

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bram (Abraham) Stoker was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1847. His father was a civil servant¹. Stoker was ill throughout his childhood, but later excelled² at sport when he went to Trinity College, Dublin, where he studied mathematics.

Stoker became a clerk³ in the Civil Service in 1870, but his great interest was in the theater. He carefully followed the acting career of one of the greatest actors of the time – Sir Henry Irving. In 1878 Irving asked Stoker to become the business manager of the Lyceum Theater in London. In the same year, Stoker married Florence Balcombe. Their only son, Irving Noel, was born the following year.



From early on in his career Stoker published theater reviews⁴ and some short stories in newspapers and magazines, and by 1890 he published his first Gothic⁵ horror⁶ novel, *The Snake's Pass*. In London he became well-known in the literary and artistic⁷ world, and was friends with many famous writers.

He also traveled abroad with Irving, and especially enjoyed trips to the USA, where he twice visited The White House and met the President. Real fame came to Stoker in 1897 with the publication of *Dracula*, which soon became very popular.

When Irving died in 1905, Stoker wrote a biography⁸ of him. He also suffered a stroke⁹, at this time. He recovered and continued writing until he died in 1912.

1 civil servant 公務員

2 excel [ɪk'sel] (v.) 突出

3 clerk [kɪɹk] (n.) 辦事員

4 review [rɪ'vju] (n.) 評論

5 Gothic ['gəθɪk] (a.) 氣氛詭異之哥德式小說的

6 horror ['hɒrə] (n.) 恐怖

7 artistic [ɑr'tɪstɪk] (a.) 藝術的

8 biography [baɪ'ɒɡrəfi] (n.) 傳記

9 stroke [stro:k] (n.) 中風

ABOUT THE BOOK

The story of *Dracula* (1897) takes place in Transylvania in Romania, London, Exeter and Whitby in England, and Varna and Galatz on the Black Sea. It is written in what is known as an epistolary¹ style. This means that several characters tell their parts of the story through journal² and diary entries³, letters, telegrams, newspaper articles and a ship's log⁴.

In the story the young English solicitor⁵, Jonathan Harker visits Count⁶ Dracula in his Transylvanian castle to advise him on buying a property⁷ in London. Harker has terrible experiences there, and realizes that Dracula and three women in the castle are all vampires⁸.

1 epistolary [ɪˈpɪstə,ləri] (a.) 書信體的

2 journal [ˈdʒɜːnl] (n.) 雜誌；期刊

3 entry [ˈentri] (n.) 條目

4 ship's log 航海日誌

5 solicitor [səˈlɪsɪtə] (n.) 初級律師

6 count [kaunt] (n.) 伯爵

7 property [ˈprɒpəti] (n.) 房地產

8 vampire [ˈvæmpaɪr] (n.) 吸血鬼

9 defeat [dɪˈfiːt] (v.) 戰勝；擊敗

10 theme [θiːm] (n.) 主題

11 modernity [məˈdɜːnəti] (n.) 現代性

12 cope with 處理；對付

13 invasion [ɪnˈveɪʒən] (n.) 入侵

14 invade [ɪnˈved] (v.) 侵入；侵略

15 destroy [dɪˈstrɔɪ] (v.) 毀滅

16 deal with 處理

17 scholar [ˈskɒlə] (n.) 學者

Dracula moves to England and Harker and his young wife Mina become involved in a life-and-death chase to catch and stop him before it is too late.

The story is a classic horror adventure, in which good defeats⁹ evil. It also brings up the theme¹⁰ of modernity¹¹, which was important at that time.

The Victorian age brought about great change and many people believed that society was unable to cope with¹² events. Other people have interpreted *Dracula* as an "invasion¹³" story – Britain is invaded¹⁴ by an evil foreigner who will destroy¹⁵ everyone by turning them all into vampires until someone stops him.

The story also deals with¹⁶ relationships between men and women. Some scholars¹⁷ have suggested that the character of Dracula is based on Prince Vlad III of Wallachia (now Romania). He was known as Dracula, from the word for "dragon".

BEFORE READING

- 1** Look at these pictures of some of the main characters from the story. Write some sentences to describe each of them. What do you think each person is like?



a Jonathan Harker




b Count Dracula



c Mina Murray/Harker



d Professor Van Helsing

-  **2** Work with one or two other people. Compare your descriptions of the characters.

3 Jonathan Harker is a solicitor. Which of these descriptions explains what a solicitor does?

- _____ (a) The person who makes decisions in a court of law, and says what should happen to criminals.
- _____ (b) The person who defends a criminal in a court of law.
- _____ (c) The person who advises people about law and prepares legal documents about businesses, property, etc.

4 Count Dracula is a vampire. What kind of animals are associated with vampires? Tick. Why?



a a rat ☐



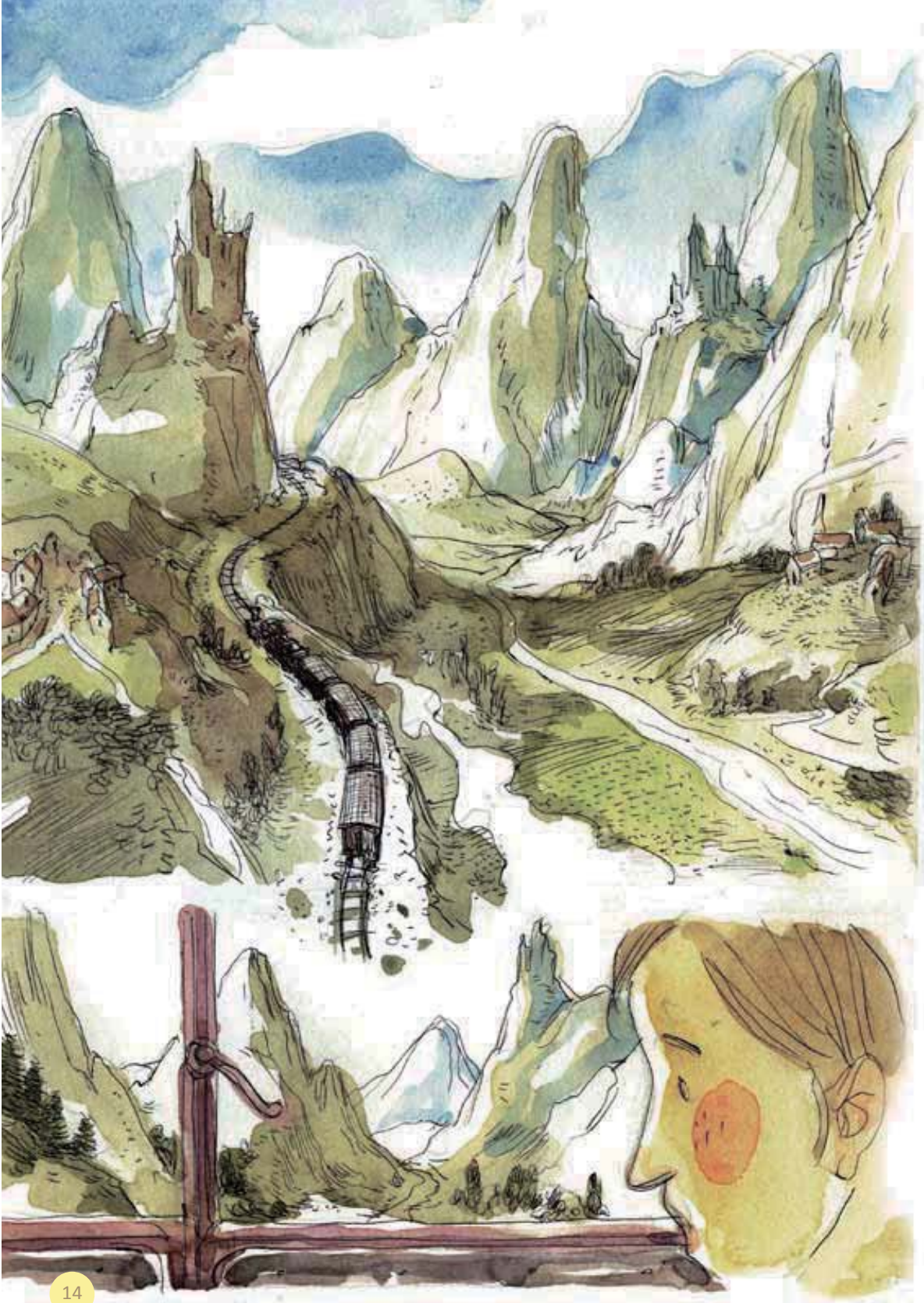
b a wolf ☐



c a bat ☐



d an owl ☐





Chapter 1



Where we meet Jonathan Harker, a young solicitor from London, and learn about his journey to Transylvania to the castle of Count Dracula.

Jonathan Harker's Journal

3 May, Bistritz. I have passed through Munich, Vienna and Budapest and am on my way to Transylvania. My impression is that we have left the West and have entered¹ the East. My client, Count Dracula, lives on the borders² of three states³: Transylvania, Moldavia, and Bukovina, in the center of the Carpathian Mountains. It seems to be one of the wildest and least-known places in Europe. I could not find a map showing exactly where he lives, but I found Bistritz, a town nearby.

As I traveled towards it on the train, I looked out of the window at little towns and castles on steep⁴ hills, and at wide rivers and streams⁵. The countryside was beautiful, but strange.

When I arrived at the hotel in Bistritz, there was a letter waiting for me:

- 1 enter [ˈɛntə] (v.) 進入
- 2 border [ˈbɔrdə] (n.) 邊境；國界
- 3 state [stet] (n.) 國家
- 4 steep [stip] (a.) 陡峭的
- 5 stream [strim] (n.) 小河；溪流



My friend,

Welcome! I look forward to¹ meeting you.

At three tomorrow you have a place on the coach² for Bukovina which travels through the Borgo Pass³. My carriage⁴ will meet you at the Borgo Pass and bring you here.

Your friend,

Dracula

4 May. As I was leaving the hotel, I asked about Count Dracula but the landlord and his wife made the sign of the cross⁵ and refused to speak.

The landlady said: "Must you go? Herr Harker, must you go? It is the eve of St George's Day⁶, and after midnight all the evil things in the world will be out."

She then gave me the crucifix⁷ from her neck to wear. I felt frightened.

1 look forward to 期待（後接名詞或動名詞）

2 coach [kəʊtʃ] (n.) 四輪大馬車

3 pass [pæs] (n.) 山隘；關口

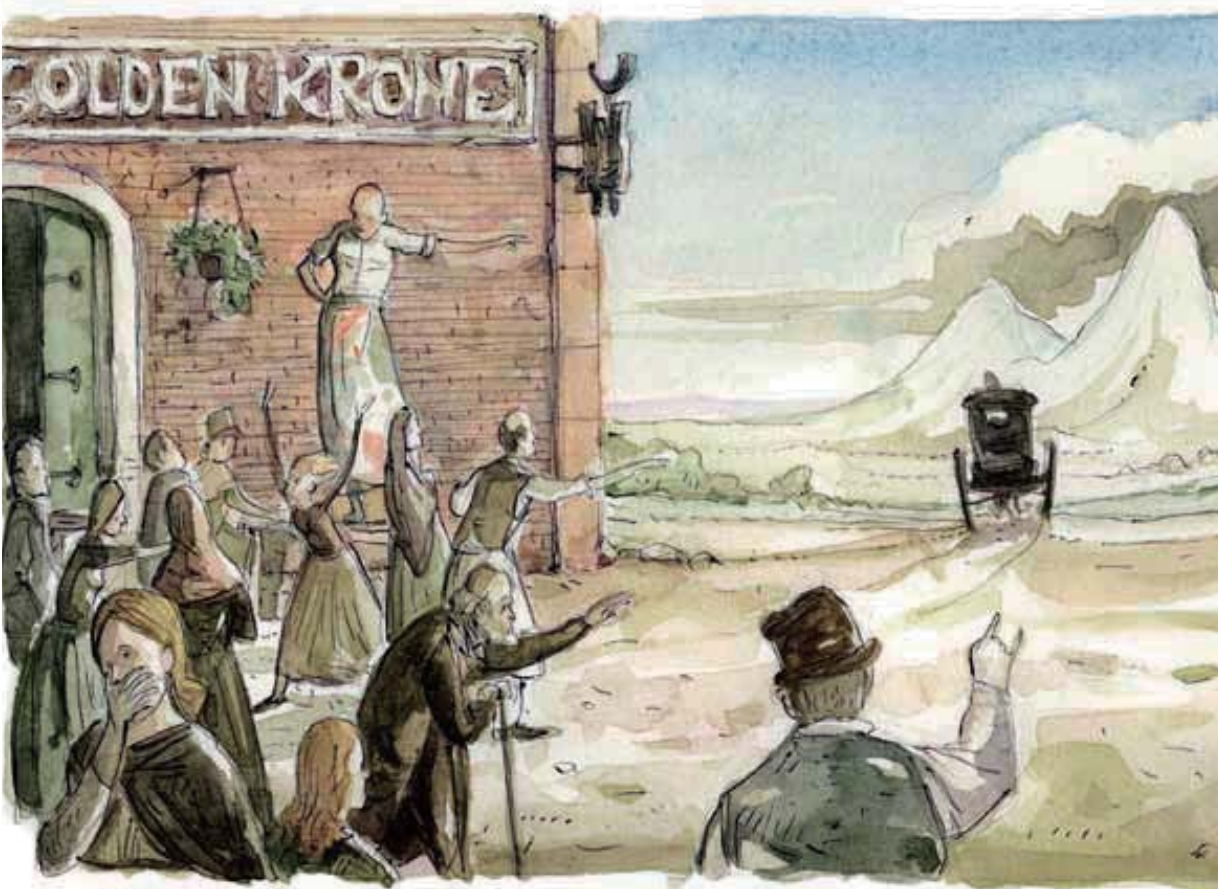
4 carriage ['kærɪdʒ] (n.) 四輪馬車

5 cross [krɒs] (n.) 十字形

6 St George's Day 聖喬治節（4月23日）

7 crucifix ['krʊsə,fɪks] (n.) 十字架

8 polyglot ['pɒlɪ,ɡlɒt] (a.) 用數種語言書寫的



5 May, the Castle. From the coach I heard the driver and landlady repeating some words which I didn't understand. I checked them in my polyglot⁸ dictionary: "Ordog" – Satan⁹, "Pokol" – hell¹⁰, "stregoica" – witch¹¹, "vrolok" and "vlkoslak" – were wolf or vampire. (I need to ask my client about these things.)

As I was leaving, the people outside the hotel made the sign of the cross and pointed two fingers towards me. One of the other passengers¹² explained that this was to guard me against the evil eye.

⁹ Satan [ˈsetɪ] (n.) 撒旦；魔鬼

¹⁰ hell [hɛl] (n.) 地獄

¹¹ witch [wɪtʃ] (n.) 女巫

¹² passenger [ˈpæsɪdʒə] (n.) 乘客