

# VOTING RITES

October 22, 2012

By G. H. Ellis

## CHARACTERS:

VLAD TEPES, quintessential Transylvanian

ELIZABETH, off stage wife of VLAD

BRAD, annoying college student

JANET, annoying college student and girlfriend of Brad

(Scene: Bloomington living room of Vlad and Elizabeth. Elizabeth is pacing about, as Vlad arises from a coffin or enters affixing his cape as an obvious vampire.)

ELIZABETH

Vlad, are you up yet, because I'm starving.

VLAD

Good evening, Elizabeth. Feel like Oriental tonight? Visit the bus stop at the Bypass and Tenth and snag a Chinese couple?

ELIZABETH

Their little veins are too slow. I want to hit the football stadium. We can share a linebacker with jugulars the size of garden hoses.

VLAD

Fine, unhealthy American fast food it is.

(Doorbell rings.)

ELIZABETH

The doorbell, at this hour?

VLAD

As if we could hear it at nine A.M.

(Vlad opens the door and Janet and Brad enter.)

Welcome to our home.

BRAD

Hi, I'm Brad.

JANET

And I'm Janet. We're I.U. poli-sci students.

BRAD

We're on a class project that entails registering people to vote.

JANET

The school themester topic is good and evil, and how to reconcile opposites.

BRAD

Each Republican student is paired with a Democrat to experience working cooperatively.

JANET

Brad's my boyfriend whose only "evil trait" is that he's a Republican.

BRAD

Janet's my girlfriend. We're like that old political couple on TV. You know, the Democrat man with a creepy outer space bald head.

JANET

And she's a Republican with really bad hair and complexion.

BRAD

Man something and Carnival, I think.  
(She kisses Brad on the cheek.)

JANET

According to the voter registration rolls you are Vlad and Elizabeth Tepes and you're not registered to vote.

VLAD

Elizabeth is in the back, getting prepared for dinner.

BRAD

Our goal is to prove that Dems and Repubs can cooperate and get past gridlock. So, can we register you to vote?

VLAD

Do they have night voting?

JANET

No, because the Republicans restrict as many voting options as possible.

BRAD

To cut down on the Democratic fraud.

JANET

Which is only a tenth of the Republican fraud.

VLAD

We sleep rather late.

JANET

This election is worth getting up for; it's really close.

(Both Brad and Janet grab their necks.)

VLAD

Neck and neck.

JANET

I noticed your accents. I assume you are eligible to vote. Naturalized I hope?

VLAD

Supernatural.

BRAD

Awesome. Now Vlad, registering is an American ritual, and it's easy. First, you declare yourself either a Democrat or a Republican.

JANET

That's how we protect the two-party system. It keeps the communists and socialists, and free-thinkers from disrupting our government which might lead to gridlock.

BRAD

So, I'll take a stab: Elizabeth, that's a good Christian name, ergo, you are good Christian Republicans.

(Brad pulls out a large cross and waves it in his face who winces.)

What? You don't like Christians?

VLAD

They're OK, except the Italians; Elizabeth thinks they are too garlicky.

JANET

Ha, ha, Brad! Hard finding a woman supporter of Romney, isn't it? How about you, Vlad, please tell me you're not a typical white male Republican without a heart?

BRAD

Better than bleeding hearts, like Janet's gang.

VLAD

You are whetting my appetite.

JANET

Is Elizabeth onboard with a women's right choose.

VLAD

Yes, she chooses unhealthy food.

JANET

Sounds good to me. Enjoy life; we can't live forever.

VLAD

You wish to choose eternal life?

BRAD

Her "choice" is a code word for abortion, a.k.a. stopping a little baby's heart.

VLAD

Horrible loss, of an appetizer.

BRAD

Exactly, if that ruins your appetite, then you are a Republican. Doesn't it just make you want to take your pencil (he has one) and stab those abortion doctors in the heart.

(Vlad winces in horror and smacks Brad's arms when he stabs the pencil close to Vlad's chest.)

Owww. Damn pencil!

JANET

Now, you've cut yourself. I warned you to be careful of sharp pencil points.

(Brad sucks his finger.)

Oh, you don't like the sight of blood?

VLAD

Quite to the contrary, may I help you with that?

ELIZABETH

Vlad!

VLAD

Elizabeth, we have guests! I apologize. She gets edgy on an empty stomach.

BRAD

We aren't here to waste your time. But it would be really help us out if we could register at least one of you as a Republican to make our project look more successful. This town's is so top heavy with "Dem" donkeys.

VLAD

We are anxious to hunt down some dinner; so if it helps, we will register as Republicans?

BRAD

Double awesome! I just need to copy your information from a photo I.D. that contains this address.

(VLAD coveys a no.)

BRAD

What? No driver's license?

VLAD

Afraid not, I don't travel, by car.

JANET

Passport? (Another no.)

JANET

University I.D.?

BRAD

Doesn't count. But you "hunt." Got a gun license?

VLAD

I never kill, with a gun.

JANET

No picture identification. Did you hear that, Brad. I love it. The sole purpose of the I.D. law is to Republicans keeping poor Democrats from voting. Hear the backfire, sweetie pie.

BRAD

No problem, I'll take your picture to guy I know who makes I.D.'s for college students.

(Brad takes out his mobile phone and snaps a picture as Vlad cringes.)

JANET

That's voter fraud.

BRAD

I'm assisting a citizen to vote.

JANET

It's illegal. I'll have that guy arrested.

BRAD

Just like a Democrat, crushing the small businessman with regulation.

VLAD

Elizabeth?

JANET

Give me that phone.

(Brad and Janet fight over the phone as Elizabeth and Vlad gets more impatient. Brad gets the phone free from her.)

BRAD

Dammit, Janet.

JANET

What?

BRAD

You must have hit the head out button. There's no head in the picture.

JANET

You mean red out? There's no such thing as head out. Gimme that!

(Brad and Janet resume struggling for the phone.)

BRAD

Yeah, well where did his head go?

VLAD

Elizabeth, I've bringing carry in.

(VLAD grabs the two by the neck, throws Brad into the back for Elizabeth.)

VLAD

Please, help yourself to the big one.

(Vlad bites into Janet at curtain.)