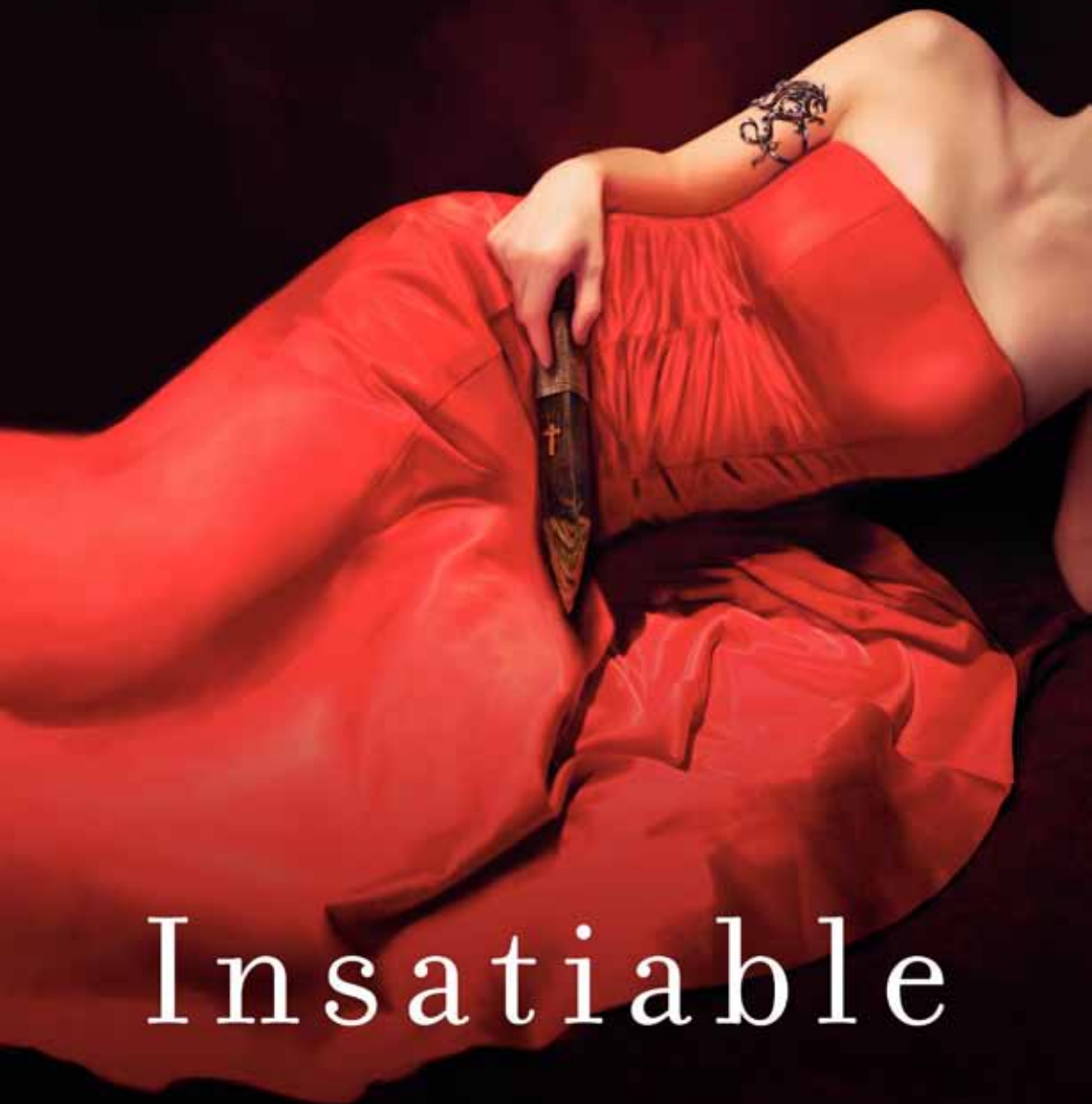



MEG CABOT

#1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR



Insatiable

DELETED SCENE: ALARIC



This scene about Alaric's frustration with air travel and inferior hotel room accommodations got deleted for length, but now I wish I'd kept it. Oh, well, maybe I'll put it in the sequel:

The only part of his life with which Alaric was not satisfied, in fact, was that he was often called upon during his travels around the world to put up with less than luxurious hotel accommodations. And, occasionally, to ride in coach.

This last part just wasn't right, and tended to infuriate him. He was six foot four. He, and all the Palatine Guards, really, including Johanna, were simply too *tall* for coach.

The Vatican certainly had the money to upgrade them. They had enough gold to fly the entire world's population first class, if they wanted to.

But occasionally, when there were no other flights available—often there were no private planes for them to charter, either—Alaric and his fellow guards had no choice. They had to take what they could get.

And so Alaric would sit there in coach, thinking to himself that he really ought to find another line of work. Just what, he wasn't sure. What other career allowed you to kill vampires? With a sword?

He could think of none.

It was a problem.

That was another thing. Baggage claim. Occasionally, the airlines lost Senor Sticky, which was what he'd christened his weapon. How many hours had he wasted standing in tiny baggage claim offices, pointing to little pictures of his sword case (fortunately, it resembled a golf or ski bag, and no one had ever asked what was inside), demanding to know how long it would be before the airline could get it to him. True, the airline officials were always very nice about it.

But honestly, *lives could be lost* while he was sitting in his—often not five star—hotel room, watching CNBC to see how his investments were doing, waiting for his bag to catch up with him.

And yes, wooden stakes worked just as well. He could easily craft one by breaking a chair and using one of the legs (though even most small towns had a Home Depot or wood supply shop these days. Still, Alaric liked breaking chairs).

Still. *Coach!*