

Peter the Great Vampire Slayer

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FADE IN:

BEGIN MAIN TITLES

**1. EXT. SPARROW HILLS OLD MUSCOVY (SUMMER 1669) - DAY**

We see seventeenth century Moscow from a vantage point known as the Sparrow Hills. We see a rich and beautiful city. Hundreds of golden domes topped by a forest of golden crosses rose above the treetops. There are so many that at the moment when the sun touches all this gold, the blaze of light reflects into the camera.

**1.2 EXT. MOSCOW KREMLIN - DAY**

The white-walled churches beneath these domes were scattered through a city as large as London. At the center, on a modest hill, stands the white citadel of the Kremlin with its three magnificent cathedrals, its mighty bell tower, its gorgeous palaces, chapels and hundreds of houses.

**1.3 EXT. MOSCOW COMMERCIAL DISTRICT - RED SQUARE - DAY**

We see the bustling life of a busy commercial city. The market is crowded with jostling humanity. TRADESPEOPLE, ARTISANS, IDLERS and ragged HOLY MEN walked beside LABORERS, PEASANTS, black-robed PRIESTS and SOLDIERS.

The streets were made of wood and attempt to provide footing. Often, they failed.

St. Basil's Cathedral (1561) is new. BEGGARS clustered and make pitiful sounds for alms.

We see the high Kremlin walls. It is a brawling, open-air marketplace, with logs laid down to cover the mud, with lines of log houses and small chapels built against the Kremlin wall. We see rows and rows of shops and stalls, some wood, some covered by tent-like canvas.

Merchants are standing in front of stalls shouting to customers. They are selling velvet and brocade, silk, bronze, brass and copper goods, iron wares, tooled leather, pottery, innumerable objects made of wood, pirozhki (small meat pies) and tons of melons, apples,

pears, cherries, plums, carrots, cucumbers, onions and garlic. There are many garlic venders.

Tailors and street jewelers. Barbers. Less ambitious merchants sell old clothes, rags, used furniture and junk.

We see a carts struggling to make it through the crowd. The people part for a fat-bellied, bearded BOYAR on horseback. At a street corner, MUSICIANS, JUGGLERS, ACROBATS and ANIMAL HANDLERS with bears and dogs performed tricks.

In front of a tavern, we see a NAKED MEN who has sold every stitch of clothing for a drink. He joins other men, naked and clothed alike, lay in rows in the mud, drunk.

Down the hill, nearer the Moscow River, animals are sold, and live fish from tanks.

Soldiers and other workers are building mysterious stacks of wood. Soon there will be bonfires.

On the riverbank women are bent over the water washing clothes.

END MAIN TITLES

A BUYER picks up a piece of silk.

BUYER

Where did this come from?

MERCHANT

Only God and the tsar know.

The first sign of dusk seems to be the swallows, who begin to soar over the Kremlin. The more successful notice.

We see other merchants and clients glance at the setting sun. The merchants appear rushed to complete their sale. The clients simply walk away. Suddenly iron triangle bells signal 20 different alarms. The alarms seem to be a function of government and sound at a certain time before sundown.

With the alarm, all activity comes to a halt. The shops close and the streets empty. Actually, there is a panic. Men rush, women run.

Several women at the river in haste collide with each other, slip in the mud and topple into the mud and river. Fear; they are terrified about being out in the dark.

Strangely many vendors lock themselves up in the shops, leaving good outside. Other vendor's carts have doubled as tables and the goods can quickly be race off. There are collisions but no one stops to argue. The clear goal is to leave.

That morning, it must have taken hours to assemble but the market is now deserted in less than a minute.

Once the market is desolate and dark, we see a sole VAMPIRE walking. He is joined by SECOND and still a THIRD. More vampires gather. They stop walking and look at the Kremlin war. They look ominously and lustfully over the walls.

VAMPIRE LEADER

It is high up to God; it is a very long way up to the tsar.

The second and third vampires laugh and they all mockingly chuckle together.

## **2. INT. TEREM PALACE DINNING ROOM - EVENING**

From the dimly lit, incense-scented Kremlin rooms and chapels, Tsar Alexis rules.

TSAR ALEXIS II eats alone at a high table surrounded by BOYARS who dine at lower tables. He is served only by special boyars, who tasted his food and sipped his wine. The meal is gargantuan. But Alexis doesn't touch most of the dishes. Instead, he sends them as presents to various tables to show his favor.

There is a woman's cry from another room in the palace. It could be childbirth. The boyars and Alexis looks up from their meal and then return to it.

### **2.1 INT. TEREM PALACE BIRTHING ROOM - EVENING**

We see Alexis' MAN waiting outside the room for the news he will deliver.

We enter the birthing room through a doorway decorated for the event with a gilded panel bearing the date "1669", and the intertwined initials of Maria Miloslavskaya along with those of her husband Alexis Mikhailovich.

There is a large ornate bed where TSARITSA MARIA MILOSLAVSKAYA, later will give birth. A MIDWIFE is generously equipped with a new gown of black velvet, and a cradle is prepared. There are many LADIES in waiting observing.

## **2.2 INT/EXT. TEREM PALACE EXIT - NIGHT**

There is hesitation at the door of the palace. Alexis, surrounded with soldiers, doesn't go outside until they receive the all clear. There is more security than one would expect. Then they move with deliberate haste toward the Cathedral of the Annunciation.

## **2.3 INT. CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION - NIGHT**

Alexis is in the church for vespers. He brings his favorite boyars, and seems to be consulting them on affairs of state during the religious service.

ALEXIS

They will come tonight. What is the state of security?

BOYAR #1

There are 100 soldiers protecting the Tsaritsa. Fifth more are in reserve, tonight.

ALEXIS

What about the celebrations?

BOYAR #2

All in order.

ALEXIS

I've been entrusted with the future  
of all the Russias and I feel uneasy.

BOYAR #1

What are your concerns? The Tsaritsa?

Of course.

ALEXIS

Pray for Russia.

BOYAR #2

God bless her.

BOYAR #3

God bless the Tsar.

ALEXIS

To the west and the south, Russia is  
ringed by enemies who struggle to  
keep us - a giant - landlocked and  
isolated.

(pause)

Sweden is the reigning mistress of  
the Baltic, stands guard across this  
sea road to the West.

BOYAR #1

We are still dealing with the old  
Mongol conquerors and vassals of the  
Ottoman sultan.

BOYAR #2

They continue to raid and plunder the  
Russian and Ukrainian villages.  
Several stockades have been stormed  
they have have lead the entire  
population off into slavery.

BOYAR #3

It is embarrassing that Russians are  
such a contribution to the Ottoman  
slave markets.

BOYAR #4

But there was nothing so far that anyone can do.

ALEXIS

Catholic Poland, the ancient enemy of Orthodox Russia.

BOYAR #1

You have reconquered Smolensk from Poland.

BOYAR #2

This Russian fortress town lays a mere 150 miles from Moscow.

ALEXIS

Too near.

All the boyars nod in agreement.

ALEXIS

The shining prize of Kiev, mother of all Russian cities and the birthplace of Russian Christianity, is in the hands of vampiric heretics.

(pause)

Sacred Kiev and the bread basket of Europe are the lands of the our mortal enemies.

BOYAR #5

What will you do?

Alexis moves to the front of the church, interrupting the service. The boyars and priests seem fuddled. It doesn't seem to be part of the ritual. Alexis turns to the boyars.

ALEXIS

I'm going to pray for a son sound in mind and body.

Alexis leaves the boyars and steps forward drops to his knees in front of the alter to pray.

**3 INT. TEREM PALACE PARLOR - NIGHT**

Alexis' long wait for the birth is spent with his family intimate friends playing backgammon then chess. Later, Alexis listens to a DAUGHTER read stories from a book of church history.

There seems to be one last scream of pain from the birthing room.

### **3.1 INT. TEREM PALACE BIRTHING ROOM - NIGHT**

After a long and difficult labor, the baby is safely delivered with a fine caul (birth membrane) over her face. The midwife is elated.

It is a girl.

She looks the infant over carefully.

She is perfectly formed.

One LADY looks curiously at ANOTHER LADY.

LADY

It's considered a sign of good fortune.

The other lady nods that she understands.

### **3.2 INT. TEREM PALACE PARLOUR - NIGHT**

There is more idle waiting. Finally, an official looking MAN enters the parlor and brings word.

MAN

It is a girl.

Tsar Alexis flinches only for a fraction of a second and then appears happy.

ALEXIS

A daughter!

The family cheer and applaud. Congratulations all around.

Vodka is poured.



The entire group happily leaves the parlor for the birthing room.

### **3.3 INT. TEREM PALACE BIRTHING ROOM - NIGHT**

The group arrives and in order (established by the hierarchy) everyone gets their turn looking at the mother and new infant.

When the last of the group reach the mother and infant. The midwife looks to Alexis for permission and then begins to argue people out of the room.

MIDWIFE

Okay, mother and daughter are tired.

ALEXIS

Follow me for a short celebration.

Leaving the palace, Alexis stops to quietly speak with the captain of the guard. The others file past without being alarmed.

ALEXIS

(casually)

Do you remember the last night we had a birth?

CAPTAIN OF GUARD

Your Imperial Majesty. I wasn't here at that time, but I'm aware.

ALEXIS

And, you have switched to the night bullets?

CAPTAIN OF GUARD

Yes we have done this. Always without fail.

ALEXIS

Be aware. Do you hear me?

CAPTAIN OF GUARD

Yes, Your Majesty. Do not fear.

### **3.4 EXT. KREMLIN WALL - NIGHT**

The group arrive at the wall. Cannons are fired. The group looks down on the market at the bonfires.

### **3.5 EXT. MARKET - NIGHT**

The vampires don't flinch at the canon. The CAVALRY leaves the Kremlin with their swords drawn and looking for action. They light the bonfires and quickly retreat back into the Kremlin.

Slowly a few doors open. And the common people peak outside. They don't emerge in any real number, until everything looks clear and the bonfires are roaring.

When the people do emerge, several of the vampires see them as prey and want to leave the group.

The vampire leader motions for several of the young vampires permission. He expects the more mature vampires to follow him. They move toward the Kremlin.

### **3.6 EXT. KREMLIN WALL - NIGHT**

The family and friends shout down their drunken celebrations.

### **3.7 EXT. MARKET - NIGHT**

The bonfires are raging and those near them are safe. But in the shadows, the young vampires take their share.

After a time, there is a panic and even the fires are abandoned for a mad rush for shelter.

One family rush back to their home but find a vampire inside waiting on them.

There are dozens of murders, so vicious were the vampires that no one dared respond to cries for help. Despite the official celebration and the protection of soldiers, many terrorized citizens were afraid even to look out their own doors or windows to see what was happening.

### **3.8 EXT. KREMLIN WALL - NIGHT**

Alexis, family and boyar friends observe in terror from the Kremlin wall. They are helpless and become worried about their own safety.

ALEXIS

Send the guard back! They are attacking the city.

An army officer runs from the wall to organize the cavalry. By the time the cavalry responds and ride into the market, the damage is done and dozens of bodies can be clearly seen from the wall.

Alexis has a disturbing thought. He turn from the outside wall to the inside wall. Terem Palace is oddly silent and still. He runs down the stairs and across the yard. Guards are struggling to keep up with him.

### **3.9 EXT/INT. TEREM PALACE - NIGHT**

Alexis finds two bloody GUARDS at the door of the palace. He takes a pistol and a sword. He races up the stairs to the birthing room. On the path, he shoots one vampire with a wooden bullet. He decapitates two others. He passes five or six dead and dismembered guards. As Alexis progresses the damage to the bodies increases.

### **3.91 INT. TEREM PALACE BIRTHING ROOM - NIGHT**

Inside, Alexis finds a bloody mess. The midwife, Maria and the infant - all dead and dismembered.

He drops to his knees in despair. The room is filled with soldiers and then boyars and finally family. There is a tremendous outpouring of grief.

The blood has no simply been drained. The bodies have been dismembered and there is so much blood on the floor, one of the DAUGHTERS slips and falls.

A few of the daughters and ladies without hesitation, begin to assemble the body parts. Their hands, arms and dresses become covered in blood.

The men. All seem in shock.

### **3.10 EXT. MOSCOW - EARLY MORNING**

In the morning, the police almost routinely carry the bodies found lying in the streets to a central location where relatives come to check for missing persons; eventually, all unidentified corpses are tumbled into a common grave.

**4 EXT. MOSCOW - DAY**

If last night was a human blood bath, today's retribution is a vampire fire storm.

Soldiers go door to door. Several of the vampires they kill burst into flames. Not unnaturally in a city built of wood, fires develop. Caught by the wind, flames leap from one roof to the next, reducing an entire street to ashes.

Alexis watching from the Kremlin wall and the boyar military commanders on the ground are less concerned about the fire. They are clearly ruthless in their pursuit of vampires. Several vampires are tortured with mirrors.

The fire disaster is exceptional, but the Muscovites seem prepared. We see a burning house with firemen struggling to localize the fire by hastily tearing down the next door buildings.

**4.1 EXT. RURAL LOCATION - DAY**

Soldier surround a small village several miles from Moscow. Several villagers point to a particular house. The soldier dismount and enter the home. There is a spectacular fight as this vampire doesn't go easily.

**5 INT. TEREM PALACE THRONE ROOM (1670) - DAY**

Alexis hasn't arrived yet. Boyars are discussing the remarriage of the Tsar.

MILOSLAVSKY BOYAR #1  
The Tsar is forty, my dear sister has  
been murdered.

ARTEMON MATVEEV

Despite all her efforts, the Tsaritsa has not left behind the certainty of an heir.

MILOSLAVSKY BOYAR #1

During her twenty-one years of marriage to Alexis, she did her very best - thirteen children - five sons and eight daughters - were born before she was murdered.

MILOSLAVSKY BOYAR #2

Something must be done about these creatures. Hundreds of young boys were spared not 100 yards from here but Alexei and Simeon will be murdered.

ARTEMON MATVEEV

Do we see a pattern here?

MILOSLAVSKY BOYAR #1

The creatures aren't just blood thirsty. But are cunning about the thrown as well.

ARTEMON MATVEEV

We must organize ourselves as to prevent the thrown from falling into the wrong hands.

BOYAR #3

None of Maria's sons are strong. In six months only God knows if they will still be with us.

ARTEMON MATVEEV

Fedor is ten, but frail. Ivan is three, but half blind and I believe he has a speech impediment. Something is not right with the boy.

MILOSLAVSKY BOYAR #2

It isn't so much their condition but their protection that is our concern.

BOYAR #3

Young.

MILOSLAVSKY BOYAR #2

An we know the vampires will return.

MILOSLAVSKY BOYAR #1

They always do.

ARTEMON MATVEEV

If both die before their father...

BOYAR #3

Or soon after him,

ARTEMON MATVEEV

...the succession will be open, and no one knows who might rule.

BOYAR #1

In short, all Russia except the Miloslavskys hope that Alexis will find a new wife

BOYAR #2

...and do so quickly.

MILOSLAVSKY BOYAR #1

If the Tsar does select a new tsaritsa, it is understood that his choice will be a daughter of the Russian nobility and not one of the foreign princesses.

ARTEMON MATVEEV

Agreed.

The Boyars nod in agreement.

The Tsar enters the chamber and the discussion ends.

**6 INT. HOME OF ARTEMON MATVEEV (1670) - DAY**

Artemon Matveev is an unusual man. He has risen to chief minister on merit. We can see from the interior of his home, he is interested in scholarly subjects and is fascinated by the West.

The walls have paintings and mirrors in addition to icons; inlaid cabinets displayed books, maps, porcelains and chiming clocks. Matveev's desk is covered in algebra and chemistry experiments. He has a small private theater.

He is married to MARY HAMILTON, the daughter of a Scots royalist. They live in the foreigner quarter. Matveev's wife wears Western dresses and bonnets; she refused to seclude herself on an upper floor of her husband's house like most Moscow wives, but appeared freely among his guests, sitting down with them at dinner and even joins them in the conversation.

NATALYA NARYSHKINA is a nineteen years old, a tall, shapely young woman with black eyes and long eyelashes. Her father, an obscure landowner of Tatar origins, has persuaded his friend Matveev to accept Natalya as his ward. Natalya is a quick learner and by watching and assisting her Mary Hamilton she has learned to receive and entertain male guests.

The Alexis is present but looks depressed. Natalya comes into the room with Mary Hamilton to serve cups of vodka and plates of caviar and smoked fish. Alexis notices her healthy, glowing good looks, her black, almond-shaped eyes and

Alexis leans forward and comments to Matveev.

ALEXIS

She is health.

MATVEEV

Extra ordinarily

ALEXIS

The darkest eyes and blackest hair  
I've ever seen.

MATVEEV

Her father has Tatar origins. He has  
sent her here from the Tarus  
province.

ALEXIS  
She looks exotic.

MATVEEV  
And she is strong. She will be good  
for many sons.

ALEXIS  
And serene with modest behavior?

MATVEEV  
Very like a mouse.

Leaving Matveev's house just before night, the Alexi is  
much cheered up.

ALEXIS  
Let me ask you a question. Are you  
looking for a husband for this  
appealing young woman?

MATVEEV  
As a matter of fact yes. Her father  
nor myself however are not wealthy so  
the dowry would be very small. You  
could profit elsewhere if you like.

ALEXIS  
There are still a few men who value a  
woman's qualities higher than her  
fortune; and I'm one of them.

MATVEEV  
That is very good to hear.  
(pause)  
Your Majesty, you should get back to  
the Kremlin before dark.

ALEXIS  
Yes, lets discuss this tomorrow.

MATVEEV  
Agreed.

**7. INT. TEREM PALACE (1670) - NIGHT**



Natalya has a room in the Kremlin in anticipation of the marriage. Natalya seems to have some higher sensory abilities; she sees or hears or smells vampires on the ledge outside the palace. A LADY is brushing her hair.

LADY

Nervous?

NATALYA

A bit.

LADY

The Tsar is a honourable man. I know he is smitten with you. I can see that the way he looks at you.

(pause)

He was a tender lover with the Tsaritsa.

NATALYA

(nervously chuckles)

That is not what I'm worried about.

A window rattles. Shadows dart. Natalya inhales.

Suddenly the doors burst open and two vampires run in.

The lady is maimed, screaming and bleeding everywhere.

A palace guard is paralyzed in fear, hears the commotion but can't move.

After a prolonged fight, Natalya kills both vampires.

Natalya climbs atop a closet and removes the crown molding. She breaks it into two pieces. She holds the pieces in the shape of a cross. Momentarily blinded the vampires cower. Natalya uses the wood as stakes and jumps down on them impaling them just behind the collarbone.

Alexis arrives; his face shows compassion and he hugs her. The expression on his face changes to pride and confidence. She is a lethal tigress and clearly not the diminutive bride she appears.

**8 INT. CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION (1671) - DAY**

To the joy of most Russians and the chagrin of the Miloslavskys, Tsar Alexis and Natalya Naryshkina are married. Mary Hamilton and Matveev are elated and glowing with pride.

**8.1 EXT. FIELD NEAR PREOBRAZHENSKOE PALACE (1672) - DAY**

Alexis is hunting with his many falcons. Alexis is in love with Natalya. He takes her with him wherever he goes. There is an unusual level of eye contact between them. She is by his side participating in the hunt. She appears pregnant.

The baby kicks and Natalya jumps a bit and smiles. Alexis places his hand on her belly and pauses for the kick. Alexis feels the kick and is clearly delighted.

**8.2 INT. CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION - DAY**

Both father and mother, very pregnant, pray for a son.

**9 INT. TEREM PALACE BIRTHING ROOM (1672) - NIGHT**

PETER is born and cleaned. The ladies in the room are all taken aback. They have become accustomed to dead or dying babies. They immediately seem to know that Peter is special.

A lady runs to announce the birth.

A MAN enters the room and in accordance with the old Russian custom of "taking the measure," he is measured.

MAN

Nineteen and a quarter inches long  
and five and a quarter inches wide.

**9.1 INT. TEREM PALACE PARLOUR - NIGHT**

The Tsar is not in the room. The Lady pauses when she can't find the Alexis. Matveev nods for her to divulge her information.

LADY

The boy is large and very healthy.  
(pause)  
He has black, vaguely Tatar, eyes.

(pause)  
He has his father's auburn hair.

A SOLDIER in the room leaves.

**9.2 EXT. KREMLIN YARD - NIGHT**

Alexis has assembled at least 2,000 soldiers to surround the palace. He is supervising their deployment.

The soldier only nods his head in a positive manner and Alexis knows it is a healthy son. He rushes off to see the new born.

**9.3 INT. TEREM PALACE BIRTHING ROOM - NIGHT**

Alexis arrives and joins everyone already in the room. He looks and there in silence. Peter is already active moving his arms and kicking. Alexis looks very happy.

ALEXIS  
The child will be named Peter after  
the apostle.

A SOLDIER leaves the room. Several of the boyars quickly gaze and leave. It is all done with military efficiency.

**9.6 INT. KREMLIN YARD - NIGHT**

Moscow rejoices when the booming of the great bell in the Tower of Ivan the Great on the Kremlin square announces the birth of this new Tsarevich.

MESSENGERS on horse gallop to carry the news to other Russian cities.

Carriages containing special AMBASSADORS were dispatched to Europe.

From the white walls of the Kremlin, cannon are fired in infinite salutes.

Also the bells of the city's 1,600 churches sound continuously.

**9.8 EXT. KREMLIN WALL - NIGHT**

Cavalry with swords drawn leave and enter the Kremlin gate. They circulate up and down the streets of the city. One in the morning and the vampires are hidden and are only peaking outside.

Remembering the night the Tsaritsa Maria, these precaution of an entire army is understandably needed.

Alexis looks to the MAJOR.

MAJOR

They are only poking at the edges.

ALEXIS

We are many.

(pause)

But we aren't resting.

MAJOR

Correct, your Majesty.

We see Alexis and the boyars supervising the army and other boyars building huge and numerous fires. There are so many fires it appears to be daylight.

#### **9.7 INT. ICONOGRAPHER'S SHOP - DAY**

The ICONOGRAPHER is measuring out a space on a board 19¼ by 5½ inches. He paints the Holy Trinity with an image of Peter's patron saint exactly the same dimensions as the infant.

The bells of the churches are still ringing.

The cannon are still firing and this will continue for three days.

#### **10 INT. ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL (1672) - DAY**

Alexis looks overjoyed with his new son; he is a new man. He is in the church personally arranging every detail of a religious service of thanksgiving. We can't hear the dialogue but Alexis' body language makes things clear.

#### **10.1 INT. ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL - DAY**

We see a few seconds of a the service.

## **10.2 INT. ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL - DAY**

After the service, Alexis raises KYRIL NARYSHKIN (Natalya's father) and Matveev in rank. At the front of the church, Alexis pins a medal on their chests.

Alexis himself hands vodka and wines from trays to his guests as the leave.

## **10.3 INT. ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL - DAY**

Peter is four weeks old now and is christened. Wheeled into church in a rolling cradle along a path sprinkled with holy water, the child was held over the font by FEDOR NARYSHKIN (the Tsaritsa's eldest brother) and christened by Alexis' PRIVATE CONFESSOR.

## **10.4 INT. TEREM PALACE BANQUET HALL - DAY**

There is a royal feast offered to a delegation of soldiers, boyars, merchants and other CITIZENS of Moscow. The tables were decorated with enormous blocks of sugar sculpted into larger-than-life statues of eagles, swans and other birds. There was even an intricate sugar model of the Kremlin, with figures of tiny people coming and going.

Everyone brings throngs of congratulatory gifts. Two gifts are particularly odd shaped. They are boxes the size and shape of small coffins. It has been delivered by four particularly ugly SERVANTS who quickly leave. An OBSERVANT SOLDIER sense something is wrong. He takes his ARMY BUDDIES to open one box; he has a pike ready to run a vampire through. His buddies open the box and there is only cloth, silk and velvet. His buddies laugh.

But the soldier doesn't give up. He insists they open the second box. He still has the pike ready. This time, inside they find a SMALL VAMPIRE. His ruse is discovered and he is impaled.

## **10.5 INT. TEREM PALACE TSARITSA APARTMENT - DAY**

Natalya gives a separate reception for the wives and daughters of the boyars, personally handing plates of sweets to her guests on their departure.

**11 INT. TEREM PALACE PETER'S APARTMENT (1674) - DAY**

We enter the room through double doors adorned with two crosses. Inside there is a cross on every wall. We see numerous icons. Maps.

Peter is two. He has a GOVERNESS, a WET NURSE, a SOLDIER and a staff of DWARFS who are trained playmates. Peter is banging on cymbals and then drums.

The nursery overflows with elaborate models and toys. We see a carved wooden horse with a leather saddle studded with silver and jewels. On a table rests a hand painted picture book. There is a globe. We see a music box and a clavichord. These items seems perfectly arranged.

What is strewn about the room are Peter's favorite toys and all linked to the military - toy soldiers and forts, model pikes, swords, early muzzle-loaded rifles and pistols.

Next to his bed, Peter we see his most precious toy - a model of a boat.

Peter is intelligent, active and noisy.

**11 INT/EXT. KOLOMENSKOE PALACE (1676) - DAY**

Peter and Alexis walk through the halls.

In the thrown room, we see portraits of Julius Caesar and Alexander the Great.

Near a silver throne there are two giant bronze lions. When Alexis pushes a lever, the eyes of these perfunctory beasts roll, their jaws would open, and from their throats comes a hoarse, mechanical roar.

Peter chuckles and prompts his father to repeat the trick.

Matveev arrives with a miniature copy of one of royal carriages and presents it to Peter. We see Peter ride in this tiny coach, inset with gold ornament, drawn by four dwarf ponies, with four dwarfs riding at the side and another dwarf behind.

**12 EXT. BANKS OF THE MOSCOW RIVER (1676) - DAY**

Alexis takes part in the holy blessing of the waters of the Moscow River. Standing in the frozen winter air during the long ceremony, he is clearly suffering.

**13 INT. TEREM PALACE THEATER - DAY**

In the middle of the performance of a play, the Alexis leaves goes to bed.

**13.1 INT. TEREM PALACE TSAR'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

The illness does not seem dangerous. But in the night vampires sense Alexis' weakness and descend upon him. He is not torn or mutilated. The vampires don't want to invite retaliation. The next morning everyone is shocked to find the Tsar dead.

**14 INT. ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL - DAY**

Semi-invalid FEDOR becomes the new Tsar. His legs are so swollen that he is carried to his coronation. The Naryshkin family is sedate and the Miloslavsky seem confident.

**15 INT. KREMLIN TAX OFFICE (1678) - DAY**

Fedor approaches Nikita ZOTOV in the Kremlin's tax office.

FEDOR

My godson and half-brother is in need  
of a tutor.

Zotov falls to his knees and is frozen.

FEDOR

You are an amiable, literate man who  
knows the Bible.

Fedor waits for an answer. Zotov is actually trembling. There isn't a response.

Fedor looks to Natalya for her approval. She eagerly nods her approval.

FEDOR

You are a good man well versed in the Holy Writ, and I entrust you to my brother.

Fedor gently raises him up.

NATALYA

The Tsarevich's lessons will begin tomorrow?

Zotov manages a nod.

FEDOR

I will give you a suite of apartments and raise you to the rank of nobleman.

Zotov is still speechless but gives a slight nod.

NATALYA

I will provide you with two sets of new clothes

FEDOR

And the Patriarch is sending you 100 roubles.

Zotov only manages a tiny smile.



The Tsar turns to walk away but chuckles at Zotov's nervousness.

**15 INT. TEREM PALACE PETER'S NEW SCHOOLROOM - DAY**

Fedor, Natalya and the PATRIARCH are present to watch Peter's first lesson. The new schoolbooks were sprinkled with holy water. Zotov bows low to his small pupil and the lesson begins. Zotov first has Peter recite the alphabet. And then Zotov reads to him from the Prayer Book and then the Bible. Peter's memory shines and is able to repeat the verses.

The minute the royals leave. Zotov goes into the hall to make sure they are truly gone.

Zotov enters the school again.

ZOTOV

Now, understand me clearly. The best way to kill a vampire is to stab him with a piece of wood,

PETER

Preferably in the heart.

ZOTOV

Yes, exactly.  
(pause)  
Now we will practice.  
(pause)  
Get your bow.

Zotov goes into the hall and places something under his shirt.

Zotov reenters the schoolroom, feigning a vampire.

Peter is overjoyed and realizes he has forgotten the toy arrows on the other side of the room. He runs for the arrows and begins to shot wildly. Zotov stops pretending.

ZOTOV

Slow down and aim properly.

Zotov again feigns a vampire.

Peter's aim improves but still arrows fly to the left and right of Zotov. One arrow flies directly at the face of Zotov and he is barely able to dodge it. Zotov feigns anger and Peter becomes a little bit frightened.

Peter is down to one remaining arrow and Zotov closes the distance. At point blank range the toy arrow flies into the shirt of Zotov. Zotov appears wounded. Zotov acts as if he is pulling an arrow out.

Zotov draws Peter near him and whispers to him.

ZOTOV  
Drive it deeper.

Peter doesn't act. Zotov takes his hand to the arrow and together they drive it deeper into the shirt. Zotov feigns pain.

Zotov takes a step back. Blood drips from the "wound". Zotov feigns a vampire's death with convulsions and agonizing screams. Peter's eyes grow very large.

Zotov ceases to move. There is a long pause. Peter is only five years old and is dismayed.

Zotov look up, perfectly okay. He pulls from his bloody shirt a cow bladder that was filled with blood.

Peter laughs uncontrollably. Peter jumps on Zotov and they wrestle a bit. Zotov tickles him and Peter squeals.

Peter likes the pretend battle and violence and Zotov is also pleased with the lesson.

PETER  
More games! More games!

Fedor interrupts the laughter. Two workers follow him with a giant globe, it can barely get through the double doors.

FEDOR  
This was sent to our father from  
Europe and I want you to have it.  
(pause)

I will take this smaller one if you don't mind. Please.

Fedor notices the blood on Zotov's shirt. He thinks about it, chooses not to interfere and takes the smaller globe when he leaves.

ZOTOV

Okay, stand over there at attention like a good soldier.

Peter steps back and mimics the best of soldiers.

ZOTOV

A couple of things. You must never forget your arrows. The bow is worthless without them. And second, you must work on your aim. And you must NEVER let a vampire get this close to you.

**16 INT. TEREM PALACE FEDOR'S APARTMENT (1682) - DAY**

Fedor's scurvy-like disease has him lying on his back. IVAN and Peter are brought into the room. Peter is 10 years old.

FEDOR

I want to talk to you.

(pause)

I know you are young but Russia has a problem. You know about the dark creatures?

PETER

Yes. Vampires.

FEDOR

In the past we have promoted nobles based on geneology. Every boyar jealously guarded his family records, right.

PETER

Yes.

FEDOR

We are in a battle for survival. They killed my mother and they killed father.

There were endless squabbles, and it is becoming impossible to put capable men in key positions because others, citing higher rank, refuse to serve under them. How can we respond to the vampires and win?

The Ivan is struggling to follow.

FEDOR

It is a war and we must have the best people in each position.

PETER

In the army?

FEDOR

Everywhere.

(pause)

The was it has been enshrined incompetence.

PETER

Yes.

FEDOR

I'm going to order that all family documents, service books and anything pertaining to with rank be surrendered. And we are going to burn them.

IVAN

Why?

FEDOR

Do you know what merit means?

IVAN

No.

PETER

I know. It means ability.

FEDOR

That is correct Peter. Our officers from now on will be chosen based on merit.

PETER

And this will present the most able soldiers to fight the vampires.

FEDOR

I don't feel well, but you will remember why this is important. Your job as Tsar will be to protect Russia from the night.

The young boys nod that they understand.

#### **16.1 INT. KREMLIN YARD - DAY**

A small parade ground has been laid out for Peter inside the Kremlin where he can drill his playmates, mostly the children of select families of boyars. Peter's first "soldiers" are the small group of playmates who have been appointed to his service - Zotov and the dwarfs. However Peter is joined by bored servants - falconers, equerrys, valets and butlers. We can tell from the body language and grins that these adult servants are, in fact, also his friends.

#### **16.2 INT. TEREM PALACE FEDOR'S APARTMENT - DAY**

One by one, the boyars pass the Fedor's bed. They stop to kiss the cold white hand.

Then the Patriarch and his BISHOPS entered the crowded room. The Patriarch poses the formal question.

PATRIARCH

Which of the two princes shall be tsar?

MILOSLAVSKYS BOYAR

Ivan's claim is strongest. He is eldest.

MATVEEV

It is impractical and foolish to continue the rule of the Russian state from a sickbed. Ivan is almost blind, lame and can't speak properly.

The discussion grows hot, and finally, out of the uproar, the cry is heard.

BOYAR

Let the people decide!

The boyars look around trying to understand who made the comment.

Without a word, the Patriarch leads the group from the room.

### **16.3 EXT. RED STAIRCASE OVER CATHEDRAL SQUARE - DAY**

At that moment, "the people" meant the Moscow crowd massed outside the palace windows. The bells of the Ivan the Great bell tower sounded, and the Patriarch, the bishops and the boyars walk to the porch at the top of the overlooking Cathedral Square. Looking out over the crowd, the Patriarch cried,

The Tsar Fedor Alexeevich of blessed memory is dead. He leaves no heirs but his brothers, the Tsarevich Ivan Alexeevich and the Tsarevich Peter Alexeevich. To which of the two princes do you give the rule?

There were loud shouts of "Peter Alexeevich" and a few cries of "Ivan Alexeevich," but the shouts for Peter became clearly louder.

The Patriarch thanks and blesses the crowd.

### **16.2 INT. TEREM PALACE - DAY**

The Patriarch turns to young Peter. He formally announces the death of Fedor, Peter's election.

PATRIARCH

In the name of the whole people of  
the Orthodox Faith, I beg you to be  
our tsar.

Peter refused is shy and is silent.

PATRIARCH

Well speak up if you decline.

The room understands that Peter's silence now means that  
he has accepted.

PATRIARCH

Natalya his mother will be regent and  
Matveev will be chief minister rule.  
Is there any objection?

(pause)

Fine then it is settled. This  
tumultuous day has come to an end.

The religious leaders leave the palace. The boyars stay  
and begin to position themselves politically.

### **16.3 EXT. KERMLIN BURIAL - DAY**

SOPHIA is the daughter of Alexis and sister Fedor.

SOPHIA

This election is unjust, Peter is  
young and impetuous. Ivan has reached  
his majority. He must be the tsar.

PATRIARCH

The decision could not be changed.

SOPHIA

But at least let both rule!"

PATRIARCH

No, joint rule is ruinous. Let there  
be one tsar. It is thus pleasing to  
God.

Sophia storms off angry.

### **16.4 EXT. KERMLIN CATHEDRAL OF THE ARCHANGEL - DAY**

At Fedor's funeral, Sophia makes her case to the public. Sophia is in the procession without the moving canopy which traditionally screened a daughter of a tsar from the public. Sophia is seen weeping theatrically.

Natalya retaliates. During the long burial service, Natalya takes Peter by the hand and walks out. She stops to explain.

NATALYA

My son is exhausted and hungry and to remain will be bad for his health.

The boyars look down on Natalya, especially Sophia, who looks hateful.

Natalya's younger brother IVAN, also storms out.

IVAN

The dead should bury the dead.

On leaving the cathedral, Sophia feigns grief, over bitter rage.

SOPHIA

You see how our brother Tsar Fedor has suddenly gone from this world. His enemies have poisoned him. Have pity on us orphans. We have no father, nor mother, nor brother. Our elder brother, Ivan, has not been elected tsar by means of witchcraft.

The crowd seems sympathetic.

#### **16.5 EXT. STRELTSY PARADE GROUND - DAY**

Sophia visits the Streltsy. On parade, the Streltsy are a colorful sight. Each regiment has its own vivid colors: a caftan or full-length coat of blue, green or cherry, a fur-trimmed hat of the same color, breeches tucked into yellow boots turned up at the toe. They demonstrate their skills on excellently trained horses.

#### **17 INT. KREMLIN ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL - DAY**



Both Ivan and Peter are coroneted as co-Tsars.

**17.1 INT. KREMLIN IVAN'S APARTMENT - DAY**

Ivan is lying in bed. He has an IQ of 77. He is clearly deformed. He has a speech impediment and is nearly blind.

When a vampire enters the room, the candles extinguish themselves, but Ivan he isn't afraid.

IVAN  
Who is there?

There isn't a response.

IVAN  
You are a creature.

There isn't a response.

IVAN  
I understand you can offer repair of  
this body?

VAMPIRE  
Immortality.

IVAN  
That is even better.

Ivan tries to get out of bed to greet the creature. But he isn't able. He falls back into the bed and the vampire falls upon him.

**17.2 EXT. KREMLIN AND MOSCOW - NIGHT**

Sophia mounts a horse. She is accompanied by IVAN MILOSLAVSKY, IVAN KHOVANSKY and VASILY GOLITSYN.

SOPHIA  
Are they not sworn to protect "the  
government"?

MILOSLAVSKY  
Will they act though?

SOPHIA

They are a kind of collective dumb dog, never quite sure who is its proper master, but ready to rush and bite anyone who challenges them.

(pause)

They will act.

Sophia leaves the Kremlin with only a few men as escort. She seems hate driven and willing to take risks.

Sophia seems to have made arrangements to meet a vampire. They meet on a bridge. The men remain on the river banks. It looks something like a cold war "spy exchange". We can imagine the conversations and we can really only see that the vampire is wearing a uniform. He is (or was) an officer of the Streltsy.

There is a long negotiation. Sophia points to the barracks and the vampire points to the Kremlin. Several times they walk away only to return.

Sophia appears to give the vampire a substantial bag of coins. The vampire takes it but when she turned to return to the Kremlin, he pitches it in the river.

### **17.3 EXT. STRELTSY BARRACKS - NIGHT**

Slowly over time, the Streltsy is transformed into a vampire army. The windows are boarded up. They drill at night. Their uniforms change dramatically. Horses are now frightened of them.

Some willingly become vampires; they are persuaded. Others resist; they are killed.

### **18 EXT. STRELTSY QUARTER OF MOSCOW (1682) - DUSK**

At dusk the Streltsy Quarter comes alive -- well not actually "alive" -- but active. Bells tolled urgently, battle drums began to beat. Vampires in black buckle on their weapons and their sword belts, grasped their halberds, spears and muskets and assembled in the street.

Unfurling their regimental banners with pictures of the Devil, and beating their drums, they begin to advance toward the Kremlin.

VAMPIRE

We are going to the Kremlin to kill  
the Orthodox and take the thrown for  
Satan!

The vampire soldiers are shouting.

Two horsemen gallop into the Streltsy Quarter, shouting.

HORSEMAN #1

The Orthodox have murdered the dark  
Tsarevich Ivan!

HORSEMAN #2

To the Kremlin! The Priests will kill  
us all. To arms! Punish the  
Christians!

#### **18.1 EXT. FACETS PALACE MOSCOW KREMLIN - DUSK**

The gates of the citadel were open. There are only a  
scattering of guards.

The families are all in their parlors playing games,  
spending family time. Some boyars are reading. Some  
playing chess.

Matveev is reading when FEDOR URUSOV comes running toward  
him, out of breath.

URUSOV

The Streltsy are dead and they are  
coming this way.

MATVEEV

What?

URUSOV

It is dark now and they were marching  
through the city toward the Kremlin!

Matveev, astounded and alarmed, he grabs every servant or  
guard that is near.

MATVEEV

Warn Natalya.

(pause)  
Bring the Patriarch here.

(pause)  
Have the duty regiment of Streltsy,  
man the walls and prepare to defend  
Peter.

Only a smattering of cavalry mount their  
horses. They ride out to meet the vampires, but  
it is only a delaying action.

#### **18.2 EXT. CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION KREMLIN - DUSK**

A PRIEST is praying at the alter. A messenger comes to  
and interrupts. The priest rises and approaches the  
alter. He throws a lever and the alter mechanically opens  
up exposing a large wooden cross. Clearly it is very old  
and is movable. While it is about a five or six man job,  
the messenger and the priest manage to bring the cross  
down. The priest drags it out of the Church. The  
messenger moves to warn the other priests.

The priest struggles to bring the cross to the Facets  
Palace. It is a painful and laborious effort. He arrives  
at the Red Stairs only moments before the mob of  
vampires.

#### **18.3 EXT. FACETS PALACE MOSCOW KREMLIN - DUSK**

Matveev climbs the stairs.

MESSENGER #1  
The Streltsy were already nearing the  
Kremlin walls.

MESSENGER #2  
The gates could not be closed so  
quickly.

MESSENGER #3  
The Streltsy are inside the Kremlin.

#### **18.4 EXT. FACETS PALACE MOSCOW KREMLIN - DUSK**

Hundreds of vampires are surging through the open gates,  
up the hill and into Cathedral Square in front of the  
Facets Palace. As they came, the guards are no match for

the horde -- some abandon their posts and some are consumed.

At the top of the hill, the Streltsy poured into the square surrounded by the three cathedrals and the Ivan Bell Tower. Suddenly a priest with a life size cross appears at the top of the Red Staircase, which leads from the palace to the square.

The vampires within 20 meters burst into flames. Many of the vampires recoil and back away.

The Red Stair case is very wide. Several vampires hide their faces under their cloak and try to skirt around the giant cross. They are instantly incinerated by the power of the cross.

The other vampires freeze in their tracks. Several run to different locations to bring back ladders. Other vampires try to find alternate routes (windows and other doors) into the palace.

#### VAMPIRES

Where is the Tsarevich Ivan? Give us  
the Naryshkins and Matveev! Death to  
the Christians!

Inside, the terrified boyars of the council are uncertain.

Princes CHERKASSKY, GOLITSYN and SHEREMETEV go out and are prepared to fight. Young Peter grabs his bow and arrows and drags Ivan along as the too go outside. There is pandemonium. Natalya is panicked when she can't find Peter.

Natalya finally spots Ivan and Peter as they are just leaving the palace.

She rushes to catch up!

She grabs Ivan and Peter's hands.

She feels Ivan's cold hand.

NATALYA

Ivan, you are so cold. You should be  
in bed.

Ivan gives her a sneer and a hateful look and says  
nothing. He looks at the vampire crowd and seems proud.  
Natalya hesitates and surveys the situation.

A second priest brings holy water.

She leads the two boys to just in front of the cross.  
Natalya backs up so to touch the cross. The two boys are  
within inches of the cross.

NATALYA

This is the true and holy Cross of  
Christ! It was brought to our land by  
St. Vladimir. You shall not pass.

The vampires cower and hiss.

When his mother speaks, Peter turns to Cherkassky and  
nods at his arrows and then the Holy Water. Cherkassky  
takes the arrows and dips them in the Holy Water.  
Cherkassky returns the arrow to Peter.

Compared to the mob of vampires, Ivan looks more worried  
about Peter's arrows.

NATALYA

You are on the wrong side of history.  
Look at Tsar Peter...

She raises Peters hand!

NATALYA

He is a true believer and is  
invincible.

(pause)

The Tsar is strong and healthy and  
takes particular pride in ending your  
existence.

NATALYA

This is Tsarovich Ivan, also a  
believer and the son of Alexis.

She half raises Ivan's hand as he resists.

The Vampires cheer. Natalya is dumbfounded, but continues.

NATALYA

Vial dark creatures. Together these brave boys have vowed to rid Russia of you and your kind. We are a family united and you will have no royal blood today.

Natalya trembles.

Behind her stood the Patriarch and the boyars.

A few, curious and bold vampires, climb the staircase very near. Others have placed ladders against the porch and climbed to get a closer look at the royals.

They wanted to be sure that Ivan is one of them. They smell the air. They look keenly. Peter, standing only 21 meters from the vampires.

Their evil faces and weapons level with his eyes.

Despite the tremble in his mother's hand, he remains steadfast, staring calmly, showing no sign of fear.

A small group of vampires join the others trying to effect entry into the palace.

Most vampires are silent and confused, staring uncertainly at the three figures on the porch above them.

Natalya stand there for a full minute, gazing down at the monsters and their sea of pikes and halberds. Then, she turns and leds the two boys back into the palace.

Matveev steps forward and stands a foot in front of the cross.

MATVEEV

I understand your condition. I knew you when, last week, you were honourable. There was no need to

threaten murder or violence to  
anyone.

The vampires grumble. More vampires leave to  
seek a new route.

MATVEEV

I advise you to disperse, go home and  
ask God for pardons on two accounts.  
One pardon for your souls and the  
other for threatening the Tsar.

(pause)

Pray for you souls tonight and in the  
morning you will be spared.

The Patriarch also speaks two feet from the cross.

PATRIARCH

Day or night, the Streltsy are still  
God's children. I should admonishing  
you for your behavior but more  
important is that your soul doesn't  
burn in Hell. Pray my dark sons.

MICHAEL DOLGORUKY appears at the top of the Red  
Staircase. Humiliated and in a rage he foolishly runs  
halfway down the stairs and runs a pike through a  
vampire.

DOLGORUKY

Low demons and sons of Satan. Beasts,  
monsters, Archfiends!

Dolgoruky signals and ten archers appear from the palace.  
They dip the tips of the arrows in the holy water.

Dolgoruky signals again. They let fly their arrow and ten  
vampires burst into flames. Many vampires scatter - some  
up ladders. They break into windows and doors. It is  
mayhem.

A torrent of frenzied vampires charge up the Red  
Staircase. They seize Dolgoruky and tear him limb from  
limb. Blood and body parts fly and a blood lust begins.

The vampires roar approval.



Lusting for more blood, the entire raging mass of the vampires use a back servants door. They storm into the palace. Their next victim will be Matveev.

#### **18.5 INT. MAIN HALL FACETS PALACE - NIGHT**

Matveev is standing in an anteroom of the banquet hall talking to Natalya. Natalya still hold the hands of Peter and Ivan. Seeing the vampires rushing toward her, Peter drops his mother's hand and lets an arrow fly. The first vampire disintegrates in fire.

Instinctively Natalya puts her arms around Matveev to protect him. The vampires push past the two boys, and tear the old man from Natalya. She flies to the ground, she is splattered with blood.

Prince Cherkassky enters the fight, he kills two vampires but Matveev is captured. Cherkassky lines up to kill more. The vampires take him and run to the balustrade.

Ivan contemplates attacking Peter. Despite being a 1/3 a vampire, Ivan instead runs away.

Peter kills two more vampires with arrows. Peter runs to a window and looks out.

The vampires let out victory cries; they lift Matveev into the air and cast him down onto the upraised halberds. They vampires then devour him.

Without really looking where they are going, Vampires who have tossed Metveev run into the Cross, the Patriach and two priests who are moving it inside. Once they close the distance, they become flames.

Vampires are waiting for the cross to be taken away before they can ascend a ladder.

#### **18.6 INT. VARIOUS KREMLIN LOCATIONS - NIGHT**

They run unopposed through the state halls, private apartments, offices, kitchens and even the storage of the palace.

The priest moves the cross into the palace, again with much labor, and up the stairs.

Fleeing, the terrified boyars hide where they are able.

The Patriarch escapes into the Cathedral of the Assumption.

Peter and his mother flee into Peter's Apartment. They hold each other in fear on the bed. Natalya appears more frightened than Peter. The priest arrives with the cross and props it up at the foot of the bed. The cross is propped into a ready made fixture. Here they are untouchable with the cross protecting them.

Ivan is under the banquet table downstairs. He hisses when a human runs past.

For most, there is no escape.

The Streltsy hammered down locked doors, looked under beds and behind altars, thrusting their pikes into every dark space where humans being might be hiding.

They open the treasury, but without humans inside, they are uninterested.

With sharp blades at their throats, the court dwarfs are forced to help find the hiding boyars.

By sunrise, even the vampires had begun to tire of the butchery. There was no place for them to rest in the Kremlin, and most began to return to the city to their own houses.

#### **18.7 INT. IVAN'S APARTMENT - DAY**

Ivan is in bed. The room is nearly totally dark. Curtains totally block out the morning sun. Ivan is totally wrapped in blankets. His head is under the bed covers.

Ivan you are going to be Tsar. Get up and get dressed, I've organized everything.

IVAN  
I'm sick.

SOPHIA  
Ridiculous. Get up, son.

IVAN  
I don't want be Tsar. Peter is Tsar.

SOPHIA  
You have a role to play.

IVAN  
I'm not going to take any role.

SOPHIA  
You are going to let all this be for nothing?

IVAN  
I want a quiet, peaceful life.

SOPHIA  
Will you come downstairs and appear with your half-brother?

IVAN  
No, I will not.

SOPHIA  
Some are laughing aloud at the idea of you being tsar. My family can't let that happen; so get up.

Sophia doesn't know her son's vampiric state and she opens the curtains to begin the day. Sunlight streams into the room and lands on Ivan's bed. The blankets burst into flames.

Sophia is shocked and tries to slow the curtains but it is clumsy and slow and the vampire Ivan is burned.

#### **18.8 INT. STRELTSY QUARTER - DAY**

MUSKETEERS stream into town.

The musketeers are formally designated the Palace Guard and are strategically positioned around the Kremlin.

The Cross is been loaded onto a wagon. There are several priests and many soldiers. At least eight homes are burning all in a row. The wagon pulls up very near to a

home - within feet of the front door. The priests pray and sprinkle Holy Water. The soldiers watch the home. Slowly we see that it too is on fire. Inside the vampire has ignited a fire. Systematically the government is burning the Streltsy Quarter.

A vampire panics and runs from the next house in line. He is trying to escape to a house on the other side of the road, but the sun is shining and he agonizingly dies smoking in the street.

By the end of the day the entire Streltsy Quarter has burned.

Peter and Zotov watch from the Kremlin wall.

#### **18.9 INT. MAIN HALL FACETS PALACE - NIGHT**

They are feasted as heroes in the banqueting hall and corridors of the palace. All the surviving boyars and even the royals are very hospitable. Sophia, Natalya and Peter all walked among the soldiers and handed them cups of vodka and sweet treats. The daughters of Alexi and the WIDOW of Fedor flirt with them.

#### **19 INT/EXT. FACETS PALACE TO ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL - DAY**

We see the double coronation of the two boy Tsars, Ivan and Peter. It is an overcast day but Ivan is sensitive to the light. Ivan balks at dressing and Sophia must demand and in the end must dress him.

Peter and Ivan are dressed in long robes of cloth of gold embroidered with pearls.

The coronation procession moves out onto the porch and down the Red Staircase. The two boys are walking side by side. Peter (10) is already taller than limping Ivan (16).

They are preceded by priests sprinkling holy water.

The Patriarch greets the two Tsars and hold out his cross for them to kiss. Inside, the dark cathedral Ivan feels much better. We see the flickering of hundreds of candles, reflected on the surfaces of thousands of jewels.

In the middle of the cathedral there is a raised platform, a double throne awaits Ivan and Peter. We see the silver throne of Alexis has been divided by a bar. Behind the seat, a curtain cloaks a small hiding place for Ivan's monitor, who, must whisper the necessary instructions and responses during the ceremony. Peter knows what he is doing.

The ceremony began with the two Tsars approaching the iconostasis and kissing the holiest of the icons. The Patriarch asked them to declare their faith, and each replied, "I belong to the Holy Orthodox Russian Faith." Ivan is inaudible.

### **19.1 INT. PALACE PETER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Natalya has a premonition in the middle of the night. She runs to Peter's apartment.

Peter dreams about what he has seen. He is chased though the Kremlin (inside and outside) by a maddened, undisciplined vampire soldiery. More statesmen and nobles are massacred in a bloody mess. In the dream he runs through the dark rooms and mazes of tiny apartments lit only by flickering candles. He runs past what appear to be ghosts of bearded priests and boyars. He runs through rooms of pathetically secluded women.

He awakes with a start. His mother is there.

PETER  
I hate this place!

NATALYA  
I know honey. But it is your responsibility.

PETER  
These people are ignorant. All this ancient Muscovite pomp and ceremony which call me "next to God" but can't not protect me or you when the vampires come.  
(pause)  
Can we move to the countryside outside the city?

NATALYA

No Tsar has ever moved out of the Kremlin.

PETER

But there are two Tsars; one for here and I will be for outside of Moscow.

NATALYA

I will make inquiries.

PETER

Later, when I'm Tzar alone, I'm going to build a city apart from Moscow.

NATALYA

I believe you.

PETER

And far away.

**20 EXT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS PREOBRAZHENSKOE (1683) - DAY**

For entertainment, the restless young Peter is given barracks, an army of children, uniforms, and real weapons and munitions.

There is a young ARMY OFFICER there to observe, advise and teach.

Unlike other young kings, Peter does not appoint himself commander. Instead, he gives himself the lowest rank in the pretend army and gives the job of COMMANDER to another boy.

The uniform of the commander was made for Peter (a very large boy) and dwarfs the smaller young boy.

Peter is dressed as a private. Zotov speaks with Peter as the other boys dress in their uniforms.

ZOTOV

Are you sure you don't want to be commander?

PETER

No, I think I want to be useful and do something.

ZOTOV

But a commander doesn't just sit.

PETER

Yes, he contemplates. But how do you learn to contemplate.

ZOTOV

From books.

PETER

That isn't always true.

ZOTOV

Well, you are right.

PETER

Mother says I should learn from the ground up.

Peter approaches the boy dressed as the commander.

PETER

Do you know what to say in your speech?

COMMANDER

Yes. I think.

PETER

If you forget, look to me and I will whisper to you.

Peter arranges the commander's uniform, almost inspects him. Peter points to him where to stand and how to address the formation and then returns to the formation.

Peter is not on the front row but is on the second row. The commander must adjust his location to have eye contact with Peter.

Peter nods for him to begin his speech.

COMMANDER

Moscow and Russia has achieved  
independence and isolation.  
Confronted on the north by vampires  
in Sweden, on the west by ghoulish  
Poland and on the south by ...

The boy commander forgets.

Peter breaks rank and runs to whisper in his ear.

COMMANDER

... the demonic Turks and blood sucking  
Tatars.

Peter again breaks rank and runs to whisper in his ear.

COMMANDER

The two Tsars and the Russian church  
have adopted a defensive stance but  
today we will attack!

The boy soldiers cheer. Peter seems pleased.

#### **20.1 EXT. FIELD NEAR PREOBRAZHENSКОЕ - DAY**

Later, the boys are taught to fire their weapons - at  
targets.

They take time out and are served a soldiers meal, by  
real Russian Army cooks.

The boys play a war game with elaborate entrenchments and  
redoubts. The boys are incredibly muddy and energetic.  
They are learning what it means to be a soldier.

Zotov seems to be participating also in the war game with  
maps, drawings and books. He seems to be the referee and  
boys bring their disputes about the rules to him.

#### **20.2 EXT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS PREOBRAZHENSКОЕ - DUSK**

The day of military games is complete. The sun is almost  
down. The boys return exhausted. Many have actual wounds  
- cuts and bruises. One boy has his arm bandaged and in a  
sling.



Peter witnesses the ruthlessness of the vampires as three of them spring from the shadows and kill the boy commander. They have clearly mistaken him for Peter.

**21 INT. SWEDEN'S ROYAL PALACE - NIGHT**

A SWEDISH VAMPIRE enters and reports to CHARLES XII, the Swedish King. Charles is clearly a vampire.

VAMPIRE

It wasn't Peter. They say Peter was there but dressed as a mere private.

CHARLES XII

How odd it is that a Tsar would be a simple soldier, even playing a boys game?

(pause)

Are you certain it wasn't Ivan? Because he is a little bit touched.

VAMPIRE

They had be playing games all day in the sun. It was Peter.

CHARLES XII

He knew you were coming? It was a ruse to begin with?

VAMPIRE

I don't see how. No. That would be impossible.

CHARLES XII

But a private? Perhaps he isn't as bright as they claim?

VAMPIRE

Children play games, your majesty.

**22 EXT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS PREOBRAZHENSКОЕ - DAY**

It is Peter's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. New equipment arrives for Peter and his child army to play with. Two cannon mounted on wheels to allow them to be pulled by horses. The cannon are under the supervision of ARTILLERYMEN. Peter

is allowed to fire salutes. He enjoys this so much they quickly run out of gunpowder.

PETER

I'm not allowed to place a cannon ball in the cannon?

ZOTOV

No. Evidently your mother has been advised against this.

PETER

What about a piece of timber?

ZOTOV

Why would you want to do that? It would just splinter.

(pause)

Oh, I see.

PETER

A new weapon.

ZOTOV

We should try it.

We see them discussing things with the artillerymen. And they experiment with various types, shapes and sizes of wood. They set up manikin vampires and shatter them with wood fragments.

The first attempt aren't successful.

Then an imported wood is tried and works very well.

PETER

What wood is that?

ZOTOV

It is called ebony.

PETER

Where does it come from?

ZOTOV

Africa.

PETER

We need more of it. Lots more of it.

ZOTOV

It is expensive.

PETER

We will not practice with it.

Zotov is doubtful. I'm sure Peter has broken a few rules in the past.

PETER

I promise. I will not practice with the expensive woods. We can practice with the other woods.

But we do need lots more ebony. Can you get us some?

Zotov nods in the affirmative.

## **22.1 EXT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS PREOBRAZHENSKOE (1686) - DAY**

Peter's martial games have transformed the summer estate into an adolescent military encampment. It has grown larger and there is much more equipment.

New barracks are being built. But it is summer and most of the 300 boys are living in tents. They are living a totally regimented military life.

It is Peter's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. Peter receives sixteen pairs of pistols, sixteen carbines with slings and brass mountings and, shortly afterward, twenty-three more carbines and sixteen muskets. And he sets his boy soldiers to carved wooden bullets.

Angry looking Streltsy arrive and the boy soldiers appear concerned that they have been sent my Moscow to kill them and Peter. However Peter is unaffected. The Streltsy regiments will participate in his mock battle.

We see half a dozen fifers and a dozen drummers.

To practice the building, defense and assault of fortifications, the boy soldiers construct a small fort of earth and timber. As soon as it is finished, Peter bombards it with mortars and cannon to see whether he can knock it down.

The infantry storm the destroyed fort and assault vampire manikins.

The soldiers line up and are paid a small wage.

In barracks or field, Peter makes no distinction between himself and others. Peter performs the same duties, stands his turn at guard duty (day and night). Peter sleeps in the same tent and eats the same food.

When earthworks are built, Peter digs with a shovel.

## **22.2 EXT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS PREOBRAZHENSКОE (1688) - DAY**

It is Peter's 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. Peter is given horses and cavalry equipment - saddles, bridles, harnesses and caissons.

We see workers building stables for the horses.

Peter creates a second regiment of another 300 and divides them into infantry, cavalry and artillery - just like the regular army.

A sextant arrives in a box. No one understands how to use it. Peter travels to learn how to use it. He finds an older DUTCH MAN to teach him.

Later, Peter and the Dutch man discover a boat in a storage shed. We see them repairing it.

## **22.3 EXT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS PREOBRAZHENSКОE (1689) - DAY**

It is Peter's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. Western-style uniforms arrive, black boots, a black three-cornered hats, breeches and a flaring, broad-cuffed coat which came to the knees, dark green for one company and a rich blue other. Everyone is mustered for inspection.

At this parade, Peter stands in the ranks, a foot taller than the others but otherwise undistinguished.

All the levels of command are seen - field officers, subalterns, sergeants, supply and administrative staffs and even a pay department, all occupied by boys.

We see them on long marches through the countryside, making camp at night, and digging entrenchments and setting out patrols.

At night, around their barracks and tents they have guard and stand watch.

**22.4 EXT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS PREOBRAZHENSКОE (1689) - DAY**

Peter sails his boat in the Yauza River.

A GERMAN OFFICER approaches Peter over lunch.

GERMAN OFFICER

I see you are a sergeant now.

PETER

Yes.

GERMAN OFFICER

What a career you have had.

(pause)

First, a drummer boy and then a bombardier.

PETER

Drummer boys get to make a lot of noise, but bombardier make noise AND destroy things.

GERMAN OFFICER

I understand.

(pause)

And now you are a sergeant. You can be colonel or even general. You are the Tsar.

PETER

Competence and service merit promotion.

GERMAN OFFICER

Your brother Fedor persuaded you.

PETER

Yes, and it is common sense to me. If the Tsar does this, no nobleman will be able to claim command on the basis of title.

GERMAN OFFICER

Yes, Remember that when you are an adult.

**23 INT. KREMLIN COUNCIL OF BOYARS (1689) - DAY**

Peter is allowed to sit for the first time at a meeting of the Council of Boyars. He finds the discussion boring as they are talking about agriculture and architecture. However, when the discussion grows near the subject of vampires and defensive measures, he wakes up.

BOYAR #1

The next thing on the agenda is putting an end to the raids of the Tatar vampires into the Ukraine.

BOYAR #2

What is to be done?

Peter listens keenly. When there is silence and no real solution, Peter is profoundly disappointed.

**24 EXT. KREMLIN (1689) - DAY**

It is late winter. Natalya summons Peter. Peter appears.

NATALYA

Life is short and I think it is time you found a wife.

PETER

You just want offspring for your family's benefit.

NATALYA

It is not simply a matter of Naryshkin versus Miloslavsky.

PETER

Okay, lets just say for the sake of argument, it is a question of ensuring the Romanov succession.

NATALYA

Yes, Ivan has only produced daughters.

PETER

It is more than that. You are annoyed by my interest in foreigners. And you think a wife will end this.

NATALYA

Well, you are spending all of your time with these Germans and Dutchmen, and they treat you like an apprentice.

(pause)

I'm worried about your safety. Your firing of cannon. Your sailing in boats.

PETER

And they have introduced me to drinking, to smoking a pipe and to foreign girls.

NATALYA

Find yourself an innocent daughter of the Russian nobility.

PETER

I can't do that, I don't know any.

NATALYA

A wife will make you responsible. A beautiful Russian girl, shy, simple and loving, will distract you and give you something more interesting to do than play soldier.

PETER

With luck, she will quickly make me a father?

NATALYA  
That is the general idea.

PETER  
I don't know any Russian girls. I  
don't a single one.

NATALYA  
Don't worry. Let me take care of  
that.

PETER  
I will not argue with you. I'm going  
to Pereslavl.

NATALYA  
No you aren't.

PETER  
Yes. I am. The ice is melting.

**25 EXT. ROAD FROM MOSCOW TO PREOBRAZHENSКОE (1690) - NIGHT**

A DESPERATE MAN kills a SOLDIER on the path and hacks up his body. The desperate man steals his horse. It appears and looks like a vampire attack.

The Moscow Kermlin is notified and in the night, a mounted CAVALRY FORCE with torches is dispatched toward Preobrazhenskoe.

There is a misinterpretation and a MESSENGER ride to warn Peter, that he is going to be attacked.

**26 INT. PREOBRAZHENSКОE - NIGHT**

The messenger rides into the camp. Peter is awoken.

MESSENGER  
The Streltsy have risen again. They  
are on the road here now.

Of course, it is a false alarm. The Streltsy are still human and they are only chasing a murderer.



There is a panic. We see genuine fear in Peter's eyes; he is not the invincible young man we are accustomed to.

Peter dresses quickly, makes eye contact with several officers who are mobilizing the camp, mounts a horse and, accompanied by a small group, sets off on the road to the Troitsky Monastery.

The trip takes the rest of the night. When Peter arrives, he is so tired that he has to be lifted from his horse.

**26 INT. TROITSKY MONASTERY - DAY**

Peter awakes.

PATRICK GORDON

It was not vampires.

(pause)

The Streltsy were out hunting a murderer.

PETER

There was a murder?

PATRICK GORDON

Two humans as best as we can tell.

PETER

This is all very embarrassing.

PATRICK GORDON

Not necessarily.

(pause)

People understand.

PETER

They understand what?

PATRICK GORDON

Everyone in Europe knows about the last Streltsy.

(pause)

Your Majesty. If something happened to you...

PETER

Sophia does okay.

PATRICK GORDON

Does she?

(pause)

Two Tsars are acceptable. But for a nation like Russia to be ruled by a woman, no wonder there are vampires and an atmosphere where young men must flee for their lives in fear.

PETER

I could do better?

PATRICK GORDON

I'm certain of it.

Peter reflects on his life.

PETER

Despite the drama last night. Every bone in my body is sore. I'm bored. I feel like hunting.

PATRICK GORDON

There is a way perhaps, a reckless path but...

(hesitant)

well you are welcome.

(pause)

Some of the soldiers have developed a method of luring these creatures.

**27 INT. TAVERN IN THE GERMAN SUBURB (1690) - NIGHT S**

Peter finds a heady combination of good wine, good talk and friendly fellowship with soldiers. TIMMERMAN and BRANDT, Zotov, LEFORT, VINIUS, GORDON and a slew of SOLDIERS are drinking and conversing.

The foreigners are drinking heavily, but amidst the haze of tobacco smoke and over the clank of beer tankards there is also conversation about the world, its monarchs and statesmen, scientists and warriors.

But this particular conversation seems almost rehearsed.

GORDON

They are calling it the Battle of the Boyne, north of Dublin. King William of Orange has defeated the deposed James II and I think he has returned to exile in France.

TIMMERMAN

I would.

BRANDT

This sort of rebellion will continue for several years until the Orange army gains full control. These things are not easily accomplished.

TIMMERMAN

The French burned Teignmouth in Devon.

GORDON

With the loss of James's position in Ireland, any plans for a real invasion will be shelved.

(pause)

God I love this world! Here is a toast to its monarchs and statesmen, scientists and warriors.

In the shadows, there are TWO VAMPIRES SPIES watching and observing. It appears they are waiting for an opportunity. They offer us a sinister grin when Peter appears to drink too much. Peter loses at a drinking game.

The drinking becomes more intense. Songs erupt and the tavern becomes rowdy. There is a fistfight. The vampires in the shadows must restrain themselves at the sight of the blood.

GORDON

Here in Russia, when men spend an evening together, they simply drink until everyone is asleep or there is nothing more to drink.

Peter stands up. He appears very drunk. His speech is slurred.

PETER

I understand there is nothing more to drink and I'm not sleeping here!

There is a long pause.

PETER

I'm a Tsar of all the Russias. I will sleep in my own bed and not on these wooden tables!

Peter almost falls down.

GORDON

Fine then go home. We are not drunk yet and so we will remain.

The vampire spies exit quickly.

Timmerman and Brandt nod toward the door and acknowledge that the spies are leaving. They no longer appear drunk.

Peter walks to the door.

PETER

Fine, where is my coat? Which one is my coat? Someone bring me my coat.

A TAVERN GIRL brings Peter his coat.

GIRL

(whispers in his ear)  
God bless you.

She slyly places in his hand a clove of garlic.

Peter appears sober for only a fraction of a second and nods his head slightly.

PETER

Thank you.

Two drunken appearing RUSSIAN SOLDIERS get up and stumble outdoors with Peter. It is a very dark night and it appears Peter is committing suicide leaving the tavern.

Five vampires are watching.

They walk past three saddled horses. They begin to walk and sing a German drinking song.

**28 EXT. STREETS OF MOSCOW - NIGHT**

Peter and the two soldiers stagger along toward the Kremlin, walking.

Ten vampires are watching; one from every hidden spot.

They are stalked by ever increasing vampires, who at first hide and watch. But at a certain point, they appear and watch. Then they gather in a group and follow the three soldiers. They are growing bold.

The vampires are about to attack. Nine block the path and 20 or more vampires are behind them.

Peter still appears drunk.

Stand out of the path. I'm Peter and Greater of the two Tsars. I'm drunk and I'm going to bed. Out of the way or we will run you through.

The soldiers slowly and clumsily raise their weapons. One soldier drops his weapon and ineptly picks it up.

PETER

What are you creatures, deaf?

(pause)

Kill them!

They have not be drunk; it has been a ruse to draw out the vampires.

The soldiers assume perfect firing position. They are NOT drunk. They fire into the vampires before them. The bullets are wood and several burst into flames. A long fight sequence begins.

Peter pulls out a blunderbuss from under his coat and fires it at the vampires behind them.

The soldiers pull other weapons and fire. Vampires burn.

Peter pulls out two pistols and fires them. Vampires explode in flames.

Now Peter and the soldiers are at a disadvantage. Their weapons have been fired and they are still VERY outnumbered.

The run down an ally with their swords out. They decapitate several vampires. Peter running doesn't seem panicked. It is almost as if this is part of the plan. The soldiers however look extremely worried they will die.

The vampires seem to become more numerous at the fight develops.

After long a running battle, Peter and his soldiers enter an alley without an exit. They appear trapped and 30 or 40 vampires are closing in on them. Peter and the soldiers have only swords to defend themselves. The vampires congregate.

Peter looks up and down the street on top of a building, there is a cannon, with Zotov and several ARTILLERY MEN, and the cannon is pointed just at the vampire horde. Peter smiles.

The artillery men on the roof light the fuse and half the vampires are impaled with wood splinters and become enflamed. The other vampires are in disorder.

Timmerman, Brandt, Lefort, Cherkassky, Prozorovsky, Romodanovsky, Vinius, Gordon along with 20 other soldiers appear behind the group of vampires. Now the vampires are surrounded and the tide of battle changes.

Peter and the two soldiers go on the offensive. Gordon's group attack from behind them.

The vampires are slaughtered.

Slowly after the human's catch their wind, they laugh heartily. They return to the tavern singing again.

**29 INT. TAVERN IN THE GERMAN SUBURB - NIGHT**

Returning to the tavern the drinking begins in earnest. The tavern girl is overjoyed and meets Peter with a very warm kiss.

**30 INT. LUTHERAN CHURCH GERMAN SUBURB - DAY**

Peter is standing at the front of the church, Godfather holding the child before baptism.

**30.1 INT. LEFORT'S HOUSE - DAY**

Lefort has a great deal of wit and charm. There is no dialogue but we can see the hospitality, entertainment, and relaxation for Peter. There are exciting women. They are the respectable wives and pretty daughters of the foreign merchants and soldiers, dressed in the latest Western gowns.

**30.2 INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH GERMAN SUBURB - DAY**

Peter is standing at the front of the church beside the groom. Peter is the best man.

In the dancing afterward Peter becomes an enthusiastic participant in the rollicking country dance known as the Großvater.

With the mix of Scottish soldiers, Dutch merchants and German military engineers, clearly Peter has been accepted and all formalities about his royalty are dropped.

**30.3 INT. LEFORT'S PALACE - DAY**

Peter enters. This time the women are more rollicking, unshockable wenches whose role is to see that no man is gloomy. They are buxom, sturdy women who seem not take offense at barracks language or the admiring touch of rough male hands.

We see Peter contentedly sitting in a haze of tobacco smoke, a tankard of beer on the table, a pipe in his

mouth and his arm around the waist of a blond German girl named ANNA MONS.

**31 INT. LEFORT'S PALACE - DAY**

Lefort's home is being enlarged as a headquarters for the Jolly Company. Specifically a banquet hall is being built.

We see a strange assortment, a motley collection of distinguished GRAYBEARDS, youthful ROISTERERS and FOREIGN ADVENTURERS. Wenches, soldiers, merchants and aristocracy. There are even tradesmen.

A careful observer of this complicated scene will observe one peasant and one priest.

The group around Peter wear all sorts of clothing.

Half of these characters are high functioning alcoholics and included would be Peter.

There is a drunken luncheon. Peter is very drunk, but having a great cheerful time. He is a very happy drunk.

PETER

Welcome to the first daily  
convocation of the Jolly Company. No,  
make that the All-Joking, All-Drunken  
Synod of Fools and Jesters.

Drunken laughter.

PETER

Zotov, you will serve as our Prince-  
Pope, and the rest of you are a  
college of cardinals and a suite of  
bishops, archimandrites, priests and  
deacons. In reverse order; if you are  
a private, then you are a cardinal  
and so on. General Gordan, you are  
the lowest of priests.

Drunken laughter.



PETER

I would make you are deacon, but you  
are so very catholic!

(pause)

I'm only a deacon.

More laughter. Everything Peter says is received with  
laughter. He is the Tsar and they are drunk but Peter has  
an undeniable charm.

PETER

Our banquets will begin at noon and  
end at dawn. The meals will be  
gargantuan.

FOOLS AND JESTER #1

Membership, what are the  
prerequisites?

PETER

The only requisite for membership is  
a capacity for drink.

FOOLS AND JESTER #2

May we smoke?

PETER

You must smoke!

FOOLS AND JESTER #3

Will there be games?

PETER

Ninepins... and archery matches... and  
shooting at targets with muskets.

Peter's speech is accompanied not only by cheers and  
shouts but by a blasts of trumpets. And at the end a  
salvo of artillery. Lefort has an artillery piece in his  
front yard.

Gordon seems a man of moderation. Lefort seems to be  
teaching Peter to drink really heavily.

Night comes and they all leave in a drunken parade,  
hunting vampires. We see a pattern; the vampires will  
reveal themselves if they feel their prey is vulnerable.

The audience should realize that the Jolly Company

Again, they lure the vampires out into the open and slaughter them.

### **31.1 EXT/INT. UNNAMED NOBLEMAN'S HOME - DAY/NIGHT**

The Jolly Company is out in the countryside, racing horseback, firing cannon, racing on foot. They are hunting but so loudly the game darts away - shot at but not hit.

About noon, they are tired of games and ready for their lunch. The Company is totally disorganized but are a cohesive group around Peter. Clearly everyone follows him. In Peter's wake are anywhere from 60 to 80 followers.

We get the impression from a number of shots, this group to be vagabonds, living an itinerant sort of life, roaming the countryside.

They drop in unannounced to eat and sleep with a surprised nobleman.

One large wagon is emptied just as another wagon of beer and wine and other libations arrives. Peter has hired logisticians to keep the party going.

PETER

Bacchus be worshipped with strong and honorable drinking and receive his just dues. All goblets are to be emptied promptly and that members are to get drunk every day and never go to bed sober.

Next a wagon of food arrives.

There are many toasts that no one dare refuse, host and guests both gulped down cup after cup, turning their beakers upside down on their heads to prove that they were empty.

There is a band that arrives Peter plays the drums.

The fireworks arrive and there is an exhibition.

Of course they wreck the house and furniture.

They sleep overcame a reveler, he simply rolled off his bench onto the floor and snored away.

At night, almost by design, half the company sleeps while the rest celebrates.

The sleeping members are side by side on the floor. Sometimes they rise to consume more food and drink.

Vampires try to sneak into the house and are slain on the porch. The porch catches fire and the party is postponed as they put out the fire.

### **31.2 EXT. UNNAMED NOBLEMAN'S HOME AND BARN - DAY**

The next morning everyone seems exhausted and debauched, not Peter and Anna. The women are half naked, everyone is sleeping on the floor and a few are on the furniture.

Peter and Anna rise at dawn. The couple step over their snoring in drunken friends. They grab some food left over from the previous night and leave for a barn to begin work on a half-built boat that is hauled around for Peter.

Anna is in love and just watches him work. Peter is teaching her as he works, but of course she could care less and is only there as his companion. Peter is talkative and always energetic this scene is very typical.

PETER

To convert rough stock into something suitable for shipbuilding, you need three hand planes: a fore, a jointer and a smoother.

(pause)

The fore plane removes material quickly, the jointer plane makes the work flat and the smoothing plane prepares it for finish.

(pause)

See, it has a cutting edge with a thumbnail shape. This shape allows it to remove lots of wood.

(pause)

The jointer plane is longer and has a cutter that is either straight or slightly curved.

(pause)

The smoothing plane is shorter and has a cutter that is either slightly curved or has its corners relieved to keep them from digging into the wood.

Peter looks at the sun, probably about noon. He then looks toward the noble's house. There is some activity. Peter puts down the tools and walks back to the house. Everyone still looks terrible.

Two men arise; they look very haggard.

Peter bows slightly to the one man. Anna makes no gesture at all.

PETER

Oh, the Polish King has arisen.

Peter bows reverently to the second man.

PETER

King of Pressburg. Your Majesty. My Lord King.

FEDOR ROMODANOVSKY

Eat. Eat. Never mind me.

Peter mocks his own autocratic rank and title, this charade. It continued throughout the reign.

Peter and Anna wash their face and hands and eat the newly prepared food. Anna pours them some beer. Several members wake up, urinate and walk directly to the beer keg. The party seems to be beginning again.

## **32 EXT. MOSCOW (1691) - CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT**

This game is elaborate. More than 200 men and women, singing Christmas carols are traveling around Moscow.

Everyone must be very drunk from the singing and the don't have enough clothes on. The weather is frightful.

We see overcrowded sleighs. In the first sleigh is drawn by twelve bald men. There is Romodanovsky. Romodanovsky's costume is sewn with playing cards, he wears a tin hat and is in the sleigh perched atop a barrel of beer. A woman has her hand down Romodanovsky pants.

Zotov is the mock POPE, in ball and chains, driving a second sleigh. The Pope is guarded by two serious soldiers. They seem not to be drinking and perhaps were actually ordered to participate in the charade.

In the other 50 sleighs there are mock Cardinals and Bishops and Priests. They are all drunk and singing.

Several times the parade stops and the horses must veer off the path. This is a serious accident waiting to happen.

Peter is riding before Romodanovsky on his horse. Peter is shouting at pedestrians and people looking out their windows.

PETER

Look, it is the tsar he is coming to wish you a merry Christmas.

Peter loves to watch the faces of the people. Some run in fear. Some run toward Romodanovsky to get a better look.

There is a commotion at the back of the parade. A vampire has been crazy enough to attack the last sleigh. Some women and mock-Cardinals lay bloody in the sleigh, others have been ejected and lay out on the snow. The vampire is drinking the blood of a victim inside the sleigh. The horse keeps slowly moving.

After a few seconds, the parade stops. And then the second to the last sleigh stops and the Cardinals are about to step out and slay the vampire. But before this can happen. Peter is riding toward them with saber out.

PETER

Stop. Stop. There is just one and he  
is mine. It is Christmas and I shall  
have my quarry!

Peter arrives just as the vampire sticks his head up.  
Without missing a stride the horse passes near the  
sleigh. Peter swings the sword and the vampire's head  
tumbles onto the snow.

There is a great cheer that goes up.

Peter dismounts and retrieves some of the bodies. He  
carries them to the sleigh and seems very somber. Almost  
sober.

Servants drive the sleigh with the dead bodies in the  
opposite direction.

They randomly seek out the neared mansion. Inside there  
is a wealthy noblemen, family and his merchant friends.  
Peter and the Jolly Company stop to honor them with the  
caroling. Afterwards, uninvited, they swarmed into their  
houses, expecting food and drink as thanks for their  
uninvited songs.

The owner of the home approaches Romodanovsky and senses  
that he is not the Tsar. He looks confused.

OWNER

This buffoonery of a Mock-Synod is  
blasphemous.

Romodanovsky is too drunk or not authorized to speak for  
the Company. He looks around at Peter. Peter is standing  
behind him as always in this drunken "game" mode.

PETER

What?

ROMODANOVSKY

He says we are blasphemous.

PETER

Ridiculous. Certainly, God is too  
majestic a being to be offended by  
our little parodies and games.

Peter walks away, but then returns.

PETER

And, this is a form of relaxation -  
clownish perhaps, ridiculous...

One of the Company vomits on the floor.

...even gross - but for the most part,  
we were not men of refined  
sensibilities.

ROMODANOVSKY

Obviously.

PETER

We are men of action, and we are  
engaged the defense of Russia.

Peter looks down at his hands. They are are stained with  
blood.

PETER

We have killed a vampire and captured  
the Pope.

(pause)

Now enjoy our party.

OWNER

But this is my house.

The mock Pope has a plate of food. Still chained and  
guarded by the two soldiers, he is however eating.

PETER

I know; it is very nice. We came, we  
sang and now we eat and drink.

On the table, the feast the owner had laid out for his  
family and friends is gone.

Several of the Company have commandeered a child's jack-  
in-the-box and are playing with it and chuckling  
uncontrollably. These grown men, warriors, appear to be  
essentially children.

Outside the fireworks begin. The party moves outside.

**33 EXT. MOSCOW KREMLIN (1693) - DAY**

Peter is packing up for a long journey. There are at least 100 people, including Lefort and many of his Jolly Company, as well as forty soldiers.

Before he leaves, Natalya is she pulled from from her son

NATALYA

My life and my hope. Promise that you would not sail on the ocean.

PETER

Dear Mother, I'm not a sailor. I'm a shipwright. I am far to busy for games.

NATALYA

Peter?

PETER

I'm 21 years old and don't play games of a child. I build ships and I rule Russia.

NATALYA

Promise?

PETER

Okay, I will not sail on the sea.

**34 EXT. DAVINA RIVER AND SEAPORT ARCHANGEL - DAY**

Peter and Company arrive in shallow draft river boats. We see the watchtowers, the warehouses, the docks and anchored ships. Peter hears the clanging churchbells welcoming him.

LE FORT

They love you! No Tsar has never been here.

PETER

No Tsar has ever been interested in boats.



They disembark and walk through the port, past merchant ships from London, Amsterdam, Hamburg and Bremen. The summer is feverishly busy. We see their good unloaded - wool and cotton cloth, silk and lace, gold and silver objects, wines, and chemicals for dying cloth. Russian goods come down the river on barges with furs, hides, hemp, tallow, wheat, caviar and potash.

They pass a Dutch Reformed church and a Lutheran church. Many are picnicking outside, there is constant stream of European officers and sailors.

Peter is very happy. Very curious and frankly in heaven. We clearly see him smell of salt sea air. He makes eye contact with the miles of rope and tar around the wharves. He looks at the many ships' oaken hulls. He looks up their tall masts. He eyes the furled sails of ships entering the port.

Peter and his group head immediately to a quay where lay a small twelve-gun yacht, the "St. Peter", which had been built for him. He boards the ship, studies her hull and rigging and waits impatiently for a chance to test her. He looks down the Dvina toward the open sea. Peter is impatient even for a short journey.

They sail the yacht across the river to Moiseev Island.

**35 EXT. DVINA RIVER AND MOISEEV ISLAND - EVENING**

Peter can see most of the port activity from the house prepared for him on Moiseev Island. Already, on the first day of his arrival, he was anxious to put to sea, his promise to Natalya forgotten. Night however is approaching. Peter's group retire; in a few hours it will be light again.

**36 EXT. ARCHANGEL AND MOISEEV ISLAND - NIGHT**

There is a very bright full moon.

The quiet night is bent in two. Shouts and mayhem erupt in Archangel. There are fires and killings in the street.

The Dutch have supplied Peter with a nice telescope.

A strange ship has arrived in the night. It is a Swedish vampire ship and it is massive. For example, "The Vasa" was 70 meters long and 11 meters abeam. The ship had 64 cannon and had a crew of 145 sailors and 300 soldiers.

Peter and the others row out to where the "St. Peter" is moored.

The vampires have attacked; they have had their fill of blood and the ship now making for the open sea. It appears that perhaps the Dutch and English merchantmen have been burned or otherwise sabotaged. Only the "St. Peter" chases them.

Peter doesn't take command. He allows the Dutch captain to bark out the orders. However, Peter is clearly watching and studying.

The smaller ship chases and occasionally fires at the lanterns (left burning) on the vampire ship.

The "St. Peter" is speedy but can't catch the Swedish ship. We aren't sure the Dutch Captain wants to catch the much larger and more armed vampire ship.

They are only harassing the vampires. The vampires drag a deck cannon back to the ship. Peter's men drag a single cannon to the front of their ship. They fire at each other but it is impossible to hit each other in the dark and with no real profile to hit.

PETER

Are we making progress? Can you tell?

CAPTAIN

Yes slowly, we will catch them in an hour or two.

PETER

And then what?

CAPTAIN

They will be vulnerable and eventually we will hit their rudder.

Peter makes a mental note, "Go for the rudder."

CAPTAIN  
We will board her and burn her.

PETER  
(confidently)  
It will be day light.

But suddenly the vampire ship turns and heads directly toward the "St. Peter".

CAPTAIN  
(in Dutch)  
Accolade, hier komt.  
Brace, here it comes.

Peter and the Russians are standing around and not behind cover. They don't know they are about to receive a broadside.

CAPTAIN  
Get down.

Then, in succession as she turned, the vampire ship's starboard guns fire into the "St Peter". Holes appear in one of Peter's sails. A cannon ball hits Peter's main topmast and suddenly it leans crazily forward. But she is not yet out of action.

A howling ball passed a few feet from Peter's position. It hits the end of a shot garland and releases several balls to roll dangerously about the deck.

The popping of muskets begins from both ships. Peter and the other fire their rifles. The Dutch fire the two front cannon. The small ship is seriously outgunned.

Something tugs at Peter's jacket, and a small hole appears there. Peter feels nothing more, and he returned to his business of firing another round.

Another shot -two -three from the vampire ship tear holes in the deck. Much of the rigging comes down and there is a loud flapping and flailing of canvas.

The cannon beside Peter roars, its ball cutting the vampire ship's spanker boom cleanly in half. But the hit

was luck and does nothing really to stop or slow the vampire ship.

Peter's Dutch CAPTAIN is totally dismayed that he is about to be rammed and narrowly dodges a head on collision. It is a glancing blow. The vampire ship opens up point blank with half their cannon. It cripples the "St. Peter". Peter and his crew are totally dumbfounded. Only one of Peter's 12 guns manages to fire. There is little damage to the vampire ship.

The Swedish ship fires their broadside on the upward roll of the ship, disabling many of Peter's men. However the ship shakes violently, but the Russian ship is small and very low and most of the damage is done on deck.

CAPTAIN

This ship's taking a pounding! Be prepared to be boarded.

The men sound disorganized. Peter can hear them scream. Peter is visibly shaken.

A giant thirty-two-pound ball comes crashing into the side of the ship. It penetrates the hull but above the water line. It throws splinters everywhere.

The vampires come along side and use grappling lines to bring the ships together. The vampires attempt to board the "St. Peter". They do board her.

There is a tumult of musket shots, cutlasses crashing, and then the report of a swivel gun being fired.

Peter and the crew are fighting for their lives and are about to be overwhelmed. However, the sun is about to rise. It is 1:30 am. The vampires clearly have tried to strike and win before sunrise, but it is summer and the night is very short.

**37 EXT. WHITE SEA OPEN OCEAN - DAWN**

Both ships are dead in the water attacking in deadly combat. But the tide of battle changes with the sunrise. It is overcast but the vampires withdraw beneath the decks.

Then, almost all on-ship noise ceased, save a few inaudible commands being yelled and the waves slapping against the hull. The sun is about to appear in the distance.

Peter's men are devastated, wounded or dead. Now, human noise can be more plainly heard; screams for help and shrieks of pain are now very audible.

The Jolly Company are in no shape to take the attack to the empty looking ship. We can see more in the morning light; the ship is Swedish and the "Mörk Spår" (Dark Passage).

Peter alone boards the vampire ship. But the vampire's human RENFIELDS (daytime protectors and slaves) slowly emerge and with knives cut the grappling lines and manage to free the ship.

There are just enough slaves on board the vampire ship to make sail.

The two ships swing free of each other, but the vampire ship lowers her topsails, while the "St. Peter" simply drifts loose. As the ships drift apart Peter must jump back aboard his ship.

Only now does Peter look at his Company. Peter's face tightens at the scene of destruction. Bodies, and parts of them, are everywhere and the decks run red slick with blood.

The deck, rails, and mast parts are great hunks of splinters. Every flat surface is covered with debris or blood, bile, or excrement. We see cannons that are upturned.

Peter seems to be the only able bodied man remaining. Slowly several of the wounded men arise. They look like any other defeated army, but they appear aware how lucky they are to be alive.

**38 EXT. PORT OF ARCHANGEL - DAY**

Peter and a few soldiers/sailors manage to return to Archangel.

The port is still reeling in the damage. There are mass graves. Fires are still burning. The damage is immense and clearly Peter is affected. It is the sort of image that will stick in his mind.

**39 EXT. SWEDISH PORT OF NARVA (1699) - DAY**

Peter and several men are dressed as peasants (spies). He brings four pigs to the city and it admitted through the gate. Inside the fort are numerous Renfield characters. In fact, there are only Renfield types. Male and female both, but obviously servants to the vampires. Other than these, the city has been depopulated.

Peter walks into the church and finds no priest and certainly no worshipers.

Peter walks down to the dock. On the river there is the vampire ship the "Mörk Spår". Peter contemplates boarding it with his two men and burning it. He sees unguarded barrels of whale oil for lanterns, but walks away.

Leaving the city Peter notices the windows of several large homes are boarded up. There are Renfields guarding many of the homes.

Peter looks at the fort's defenses. There is an army of Renfields with cannon and modern military equipment.

Leaving at the gate, there is a dispute. Peter is challenged and called a "spy". They must over power the Renfields to escape. Outside the city wall Peter and his men are fired at from the wall. Cavalry of Renfields are dispatched and are about to run Peter down. But Russian cavalry arrives just in time. Once the odds are even the Renfields retreat back inside the Narva fortress.

**40 EXT. RUSSIAN ENTRENCHMENT OUTSIDE NARVA (1700) - DAY**

It is winter. The port is frozen; no ships in or out. Peter sets siege. We see 35,000 Russians building trenches before the Narva walls. Peter himself arrives to oversee things. In time the earthworks are four miles long, nine feet high, with a trench six feet deep in front.

We get a good look at the conditions of the army. There uniforms are cheap and falling apart. The rifles are ancient. The cannons are few and the horses are underfed. The food provided the soldiers seems substandard.

Peter is awaiting only the arrival of cannonballs and powder to begin the bombardment.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL

The trenches are finished, Your Majesty.

(pause)

Shall we begin the bombardment.

PETER

Yes. We have some cannonballs and powder but we have more on the way.

A Russian cavalry officer approaches.

PETER

Go west and watch for a relief army. They will be coming. The sea has frozen.

(pause)

When they appear, burn every home every barn every shelter. Evacuate every person. If they don't leave the path of the vampire army, kill them. Including the animals. Deny them everything.

CAVALRY OFFICER

They drink the blood of animals?

PETER

They might if pressed.

They begin the bombardment and Russian horsemen ride westward. The artillery isn't totally accurate and the some of the cannon carriages break. Firing is somewhat casual and without a sharp military discipline.

The siege goes slowly. In the day, the Russians seem to be winning. We see the Swedish vampire servants blown up on the walls.

At night, the vampires leave the fort and raid into the Russian soldiers. Russian soldiers are killed and the vampires disappear into the darkness.

**41 EXT. RUSSIAN ROADS - DAY**

The bad roads, muddy and then icy from the rain and snow, cause the transport wagons to become bogged down. We see very slowly artillery harnesses, the carts break and the horses collapse.

**41.1 INT. KARLSKRONA NAVAL PORT SWEDEN - NIGHT**

CHARLES (18) is loading all his available vampires onto boats. Along with each vampire soldier is a coffin. Inside a ship we see how vampire armies are transported during the day.

VAMPIRE GENERAL

Not everyone is enthusiastic about the idea of a winter campaign against the Russians.

VAMPIRE COLONEL

The enterprise might be extremely hazardous.

VAMPIRE GENERAL

The Russian army outnumber us four to one - some reports say eight to one.

VAMPIRE COLONEL

The Russians are defending a fortified line which the Swedes, despite our inferior numbers, will have to attack.

VAMPIRE GENERAL

It is a seven-day march to Narva through what will surely be a burned, despoiled countryside. What will we drink as they will surely drive off all the people and kills the animals?



VAMPIRE COLONEL

Winter is coming and Narva might not have protection against the sun.

CHARLES

We are loading these ships to fight. And the Orthodox Christians are waiting for us.

VAMPIRE COLONEL

The King is right. If the Swedish army fails and Narva is taken, the Russians will flood through Ingria, Estonia and Livonia and then we will be up to our neck in crosses and Christians.

The vampire ships depart.

**42 EXT. OUTSIDE NARVA - DAY**

The Russian artillery is about to run out of ammunition. We see nearly empty stores.

**43 EXT. THE BALTIC SEA - NIGHT**

A storm sweeps down scatters the Swedish ships. Some manage to anchor and some ride out the storm. Many of the cavalry horses are crippled as the ships heave and roll.

Charles is undaunted.

One ship sinks and vampires are rescued. And as they row, the sun rises; the vampires burn just before reaching a ship.

**43.1 EXT. EAST OF NARVA - DAY**

We see a Russian infantry assault on Ivangorod (east of the river) fail.

**44 EXT. PERNAU ON THE BALTIC COAST - NIGHT**

The sea is very icy but the vampire fleet is able to anchor and the vampires row to land. It is a great undertaking with horses, cannon, coffins.

**45 EXT. THE SCORCHED EARTH WEST OF NARVA - DAY**

Russian cavalry move people out of the path. If they argue they are killed. The animals are killed and the houses and barns are burned.

**46 EXT. THE SCORCHED EARTH WEST OF NARVA - DAY**

The vampire army spends the day indoors in their coffins in Riga. But when night falls, the expedition sets out. The conditions are appalling. The roads were iced over. The vampires have little trouble with the road but their servants suffer.

The ravaged country is studded with burned-out farmhouses, set alight by Russian horsemen. There was no blood to drink and no food for the horses or the vampire's servants. Everyone seems to suffer as the vampires become hungry.

At night, when the temperature dropped, the rain turned to flurries of snow and sleet and the ground began to freeze. The servants have difficulty keeping up.

A few of the Russian CAVALRY arrive to observe but the feet of snow obscures their view of the coffins.

CAVALRY OFFICERS #1

These are only servants.

CAVALRY OFFICERS #2

Where is the vampire army?

CAVALRY OFFICERS #1

This is an advance group. The real army must be to the west. There is little danger they will be here soon. Go inform the Tsar.

Officer #2 rides east. Officer #1 rides west looking for the vampire army. They have missed the army sleeping under the snow.

Charles sleeps in the day in a coffin under the open sky. As dark arrives, the servants dig the coffin out from the snow. All the vampires are dug out; they begin their march again.

**47 EXT. OUTSIDE NARVA - DAY**

The guns are silent. And we see the Russian soldiers facing the west and working on half finished fortifications to defend an attack from the rear.

The fort of Narva is to the east and the relief army would be coming from the west.

Cavalry Officer #2 arrives.

OFFICER #2

The Swedes are far to the east. There are Renfields but seem to be only an advance party.

Peter in error is given the wrong information.

PETER

Send for the Duc du Croy.

When the DUKE arrives, Peter is on a horse and simply nods to him that he is in charge. It seems pre-arranged.

PETER

We are leaving for Novgorod to speed up the cannon balls and powder. Also to speed the reinforcements. This needs to be over before the harsh winter.

THE DUKE

Yes. Definitely.

PETER

We will be back in two days. Postpone battle until more ammunition arrives. Maintain the siege and prevent Charles' army from breaking into the town.

Peter and several Russian officers ride toward Novgorod.

**48 EXT. OUTSIDE NARVA - NIGHT**

The vampires march in the moonlight. They look very bad; weak. The servants look frozen and near death. Horses fall dead. Wagons break, but the march continues.

We see more shots of the normal camp activity. No one in the Russian camp has an inkling of what was about to happen.

The vampire army arrives after a long, exhausting march launch an immediate attack.

A storm blizzard begins, blinding what few guards that are on lookout.

There is no hesitation and no planning an attack. The vampires simply begin to run.

The Russians lose their horses, who are frightened and run away.

They are starving and (literally) blood thirsty. They attack an enemy four times their strength and protected by a ditch six feet wide and an earth wall nine feet high, studded with 140 cannon.

Charles is a ruthless leader, but the attack is a total surprise. There is no alarm sounded. Peter is not in the camp and the soldiers in the night panic.

One Russian on watch, with the ice flakes biting into his eyes, fires his musket, and one vampire is killed and burned.

Swiftly the vampires advance. They climb to the top of the earthworks and look down on the confused Russian army. Muskets are swung up to the vampire's shoulders; a single volley is fired and the Russians fall like dominoes.

The vampire Swedes swarmed across on top of them. Waving swords and bayonets, they climbed over the earthworks and threw themselves on the foe. A fierce hand-to-hand battle is taking place.

The vampires pierce the Russian line in a single place and separate into two groups. They move inside of the earthworks in opposite directions. There is a southern vampire group and kill the left side of the Russian

lines. The right side of the Russian line, put up some initial resistance but then crumble and fall into confusion.

Rather than defend their fortifications most Russians panic and run into the forest.

Many Russians run toward the river. We see a single bridge with a dense herd of terrified soldiers. Suddenly, the bridge cracks and sags under their weight. Finally, it breaks sending many men sliding and tumbling into the iced-over river. Some crash through the ice and freeze or drown. Other have their skulls or back broken on the ice.

Those that stay at their posts are ripped to pieces. There is great blood shed. A few Russian muskets go off and many Russian fight bravely.

It is a terrible massacre.

Basically, of the 36,000 Russians there, 22,000 run into the forests and live.

**49 EXT. OUTSIDE NARVA - DAY**

The next day Peter arrives with cannonballs and powder but his army has been slaughtered in the night.

There is nothing but carnage. We see that Peter's cannon have been hauled into the city and are being mounted on the walls.

Nothing appears to remain of Peter's army. Peter finds the mutilated corpse of the Duke.

Peter rides and looks at the dead bodies; he tries to estimate the number of dead. He looks into the forest then to the southeast.

PETER

We have lost this battle clearly.  
Take your men to Novgorod and  
discipline the beaten regiments that  
will be streaming there.

Peter rides up the line from South to North. Peter is totally depressed and defeated.

Peter finds where the only point that the Russian have held. Still barricaded behind hundreds of artillery and supply wagons, Peter finds a group of men. They are haggard but alive.

Peter looks about and notices numerous charred bodies.

Peter looks at the soldiers and then at their regimental banners.

PETER

You are the Preobrazhensky and  
Semyonovsky Guards regiments? Under  
Buturlin?

Exhausted from fighting all night, they nod in the affirmative.

PETER

You are the soldiers I played war  
games with as a child.

They smile that the Tsar knows them, remembers them.

PETER

What is it that allowed you to  
perceiver - stubbornness? Arrogance?  
Patriotism or love of Tsar?

(pause)

It doesn't matter; you have!

Peter and the soldiers both take a bit of pride in this particular accomplishment.

PETER

We have suffered a crushing,  
humiliating defeat, but there will be  
no recriminations.

Let's not lose our heads.

As the sun begins to wane, Peter and his two remaining regiments leave the battlefield.

Charles appears on the city wall the very minute the sun disappear. He looks confident and actually unconquerable.

In the far distance, Charles sees the very last of the Russian soldiers with Peter disappear from sight.

**50 EXT. EAST BANK OF THE VORSKLA UKRAINE (1709) - DAY**

Peter emerges from his flash back. All the previous scenes have been his memories before the battle of Poltava. It is summer.

Peter sitting on a horse on a hill watching the siege. The city of Poltava is surrounded by vampires and the servants. He surveys the field. He contemplates a great battle.

Russian forces are gathering. A Russian and a foreign officer don't seem to notice Peter.

RUSSIAN OFFICER

The Russian Army has changed.

(pause)

While in England, the Tsar bought between more than 30,000 modern flintlocks with new ring bayonets. We distributed them and they were used as models for a homemade Russian versions. Last year, we produced 35,000.

PRUSSIAN OFFICER

What about artillery?

RUSSIAN OFFICER

We have a factory that produces new guns as well as a school where 250 boys were learning to become cannon makers and artillerymen.

PRUSSIAN OFFICER

What can you bring to bear here?

RUSSIAN OFFICER

In the next days, there will be 24,500 infantry, 14,600 dragoons, 3,000 Kalmyks, 86 cannon.

PRUSSIAN OFFICER

That is impressive. Much more than the Swedish. But are the modern tactics now emphasized?

RUSSIAN OFFICER

The men have been taught to fire on command by platoons and how to use the new bayonets. The cavalry moves only on command, they wheel by squadron, to attack with swords and withdraw in an orderly fashion.

PRUSSIAN OFFICER

How is the spirit of your Army?

RUSSIAN OFFICER

The Tsar has labored to infuse a new pride into the army: It was to fight not in the interests of His Tsarish Majesty but in the interests of the Russian state.

Peter seems to have been listening and takes some satisfaction in the changes. And certainly if you compare the army the previous sequence (Narva) and compare it with the army in this scene (Poltava) the change should clear to the audience.

First compare the expression on Peter's face, he looks confident. Also consider the uniforms and the sharp discipline the soldiers observe. The hardware is the most obvious improvement. Stacks and stack of rifles. Cannon are in the 100s. The food provided is impressive. The horses are in marvelous condition.

Peter looks down on the siege. He sees the classical siege works - the trenches are dug and the bombardment. Mines have been dug and (judging from the flags) are half the distance to the city.

**50 EXT. OUTSIDE POLTAVA UKRAINE - NIGHT**

Russians quietly leave the forts. They begin working their way toward one of the mines.

GYLLENKROOK approaches Charles.



GYLLENKROOK

Your majesty, Why a siege?

CHARLES

The Russians will not fight. They draw us into Russia deeper and deeper. They can run away faster using both the day and the night to travel. We of course are limited to the night.

GYLLENKROOK

If this is your purpose, the Russian garrison is only making it easier for you.

Russians enter the mine and then exit.

CHARLES

The town is effectively defended. Perhaps the Russian Tsar will come to their rescue.

There is a huge explosion underground. The Russians run back into the fort.

CHARLES

What? I really believe the Russians are mad and will defend themselves in a regular way.

Charles sleep in a house so near the fort that his servants must patch the bullet holes in the walls so the sun doesn't penetrate.

Russian musket fire picks off Swedish sappers and engineer officers.

The summer heat increases and we see the wounded servants began to die when their wounds putrefied with gangrene.

Blood grows scarce as the vampire foraging parties ride again and again through the district, stripping farms and villages which had already been drained clean a week before.

Soon, no blood is left to drink except horses.

Powder is scarce. The cannon is fired only five times a day and once we see the gunpowder fail. The sound isn't louder than the clapping of hands and the ball only travels 30 years.

And there were so few musket balls that vampires send servants into the trenches around the fortress to collect spent Russian balls and bring them in for re-use.

**51 EXT. EAST BANK OF THE VORSKLA - NIGHT**

Russian forces are gathering on the east bank of the river. The Swedish control the west bank. At night the vampires cross the river and attack. In the day the Russians raid on the west side of the river. Peter watches from his vantage point.

**51.1 EXT. WEST BANK OF THE VORSKLA - NIGHT**

Peter rides out along the river. At Petrovka, Peter finds a place shallow enough for horsemen to ride across.

**52 EXT. POLTAVA UKRAINE - NIGHT**

Two Russian soldiers, inside the fort, carve a cross on five lead bullets. The image is very small but clearly a cross. They take them to a priest and he blesses them and sprinkles "holy water" on the bullets. They are then carefully taken up to the ramparts. And fired.

Charles (27) is celebrating his birthday. There is a cake with candles.

A vampire near Charles is hit by a bullet and bursts into flames. But the birthday party continues. And then Charles is hit by this special bullet

Charles' entire foot begins to glow. But a vampire surgeon quickly removes the boot

The doctor hesitates to make the deep incision necessary to remove the bullet, but Charles, is adamant.

CHARLES

"Come! Come! Slash away! Slash away!"

Charles grasps his own leg, holds his foot near to the knife. Charles watches, stubbornly suppressing all signs of pain. Indeed, when the surgeon approaches the fire coming from the wound, the doctor shrinks from cutting. Charles takes the forceps and removes the bullet. The foot stops burning, but Charles luck has ended.

News that Charles is wounded quickly spreads through the vampire camp; the cornerstone of the vampire army's morale is the belief that their King is personally invulnerable.

**51 EXT. PETROVKA UKRAINE (1709) - DAY**

Peter's cavalry and a few infantry crossed the Vorskla unmolested and entrench themselves. His main army crosses the river. Everyone involved is nervous with an army crossing a river.

PETER

Both armies on the same side of the river.

OFFICER

A battle is now inevitable.

PETER

Confronting each other at such close quarters, surrounded by river barriers, neither side can easily withdraw.

The Russian army begins their earthworks.

**51.2 EXT. POLTAVA UKRAINE - NIGHT**

Charles has the vampire equivalent of gangrene, his foot just continues to smoulder. He is totally incoherent and near death. Doctors place his foot in buckets of swamp water; it steams, same as a blacksmith cools hot iron.

**51.3 NEW RUSSIAN CAMP WEST OF THE VORSKLA - DAY**

We see a stockade of captured Cossack horsemen (loyal to the Tsar), they are Charles personal blood bank. Prisoners of war but also cattle to be slaughter and

their blood fed to Charles. We follow a surprise Russian attack that frees the Cossack prisoners.

Supplies from a Swedish train are captured.

When the supplies and the freed prisoners arrive back in the camp, we see the Russian soldiers celebrate.

**52 EXT. POLTOVA UKRAINE (1709) - NIGHT**

Charles, lying on his stretcher, in the pitch dark a messenger brings news. Charles is angry!

CHARLES

What do you mean?

(pause)

No Poles? No Ottomans? And no tartars?

Charles throws the message back to the messenger.

CHARLES

How can I have Moscow without allies?

(pause)

Are we not all children of the night?  
The Sultan, the Khan, the King of  
Poland?

Long pause.

GYLLENKROOK

Abandon the whole Russian campaign immediately, raising this siege and retreat across the Dnieper to Poland.

(pause)

Saving yourself and the army for the future.

Charles is seething!

GYLLENKROOK

The Tsar has recently written to you proposing a peace with Russia.

(pause)

You can always renew the war later on more favorable terms.

CHARLES

I refuse.

There is a long pause.

CHARLES

I'm going to strike a sudden blow which would end all my troubles. The only way out is a battle to salvage honor, no matter what the outcome.

(pause)

If I win a victory, the Poles, Turks and Tatars will happy to join our victorious army and final march to Moscow. And if, because of the odds, a total victory is not won, then it is realistic for negotiations to end the war.

GYLLENKROOK

You have decided on battle?

CHARLES

We will strike, the sooner the better.

**53 EXT. FIELD NEAR YAKOVTSY - DAY**

Peter's army moves to a new camp near the village of Yakovtsy. We see Russian soldiers, working feverishly through the day, establish a large square earth entrenchment.

To the north and south lay heavy woods. To the east was a cliff and then the river. The only military approach is from the west.

Peter rides his horse to the main works and inspects the soldiers digging and dragging up fallen trees.

PETER

This fort is so inviting, tempting, build it well because they will be coming. They will come from the west. Make that rampart the strongest.

We see a trench six feet deep ran in front of an earth rampart. On top of the rampart are seventy Russian cannon. Behind these earth walls, are the Russian infantry. They pitch their tents and wait. Outside the earthworks, Russian cavalry and dragoon wait.

**53.1 EXT. ROAD FROM POLTAVA TO YAKOVTSY - DAY**

Peter rides his horse to the six earth and timber redoubts (300 feet apart) on the road to Poltava.

PETER

With these thick forest; the vampires will have to come through here. Each redoubt will be defended by two hundred soldiers and one or two cannon.

At the last redoubt in the line along the road..

PETER

There will be no surprise attack. You are our first warning.

Peter returns to the main camp.

We see dragoons all along the road. Peter will have warning and a first line of opposition will come along this road.

**53.2 EXT. LARGE ENTRENCHMENT NEAR YAKOVTSY - DAY**

Peter makes a speech.

PETER

Soldiers, the hour has struck when the fate of the whole motherland lies in your hands. Either Russia will perish or she will be reborn in a nobler shape. The soldiers must not think of themselves as armed and drawn up to fight for Peter, but for Russia, entrusted to Peter by his birth and by the people.

Of Peter, it should be known, that he does not value his own life, but only

that Russia should live in piety,  
glory and prosperity.

### 53.2 EXT. POLTAVA BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

Charles is carried into battle on a litter. Beside him we see his naked sword.

There is very little moon and the night is relatively dark.

While the army is waiting to march. While the cavalry is saddling up, we hear a knocking and hewing. Vampire officers ride out to investigate. The Russians have built a new line of four redoubts at a right angle to the previous six.

Now the redoubts form a T, with the Swedes obligated to approach the T from the top split between redoubts. The purpose is to force a split of any vampire advance into separate wings, passing by either side of the redoubts and permitting the Russians to pour a flanking fire into the vampires as they swept past.

As the vampires stare, the men working on them see them. There is a shout, a pistol shot, other shots. Inside the Russian redoubts, all along the line, we hear a warning drum.

OFFICER

There will be no surprise.

The vampire infantry is reforming when Russian cannon in the forward redoubts open fire with wooden cannon balls. Splinters from the cannonballs plow into the massed, stationary vampire ranks. They begin to advance.

The vampire grenadiers storm over the unfinished earthwork, bayoneting the defenders in a fierce hand-to-hand struggle.

The second redoubt meets the same fate.

The attack on the third and fourth redoubts fail. The third redoubt is bravely defended, and the vampire assaults are rebuffed. More vampires are drawn to the

site, all the while becoming more and more diverted from their original purpose.

REHNSKJOLD

No no! Move past these redoubt. Your objective is the large fort at the end of the road.

No one listens to him. They are blooded vampires and lash out at the nearest humans.

The battle is raging around the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> redoubts. Two columns of Russian dragoons come from between the redoubts and charge the vampire infantry.

Seeing them coming, a cry of "Advance cavalry" arose from the vampire infantry and the vampire horsemen advance at a trot to meet the oncoming Russian dragoons.

We see twenty thousand naked swords flashed in the moonlight as the two masses of cavalry clashed in the intervals between the Russian redoubts. The cannon are firing indiscriminately at the mass of horsemen. The wooden splinters cause discomfort for the Russian humans, but he vampiric Swedes they explode.

It is night but we see a great cloud of dust. There is the roar of cannon, the report of pistols and the clang of steel on steel.

The Russian cavalry capture standard of the vampire cavalry and they are taken to Peter. Peter is shocked and orders their retreat.

The Russian cavalry retreats. And the mass of the vampire army streams past the redoubts. However, the third and fourth redoubts do not fall. Many vampires are occupied there.

Three times they assault the redoubts, and three times they are repulsed. Finally, with forty percent of his vampires killed or wounded, the leader decides to withdraw. He leads them into a wooded area.

Peter is standing on the western rampart of his camp and looking out over the field.



PETER

Set the woods on fire.

Dragoons leave the main camp with torches. The Russians fire into the woods with wooden bullets and many vampires go up in flames. They then pitch their torches into the brush. The woods and the vampires inside are burned.

Rehnskjold, with the Charles and other officers, watch as the woods burn. And then they come under fire. The cannons fire wood splinters that begin to take a toll of vampires. One splinter burns two Guardsmen standing near Charles. Another splinter hit Charles' stretcher.

The vampires have only four field guns to answer the seventy cannon firing from the Russian camp.

REHNSKJOLD

Take this message to Poltava. Have them send the reserve battalion guarding the baggage and bring up the artillery.

But these messengers never get through. They are decapitated by the same Russians who set the woods on fire.

Time passes the vampires are slowly being eliminated. No reinforcements arrive. The sun will be coming up soon.

REHNSKJOLD

I can try to take the ford and prevent their retreat.

CHARLES

That will cut our force into parts. If the Christian go on the offensive and attack either group..

REHNSKJOLD

We can walk into their cannon and that shower of wood splinters.

(pause)

Or we can retreat back to Poltava.

CHARLES

Past the redoubts again.

REHNSKJOLD

It is the only way we can get to a position to decide where next to fight them.

The vampire army begins to retreat.

But just the vampires start moving back, vampire officers see that the whole Russian army is leaving the trench. They are moving out into the field to fight.

The Russian movement is swift and smooth.

When the deployment is complete, a long, thick, shallow crescent containing 40,000 of men and cavalry face the 7,000 vampires.

The vampires end their retreat turn to face the Russians.

Peter is on horseback with the infantry.

The superiority in numbers and firepower made the contest seem absurd.

With drums beating, the vampire infantry marches forward.

The Russian artillerymen double their rate of fire, sending their whistling wood fragments to chop burning holes in the vampire ranks. Still the vampires come forward, following their black flags.

As they move closer, the Russian infantry began firing volleys of wood musket balls into the shredded vampire line; nevertheless, the unflinching vampires kept coming, without returning a single shot.

Finally the vampires reach and violently assaulted the first Russian rank. With stabbing swords and thrusting bayonets, the vampires break through, driving the Russians before them. They capture the forward Russian cannon which had been firing wood at them. Within a few minutes, the Russian first line is confused, wavering and retreating.

At this stage, the vampire infantry look around for the cavalry, which should have come up quickly to exploit his breakthrough. But no Swedish cavalry was to be seen.

The center of the vampire line is successful and push deep into the Russian lines. However the left and right of the vampire line are being pushed back.

Peter can see everything. The vampire army has divided into three separate armies - left, right and center. Into the space between the three vampire armies, dispatches his own infantry in overwhelming numbers.

The vampire line is broken.

Peter has a musket ball knock his hat off.

The Russians envelope the right. And the left.

Another bullet lodges in Peter's saddle.

The vampire center advance but the farther they press forward, the more hopelessly engulfed they became in the sea of Russian soldiers. Eventually, the forward momentum of the vampire's charge is broken, its shock absorbed by the sheer mass of Russian soldiers.

And a third bullet strikes Peter in the chest but is deflected by the large silver cross hung around his neck.

The vampire cavalry finally arrives but they are all quickly shot, speared or dragged from their saddles.

And the dawn nears. Engulfed and overwhelmed, the vampires attempted to retreat, at first with stubborn discipline and then, as panic spread, in wild disorder.

The tall figure of Peter is a conspicuous target many vampire aim a weapon at him only to be killed before they can fire their weapon. One vampire wildly breaks through the line and makes a run at Peter. Four feet from Peter, he is impaled with five swords in the torso. A sixth guard decapitates him.

Charles is in the midst of the battle, when the collapse comes.

CHARLES  
Unholy! Unholy!

The cries go unheard and the vampires are busy dying.

Twenty-one of the Charles's twenty-four litter-bearers are cut down. For a moment, with no bearers, it looks as if Charles will be captured. Then, an officer dismounts and Charles is lifted into the saddle.

**53.2 EXT. ROAD FROM BATTLE FIELD TO POLTAVA - DAWN**

Peter sees Charles ride out the melee. Peter is in pursuit. Charles races past the redoubts toward Poltava. He turns and sees Peter and the behind him the sky is becoming light.

The vampire soldiers on foot in the field are doomed. Vampires are on horses ride alongside Peter without attacking him. They, like Charles, are racing the sunrise for shelter.

Peter's horse catches Charles and his horse. They cross blades as they race beside each other. It is a running battle and no one is able to win.

**53.2 EXT/INT. VAMPIRE CAMP OUTSIDE POLTAVA - DAWN**

There is a line of servants that part to allow Charles and his horse through. Peter runs over two with his horse.

Charles dismounts and enters the house.

Peter dismounts. Peter is stabbed in the back by Charles's servant.

Peter kills the servant and breaks down the door to the house.

Peter enters the house.

Peter drags Charles from his coffin. The sun will be up in two minutes. A fierce fight ensues.

Charles doesn't die easily and many times is about to get the best of Peter.

Peter has a small vial of "holy water" around his neck and a silver cross. Peter use both to wear the vampire down. Peter scalds Charles with the water and brands his face with the cross.

PETER

With all the respect due a monarch,  
how dare you invade a huge Christian  
empire with a handful of creatures?

CHARLES

Our ministers can work out an end to  
the war?

Peter notices chains in the room. Peter releases Charles from his grip. Peter calmly opens the coffin lid and gestures for Charles to enter.

Charles contemplates entering the coffin. Charles glances though the open door the sun is only 30 seconds away from topping the horizon. He must act now or be burned by the sun.

Charles seems to read Peter's mind. Peter dreams he is the captain of a huge ship in the Baltic. The cargo is a coffin completely wrapped in chains. Peter pushes it into the sea and it sinks to the bottom.

Charles chooses NOT to enter the coffin but attacks Peter again.

In the end, Peter is the victor as he drives a stake into the vampire's heart. The vampire shakes and shrieks. Peter drags the vampire outside into the sun.

The vampire Charles suffers a great deal; it is a long painful death.

Peter's hands are slightly burned when Charles bursts into flames.

Peter turns to the East and there must be 100 servants. They are not happy of course. But Peter walks through them.

Russian soldiers from the fort have exited it and are opening coffins of the vampire who escaped.

Peter looks over the trees into the direction of the battle. With the sun clearly above the horizon, we see a thick smoke coming from the battlefield.

FADE OUT: