

Once Bitten – Act 2

Scene 1

Living Room – Bella's flat

13.Song – Once Bitten

The lights are down as we hear a noisy guitar cadenza. The lights are raised as the drums kick in.

Act 2 – the party is in full swing. The atmosphere feels more charged, dangerous, erotic. The lights are lower, the bright costumes of the Vampettes and Flash's gang have been replaced by clothes that are slicker, darker – dare we say everyone looks a little more available! – as if we the audience were now watching after the benefit of several drinks!

CHORUS (solo lines ad lib as required)

**Midnight ... and everyone's here
Dancing ... with horny fiends
Laughing ... together with friends
We're all playing, playing naughty games.**

**Show me ... your love tonight
Taunt me ... I like to fright
Teach me ... with your tongue
We're partying, we're partying all night long.**

**Once Bitten
Twice shy
Three times is lucky
Four times is feeling so alive**

**Once Bitten
Twice, twice shy
Three times is lucky
Four times is feeling so alive**

**Midnight ... and everyone's here
Dancing ... with horny fiends
Laughing ... together with friends
We're all playing, playing naughty games.**

**Once Bitten
Twice shy
Three times is lucky
Four times is feeling so alive**

**Once Bitten
Twice, twice shy
Three times is lucky
Four times is feeling so alive**

GIRLS

Dancing's like a drug I can never give up

BOYS

Fooling around, hope I never grow up

GIRLS

**Once I was young and smitten
Then I met him and I was bitten**

BOYS

**Can't control myself, when she is near
So we drink and drink till our fears disappear**

ALL

**We're gonna party tonight
We're gonna party, party tonight**

**Once Bitten
Twice shy
Three times is lucky
Four times is feeling so alive**

**Once Bitten
Twice, twice shy
Three times is lucky
Feel like I'm never gonna die
Never gonna die, never never gonna die once bitten
Never gonna die, never never gonna die once bitten
Never gonna die, never never gonna die once bitten
Never gonna die, the party's so alive
Once Bitten**

As the party continues, Flash, still in his party dress swaggers over to his mates.

FLASH

Well, I did what you wanted – I snogged Syd. Guess that means I won the bet.

The boys all cheer laddishly, do their handshakes etc.

BIFF

Knew you wouldn't let us down – whatta man! (*The boys play along with Flash's delusion*)

FLASH

Hey, don't underestimate the Flashmeister!

CHAV

I guess we can't. Syd's a pretty smart, cool girl. Guess you must have won her over with your wit (*the boys laugh*) and charm.

GRUNT

Nah – must have been his sartorial elegance. (*They laugh as they pull at his frock – lifting the hem and whistling*) I'm feeling a little stirring myself.

BIFF

No, it was obviously his intelligent conversation – how could she resist.

More laughter

FLASH

(*Stops them*) Hey, I'm intelligent!

GRUNT

Well, we know that – but you're so modest – hiding it from everyone like that.

CHAV

I hear Syd loves a modest guy. (*Chav waves his pinky to more laughter*)

FLASH

I *am* intelligent.

BIFF

..and Syd's straight, and Chav's...not a Chav.

CHAV

Hey!

The boys carry on their banter as they go to get drinks leaving Flash to his thoughts.

FLASH

(Shouting after them) I am intelligent! ...Seriously!...*(quieter, to himself)* Take me seriously. *(He looks down at himself, fingering the hem of his dress)*

CINDY

(she has been observing the proceedings) Hey Flash. Guess what – I'm pretty smart too. No one thinks I am, but hey, that doesn't matter – suits me just fine. One thing I will say though, I don't think I've ever mistaken a real kiss for a drug induced one.

FLASH

What?

CINDY

Syd –was drugged – a love potion. Well – a love mushroom. It's okay – you weren't to know – but something tells me a real man would...

Onscreen –(accompanied by a sound effect ping)

Slow motion movie of a balloon being popped by a pin. Caption – Flash's ego.

Scene 2

Kitchen – Bella's flat

Zac, Max and Val are alone in the kitchen. Val is washing Zac's neck wound.

ZAC

What just happened? I was all set to... do the deed... and she gets in there first? I don't understand? Is she a vampire? I mean – the marks on her neck...

MAX

That's what I would like to know, unexpected to say the least *(pointedly)* eh Val.

VAL

(She admits it) Okay, okay. I got peckish. I mean – she looked so delicious, all tearful and miserable. It was only a little nip – less than a pint. I didn't think it would have that effect on her.

MAX

What a balls up. Val – if the council find out you've been inappropriate with the clients – it's more than P45 time...

*Onscreen –(accompanied by a sound effect ping)
Picture of a guillotine.*

ZAC

Well, excuse me, I'm sorry about your job prospects, really – but, another thing, why am I not – you know, in demon hell – unless this is it, stuck with you two.

MAX

Ah yes, you noticed. Well, remember – you got bitten at midnight in Transylvania on the 30th October. You have 24 hours to administer your first bite in order to avoid an eternity of anguish in the demon hell.

ZAC

Yes – midnight on the 31st of October.

MAX

(Embarrassed) No – two in the morning on the 1st of November.

ZAC

What!

VAL

Seems we maybe forgot about the time difference between Romania and England...But midnight at Halloween – it would have been so cool!
(To Max) We'd have definitely got a bonus for that.

ZAC

(Gradually getting more wound up) So, let me get this straight. I'm killed, turned into some sort of undead monster, dragged to a party where I'm instructed to do the same to my best friend, only before I even have the opportunity to degrade myself to the task, you get in there first, and then it turns out, it's all a sham.

MAX

Well not quite – the twenty four hour thing still stands...

ZAC

(Launching himself at Max, teeth beared, animal like) You idiots! I could... *(he stops himself, out of breath and emotional)*

Max pulls his hipflask out of his pocket and hands it to Zac who starts to drink from it hungrily – red stains dripping down his face.

MAX

Good good, use that hate. It's your destiny. Use it to join us...

ZAC

...on the dark side? Please, no more Return of the Jedi – it doesn't suit you Max.

MAX

Ha ha. Feels good though, that passion, doesn't it!

ZAC

Hmm. (*is he convinced?*)

MAX

Anyway – we'll have to leave you with that thought for a short while. We've another client to attend to.

VAL

We do indeed Max. Bella! Who knows how she's going to turn out! She wasn't supposed to change at all!

13.A - Underscore, mysterious music.

VOICEOVER

The effect of the vampire's bite is always hard to predict. Some, like Zac fight hard against the inevitability of their new found instincts. For others, repressed feelings and passions, unleashed by the bloody purge, come bubbling to the surface with reckless abandon.

Scene 3

Bedroom – Bella's flat

Bella is lying on the bed alone in the room. She awakens confused. She looks down at the blood on her hands (her face is wiped clean) she begins to remember.

14.Song – My Lips are on Fire.

BELLA

**Where am I?
What am I?
Can't recall what happened tonight.
I'm so cold, so cold
But I'm feeling so much more alive
This dress is so drab, it doesn't flatter my neckline**

She tears at her nightie – the material round her shoulders is torn away revealing her décolletage and the two small puncture marks on her neck.

**Use my body
It's time to tease somebody.**

**My lips are on fire
I'll never tire
I'll fight for the right to what I want
I can fly higher, my lips are on fire.
Now is the time to open brand new doors
I love myself more than before.**

**Touch Me
Tease Me
I feel so magical
Go on and please me
Hmm, I'm a flirty girl
This dress is so drab, doesn't show off my legs.**

She tears at the hem of her nightie revealing a shapely thigh.

**Boys where are you today
I want to play**

**My lips are on fire
I'll never tire
I'll fight for the right to what I want
I can fly higher, my lips are on fire.
Now is the time to open brand new doors
I love myself more than before.
I love myself more than before.**

**It's time to take this innocence,
I can truly see.
You know Flash and Zac and Bella make a flirty, dirty three.
But why have three when there's four or five or more.
Yes I want more, I want more!**

**My lips are on fire
I'll never tire
I'll fight for the right to what I want
I can fly higher, my lips are on fire.
Now is the time to open brand new doors
I love myself more than before.
I love myself more than before.
More than before.**

Max and Val appear – as in the prologue – ready to deliver their introductory spiel.

BELLA

Who are you? I don't remember inviting you to my party?

VAL

Hello dear – I'm afraid we have some rather shocking news. We're here from the vampire council.

BELLA

The vampire council?

VAL

Yes – this may be a little hard to take in but something rather...unusual has happened to you.

BELLA

(She looks down at herself) Oh – I think I've worked it out.

MAX

Oh – well, we're here to help you with the transition.

BELLA

Help me?

VAL

Yes – you must be feeling very confused and strange.

BELLA

I don't think so. Quite the opposite – *(she snarls and bears her teeth at Max)* – I've never felt more exhilarated in my life.

VAL

Yes dear – but we're here to show you the ropes – help you discover yourself – show you what to do next.

BELLA

No thank you. I know exactly what I'm doing, finally... oh... I feel amazing! Now go on, run along you strange, strange...freaks! I know exactly what I fancy!

Max and Val slope off, trying to keep their heads held high.

VAL

Well, I think that went really well.

MAX

Mm, yes – good to know we've done a good job – helping people – philanthropists, that's what we are Val...

Syd rushes in breathless – ignoring Max and Val as they leave, they are still invisible.

SYD

Ah, there you are Bella. Listen, about Flash, I'm so sorry... *(she stops and looks at Bella)*. Are you okay? You look...different.

BELLA

Oh, I'm just hunky dory...never better... But what about you? You are a tasty little thing... my my, I'm licking my lips. You're quite irresistible aren't you!

SYD

Stop mucking about Bella – the Flash thing, I was drugged! Can you believe it! That bloody Zac. Do you know what he's been keeping in your house?!

Bella is moving closer to Syd, staring lustily.

BELLA

I'm not thinking about Flash any more...all forgiven and forgotten, you naughty girl. *(she eyes up Syd's neck)* Mmm... have I got an appetite.

SYD

(Flustered) What's with me today – I'm having to fight them off! Bella, this is silly!

BELLA

Rubbish – I've seen you look at me – hungry eyes! Well, now I feel the same!

SYD

(She looks down and picks up a piece of half eaten pizza off the bed)
Oh god – you too! Zac, you've got some explaining to do!

BELLA

Syd – you don't understand. Zac did something to me – it opened my eyes to...possibilities...given me.... confidence.

SYD

Zac... what? Oh, no, he didn't?!

BELLA

Oh – it was painful at first, yes...

SYD

Oh Bella, I'm so sorry. You bastard, Zac.

BELLA

...painful for him, not for me!

SYD

(She is momentarily impressed) Oh, oh – kinky!

(Bella lunges at Syd – teeth bared.)

BELLA

More than you know! *(she swoops in on Syd's neck – Syd pulls away yelping)*

SYD

Ow – did you try to bite me?!

BELLA

Don't be scared, I only want a little nibble...

SYD

Bella – what's that on your neck?! Where did you get those marks?!

BELLA

(She stops, confused, trying to remember) I...I'm not sure. It's...all a bit blurred...

SYD

Did Zac...do that to you?

BELLA

I...don't know. Zac was there, yes – there was blood. I fainted I think.

SYD

Oh my god. He had it all planned. The trip to Transylvania! The love mushrooms! Zac, no you can't be a... vampire?

BELLA

(Grinning inanely) Vampire!

SYD

(Sadly) You too Bella.

BELLA

Come to Bella!

(She lunges at Syd... who steps aside and opens the door of the wardrobe behind her... Bella falls in and Syd closes it)

SYD

I don't think so! *(She stops for breath)* Vampires – oh my god!

She tries to take in what has just happened.

15.Song – Monsters

SYD

**Somebody tell me I'm dreaming
Somebody say this isn't true
My best friend Bella's turned into a vampire
And I've locked her in this room**

**Somebody tell me I'm dreaming
Somebody say it's just a show
Where we walk out at the end and my friend
Is normal again
Somebody stop this pain**

Syd collapses on the bed, head in her hands...

...and, as the music builds we are suddenly back in the Transylvanian forest from the start of the show. As the chorus come on, populating the spooky forest we see they are no longer dressed as Halloween monsters – they ARE monsters!

Scene 3A – The Transylvanian Forest

CHORUS (ad lib solo lines as required)

**What if your teacher was a vampire?
What if your preacher was a ghoul?
What if day was night and we had monster rights?
Would the hospitals be able to treat you?**

**What if your neighbour was a werewolf?
What if your doctor was a witch?
What if day was night and we had monster rights?
Would Halloween be the party scene?**

**Monsters ...
they're coming out of the graves
Monsters ...
driving our trains and planes
Monsters ...
do we really want them in our world?**

**What if there was magic to charm us?
What if humans were mules?**

**What if day was night and we had monster rights?
Would children be safe at their schools?**

**What if demons were plenty?
What if your soul was never safe?
What if day was night and we had monster rights?
Would you know you were awake?**

**Monsters ...
they're coming out of the graves
Monsters ...
driving our trains and planes
Monsters ...
do we really want them in our world?**

**Oooo oooo ooo we're coming to get you
Oooo oooo ooo who says monsters aren't good?
Oooo oooo ooo we're coming to get you
Oooo oooo ooo we're the evil truth**

**We're the evil truth ... we're the evil truth
we're the evil
Monsters ...
they're coming out of the graves
Monsters ...
driving our trains and planes
Monsters ...
eating your family
Monsters ...
a sick twisted fantasy
Monsters ...
are they really welcome in our world?
Monsters...**

*As the the chorus of monsters and the forest fades away to
reveal the bedroom again – Syd awakes from her nightmare.*

Scene 3B – Bella's flat, Bedroom

SYD

**Have I really been dreaming?
Are there monsters in our world?
And would best friends kiss and kill one another
Simply for the thrill**

**Somebody tell me I'm dreaming
Somebody say this isn't real
Somebody save me from this nightmare
Somebody save me and this world...**

She starts searching the bedroom for weapons. She discovers a baseball bat, a can of hairspray and bicycle helmet. With a look of stoic determination she leaves the room.

**Zac ... you're dead ... you better note right now
When I search and find you, get one thing straight
I'm going to avenge you for killing my mate, burn
you and stake you and eviscerate
When ... you die ... then only then will this
nightmare ever end, I'm going to fight, going to
fight, time to live and not to die**

As she leaves the room she runs into Flash – who has changed back into his suit. He has ditched the devils horns too – a more sober approach.

SYD

Flash – vampires! (*Stops and stares*) Oh, given up on the frock have we?

FLASH

Come on Syd, give me some credit. Like I'd spend all night dicking about in a dress.

SYD

(*Looking down at Flash's feet – he is still wearing stilettos*)
Kept the stilettos though I see...

FLASH

(Embarrassed) I couldn't find my shoes...Anyway, vampires? Is this another game? I'll raise you... Godzilla!

SYD

No. Bella and Zac – they're vampires!

FLASH

What? Real vampires? – like off the telly?

SYD

Yes – like off the telly! What do we do?

FLASH

I dunno? Ask Cindy – I think she dated one once!

SYD

This is serious! Bella tried to take a chunk out of my neck!

FLASH

No accounting for taste!

SYD

She's trapped in the wardrobe.

FLASH

Well, we'll deal with her later. Leave Zac to me!

SYD

We're doomed!

FLASH

(Tetchy) What do you mean – think I can't deal with Zac? I'm pretty capable you know.

SYD

(Taken aback) Well, I didn't say you weren't – but vampires...have you ever met one? Knew they existed for real?

FLASH

Don't doubt me Syd. I know what I'm doing. It's about time people realised that.

SYD

For God's sake Flash, this isn't about your ego. This is about our friends. I've no idea what's happened to them, what we can do. Go on then, do what you want, get yourself killed. Yes, maybe we *are* all doomed!*(She storms off)*

FLASH

(To himself) I *am* capable. You just watch me.

Scene 4

The kitchen – Bella's Flat

Zac is alone – pondering.

16.Song – MindWar

ZAC

**I never swear, I never steal, Always true to what I feel
Try to keep my mind pure
I never lie, I never cheat, Promises I always keep
Try to keep my mind pure
But now I can't remember what all this goodness is for ...
I'm in a mind war**

**I want to swear, I want to steal, I never wanted to believe
Try to keep my mind pure
I want to lie, I want to cheat, I really want to feed
Try to keep my mind pure
And now all I can remember is what a vampire is for ...
I'm in a mind war
Mind war
Mind war**

**Bella, so beautiful, so beautiful
but the taste of blood I want more**

Flash enters and sings on the opposite side of the stage to Zac. The two of them are not aware of each other and do not acknowledge each other as they sing.

FLASH

**I always swear, pretend I don't feel, have to be on the
winning team
Try to keep my mind unpure
Okay I lie, okay I cheat
Promises I never keep
Try to keep my mind unpure
But now I want to learn, to love, find out what life is for
I'm in a mind war
I'm in a mind war**

FLASH

**I always swear,
Pretend I don't feel,
Have to be on the winning team
Try to keep my mind unpure
Okay I lie, okay I cheat
Promises I never keep
Try to keep my mind unpure
But now I want to learn,
To love, find out what life is for
I'm in a mind war
I'm in a mind war
Mind war
Mind war
Mind war**

ZAC

**I never swear
Never cheat

Try to keep my mind pure
I never lie

Try to keep my mind pure
But now I am a vampire
I'm a vampire!

Mind war
Mind war
Mind war**

FLASH and ZAC

**Do I fight it or simply hide it?
Mindwar
I'm in a mind war
Mind war**

**Mind war
Mind war**

Do I fight it or simply hide it?

Mindwar
Mind war
Mind war

Mind war
Mind war

On opposite sides of the kitchen Flash and Zac calmly and grimly acknowledge each others presence. Flash, with 2 fingers- 1 from each hand, makes the sign of the cross and thrusts it towards Zac – who cringes back in pain.

FLASH

Wow – that really works! What does it feel like?

ZAC

Like – being kicked in the nuts!

FLASH

Really? Cool! (He does it again)

ZAC

Ouch – stop that!

FLASH

How does it work? I mean – it's not like I believe in anything.

ZAC

Me neither. *(They both look up to the heavens tentatively. Flash makes the finger cross again)*

Stop it! Ok – you've made your point.

Flash stops then goes to make the sign again. Zac goes to stop him with a high kick. Flash grabs Zac's leg leaving him hopping.

ZAC

Let go!

FLASH

Never!

Zac manages to grab hold of Flash's ear and the two of them hop around for a few seconds stuck in this rather ridiculous impasse.

ZAC

Okay, this isn't getting us anywhere. Let go?

FLASH

Count of three?

ZAC and FLASH

One, two, three...

They both let go and stagger to opposite sides of the room, dignities bruised.

FLASH

(Pauses before announcing) So – the geek is now a monster!

ZAC

Hardly. I always thought of you as the monster... a monster in a frock apparently! Suited you I hear.

FLASH

(Pointedly) A bit of fun. You know, with mates. Oh – no you don't know – you don't have any.

ZAC

Yeah – I know about mates. Mates that don't spend their whole time making me look like a jerk. Mates that accept me for who I am, what I like. Stop and think, just for a second. I may be a monster now – but you, you're a joke, Colin.

FLASH

Flash!

ZAC

I've really had my eyes opened tonight – not by the vampire thing. I'll admit that's been a bit of a bizarre thing to take. No, I've had my eyes opened by a girl, my best friend. I'm worth something – I know what I want from life. Have you ever – I mean, over and above the practical jokes and the inappropriate groping.

FLASH

Yeah, yeah – now we get to the bottom of it. Jealous! Your little girlfriend didn't even notice what the rest of us have seen for years – you're obsession with her. Why? Because of me! Inappropriate groping? Hardly in the same league as what you've been up to. Was that the only way you could get her notice to you. I call that grievous bodily harm!

ZAC

Oh! No! I didn't bite Bella!

FLASH

Of course not! Well, I don't see any other vampires here do you?

ZAC

Well – no you wouldn't. They're my vampire coaches. They're invisible to everyone except me – but Val got hungry and...

FLASH

Invisible vampire coaches – come on Zac – is that the best you can come up with?!

ZAC

I'm not lying, truly!

Max and Val rush in – still invisible to Flash

MAX

Zac – come on, we're leaving.

ZAC

It's alright guys – I can handle them.

MAX

No, you don't understand – change of plan –we're out of here. Quickly!

Max and Val grab Zac by the arms and drag him out the back door of the house. Flash looks on confused.

FLASH

(Calling after him) Hey, come back and fight like a man! Off to talk to your invisible chums are you? Undead nutter!

He rushes through to the living room where the rest of the party are gathered.

Scene 5

The Living Room – Bella's flat.

SYD

Cindy's called a vampire hunter.

CINDY

I've got an app on my I- phone.

SYD

Did you find Zac?

FLASH

Yeah – but he went all weird. Started talking to himself and then threw himself out the back door!

The doorbell rings – Buffy Van Helsing enters – dressed like Lara Croft, she is a stunning and imposing specimen – bristling weaponry, crossbows, stakes etc. Syd is visibly impressed.

BUFFY

(With a Southern U.S. accent. It is clear it is the same voice as the narrator) Did someone order a vampire hunter? Lucky I was in the area.

SYD

Oh yes!