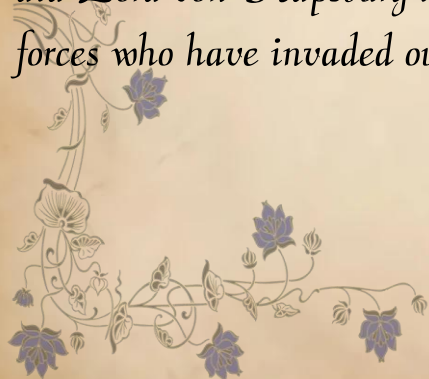


Mart 8, 342

I have enjoyed my service to Countess Tasha Petrovna von Hapsburg. To be chosen among the villagers of Barovia as a lady-in-waiting has been a great honor. Yet a shadow loom over the land as the Great War has taken many lives. I pray to the Morninglord the war will end soon. The King of Cadia has arrived and taken residence in the castle, along with his sons. The King brings his army, I pray they will aid Lord von Hapsburg to defeat the Terg forces who have invaded our land.



Eyule 19, 344

I have become fond of the young Prince Sergei. He recites poetry to the court and has painted several works of art, including the great hunting mural in the grand dining room. He is unlike his brother, Strahd.

Prince Strahd is ruthless and cunning, a leader we need in the time of war. He has little time for the pleasantries of the court and has turn to commanding the King's army on the battlefield. He was recently injured and the Vistani brought him to the castle. It is said Prince Strahd will make a quick recovery.



Sintyavr 2, 345

I escape each night through the secret door in my room that leads into the tower. I take the tower wall to secretly meet with Prince Sergei. We have exchanged several kisses and he wish to take me away from here when the war ends. We have met a hundred times if not more. He has professed his love and asked for my hand. While he knows his father the King would not approve, he has assured me his mother, Queen Ravenovia has given her blessing and will convince the King.

Prince Strahd is the heir to the kingdom and his sister Princess Katarina is betrothed to another Prince, assuring the family dynasty. Thus, for young Sergei to marry a commoner will not interfere with the family legacy. We have planned to for the wedding for the summer solstice in 347 and Sergei will announce our engagement next spring.

Octyavr 13, 346

I have failed to write anything in my journal as it has only been darkness this last year. I have spent much of the time alone, in prayer and deeply sadden. Earl Vernon, the eldest son of Lord von Hapsburg fell at the battle of Tsolenka Gates earlier in the year. Then the great battle for Berez, saw our Lord von Hapsburg fall with many of his men. Shortly after King Barov of Cadia was laid upon while traveling and murdered by Terg spies. The autumn saw the leaves fall early and coldness I never felt set upon the land. Queen Ravenovia and Princess Katarina set off to leave for Cadia with the body of the King, their caravan was assailed by Terg forces and slaughtered. Prince Strahd paces the castle in rage, now in command of his father's forces.

He hurls insults at Lord Argynvost, who is now in command of Lord Hapsburg's army and pledges to fight on against the Terg but will not bend a knee or recognize Strahd as Lord. News arrived that Countess Tasha von Hapsburg and her daughter Contessa Serra were murdered on the road near Krezk. Contessa Serra confessed to me she was with child and was traveling to the Abbey in Krezk to give birth if a male it would be the only male heir to the von Hapsburg dynasty. News of the death has caused great sorrow to all of us at the castle. I pray that she gave birth to a healthy baby and that it remains protected in the Abbey.

With so much death and despair, I go
through my daily duties in a daze and spend
my mornings and evenings praying to the
Morninglord in the Chapel. The joy and
laughter that once filled the castle is now cold
and quiet.



The only thing I live for is Prince Sergei,
his heart is broken upon hearing the news of
his mother and sister. We walk in the
garden, holding hands and not speaking for
hours. He shared with me that we must get
married soon and leave this forsaken land.

He has informed his brother Strahd that we
will marry on the Spring Equinox and leave
Barovia. It will be a small wedding in the
Chapel.



Yinvar 18, 347

Prince Strahd has grown distant, often traveling, and leading his armies into battle.

He was not happy about continuing with the marriage, he wanted to wait until the war was over, but Sergei said the war may never end and he wants no part in this land of death.

They no longer speak to each other, but Sergei still loves his brother and believes Strahd will be at his side when we marry.



Leo the Lion, Strahd and Sergei's stepbrother, has gone missing. Prince Strahd said he may have been killed by Tergs while hunting and has sent out scouting parties.

Prince Sergei believes something more sinister may have happened. Leo and Prince Sergei have become very close after the loss of their mother and sister. Leo warns Prince Sergei and me to leave and never return, never look back, to find happiness and love in a land far removed from the death that blankets this land. Prince Sergei wishes to remain until we marry and wishes for Strahd's blessing before we leave.

