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THE CHRONICLES OF THE COUNTS DRACULA-CARDIE

ADAPTED FROM BARON OLSHEVRI'S
NOVEL "VAMPIRES"



Olga Boyko

**The Chronicles of the Counts
Dracula-Cardie. Adapted from
Baron Olshevris novel «Vampires»**

«Издательские решения»

Boyko O.

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Your love gave me back my life...Harry, a young and handsome millionaire inherits a mysterious castle in the Carpathian Mountains. His friends, James, Captain Wright, Georges and a specially hired librarian Karl Ivanovich help him to deal with the numerous papers, letters and diaries, which take our heroes into the past. Archival search is necessary not only for entering into the rights of inheritance, but also to understand the causes of the outbreak of the epidemic of deaths in the castle.

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The Chronicles of the Counts Dracula-Cardie Adapted from Baron Olshevis novel "Vampires"

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OPENING TO EACH EPISODE

Glimpses of hooves of the horses galloping through the forest. Again the sound of laughter and flashes of sunlight among the trees.

Blue shards of the sky high above and wistful laughter of the beautiful stranger in the blue dress as she vanishes in the rays of the sun

The horse rears up, throwing its rider off

SMITH

Are you alright?

HARRY

I saw Her...

INT – CARDIE'S CASTLE – DAYTIME

A gust of wind blows across the abandoned halls of the Cardie's castle, reaching the open piano in the main room. Crimson rose petals are scattered on the ancient ivory keys, they shift as the wind stirs them

TITLE: 1912

RITA'S VOICE

(whispering behind the scenes)

Your love gave me back my life... Your love gave me back my life...

The wind swirls and the petals fall to the floor

EXT – MOUNTAINS IN PERU – DAYTIME – MEMORIES

TITLE: 1770

YOUNG DRACULA (27 years old), the INTERPRETER and the OLD GUIDE stand in front of the cave decorated with carvings of Indian idols. Their clothes wave in the strong wind that blows from the mouth of the cave. The old guide shakes his head and pleads in his native tongue, his very manner indicating that it is forbidden to go further

YOUNG DRACULA
What is he saying?

INTERPRETER

We cannot go any further. Anyone who does will doom himself to eternal torment and bring curse upon his descendants.

YOUNG DRACULA

The main thing is that it's eternal... Give him a scare of offer some money – we must get into the temple, whatever it takes!

The interpreter persuades the old man, but the latter pushes the interpreter away and falls on his knees in front of the count. He points to the sky, where a huge eagle flies. The old man almost faints in horror, when the eagle rushes down. The old guide covers his head with hands and wails

OLD GUIDE
(in Spanish)

Death, death, it is already following us, and we ourselves are going to meet it.

END OF THE MEMORIES

EXT – IN SURROUNDING FORESTS OF CARDIE'S CASTLE-SAME SUMMER DAY

HARRY (27 years old), CAPTAIN WRIGHT (31 year old), JAMES (30 years old) and GEORGES (20 years old) rush on horses across the forest. The riders sweep past a Hunting House.

EXT-IN THE SKY OVER THE CASTLE FOREST-SAME SUMMER DAY

From above an EAGLE flies and looks down: there is a valley with a lake below. On one side of the valley there is a gloomy medieval Cardie's castle, and a bit away from the valley, in the lowland of the forest, there is a Hunting House.

The Eagle descends at high speed and rushes on a white Dove – this happens in the sky over the clearing, where Harry has stopped in the woods...

HARRY: (27 years old, a loafer, millionaire, descendant of the Dracula-Cardie family, confident, eccentric, sometimes unscrupulous, sexy, used to get what he wants, he and Rita are two of a kind. He is a comrade-in-arm of Captain Wright and James.

EXT-FOREST IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF CARDIE'S CASTLE-SAME SUMMER DAY

Harry has lost his way during the hunt. His horse stands in a clearing in the woods. Harry seems that a woman's blue dress flits in the trees and a female laughter is heard.

Harry is distracted by the eagle and the dove – looks to the sky, he can see the eagle attacking the dove, this happens over his head.

Harry looks at the trees again, where the blue dress has just flashed. There is nothing. Harry looks around, looking for the owner of the dress.

The horse knickers and takes off.

INT – DINING ROOM IN THE VILLAGE INN – EVENING OF THE SAME DAY

Harry, James, Captain Wright, Georges, Harry's attorney and doctor, KARL IVANOVICH (50 years old), have supper after hunting at the wooden table

Harry wipes his hands with a napkin

HARRY

I think I saw her.

Karl Ivanovich sorts some records on his knees

KARL IVANOVICH: 50 years old, a librarian, Harry's attorney in castle affairs. A quiet, well-educated, intelligent-looking old man, wearing glasses because of poor eyesight, half-Russian

KARL IVANOVICH

(takes off his glasses)

Her?

Harry puts his napkin aside and looks at everyone

HARRY

The ghost from the castle: the blue dress, dark hair.

Georges drops his fork under the table. James pours himself a glass of wine

JAMES: 30 years old, an Englishman, military interrogator, positive hero in all senses, conscientious, man with principles, generous, good friend. A comrade-in-arm of Captain Wright and Harry, aristocrat

JAMES

Harry, what makes you think it was her? Maybe some local pulled your leg.

Harry puts a scarlet rose on the table

HARRY

Found in the forest.

Captain Wright takes the flower

CAPTAIN WRIGHT: 31 year old, an Englishman, cool cynic, skeptic, typical military man, it is hard for him to admit his weaknesses. Rarely smiling, traditionalist in everything. Captain is a true friend, smokes a lot. Introvert, aristocrat

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

(examining the rose)

Such roses certainly don't grow in the forest.

JAMES

I guess once we move into the castle all that is hidden will become revealed.

Georges shifts in his chair, is a little nervous

GEORGES: 20 years old, amorous, a bit naive, unspoiled young man. Georges is a virgin, aristocrat, student

GEORGES

I saw her too, she was beautiful like an angel.

Captain Wright abstracts himself from the rose and looks at Georges

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

Well, that's something new.

Karl Ivanovich puts the papers aside

KARL IVANOVICH

Stories about lake women are taking new forms.

Harry takes a sip of wine from his glass

HARRY

I tell you, this woman is from the castle! The LAKE MAIDEN has fair hair, and the beauty from the forest is dark-haired. I saw it myself.

Captain Wright lights up a cigar

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

Maybe there are their own mermaids in the forest?

Harry puts his glass on the table

HARRY

I understand, you don't believe me.

Captain Wright throws the rose on the table, stands up from his seat, pushes back his chair.

His cigar emits smoke in the ashtray. Captain takes it and smokes

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

Village tales are like the village beer – thorn apples.

EXT-WITCHES" VALLEY – SUMMER NIGHT OF THE SAME DAY

Mist twists above the lake. White nenufars open its petals, swaying gently. It rises above the water, its stem is no longer the stem, but a slim body of a woman. It is the LAKE MAIDEN (aka Maria, 23 years old)

She has a pale face with big blue eyes, and there are white nenufars in her loose golden hair.

Her body is translucent as if woven from silver threads.

The air over the lake is filled with inaudible sounds, female laughter is heard.

The Lake Maiden as if floats on air and whispers something with her lips.

White snowstorm of petals of white nenufars rises over the lake, following her.

INT-ROOM IN THE VILLAGE INN – NIGHT OF THE SAME DAY

Harry, Captain Wright, James and Georges slouch in the living room.

Karl Ivanovich lays a notebook in front of him

KARL IVANOVICH

(puts on the glasses)

I will read you the teacher's diary.

JAMES

Quiet, gentlemen, quiet.

KARL IVANOVICH

(reads the teacher's diary)

None of the villagers has seen him from that night. My suspicion that there was something fatal linking the "incidents", left me.

INT – STUDY IN THE TEACHER'S COUNTRY HOUSE-DAYTIME, THE TEACHER'S MEMORIES

BEGINNING OF THE MEMORIES

The TEACHER (28 years old) sits at the table in his study and writes. A pen in his hand slides on the paper.

TITLE: 1852

TEACHER'S VOICE

(behind the scenes)

Yesterday my doubts came back. Heinrich the hunter had disappeared.

INT – LIVING ROOM IN THE TEACHER'S HOUSE – SAME DAY

Heinrich's sister, MARIA (25 years old) cries in the teacher's house. The teacher and his sister MINA (30 years old) comfort her

MARIA

(wipes her tears)

My brother is missing! He went hunting early on Friday morning, promising to return in time for the evening service.

TEACHER

(walks about the room)

Don't cry, we will find Heinrich.

MARIA

(knits a sock)

The rumor in the village says that the only place where we should look for him is the Witches' Valley.

Mina crosses herself after Maria's words

TEACHER

(stands still, looking at them)

So let's go to the valley. But why should he be there?

MINA

(knitting)

Even though Michel, the ironsmith, was found in the Witches' Valley, it was only because he was dead drunk.

TEACHER

(scratching his head)

That's right. His hunting field is on the opposite side, in the mountains.

MINA

(puts knitting on her knees)

The brother is right, they won't find your Heinrich in the Valley.

The teacher looks reproachfully at his sister. She understands that she is saying the wrong thing and becomes silent. Maria cries again

END OF THE TEACHER'S MEMORIES

INT – ROOM IN THE VILLAGE INN – SAME NIGHT

Karl Ivanovich pauses and puts the notebook down

TITLE: 1912

HARRY

(claps his hands)

Tomorrow we are spending the night at the Hunting House. It's just near the Valley.

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

(yawns in the armchair)

Right now I don't understand anything.

HARRY

(smokes his cigar)

You will understand once a witch gets hold of you.

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

(lazily)

What is it, the Witches' Valley?

JAMES

(takes whisky off the table)

I thought you knew.

HARRY

(blows smoke rings)

The Valley is located at the foot of a mountain, on top of which the castle stands. In the valley's centre there is a lake. The lakeshore is very swampy and at sunsets mists rise from its water.

He breathes out another portion of smoke

JAMES

(holds the glass of whisky in his hand)

It was this very mist that gave rise to all the legends.

HARRY

(gesticulating with his cigar in the air)

In the moonlight the mist takes on forms of beautiful women.

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

Not bad.

HARRY

Everyone who ended up in the Witches' Valley on full moon was found dead.

JAMES

The lake women drink a man's life with their kisses.

Drinks his glass of whisky at a draught

VILLAGE DOCTOR (48 years old) enters the living room

VILLAGE DOCTOR

Of course he will die, the lake water is stagnant and rotten.

Everyone looks at him

HARRY

(makes a hand gesture in his direction)

Doctor, you may pay for your lack of belief.

VILLAGE DOCTOR

(sits down in a spare chair)

If a drunk makes his way to the swamp, he will either drown or catch a fever.

The front door claps on the ground floor (sound behind the scenes).

EXT – VILLAGE INN – SAME SUMMER NIGHT

It is dark outside. Crickets sing.

INT – ROOM IN THE VILLAGE INN – SAME NIGHT

Harry and his guests sit in a room with a fireplace.

Georges sleeps. Karl Ivanovich looks into the notebook

KARL IVANOVICH

(rearranges his glasses and reads)

It was only after he regained consciousness that we were able to pry open his fingers. There was the medallion of Holy Virgin.

HARRY

I guess we have missed something, haven't we?

KARL IVANOVICH

Yes, there is a gap in the records.

EXT – WITCHES' VALLEY – SUMMER EVENING, HEINRICH'S MEMORIES

BEGINNING OF THE MEMORIES

TITLE: 1852

HEINRICH – the hunter (20 years old) sits on the ledge of one of the rocks near a hawthorn bush.

The moon is bright. Mist rises from the lake.

Heinrich leans towards the hawthorn bush, smells the fragrance of its flowers and yawns.

Suddenly a gust of wind shakes the bush and a hawthorn branch strikes Heinrich on his chest – in an instant, white flowers cover him.

A white veil covers Heinrich. The veil shines and in the middle of it a beautiful female face appears, pale and wondrous, with huge greenish eyes and pink lips (Countess Maria's face).

She moves closer to him. Heinrich is unable to take his eyes off her. He tries to reach for his medallion but there is no holy picture and lace on his neck.

The LAKE MAIDEN (26 years old) moves closer to Heinrich and kisses his lips. Everything around Heinrich starts to spin. He falls down unconscious.

END OF HEINRICH'S MEMORIES

EXT – WITCHES' VALLEY – SUMMER DAY, THE TEACHER'S MEMORIES

BEGINNING OF THE MEMORIES

The teacher passes by the lake back to the village. He sees a white nenufere underfoot, stops, picks it up from the ground, examines. The flower is little wilted

TEACHER

How did it get here?

INT – TEACHER'S BEDROOM IN THE TEACHER'S HOUSE – NIGHT OF THE SAME DAY

The teacher sits in his bedroom in his house on the second floor. He is about to go to bed.

Almost full-blown white nenufere stands in a glass of water. The teacher looks at it

TEACHER

(talking to the flower)

You are so beautiful...

The flower in the glass begins to transform. The white nenufere seems to move, it opens its petals a bit more.

Droplets of water shine on its petals. Those are either droplets or blue eyes of a woman

TEACHER

(breathing the air with his nose)
What is this, a fragrance?

The nenufere no longer floats helplessly in the glass of water, but sways proud on its high stem, but this is no longer the stem, but a slim woman's body (aka Countess Maria)

She has a pale face with big sad eyes and pale pink lips. Her golden hair falls in beautiful waves upon her breasts.

Her figure sways softly and with every movement grows bigger and bigger until becomes a normal woman, yet her body stays translucent.

Now she floats on air from the table. The room is filled with inaudible sounds.

Her figure as if floats on air. She comes closer and closer; soon she sways beside the teacher's bed, whispering something. She leans over him. She stretches out her arms, as if begging for something

TEACHER
(pushes the ghost aside with his hands)
No! No!

A crash and sound of breaking glass are heard in the room.

EXT-WITCHES' VALLEY – SAME SUMMER NIGHT

The fog band moves away from the open window of the bedroom towards the Witches' Valley. In the moonlight it seems magical glow.

INT – TEACHER'S BEDROOM – SAME NIGHT

Frightened Mina appears in the room. The teacher sits in the bed and looks at the sister. The broken glass decanter lies on the floor next to the bed in a puddle of water

MINA
(grumbling)
Why shouting, you have broken the decanter!

The teacher looks at the desk suspiciously: the nenufere dies helplessly in its glass. The teacher mops his brow slowly

TEACHER
(smiles, embarrassed)
Only a dream.

MINA
(picks up the pieces from the floor)
Scared to death.

INT – TEACHER’S BEDROOM IN THE TEACHER’S HOUSE-MORNING

There is no nenufare in the glass on the desk anymore. The teacher looks at the empty glass half awake

TEACHER

May it be a spirit of a suicide?

INT-DINING ROOM IN THE TEACHER’S HOUSE – SAME MORNING

The teacher enters the dining room on the ground floor. Mina puts dishes for breakfast on the table

TEACHER

Mina, have you seen the flower in my bedroom?

MINA

(puts the dishes)

The faded one? I’ve thrown it away.

TEACHER

(sits at the table)

Pity, I got used to it.

MINA

(stops and looks at her brother)

You are pale in the morning.

TEACHER

Just sleepy.

MINA

(continues putting the dishes)

You know, Heinrich has become an assistant to the church watchman.

TEACHER

Ah...

MINA

(puts pies in front of the brother)

Eat, I’ve baked in the morning.

She sits down in front of him, pours out tea

TEACHER

(bites off a pie)

My favourite. Thank you.

MINA

(pours out tea)

Maria is glad that Heinrich was found. Truly speaking, he has become odd. Silent. So the old church watchman invited him. The watchman is strange, has planted garlic everywhere in the garden.

She gives a cup of tea to the brother

TEACHER

(takes the cup from her hands)

I should go and see Heinrich.

MINA

Go-go. It won't be bad.

She puts a pie on her saucer.

EXT – WITCHES' VALLEY – SUMMER NIGHT OF THE SAME DAY

The teacher stands in the Witches' Valley near the water, on the lakeshore.

Mist rises over the lake, taking on different forms: now the white cloud takes shapes of a lady with nenufares in her hair.

And now nenufares on the water surface open their petals, fireflies float over them.

Blossomed trees, growing near here, give their white petals to the wind.

White snowstorm of petals whirls in the air over the lake and the schoolteacher's head

TEACHER

(peers into the white whirl over the lake)

What if everything that the villagers say about the valley is true?

He goes into the lake

END OF THE MEMORIES

EXT – CLEARING IN THE FOREST OF CARDIE'S CASTLE – EVENING

Harry and the company enjoy their picnic, Smith accidentally spills some wine on Harry's shirt

HARRY

(shouting)

What the hell is the matter with you, Smith? My shirt isn't a wineglass, damn it!

Smith spreads his arms in embarrassment

SMITH

Forgive me, it was an accident. For a moment I imagined that someone was looking at me from the forest. Someone with red eyes.

Everybody looks around nervously

JAMES

There is no one!

HARRY

I never took you for someone who suffers from a persecution complex, Smith. Oh well, pour me some more wine and, for once, try to aim for the glass and avoid my shirt.

Smith pours the wine but his hands shake. He shivers and points towards the forest

SMITH

My God, it is still there.

Captain Wright grabs a rifle and fires a single shot in the direction pointed by Smith. Black bat flies out of the forest

HARRY

Calm down, Smith, it is only a perfectly harmless bat.

Suddenly the bushes behind the resting men creak. Everyone jumps to their feet and grabs their rifles

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

Halt before you get a bullet in your guts. Who is there? Answer me, damn you!

A VILLAGE HEADSMAN, a fat middle aged man emerges from the bushes

VILLAGE HEADMAN

Gentlemen, calm down. It is only me.

HARRY

You see, Smith, he is hardly a demon.

Smith crosses himself and kisses a religious medallion at his neck

HARRY

Gentlemen, it is time to get going. We haven't had the chance to explore the Western side of the castle yet. And now that we are so lucky to get a tour guide, – the village headsman, we should really waste no time.

(addressing the headsman)

Have you got a horse?

VILLAGE HEADSMAN

No.

HARRY

Then Smith's mare will have to carry you both.

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

(quietly)

The poor mare – a hysterical damsel and a fat man together on her back.

Everyone mounts their horses and rides away.

EXT-VILLAGE CHURCH GARDEN – SUMMER DAY, TEACHER'S MEMORIES

BEGINNING OF THE MEMORIES

The yard is planted with garlic flowers. The teacher goes by the white flowers to the church, holding his nose with his hand.

INT – IN THE VILLAGE CHURCH – SAME DAY

The teacher enters the village church.

It is ornamented with crosses and lined with wreathes of garlic over the windows and doors.

CHURCH WATCHMAN (aka Petro in his old age, 60 years old) stands on a ladder and fixes a wreath of white garlic flowers above the entrance door from the inside.

Heinrich sorts mistletoe crosses

TEACHER

How are you, Heinrich?

HEINRICH

(sorting crosses)

So far, so good.

TEACHER

(comes up to Heinrich)

And what about your neck?

HEINRICH

(touches a bandage on his neck)

Scratched, the wounds are not healing well.

CHURCH WATCHMAN

(comes off the ladder)

And they wouldn't heal, until she bites somebody else.

The teacher turns to the entrance door and points to the wreaths of white flowers

TEACHER

What is it?

CHURCH WATCHMAN

She doesn't like it!

TEACHER
(wrinkles his nose)
I guess, me too.

Heinrich looks askance at the teacher

TEACHER
(continues)
I've heard your stories. Can the dead rise from their coffins?

CHURCH WATCHMAN
(takes the ladder away from the entrance and puts it in the corner)
You are still young, wait till you get to my age.

TEACHER
(turns to Heinrich)
Do you really believe in that too?

Heinrich sorts crosses in silence and hides his eyes

HEINRICH
(quietly)
I do.

INT – LIVING ROOM IN THE TEACHER'S HOUSE – EVENING OF THE SAME DAY

Mina sews in a chair by the window. The teacher rocks in a rocking chair

MINA
(darns a shirt)
They say, the old man knew better life. He was the uncle of one of the young Counts Dracula and lived in the castle.
(bites the thread in two with her teeth and examines her work)
Then the family suffered some sort of misfortune. The castle was abandoned.
(puts the shirt on her knees and looks at the brother)
The counts have relatives somewhere in America, but no one knows them.

TEACHER
(stops rocking)
Are you talking about our church watchman, Mina?

MINA
(sighs)
About him. Who else?

END OF THE TEACHER'S MEMORIES

INT-ROOM IN THE VILLAGE INN – SAME NIGHT

Karl Ivanovich looks into his notebook and keeps silent.

TITLE: 1912

GEORGES

(rubs his eyes half asleep)

The teacher writes about your relatives, doesn't he?

HARRY

Why do you think so?

GEORGES

(shrugs his shoulders)

Intuition.

KARL IVANOVICH

(reads the teacher's diary)

Today the church watchman came to our house, bringing some objects for Mina to clean. I lured him to my study and gave him a cup of tea, into which I had poured two tablespoons of rum.

INT – STUDY IN THE TEACHER'S HOUSE – EVENING, THE TEACHER'S MEMORIES

BEGINNING OF THE MEMORIES

The teacher and church watchman sit in the teacher's study at the table. The teacher gives the church watchman some tea from the tray

TITLE: 1852

CHURCH WATCHMAN

(a little drunk)

And I dare say, she almost bit me to death!

TEACHER

Who, the hound bitch?

CHURCH WATCHMAN

What bitch? The Countess herself! She died, but at the time of the full moon she starts to stroll around. If she gets stuck on someone – you know, the poor man is dead!

He bites off a pie, washes down with some tea. The teacher watches him

CHURCH WATCHMAN

(continues)

Once we were walking together on the clearing, and a big wolf jumped on me, knocked me over flat. And she, my darling Nettie, my beauty, she flew into a rage and grabbed the bastard by the scruff of his neck.

TEACHER

The dead Countess?

CHURCH WATCHMAN

(waving his hands at him)

Go on with you, all you do is confuse things! The hound, Nettie, I raised her myself; and for nothing perished the poor dog.

TEACHER

I don't understand who you are talking about.

CHURCH WATCHMAN

(completely drunk)

I drowned her in the old well.

He gets up from the table, takes his bag on the floor near the chair

CHURCH WATCHMAN

(continues)

Well, I must go.

TEACHER

(nods and gets up from the chair)

Tomorrow Mina will clean everything

CHURCH WATCHMAN

(winks at the teacher)

Sleep well?

INT-BEDROOM IN THE TEACHER'S HOUSE – NIGHT OF THE SAME DAY

A nenufare stands in the glass of water on the table in the bedroom. The teacher stands next to it, but the flower is unmoved

TEACHER

How can I get you to come back?

He paces the room, nervous. He accidentally moves the window curtain: something falls on the floor – the teacher picks up a wreath made up of dried garlic flowers and bulbs

TEACHER

(continues)

So this is the source of the stench in my room.

EXT – GARDEN OF THE VILLAGE CHURCH – SUMMER DAY

The teacher talks to the church watchman. The teacher holds a small package in his hands. The church watchman varnishes a big wooden cross

TEACHER

(stretches the package to the watchman)

Here, Mina gave the church objects.

CHURCH WATCHMAN

(points to a bench to his left)

Put it there.

TEACHER

(puts the package on the bench)

What about the hound Nettie? The Countess' one. What happened to her?

CHURCH WATCHMAN

(turns towards him with a sly smile)

The counts had a fine pack of hunting dogs, and Nettie was the Countess' favourite. The old American devil did away with her.

EXT – CARDIE'S CASTLE – SUMMER DAY, THE MEMORIES OF THE CHURCH WATCHMAN (PETRO)

BEGINNING OF THE MEMORIES

TITLE: 1832

Panoramic view: a terrace of the castle, there is a chapel away from it.

INT – LARGE BALCONY ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE CASTLE – SAME DAY

PETRO (as a young man, 39 years old) enters the balcony in the form of a terrace, AMERICAN SERVANT (seemingly 80 years old) meets him halfway. Petro exchanges glances with him.

NETTIE follows the American with her eyes and shakes, her fur stands on end, eyes are wild, teeth snap.

COUNTESS MARIA (26 years old) reclines pale on a couch. There is fear on her face, eyes are half-closed

COUNTESS MARIA

(groaning)

Petro...

Petro stares at the Countess, then at the dog, then at the door, after the gone servant.

EXT – GARDEN OF CARDIE'S CASTLE – SAME SUMMER DAY

American Servant moves away in the direction of the chapel. Nettie, like crazy, runs after him and goes out of sight.

END OF THE MEMORIES OF THE CHURCH WATCHMAN

EXT-VILLAGE CHURCH GARDEN-SUMMER DAYTIME, THE TEACHER'S MEMORIES

BEGINNING OF THE MEMORIES

The teacher and the church watchman talk in the church garden

TITLE: 1852

TEACHER

(sits down on the bench and adjusts the collar with his hand)

Do you think the snake bit Nettie?

CHURCH WATCHMAN

(painting a cross)

No, the snake bit Countess.

TEACHER

How could a snake get into the castle?

CHURCH WATCHMAN

(painting the cross)

From the jewel box that the old devil had brought with him.

(pause)

Don't go to the lake.

TEACHER

Who told you that I was going to the lake?

CHURCH WATCHMAN

(throws the brush and takes off the gloves)

Where else could you dirty your boots, mud is everywhere, completely ruined.

END OF THE TEACHER'S MEMORIES

INT-ROOM IN THE VILLAGE INN – SAME NIGHT

Karl Ivanovich puts the notebook on his knees

TITLE: 1912

KARL IVANOVICH

(sorting the sheets)

Here is another interruption.

HARRY

(slouches in the armchair)

Time for bed.

Captain Wright snores in his armchair.

EXT – WITCHES” VALLEY – SAME SUMMER NIGHT

YOUNG MAN, a villager, staggers from the lake in the direction of the village.

He takes some steps and falls dead. He holds a rose-nenufare in his hand. There are drops of blood on his shirt.

EXT – CLEARING IN THE WOODS – SUMMER DAY

During the hunt Smith, Harry, James, Captain Wright, Karl Ivanovich and Georges have a picnic in a clearing under a wide-branching tree. They eat ham from big plates and drink wine out of bottles.

There are hunting trophies and guns next to them. Saddled horses graze nearby

SMITH

(pours out wine by glasses)

Mr. Harry, whole stories are told about you.

Harry lies and chews a grass blade

HARRY

Well, what kind of?

JAMES

(gives Harry a glass of wine)

They say, you’ve got a whole kingdom in America and you are a descendant of Montezuma.

Harry spits out the grass blade and takes the glass from him

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

(puts a piece of ham into his mouth)

Where did you get such information?

JAMES

The villagers say so.

He chews the ham and takes a sip from his glass of wine

HARRY

Have you already been to the village?

Harry takes a piece of ham from the plate, brought to him by Smith

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

James and I walked there in the afternoon.

He lights up a cigar

SMITH

Mr. Harry is the owner of the local castle, so they talk about him.

He sits down on the grass next to Harry and eats a piece of ham

HARRY

Karl Ivanovich will help me to become its owner.

He takes another piece of ham from Smith's plate

KARL IVANOVICH

(wipes his hands with a napkin)

I haven't found missing documents yet in the archive, but I have got interesting letters.

He leans back against the tree trunk and gets a batch of letters out of his bag

HARRY

These are letters from the Hunting House, we will live there until I get the castle.

KARL IVANOVICH

(unties the ribbon, which ties the letters)

The letters have an evident connection with the teacher's diary.

INT – LIVING ROOM OF THE VENETIAN MANSION – DAYTIME

BEGINNING OF GROWN-UP CARLO'S MEMORIES

A hand of a young aristocrat writes a letter

TITLE: 1852

CARLO'S VOICE

(behind the scenes)

Dear Alf! I am able to return to my motherland, which I left as a seven-year-old boy. I still don't know the reason for my exile from my parents' castle.

EXT-TERRACE OF CARDIE'S CASTLE – SUMMER EVENING

BEGINNING OF YOUNG CARLO'S MEMORIES

Everybody gathered on the terrace: YOUNG CARLO (7 years old), his sister LUCY (5 years old); COUNT FREDERICK (41 year old): adult, calm, with noble manners; COUNTESS MARIA (25 years old): beautiful, graceful blonde with noble manners; PETRO (39 years old), Count Frederick's younger brother.

Countess' favourite greyhound, NETTIE, lies right here.

SEBASTIAN (40 years old), the servant, enters

TITLE: 1832

SEBASTIAN

An elderly gentleman wishes to speak to the Count.

COUNT FREDERICK

Call him.

Sebastian leaves

The old grey-haired gentleman, seemingly 80 years old, AMERICAN SERVANT (aka American Grandfather) enters the terrace.

AMERICAN SERVANT: seemingly 80 years old, aristocratic bearing and manners, tall, thin-faced, is a bit haughty. He has got reddish eyes and crimson lips on the pale face. He wears a long religious habit.

The American servant bows to the count and countess.

Nettie jumps, bristles up and rushes at him.

The old man drives her away with a crutch, which he holds in his hands

COUNTESS MARIA

Nettie has never behaved like this before!

COUNT FREDERICK

Petro, take the dog away.

Petro grabs Nettie by the collar and drags her off the terrace.

The American Servant bows, handing Count Frederick a large sealed envelope.

Count Frederick opens it and reads a few lines to himself, then turns towards his wife

COUNT FREDERICK

(continues)

A coffin, bearing the mortal remains of our American relative is due to arrive at the castle in accordance to his wishes. He wanted to be buried in his home soil.

Countess Maria nods silently

COUNT FREDERICK

(continues)

Are you the same servant who is mentioned in this letter?

The American Servant bows in acknowledgement

AMERICAN SERVANT

My Lord, when can I bring the coffin?

COUNTESS MARIA

Tomorrow, if you wish

The American Servant bows to the couple and leaves

COUNTESS MARIA

(continues)

Who was that relative, dear?

END OF THE MEMORIES

EXT – VENICE, LIDO CANAL – SUMMER EVENING

BEGINNING OF GROWN-UP CARLO'S MEMORIES

A gondola glides noiselessly along the water. Last rays of the setting sun reflect on the canal. All around, laughter and singing can be heard from the neighboring gondolas.

CARLO (27 years old): a son of Count Frederick and Countess Maria, an educated young aristocrat, has lived away from home for almost 20 years.

Carlo gazes at the water, lost in thought

TITLE: 1852

CARLO'S VOICE

(behind the scenes)

My mother died when I was already in Nuremberg. She was so beautiful, and yet she died so young. To this day I don't know what illness took her to her grave.

END OF THE MEMORIES

INT – LARGE LIVING ROOM OF THE CASTLE, GROUND FLOOR – DAYTIME

BEGINNING OF YOUNG CARLO'S MEMORIES

Young Carlo and Count Frederick talk in the living room of the castle. Carlo cries, standing in front of his father

TITLE: 1832

COUNT FREDERICK

It is your mother's wish.

YOUNG CARLO

But why? Doesn't she love me anymore?

INT-LUCY'S ROOM, NIGHT

Lucy sleeps peacefully in her bed when a big black cat moves crouching towards her. It arches its back and pounces on the child, mutilating her face. Lucy screams from pain and fear and tries to fling the cat away but the animal keeps attacking.

The door flies open and Catherine, the washer-woman Marina and the female cook rush in. The cat hides under the bed

CATHERINE

What is wrong, young lady?

Lucy sobs. Marina sees the blood and flings up her hands in horror. The cook presses a hand to her own mouth to stifle a scream. Catherine hugs the child

LUCY

Ooow, it hurts. That horrible cat hurt me! Why didn't you help me?

CATHERINE

We came running as soon as we heard you.

Maria and Frederick come into the room. Frightened, Marina makes a hasty curtsy. The cook leaves the room backwards

COUNTESS MARIA

What is happening?

She looks at her daughter and pales. Maria sits down on the bed. Frederick casts Marina an angry look. She takes a few steps backwards

COUNTESS MARIA

Are you alright my dear?

LUCY

No! I am hurt and I am scared!

Blood drips from her face onto the pillow

COUNTESS MARIA

(speaking to servants)

Bring water and bandages. Hurry!

(speaking to Lucy)

Who did this to you?

The little girl starts to cry

LUCY

(in between sobs)

A cat...it was so...huge... and scary.

Maria looks around, then nods to her husband. Frederick picks up a burning candle and looks under the bed. A drape between the bed and the window moves. A sound of beating wings can be heard. A dark shadow moves into the night

COUNT FREDERICK

Calm down, dear, there is no one.

LUCY

The cat had the same evil eyes like the nasty old man from America.

The girl is calmed down by her parents and put back to bed

INT-MARIA'S ROOM-A VISION

Maria is on her bed, moaning, tormented by a nightmare. Lucy's ghost forms at the foot of her bed

LUCY

Mommy, help me! Please, I am scared, I am going to die soon. Don't leave me, please. Save me!

Maria wakes up and sits upright, breathing heavily

INT-MARIA'S ROOM-MEMORIES

Maria embroiders by the window. Michael, Petro and Catherine rush into the room. They are clearly disturbed

MICHAEL

Something bad has happened, my lady.

COUNTESS MARIA

What's the matter?

MICHAEL

Your husband, my lady!

The Countess rises from her chair abruptly

COUNTESS MARIA

What is wrong with Frederick?

MICHAEL

His Highness has had a fall from a horse...

COUNTESS MARIA

Is he alive?

MICHAEL

Yes, but he is badly hurt.

Maria tries to run out of the room but faints.

She opens her eyes and sees the gloating smiling face of the American servant

AMERICAN SERVANT

So my lady, you haven't worn my present yet? What a pity, the necklace has some wonderful properties and it could help guard your loved ones from harm...

Maria nods hopelessly

AMERICAN SERVANT

A wise decision, my lady. One can never run from one's destiny.

EXT – LIDO, VENETIAN CANAL – SUMMER DAY

Venetian canal. A gondola glides quietly along the waves. Carlo stands in it, dipping an oar into the water.

TITLE: 1852

CARLO'S VOICE

(behind the scenes)

I can still see my mother clearly, tall and slender with rich golden braids.

Maria's face, framed by two thick braids is reflected in the waters of the canal

CARLO'S VOICE

(behind the scenes, continues)

Her blue eyes are looking at me with such love. I can feel them still, but what? Another eyes are looking at me, but they are not my mother's calm blue ones, but black and passionate.

The image in the water changes, Maria's blue eyes darken and become brown eyes of a STRANGE WOMAN (aka Rita, 19 years old), she is soon seen sitting in the nearby gondola. Rita and Carlo exchange glances and he is clearly smitten.

The camera shows only Rita's eyes for now, the rest of her face is obscured

CARLO'S VOICE

(behind the scenes, continues)

I want to see her again!

EXT – VENICE, LIDO, SEAFRONT – SUMMER EVENING

Rita walks along the seaside (the camera shows her back, her face is kept hidden from the viewer).

She is followed by her nurse CECILIA (45 years old), the Italian, Catholic.

RITA: 19 years old, a beautiful Venetian, impoverished noblewoman. Selfish, self-confident, pampered. Rita has beautiful white skin and dark hair.

CECILIA: 45 years old, Catholic. She speaks only Italian.

Carlo watches them from a quiet spot on a nearby bench while writing a letter to Alf

CARLO'S VOICE

(behind the scenes)

I found her, my black-eyed girl. She is so dazzling!

(pause)

Just think of a description of a legendary Venetian beauty, but even then think not of her but of her shadow.

RITA

(shouting playfully)

Carlo, come to us!

CARLO

Right away.

He keeps writing

CARLO'S VOICE

(behind the scenes)

I am not going home alone. Rita is coming with me, we are to be married!

RITA

(calling)

Carlo, Carlo, we are waiting for you!

CARLO

I am coming.

He keeps writing

CARLO'S VOICE

(behind the scenes, continues)

You are asking me about the coffin that I had written to you about... yes it was Grandfather's coffin, brought by his old servant from the land of the Aztecs.

Rita comes closer (her face is still hidden from the viewer). She takes Carlo's hand and pulls him somewhere. He follows her meekly

RITA

Oh, signor, one can wait for you for an eternity!

END OF THE MEMORIES

EXT – CLEARING IN THE WOODS – SAME SUMMER DAY

Harry sits down next to Karl Ivanovich

HARRY

I come from the land of the Aztecs!

KARL IVANOVICH

Perhaps the old grandfather mentioned in the letters is the same relative whose burial record you need to complete your transference of inheritance, Sir.

EXT-FRONT GATES OF CARDIE'S CASTLE-SUMMER DAY

BEGINNING OF YOUNG CARLO'S MEMORIES

Young Carlo stands in front of a gigantic black coffin at the gates of the Cardie's castle

TITLE: 1832

CARLO'S VOICE

(behind the scenes)

The old servant's visit was followed by the arrival of the grandfather's coffin the next day.

INT-CARDIE'S CASTLE, FAMILY CHAPEL – SAME DAY

Castle private chapel is brightly lit and elegantly decorated in an anticipation of a funeral Mass.

EXT – ENTRANCE TO THE CHAPEL – SAME SUMMER DAY

American servant stands at the entrance to the chapel. Behind his back, servants hold the gigantic coffin

AMERICAN SERVANT

The coffin is too large and will not pass through the chapel's entrance to the crypt. Wouldn't it be best to open the crypt's western doors in the garden?

Count Frederick stands at the threshold of the chapel and looks up at the old man, clearly surprised

COUNT FREDERICK

How could you possibly know about the other entrance to the crypt?

AMERICAN SERVANT

I know it from my late master's stories.

COUNT FREDERICK

(speaking to the servants)

We will have to forgo the funeral mass.

COUNTESS MARIA

How can we bury him without a proper service?

COUNT FREDERICK

(speaking to servants)

Open up the western doors to the crypt.

PETRO

Don't worry, Your Highness. We will take care of it.

American servant gives Petro an evil stare. Petro gives sign and the servants lift the American coffin but as soon as they step on the stairs as the latter begin to crumble and the large coffin falls, almost toppling over. When the coffin connects with the floor a hollow sound is heard.

Petro eyes the coffin suspiciously

PETRO

(to himself, puzzled)

Empty? But why drag an empty coffin halfway around the world?

The American servant tries to escape Petro's gaze by hiding behind other servants

INT – IN THE CRYPT UNDER THE CHAPEL – SAME DAY

The crypt has been cleaned and is brightly lit with burning torches.

Servants, led by Petro lower the coffin into a stone sarcophagus that has an inscription "Brought from America" carved on its lid.

The count and the countess watch the proceedings

COUNT FREDERICK

(to his overseer)

Michael, don't forget to lock the crypt.

MICHAEL

(to the servants)

Who has the key?

The servants go around the sarcophagus, shrug their shoulders and shake heads

COUNT FREDERICK

(to the servants)

Who was the last man to hold the key?

PETRO

You have lost it, airheads.

MICHAEL

(to the count)

Perhaps it was stolen, My Lord?

COUNTESS MARIA

God forbid, please order a thorough search.

The count and the countess walk out through the open door of the crypt into the garden.
American servant follows them

AMERICAN SERVANT

May I beg your permission to live in the old guardhouse near the chapel?

COUNT FREDERICK

But the old guardhouse is hardly fit to live in.

AMERICAN SERVANT

The only desire I have left in this world is to guard my master's grave.

COUNT FREDERICK

As you wish.

The count, the countess and the American servant go out through the open western doors of the crypt to the garden.

EXT – GARDEN NEAR THE WESTERN DOORS OF THE CRYPT-SAME DAY

Count Frederick, Countess Maria and American Servant stand in the garden.

The old man bows deeply to the count, handing the countess a long dark velvet box

AMERICAN SERVANT

(bowing)

As per my master's spoken command, in the memory of him.

Countess Maria opens the box, revealing a beautiful pearl necklace resting on the blue velvet. The necklace's clasp is shaped like a serpent's head with two large emeralds for eyes. The emeralds glint mysteriously in the light.

Countess Maria looks up at her husband questioning and he nods in approval. The Countess' fingers touch the necklace

END OF THE MEMORIES

EXT – CLEARING IN THE WOODS – SAME SUMMER DAY

Karl Ivanovich puts sheets on his knees

HARRY

(eats olives from a saucer with fingers)

The great idol of Huitzilopochtli was once adorned with a pearl necklace fashioned into a snake with emerald eyes. It was supposed to possess some sort of a supernatural power. It vanished when the Spaniards looted Huitzilopochtli's temple.

GEORGES

Who was she, Huitzilopochtli?

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

A he. An ancient god of war.

JAMES

So this is all?

KARL IVANOVICH

I cannot find the rest of this letter.

He shuffles through the pile of old letters

HARRY

(puts an olive into his mouth)

Well, please read the next one that you can find.

INT – CARDIE'S CASTLE, LONG CORRIDOR – NIGHT

BEGINNING OF YOUNG CARLO'S MEMORIES

TITLE: 1832

The empty corridor of the castle is dimly lit. The silence of the night is broken by Countess Maria's scream.

INT – CARDIE'S CASTLE, CHILDREN'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Young Carlo sits up in his bed, listening in the darkness. He can hear the doors slamming, the sounds of running feet and the voices of the excited servants (sound behind the scenes)

YOUNG CARLO

(frightened)

Catherine, Catherine, where are you?

He leaps out of his bed, barefoot and clad in a nightshirt and rushes out of his bedroom

INT-CARDIE'S CASTLE, COUNTESS MARIA'S BEDROOM-SAME NIGHT

Countess Maria's bedroom is filled with frightened servants.

The countess lies unconscious on propped up pillows, her face as white as her sheets and nightdress. There are red spots of blood on her chest, on the white fabric.

The count sits next to her, lifting her head, and the FAMILY DOCTOR (40 years old) pours medicine in her mouth.

A few moments later she regains consciousness and looks around the room, terrified

COUNTESS MARIA

Freddie, did you chase him away?

COUNT FREDERICK

(lowers his wife's head back onto the pillow)

Whom, my dear?

COUNTESS MARIA

(grabs Count's hand)

The old grandfather, don't let him in!

COUNT FREDERICK

(takes her hand)

Calm down, my dear, grandfather is dead and you must have had a nightmare.

COUNTESS MARIA

(squeezes his hand)

No, it was not a dream.

(touches her lips)

I did fall asleep, but then I sensed somebody come into the room. I recognized him, the grandfather. It was him, and yet, not him at all.

COUNT FREDERICK

(strokes her hand)

My dear, you just had a bad dream.

COUNTESS MARIA

(shakes her head in denial and clutches his hand even tighter)

No, listen...

INT-CARDIE'S CASTLE, COUNTESS MARIA'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

COUNTESS MARIA RECALLING HER DREAM

Countess Maria is awoken by a cold wind, blowing onto her face from the open window.

American GRANDFATHER (aka American Servant, 80 years old) is in her bedroom. He moves towards the Countess' bed and leans over her. Eyes wide open with fear, she stares at him in the darkness

GRANDFATHER

Why are you not wearing my gift?

He holds the pearl necklace with the serpent's head. He places it around the Countess' neck and kissed her on the lips

END OF COUNTESS MARIA'S DREAM

INT-CARDIE'S CASTLE, COUNTESS MARIA'S BEDROOM-SAME NIGHT

Countess Maria lies on propped up pillows and wipes her lips with the back of her hand nervously. The bloodstains on her nightgown are clearly visible.

Count Frederick sits beside her, the family doctor and the servants crowd around her bed. Countess Maria continues

COUNTESS MARIA

Instead of the necklace there was a real snake around my neck and it bit me...

YOUNG CARLO

Where is the snake, mama?

He wiggles through the crowd of adults towards the Countess. Carlo's nurse Catherine grabs his hand immediately and takes him away.

Countess falls back onto her pillows with a frightened sigh

INT – YOUNG CARLO'S BEDROOM IN THE CASTLE – SAME NIGHT

Carlo sits on the bed and looks at Catherine. His bare feet stick out from under the blanket

CATHERINE

(closes his legs with a blanket)

Where have you seen running barefoot at night!

YOUNG CARLO

(goes to sleep)

But where is the snake, nurse?

CATHERINE

(straightens his blanket)

The lady had a dream and cried.

Carlo pulls the blanket over his head

INT – LARGE LIVING ROOM OF THE CASTLE – MORNING

The sun highlights the living room of the castle. Countess Maria, pale and haggard, reclines on the couch. Count Frederick stands nearby.

The footman stands in front of them

COUNTESS MARIA

Where is Nettie? I have been waiting for her for half an hour.

FOOTMAN

Nettie isn't here. We have been looking for her since early morning.

COUNTESS MARIA

(discomposedly)

Find out who was the last to see her!

The footman bows and leaves the living room

YOUNG CARLO

(quickly coming up to parents)

Mom, have you found the snake?

COUNT FREDERICK

(pulls on Carlo's arm)

Be quiet.

Countess leans back on the pillow with a slight groan

COUNT FREDERICK

(keeps looking at his son)

Do you want to ride to the village?

YOUNG CARLO

(joyfully)

I want it, want it! Mom, we'll go to the village!

Carlo hugs his father and mother by turns

COUNT FREDERICK

Order for Caryago to be saddled.

Petro comes from somewhere and takes Carlo's hand

COUNT FREDERICK

(continues, looking at Petro)

Come to me. I have an instruction for you.

EXT – CASTLE GARDEN – SAME SUMMER DAY

Maria sits on the beautiful terrace with climbing roses. She waves to the departing people. She is pale and leans on the railing awkwardly. She bumps the roses and they wilt from her touch only to be reborn as the dead nenufares.

EXT – AT THE GATE OF CARDIE'S CASTLE – SAME SUMMER DAY

Young Carlo and Petro ride away of the castle gate. The gatekeeper asks passing them

GATEKEEPER

Find out if there is Nettie in the village.

PETRO

I'll look for.

Petro and Carlo go out of the gate

INT-ROOM OF CARDIE'S CASTLE – SAME DAY

Young FEMALE SERVANT dusts the furniture. She sees a shadow on the polished white marble of the fireplace. A silhouette of a man is visible behind her back.

The servant girl turns around and her face is frozen in fear. She screams once and everything is plunged into darkness

EXT-FOREST ROAD – SAME SUMMER DAY

Young Carlo and Petro ride along the forest road that leads to the village that lies at the foot of the castle rock

YOUNG CARLO

Petro, are you upset?

PETRO

Why do you think so, Carlo?

YOUNG CARLO

We no longer hunt birds' nests or fish.

PETRO

(laughs)

Have I really changed so much?

YOUNG CARLO

Why is mama sick?

They move further and further away and their voices cannot be heard anymore behind the sound of wind and rustle of leaves on the trees.

INT-CARDIE'S CASTLE, KITCHENS – EVENING OF THE SAME DAY

Petro mends a huge wicker basket in the kitchens. He winces, muttering something to himself.

Young and plumb floor washer MARINA (18 years old) scrubs the floors and chatters.

PETRO

(muttering)

Old Devil...

MARINA

(chattering)

Why do you hate the American so much? Everybody is gossiping about it.

PETRO

Mind your own business. Go on, polish-polish!

MARINA

(does not give up)

He also goes down to the crypt every day.

She leaves her washrag for a moment to cross herself.

Petro concentrates on his work. He frowns even more

MARINA

(continues)

He is never seen with us folks and he refused the offer of allowance.

Marina attempts to imitate the voice of the American servant

MARINA

(continues)

My master left me enough money not to starve.

She laughs. Petro concentrates on his work

MARINA

(continues)

He arrived here all grey and dry and now has become so fat, soon he wouldn't even fit through the doorway!

Angry at the girl, Petro tosses the basket aside

PETRO

Don't you squeal! Once he'd sucked you dry, he will get even fatter.

MARINA

(laughs even louder)

He will gag first!

END OF THE MEMORIES

EXT-GARDEN IN FRONT OF THE HUNTING HOUSE – SUMMER EVENING

Harry, James, Captain Wright, Georges and Karl Ivanovich are gathered in the garden in front of the Hunting House.

The bottom windows are half covered by the overgrown bushes of hawthorn and jasmine. Parts of the former garden are so overrun by vegetation that they resemble a jungle

TITLE: 1912

HARRY

Nobody has been here for forty years.

Smith comes up to Harry with a local assistant MILLER (27 years old) in tow

SMITH

My assistant Miller, will be our tour guide.

INT-HUNTING HOUSE – SAME EVENING

Harry, James, Captain Wright, Georges and Karl Ivanovich follow Smith along the dimly lighted corridor.

Karl Ivanovich slides his hand along the wall

KARL IVANOVICH

I wonder why the Counts chose not to live here?

Georges looks up at the painted ceiling

georges

Perhaps they didn't like hunting?

MILLER

Previous owners have passed away long ago.

Harry walks past a wooden door

HARRY

And the rooms in this part of the house were used for the Counts' guests, weren't they?

Miller stops

MILLER

Yes, and now they are being prepared for you, Sir.

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

What about the rooms of the former owners themselves?

INT-BRIDE'S BEDROOM, HUNTING HOUSE – SAME EVENING

Harry, James, Captain Wright, Georges and Karl Ivanovich enter through the door opened.

The room is large with tall windows that open onto the view of the lake. The interior is rich and luxurious.

Carved four poster bed with an opulent brocade hanging has its headboard decorated with gilded cupids. Everything in the room speaks of a spoiled, wealthy woman.

Harry and friends examine the room with interest

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

Damn it Harry, it is like being inside a fairytale!

Karl Ivanovich pulls out a drawer in a small desk.

KARL IVANOVICH

A woman lived here once, take a look.

Items of a lady's handicraft covered with a light layer of dust lie inside the drawer: still vibrant colored silks, slightly moth eaten wool, small scissors, beads and pearls. A tiny gold thimble rolls in the drawer.

Smith and Harry examine the findings

SMITH

We haven't touched anything here, Sir
(apologetically)

HARRY

I'm glad you didn't. We'd rather explore ourselves.

Harry opens the door of the wardrobe. James stands next to him and sniffs at the interior

JAMES

I swear, I can smell lavender. The past and the present meet at last.

Beautiful lace edged undergarments are stacked on the shelves as well as heaps of ribbons, bows and artificial flowers.

A pair of ladies shoes stands on the bottom shelf.

A large jewel-box, decorated with gold and mother of pearl's flowers attracts the friends' attention.

Captain Wright examines the jewel-box, Karl Ivanovich comes up to him

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

It is Japanese, fit for the Emperor's palace.

KARL IVANOVICH

I wonder what the lady kept in it.

HARRY

Let's find out.

Harry takes the box and tries to open it. But all for nothing, there is no exterior lock.

James takes the box and shakes it slightly. Georges watches them from the side

JAMES

The box has its secret!

Harry puts the jewel-box back and closes the cupboard's door

HARRY

I will have to get a locksmith.

Captain Wright's voice is heard from the other side of the room

WRIGHT'S VOICE

(behind the scenes)

Come over here, it is worth seeing!

EXT-LARGE BALCONY OF THE BRIDE'S BEDROOM – SAME EVENING

Georges, James, Captain Wright and Karl Ivanovich are gathered on the balcony, watching the view of the castle.

The mist rises from the lake. In some places the mist parts a little and the clear blue water of the lake peeks through.

To the left there is the dark green of pine trees and on the right there is the dark rock, crowned with the ominous looking castle

KARL IVANOVICH

What a magnificent view.

James whistles in appreciation

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

And now, more than ever, I refuse to believe in the local lore of malicious maidens with duck feet.

Harry's irritated voice is heard from the room

HARRY'S VOICE

(behind the scenes)

I will not sleep on an old dusty mattress!

INT-BRIDE'S BEDROOM-SAME EVENING

Harry, Smith and Miller argue near the four-poster bed

SMITH

I thought it was the best room in the house...

HARRY

Take my things to another bedroom.

Smith and his assistant Miller start to exchange words and both appear troubled

HARRY

What's the matter?

SMITH

We are not sure to whom we can offer the big bedroom.

MILLER

We have prepared the rooms according to the number of guests.

HARRY

Well, you should make yourself comfortable in this dusty nest!

Miller appears afraid and Smith takes a step backwards

MILLER

Me? Sleep here, in her bedroom? Forgive me but I cannot.

HARRY

What the hell are you talking about?

MILLER

A young bride lived here, she died here too and the people say that her soul is restless and her ghost walks and cries at night.

Harry turns to his friends

HARRY

So, who wishes to make an acquaintance with a ghostly bride?

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

I am game, as long as I have a dozen cigars and a glass of rum.

KARL IVANOVICH

With a dozen cigars laced with opium like you prefer, you will see not only a ghostly bride but a white elephant and a green snake thrown in for a bargain.

Harry claps his hands

HARRY

It is settled then, Wright will sleep here, lead on, Smith.

EXT-GARDENS AROUND THE HUNTING HOUSE – SAME SUMMER EVENING

Harry, James, Wright, Georges, Karl Ivanovich and Miller struggle to make their way through the overgrown garden.

The sun hasn't set yet, but it is not bright anymore.

INT – HUNTING HOUSE, OTHER WING, FIRST FLOOR – SAME EVENING

Almost all rooms are walk-through. The atmosphere is gloomy

HARRY

Everything is rather unpretentious.

Georges points at the door

GEORGES

Take a look at this portrait!

The bright gold frame hangs near the door leading off to a small room. Its opulence is strangely at odds with the rest of the interior

JAMES

They used the first available place.

HARRY

Light it up please, Miller.

Karl Ivanovich approaches the portrait with the lamp

KARL IVANOVICH

Let me help you.

Miller and Karl Ivanovich light up the portrait with the lamp.

Tall, gaunt elderly man (aka the American grandfather) dressed in a velvet renaissance style costume, wearing a thick gold chain stares regally from the frame.

His large aquiline nose and thin lips speak of his aristocratic breeding and stern character. In the flickering light of the lamp his eyes shine with an eerie red tinge

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

What a wonderful technique.

GEORGES

It is as if he is really staring at us.

HARRY

This is only half a picture, I wonder why someone would cut painting in half?

JAMES

Let me take a look.

James comes closer to the portrait first from right and then from left, trying to examine it from every angle.

While doing so he accidentally bumps Karl Ivanovich, who, in order to avoid falling, braces his hand against the wall. The seemingly solid surface gives way, revealing a secret passage and the old man cries out as he falls into the dark space

KARL IVANOVICH

A-a-a!

INT-HIDDEN SALON-SAME EVENING

Karl Ivanovich rises from the floor, groaning. Harry helps him to his feet

KARL IVANOVICH

I am all right, thank god.

JAMES

Please forgive my clumsiness.

Karl Ivanovich pats James' shoulder. The men are fascinated by the new room

With its large Venetian windows and luxurious furnishings it appears similar to the bedroom of the ghostly bride

GEORGES

Don't you think this salon matches the ghost lady's bedroom?

He runs his fingertip along the surface of an elegant desk

The finger is covered with dirty dust

HARRY

It seems that someone else lived here yesterday.

Books and bits of lady's handicraft litter a small desk.

In the center of the room there is a large chaise lounge with a small elegant table placed next to it.

A large silver vase on the table still holds a bouquet of dried field flowers

MILLER

Mister Cardie is right.

JAMES

(touching a cushion on the chaise lounge)

Take a look at this cushion; it still has an imprint of a head!

Captain Wright, Georges and Harry stare at the cushion

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

I see it too.

HARRY

Jamie, you are a hopeless romantic.

Georges touches the cushion

GEORGES

This is incredible!

A lute lies on the seat of the nearby chair. At the foot of the chaise lounge among several dried up roses there is a discarded blood red lady's cape, made from expensive plush fabric

JAMES

Look, here is her cape.

He picks up the cape and inhales its send slowly

JAMES

(continues)

This room and the ghost bedroom belonged to the same lady.

HARRY

Wait you can tell it from the smell, Sherlock?

JAMES

Yes, it is the same lavender perfume.

James hands Harry the cape

HARRY

No, thank you, I don't feel like sniffing at dusty old rags.

Harry puts the cape back where he and James found it

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

Jamie, have you fallen for this fabled beauty?

JAMES

I wouldn't have minded meeting her.

HARRY

(laughs)

But, as always, you are too late.

INT-CARDIE'S CASTLE, PORTRAIT GALLERY-SAME EVENING

A portrait of a beautiful woman (aka Rita) with a spray of red roses at the waist of her blue dress hangs on the wall of the portrait gallery.

INT-HIDDEN SALON – SAME EVENING

Karl Ivanovich hands Harry a small gold-edged book

KARL IVANOVICH

I've fallen on it

Harry takes the book and opens it. The title page bears an inscription in Italian

HARRY

(reads it out loud)

Pray for my poor soul...

KARL IVANOVICH

It is a catholic prayer-book.

Harry's words silence the laughter and the banter. It is as if the corpse itself is with them in the room.

James comes up to the table with the vase with dried field flowers. He points to the open decanter, whose stopper lies next to it on the table

JAMES

Here is the stopper. Whoever lived here had no time to close it.

HARRY

Why did the owners fled from here?

Georges looks inside a birdcage that stands near the window. Tiny bones of the long-dead bird lie at its bottom. Seashell-shaped feeder is empty

GEORGES

Good question.

Karl Ivanovich opens the drapes on the furthest window and discovers that it is really a door

KARL IVANOVICH

Here's the door.

He turns the key and the door opens with an unpleasant creak. Evening breeze rushes into the room

Candles flicker, curtains and the dried flowers in the vase move, as if the spirit of the dead woman has invaded the room, angered at the disturbance

EXT – WITCHES” VALLEY – SAME SUMMER EVENING

The mist rises over the lake.
A quiet female laughter, like a bell, is heard here and there.
Nenufares seem to move on the water surface.
The mirror surface of the lake darkens.

INT – HIDDEN SALON WITH A BALCONY – SAME EVENING

Everybody looks around in a small adjacent room.
Miller approaches one of the four windows, looks into it, turns to everyone and gestures lively

MILLER

This salon forms a part of the suit of rooms that includes the lady’s bedroom.

HARRY’S VOICE

(behind the scenes)

I found a small balcony, the size of a bird’s nest!

Captain Wright comes close to one of the paintings decorating the side wall

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

Here is the door to the ghost-bride’s bedroom. It is disguised as a painting.

MILLER

(comes close to the painting)

Yes, it can be mistaken for a painting.

Karl Ivanovich joins Wright and pulls on the door handle

KARL IVANOVICH

It won’t budge.

MILLER

Let me try, sir.

He puts his shoulder to the door, but Wright stops him

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

Miller, it’s useless, the door is nailed shut.

Harry stands in the balcony’s doorway facing the room

HARRY

It’s because the door is blocked by the large wardrobe, the one where we found all those women’s clothes.

JAMES

Gentlemen, it's time for dinner.

Everybody follows James. They close the door behind them and the room is empty again

EXT-FOREST – DAYTIME

Harry, Captain Wright, Georges, and James walk through the forest, carrying rifles and talking. A pair of spaniels follows them.

James carries their trophies, slung behind his shoulder

GEORGES

I think the lady in the abandoned rooms must have died suddenly.

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

And I think she ran off with her paramour.

HARRY

Who else agrees with him?

JAMES

I think something unpleasant happened at the Hunting House, but what precisely?

Georges picks up a stick from the ground and throws it, the dogs rush after the stick

GEORGES

What was a woman doing there?

HARRY

She was a foreign lady.

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

(stops, looking at Harry)

How do you know this?

HARRY

The village headman. He told me that a foreign lady died of a broken heart. She missed her homeland.

(pause)

His grandmother told him.

GEORGES

(comes up to them)

But why didn't she live up at the castle?

JAMES

(laughs)

The headman's grandmother did not specify why, did she?

Harry shoots a duck and hits. The duck falls behind the trees. Harry's dog runs after it

HARRY

Sadly, she did not.

CAPTAIN WRIGHT

Goddamn!

He aims and fires a shot at the black bat flying above their heads but misses

EXT-FOREST-MORNING-COUNT FREDERICK'S DREAM

TITLE 1832

Hunt, Count Frederick, his guests and servants chase a doe. Suddenly a group of trees cuts Count Frederick away from the rest of the party.

He keeps chasing the animal without realizing that he is now alone. The doe mounts a steep hill and is transformed into Maria. She beckons the Count towards herself. He rushes towards his wife only to tumble off the cliff into the chasm below.

Maria is then turned into a laughing Dracula who, in turn, becomes a bat.

Count Frederick wakes up in cold sweat

INT-HUNTING HOUSE, DINING ROOM-SAME DAY

Harry, Wright, Georges and James leave the dining room for the smoking room.

INT – HUNTING HOUSE, SMOKING ROOM-SAME DAY

Harry, Georges, Wright, Karl Ivanovich and James select drinks and cigars, sit down and make themselves comfortable.

Karl Ivanovich sits down in an armchair too, holding a pile of papers. He sorts it nervously

KARL IVANOVICH

I am happy to tell you that I found the continuation of the letters!

GEORGES

Good!

Karl Ivanovich, takes a handkerchief out of his pocket, polishes his glasses and puts the handkerchief away

KARL IVANOVICH

Are you ready, gentlemen?

EXT-OLD VENETIAN STREET – AUTUMN DAY

BEGINNING OF GROWN-UP CARLO'S MEMORIES

TITLE: 1852

Carlo walks along the old Venetian street, he turns right and opens the glass door of an antique shop.

INT – VENICE, ANTIQUE SHOP – SAME DAY

Carlo looks around in the antique shop. The old Jewish SALESMAN greets him

SALESMAN

I have special goods for you.

The salesman opens up the cupboard and gets a beautiful jewel-box (the box from the Hunting House) and places it on the counter before Carlo

CARLO

Who did it belong to?

SALESMAN

To the roman Empress Messalina!

Carlo slides his fingers across the box

CARLO

It has no lock?

SALESMAN

(smiles)

I'd rather show you

(the salesman's hand moves the apple into the bird's beak and the box opens)

Voila!

CARLO

Rita will love this.

The salesman shows Carlo various compartments inside the box. Each is filled with ladies' jewels. The piece de resistance is a large roman comb with pink pearls

SALESMAN

Your bride will be delighted, signore.

Carlo picks up the comb and looks at it

CARLO

It will look magnificent in Rita's dark curls!

EXT – VENICE, STREET – SAME AUTUMN DAY

Carlo walks along the cobbled Venetian street. Wheels of carriages roll past him, frilled hems of the ladies' gowns move along and a single blue blossom falls from the basket of the street flower seller, lying on the rough cobblestones

CARLO'S VOICE

(behind the scenes)

Up until now, if you do not count my mother's fit and the disappearance of her favorite dog, everything was simple and logical.

After that we were plunged into something we could not understand

END OF THE MEMORIES

EXT-CARDIE'S CASTLE, GARDEN-SUMMER DAY

BEGINNING OF YOUNG CARLO'S MEMORIES

Count Frederick and his family doctor walk in the western part of the garden

TITLE: 1832

COUNT FREDERICK

She is recovering well, even her complexion is improving.

The doctor looks at his clock on the chain

FAMILY DOCTOR

The fresh air will be good for her, but still, don't leave her alone by herself.

COUNT FREDERICK

I am worried about her hallucination, the one about the snake.

They stop and look at each other. The doctor puts the clock into the pocket

FAMILY DOCTOR

I am telling you, she put the necklace on herself.

COUNT FREDERICK

Well, either way, she will never see that damned necklace again.

The doctor looks at his feet and then at the count again

FAMILY DOCTOR

There is a strange epidemic in the village. Seems to affect girls and young women.

Count Frederick thrusts his hands into the pockets of his trousers. He fidgets in place. He doesn't like this conversation

COUNT FREDERICK

Do you think it is somehow connected to what had happened to my wife?

They walk further along the garden

FAMILY DOCTOR

No, I don't think so.

COUNT FREDERICK

So, why are you so worried, my friend?

The doctor looks around as if afraid that someone can hear them and stops near a rose bush

FAMILY DOCTOR

Old beggar-woman saw a well-dressed, elderly gentleman who was walking away from the village in the direction of the castle.

Lucy appears suddenly and drags Carlo from his hiding place behind the rose bush. Count Frederick and the family doctor see the children and fall silent

LUCY

I caught you!

EXT – CARDIE'S CASTLE, BALCONY – SAME EVENING

A funeral bell tolls from the direction of the village. Everyone crosses themselves.

Countess Maria lies propped up on the chaise lounge, surrounded by her family. Her private balcony is large enough to resemble a terrace. The Countess shivers.

Count Frederick and Petro stand nearby on the balcony

COUNTESS MARIA

Another death in the village?

COUNT FREDERICK

I am sure it is nothing, my dear. Do you want me to send Petro to find out?

PETRO

You will see, my lady, that the Count is right and there is nothing to worry about.

COUNTESS MARIA

Go, Petro, find out, perhaps they need help.

She falls back onto her pillows, tiredly. The bells start to ring once more

The Count mutters in Petro's ear...

COUNT FREDERICK

She must never learn of the epidemic.

PETRO

I will come up with something.

EXT-GARDEN OF THE WIDOW'S HOUSE-SUMMER EVENING

A small village house is surrounded by a garden. One part of the garden faces the main village road.

WIDOW'S DAUGHTER (17 years old) and a young servant girl LISA (16 years old) pick berries in the garden.

ELDERLY GENTLEMAN (aka American Servant 80 years old) walks towards the garden wall from the main road. He addresses Lisa

ELDERLY GENTLEMAN

May I have some water, my child?

He hands the girl a silver coin over the fence. She stares at it for a brief moment then takes the coin.

INT-CARDIE'S CASTLE, MUSICAL SALON – SAME EVENING

Count Frederick's fingers glide masterfully along the keys of the piano.

Countess Maria listens to her husband play the piano. The children and the servants headed by Petro are all nearby.

EXT-GARDEN NEAR THE WIDOW'S HOUSE – SAME SUMMER EVENING

Lisa walks along the garden path, carrying a pitcher of kvass. She trips over something, looks down and discovers the body of the widow's daughter. She drops the pitcher and it shatters at her feet

LISA

Help me! Help!

INT-CARDIE'S CASTLE, MUSICAL SALON-SAME EVENING

The Count's fingers glide along the keys of the instrument, he finishes the melody.

INT-CARDIE'S CASTLE, YARD NEAR THE STABLES-SUMMER MORNING

Family Doctor and Count Frederick walk near the stables. The whinnying of the horses can be heard (sound behind the scenes)

COUNT FREDERICK

Is your patient getting better, Doctor?

FAMILY DOCTOR

She has anemia and a very severe case. She will need a healthy diet, milk, wine.

COUNT FREDERICK

Send her all she needs.

NIKOLAI the groom (25 years old) runs up to the Count. He is out of breath

NIKOLAI

Marina, our floor washer girl, she is dead.

FAMILY DOCTOR

Hurry up, take us to her.

They hurry, passing the servant's barracks. Nikolai talks while walking

NIKOLAI

She didn't come down to work in the morning. Chambermaids went up to her room and found her dead.

INT – MARINA'S ROOM-SAME MORNING

Marina's corpse lies on her bed. Her face and body appear peaceful, as if she is only sleeping. The sudden gust of wind through the open window lifts and tangles her long loose hair.

Family Doctor takes Marina's wrist. Count Frederick watches him closely

FAMILY DOCTOR

She is not only dead; the body is already stiff and cold.

COUNT FREDERICK

Do you see that red mark on her neck?

A small red wound is visible on the dead girl's neck, the skin around the wound is slightly red.

Count Frederick and the Family Doctor exchange looks

EXT-GATES OF CARDIE'S CASTLE-SAME SUMMER EVENING

The mournful toll of the village bell is answered by the bell in the castle.

Countess Maria, Nikolai the groom, Lina the COOK, SERVANTS, little Carlo and his sister Lucy follow Marina's coffin to the gates of the castle. From the crowd of castle servants muffled sobs can be heard.

The cart bearing the coffin drives slowly through the castle gates

NIKOLAI

The American did not come to the funeral mass.

COOK

Did you see it? His windows, even the shutters were closed when we were passing his guardhouse.

INT-FORMAN LIVING ROOM WITH THE NEW BALCONY-MORNING

Count Frederick guides his wife to her new place of rest. Catherine walks respectfully behind, accompanied by a couple of female servants, young Carlo and little Lucy

COUNTESS MARIA

It's a pity this beautiful room was always locked.

COUNT FREDERICK

From now on we can spend our evening here.

The FOOTMAN opens the door for the couple.

Countess Maria takes two or three steps into the room, when suddenly; she screams violently and points into the neighboring hall.

COUNTESS MARIA

He is watching me... staring at me! He is my death!

The Countess faints in her husband's arms. Everyone's eyes follow the direction to which she was pointing. The faces of guests register unease.

A portrait (the same gold-framed portrait that was discovered in the Hunting House) hangs on the wall of the neighboring room. A tall lean old man, dressed in a renaissance style costume and wearing a heavy gold chain is peering from the frame. His thin lips are pressed together in an arrogant line and his red tinged eyes appear terrifyingly alive

COUNT FREDERICK

(to the servants)

Well, why are you gaping, remove everything!

YOUNG CARLO

(takes Countess' hand)

Mom, don't be afraid, the grandfather is dead.

EXT-AN OPEN AIR PLATFORM IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE GARDEN NEAR
THE SHEER DROP – SAME SUMMER DAY

The Countess lies on a chaise lounge. She is clearly ill at ease.

She sees the evil red-tinged eyes among the hops. She looks around, terrified. The unseen presence moves towards the rocks of the sheer drop, its shape unclear yet menacing.

The Countess is afraid and reaches towards her husband.

Young Carlo and little Lucy play nearby, completely oblivious to the danger

COUNTESS MARIA

Freddie, those eyes, I can see them everywhere, they are hounding me.

COUNT FREDERICK

Whose eyes, dear?

COUNTESS MARIA

Grandfather's.

COUNT FREDERICK

Enough, my darling, even the portrait is gone. I exiled it from our home.

The Count serves her cookies on a tray and leaves.

Countess Maria brings a cookie to her mouths and it grows moldy before her eyes.

She feels nauseous, coughs but later calms down and pulls out a small mirror in order to straighten her hair. Her reflection gradually vanishes as if eaten up by rust rising from the site of the bite on her neck. Maria cries out.

Her worried husband rushes in. She embraces him and flings away the mirror. The mirror lies on the floor, cracked, reflecting only the Count

END OF YOUNG CARLO'S MEMORIES

INT-CARLO'S SITTING ROOM, VENICE-EARLY MORNING

BEGINNING OF GROWN-UP CARLO'S MEMORIES

Carlo paces his sitting room, holding a letter in his hand and commenting to himself

TITLE: 1852

CARLO

My God, I am rich, unbelievably rich!

PETRO stands nearby in respectful silence. Although he is only about 67 years old the time has dealt him a terrible blow, his appearance is much older and he is dressed in a monk-like cowl. He holds papers and a pilgrim's sack

PETRO

Your father lived simply. He barely spent his money.

CARLO

There is over a million florins in Venice alone!

Petro reaches into his sack and produces a jewelry box. He places it carefully onto the couch nearby

PETRO

These are your mother's jewels.

Carlo sits down on the couch and motions for Petro to join him. He places the jewelry box on his knees and opens it, gently lifting the glittering treasures inside

CARLO

This was my father's gift, I remember it as if it was yesterday.

A large tortoiseshell comb adorned with rubies lies inside the box among the jewels. Carlo caresses it with his fingers

PETRO

Our poor mistress loved them so.

CARLO

And where is the necklace? The one that the American gave my mother?

Petro shudders

PETRO

You are mistaken, there never was such thing.

Carlo looks at him in surprise

CARLO

The snake-shaped one? Don't you remember?

Petro almost leaps from the couch

PETRO

Do you think I stole it?

CARLO

Dear God, of course not!

Petro paces the sitting room nervously

PETRO

I've locked up both the Castle and the Hunting House. I will send the money to wherever you wish.

Carlo closes the jewelry box and rises from the couch

CARLO

That will not be necessary. Once I am married, I will go back home to the castle.

Petro shudders and waves his arms

PETRO

What? No, no you wouldn't dare!

CARLO

Why not?

PETRO

You must obey your mother's last wish.

CARLO

I am sorry, but my mind is already made up.

Petro falls to his knees and kisses Carlo's hands

PETRO

At least wait for me, wait until I've come back from Jerusalem, we will go there together.

INT-ENTRANCE TO THE CHAPEL-EVENING

Carlo inspects the chapel's doors. They are sealed. The servants are crowded behind his back.

Carlo turns to his servants, confused

CARLO

What about my marriage? Open up the doors at once and start preparing for the wedding!

WORKER

But my Lord, Petro forbade us from opening the chapel!

Carlo shoots the worker an angry look

CARLO

Petro is not the master here. I expect you to remember it next time!

The servants attempt to open the door without success

WORKER

(guiltily)

The lock is sealed with some sort of resin.

CARLO

Then melt it! Resin should become liquid when treated with heat. If it doesn't work than break the door down for all I care. Take a whole wall down if you have to but have the chapel ready for my wedding!

A lighted torch is brought close to the door. The resin starts to melt and trickles to the floor.

The doors open and a dark hurricane rushes at the bystanders driving them to their knees. Black bat with glowing eyes is seen at the storm's center

END OF THE MEMORIES

INT-HUNTING HOUSE, SMOKING ROOM-SAME EVENING

Harry, James and Georges have finished their cigars and whiskey and are slumped in their chairs, tired. Captain Wright is fast asleep.

Karl Ivanovich sits in his armchair, there is a pile of papers on the armrest. He puts the read sheet on his lap

GEORGES

So, what is the answer to the mystery?

Captain Wright snores in his chair

EXT-WITCHES" VALLEY-SUMMER NIGHT

A large black bat flies from the side of the forest towards the castle.

The moon shines high in the night sky.

The lake is concealed in thick mist. Bellow the mist, the water is covered with white nenufares.

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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