

Till Death Do Us Part
(A "Forever Knight" Story)

By

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INT: 27TH PRECINCT - OCTOBER 28, 1993 (7:00PM)

KNIGHT and SCHANKE are sitting at their desks. NATALIE walks over and hands each of them an envelope.

KNIGHT
What's this?

NATALIE
I don't know. The officer at the front desk asked if I was coming to see you guys. When I said yes, he asked me to give you these.

KNIGHT and SCHANKE open their envelopes. The envelopes contain an invitation to the Annual Police Officer's Halloween party.

KNIGHT
Is it that time of year already?

SCHANKE
Yep. This weekend.

Momentary pause. SCHANKE looks at KNIGHT.

SCHANKE
You going?

KNIGHT
You know me, not much of a party person.

SCHANKE looks at NATALIE.

SCHANKE
What about you?

NATALIE
Wouldn't miss it.

KNIGHT looks at her. She gets an idea.

NATALIE
Hey, I've got the perfect costume for you, Nick.

KNIGHT knows what she is thinking.

KNIGHT
No way Nat.

SCHANKE is intrigued.

(CONTINUED)

SCHANKE
What, what's your idea?

NATALIE smiles.

NATALIE
Should I tell him?

KNIGHT
Not if you still want to go to this party.

SCHANKE gives KNIGHT a look.

SCHANKE
Does this mean you'll come?

KNIGHT addresses both of them.

KNIGHT
I'll think about it okay?

SCHANKE / NATALIE
Okay.

JUMP TO:

INT: KNIGHT'S WAREHOUSE - OCTOBER 29TH, 1993 (5:00AM)

KNIGHT arrives home from work and removes his jacket and gun-holster. He walks over to the fridge, opens it, and takes out a bottle. He removes the cork from the bottle with his teeth and closes the fridge. He spits out the cork and takes a drink from the bottle. He walks over to the couch, while taking another drink from bottle. He sits on the couch and thinks back.

FADE TO:

EXT: A SMALL TOWN IN IRELAND - OCTOBER 30, 1798: 11:30 PM

A couple are walking down a dimly lit street. The woman's name is DEBORAH HOGAN, and her companion's name is NICHOLAS O'REILLY. They stop in front of a house. DEBORAH opens the door and motions NICHOLAS in. They enter. NICHOLAS closes the door and grabs DEBORAH's arms, pulling her to him. She looks into his eyes and kisses him, passionately. After about 5 seconds, they break the kiss and she hugs him. He holds her.

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH

Oh Nicholas, how I love you so. I wish this night would never end.

She looks up and kiss him.

DEBORAH

I wish we could be together forever.

NICHOLAS takes her head in his hand.

NICHOLAS

My sweet, sweet, Deborah, you know that nothing in this world can last forever.

DEBORAH

Oh really? Do you really believe that, Nicholas?

(kiss her)

I must be going. I'll see you tomorrow night.

He turns to leave. She grabs his arm. He stops.

DEBORAH

No, please Nicholas, don't go.

She looks at him.

DEBORAH

Stay. Make love to me.

(beat)

Take me.

Something in the way she says "TAKE ME" strikes a chord in him. He turns to face her with a questioning look in his eyes.

NICHOLAS

What?

DEBORAH

I love you Nick. I want to be with you *forever*.

She takes his hand in hers. He looks at her and gets the feeling that she knows. She confirms it.

DEBORAH

Yes, I know what you are.

Yes looks at him, longingly.

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH

We've been together for almost a year now. I've noticed how you never appear until sundown. How you never seem to eat anything.

(beat x2)

I've wondered why you've never tried to seduce me like other men have. You're the first man I've ever wanted, and the only one who's never tried. You've kissed these lips, this neck, but...

NICHOLAS

How long have you known?

DEBORAH

Only about 3 months. Nicholas, I love you. I want you. Take me. Make me one of you. My love for you burns so strong. So strong that...

NICHOLAS

You don't know what you're asking.

DEBORAH

Nick, I've been thinking about this for three months. I want it. I want you. Love me Nicholas.

She kisses his neck and starts undoing his shirt. He breaks from her grasp.

NICHOLAS

No, I can't.

He turns away from her.

DEBORAH

Nicholas, I...

NICHOLAS

I need some time to think.

(look at her)

I'll see you tomorrow night.

He kisses her.

DEBORAH

Tomorrow night.

She kisses him. He exits. She goes over to the window to watch him walk away. But when she gets to it, he is gone. She heads upstairs.

(CONTINUED)

JUMP TO:

INT: LACROIX/JANETTE/NICHOLAS'S HOUSE - OCTOBER 31, 1798:
(4:00AM)

JANETTE is sitting on the sofa, reading. NICHOLAS enters. JANETTE puts the book down and goes to him. She kisses him, and senses that something is wrong.

JANETTE

What's troubling you mon cheri?

(beat)

Is it Deborah?

NICHOLAS gives her a "how did you know about her?" look.

JANETTE

Come now, Nicola, you know very well you can't hide your feelings from me.

NICHOLAS heads over to the couch and sits. JANETTE follows, and sits on the couch.

JANETTE

Well?

NICHOLAS

She knows, Janette. She knows what I am.

JANETTE

I see.

Pause. She can tell there is more.

JANETTE

And?

NICHOLAS

She says she loves me and doesn't care. She wants our love to last forever.

JANETTE

Forever?

NICHOLAS

She wants me to bring her over.

(CONTINUED)

JANETTE
And how do you feel?

NICHOLAS
What?

JANETTE
About Deborah. How do you feel? Do you... love her?

NICHOLAS
I'm not sure.

JANETTE
Not sure? What...

He rises from the couch.

NICHOLAS
I never thought I could feel this way again, Janette. She makes me feel... alive. When I'm with her, I don't ever want to leave, but...

JANETTE
Sounds like you are in love, mon cheri.

NICHOLAS
Yeh, I guess maybe I am.

JANETTE
So, what are you going to do?

NICHOLAS
I don't know. Yet.

CAMERA pans out of room and focus' on a shadow in the hallway. It's LACROIX. He's overheard the whole thing and doesn't look very happy. CAMERA returns to NICHOLAS and JANETTE.

JANETTE
The sun will be up soon. Why don't you sleep on it, and we'll talk some more tonight.

He kisses her.

NICHOLAS
Thanks Janette.

NICHOLAS exits room via a different door than the one LACROIX is standing by. LACROIX enters after NICHOLAS exits. JANETTE turns around and sees LACROIX.

FADE TO:

INT: KNIGHT'S WAREHOUSE - OCTOBER 30, 1993 (4:00PM)

NATALIE is sitting on the couch. KNIGHT is upstairs. NATALIE yells up to him.

NATALIE
Well, how does it fit?

KNIGHT (VO)
I still don't think this is a good idea, Nat.

NATALIE
Oh, come on Nick. Where's your sense of humor? It is Halloween.

KNIGHT flies down to her. He is wearing the classical DRACULA get-up, cape and all. Only in this case, KNIGHT's fangs are real. NATALIE laughs.

KNIGHT
I'm not sure, this could...

NATALIE
Everyone will love it. Only I'll know better.

Elevator door opens. It's JANETTE. She looks at KNIGHT and laughs.

JANETTE
Well, well, well Nicola. Going for the classic look are we?

KNIGHT
It's for some stupid Halloween Party tomorrow night.

JANETTE is intrigued.

JANETTE
A Halloween Party?

KNIGHT
Yeh. At the Precinct.

NATALIE notices JANETTE's interest and gets an idea.

(CONTINUED)

NATALIE

Wait a minute, I just got a better idea.

KNIGHT

Not another one!

KNIGHT sits on couch. NATALIE addresses JANETTE.

NATALIE

You have plans for tomorrow night?

JANETTE

No, not really.

NATALIE

Want to come with us?

JANETTE

(beat)

I'd love to.

KNIGHT buries his head in his hands and shakes it from side to side in a "why me?" gesture. He drifts back in time again.

FADE TO:

INT: DEBORAH'S PLACE - OCTOBER 31, 1798 (9:30PM)

DEBORAH is descending the stairs. There is a knock on the door. She goes to door and answers it. It's NICHOLAS. He is holding a box.

DEBORAH

Nicholas.

She kisses him.

DEBORAH

Come in.

NICHOLAS enters and she closes the door. He hands her the box.

NICHOLAS

Here. I brought this for you.

She takes the box.

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH
What is it?

NICHOLAS
Open it and find out.

She opens it. Box contains a long white satin dress.

DEBORAH
Oh Nick, it's beautiful.

She kisses him. They break the kiss and he looks into her eyes.

NICHOLAS
I love you.

DEBORAH
I love you too, Nicholas.

She kisses him. He pulls her to him and she melts in his arms. The kiss lasts approx 3-4 seconds.

NICHOLAS
Does your invitation still stand?

She looks at him innocently.

DEBORAH
Which one?

NICHOLAS kisses her neck and starts to undo the buttons on the front of her blouse.

DEBORAH
Oh, that one.

She takes his head in her hand and kisses him passionately. They break the kiss and she looks him in the eye.

DEBORAH
Does this mean...

NICHOLAS
(beat)
Yes.
(beat x2)
I shall return at midnight and
bring you into my world.

DEBORAH
Midnight?

NICHOLAS

Yes.

(beat)

When I leave put on the dress I brought you, and wait for my return.

DEBORAH kisses him. NICK, swoops her up, and takes her to her bed. He lays her down on the bed and removes her blouse. He kisses her neck, her throat, her breasts. His hands explore her body. His touch sends shivers through her whole body. She knows his kiss could be deadly, but she trusts him. Besides, she has never felt so much pleasure from a man's touch.

DEBORAH

Oh, Nick.

FADE TO:

INT: KNIGHT'S WAREHOUSE - OCTOBER 31, 1993 (6:00PM)

KNIGHT is sitting on the couch staring into a glass of blood. The elevator door opens. It's NATALIE. She is wearing her Princess costume.

NATALIE

Why aren't you ready?

KNIGHT

I'm not going.

KNIGHT drains the glass.

NATALIE

Why not? ... Are you alright?

NATALIE sits beside him.

KNIGHT

I just think I'd rather be alone tonight.

NATALIE

Tell me about it Nick.

KNIGHT is not really sure where to begin. He takes a deep breath and starts.

KNIGHT

It started in a small town in Ireland, in 1798. I met a woman,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KNIGHT (cont'd)
who fell in love with me, in spite
of what I was.

NATALIE
What happened?

KNIGHT
LaCroix happened. He was always
interfering in my life.

NATALIE
Tell me about her.

FADE TO:

INT: DEBORAH'S PLACE - OCTOBER 31, 1789 (11:00PM)

NICHOLAS is sitting on the edge of the bed putting his boots
on. She is laying on the bed behind him. She sits up and
kisses his neck. NICHOLAS turns to face her and takes her
head in his hand.

NICHOLAS
I'll see you at midnight.

He kisses her.

DEBORAH
Oh Nicholas, I do love you.

NICHOLAS
I know. I love you too. And once
you're part of my world, I'll show
you how much.

She looks at him with a look of surprise.

DEBORAH
But Nick, you just did.

He smiles at her.

NICHOLAS
That was nothing compared to what
awaits us.
(kiss her)
I'll see you in one hour.

DEBORAH
I'll be waiting my love.

(CONTINUED)

NICHOLAS rises from the bed and walks over to the bedroom window. He opens the window and flies out. DEBORAH lays back on bed and stares at the ceiling.

JUMP TO:

INT: DEBORAH'S PLACE - OCTOBER 31, 1798 (11:30PM)

DEBORAH has changed into the dress that NICHOLAS brought and is brushing her hair. She hears a noise in the hallway, outside her room.

DEBORAH

Nick? Nicholas, is that you?

There is no answer. She puts down her hair brush and walks over to the doorway.

DEBORAH

Nick, this isn't funny.

She reaches the doorway and looks out into the hallway. There is nothing there.

DEBORAH

Must have been the wind.

She turns to go back to the dressing table and hears the noise again. She tenses.

DEBORAH

Calm down. It's nothing. There is nothing there. You're just nervous. That's right nervous.

She sits down at dressing table.

DEBORAH

Besides, Nick will be back soon, and then everything will be perfect.

She hears the noise again and turns around. She sees a shadow move past the door.

DEBORAH

Nick, is that you? Stop playing games.

(beat)

Look, whoever is out there show yourself.

(quietly)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DEBORAH (cont'd)
Oh that was smart. What will you do
if it isn't Nick?

The shadow enters the room. It's LACROIX. DEBORAH tenses.

DEBORAH
Who are you?

LACROIX
Does it matter?

DEBORAH
How did you get in here?

LACROIX looks around the room.

LACROIX
I see I've arrived in time.

DEBORAH gives him a confused look.

DEBORAH
In time? In time for what?

LACROIX enters full vamp-mode and flies over to her.

LACROIX
In time to stop Nicholas from
making a big mistake.

LACROIX grabs her. She struggles but he is too strong.

DEBORAH
You... you're LaCroix.

LACROIX
Yes.

DEBORAH screams.

DEBORAH
Nick, help me. Niiiiiiiiiiiiick!

LACROIX licks her neck.

LACROIX
Even if he hears you, he won't
arrive in time to save you.

DEBORAH
Niiiiii...

LACROIX sinks his fangs into her neck as she cries out for NICHOLAS. She dies in LACROIX's arms. He carries her over to the bed and lays her down. He removes a small bottle and a knife from his overcoat pocket. He uses the knife to slash her wrist, then he fills the vial with her blood. He then places her hands over each other in a "Sleeping Beauty" like pose. He fixes her hair around her shoulders covering the fang marks, then flies out the window. A few seconds after he leaves, NICHOLAS appears. He sees her lying there and realizes he cannot hear her heartbeat. He goes to her. She's dead. He cradles her head in his hands.

NICHOLAS

Deborah. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I tried...

Her hair moves and he sees the fang marks.

NICHOLAS

Damn you LaCroix. One day.

He kisses her forehead and holds her for awhile. Then he lays her back on the bed and flies out the window.

JUMP TO:

INT: LACROIX/JANETTE/NICHOLAS' HOUSE - OCTOBER 31, 1798:
(11:59PM)

JANETTE is sitting on the sofa. NICHOLAS storms into the room.

NICHOLAS

Where is he Janette!?

JANETTE speaks very calmly.

JANETTE

What's wrong Nicola?

NICHOLAS

Just tell me where he is!

JANETTE

I don't know. What happened?

NICHOLAS grabs JANETTE.

NICHOLAS

You told him, didn't you? Why?

(CONTINUED)

JANETTE

Nicola, please. Calm down and tell me what's wrong.

NICHOLAS releases her and calms down.

NICHOLAS

He killed her.

JANETTE

Deborah?

NICHOLAS

Yes.

(beat)

Why, Janette? Why'd you tell him?

JANETTE

I told him nothing. Honest.

NICHOLAS

Then how'd he know?

(beat)

Why'd he have to kill her?

(beat)

I heard her crying out for me, but...

(beat)

I arrived to late.

LACROIX enters the room. NICHOLAS has his back to him.

LACROIX

Nicholas, Nicholas, my dear sweet Nicholas. When will you ever learn?

NICHOLAS spins around with rage burning in his eyes. He walks over to LACROIX.

NICHOLAS

Why LaCroix? Why'd you have to kill her?

LACROIX

She was lying to you, Nicholas, using you. She only wanted what you could give her. Eternal Life. Once she got that from you, you'd never see her again.

NICHOLAS

You're a liar. She loved me. And...

(CONTINUED)

LACROIX

And what? You loved her? Oh Nick,
you are so pathetic. You will never
understand.

NICHOLAS grabs LACROIX and pins him to the wall.

NICHOLAS

I don't believe you. She...

LACROIX

I didn't think you would.

LACROIX shakes NICHOLAS off. NICHOLAS looks at him and
replies with a tone of surprise.

NICHOLAS

What?

LACROIX removes the vial from his coat and shows it to
NICHOLAS.

LACROIX

Here. I saved you some.

NICHOLAS is staring at the bottle in LACROIX's hand.

LACROIX

Blood doesn't lie, Nicholas.

(beat)

If you won't believe me, then
believe her.

LACROIX hands NICHOLAS the bottle. NICHOLAS takes it.
LACROIX looks to JANETTE.

LACROIX

Come Janette, let's leave our
Nicholas alone.

LACROIX and JANETTE exit room. NICHOLAS stares at the vial
in his hands and remembers times he spent with DEBORAH. He
debates whether or not to drink it. He decides he'd rather
know for sure and opens vial. He stares into it and drains
it. His mind is flooded with images of her last moments and
all her hidden secrets.

NICHOLAS

No. No. No. Nooooooooooooo.

NICHOLAS throws the empty vial against the wall, shattering
the vial. He then sits down on the sofa.

(CONTINUED)

NICHOLAS
Why, Deborah? Why?

NICHOLAS places his hands to his head.

FADE TO:

INT: KNIGHT'S WAREHOUSE - OCTOBER 31, 1993 (7:30PM)

NATALIE is sitting on the couch. KNIGHT is leaning on the fireplace mantle.

NATALIE
So, she betrayed you.
(beat)
I don't believe it. From all you've
told me, it sounded like she really
loved you.
(beat)
You sure it wasn't just another one
of LaCroix's head games?

KNIGHT
Her blood confirmed his story. That
one little vial revealed so much
that I never knew.

NATALIE
And that's why you hate Halloween?
Sounds like the party is just what
the doctor ordered. No pun
intended.
(beat)
Or are you going to let LaCroix
keep you from enjoying yourself?

KNIGHT looks at her. NATALIE smiles.

NATALIE
Besides, Janette is really looking
forward to it. ... Now, go get into
your costume like a good little
boy, or I'll have to get Janette
myself, and we'll have fun without
you.

KNIGHT flashes a smile.

KNIGHT
Okay. You win.

KNIGHT heads to the stairs and ascends them. NATALIE calls
up to him.

(CONTINUED)

NATALIE
Hurry up, the party starts in half
an hour.

JUMP TO:

EXT: 27TH PRECINCT - OCTOBER 31, 1993 (8:30PM)

Full moon, windy, light fog. (Very scary)

PAN TO:

INT: 27TH PRECINCT

The precinct is decorated, Very Halloween. The costumes are a mix of: typical stuff (ghosts, witches, skeletons, etc.), fictional characters, cartoon characters, superheroes, and real heroes costumes. SCHANKE is SHERLOCK HOLMES and STONETREE is a KING. The Precinct is lit with candles. The front doors open and a gust of wind enters, putting out most of the candles. Everyone's eyes turn to the front door. KNIGHT and JANETTE, holding NATALIE between them, descend in front of the door. Everyone thinks it is a trick. Once on the ground, KNIGHT and JANETTE release NATALIE and enter arm-in-arm. NATALIE enters and closes the door. The candles are re-lit. KNIGHT and JANETTE get a few looks as they make their way across the room to SCHANKE. SCHANKE is amazed at their "costumes."

SCHANKE
Wow, great costume Nick. You guys
sure know how to make an entrance.

KNIGHT shows his fangs.

KNIGHT
Years of practice.

SCHANKE
Hey, the fangs are a nice touch
partner.

JANETTE hisses at SCHANKE baring her fangs. NATALIE approaches.

SCHANKE
How'd you guys do that? It looked
like you just appeared out of
nowhere.

(CONTINUED)

NATALIE

Magic.

SCHANKE

Are the three of you together?

JANETTE

Yep.

SCHANKE

So, what's the story? I know Knight here is suppose to be Count Dracula, but who are you two suppose to be?

JANETTE answers, making sure SCHANKE sees her fangs.

JANETTE

I am his vampiress wife.

SCHANKE gives KNIGHT an "oh really" look.

SCHANKE

And you Natalie.

NATALIE grabs KNIGHTS other arm.

NATALIE

His mortal mistress.

SCHANKE

Sounds like a nasty, if not deadly, love triangle.

JANETTE bares her fangs and purrs.

JANETTE

It's only make believe Detective Schanke.

SCHANKE laughs.

SCHANKE

Not tonight. One rule at these parties is to never slip out of character. Never.

SCHANKE walks off. KNIGHT puts one arm around JANETTE and one arm around NATALIE. Then he turns to JANETTE.

KNIGHT

At least we have a valid reason for avoiding food tonight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

20.

KNIGHT, JANETTE, and NATALIE all laugh.

FADE OUT.