

INSIDE DRACULA'S CASTLE

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Lights up on an empty room in Dracula's castle. There are entrances stage left and right. In the room, there is a table and chairs to stage left with a book on the table and a cape lying on the floor stage right. After a beat, ROY very slowly peaks into the room from the stage right doorway, checks the room with his flashlight, and decides to investigate further. As he creeps carefully into the room, nervously examining the space, GABE shouts from offstage.

GABE (O.S.)
HEY ROY, YOU SEE ANYTHING!?

Roy, tense with fear, jumps at the sound of Greg's voice.

ROY
Jeez!

At this, Greg walks into the room backwards, pointing his flashlight offstage and still looking into the previous hallway, absolutely oblivious of Roy, and runs straight into him. Roy falls over.

ROY (CONT'D)
Oof!

Greg turns around to see Roy on the floor

GABE
Roy!? What are you doing on the floor!? We are supposed to be hunting vampires, not takin' naps!

ROY
Well, maybe if we all just **looked where we were going!**

GABE
Oh yeah? Well, maybe if we all just paid **attention to where other people were walking!**

ROY
Yeah? Well, maybe if we all just were-were... **less stupid!**

At this, LANCE CASTLESTRONG enters with a flourish. He is an exaggerated version of the Indiana Jones, fortune hunter archetype, made larger than life by his track record of success and a stunningly large ego. No matter how much larger than life he is though, it does not make him a buffoon. He makes his way quickly to the arguing duo.

CASTLESTRONG
(in an angry whisper)
Will you keep it down in here!

GABE
(in full voice)
Sorry boss, Roy here-

CASTLESTRONG
(cutting him off while
still whispering)
-SUSH! Or would you rather have
every single vampire wake up in
their coffins and know exactly
where we are!?

ROY
Yeah, but-

CASTLESTRONG
-No buts!

throughout this next speech, he slowly crescendos in volume

CASTLESTRONG (CONT'D)

We are surrounded by the hoards of Dracula, our sworn enemy to the death, and by gum, *this* will be the day that the monster himself shall perish! We have traveled all across this continent, back and forth, forth and back, for mere whispers of his sickly pale visage. We have followed the flimsiest of leads just for the faintest whisper about his where... abouts. We have tracked the horrendous beast down, through the rain, and sleet, and snow. And now, now that we are **in his very castle**, I promise you that we shall catch him. Tonight. The three of us. If we work together! We can rid the world of this evil! This Darkness. We will be heroes! We will save the world! We will be humongously famous!

ROY
I thought we already are...?

CASTLESTRONG
(by this point basically
shouting)
(MORE)

CASTLESTRONG (CONT'D)
Yes I am, but I will become more
famous! Soon, everyone will know
the name **LANCE CASTLESTRONG!**

At this, this is a medium volume groan from offstage left.
The three hear this and all jump stage right in fear, with
Lance trembling the most.

CASTLESTRONG (CONT'D)
(close to tears)
Wh-wh-what was that!?

GABE
I-I don't k-k-know....

ROY
I-I-I th-think it was Dra-Dra-
DRACULA!

CASTLESTRONG
Will you two keep it down!

GABE AND ROY
(in unison)
Sorry boss!

CASTLESTRONG
(regaining bravado)
Sush! Now, it couldn't be the
vampires, they won't be awake for
another

Checks watch

CASTLESTRONG (CONT'D)
Three hours. We have plenty of
time!

GABE
Unless one of us made too much
noise...

He looks accusingly over at Roy.

ROY
Hey!

CASTLESTRONG
Now, now, I'm sure it was merely
the castle creaking. Just the wind.

ROY
(in an attempt to reassure
himself)
Ok... just the wind.

CASTLESTRONG
(back to his previous
whispering)
Now, we have to be very quiet. The
vampires might be asleep, but who
know what else is in here just
waiting to jump out at us!

GABE
Where should we go next Lance?

CASTLESTRONG
Why, forward of course! Onwards
towards glory!

He confidently points stage left, into the room. They all start moving in unison, however Lance stops midway through his first step, puts his foot back down, and let's Roy and Gabe walking together ahead of him by a few steps as they all peer around the room slowly, going over everything with their flashlights.

CASTLESTRONG (CONT'D)
Ok, now we're looking for some sort
of something that will lead us to
the vampires. A hidden switch, a
book that when you pull it, it
opens up a door. For that matter,
pull on all of the candles too,
just in case.

ROY
(looking as a book on the
table)
I think I found something!

The other two hurry over to see what it is.

GABE
"My Reflection and I" by Dr. Acula.
Wait. This is just his
autobiography.

CASTLESTRONG
No! I already combed through that
book for hints and clues about how
to defeat our fanged foe.

ROY
How was the read?

CASTLESTRONG
Ok. I give it three and a half
cloves of garlic out of five.

ROY
(interested)
Hmm...

Roy turns to put the book back on the shelf, but gets tangled up the cape that is lying on the floor. He yells as he falls and his landing makes a big impact.

GABE
Oh what'd you do now!?

Roy moans in pains loudly.

ROY
I'm down! I'm down! Go on without
me! Just let the vampires eat
meeeeee!

CASTLESTRONG
Oh, come now!

Castlestrong feels Roy's ankle, determining the damage. He then pulls Roy to his feet.

CASTLESTRONG (CONT'D)
Just a sore ankle.

Roy tests out his injured leg by hobbling around the room a little bit.

ROY
(sniffling)
Y-yeah?

CASTLESTRONG
(As if a caring father)
You'll be just fine Roy. Just give
a few minutes and it'll feel as
good as new.

ROY
O-ok

GABE

Oh come on! You think you're tuff
enough to face down the biggest
baddest bad-guy after crying like
that!?

ROY

I didn't cry!

GABE

Oh yeah!? Then what's that on your
cheek!?

ROY

Holy water!

GABE

Oh yeah?

ROY

Yeah! And if you dont knock it off,
I'm gonna make **your** face covered in
more than just that!

GABE

Piff! I'd like to see you try! You
can't take me on! You couldn't even
take on Count Chocula, let alone
Dracula!

CASTLESTRONG

Cut it out you two!

GABE

Come on Lance! You and me are a
thousand times better at vampire
hunting than that wimp! Let's go on
ahead, just you and me, and leave
the cry-baby in the carriage!

ROY

Gabe!

GABE

You gotta be fearless if you're
gonna be a vampire hunter! You
gotta be brave! You can't let
anything get in under your-

There is another moan from the left. This time louder. As soon as he hears the moan, Gabe lets out a blood-curdling (and very girly) scream, bolts over to the cape, throws himself underneath it, and lays there curled up and shivering with fright.

The other two recoil, but not nearly as large as they both stand their ground. Roy and Lance are momentarily caught up checking for danger, but after making sure there is definitely nothing coming their way, it dawns on them where Roy is. They both turn to look at Roy shivering under the cloak.

ROY
(mocking Gabe)
You have to be brave, huh?

CASTLESTRONG
(amused by Gabe's actions)
Now Roy, let's not be sore losers.

The mysterious groaning happens once more, the loudest it has ever been. Whatever has been making the sounds is directly outside the stage left door. With this, Roy and Lance join Gabe curled up on the ground, shivering violently in near pants-peeing fright. As they react, the groaning and moaning continues as the tension builds. In addition to the noise becoming louder and more violent, there is the dull thunk of fists beating on the door to the room. The three hunters have to yell to be heard over the commotion outside of the door.

ROY
What **IS** that!?

GABE
I don't know, but it sounds angry!

CASTLESTRONG
It'll be OK, as long as you remember your training!

ROY
Oh no! I can't remember what to do Lance!

CASTLESTRONG
That's OK! Neither can I!

GABE
I DON'T WANT DRACULA TO SUCK MY BLOOD!

CASTLESTRONG
NEITHER DO I!

GABE
OH NO! IT BROKE DOWN THE DOOR!

With that, and a HUGE crash, THE MUMMY appears stage left!

THE MUMMY
MRRRUUUUHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

ALL THREE HUNTERS
AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

THE MUMMY
(reacting)
AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

There is a tense moment of the stares; the trio at the mummy, the mummy at the trio. There is several seconds of silence as the two groups process who and what is in front of them.

CASTLESTRONG
(breaking the silence)
...yoooouuu're not Dracula, are
you...

THE MUMMY
(just as confused as the
hunters)
...No, I'm The Mummy. You don't
happen to be Rex Fearless...?

CASTLESTRONG
No, I'm Lance Castlestrong! Expert
Hunter of the Unknown!

ROY
And I'm Roy! His assistant.

CASTLESTRONG
Oh yes, this is Roy. And Gabe.

GABE
(still unsure)
Hey.

THE MUMMY
Wait... you're Lance- OH MAN! WOOG!
Am I **relieved!**

CASTLESTRONG
Relieved about what?

THE MUMMY
Oh man, oh- it's just- that, well.
I've heard of you.

CASTLESTRONG
You've heard of me?

THE MUMMY

Oh yeah man, *Lance Castlestrong*,
Expert Hunter of the Unknown!?

ROY

And Roy!

THE MUMMY

Hey! And Roy!

CASTLESTRONG

I'm still not clear on why you know
me.

THE MUMMY

I have heard *all* the stories,
gotten all the newspaper clippings,
I am your **biggest** fan Mr.
Castlestrong

CASTLESTRONG

(deeply flattered)

Really? I didn't realize you
monsters talked to each other.

THE MUMMY

Oh yeah, we have a newsletter.
That's why I am **so** relieved that
I'm haunting that Fearless guy.

CASTLESTRONG

Rex Fearless?

THE MUMMY

Yeah, not too worried about him.

CASTLESTRONG

Nah, nothing to fear from that guy.
Apparently not like...
(puffing out his chest)
...me.

THE MUMMY

This is such a crazy coincidence.

GABE

Yeah, how did you end up in
Dracula's Castle?

THE MUMMY

Is that where we are!? You know, I got directions from a gas station attendant about 3 miles down the road. I think I got totally turned around.

CASTLESTRONG

Hey, we have a map in the carriage.

THE MUMMY

You do!? Aw, that would be great!

CASTLESTRONG

And hey, there might be a picture of me in there that I might be able to sign for ya.

THE MUMMY

(ecstatic)

REALLY!

CASTLESTRONG

(winking)

Anything for my biggest fan.

They start walking to the door and Lance puts his arm around The Mummy. They continue to talk as they walk out stage right.

CASTLESTRONG (CONT'D)

(The beginning of the conversation that trails off as they exit)

And you know what? I'll even knock some of the price off for you. That autograph is only gonna be **fifteen** dollars.

THE MUMMY

Gee thanks Mr. Castlestrong!

They continue to chat as they exit, with Roy and Gabe following them. The stage is empty for a moment. Then the groaning starts back up. There are two groans heard offstage, the second louder than the first. The third groan is used as the entrance noise for DRACULA jumping on stage from the left.

DRACULA

BLAAAAA!

He looks around.

DRACULA (CONT'D)
Hello?

Another look around.

DRACULA (CONT'D)
Lance Castlestrong?

One last look.

DRACULA (CONT'D)
Eh, I'm going back to bed.

Dracula slouches off right.

THE END