

to window. HARKER steps up and faces window and then comes down R.)

SEWARD. Renfield! (*Takes RENFIELD by arm and throws him into room R.C. RENFIELD laughs cunningly.*)

VAN HELSING. He's been here all the time we've been talking.

SEWARD. Did you hear what we were saying, man?

RENFIELD. Yes, I heard—something—enough— (*With gestures to SEWARD and HARKER*) Be guided by what he says. (*Points to VAN HELSING. To SEWARD*) It is your only hope— (*To HARKER*) It is her only hope. (*Crosses to VAN HELSING*) It is my only hope. (*Falls on knees before VAN HELSING*) Save my soul! Save my soul! I am weak. You are strong. I am crazy. You are sane. You are good and he is evil.

VAN HELSING. (*Impressively*) I will save you, Renfield, but you must tell me what you know. Everything.

RENFIELD. (*Rises*) Know? What should I know? I don't know anything. (*Taps head*) You say I'm mad and Doctor Seward will tell you about that. You mustn't pay any attention to anything I say.

SEWARD. (*Stepping down*) We can't waste time with this fellow. I'll have him taken away. (*Crosses R. to bell ring; returns two steps up L.*)

RENFIELD. (*Gets up—to SEWARD*) Fool, fool, and I thought you were wise. The whole world is mad just now, and if you want help you must come to a madman to get it. (*Little laugh cunningly*) But I'll not give it to you, I'm afraid. (*Turns to window*) A wise madman will obey him who is strong and not the weak.

VAN HELSING. (*Steps to him fiercely*) Him? Whom do you mean?

RENFIELD. Need we mention names among

friends? Come, Professor, be reasonable. What have I got to gain by being on your side? The Doctor keeps me shut up all day, and if I'm good he gives me a little sugar to spread out for my flies, but on the other hand, if I serve him— (*Points to window up R.*)

VAN HELSING. (*Sharply, taking him by coat*) The blood is the life, eh, Renfield? (*Dragging him again*) What have you to do with Count Dracula?

RENFIELD. (*Convulsed with terror*) Dracula. (*Drawing himself up defiantly*) I never even heard the name before.

VAN HELSING. You are lying.

RENFIELD. Madmen, Professor, lack the power to discriminate between truth and falsehood— (*Breaks away*) —so I take no offence at what most men would consider an affront. (*Crosses to SEWARD; kneels L. of SEWARD*) Send me away. I asked you to before and you wouldn't. If you only knew what has happened since then. I dare not tell you more. I dare not. I should die in torment if I betrayed—

VAN HELSING. (*Crosses a step R.*) Doctor Seward will send you away if you speak.

SEWARD. Yes, Renfield. (*RENFIELD moans.*) I offer you your soul in exchange for what you know.

RENFIELD. (*Rises*) God will not damn a poor lunatic's soul. God knows the devil is too strong for us who have weak minds. But send me away— I want you to promise, Doctor Seward.

SEWARD. If you will speak.

VAN HELSING. Come, Renfield.

RENFIELD. (*Pause. Sets himself; looks at SEWARD, VAN HELSING, HARKER and SEWARD again, then speaks as a sane man*) Then I will tell you. Count Dracula is— (*BAT comes in window; flies out again. RENFIELD rushes to window with arms outstretched, screaming*) Master. Master, I didn't