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Speaking with Vampires
Hence the historical movement which changes the producers into wage-labourers appears, on the one hand, as their emancipation from serfdom and from the fetters of the guilds, and it is this aspect of the movement which alone exists for our bourgeois historians. But on the other hand, these newly freed men become sellers of themselves only after they had been robbed of all their own means of production, and all the guarantees of existence afforded by the old feudal arrangements. And this history, the history of their expropriation, is written in the annals of mankind in letters of blood and fire.

Karl Marx, Capital: A Critique of Political Economy, vol. 1

This really happened when I was back visiting the old man who lived across the road from my mother in my home town of Ninety Six, South Carolina. J. Hilton Lewis was his name. While I was there two other men, who I also knew well, drove up. As they approached us, they asked Hilton if he had heard about the murder. Hilton said he hadn't heard of it, and one of the visitors explained that it happened “on Saturday, or maybe Friday, or sometime at the weekend, maybe even late Thursday evening, but at any rate it happened in Saluda or Modoc, or maybe in Aiken or near Edgefield.” It happened down the road, he was pretty sure. Hilton asked what happened, and the other visitor said that a man “was shot, or maybe stabbed to death.” The other visitor disagreed: “he was clubbed to death, or maybe hit with a tire iron, it could have been a golf club . . .” Hilton interrupted: “Oh yes, I’d heard about it, I just didn’t have any of the details till now.”

story told by Vernon Burton, May 1995

There are vampires and vampires, and not all of them suck blood.

Fritz Leiber, “The Girl with the Hungry Eyes”