

WELCOME, ADDICTS

(SECOND DRAFT)

WRITTEN BY

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INT. COMMUNITY CENTER. CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

The words "Welcome, Addicts" are painted roughly in red on a large white banner that hangs across the length of the room. Five people sit in a loose circle. DIANE, 30s, a homely woman with a kind set of eyes, addresses the room.

DIANE

(sweet)

Hello! Welcome addicts! Haha. We all know we have a problem, and talking about it is the first step to recovery. So good for you.

(Applauds. Stares to her side)

...I see a new face tonight, so how about we go around the room and introduce ourselves. I'm Diane. After my husband left me for my younger sister, I tried to fill the void with gambling and well, one thing led to the other...and here I am.

The camera makes a circle around the addicts as they make their introductions. BRADLEY, 20s, a typical FRAT BOY.

BRADLEY

Wow. Way to over-share, Diane.
I'm Brad or B-man! Booze!

DAVID, 30s, seats hunched over in his seat, tapping his heels against the floor with a manic energy.

DAVID

(Quick)

David. Recovering coke addict.

David holds up a token
3 weeks sober.

COURTNEY, 20s, a typical valley girl blonde, complete with a Starbucks in one hand and her phone in the other.

COURTNEY

(tapping on phone)

Courtney. Alcohol.

VLAD, 40s, A handsome man with a very pale complexion.

VLAD
(accented)
Vladimir or just, Vlad. Bloo..

Bradley throws Courtney an angry look.

BRADLEY
(Re: Courtney.)
You can't be booze!

COURTNEY
What?

BRADLEY
I'm booze.

COURTNEY
...and?

BRADLEY
One of us needs to change.

COURTNEY
Two people can be addicted to
the same thing, idiot.

BRADLEY
Yeah? What's in the cup, Cee?

Courtney shakes her Starbucks coffee.

COURTNEY
A half-caff pumpkin spice latte,
obvi.

BRADLEY
Well, I got vodka in mine.

Bradley whips out a hip-flask and uncorks it. The whole room reacts.

BRADLEY
Dedication, Bitch!

DIANE
BRADLEY!

DAVID
(plugs nose)
Jesus! Brad, that smells like
death!

COURTNEY
(rolls eyes)
Ugh, Fine. I'll go sex or
whatever.

Bradley smiles triumphantly. Diane sternly holds out a hand to Bradley. He rolls his eyes as he gives her the hip flask.

DAVID
Why are they even here?

COURTNEY
(snarky)
Because we have an addiction.

DAVID
Do you?

DIANE
Settle down, guys. Let's give
our new guest a chance to speak.

Diane sees Vlad staring wildly at the group.

DIANE
(re: Vlad)
I'm sorry, sweetie. What's your
poison?

Courtney goes back to her phone.

VLAD
Blood.

The room goes silent. Only the tap tapping of Courtney's fingers on her phone can be heard.

DAVID
What?

VLAD
Blood. Human Blood.

DIANE
Umm...what do you do with the
blood, sweetie?

VLAD
I drink it. I'm a vampire.

Diane and Brad react with a chorused "Ohhh". David is shocked. Courtney is still on her phone.

DIANE
How exciting! We never had a
vampire before.

BRADLEY
What about Pete? He drank blood.

DIANE
Pete was just a psychopath,
dear.

David is staring aghast at the group.

DAVID
Seriously, guys?! A vampire?!

BRADLEY
(confused)
What's up?

DAVID
What's? Up? He's a vampire! A
blood-sucker!

DIANE
(stern)
David! Language!
(re: Vlad)
I'm sorry, Vlad.

Vlad shrugs it off.

VLAD
It is not a concern. I am used

to this behaviour.

Vlad eyes Diane.

VLAD

But your kindness is very...what's
the word?

DIANE

Refreshing?

VLAD

Appetizing.

Diane lets out a bubbly giggle.

DAVID

Your kindness is appetizing? You
realize how creepy that sounds,
right?

DIANE

David, hush!
(re: Vlad. Flirty)
Go on.

Vlad favours her with a wry smile. David is disgusted. He
whispers to Bradley who is busy grinning at his phone.

DAVID

Are you listening to this?

BRADLEY

I'm busy, Brah.

DAVID

(incredulous)
There is a vampire in the room.
What could be more important?

BRADLEY

I'm sexting Cee.

Bradley looks up from his phone and sees Courtney grinning
slyly at him. He blows her a kiss. He sees David staring
back at him, disgust written on his face. David is absent-
mindedly pawing at his fore arm. Bradley raises a brow at

the action. David notices and immediately stops.

DIANE

How did you become a vampire,
Vlad?

VLAD

The usual. My soul for
immortality...

Courtney drops her coffee through the air beside her. It
spills noisily on the floor. She reacts.

COURTNEY

(interrupts)

What the hell? Where's the
table?

The whole room turns to her outburst.

DIANE

The table?

COURTNEY

The coffee table that used to be
right here!

Courtney addresses the empty space beside her.

BRADLEY

David burned it down when he
thought it was possessed,
remember?

COURTNEY

Wow. Thanks, Dave!

DAVID

(self-conscious)

I was shaking off a high! And
that was a month ago! More
importantly, is no one going to
address the issue?

The group narrows their eyes at David, missing whatever
point he's trying to make.

DAVID
The vampire!

VLAD
I have a name.

COURTNEY
Vampire?

Courtney raises her brows at Bradley.

DIANE
That would be, Vlad.

COURTNEY
Who's Vlad?

Diane points to the casual vampire.

COURTNEY
(disbelieving)
Are you for real? A vampire?

Vlad throws her a charming nod. Diane looks disturbed at the exchange.

COURTNEY
Wait, Like Pete-vampire? Or
Edward-vampire?

BRADLEY
Edward-vampire.

COURTNEY
This needs a selfie.

Courtney squashes herself against Vlad, makes a duck face and snaps a photo with her phone. The vampire takes a deep breath as she nears him. His eyes fast on her neck. She stares at the screen.

COURTNEY
(wide eyed)
O.M.G. Babe, look!

Courtney shows her phone to Bradley. David sneaks a peek.

Gasps. Vlad is invisible in the photo.

DAVID
He's not in...

BRADLEY
(overlapping)
Babe, you look amazing!

David is dumbstruck. Courtney is ecstatic. She stares pleased at the photo

COURTNEY
The lighting makes me look
gorgeous. It just needs a good
filter.

Courtney swiping through the selection on her phone.

DAVID
Seriously?!

COURTNEY
(annoyed)
Now, what?

David is about to retort when he's distracted by the look Vlad is giving Courtney. Thirsty. There is an ominous red glow that shines in the vampire's eyes. Vlad lets out a wispy hiss of breath. Bradley and Diane share a scared look.

DIANE
Maybe you should take your seat,
Courtney.

Courtney looks up from her screen and sees Vlad staring at her neck.

COURTNEY
Wow, creepy.

Courtney slips back onto her chair. She pulls out a nail file and starts working on her fingers, unconcerned. Vlad sees the worried looks the group is giving him.

VLAD
I apologise. Temptation is

harder to resist when
you're...thirsty.

DIANE
How long has it been since you
last...er...?

DAVID
Killed?

Diane glowers at David. Vlad shows the first signs of
irritation at David.

DIANE
Drank.

VLAD
A week.

Diane lets out a small happy cheer. She fishes around in her
bag and pulls out a token. She hands to Vlad. Vlad stares at
the small coin confusedly.

DIANE
(cheerily)
One week sober.

Vlad pockets the coin.

VLAD
Abstaining is quite difficult.

DIANE
(sympathetic)
I know how you feel, Dear.

DAVID
(sarcastic)
Really? You know how it feels to
need to drink blood to survive?

Diane throws David an angry look.

BRADLEY
(struggling to think)
Hold up, you NEED to drink blood
as a vamp, right? So that's not

an addiction, that's like a
necessity. Right?

Bradley looks around the room for confirmation.

VLAD

Yes, but not necessarily Human
blood. I can make do with
animals, but I've grown addicted
to humans.

He eyes Courtney as he delivers the last line.

COURTNEY

Omg. Good catch, babe. Smart is
so sexy.

Bradley glows at the compliment. He shares a dirty look with
Courtney.

DAVID

(sarcastic)

Yeah, good job figuring out that
the monster doesn't need to
kill, it likes to.

Bradley looks away, clearly stung by the words.

VLAD

Monster?

DIANE

David!

DAVID

What? He IS a monster.
Literally! Look it up. Every
sense of the word, right there!

VLAD

(angry)

You are getting on my nerves,
human.

David narrows his eyes at Vlad.

DIANE

That is just rude, David.

Diane leans in towards Vlad
Are you okay, dear?

DAVID

Will you stop flirting with
him?!

Diane blushes.

DIANE

(stammers)

Flirting? I wasn't...what do you
mean?

COURTNEY

Don't be such a prude, David.
(re: Diane)
It's been forever since that D-
bag left. You do you, girl!

Diane smiles at the encouragement.

BRADLEY

(re: David)

Yeah, you had your shot, douche.

DAVID

She was talking about Diane's
Ex.

BRADLEY

I knew that...you're still a
douche, though.

The room nods in agreement. David growls.

DAVID

Of course, I'm the asshole for
trying to keep everyone alive
from Angel over there.

COURTNEY

OMG! What is wrong with you?

Courtney leans subtle towards Diane.

COURTNEY

Who's Angel?

DIANE

Not now, dear.

VLAD

What did I ever do to you?

DAVID

Let's see, between the divorcee,
who is so desperate for
attention she is LITERALLY
flirting with death! And the
bored hipsters, who don't have
anything better to do on a
weekend than fake an addiction!
I seem to be the only one who
ACTUALLY cares about staying
alive from the leech in the
room!

The room reacts angrily to his outburst with cries of
divorcee and hipsters.

VLAD

(angry)

Leech?! You judgemental shit! I
wouldn't touch such tainted
blood even if it were the last
drop in the world.

David shuts up and slouches in his seat. Diane stares
curiously at Vlad.

DIANE

Tainted?

VLAD

(dismissive)

His blood stinks of drugs. It's
very off-putting.

The room stares at David, surprised. Fear and shame written
clearly on his face. He looks cornered.

DAVID

I...relapsed..

David breaks down in tears. Diane looks sympathetic. Bradley gently pats hits back reassuringly.

DIANE

(softly)

Oh, David. That's why we're here.

David continues to bawl in place. Diane and Bradley reassuring him. Vlad looks taken aback by the sudden display of emotion.

COURTNEY

Wow. This totally explains why he's being such a bitch.

BRADLEY

Cee, chill. He's hurting.

Courtney looks offended. She huffs in place and goes back to aggressively filling her nails.

COURTNEY

Ow!

Courtney accidentally scraps of some skin. A drop of blood forms. Vlad takes in a deep breath and stares at Courtney. Thirsty. Diane continues to reassure David.

DIANE

You should've called us, David. I'm sorry but I'm going to need your token back.

David digs in his pocket and pulls out the coin. He hands it to Diane.

DAVID

I really tried, Diane, but the stress from work just got to me.

David dries his tears on his sleeve.

DAVID

And I'm sorry, Vlad. I've been
dealing with a lot of shame and
I shouldn't have been so
harsh...JESUS!

David, Diane and Bradley all stare horrified at Vlad eating
into Courtney's neck. Blood spilling everywhere. Vlad
finally notices the group. He lets go of the body, ashamed.
Courtney's corpse slips off the chair, like a sack of
potatoes.

VLAD

Sorry.

DIANE

See! This is an extreme example
of what happens when you give
into your addictions!

Diane holds out a stern hand to Vlad. The vampire pulls out
his token and hands it over.

END