

KNIGHT OF THE DARK CROSS
Written By
Jerry W. Hawkins

Cindy Freed
Stellar Talent Agency
407 Lincoln Road #2K
Miami Beach, FL 33139
305-672-2217

BLACK

WILLIAM (V.O.)

Every two thousand years the planets fall into an alignment which blurs the boundaries between dimensions. During this time the powers of light and darkness collide.

EXT. STONEHENGE -- NIGHT

The monument as it once was. Fresh. New. The fingers of time have yet to caress its stones.

A Pagan ritual is in progress. A huge fire burns in the monument's center. Dozens of PAGANS in dark robes surround an alter.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

In the time before Christ Pagans celebrated Samhain..The night they believed the dead returned to the world of the living.

A naked WOMAN is dragged toward the alter by two Pagans. She screams. Struggles in vain.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

They created Stonehenge to mark the equinoxes and allow them to make sacrifices when the power of their Gods were greatest.

The Woman is forced onto the alter. Tied in place.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

They drank the blood of humans and animals believing it gave them the power of darkness and death.

A Pagan steps up to the alter. Raises a dagger above his head. Stabs downward.

Blood runs down the side of the alter.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

Four thousand years ago the planetary alignment occurred on the night of Samhain.

The stream of blood reaches the dirt. A deep purple glow spreads out across the ground.

The glow envelops the Pagans.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

The powers of darkness entered the Pagans..Transforming them with the curse of eternal life and never ending thirst.

The purple light fades out. The Pagans stalk toward the bleeding Woman on the alter. Their eyes glow red. Fangs protrude from their mouths.

BLACK

WILLIAM (V.O.)

Until the birth of Christ, darkness ruled the land.

EXT. FIELD OF CRUCIFIXION -- DUSK

Crucified bodies. A nightmarish field of human suffering

WILLIAM (V.O.)

The time of mankind's savior pushed back the darkness.

Close on CHRIST hanging dead from a crucifix.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

But the death of the Savior allowed the darkness to return.

BLACK

WILLIAM (V.O.)

Darkness laid siege to the Earth for uncountable generations.

EXT. TOWN -- DAY

A medieval setting. Stone buildings. Dirt streets. The PEOPLE are dressed for the period.

In the Town Square a bazaar is in full swing. FARMERS and MERCHANTS hock their various wares from crude wooden booths.

An eight year old boy clothed in little more than dirty rags slinks his way through the crowd. He is WILLIAM JAMES.

He eyes a booth where loaves of bread are displayed for sale. He watches the VENDOR until she is occupied with a CUSTOMER. Then he makes his move.

A SOLDIER stands in a doorway. His eyes follow the boy. He glances at the booth. Heads for William.

William reaches the booth. A quick look. The Vendor's back is turned. He snatches a loaf of bread. Moves off. He gets two steps before the Soldier grabs him.

SOLDIER
Not so fast, boy.

William squirms in his grasp but fails to get free. The Vendor turns at the sounds of the commotion.

VENDOR
What the 'ell?

SOLDIER
Caught this boy--

WHAP.

William plants his foot in the Soldier's groin. He slips from his grasp. Runs.

Anger replaces his pain and Soldier pursues.

William rushes through the crowd. He bounces off several people in his haste.

SOLDIER
Stop that urchin.

A BURLY MAN steps in William's path. He spreads his arms to grab the boy.

William slides feet first between the man's legs. He pops up and keeps going.

William heads down a narrow side street. He turns toward a doorway. Freezes. Stares wide eyed at a

SPIDER.

Large and black it waits patiently for its next meal. William takes a stiff step back. Drops the bread.

INSERT - FLASHBACK

- In a small Farm House his FATHER lowers William into a crawl space under the floor.

- William stares at a spider in a web as screams are heard from above the floor.

RETURN TO SCENE

A hand grabs William's shoulder. Spins him around. Soldier looks down at him.

SOLDIER

Little bastard.

He draws back his hand to strike William.

FATHER ZANE (O.S.)

Stay that blow.

Soldier looks toward the voice. He sees FATHER STEVEN ZANE, 30's, standing at the mouth of the alley. His imposing form is shrouded in a black cloak.

SOLDIER

You don't give my orders.

Father Zane strides toward them.

FATHER ZANE

Release him.

Soldier doesn't like this.

SOLDIER

You have no power here.

FATHER ZANE

By declaration of the King you serve
The Order has the power it desires.

SOLDIER

That's slop.

FATHER ZANE

Perhaps we should go and ask him.

Soldier releases William. Stares down at him.

SOLDIER

He won't always be around, boy.

Soldier stalks away. William puts some quick distance between himself and the spider web. He looks ready to run.

FATHER ZANE

Boy just won't do. Your name?

WILLIAM

William James.

FATHER ZANE

And where would you go?

William looks at him. Defiant.

WILLIAM

Where and when I want.

Father Zane nods his understanding.

FATHER ZANE

I am known as Father Zane. Help me load my wagon and earn yourself an honest meal.

William hesitates. Looks at the far end of the street.

FATHER ZANE

It's me or that soldier. You choose.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE -- LATER

Father Zane stands in the back of a large wagon which is loaded with supplies. He finishes tying down the load. Turns to William who stands on the ground.

FATHER ZANE

You work well.

He hops down.

FATHER ZANE

Best get you fed and back to your family.

William adverts his eyes.

WILLIAM

My family was taken by The Hoard.

Father Zane looks as if this was the answer he expected.

FATHER ZANE

Climb up.

He gestures at the wagon. William gives him a look.

FATHER ZANE

Stay here in the garbage and alleys
if you wish.

He turns to the wagon.

William scrambles up. Takes a seat on the driver's bench.

FATHER ZANE

Good choice.

He follows the boy onto the bench. As he does, his cloak parts. William sees that the man wears a black cross on a chain around his neck.

When he is seated, Father Zane takes the reigns.

FATHER ZANE

There is bread and cheese in a cloth
under the seat.

He snaps the reigns. A pair of horses puts the wagon in motion.

EXT. MONASTERY -- DUSK

The sun kisses the horizon as Father Zane guides the wagon along the road to the monastery.

The stone structure sits in the middle of a man made clearing surrounded by thick woods. A high stone wall runs the entire perimeter.

INT. TORCH LIT HALLWAY -- NIGHT

A door opens at the end of the hall.

Backlit by the setting sun Father Zane leads William in. He closes the door behind them. They move down the hall. Stop in front of a large metal door.

Father Zane removes a dagger from beneath his cloak. He pushes the handle into William's hand. The boy looks scared.

FATHER ZANE

No fear young William. This test must be passed. But rest assured there are no spiders beyond this door.

INT. DARK ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

The door opens.

William stumbles in as if pushed. The door is closed behind him. He hears a latch thrown into place.

He looks around with wide eyes. He can see nothing in the darkness.

He hears something moving across the room. He spins toward the sound.

Barely visible. A shape scurries up the wall.

The boy steps back. He bumps against the wall still staring in the direction of the movement.

A hand reaches down from above him. Grabs his shoulder.

The boy gasps. He pulls away. Turns.

A MAN clings spider-like to the wall. The Man drops to the floor and lands in a crouch. When he looks up his eyes are glowing a deep red.

William holds the knife out in front of him. Anger replaces the fear on his face.

The creature charges.

William slashes with the knife. The blade opens a wound across the creature's arm which begins to heal almost as soon as it is made.

The creature grabs the boy's wrist. It shakes the knife out of his hand.

William kicks at it as it lifts him off of the floor. It leans its face toward the boy's neck.

A slot in the door drops open. Something zips through the gap.

The creature shouts. It drops William as it claws at the arrow sticking out of its back. It stumbles. Falls to the floor.

As William watches the creature ages years in seconds. Its skin dries. Flakes off and turns to dust.

The door latch CLACKS. The door swings open.

Father Zane enters.

FATHER ZANE

Learn to focus past your anger and
you may yet earn a place.

INT. FATHER ZANE'S CHAMBER -- NIGHT

Outside the window GUARDS carry torches across the top of the perimeter wall.

Inside William huddles in a chair near a roaring fire. A blanket lays wrapped around his shoulders. A cup of steaming liquid sits forgotten in his hands. He stares at the flames.

Across the room. Father Zane is engaged in quiet conversation with a massive man.

The man is SIR DAVID WELLS, 30's. He wears armor so polished it looks like silver. On his chest plate is a symbol. A black cross backed by two red swords crossed at the blades. He is a Knight of the Dark Cross.

FATHER ZANE

There is more to this than you know,
Sir David.

SIR DAVID

The boy is not even of noble blood.

William jumps to his feet. His cup clatters to the stone floor. Spills its contents.

WILLIAM

If you are an example of noble blood
then I am glad to have none.

Sir David stares at him. Cold. Hard. William doesn't flinch. After a moment Sir David grins. He strides over. Takes a seat near the fire.

SIR DAVID
Sit please, William.

The boy returns to his chair.

SIR DAVID
Five hundred years ago The Hoard
appeared. Not long after, The Order
was formed and the first generation
of the Knights of the Dark Cross
began their training.

He leans back in his chair. Gives William a good look at
his chest plate and its symbol.

SIR DAVID
You now have the opportunity to join
our ranks. Keep your mouth shut and
listen to what these men would teach
you.

DISSOLVE
TO:

INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

A group of thirty preteen BOYS sit in a semicircle on a stone
floor. A MONK stands at the front of the room.

The Monk says a short phrase in English. The boys repeat
the phrase in French.

A twelve year old William stares dreamily out the window
instead.

The Monk takes notice.

MONK
(French subtitled)
Stand up William.

The boy looks startled. After a moment he stands.

The Monk switches to English.

MONK
How many chapters in the book of
Revelation?

WILLIAM
Twenty-two, sir.

MONK

Incorrect. There is an additional chapter that has been held in trust by The Order for hundreds of years.

The Monk steps forward. He stands directly in front of William.

MONK

Christ instructed his disciples to collect his blood after he was crucified. Twenty swords and twenty crosses were to be forged with drops of His blood in the metal.

He pulls a palm sized vial from the folds of his robe. Holds it up.

MONK

The remaining blood was to be mixed with holy water.

The Monk motions to the class.

MONK

How many students in this room?

WILLIAM

Thirty.

The Monk strides back to the front of the room.

MONK

Each generation The Knights may number only twenty. Regardless of your family lines you belong to The Order now. Ten of you will live out your days on the work farms.

He eyes William.

MONK

It is in your best interest to give your teachers your undivided attention.

DISSOLVE
TO:

EXT. TRAINING AREA -- DAY

A group of twenty-four teen ages BOYS stand in pairs facing each other. Each is clad in thick leather armor. They hold wooden swords.

A MONK stands on a raised platform to one side. Sir David is beside him.

MONK

Today begins the final phase of your training. Six of you have already returned to the farms. Before we are through four more will follow.

The Monk claps twice.

MONK

Begin.

The boys square off. Each against the one across from him.

Sir David takes notice of a now fifteen year old William. William expertly parries the attacks of his Opponent. He defeats him almost as soon as their battle has begun.

The Monk claps again.

MONK

Switch.

William's line shifts. The boys weave around each other until they all face a new opponent.

The Monks claps again. The mock battles begin anew.

SIR DAVID

Should have listened to Zane.

A strikingly beautiful girl enters the training area. She is MARY SCOTTS,14. She carries a bucket of water which she sits on a table near the Monk's platform.

William stops his Opponent's attack. He pushes the boy hard sending him stumbling back several feet.

William looks at Mary. Their eyes meet. William is captivated by her.

William's opponent CHARGES into frame. He slams into William. William falls flat.

Mary giggles behind her hand.

William's Opponent glances at Mary. Looks back at William.

OPPONENT

Noble blood must stay pure my friend.

William looks up at him.

WILLIAM

And so it shall.

EXT. TRAINING AREA -- LATER

The sun is setting.

Everyone except for William is gone. He is busy placing the wooden swords into a canvas sack.

SIR DAVID (O.S.)

On your guard.

William turns. He sees the knight several feet away with a wooden sword in his hand. William grins. He pulls a sword from the sack.

The two face off. William attacks with great skill. Sir David blocks the blows with little effort.

The knight fakes left and William takes the bait. Sir David spins low. He kicks William's legs out from under him. The boy lands hard on his back. Before he can recover, Sir David has the point of his sword to William's throat.

SIR DAVID

Still need to work on some things.

He moves the sword. Helps William to his feet.

SIR DAVID

Each generation a new leader must be honed. Prove yourself in training and in battle and that person may be you.

EXT. LAKE -- DAY

William stands on a rock near the shore. Sir David, dressed without armor, faces him from another rock. They are again armed with wooden swords.

SIR DAVID (V.O.)
They are mankind's first test before
the Second Coming.

They engage. Sword blows are thrown and blocked as the two
move from rock to rock with acrobatic skill.

SIR DAVID (V.O.)
We are all that stands in their way.

William leaps to another rock. He loses his footing.
Tumbles into the water.

EXT. TRAINING AREA -- DAY

William and Sir David stand side by side. They move through
a Tai-Chi exercise.

SIR DAVID (V.O.)
Forget the legends which you have
heard...They do not change
shape...They do not fly.

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

Teacher and student are engaged with blades of steel. Their
sword fight is mixed with the kicks and punches of the martial
arts.

SIR DAVID (V.O.)
They are fast. They are strong, and
they will kill you the first chance
that they get. That is all you need
remember.

William fakes high. He goes low. Kicks Sir David off his
feet. He ends with his blade at his teacher's throat. After
a moment, the surprise on Sir David's face is replaced by a
broad smile. William helps him to his feet.

INT. CHURCH -- DAY

An ornate stone structure with lots of stained glass. William
and Sir David stand near the altar. Their appearance shows
that several years of training have passed.

SIR DAVID
You have progressed beyond my greatest
expectations, yet there is more to
know.

He reaches into a satchel which lays on the altar. He removes a dagger with a black blade. The black handle and finger guard complete the look of the dark cross.

SIR DAVID

When you take my place one of these
shall fall under your care.

William picks up the dagger. He turns it over in his hands. Studies it.

WILLIAM

It's purpose?

SIR DAVID

If a current or former leader is
turned by The Hoard, their counter
part will use their blade to free
them from the curse.

William looks at him. Sir David taps his own chest.

INT. DINING HALL -- AFTERNOON

The Boys line both sides of a long table. Several Monks are at another table at the front of the room. All are eating a modest meal.

Several SERVANTS shuffle around the tables serving food and drink. Mary is among them.

Mary stops next to William. She pours water into his cup.

MARY

(to near by Servant)
Perhaps I'll take a walk tonight.
The east woods are very peaceful.

Mary brushes gently against William's back as she walks away.

The Boy next to William looks over. Grins knowingly.

EXT. WOODS -- NIGHT

The night is cloudless. A crescent of moon hangs among the brilliant stars.

Mary stands on the bank of a large lake. She stares out over the water.

William slips up behind her. He stops a few feet away.

MARY
Beautiful don't you think?

William looks startled.

Mary turns to him. She smiles. Their eyes meet. Sparks fly between them.

WILLIAM
Always, Mary.

She steps forward. They hold each other tightly.

Mary begins to cry. William kisses the top of her head.

MARY
The Order will never allow a servant
to wed a knight.

William takes her face in his hands. He gently turns her face up to his.

WILLIAM
Leave with me.

She shakes her head.

MARY
They would never let us go.

WILLIAM
Then I-

She silences him with a kiss. The passion builds as they continue to kiss.

Still locked in an embrace they sink toward the ground.

EXT. WOODS -- LATER

The lovers sleep in a peaceful embrace on top of their clothes.

A bell TOLLS in the distance.

William begins to stir. The tolls increase in speed. William's eyes pop open.

WILLIAM
God help us.

He shakes Mary awake.

WILLIAM
Get dressed and hide.

MARY
What is wrong?

WILLIAM
The monastery is under attack.

Mary sits up. She grabs William's arm.

MARY
The knights-

WILLIAM
Are patrolling to the south. Only
Sir David remains behind.

William throws his clothes on. Runs toward the sound of the bell.

EXT. MONASTERY -- NIGHT

William sprints out of the woods. He slides to a stop. He sees a group of around twenty MEN attacking the monastery. They are lead by a MAN on horseback.

As William watches he sees Sir David go down before one of the Men.

William runs toward them.

FROM THE MONASTERY WALL

a volley of burning arrows flies toward the Men. The arrows rain down on them. Several Men are hit. They howl and hiss as their clothing catches fire.

ON THE WALL

the ARCHES reload.

A BURNING MAN

runs wild. Blinded by the flames he charges toward William.

William knocks him off of his feet. He grabs a sword from the Man's belt. Rams it into the Man's chest.

Through the flames William sees fangs protruding from the Man's mouth. William looks toward the others. Rage masks his face. He charges.

INT. STABLE -- NIGHT

The horses stomp. Wrestle against the confines of their stalls.

A BOY stands near the stable doors. He strokes the neck of a large horse which pulls at the reigns the boy grips.

BOY
Easy...easy.

A FIGURE appears in the shadows beyond the door. The boy reaches for a sword sheathed at his side.

Light finds the Figure's face. The Boy relaxes somewhat at the sight of an approaching MONK.

MONK
We must be swift.

The Monk enters the stable. He leads a GIRL no more than eight years old by the hand.

The Boy mounts the horse. The Monk helps the child up behind him.

MONK
Take her to Duke Edmund. Stop for nothing.

The Boy nods. Spurs the horse through the stable doors.

EXT. MONASTERY -- NIGHT

THE ARCHERS

fire a second volley. Their targets are too close. The arrows rain down behind the Men.

THE MAN

on horseback stops near the base of the wall. He turns to face his Men. He is PHILLIP REYNOLDS, second only to the Vampire King.

PHILLIP
Over the wall!

The Men leap on to the wall. They begin to climb the sheer stone surface barehanded.

THE ARCHERS

fire down at them. The angle is too great. The arrows pass behind the Men.

WILLIAM

misses a fiery death by inches as he rushes up. Flaming arrows pelt the ground around him.

He chops at the legs of the Man closest to him. The sword connects. A wound gaps in the Man's leg. It begins to heal seconds later.

The Man turns his dark red eyes on William. He leaps at him.

William spins out of the way. The Man lands behind him. Lunges.

William counter attacks. Kills the Vampire with a sword thrust through the chest. The Man falls to the ground. His flesh begins to age and dry.

A duo leaps from the wall. They land on either side of William.

The creatures attack with inhuman speed. William works his sword with expert skill. The creatures crumble to the ground.

ON THE WALL

the Archers abandon their bows. They draw swords. We see that they are the Boys in training with William.

The remaining Men reach the top of the wall. They draw their weapons. Engage the boys.

ON THE GROUND

Phillip spots William. He sees the remains of his Men strewn about. He draws a broad sword. Spurs his horse toward William.

William stands ready.

Phillip charges up. He arcs his sword at William's head.

William ducks the attack. He chops the horse across its front legs.

Its legs destroyed the horse crashes to the ground.

Phillip is thrown head first from the saddle. He flips in the air. Lands on his feet ready for battle.

PHILLIP

Under estimated you, boy. Won't happen again.

Phillip attacks.

William counters with skill and precision but his moves are strictly defensive. The vampire's strength and speed begin to overtake his mortal foe.

The monastery's gates burst open. Several of the Boys charge out. Father Zane, carrying a cross, is with them.

Phillip knocks William to the ground. He moves to finish him.

Mary flies into frame. She lands on Phillip's back. Claws at his eyes.

William rolls to his feet.

Phillip reaches over his shoulder. He grabs a handful of Mary's clothing. Flings her at William.

She slams against William. They crash to the ground in a heap.

Phillip sees that the group is almost upon him. An upward glance and he sees that his Men are near defeat. He looks down at a dazed William.

PHILLIP

Fear the night, boy.

Phillip runs toward the woods with amazing speed. In seconds he is gone.

The group reaches William and Mary. They help the hapless duo to their feet. Cheer and clap William on his back.

In the background Sir David bites back screams as a Monk drips holy water on his neck wounds. Smoke rises from the bite marks.

William moves toward his mentor.

FATHER ZANE

Don't worry. His wounds can be
cleansed.

Father Zane steps forward.

FATHER ZANE

As you know the king of the vampire
hoard has yet to be identified.

He gestures toward the woods.

FATHER ZANE

The creature you so bravely faced is
the most likely candidate. As leader
of The Order I am prepared to grant
you one wish for your gallantry. If
it is within my power, it is yours.

William looks at Mary.

WILLIAM

I have but one desire, kind sir.

DISSOLVE
TO:

EXT. VILLAGE -- DAY

The village is a bustle of activity. MEN are busy fortifying
crude defenses of wooden barricades and sharpened stakes
around the village perimeter.

WOMEN are gathered in the village square preparing food.

All carry looks of grim determination.

Close on a small house near the village square.

INT. HOUSE -- DAY

William and Mary, now in their twenties, stand in a tight
embrace. Their six year old son, WILLIAM JOSEPH JAMES, sits
on the floor near by playing with crudely carved wooden
soldiers.

MARY

Must you go?

WILLIAM
I lead the knights.

MARY
It is a small campaign. Sir Jericho
is more than ready to-

He kisses her passionately.

WILLIAM
You and William Joseph will be safe
here. I shall return before you
even realize that I was gone.

He holds up his hand. Wrapped around his fingers is a short
gold chain. On the chain is a crucifix.

WILLIAM
Wear this. It will keep you safe.

MARY
They only offer protection if they
contain the blood of Christ.

WILLIAM
Then wear it to remind you how deeply
I care for you.

Another kiss. They hug tight. Look deep into each other's
eyes.

William releases her. He walks to a table near the stone
hearth.

WILLIAM
William Joseph..If you please, sir.

The boy jumps to his feet. Rushes to his father.

William raises a wooden sword from the table. He holds it
as if it were an ancient talisman just unearthed.

WILLIAM
With this sword I trained to become
a Knight of the Dark Cross.

He holds it handle first toward the boy.

WILLIAM
Now I pass it on to you.
(MORE)

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Stand ready to defend your mother
with courage and honor.

With a look of awe the boy takes the sword. He swings it in clumsy arcs at an imaginary foe.

William steps back. He narrowly misses taking a shot to the groin.

WILLIAM
You move like a seasoned warrior.

He picks the boy up. Hugs him.

EXT. COURT YARD -- DAY

Two rows of KNIGHTS on horseback are gathered. William sits on his horse facing them. All wear the armor of The Knights of the Dark Cross.

WILLIAM
We ride east. A small contingent of
the King's army has sent word that
they are in need of our help. Night
will fall before we can reach them.

William draws his sword. The steel blade has an orange-red tint. He holds the sword over his head point toward the sky.

WILLIAM
Are you ready?

KNIGHTS
Ready!

WILLIAM
Are you ready?

KNIGHTS
(louder)
Ready!

William spurs his horse. Rides toward the court yard gates.

WILLIAM
For the cross!

EXT. BATTLE FIELD -- NIGHT

The battle field is hell on Earth. Armor clad bodies litter the ground. Bonfires cast a yellow-orange glow on the writhing wounded.

In the distance a group of KNIGHTS in blood smeared armor engages its enemy. The knights do battle with several unarmed PEOPLE in bloody, dirty clothing.

The people take the Knight's sword blows with little effect.

Knights are being ripped limb from limb and tossed aside.

Close on the battle.

One Man turns his blood-red eyes toward a charging knight. Bares his fangs. Hisses a war cry.

Vampires.

One of the few remaining Knights raises the face shield of his helmet exposing a look of sheer terror.

KNIGHT

Retreat.

The Knights disengage. They run toward a church on the far end of the bloody field. Several are mauled by the monsters before they can even take a step.

Thunder rolls from a near by hill. A glow begins to reach its crest.

The Knights change their direction. Head for the hill.

The Knights of the Dark Cross crest the hill. The glow is from the torch each carries. The sound of thunder is the hooves of their mounts.

William rides in the lead. His face shows a battle weary look of determination. He draws his sword. Waves it above his head as he leads his knights into battle.

EXT. VILLAGE -- NIGHT

A horse and RIDER gallop toward the village.

Several Men crouch behind a barricade which blocks the road. They look frightened and wary.

As the rider gets closer, they see that it is William wrapped in a black cloak.

The Men cheer. Pull the barricade aside to allow him to pass.

William reigns in his mount in front of his house. He jumps to the ground almost before the horse can fully stop.

The door to the house is swept open. The firelight from within silhouettes the figures of Mary and William Joseph.

They rush to greet him as he strides toward the door. Hugs and kisses are exchanged. Then they each grab one of William's hands and lead him inside.

EXT. BATTLE FIELD -- NIGHT

William and his men have engaged the Vampires. The knights attack with torches and swords.

William sees one of his men go down with a vamp on his back. William throws his torch hitting the vamp as it moves to bite the stunned knight.

The creature's clothing bursts into flames. It howls in rage and pain as it is killed by another knight.

INT. HOUSE -- NIGHT

Mary and William Joseph pull William toward the table and chairs near the fire. Mary smiles as she pulls out a chair for him. The smile quickly fades as her eyes catch a glimpse of the shadows on the wall.

There are only two.

Screams and shouts can be heard outside.

Mary turns. Standing before her is Phillip Reynolds. He bares his fangs. Grabs her.

EXT. BATTLE FIELD -- NIGHT

The Vampires are retreating. They rush off into the night leaving blood cold cries in their wake.

William, bleeding from a wound to his cheek, and his men heave a cry of victory after them.

EXT. VILLAGE -- DAY

William runs his horse toward the village. A column of thick smoke rises from the village square.

William reaches the fire. He reigns in his horse. He sees several MEN standing beside a pile of burning bodies.

William turns. He sees that the door to his house is wide open. He jumps to the ground. Runs to the door.

One of the Men near the fire follows him.

MAN

We tried...there were just too many.

William doesn't acknowledge the Man. He rushes inside.

INT. HOUSE -- DAY

William enters. He stops dead in his tracks.

Two bodies lay on the floor. Their heads are missing. The bodies are so mutilated that they hardly resemble human form.

William looks up. He sees a message clawed into the wall. It reads: FEAR THE NIGHT, BOY.

William collapses to his knees. His hand finds Mary's crucifix on the floor. He picks it up. He sobs.

EXT. VILLAGE -- LATER

William stands beside the burning pile of bodies. Two have been added. The clothing is recognizable as that which adorned the bodies in his house. William stares at the flames.

DISSOLVE
TO:

INT. DUKE EDMUND' BANQUET HALL -- DUSK

The Duke paces the front of the room. He looks anxious.

SERVANTS are busy decorating the room. Others arrange tables and chairs.

A Servant enters. She carries an ornate center piece to one of the tables. A second Servant lifts a chair. They collide as the man turns to set the chair aside.

The center piece falls to the stone floor.

DUKE EDMUND
Watch yourselves lest you join that.

The room falls silent. The Servants stand frozen under their Lord's angry gaze.

DEIRDRE (O.S.)
Accidents happen, Father.

The Duke turns. DEIRDRE BEAUFORT, 15, stands before him.

DEIRDRE
(to Servants)
Please continue. The Duke and I
shall leave you to your work.

She takes the Duke by the arm. Leads him toward a door.

EXT. BALCONY -- DUSK

Deirdre leads her father to the railing. The balcony looks out over rolling hills and forest.

DEIRDRE
Your demeanor is not that of a noble
leader.

DUKE EDMUND
I want tomorrow to be perfect.

DEIRDRE
It is only my birthday.

DUKE EDMUND
Only...When the sun rises you will
be sixteen.. A woman..Such an occasion
comes but once.

He faces her.

DUKE EDMUND
Soon after you shall be wed and...you
shall leave.

DEIRDRE
I will be married. Not dead.
(MORE)

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)

Besides, if Charles is half the pig his father is, I shall be spending more of my time wandering my father's halls than he might wish.

The Duke pulls her close. They hug.

DUKE EDMUND

It is hard for a man to see his child grown.

DEIRDRE

Especially when that man is hard headed.

She looks up at him. Smiles.

DEIRDRE

It grows late. You need to rest. Let the servants perform their tasks in peace.

DUKE EDMUND

Perhaps I should retire.

He kisses her on the forehead. He steps out of their embrace.

DUKE EDMUND

Don't spend all night wandering the halls. The young need rest too.

DEIRDRE

I will be in bed on time...Daddy.

He smiles at her. Walks inside.

EXT. STONEHENGE -- NIGHT

A ground level mist rolls among the stones.

INT. CATACOMBS MAIN CHAMBER -- NIGHT

A cave like chamber. The purple glow emanates from the walls. Several corridors lead off from this area.

Phillip clings to one wall. He looks at rest.

Sounds of frightened PEOPLE mixed with hisses and growls from one of the corridors. The sounds grow closer.

Phillip opens his eyes. He drops to the floor.

Moments later a group of Vampires herd several dozen VILLAGERS into the chamber. The Villagers are pushed and prodded to the center of the room where the red eyed creatures surround them. The Villagers huddle together in fear.

Phillip strides over to them. He smiles as he surveys the frightened group.

PHILLIP

Perfect.

A Figure drops from the ceiling behind Phillip. Comes up to him. He is RICHARD BANDERS. The Vampire King.

RICHARD

Dependable as always old friend.

Richard steps closer to his circled minions.

RICHARD

Enjoy.

The Vampires rush the group. They attack without mercy. No Villager is spared. Men, women, and children alike fall in the slaughter.

Richard turns to Phillip.

RICHARD

Return what is left to the village.
Bring me the girl.

PHILLIP

(nods)
Yes, My Lord.

EXT. DUKE EDMUND'S CASTLE -- NIGHT

The castle is seen from above. We circle slowly. Then swoop down into the courtyard. Past a half sleeping GUARD and into the

ENTRY

heading up the stairs. Down another hallway where we stop outside a wooden door.

A pale WOMAN emerges from the darkness.

INT. DEIRDRE'S BEDCHAMBER -- NIGHT

The room is ornately furnished.

Deirdre sits before a large mirror brushing her hair. She wears a sleeveless night gown.

On her shoulder there is a mark. A circle split by two intersecting lines which resemble a cross.

Across the room the door opens. Slowly. Silently. The pale Woman slips into the room. Closes the door. Melts into the shadows unnoticed.

Deirdre continues brushing her long hair.

The Woman slides from the shadows. She is directly behind Deirdre. Moving forward silently.

In the mirror Deirdre sees no one.

The Woman is closer now. Almost on top of the girl.

Deirdre pauses in her brushing. Cocks her head to the side She shivers as with a slight chill. Turns.

Deirdre's eyes widen in fear as she sees the pale figure.

The Woman hisses. Moves in on Deirdre.

INT. HALLWAY -- NIGHT

Deirdre's scream rips through the night.

A door is flung open at the far end of the hall. Firelight floods the hall as Duke Edmund rushes through the doorway. He thunders down the hall and through a door.

INT. DEIRDRE'S BEDCHAMBER -- NIGHT

He slides to a stop.

The room is a shambles. The mirror is shattered. Most of the candles have been knocked over. The curtains have been torn down exposing the shattered stained glass beyond.

Several candles sit near the window. Their wavering glow illuminates a single word clawed into the stone wall.

OURS.

INT. MONASTERY -- DAY

William, a scar on his cheek, sits in the front row of church pews. No one else is present.

William stares at the candles burning below the alter. He wears Mary's crucifix which he rubs in an absent minded manner.

The door opens. Three SOLDIERS enter. They stride over to William who continues to stare at the candles.

SOLDIER 1

Sir William Duke Edmund requests to speak with you.

WILLIAM

He knows where to find me.

SOLDIER 1

Yes, sir. He is here now.

William looks at Soldier 1.

WILLIAM

(sarcastic)

To what do I owe this honor?

SOLDIER 1

Perhaps you should ask him.

INT. MONASTERY LIBRARY -- DAY

William enters followed by the Soldiers.

An OLD MONK is milling about a stack of books at a table near the door.

Duke Edmund sits at a table near the windows. Sunlight falls across his face accenting the dark circles under his eyes. He looks like he has not slept in years. He stands as the men enter.

DUKE EDMUND

Sir William, please sit.

William takes a seat across from the Duke.

DUKE EDMUND

(sits)

I need your assistance in a matter
of grave importance.

WILLIAM

Concerning?

DUKE EDMUND

Last night my daughter was taken...By
them.

WILLIAM

Then she is beyond help.

DUKE EDMUND

No. She cannot be.

William stares at the Duke for several seconds. Then he
looks out of the window.

WILLIAM

I have taken a leave of the knights.
They are best suited to this
situation.

DUKE EDMUND

It was my men who saved you from The
Hoard when you were a boy. You owe
me your life.

William stands.

WILLIAM

Then I owe you that which is not
worth having.

William heads toward the door. Duke Edmund moves around the
table. He stands in William's path.

DUKE EDMUND

Ride with me to the king. He respects
you, but he still holds old rivalries
hard against me. He will listen to
you. To him I am nothing more than
a man who once angered his father.

William stares at him.

DUKE EDMUND

Damn it William. She is more than just my daughter. She bares the mark. Don't you understand what that means?

WILLIAM

The monks taught me well.

DUKE EDMUND

You could have your revenge.

William turns away. He strides to the windows. He looks out. Rubs Mary's crucifix between his thumb and forefinger. Then he strides toward the door.

WILLIAM

This is your problem now.

Unseen in the shadows of a bookcase, Sir David watches him go.

EXT. TRAINING AREA -- DAY

William is alone. He practices sword moves with angry motions. The wooden blade cuts audibly through the air.

SIR DAVID (O.S.)

On your guard.

William stops in mid swing. He looks over. Sir David limps toward him. Time and the battlefield have not been kind to this man.

WILLIAM

I have no patients for more visitors.

Sir David raises a wooden blade.

SIR DAVID

How about a challenger?

Some of the anger seeps from William's face. He looks around.

WILLIAM

I see no challenge here.

SIR DAVID

I'm old..not dead.

They engage. Despite his old wounds, Sir David is a formidable opponent. He has learned to work around the scars.

They talk as the battle continues.

SIR DAVID

I overheard your meeting today.

WILLIAM

Then you already know my decision.

Sir David blocks a shot. He bumps William back with a shoulder to the chest.

SIR DAVID

It is an honor to lead the Knights.

William recovers. Comes back to the fray.

WILLIAM

I no longer care for honor. I will not risk those men on my personal quest for vengeance.

SIR DAVID

Sounds like honor to me.

Sir David flings the sword from William's hands. Points his blade at the man's chest.

SIR DAVID

The student is almost the teacher.

Sir David tosses his sword aside.

WILLIAM

Almost? I let you win.

SIR DAVID

The king is young. He could easily be manipulated.

Sir David puts a hand on William's shoulder.

SIR DAVID

Convince him to allow you to ride alone.

William adverts his eyes.

WILLIAM

It could be done.

SIR DAVID

Save the child first...take revenge
if the opportunity presents itself.

William looks at him.

WILLIAM

The Duke cannot have gotten far.

SIR DAVID

You'll catch him.

William heads off.

WILLIAM

Inform the monks of my mission.

INT. FATHER ZANE'S CHAMBER -- DAY

Father Zane stares out the window. He watches William ride
out the main gate.

Sir David enters.

FATHER ZANE

Your power of persuasion is as strong
as ever.

SIR DAVID

We should have told him.

Father Zane turns from the window.

FATHER ZANE

He knows all that he must.

SIR DAVID

Sending him like a lamb to the
slaughter..No one can face The Hoard
alone.

FATHER ZANE

So it is written. So it must be.

Sir David looks distraught as he leaves.

Father Zane turns back to the window.

FATHER ZANE
God's speed, Sir William.

EXT. KING'S CASTLE -- DAY

A shot of a grand castle.

INT. KING'S THRONE ROOM -- DAY

William and Duke Edmund stand at the base of the steps leading up to the throne.

KING HENRY VI sits on the throne. He looks bored.

KING HENRY
If what you say is true, then the knights must be garrisoned here. As king I have been ordained by God. I cannot be left defenseless at such a time as this.

DUKE EDMUND
My lord, I-

William puts his hand on the Duke's shoulder. Then he steps forward.

WILLIAM
My lord, Sir Jericho is a more than competent leader. Sending me would show your people just how wise and noble their new king truly is.

King Henry leans forward.

KING HENRY
My respect for you extends only so far. Do not assume that I will stand for insults.

William bows his head. Looks back at the King.

WILLIAM
I only wish to remind you that great leaders such as yourself look upon their subjects as they would their children. They nurture and protect them.

William steps forward.

WILLIAM

Allow me to ride. The knights can be garrisoned in the village to the east to stand as a buffer between you and the hoard should I fail.

KING HENRY

You know where they are to be found?

WILLIAM

There is a village east of Duke Edmund's lands. A merchant sent word that everyone within has disappeared.

The King looks thoughtful. He stands.

KING HENRY

Let it be known that I shall never ignore the needs of my subjects. You may ride, Sir William.

EXT. COURT YARD -- DAY

William and Duke Edmund walk down the castle steps. The Duke is beaming. William is poker faced.

DUKE EDMUND

Return with me to my castle. I will assign my best men to accompany you.

WILLIAM

I would prefer to ride alone.

DUKE EDMUND

Certainly you can see that this is far too important to under take alone.

WILLIAM

I have no mind to argue, but send no more than two. I have no time to worry about stragglers.

EXT. DUKE EDMUND'S CASTLE -- NIGHT

A shot of the Duke's castle.

EXT. CENTRAL GARDEN -- NIGHT

William and the Duke stand in an open topped central garden. Stained glass windows peer from the surrounding walls.

FATHER SAUL WALLACE, 20's, a boy in Priest's clothing, approaches. He is accompanied by two of the Soldiers who fetched William from the monastery. The Duke turns to them.

DUKE EDMUND

Father Wallace meet, Sir William James.

The two shake hands. Father Wallace smiles broadly. William looks reserved.

WILLIAM

You have been sent by The Order?

FATHER WALLACE

Don't let me age fool ya. I am ordained a Priest of the Dark Cross.

WILLIAM

Campaigns?

FATHER WALLACE

This will be my first.

WILLIAM

A boy priest and two castle guards...With this I am to defeat Satan's hoard.

William strides toward an archway which leads to the castle's interior.

WILLIAM

Prepare yourselves. We ride at dawn.

On the roof a Figure moves unnoticed through the shadows.

EXT. STONEHENGE -- NIGHT

Establishing shot.

INT. SMALL CHAMBER -- NIGHT

The chamber is lit by the soft purple glow.

Deirdre awakens on the stone floor. She tosses wide eyed glances around. Sees no one.

She climbs to her feet. She shivers. Hugs herself as her breath begins to form fog in the rapidly dropping temperature.

She shuffles to the chamber's crude doorway.

INT. CORRIDOR -- NIGHT

She steps into the corridor.

The left half is lit by the purple glow. The right half is shrouded in darkness.

She turns to the left. A sudden gust of wind pushes her back several steps. The wind drops off when she turns in the opposite direction.

Deirdre makes her way down the dark half of the hall. She comes to a T and stops.

The hall to the left is lit by a fire at the far end. The right side is dark.

She takes a tentative step to the right. A Vampire drops from the ceiling. It blocks her path. Hisses.

The Vampire steps forward.

Deirdre takes a step back. She stumbles on her own feet. Falls.

The creature hisses. Reaches toward her.

Deirdre crab-walks back from the red eyed beast.

The Vampire stops. Pulls back into the darkness.

Deirdre scrambles to her feet. Heads toward the firelight.

INT. PHILLIP'S CHAMBER -- NIGHT

The chamber is lit by a fire which burns in the middle of the floor. The smoke is carried through the ceiling by a metal hood and pipe. Two high backed chairs face the fire.

Deirdre enters.

She looks with fear at the flitting shadows around her. She pulls the blanket protectively around her neck. Walks slowly toward the fire.

PHILLIP (O.S.)
You must be cold. Come..warm
yourself.

Deirdre jumps. She sees Phillip sitting in one of the chairs. His pale face and dark eyes are exposed by the flames.

He motions toward the other chair. Deirdre doesn't move. Only stares at him.

The man's eyes take on a bluish tinge. He looks into her eyes.

PHILLIP

Sit.

Wide eyed Deirdre moves across the room. Sits down.

The man's eyes return to their former color.

Deirdre blinks. Shakes her head as if trying to wake up.

PHILLIP

My name is Phillip Reynalds. I will be your host during your stay.

DEIRDRE

I do not remember being invited.

PHILLIP

Despite your fear you show fire. You'll make an excellent bride.

DEIRDRE

One day.

PHILLIP

Consider this your invitation.

Deirdre stares at him.

DEIRDRE

Consider the invitation refused.

PHILLIP

Refusals can have their price. You will give yourself, or when the moon goes dark you will come to your end.

Phillip looks at the ceiling.

PHILLIP

Take her back until she is called for.

A VAMPIRE drops from the ceiling. It grabs the girl and pulls her to her feet. It drags her from the room as she struggles against its grasp.

INT. CATACOMBS MAIN CHAMBER -- NIGHT

Phillip strides in. He sees Richard feasting on a Woman. The Woman is alive, barely. She moans weakly as Richard sucks blood through a vein in her leg. Richard offers the let to Phillip who shakes his head.

RICHARD
Everything is arranged?

PHILLIP
Yes, My Lord, but what of the Knights?

RICHARD
My spy reports that only one is coming.

Richard slaps at a Vampire as it attempts to partake of his snack.

RICHARD
Sir William James.

Phillip's eyes narrow.

RICHARD
His efforts will be for not.

PHILLIP
My Lord, I-

Richard stands, kicking the Woman aside in the process.

RICHARD
Do not deviate from my plan.

Phillip stalks from the room.

EXT. WOODS -- NIGHT

A group of eight Vampires feast on a Man in a small clearing.

Phillip steps from the wood line.

The Vampires stop feeding. They stand like soldiers at attention.

PHILLIP

Good hunt. You have learned well.

He moves over. Stands before them.

PHILLIP

Richard's would be leadership grows weaker with each passing moment...Return to the catacombs and await my call to action.

The Vampires move off.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

William and his band ride down a narrow dirt trail.

The road disappears into thick forest. A tent has been erected near the road.

Several MEN in tarnished armor lounge around a small campfire. Another stands in the road near the tree line looking bored.

William's group approaches. William wears a dark cloak which conceals his armor.

William looks down at the Men near the fire as he passes them. They look back with curiosity but stay on the ground. William turns to Father Wallace.

WILLIAM

(soft)

Hired swords.

FATHER WALLACE

What?

WILLIAM

These men fly no crest. Let me do the talking.

William faces the Man in the road. The Man raises his hand for them to halt. William and his group comply.

WILLIAM

We ride in the name of Duke Edmund of Somerset. Let us pass.

The Man answers William in German. He points back the way they came.

WILLIAM
Prepare to ride.

William edges his hand toward his sword.

WILLIAM
There will be no talking to these
men.. I never paid enough attention
in my language classes.

FATHER WALLACE
(German subtitled)
This man is a Knight of the Dark
Cross. Our business is ordained.
Please step aside.

William looks at the priest as if seeing him for the first
time.

MAN
(German subtitled)
In the name of King Henry the sixth
only one man may pass. You bare not
his markings.

Behind them the other Men stand. Move toward the edge of
the road.

Father Wallace turns to William.

FATHER WALLACE
Show them yer armor.

William dismounts. The Man reaches for his sword.

FATHER WALLACE
(German subtitled)
Stay your hand.

*

The Man keeps his hand on the weapon but doesn't draw it.

William parts his cloak.

The Man's eyes widen with surprise and awe. He looks at his
comrades. Speaks to them quickly.

The Men cheer.

FATHER WALLACE
I think they like ya.

The Man steps aside. Waves for them to pass.

EXT. CHURCH RUINS -- DUSK

William's group comes upon the ruins of a small church as they ride through the deep woods. The roof and one of the stone walls are collapsed inward. The rotting wood doors hang haphazardly from rusted hinges.

Father Wallace spies the ruins. He steers his horse toward them.

William turns his mount. He follows his companion.

WILLIAM

What do you want with this mess?

Father Wallace dismounts. He reaches into his saddle bag. He removes a metal cross which has the same orange-red tint as William's sword blade. He pulls out a vial. Walks over to the ruins.

Father Wallace enters the ruins through the collapsed wall. He walks to each corner of the room. Pours some liquid from the vial in each as he goes.

He moves to the center of the room. Holds the cross at chest level as he chants a quick prayer in Latin.

William smirks as the priest completes his ritual.

WILLIAM

Why do you bother? If you pray like you ride that won't help.

Father Wallace steps out of the ruins. He heads back toward his horse.

FATHER WALLACE

I can assure ya that I pray much better. Besides ya never leave hallowed ground in such a state. God wouldn't like that.

WILLIAM

God doesn't give a goat's crusted arse what happens down here.

Father Wallace carefully places the cross and vial back into his saddle bag. Then climbs into the saddle.

FATHER WALLACE
Ya don't believe prayers help?

WILLIAM
I have seen far too many men die
with a prayer on their lips.

Father Wallace adverts his gaze from William's.

FATHER WALLACE
Ya enter this holy war with no faith
and ya've already lost.

William looks back at the road ahead.

WILLIAM
This war is anything but holy. You
pray all you want. Just don't expect
much in return.

William turns to the Soldiers.

WILLIAM
Sun will set soon. We'll camp here
for the night. One man watches by
my hourglass.

INT. SMALL CHAMBER -- NIGHT

Just outside the entrance a Vampire laps blood from a bowl. Crouched like a feeding animal it fails to notice Deirdre slip down the corridor.

INT. RICHARD'S CHAMBER -- NIGHT

The large chamber is lit only by the purple glow. Stone columns leave pools of shadow.

Richard sits cross-legged in the middle of the floor. A leather bound book lays open in front of him. Eyes closed his lips move as he chants softly.

Deirdre moves silently into the chamber. She hides behind a column. Peeks around it at the Vampire King.

An orb of white light forms near the ceiling. It moves down toward Richard. The orb is intercepted by a bolt of purple light which shoots from the chamber wall. The forces collide. Dissipate in a flash.

Richard slumps forward. Exhausted. He takes a few deep breaths. Then he sniffs the air.

In an incredible move he leaps from the floor. He lands beside Deirdre. Grabs her.

RICHARD

Why have you come here?

His eyes glow with the same light as the walls.

Deirdre tries to speak. Her lips move soundlessly.

The glow fades from his eyes. He releases her. Turns away.

RICHARD

It is my greatest regret...This that I am.

Deirdre reaches out. She touches his hand.

DEIRDRE

You could change this.

He pulls his hand away.

RICHARD

To go against the darkness without first being redeemed would condemn my soul to hell...I have had my fill of that.

He stalks back toward the center of the chamber.

RICHARD

Best you return to your room.

Deirdre hesitates.

RICHARD

Now.

A Vampire enters. It takes her by the arm. As it leads her out, she casts a sad glance back at Richard.

Richard crouches. He removes a stone from the floor. He puts the book in the space underneath. Replaces the stone.

PHILLIP (O.S.)

My Lord.

Richard jumps up. He turns. Phillip stands in the doorway. Richard looks uncomfortable.

RICHARD
All is prepared?

PHILLIP
They will reach the mansion by next light.

Phillip strides toward him.

PHILLIP
With all due respect, I fail to see why he is allowed to live.

RICHARD
I grow weary of your questions. Carry out my orders, or make way for someone who will.

Phillip turns on his heel. Storms from the chamber.

EXT. CHURCH RUINS -- NIGHT

Soldier 2 stands guard. The others sleep near a large campfire.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Hey lover.

Soldier 2 turns toward the sound. He sees fleeting movement in the woods.

A brief glimpse of white clothing.

A set of glowing blue eyes stares out of the darkness. Soldier 2's face goes slack. He moves toward the eyes.

EXT. WOODS -- NIGHT

Soldier 2 slips through a thick stand of trees. He comes to a clearing.

Across the clearing he sees a WOMAN wearing a white night gown. Her glowing blue eyes meet his.

WOMAN
Come here lover.

Soldier 2 moves toward her.

She slides her gown off her shoulders. Lets it fall to the ground. She smiles as he reaches for her.

SOLDIER 2
Beautiful.

The Woman's eyes turn dark red. She lunges forward. Grabs him by the throat.

EXT. CHURCH RUINS -- NIGHT

Someone moves toward the sleeping men. A sword point is pressed against William's chest.

William moves with cat like speed. He slaps the blade away. Pushes his attacker back with an upward thrust of his feet. He jumps up. Draws his sword.

He finds himself facing a frightened THIEF. Barely out of his teens his wide eyes stare from his dirt smeared face.

William moves to attack as Father Wallace and Soldier 1 make it to their feet.

JAMES (O.S.)
Wouldn't do that.

William stops. He glances around. A gang of nine THIEVES stand at the edge of the firelight. They form a half circle with their quarry between them and the ruins.

The frightened Thief joins his friends.

The man who spoke steps forward. He is JAMES BLACKWELL, 30's, life hardened thief. He fixes William with a hard stare.

JAMES
Place anything of value near the
fire and be on your way.

William returns the stare.

WILLIAM
I have nothing of value...Only your
life in my hands.

The Thieves draw their weapons. James looks at Soldier 1.

JAMES

Castle Guard...Couldn't cut it in
the King's Army.

He looks at Father Wallace.

JAMES

A priest barely old enough not to
wet his bed.

His eyes return to William.

JAMES

Neither of them is worth their skin
in a fight...You...I figure you get
two..maybe three of us before we
take you down.

William looks around at the Thieves. At random intervals
he makes direct eye contact. Nods.

JAMES

What the hell are you doing?

WILLIAM

Picking my three.

James gives him a look. Then he laughs.

JAMES

Sheath your weapons men.

The Thieves do so.

James moves toward William. Still laughing, he extends his
hand.

JAMES

No harm, knight. I am James
Blackwell.

William lowers his sword. When James is in arm's reach
William grabs a handful of the thief's family jewels. He
puts his sword to the man's throat.

The Thieves pull their blades.

WILLIAM

We were four. Where is my other
man?

James speaks through the pain.

JAMES

He went into the woods...I sent one
of my men to follow him. He means
him no harm.

A horrific scream rips through the night.

Something crashes toward them. Snapping branches at it comes.

William pushes James away. Turns toward the sound.

The last Thief hauls ass out of the tree line. He looks
like hell is behind him.

It is.

THIEF

The Hoard!

He crashes through his friends. Slides to a stop near the
fire.

THIEF

The Hoard!

WILLIAM

Prepare for battle.

The Thieves form a crude perimeter. Their faces and stances
show that they aren't used to combat of this kind.

WILLIAM

(to Father Wallace)

Take your cross..Hold the left side.

William heads to the right. The direction from which the
Thief had come.

Something flies from the woods. William ducks. The object
passes just over him. Hits the ground.

Soldier 2's head rolls to a stop in the fire.

All around them movement is heard. Hisses and growls along
with the footsteps.

Silence.

WILLIAM

(soft)

Now.

As if on cue, Vampires bound from the woods.

The men do their best, but the fight is far from fair. The Vampires practice Gorilla Warfare. They hit and pull back almost faster than the mortals can react.

The Thieves drop like flies.

Father Wallace defends with his cross. He attacks with the holy water. Several drops of the divine liquid hit one of the beasts. Its flesh smokes. Peels. It howls. Flees into the night.

William and James swing their swords like mad. They connect with several targets. James blade causes temporary wounds. William's sears flesh as it slashes deep.

As fast as it begins, the attack is over.

Howls grow distant.

The survivors look around. Carnage.

William takes inventory. Father Wallace, alive and well. Soldier 1 limps his way toward the fire. His leg bleeds from a cut to his thigh.

James' eyes roam with shocked disbelief.

JAMES

One man and my sword...All I've got left.

The priest puts his hand on James' shoulder.

FATHER WALLACE

Ya have yer life.

James knocks his hand away.

JAMES

The knight was right..Nothing of value.

He turns to William.

JAMES
What's your quest?

WILLIAM
We ride to save a Duke's daughter.

JAMES
From the Hoard?

WILLIAM
Who else?

James looks thoughtful.

JAMES
We'll ride with you..I owe it to my
men.

The remaining Thief looks at him.

THIEF 1
Have you lost your bloody mind? We
need to get the hell out of here.

William turns away.

FATHER WALLACE
Safety in numbers, William.

William speaks without looking at James.

WILLIAM
If you get in my way, I'll end you.

EXT. VILLAGE -- DAY

William and his group reach the edge of a small village.
The wood and stone huts are in ill repair. There are no
signs of life.

They pull their horses to a stop.

William glances at the sun. Then he looks at a mansion on
the hill beyond the village. A river runs next to the
mansion. Almost touching the east side.

WILLIAM
Daylight won't last forever. We
need to be well clear of this village
by the time the sun sets.

FATHER WALLACE
Doesn't look like a soul's been here
in days.

WILLIAM
No soul has.

Father Wallace reaches into his bag. He pulls out his cross.
Holds it tight.

Soldier 1 shifts nervously in the saddle.

WILLIAM
It is not wrong to be afraid. Fear
can be a great ally. Control it.
Use it to give your senses and edge.

SOLDIER 1
You ever afraid?

WILLIAM
Every day.

William glances from one man to the other. He rubs Mary's
crucifix.

WILLIAM
Now is your chance to back out.
Once we are inside there is no room
for second thoughts.

FATHER WALLACE
Right beside you.

SOLDIER 1
All the way.

WILLIAM
When we get inside we split up. The
Soldier and me downstairs..the rest
of you up. We meet outside before
sundown.

EXT. MANSION -- DAY

The men stride up to the mansion's main double doors.

WILLIAM
Stand to the side. Don't move until
I tell you.

They do as instructed. Father Wallace's hands are shaky. He grips his cross tight. Soldier 1 also looks nervous.

SOLDIER 1

Is it true they can change shape?

WILLIAM

Forget what you have heard. They are fast. They are strong. They will kill you the first chance they get. That is all you need remember.

Father Wallace grips his cross even tighter.

William draws a dagger. Holds it out to the priest.

WILLIAM

Never hurts to be prepared.

Father Wallace takes the offered blade.

WILLIAM

That blade is not holy. Aim for the heart or it will do you no good.

William draws his sword. Uses it to pry the door latch free.

He steps to the side. Pushes the door inward with his blade.

They hear a click.

Seconds later a barrage of arrows flies from the darkness inside.

A dozen fly past William through the open door. Others embed in the unopened door near Father Wallace. The tips protrude through the wood.

Father Wallace raises his cross. Holds it out defensively.

William shakes his head. Motions for them to say put.

William reaches through the doorway with his sword hand. Prods the floor inside with the weapon. Nothing happens. William steps inside. The others follow.

INT. MANSION -- DAY

William slides through the shadows. He moves toward a stairway near the far wall.

Father Wallace is so close behind William that he almost steps on the knight's feet as they walk.

William nears the stairwell. He jumps back. Raises his sword.

Father Wallace is knocked to the ground by William's backward motion. Father Wallace holds up his cross. He braces for an attack.

None comes.

Father Wallace looks at William. He sees William staring toward an archway near the base of the stairs. His sword is raised but he doesn't move.

FATHER WALLACE
What the blazes is wrong?

WILLIAM
Get it away from me.

Father Wallace clambers to his feet. He looks around William. A spider web is strung in the archway. A large black spider sits in the center of the web.

FATHER WALLACE
It's jes a spider.

William's head snaps toward the sound of the man's voice. He looks at the priest as if just becoming aware of his presence.

WILLIAM
I hate these damn things.

Father Wallace smirks. He steps between William and the spider blocking the knight's view.

FATHER WALLACE
We got other foes to deal with jes
now.

Father Wallace takes William by the arm. He gently turns him away from the web. He sends him toward Soldier 1 with a sweep of his fingers.

Cross in hand the priest leads his group up the stairs. William and the Soldier move deeper into the darkness.

INT. HALLWAY -- DARK

The priest stops at the top of the stairs. He pulls a torch from a wall mounted holder. He hands it to James. Then he lights it with flint and stone retrieved from a pocket in his robe.

The torch exposes a long hallway. Several doors line each side.

THIEF 1
I'll take the first door.

He moves forward. James hands him the torch.

JAMES
Lead with the flame.

Thief 1 grips the door's handle.

INT. ON THE STAIRS -- DARK

Several FIGURES move silently up the stairs. They reach the top. Stops just outside the torch light.

HALLWAY

Thief 1 pushes the door open. Shoves the torch into the room. He looks around. Sees no one. He closes the door.

THIEF 1
Nothing.

James takes the torch.

JAMES
Next one is mine.

They move down the hall.

Behind them the Figures glide into the hall. Keeping to the shadows, they cling to the walls. Climb to the ceiling.

INT. DINING ROOM -- DARK

Weapons at the ready William and Soldier 1 move into the large room. A meal is on the table. Goblets and unlit candles lay on their sides. The food, partially eaten, looks as if it has been sitting out for several days.

They move cautiously toward a doorway on the far side of the room.

They don't notice a group of Vampires who watch them from the room's high ceiling. Once the men have passed, the creatures head down the wall.

INT. HALLWAY -- TORCH LIGHT

Just beyond the light Vampires crawl across the ceiling.

Father Wallace holds the torch. They are by a door near the middle of the hall. The priest reaches for the handle.

THIEF 1
Something's wrong.

FATHER WALLACE
There's news.

JAMES
He's right...usually is.

Thief 1 looks up.

THIEF 1
Liked to have been wrong.

With its feet on the ceiling a Vampire swings like a trapeze artist. It grabs Thief 1 and yanks him off his feet. Carrying its screaming prize it runs into the darkness.

Father Wallace and James move to pursue. They don't get two steps before more of the beasts drop down at both ends of the hall.

INT. DINING HALL -- DARK

The men are near the far side.

MARY (O.S.)
William.

William looks around. Sees only the Soldier.

WILLIAM
You hear that?

SOLDIER 1
What?

WILLIAM

Thought I heard--

Red eyes appear in the darkness around them. They are surrounded.

Soldier 1 looks around. His face is slack. Pale.

WILLIAM

Stand back to back.

The two men move together. Face their enemy.

The Vampires attack.

INT. HALLWAY -- TORCH LIGHT

Father Wallace and James have their backs to the wall. James uses the torch to keep the creatures back on his side. The priest uses his cross on the other.

The Vampires toy with them. They dodge in and out. Take quick swipes with their claws.

The priest grows tired of the game. A Vamp moves in. He slaps it across the face with his cross. The creature's flesh sears under the contact. It pulls back.

The Vampires halt their play. As one their eyes turn a deep shade of blood red.

JAMES

Oh yeah...Now they're happy.

He looks around. Spies a door only a few feet away. Father Wallace follows his gaze.

FATHER WALLACE

We'll be trapped.

JAMES

Yeah, but they'll only have one way in.

Father Wallace clears a path with cross and holy water. They charge through the door into a

ROOM

where Father Wallace slams the door closed.

They run to the middle of the small room. Look around.

The window is blocked by a large wooden wardrobe. Its thick legs are jammed deep in the floor.

The door bursts open. Vampires rush through.

Father Wallace hits the first one with drops of holy water. Its flesh melts where the liquid hits. It pulls back.

The priest keeps the others back with his cross.

FATHER WALLACE

Clear the window.

James rushes over to it. He pushes against the wardrobe. It creaks but won't budge.

JAMES

Damn thing's heavy.

A Vampire drops from the ceiling. It lands behind James.

INT. DINING ROOM -- DARK

William beheads a Vampire. Its body dries and flakes even as it drops.

The Soldier displays great sword skills. However, his mortal weapon causes his foes only temporary wounds. Soon he falls to the creatures.

William fights his way to a corner. He stands with his back against the wall.

The Vampires block him in. They stay just beyond the reach of his sword. Their eyes turn from red to blue.

MARY (O.S.)

My love.

The two Vampires in the center step back. Mary moves into their place.

MARY

I have missed you.

INT. ROOM -- TORCH LIGHT

The Vampire grabs James.

James shifts on his heel. He stabs his sword back under his arm. The creature lets him go as the blade pierces its chest.

James grips the sword's hilt with both hands. He rams the blade deeper. He shoves the dying creature back. Lets its body fall.

Father Wallace looks back. Sees the creature's corpse.

While his head is turned, a Vampire closes its eyes. Now unable to see the cross it charges.

The priest turns his head back just in time. He spins out of the monster's path just as it reaches him.

The creature continues its blind charge. Its strength and speed send it crashing through the wardrobe. Slowed only slightly by the impact it shatters the window. Tumbles

OUTSIDE

The Vampire plummets toward the ground. It howls as sunlight bathes it. Its flesh melts like wax.

IN THE ROOM

Light floods through the shattered window.

The other Vamps retreat to the hall.

Father Wallace kicks the door shut behind them.

INT. DINING ROOM -- DARK

William lowers his sword. His face shows shock and confusion.

WILLIAM

I burned you myself.

Mary smiles. A tear streaks down her cheek.

MARY

It wasn't me you found that day.

WILLIAM

Why not just kill me?

She moves toward him. Her eyes take on a slight blue tint.

MARY

That would have created a martyr.
Your men never would have stopped.

WILLIAM

But--

She reaches him. Presses a finger gently against his lips.

MARY

None of that matters now. All that
matters is that we can be together.

She embraces him. Leans her head against his shoulder.

William blinks hard. Shakes his head as if clearing his
mind.

WILLIAM

No.

Mary's eyes go red. Fangs extend in her mouth. She turns
her face toward William's neck.

MARY

Feel my love.

INT. ROOM -- DAY

The Vampires hiss from just beyond the door.

James tosses a piece of the wardrobe aside. It lands among
the derbies of the shattered furnishing. He sticks his head
out the now exposed window. Looks down.

JAMES

We can make it.

He pulls his head back in.

JAMES

Rich folk like their carved stone.

FATHER WALLACE

We're not leaving them behind.

JAMES

I know that.

He gestures to the door.

JAMES

Hear them out there? Go through
that door you're dead.

Father Wallace moves to the window. He looks out. Pulls
back fast.

FATHER WALLACE

I'll take my chance with them.

A grin splits James' face.

JAMES

You're afraid of high places.

Father Wallace gives him a look.

FATHER WALLACE

No..I jes--

JAMES

There are plenty of hand holds. Put
your hands and feet where I put mine.

He claps the priest on the back.

JAMES

Don't worry. If you fall, the ground
will stop you.

James heads out the window. Father Wallace hesitates. He
glances at the door. Then he follows.

INT. DINING ROOM -- DARK

William grabs Mary's hair. He yanks her head back pulling
her fangs from his neck. He raises his sword.

Mary smacks him hard across the face. He flies back. Slams
against the wall.

She kicks his wrist. His sword flies from his hand. Clatters
to the floor several feet away.

The Vampires rush him. They punch and kick him. Take him
to the ground.

MARY

Stop.

A final few kicks to the unconscious knight. Then the beating ends.

MARY

Our lord wishes him to witness the death of that which he protects.

EXT. MANSION -- DAY

The priest and the thief climb down the wall. They have made little progress.

Father Wallace looks terrified. He grips white knuckled to the stones. He looks at the window only inches above his head.

FATHER WALLACE

I'm going back in.

James looks up from further down the wall.

JAMES

Relax. Just move slow. Feel out the footholds before you move your hands.

James takes his own advice. He moves down several feet.

JAMES

See...it's easy.

Father Wallace looks down. He sees the ground three stories below. His eyes roll back. He goes slack.

JAMES

Oh shit.

The priest falls.

James tries to shift to the side. No chance. Father Wallace collides with him. Knocks him from the wall.

Both men fall.

They crash into the branches of a large pine tree. They bounce roughly through the tree's unforgiving arms. Hit the ground hard.

Neither man moves.

INT. SMALL CHAMBER -- DARK

Deirdre sits with her back against the wall. A Vampire stands like a statue in the doorway.

Richard steps up beside the guard.

RICHARD

Leave us.

The guard moves off.

Richard walks a few feet in.

RICHARD

I trust you are uncomfortable.

She looks at him.

DEIRDRE

Very.

RICHARD

Not long now.

Deirdre rises to her feet.

DEIRDRE

You will have to kill me. Never will I go with you.

RICHARD

In that you are correct.

He moves over to her. Speaks softly.

RICHARD

You will go with the knight.

DEIRDRE

You would free me?

RICHARD

Five hundred years ago I sold my soul to the darkness. I wanted power...Instead I was cursed with eternal life and a never ending thirst.

He turns.

RICHARD

When dark has fallen you will be
taken to the one who would protect
you.

He heads out of the chamber.

RICHARD

Perhaps then I will find my
redemption.

INT. RICHARD'S CHAMBER

Phillip peeks in from the corridor. He sees no one inside.
He enters.

He goes to the center of the room. He removes the loose
stone. Picks up the book.

He thumbs through the text. Rage masks his face. He slams
the book shut.

INT. BASEMENT -- DUSK

The large dirt floored room is empty of contents.

William lays near the back wall without his armor; bruised
and bleeding from a wound to his forehead.

His eyes slide open. He moans. Using the wall for support
he works his way to a seated position. He finds that his
hands are shackled in front of him.

He looks around. He sees his armor and cloak in a pile across
the room.

He climbs unsteadily to his feet. Makes his way to his
things. He sifts through the pile. His sword is not there.

He grabs his cloak and puts it on. He finds Mary's crucifix
among the items. Adds it to his ensemble.

He heads for a doorway and a set of stairs which lead up.
His face contorts in pain. He clamps a hand over the bite
wounds on his neck. After a moment he regains his composure.
Continues toward the stairs.

EXT. MANSION -- DUSK

Father Wallace slaps James hard across the face. James moans
but doesn't wake up. The priest slaps him again.

FATHER WALLACE
Wake up fer God's sake.

He draws his hand back.

JAMES
Don't.

Father Wallace drops his hand.

FATHER WALLACE
The sun has almost set.

James' eyes pop open.

JAMES
Damn it all.

FATHER WALLACE
I found a way in. A back window.

James sits up. He looks west. The sky is ablaze with sunset.

Father Wallace helps him to his feet.

INT. BACK ROOM -- DUSK

The stained glass window is broken inward. James peers through the hole. He glances inside. Then he clears the rest of the glass with his blade.

They climb inside. Head for the door.

INT. HALLWAY -- DUSK

A door opens. The weak sunlight barely reaches from the room to the hall.

Father Wallace and James step into the hall. Close the door behind them. At the ready they move down the doorless hall. They reach the end and step into the

DINING HALL

where they see the remains of several Vampires.

They move out into the room. Father Wallace looks up. He grabs James by the arm. Points to the ceiling.

A dozen Vampires sleep on the ceiling above them.

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT

William reaches the top of the stairs and enters the kitchen.

Someone grabs his shoulder.

He spins on his heel. In a flash he wraps the shackle chain around Deirdre's neck. Before he tightens the chain something catches his eye.

He looks at her shoulder. He sees the mark.

WILLIAM

Christ.

He quickly unwraps the chain.

Deirdre steps back. She looks at his eyes.

DEIRDRE

You're Sir William.

WHACK.

She punches him square in the jaw.

DEIRDRE

Bastard...Could'a killed me.

William rubs his jaw.

WILLIAM

Not bad, but we can fight later.

He looks around. They are alone.

WILLIAM

Has your escape been detected?

DEIRDRE

I was left here under your protection.

WILLIAM

My protection?

DEIRDRE

He who leads The Hoard wants me out of harm's way.

WILLIAM

A trap.

DEIRDRE

He is not what you may think.

WILLIAM

He has taken all that ever mattered to me. Regardless of what you see him as he must be ended.

DEIRDRE

I always believed knights to be above revenge.

WILLIAM

It is all I have left.

DEIRDRE

You have the power to choose.

WILLIAM

The last time I made a choice of free will I was a boy.

DEIRDRE

And what did you choose.

WILLIAM

To climb on a wagon.

He spies a large knife on a cutting block. Picks it up.

WILLIAM

Let's get you home.

INT. RICHARD'S CHAMBER -- NIGHT

Richard replaces the loose floor stone. He looks distraught.

WHUMP.

His book lands near his feet. He looks up. Sees Phillip in the doorway.

PHILLIP

Looking for that?

Richard picks up the book. Stands.

RICHARD

How did you get this?

PHILLIP

Your weaknesses are easily spotted.

Phillip steps forward. He holds William's sword.

PHILLIP

I greatly underestimated you. I thought you a fool. Now I understand you.

RICHARD

You could never understand.

PHILLIP

I understand...This knight is the noble not of nobles. The one destined to stand in my path to power.

RICHARD

Your path...I was once like you..Power was all that mattered to me. Until I found that it has a bite.

PHILLIP

The stalemate in our war against the humans. The weak forces you've sent after the knight..All serve only to mask your treason.

Phillip moves closer.

PHILLIP

I will never return to the poverty of my mortal life.

Richard throws the book. Phillip ducks but the object moves too fast. It smashes against his face. Sends him stumbling back.

Richard leaps across the room. He kicks Phillip in the chest before he lands.

The kick sends Phillip airborne. He bounces off the wall. Hits the floor hard. He's up in an instant, but Richard is on him. He kicks the sword from Phillip's hand. He snatches him up and body slams him.

A group of Vampires enters. They are the ones Phillip met with in the woods. Richard looks at them.

RICHARD

Take him away.

The Vampires move over. They jump on Richard. He fights to free himself but even his strength is no match for their numbers. They force him to his knees. Bend his arms up behind his back.

Phillip is on his feet. He retrieves the sword. Stands before Richard.

PHILLIP

I have not turned all of my prey
over to your control.

He eyes the blade.

PHILLIP

You like the ancient writings. How
about this one?...He who drinks the
blood of our King shall have his
power.

Phillip runs the blade across Richard's throat. Opens a smoking gash in the man's pale flesh.

One of the Vampires grabs the bleeding man's hair. Yanks his head back. Phillip clamps his mouth on the smoking wound. Drinks like a man dying of thirst.

INT. DINING ROOM -- NIGHT

James dances a jig while he looks up at the Vampires. Father Wallace watches him with a look of pity.

FATHER WALLACE

Stop fooling around before they wake
up.

JAMES

It's like they don't even know we're
here.

Someone grabs James. He freezes in mid step.

WILLIAM (O.S.)

What the hell are you doing?

Father Wallace smiles. He rushes over to William. James relaxes at the sound of the knight's voice.

FATHER WALLACE

Thank God. I thought we'd lost ya.

WILLIAM

Thank him when this is over.

Father Wallace sees Deirdre. She is near the door pulling a pair of torches from their holder.

FATHER WALLACE

The Child of Light.

WILLIAM

Courtesy of The Hoard.

JAMES

Who?

WILLIAM

Time for that later.

William picks up a sword from beside a dead Vampire.

Father Wallace hands James his tone and flint as Deirdre joins them. The thief lights the torches.

FATHER WALLACE

Hold out yer hands.

Father Wallace produces a small piece of thin metal. He works the locks on William's shackles. He has the knight's hands free in seconds.

WILLIAM

They didn't teach you that in Seminary.

FATHER WALLACE

Let's jes say there was once a boy who lived a far different life.

Deirdre hands a torch to James. She gives the other to William.

DEIRDRE

So who are they?

Above them the Vampire's red eyes open .

WILLIAM

Save the introductions. The trap is sprung.

He puts himself between Deirdre and the creatures as they drop to the floor.

WILLIAM

Get her out of here.

FATHER WALLACE

William--

WILLIAM

No arguments.

James grabs Deirdre's arm. He pulls her toward the door. After a moment's hesitation, the priest follows.

The Vampires charge. William battles with torch and blade. The mortal sword wounds heal quickly but the flames serve to hold them off.

One leaps. William side steps. He slaps it with the torch as it lands where he had been. He throws a round house kick to the burning creature. Sends it toward the others who scatter to avoid the flames.

William heads for the door. He grabs his neck as a fresh wave of pain washes over him. He fights through it and runs through the door.

HALLWAY

The others haven't gotten far. Vampires charge them from the far end of the hall. A pair runs while two others crawl like insane spiders along either wall.

William runs up behind his friends. Slides to a stop. He looks back. The other Vamps have regrouped. They close from behind.

WILLIAM

Push forward.

William slides through the group. He leads the charge.

They meet the Vampires half way. William slams his sword through ones chest. James impales another. Father Wallace slaps one from the wall with his cross. Pierces its heart with the dagger.

Deirdre swats the other wall crawler with a torch. Sends the flaming beast howling back the way it came.

William glances back. The other Vampires are almost on them.

WILLIAM

Move.

He lets his people run past. He brings up the rear while casting glances back at their pursuers.

MAIN ENTRY

The group runs in. They head for the exterior doors. Red eyed creatures step from behind pillars. Block their path.

JAMES

Upstairs. We can make it out a third floor window.

James heads for the stairs.

FATHER WALLACE

Not again.

They reach the stairs. James leads the way with Deirdre between him and Father Wallace.

William brings up the rear. He closes his eyes and turns his head as he runs past the spider's web.

A pair of Vampires leap onto the stairs behind William. They attack with a battle axe and a spiked mace.

Axe Vamp swings low. William jumps. The blade passes just under his feet. Still in the air he throws a kick to the creature's face. He lands. Slices it across the stomach.

It grabs its wound and William grabs its axe. Before it can heal William chops the axe into the top of its head. It tumbles off the stairs to the floor below.

This makes way for Mace Vamp.

It charges. Swings its weapon in a downward arc. William blocks the blow.

A dagger spins into frame. It hits Mace Vamp straight in the eye.

TOP OF THE STAIRS

James looks at Father Wallace.

JAMES

Nice throw.

FATHER WALLACE

I was aiming for its heart.

JAMES

I won't tell if you don't.

ON THE STAIRS

William pulls the dagger free. Kicks Mace Vamp in the chest. It tumbles down the stairs and collides with several of its counterparts.

William rushes to the others. He returns the dagger to the priest.

JAMES

Room's on the left side.

William looks back. A gang of Vampires is almost on them.

WILLIAM

No time for climbing. Take any door on the right.

They head down the

HALL

The choice is made for them. More Vampires head their way from the far end of the hall.

James rams his way through the first door on the right. Runs into a

ROOM

The others follow him inside.

William grabs Deirdre's torch. He uses it to keep the Vampires clear of the door.

The other three run to the window. They work to remove furniture which is stacked in front of the window.

When the window is cleared, James smashes the glass with a chair. He looks out.

BELOW

The river runs like a black snake three floor down.

He looks back at the others.

JAMES

See ya on the other side.

FATHER WALLACE

Depends on which other side ya mean.

OUTSIDE

James leaps. He drops feet first into the water.

INSIDE

Deirdre looks at the priest.

DEIRDRE

I hope your faith is well placed.

She takes a running leap out the window.

OUTSIDE

Deirdre plummets toward the water. She howls in delight all the way down.

INSIDE

Father Wallace looks after them but doesn't move.

William glances at him.

WILLIAM

Get your arse out that window.

The priest shakes his head.

FATHER WALLACE

I can't do it.

WILLIAM

You better.

FATHER WALLACE

It's too high.

WILLIAM

Come here and take the torch. We'll
find another way out.

Father Wallace rushes over. He reaches for the torch.

William throws the torch at the Vampires in the hall. He
grabs the priest and throws him over his shoulder and drops
his sword. Carrying him William runs across the room and
jumps out the window.

OUTSIDE

Father Wallace screams all the way to the water.

DOWN RIVER

James and Deirdre climb onto the shore. They look back
through the trees. The mansion is several hundred yards
away. As they watch, several Vampires take their own leap
into the river.

Splashes are heard from close by.

They turn. See William and Father Wallace as they swim.
James hoots like an owl. Waves his arm. The men see him.
They paddle to shore.

Once they are on dry ground, Father Wallace slaps William on
the back of the head.

FATHER WALLACE

Almost killed me.

WILLIAM

Could have left you.

FATHER WALLACE

Point taken.

DEIRDRE

I hate to step into a lover's quarrel,
but don't you think we should be
going?

JAMES

We're not far from where we hid the
horses.

PHILLIP (O.S.)

Welcome to the fold.

William looks around. It appears that only he has heard the voice. The others look around, then back at him.

WILLIAM
Get to the horses.

Pairs of red eyes appear in the trees.

FATHER WALLACE
We stand with you.

WILLIAM
The girl must be protected at all costs.

DEIRDRE
Your chivalry is misplace, Sir William.

The eyes are closer.

WILLIAM
The priest will explain once you are safe.
(to Wallace)
Her safety is your duty.

Father Wallace grabs Deirdre's arm. He pulls her behind him as he heads off. James remains.

WILLIAM
Your men would best be served if you live to fight on.

James hands William his sword. A final moment of hesitation, then he follows the others.

William stands ready for battle. Pain hits him again. Worse this time. He drops the sword. His knees buckle and he drops to the ground.

Lead by Phillip several Vampires emerge from the woods. One of them looks after the fleeing trio.

PHILLIP
Let them go.

He turns his attention to William. The knight lays in a near fetal position. He gasps and moans in pain.

PHILLIP

Not very pleasant. Is it, boy?

William looks up. His anger and hatred show through his pain. His eyes flash back and forth between a red glow and their normal color.

He grabs his sword. Forces himself to stand.

PHILLIP

What do you intend to do with that toy?

Phillip slaps the sword from William's hand.

William stumbles forward. He throws a weak punch which Phillip blocks with little more effort than if swatting a fly. He lifts William off of his feet and tosses him back.

William hits hard, but anger is a strong emotion. He makes it back up. Stumbles toward the vampire.

He grabs Phillip around the neck. William's eyes turn red. This time they stay that way.

Phillip grabs William by the wrists. He pulls the knight's hands off of his throat. Bends his hands back. Forces William to his knees.

William releases a guttural scream of primal anger.

PHILLIP

Bow before your master.

EXT. WOODS -- NIGHT

Four horses are tethered to trees in a small clearing.

William's scream chases the trio of heroes as they run toward the horses. They untie the animals. James and Father Wallace mount their saddles. Deirdre keeps her feet on the ground.

FATHER WALLACE

Need a hand up?

DEIRDRE

Why did he die for me?

FATHER WALLACE

There's no time fer this now.

DEIRDRE
I won't leave until I know.

JAMES
Just tell her so we can get the hell
out of here.

The priest meets her eyes. She looks dead serious.

FATHER WALLACE
That mark on your shoulder..You are
the Child of Light.

Deirdre looks at the mark.

DEIRDRE
This?

FATHER WALLACE
Your life will bring enlightenment
to mankind. During this time the
tides of battle can be turned. The
Hoard can be driven back..Perhaps
destroyed.

DEIRDRE
What happens when the moon goes black?

JAMES
Who gives a roasted turd. Let's go.

Deirdre shoots him a look.

FATHER WALLACE
Your sacrifice under a black moon
will bring darkness to the world for
seven full days. The Hoard will
spread like a plague.

James looks at her with new interest.

Deirdre mounts her horse. She looks like she is a million
miles away.

JAMES
How far to safety?

FATHER WALLACE
We ride hard...Stop only when we
must..Dusk tomorrow.

JAMES

Let's not waste any more time then.

The trio gallops through the woods.

Several creatures emerge from the trees. Block the path ahead.

Father Wallace looks to his right. He sees glowing eyes staring from the forest.

FATHER WALLACE

We've got ta cut through the village.

JAMES

There's no way we'll make it through there.

FATHER WALLACE

It's a shorter route.

Deirdre's fire shows through her shock.

DEIRDRE

At least we die trying.

She steers her mount toward the village.

JAMES

Damn 'ard 'eaded females.

The two men follow her.

VILLAGE

They ride toward the village square. Vampires rush to block their path.

James shifts so that he is hanging, head toward the ground, from the saddle. He grabs a burning tree limb from a nearly dead bonfire near the village square. Holding his prize he slides back up into the saddle.

He slings the make shift torch at the Vampires in front of them. The branch pierces ones' eye. It screams as it tries to remove the flaming wood.

Father Wallace dips his dagger into his holy water. Uses the blade to sling divine drops towards the beast.

The water sears several of the Vampires. They pull back in pain clearing the path.

The three ride through at top speed.

WOODS

The trio is near the church ruins. Deirdre rides in the lead.

Vampires are close behind.

A Vamp drops from the trees between her and the ruins. It charges. Leaps at her.

A sword flies into frame. Strikes the creature in the throat. The Vampire grabs its gapping wound. Misses its shot at Deirdre as it falls to the ground.

JAMES

That was for my men.

Pushing their horses to the limit they ride into the night.

EXT. STONEHENGE -- NIGHT

A thick ground level fog rolls among the stones.

INT. SMALL CHAMBER

A WOMAN lays with her hands bound in front of her and a cloth tied around her mouth. Fear coats her face.

William lays a few feet from her. Holding his gut he rolls back and forth. He moans and shouts in pain. Fangs protrude and retract repeatedly in his mouth.

Mary enters. She stands over William.

MARY

There is only one way to end this pain.

She drags the Woman over to him.

MARY

Feed...Enter the fold.

William turns away from the offering.

Mary grabs the Woman's arm. She pulls a knife from a sheath at her waist. She cuts the captive's wrist deep. Grabs William by the hair and rolls him over. She forces his face toward the wound.

MARY

She will die from this wound
regardless...Feed.

He yanks his head away at the last moment. Blood smears across his face.

Mary slaps him. His head bounces against the stone floor.

MARY

You were always too head strong for
your own good.

She storms out. Leaves William to his pain.

INT. CORRIDOR -- LATER

A pair of Vampires guards the entrance to the chamber.

William strides out. He drags the Woman's pale body with him. He tosses the corpse to the floor.

WILLIAM

I am finished with this.

The guards dive on the body. Sink their teeth into flesh.

INT. CATACOMBS MAIN CHAMBER

Phillip stands before an army of Vampires. The creatures are in rank and file like soldiers.

PHILLIP

Nightfall will bring us greatness.
No longer will we cower in this hole
like rabbits--

He sees William enter. Notes the blood smeared on his face.

PHILLIP

Your transformation is complete.

William reaches him. His look is distant as he bows.

PHILLIP

I had hoped you would be stronger.

He leans William's head back. Looks at his eyes.

PHILLIP

Sad for one such as you to end as a
mindless slave.

He takes his hand from William's chin. The knight's head
drops back down.

PHILLIP

Your armor can be found in my chamber.
Wear it...It will please me to watch
a knight end the time of man.

WILLIAM

Yes, my Lord.

William moves off. Phillip's eyes glow red. His fangs
protrude from an evil smile.

EXT. DUKE EDMUND'S CASTLE -- DUSK

A Guard is walking patrol on the top of the wall. He stops.
Looks toward the horizon.

He sees riders approaching. As they grow closer, he sees
Deirdre.

Guard rushes to a bell mounted in the center of a metal arch
over the main gate. He grabs the rope. Rings the bell.

GUARD

Open the gate! They're here! Open
the gate!

IN THE COURTYARD

several MEN rush to the main gate. They remove the large
plank that latched the gates together. Swing them open.

Moments later the group rides through.

All around them the Castle Guards shout and cheer. The heroes
stop their horses near the castle's main doors. Cheering
Guards surround them. Men take the reigns. Steady the
horses.

Two men rush forward. Help Deirdre dismount.

Father Wallace and James dismount. They are instantly engulfed by guards who alternately shake their hands and clap them hard on their backs.

INT. THRONE ROOM -- DUSK

The Duke is perched upon the throne.

The curtains are pulled tight over all the windows. The only light comes from a few wall mounted torches and a fire in the hearth at the far end of the room.

Father Wallace enters with James and Deirdre in tow.

The Duke sees them. He jumps to his feet. A huge smile breaks across his face. He rushes to them. Grabs Deirdre in a tight hug.

DUKE EDMUND

Thank God.

The Duke releases Deirdre. He steps over to Father Wallace. Shakes his hand.

DUKE EDMUND

God bless you, Father.

James steps forward tentatively.

JAMES

If I may be so bold, Good Sir. I was told by your priest that there might be a reward for my help in the rescue.

Father Wallace slaps James on the back of the head.

FATHER WALLACE

I never said-

The Duke laughs.

DUKE EDMUND

Your reward will be far more than you imagined.

The Duke's expression changes.

DUKE EDMUND

Where is Sir William?

(MORE)

DUKE EDMUND (CONT'D)

Certainly he has not returned to his monks so soon.

Their silence answers him.

The Duke claps his hands several times. Two SERVANTS enter. Bow to the Duke.

DUKE EDMUND

Arrange a feast immediately. Hold nothing back...We celebrate the return of my daughter and the legend of Sir William James.

INT. THRONE ROOM -- NIGHT

All manner of food fills tables to near overflow.

The Duke sits at the head of a long table. Father Wallace and Deirdre flank the table on either side of him.

James is near by drinking and flirting with a SERVANT GIRL.

The rest of the seats are occupied by members of the Castle Guard.

A small band performs near the curtained windows. A scantily clad DANCING GIRL performs in front of the musicians.

Father Wallace looks toward her.

DUKE EDMUND

She's beautiful isn't she?

Father Wallace looks like a boy caught with his hand in the cookie jar. He looks quickly away from the girl.

FATHER WALLACE

I hadn't really noticed.

The Duke looks at him as if to say "yeah right." He shoots a glance at Deirdre who is paying him no mind. Motion to the Dancer as he leans toward the priest.

DUKE EDMUND

She can be yours tonight.

Father Wallace empties his goblet in a long swallow.

FATHER WALLACE
Your hospitality is much
appreciated..however..it has been a
long journey.

The Duke laughs. Slaps the priest on the back.

DUKE EDMUND
You could be missing the time of
your life.

FATHER WALLACE
I believe I've had my fill of
adventure for now.

EXT. DUKE EDMUND'S CASTLE -- NIGHT

A pair of GUARDS stand together on the exterior wall. They look toward the castle from which the sounds of the party are heard.

GUARD1
Why we got to be out 'ere?

He steps to the wall's inner edge.

GUARD1
Never 'ave any fund.

He turns around. The other Guard is gone.

The sound of a hiss from beside him. He turns his head. His eyes go wide with terror.

INT. THRONE ROOM -- NIGHT

The festivities are in full swing. The Dancing Girl wears less clothing than before. Her moves have taken a turn toward the erotic.

Drunk Castle Guards bang on the tables. Hoot and holler.

Father Wallace sits among them. He looks uncomfortable.

The Dancing Girl spies him. She slinks her way to his table. She climbs onto the table. Performs for the priest.

INT. HALLWAY -- NIGHT

James romances the Servant Girl in the hall outside the throne room.

Further down the hall several FIGURES gild through the shadows unseen by the lovers.

James gestures at a door.

JAMES
What's in there?

SERVANT GIRL
My Lord's study.

She laughs as James scopes her up. He carries her to the door. Pushes it open with his foot.

JAMES
Let's study.

He carries her through the door. Pushes it closed behind them.

Several other FIGURES have joined the first. They climb the walls. Disappear in the shadows.

INT. THRONE ROOM -- NIGHT

Father Wallace stares at the table top. The Dancing Girl continues her seductive moves. The Castle Guards are packed tight around the table enjoying the show.

Father Wallace stands. He pushes his way through the crowd.

FATHER WALLACE
If you'll excuse me.

Many of the Guards laugh as the priest walks out and into the

HALLWAY

where he walks to one of the glassless windows.

He hears the sounds of James and the Servant Girl through the study door.

Father Wallace turns his eyes to the ceiling.

FATHER WALLACE
Is no where safe, Lord?

Screams and shouts from the throne room.

Father Wallace rushes to the door. He looks into the
THRONE ROOM

where Vampires are attacking the party goers.

FATHER WALLACE
God save us.

INT. STUDY -- NIGHT

James has the Servant Girl laid across a table. Her dress
is hiked up.

James hears the screams. He freezes.

JAMES
What the 'ell?

He steps away from the table. Pulls up his pants.

The girl looks up at him.

SERVANT GIRL
Don't tell me that's all.

James heads for the door.

SERVANT GIRL
Bastard. Least you could say good-
bye.

JAMES
Lock the door behind me. Something's
wrong.

INT. HALLWAY -- NIGHT

James steps out into the hall.

Father Wallace stands across from the throne room door. His
back is pressed against the wall. He clutches his cross.
Fear masks his face.

James rushes to him.

JAMES
What is it man?

FATHER WALLACE
Vampires.

JAMES

What? How? How many?

FATHER WALLACE

More than I can count.

JAMES

More than three then, eh?

The priest gives him an angry stare.

FATHER WALLACE

This is not the time for whore house humor. The castle is being over run.

James looks into the throne room. His face slackens. William is among the Vampires.

JAMES

Shit.

FATHER WALLACE

You have to ride east. The knights have been garrisoned in a village there.

JAMES

Come with me.

FATHER WALLACE

I'll make a stand here.

JAMES

A stand...staying here is suicide. You need to-

FATHER WALLACE

I need to do what I was ordained to do. Get yer arse on its way.

James looks at him. Opens his mouth closes it. Then..

JAMES

You watch yer friggin' back. I don't 'ave many friends.

James runs down the hall.

Father Wallace takes a deep breath. He closes his eyes. His lips move in a silent prayer.

He moves toward the throne room door.

DOWN THE HALL

James runs past a set of windows. Their shattered glass lays on the floor.

James slides to a stop. A pair of Vampires eye him from up the hall. They move toward him. He looks terrified. He backs away.

JAMES

No...no.

He steps back until he bumps up against the waist high wall beneath one of the windows.

The Vampires pick up their pace. Close in.

Seemingly panicked James leans back. He tumbles across the sill and out the window. Screams.

The Vampires stop. They look disappointed by the loss of their snack. After a moment, they head off toward the Throne room.

OUTSIDE

James clings like a cat to the groove between two of the wall stones. He hears the Vampire's footsteps as they move away. He breathes a sigh of relief. Begins his decent.

THRONE ROOM

The drunken Castle Guards try to defend against the Vampires. Sober they would be no match. Intoxicated they are little more than a nuisance.

Deirdre is in a corner. Father Wallace stands in front of her. He uses his cross to keep several Vampires at bay.

He looks around. Spies a doorway not far away.

FATHER WALLACE

Stay with me. I'm gettin' us outta here.

Father Wallace thrusts forward with the cross. The Vampires jump back. He grabs Deirdre's hand. Together they run through the doorway.

EXT. CENTRAL GARDEN -- NIGHT

The priest and the girl run out of the castle.

WHACK.

Father Wallace drops like a stone from a blow to the back of the head.

Someone grabs Deirdre. Spins her around. She looks with fear into William's red eyes. He drags her down the garden's stone path.

EXT. VILLAGE -- NIGHT

James rides toward the village.

Large fires burn at intervals around it. KNIGHTS patrol with weapons in hand.

James pulls his horse to a stop as he reaches the perimeter. He finds himself looking at a Knight down the business end of an arrow. A MONK stands next to the Knight. He holds an orange tinted cross.

KNIGHT

Prove yourself.

James looks directly at the cross.

JAMES

I got to talk to Sir Jericho.

INT. VILLAGE ELDER'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

The single room building has been taken over by the Knights. The owner's belongings have been pushed to one side.

SIR JERICHO, 20's, and Sir David sit at a table near an hour glass. The sand has almost completed its descent.

SIR JERICHO

How bloody much longer?

SIR DAVID

Patience Jericho...Two more turns of the glass.

Sir Jericho stands. He turns to the fire. Stares at the flames.

SIR JERICO
I am a knight. I don't want to stand
here staring at sand.

SIR DAVID
A knight doesn't have to like his
orders.

The door bursts open. James is led in by a KNIGHT.

Sir David stands. Sir Jericho turns to face the new arrivals.

KNIGHT
Sir, this man bears news of--

James pushes his way past the Knight.

JAMES
We must ride immediately--

SIR DAVID
Who are you that you can barge your
way in here?

JAMES
My name is James Blackwell.

All three knights draw their swords.

JAMES
Arrest me later. William serves The
Hoard. The Duke's castle in under
siege.

Sir David takes command.

SIR DAVID
Prepare the Knights for battle.

Sir Jericho and the Knight head out with James on their heels.

Sir David pulls the black handled knife from its scabbard.
He gives the blade a quick once over.

SIR DAVID
I had hoped it would never come to
this.

EXT. CENTRAL GARDEN -- LATER

Father Wallace moans. He rolls over on his back. Opens his eyes.

In the sky the moon is near full eclipse.

The priest SITS up.

FATHER WALLACE

Fook me.

He rolls his eyes skyward.

FATHER WALLACE

Sorry.

He grabs his cross from the ground. Gets to his feet. Draws his dagger. Looks around.

He sees no one, but chanting can be heard from within the garden. He heads toward the sound.

GARDEN'S CENTER

Five Vampires occupy the hub where several stone paths converge. They stand in a circle around a marble bench.

Deirdre lays chained to this makeshift altar. She struggles against the chains to no avail as the Vampires continue their chant.

VAMPIRS

Some Latin shit.

The circle parts on one side. Duke Edmund steps through. Deirdre looks at his red eyes.

DUKE EDMUND

Sorry, my dear, but there was a change
in the hierarchy while you were away.

He reaches out. Brushes a lock of hair back from her face. She tries to pull away from his touch, but the chains hold tight.

DUKE EDMUND

You don't have to die. There is
still time to enter the fold.

She spits at him.

DUKE EDMUND

I see your will is as strong as ever.

He walks away.

DUKE EDMUND

Farewell my child.

The Duke leaves the circle. A Female Vampire takes its place beside the altar. Dressed in a black robe she carries an ornate dagger.

The Vampires close their circle. Their chants raises in intensity.

FATHER WALLACE looks on from behind a bush. He has his cross in one hand. His holy water in the other. He crouches down.

FATHER WALLACE

(soft)

Give me strength.

He springs from the bushes. Charges the Vampires.

He gets only a few feet before the cross is slapped from his hand. He is grabbed by the front of his robe. Lifted off his feet. He finds himself staring into William's face.

FATHER WALLACE

God help us.

WILLIAM

Not this time priest.

William tosses the man back into the bushes. The priest lands hard on his back. The impact knocks the wind out of him.

Deirdre looks toward the commotion. She sees William. A quick look at the sky. Only the slightest edge of the moon is visible. She looks back at William.

DEIRDRE

Fight his control..You're stronger than he is.

PHILLIP (O.S.)

Save your breath. He has tasted the blood of the innocent.

Phillip steps from the shadows.

WILLIAM

I have tasted blood...but I am not innocent.

In a flash William kicks the closest Vampire in the back. The blow sends the creature flying over the altar where it collides with the Vamps on the other side.

Phillip is in a rage. He looks to the sky. The moon is in full eclipse.

PHILLIP

End her.

The Female Vampire raises her dagger.

William turns his head. Without looking he reaches down and grabs Father Wallace's fallen cross. He screams in pain as his flesh smolders. He whips his hand around. Throws the cross.

The object flips through the air. It slams into Female Vampire's back. The impact buries several inches of the shaft in her.

She howls. Her flesh dries. She falls forward across Deirdre. The cross protrudes from her back. Forces the other Vampires back.

William looks at Phillip. He raises his left hand. There is a pair of bite marks on his hand. William grins.

EXT. DUKE EDMUND'S CASTLE -- NIGHT

Torches in hand The Knights of the Dark Cross thunder their mounts toward the castle. James, Sir David, and Sir Jericho ride in the lead.

EXT. CENTRAL GARDEN -- NIGHT

William faces the Vampires with a mortal sword.

A trio of the creatures attack while the other two attempt to get to Deirdre despite the cross.

William gut stabs an attacker. The wound is far from fatal, but it allows him to slam the creature against one of its partners.

The third attacks. William parries the blow. Two quick slashes to its throat. Then he stabs it through the chest.

Twists.

FATHER WALLACE makes it back to his feet. He rushes to the altar.

The duo of Vamps turns on him. The priest splashes the closest across the face with holy water. Blinds it.

The second draws a sword. Father Wallace yanks his cross from Female Vampire's corpse. Uses it to hold the creature back.

PHILLIP charges the priest from behind. He slides to a stop as William lands between him and his intended target.

WILLIAM

Fear the knight.

EXT. COURT YARD -- NIGHT

James and the Knights ride through the gates.

Vampires charge from the castle.

Sir David jumps from his horse. Draws a sword.

SIR DAVID

For the Cross.

The Knights leap to the ground. Charge the Vampires.

CENTRAL GARDEN

Father Wallace looks down at Deirdre.

FATHER WALLACE

Have ya free in no time.

He sets the holy water on the altar. He uses his lock pick to free her from her shackles.

PHILLIP draws William's holy sword. They face off. William's last two attackers move toward him.

PHILLIP

Get the girl..I'll handle this boy.

The Vampires head off.

DEIRDRE sees them coming. She grabs the holy water. Empties the vial with an arcing sweep of her arm.

The liquid splashes across the Vampires. Burns its way into them.

Father Wallace looks back. Then he give her a look of approval. Deirdre jumps to her feet.

The sword wielding Vampire takes a wild leap. It lands behind the priest. Lunges for Deirdre.

Father Wallace spins on his heel. He swings his cross like a bat. Slams it against the side of the creature's head.

Deirdre grabs the sacrificial dagger from the altar. She slams it into the creature's heart. Pulls it out as the Vampire falls dead.

FATHER WALLACE

If James still lives, the Knights
are on their way. You'll be safe
soon.

Deirdre gets to her feet. They head toward the entrance to the castle. Before they can reach the doorway they are cornered by another Vampire.

The priest holds it back with the cross while Deirdre tries to stab it. The creature knows it has them cornered. It stays out of Deirdre's reach.

WILLIAM charges Phillip. The two men attack and counter attack with inhuman speed.

Phillip spins low. He sweeps William's legs out from under him. William smashes down on his back.

Richard stabs down at him. William parries the blow. Phillip's blade digs into the ground a hair's width from William's head.

William kicks Phillip in the chest with both feet.

The Vampire King flies backward. Slams against the wall. Drops his sword as he hits the ground.

A KNIGHT slips into the garden. He carries a bow and arrows.

The Knight douse the tip of an arrow with holy water from a large vial. Draws the bow string. Takes aim.

At William.

JAMES (O.S.)

No!

James flies into frame. He collides with the bowman.

The Knight stumbles sideways. But not before releasing the arrow.

The arrow zips through the air toward William. The aim is off center but still on target. The arrow pierces William's armored leg. Sinks into his calf muscle.

William screams as smoke rises from the wound. He grabs the arrow. Rips it out.

JAMES slaps the Knight on the back of his head.

JAMES

That's Sir William ya dumb bastard!
(points at Phillip)
Kill that one.

The Knight douses a second arrow. Loads the bow. Takes aim at Phillip who is climbing to his feet.

A loud hiss behind the Knight.

A Vampire grabs the Knight's head. Wrenches it to the side. There is a sickening crunch. The Knight, his vertebrae shattered, goes limp.

His dead hand releases the arrow. It takes weak but steady flight.

PHILLIP catches the arrow by the shaft. The tip is inches from his eye. He tosses it to the ground. Retrieves his sword. Heads toward William.

JAMES stabs the Vampire through the back as it feeds on the dead Knight. His blade slices through its heart.

James leaves his sword. Grabs the bow.

He loads an arrow and fires at Phillip.

As the arrow takes flight, James glances down. He sees the Knight's holy water leaking from its open container on the ground.

JAMES

Damn it all.

The arrow strikes Phillip in the shoulder. Un-anointed it has little more effect than a pin prick.

Phillip pulls out the offending arrow. Tosses it aside. The wound begins to close the second the arrow is gone.

William limps forward. Engages Phillip again.

Phillip parries the attack. Drives the wounded knight back with a lightening flurry of thrusts and swings.

He looks toward the sky.

The moon is moving out of the last phase of the eclipse.

James grabs another arrow. He dips the tip in the holy water as the last of it soaks into the ground. He pulls the bow string back. Prepares to take aim.

Father Wallace looks toward James. He sees a Vampire scurrying down the wall toward James.

FATHER WALLACE
James! Above ya!

James spins. Looks up. Sees the creature.

He brigs the bow up. Fires the arrow into the top of the Vampire's head.

The creature howls. Falls.

James tries to side step. Before he can the Vampire lands on him knocking him unconscious. In its death throws it claws deep furrows into James' chest.

Father Wallace tries to run past the Vampire in front of him. It is too close. The priest bumps against it in his attempt.

It grabs a handful of Father Wallace's clothing. Hurls him back over its head.

The priest flips through the air. Crashes to the ground.

His cross slips from his grasp. Bounces away.

The creature moves toward Deirdre.

Deirdre steps up to meet it. She slams her dagger into the creature's chest.

The Vampire falls as the blade pierces its heart.

WILLIAM thrusts his sword toward Phillip's chest.

Phillip spins to the side. Kicks william in his wounded leg.

William drops to his knees.

Phillip kicks William in the side of the head.

The force knocks William head over heels. He crashes face first against the ground.

Phillip grabs the sword from William's hand. Stabs the knight through the shoulder pinning him down as the blade sticks into the ground beneath him.

The garden is bathed in soft light.

Phillip looks to the sky. The eclipse has ended. Phillip shouts. The sound shatters windows. Forces Father Wallace and Deirdre to cover their ears.

He looks across the garden. He sees that Deirdre has stabbed her would be captor.

Phillip charges toward her.

Father Wallace has dragged himself over to his cross.

He sees Phillip rush by.

Father Wallace grabs the cross. His face shows the pain he feels as he pushes himself up onto his knees.

FATHER WALLACE

Deirdre!

Father Wallace throws the cross.

WILLIAM clenches his teeth.

He puts his hands flat on the ground. Pushes himself upward.

Slowly. Bloodily. He slides his body up the blade.

His back hits the hand guard. One final push. The blade slides free from the ground.

Deirdre reaches up to catch the cross.

Father Wallace has thrown it too high. It bounces off of her finger tips. Hits the wall. Falls useless to the ground.

Phillip reaches Deirdre. He grabs her by the throat.

PHILLIP

This isn't over, bitch.

Phillip throws her back against the wall. Then he LEAPS to the roof. William makes it to his feet. He meets Phillip's eyes. Shakes the sword out of his back.

Phillip bounds across the roof. Disappears into the night.

William rushes to the priest who looks into his red eyes with fear.

WILLIAM

I am sorry. He wouldn't have come unless he felt it was safe. I had to make him believe that I was under his control.

Father Wallace noticeably relaxes.

FATHER WALLACE

They canna kill her now. It must be under a dark moon.

WILLIAM

That time shall come again. This ends..tonight.

WHAM.

William is rocked by a head on charge from Sir David. The older knight stabs out with a black handled dagger. William catches Sir David by the wrist. Stops the knife as it hits his chest plate.

WILLIAM

Now is not the time for this old friend. Finish here. Then bring the Knights to Stonehenge.

In a flash William is across the garden. He leaps onto the roof. Follows Phillip's trail into the night.

Father Wallace pulls the dead Vampire off of James. Sir David and Deirdre join him. James' lifeless eyes stare up at them.

FATHER WALLACE

He was a good man.

SIR DAVID

William's turning could spell the
end for us all.

FATHER WALLACE

William is not under their control.
We must do as he has said.

EXT. STONEHENGE -- NIGHT

Phillip stands near the alter. It has been moved aside.

Dozens of Vampires pour out of the catacombs. Many are armed
with various weapons which range from swords to spiked maces.

PHILLIP

Go. Destroy everything in your path.

The red eyed beasts scatter in all directions.

Phillip waits until the way is clear. Then he heads down
into the catacombs.

EXT. STONEHENGE -- LATER

William stands in the shadows of a large stone. He surveys
the area. Sees no one. He heads over to the alter.

Three pairs of red eyes watch him from atop one of the upper
horizontal stones.

William crouches. Grabs the edge of the alter. He lifts
one side.

BAM.

The alter is knocked from his grasp. He looks up. Sees a
Vampire swing a mace at his head. William dodges the blow.
He grabs the vamp by its ankles. Snatches it off of its
feet. Sends it to the ground on the far side of the alter.

Its comrades leap at William. He takes one's head before it
can touch the ground. The other lands behind him. Draws a
sword with a curved blade.

The vamp attacks. It charges with its sword raised. William
jumps. He clears the ten feet between them with no effort.
He lands behind his attacker.

Takes it down with two quick blows.

The sounds of heavy footfalls behind him. He glances back. The mace wielding Vampire charges toward him.

William runs toward one of the large stones. He runs up its vertical surface. Flips backward. He passes over the Vampire. Takes its head as he flies past.

William lands in a fighting stance. His eyes take in the night. Nothing.

He heads back for the alter.

INT. STAIRWAY -- NIGHT

The grinding of stone against stone. The alter moves aside. Moon light flows into a crudely carved stairway which heads to the darkness of the catacombs.

William appears in the opening. A shadow with red eyes.

He heads down.

INT. FEEDING CHAMBER

The glow is very faint here.

William enters. He looks around. He sees that the room is filled with CORPSES. All of them are chained to the walls with shackles. All are covered with bite marks, look drained of blood.

MARY (V.O.)

William.

He looks around, but he is still alone. He moves toward the far side of the room. Heads down a narrow corridor.

EXT. HILLSIDE -- NIGHT

The Knights gallop across rolling hills. Father Wallace and Sir Jericho lead the charge with Sir David just behind them. All the horses but the Priest's bare saddle blankets which carry the symbol of the Knights.

Their destination, Stonehenge, is just visible in the distance.

Father Wallace's mount pulls up short. Almost throws him off.

The Knight behind him is moving too fast to stop in time. Their horses collide. Father Wallace tumbles sideways from the saddle. The Knight is thrown forward. He flies several feet. Hits the ground in a crash of armor.

Sir Jericho and the others reign their horses to a stop.

SIR JERICHO
(to downed Knight)
Sir Seymore...Can you move?

The Knight is still.

Sounds of movement in the darkness.

Father Wallace's horse is so frightened that he is forced to dismount to avoid being thrown.

SIR JERICHO
Dismount.

The Knights jump to the ground. They form a hasty perimeter.

Red eyes peer at them from all directions. More pairs than can be counted.

Sir David moves toward the downed Knight.

SIR DAVID
Hold the line. We can't leave him.

INT. CATACOMBS MAIN CHAMBER

A dying fire burns near the center off the room.

William moves cautiously in. His red eyes scan the area. He sees no one. He moves further in. Sword at the ready.

A FIGURE enters the chamber from another corridor behind him. The Figure is armed with a short sword. It moves silently toward him. Raises the weapon. Strikes.

William spins. He blocks the blow just in time. He finds himself looking into Mary's face. Her eyes are a deep red. Her face is a mask of rage.

William takes several steps back. Stares at her with disbelief.

PHILLIP (O.S.)
You have a choice to make, Knight.

Phillip strides in. He is armed with William's holy sword.

PHILLIP
Your life or her's.

Mary attacks William in a flurry of sword strikes. William blocks each blow, but his moves are only defensive.

Phillip charges him from behind.

EXT. HILLSIDE -- NIGHT

Vampires attack from all sides.

Sir David tries to fight, but he is dragged into the darkness before he can reach the fallen Sir Seymore.

The Knights battle hard, but it is all they can do to hold back The Hoard.

Father Wallace scampers around the inside of the Knight's circle. He holds up his cross. The temporary effect as he passes gives the Knights the slightest of advantages.

A Knight falls beneath the onslaught. Vampires rush through the gap. Father Wallace uses his cross in an attempt to back the creatures off. The Knights try to close the gap, but the attack is too heavy. Their perimeter collapses.

Father Wallace grabs the fallen Knight's weapon. With cross and sword he joins the fray.

INT. CATACOMBS MAIN CHAMBER

William battles both Mary and Phillip. He blocks Mary's assaults, counter attacks against Phillip's.

Mary swings for William's head. He blocks the blow. Phillip sweeps his legs out from under him.

William uses the momentum for a back flip. He pushes off against the wall with his feet. Leaps to the far side of the room. Phillip and Mary launch themselves after him.

They land by William. Attack simultaneously. William blocks Phillip's leg level swing. Mary's sword cuts between the shoulder seam of his armor. Finds flesh.

Phillip takes the upper hand. He smashes his fist against William's sword hand, knocks the weapon free. A powerful roundhouse kick sends William flying.

He bangs against the far wall. Crashes to the floor.

Phillip charges.

EXT. HILLSIDE -- NIGHT

Several more of the Knights have fallen. Those who remain stand back to back in battle weary groups of two or three. Vampire bodies litter the ground. Still their numbers seem insurmountable.

Father Wallace stands with a single Knight. The priest uses the cross to blind his attackers. Then the sword to drop them. His moves are those of an unseasoned warrior, but the cross helps him to hold his own.

The Knight behind him falls to a trio of the creatures. The priest is powerless to help him. He can only circle slowly with the cross held over head. Despite the power of the holy symbol, the Vampires slowly close on him.

INT. CATACOMBS MAIN CHAMBER

Phillip lands by William. Mary joins him seconds later. William rolls onto his back. Starts to get up.

Phillip stabs him with the orange-red blade. William shifts at the last second. The sword pierces his shoulder. The blade sears his flesh. Draws a deep shout of agony.

Phillip twists the blade free. Raises it for another strike.

William meets Mary's eyes with a look of sad regret. Then he kicks her with a hard, sweeping blow. The shot knocks Mary sideways. She smashes against Phillip. Both tumble to the ground.

William grimaces his way to his feet. Phillip is already up. He swings for the knight's throat. William ducks but is knocked to the ground by Mary's open-field tackle.

William takes her hit hard in his wounded shoulder. The two hit the floor in a jumble of arms and legs. Phillip attacks. He swings with no regard as to his target.

William rolls so that his body covers Mary's Phillip splits his armor. Burns a furrow across his back.

William screams. His eyes turn such a dark red that his pupils are no longer visible. He throws a kick which shatters the Vampire King's knee.

Phillip stumbles. He goes down as he leg gives way beneath him.

William wrenches the sword from Mary's hand. LEAPS to his feet. Mary grabs his leg. He backhands her without looking. Pulls free of her grasp.

Phillip's leg has almost healed. He stands. Faces his foe. William shows no regard for his opponent's weapon. He charges like a bull.

William swings high. Phillip blocks. He slams his shoulder into William's chest. William falls back.

Phillip doesn't relent. He attacks with a flurry of blows. William blocks but he is on a straight defensive. Phillip's strikes come too fast for William to counter.

William's sword breaks in half.

Phillip draws back for the killing blow.

William grabs the broken blade from the floor. He throws it. The blade sticks in Phillip's throat. He gags. Stumbles back. Yanks the blade free.

William is up. He charges empty handed at his enemy.

EXT. HILLSIDE -- NIGHT

Father Wallace is hit from behind. He goes down hard. The Vampires close in.

INT. CATACOMBS MAIN CHAMBER

Phillip attacks with inhuman speed. William matches him. He dodges sword strikes. Blocks others by parrying against the side of the blade.

William ducks a head shot. He slams Phillip under the chin with the heel of one hand. He grabs Phillip's sword hand with the other. He spins so that he is back to chest with his foe.

An elbow strike to Phillip's nose. Then William twists the Vampire King's sword arm. Shatters the bone above the elbow.

William spins on his heel. He rams his fist through Phillip's chest. Pulls back removing the Vampire's still beating heart from his chest.

Phillip staggers back. He drops to his knees. Then collapses to the floor. His skin dries and flakes.

William and Mary howl in pain. Smoke rises from the bite marks on their necks.

EXT. HILLSIDE -- NIGHT

The Vampires writhe in pain. They drop to the ground before the stunned Knights. Father Wallace is buried beneath his former attackers.

A pair of Knights rushes to the fallen priest's aide. They pull him from beneath the pile. Father Wallace emerges dazed but otherwise no worse for wear.

INT. CATACOMBS MAIN CHAMBER

William lays on the floor. After a moment he opens his eyes. They have returned to their normal color.

The purple glow fades out leaving the dying fire as the only source of light.

William pushes to a sitting position. He looks over. He sees Mary sprawled on the floor. He climbs stiffly to his feet. Goes to her.

He rolls her gently onto her back. Caresses her face. Her eyes flutter open. They too have returned to normal. William begins to weep. Hugs her tight against his chest.

He removes her crucifix and slides it ever so gently over her head.

INT. KING HENRY'S STUDY -- DAY

King Henry stands near a grand fireplace.

William stands beside him wearing his armor.

KING HENRY

I would give you anything you could ever desire.

WILLIAM

I have but one desire, my lord.

King Henry turns. He looks out the window. After a moment he turns back to William.

KING HENRY
So be it, Sir William.

EXT. COURT YARD -- DAY

William exits the castle. He wears no armor. He walks down the steps.

Father Wallace and Sir Jericho stands at the bottom of the steps. The men shake hands.

SIR JERICHO
Live well my friend.

WILLIAM
Lead well, Sir Jericho.

William turns to the priest.

FATHER WALLACE
God's blessin' to ya.

WILLIAM
Where will you go now?

FATHER WALLACE
The Hoard may be gone, but the Lord's work is never done. The young can always use a taste of The Word.

WILLIAM
Go easy on them, Warrior Priest.

William holds out his hand. Father Wallace ignores it. Instead he steps forward and embraces his friend. After a moment, William returns the gesture.

William strides over to a horse and wagon team.

Mary sits on the driver's bench. Deirdre is next to her. The Child of Light climbs down as William reaches them.

DEIRDRE
She's a lucky woman.

WILLIAM
Yes..She is.

She kisses him on the cheek. Then steps away from the wagon.

DEIRDRE

Don't forget who your friends are.

WILLIAM

I would tell you the same.

William climbs up. He sits beside Mary. A brief kiss. Then William takes the reigns.

WILLIAM

Hold on and sit tight.

William snaps the reigns. He drives the wagon toward the courtyard gates.

BLACK

EXT. STONEHENGE -- NIGHT

The monument shows the touch of time. A light fog surrounds the ancient structure.

A light approaches through the fog. As it grows closer, we realize that it comes from a flashlight.

A group of TEENAGERS emerges from the fog. Three boys and two girls. The Single Boy holds the flashlight while the girls hold tight to their boyfriends.

GIRL 1

This was a bad idea. Let's go back.

They reach the alter. Single Boy turns out the flashlight to a chorus of woos from the other boys. He sticks the light in his coat pocket.

SINGLE BOY

I adr any of you to sit on this thing.

Boy 1 looks at the others.

BOY 1

I'll do it.

GIRL 2

Don't Roger...Please.

He looks at her for a beat. Then he pulls away and heads to the alter. He hops up.

SINGLE BOY
You know what tonight is?

No one answers.

SINGLE BOY
It's Samhain. Pagan night of the
dead.

He slides a hand under his coat.

SINGLE BOY
The night sacrifices were made on
this very spot.

He whips a pocket knife from under his coat. Brandishes it
at Boy 1.

Boy 1 reaches for his companion's wrist. He finds the blade
instead. It cuts deep into his palm.

BOY 1
Fucker. What the hell are you doing?

Single Boy looks scared.

SINGLE BOY
I didn't mean it, Man. I was just
trying to scare you.

BOY 1
You did a damn good job.

Boy shakes his wounded hand.

Drops of blood fly free. Several hit the dirt. A purple
glow spreads across the ground.

FADE OUT