

## Love Bites

*(The light comes up on an ice cream parlor. ZACK sits behind the counter checking the time on an old pocket watch. He's a well-dressed, but otherwise normal looking young man, except for the fact that he's a vampire. MINDY, dressed attractively, enters in a rush. She collects herself and tentatively approaches ZACK.)*

MINDY: Zack?

ZACK: *(Turning and standing politely.)* Mindy, right?

MINDY: Yes. Sorry I'm late. I didn't want to make a bad impression on a first date, a blind date for that matter. I spent way too long finding the right thing to wear.

ZACK: Well, you look nice. It was worth the wait.

MINDY: *(Blushing.)* You're sweet.

ZACK: Speaking of sweets, you're going to love the milkshakes. *(He gestures for her to sit beside him.)* So, why don't you tell me a little about yourself?

MINDY: Gee, where to begin? I'm a Sagittarius. I work as a vet because I adore furry things. I've lived here for five years. Not *here* in the ice cream shop, but here in town. No one would live in an ice cream shop, although, I once knew a guy who lived in an ice cream *truck*, and... I'm babbling.

ZACK: I like it. You don't sound rehearsed.

MINDY: Do I sound coherent?

ZACK: Eh... *(He wiggles his hand to indicate maybe/maybe not, then smiles.)*

MINDY: *(Laughs along with him.)* Okay, smarty-pants. Your turn. Tell me about *you*.

ZACK: *(Casually.)* Well, I'm... a Leo which may qualify me as a furry thing. I've lived in town all my life, although never in a truck. I'm a vampire, so I'm kind of a night owl...

MINDY: You're a what?

ZACK: A night owl.

MINDY: You said "vampire."

ZACK: Yes, that too. I thought you...

MINDY: *(She leaps to her feet and points at him dramatically.)* Stand back, you vile creature of the night!

ZACK: *(Confused.)* I'm sitting.

MINDY: Fie! Fie upon you.

ZACK: Fie? What does that even mean?

MINDY: Don't sass me, soul-sucker! *(She grabs a spoon and the straw from his drink, crosses them together, and speaks dramatically.)* I repel you!

ZACK: *(A bit amused. This is not the first time he's been rejected.)* With a straw and spoon?

MINDY: It's a crucifix.

ZACK: It looks like an X. I feel like you're eliminating me from a game show.

MINDY: I'll *eliminate* you, all right. *(She grabs a shaker from the counter.)* With garlic!

ZACK: *(Correcting her.)* Salt. What kind of restaurant has a garlic shaker?

MINDY: Take this then! *(She thrusts her fingers into his cup and flicks liquid onto his face.)* It's holy water blessed by a priest!

ZACK: *(Casually wiping his face with a napkin.)* It's Diet Sprite served by the waitress. She didn't even bless me when I sneezed.

MINDY: I've got it! *(She grabs a mirror from her purse and holds it up, awkwardly searching for the right position.)* I'll reflect light into your face until you burn in anguish.

ZACK: That works great with the sun. The blinking neon sign that says "milkshakes" is not going to do the trick. *(Pointing to her purse.)* Have you got a wooden stake in there? *(She looks around, reaches across the counter, and dispenses a toothpick. She holds it up aggressively.)* Seriously?

MINDY: There's more where this came from, bucko!

*(She dispenses as many toothpicks as she can in rapid succession. She gathers them nervously into her hands so they stick out in every possible direction.)*

ZACK: Wouldn't it be easier to just run away?

MINDY: *(Still dispensing and gathering toothpicks.)* And let you do to other girls what you did to me?

ZACK: Compliment them and have pleasant conversation?

MINDY: Sure, that's how it starts! A little sweet talk, then it's, *(She adopts a cartoonish vampire voice.)* "Look into my eyes. Fall under my spell. I'll drink your blood and we'll be together for eternity."

ZACK: That doesn't sound like me at all.

MINDY: *(Accusatory.)* You wouldn't say that?

ZACK: Not in *that* accent. And don't worry about eternity. I figured we weren't soul mates when you stuck your fingers in my drink and threatened to kill me. *(He stands.)*

MINDY: What are you doing?

ZACK: I'm leaving. I'm sorry it didn't work out. *(He reaches over, takes a toothpick from her hand, and begins cleaning his teeth as he crosses away. After a few steps, he turns back.)* You really should relax. I didn't get all freaked out when you told me you were a Sagittarius.

*(ZACK gives a friendly wave and exits. MINDY sits, exhausted.)*

*The End*

*Copyright Ken Preuss 2017*