

"BITE ME"

A DICK SHAMUS MYSTERY

Written by
by Bruce Kane

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"Bite Me" is recreation of an old time radio broadcast or a brand new comedy/dramatic podcast. The play is written to be performed by actors at microphones reading from scripts.

The set may be as minimal as a row of chairs for the actors and two or three microphones for them to speak into. The set can be as elaborate as a full recreation of a recording studio or anything in between.

The cast can be a full compliment of actors or a minimal number playing all the parts and changing their vocal characteristics to represent the characters they are playing.

Because the actors will be reading from scripts rehearsal times can be reduced although performances should be honed before going on stage.

Sound effects and music can be performed live on stage or recorded and played back electronically. The latter may provide you with more variety and flexibility.

However you choose to mount your production of "Bite Me" it is a comedy, so hopefully you will have as much enjoyment performing it as the audience will have watching you perform it.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

DICK SHAMUS - Hardboiled, tough talking private eye

COUNT DRACULA - Vampire who looks and sounds like Bela Lugosi from the old Dracula movies.

MOLLY - The object of Shamus's affections

IGOR - Bartender at a Transylvanian dive bar called "The Mausoleum"

RENFIELD - Dracula's spooky assistant.

MARTHA - Leader of Dracula's undead girlfriends.

VAN HELSING - Egotistical Transylvanian

EFFIE - Shamus's secretary.

THE DRACULETTES - Dracula's undead girlfriends .

THE DENIZENS - Ghouls, goblins and creatures who frequent the Mausoleum.

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(LIGHTS UP:

*CAST ENTERS, SCRIPTS IN HAND,
AND SIT ON CHAIRS UPSTAGE.
SHAMUS, THE ANNOUNCER AND
STAGE MANAGER APPROACH THE
MICROPHONES. REMAINING CAST
MEMBERS WILL APPROACH THE
MICROPHONES AT THE APPROPRIATE
MOMENTS)*

STAGE MANAGER

We go in three... two... one.

*(He points to cue film noir
style bluesy saxophone)*

SHAMUS

The name's Shamus... Dick Shamus. I am an operative of the F.B.I. That's the Fictional Bureau of Investigation. I handle the toughest, dirtiest cases in English literature. While other cops travel the mean streets chasing perps and crooks, I take the road less traveled and chase them down in plays and books. I am by every definition... a fictional detective.

*(Saxophone out. Stirring music
up and under)*

ANNOUNCER

(enthusiastic)

It's The Adventures of Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective starring Jason Tindal as Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective. Tonight's episode... "Bite Me."

SHAMUS

Postmark... Transylvania. Return address... 13 Abomination Lane. Sender... Abraham Van Helsing.

VAN HELSING

My dear Mr. Shamus. I'm writing to you at the suggestion of Igor, a mutual friend who wishes to remain nameless. Over the past year my country, Transylvania, has been devastated by the loss of nearly eighty per cent of its virgin population.

SHAMUS

What country hasn't?

VAN HELSING

The situation has reached crisis proportions. Igor, our mutual friend who wishes to remain nameless, says you're the man to get to the bottom of this mystery and solve our problem. Needless to say we are desperate. Please come as soon as you can. Travel instructions are included below. Yours truly, Dr. Abraham Van Helsing. M.D., D.D.S, Ph.D. and other three letter acronyms T...N...M. Too numerous to mention.

SHAMUS

How could I refuse? I mean I wanted to refuse. Who wants to go to Transylvania in the off season? Who wants to go to Transylvania? But, when you're a fictional detective you go where you're needed. So, I did what I always do when someone in trouble reaches out. I slipped on my trench coat. Grabbed my fedora and cued my saxophone accompaniment.

(BLUESY SAXOPHONE UP AND UNDER)

SHAMUS

Van Helsing's directions were very clear. You leave the Pennsylvania Station about a quarter to four.

(SFX: TRAIN SOUNDS)

SHAMUS

You read a magazine and you're in Krysetstamor. Have breakfast in the diner. Nothing could be finer, than to have your ham and eggs in Asia Minor.

(TRAIN SOUNDS OUT)

(SAXOPHONE OUT)

SHAMUS

It was midnight when the train pulled in. But this being Transylvania, the train always pulled in at midnight. I made my way to The Mausoleum, a dive on the wrong side of Cemetery Row. The right side of Cemetery Row being the cemetery. The joint was dark, dank, dingy, damp, decaying, decrepit, dreary, dismal and depressing. It reminded me a

dame I was once crazy about. It was "Miserable Hour" at The Mausoleum, so naturally the place was filled with the usual contingent of uglies, creatures, zombies, ghouls and goblins. The Denizens greeting wasn't what you would call warm and fuzzy.

THE DENIZENS

(spooky)

Welcome to Transylvania, where you can live your life and still be dead. Welcome to Transylvania where your days and nights are filled with dread. Welcome to Transylvania, there's no place we can think of more perverse. Welcome to Transylvania where your Uber driver shows up in a hearse.

IGOR

Well, well. If it isn't Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective.

SHAMUS

I should have known. Long time no see, Igor. Still in the monster making business?

IGOR

Gave that up a long time ago. Hard to find good parts. Besides I was only a silent partner.

SHAMUS

Whatever happened to your old boss?

IGOR

Dr. Frankenstein? After the locals torched his castle, he moved to Bucharest. You could say he's brought... "new life to the town."

SHAMUS

You could say it. I never would.

IGOR

So Van Helsing took my advice.

SHAMUS

So you're the mutual friend who wished to remain nameless. I shoulda known. Your pal told me to meet him here.

IGOR

You passed him on your way in.

SHAMUS

Which one of these dead beats is he?

IGOR

You got the dead part right.

SHAMUS

What're you talkin' about?

IGOR

When I said you passed him on your way in, I was talking about the cemetery.

SHAMUS

What's he doin' in the cemetery?

IGOR

Well, he isn't taking cha cha lessons.

SHAMUS

You tellin' me Van Helsing is dead?

IGOR

If he wasn't when they buried him, he sure is now.

SHAMUS

What he die of?

IGOR

Nobody knows for sure. One day he was moving around like you and me. Well, you anyway. The next day they were planting him.

SHAMUS

Sounds a little suspicious, don't you think?

IGOR

This is Transylvania. Every death is suspicious.

SHAMUS

I was wondering if Van Helsing's death had anything to do with the missing virgins when...

(BLUESY SAXOPHONE UP AND UNDER)

SHAMUS

... she ambled in.

MOLLY

When hello there, tall, dark and alive. Buy a girl a drink?

SHAMUS

Sure thing, honey hips. What's your poison?

MOLLY

A Bloody Mary.

Igor.

SHAMUS

Yes, master?

IGOR

Two Bloody Marys.

SHAMUS

Two Bloody Marys coming up.

IGOR

Igor is famous for his bloody marys.

MOLLY

I'll take you word for it.

SHAMUS

And what are you famous for?

MOLLY

Not gettin' involved with dames who ask me what I'm famous for.

SHAMUS

You got something against hot babes?

MOLLY

Don't get me wrong. I like dames. Good lookin' dames. Long legged dames. Well constructed dames. And so far you're checking all the boxes. But I never get involved. In my business, getting involved could also get you dead... Permanently.

SHAMUS

Two Bloody Marys.

IGOR

She tossed hers down in one gulp. I was entranced.

SHAMUS

That's the best Bloody Mary I've ever had.

MOLLY

That's because I make it with real blood.

IGOR

In that case, I'll have another.

MOLLY

A dame who could drink me under the table. It was love at first sight. From that moment on we were inseparable. Like

(MORE)

SHAMUS (cont'd)

two peas in a pod. Like cherries in a bowl. Like hot fudge and ice cream.

MOLLY

Think you can knock off the food analogies. You're making me hungry.

SHAMUS

For now.

MOLLY

What say you and me flee this popsicle stand?

SHAMUS

Whatever you say, sweet knees.

MOLLY

By the way, you can call me Molly.

SHAMUS

Why's that?

MOLLY

Because it's my name.

THE DENIZENS

I decided to take Molly out for a little carriage ride in the country. Just her and me, the moonlight, a blanket and a shaker of Bloody Marys. Unfortunately the country we happened to be taking our little ride in was ... Transylvania.

(SFX: THUNDER AND LIGHTNING)

MOLLY

I just love the Carpathian Mountains during the rainy season. Don't you?

SHAMUS

She was a strange girl. Incredibly well built, but strange.

MOLLY

(frightened)

Shamus...Look.

SHAMUS

What is it?

MOLLY

The bridge is out.

SHAMUS

Did you say the bridge is out?

MOLLY

That's what I said. The bridge is out.

SHAMUS

That's what I thought you said.

MOLLY

Then why did you make me repeat it.

SHAMUS

Dramatic emphasis.

MOLLY

Oh, what will we do? Just the two of us here, alone, in the forest with only a blanket, a shaker of Bloody Marys and a burning mutual attraction that must be satisfied before the flames consumes us both.

SHAMUS

Good question. What about that joint up ahead?

MOLLY

You mean that dark, foreboding castle perched precipitously over those jagged rocks being pounded by an angry and merciless sea?

SHAMUS

Yeah, that castle.

MOLLY

It looks charming enough.

(SFX: FOOTSTEPS)

SHAMUS

Why don't you ring the bell.

(SFX: A WOMAN'S BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM)

SHAMUS

Try it again.

(SFX: A WOMAN'S BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM.)

(SFX: A CREAKING DOOR SLOWLY OPENING)

RENFIELD

Yes? May I help you?

RENFIELD (cont'd)
(laughs evilly)

SHAMUS
The name's Shamus. Dick Shamus. The doll here calls herself Molly.

RENFIELD
And why is that?

SHAMUS
It's her name. We were taking a carriage ride in the country.

RENFIELD
How romantic.

SHAMUS
Yeah. Then the storm hit and washed out the bridge.

RENFIELD
That darn bridge.
(laughs evilly)

SHAMUS
Any chance we could camp out here until the storm blows over?

RENFIELD
I'll check with the master.

MOLLY
Seems like a nice enough fellow.

SHAMUS
For a gargoyle.

MOLLY
Kind of cozy for a dark and foreboding castle perched precipitously on a precipice over an angry and merciless sea, don't you think Shamus?

SHAMUS
If your idea of a decorating choices run to early mortuary.

DRACULA
Good evening.

SHAMUS
Whoa. Where did you come from?

DRACULA
I just flew in and, boy, are my arms tired.

SHAMUS

Old joke.

DRACULA

Joke? I never joke. I have no sense of humor.

SHAMUS

Something about this guy gave me the willies. I don't know if it was the slicked back hair, the pale white complexion or the blood dripping from his fangs.

DRACULA

Allow me to introduce myself. I am... Dracula.

(OMINOUS ORGAN MUSIC STING)

DRACULA

Count Dracula.

(OMINOUS ORGAN MUSIC STING)

DRACULA

You are guests in... Dracula's Castle.

(OMINOUS MUSIC STING)

SHAMUS

Nice to meet you Count. We were just wondering if me and "tasty toes" here could camp out until the storm blows over.

DRACULA

Mi casa es su casa. The "girls" will show you to your room Mr. Shamus.

SHAMUS

Girls? What..? Before I could finish, five skinny dames in long slinky black gowns with pale, white skin and long black hair parted in the middle suddenly appeared out of nowhere. If I didn't know better I could've sworn I was at a Cher concert.

DRACULA

Allow me to introduce Mandi, Candi, Sandi, Randi and.. Martha. Say hello to Mister Shamus, girls.

GIRLS

(monotonally)

Hello, Mr. Shamus.

DRACULA

If you would care to come with me Miss Molly, I'll show to a room where you can freshen up.

SHAMUS

While Molly went off with the Count, I followed Martha and the Vandellas down a dark, dank, dingy, damp, decaying, decrepit, dreary, dismal and depressing corridor. Nice place you got here, girls.

MARTHA

(deep, monotonal,
breathy voice,
dripping with sexual
innuendo)

We like it.

SHAMUS

The girls led me to a cozy little cell furnished with a chair, a desk, a candle and a... Hey, what's with the coffin?

MARTHA

Think of it as a... theme room.

SHAMUS

What's the theme, a quick death?

MARTHA

Oh no Mr. Shamus. Not quick. Not quick at all.

*(SFX: DOOR CREAKING SHUT.DOOR
BOLT SLAMMED SHUT)*

SHAMUS

Hey, Morticia... What's the big idea? Open up... Open up. I was locked in. Trapped like something that is trapped in something else.

(MUSICAL TRANSITION)

DRACULA

And this is your room, my dear.

MARTHA

Lovely. Who's your decorator, the Marquis De Sade?

DRACULA

As a matter of fact.

MARTHA

A ceiling mirror. Nice touch.

DRACULA

The previous resident was an actor. Perhaps you would like to slip into something more comfortable.

MOLLY

You mean like this bed?

DRACULA

It does have a sleep number mattress.

MOLLY

And I can imagine the number.

DRACULA

No need to be afraid, my dear. I'm not as I'm portrayed my dear.

MOLLY

I'm not young. I'm not naive. I know exactly what's up your sleeve.

DRACULA

Just think of me like any guy whose looking for a girl whose looking for a guy like me.

MOLLY

You can save the hype, dear Count. I'm really not your type dear Count.

DRACULA

Type A or Type B, makes no difference to me.

MOLLY

No matter how you plead, dear Count. Our bodies won't be mergin'. For you see dear count, I am still a virgin.

DRACULA

Even better... Look into my eyes, my dear.

MOLLY

Your eyes?

DRACULA

My eyes.

MOLLY

Oh Count, your eyes are quite hypnotic.

DRACULA

Tonight the die is cast, my dear.

MOLLY

This sensation's so erotic.

DRACULA

When I take you in my arms, my dear.

MOLLY

I feel so hot to trotic.

DRACULA

And bite you on the neck, my dear.

MOLLY

Oh Count...Oh Count. My next line...I forgot it.

(TRANSITIONAL MUSIC)

(CROWD NOISE OF THE MAUSOLEUM)

IGOR

Shamus... What happened to you? You look half dead. Which around here would normally be quite the complement.

SHAMUS

Dracula locked me a cell and threw away the key. It took me three days to pick the lock. All I had to work with a shoelace, a collar button and a slow laxative.

IGOR

Where's Molly?

SHAMUS

Gone.

IGOR

Gone??

SHAMUS

Without a trace. I lost her Igor. You hear me? I lost her. I lost the only dame who... could drink me under the table.

IGOR

Girls like that are hard to find.

SHAMUS

She was one of a kind.

IGOR

What're you gonna do?

SHAMUS

I'm gonna do what any fictional detective would do when he's lost the only dame with a liver bigger than his.

IGOR

What's that?

SHAMUS

What else? I'm gonna get stinkin' drunk. Bring on those Bloody Marys.

(MUSICAL TRANSITION)

SHAMUS

(drunk as a skunk)

Hey, what are you lookin' at you bag of bones? Yeah, I'm talking to you mister ugly.

IGOR

Hey, Shamus. There's no need to be mean cause he looks like Halloween. We may not be attractive. And some are radio active. But, if a kindness you will show us and really get to know us, think about the friends we all could be.

SHAMUS

(belligerent)

Friends? With this bunch of rag and bones?

DENIZENS

We feel we have to warn you, that we would truly mourn you, if you call us all a horrible disgrace.

SHAMUS

Oh yeah? What are you gonna do about it?

IGOR

There's only one thing we can do. And here is just a little clue.

SHAMUS

*(still belligerent
and drunk)*

Clue? What clue?

DENIZENS

We will have to eat your face.

SHAMUS

You and what army?

*(SFX: SHAMUS BEING PUMMELED BY
THE DENIZENS)*

(TRANSITIONAL MUSIC)

NURSE CLAVICLE

Now, now Mr. Shamus. You sustained quite a beating. You know the doctor said you shouldn't get excited.

SHAMUS

Then he shouldn't have made you my nurse.

NURSE CLAVICLE

That's enough of that. I'll be right back with your medicine.

SHAMUS

You better be talkin' a fifth of scotch. Nurse Clavicle was takin' pretty good care of me. But, something was nagging at me. It was the little voice in the back of my head.

LITTLE VOICE

What're you doin' Shamus? Laying around here watchin' reruns of Oprah. You're a dick, and don't you forget it.

SHAMUS

That's fictional dick to you.

LITTLE VOICE

You make me sick. You make me ill. You're not the only one around here needs a pill. There's a dame out there who could be dead or even worse and what are you doin'? Playin' footsie with your nurse.

SHAMUS

Did I mention it was an annoying little voice?

LITTLE VOICE

You make me sick. I feel unwell. To think that dame could be wrapped up in Dracula's spell. Forget the pain. Forget the hurt. Get outta bed. Go find that skirt.

SHAMUS

The little voice was right. What am I doing laying around here feeling sorry myself? Molly needs me.

LITTLE VOICE

Now, that's the Dick Shamus in whose head I live, unfortunately.

SHAMUS

I'll follow every clue. I'll track down every lead. There's nothing I won't do until that girl is freed. I'm Dick Shamus, the world's greatest fictional detective.

LITTLE VOICE

No to mention the world's only fictional detective.

NURSE CLAVICLE

Mr. Shamus, you shouldn't be out of bed.

SHAMUS

I've got a job to do apple knees and I can't do it lyin' around here. There's a dame out there that needs my help. She's sweet, she's innocent and she's built like a brick pagoda.

NURSE CLAVICLE

Oh, that's so romantic.

SHAMUS

Do me a favor, cantaloupe lips. Calls this number. Tell the dame on the other end to dig up everything she can on a mug name Dracula.

(OMINOUS ORGAN MUSIC STING)

SHAMUS

Count Dracula.

(OMINOUS ORGAN MUSIC STING)

SHAMUS

Last known address, 21 Bloodsucker Terrace, Transylvania. Got that?

NURSE CLAVICLE

Got it.

SHAMUS

And while you're at it, give her your phone number.

NURSE CLAVICLE

My phone number?

SHAMUS

Just in case things don't work out with the brick pagoda.

(TRANSITIONAL MUSIC)

SHAMUS

Effie, my sweet, did you track down the info on that Dracula character I asked for.

EFFIE

Sure, thing boss.

SHAMUS

What'd you find?

EFFIE

From what I could acquire, he's no member of the choir. Just you average, everyday, blood sucking vampire. His need for blood is dire. Constant victims he requires. Prefers his

(MORE)

EFFIE (cont'd)

victims sweet and young, before their virtue's been undone. To fulfill his lustful urges, he's in constant search of virgins.

SHAMUS

Now it all makes sense.

EFFIE

A bullet cannot kill him. A knife's a big mistake. The only thing that seems to work is a hammer and a wooden stake.

SHAMUS

Good work, cumquat hips.

EFFIE

If you need me for anything else, just buzz. You know how to buzz, don'tcha boss? You just put your lips together and...

(SFX: BUZZING SOUND)

SHAMUS

I watched Effie pulsate out of my office, put my eyes back on either side of my nose and went to work trying to figure out where I could find Dracula.

(OMINOUS MUSIC STING)

LITTLE VOICE

Here we go again. Why couldn't I have been the little voice in George Clooney's head. Come on Shamus. This is a no brainer which puts it right in your sweet spot. All you have to do is put yourself in Dracula's place.

SHAMUS

Maybe if I put myself in Dracula's place. Okay, I've put myself in Dracula's place.

LITTLE VOICE

Ask yourself this. If I was Dracula, where would I go?

SHAMUS

If I was Dracula, where would I go?

LITTLE VOICE

Well?

SHAMUS

Where would I go? Of course. Albuquerque!

LITTLE VOICE

That's just plain jerky.

SHAMUS
How about Katmandu?

LITTLE VOICE
How about Katmandon't?

SHAMUS
Budapest?

LITTLE VOICE
Give it a rest. Let's try another tack. If I was Dracula ...
I'd go someplace familiar.

SHAMUS
Someplace familiar. Someplace familiar.

LITTLE VOICE
Like someplace there is no place like.

SHAMUS
Someplace there is no place like. Now, what is someplace
there is no place like?

LITTLE VOICE
How about blank sweet blank? Forget it. Let's just cut to
the chase. How about Dracula is going home!

SHAMUS
I can almost touch it.

LITTLE VOICE
How about... DRACULA... IS... GOING... HOME!!!!

SHAMUS
It's on the tip of my tongue. I can practically taste it.

LITTLE VOICE
How about? Dracula is going home to Transylvania you thick
headed yutz.

SHAMUS
I've got it.

LITTLE VOICE
Got what?

SHAMUS
Dracula is going home to Transylvania, you thick headed
yutz.

(TRANSITIONAL MUSIC)

(SFX: LOW CROWD CONVERSATION)

SHAMUS

I decided to drop in at The Mausoleum, for old time's sake. Nothing had changed. And, everything reminded me of her. Even the cigarette butts in the ashtray were round and firm and fully packed.

IGOR

It's been a long time, Shamus. Never thought you'd show your face in here again.

SHAMUS

Igor looked the same. Butt ugly.

IGOR

You ain't exactly Tom Selleck. What're you drinkin'?

SHAMUS

Make it a decaf vanilla latte. Heavy on the decaf.

IGOR

You're puttin' me on.

SHAMUS

I'm off the sauce, Igor.

IGOR

Lemme guess, a dame.

SHAMUS

Didn't know it showed.

IGOR

Dames, there's nothing like 'em

SHAMUS

Nothing in this world.

IGOR

There is nothing you can name.

SHAMUS

That is anything like a dame.

LITTLE VOICE

Hey, Shamus. Knock off the lyricizing. You're embarrassing yourself not to mention setting yourself up for some hefty royalty payments.

IGOR

One decaf vanilla latte.

VAMPIRE MOLLY

Well, hello there tall, dark and decaffienated.

SHAMUS

Suddenly she was there on the stool next to me. She was wearing a long, black slinky dress. Her skin was pale and white. Her hair was long and black and parted down the middle.

VAMPIRE MOLLY

Buy a girl a drink?

SHAMUS

Sure. Igor.

VAMPIRE MOLLY

A Bloody Mary. Make it with Type O.

IGOR

I'll open a vein.

VAMPIRE MOLLY

Remember me?

SHAMUS

Mandi?

VAMPIRE MOLLY

Try again.

SHAMUS

Randi?

VAMPIRE MOLLY

Not even close.

SHAMUS

Candi?

VAMPIRE MOLLY

Uh uh.

SHAMUS

Sandi.

VAMPIRE MOLLY

Sorry.

SHAMUS

Don't tell me your Martha.

VAMPIRE MOLLY

Okay I won't.

SHAMUS

Who are you then?

VAMPIRE MOLLY
You can call me Molly.

SHAMUS
Why should I?

VAMPIRE MOLLY
Cause it's my name.

SHAMUS
It couldn't be. Nothing about her was the same.

VAMPIRE MOLLY
I heard you were back.

SHAMUS
News travels fast.

VAMPIRE MOLLY
Transylvania is a small town. What're you doing here Shamus?

SHAMUS
I came to take you back.

VAMPIRE MOLLY
Forget me Shamus.

SHAMUS
I'm not leaving without you.

VAMPIRE MOLLY
The sun will be coming up soon. I have to go.

SHAMUS
What did he do? What did he put in his elixir. You're not the girl I once knew, when you were the hottest shiksa.

VAMPIRE MOLLY
He cast his spell, then rang my bell. He took control and then my soul. But all in all, my life's quite swell. I'm free of pain. I'm free of dread. I have no fear of growing old. I never count cholesterol.

SHAMUS
I never knew a dame like you. That winning smile. I want it back. And don't forget that world class rack.

VAMPIRE MOLLY
Don't waste your time with one more rhyme. My days with you were never pallid. But tell me Shamus, what's in your wallet? The truth is there in black and white. Once you go Drac, you never go back.

SHAMUS

And with that she was gone. Gone with the wind.

IGOR

Another latte, Shamus?

SHAMUS

Gimme a Bloody Mary, Igor. And this time make it O negative.

IGOR

The hard stuff. You sure, Shamus?

SHAMUS

Of all the mausoleums in all the towns in all of Transylvania, she had to walk into this one. Do me a favor, Igor. Play it.

IGOR

Play it?

SHAMUS

You know what I want to hear. If she can stand it, so can I. Play it Igor.

(MUSIC: THE BACH CONTATA ON ORGAN. MUSIC FADES.)

SHAMUS

For Transylvania, the weather was unseasonably mild.

(SFX: THUNDER AND LIGHTNING)

SHAMUS

I found my way back to Dracula's Castle and rang the bell.

(SFX: WOMAN'S BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM)

SHAMUS

I tried the door. It was locked. I found a window, pushed it open and climbed in. The room was filled with coffins as far as the eye could see. It looked like the showroom at Forest Lawn. The lid to an elaborately carved casket slowly rose up. There he was, Count Dracula, dressed immaculately in a perfectly tailored Pierre Cardin tuxedo with matching red lined cape. You had to hand it to the guy. He really knew how to accessorize.

DRACULA

Good evening, Mr. Shamus. I wasn't expecting you.

SHAMUS

I've come for the girl.

DRACULA

I'm afraid you'll have to be more specific. My castle is filled with ghouls.

SHAMUS

Not a ghoul. A girl.

DRACULA

And which girl would that be.

SHAMUS

Let's just call her Molly.

DRACULA

And why is that?

SHAMUS

It's her name. I decided I needed a little persuasion so I pulled out my gat. Hand her over.

DRACULA

Unless you're the Lone Ranger and that gun has silver bullets, I'm afraid it will do you no good. You see I'm already dead.

SHAMUS

How about this?

DRACULA

A wooden stake. Now that would do it.

SHAMUS

I'm going to drive this stake right through your heart, bat boy. At last, all those hours of watching "The Old House" were going to pay off.

VAMPIRE MOLLY

I won't let you kill him.

SHAMUS

It was Molly. At least, I thought it was Molly. In the dark one undead dame looks pretty much like every other undead dame. Get out of the way corpse girl.

VAMPIRE MOLLY

I love him, I love him and where he goes I'll follow.

SHAMUS

Knock off the Motown and step away from the vampire.

DRACULA

Renfield!

RENFIELD

You called master?

DRACULA

Renfield, how would you like to have an assistant?

RENFIELD

An assistant master?

DRACULA

Yes. You're own assistant. Someone to do whatever you tell him to do.

RENFIELD

Like sweeping up the bat guano?

DRACULA

Yes, Renfield, like sweeping up the bat guano.

RENFIELD

I would like that very much, master.

DRACULA

Good. You can start by grasping Mr. Shamus's arms and pinning them behind his back.

SHAMUS

Hey, let go. Let go I tell you. For a dead guy Renfield had a helluva grip.

DRACULA

You've become an annoyance, Mr. Shamus. It's time for you to go.

SHAMUS

You forget one thing, Count.

DRACULA

And what would that be, Mr. Shamus?

SHAMUS

That.

DRACULA

(panicking)

Sunlight!!! It can't be. It's too early.

SHAMUS

Daylight savings time. You know? Fall back. Spring forward.

DRACULA

(voice weakening)

Damn you Renfield. Why didn't you warn me? What do I pay you for?

RENFIELD

(voice weakening)

You don't, you cheap...

DRACULA

Remind me to defund your retirement plan.

SHAMUS

It's lights out for you Count. I'm going to nail you to that wall.

DRACULA

One request, Mr. Shamus, before you drive that stake through my heart.

SHAMUS

What's that?

DRACULA

Don't drive that stake through my heart.

SHAMUS

Request denied.

*(SFX: HAMMER HITTING WOODEN
STAKE)*

VAN HELSING

You did it Mr. Shamus. You've saved Transylvania.

SHAMUS

Who the hell are you?

VAN HELSING

I'm Abraham Van Helsing.

SHAMUS

I thought you were dead.

VAN HELSING

I was.

SHAMUS

I don't get it.

VAN HELSING

While I was one of the living dead, you knew me as Renfield.

SHAMUS

Renfield? You?

VAN HELSING

But now that Dracula is nailed to that wall, I have returned to once again being the the handsome and debonair Doctor Alexander Van Helsing, the man other men want to be and women want to be with and sometimes vice versa. But we won't go into that here.

MOLLY

Shamus... Shamus.

SHAMUS

Molly is that you?

MOLLY

Yes, it's me. I'm free, Shamus. I'm free, I'm alive and I'm still a virgin.

SHAMUS

Well, two outta three ain't bad.

(STIRRING MUSIC UP AND UNDER)

ANNOUNCER

Thank you for listening to this episode of The Adventures of Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective starring Jason Tindal as Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective. Join us next week for another exciting case from the files of Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective.

(MUSIC OUT)

THE END