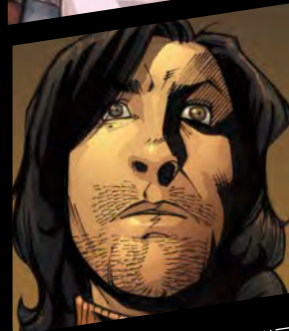


BRAM STOKER'S

DRACULA

A GRAPHIC NOVEL



BY BURGAN & RUIZ

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ABOUT VAMPIRES

Legends of vampires have haunted people for thousands of years. In fact, author Bram Stoker spent seven years researching the many tales about these creepy creatures for his book, *Dracula*.

No one knows who told the first vampire stories, but ancient Mesopotamians (meh-soh-puh-TAY-mee-ahns) were some of the first. More than 4,000 years ago, these people, from the area of modern-day Iraq, feared an evil goddess called Lamastu. The Mesopotamians believed Lamastu was responsible for many diseases including the death of young children.

Researchers have found tales of blood-sucking creatures all over the world. Most modern legends, however, come from eastern Europe. In fact, many believe the term “vampire” comes from a Russian creature called Upir (oo-PEER).

Some myths about vampires are no longer common. For example, eastern Europeans once believed that scattering seeds on the ground could keep vampires away. They thought vampires would stop to count the seeds instead of chasing after their next victim.

Some people believe author Bram Stoker named his character Dracula after a real-life person. In the mid-1400s, Prince Vlad Tepes ruled over what is today Romania. This evil leader was also known as Vlad Dracula, meaning “Son of the Dragon,” and he was known for extreme cruelty toward his enemies.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



**COUNT
DRACULA**

**Arthur
Holmwood**

**Jack
Seward**

**Jonathan
Harker**



THE CASTLE OF HORROR

Deep in the heart of Transylvania,
in the middle of Europe . . .

. . . a carriage raced through the wild night.

One of the passengers was Jonathan
Harker, a lawyer from London.



What brings you to our country, Mr. Harker?

My company has sent me to meet with a local man. He wishes to move to England and needs help finding a home.

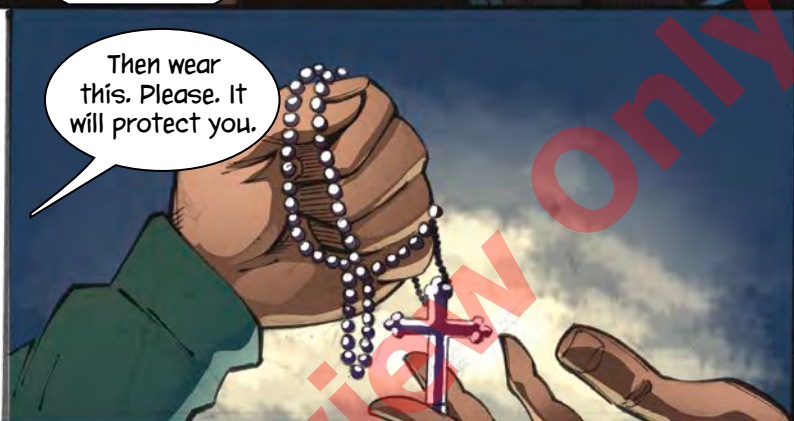
Perhaps you know him? His name is Count Dracula.



Dracula?!



Lord save us!



The couple got off at the next stop, and the carriage continued toward Castle Dracula.



When Jonathan finally arrived . . .



CREEEEEAAKK!

Welcome
to my home,
Mr. Harker.

I am
Count
Dracula!

You must be tired from your long journey.

I have some food and a bed waiting for you.

Thank you, Count, for everything.

He certainly is strange, but I'm sure he's harmless enough.

Early the next morning, Jonathan was getting ready before the sun came up . . .

Mr. Harker?



Count!

You startled me. I didn't see you in the mirror.

Are you all right? What's that on your cheek?



Blood!

You should be more careful, Mr. Harker.



Ah! No!



Did that really happen? My cross seemed to burn him.