

VAMPIRE MONTH OF DARKNESS: ANTAGONIST

THE MASQUERADE

The following antagonist is a suitable recurring Storyteller character and possibly an ally for any group of vampires. The right Mawla or mentor could potentially provide enough background information and advice that a coterie could eliminate her without undue hazard in one session of play.

Life's always been a struggle. You hustle different jobs trying to make ends meet, help your friends, and have a little fun. Luciana has done so many different things, from working in a bar to being a part-time dominatrix. Her newest gig means she gets good money because people are willing to pay to get humiliated. The downside is that her latest client turned out to be difficult.

Lucas Desoto is a local nightlife figure. Rumors say that he owns a lot of bars and clubs. He likes to spread the wealth, and for this people like him. He's also an entitled asshole, which makes people like him a little less.

He's also a vampire, as Luciana discovered during a BDSM scene gone weird. Lucas was stressed by all the angles he was trying to work, and his way of unwinding was to get worked over by a mortal. When she realized that she wasn't dealing with a human being at all, he immediately took control. He used mentis imperium to make her stay. Then he fed her his blood, turning her into a ghoul. A Blood Bound servant. A toy for him to play with.

The trouble is, the Blood Bond didn't quite take. Luciana was eager to please her Kindred client, and Lucas didn't realize her doting was anything other than driven by the Blood. Luciana grew to appreciate her new powers, but despise her domineering client. Now Lucas is trapped: staked in Luciana's basement after he made the mistake of deciding to sleep at her place after a session gone long. She hunts to get the blood he needs to survive while keeping him prisoner until she figures out what to do. Besides, now that she's got the Blood of the undead keeping her healthy and strong, she's not going to give that up!



General Difficulty: 4 / 2

Standard Dice Pools: Physical 6, Social 6, Mental 5

Secondary Attributes: Health 8, Willpower 4

Exceptional Dice Pools: Awareness 6, Intimidate 8, Occult 6, Subterfuge 7, Stealth 7

Special: The Dominatrix is a ghoul: she possesses one discipline power that her Domitor has of the Storyteller's choosing, depending on which clan Lucas belongs to. The Dominatrix also possesses the Bond Resistance and/or Short Bond merits (or even Unbondable, at the Storyteller's discretion).

Goals and Objectives

Hunt on Lucas' behalf. This is difficult as she's discovered bagged blood and animal blood do not seem to keep her Lucas sustained. She needs fresh human blood that isn't her own. The trouble is that if blood doesn't go into Lucas, blood won't come out of him either.

Research local vampires. Luciana has an inkling that there is a society of vampires out there and fears what might happen should they become aware of her activities. Lucas always liked to present himself as an important man but Luciana suspects that this isn't true. Still, he might have friends who object to him being staked.

Speak with a vampire. She wants to learn the details of the

*“Did you know
that some people
have a kink for
failure? They get
their kicks from
losing status and
being humiliated in
front of their peers.
Everyone has their
own peculiarities,
the kine... and the
Kindred too.”*

Embrace so she might become one of the Kindred or decide for herself that it isn't worthwhile. The difficulty for her is that she likes to pretend she knows much more than she actually does. She doesn't like coming across as ignorant.

Appearance: Luciana is a striking Latina woman in her thirties. She's used to shifting between different personas and styles. One for meeting the family, another for meeting clients. After she imprisoned Lucas she has started experimenting with classier aesthetics, as much as her budget allows. She's figures she's now part of the glamorous world of the Kindred and feels she must look the part.

It's possible to assume that Luciana is a vampire. She's confident and good at bluffing. The fact that she's whipped a vampire groveling at her feet means she's less intimidated by the Kindred than might otherwise be the case.

In Stories

The characters know Lucas Desoto, Luciana's Domitor. He's one of their associates and now he's disappeared. He could even be a sire or a Mawla. Alternatively, you can replace Lucas with a suitable supporting character in your chronicle. With each passing week, Luciana's understanding of the Kindred increases as she carefully takes the stake out to ask Lucas questions.

The coterie notices someone poaching on their domain. The signs are clear: assaults, disappearances and strange stories of a woman who steals blood. That's a problem for the Masquerade but also tends to signify Kindred impinging on your territory.

Luciana is struggling to survive in the bizarre situation she finds herself in, and in her world survival trumps morality. That means she will end up killing people to get the blood she needs. She's not an experienced hunter but she is resourceful.

If the specifics of Luciana's situation become known in the local Kindred community, some Tremere vampires might become

interested in studying her blood to figure out why she's apparently resistant to the Blood Bond.

Luciana is a professional dominatrix, good at her job. That means that if her situation becomes known, she may attract Kindred clientele who get their kicks being dominated by a ghoul.

Encountering the Dominatrix

The Coterie may encounter the Dominatrix in the middle of her hunt, not realizing she is luring an unsuspecting victim to prolong her own life. From this it's easy to make the mistake of assuming she's a vampire, a notion she won't do anything to dispel.

The Dominatrix's home is typical for lower-middle class folks of the area. It's hidden away in an attic or basement where the Domitor lies in state. If it has been a long time since she's staked her Lucas, she has an array of knives, breast milk pumps, syringes, or aquarium tools and equipment for extracting and storing the blood she needs. Many of these are cheap and experimental, and she hasn't had the time to clean up the mess that comes from extracting blood from corpses.

Lucas is an important figure, and his absence is noted. Luciana has been playing the part of Lucas' aide or newly hired business manager, but she's bluffing her way through the details. Lucas' absence is sure to leave at least one scheme or business in disarray, one Luciana has not yet discovered or is too overworked to tend to properly.

If Luciana is forced to defend her choices to the characters, she may argue that the situation with Lucas is her revenge for the non-consensual vampire bullshit he tried to pull with her. This doesn't really excuse the bodies Luciana has piled up on her own since staking her Domitor but she doesn't see that as relevant. She has to survive to figure out what's what! Morality is a luxury she can afford once her life (or hopefully unlifed by that point) is stable.

If the Dominatrix has realized Kindred can use her Domitor's blood to master new powers, she may be a contact selling such an opportunity to the highest bidder. These draughts are reasonably safe as the Kindred won't be likely to be free soon, and several the Dominatrix's other clients have a vested interest in ensuring the poor Kindred does not escape any time soon. If Lucas' clan has access to Blood Sorcery or Oblivion, Luciana might attract too much attention by selling access to one of these harder to acquire disciplines for a bargain price.

Complications

- As the Dominatrix begins to understand more about the Kindred condition, she takes advantage of the daytime to spy on the local Kindred, the Havens, and Retainers. She may eventually connect with other ghouls, recruiting them to her aid or using them as a tool to learn more about Kindred society.

- Luciana isn't well read, but she's cunning and picks up on social cues. If she isn't dealt with quickly, she'll begin to use everything at her disposal to consolidate what power she can for her own defense. This includes masquerading as a thin-blood or neonate to gain more first-hand knowledge from ignorant Kindred. If the characters took her for a vampire when initially encountered, she'll do her best to maintain the illusion.
- The Dominatrix eventually realizes what a precarious position she is in, and searches for a way to gain the Embrace. She may try to make a deal with the coterie, for the staked body of Lucas or a couple of quality private sessions. Whatever she judges works best. Or she may feel desperate enough to go for the DIY solution, recruiting a friend to help her bleed dry and ingest vitae from a bottle. She doesn't know that the Embrace only works if the vitae is fresh. One way for the characters to get rid of her is to simply let her make a fatal mistake without telling her how it really works.

Credits:

Text: Juhana Pettersson and Kevin Schluter

Art: Maichol Quinto

Graphic Design: Sarah Robinson

© 2023 Paradox Interactive® AB, Vampire: The Masquerade®, and Hunter The Reckoning® are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Paradox Interactive AB in Europe, the U.S., and other countries. © 2023 Renegade Game Studios. All Rights Reserved.