

**THE FINAL MEETING  
OF THE UNNAMED CHILDREN'S PROTECTION LEAGUE  
OF ADOLESCENT VIGILANTES  
Sample Packet  
By Maggie Smith**

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**SYNOPSIS:** Based on true events, Laura, Phoebe, Nellie, Alice, Ida, and Edgar embark on an all-night journey in order to protect the city they love from vampires. Despite their young ages and constant adult supervision, the six Chicago children are determined to prove their neighbor's disappearance is related to the supernatural, though their excursion may prove to reveal a more sinister reason.

## **CHARACTERS**

**LAURA** — 12; knows more than everyone else and won't shut up about it; The Head Knight

**ELMER** — 14; braver than they should be; The Lowest Jester

**ALICE** — 13; absolutely over it all; The Declarer of War

**NELLIE** — 14; just... Nellie; The High Priestess

**EDGAR** — 11; desperately wants to fit in; The Lookout

**IDA** — 13; always up for an adventure; The Secretary

**FRANK MAYELL** — 43; missing

## **SETTING**

Couch Tomb, 1888. Lincoln Park, Chicago, Illinois. Nighttime.

SCENE ONE  
THOSE QUIRKY VAMPIRE HUNTING CHILDREN

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*[We're barely in a city. Not the one that you know today, at least. No bright lights or tall buildings. It's 1880's simple. The center of the stage is a mausoleum— Couch Tomb. You'll get to know it later. For now, all you need to know is that the world of Chicago in 1888 is full of humor, tuberculosis, and the potential threat of vampires. The tomb itself doesn't really have a set location, it can be facing in any direction. Around the tomb there's a black, iron fence. There aren't any other graves, so don't give into the temptation to make any extra tombstones. In reality, there's some trees around the tomb, but that can be up to you. There's one kid on the stage— LAURA TICE. She's impatient. She has a lantern in one hand, and a pocket watch, stolen from her father, in the other. Devious. She takes a look at the pocket watch every so often. She coughs frequently and tries to warm herself. She walks around the tomb, never going over the fence. EDGAR MARLEE stumbles through the grass, carrying a satchel. They freeze upon seeing LAURA.]*

LAURA

You're late.

ELMER

Your watch is early.

LAURA

Father's watch isn't ever early.

ELMER

Well, I'm never late.

LAURA

You're awful at this. Absolutely awful. *[Beat]* What'd you bring?

ELMER

Food. From the kitchen. My mom put it on the table to package it away. Didn't put it away in time, though.

LAURA

But what food?

*[ELMER pulls food from their bag. Bread. Bread. Bread again. Something else. More bread? It is. LAURA is Not in the Mood.]*

LAURA

Anything that can't be fed to a duck?

ELMER

Actually, you aren't supposed to feed ducks bread.

LAURA

Anything that isn't a carb, then.

There's some butter in here somewhere. Probably soft by now. Real easy to spread. That's not a carb, right? That's the cow one.

LAURA

Dairy.

ELMER

Right. Dairy, so...

LAURA

I'm not going to eat bread and butter for the next twelve hours.

ELMER

*[Already stuffing bread in their mouth]* Suit yourself.

*[Rustling. NELLIE GRIMM and ALICE POMROY enter, both carrying a large mound of thick blankets.]*

LAURA

Late.

ALICE

Cry about it, we never set a time.

LAURA

We said we'd be here at 8:00. It's 8:30.

ALICE

You said we would. I never said anything.

NELLIE

And I wasn't paying attention.

LAURA

What if Edgar came early? We'd look sloppy.

ALICE

You are sloppy.

LAURA

*[Whining]* That's not what I said!

NELLIE

Is that bread?

*[ELMER throws some bread to NELLIE. There's more than enough left.]*

LAURA

And what if Edgar doesn't want to join anymore because we're so disorganized that you all won't even listen to me when I tell you what time we're starting the meeting at?

ELMER

I thought you said we can't invite him to join us.

LAURA

I didn't say that. I said we have to pretend like we don't want him to join. So then he wants it more.

ALICE

That seems manipulative.

NELLIE

Do you have any butter?

*[ELMER shoves the bag over to NELLIE. NELLIE doesn't need further instruction. She looks in the bag.]*

NELLIE

You lovely little pack rat.

LAURA

It's not manipulative. It's calculated.

ALICE

You can't be calculated. You're failing math.

LAURA

I don't want kids to come and join if they aren't dedicated. And I don't know how dedicated Edgar is!

ALICE

He's dedicated. I go to Ida's house every day and Edgar is outside for hours trying to play a perfect game of marbles. And he's really bad at marbles.

ELMER

If you'll allow me to state the obvious, we need someone new.

NELLIE

You already drove three other kids away, and they didn't even get to come with us on an official hunt.

LAURA

Okay, I didn't drive them away. They weren't cut out for this.

ELMER

Can I have the butter back?

*[NELLIE tosses the butter up into the air and ELMER catches it.]*

ELMER

What are the cards saying tonight?

NELLIE

They weren't happy when I left. They almost told me not to come at all.

LAURA

Nellie, I don't want to hear about the spirits tonight.

ALICE

You'd better be kind to him. He's small.

LAURA

Edgar? He's not small. He's eleven and his dad works night shifts, he's basically the man of the house.

*[Rustle.]*

NELLIE

What was that?

*[Rustle. Rustle.]*

ELMER

Could be a dog.

*[Loud thud.]*

ELMER

Maybe a big dog.

*[A dark figure can be seen.]*

ELMER

A small bear?

*[It's EDGAR BRUERE, holding an unlit lantern.]*

EDGAR

I'm here.

*[IDA BRUERE enters, directly behind EDGAR, clutching a journal, carrying a bag.]*

IDA

He ran the whole way.

EDGAR

And I'm not even out of breath.

*[He is. ELMER uses a match to light EDGAR's lantern.]*

IDA

He's said that five times now.

EDGAR

And I wasn't lying!

LAURA

Looks like we're all here, then. Thank you all for being late.

IDA

I thought we never agreed on a / time.

LAURA

Okay, obviously we had to agree on a time otherwise no one would have shown up in the first place, so I'm right, you're all wrong, let's start with the meeting. *[Beat.]* Secretary Bruere, start the meeting.

IDA

First names, please.

LAURA

Secretary Ida doesn't sound as good.

IDA

Well, I like my first name better than my last. It's called identity.

LAURA

It's called I'm gonna replace you if you don't start the meeting.

IDA

You can try to replace me, but you and I both know no one other than me knows how to spell "Wednesday" correctly.

ALICE



*[Annoyed and petulant]* Oh my God.

LAURA

First and last name, then.

IDA

Fine. I, Secretary Ida Bruere, officially call this meeting of the Unnamed Children's Protection League of Adolescent Vigilantes to order.

ALICE

We have to fix that name.

IDA

Item one on the agenda... Fix the name.

LAURA

No. No. Initiation has to come first.

IDA

When we were making the itinerary you said—

LAURA

Forget what I said. We have to discuss the Edgar Issue first.

EDGAR

Wait, the Edgar "Issue?"

IDA

The interrogation process may commence.

EDGAR

What?

*[The following questions should overlap in a way that they're all still audible and distinct, but unable to be answered by EDGAR. Questions can be ad-libbed if necessary, but ELMER'S question should be last, loudest, and verbatim.]*

ALICE

What prayers do you say before bed?

NELLIE

How old were you when you witnessed death for the first time?

IDA

Have you ever met a person with cholera? Follow up question: Where, when, and why?

LAURA

What's the worst grade you've ever gotten on a test?

ELMER

A cowboy rides into town on Friday. He stays for two days, then leaves on Friday. How is this possible?

ALICE

Have you ever seen a ghost?

NELLIE

How old were you when you witnessed death for the second time?

IDA

Why didn't you eat all of the corn on your plate last night? Follow up question: Is it because you think Mom isn't good at cooking?

ELMER

What clues do you use to spot a vampire?

*[The children are silent, all agreeing that ELMER has asked the best question. They watch EDGAR, expectantly.]*

EDGAR

Well, the, uh, teeth. They're sharp. And the claws will scratch at you. And then there's blood around the mouth, because they suck blood. From necks. They suck blood from necks. And they're really pale. And tall. And they wear black and look old and come out from graves to kill us.

*[A beat.]*

ELMER

Okay, I say he's in.

LAURA

No!

ELMER

Come on, Laura, he knows all the vampire facts. He should be a part of the team.

LAURA

I don't know if he's dedicated enough...

EDGAR

I am! Please, I am!

LAURA

Prove it.

EDGAR

I won't leave the tomb until the sun comes up. I promise. I'll stand guard and keep eyes open at all times. I won't sleep at all. I'll watch. I'll be ready to protect. I won't even let food distract me!

LAURA

Swear.

EDGAR

On what?

LAURA

Swear on the tomb.

ALICE

Laura, come on. That's malicious.

EDGAR

What does malicious mean?

ALICE

It means she sucks.

LAURA

Swear!

EDGAR

Fine, I— I swear.

LAURA

No. Say, “I, Edgar Bruere, do swear to stand next to Couch Tomb for the rest of my time with the Unnamed Children’s Protection League of Adolescent Vigilantes. And if I do not, the body of Ira Couch may haunt and make a ghost out of me.”

EDGAR

I can’t remember all of that!

IDA

Oh my God, he swears! Can we get on with this?

LAURA

Fine. Edgar, I have decided to let you become a full member of the Unnamed Children’s Protection League of Adolescent Vigilantes.

ALICE

Great, now let’s change the name.

**[END OF EXCERPT**

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