

## NOTES

90% of deaf babies are born to hearing parents, and these parents often have little or no contact with Deaf culture or Deaf people. This means that, for these parents, their main source of information comes from the medical field, where doctors view deafness as a deficiency, and therefore, in need of fixing. Doctors often believe that cutting and adding cochlear implants make a person born deaf whole again. In reality, however, this only places the person in limbo between the hearing world and the Deaf world. In her futuristic one-act play, Nicki Stanton uses the clever metaphor of the Deaf culture to take us inside the secret world of Vampires, where a decision must be made: Do a couple of vampires allow their young son, born human, to remain so, or do they allow doctors to perform a surgery, which would allow their son to become more like them? This intriguing play should be performed by a female and male and be entered in Duo Interpretation or Duet Acting; however, this script may also be performed by a single actor and be entered in Dramatic Interpretation.

### Characters:

Doctor  
Mrs. Stoker  
Dracula  
Sam  
Adam  
Kenneth

### *Scene 1: The doctor's office*

**Doctor:** Thank you for coming back to my office, Mrs. Stoker. As you know, we ran multiple tests on your son, Bram, last week, and today we are going to discuss those results. I only wish I had a better prognosis for you. *(Beat)* I'm afraid your son suffers from DEAF-ness.

**Mrs. Stoker:** I don't understand. Deafness?

**Doctor:** I'm afraid I'm not being very clear. You see, in medical terms, DEAF-ness stands for Dysfunctional Enduring Anthropogenic Fault.

**Mrs. Stoker:** What does that mean, Doctor? *(Beat)* It's true that Bram's responses are sometimes a bit delayed, but my husband and I never felt it was cause for alarm. I only brought Bram in for tests at his preschool teacher's insistence.

# THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NIGHT AND DAY

By Nicki Stanton

**Doctor:** I assure you. There's nothing to be alarmed about, Mrs. Stoker. DEAF-ness isn't life-threatening. It simply means your son does not possess the necessary molecular structure to become a vampire, but he does have the ability to be human. *(Beat)* As difficult as this may be to hear, I'm afraid your son—is human.

**Mrs. Stoker:** What do you mean Bram's human? *I'm* a vampire, his *father* is a vampire. His grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins—we're all *vampires*.

**Doctor:** That all may be well and true, but DEAF-ness—while extremely *rare*—can be the result of many different factors: A difficult pregnancy, complications during childbirth, even a serious illness can cause DEAF-ness. Even though your entire family is vampires, DEAF-ness can still be passed on through your DNA or your husband's.

**Mrs. Stoker:** My pregnancy, the delivery—everything went smoothly. For nine months, I only consumed organic AB- blood. I did everything my doctors and midwife advised me to do.

**Doctor:** I'm sure you did everything right, but sometimes these things just happen.

**Mrs. Stoker:** Is there anything that can be done?

**Doctor:** Well, there *is* a surgical procedure that can be performed. *(Trying to simplify the procedure)* We insert a small electronic implant under the scalp near the portion of the brain controlling hunger and sleep patterns. The purpose of this electronic device is to encourage your son to develop a taste for blood and, ultimately, alter his sleep patterns—encouraging him to become more *nocturnal* in nature.

**Mrs. Stoker:** Doctor, Bram is only four. Isn't this risky for a child so young?

**Doctor:** There are always risks involved with any surgery, but this particular surgery is relatively safe.

**Mrs. Stoker:** And this surgery—it will make Bram a vampire?

**Doctor:** In a way, yes. If the surgery is successful, Bram will develop a taste for blood and become more nocturnal; however, he won't experience these sensations the way we, as vampires, do. The implant in his brain will, over a period of time, need to be reprogrammed, which will require a lot of therapy. *(Beat)* Please, understand that each brain interprets information differently, but the therapy will help Bram learn to *use* his new implant.

**Mrs. Stoker:** Doctor, how long will it take before we start to see results?

**Doctor:** Well, the results are rarely instantaneous. More than likely, you will slowly begin to see improvements over an extended period of time. Mrs. Stoker, you and your husband will also need to continually practice with Bram at home.

**Mrs. Stoker:** Is the implant expensive?

**Doctor:** Don't worry. Most insurance plans will cover the cost of the implant, along with the necessary therapy.

**Mrs. Stoker:** Are there any alternatives?

**Doctor:** Alternatives? Well, I suppose you could just let your son grow up DEAF. (*Handing Mrs. Stoker some pamphlets*) Here are some brochures. Take these home and look them over. They explain everything you need to know.

**Mrs. Stoker:** Oh, okay. Thank you.

**Doctor:** And on your way out, please make sure to stop by the front desk and set up a follow-up appointment with Kenneth. At our next appointment I can answer any additional questions you may have, and we can look at the calendar to schedule a date for surgery.

**Mrs. Stoker:** I will, Doctor. Thank you.

### ***Scene 2: In the lobby of the doctor's office***

**Mrs. Stoker:** Bram, honey, it's time to go. Did you fall asleep again? Honey, it's only 3:00 a.m. You are such a big boy now. I don't think you need naps anymore. Just be careful to pay attention when you're walking. Honestly, it's like you can't even see in the dark.

### ***Scene 3: At the Stoker's home***

**Mrs. Stoker:** Dracula, what are we going to do? The doctor said our son is DEAF, that he won't be a vampire.

**Dracula:** DEAF? You mean like a human?

**Mrs. Stoker:** Yes.

**Dracula:** Do you mean to tell me that Bram will be awake during the day, while we are sleeping soundly? That he will...*chew*...his food? He'll eat vegetables? No. This can't be right. He looks just like us.

**Mrs. Stoker:** Well, the doctor did say there is a surgery that might be able to help Bram become more vampire-like.

**Dracula:** Then, I think surgery is the best option.

**Mrs. Stoker:** He also said there are risks with the surgery.

**Dracula:** But if they can remove this DEAF-ness, then Bram will be normal like us?

**Mrs. Stoker:** I don't think it works that way. The doctor said even *with* the surgery it's not a guarantee that Bram will experience being a vampire like we do.

**Dracula:** I think the doctor can fix him.