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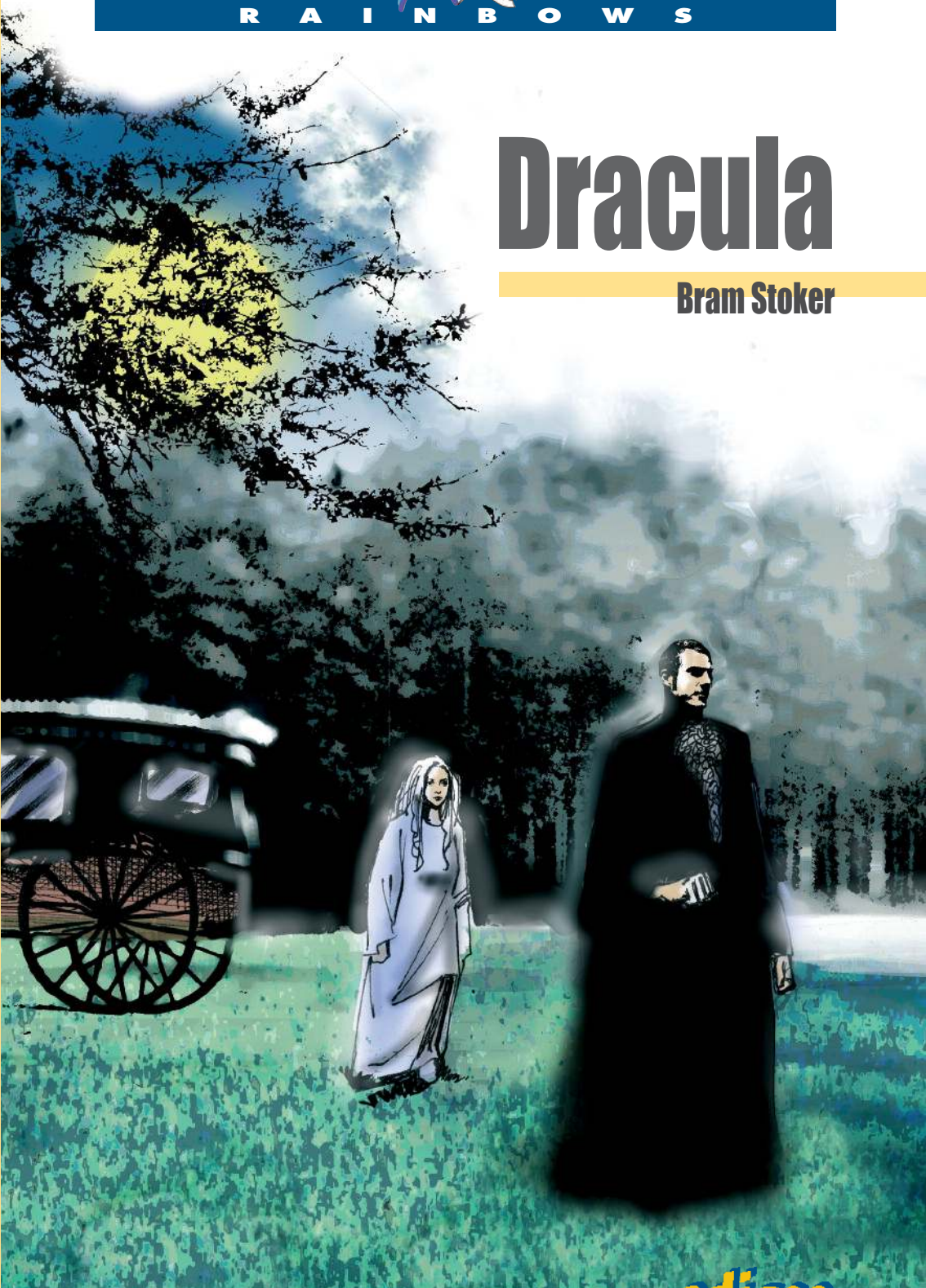


B1 (Threshold)

R A I N B O W S

Dracula

Bram Stoker



edisco



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edisco

Dracula

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The author

Bram Stoker



Abraham ('Bram') Stoker was born in Clontarf, near Dublin (Ireland), on 8th November 1847. He spent his early childhood in bed because of his poor health. In the 1860s he attended¹ Trinity College in Dublin, where he took part in the University Athletics Championship and served as President of the Philosophical Society.

In 1871 he graduated with honours in Science (Pure Mathematics) and soon after took a job as a civil servant² in Dublin Castle. He also started a five-year period as a theatre reviewer³. In 1876 he reviewed Henry Irving's performance in *Hamlet* and this gave him the opportunity to meet the actor and start a close⁴ friendship with him.

Two years later he accepted an offer to become the manager at Irving's Lyceum Theatre in London, and so he moved there with his wife, Florence Balcombe. In the same year he also had his first book published, *The Duties of Clerks of Petty Sessions in Ireland*.

Under the Sunset, a collection of short stories, was published four years later, in 1882, but it was only in 1890 that he began working on a vampire novel. It was while spending a summer in Whitby that he came across⁵ the name "Dracula". Before this novel was published on 26th May 1897, he wrote and published another novel, *The Snake's Pass* (1891).

In 1905 Henry Irving died, and a year later, to commemorate him, Stoker published *Personal Reminiscences of Henry Irving*. His last novel, *The Lair of the White Worm*, was published in 1911, a year before his death, on 20th April 1912.

1. *attended*: went regularly to.
2. *civil servant*: a person who works in the civil service.
3. *reviewer*: a person who writes

- his/her opinions of a book, play, etc., in a newspaper or magazine.
4. *close*: intimate.
5. *came across*: met by chance.

LIST OF CHARACTERS

Dracula	He has been a vampire for hundreds of years and keeps his vitality by sucking blood from his victims. The Transylvanian Count's presence constantly pervades ¹ the entire work. He is a tall old man, clean shaven, apart from a long white moustache and dressed in black from head to foot, without a single speck ² of colour about him anywhere.
Jonathan Harker	The young London solicitor ³ who is sent to Transylvania to finalize the sale of a house in England to Dracula. He is supposed to stay at Castle Dracula only for a couple of days but soon realizes that the castle is his prison. He is engaged to Mina.
Mina Murray	Jonathan's fiancée, she will become a persecuted maiden ⁴ in the second part of the story. She is quite young, and she works as an assistant schoolmistress. She is an orphan and will marry Jonathan.
Lucy Westenra	Mina Murray's closest friend. She is an extremely beautiful girl of nineteen who becomes engaged to Arthur Holmwood. She becomes Dracula's first victim and after her death will become one of the "Un-Dead".
Mrs Westenra	Lucy's mother, who dies of a heart attack; she becomes another victim of the vampire.
Arthur Holmwood	A vigorous man, 29 years old, the only son of Lord Godalming, he is engaged to Lucy and for this reason he has an active role in fighting the Count.
Dr Jack Seward	The owner of a mental hospital, an intelligent and determined man, one of Lucy's suitors.
Quincey Morris	Another of Lucy's suitors, he is from Texas. He pays many of the expenses in tracking ⁵ Dracula.
Professor Abraham Van Helsing	A famous Professor and lawyer, and an old bachelor ⁶ . He is from Amsterdam. His knowledge of medicine, folklore and the occult ⁷ allows him to identify Lucy's illness as vampirism immediately.
R.M. Renfield	A huge fifty-nine-year-old madman who is a patient of Dr Seward's and comes under the influence of Dracula.

1. *pervades*: spreads through.

2. *speck*: small spot.

3. *solicitor*: lawyer (GB).

4. *maiden*: a young woman who is not married.

5. *tracking*: following the

movements of somebody.

6. *bachelor*: unmarried man.

7. *occult*: everything connected with magic powers and things that cannot be explained by reason or science.



BEFORE READING

1 Answer the following questions.

a. What is Dracula famous for?

☐ his hair

☐ his eyes

☐ his clothes

☐ his teeth

b. What kind of story do you expect to read?

☐ a love story

☐ a detective story

☐ a horror story

☐ a spy story

c. What does Dracula like to drink?

☐ bourbon

☐ black coffee

☐ brandy

☐ blood

d. Where do you imagine Dracula's castle might be situated?

☐ up on a hill

☐ near a lake and a park

☐ in the middle of a village

☐ on a beach

2 Write two sentences, one positive and one negative, to describe Dracula's castle, using the following adjectives.

*gloomy – horrifying – rich – dark – isolated
crowded – mysterious – joyful – light – bright*

a.

.....

b.

.....

3 Cross out the words which are not connected with vampires.

sun

night

salad

teeth

candle

onion

blood

crucifix

garlic

castle

death

sofa

4 What do you know about vampires? Use some of the words of the previous exercise to describe one.

.....

.....

.....

.....

Dracula

A Mysterious Castle

Chapter 1

Jonathan Harker is a young solicitor from London. His company has sent him to Transylvania to visit Count Dracula in his castle because the Count wants to buy a house in England.



It was night when Jonathan Harker came to Klausenburgh, western central Transylvania. He stopped at the Hotel Royale where for supper he had chicken with red pepper, a national dish in the Carpathians¹. In the morning he was woken by the continuous knocking at his door and he realised he had overslept: it was already breakfast time. He ate quickly and then hurried to the station. The train was going to start a little before eight but he had to sit in the carriage for more than an hour before they left.

At night he got to Bistritz. The Golden Krone Hotel, where Count Dracula had directed him to go, was a lovely old fashioned place. When he entered the hotel, an old lady welcomed him at the door and said,

“The Herr Englishman?”

“Yes”, he said, “Jonathan Harker.”

She smiled and gave Jonathan this message:

*My friend,
welcome to the Carpathians. I hope you will
enjoy your stay in my beautiful country.
Sleep well tonight.
Your friend,
Dracula*

1. Carpathians: main mountain system of Central and East Europe.



Bran Castle. This castle, which still stands in the Carpathians, has many of the features of Stoker's Castle Dracula.

The next day, just when he was leaving Bistritz, the old lady said in a very hysterical way,

“Must you go? Do you know what day it is? It is the eve² of St George’s Day. Tonight when the clock strikes midnight, all the evil³ things in the world will have complete power. Please, don’t go!”



He thanked her but his duty was to go. Then, taking a crucifix from her neck, she offered it to Jonathan. He accepted the gift even though he considered it something idolatrous. A few minutes later the coach arrived. When he got in it, he heard the driver talking about him; some of the people who were sitting on the bench⁴ outside the door came and listened, and then looked at him pityingly⁵. Jonathan heard a lot of words repeated often, so he got his dictionary and looked them up⁶. They were ‘Ordog’ = Satan, ‘Pokol’ = Hell, ‘Wrolok’ and ‘Vlkoslak’, both meaning VAMPIRE, one in Slovak and the other in Serbian. He would never forget the last glimpse⁷ which he had of the inn-yard⁸ and its crowd⁹ of picturesque figures, all crossing¹⁰ themselves.

He soon forgot about his fears as he drove through the beauty of the countryside. Everywhere there were apple, pear and cherry trees. By the roadside there were many crosses and when they drove past, all those who travelled with Jonathan crossed themselves. When it grew dark, all the passengers asked the driver to go faster. Then the mountains seemed to come nearer as they were entering the Borgo Pass.

Suddenly the driver stopped the carriage.



“You get out here”, he said.

Jonathan got out and looked for the other carriage which had to take him to the Count. After a short time it came out

2. *eve*: the day or evening before an event, especially a religious festival or holiday.

3. *evil*: immoral and cruel.

4. *bench*: a long seat for two or more people, usually made of wood.

5. *pityingly*: showing pity for somebody, often in a way that shows that you think you are better than them.

6. *looked... up*: tried to find information.

7. *glimpse*: a look at somebody or something for a very short time.

8. *inn-yard*: the area outside a small hotel, usually in the country.

9. *crowd*: a large number of people gathered together in a public place.

10. *crossing*: making the sign of the Cross (= the Christian symbol).

of the trees. The driver helped him in and drove up into the forest. The hours passed and it began to snow. Suddenly a large, black castle appeared on top of a mountain. Then from the mountains a loud, sharp sound began: it was the howling¹¹



of wolves.

The horses jumped about and raised themselves on their back legs. Jonathan called to the coachman to come for help, then he shouted and beat the side of the coach, hoping to scare the wolves from that side. At the same moment he heard the coachman's voice speak in a tone of imperious command and, looking towards the sound, he saw him standing in the roadway. Just then a cloud passed across the face of the moon, so that they were again in darkness. When Jonathan could see again, the driver was climbing into the coach, and the wolves had disappeared.



The coach kept on going up the road and at a certain point the young man became conscious of the fact that they were in the courtyard of a ruined castle. Jonathan got out of the carriage and went to the door. He knocked several times. The driver and the coach had disappeared and he did not know what to do. After a while¹² he heard a step behind the great wooden door. The door opened and a tall old man, pale as ivory¹³, with a long white moustache, dressed in black from head to foot, was there in front of him.

"Welcome to my house, enter freely and of your own will¹⁴", he said in excellent English, but with a strange intonation.

"Count Dracula?", the young man asked.

"I am Dracula, come in and rest. After your journey you will need to refresh yourself and then have a good supper."

The place was comfortable, the room warmed and lit¹⁵ by a great fire and the Count was a good host, even though the Count did not share supper with him. His courtesy seemed to have dissipated all Jonathan's doubts.

11. *howling*: a long loud cry (of a wolf, dog, etc.).

12. *after a while*: after some time.

13. *ivory*: a hard white substance like

bone that forms the long teeth of elephants.

14. *will*: desire.

15. *lit* (*light-lit-lit*): illuminated.