



FEATURING  
IN THIS  
ISSUE --

DRACULA!

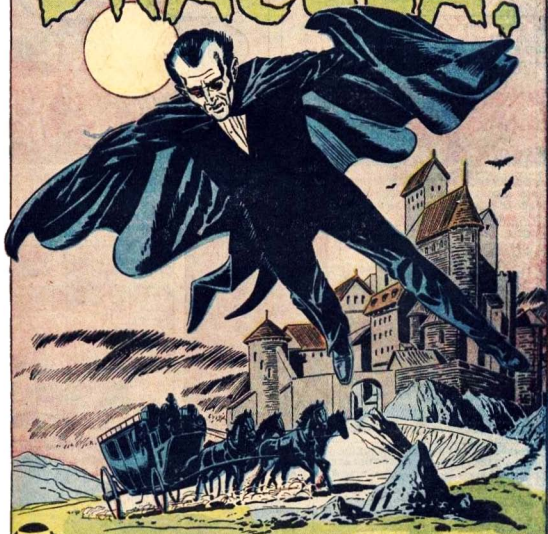
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No. 12

# EERIE



# DRACULA!



THE STRANGE TALE RELATED HEREIN HAS BEEN PIECED TOGETHER FROM THE JOURNALS OF JONATHAN HARKER, MINA MURRAY, DR. SEWARD (DIRECTOR OF THE WHITBY LUNATIC ASYLUM) AND PROFESSOR VAN HELSING. ALTHOUGH TO SOME THEIR STORY MAY SEEM THE RAVINGS OF DISORDERED MINDS, THOSE WHO WROTE OF IT ASK FOR NO PROOFS, ASK NONE TO BELIEVE THEM. THEY HAVE SEEN THE DREAD PEOPLE OF THE UNDEAD, THEY HAVE LIVED THROUGH THE FRIGHTFUL TERRORS CREATED BY THESE FEARFUL BEINGS, EXPERIENCED THE AWFUL HORRORS OF THE NETHERMOST PITS OF HELL. ALL THEY ASK IS THAT YOU READ WITH AN OPEN MIND OF THE THINGS THAT EVEN THEY FIND HARD TO BELIEVE, NOW THAT THE TERROR IS PAST....

FROM THE JOURNAL OF JONATHAN HARKER.

## PART ONE

THE FIRST INKLING I HAD OF THE STRANGE AND TERRIFYING EVENTS THAT WERE ABOUT TO OVERTAKE ME CAME AS I WAITED IN BORGO PASS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF COUNT DRACULA TO PICK ME UP...



SUDDENLY FROM OUT OF THE BLACKNESS CAME A COAL-BLACK CARRIAGE PULLED BY COAL-BLACK HORSES AND DRIVEN BY A STRANGE-LOOKING MAN...

A MOMENT LATER WE GALLOPPED OFF INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE PASS...

HIGH INTO THE GRIM MOUNTAINS WE RODE, THE WIND MOANING AND WHISTLING ABOUT US. TWO HOURS LATER, WE PULLED UP IN THE COURTYARD OF A VAST, RUINED CASTLE...



BEHIND ME THE CARRIAGE RATTLED AWAY INTO A DARK PASSAGE. A MINUTE LATER THE HUGE DOOR CREAKED OPEN TO REVEAL COUNT DRACULA!









SOMEHOW I GOT INTO A DISUSED PASSAGE, AND AT THE TOP OF THE CRUMBLING STAIRWAY...



BUT IT LED ONLY TO A SUITE OF ROOMS THAT MUST HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY THE LADIES IN BYGONE DAYS...



MY FRANTIC RAGE THROUGH THE GRIM RUIN HAD EXHAUSTED ME. SPENT, I SANK DOWN ON A COUCH TO REST...



I MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP, BUT WHAT I SAW WAS STARTLINGLY REAL. IT CANNOT HAVE BEEN TRUE SLEEP...



FROM BENEATH MY LASHES I SAW THE FAIR-HAIRED GIRL KNEEL BY MY SIDE. HER SHARP, WHITE TEETH BRUSHED MY THROAT...



AT THAT MOMENT...



HOW DARE YOU TOUCH HIM? ANY OF YOU! I TELL YOU ALL, THIS MAN BELONGS TO ME! BEWARE HOW YOU MEDDLE WITH HIM OR YOU'LL DEAL WITH DRACULA!

YOU! YOU HAVE NEVER LOVED!





YES, I CAN LOVE.  
THINK OF THE EAST---  
I PROMISE YOU WHEN  
I AM DONE WITH HIM  
HE SHALL BE YOURS---  
NOW GO! THERE'S  
WORK TO BE  
DONE!

THE HORROR FINALLY OVERCAME ME AND  
I SANK BACK, UNCONSCIOUS. WHEN I CAME  
TO I WAS IN MY OWN ROOM...



I COULD NOT HAVE  
DREAMED IT. HOW DID  
I GET BACK TO MY OWN  
ROOM?---THEY...THEY  
ARE WAITING FOR  
SUCK MY BLOOD!

IN THE NEXT DAYS  
THE COUNT QUESTIONED ME ABOUT  
ENGLAND--- ITS  
CUSTOMS, ITS  
PEOPLE, THE  
LANGUAGE. I  
SHUDDERED! I  
WAS HELPING TO  
TRANSFER HIM  
TO LONDON, WHERE  
HE MIGHT SATIATE  
HIS BLOOD LUST  
AND CREATE AN  
EVER-WIDENING  
CIRCLE OF SEMI-  
DEMONS TO FATTEN  
ON THE HELPLESS!



THE THOUGHT DROVE ME TO EVEN MORE  
FRENZIED EFFORTS TO ESCAPE. ONE DAY  
I CLIMBED DOWN TO DRACULA'S OWN  
ROOM--- PERHAPS IN  
THE ROOM HE CAME  
OUT OF I MIGHT FIND  
A KEY TO THE  
GREAT DOOR---



ODD, I WOULD HAVE  
SWORN THIS WAS HIS  
ROOM. YET IT LOOKS  
AS THOUGH IT WERE  
NEVER USED... THAT DOOR  
---THOSE STEPS---THEY  
MAY LEAD TO AN EXIT---

BUT IT LED, INSTEAD, TO THE VAULTS BELOW  
THE CASTLE---THE GRAVEYARD OF THE  
DRACULAS...



THAT OOR... IT IS  
THE OOR OF DEATH---  
BUT I MUSTN'T GO  
BACK! THERE MIGHT  
BE SOME WAY OUT  
OF HERE...



I APPROACHED THE COFFIN! A HORRIBLE SIGHT  
MET MY EYES---

DRACULA! LYING  
THERE LIKE A BLOATED  
LEECH! AND I--- I AM  
TO HELP HIM!





# PART TWO

FROM THE JOURNAL OF MINA MURRAY...

MY VACATION HERE AT WHITBY WITH THE WESTENRAS HAS BEEN WONDERFUL, BUT SOMEHOW I AM WORRIED—I HAVE HAD NO WORD FROM JONATHAN FOR SOME TIME...



A FEW NIGHTS LATER, A STRANGE OCCURRENCE TOOK PLACE THAT DROVE EVERYTHING ELSE FROM MY MIND...

ISN'T THAT SHIP BEHAVING QUEERLY? WHAT IS SHE?

SEEMS TO BE A RUSSIAN. WHO-EVER IS STEERING HER DOESN'T KNOW HIS OWN MIND. DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW WHETHER HE IS COMING OR GOING!



IF I WERE THEM, I'D GET TO PORT IN A HURRY! THIS STILL, QUIET WEATHER GIVES ME THE CREEPS. SOMETHING IS BREWING!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE AIR! SOMETHING THAT TASTES, SOUNDS, AND LOOKS LIKE... DEATH!



A FEW MINUTES LATER ONE OF THE GREATEST STORMS EVER TO HIT THIS AREA AROSE WITH TERRIBLE SUDDENNESS... LUCY AND I TOOK REFUGE IN THE COAST GUARD STATION...

LOOK! THAT SHIP WE SAW-- IT'S SINKING!

SHE'LL NEVER REACH THE HARBOR IN THIS HURRICANE!



MAY I BORROW THOSE GLASSES?

SHE SEEMS TO BE HEADING RIGHT, NOW! MAYBE SHE WILL MAKE IT, AFTER ALL!



AS I LOOKED THROUGH THE GLASSES A SEARCHLIGHT SWEEPED OVER THE VESSEL. WHAT I SAW BROUGHT A CRY OF FRIGHT TO MY LIPS...



IT WAS A DEAD MAN LASHED TO THE WHEEL!

IT'S A DERELICT! YET IT IS COMING INTO THE HARBOR AS THOUGH ACTUALLY GUIDED BY A LIVING HAND-- AND IN THIS STORM!



THEN, AS WE WATCHED, THE SHIP RUSHED ACROSS THE HARBOR TOWARD THE SHORE AS IF DRIVEN BY AN UNSEEN FORCE..



A MOMENT LATER SHE PITCHED ONTO THE ROCKY SHORE WITH A TREMENDOUS CRASH!



THEN, AS WE WATCHED IN AMAZEMENT, A STILL STRANGER THING TOOK PLACE: AN IMMENSE BLACK DOG LEAPT FROM THE STRICKEN VESSEL'S SIDE...



AND, UNERRINGLY, RAN UP THE SIDE OF WHITBY CLIFF TO DISAPPEAR IN THE GRAVEYARD ABOVE!



NEXT DAY THE TOWN TALKED OF NOTHING BUT THE WRECK. LUCY AND I SAW THE FUNERAL OF THE STRANGER, THE ONLY ONE ABOARD THE MYSTERIOUS VESSEL...



WHAT'S THE MATTER, LUCY? EVER SINCE THAT SHIP WAS DRIVEN ASHORE YOU'VE BEEN RESTLESS...

RESTLESS? I & I.. I'M ALL RIGHT. I GUESS IT'S JUST THE EXCITEMENT!

POOR FELLOW. I WONDER WHO HE WAS? SOMEHOW I FEEL SO SORRY FOR HIM...

I'M AFRAID WE SHALL NEVER KNOW. THIS IS ANOTHER OF THOSE UNSOLVABLE MYSTERIES OF THE SEA... LET'S GO HOME, DEAR!



TONIGHT SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT RIGHTENED ME TERRIBLY. I AWOKE TO HEAR THE DOOR CLOSE. LOOKING OUT MY WINDOW I SAW LUCY GOING DOWN THE ROAD IN HER NIGHTGOWN...



I MUST BRING HER BACK!

I RACED AFTER HER, CATCHING UP WITH HER AT THE BENCH NEAR WHITBY GRAVEYARD...



THERE SHE IS! ...WHAT'S THAT BENDING OVER HER?

AS I GOT CLOSER, I SAW IT, WITH ITS WHITE FACE AND RED GLEAMING EYES! I CALLED TO HER IN PRIGHT....



BUT WHEN I REACHED HER IT WAS GONE!

LUCY! LUCY!  
YOU MUST WAKE  
UP! YOU MUST!



HOW I GOT HER HOME I'LL NEVER KNOW, BUT SOMEHOW I DID...

THANK YOU, MINA,  
THANK YOU... ONLY  
PROMISE ME ONE THING,  
DON'T TELL MOTHER  
ABOUT THIS.. SHE  
HAS A BAD HEART  
YOU KNOW!

I.. ALL  
RIGHT,  
LUCY, I  
WON'T! NOW  
YOU MUST  
GET SOME  
SLEEP!



WHAT A NIGHT.. I...I  
ACTUALLY THOUGHT I SAW  
SOMETHING BENDING OVER  
HER.. SHOWS WHAT THE  
IMAGINATION CAN DO.. I  
WONDER HOW LUCY  
SCRATCHED HER THROAT?  
MUST HAVE BEEN THE  
PIN IN THE SHAWL...



THE NEXT DAY I MOVED  
INTO LUCY'S ROOM! FOR A  
WEEK ALL WAS WELL!  
THEN, ONE NIGHT ...

SHE'S  
AT IT  
AGAIN!



LUCKY I'VE  
GOT THE KEY...  
UGH!! LOOK  
AT THAT HUGE  
BAT! HOW  
HORRIBLE!...







THE NEXT DAY IN SPITE OF LUCY'S PROTESTS, I CALLED IN DR. SEWARD...

UNUSUAL, VERY UNUSUAL! I FIND NOTHING WRONG WITH HER, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING... YET I AM NOT SATISFIED!

I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN, DOCTOR! I FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT HER!



SHE SEEMS TO BE SUFFERING FROM ANEMIA, HOWEVER I SHALL KEEP CLOSE WATCH OVER HER! I SHALL ALSO CALL UPON DR. VAN HELSING OF AMSTERDAM TO DIAGNOSE HER CASE! HE IS THE WORLD'S BEST!

THANK YOU DR. SEWARD! I KNOW YOU WILL HELP HER...



IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS LUCY SEEMED TO RECOVER COMPLETELY! THEN CAME NEWS THAT DROVE EVERYTHING ELSE OUT OF MY MIND... WORD OF JONATHAN!

OH, LUCY, THIS LETTER IS FROM THE HOSPITAL OF ST JOSEPH IN BUDAPEST! JONATHAN HAS BEEN THERE NEARLY SIX WEEKS, SUFFERING FROM BRAIN FEVER!

POOR JONATHAN!



IT SAYS HE HAS HAD SOME FEARFUL SHOCK.. THAT HE WAS BROUGHT IN RAVING OF WOLVES, GHOSTS AND DEMONS, POISON AND BLOOD.. OH, I MUST GO TO HIM AT ONCE!

OF COURSE!



A FEW DAYS LATER FOUND ME AT JONATHAN'S BEDSIDE! I COULD SEE HIS SUFFERING MUST HAVE BEEN GREAT...

MINA, IN THIS BOOK I HAVE RECORDED ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED... WHETHER IT BE REAL OR NOT I DO NOT KNOW... PERHAPS IT IS BUT THE RAVINGS OF A MADMAN...

NO, JONATHAN, NO...



THE SECRET IS HERE AND I WANT YOU TO HOLD IT, KEEP IT, READ IT IF YOU WILL, BUT NEVER LET ME KNOW... UNTIL SOME SOLEMN DUTY SHOULD CALL ME BACK TO THOSE BITTER HOURS...

I WILL, JONATHAN!



THIS AFTERNOON, JONATHAN AND I WERE MARRIED! I AM THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD! I AM NOW MINA HARKER!...

DARLING, OUR LIFE BEGINS HERE! WE SHALL FORGET WHATEVER HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST.. EVERYTHING LIES BEFORE US!

OH, YES, DARLING! I'M SO HAPPY!



# PART THREE

FROM THE JOURNAL OF DR. SEWARD, AFTER MINNA'S DEPARTURE LUCY SEEMED TO GROW WORSE. VAN HELSING FINALLY ARRIVED AND ORDERED AN IMMEDIATE BLOOD TRANSFUSION, BUT TO NO AVAIL...WHEN HE WAS DONE HE EXAMINED HER. IT WAS THEN HE SAW THE MARKS ON HER THROAT...

GOTT IN HIMMEL! I AM AFRAID I AM TOO LATE! HOW LONG HAS SHE HAD THESE WOUNDS?

FOR SEVERAL WEEKS NOW, PROFESSOR VAN HELSING. WE COULD NOT ACCOUNT FOR THEM...

THAT NIGHT WE BOTH KEPT VIGIL. NEAR MIDNIGHT A CRY FROM VAN HELSING BROUGHT ME TO LUCY'S BED...

GOOD LORD! THE WOUNDS HAVE DISAPPEARED!

YES! SHE IS DYING! GET HOLMWOOD, QUICKLY!

ARTHUR, HE WAS RIGHT. HE IS MY TRUE FRIEND AND YOURS... GUARD HIM, PROFESSOR AND GIVE ME PEACE... UHHH!

IT IS OVER. SHE IS DEAD!

AH, WELL, POOR GIRL, THERE IS PEACE FOR HER AT LAST. IT IS THE END!

NOT SO, ALAS, NOT SO. IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING!

A WEEK AFTER LUCY'S BURIAL STRANGE EVENTS BEGAN TO TAKE PLACE IN WHITBY...

SO SOON! SO SOON! SEE, IT SAYS EACH OF THE CHILDREN ATTACKED HAD TINY HOLES IN THEIR THROATS!

LIKE THE ONE'S IN LUCY'S THROAT! WHAT CAN BE DOING IT?

WHITBY MYSTERY CHILDREN ATTACKED BY MYSTERIOUS LADY

THERE IS LITTLE I CAN DO, TONIGHT I'LL TELL THE STORY. I THINK YOU HAD BETTER SUMMON HER FIANCE.

VERY WELL, I WILL DO SO IMMEDIATELY... POOR LUCY!

WHEN I RETURNED WITH ARTHUR, LUCY SEEMED TO HAVE CHANGED IN SOME SUBTLE MANNER...

ARTHUR! OH, MY LOVE, I AM SO GLAD YOU HAVE COME! KISS ME!

LUCY!

LUCY, DARLING --I-- HUH!

DON'T KISS HER! NOT FOR YOUR LIVING SOUL AND HERS!



THAT NIGHT I ACCOMPANIED VAN HELSING ON HIS STRANGE AND FRIGHTENING MISSION...





RELOCKING THE TOMB  
WE HAD BEHIND A  
GRAVESTONE... SOON...



GOOD  
GOD! IT'S  
LUCY!

WAIT!  
QUIET!

I DO NOT  
UNDERSTAND.  
SHE MUST  
BE DEAD!

YOU MUST BE  
PATIENT A  
LITTLE LONGER.  
TOMORROW  
NIGHT BRING  
HOLMWOOD AND  
QUINCY MORRIS TO  
MY ROOMS AND I  
WILL EXPLAIN  
ALL!



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...WHAT HE TOLD  
US WAS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE...

IMPOSSIBLE! GENTLEMEN, I ASSURE  
YOU IT IS SO! LUCY IS  
OF THE UNDEAD! IF SHE  
IS NOT PUT TO REST  
THERE IS NO TELLING  
WHAT SHE MAY DO!



SHE IS A  
VAMPIRE!

TAKE CARE, SIR.  
TAKE CARE WHAT  
YOU SAY ABOUT  
LUCY!

PLEASE BELIEVE  
ME. I WOULD NOT  
HURT YOU...DR.  
SEWARD HAS AL-  
READY SEEN, NOW  
I WOULD PROVE  
IT TO YOU!



HOW?

BY COMING WITH  
ME TO HER TOMB  
AND OPENING HER  
COFFIN! IF SHE IS  
DEAD THERE CAN  
BE NO HARM TO  
HER...BUT IF  
SHE IS NOT...

I DON'T  
KNOW.  
WHAT TO  
BELIEVE!  
ALL RIGHT,  
I'LL GO!  
I'LL GO!



ONCE AGAIN WE ENTERED LUCY'S  
TOMB AND ONCE AGAIN THE  
COFFIN WAS EMPTY...

GIVE ME YOUR  
WORD! THIS IS  
NOT OF YOUR  
DOING?



I SWEAR  
TO YOU BY ALL  
THAT IS HELD  
SACRED THAT  
I HAVE NOT  
TOUCHED HER!

SEALING UP THE COFFIN VAN HELSING  
LED US OUTSIDE WHERE HE DID AN ODD  
THING...

WHAT ARE YOU  
PUTTING OVER THE  
DOOR CRACKS, PRO-  
FESSOR?

GARLIC  
FLOWERS. THE  
UNDEAD CAN-  
NOT PASS THEM.  
I HAVE CLOSED  
THE TOMB TO HER.  
NOW LET US HIDE  
...TIME IS  
SHORT!



ONCE MORE WE HID AND WAITED! SOON...

LOOK! SHE COMES AND SHE HAS A CHILD WITH HER!

GOOD LORD! IT IS LUCY!



COME, FOLLOW ME!

ARRGH!

NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE!



WITH NERVES OF IRON, VAN HELSING FACED THE AWFUL CREATURE...

BACK! BACK! CREATURE OF THE UNDEAD!



BUT INSTEAD SHE HELD HER ARMS OUT TO ARTHUR WHO ADVANCED AS THOUGH IN A TRANCE ...

COME TO ME, ARTHUR! LEAVE THESE OTHERS AND COME TO ME! MY ARMS ARE HUNGRY FOR YOU!

I COME, LUCY... I COME..



NO! NO! YOU SHALL NOT HAVE HIM!

AAHH!



HOLDING THE CRUCIFIX WITH ONE HAND, VAN HELSING QUICKLY REMOVED A STRAND OF THE GARLIC FLOWERS ...

NOW YOU HAVE SEEN AS SEWARD AND I HAVE SEEN! DO YOU BELIEVE!

YES, YES! DO AS YOU WILL, MY FRIEND! SUCH HORROR MUST BE KEPT FROM THE WORLD!



THE CHILD IS STILL ALIVE!

GOOD! LET US TAKE IT TO A HOSPITAL! WE CAN DO NO MORE UNTIL TOMORROW!





# PART FOUR

THE JOURNAL OF DR. SEWARD CONTINUED...

ON THE URGENT SUMMONS OF DR. VAN HELSING, THE HARKERS HAVE BEEN CALLED TO WHITBY TO MEET WITH US! ON THEIR ARRIVAL JONATHAN IMMEDIATELY SHOWED THE DOCTOR THE DIARY HE HAD KEPT DURING HIS TERRIBLE SOJOURN AT THE CASTLE DRACULA!



THAT NIGHT WE ALL MET IN THE LIBRARY AT HOLMSWOOD'S HOUSE FOR A COUNCIL OF WAR...

FRIENDS, WE ARE FACED WITH A DREADFUL DUTY FROM WHICH WE DARE NOT SHRINK! WE MUST DESTROY THIS CREATURE OF THE UNDEAD! ARE YOU WITH ME?

YES, DOCTOR VAN HELSING, ALL OF US ARE WITH YOU TO THE DEATH!



FROM THE FACTS IN MISTER HARKER'S JOURNAL, WE HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING OF GREAT IMPORTANCE! COUNT DRACULA IS HERE AT THE CARFAX ESTATE!

THEN WE HAVE HIM! THAT IS IF HE CAN BE DESTROYED!



HE CAN BE DESTROYED JUST AS WE -- WE DESTROYED THAT -- OTHER! TOMORROW WE SHALL VISIT CARFAX AND AS HE LIES SLUMBERING IN HIS COFFIN --



IT WAS JUST A BIG BAT!

OH! I- I'VE BEEN HEARING SO MANY STRANGE STORIES LATELY THAT I'VE DEVELOPED A HORROR OF THE THINGS! SORRY I STARTLED YOU SO!



IT IS GETTING LATE AND I SUGGEST WE ALL RETIRE! THE HARKERS MUST HAVE HAD A TRYING DAY AND WE ALL NEED REST FOR WHAT IS BEFORE US TOMORROW!

SPLENDID IDEA! GOOD NIGHT, EVERYONE!



THAT NIGHT I SLEPT BADLY! AT TWO O'CLOCK I WAS STARTLED BY DR. VAN HELSING SHAKING ME INTO WAKEFULNESS...

DR. VAN HELSING! WHAT'S THE MATTER? IS ANYTHING WRONG?

I DON'T KNOW! THAT BAT HAS ME WORRIED! I FEAR FOR THE HARKERS!







HE IS IN A STUPOR SUCH AS WE KNOW VAMPIRES CAN PRODUCE. WITH DRACULA GONE HE WILL SOON AWAKE!

POOR MINA. DO YOU THINK THAT HE...



YES! SEE THE MARKS OF HIS TEETH ON HER THROAT! SHE IS IN HIS POWER! ONLY THE DESTRUCTION OF DRACULA CAN SAVE HER...OR, IF SHE DIES, THE SAME TREATMENT WE GAVE LUCY!



AT THE FIRST SIGN OF COMING DAYLIGHT WE MADE OUR WAY TO CARFAX MANOR AND ENTERED THE DESERTED HOUSE...

WHAT WE SEARCH FOR WILL BE DOWN BELOW IN THE FAMILY VAULT. HAVE YOU ALL GOT YOUR CRUCIFIXES AND YOUR WREATHS?

YES, LET US GO DOWN!



DOWN INTO THE STINKING, CRUMBLING CRYPT WE WENT, STRANGE SHADOWS FROM THE RAYS OF OUR LAMPS ENVELOPING US...

USH! THE SMELL OF DECAY IS SICKENING! I CAN'T BREATHE!

FORGET IT! WE MUST SEARCH THE COFFINS FOR THE COUNT! IT IS TIME FOR HIM TO REST!



HE'S NOT IN THIS ONE!

THE OTHERS, QUICKLY!

ONE BY ONE WE OPENED THE CASSETS OF THE DEAD, BUT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE COUNT. WE WERE READY TO GIVE UP WHEN...

HE'S NOT HERE EITHER! DO YOU SUPPOSE WE HAVE MADE A MISTAKE?

LOOK! OVER THERE!



SEE! THIS IS WHERE A CASSET STOOD UNTIL VERY RECENTLY. THERE IS NO DUST ON THE FLOOR!

AND THOSE FOOTPRINTS LEADING TO THE STAIRS. HE HAS BEATEN US AGAIN! HE IS GONE!



AS WE STOOD STARING AT THE SPOT WHERE DRACULA'S COFFIN HAD STOOD THERE WAS A STRANGE NOISE FROM THE WALLS AND...

THAT SQUEAKING! LISTEN!

RATS!



HUNDREDS OF THEM!

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT HERE OR THEY'LL EAT US ALIVE! TO THE STAIRS, QUICK!



AS WE BACKED UP THOSE STAIRS THEY SEEMED TO BE EVERYWHERE, THEIR DARK BODIES AND BALEFUL EYES GLEAMING IN THE LIGHT OF THE LANTERNS...

UGH! THE FILTHY LITTLE BRUTES! THEIR HUNGER IS SO GREAT THEY'LL ATTACK ANYTHING!



WHAT A HORRID SIGHT! I'LL NEVER FORGET IT! LET AS LONG AS I LIVE!

BACK TO THE HOUSE! WE MUST MAKE PLANS TO SAVE MINA FROM THE COUNT!



ONCE AGAIN WE ALL MET AND MINA TOLD US THE DREADFUL DETAILS OF THE NIGHT BEFORE...

I AWOKE TO FIND THE MOONLIGHT STREAMING IN THE WINDOW. IN THE ROOM WAS A STRANGE WHITE MIST. I FELT A STRANGE FEELING OF TERROR!



AS I STARED AT THE MIST IT BEGAN TO TAKE FORM...

IT MUST BE A NIGHTMARE! I'M DREAMING...



THEN HE STEPPED FROM THE CLOUD. I KNEW HIM AT ONCE, THE WAXEN FACE, THE AGUILINE NOSE, THE RED LIPS AND SHARP TEETH. SUDDENLY HE SPOKE...

COUNT DRACULA!

SILENCE! IF YOU WAKE YOUR HUSBAND I SHALL DASH HIS BRAINS OUT BEFORE YOUR EYES!



THEN WITH A MOCKING SMILE HE PLACED A HAND ON MY SHOULDER AND PULLED ME TO HIM...

FIRST, A LITTLE REFRESHMENT TO REWARD MY EXERTIONS! IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE YOU WILL BE QUIET...

I COULD DO NOTHING. I WAS POWERLESS AS HE PLACED HIS REEKING LIPS TO MY THROAT AND DRANK...

RAAGH!  
AU

WHEN HE WAS DONE HE SPOKE AGAIN...

NOW YOU ARE MINE, BLOOD OF MY BLOOD, KIN OF MY KIN. NOW SHALL YOU COME TO MY CALL WHEN I WANT YOU!

THAT IS ALL I REMEMBER UNTIL YOU SAVE ME!  
DON'T WORRY. WE SHALL SAVE YOU. YOU WILL NOT GO UN- AVENGED!

MY POOR MINA!

WE HAVE THIS IN OUR FAVOR-- HE IS AFRAID OF US! HE IS ON THE RUN! WE MUST FOLLOW HIM AND MAKE SURE HE DOES NOT ELUDE US AGAIN!

BUT HOW, WHERE? WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

I HAVE STUDIED OVER AND OVER AGAIN ALL THE INFORMATION WE HAVE ABOUT THE 'COUNT AND OTHER VAMPIRES! I BELIEVE HE HAS GONE BACK TO CASTLE DRACULA.

THEN WE MUST GO AFTER HIM, BUT FIRST WE MUST BE SURE!

THAT VERY DAY WE BEGAN OUR ENQUIRIES. HOLMWOOD WENT TO LONDON AND WHEN HE RETURNED...

I HAVE NEWS! VAN HELSING WAS ON HIS WAY HOME!  
GOOD WORK! HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?







**NOTE IN DR. SEWARD'S JOURNAL, WRITTEN SOME YEARS LATER: IT IS A LONG TIME SINCE THESE TROUBLED EVENTS TOOK PLACE, AND AS I READ THESE PAPERS ONCE AGAIN EVEN I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THESE HORRORS REALLY CAME TO PASS!**