

# So You Want to be a Vampire

A Graphic Novel

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PAGE ONE (FIVE PANELS)

Panel 1. In the cool, pre-dawn light, one street lamp lights a portion of a small empty parking lot. Leaning against the lamp post, JOE, late 20s, muscular and lean, stands relaxed in his bodyguard outfit next to KEVIN, late 20s, wearing grunge and a fedora. A long, black leather trench hangs across Kevin's arm. ERIC, early 30s, dressed as Fino all in black, crouches at the base of the lamp post.

1 CAP:  
3:32 AM

Panel 2. Close on Eric, with contact lens cleaning solution on the ground and a colored contact lens poised at the tip of his finger, about to insert the lens into his eye.

ERIC  
Next time, no contacts.

Panel 3. On the three, Eric in the foreground, Kevin and Joe in the background. Eric delicately rubs his eyes as Kevin holds out the trench for Eric to put on.

KEVIN  
You know, I really like mine.

Panel 4. On Kevin and Joe

JOE  
My optometrist said I need glasses.

KEVIN  
Contacts are so much better than glasses. You get better vision.

JOE  
What brand do you use?

Panel 5. Wider shot. Eric, the fashion Doppelgänger of Angel in "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," faces Kevin and Joe and shushes them.

JOE (WHISPER TO KEVIN)  
Bausch and Lomb.

PAGE TWO (EIGHT PANELS)

Panel 1. Eric looks out into the darkness. Joe and Kevin still lean on the lamp post.

ERIC (WHISPER)

Where'd you park the car?

JOE

Where I always park it.

Panel 2. Annoyed, Eric faces Joe and Kevin.

JOE

Eric. It's me.

Panel 3. Eric fusses with his contacts.

ERIC

Joe. It's me!

JOE

Touche, my friend. Across the industrial complex on Calvert.

Panel 4. Eric moves close to whisper to Joe and Kevin.

ERIC

Right. So I got this feeling about Brenda. She's gonna be a wailer.

KEVIN

I bet she's not going to be able to unfriend Georgette.

JOE

How much? Brenda's on my top five most Fino-obsessed list. She'd die for him.

ERIC

Either way doesn't matter. I cry foul play, she falls to pieces, you guys and Alexandra take off with her stuff...

Panel 5. Eric steps back, his arms triumphantly high in the air.

ERIC

...I'm outta here.

Panel 6. Mid-shot of Eric, Joe, and Kevin.

ERIC  
Remember--

Panel 7. Closer on Joe and Kevin.

JOE AND KEVIN  
No matter what, don't leave the boo-tay behind!

Panel 8. Eric shushes them again. Joe and Kevin high-five.

PAGE THREE (FOUR PANELS)

Panel 1. BRENDA (20s) and ALEXANDRA (20s), stroll down the lamp-lit sidewalk in an industrial park. Brenda wears travel clothes and pulls a large rolling suitcase behind her. Her expression is somewhere between sad and determined. Alexandra, dressed for a Goth club, walks cheerily beside her.

ALEXANDRA

...We'll travel around the world, see things we've only dreamed of, meet totally interesting people... I'm so excited to be your minion!

BRENDA

Can I tell you something? You can't ever tell Fino...

Panel 2. Close-up on Alexandra, looking sincerely into Brenda's eyes.

ALEXANDRA

Brenda, we may have met because of Fino, but as soon as he turns you, I'll belong to you. Your secrets go to my grave.

Panel 3. Brenda looks back at Alexandra with a starry-eyed expression.

BRENDA

Just three days ago, I was a shut-in. I had one friend. I was starting to think I was crazy even hoping there was a real vampire somewhere. Now...

Panel 4. Wide shot of Brenda and Alexandra standing with Eric, Kevin, and Joe in the distance waiting for them.

BRENDA

...I'm giving up absolutely everything... everyone I've ever known. I'll be a completely different person. A... vampire! It's kinda scary.

ALEXANDRA

You are truly the strongest person I know, Brenda. You'll make an amazing immortal.

PAGE FOUR (THREE PANELS)

Panel 1. Brenda faces Eric, staring intensely at Brenda, and drops the suitcase unceremoniously at his feet. Alexandra stands off to the side with Kevin and Joe.

BRENDA

There. The rest of my life.

ERIC

Alexandra? Did you behave?

ALEXANDRA

I did exactly what I was supposed to do, Fino.

ERIC

Excellent. Are you ready, Brenda?

BRENDA

More than ever.

Panel 2. Closer on Brenda and Eric. Brenda's expression is desperate, enthralled, looking up into Eric's eyes as he leans closer to kiss her.

Panel 3. In a wider shot, Eric recoils, repulsed. Brenda is mortified. Behind them, Joe and Kevin are melodramatically acting out the scene. Alexandra hides laughter behind her hand.

ERIC

There's something... wrong. I can feel... Your friend. Georgette got to you, didn't she?

BRENDA

No! I mean, I felt badly, but I broke it off!

ERIC

You may have said the words that severed your relationship, but I can feel... regret. It's pouring from your soul.

PAGE FIVE (SEVEN PANELS)

Panel 1. Brenda reaches for Eric, but he steps away.

BRENDA

I want more than anything to be a vampire and to be with you always.

ERIC

You can't deny your feelings, Brenda, my love. I can't turn you when there is regret in your heart. It would only get worse until it consumes you.

BRENDA

But I don't--

Panel 2. Eric retreats from Brenda, overdramatizing his heartbreak. In the background, Joe, Kevin, and Alexandra huddle together, giggling.

ERIC

I can smell it seeping from your skin!

Panel 3. Now, Joe and Alexandra giggle as Kevin mimics Eric's poses.

ERIC

Drifting from your breath!

Panel 4. Same

ERIC

Clawing at the air from your fingertips!

Panel 5. Eric gently takes Brenda's hands in his and looks, horribly depressed, into her eyes. In the background, Kevin has taken Alexandra's hands exactly the same way. Joe contorts his mouth to keep quiet.

ERIC

I'm so devastated, Brenda. I thought... I thought you were... my One.

BRENDA

I am Fino.

ERIC

But I cannot have you.

Panel 6. Fighting back tears, Eric turns away from Brenda. Brenda, devastated and insanely desperate, drops to her knees, begging.

PAGE FIVE CONTINUED

In the background, Kevin has turned away from Alexandra, who is hiding her own laughter next to Joe.

BRENDA

Just turn me and... I'll go away. I'll find someone else.

Panel 7. Extreme close on Brenda, sobbing, screaming.

BRENDA

I can't live like this anymore!

PAGE SIX (FOUR PANELS)

Panel 1. Brenda, still on her knees, looks up at Eric's back.

BRENDA

Don't you remember what it's like to be alive and your heart broken? Did you ever experience that as a human?

Panel 2. Same

BRENDA

It may be... an awful feeling as a vampire, but let me tell you, it can drive a person to end her own life.

Panel 3. Brenda's expression is terrifically anguished as she continues to look up Eric.

BRENDA

I've failed so many times. I've picked the wrong guy so many times! It constantly hurts to know there is no one out there for me! No human wants me. I'm totally alone!

Panel 4. Eric looks down at Brenda. His expression is slipping a bit, a colder expression aimed at her. In the background, Joe, Kevin, and Alexandra watch as if watching an intense soap opera.

ERIC

Perhaps you should get a job that gets you out of the house.

PAGE SEVEN (THREE PANELS)

Panel 1. Brenda is on her feet. She takes her pocket knife out from her sock.

Panel 2. Brenda, eyes bugging, having totally lost her sanity, starts toward Eric with the open knife. Eric tries to keep his cool. Behind them, Joe, Kevin, and Alexandra are surprised and unmoving.

BRENDA

Turn me, Fino.

ERIC

It's over. The rage you have. You can't... I can't turn you like this.

BRENDA

It's not that hard. Drain my blood and let me drink yours. I turn. I go away. I swear it.  
TURN ME NOW!

ERIC

I said it's over, Brenda. Put the knife away and go home.

Panel 3. Brenda stands very close to Eric. His cold expression is cracking.

BRENDA

Why are you nervous? Knives can't hurt you.

ERIC

I know that... but I'm nervous for you. I'm afraid you'll do something to... yourself...  
and... I love you... too much to see that happen.

PAGE EIGHT (THREE PANELS)

Panel 1. Joe and Kevin try to sneak up on Brenda, but she swings the knife at them. Her back is very close to Eric, who is frozen in place. Alexandra stays where she is.

BRENDA (TO KEVIN AND JOE)

This can definitely hurt you, so back off!

ALEXANDRA

Please put the knife down.

BRENDA

I will do what I have to, Alexandra. Stay out of this.

Panel 2. With the knife still out in front of her, Brenda spins around to face Eric again, but she's so close that the knife slices across Eric's throat. Blood quirts out!

Panel 3. Half page. Joe and Kevin, with Brenda's suitcase and Alexandra, run off. Eric, stunned, blood still oozing out, stumbles. Brenda stares blankly at Eric.

ALEXANDRA (WHISPER)

Sorry, Eric.

JOE (COMMENT)

Shit.

KEVIN (RESPONSE)

I say we move on to Portland.

JOE

I'm totally done, man.

PAGE NINE (FOUR PANELS)

Panel 1. Brenda, covered in blood, tries to catch Eric as he falls, but they both end up sinking to the ground.

BRENDA

Fino! No! You can't die! I have to turn. Drain me first!

Panel 2. Brenda slits her wrists the long way and blood spills from the wounds.

Panel 3. She puts her bleeding wrists to Eric's mouth, but he's dead.

BRENDA

I need to drink your blood, too. Just hold on a sec.

Panel 4. Brenda buries her face into Eric's neck and drinks.

PANEL TEN (FOUR PANELS)

Panel 1. Disgusted, Brenda looks down at Eric.

BRENDA  
Ugh. Awful.

Panel 2. With dead Eric in her lap, one of his contacts stuck to his cheek, and her open wrists bleeding out, a profound look of realization crosses her face, as does a wave of approaching unconsciousness.

Panel 3. Brenda looks thoughtfully off into the distance.

BRENDA  
Oh... fuck.

Panel 4. Brenda collapses on Eric, dead.

THE END