Fangs

A vampire comedy served family-style

by
Jenna Jane

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Summary

She's a vampire who has roamed the earth for hundreds of years. He's a sweet Midwesterner. They're getting married. But first, he has to meet the family. A 90-minute farce, no intermission.

Cast of Characters

Cast size: 6. Vampires are not genetically related and they are ageless; please prioritize diversity in race, age, and ability when casting. This should be an eclectic group.

NORA: Female, 25-40, any race/ethnicity. A 536-year-old vampire, presenting as a goth in her 30s. A scientist. A swirl of confidence and anxiety, Nora is an independent thinker who bristles against familial expectations. She refuses to create vampire "children" in a matrilineal culture and has fallen in love with a human. She's quick to defensiveness and has a complicated relationship with the truth.

STEVE: Male or non-binary, 25-40, any race/ethnicity. Human. A sweet Midwestern therapist. Nora's partner. A clear communicator. Sweet, earnest, open-minded, inquisitive. Craves authenticity and honesty. Patient and accepting to a fault, but willing to set boundaries.

MALKA: Female, 30s-70s, any race/ethnicity. An ancient vampire. Femme fatale. Oozes power. Melodramatic, sensual, sharp, self-absorbed. Wise enough to know better, petty enough not to care. Mother to Nora and Esther, meaning she turned them into vampires -- not their birth mother. Drake's mate. Pronounced 'MAUL-kuh.

DRAKE: Male, 30s-70s, any race/ethnicity. An ancient vampire. A peacemaker and people-pleaser. Often finds himself torn between avoiding confrontation and supporting his always-confrontational mate, Malka. Cat dad to DeLulu.

MAUREEN/ESTHER/SHIRLEY: Female, 20s-60s, any race/ethnicity. **Maureen** is Steve's mother (human). A well-intentioned but sheltered dairy farmer from Wisconsin. Steve gets his inquisitiveness from her. She wants to expand her worldview and try new things, but rarely gets the opportunity. **Esther** is Nora's vampire sister. Sunshine in a bottle. Infectiously positive and extremely femme. Affectionate. Happy to fulfill her duties of creating more vampire "children." You wish you could hate her, but

she's just so damn nice. Hates Shirley's guts. **Shirley** is Malka's vampire sister. Messy, opinionated, volatile, and insecure. Used to getting her way. An old flame of Uncle Louis. Has centuries-old beef with Esther.

HANK/UNCLE LOUIS/BRUCE/JEFF/ROLAND RIGSBY: Male, 20s-60s, any race/ethnicity. **Hank** is Steve's father (human). A well-intentioned but sheltered dairy farmer from Wisconsin. A man with simple tastes and a suspicious nature. Skeptical of elites, institutions, and the higher education system, he veers into conspiracy theorist territory. **Uncle Louis** is a vampire who's vowed not to leave his coffin until he's finished writing his novel. It's been 200 years. Constantly seeking inspiration. An ancient fuckboy. He's a voiceover for most of the show, some of which must be pre-recorded. **Bruce** is Esther's mate, who she turned into a vampire... so he's also her son. Everyone's crush in high school, all grown up. Bad boy vibes. Smitten with Esther. A little slow on the uptake. Extremely conflict avoidant. He and Esther call each other increasingly ridiculous pet names as if they were their actual names. **Jeff** is an eager solar panel salesperson (human). Definitely works on commission and it shows. **Roland Rigsby** is Nora's slinky, try-hard, toxic vampire ex who may or may not actually be a choreographer.

Settings

Today, in Tampa, FL.
Scene 1: Steve's apartment.
Scene 2: Malka and Drake's opulent mansion. Gothic vibes meet old Florida vibes.

Costumes and a Cat

Vampires wear all-black. No silver jewelry for vampires. Humans wear any color but black. Steve, Hank, and Maureen wear flannel. DeLulu the cat is a stuffed animal or puppet.

Content warnings

Profanity, sexual references, comedic violence, discussion of death. Appropriate for adult and teen audiences.

SCENE 1

Loud dubsteb music, in blackout. After about 10 seconds, lights up on STEVE's modest apartment. There's a fridge, a kitchen sink, a pot on the stove, and a front door. STEVE bops around to the music while cooking. He wears headphones and flannel. After a few beats, NORA enters, wearing black.

NORA
Steve, have you seen my flask?

STEVE doesn't hear NORA over the music.

NORA (CONT'D)
Steve!

STEVE shakes some produce around to the beat. He's not a great dancer. NORA watches, smiling. During a particularly embarrassing move, STEVE turns and sees NORA.

STEVE
Hi! Hi. Hello.

STEVE hits the volume button on his phone. The music gets quieter. He pops the headphones off and hangs them around his neck.

NORA
Please, don't stop. It was just getting sensual.

STEVE
I'm sorry, were you saying something?

NORA
I was asking if you've seen my flask.

STEVE
Your silver one?

NORA
Well, it's not silver. It's steel. But yes.

STEVE
Right! The silver allergy. I remember.

NORA
Have you seen it?

STEVE
I remember seeing you take a sip on the drive home. Which might be a felony, but what can I say? I love a rule-breaker.

NORA
I'll go check your car.

STEVE
Will you taste this? I'm worried it needs more paprika.

NORA
It smells so good, but I'm not hungry.

STEVE
No one can resist my chili. No one.

NORA heads to the door.

NORA
Really, I'm just thirsty.

STEVE
Kiss?

NORA pivots and practically runs into his arms. They kiss.

NORA
Now back to your dance party.

NORA puts STEVE'S headphones back on his ears. The music gets louder. He starts grooving again while making eye contact. NORA exits. STEVE looks to make sure she's gone. He pulls a ring box out of his pocket, opens it, smiles, dances around with it, puts it back in his pocket. Back to cooking and dancing. Then frantic knocking.

STEVE
Darn, is that doorknob stuck again?

More knocking. STEVE crosses to door and opens it.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Come in, come in!

NORA storms in with a hand behind her back.

STEVE (CONT'D)
(Jiggling the doorknob.)
Sorry, I don't know what's wrong with this doorknob. It only seems to get stuck for you.

NORA
Steve, turn the music off NOW.

STEVE pulls off his headphones, grabs his phone, and stops the music.

STEVE
What's wrong?

NORA
I just found something in your car. And I need an explanation. Right now.

STEVE pats his pocket, checking the ring box is still there.

STEVE
OK... Not your flask, I'm guessing?

NORA
I found the damn flask under the seat. But first I looked in the glove box.

STEVE
What'd you find?

NORA
Why don't you tell me?

STEVE
(Calmly.)
Extra napkins? Latex gloves for the gas pump? I have nothing to hide from you.

NORA
Then what the hell is THIS?

NORA takes a wood stake out from behind her back.

NORA (CONT'D)
Start talking. Now. What the HELL IS THIS?!

STEVE bursts out laughing.

NORA (CONT'D)
I don't see anything funny here, Steve! Why is there a sharpened wooden stake in your glove box?

STEVE
(Barely able to get the words out between laughs.)
In case I run into a vampire!

NORA goes very still. Her eyes narrow.

NORA
Excuse me?

STEVE
I found it in my great-grandpa's pickup after he died. My dad says he traveled everywhere with it, you know...
(More laughing.)
... Just in case.

NORA
And now you keep it in YOUR car. A weapon passed down through the generations.

STEVE
Yeah, I keep it around as a tribute to him.

NORA
(Examining it.)
It doesn't look used.

STEVE
What? Of course not! He was just superstitious.

NORA
Call your dad right now and ask him about it. Better yet, let's do a video call.

STEVE
Are you serious?

NORA
Do it now.

STEVE
Why are you being so weird about this?

NORA
Why are YOU being so weird about this?

STEVE
(Taking phone out.)
OK, fine, if it makes you feel better.

NORA
Good.

The phone rings. NORA puts the stake down, far away from STEVE. She pulls out her flask and drinks, then goes to his side and stares at the phone expectantly.

STEVE
You know, I haven't seen you eat all day. Maybe you'll feel less cranky if you --

NORA
(Crankily.)
I'm not cranky!

The ringing stops as MAUREEN pops out of STEVE's fridge, staring at her phone. She wears flannel. STEVE and NORA don't acknowledge MAUREEN onstage, only looking at STEVE's phone.

MAUREEN
(To her phone screen.)
Hi, Stevie! Hi, Nora! Congratulations!

STEVE is making a gesture at the phone to cut it out.

NORA
On what?

STEVE
Hi, mom! So good to see you on this totally normal day. Hey, I have a random question for you and Dad.

MAUREEN
(Yelling at the fridge.)
Hank! Your son has a question!

STEVE
Remember Great-Grandpa Henry's vampire stake?

MAUREEN
Oh, you mean this one?

MAUREEN instantly pulls a second stake out of the fridge.

STEVE
Haha, what?

NORA
What the hell?

MAUREEN
Or did you mean the one in Dad's nightstand?

NORA
Steve, why does your family have easy access to multiple vampire stakes?

STEVE
(Gesturing to his stake.)
I thought that was the only one. This is some cool family history I'm learning.

MAUREEN
Your dad's Grandpa Henry gave me this one when I was traveling home late one night.

HANK pops out of the fridge, wearing flannel.

HANK
Hey, is that Steve and Nora? Congratu--

MAUREEN gestures for him to can it. He crosses next to her to join the video call. He sees MAUREEN's stake.

HANK (CONT'D)
Hey, is that one of Grandpa Henry's stakes? I'm pretty sure he kept one in every room of his house.

NORA starts putting on her jacket.

MAUREEN
Nora, how's everything going at the lab? Any breakthroughs yet?

STEVE
I'll call you guys back.

MAUREEN & HANK
Love you!

STEVE hangs up. MAUREEN and HANK exit through the fridge.

NORA
I have to go.

STEVE
Why?

NORA
This is... this is too... I don't feel safe.

STEVE
We've been through this, Nora. You can't run away when something makes you anxious.

NORA
Yes, I can. Watch. I'm doing it now.

STEVE
Can we just take a deep breath and count backward from five?

NORA
I’m not one of your therapy patients, Steve. I don’t need a coping mechanism.

STEVE
We all need coping mechanisms. Let’s just try it, together.

NORA grabs the stake.

NORA
I’m taking this with me.

STEVE takes a deep breath in, then starts to let it out.

STEVE
5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

NORA
Stop it.

STEVE takes an even louder deep breath.

STEVE
(Exhaling.)
5, 4, 3 --

NORA
I said, stop. It’s stupid.

STEVE
Let’s be stupid together.

STEVE takes NORA’s hands. They hold the stake together. He inhales deeply, then pauses, looking into her eyes. Hesitantly, NORA takes a deep breath.

NORA & STEVE

5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

NORA puts down the stake. She starts taking off her jacket.

STEVE

Thank you for not running away. Thank you for staying with me.

NORA

I’m tired of running, Steve. So tired. Tired of being afraid to show someone who I really am.

STEVE

You can always be your authentic self with me. You’re safe.

NORA holds STEVE like a treasure. A pause. She’s made up her mind.

NORA

Steve, there’s something I have to tell you.

STEVE

There’s something I have to tell you, too. Well, I mean, ask you. I’m sorry. I’m messing it up already. You go first.

NORA drinks from her flask.

NORA

You should know that I’m... older.

STEVE

Older than me?

NORA

Yes.

STEVE

How much older?

NORA
Oh, a couple... hundred years.

STEVE
Well, you look incredible. What are they putting in Botox these days, the blood of virgins?

NORA
Not as effective as you might think.

STEVE
I'm kidding, I don't really think you've had Botox. But it's totally fine if you have! It's your face.

NORA
I haven't gotten Botox, Steve. I... I come from... old money. Like, really old money.

STEVE
A sexy, older heiress. Which part of this is supposed to be turning me off?

NORA
Steve --

STEVE
Look, if you think your family won't accept me because you're some kind of secret duchess and I grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin --

NORA
Steve --

STEVE
And I know you're always saying you have this big family. But I'm great with parents. Parents love me. The trick is I make this incredible garlic bread. It's a recipe from --

NORA
Steve, I'm a vampire.

A long beat. STEVE busts out laughing.

STEVE
(Wiping away tears.)
No, no, really, what is it? I'm listening now. I'm sorry, I'll stop interrupting. And no garlic bread, I swear.

NORA
I'm a vampire.

STEVE
Nora, seriously, what --

NORA
I am quite literally a vampire, Steve.

STEVE
(Sarcastically.)
So, I guess you can turn into a bat. And mirrors don't show your reflection.

NORA
Those are harmful stereotypes.

STEVE
And you sleep in a coffin.

STEVE takes NORA's flask from her hands. She doesn't try to stop him.

STEVE (CONT'D)
And you drink blood.

STEVE takes a swig but does not swallow. His eyes go wide. He and NORA make meaningful eye contact. NORA takes her flask back just before STEVE bolts to the kitchen sink and spits into it.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Oh my God.

NORA
Thanks for wasting my supply.

STEVE
Oh my God, Nora. That’s blood.

NORA
Good vintage, too.

STEVE
That’s really blood.

NORA
I’m really not kidding.

STEVE
You’re serious.

NORA
Dead serious.

NORA approaches STEVE. STEVE backs away toward a wall.

NORA (CONT’D)
Now who’s running away?

STEVE holds up his fingers in a cross.

NORA (CONT’D)
Really? A cross? You’re not usually one to fall for religious propaganda.

STEVE drops his hands, embarrassed. NORA walks slowly, calmly toward him.

NORA (CONT’D)
And, no, sprinkling me with holy water won’t work either. It’ll just ruin my hair.

STEVE
(Frantic.)
Nora, this is... there’s no way you’re... how... I don’t know what to --

NORA takes a deep breath.

NORA
5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

STEVE
This is not a breathing exercise situation, Nora!

NORA
(Taking an obnoxiously deep breath.)
5, 4, 3 --

STEVE
Whose blood is in that flask?

NORA touches STEVE’s cheek.

NORA
Steve, 5...

NORA & STEVE
...4, 3, 2, 1.

NORA (CONT’D)
I’m still Nora. Just... way more interesting. We have so much to talk about.

STEVE
(Voice cracking.)
So --
(Clears throat.)
So, that’s why you never eat in front of me. Oh! My chili.

STEVE stirs the chili.

STEVE (CONT'D)
You always push your food around your plate to make it LOOK like you've eaten.

NORA
You noticed.

STEVE
I'm a great cook, Nora! I LOVE to cook! You think I wouldn't notice that you never taste what I make?

NORA
It really does smell delicious. But I physically can't. It turns to ash the moment it touches my tongue. I would kill to take just one bite of chocolate. Well, not kill. If you noticed, why didn't you say anything?

STEVE
I thought you had dietary restrictions. Or an eating disorder.

NORA
I do have dietary restrictions.

STEVE
This isn't Celiac's, Nora! Or intermittent fasting! Or, or... keeping Kosher!

NORA
It's not that big of a difference.

STEVE
It's blood! You drink blood!

NORA
I drink blood.

STEVE
You drink blood.

NORA
Take your time. It's a lot to process.

STEVE
My girlfriend drinks blood. Like, just out of a flask, or...?

NORA
It’s better fresh from the source.

STEVE
Oh my God. All those times you were kissing my neck... were you really thinking about --

NORA
Steve.

STEVE
Nora!

NORA
You’re not my blood type.

STEVE
(Offended.)
Wait, so you’re not attracted to me?

NORA
I’m attracted to your flesh, not your blood.

STEVE
Now it sounds gross.

NORA
I’m attracted to your heart, not your blood?

STEVE
You’re making it worse.

NORA
You’re overthinking this.

STEVE
There’s a lot to think about!

NORA
Yes. I’m sorry. You’d think five centuries would cultivate patience, but you’d be wrong. I’ll work on it.

STEVE
Five centuries?!

NORA shrugs.

STEVE (CONT’D)
You can’t be a vampire.

NORA
I assure you, I can.

STEVE
You don’t have fangs.

NORA
Yes, I do.

STEVE
Then why can’t I see them?

NORA
They’re retractable.

STEVE
Show me.

NORA
No.

STEVE
Why not?

NORA
It’s an assimilation thing, not a party trick.

STEVE
I want to see the real you.

NORA
There are some sides of me you definitely don’t want to see.

STEVE
That’s not true.

NORA
Well, maybe there are sides of me that I don’t want you to see.

STEVE
Honestly, a lot of your quirks are starting to make sense. Ohhh, and your work at the lab --

NORA
Now you get it.

STEVE
Now I get it. Look, I’m always talking to my patients about practicing radical acceptance. I will do the work to try to radically accept this whole vampire thing. But what’s really throwing me off is that you’ve been lying to me. Our whole relationship, you’ve been lying.

NORA
When was I supposed to tell you, Steve? There’s never a perfect time to reveal that you’re a blood-sucking, nightmare-inducing, horror franchise-inspiring, undead, centuries-old monster.

STEVE
You’re not a monster, Nora.

NORA
You don’t know that.

STEVE
I do know that. Because I know you.

NORA
You know a sliver of me.

STEVE
The rest of you I am willing to learn. But you have to be willing to be honest with me.

NORA
I’m scared, Steve. I’ve never... come out to anyone before.

STEVE
Let’s be scared together. I was just about to propose.

NORA
What?! Now?

STEVE
I’m still about to propose.

NORA
You still want to be with me? Knowing what I am?

STEVE
Knowing WHO you are.

STEVE gets down on one knee
and pulls out the ring box.

STEVE (CONT’D)
You’re still Nora. I still love your decisiveness, your wisdom, your quick-wittedness. I still want to be with you. Forever.

NORA
You and I have... very different forevers.

STEVE
I want to spend the rest of MY forever with you. I’ve never met anyone like you.

NORA
Actually, you probably have. There are a lot of us living in Florida. Well, not LIVING.

STEVE
I know we've only been dating for six months. And you've been dragging your feet on even moving in together, which frankly makes a lot more sense now. But when you know, you know... you know? And I know. Will you marry me?

NORA also gets down on one knee. She kisses him.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Is that a yes?

NORA
That's a yes.

He slips the ring on her finger. More kissing.

NORA (CONT'D)
But first... you have to meet the family.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP on MALKA and DRAKE in their opulent sitting room. The vibe is gothic mansion meets old Florida. There are three exits: A prominently-placed, ornate front door, a doorway leading upstairs, and a door leading to the cellar. There's a china cabinet and sofa. A cat, DeLulu, is draped over DRAKE's shoulder. A massive Romantic period oil painting of DeLulu hangs on a wall. DRAKE is connecting an IV drip of blood to an upright coffin leaning against a wall. His brandy snifter sits next to an open wine bottle. Both are filled with blood. MALKA lounges on a chaise while sipping blood from a martini glass. She is powerful and stunning.

MALKA
Are you going to tell them or should I?

DRAKE
Let's just get through meeting Nora's human boyfriend first.

MALKA
Why bother? Mortals are inconsequential.

DRAKE
What's the rush, Malka? We have eternity. There's no need to tell the Children today.

MALKA
I hate keeping secrets.

DRAKE
You hate everything you're not good at.

DRAKE finishes setting up the IV and gives the coffin a friendly tap.

DRAKE (CONT'D)
Drink up, Louis!

VOICE OF UNCLE LOUIS
Thank you!

MALKA
Revealing our family secret to a human. It's a disaster, Drake.

DRAKE
Maybe she'll turn him.

MALKA
Nora? Create another vampire? Ha! That would be even more shocking than OUR news.

DRAKE
Malka, please, not today.

MALKA
If you don't tell them, I will.

DRAKE adjusts DeLulu so she is nestled in his arms.

DRAKE
Let's just handle one crisis at a time. And try to play nice. You know Nora. If you're rude to this human, she'll only double down.

A knock at the front door. MALKA opens it to reveal NORA and STEVE. NORA is not wearing her ring. STEVE holds what is clearly a funeral arrangement of calla lilies in a vase, tied with a black bow.

STEVE
Well, hello!

MALKA
You’re late.

NORA
We’re five minutes early.

DRAKE
And nothing is wrong!

NORA
OK.

DRAKE
No one is keeping a secret!

Everyone looks uncomfortable.

DRAKE (CONT’D)
Because we’re family!

NORA
Uh huh.

DRAKE
And family is always honest with one another.

MALKA
Please, do come in.

NORA and STEVE enter.

STEVE
Thank you! I’m Steve.

STEVE presents the flowers to Malka.

STEVE (CONT’D)
And these are for you. Nora said calla lilies are your favorite. Sorry, the florist only had them in funeral arrangements.

MALKA
My favorite kind of arrangement. I'll keep it close by. In case it's needed today.

NORA
Mother --

MALKA
You can call me Malka. And this is my mate, Drake.

DRAKE
And this is DeLulu!

STEVE reaches to pet DeLulu.

STEVE
Oh, hey little --

DRAKE
Careful, she bites.

STEVE retracts his hand.
DeLulu meows.

DRAKE (CONT'D)
Welcome to our humble home, Steve.

STEVE
(Gesturing to Malka.)
I can see where Nora gets her good looks.

NORA
We're not genetically related.

STEVE
Oh, right. Sorry. No one in your family is a blood relative.

NORA
Actually --

DRAKE
Not exactly --

STEVE
Hey, chosen family -- it's still family. Sometimes, those bonds are stronger than blood. Well, genetics.

DRAKE
Chosen family?

NORA
Steve’s a therapist.

MALKA
How quaint.

DRAKE
I like it. Chosen family.

MALKA
This thrall has some interesting ideas, Nora.

DRAKE
Malka --

NORA
He’s not a thrall.

STEVE
What’s a thrall?

MALKA
I’m afraid we don’t have much to offer you for refreshment, Steve.

STEVE
No worries! I already ate.

DRAKE
Nora? Thirsty?

NORA
Always.

DRAKE fetches NORA a crystal wine goblet from the china cabinet. He pours blood from the bottle.

NORA (CONT'D)
You know, it's not chosen family when it's a one-sided choice.

DRAKE
(Handing NORA the goblet.)
Nora, don't start.

NORA
The Mother choosing and the Child succumbing...

MALKA
Again with the choice nonsense.

NORA
... And being subjected to an eternal decision made by someone else.

MALKA
(Picking up her martini glass.)
Well, I'm sorry I'm such a terrible Mother. I'm sorry you've had such a hard life, Nora.

NORA
Death.

MALKA
(To DRAKE.)
She's impossible.

STEVE
(Gesturing to whatever.)
Ooh, is this an antique?

NORA
(To MALKA.)
Wow, it's almost as if you REGRET creating me.

DRAKE
(Crossing to STEVE.)
16th century.

STEVE

Oh, wow!

MALKA

Regret? Ha! Never. That would imply that I've made a mistake. And I never make mistakes.

STEVE

(To DRAKE.)

There's a lot to unpack in this conversation, huh?

DRAKE

Just wait.

NORA knocks on the coffin.

NORA

Hey, Uncle Louis.

VOICE OF UNCLE LOUIS

Nora! So good to hear your voice.

NORA

How's the novel coming?

VOICE OF UNCLE LOUIS

It's getting so close. I can feel it.

NORA

Yeah, sure, that's great.

VOICE OF UNCLE LOUIS

How's your work at the lab? Any breakthroughs yet?

NORA

It's getting so close. I can feel it.

VOICE OF UNCLE LOUIS

Yeah, sure, that's great.

A knock at the door.

ALL EXCEPT STEVE
Esther is here.

STEVE
How do you know?

NORA
Highly attuned senses of smell.

STEVE
Oh, because you're predators.

MALKA
Some of us more apex than others.

DRAKE opens the door.

DRAKE
Esther! Please come in.

ESTHER enters. She is played by the same actor as MAUREEN. ESTHER is sunshine in a bottle with an infectiously positive, very feminine energy.

ESTHER
Thank you so much, Drake! Hi, DeLulu!

DRAKE
Hello! No one is hiding anything!

ESTHER
(Giving DeLulu skritches.)
What?

DRAKE
No secrets, whatsoever.

MALKA
Esther, my dearest love!

MALKA practically pushes DRAKE out of the way to get to ESTHER. They embrace.

ESTHER
Mother!

They fuss over one another.

NORA
(To STEVE.)
Esther is my sister.

MALKA
(To ESTHER.)
Where is your darling Bruce?

ESTHER
Hunting. He won't be long.

STEVE
Who's Bruce?

NORA
My nephew. Esther, I want you to meet --

ESTHER
Sister!

ESTHER throws herself at NORA, who embraces ESTHER happily, if more reservedly.

NORA
Esther, this is Steve.

ESTHER
You brought a thrall to Mother's house?

STEVE
What's a thrall?

NORA
Boyfriend.

STEVE
Boyf--?

NORA gives him a look.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Boyfriend!

ESTHER
(Looking Steve up and down.)
Truly?

STEVE
I'm surprised, too. She's totally out of my league.

ESTHER
It's an absolute delight to meet you, Steve.

MALKA sighs and reclines dramatically on a chaise, martini glass in hand.

ESTHER (CONT'D)
Is everything OK, Mother?

MALKA
(Slowly, thoughtfully.)
Is everything OK? I suppose that depends on who you ask.

DRAKE
Play nice.

MALKA
On the one hand, my eldest daughter is forcing us to reveal our family secret to a thrall.

STEVE
Can someone please fill me in on what a thrall is?