

Pleasure of the Flesh (Draft 2)

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INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

A YOUNG WOMAN leans over the sink, sweating and breathing heavily.

PING!

The young woman jolts, then calms herself. She takes out her phone and reads a message from a contact named KENZIE.

KENZIE (TEXT)  
Did you tell him, yet?

The young woman responds.

YOUNG WOMAN (TEXT)  
No.

KENZIE (TEXT)  
You can't keep him in the dark.

YOUNG WOMAN (TEXT)  
I know.

KENZIE (TEXT)  
Then what's the hold up, Selene?

On edge, Selene stares at her phone, struggling to respond.

BANG, BANG, BANG! A knock at the door. Frightened, Selene turns, revealing a monstrous face with fangs and red eyes.

LEO (O.S.)  
You okay, Selene? You need anything?

SELENE  
Just freshening up.

LEO (O.S.)  
You sure? You sound a little sick.

SELENE  
(insistent)  
I'm fine, Leo.

LEO (O.S.)  
Okay, I'll keep your food warm.

Selene listens to his footsteps fade away. She takes meditative breaths, then feels her face. Her harsh features are gone. She lets out a sigh of relief.

EXT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A romantic candlelit dinner.

LEO, a put together, yet nervous guy lights a candle. He sits at his end of the table and waits anxiously, checking over his shoulder every now and then.

Selene finally enters and sits across from Leo.

LEO  
She lives!

SELENE  
Sorry. Just girl stuff.

LEO  
I get it. I mean, not really. I'm not a girl.

SELENE  
You don't say.

Leo gives an uneasy chuckle. Selene flashes a warm smile.

SELENE (cont'd)  
So, what were we talking about?

LEO  
My computer business.

SELENE  
Ah, yes. How's the tech world?

LEO  
More money, more problems. You know it is. I had to let some people go recently. Never a good thing, but you gotta do what you gotta do.

SELENE  
I hear ya.

LEO  
What about you? How's the, uh... actually, you never told me what you do.

SELENE  
Nothing special. I work at a nursing home.

LEO  
Oh, cool. What's it like?

SELENE  
It's fine.

LEO  
That's it? Just fine?

SELENE  
Like I said, it's nothing special.

LEO  
Uh-huh.

There's an awkward silence. Leo takes a sip of water.

LEO (cont'd)  
Oh! Did you get a chance to watch  
that movie I told you about?

SELENE  
What movie?

LEO  
The Lost Boys.

SELENE  
(suddenly remembers)  
You did tell me to watch that.

LEO  
Come on, you're slacking.

SELENE  
Sorry, I'm not much of a horror  
person.

LEO  
(teasing)  
Why? Too scary for you?

SELENE  
(flatly)  
No.

Leo studies Selene's deadpan face. He fixes the collar of his shirt nervously.

Finally, he concedes.

LEO  
All right. What's going on?

SELENE  
What?

LEO  
Am I doing something wrong?

SELENE  
No.

LEO  
Then why's it feel like I'm pulling  
teeth here? This is our third date  
now. Every time I try to get to know  
you, you just put up a brick wall.  
What's up?

Selene searches for an answer.

LEO (cont'd)  
You don't have to tell me your life  
story, but come on.

SELENE  
This is just a little tough for me.

LEO  
That makes two of us.

SELENE  
Leo, I like you. I really do.

LEO  
But...?

SELENE  
I've been down this road before.

LEO  
Which is...?

SELENE  
(looks down)  
Dating. Relationships. Heartbreak.  
(returns eye contact)  
My track record's pretty spotty.

LEO  
It hasn't been smooth sailing for me,  
either.

SELENE  
It's different.

LEO  
Try me.

Selene looks uneasy.

LEO (cont'd)  
 Tell you what. I'll start, then you  
 go, then back to me.  
 (clears his throat)  
 There was this girl in first grade --

SELENE  
 (laughs)  
 Seriously?

LEO  
 (smiles)  
 Don't laugh, this is a safe space.  
 (then)  
 First grade. I had a crush on this  
 girl, Becky Cline, but I was too shy.  
 My buddy, Anders said I should make a  
 move. 'The worst she could say is  
 no.' So, I go up to her at recess  
 and say 'Becky Cline, will you go out  
 with me?'. You know what she says?  
 (off Selene's  
 reaction)  
 'Blegh, you?'

SELENE  
 (gasps)  
 No.

LEO  
 It gets worse. A week later, I saw  
 her kissing Anders by the swings.

SELENE  
 That bitch.

LEO  
 (shakes his head)  
 'The worst she could say is no.'

Leo looks to Selene - "your turn".

SELENE  
 First grade. A classmate, Kenny  
 Lemon.

LEO  
 That's a name...

SELENE  
 Right. But, he was so sweet and he  
 had really blue eyes. I was waiting  
 for him to ask me out, but he never  
 did.

(MORE)

SELENE (cont'd)  
 So, one day, while we were walking to school, I decided to hold his hand. He stops and goes 'Ew, you're too ugly to be my girlfriend.'

Leo does a spit take, howling.

SELENE (cont'd)  
 Oh, you're laughing? That's what we're doing?

LEO  
 My boy Kenny would not settle.

SELENE  
 I almost pushed him into traffic.

Leo takes another swig of water.

LEO  
 College. Freshman year.

SELENE  
 Whoa, whoa, whoa. Middle school? High school?

LEO  
 They don't count.

SELENE  
 But first grade does.

LEO  
 Safe space.  
 (then)  
 It's move in day. I meet this girl. Paula Sullivan. Beautiful. Smart. Funny. We hit it off immediately. Things are going great. By senior year, we're closer than ever. I'm seriously thinking about marrying this girl. But, then I learned she was... sick.

Selene senses a change in Leo's demeanor.

LEO (cont'd)  
 She had been ever since we met. She did a good job of hiding it, though. Even then, I still wanted to be with her. It worked for awhile, but... she could tell things were hard for me.

(MORE)

LEO (cont'd)  
 So, one day, she just ghosted me. No  
 call, no text. Found out she moved.  
 It's like she never existed.

Selene studies Leo. He's obviously still torn up about  
 this.

SELENE  
 I'm sorry.

LEO  
 (lying)  
 It's whatever.  
 (then)  
 You're up.

Selene considers. She takes a deep breath, bracing herself.

SELENE  
 Freshman year of college. I met this  
 guy. Cute, a good talker. He  
 invited me to some party of his. I  
 go. We're making good conversation.  
 It's a little hard to hear, though.  
 So, he takes me upstairs to his room.  
 Stupid me, I thought we'd keep  
 talking. But, when we got up there,  
 he... changed. And then he...

Selene gets visibly shaken. Leo's face drops, assuming the  
 worst. He reaches for her hand.

LEO  
 It's okay.

Selene lets out a deep sigh, blinking back tears.

SELENE  
 I haven't been the same since.  
 Relationships have been hard. I've  
 done my fair share of hurting people.

LEO  
 It's not your fault.

SELENE  
 They'd disagree.

LEO  
 Who cares? I'm not saying that's an  
 excuse, but give yourself a break.

SELENE  
 Leo --

LEO  
Seriously. Trust me, I'm no saint  
either. Ask a few exes, they'd  
happily agree. I don't even have the  
same excuse as you.

SELENE  
I don't know.  
(lightening the mood)  
That Becky Cline thing was tragic.

LEO  
(chuckles)  
It haunts me to this day. You won't  
hurt me like Becky, right?

SELENE  
(flirty)  
Not too bad.

Selene and Leo lean in close, parting their lips.

LEO  
Ah!

Leo pulls back, holding his hand. He's got a bloody gash on  
his palm.

LEO (cont'd)  
Jeez.

Selene stares, fixated on Leo's wound. Rushing to the sink,  
he runs water on it.

LEO (cont'd)  
Damn near a blood bank over here.

Looking at the kitchen table, Selene sees Leo's steak knife  
dripping with blood, forming a small puddle. As if in a  
trance, she dips her fingers in the red plasma.

Selene slowly licks the blood off her fingers. She closes  
her eyes, partially disgusted, partially enjoying the taste.

As Leo wraps a rag around his hand.

LEO (cont'd)  
(jokingly)  
Didn't think the night would end with  
me in the ER, but...

He turns to see that Selene is gone.

LEO (cont'd)  
(calls out)  
Where'd you go?

Silence.

LEO (cont'd)  
You squeamish?

Suddenly, Selene is behind him with red eyes. She hisses, baring her fangs.

LEO (cont'd)  
Whoa!

Leo runs for the exit, but Selene's already there.

She grabs him by the throat and pins him to the wall.

Selene goes for a bite when Leo jabs her neck with a nearby fork.

While Selene is left reeling, Leo flees.

Selene pulls the knife out of her neck and gives chase.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Leo enters and slams the door shut. The lights off, Leo searches for a weapon. He grabs a plunger with a wooden handle and snaps it in half, splintering it.

Suddenly, the door creaks open. Wide-eyed, Leo turns around. There's no one there.

Leo approaches it, brandishing his makeshift wooden stake.

A pair of glowing red eyes appear behind him.

As Leo steps closer to the door, Selene inches behind him. She bares her teeth, ready to take a bite.

Suddenly, Leo thrusts his stake at her!

Selene catches his hand!

She pries the stake loose and throws Leo to the floor.

Tossing the stake aside, Selene gets on top of Leo, ready to savage him.

She stops short as Leo jabs a pressure point on Selene's neck. She lies limp on top of him.

He holds her head up, checking her face - it's back to normal.

LATER

Selene sits on the floor wrapped in a blanket. Leo enters with a bandaged hand and a mug. He gives it to Selene. She takes a sip as he sits across from her.

SELENE

How'd you know that thing would work on me?

LEO

That girl who I told you was `sick'...

SELENE

Seriously?

LEO

Yeah.

SELENE

I guess we both had our secrets.

LEO

Believe it or not, most girls don't react well when you tell them about your vampire ex.

Selene nods, understanding.

LEO (cont'd)

We figured out ways to curb the cravings, keep her under control. I've got the battle scars to prove it. I did what I could to make it work.

(then)

I'm guessing the story about the guy...

SELENE

Yeah. He turned me.

Leo takes this in.

SELENE (cont'd)

These last few years... I thought I had it under control, but...

Selene's lost in thought, but shakes it off.

SELENE (cont'd)  
Well, it was nice while it lasted.

LEO  
Lasted?

SELENE  
Clearly, this is over, right?

LEO  
It doesn't have to be.

SELENE  
Leo, I almost killed you.

LEO  
But you didn't.

SELENE  
I could have, though. And then I'd  
have to live with that. Maybe Paula  
had the right idea.

LEO  
Well... no. Leaving me the way she  
did hurt worse than anything. I know  
she wanted to protect me, but that  
wasn't her choice to make. I knew  
what I was in for. I was willing to  
take the risk because I cared about  
her.

Selene mulls this over.

LEO (cont'd)  
But, I get it. It's not just up to  
me. The last thing I want is to  
force this on you.

Leo gets to his feet and helps Selene up. She hands him her  
mug. Leo kisses her forehead warmly.

LEO (cont'd)  
I'll walk you out.

Selene manages a smile.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Leo sees Selene out the front door. As she hands him the  
blanket...

SELENE

Leo, I'm really sorry about everything.

LEO

It's okay. All things considered, I had a good time tonight.

SELENE

Me, too.

They lock eyes, almost like they want to say something to each other.

LEO

Get home safe.

SELENE

Thanks.

Leo closes the door.

EXT. LEO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Selene stands at the door. She turns to walk away, but thinks better of it. She's hesitant, considering something.

As she goes to knock, the door opens, revealing Leo.

SELENE & LEO

Oh!

They laugh nervously.

SELENE

Hi.

LEO

I didn't know you were...

They're both thinking of the right thing to say. Finally...

SELENE

You wanna grab a bite?

THE END

