

THE IN-BETWEEN (MIDPOINT CUTSCENE)

by

Victoria Landazuri

Cogswell College
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INT. RITUAL ROOM - DAY

Fiona is suddenly standing in a large, circular room, with BATHORY right beside her, seemingly deep in concentration. Fiona looks around for a moment and starts at the sight of what looks like TWO CORPSES, laying side by side on an ALTAR in front of them. Fiona turns to look at Bathory again.

FIONA

Bathory? Can you hear me?

Bathory doesn't acknowledge her, keeping her eyes closed and mumbling something under her breath. She slowly raises her hands towards the bodies and opens her eyes, her sclera completely black, as a weak orb of light rises from one of the bodies, strengthening slightly as it ascends and hovering slightly above the altar. It stays there for a moment, before flickering and dissipating.

Bathory gives a sigh of frustration, her eyes returning to normal. A harsh, metallic voice sounds from somewhere around them.

VOICE #1

This is an utter waste of time,
Bathory. You of all people should
know reincarnation is beyond even
our control.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

The scene swirls around the two of them, until they're now standing in a dark, austere courtroom, before a pack of misshapen, shadowy figures, their glares bearing down at Bathory as she stands before them. Still none of them seem to acknowledge Fiona's presence.

BATHORY

And you of all people should know the futility of trying to fight. Don't you see? For as long as it has something to feed from, it will never relent. Take that from it, find a way to control that which returns the souls of the dead to the living world, and it will starve.

VOICE #2

But what choice do we have? She's right, we've tried containing it once before and it all but destroyed us.

EXT. WASTELAND - DAY

The scene shifts again to a red, barren wasteland, the wind howling around Fiona as an enormous, warped shadow appears on the horizon. The others have vanished, though the voices continue, disembodied.

VOICE #3

Are you daft? How is this the solution then? Suddenly understanding something that's been beyond our understanding for thousands of years?

BATHORY

We do not understand it because we've never seriously tried.

VOICE #1

Silence. We will discuss your proposal, Bathory, out of respect for you. But I doubt we can help you.

BATHORY

You are all fools!

At that final word, all Fiona can see is a pair of monstrous JAWS, lunging at her from the darkness. The jaws seem to pass right through her, and she is once again

transported to another, final scene: what looks like a stark, brightly lit hospital room.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Fiona lies on her back, her vision blurring as she sees THREE SURGEONS standing over her. She reaches up to grab one, but they dissipate like smoke at her touch.

INT. BATHORY'S SANCTUM - DAY

There is a rush of air, and suddenly she is back in Bathory's sanctum, completely unharmed. Fiona gasps for breath, shaken by what she just saw, before composing herself enough to grab the stone from its perch and hurry out of the room.

INT. SAFEHOUSE - DAY

Fiona stands in the middle of her safehouse, as a swirling, flickering projection of Wren hovers before her.

WREN

And that's all that happened? I mean, please tell me that's all that happened.

FIONA

That was it.

WREN

So Bathory was working to contain something, and somehow reincarnation got involved.

FIONA

Reincarnation, though? Can't say it's really my department.

WREN

(slightly frustrated) It's not anybody's department, seeing as how demons are so damn stubborn about keeping their secrets.

FIONA

(half-jokingly) But the Organization must know something about it? They know everything.

WREN

You put too much faith in us sometimes. All we know is that whatever happens to someone when they die, including coming back as someone else, is completely random. And until now, demons haven't been in any hurry to try to change that.

FIONA

And now? What if this research had something to do with the portal opening?

WREN

Don't get ahead of yourself, we don't know that yet. I'd suggest finding more of those stones first. You know how paranoid those older demons are, I'm sure she's got more stashed away in other places.

FIONA

Yeah. Guess that's my only lead for now. I just...don't understand why I was able to access it at all. Demons usually have some heavy magic locked down on things like that-

Wren cuts her off.

WREN

Probably a side effect of your training. I wouldn't worry about it. Anyway, that's probably why you could only see bits and pieces of it.

Fiona nods, but still seems unconvinced. Wren tilts his head slightly.

WREN

You're sure that's all you saw? Nothing else you might have missed?

FIONA

I'm sure. I'll get to work on finding these other stones, if there are any.

WREN

Alright. You've made some good progress here. Make sure you keep it up.

The projection of Wren flickers out, leaving Fiona alone. She goes to the desk and pulls out a paper map of the city, laying it down on the floor and smoothing it out. Taking the stone out of her pocket, she holds it in her fist over the map and closes her eyes, mumbling a spell under her breath.

She opens her eyes again and releases the stone, removing her hand as it floats above the map on its own, glowing with a warm golden light. A moment passes before four similar lights appear on the map. She traces the lights with her finger, noting the locations.

FIONA

Uptown, downtown, financial district, and the docks.

She grabs the stone out of the air and puts it back in her pocket, the lights dissipating. She stands up and hurries out of the door.

END