

# *Dracula*

*A Failed Tale*

Inspired by *Dracula*, by Bram Stoker.

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## SCENE 0 - Prologue

*We hear a voiceover describe what we see on stage, while Scene 1 is being set up.*

*Voiceover: In the previous year, this high school was a place where people gained knowledge and learned a lot. Students easily passed their tests, and teachers were happy with their grades. But the school year ended in June. Summer came and went, and in September, just before the school opened its doors again, a new teacher arrived... and he had new ideas about what classes should be like. The former headmaster immediately saw that something bad was going to happen. The name of that new teacher... was Vlad Dracula.*

## SCENE 1 - Arrival

*High School hall. We hear students pouring in. The lights are dim. JONATHAN enters, looking somewhat lost.*

**JONATHAN:** Hello? Excuse me, can you help me? Can you point the way to my class...? I'm new to the school and... Hello?

*RENFIELD takes a picture of JONATHAN, startling him.*

**RENFIELD:** Hahaha! You look so scared in this picture. I'm going to upload it right now. You're new, right?

**JONATHAN:** Yes, my name is Jonathan Harker. I'm the new exchange student from England, and I'm really excited to start studying here at Bistriz High School.

**RENFIELD:** Are you a nerd?

**JONATHAN:** Excuse me?

**RENFIELD:** I said, are you a nerd? A bookworm. You say you want to study, that's crazy!

**JONATHAN:** Well, yes. As you know, I need to prepare for the University entrance exams.

**RENFIELD:** University? Hahaha! (*takes JONATHAN's notebook*) And is this where you take notes, write down reminders, do your math equations...?

**JONATHAN:** Yes, exactly. Please be careful with that.

**RENFIELD:** I'm R.M. Renfield, the class representative. Follow me on Insta and TikTok, come on.

**JONATHAN:** I don't have social media.

**RENFIELD:** What?

**JONATHAN:** I don't have any social media accounts. I decided to delete Instagram, TikTok, and all other social media platforms to focus on my studies.

**RENFIELD:** Seriously? That's so dumb! Do you know the headmaster lets us use our phones in class?

**JONATHAN:** The headmaster is Abraham Van Helsing, right?

**RENFIELD:** No! Van Helsing is no longer our headmaster. Vlad Dracula took over at the beginning of the year. And thank god for that, because Van Helsing didn't let us use our phones. He was so boring. Come on, man, download InstaVamp right now.

**JONATHAN:** I don't have my phone on me...

**RENFIELD:** Did you seriously come to school without your phone?

**JONATHAN:** You're the class representative, then? It's nice to meet you.

**RENFIELD:** "Nice to meet you." You sound like an English lord.

**JONATHAN:** I am English.

**RENFIELD:** Look, Jonny. It seems like you're really eager to learn and study... But here, at Bistritz High School, things are different. You can forget about your books. There's no need to study.

**JONATHAN:** But... we have to study to pass the final exam.

**RENFIELD:** Pass the final exam? Hahaha! Jonathan, who cares about the final exam?

**JONATHAN:** Well, I do.

**RENFIELD:** Dude, you're a loser. Why do you need to pass the final exam anyway? Will it get you more followers? More likes? More retweets?

**JONATHAN:** Well, maybe not that, but it will allow me to get into University, and then I'll be able to...

**RENFIELD:** Just download Roblox and forget about everything else, trust me.

**JONATHAN:** Well, in my previous school, I always had the highest grades so I would prefer to ace every subject here too; I'm sure I can do it. I want to study law and become a lawyer someday.

**RENFIELD:** You don't understand anything I'm saying. You won't pass the final exam at Bistritz High School. No one will.

**JONATHAN:** But...

**RENFIELD:** No "buts."

**JONATHAN:** If you don't study, what do you do in class?

*The school bell rings.*

**RENFIELD:** Today, you start a new life, Jonathan Harker. A life without books, without studying, and without obligations. Enjoy your time at Bistritz High School! Download Instavamp! Stay away from the library! (*exits*)

**JONATHAN:** This place is so strange... If I don't study, how am I going to get into University? I've been working so hard for so long to get into University, and they told me this high school was very demanding and had very high standards. I don't care what he says, I'll give it a try!

*JONATHAN finds a commemorative painting of the school featuring the headmaster, Vlad Dracula.*

**JONATHAN:** What's this? Ah, it must be the new headmaster of Bistritz High School, Vlad Dracula. I hope I meet him soon. Wait, there's an inscription here. What does it say? "Novus sanguis est ignotus." It's written in Latin. What does this mean?

*School bell rings. JONATHAN exits.*

## **SCENE 2 - Mina**

*High school corridor. Lockers.*

*JONATHAN is looking around, searching for his class, and he sees MINA enter.*

**MINA:** Lucy? Lucy!

**JONATHAN:** Hey, excuse me! Do you know where this classroom is...?

**MINA:** Have you seen Lucy?

**JONATHAN:** Mmm... No. I don't even know who Lucy is.

**MINA:** Oh... Lucy is my only friend here. She's missed class for several days and now she isn't answering my messages on Instavamp... Maybe my phone isn't working... Can I use yours?

**JONATHAN:** I... don't have my phone here... And I don't even have any social media accounts. I deleted them.

**MINA:** Wait, seriously? Are you Jonathan Harker, the new exchange student from London?

**JONATHAN:** Yes, and you are...?

**MINA:** I am Mina Murray.

**JONATHAN:** Nice to meet you, Mina.

**MINA:** You can follow me on @mina\_drawings. I do use social media, but only to publish my art. And never during class! Whatever the new headmaster says. Oh, please... I hope Lucy is okay.

**JONATHAN:** Hey, don't worry. This school is not that big. I'm sure you will find your friend.

**MINA:** I've been told they gave her a surprise exam to punish her for her absences. An exam just for her. And no one has ever seen her since. Anyway, what class were you looking for?

**JONATHAN:** I'm heading to Science class. Can you show me where I need to go? I'm not familiar with the school yet.

**MINA:** Starting with Science, huh? Be careful with Professor Akasha; her teaching methods can be quite... strange sometimes.

**JONATHAN:** Yes, your class representative Renfield warned me about it.

**MINA:** Renfield? Don't trust that idiot. I would recommend...

**JONATHAN:** That I don't study? That I forget about my books? That I download Instavamp? Well, I have no intention of failing anything. I'm going to be a lawyer.

**MINA:** I was going to tell you that I recommend you take the left staircase to get to Science class.

**JONATHAN:** Oh, sorry.

**MINA:** A lawyer, huh? That's great. I wish I could have a clear goal like you.

**JONATHAN:** Why can't you? We're here to learn and decide what to do with our future.

**MINA:** I don't know, Jonathan. This year, it feels like the teachers no longer want us to study... In fact, it feels like they want us all to fail... We are not motivated at all.

**JONATHAN:** But Mina, if we work hard, we can pass the final exam, for sure!

**MINA:** Let me tell you something. Where's my notebook? Here it is. Listen closely.

***Flashback. We go back to recounting the story through voiceover, in the style of Scene 0.***

*MINA: The former headmaster, Van Helsing, had banned the use of mobile phones in class. When Professor Vlad Dracula arrived, he tried to persuade him to allow their use again. But Van Helsing didn't agree, and all the other teachers sided with Dracula. Then, Van Helsing simply... disappeared. And Dracula became our new headmaster.*

***End of flashback.***

**JONATHAN:** And does anyone know where Van Helsing is now?

**MINA:** The teachers won't tell us anything. But I've always thought that Vlad Dracula... has other intentions. Dark intentions.

**JONATHAN:** Did you draw all these?

**MINA:** Yes... but I haven't posted these on @mina\_drawings. Here, take them, they're a gift. (*hands him the sheets of paper*)

**JONATHAN:** Well, thank you very much. You're really talented.

**MINA:** Do you think so?

**JONATHAN:** Absolutely. Will you sign them for me?

**MINA:** Of course! (*she does*) If I could, I would study art.

**JONATHAN:** See? You do have a goal. Mina, you're going to study art. You're going to pass the exam. I promise you.

**MINA:** You remind me of myself last year. But things are different now, Jonathan.

**JONATHAN:** Come on! We're going to pass the final exam. We can't let Renfield be right.

*Bell rings.*

**JONATHAN:** I have to go to Science class. Then I have Spanish, Physical Education, and History. Will I see you after class? I want to see more of your drawings.

**MINA:** Sure. Oh, and if you see Lucy, please let me know. She is a blonde girl, and wears a pink headband. She looks like an Instavamper.

**JONATHAN:** Alright, I'll keep an eye out. See you later, Mina!

**MINA:** Take the left staircase! (*reveals a key hanging from a necklace she had kept hidden*) Oh, Lucy... I hope it's not too late for you...

## SCENE 3 – Classes

*We see a classroom with 4 desks and a teacher's table, along with all the necessary materials for each interactive moment.*

*Jonathan comes down to the audience and selects three volunteers to join him on the stage. He has them take seats at the desks.*

**JONATHAN:** Alright, let's begin! The class is ready to start. I'm Jonathan, pleased to meet you all. What are your names? What's your favorite subject? Do you usually get good grades? Do you use social media? Do you use your phone during class? What would you like to study in the future? Excellent! Today we have science, Spanish, and physical education. Have a seat here. I've been told that nobody here wants to study. Do you guys want to study? Do you like it? Don't worry, I'm going to help you with the classes. We're in this together. Do you have a pen? I've got the schedule here; we're starting with science, and our teacher is... Akasha.

*Sound of thunder and blackout. When the light returns, AKASHA is sitting at the teacher's table.*

**AKASHA:** Welcome to natural science. I am Professor Akasha, Queen of the Damned. Anyone who doesn't pay attention in my lessons will be cursed forever.

**JONATHAN:** What the hell is this? Is the science teacher a vampire or something?

**AKASHA:** Today, we're going to study this marvelous liquid that flows through us and gives us life. Blood. (*prepares transfusion materials*) Any volunteers?

**JONATHAN encourages the first volunteer to come forward.**

**AKASHA:** (*prepares needle, IV lines, and probes*) In the past, blood was considered a source of vitality and power. Ancient cultures considered blood a sacred liquid. Nowadays, we can easily perform transfusions that save many lives. Blood is the same for everyone. Men or women. Young or old. Rich or poor. That's why today we know that blood isn't what makes each of us unique; there are other, deeper things. Take a breath. \*(draws blood from the volunteer)\* Here's a question for you: What makes blood red?

**Volunteer responds, with the help of the audience and/or JONATHAN.**

► **AKASHA:** You are correct... This time. We'll see if you do as well on the exam. You can leave the class.

► **AKASHA:** Wrong answer. You failed. Muahahaha! (*thunder*)

**After that, AKASHA drinks the blood.**

**AKASHA:** Until next class. (*Blackout, thunder, she disappears*)

**JONATHAN:** That was an intense class. (*comments on the success or failure of the first volunteer and reveals the correct answer: Hemoglobin*) Why didn't anyone tell me that the teachers here look like vampires? Akasha said something: Blood is the same for everyone, so it's not what makes us unique; there are other, deeper things. What did she mean? Now we have Spanish with Professor... Lestat.

**Sound of thunder and blackout. When the light returns, LESTAT is at the teacher's table.**

**LESTAT:** (*with a thick Spanish accent*) Welcome to Spanish. I am Lestat. With me, you will learn one of the most spoken languages on Earth. Spanish is an ancient language; it must flow from your soul. But for that, you need to fill your soul with knowledge. Otherwise... you'll fail the final exam. Oh, yes... fail. Today's lesson is simple. You have five words here, and their translation in Spanish here. You have to match each one with its translation. I need a volunteer to match them. (*to the volunteer*) You. You're young, and you look like you must fail a lot. I like that. What's your name?

**One of the two remaining volunteers comes forward and attempts to match each box with its translation, with the help of the audience and/or JONATHAN.**

**Cementerio – Graveyard**

**Murciélago – Bat**

**Colmillo – Fang**

**Muerte – Death**

**Luna - Moon**

► **LESTAT:** Is this your final answer? They're all correct. Well done, for now. But don't get too comfortable; the final exam will be way harder. You can leave the class. Dismissed!

► **LESTAT:** Is this your final answer? Well, it's incorrect! (*reveals the correct answers*) See you next class. (*Blackout, thunder, he disappears*).

**JONATHAN:** (*to the remaining volunteer*) We've survived the second class of the day. It's just you and me now. Hey, did you notice Lestat's reaction when he talked about failing the final exam? It was really weird. What do you think is happening here? Now we have physical education with Professor Cullen.

***Sound of thunder and blackout. When the light returns, EDWARD is at the teacher's table.***

**EDWARD:** Welcome to physical education. I am Professor Edward Cullen. Everyone thinks passing this subject is easy, but that's because they don't know the limits of the human body. In my classes, we'll discover those limits and expand them. You'll have to keep up with me. If you can't keep up... you WILL fail. We'll start with push-ups. ***(to the volunteer)*** You. Five push-ups. ***(they do them, but EDWARD insist until they can't do more)*** It seems you're not strong enough. Keep this up, and you'll fail the final exam. I'm coming, Isabella! ***(he disappears)***

**JONATHAN:** It's been a really strange first day of classes. I need to talk to headmaster Vlad. The teachers seem determined to fail everyone. And the weirdest part is that they all look... like vampires. Mina was right; it's not going to be easy to pass the final exam at Bistritz. What if... Renfield was right? Maybe studying isn't worth it. Maybe I should have stayed in London... ***(he takes the drawings)*** Mina's drawings. What does headmaster Dracula really want?

***Sound of thunder and blackout. When the light returns, ORLOK is at the teacher's table.***

**ORLOK:** Welcome to History class. I am Professor Orlok, Count of the Carpathians. You can call me Nosferatu. In my class, you only need to listen and remember what I say. Then, in the final exam, may God have mercy on your souls. Today, we'll talk about the wars between the Ottoman Empire and the Kingdom of Hungary in the year 1336. Louis I of Hungary, Louis I "the Great", invaded Moldavia, repelling the Serbian armies in the principality of Travunia...

**JONATHAN:** Professor Nosferatu. Excuse me.

**ORLOK:** Yes?

**JONATHAN:** Do you recognize what these drawings represent? ***(shows him Mina's drawings)***

**ORLOK:** Let me see... The arrival of Vlad Dracula... Where did you get this?

**JONATHAN:** I have heard that before Dracula arrived at this school, everyone passed their exams without any issues. But since September, everything changed. Even you teachers changed.

**ORLOK:** You have dangerous ideas, young man. Who told you this?

**JONATHAN:** What does headmaster Dracula want, Professor Orlok?

**ORLOK:** That's something I can't tell you. Today's class is over, everyone! Go play with your phones.

**JONATHAN:** Tell me!

**ORLOK:** You think you're so smart, don't you, Johnathan Harker? You'll fail just like everyone else.

**JONATHAN:** Alright... Give me back the drawings.

**ORLOK:** No. I am confiscating them. Get out of my class.

***JONATHAN leaves sadly. ORLOK unfolds the drawings and examines them closely.***

**ORLOK:** Ah... this brings back memories of September... The start of the school year...

**Flashback. We go back to the style of Scene 0, and we continue watching the story.**

*ORLOK: In the teachers' lounge, Vlad Dracula tried to convince the former headmaster, Van Helsing, that the use of smartphones in class had to be allowed. There was a fight, and Dracula won. Then, he promised the teachers great power, and he gave us immortality... on one condition. He told us that we would only stay alive forever as long as we failed all the students in the final exam. If even one student passed... We would be doomed.*

**End of flashback.**

**ORLOK:** Luckily, smartphones and Instavamp have made our job much easier. Hahahahaha! You can't escape from failure! It's your destiny! Novus sanguis est ignotus! (**thunder**)

## **SCENE 4 – Vlad's Office**

**Headmaster VLAD DRACULA enters a dark office with his back to the audience. He lights some candles. RENFIELD enters with MINA's signed drawings in hand.**

**RENFIELD:** Headmaster Dracula. Novus sanguis est ignotus.

**DRACULA:** Novus sanguis est ignotus. Come closer, Renfield. I must thank you for bringing me Lucy Westenra. Hers was the first failure of this year, and it wasn't even necessary for her to fail the final exam, just a surprise one! It was delightful. She had many followers on Instavamp, but missing so many classes comes at a price. Poor thing. (**throws away a wig that matches MINA's description of LUCY**) Keep an eye on your classmates' absences, Renfield. They're a good excuse to force them to take a surprise exam and... fail them! Hahaha!

**RENFIELD:** You're welcome, headmaster. You know I will always report cheating, absences, and any reason to fail the rest of the students.

**DRACULA:** Well done, Renfield. If you're loyal to me, I might pass you in the final exam, in June. I want you by my side.

**RENFIELD:** Thank you. Oh, thank you, my lord.

**DRACULA:** Now tell me, what news do you bring?

**RENFIELD:** I bring... dangerous news, headmaster.

**DRACULA:** Ah, Renfield... Nothing has disturbed the peace at Bistriz High School since September. What happened?

**RENFIELD:** It's the new student, headmaster. The one from London.

**DRACULA:** Ah, yes... What was his name? Harker...

**RENFIELD:** Jonathan Harker, sir. I must warn you about something. He... doesn't have any social media accounts.

**DRACULA:** That's impossible.

**RENFIELD:** No, it's not, headmaster. He told me that he deleted all the apps before arriving at Bistriz High School. He came here determined to... to... pass the final exam.

**Thunder.**



**DRACULA:** What?? (*grabs RENFIELD by the collar*)

**RENFIELD:** His grades in London were the best of his class last year. He wants to be a lawyer, sir. And look at this. (*DRACULA releases him*) Professor Orlok confiscated these drawings made by the student Mina Murray. She gave them to Harker. They know the truth.

**DRACULA:** Well... Jonathan and Mina... It seems we have a couple of smart, curious and annoying teenagers. Renfield, I assume you forced Harker to download Instavamp...

**RENFIELD:** No, sir.

**DRACULA:** Tik tok?

**RENFIELD:** No, sir.

**DRACULA:** Snapchat?

**RENFIELD:** No, sir.

**DRACULA:** Youtube?

**RENFIELD:** No, sir.

**DRACULA:** Twitter?

**RENFIELD:** No, sir.

**DRACULA:** Whatsapp?

**RENFIELD:** No, sir.

**DRACULA:** Discord?

**RENFIELD:** No, sir.

**DRACULA:** Facebook, then? No way.

**RENFIELD:** Headmaster Dracula, Jonathan does not even have a phone...

**DRACULA:** I don't believe you!

**RENFIELD:** I'm telling you the truth!

**DRACULA:** (*pause*) I see... You know what, Renfield? I am the eternal headmaster of Bistriz High School. Immortal. This is only my first year, but I want there to be so many more. I even eliminated those who tried to stop it. Must I remind you what happened in the library?

**RENFIELD:** No, sir.

**DRACULA:** Our power of immortality only has one condition. All students have to fail the final exam in June. If any of them were to pass... It would be disastrous for the school, for the teachers, for me... And therefore, for you too, Renfield. I'm not sure I can trust you anymore as a student representative. Give me the key.

**RENFIELD:** Sir... I've been so focused on my phone that... I lost it.

**DRACULA:** You lost the library key? How could that happen?

**RENFIELD:** I don't know, maybe they **(the audience)** know. Please forgive me. I'll make it up to you.

**DRACULA:** Useless fool. You leave me no choice but to...

**RENFIELD:** No, sir, please. No, no, no...

**DRACULA:** Fail you!!

**RENFIELD:** **(screams)** Noooooooo!

**DRACULA bites RENFIELD and covers him with his cape. Eerie music, red lights. RENFIELD is reduced to just a piece of cloth/glasses on the floor.**

**DRACULA:** They have uncovered my plan. I have no other choice. **(speaks over the school's intercom)** Attention, students of Bistriz High School. The final exam of the year will happen... this afternoon. An exam covering all subjects. Anyone who fails will face the anger of headmaster Vlad Dracula. Prepare for the final exam! **(hangs up)** I'm going to fail you, Jonathan Harker. You are not special. I'll fail you like any other student. In Bistriz High School, no one is going to pass the exam. No one! And no one better free you from your lair, cursed Abraham Van Helsing...

**DRACULA leaves the office. MINA enters timidly.**

**MINA:** Headmaster, I'm looking for my friend Lucy Westenra. This morning, you gave her a surprise exam, and I haven't heard from her ever since. It's weird that she hasn't posted anything on Instavamp in a while... Headmaster? **(finds RENFIELD'S and LUCY wig and clothes on the floor)** Oh no... Lucy. Failed! And Renfield too! **(finds the drawings)** The drawings I gave to Jonathan. This can't be... The headmaster has discovered what we know and wants to fail us all right now. I have to warn him; he's the only ally we have. **(takes out the key hanging from her pendant and exits).**

## **SCENE 5 – Library**

**MINA prepares the library set, where we see a mysterious door with a lock. We hear a wolf's howl.**

**MINA:** The Bistriz High School library... No one has been here since September. I have to find him; only he can help us.

**MINA turns on a flashlight and opens the library door. The atmosphere is eerie and very dark. A mysterious figure changes the stage by adding bookshelves. We hear a growl.**

**MINA:** Hello? Abraham, is that you? I'm Mina Murray, a student at the school. Hello?

**VAN HELSING appears in the shadows. He's wearing a hood, and his face is not visible.**

**HELSING:** How did you get the library key? Did Vlad Dracula send you?

**MINA:** No! I'm on your side! I got the key from Renfield, the class representative.

**HELSING:** Renfield... The snitch. Yes, I remember. I remember you too, Mina. I remember your drawings. I still keep some of them here.

**MINA:** Headmaster Abraham Van Helsing?

**HELSING:** I'm not your headmaster anymore...

**MINA:** You have to help us. Dracula has failed Renfield, my friend Lucy... And he wants the students to take the final exam today. Anyone who fails...

**HELSING:** I know what will happen. The teachers will kill them. Akasha, Lestat, Edward, Nosferatu... They will devour the ones who fail and feed on them.

**MINA:** But you... You're a legend. You helped everyone pass the final exam.

**HELSING:** That's true. But I paid a price.

**MINA:** What happened?

**HELSING:** I'll tell you.

***Flashback. We change back to the style of Scene 0 and we continue watching the story.***

***HELSING:*** Last year, I was headmaster Van Helsing. I was kind to all students, and I was always proud of their good grades. But when Vlad Dracula arrived, all the teachers turned against me. I was the only one who fought him, but without a vampire's powers I couldn't do anything against him. Dracula banished me to this library. He locked it with a key, so that no one would ever study here again. Since September, I've spent every night reading with only the moon for company. That's how I became what I am now.

***End of flashback.***

**HELSING:** This is the price I paid for defying Dracula...

***The lights brighten, and we see that VAN HELSING is a werewolf.***

**MINA:** Abraham Van Helsing... You're a werewolf.

**HELSING:** I'm a monster. That's what he made me. If you refuse to use your phone, you become an outcast. That's why we need to ban technology, computers, phones, social media! They have the power to distract you from your studies, to stop you from paying attention. They can turn you into an ignorant person. They make you fail, and Dracula feeds on that failure.

**MINA:** But that... isn't true, headmaster Van Helsing. Social media can also be a useful tool.

**HELSING:** No! Social media is evil. Since it arrived, nobody studies anymore.

**MINA:** I have Instavamp, and... maybe it won't help me pass the final exam, but it helps me express myself, improve, and show everyone what I care about.

**HELSING:** Social media has confined me to this library, turned me into this!

**MINA:** It wasn't social media! It was Dracula!

**HELSING:** Do you know what the Bistritz School's motto is?

**MINA:** Novus sanguis est ignotus.

**HELSING:** New blood is ignorance. Vampires no longer feed on blood, Mina, they feed on the students' ignorance. And social media only brings ignorance.

**MINA:** Is that why they want us all to fail the final exam?

**HELSING:** Do you understand now?

**MINA:** What if a single student passed the exam?

**HELSING:** The curse would be broken. That was Dracula's deal. But because of smartphones and social media, it's impossible for anyone to pass this exam.

**MINA:** Listen to me, headmaster Van Helsing. There's a new student in the school. His name is Jonathan Harker. He can pass, I'm sure of it. He doesn't use his phone.

**HELISING:** Really? Is that true?

**Off-stage voice DRACULA:** *The final exam is about to begin, students of Bistritz High School. Ready to fail? Hahaha!*

**MINA:** The exam is about to start. I have to help Jonathan.

**HELISING:** Does Jonathan really not use a phone?

**MINA:** Really. He doesn't!

**HELISING:** All right. Take this. *(writes something on a rolled-up paper and hands it to MINA)* This is what we used to do before social media arrived. It's the secret to passing exams. If Jonathan passes this one, headmaster Dracula will lose his power.

**MINA:** Thank you, headmaster Van Helsing. Take this. *(hands over the library key)* You're free. *(HELISING exits)* I have to share the secret with Jonathan before it's too late! *(she exits).*

## **SCENE 6 – The Final Exam**

**MINA sets up the classroom. A lone desk on stage, dim lighting, and tense music. JONATHAN enters.**

**JONATHAN:** Mina. The final exam is about to start. It's my first day! This is madness!

**MINA:** No, Jonathan. You were right. We only need a goal, like you said. You're going to be a lawyer, and I'm going to be an artist. And if my friend Lucy was still here, she would have had her own dreams for the future too. Nobody in this school has given us as much hope as you. Look, a friend gave me this. This is the secret to passing. *(hands him VAN HELSING's parchment, and they both read it. They look at each other)* Now you're the only one who can save us.

**JONATHAN:** How? No, Mina. You can too.

**MINA:** Me?

**JONATHAN:** Yes, I'm sure of it. Sit down. Let's start the final exam. *(JONATHAN and MINA nervously sit at their respective desks)*

**Spotlight on them, time lapse of the exam. We can hear the voices of the teachers AKASHA, LESTAT, EDWARD, and NOSFERATU.**

**Voices off-stage TEACHERS:** The exam begins! Hahaha! You can't pass. You're all going to fail. Have you wasted a lot of time on your phones? Why not post something on Instavamp? Shall we make another TikTok? Play another game of Clash Royale? Just 10 more minutes on your phones... Check it out, your friends posted new stories. You've been tagged in a picture. Look, funny cat videos! Novus sanguis est ignotus.

**MINA goes to submit her exam instead of JONATHAN's.**

***Light change. Teachers' lounge.***

**HELISING:** Vlad Dracula! Come out and face me, monster! I'm Abraham Van Helsing, remember me? I was running the school last year. You stole my job.

**DRACULA:** Van Helsing... You've finally escaped... I knew this day would come.

***DRACULA is holding a red marker.***

**HELISING:** We meet again, Vlad Dracula.

**DRACULA:** Call me *Headmaster* Dracula. I have turned this school into an eternal place, Van Helsing. You didn't want to join us, and now look at what you've become. A monster that no one wants to see.

**HELISING:** This monster is going to kick your ass, cursed vampire.

***Vampire vs. werewolf battle. DRACULA ends up defeating VAN HELSING.***

**DRACULA:** Behold! With this red marker I'll fail everyone at this school and I'll become immortal.

**HELISING:** You might beat me... but you will never win against a perfect final exam.

***VAN HELSING disappears. Dark crescendo effect.***

**DRACULA: (to the audience)** Let this be a lesson to all of you. You won't pass this exam. You're powerless against my distractions. Netflix. Minecraft. Roblox. Clash Royale. Among Us. Fortnite. Hahaha! I'll drink your ignorance like blood and I will become immortal! *Novus sanguis est ignotus!* New blood is ignorance!

**MINA: (enters with a completed exam in her hand)** Headmaster Vlad Dracula! Jonathan Harker has finished the final exam! Grade it now!

**DRACULA:** Do you want to watch your friend Harker die, little girl? As you wish. **(takes the exam)** Correct... Correct... Correct... Correct... What? Correct, correct, correct... No, no... Correct, correct, correct... No! **(frustrated)** Correct! Damn you, Harker!! Nooo! A perfect final exam!

***Light and sound effects. DRACULA falls to the ground, now mortal. MINA takes the red marker from his hand.***

**DRACULA:** How? How did this happen? It's impossible to pass the final exam halfway through the year.

**MINA:** Jonathan Harker doesn't use a phone. But I do. Follow me on @mina\_drawings.

***MINA stabs DRACULA with the red marker. Blackout.***

**SCENE 7 – End**

**Music fades. School bell rings. We're in the School's hall, where MINA is taking pictures of her drawings.**

**Voiceover: The next day.**

**MINA: (typing on her phone)** I've titled this one "Lucy's Dream." I've dedicated this drawing to a good friend who couldn't finish the school year. For you, Lucy. Hashtag drawing, hashtag art, hashtag... vampire.

**JONATHAN: (enters)** Hey, Mina. How 's it going?

**MINA:** Hi, Jonathan. I'm posting my drawings on social media. Do you like this one?

**JONATHAN:** Wow. It's beautiful. By the way, I found this key in the teachers' lounge. **(hands her the key to the library)** Do you know what it's for?

**MINA:** Yes, I do. A good friend of mine used to live in the library. Hey, Jonathan. I don't think the school can ever thank you enough for what you've done. I wish you could have met headmaster Van Helsing.

**JONATHAN:** Well, thank you very much. But I have something I need to tell you... I failed the final exam. But I'll try harder next time, I promise.

**MINA:** What? What are you saying? You were the only one who could pass the exam because you don't have a phone or social media.

**JONATHAN:** Mina, the teachers graded my exam, and I got a 4 out of 10. I failed. I was really embarrassed to tell you, but it's the truth. Not having social media accounts doesn't actually mean anything. Luckily, the curse was already broken thanks to you. You saved us all.

**MINA:** Jonathan, I'm telling you, it's impossible. I gave your exam to headmaster Dracula, and he lost his vampire powers because you passed.

**JONATHAN:** Mina, that was your exam. You passed.

**MINA:** But... I use social media. I have Instavamp and...

**JONATHAN:** Yeah. I guess using social media is not that bad. The key is not letting social media use you. And actually, I wanted to ask for your help. **(takes out his phone)** Which one is the internet button? What does "tagged" mean? Hey, it says here I won an Iphone! I'm so lucky! There! I have 8 likes now. Message request from emily92837. Oops, these pictures are a bit inappropriate. No, thanks, not interested. **(pause)** Mina? Are you okay?

**MINA:** Uh... Yeah, yeah. **(shows him the library key)** Shall we go study?

**They exit.**

**THE END**