



SINISTER

VERONICA LANCET

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CONTENTS

[Preface](#)

[Prologue](#)

1. [Petra](#)
2. [Petra](#)
3. [Petra](#)
4. [Petra](#)
5. [Petra](#)
6. [Petra](#)
7. [Petra](#)
8. [Petra](#)
9. [Petra](#)
10. [Petra](#)
11. [Petra](#)
12. [Petra](#)
13. [Petra](#)
14. [Petra](#)
15. [Petra](#)
16. [Petra](#)
17. [Petra](#)
18. [Petra](#)
19. [Petra](#)
20. [Petra](#)
21. [Petra](#)
22. [Petra](#)
23. [The Radcliffe Herald](#)
24. [Petra](#)
25. [Petra](#)
26. [Petra](#)
27. [Petra](#)
28. [Petra](#)

[Part II](#)

29. [The Radcliffe Herald](#)
30. [Petra](#)
31. [Petra](#)
32. [The Radcliffe Herald](#)
33. [Petra](#)
34. [Petra](#)
35. [Petra](#)
36. [Petra](#)
37. [Petra](#)
38. [Petra](#)
39. [Petra](#)
40. [Petra](#)
41. [Petra](#)
42. [Petra](#)
43. [Petra](#)
44. [Petra](#)
45. [Petra](#)
46. [Petra](#)
47. [Petra](#)
48. [Petra](#)
49. [Petra](#)
50. [Petra](#)
51. [Petra](#)
52. [Petra](#)
53. [Petra](#)
54. [Petra](#)
55. [Petra](#)
56. [Petra](#)
57. [Petra](#)
58. [Petra](#)
59. [Petra](#)
60. [Petra](#)
61. [Petra](#)
62. [Petra](#)
63. [Petra](#)

[Part III](#)

64. [Petra](#)
65. [Petra](#)
66. [Petra](#)
67. [Petra](#)
68. [Petra](#)
69. [Petra](#)
70. [Petra](#)
71. [Petra](#)
72. [Petra](#)
73. [Petra](#)
74. [The Radcliffe Herald](#)
75. [Petra](#)
76. [Petra](#)
77. [Petra](#)
78. [Petra](#)
79. [The Nun](#)
80. [The Nun](#)
81. [The Nun](#)
82. [Petra](#)
83. [Petra](#)
84. [Petra](#)
85. [Epilogue I](#)
86. [Epilogue II](#)
87. [Velakor Excerpt](#)

[Also by Veronica Lancet](#)

PREFACE

Warning: This is not your regular romance story.

This is dark and entirely morally ambiguous. The plot will take you to some wild heights, but bear with me, okay?

Confusion is to be expected, but I promise you a fulfilling HAPPY ending (unlike the first draft of this book that was rather . . . grim, but we don't talk about that)

If you've read *Fairydale* by me, then you know to expect a mindfuck.

Don't lower your guard, or you might find yourself deceived.

That being said, enjoy the wild ride, besties.

This story includes occurrences of: Blood & Pain Play, Bullying, Demonic Pacts & Possession, Domestic Abuse/Physical Assault, Dubious & Non-Consensual Acts, Explicit Sexual Scenes, Fire, Gaslighting & Possessiveness, Graphic Murder & Mutilation, Grief, Gun Violence, Mass Death & Sacrifice, Oppressive Religious Cult, Poisoning, Religious & Occult Themes, Revenge Porn, Self-Harm, Stalking & Manipulation, Suicide & Suicidal Ideation, Teen Pregnancy, Violence & Gore

PROLOGUE

RADCLIFFE HERALD

30 YEARS AGO

ST. ANSELM HALL TO REOPEN ITS DOORS AS A HIGH SCHOOL

After almost a century of inactivity, St. Anselm Hall has reopened its doors! The eminent institution, previously a celebrated university, will now welcome high school students from all over the country. With a reported endowment of over \$1 billion USD, St. Anselm Hall debuts as one of the most elite private institutions.

St. Anselm will hold its own annual admittance exam, said to be one of the most rigorous of its kind.

A LEGACY OF THE OCCULT

Regarded as one of the most illustrious institutions of higher learning in the nineteenth century, St. Anselm Hall University closed down in 1896, after a series of rituals that resulted in the death of over twenty students. The public is concerned about whether this will affect the reputation of the new high school, but the Board of Trustees confirms that the days of the occult are far behind.

Mrs. Levine, the president said, “We are happy to live in an age where people do not believe in such nonsense anymore. St. Anselm Hall will regain its reputation as a pinnacle of education.”

The townsfolk, however, are still skeptical. Particularly, members of the Reformationist church, whose families were the main contributors to shutting down the university. The town, it seems, is once more divided.

PETRA

RADCLIFFE, NEW ENGLAND

PRESENT DAY

I SMELL the fire before I see it. Acrid, plasticky, thick—it singes the cold night air as shouts and yells echo around me. In the next few seconds, I see a flaming figure in a mascot costume leap off a balcony, heading straight for the pool underneath the ivy-trailed railings.

Then I hear a loud splash followed by silence.

“What the hell?”

“Was that Benny?”

The kids who have just entered the compound behind me are aptly shocked as well, drawing together and murmuring among themselves.

We all stand rooted to our spots, waiting for whoever the lunatic was to resurface.

“ANSELM WARRIORS, BITCHES!!” a brash voice shrieks from somewhere inside the mansion as the glowing blue waters of the pool roil and break apart.

Soon after, Benny’s shaggy-haired head emerges from the depths, like some dollar-store Poseidon.