

DRACULA

WRITTEN BY BRAM STOKER

ANALYSIS OF THE STORY WAS MADE BY
MAXIM RASSKAZOV

A FEW WORDS ABOUT BRAM STOKER


ABRAHAM STOKER (8 NOVEMBER 1847 – 20 APRIL 1912) WAS A NOTABLE AND PROLIFIC IRISH AUTHOR OF THE 19TH CENTURY, BEST KNOWN TODAY FOR HIS 1897 GOTHIC HORROR NOVEL *DRACULA*. STOKER WORKED ON IT FOR EIGHT YEARS, STUDYING EUROPEAN FOLKLORE AND VAMPIRE LEGENDS.

AT THE TIME OF ITS PUBLICATION, *DRACULA* WAS CONSIDERED A "STRAIGHTFORWARD HORROR NOVEL" BASED ON IMAGINARY CREATIONS OF SUPERNATURAL LIFE. "IT GAVE FORM TO A UNIVERSAL FANTASY ... AND BECAME A PART OF POPULAR CULTURE."

STOKER'S STORIES ARE TODAY INCLUDED IN THE CATEGORIES OF "HORROR FICTION" AND "ROMANTICIZED GOTHIC" STORIES.



A FEW WORDS ABOUT BRAM STOKER

A portrait of Bram Stoker, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit and tie, looking slightly to the left.

DURING HIS LIFETIME, HE WAS BETTER KNOWN AS THE THEATER MANAGER OF ACTOR HENRY IRVING AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE FAMOUS AND ONE OF THE OLDEST LONDON THEATERS "LYCEUM".

HE LIVED IN POVERTY TILL HIS DEATH, SO BRAM STOKER WON THE PUBLIC RECOGNITION FOR HIS NOVEL "DRACULA" POSTHUMOUSLY.

THE TITLE OF THE STORY

I ASSUME THE TITLE OF THE NOVEL IS NOT SUGGESTIVE, BECAUSE WE CAN'T GUESS WHAT IS THE STORY ABOUT UNTIL WE START READING IT



THE SETTING



THE MAIN STORY LINE TAKES PLACE IN TRANSYLVANIA, AND SOME ACTIONS TAKE PLACE IN LONDON, GREAT BRITAIN.

WE CAN GUESS THE NOVEL IS SET IN THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY DUE TO SUCH WORDS AS COACH(WAGON, CARRIAGE), HALT(STOP), FAMISH(HUNGER)

MOREOVER, THE AUTHOR'S CREATIVE ACTIVITY IS CONNECTED WITH THAT TIME, WHICH PROVES THIS POINT OF VIEW.

THE SUBJECT



THE SUBJECT OF THE FIRST 5 CHAPTERS OF THE STORY MAY BE FORMULATED AS INTRODUCING THE EVIL FORCE TO READERS THROUGH THE MAIN CHARACTER'S DIARY . THE FOLLOWING ROW OF THEMATIC VOCABULARY HELPS US TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TOPIC: DESPAIR, HELL, WITCH, VAMPIRE, GHOST, DREADFUL, RUTHLESS, HOMICIDAL, DESPERATE
CRUCIFIX(CROSS)

THE MESSAGE

THE MESSAGE IS ABOUT THE FACT HOW POWERLESS, HOPELESS THE PERSON MAY BE AGAINST THE SUPERNATURAL EVIL.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AUTHOR SHOWS THE COURAGE AND BRAVENESS OF THE JONATHAN HARKER. IT TEACHES US THAT IF YOU ARE IN A DESPERATE SITUATION, YOU MUST FIGHT AND NEVER GIVE UP, EVEN IF YOUR ENEMY IS A THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD BLOODTHIRSTY VAMPIRE



THE GIST



THE CHARM OF THE STORY LIES IN ITS INTERESTING PLOT AND EXCITING SITUATION:

JONATHAN HARKER, AN ENGLISH LAWYER, TRAVELS TO TRANSYLVANIA TO HELP COME UP WITH THE LOGISTICAL DETAILS FOR A WEALTHY NOBLEMAN, COUNT DRACULA, WHO WANTS TO PURCHASE A HOUSE IN ENGLAND. HARKER REALIZES PRETTY EARLY ON THAT SOMETHING IS WEIRD ABOUT THE COUNT.

EVENTUALLY JONATHAN DISCOVERS: DRACULA IS A VAMPIRE! AND HE'S NOT MOVING TO LONDON FOR THE MUSEUMS—HE WANTS TO DRINK THE BLOOD OF ENGLISH PEOPLE!

HE ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT HE'S A PRISONER IN THE COUNT'S CASTLE.

THE PLOT STRUCTURE

FIRST OF ALL, THE PLOT STRUCTURE IS CLOSED:

THE EXPOSITION TAKES PLACE TRADITIONALLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY, WHERE AUTHOR GRABS OUR ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY: JONATHAN HARKER TRAVELS THROUGH EASTERN EUROPE TO MEET A MYSTERIOUS COUNT DRACULA.

THE CLIMAX OF THE STORY IS WHEN THE JONATHAN REALIZES THAT THE COUNT IS AN EVIL HIMSELF – A VAMPIRE.

THE DENOUEMENT IS QUITE UNPREDICTABLE: SOMEHOW THE CHARACTER MANAGES TO ESCAPE THE DREADFUL CASTLE OF DRACULA ALIVE.



THE PLOT



THE COMPOSITION IS CHRONOLOGICAL, THERE ARE SUCH NARRATIVE FORMS AS DESCRIPTION, DIALOGUE, MONOLOGUE AND NARRATION.

THE GENRE IS A MYSTERY, HORROR FICTION.

THE STORY IS TOLD IN THE 1ST PERSON NARRATION IN A FORM OF A DIARY OF THE MAIN CHARACTER.

THE CHARACTERS

THERE ARE 2 MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE FIRST CHAPTERS OF THE NOVEL: COUNT DRACULA – THE ANTAGONIST AND JONATHAN HARKER – THE PROTAGONIST. THEY ARE FULL-BLOODED (IN EVERY WAY) AND MANY-SIDED:

AS FOR *JONATHAN*, HE'S A COMPLEX CHARACTER TOO. HE IS PORTRAYED THROUGH HIS BEHAVIOR AND THOUGHTS. WE ESTIMATE HIM BY OURSELVES THROUGH HIS ACTIONS: AUTHOR REVEALS HIS NATURE WITH THE HELP OF INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION. HE TRIES TO ESCAPE THE TERRIBLE CASTLE AND TO KILL DRACULA- IT DEPICTS HIM AS A BRAVE AND STRONG-WILLED PERSON.

THE COUNT IS DEPICTED DYNAMICALLY – HE'S ROUNDED CHARACTER: AT FIRST HE SEEMS TO BE PLEASANT, NICE, RICH AND NOBLE GENTLEMAN, BUT THEN HE BECOMES A RUTHLESS BLOOD-THIRSTY VAMPIRE AND THERE WAS NOTHING HUMAN LEFT IN HIM. THE AUTHOR USES DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION TO DESCRIBE HIM: WE SEE HIM THROUGH JONATHAN'S EYES

THE CHARACTERS

THE STORY REVEALS THE AUTHOR'S GREAT KNOWLEDGE OF MAN'S INNER DEEP FEELINGS SUCH AS FEAR AND ANXIETY THROUGH DESCRIBING THE EMOTIONAL CONDITION OF MAIN CHARACTER IN A DESPERATE MOMENTS.

THESE CHARACTERS DESERVE OUR ATTENTION AND INTEREST. AS FOR ME, I FEEL DEEP EMPATHY AND AFFECTION TO JONATHAN, BUT AT THE SAME TIME I'M FOND OF DRACULA, HIS MYSTERIOUSNESS AND SUPERNATURAL ABILITIES.

**JONATHAN HARKER BEFORE AND
AFTER MEETING WITH DRACULA**



THE CONFLICT

THE CONFLICT IN THIS NOVEL IS EXTERNAL. THE TYPE OF IT IS MAN AGAINST A MAN. JONATHAN HARKER DOESN'T WANT TO DIE AND DESIRES TO ESCAPE FROM VAMPIRE'S CASTLE FULL OF GHOSTS, WHILE COUNT DRACULA NEEDS JONATHAN AS A SOURCE OF LIFE-GIVING BLOOD TO BECOME MORE POWERFUL AND MOVE TO ENGLAND.

VOCABULARY

THE CHOICE OF VOCABULARY AND STYLISTIC DEVICES IS ADMIRABLE:

THE STORY IS FULL OF *EMOTIONALLY-COLORED WORDS* WHICH HELP US TO FEEL DESPERATION OF THE MAIN CHARACTER AND WRATH OF THE COUNT: SPLENDID, SORROWFUL, FEVERISH, DREADFUL, WINCE, REPULSION, SOOTHING ETC.

THERE ARE SOME *INTERNATIONAL WORDS*: MINUTE, GEOGRAPHY, SIR.

THERE ARE ALSO SOME *PRO-VERBS*: CARRY OUT, FOUND OUT, GIVE UP, FALL IN WITH, PUT ON ETC.

THERE ARE SUCH *GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES* AS WALLACHIA, TRANSYLVANIA, LONDON, BRITAIN, BYSTRITZ

VOCABULARY

THE AUTHOR USES QUITE A FEW *STYLISTIC DEVICES* TO STRENGTHEN THE IMPRESSION OF THE PURE EVIL.

- AN EPITHET: GHOST-LIKE FACE, BURNING EYES, BLAZING SIGHT.
- AN ALLUSION: “...WITH A SMILE THAT JUDAS IN HELL MIGHT BE PROUD OF”
- PARALLELISM: “TOMORROW! TOMORROW!”
- RHETORICAL QUESTION: “IS IT THEN SO NEAR THE END?”

VOCABULARY

THERE ARE SOME *SYNONYMS*: WRATH=FURY, DREADFUL=TERRIBLE,
SORROWFUL=MOURNFUL, RAPTURE=EXULTATION ETC.

THERE ARE ALSO *ANTONYMS*: RESOLUTE-DESPERATE,
EMERGE-VANISH, DISTRESS-DELIGHT

WE ALSO SHOULD MENTION *IDIOMS*:

TO FILL THE SOUL WITH HORROR, TO DRIVE MAD, TO GET RID OF, TO
BUILD THE CASTLES IN THE AIR

FILM ADAPTATION – DRACULA ON NETFLIX

THERE WERE MORE THAN 15 FILM ADAPTATIONS OF THIS NOVEL, BUT I SUGGEST TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE LAST ONE.

IN 2019 THE CREATORS OF BRITISH POPULAR SERIES “SHERLOCK” PRESENTED THEIR NEW PROJECT: ADAPTATION OF BRAM STOKER’S DRACULA ON NETFLIX



TRAILER:
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/W
ATCH?V=FOKDVAyR220](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOKDVAyR220)



G GUIDANCE: Horror

FILM ADAPTATION – DRACULA ON
NETFLIX

THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES FROM THE ORIGINAL STORY IN THIS SERIES.

THERE NO SOME SCENES OF EXPLORING THE CASTLE BY JONATHAN, ALSO THERE ARE NO EPISODE WHERE JONATHAN WAS ALMOST SEDUCED AND KILLED BY 3 GHOST LADIES.

AND THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT: IN THIS ADAPTATION VAN HELSING IS A WOMAN, BUT IT DOESN'T RUIN THE PLOT AND DOESN'T AFFECT MUCH ON NARRATION.

THERE'S ALSO A PECULIARITY OF A MODERN ADAPTATION: THE END OF THE SERIES HAPPEN NOWADAYS AND DIFFERS FROM ORIGINAL
END

CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION, I FOUND THE STORY STRIKING, TERRIFYING AND GRIPPING. THE THING I LIKED MOST ABOUT THIS NOVEL IS DESCRIPTION OF INHUMAN NATURE OF COUNT DRACULA AND HIS FRIGHTENING PORTRAYAL.

I WOULD SAY THIS KIND OF STORIES WOULD GENERALLY APPEAL TO SUCH PEOPLE WHO ARE FOND OF HORROR OR GOTHIC GENRES. THIS NOVEL IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF IT.

THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE STORY IS FILLED WITH FEAR AND DESPAIR. THAT'S WHY IT HAS A DEEP EMOTIONAL APPEAL TO READER.



MY FAVORITE QUOTES FROM THE NOVEL

1. DESPAIR HAS ITS OWN CALMS.
2. THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE!
3. THIS MAN BELONGS TO ME, I WANT HIM!
4. LISTEN TO THEM, THE CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT. WHAT MUSIC THEY MAKE!
5. DESPAIR SEIZED ME
6. THERE WAS A MOCKING SMILE ON HIS FACE
7. NEVER DID I IMAGINE SUCH WRATH AND FURY, EVEN TO THE DEMONS OF THE PIT
8. HOW CAN I ESCAPE FROM THIS DREADFUL THING OF NIGHT AND GLOOM AND FEAR?
9. I HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE COUNT IN THE DAYLIGHT
10. THE CHANCES ARE DESPERATE, BUT MY NEED IS MORE DESPERATE STILL

MOST FAVORITE WORDS OF THE NOVEL

1. **SPLENDID** – EXCELLENT, BEAUTIFUL OR IMPRESSIVE
2. **SORROWFUL** – FULL OF SORROW, VERY SAD, UPSET
3. **DREADFUL** – CAUSING FEAR, SHOCK OR SUFFERING
4. **REPULSION** – STRONG DISLIKE OR DISAPPROVAL
5. **DESPAIR** – A FEELING OF BEING WITHOUT HOPE
6. **RUTHLESS** – CRUEL, NOT CARING ABOUT OTHERS
7. **ASTONISHMENT** – VERY GREAT SURPRISE
8. **TEMPT** – TO MAKE SOMEBODY WANT TO HAVE OR DO SOMETHING
9. **SALVATION** – WAY OF BEING SAVED FROM DANGER OR HARM
10. **MOCKING** – LAUGHING AT SOMETHING OR SOMEONE IN UNKIND WAY