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R A I N B O W S

The Fearless Vampire Killers



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R A I N B O W S

The Fearless Vampire Killers

Adaptation, dossiers and activities by
Rossana Aimo



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This book is freely drawn from the homonymous film directed by Roman Polański.
© 1967; Screenplay by Gérard Brach and Roman Polański. Distributed by Warner Bros.

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Reprint

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The Author

Roman Polański



LIFE

Roman Polański was born in Paris on 18th August 1933 of Polish-Jewish parents. He is a famous film director¹, producer² and actor. His parents go to Krakow in 1937; two years later, the Nazi Germany invades³ Poland and World War 2 starts. The family have to stay in the Krakow ghetto⁴ together with other Jewish families.

When he is six years old, he goes to primary school for some weeks but the Nazis expel⁵ him and all the Jewish children. He cannot go to school for the next six years. In those years, the Nazis take his father to Mauthausen and his mother to Auschwitz. Here she dies after some days. Polański goes away from the Krakow ghetto in 1943 and survives⁶ with the help of some Polish Roman Catholics. After the war, he meets his father again and they go back to Krakow. In 1968, he goes to the USA. He also spends some time and works in Europe, in Paris. One year after, a terrible event⁷ happens in Polański's life: some members of the Manson Family, a group of criminals⁸, kill his pregnant⁹ wife, the actress Sharon Tate, and four friends.



Roman Polański and Sharon Tate in 1968.

1. *film director*: someone who makes films.
2. *producer*: someone who gives the money to make a film.
3. *invades*: enters a country by force.
4. *ghetto*: an area of a city where people of a particular ethnic group or religion live together, separated from other people.
5. *expel*: send away.
6. *survives*: continues to live.
7. *terrible event*: a very bad fact.
8. *criminals*: people who do illegal activities.
9. *pregnant*: a woman that is expecting a baby.

FILMS

His most famous films are:

- ***Knife in the Water*** (1962). It is Polański's first film and is a commercial success¹⁰; he starts to be famous after this film.
- ***The Fearless Vampire Killers*** (1967). It is a parody¹¹ of vampire films. Here, Count Dracula is called Count Von Krolock. The story takes place¹² in Transylvania. The original title is "Dance of the Vampires".
- ***Rosemary's Baby*** (1968). It is a success and is Polański's first Hollywood production. It is a horror-thriller film in Manhattan.
- ***Chinatown*** (1974). It is a mystery-thriller film that takes place in Los Angeles in the 1930s.
- ***The Pianist*** (2002). It is the story of a Polish-Jewish musician in World War 2.
- ***Oliver Twist*** (2005). It is the adaptation¹³ of Charles Dickens' novel.
- ***An Officer and a Spy*** (2019). It is a film about the Dreyfus story at the end of the 19th century¹⁴.



10. *success*: a very good result.
11. *parody*: a piece of writing, music, film, etc. that copies the style of something in a way that is humorous.

12. *takes place*: happens.
13. *adaptation*: a film from a book.
14. *century*: a period of 100 years.



BEFORE READING

1 Match the words with the pictures below.

bat • blood • garlic • neck • castle • moon



a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.

2 Now circle or underline the words in the box that you associate with the name 'vampire'.

bat • black • blood • car • castle • desk • garlic • ice-cream • kitchen • moon • neck • night • paper • sun • teeth • white

3 WORD PUZZLE. Read the definitions, then write the missing letters in each word. With the highlighted letters, you will find the word that completes the sentence below.

- The opposite of small.
- Vampires have got very... teeth.
- Person who travels.
- The opposite of new.
- The country where vampires live.
- Vampires use their teeth to cut into...

B _ _
 _ H _ R _
 T _ _ V _ _ E _
 O _ _
 T _ A _ S _ _ A _ _ A
 N _ _ S

VAMPIRES DON'T LIKE

The Fearless Vampire Killers

The inn in Transylvania



Scene 1

It is night and it is snowing. The moon is full in the sky and there are two men on a little sledge¹. Two horses are in front of the sledge. The two men are in Transylvania after a long journey through Europe. They are looking for vampires!

They are tired. One of them is Professor Abronsius, a famous scientist and University professor; the other is Alfred, his young assistant². The horses are running very fast because there are some wolves³ behind the sledge!

“Wolves!” Alfred says. “What can we do?” he asks.

Professor Abronsius cannot answer, he is too cold, his mouth is closed and he cannot speak!

“Run! Run!”, Alfred says to the horses, so they can leave the wolves behind the sledge.

“We are safe, Professor!”, says Alfred but Abronsius just looks at him.

There is a valley⁴ in front of them and they can see the houses of a small village.

“The village is near, Professor! We can find a fire⁵ and some food there and a bedroom for the night,” Alfred says.

After some time, the sledge arrives in front of an inn⁶; the windows are open and Alfred can see someone inside.

“Help!” he cries. “Can anyone help us? The professor is freezing⁷!”

The door of the inn opens. A little man comes out and goes to the sledge. He is Shagal, the owner⁸ of the inn.

‘Yes, Yes. I’m coming! Come inside and he will be alright!’ Shagal says.

1. *sledge*: a vehicle for travelling on snow.

2. *assistant*: someone who helps someone else to do a job.

3. *wolves*: 

4. *valley*:



5. *fire*:



6. *inn*: a pub where you can stay for the night.

7. *to freeze*: to become ice as a result of extreme cold.

8. *owner*: someone who has something.

The Fearless Vampire Killers

Alfred and Shagal carry the professor into the inn. It is warm there and they put Abronsius on a chair near the fire. After some minutes, he starts to move his eyes around, opens his mouth and says to his assistant,

“Garlic! Garlic, my boy! It’s a sign!”

“Do you think...?” the young man says.

“Yes! We are near our goal⁹,” Professor Abronsius answers.



The room is full of smoke and full of... garlic! The people there are eating, drinking and talking. They do not want to speak about all the garlic in the room and the Professor cannot understand it.

“It’s a sign!”, Professor Abronsius repeats.

Then Shagal takes them to their bedroom upstairs and says,

“You’ve got the best room in the house, with a bathroom. Look!” They go into the room and spend their first night there.



The following morning they wake up early. It is snowing and Alfred is making a snowman¹⁰ in front of the inn. There are some children, too. They are playing and running in the snow.

Then, they meet Sarah, Shagal’s daughter. She is a nice, pretty girl. She likes taking baths very much and very often.

9. *goal*: objective, target.

10. *snowman*:





Sarah and Alfred



Koukol, the hunchback

“I don’t like living here,” she says to Alfred. “I get so bored, I don’t know what to do. I can’t do anything because my father always keeps me here in the inn. And my room is full of garlic!”

Later, the two men have breakfast. Then someone arrives at the inn.

It is a hunchback¹¹. He lives in a castle near the inn. He is ugly¹² and has big teeth. He is there to buy some candles.

“Follow him!”, Professor Abronsius says to Alfred when he sees the man.

Now the hunchback is outside in the snow. He puts the candles on a sledge, then he leaves.

Suddenly¹³, Alfred jumps onto¹⁴ the back of the sledge and leaves, too. They are going to the castle. After some miles, the hunchback sees a wolf. It is in front of the sledge, so he stops, gets down and follows the animal.

After some minutes, he comes back and Alfred sees that his face is full of blood! He is frightened¹⁵ and so he goes back to the inn.

At the inn, Alfred opens his bag: it is full of objects. For example, there is a pointed stick¹⁶ and some garlic, too!

That night another strange person arrives at the inn. He is a tall man, he is wearing a black and red mantle¹⁷, his face is white, his hair is long and grey and he has long teeth!



11. *hunchback*:

12. *ugly*: the opposite of beautiful.

13. *suddenly*: quickly and in a way that is not expected.



14. *onto*:

15. *frightened*: afraid.

16. *pointed stick*:



17. *mantle*:



WORKING ON THE TEXT

- 1 Complete the following sentences with the information given in the text.
- There are men on a little sledge.
 - Professor Abronsius is a famous
 - The name of Professor Abronsius' disciple is
 - When the two men arrive at the inn, the weather is
 - Sarah is Shagal's
 - In the inn there is a lot of
 - The hunchback arrives at the inn to buy some
 - Alfred jumps onto the to follow the hunchback.

- 2 Match each picture with the correct caption.



.....



.....



.....

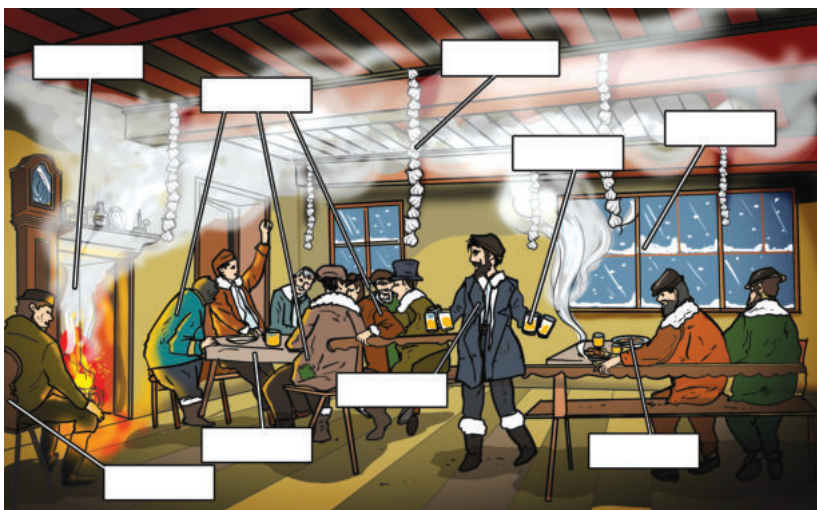


.....

- Sarah likes taking baths very much.
- Alfred follows the hunchback.
- Professor Abronsius and Alfred notice there is a lot of garlic in the inn.
- A strange person arrives at the inn.

WORKING ON LANGUAGE

3 Write the numbers in the appropriate boxes.



- 1. chair 2. food 3. garlic 4. glasses 5. owner
- 6. people 7. smoke 8. snow 9. table

WORKING ON GRAMMAR

4 Complete the following sentences with the appropriate forms of the verbs *to be* and *to have*.

- a. Professor Abronsius and Alfred in Transylvania.
- b. There a lot of garlic in the inn.
- c. Shagal got a daughter.
- d. Sarah got red hair.
- e. Alfred Professor Abronsius' disciple.
- f. Vampires got long teeth.
- g. The inn full of smoke.
- h. "We got a sign!" Professor Abronsius says.
- i. The hunchback at the inn to buy some candles.
- j. There a castle near the inn.

WORKING ON SKILLS

Listening

- 2 5 Listen to the recording and fill in the blanks with the words given in the box.

castle • doing • here • know • no • Professor • room • see • talk • where

AT THE INN

Prof. Abronsius: Tell me Mr Shagall...

Yoynéh: Yes, (1).....

Prof. A.: That garlic...

Yoynéh: Garlic?

Prof. A.: Yes. What's all that garlic (2)..... here?

Yoynéh: (3).....?

Prof. A.: Here in this (4).....

Yoynéh: Ah, that garlic... Please do not (5)..... about garlic, Professor.

Prof. A.: Ah... And, Mr Shagall, is there a (6)..... near here?

Yoynéh: A castle near (7).....? Yoynéh tells you that there's (8)..... castle and there's no windmill near here.

Does anybody (9)..... of a windmill near here?

All: No...

Yoynéh: No, you (10).....? So there's no castle. Does anybody know of a castle near here?

All: Nooooo!



Writing

- 6 Write a brief description of the picture in Activity 3. Use *there is/there are* and the words given.

Speaking

- 7 PAIR WORK. Student A asks Student B a question about Scene 1. Student B answers. Then change roles.
- Ask where Professor Abronsius is at the beginning of the scene.
 - Ask why Professor Abronsius and Alfred are there.
 - Ask what they see in the inn.
 - Ask who Sarah is.
 - Ask who arrives at the inn after breakfast.

TRANSYLVANIA

Transylvania is in central Romania. Bulgarians, Hungarians and Austrians were in this region¹ in the past. After World War I, Transylvania becomes part of Romania and then part of the EU in 2007. Its population has many cultures because there were different peoples in past times; they live together in harmony.



The name Transylvania means “the land beyond² the forest”. The region is famous for its beautiful landscapes³, its culture, history and its food, but also for Dracula the Vampire, too! We can read about the story of Dracula in the horror novel⁴ *Dracula* (1897) by Bram Stoker, an Irish writer.

1. *region*: a particular area or part of the world.
2. *beyond*: on the other side.
3. *landscapes*: natural spaces.
4. *novel*: a long printed story about imaginary characters and events.



The legend says that there are a lot of castles and fortresses⁵ that are places where Dracula spends some nights. There is the famous ‘Dracula’s’ castle and museum in Brasov, a medieval⁶ town near the Carpathian Mountains. It is called Bran Castle but tourists call it Dracula’s Castle.



You can find Dracula’s house in another town in Transylvania: Sighișoara, a UNESCO World Heritage site⁷. Sighișoara has a magical atmosphere, with its narrow⁸ streets and medieval churches. Each year in July, a medieval festival takes place in the old part of the town.



5. *fortresses*:

6. *medieval*: characteristic of the Middle Ages.

7. *World Heritage site*: a place of cultural and/or natural interest for humanity.

8. *narrow*: opposite of wide.



The Fearless Vampire Killers

During the mid-19th century in Transylvania, the eccentric Professor Abronsius – a bat expert on bats – and his naïve young assistant, Alfred, are hunting for vampires. They will try to rescue a beautiful young woman from the terrible hands of Count Von Krolock. He drinks blood and lives in a dark, frightening castle with other evil creatures.

The Fearless Vampire Killers is the narrative adaptation of Roman Polański's comical movie, a parody of the horror genre. The reader is enriched with inserts about Transylvania, the world of vampires (Dracula in particular), mythological and legendary monsters, and movies about Dracula.

✓ beginner

elementary

pre-intermediate

intermediate

post-intermediate

• **A1** (Breakthrough)

• **A2** (Waystage)

• **B1** (Threshold)

• **B2** (Vantage)

• **C1** (Effectiveness)

Levels of accredited examination boards:

Cambridge English: Flyers / KET

Trinity: Grade 1, 2

City & Guilds (Pitman): Basic

ESB: Foundation 1, 2

Edexcel: Quickmarch



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