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Zu diesem Buch

In einem kleinen schottischen Dorf rettet Luka die junge Alison, als sie von einem Verrückten angegriffen wird. Beide fühlen sich sofort zueinander hingezogen und kommen sich schnell näher – doch dann entdeckt Alison, dass Luka ein Vampir ist!

Völlig durcheinander kehrt Alison nach London zurück, doch sie kann die Nacht mit Luka nicht vergessen. Und auch Luka fühlt mehr für Alison als ihm lieb ist – mehr als er in Jahrhunderten gefühlt hat. Er folgt ihr nach London, aber dort lauern schon seine Feinde auf ihn. Als auch Alison in Gefahr gerät, muss Luka alles riskieren, um sie zu beschützen ...

1 After Nightfall


The wind **howled** all around the girl, her body a lonely silhouette against the sunset. It was winter, and night was falling faster than she had expected.

She pulled her warm coat tightly around her and walked further into the growing blackness. All around, the **barren** moorland was becoming dark and filled with strange shadows.

The girl was walking alone. She often made this journey along the road between two villages in the Scottish Highlands, where she had lived all of her life. She rarely met any other travellers on this road, and if she did, they were sure to be friends or relatives. There were few strangers in these parts. And yet she felt somehow unsure that she was alone tonight.

The howling of the wind through the weather-beaten landscape was **unsettling**, and the girl began to walk faster. She could feel the fear rising in her throat until the sound of her own deep and heavy breathing seemed louder than the wind.

Little sunlight remained, and there was no moon to light the empty night. She knew that there could be nobody else nearby, but turned to look behind her. There was nothing there but the far-away lights of Fairburn. In the other direction, she could see the **dim** lights of the second village in the distance. The road towards them had never seemed longer or more **desolate**.



to howl	heulen
barren	karg, öde
unsettling	beunruhigend
dim	matt, schwach
desolate	trostlos

The girl continued walking, faster and faster, and slowly the lights grew nearer. The last of the sunlight had now left the sky, and there



chill	Kälte
pointed	spitz
to drown out	übertönen

was a biting **chill** in the air. She could feel the cold in her bones.

The attack came without warning. The girl heard no sound, and did not see the figure that was hiding behind the dark,

pointed rocks, waiting. All she saw was the blackness of the sky and the lights of her home – so close, but suddenly turning dark.

Her scream cut through the night for a moment, then disappeared into the wind.

Übung 1: Definitions. Ordnen Sie die Begriffe ihren Definitionen zu!

Highlands chill pointed howl

1. Having a sharp end _____
2. A cry like that of a dog or wolf _____
3. An uncomfortable feeling of coldness _____
4. The mountainous region of Scotland _____

Alison Monroe shivered. It was a bitterly cold night and her grandmother's old cottage did little to keep out the Scottish chill.

Although Alison had grown up in Scotland, she had become used to warmer weather – or there was better central heating – since moving to London.

Pulling a blanket around her, Alison turned up the television to **drown out** the howling wind. Winter weather always seemed

unfriendly to her, but the screams of the wind that night were unsettling her more than usual.

She turned back to the television screen. A silent film was **flickering** in black and white. Alison loved old horror movies. With the **fierce** wind beating down on the old stone cottage, it seemed like the perfect time to watch one of her favourite vampire films.

The old-fashioned music reached a crescendo: the **twisted** shadow of the vampire's hand was **creeping** across the pure white dress of the sleeping woman. A moment later, the woman awoke, sat **bolt upright** and opened her mouth in a silent scream. Then the vampire could be seen in full view. It had no hair on its head, its ears were pointed, and its fingers were long and twisted.

Alison almost wanted to laugh. How strange, she thought, that people found this creature frightening when the film was first seen!

Now it seemed little more than ridiculous.



to flicker	flimmern, flackern
fierce	hier: stürmisch
twisted	verzerrt
to creep	kriechen
bolt upright	kerzengerade
to conclude	schließen, enden

Alison's grandmother, Eve, came into the room and sat down on the shabby sofa next to her granddaughter.

"I'll never understand how you can enjoy this type of thing, my dear!" Eve said.

"Silent films are beautiful," Alison explained. "Sometimes you can say more without using words, I think. Look at the way they use shadows in this scene... it's so atmospheric, you don't even need to see the vampire."

"Well, I'm glad they invented sound before I started going to the cinema, anyway," **concluded** Eve. "Let me have a look, there must be something better on another channel. Here we are, this looks good – he's ever so handsome, isn't he?"

The strange, pale vampire on the screen had disappeared. In its place was a tall man walking with a young woman through the

gardens of a large house in the countryside. Alison recognized it as an adaptation of a well-known historical romance novel.



☛ **Och, aye!** Oh, ja! (schott.)
cloak Umhang

“Shouldn’t we start making dinner soon?” she asked, changing the subject. Eve looked at her watch. “**Och, aye!** We probably should, dear.

I’m not sure what we have in the fridge... could you check?” Alison stood up, pulled the blanket around her shoulders like a woolly **cloak** and walked over to the fridge. “There’s some chicken, a couple of onions, some carrots that have seen better days... um, some milk... not much else. I should go to the shop now before it closes.” “Do you want me to take you in the car?” Eve asked. “No, don’t be silly. It’s only a five-minute walk to the village store. I won’t be long.”

Übung 2: True or false? Kreuzen Sie die richtigen Aussagen an!

- 1. Alison is watching a brand new film.
- 2. Eve wants to watch the vampire film with Alison.
- 3. Alison will go to the shop to buy ingredients for dinner.
- 4. Alison thinks the atmosphere is just right for watching a vampire film.

Alison put on her warmest coat, picked up her purse and opened the door. Although she knew the night was cold, she was not prepared for the biting chill that greeted her. She grabbed a scarf on

her way out and stepped into the black night.

She had only walked a few metres before she saw the village’s only bus stop ahead. Buses did not come often, and never in the evening, so it surprised her to see a **solitary** figure waiting on the seat.

solitary einzeln
to slump zusammensacken
bus shelter Wartehäuschen
cautiously vorsichtig
to dismiss abtun, aufgeben



Something about the way that the person was **slumped**, unmoving, made her feel very uneasy. She walked towards the **bus shelter** slowly and **cautiously**. Should she explain that there would be no bus that night? For a split second, a more irrational thought came into her mind: what would she do if the person was dead? She **dismissed** the ridiculous idea.

As Alison moved closer, though, there was still no movement from the seated figure. Its head hung unnaturally to the side and its clothes did not look warm enough for this bitter night. Suddenly, Alison remembered that the local pub, The Old Banner, was just around the corner from the bus stop. The figure was probably one of her grandmother’s neighbours who had had too much to drink and not made it home. She should wake him up and send him home to his bed.

Übung 3: Plural forms. Bilden Sie die Pluralformen der folgenden Substantive!

- 1. person _____
- 2. scarf _____
- 3. bus _____
- 4. bus stop _____

More confidently, Alison approached the man. It was clear from his slumped position that he had enjoyed too much alcohol. She



to extend	ausstrecken
frenzied	wild, verzerrt
to growl	knurren
choked	erstickt
hiss	Fauchen
to expose	freilegen, zeigen
fang	Reißzahn, Vampirzahn
dagger	Dolch

laughed a little at herself for misinterpreting this simple scene and moved to wake him, smiling and **extending** her hand towards his shoulder. A friendly warning was all the man needed...

"Hey, you shou—"

Her words were cut short immediately. The stranger had grabbed her by the throat and was pulling her close with his other arm, bringing

her face just centimetres away from his wild, wide-open eyes. His face was pale and **frenzied** and he was **growling** in an unnatural way. This was definitely no drunk.

The incredible speed and focus of the attack gave Alison no time to think. She could not even scream. Instinct alone made her push against the stranger with all of her weight, trying to get free of his grip, but his strength seemed almost superhuman.

"What do you want?" she cried out. Her voice came out **choked** and shrill.

Her attacker did not reply, but simply stared at her coldly with a half-smile flickering on his thin lips. Then, terrifyingly, he let out a cat-like **hiss** which **exposed** teeth that looked very much like **fangs**. They shone like **daggers** in the dim yellow light. While pulling her closer still, he opened his mouth and brought his pointed teeth towards her neck.

Alison tried with all her strength to push him away, but everything was happening too fast. She was struggling as hard as she could, but his steely grip made her attempts seem weak and useless. She could not hope to match his power.


Only her scarf now stood between her neck and the deadly fangs of the inhuman creature that had **trapped** her. She could not believe what was happening: surely she could not die tonight, not like this!

Übung 4: Fill in the blanks. Ergänzen Sie die fehlenden Wörter!

1. The stranger **g** Alison by the throat.
2. The inhuman creature's **f** were getting closer and closer to Alison's **n**.
3. The **a** was incredibly fast and focused.
4. Only Alison's **s** was protecting her from a deadly **b**.

Alison suddenly felt herself being pulled away from her attacker. Something had grabbed her from behind and pulled her out of the way very fast, though she did not feel any pain. Momentarily, she thought she **glimpsed** a second pair of fangs out of the corner of her eye as she fell to the ground. She could see now that a second man had joined the violent scene; he was fighting the creature with forceful **blows**.

Alison did not want to stay to find out who, or what, this second stranger was, but fear and shock kept her **glued to the spot**. In front



to trap	in eine Falle locken, fangen
to glimpse	flüchtig erblicken
blow	Schlag, Hieb
to be glued to the spot	wie angewurzelt dastehen