

### *What Happened to Longhurst*

Lars and Elspeth, engaged in a pointless staring contest, welcomed the arrival of Willoughby and the morning mail. As neither would concede defeat, the automaton's arrival proved the perfect excuse to end their game.

Elspeth huffed, and spat, "A draw then?" Lars nodded, relieved, and they both looked at Willoughby.

The butler handed the morning paper and a letter to Elspeth, who set the newspaper aside and turned her attention to the missive. The envelope was high-quality paper, cream coloured, with a red wax seal embossed with a crest. The handwriting on the front was neat and flourished.

"Something important?" Lars asked.

"Um," Elspeth hesitated, and didn't elaborate. She simply opened the letter and read the contents. When she finished, she slipped the paper back in the envelope and stuffed it in her pocket.

Lars scowled. "Well? What was in it? Is it a new case?"

"No, nothing like that. It's nothing really. The Vampire Council has simply written to inform us of the death of Mr. Longhurst."

Lars frowned. "Why on earth would they do that? We barely knew the man and we certainly don't have many dealings with vampires or any dealings with the Council."

Elspeth shrugged, "A courtesy, I expect." She picked up the newspaper and buried her head in its pages, now ignoring her partner.

Lars sighed, knowing it was pointless to press the matter. He watched Willoughby clank from the room and poured himself the last of the lukewarm tea.



# The Grand Vampire Council



*Miss Heyward,*

*We, the Elders of Vampire Council, are writing to apprise you of our decision in the matter of Gerald Longhurst and the murder of Grace Morris, an affair in which you played a significant part.*

*We have kept a close watch on Randolph Beechworth after he received permission to explore the unsanctioned death of Grace Morris and then on your own investigation after you were hired. We commend you on finding Miss Morris' killer.*

*After confirming the facts you related to Mr. Beechworth, the Council convened a trial for Mr. Longhurst and during the course of events, he confessed to the crime. As such, he was sentenced to death and swiftly executed.*

*We of Council appreciated your assistance and now consider this matter settled.*

*Eupheme Hortense Carswell*

*Secretary for the Vampire Council*

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