

Of Blood and Water - Act 5 - Dramatic Scene

By

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From Of Blood and Water, a Dragon Age Tabletop RPG Adventure

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INT. DELACROIX MANOR BALLROOM

With Emily held hostage, the mansion guards allow Olivia to enter the ballroom, but force Raymon and Sorris to stay behind. Olivia enters the ballroom with one arm tightly around Emily's chest and the other hand clenching a dagger to her throat. Sheathed on Olivia's belt is her sword, and another dagger, this one seeped in the same poison used to kill her mother. She walks into the open room and looks down the rows of empty tables that lead to a large marble staircase connecting to a wide balcony. Duke Vincent Delacroix stands at the top, his sword drawn, and his face scowling.

DUKE VINCENT

Stop this foolishness, Olivia. Let your sister go.

OLIVIA

Drop your sword, come down the steps, and I'll let Emily go.

DUKE VINCENT

Come now, Olivia, we both know that you would never harm your sister.

Olivia's hand begins to shake. She lowers her head and averts her eyes from her father's gaze.

DUKE VINCENT(CONT'D)

How about a compromise?

Remaining at the top of the stairs, Vincent carefully places his sword on the ground. Olivia still refuses to release Emily. Instead, she looks over at the table where her mother sat and drank poisoned wine.

OLIVIA

Why did you kill her? Why did you kill our mother?

Vincent takes a moment to look at Olivia. He forms a look of disappointment on his face and responds.

DUKE VINCENT

Just like you, Olivia, your mother always tried to involve herself in matters where she didn't belong. She planned on revealing my trade to all of Orlais. I was able to convince the nobility of Val Royeaux that you were lying, but I could have never done that with

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DUKE VINCENT (cont'd)

Elaine. She had to die to protect  
the family, to protect Emily, to  
protect you!

Emily begins to shed tears from her father's speech, out of  
thankfulness for his selfless deed.

OLIVIA

You lie! We are your daughters, and  
all you do is lie to us!

Olivia's hand tightens around her dagger as she holds it  
closer to Emily's throat. She doesn't realize that Emily's  
skin breaks and a line of blood begins to flow down her  
sister's neck. Noticing this, Vincent's eyebrows rise in  
fear, but he is still unwilling to give up his strategic  
advantage at the top of the stairs.

DUKE VINCENT

If that was the case, why would I  
care if you killed your sister?

Olivia holds Emily even tighter, but as an act of caring,  
not restraint.

DUKE VINCENT (CONT'D)

I thought you were here to kill me,  
but if killing her is how you wish  
to exact revenge, go ahead... do  
it.

Olivia continues to grasp hard onto Emily, but eventually  
relents and moves the blade away from her throat. Olivia  
lowers her head, tightly gripping the dagger at her side.

DUKE VINCENT

(to Emily)

Stand back, Emy. I want you to  
witness what happens to those who  
betray our family.

Emily runs to the side of the ballroom as Vincent fixes his  
gaze on Olivia.

DUKE VINCENT

What a disappointment you've been,  
Olivia. If only you were more like  
your sister, a true Delacroix.

Olivia looks up at Vincent, her eyes burning with rage. She  
raises the knife before launching it towards Vincent's head.  
He side-steps it, easily.

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DUKE VINCENT

(smiling)

What a dirty trick. Perhaps you are more like me than you think.

At that, Olivia charges the stairs, drawing her sword. Quickly, Vincent snatches his sword from the floor. As Olivia nears the top, Vincent strikes out with his rapier. Olivia catches the attack with her own sword but nearly tumbles backward.

Fueled by rage, Olivia continues to ascend the staircase. Vincent continues his attack, but for every step he forces her back, she climbs two more. Olivia ducks a horizontal slash aimed at her neck, deflects a stab meant for her heart, and parries a vertical blow before it reaches her shoulder. After deflecting the last blow towards Vincent's right side, Olivia changes her grip and diverts her sword into a sideways slash. Vincent dodges back, the tip of Olivia's blade catches his shirt, but draws no blood. Yet, Olivia has reached the top of the stairs and is at last on equal ground with Vincent.

With her rapier at the ready in her right hand, Olivia slips her poisoned dagger out of its sheath with her left. Noticing Olivia's additional weapon, Vincent draws his own dagger and unleashes a flurry of blows with both. Vincent forces Olivia to block his rapier only to strike from the side with his dagger. Olivia moves back to dodge, with little space keeping her from tumbling down the stairs. She lunges forward gaining more room, but Vincent deflects her stab and begins to beat on her sword with his own rapier, forcing Olivia into a constant defensive position. She tries, again and again, to go on the offensive, but Vincent is too quick and his attacks are too precise. Whenever an opportunity arises for Olivia to strike back, her blows are easily countered. She begins to tire, and Vincent seizes the advantage and pushes her back towards the stairs.

Realizing her situation, Olivia decides she must do whatever it takes to land one blow with her dagger. At the edge of the staircase, Vincent continues to pound on Olivia's sword. She blocks, waiting for his dagger. It comes, aimed at her right side. Instead of blocking or dodging, Olivia pushes forward with her sword and stabs forward with her dagger. Olivia lets out a groan as Vincent's dagger enters her side. For a moment, her left arm remains extended, her dagger an inch from Vincent's right cheek which now displays a thick, bleeding gash.

In anger, Vincent pulls his dagger from Olivia and delivers a swift kick to her stomach, sending her tumbling down down the stairway and crashing into the bottom floor. Slowly, Vincent walks down the steps.

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Dazed, Olivia crawls on the ground in search of her sword. Vincent's senses begin to fade, and he stumbles as he reaches the bottom. He moves beside Olivia right as she finds her sword. Laying on her back, Oliva grabs her blade just in time to block a downward slash from her father. She continuously blocks as he beats her sword. Over, and over, and over again he strikes, but with each attack, he moves slower and the strength behind the blow wanes. Eventually, he drops his sword and falls to his knees.

DUKE VINCENT

What... have you... done?

OLIVIA

The poisoned wine you used to kill mother, I kept a vial.

Realizing his situation, Vincent looks over to Emily.

DUKE VINCENT

Emy, I'm sor...

Vincent's face turns blue as he falls forward, dead. Emily runs, crying, to her father's corpse. She embraces his head and begins to wail.

EMILY

(between tears and sniffing)

How Olivia? How could you kill my daddy?

Olivia lies back, she tries to respond to her sister, but can only let out a few mumbled words before she passes out.