



BLOODMOON!!

Times are hard for TV star Nic Alexander. His show, *Bloodmoon*, was cancelled and his ex-wife is taking him to the cleaners. Luckily there's an endless array of fans who will pay to see him at conventions. At one event, Nic discovers that his hosts are real vampires, and not only is he on the guest list, he's on the menu.

★ Vampires: Eternal Appeal

One of the big reasons vampires persist in pop culture is because they're so conceptually flexible—there are enough different vampire myths that creators can pick and chose, and use them to cover a lot of the symbolic or story ground that makes other monsters unique. Vampires can come in generic, constantly growing hordes like zombies, with all the horror of something that looks human, but is dead and impervious to pain. They can look like people but hide bestial, uncontrollable natures, like werewolves. They can be helpless, lonely, powerful, eternal outcasts who can't fit in with humanity, like Frankenstein's monster. They can change shape, they can convert beloved friends and relatives into monstrous strangers, they can transcend human limits like wounds or age. They're the Swiss Army knife of monsters.

★ Nicholas Alexander

★Roguishly handsome British actor, wildly popular as Lord Thomas Bloodmoon. Charming, articulate, engaging, condescending and vain. The only people he has a genuine relationship with are his son and his agent. Though he never tells outright lies, he can take a grain of truth and build a beach out of it. Loves the adoration and considers himself superior to his fans. Always puts himself first... until it comes down to it.

★ Jade Frost

★A stunningly beautiful vampire who embodies the libertine principals. Daughter of 19th century American millionaire Eli Frost, she gave her father as a sacrifice to her vampire lover. Cold, smooth, seductive, and in control, yet her demeanor frays around the edges when she talks about her past and her plans for revenge.

Synopsis

At a horror convention, hundreds of fans have gathered to celebrate the cancelled TV series, Bloodmoon. Clips from the gothic show whip the crowd into a frenzy. Then it's time for washed-up star Nic Alexander (who played legendary vampire hunter Lord Thomas Bloodmoon) to do what he does best - talk about himself and flirt with costumed maidens, while his co-stars share eye-rolls and insults. One stunning fan, Jade, gets Nic's attention when she mentions the "Bloodmoon Curse" – the strange deaths of many of the cast and crew.

Later in his hotel room, three witches, Faith, Hope and Donna, hold a séance to contact the dead cast and crew, who warn Nic of a monstrous evil. The maidens conjure a spell of protection over him.

But the spell can't protect him from his ex-wife who is increasing his alimony payments. So Nic accepts an invitation from the beautiful Jade to an exclusive (and profitable) Bloodmoon festival. This "convention" is held in a dilapidated hotel, and the only fans in attendance are Jade, her five preternatural companions, and their mysteriously mute servant, Ivan.

Jade and her eccentric friends are extremely rich, and live as though they are vampires in the 19th century. They indulge in a nightly 'hunt' where one member of the clan is pursued through the forest – a ritual inspired by Bloodmoon. After a night of absinthe-fueled revels, Nic's hosts confess they are actual vampires and Nic is to be the next one hunted. He is thrown into the basement to await the hunt. Nic also discovers he's not alone there in the dark. Other members of the Bloodmoon cast have been captured, along with convention attendees and his young son, Freddy. The vampires have been picking them off night after night. The monstrous evil. The Bloodmoon Curse.

Jade is obsessed with Nic because he is the reincarnation of the demon hunter who killed her vampire lover over one hundred years ago. Something that made Nic and his TV character a symbiotic pairing. At first Nic refuses to run, but a visit from his dead former cast mates convinces him that he is the only hope.

In the woods, Nic builds traps ala Bloodmoon to dispatch the vampires one by one as they stalk him through the misty darkness. Until only Jade remains.

But Jade will not go so easily into that eternal night, and she overpowers Nic. Rather than kill him however, she transforms him into a vampire. Now he must kill his friends and his son. A punishment worse than death.

Fighting his vampiric urges, Nic kills Jade and frees his companions, and they drive off into the sunrise. Back in Hollywood, Nic and his supernatural magnetism are suddenly the hot commodity, and Nic is in demand once again. This time however, Nic Alexander is only available... at night.



Conventions: The New Graveyard

Just a couple years ago, it looked like those in-person gatherings where fans met stars had finally hit the saturation point. There were simply too many has-beens from decades' old shows to generate interest. But demand kept rising to meet supply and now some of those faded stars are even able to make their alimony payments.

Such was the case when I attended the Bloodmoon Festival in Kansas City last weekend. I was a bit reluctant to cover the event since I was a definite fan of the show for most of its five-year run, and I really didn't want to see how far the mighty had fallen.

The roster looked to be promising: there was Rene D'orian, the suave vampire with the soap opera good looks, Karen Perez who was the buxom Lady Bloodmoon, Pat Dougherty who played the lovable Friar Sebastian, and head writer Miles Tindle. But the star at the center of the whole universe was Sir Thomas Bloodmoon himself, Nicholas Alexander.

★Karen Perez

★Spanish actress who plays Lady Bloodmoon. An early conquest of Nic's, she nevertheless had to work with him for five more years. She is torn between being wanting him and wanting to kill him.

★Ivan

★Burly Russian Cossack, servant to Jade. Loyal, but only because he is cursed to be so. Non-vampire... at first. He does Jade's bidding, but ultimately helps Nic to vanquish the clan.

★Faith Burdine

★Bloodmoon fan and leader of the witch trio. Is abducted at a convention and winds up getting much more than she bargained for.

★Eve

★Stunning African-American vampire. No-nonsense. Probably 'turned' in the 1970s. during a Black Power

★Morris Klaverman

★Nic's agent. Loud, crass, and funny. He wants what every agent wants, money and money. Yet he genuinely loves Nic and has been with him since before the success. Loyal, hard working with a good heart.

★Billy Kessler

★Uber-nerdy Bloodmoon fan, he idolizes Nic and the character of Lord Bloodmoon. Abducted from a convention and held captive by Jade, he winds up helping Nic defeat the vampire clan.

★Devon

★Unbelievably good-looking, wild-eyed white southern vampire. Doesn't like Jade telling him what to do. Enjoys toying with Nic before coming in for the kill.

★Hope and Donna

★Along with Faith, they are the good witches that warn Nic about the Bloodmoon curse, and hold a séance to contact dead cast members.



Blood... Money

The vampire genre has been around for more than a century, which makes estimating a real-world, modern day dollar figure for their economic impact difficult. In addition, many companies and industry insiders don't make their revenue data public. *The Hollywood Reporter* estimates that vampires in modern times have been worth a whopping \$10 billion. Breaking down the numbers, the *Reporter* calculates that recent vampire movies have generated \$3 billion; vampire books, \$1.6 billion; vampire merchandising (including vampire video games), \$600 million; vampire TV shows and DVDs, \$1.2 billion.



