

The Children of Lilith: The Vampires of Sodom

Synopsis

It is the Eighteenth Century and over twenty centuries have passed since the city of Sodom was wiped from the face of the Earth. Brian Hender, a young vampire hunter, has been recuperating in the monastery of the Brotherhood of St. John for the past year. He was found by members of the Brotherhood only minutes after surviving his battle with an ancient vampire, the last known inhabitant of the biblical city of Sodom.

Hender has recently become aware that the vampire that he faced a year ago has resurfaced. Before leaving the monastery to face his foe, Hender entrusts two documents with Brother Philip, the Brother who found him exhausted that morning a year ago. The first is a book detailing the years that he worked with the renowned vampire hunter, Dr. Vanderveer. The second is a letter revealing the reason that he is determined to track down the vampire. From the letter, Brother Philip understands immediately that his friend is in danger of succumbing to the ancient vampire that he has been hunted for years, or becoming a victim of his own desire for vengeance borne out of his long-standing hatred.

The young Brother alerts The Brotherhood's Elder, Brother Andrews of his concerns. The elder Brother places Brother Philip as the leader of a group of three Brothers, each possessing the skills necessary to help their younger friend. Brother Peteros was a soldier, a hunter and has tracked and killed vampires before he joined the Brotherhood; and Brother Hezekiah, as one of the elders of the sect, has been seasoned and is the most spiritually-fit for the task of saving their friend. In the hope of intercepting Hender before he has the opportunity to face the ancient vampire, the three Brothers head to the castle of Duke Stephan Rahm.

While Hender and the group of three Brothers are making the three-day trip to the Duke's castle, the Prince's return to the castle is being celebrated. It is during the evening of his return, that the Prince is reacquainted with Lazlo Tek. Tek has become highly favored by the Duke as the one responsible for keeping the Duke's household safe from the "unknown illness" that killed the Duke's eldest son a few months prior, and has continued to plague the region of the castle and its surrounding villages since that time.

The Prince is surprised to find that the recently-remarried Duke. The Prince modifies his plan to include the Duke, the new Duchess Alicia and the Duke's only remaining son, Benedict in order to help the Prince reestablish the cult that existed in Sodom.

Prince Siddim makes his plans known to Tek, exposing more of his history as a member of the cult that controlled the biblical city of Sodom before its destruction. He tells Tek of the Lilin and the Shedim, each direct descendants of the demon goddess, Lilith. The Prince explains that he and one other Shedim were absent during the destruction of the Sodom and therefore survived the city's annihilation. Also he explains his plans to mentor both the Duke and Duchess in order to secure this new resting place as a seat of power for centuries. Understanding that it is the Duke's wish for the Prince to help Benedict establish the traits necessary to excel among the royalty of Europe, by becoming Benedict's mentor, the Prince plans to use the Duke's desire to have Benedict established among the royalty of Europe as leverage against any resistance to his plans. Most importantly, the Prince informs Tek that he may soon locate the only other known survivor of Sodom, one who is the more powerful of the cult's survivors.

Meanwhile, Hender continues the journey toward the castle, as does the group of Brothers. The Brothers discuss their need to locate Hender before he is forced to face the Prince alone. Brother Hezekiah tells his fellow Brothers that Hender is unaware that the creature that they are chasing is not a normal vampire, as Hender has believed and that the normal manners of killing a vampire will be ineffective against this ancient and powerful Shedim.

Hender continues to look for the Prince, and any other vampires that the Prince may have created during the past year. Hender has been hunting at night and sleeping during the day. With his sleep tortured by nightmares, he has begun to wonder if he is doing the right thing and whether he will lose his goodness in the attempt to destroy the creature that killed his fiancée.

His concerns regarding the effects of his torments are seen in his actions. After unsuccessfully attempting to gain the aid of a doctor of the village located next to the Duke's castle, he sets fire to one of the houses of that village and walks toward the castle, not caring if any have escaped the house alive.

Due to his fear of the "unknown illness" that claimed his oldest son, the Duke has left strict orders that only those that he has designated, may enter his castle and that no one may leave it. Hender reaches the castle and is refused entry. However, his visit to the castle attracts the attention of Tek, who requests that the Duke admit the young man. Upon admittance, the two agree to work together to find the Prince's coffin and kill the creature before the sun sets. They find the hiding place and open the coffin to find that the Prince has already risen and is in the pitch-black room with them. The Prince kills Tek for the betrayal and renders Hender unconscious. The Prince takes the unconscious Hender to the castle's dungeon, which has been

partially converted into a laboratory for Tek's studies. While there, the Prince reveals more of his past at Sodom. He discloses that there is another survivor of that city, and that this evening the Prince will attempt to recruit the Duke so that the Prince will be able to leave the castle to receive word if his fellow survivor of Sodom has been found.

At dinner that evening, the Prince makes his plans for the Duke and Duchess known to them. The Duchess resists, angering the Prince and she is killed. The Duke attends his dead wife while Hender, who has been released from the dungeon by Benedict, engages the Prince in a standoff. The three Brothers arrive as the standoff becomes more intense. The Prince makes a spiritual plea for her aid to his mother, Lilith. As it appears that he is receiving his request to Lilith, the Brothers use a prayer of exorcism that they brought with them. The Brother's prayer causes a bright light to appear near the room's center. Three angels appear in the room. The Duke, whose attention had been diverted from attending his dead wife, forces the frightened Prince toward one of the angels. The Prince is touched by the hand of an angel and subsequently is destroyed, disappearing from sight.

The angels disappear and the Brothers explain that they are the angels charged with the protection of all Adam and Eve's children from Lilith and her various offspring. Hender is made aware that he would not have been able to destroy the creature, as it could only be destroyed by the angels that have been given that duty. He learns also that the three angels, Senoy, Sansenoy, and Semangeloph, are the angels that were responsible for the protection of Abraham's nephew, Lot and the total destruction of the Lilin, Shedim, and the Lilith cult members in both Sodom and Gomorrah.

Two days pass and the Brothers are about to return to the monastery, and the sorrow-filled Duke has been mourning alone. Hender feels unworthy to return to the monastery because of his actions. He reminds the Brothers that the book that he has left in their care at the monastery contains descriptions regarding many of Lilith's children and grandchildren. Also, he reminds them that one of her direct line, a Shedim, mentioned as more powerful than the one that they have just defeated, still exists somewhere in the world. As the three Brothers prepare to return to the monastery, the Duke emerges from his mourning and asks to accompany them. The three Brothers and the Duke walk off toward the monastery, while Hender agrees to remain with Benedict as his mentor.