

START →

DRACULA. *He has entered at window up R. while lights are out. When GREEN SPOT comes on he is R.C. MAID screams again as she sees him.)*

DRACULA. *(Soothingly, his English perfect but his accent foreign)* Forgive me. My footfall is not heavy, and your rugs are soft.

MAID. *(Crossing slowly R.)* It's all right, sir—but how did you come in?

DRACULA. *(Smiling)* The door of this room was ajar, so I did not knock. How is Miss Lucy and her nervous prostration?

MAID. *(On a direct line with DRACULA)* I think she's better, sir.

DRACULA. Ah, good. But the strain of Miss Lucy's illness has made you also ill.

MAID. How did you know, sir? But it's only a pain in my head that runs down into the neck.

DRACULA. *(Winningly)* I can remove this pain.

MAID. I don't understand, sir.

DRACULA. Such pains yield readily to suggestion.

MAID. *(Raises arm slightly to shield herself)* Excuse me, sir, but if it's hypnotism you mean, I'd rather have the pain.

DRACULA. *(Winningly)* Ah, you think of hypnotism as an ugly waving of arms and many passes. That is not my method. *(As he speaks he gestures quietly with his left hand and she stares at him, fascinated. Placing his left thumb against her forehead, he stares straight into her eyes. She makes feeble effort to remove his hand, then remains quiescent and he now speaks coldly, imperatively; turns her face front before speaking)* What is given can be taken away. From now on you have no pain. And you have no will of your own. Do you hear me?

MAID. *(Murmurs)* I hear you.

DRACULA. When you awake you will not remember what I say. Doctor Seward ordered you today

to sleep with your mistress every night in the same bed because of her bad dreams. Is it not so?

MAID. (*Murmurs*) Yes, Master.

DRACULA. Your mistress is threatened by horror and by death, but I will save her. A man whose will is at cross purposes with mine has come to this house. I will crush him. Receive your orders. You hear me?

MAID. Yes, Master.

DRACULA. Hear and obey. From now on you will carry out any suggestion that reaches you from my brain instantly without question. When I will you to do a thing it shall be done. My call will reach you soon. (*GREEN SPOT dims out slowly.* DRAC- * END
~~ULA exits through window. LIGHTS come on.~~
DOGS howl outside until VAN HELSING enters L. MAID looks up at window, then to L.; takes a step or two R. as VAN HELSING enters. She starts when door shuts.)

VAN HELSING. (*Enters L. His face is paler. He looks drawn and weak. He carries box tied with string. Crosses to R.C.*) You've not left your mistress alone?

MAID. Doctor Seward is with her, sir. (*Sways a little.*)

VAN HELSING. (*Looking at her keenly*) What's wrong with you, my girl?

MAID. Nothing, sir.

VAN HELSING. You've just had a severe shock.

MAID. It's nothing, sir. I—I suddenly felt queer. (*Looks toward window*) That's all. I can't remember anything.

VAN HELSING. Mr. Harker has just arrived. Ask Doctor Seward to come here. Remain with Miss Lucy yourself.

MAID. Yes, sir. (*Crosses R.*) She's dreadfully upset, sir.

VAN HELSING. Upset over what?