

Penguin



Readers

BRAM STOKER

DRACULA

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CHAPTER ONE

Count Dracula

Jonathan Harker's diary

3rd May, Bistritz, Transylvania, Romania

Today I am staying at the Golden Krone Hotel in Bistritz. The town is an interesting old place, and Transylvania is very beautiful. I travelled here by ship and train from London because I am going to meet **Count** Dracula. I am a **solicitor**, and the count wants to buy a house in England.

Count Dracula has a big castle and lives high up in the Transylvanian mountains. When I **arrived** here this evening, the man in the hotel gave me a letter. It was from Count Dracula, and it said:

Dear Mr Harker,

*I am very happy that you are here in Transylvania. At three o'clock tomorrow afternoon, a **carriage** with two horses will come to the hotel. It will bring you to my castle.*

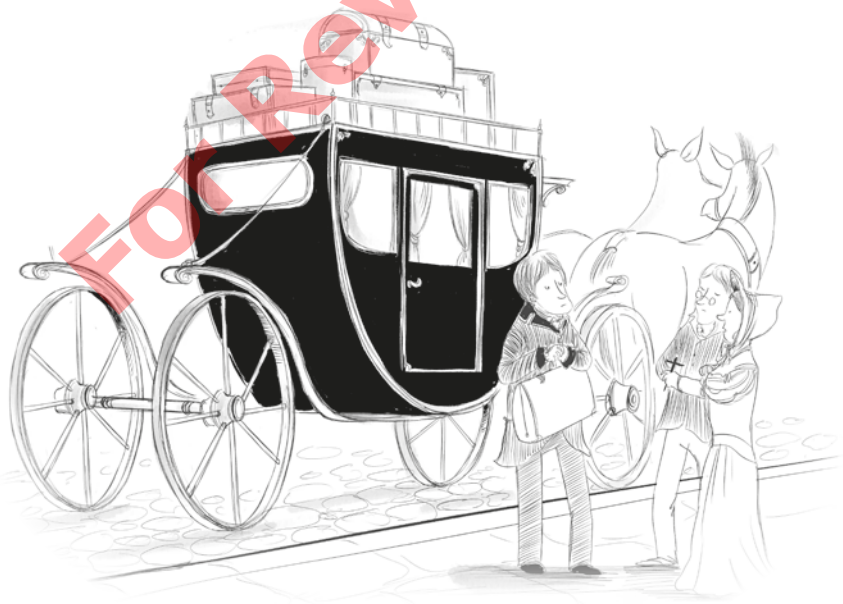
*Your friend,
Dracula*

5th May, Castle Dracula

My journey yesterday was very strange. The carriage arrived very late.

“Castle Dracula!” shouted the driver.

When the man at the hotel heard this, he did not want me to leave. His wife was also very worried. She was speaking in German, and I understand a little German. “Do you know Count Dracula?” she said. “Don’t go! You must not go there!” Then, she wanted to give me a **crucifix**. I said no, but she did not listen to me. She put it around my neck.



Soon, there were other people from the town standing there. They looked worried, too, but they were speaking quickly, and I could not understand them. There were two words that they said again and again. Later, I found these words in my dictionary. They meant “dangerous” and “**vampire**”. When I climbed into the carriage and started my journey, I was a little worried. The people here have strange ideas! I will write to Mina and tell her about this place.

The road was very bad, but the carriage moved quickly through the beautiful hills and forests. After a few hours, it began to get cold and dark, and it started to snow. Then, at around midnight, the moon came out, and wild dogs started to make a terrible noise in the forest. Soon, there were lots of the dogs around the carriage, and the horses were afraid. Then, a strange thing happened. The carriage driver got down and said something to the dogs. Suddenly, they all went quiet and walked away.

Next, he turned and looked at me. He was tall and thin, with a long, white beard. He said nothing and

climbed back on to the carriage. I did not like this journey at all!

We started on the road again, going up and up into the mountains. At last, the carriage stopped, and we were at the castle. It was huge and old, with big, black windows. I got out, and the carriage driver got out, too. He put my bags on the ground and then got into the carriage and drove away.



I stood outside in the dark. I felt very worried. After a long time, the huge front door opened. I saw a tall old man with white hair and a long white moustache and a beard. His clothes were all black.

“Good evening. I am Dracula. Come in,” he said. He spoke in very good English but did not smile.

He took me through the big castle and upstairs to my bedroom. I was happy to see that the room was comfortable and had a big fire in it. Then, we went to the dining room.

“I have already eaten,” the **count** told me. “But I will stay and talk to you.”

While I ate, we talked about many things. Dracula is a very strange man. His face and hair are both very white, and he has strange, **sharp** teeth and ears. And, when he put his long, thin fingers on my hand, they were very cold.

I am now in my room, and I will soon go to bed. I must say that I am not happy to be here.

CHAPTER TWO

Castle Dracula

Jonathan's diary

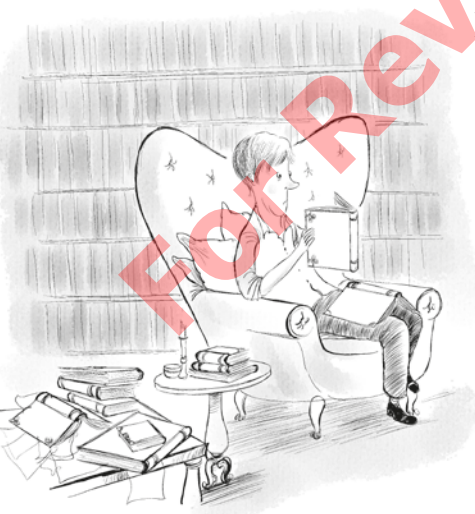
7th May, Castle Dracula

I slept well on my first night at the castle. When I woke up, there was a **note** on the breakfast table:

Dear Mr Harker,

I am sorry but I cannot be here with you today.

Dracula



Later that morning, I looked around some of the rooms in the castle. Many of them were dark and cold. I was happy when I found the library because it had lots of English books in it. I sat on an old chair and read for a few hours.