



SUCH UNKNOWN HORRORS

Original Narration by
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ACT I, PROLOGUE & SCENE I: “SUCH UNKNOWN HORRORS”

Spectre #1:

The year: Two thousand two hundred and twenty six. Society, in ravages after a devastating plague sweeps through the lands for fifteen decades, slowly begins to recover. Losses, however, are substantial. Once great cities have crumbled into ruins.

Spectre #2:

The male population, particularly vulnerable to the clutches of the plague, is entirely decimated. Fear, uncertainty, and the weight of calamity permeate the minds of those who have persevered.

Spectre #1:

Still, not all is darkness. In London, a determined, intelligent, and adept community of women begin to rebuild what has been lost.

Spectre #2:

Combining just and progressive leadership with necessary advancements in reproduction, London evolves into an emblematic phoenix, rising from chaos as a beacon of reborn civilization.

Spectre #1:

Yet even as the light of hope spreads through London, many lands remain in shadow, preyed upon by deep superstitions, whispers of evil, and a growing terror of something more horrific than the plague...more horrific than death itself.

Spectre #2:

In the wilds of Transylvania, amongst crumbling castles of old, roving bands of starving vagabonds, and inexplicable disappearances, rumors surround the mysterious Vonya Dracula, last in a line of formidable women who walked through the plague unscathed.

ACT I, PROLOGUE & SCENE I: “SUCH UNKNOWN HORRORS” (CONT)

Spectre #1:

High upon a desolate and unforgiving cliff sits Castle Dracula, encompassed by a rugged forest home to feral creatures that answer to Vonya alone.

Spectre #2:

Townpeople live in dire fear of the Countess herself, whose unnatural long life, enigmatic character, and unsettling desires evoke tales of old...nearly forgotten legends of the vampyre and her insatiable lust for blood.

Spectre #1:

Who is this Vonya Dracula?

Spectre #2:

What evil hides in the shadows of her world?

Spectre #1:

You must be forewarned: her story is not one for those meek of heart.

Spectre #2:

But if you dare, join us for an evening of love, loss, terror, and the macabre as *BreakingEven*, under the direction of Annmarie Garcia Sheahan, presents:

Spectre #1 & Spectre #2:

SUCH UNKNOWN HORRORS.

ACT I, SCENE II: “BITTERSWEET FAREWELL”

Spectre #2:

In the quiet dawn of a garden in London, Joanna Harker bids a bittersweet farewell to her fiancé Mina Murray. Hoping to gain financial success selling London property to women of wealth in lands still recovering from the plague, Joanna dreams of a promising future with the lovely and intelligent Mina, who she deeply adores.

Spectre #1:

Mina, though devoted to her fiancé and passionate about her endeavors, fears for Joanna as she prepares to journey into the wild unknown of Transylvania. The two share a tender, yet uncertain final morning together, neither knowing when they will see one another again.

ACT I, SCENE III: “SCATTERED WARNINGS”

Spectre #1:

Joanna Harker arrives in a subdued and barren Transylvania, where the effects of the 150 year plague remain evident in the much-dwindled, poverty stricken townspeople that haunt its streets.

Spectre #2:

Hoping for assistance in finding her way to Castle Dracula, Joanna receives only fear-stricken warnings. A cloud of dread settles over her as she makes her way to the lonely, foreboding fortress that so many adamantly discourage her from entering.

ACT I, SCENE IV: “PATHS OF PERIL”

Spectre #2:

As night descends upon the forlorn wilds of Transylvania, its inhabitants, wary and alert, know of the darkness that awaits Joanna Harker, for it is the same darkness that has haunted them for many years.

Spectre #1:

Ignoring the warnings of the wise who know better, Joanna treads perilous paths, her companions a heavy, choking mist, the icy grasp of whirling wind, and the growing shadows of something looming just beyond her gaze.

ACT I, SCENE V: “REMEMBRANCE”

Spectre #2:

Several days after arriving at Castle Dracula, Joanna feels unsettled and wary, an unrelenting voice in her ear warning her that there is more to her host than meets the eye. Despite the outward charm and hospitality of the Countess, an eerie and inexplicable air of mystery surrounds her.

Spectre #1:

Joanna, realizing that she is alone in the sprawling castle with the Countess, seeks to finalize their business arrangement as quickly as possible and return to her beloved Mina. Vonya Dracula, however, has other intentions for the unsuspecting Harker.

ACT I, SCENE V: “REMEMBRANCE” (MID SCENE)

Spectre #2:

As she gazes upon the picture of Joanna’s fiancé, Vonya is haunted by memories of her own beloved, Constantina Dracula, who perished during the worst years of the plague.

Spectre #1:

The likeness between the two women is palpable, so undeniable that Vonya feels the presence of Constantina enfold her as time seems to melt away.

ACT I, SCENE VI: “LOVE LOST”

Spectre #2:

Overcome with grief as she remembers the loss of all that she once loved, Vonya Dracula wanders amongst the desolate forest that surrounds her castle, seeking comfort from the wild and forlorn creatures who answer to her alone. Mina’s photo, now seared into her mind, draws up memory after memory of her lost love, leaving Vonya to ponder the possibility of a connection that transcends time...and even death itself.

ACT I, SCENE VII: “LESSON IN FRIENDSHIP”

Spectre #1:

In London, Mina is struck with emotion as she reads a letter from her fiancé, realizing that Joanna will not return to her as swiftly as she had hoped. Mina’s closest friend and confidant, the carefree and vivacious Lucy Westenra, attempts to lift her spirits, refusing to allow Mina’s grief to consume her. The bond that these two friends share—a connection closer than that of sisters—serves as a joyful constant in both women’s lives, despite the hardships of their existence.

ACT I, SCENE VIII: “MORAL DISORDER”

Spectre #2:

Disregarding the countess's command to stay in her guest rooms, Joanna wanders the dark, decrepit halls of Castle Dracula, her curiosity getting the best of her wariness.

Spectre #1:

Little does she know that in the depths of the castle lurk the brides of Dracula, once beautiful townswomen claimed by Vonya to satiate her bloodlust. Now the undead, they lie in wait to seduce and to feed...fearing only the wrath of the Countess.

ACT I, SCENE IX: “FLIGHT”

Spectre #1:

Momentarily breaking free from the hypnotic trance the Countess has overpowered her with, Joanna attempts to flee the binds of Castle Dracula, knowing she faces a fate of unknown horrors and unchecked depravity if she remains.

Spectre #2:

As Joanna seeks escape from the impenetrable fortress, Vonya Dracula readies herself for her own flight to London, where a new existence awaits her. For Vonya, the blood is life, and her thoughts of the fresh, vibrant, and bold women of London exhilarate her as she prepares to embark.

ACT I, SCENE X: “WALTZ ETERNAL”

Spectre #1:

Several weeks later in London, Mina ignores her growing concern for Joanna, throwing Lucy a birthday party of grand proportions. In attendance are Lucy's three suitors, the quiet and reserved Dr. Jianna Seward, fun-loving and playful Quinn Morris, and the charming, confident Aria Holmwood.

Spectre #2:

Though taken with all three women, Lucy finds herself drawn powerfully to Aria, and the two experience an immediate connection. In the shadows, Vonya Dracula observes the room with calculating intensity, momentarily noticing Lucy before her eyes alight on her love eternal—Mina.

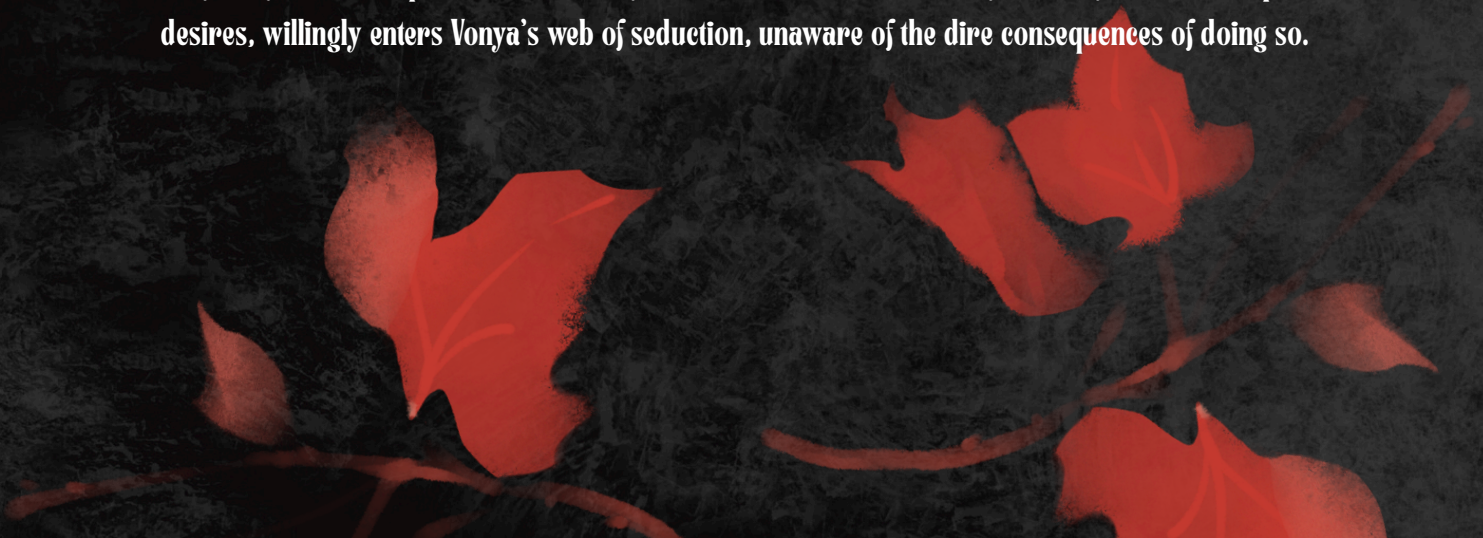
ACT I, SCENE XI: “THE STORM”

Spectre #2:

As a tempestuous storm descends upon London, Lucy and Mina daringly chase one another through lush garden pathways, neither sensing the approaching presence of Vonya Dracula.

Spectre #1:

Enticed by Lucy's fervent spirit, the Countess yearns for her blood, and Lucy, already a woman of passionate desires, willingly enters Vonya's web of seduction, unaware of the dire consequences of doing so.



ACT II, PROLOGUE & SCENE I: “DARKNESS GATHERS”

Spectre #2:

In the darkest corners of London

A presence gathers.

Spectre #1:

A chill hangs heavy in the air

A lurking mist clouds the streets.

Spectre #2:

Gossip scatters, quicker than the
falling leaves...

Spectre #1:

A newcomer, a foreigner cloaked
in mystery...

Spectre #2:

Birds and beasts flock to a once
abandoned mansion,

Spectre #1:

Hooded in shadows on the
outskirts of town.

Spectre #2:

Townspeople drift unwittingly into the
night.

Spectre #1:

Waking disoriented, lost, haunted
by a force unseen.

Spectre #2:

Intrigue holds...

Spectre #1:

Curiosity plagues...

Spectre #2:

Eyes, ever-watching...

Spectre #1:

As fear begins to reign.

ACT II, SCENE II: “A GROWING LUNACY”

Spectre #1:

On a quiet and less-traveled street of London sits the sanatorium of Dr. Jianna Seward, home to a multitude of women driven to madness by the devastation of the plague. Known for her progressive and compassionate methods, Dr. Seward attempts to heal the broken minds of those still reeling from grief, loss, and brutalities of years past.

Spectre #2:

Though Jianna is deeply invested in the concerns of all of her patients, she finds herself simultaneously fascinated and repelled by one woman in particular: a certain Rory Renfield—past associate of a mysterious Transylvanian Countess rumored to have relocated to London.

Spectre #1:

Seemingly on the verge of insanity, Rory spends her days in a relentless pursuit of life, obsessively collecting and often ingesting spiders, flies, and—when she can—the unsuspecting birds who linger too near the barred windows of her abode.

Spectre #2:

At night, her endless whisperings of blood, of a desire for immortality, and of the impending arrival of an unknown “master” fill the patients around her with dread, and unsettle a confused yet curious Dr. Seward.

Spectre #1:

Unbeknownst to the doctor, Rory remains a fanatical servant and devoted familiar to none other than Vonya Dracula herself, who has promised Rory eternal life in exchange for her unwavering loyalty.

ACT II, SCENE III: “SHE WHO KNOWS DEMONS”

Spectre #2:

In the weeks since the eve of her birthday party, a perplexing illness has taken hold of Lucy Westenra. Drained of vitality and charm, she appears much altered from her former self. Unable to decipher the cause of Lucy's weakness and perpetual loss of blood, an anxious Mina consults Dr. Seward, who is unsettled by Lucy's puzzling symptoms and much-altered demeanor.

Spectre #1:

Not knowing a path forward, the doctor implores her mentor, the fearless and brilliant Sonia Van Helsing, to assess Lucy's ailments. Van Helsing's deep knowledge of the darker corners of the world and the unexplained phenomena that reside there allow her to see beyond the borders of accepted medical explanations.

Spectre #2:

Recognizing Lucy's symptoms immediately, Van Helsing knows there is little hope for one who has fallen victim to the vampyre.

ACT II, SCENE IV: “THE VAMPYRE”

Spectre #1:

The veil between London’s world of the living and Vonya’s world of the undead grows thin as Lucy hovers precariously amidst the two.

Spectre #2:

Uncertain of how to proceed, Sonya Van Helsing attempts to hide the truth from Aria and Mina, even as she knows Lucy requires their blood to sustain her fading life.

Spectre #1:

Lucy’s behavior grows increasingly erratic, from listless to loving, from lackluster to inflamed. At night, she is visited by shadows, creatures that appear soundlessly in her fevered state.

Spectre #2:

Joined by a newly escaped Rory Renfield, they remove the talismans guarding Lucy, readying her for a presence she both longs for and fears.

Spectre #1:

Readying her to fully give herself to a passion that will be her last.

ACT II, SCENE V: “A FRIEND LOST”

Spectre #2:

Over the course of several days, Sonia Van Helsing musters her expertise, her resourcefulness, and her strong resolve to save an ailing Lucy. Yet despite Van Helsing's best efforts and unusual remedies, Lucy's weakness only magnifies...the strange marks on her neck more prominent, her nightmares, restlessness, and dismay worsening by the hour.

Spectre #1:

On a dismal morning, Van Helsing gathers Lucy's suitors, her friends, and her love, Aria, together, knowing that Lucy's time amongst them is nearing its end. Though calm as she faces impending death, Lucy is overcome with sadness, grieving the vibrant life that was and could have been hers. As she slips away, those dearest to her bid a final farewell to the warm-hearted and vivacious woman...a victim to Vonya Dracula's thoughtless lust for blood.

ACT II, SCENE VI: “TRANSCENDENCE”

Spectre #2:

Mourning the loss of her closest friend and confidant, Mina wanders through a London marketplace, hoping to distract herself from grief and from the prolonged absence of her fiancé.

Spectre #1:

Longing for even the briefest of encounters with Mina, the Countess seizes her moment. Their meeting is laced with emotion, the two women drawn to each other inexplicably, yet powerfully.

Spectre #2:

Mina is captivated by Vonya...by a sensation stronger than lust, stronger than devotion...an intensity ruled by fate alone.

Spectre #1:

With Mina before her, the cursed weight of Vonya's immortality seems to fall away as she remembers the painful, beautiful pangs of human love.

Spectre #2:

Unsettled and suspicious, Van Helsing observes the encounter, warning bells alight in her mind, her intuition a resounding murmur that this beautiful stranger poses a dire threat to the women of London.

ACT II, SCENE VII: “HUNT OF THE WHITE LADY”

Spectre #1:

London, its streets once some of the safest in the aftermath of the plague, is now awash in unrest...

Spectre #2:

Something lurks in the shadows, waiting...calling to those daring enough to venture out into the night...

Spectre #1:

Whispers hang in the air...rumors of a woman clad in white who lingers in darkness, her piercing eyes and ravenous glance hypnotizing any who wander too close...

Spectre #2:

Is she human? An apparition? A phantom of horror set loose upon the city, reminding them of their still-existing weakness in the face of terror?

Spectre #1:

London turns to the valiant Sonia Van Helsing, the only woman daring enough to face this demon head on. She readies herself, knowing that her success is vital in restoring the soul of a woman once loved by so many.

Spectre #2:

Will Van Helsing confront the undead and survive?

Spectre #1:

Stake in hand...

Spectre #2:

She takes a breath...

Spectre #2 & Spectre #1:

AND THE HUNT BEGINS...

ACT II, SCENE VIII: “RESTITUTION”

Spectre #2:

After a prolonged absence, a much-altered Joanna Harker returns to London, anticipating a joyful reunion with her fiancé. Found wandering half-crazed in the forests of Transylvania, a passing traveler has taken pity on Joanna, helping her make her way to a hospital in London.

Spectre #1:

There, she is attended to by the renowned Sonia Van Helsing, to whom she imparts her horrific tale. With dread and anger, Van Helsing suspects the Countess who entrapped Joanna in the depths of her castle is none other than the woman she witnessed Mina with...the likely culprit behind Lucy's untimely demise.

Spectre #2:

As Van Helsing and Seward escort Joanna back to the home she shares with her fiancé, Mina arrives after an impassioned evening spent with Vonya Dracula, her thoughts dominated only by her growing love for the Countess.

Spectre #1:

Shocked to see Joanna, Mina is confused and reticent...the distance between the two once lovers now an uncrossable chasm.

ACT II, SCENE IX: “DAMAGED”

Spectre #2:

All but forgotten by Vonya Dracula, a frenzied Rory Renfield breaks free from the bounds of Seward's sanatorium, desperately seeking her master across lonely London streets. In the brambles of an abandoned garden, Rory is met not by the Countess, but by her once loyal creatures, now forsaken by Vonya in her single-minded pursuit of Mina.

Spectre #1:

Starving, disoriented, and far from the Transylvanian forests they once called home, the creatures recognize a fellow victim in Rory, even as their primal instincts drive them to feed on her. The encounter is marked only by a heavy sense of hopelessness, all acknowledging one another as casualties of Vonya's negligence.

ACT II, SCENE X: “LYING IN WAIT”

Spectre #2:

Joined in adamant resolve by Joanna Harker and Lucy's three suitors, Sonia Van Helsing prepares for an inevitable confrontation with Vonya Dracula, knowing the undead are never easy to defeat. As the five women calculate a final end for the Countess, an air of comradery and determination permeates the rendezvous.

Spectre #1:

Helping Harker discern that Mina has renounced her for the very woman who tormented her, Van Helsing pulls her into the shadows, and the two converse as an unsuspecting Mina and Vonya share a poignant moment together.

ACT II, SCENE XI: “DEATH IS THE ROAD TO AWE”

Spectre #1:

Lost in thought, a troubled Vonya Dracula wanders the isolated grounds of her London home, filled with a potent dread she can't quite comprehend. Though her love for Mina grows deeper by the day, Vonya finds herself plagued by memories, unable to escape the ghosts of those whose lives she stole without thought or remorse. Haunted by her guilt, the Countess wishes only to ask forgiveness of those she harmed, even as she knows her conscience is but a thorn that pricks her far too late.

Spectre #2:

With determined sorrow, Vonya realizes only she can free Mina from the fate she so carelessly and cruelly doled out to others. Surrounded by the specters of those she destroyed and by the resolute women who desire only to destroy her, Dracula shares an urgent and earnest moment with her beloved, knowing in her weary soul that it will be her last.

