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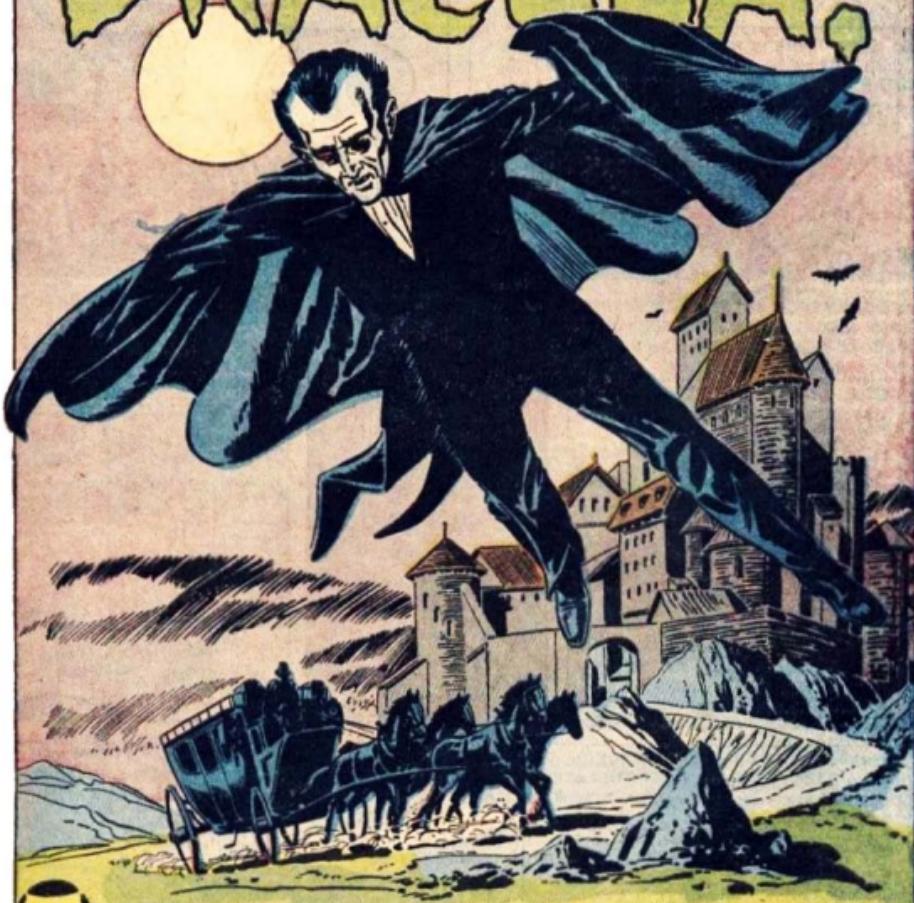
DRACULA!

# EERIE

No. 12



# 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 GALLOPED OFF INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE PASS...

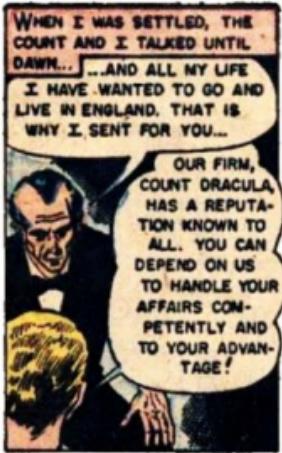


HIGH INTO THE GRIM MOUNTAINS WE RODE, THE WIND MOANING AND WHISTLING ABOUT US. TWO HOURS LATER, WE PULLED UP IN THE COURTYARD OF A VAST, RUINED CASTLE...



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





BUT HIS HAND TOUCHED THE CRUCIFIX I WORE, AND THE FURY WAS GONE IN AN INSTANT...

TAKE CARE HOW YOU CUT YOURSELF. IT IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU THINK IN THIS COUNTRY!

IT—IT IS NOTHING!

AND THIS IS THE WRETCHED THING THAT HAS DONE IT! AWAY WITH IT! IT IS A FOUL BAUBLE OF MAN'S VANITY! KEEP NO MIRRORS IN THIS HOUSE!

MY MIRROR!



FOR MANY NIGHTS THE COUNT AND I WORKED OVER HIS PAPERS, THEN ONE EVENING...

IT MUST BE A THOUSAND FEET TO THE BOTTOM. I MUST GO OUTSIDE AND SEE IF THERE IS A WAY DOWN!



BUT WHEN I TRIED TO GO OUTSIDE, I FOUND EVERY DOOR LOCKED!

DOORS! DOORS! HUNDREDS OF THEM AND ALL LOCKED. I AM A PRISONER.



THAT EVENING I STARED OUT OF MY WINDOW AT THE TERRIBLE DROP, WONDERING IF I WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO LEAVE!

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN INTO? WHAT IS THE MYSTERY BEHIND THE COUNT? I MUST—IT IS HE!



FILLED WITH HORROR, I RAN THROUGH THE DARK, TERROR-FILLED HALLS OF THE GRIM PILE...

I MUST GET OUT! I MUST GET AWAY!



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...





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



IN THE NEXT DAYS THE COUNT QUESTIONED ME ABOUT ENGLAND—ITS CUSTOMS, ITS PEOPLE, THE LANGUAGE. I SHUDDERED AS 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!



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





# 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...

IT'S SO PEACEFUL HERE AT WHITBY, LUCY. I'D REALLY ENJOY IT, IF I HAD A LETTER FROM JONATHAN!

YOU WILL, MINA--NOW LET ME GIVE YOU THE WESTENRA TREATMENT FOR CHEERING UP!

COME, I'LL SHOW YOU SOME OF THE THINGS THE TOWN IS FAMOUS FOR...BY THE WAY, WE'RE HAVING A PARTY TONIGHT FOR DOCTOR SEWARD, HE'S THE DIRECTOR OF THE ASYLUM NEAR HERE!

ALL RIGHT, LUCY, I'LL TRY NOT TO BE A KILL-JOY!

THE PARTY WAS GREAT FUN, AND FOR A WHILE I FORGOT MY FEARS...

MINA, THIS IS DR. SEWARD, AND THIS IS ARTHUR HOLMWOOD, MY FIANCÉ-- GENTLEMEN, MINNA MURRAY!

HOW DO YOU DO, MISS MURRAY?

IT IS A PLEASURE.

AND THIS IS QUINCY MORRIS, A FRIEND FROM AMERICA--QUINCY, MEET MINA MURRAY!

GLAD TO MEET YOU, MISS MURRAY! MAY I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF THE NEXT DANCE?

THIS EVENING AFTER THE PARTY, I WENT TO LUCY'S ROOM TO TELL HER HOW MUCH FUN I HAD, WHEN...

MRS. WESTENRA!

THE DOOR IS LOCKED. DON'T WAKE HER!

LOCKED? BUT, WHY?

OH, MINA! LUCY HAS TAKEN TO WALKING IN HER SLEEP! I'M AFRAID SHE'LL LEAVE THE HOUSE SOME NIGHT AND WALK OVER A CLIFF OR SOMETHING!

NOW! NOW!

SHE'LL BE SAFE. DON'T WORRY, I'LL TALK TO HER IN THE MORNING!

HER FATHER SUFFERED FROM THE SAME HABIT. I'M SO AFRAID SHE'LL BE AWAKENED SOME NIGHT WHEN WALKING. THE SHOCK MIGHT KILL HER!

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...



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  
INTO 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 DIS-  
APPEAR 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...



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



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



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



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



...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...



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...



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





LUCY SEEMED BETTER UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON! WE WERE COMING HOME PAST THE OLD GRAVEYARD AT SUNDOWN, WHEN--



LUCY SEEMS TO BE GETTING WEAKER AND WEAKER! LAST NIGHT I FOUND HER IN A FAINT AT THE WINDOW...



I'VE GOT TO GET HER TO BED!.. WHY, THAT'S STRANGE! THOSE MARKS ON HER THROAT ARE STILL THERE! THE WOUNDS NEVER HEALED!



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!



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!



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

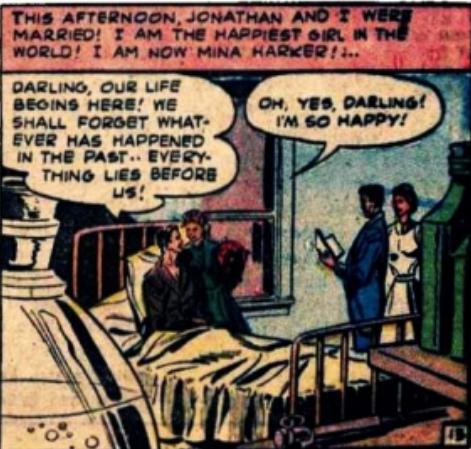


THE SECRET IS HERE AND I WANT YOU TO HOLD IT, KEEP IT, READ IT IF YOU WILL, BUT NEVER LET ME KNOW... UNTIL SOME SOLEMN DUTY SHOULD CALL ME BACK TO THOSE BITTER HOURS...



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 WHAT-EVER HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST.. EVERYTHING LIES BEFORE US!



# 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...





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



RELOCKING THE TOMB  
WE HID 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  
LIES

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  
SHORTS.



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!

RAAHH!



HOLDING THE CRUCIFIX WITH ONE  
HAND, VAN HELSING QUICKLY RE-  
MOVED 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 HOS-  
PITAL! WE CAN DO  
NO MORE UNTIL  
TOMORROW!



AT MIDNIGHT THE FOLLOWING DAY WE ENTERED THE UNHOLY TOMB. ONCE MORE! THIS TIME WE FOUND LUCY IN HER COFFIN...

IS THIS IT IS HER BODY REALLY LUCY'S AND YET IT IS BODY, OR NOT? BUT WAIT ONLY A DEMON IN A WHILE, AND YOU WILL SEE HER AS SHE WAS, AND IS!

THIS IS WHAT WE MUST DO! WE MUST DRIVE THIS STAKES THROUGH HER HEART, ELSE SHE WILL NEVER FIND REST!

OH, NO!

IT MUST BE DONE! IF WE ARE TO HALT THE EVIL POWER OF THE UNDEAD WE MUST DO IT! IF ONLY TO SAVE THE LITTLE ONES WHO HAVE COME UNDER HER POWER. READ THE PRAYER OF THE DEAD!



WITH NERVES OF IRON VAN HELSING BENT TO HIS AWFUL TASK AS WE CHANTED THE SOLEMN PRAYER ...

ASHES TO ASHES AND DUST TO DUST..."

A MOMENT AND IT WAS DONE! VAN HELSING REELED BACK ALMOST PANTING...

I CAN'T BEAR IT!  
I CAN'T BEAR IT!

LOOK! LOOK IN THE COFFIN!

SHE IS AT PEACE AT LAST!  
HER SOUL IS AT REST!

AND NOW, ARTHUR,  
AM I NOT FORGIVEN  
FOR THE ORDEAL  
I HAVE PUT YOU  
THROUGH?

YES! YES! THANK YOU  
A THOUSAND TIMES  
FOR BRINGING HER  
SOUL AGAIN, AND  
ME PEACE.. THANK  
YOU!

QUICKLY WE SEALED UP THE COFFIN AND LEFT THE TOMB....

THANK GOODNESS, OUR WORK  
IS DONE!

NO! ONLY ONE STEP IS DONE! THERE  
REMAINS A GREATER TASK! TO FIND  
THE AUTHOR OF ALL THIS HORROR  
AND TO STAMP HIM OUT!



# 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 YES, DOCTOR FACED WITH A VAN HELSING, DREADFUL DUTY ALL OF US FROM WHICH WE ARE WITH DARE NOT SHRINK! YOU TO THE WE MUST DE- DEATH!

STROY THIS CREATURE OF THE UNDEAD!

ARE YOU WITH ME?

ATHEM, WE HAVE HIM! THAT IS IF HE CAN BE DESTROYED.

COUNT DRACULA IS HERE AT THE CARPAX ESTATE!



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

ATHEM, WE HAVE HIM! THAT IS IF HE CAN BE DESTROYED.

COUNT DRACULA IS HERE AT THE CARPAX ESTATE!

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ATHEM, WE HAVE HIM! THAT IS IF HE CAN BE DESTROYED.

COUNT DRACULA IS HERE AT THE CARPAX ESTATE!

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



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!



IT WAS JUST A BIG BAT!



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



I DON'T KNOW! THAT BAT HAD 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 CAR-FAX 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...

Ugh! 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!

One by one we opened the caskets of the dead, but there was no sign of the Count. We were ready to give up when...

The others, quickly!

He's not here either! Do you suppose we have made a mistake?

Look! Over there!

See! This is where a casket 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 HUNGER IS SO GREAT LITTLE BRUTES! 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 AQUILINE NOSE, THE RED LIPS AND SHARP TEETH. SUDDENLY HE SPOKE...



WITH A WICKED 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...



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 DON'T WORRY. REMEMBER WE SHALL UNTIL YOU SAVE YOU, YOU FOUND 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 RIGHT! DRACULA IS 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!