

Below is a **feature screenplay beat sheet** for *Love Is A Stranger*, a supernatural romantic tragedy / Faustian bargain story, with Johnny as the struggling artist, Aveline as the immortal lover-benefactor, and Diane as the grounded human love he overlooks.

Beat Sheet: *Love Is A Stranger*

Beat	Approx. Page	Story Function	What Happens
Opening Image	1	Establish love, death, and immortality	In the rain, Aveline De Clare buries her husband Charles in the De Clare mausoleum. Her farewell — “In death, you will not be forgotten” — introduces the film’s obsession with love outlasting mortality.
Set-Up	1–13	Introduce Johnny’s ordinary life	Johnny Lyle is a 26-year-old door-to-door toiletries salesman with artistic ambitions but little momentum. He has a warm friendship with Diane, his neighbour, but seems unaware of her deeper feelings. His parents are grieving his dead brother Peter, and his mother’s bitterness makes Johnny feel like the disappointing surviving son.
Catalyst	4–10	Johnny meets Aveline	While selling door-to-door, Johnny reaches Aveline’s top-floor flat. She invites him in, buys all his stock, shows him her antique-filled home, and secretly puts her blood into his tea. Johnny leaves energised, inspired, and already under her influence.
Theme Stated	20–23	Dreams have a price	Aveline tells Johnny she can help his dreams come true through her blood, but there is a cost. She frames the choice starkly: achieve everything he wants, or die unnoticed.
Debate	17–23	Should Johnny accept the impossible?	Johnny returns to Aveline, fascinated by her, the tea, and her claims of magic. She reveals she is more than 800 years old and needs his blood to survive. Johnny is disturbed, intrigued, and tempted.
Break into Two	23–25	Johnny accepts the blood pact	Johnny drinks from Aveline’s wrist, and she drinks from his arm. He experiences ecstasy, creative energy, and transformation; she begins to look younger. Their supernatural and romantic bond begins.
B Story	25–39	Diane offers ordinary love	Diane invites Johnny for dinner and tries to maintain their connection, but Johnny is increasingly absorbed by Aveline. Diane’s modest flat, home-cooked meal, and emotional openness contrast with Aveline’s wealth, glamour, and danger.
Fun and Games	27–42	The fantasy of the bargain	Aveline gives Johnny access to wealth, beauty, sex, wine, a studio, expensive materials, clothes, and status. His art flourishes rapidly. The old apartment transforms into elegance; Aveline becomes younger and more seductive; Johnny begins living the dream.
Midpoint	54–59	Johnny’s career becomes real	Aveline takes Johnny to Quinten Barnaby’s gallery. Barnaby recognises the quality of Johnny’s work and schedules an exhibition. Johnny moves from aspiring artist to serious prospect, proving the bargain is delivering what was promised.
Bad Guys Close In	59–78	Success isolates Johnny	Johnny drifts from Diane, Harry, and his family. His father worries about scars on Johnny’s arm. Diane is pushed to the margins. At Johnny’s exhibition, the art world embraces him, pieces sell, and New York shows interest, but his success is inseparable from Aveline’s control and the blood exchange.

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All Is Lost	78–88	The cost becomes visible	Johnny’s work tours internationally, but he begins visibly ageing while Aveline remains renewed. Diane sees him again and realises something is terribly wrong. Johnny insists he is fine, but his own words — “Be careful what you wish for” — reveal regret.
Dark Night of the Soul	88–92	Diane uncovers the truth; Johnny faces mortality	Diane searches old records and finds Aveline listed in an 1865 directory. She confronts Aveline, accusing her of deception and witchcraft. Aveline insists she gave Johnny fame and fortune, and that he entered the bargain willingly. Johnny then learns he is dying young as the price of living fast.
Break into Three	92–95	Diane decides to intervene	Johnny’s father dies, deepening the story’s focus on mortality and legacy. Johnny and Aveline disappear from the studio. Diane, desperate to save him, goes to Cammy and obtains an old gun, believing she must stop Aveline before it is too late.
Finale — Phase 1: Johnny near death	95–96	The bargain reaches its end	Back in Aveline’s old apartment, Johnny is frail and dying. Aveline offers him a glass of red liquid, but he delays. He looks at his reflection and finally understands: she has bewitched him, and love has made her selfish.
Finale — Phase 2: Diane bursts in	97	Human love confronts supernatural love	Diane breaks into the apartment and is horrified by Johnny’s aged state. She accuses Aveline of killing him and raises the gun, trying to end the spell.
Finale — Phase 3: Tragic accident	97–98	Rescue becomes catastrophe	As Diane fires, Aveline’s cat leaps into her face. Diane falls, hits her head, and the bullet strikes Johnny instead. Aveline holds Johnny as he dies, and he tells her he loves her.
Final Image	98	The cycle of love and death repeats	Aveline places a rose on Johnny’s sarcophagus in the De Clare mausoleum, echoing the opening burial of Charles. Johnny has achieved fame and love, but ends as another remembered lover sealed in Aveline’s tomb.

One-sentence structural summary

Love Is A Stranger follows Johnny Lyle, a struggling young artist whose life is transformed by Aveline De Clare, an immortal woman who grants him fame, wealth, and passion through a blood pact — until the cost of his dream becomes his life.

Logline

When a struggling door-to-door salesman with artistic dreams meets a mysterious older woman who offers him fame through a supernatural blood bond, he is drawn into a seductive romance that gives him everything he wanted — while quietly stealing the years he had left.

Core character arcs

Johnny Lyle begins as insecure, underachieving, and hungry for recognition. Aveline gives him confidence, money, art-world access, and sexual awakening, but his arc becomes tragic: he gains a legacy while losing ordinary life, family, Diane, and time itself.

Aveline De Clare begins as a grieving widow and lonely immortal. Johnny revives her physically and emotionally, but her love is possessive and parasitic. She gives Johnny his dream, yet cannot separate love from consumption.

Diane begins as Johnny's overlooked neighbour and friend. Her arc moves from quiet affection to jealousy, suspicion, investigation, and desperate intervention. She is emotionally right about Aveline, but her attempt to save Johnny causes the final tragedy.

Bob represents unconditional parental love. His concern over Johnny's scars and wellbeing contrasts with Marjorie's grief-hardened criticism. His death near the end reinforces the story's central idea: mortality cannot be bargained with forever.

Harry functions as the pragmatic outside observer. He sees Johnny's sudden rise as strange but not necessarily sinister, grounding the story in ordinary scepticism while Diane senses the deeper danger.

Overall tone

The script plays as a **dark romantic fantasy** with elements of vampire mythology, Faustian bargain, erotic thriller, and tragic melodrama. Its central emotional question is not simply whether Aveline loves Johnny, but whether love that feeds on someone can ever truly be love.