

At the End of Black Roses Bloom; Ticklemop ran toward Soth and jumped creating a portal; The Ravens as they caw “Through Dark Lord’- the ravens flew away with all the shattered pieces, leaving Soth to remain trapped in Sithicus and denying him access to Kitiara, but...

*The Ravens take the reassembled amulet to Barovia...*

Ticklemop finds herself no longer in Sithicus! She normally couldn't leave the border or else she would cease to be; but now this man named Strahd says she doesn't have to listen to Soth anymore and can go anywhere she wants!

“Would you like to venture out more often at night to have fun my little one? Of course you would, tell me then who is this Woman in the amulet you have brought to me?”

With much enthusiasm the vampiric Kender begins to tell Strahd all about Soth and his bid to find the amulet; but the amulet shattered, and she thought she would make it back to Kendermore and she'd met up with some adventurers she thought would help her get home as they were smart enough to avoid getting eaten by her village so she bided their time and they didn't slip up when they found the Onyx; but regardless of what happened to them; they found a portal to send THEM home but instead it brought HER to Strahd's Castle...

“Talk to this lady in the Gem! She will tell you the same thing, I think her name is Kitiara?! It's all I can 'think' out of her I don't know how she does it but she talks and it...she's angry but it sounds so soothing..” The Vampiric Kender holds the gem up again; the Black Moon of Nuitari which is visible in Sithicus skies by evil beings radiates into the gem; causing Kitiara to writhe and scream in pain as if she's being stabbed in a hundred directions! The Kender ceases its activity as an unseen force 'grabs' the sparkling amulet now dripping 'blue tears'...

Ticklemop gazes at the Onyx now glowing and sparkling as within it a battered and bloody but obviously very much enraged and alive Kitiara scowls in silent fury at the ugly vampiric Kender gazing back at her with a

mystified leer in the gem; she winces as the massive hole in her side forces her to fall against the 'pane' of the gem. Weakened she intrepidly raises her eye to glance at the dark figure of Strahd approaching her prison; a glass of the reddest wine she'd ever seen held in his hand; he raises the glass and a single tear, glowing blue drops from the sparkling crack in the amulet into the glass of red liquid...

a brief flash and Strahd appears within 'the prison' to speak to Kitiara's Soul.

*I am Strahd Von Zarovich, tell me my Lady what is it that angers ye so? This little one has told me Soth has now gone mad; and you my poor lady are a victim of circumstances beyond your control... Control... Aye I feel something stirring within you, a need to gain that control back. Fallen Maiden of Takhisis; your Dark Queen remains a star in my skies as well as Sithicus, for how long remains to be seen. For I hear stirrings of the Domains of Dread, cracking at the seams, ready to branch out into all worlds, with it comes the tide the dark Queen fears; the potential to lose control of the world both you and Soth were a part of. She cast you aside as she cares nothing but for her own whims; Soth is descending into eternal madness... My condolences, I should not be so mirthful over the misfortune of the dark powers to inevitably succumb to Chaos but I long tire, like you of this Prison; yes my lady Ravenloft is indeed 'My 'Prison. So you see I am not so quick to judge those that wish to escape as well...*

Strahd does indeed make an inquiry to the Lady in the Amulet and she has quite a Story to tell *about a Black Rose That Bloomed, the Lady tells him of someone named Tanis & Laurana... and one of her Brother, Raistlin...*

*(Trailer Tease)*

“Forgive me,” Strahd stiffened and lowered his head in what seemed to be shame. Something about this man indicated to Tanis Half Elven that he was not used to showing humility; or as gracefully as he was. To not accept this man's apology would be a very unwise thing..

“No, It's Ok. Lord Von Zarovich, I'm sure you meant no offense.” Tanis

stammered.

“IT IS NOT, ok.” Strahd interjected. I have insulted you with my ignorance for I was not aware that Lady Laurana is YOUR WIFE!?! This Soth has troubled my kingdom of Barovia as well, the urgency of this matter has made me remiss on my manners...” Strahd bowed his head again, “Forgive me My Lady, please... It's not amenable to grant Soth any sort of redemption given his circumstances; but I would beg you see mine and be aware my intentions are 'noble'...” Something about the way Strahd says the word indicates both contempt and that he's lying through his teeth...

Tanis looked to Laurana to reply but he noticed she was transfixed staring at this darkly handsome what looked apparently HUMAN nobleman; he'd only ever seen her look at Elistan or Himself that way...

“Laurana?!” Tanis was ignored as Laurana's gaze and attention was apparently held by this man.. “Excuse me, Lord Von Zarovich..”

“My name is Strahd,” The dark nobleman smirked, ignoring him for the moment. “Lady Laurana, you and your husband will be my guests this evening...”

“We are honored, we certainly wouldn't refuse, right Tanis?!?” Laurana was still gazing into his eyes... “Lord Von Zarovich wants to provide us shelter for the night, after the forests and the fog, this place is so inviting..” Tanis looked at the dilapidated moldy surroundings of Strahd's castle and with the exception of the room they were in thought; *She can't be serious!?!*

“I will accept no refusal...” Strahd continued. (Wolf howl)

“Laurana,” Tanis grabbed her hand to get her attention but she didn't look at him. She was staring into this man's eyes a little too hard and a little too close for comfort!

*Something about this man is horribly wrong!*