

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

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