Well, there's plenty to do. Stay with him, will you?

She rises to her feet.

JEAN-PAUL
Where are you going?

AVELINE
To do something important. I won't
be long.
(beat)
And uh, no father-boyfriend
speeches while I'm gone.

JEAN-PAUL
Wouldn't dream of it.

Aveline smirks and quickly leaves. Jean-Paul takes her seat
in the chair.

JEAN-PAUL (CONT'D)
(beat)
So ... you and Aveline.

Emmanuel smiles awkwardly.

INT. HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

BOOM!

The door is BLOWN from its hinges, the wood shattering as
it's thrown down a flight of stairs.

Aveline strides down the stairs, glancing confidently about
in the dark.

She stops at the bottom, hands on her hips.

AVELINE
So ... how many of these dingy
little houses do you have in this
city?

She peers around; no answer. She shrugs.

AVELINE (CONT'D)
Fine.

She ventures further inside, looking around. She kicks things
out of her way; belongings that have been decaying here for
years.

Hearing a noise, she turns and waves a hand at an old SOFA;
it SLIDES across the room out of sight.

MRS. LEROY crouches on the floor, looking up at her in fear.
She's a STATE, like a wild animal, covered in dirt, her
clothing torn.

Aveline turns back to the stairs as SHORTY descends.

SHORTY

Think you're clever, don't you?

AVELINE

In comparison to you and your little cult, yes. But to be fair that isn't much of a chore.

SHORTY

It's not us you need to worry about, Aveline. We know we're just pawns in all of this. That isn't the point.

Aveline reaches out her hand. Cautiously, Mrs. Leroy reaches out to take it, scrambling to her feet to hide behind Aveline.

AVELINE

So what is the point?

SHORTY

You don't belong here. And your time's running out. He'll be coming for you.

Aveline smirks, not intimidated in the slightest. She steps towards him and Shorty moves aside, suddenly afraid.

Aveline gently pushes Mrs. Leroy towards the stairs and she scrambles up them to safety. Aveline turns back.

AVELINE

Well, you tell him I'll be waiting.

Aveline turns and strides back up the stairs.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Hand in hand, Aveline and Mrs. Leroy walk down the path of an inconspicuous house, quickly disappearing into the bustle of the recovering city.

INT. HOUSE - ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Through the window, as they walk out of sight. Shorty appears in the window, looking down on them.

SHORTY

He really isn't ready.

VOICE (O.S.)

Well ...

He turns as ELLIE steps up next to him, glancing out of the window.

ELLIE

I told you she was good.

She smirks.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE