

Dracula

68

DRACULA

ACT III

~~holds it out toward DRACULA in his clenched right fist. DRACULA recoils, turns quickly to window. HARKER appears through window and holds crucifix toward DRACULA in clenched fist. DRACULA recoils and turns to down R. SEWARD enters window, holding crucifix when HARKER does. The THREE MEN stand during the following scene with right arms pointing toward DRACULA. He turns, walks to fireplace, turns and faces them.)~~

DRACULA. (R., back to audience—ironically) My friends, I regret I was not present to receive your calls at my house.

VAN HELSING. (Looks at watch) Four minutes until sunrise.

DRACULA. (Crossing to below sofa, looking at wrist watch) Your watch is correct, Professor. (Facing down R.)

VAN HELSING. (Step c.) Your life in death has reached its end.

SEWARD. (Step toward c.) By God's mercy.

DRACULA. (HARKER steps toward DRACULA. DRACULA, turning to them, suavely) It's end? Not yet, Professor. I have still more than three minutes to add to my five hundred years.

HARKER. And three minutes from now you'll be in hell, where a thousand years of agony will not bring you one second nearer the end of your punishment.

VAN HELSING. Silence, Harker. Miss Lucy forbade this. She asked for prayer, and for pity. (To DRACULA) Make your peace with God, Man-That-Was. We are not your judges—we know not how this curse may have come upon you.

DRACULA. (Furiously) You fools! You think with your wafers, your wolf's-bane, you can destroy me. me, the king of my kind? You shall see. Five

of my earth boxes you have polluted. Have you found the sixth?

VAN HELSING. You cannot reach your sixth refuge now. Take your true form as Werewolf if you will. Your fangs may rend us, but we have each sworn to keep you here—(*Looks at watch*)—for two minutes and a half, when you must collapse and we can make an end.

DRACULA. (*Crosses to L. of couch*) You keep me. Fools, listen and let my words ring in your ears all your lives, and torture you on your deathbeds. I go, I go to sleep in my box for a hundred years. You have accomplished that much against me, Van Helsing. But in a century I shall wake, and call my bride to my side from her tomb, my Lucy, my Queen. (*On line "My Lucy, my Queen," HARKER and SEWARD step in.*) I have other brides of old times who await me in their vaults in Transylvania. But I shall set her above them all.

HARKER. Should you escape, we know how to save Lucy's soul, if not her life.

DRACULA. (*Stepping in to L. of divan*) Ah, the stake. Yes, but only if she dies by day. I shall see that she dies by night. She shall come to an earth box of mine at her death and await her Master. To do to her what you did to my Mina, Van Helsing, you must find her body, and that you will not.

HARKER. Then she shall die by day.

DRACULA. (*Crosses to c.*) You will kill her? You lack the courage, you poor rat of flesh and blood.

SEWARD. Silence, John—he is doomed. This is his revenge. He hopes to trouble us—afterwards.

VAN HELSING. (*Looks at watch*) Thirty seconds. (*They move in.*)

DRACULA. (*Calmly, suavely again*) I thank you for reminding me of the time.

~~VAN HELSING. Harker, open the curtains. (Harker opens curtains. RED LIGHT of van Helsing)~~