

MARVEL
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GUGGENHEIM
CHAYKIN
DELGADO

IT TAKES ONE TO KILL ONE

BLADE



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Stacy

Feeding on that which doth preserve the ill...
For I have sworn thee fair, and thought thee bright
Who art as black as hell, as dark as night.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE,
SONNET CXLVII

P.S. 1013, Manhattan.
NOW...

HSSSSSSSS

I DON'T
KNOW,
PARKER...

YOUR WIFE
MIGHT NOT
APPROVE OF THIS
NEW LOOK OF
YOURS.



From the secret dossiers of the Order of Tyrana...

THREAT ASSESSMENT:
ERIC BROOKS

IT MIGHT NOT LOOK IT, PETER...

BUT I'M A BIG FAN.

KNOWN ALIASES: DAYWALKER, SWITCHBLADE, FRANK BLADE...

BLADE.

URK

SUBJECT POSSESSES A WIDE VARIETY OF WEAPONS...

SO BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU, I'M REAL SORRY ABOUT THIS.

I KNOW IT HURTS LIKE A MOTHER, PARKER...

...BUT IT'S BETTER THAN A STAKE THROUGH THE HEART, WHICH WAS MY OTHER OPTION.

YOU *SHOULD* HAVE STAKED HIM, DHAMPIR...

CHIKCHUK

...AND THE SKILL TO USE THEM.

TOK

TOK



...A VAMPIRE IS A VERY DANGEROUS ENEMY.



ONE TO BE KILLED WHEN GIVEN THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY.



SO HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO PUT *YOU* IN THE GROUND?

DON'T WORRY...

SUBJECT CAME TO THE ORDER'S ATTENTION THROUGH REPEATED ENCOUNTERS WITH COUNT VLAD TEPE DRACULA.

(SEE SUBJECT: DRACULA FOR MORE INFORMATION)



...THE LAST TIME WAS THE LAST TIME.

URK--!



OH,
I DON'T
KNOW...



SHUNK

SURE DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE THE
LAST TIME TO
ME.

SHUNK



THANKS
FOR THE
ADVICE, BY
THE WAY.

BLADE HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF VAMPIRES.

CLANG!

HE ATTENDS TO THIS CALLING WITH A PASSION THAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS **JOY**.



THAT MAKES HIM A DANGEROUS ENEMY.




KIDS...

...LET THE TEACHER GO.

THE MOST DANGEROUS KIND OF ENEMY...


HISSSSS...





ONE THAT STRIKES
WITHOUT MERCY...

...OR HESITATION...



...OR REMORSE.

EVER

"MY BABY!"



Soho, England.
THEN...

MY BABY!
SAVE MY
BABY!

THE UMBILICAL
CORD'S WRAPPED
AROUND HIS NECK...HE'S
NOT BREATHING...

LUCAS!
WHERE IS
LUCAS?

THIS BABY
NEEDS A DOCTOR,
NOT HIS FATHER,
TARA.



MADAME,
I BROUGHT THE
DOCTOR!

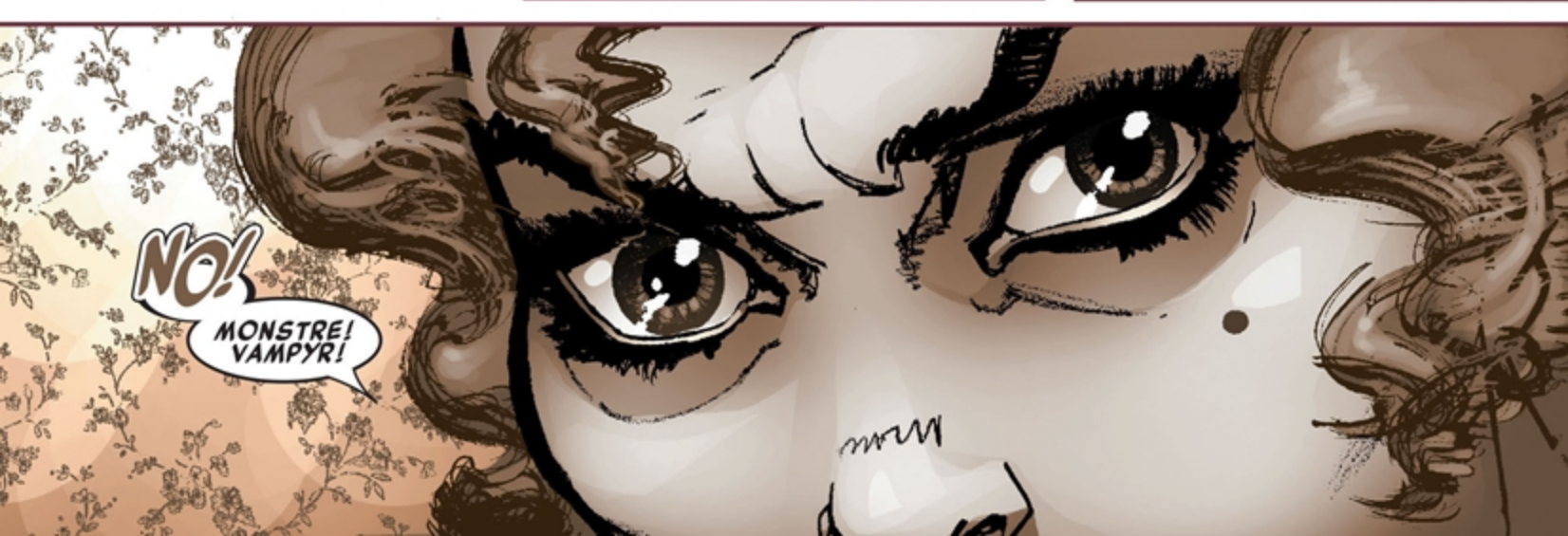
DEACON
FROST.

NOT
A DOCTOR,
EXACTLY, BUT A
FRIEND WHO CAN
HELP...

...END HER
PAIN.

LONG
HAVE I WATCHED
THIS ONE, COVETED HER,
WAITING FOR JUST THE
RIGHT MOMENT...

...THE
PERFECT
MOMENT FOR
THE FEAST...



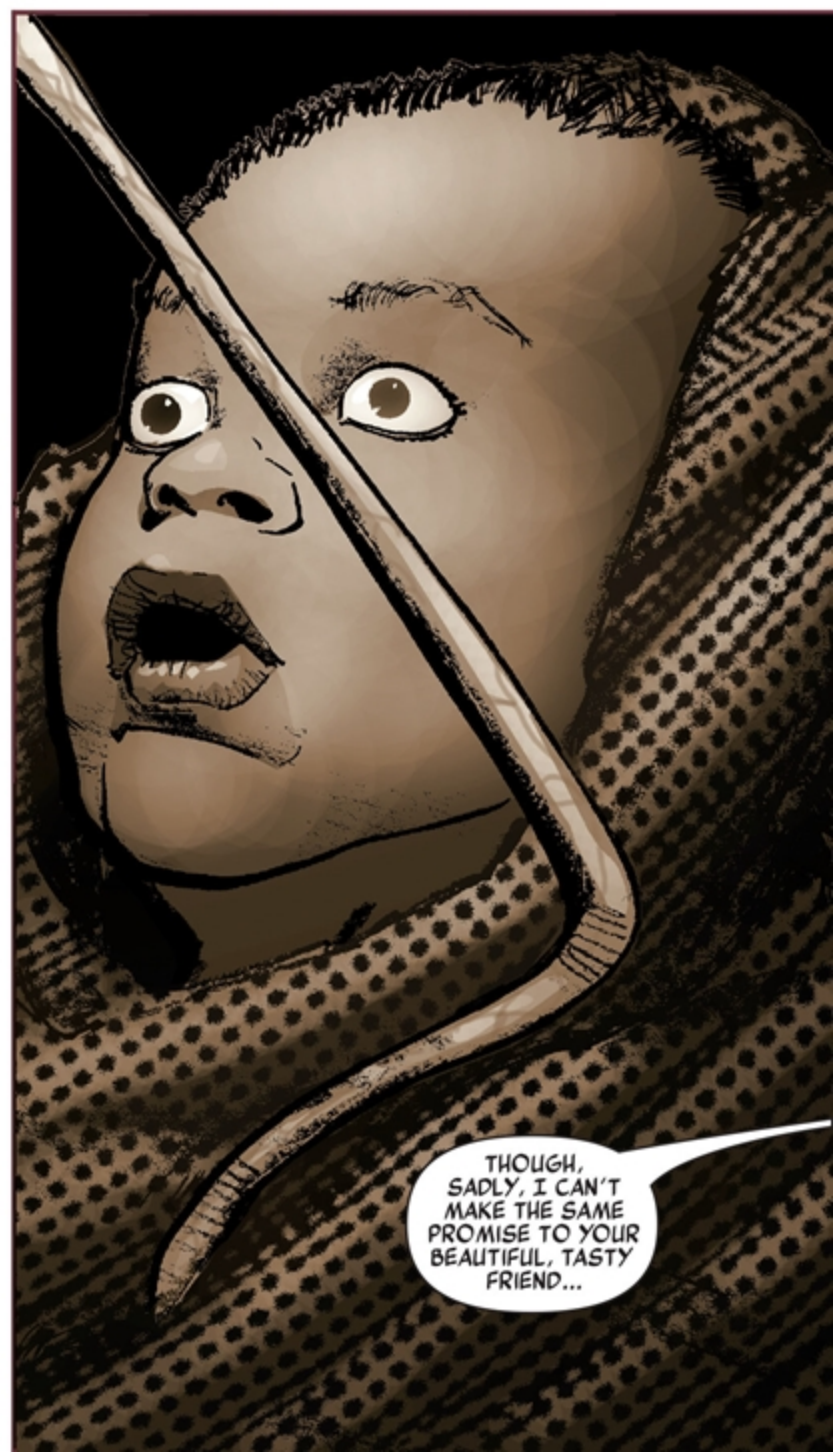
NO!

MONSTRE!
VAMPIRE!



IT'S RUDE
TO DISTURB A
MAN'S DINNER.

DON'T DO IT
AGAIN IF YOU WISH
TO HAVE ANY HOPE
OF LIVING THROUGH
THIS.



THOUGH,
SADLY, I CAN'T
MAKE THE SAME
PROMISE TO YOUR
BEAUTIFUL, TASTY
FRIEND...

NOW...

THREAT ASSESSMENT:
S.H.I.E.L.D.

STRATEGIC HAZARD
INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE
LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE

PARANORMAL
CONTAINMENT
UNIT

A.K.A. "HOWLING
COMMANDOS"

WELL,
THERE YOU
GO.

THEY DIDN'T
MAKE IT OUT.

WHAT
ABOUT THIS
GUY?

LET HIM
SLEEP IT
OFF.

AND
MAYBE
GET HIS
KNEECAPS
FIXED.

BUT ISN'T
HE, UM, NOW
A...?

SO DO YOU
WANT TO TELL ME
WHAT HAPPENED?

TO
WHAT?

TO THOSE KIDS.
THERE WERE ABOUT
A HUNDRED WHO DIDN'T
MAKE IT OUT.

SPIDER-MAN'S
GOT RADIOACTIVE
BLOOD.

US
WEEKLY DID
A PIECE.

IT'LL KILL
THE ENZYMES
RESPONSIBLE
FOR HIS
CONVERSION.

YOU SOUND
PRETTY SURE
OF THAT.

I'VE GOT
SOME EXPERIENCE
WITH VAMPIRE
BITES.



YEAH, BUT HOW MUCH EXPERIENCE YOU GOT DEALING WITH GUYS WHO'VE GOT RADIOACTIVE BLOOD?



HELLO? ANYBODY HOME?



EARTH TO CREEPY-VAMPIRE-HUNTING-GUY...




WHAT UNIT ARE THOSE ASSAULT TROOPERS WITH?




MADAME,
HOW LONG
DO YOU THINK
YOU CAN DO
THIS?

DO
WHAT?

KEEP THE
TRUTH FROM
HIM.



HE CAN WALK IN
THE *SUN*, WE'VE TOLD
HIM *MIRRORS* ARE BAD
LUCK, THAT THEY STEAL
YOUR SOUL...YOU NOTICE
I DON'T COOK WITH GARLIC
ANYMORE, JUST TO BE
ON THE SAFE SIDE...




HIS OTHER
APPETITES WILL
GROW AS HE
DOES.

EVEN IF HE
DOESN'T SUSPECT
WHAT THE "MEDICINE"
YOU GIVE HIM
IS...

...YOU CAN'T
FEED HIM FROM
YOUR BODY
FOREVER.

ISN'T THAT
A MOTHER'S
JOB, EVEN AN
ADOPTIVE
MOTHER?



AS MUCH AS
KEEPING HER SON
INNOCENT FOR AS
LONG AS SHE
CAN?

S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier, Pericles V.
Headed Westward at 500 mph.

BAKER?

KNOCK KNOCK

BAKER,
YOU IN
THERE?

YOU
MISSED THE
SHIFT CHANGE,
MAN.

BAKER,
OPEN UP.

CHRIST ON A
CRUTCH, BAKER, IT'S
NOT LIKE I DON'T
HAVE AN OVERRIDE
CODE FOR THE
FREAKIN' --

--DOOR.

LEVEL 10
ALERT. WE'VE
GOT A
BREACH.

BAKER'S
BEEN
RETIRED.



...BREACHED...
LEVEL 1.0
ALERT...

THE
HELL IS
THAT?

PROBABLY
JUST ANOTHER
DRILL.

LOOK AT
THIS POOR
SCHMUCK. BACK
IN THE DAY, HE
WAS REALLY
SOMETHING.



PROBLEM IS,
HE STILL **THINKS**
LIKE HE DID BACK
IN THE DAY.

IF DRACULA CHANGED
WITH THE TIMES, SHED
THAT 18TH CENTURY
MIND-SET, HE MIGHT STILL
BE ALIVE-- UNDEAD--
YOU KNOW WHAT
I MEAN.

HAND ME THE
TWEEZERS.

CAREFUL. YOU
REMOVE THE STAKE,
YOU'LL REANIMATE
HIM.

GEE, THANKS FOR
TELLING ME. I'VE ONLY
BEEN A VAMPIRE FOR
THREE HUNDRED
YEARS.

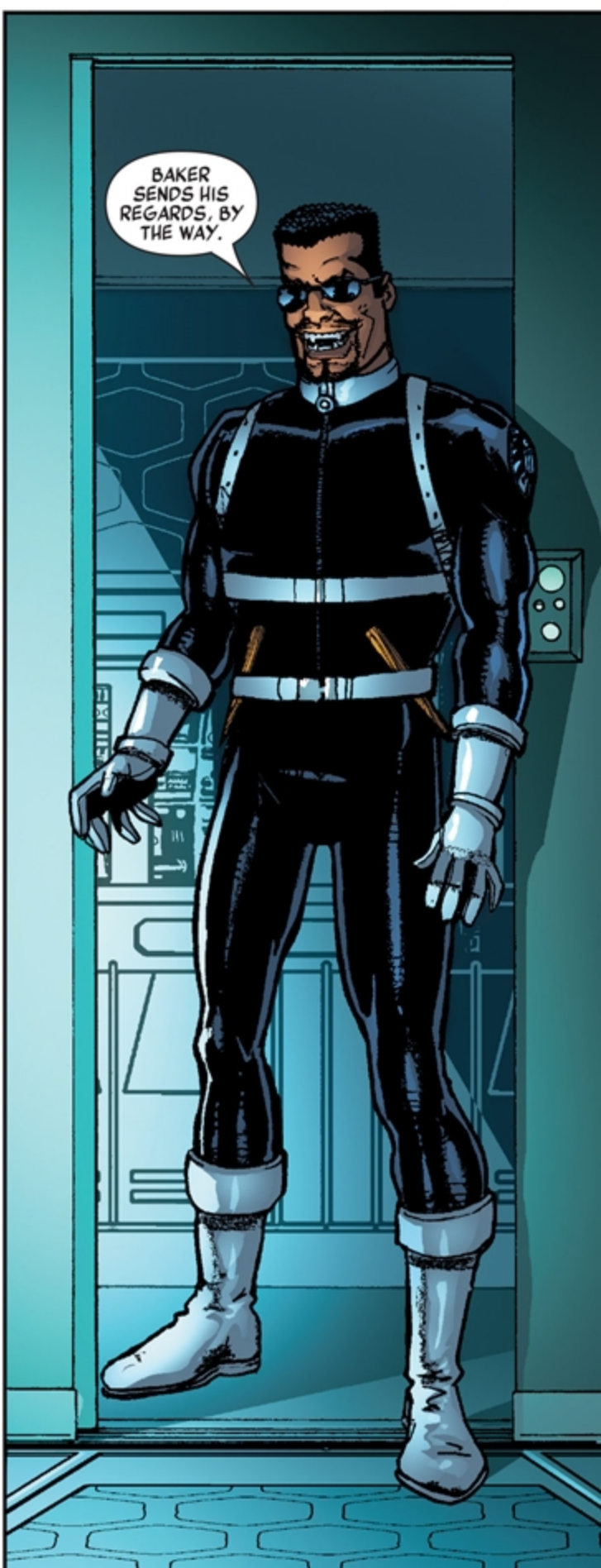
I'M JUST
SAYIN', CROSS'
ORDERS WERE
SPECIFIC.

CROSS'
ORDERS'RE
ALWAYS
SPECIFIC.

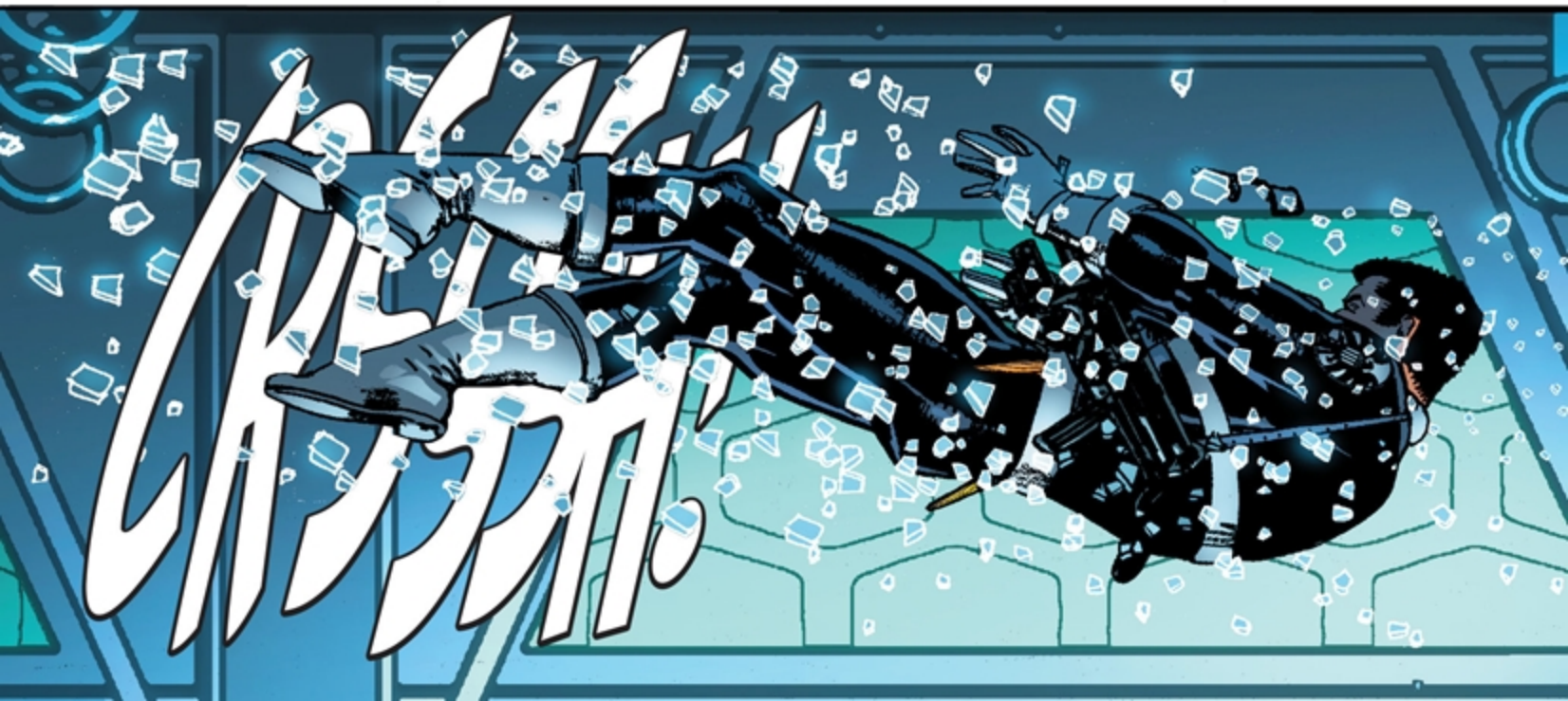
THERE.

SO IF WE'RE NOT
ANIMATING VLAD HERE,
WHAT'RE WE DOING
WITH HIM?

CAN I MAKE A
SUGGESTION?



BAKER
SENDS HIS
REGARDS, BY
THE WAY.





DAMN.

"I DIDN'T EXPECT SO MANY!"



THEY MUST'VE
HAD EVERY BOOK
EVER MADE!

NOT EVERY
ONE, I'M SURE.
BUT A LIBRARY--



MY
GOD!

DON'T JUST
STAND THERE,
WOMAN!
RUN!

HE'S RIGHT,
ERIC! WE'VE
GOT TO GET
AWAY!

NO.
I'M NOT
RUNNING.

NOT FROM
THEM.





HOW MANY
OF US DID YOU
EXPECT,
DAYWALKER?

FIVE? TEN?
YOU WEREN'T
EXPECTING A
HELICARRIER
FULL OF US,
WERE YOU?

ACTUALLY...
I WAS.

TK!

CHOOOOM!
CHOOOOM!
CHOOOOM!

CHOOOOM!
CHOOOOM!
CHOOOOM!

CHOOOOM!
CHOOOOM!
CHOOOOM!

CHOOOOM!
CHOOOOM!
CHOOOOM!

CHOOOOM!
CHOOOOM!
CHOOOOM!

CHOOOOM!
CHOOOOM!
CHOOOOM!

AAIIIEEE

WICKED!

THE
LIGHT--!



IF YOU ARE TO HUNT THEM, THE FIRST LESSON IS TO KNOW THEM.



TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THEM ON SIGHT.



THE FIRST WAY IS TO LOOK FOR WHAT ISN'T THERE.



THE VAMPYR HAVE NO SOUL, AND THOSE WHO HAVE NO SOUL...



...CAST NO REFLECTION.



SILVER
BULLETS.



SURE, THEY'RE
EXPENSIVE.



BUT
WORTH EVERY
DAMN PENNY.



...THERE ARE
MORE OF US THAN
YOU KNOW, IN HIGHER
POSITIONS THAN YOU
REALIZE.

THIS MAY BE A
VICTORY FOR YOU,
BUT IT WILL BE
SHORT-LIVED.

DON'T
SAVOR
IT.



TOO
LATE FOR THAT,
BUDDY.



"THERE ARE MORE
OF US THAN YOU
KNOW ...

...IN HIGHER POSITIONS
THAN YOU REALIZE."

WE DON'T
LACK THE WAY,
SENATOR...

...WE LACK
THE WILL.

OUR HANDS
ARE TIED, NOT BY THE LACK
OF TECHNOLOGY, BUT BY THE
LOBBYISTS PREVENTING ITS
IMPLEMENTATION, AND I
THINK THAT--

EXCUSE ME
FOR A MOMENT,
WOULD YOU?

SUBJECT:
LUCAS CROSS

- ACCESS DENIED -

CSU COULDN'T LOCATE
THE SUBJECT OR THE ITEM
AT THE CRASH SITE.

THEY WENT
OVER EVERY
INCH?

EVERY **CENTIMETER**.
THESE GUYS ARE
QUANTICO-TRAINED, THE
BEST IN THE WORLD.

COULD
DRACULA HAVE
SURVIVED?
REMOVED THE
ITEM HIMSELF?

CONCEIVABLY, BUT
OUR THEORY OF THE
CASE POSITS A
DIFFERENT SUSPECT.

THIS IS EVERYTHING
WE HAVE ON HIM--FBI,
S.H.I.E.L.D. AND
INTERPOL.

THIS ISN'T
NECESSARY.

I DOUBT THERE'S
ANYTHING IN THESE FILES
THAT COULD TELL ME
SOMETHING I DIDN'T
ALREADY KNOW...

...ABOUT MY
OWN SON.

**SPLINTER
GROUP**