

Madeline, the Governess I

The memory of that night still haunts me, and I think it always will. Here's what I remember.

A gang of Vampires had been preying on the outskirts of Kamiko. These were an extra vicious sort who had used dark magic to transform their ghouls into hellhounds: large, vicious steeds for the vampires to ride upon. Almost all necromancy uses the bodies of ghouls as its fodder. The presence of hellhounds meant that at least one among the vampire's number was a lich: an undead sorcerer. Most dangerous.

Ordinarily, I'd have sent off Kitsune to deal with their number without hesitation, but magicians are a danger of another sort. I knew it would have to be me who confronted the lich. I forbade my foundlings from engaging them, and locked myself away in my study to prepare with the magics necessary to overcome this threat to my people.

But Kitsune, who was then the Nightswatcher, is still young and rife with arrogance. She waited until I was deep in my meditative practice and then snuck out of the Chateau to confront them on her own.

Once Luna caught wind of this, she ran after her adoptive sister without a moment's thought. For this I am grateful. She almost certainly saved Kitsune's life that night, but the price was a terrible one for her to pay.

Even with Luna's help, they were outnumbered. There were four vampires, including the lich, and three hellhounds. When Luna killed the Lich by beheading it with a sword, the rest of the undead all turned upon her, ignoring Kitsune.

This allowed Kitsune to waste them relatively quickly, but not before one bit Luna. And when that happens, it is already too late. Luna's sister carried her home to be safe in bed for the duration of her Unbirthing. We took shifts caring for her, and when we were too tired, members of the village came in our stead. While she was under, we all deliberated on how to protect her from the worst effects of the Curse.

