

Miss American Vampire

"A New Day"

by Gabe Straight

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EXT. SUBURB - NIGHT

In a row of unlit houses, a garage door leaks out light, the muffled sound of punk music.

INT. GARAGE

Four teenagers with instruments play through a song. It's fast, simple, and angry. Playing guitar and singing is LIZ (17), the band's leader. She's an edgy kind of beautiful. She is clearly visible from the garage window.

INT. GOTHIC BEDROOM

From a different window VALERIE (15), a shy but passionate soon-to-be freshman, gazes intently at Liz. She stares while working on a charcoal PORTRAIT of Liz next to her window. Valerie grabs an old and dusty book from the floor, opens it.

VALERIE  
(medieval)  
Partum...IGNITIS!

A tiny ball of fire SHOOTs out from her hand onto the portrait. The fire spreads throughout the portrait, finishes it.

VALERIE  
Oh Liz, I wish I could get close  
enough to you to get your nose right.

A knock at her door. Valerie flips over her painting.

VALERIE  
(to door)  
Yeah?

Her father IVAN (50s, protective) opens the door.

IVAN  
Valerie, what are you doing up? The  
first day is tomorrow.

VALERIE  
Oh I'm uh, stargazing. Sorry, I got  
distracted. I'm about to go to bed.

IVAN  
Okay, good. I wanted to quickly talk  
about your first day of High School.

VALERIE

(knows what's coming)

Uh huh?

IVAN

I know I don't have to say this again, but just because you're starting high school doesn't mean the plan is any different; no extra curricular activities just like always.

VALERIE

Come on dad! I know how not to use my powers. Please? The mascot outfit completely blocks out the sun, they'll never know I'm a vampire!

IVAN

The answer is no! If anyone knew there were vampires in this town, they'd tell you what they did to our ancestors. I'm sorry.

VALERIE

Ugh!

(pouts)

IVAN

You can still make friends. Just make sure they're far enough away from you so they know nothing about you. Goodnight!

Ivan closes the door. Valerie looks out the window, sees Liz and the other band members leave the garage. Valerie looks on longingly.

INT. GOTHIC BEDROOM - MORNING

Valerie in bed, silence. She opens her eyes, looks around suspiciously, did she wake up early? She assumes she did.

INT. GOTHIC KITCHEN

Ivan. Valerie enters, makes a beeline to the fridge.

VALERIE

Good morning.

Valerie grabs a carton of orange juice from the fridge.

IVAN

Valerie! What are you doing?

VALERIE

I know, crazy right? I woke up so early! Great start to the year already.

Valerie drinks the carton.

IVAN

You're not up early, you're up an hour late!

Orange juice squirts out of Valerie's nose. She dashes out of the kitchen.

MONTAGE

- INT. Bathroom: Valerie brushes her teeth, extends each fang at a time to brush individually. She tussles her hair, looks in the mirror, gives a wink, dashes out.

- INT. Gothic Bedroom: Valerie opens her closet filled with darkly-colored dresses, puts one on.

- Valerie grabs a bottle of sunscreen from her nightstand, slathers it all over.

INT. GOTHIC STAIRCASE - BACK TO SCENE

Valerie tumbles down the stairs into the hallway. She puts on her shoes and ducks out the door simultaneously. Ivan ducks out the door as Valerie does.

IVAN

Remember Valerie, no clubs, lay low.  
Today is a new day!

VALERIE

Yeah, whatever.

EXT. SUBURB CORNER - CONTINUOUS

A school bus drives away as Valerie closes in.

VALERIE

Oh come on!

A BIKE RIDER (20s) passes by.

VALERIE

(to bike driver)

Hey! Hey! Hey you! Can you take me to school? I'll give you my lunch!

BIKE RIDER

Heck yeah I can!

VALERIE

Oh my god, thank you so much.

BIKE RIDER

No problem. Do you have an anchovy smoothie in there?

VALERIE

Wait, what? No, that's disgusting!

BIKE RIDER

Well, excuse me for having a "disgusting" favorite meal!

The rider rides away.

VALERIE

Wait, no! I was kidding.

Too late. Valerie stomps her foot, looks at her phone clock.

VALERIE

How do I get there now? Dad said no powers.

Valerie looks back at her house in the distance, thinks to herself.

VALERIE

Today, is a new day.

Valerie does a double take, jumps behind a trash can. A FLASH of light, out comes Valerie as a VAMPIRE BAT. She soars above the houses.

VALERIE

(batman theme)

Na na na na na na na!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL

Students outside begin to pour inside. Valerie flies around to a back door, slips in.