



Vampire

by John Waterhouse

Setting: Three flats in a trendy modern block.

Time: The present.

Cast

Vlad (at No. 6) - 40s

A gentile doctor from Romania.

Jean (at No. 1) - 30s

A fitness-loving marketing executive.

Fay (at No. 3) – 30s

A fitness-loving research chemist.

Yani (at No. 9) - 40s

An engineer from Bulgaria.

Harry (at No. 10) – 30s

An aspiring accountant.

Victoria (at No. 2) – 40s

A socialite from London.

Erzabet (at No. 8) – 40s

A socialite from London.

Albert (at No. 12) – 50s

An odd-job man.

Scene Listing

Act One

Scene One.	Jean's flat.	<i>(Jean, Fay, Vlad, Yani, Albert, Victoria)</i>
Scene Two	Harry's flat.	<i>(Harry, Yani, Victoria))</i>
Scene Three	Vlad's flat.	<i>(Harry, Vlad, Jean, Albert)</i>
Scene Four	Jean's flat.	<i>(Harry, Jean, Fay, Albert)</i>
Scene Five	Vlad's flat.	<i>(Harry, Erzabet, Albert, Vlad, Fay)</i>

Act Two

Scene One	Harry's flat.	<i>(Harry, Victoria, Erzabet)</i>
Scene Two.....	Jean's flat.	<i>(Jean, Fay, Albert, Vlad, Victoria)</i>
Scene Three.....	Harry's flat.	<i>(Harry, Yani, Erzabet, Albert, Fay, Jean)</i>
Scene Four.....	Vlad's flat.	<i>(Vlad, Albert, Harry, Erzabet, Yani, Jean)</i>
Scene Five.....	Jean's flat.	<i>(Jean, Fay, Yani, Harry, Erzabet, Albert, Victoria, Vlad)</i>

Act One

Scene One. Jean's flat.

Loud rock music is playing. Jean is exercising vigorously, wearing skimpy gym gear. A bat appears above her which at first is unnoticed. Jean sees the bat as it almost lands upon her and screams. She ducks and weaves as the bat hovers above her before managing to open the front door. She runs to the kitchen and come out with a mop and tries coax the bat outside. Eventually, the bat flies upwards and she presumes it has flown outside. Jean turns the music off and breathing heavily, she enters into the kitchen. She runs out with a yell as the bat appears again. She chases it into the kitchen a thud is heard as she pulls a window shut.

Jean: (off-stage). And stay out!

Jean looks around to make sure there is no bat still in her flat. Satisfied, she changes the cd to relaxing music and pours herself a glass of gin.

Jean: I don't know what that thing was but it's not staying here. I need a gin
Jean downs the gin and strips down to her underwear before going into the bathroom. The sound of a shower is heard. After a pause, Jean screams. Steam is emitting from the door way as she comes out with just a towel wrapped around her. She turns off the music and makes a phone call.

Jean: (on phone) Hello. Is that the plumber? You've been to my flat previously. It's about my shower. It's only letting boiling water come out of the tap. You've someone in the area? Great; I've just had a bit of a fright and really need a shower. I'm in flat 1 at Stonewall Mansions; the names Jean. Have you got that? Yes, flat 1. Thanks. Bye.

Jean pours herself another gin & tonic and turns the music back on. The doorbell rings.

Jean: Oh, hello Fay.

Fay: Hi. I'm not interrupting anything, am I?

Jean: No, not at all. I was about to have a shower but the water's only coming out as hot. Come in.

Fay: Are you all right? You look flustered.

Jean: It's nothing. Just a little bird or something had entered the flat. Gave me a fright.

Fay: Well, that's not the only new arrival. I saw furniture being moved into number 6.

Jean: Really! Have you seen them?

Fay: Yeah. He looks quite distinguished!

Jean: So it's a 'he'. Young and good looking?

Fay: I'd say suave. Not sure about age.

Jean: Sounds interesting. Better than that boring accountant upstairs!

Fay: You mean Harry? Well, that's not all. I've seen furniture going into No 9 as well.

Jean: Gosh. It'll soon be a full block again. Might liven things up a bit.

Fay: Not before time. I thought those other flats would never sell!

Jean: We're finally getting some men in the block. It was starting to feel like a private girls' school dormitory living here.

Fay: Or maybe a nunnery!

Jean: I thought being right next to a health club, the place would be full of men.

Fay: There are plenty of guys at the health club.

Jean: Yeah but half of them seem narcissistic bodybuilder freaks!

Fay: Not every one of them!

Jean: No, you've got the odd, pot-bellied beer drinker who goes there just for the sauna.

Fay: And Harry!

Jean: Yea, Harry! What else do you know about our new neighbour?

Fay: That's about it! Just thought I'd keep you upto date. Catch you later.

Jean: Sure. Thanks Fay.

Exit Fay.

The music is turned on and she starts exercising. The doorbell rings.

Vlad: Good evening. I've not caught you at a bad time?

Jean: Er, no. I just didn't expect you so soon. Please come in.

Vlad: Really? Thank you.

Jean: I can't cool it. It's simply getting hot at the moment.

Vlad: Really!

Jean: *(opens the bathroom door)* I'll show you. I hope you can suggest something.

Vlad: What did you have in mind?

Jean: I want to be able to cool the water.

Vlad: *(looks at her drink)* Er. Have you tried using ice?

Jean: Seriously?

Vlad: It works for me.

Jean: Well, do you think you can fix it?

Vlad: Sure. Where is your fridge?

Jean: What? What kind of a plumber are you?

Vlad: I am not a plumber. I am your new neighbour.

Jean: Oh, I'm sorry! I was expecting someone else.

Vlad: Ah; So that is why you're are dressed..how you say...ready for action?

Jean: No! I was about to have a shower!

Vlad: Now I understand.

Jean: Anyway, pleased to meet you. I'm Jean.

Vlad: Greetings. My name is Vlad. I just called to introduce myself. *(shakes hands)*.

Jean: I've just made myself a G & T. Would you like one?

Vlad: That would be delightful; thank you.

Jean: Please have a seat (*makes G & T*). So where are you from, Vlad?

Vlad: I am from Constanta.

Jean: Constanta? That's on the Black Sea, isn't it?

Vlad: Correct. In Romania. I've only recently arrived in England.

Jean: Oh, great. What do you do, Vlad?

Vlad: I am a research Doctor.

Jean: That sounds cool. You work at the local hospital?

Vlad: Ah, no. I have my own laboratory. Now please; what do you do?

Jean: Me? Oh. I'm a marketing executive.

Vlad: Interesting. And what do you market?

Jean: Oh, various things. Cosmetics mainly but we get involved in bath and hair products as well.

Vlad: You have a very nice flat. I think I am going to enjoy living here. I thought I would say hello. (*downs drink*) Now if you will excuse me, I must supervise the remainder of my furniture. Antiques requiring special care. I'm sure we will see a lot more of each other.

Jean: Yes, I'm sure. Nice to meet you.

Vlad: And you. Let me give my number in case you want to call me. (*hands Jean card*).

Jean: Thank you very much Vlad. I'll give you mine. (*writes number on notepad*).

Vlad: Au revoir Jean.

Exit Vlad. Jean picks up her mobile and dials Fay.

Jean: Fay? Guess what? I've just had a visit from one of the new guys and he seems pretty cool. He's a Doctor; from Romania. (*the doorbell rings*) Sorry, got to go. The plumber's here now. (*opens door*) Hi, Please come in.

Yani: Thank you. I saw you just had a visitor.

Jean: Oh, that was the new neighbour. Did they tell you what the problem is?

Yani: I did not know there was a problem. Has he upset you?

Jean: Not the neighbour; my bath. The taps will only give out hot water.

Yani: Oh; I am sorry to hear that.

Jean: Do you think you can fix it?

Yani: Well, I can have a go. I normally do pest control.

Jean: Oh, really? Well you're here now. It's through there. (*points to door*)

Yani: Very well. (*Yani goes over to the bathroom*). I think it might be an electrical problem. I'll have a look. (*Yani enters the bathroom*). It might be this!

Jean: Are you sure?

Yani: I'll try connecting a wire. (*There is a loud bang and Yani yells loudly, before coming back into the lounge; his hair is suddenly in punk style*). No, it's not what I thought. I think you need a plumber!

Jean: What are you then?

Yani: I am a...pest controller.

Jean: Oh, no! Why didn't they send a plumber?

Yani: No one sent me. I just called round to say hello.

Jean: You did?

Yani: My name is Yani. I am your new neighbour.

Jean: Oh, I see. You've moved into flat....

Yani: Number 9. How do you do? (*holds out hand*)

Jean: (*shakes hand*) Pleased to meet you. I just had another new neighbour call round.

Yani: Ah yes. I saw him moving in. These are very nice flats. I think I am going to be very happy here.

Jean: Yes, nice flats and it's a friendly area. So what kind of pests do you control, Yani?

Yani: Oh, the usual. Rat, Wasps, Bats.

Jean: Bats?

Yani: Da. They can be a problem.

Jean: Really?

Yani: Have you ever been bitten by one?

Jean: No, I don't think so.

Yani: A bat bite can have strange effects.

Jean: I've not any...well, I don't think it was a....

Yani: A bat? Ah, you have seen one.

Jean: It might have just been a little bird. I'm sure it wasn't a bat that would bite.

Yani: You are not from Bulgaria. We have vampire bats.

Jean: Ah, so you're talking about a particular type of bat.

Jean: But you have them here now! They attack you in your sleep.

Jean: Really! Here let me offer you a G & T to welcome you here. (*pours large amount of gin*). Oh, I've poured a bit too much gin.

Yani: No, no. That perfect. (*takes glass*).

Jean: But you need tonic!

Yani: No tonic. How you say? Cheers!

Jean: Oh well. (*raises glass*) Cheers

Yani: (*downs gin in one*). Thank you. So now we have met, please call round to number 9 sometime. I leave now.

Jean: Yes, I certainly will. (*the doorbell rings*)

Yani: Ah. I think you have another visitor. (*Yani opens the door and Albert steps in*). I see you soon, Jean. (*exits*)

Jean: Hello, please come in.

Albert: Thank you.

Jean: Are you from Eastern Europe as well?

Albert: No, I'm from Luton.

Jean: Ah. Can I offer you a G & T?

Albert: Oh, that's very kind.

Jean: So how long have you been here?

Albert: I've just arrived.

Jean: Yes, of course. Cheers (*they clink glasses*).

Albert: Cheers. Nice flat, this!

Jean: Yes; I'm sure you'll be very happy here.

Albert: Well, I hope I won't be here that long. I've got other places to go to.

Jean: Really? What do you do?

Albert: I'm a plumber.

Jean: Are you? Oh, you really are a plumber!

Albert: Why, don't I look like one?

Jean: Oh, yes. Of course. You've come about the shower?

Albert: Isn't that the problem? Just hot water coming through?

Jean: Yes. I'll show you. Please, take your drink with you.

Albert is shown into the bathroom.

Albert: (*from inside bathroom*) Ok, leave me to it.

The doorbell rings.

Jean: Oh, hello Fay.

Fay: Hi, Guess what? One of them just called round.

Jean: One? I've had two of them.

Fay: Really? (*sound of banging in bathroom*).

Jean: That's just the plumber.

Fay: Oh, he's round is he?

Jean: Yeah. One of the new arrivals had a go fixing it and didn't get very far.

Fay: You let someone you'd only just met fix your plumbing?

Jean: I thought he was the plumber!

Fay: Ah. I see. (*a loud bang followed by a fizz then a pop comes from the bathroom followed by yell from Albert*).

Enter Albert.

Albert: Has someone else been trying to fix this?

Jean: Er, no. A man from another flat did have just a very quick look at it.

Albert: It looks like he left a loose wire hanging! I could have been frazzled.

Jean: Oh, I am sorry.

Albert: I need to get some fuses. Don't let anyone else go into the bathroom!

Jean: I certainly won't.

Exit Albert.

Fay: Remind me not to let him fiddle about in my bathroom!

Jean: That's not all. You should have seen how quickly he downed a large measure of neat gin!

Fay: That wasn't the suave one, was it?

Jean: No. The rough and ready one.

Fay: Oh, well you can have him. I'll have the other.

Jean: Er, I seem to recollect he came round to see me first.

Fay: Who was that plumber who just walked out?