



# Count Dracula

**Count Dracula** (/ˈdrækjʊlə, -jə-/) is the title character of Bram Stoker's 1897 gothic horror novel *Dracula*. He is considered the prototypical and archetypal vampire in subsequent works of fiction. Aspects of the character are believed by some to have been inspired by the 15th-century Wallachian prince Vlad the Impaler, who was also known as Vlad Dracula, and by Sir Henry Irving, an actor for whom Stoker was a personal assistant.<sup>[12]</sup>

One of Dracula's most iconic powers is his ability to turn others into vampires by biting them and infecting them with the vampiric disease. Other characteristics have been added or altered in subsequent popular fictional works, including films, cartoons and breakfast cereals.

## Stoker's creation

Bram Stoker's novel takes the form of an epistolary tale, in which Count Dracula's characteristics, powers, abilities, and weaknesses are narrated by multiple narrators, from different perspectives.<sup>[13]</sup>

Count Dracula is an undead, centuries-old vampire, and a Transylvanian nobleman who claims to be a Székely descended from Attila the Hun.<sup>[14]</sup> He inhabits a decaying castle in the Carpathian Mountains near the Borgo Pass. Unlike the vampires of Eastern European folklore, which are portrayed as repulsive, corpse-like creatures, Dracula is handsome and charismatic, with a veneer of aristocratic charm. In his conversations with Jonathan Harker, he reveals himself as deeply proud of his boyar heritage and nostalgic for the past, which he admits has become only a memory of heroism, honour, and valour in modern times.

## Early life

Details of his early life are undisclosed, but it is mentioned that

he was in life a most wonderful man. Soldier, statesman, and alchemist. Which latter was the highest development of the scientific knowledge of his time. He had a mighty

Count Dracula	
<span></span> <div><i>Dracula</i> character</div>	
<span></span> <div>Bela Lugosi as Count Dracula in the 1931 film <i>Dracula</i></div>	
First appearance	<i>Dracula</i> (1897)
Created by	Bram Stoker
Based on	Vlad III Dracula
Portrayed by	<i>See below</i>
In-universe information	
Aliases	<div><div>Vlad the Impaler</div><div>Dracula</div><div>Count De Ville<sup>[1]</sup></div><div>Mr. De Ville<sup>[2]</sup></div></div>
Nickname	<div><div>Evil eye<sup>[3]</sup></div><div>Ördög</div><div>Pokol</div><div>Stregoika</div><div>Vrolok</div><div>Vlkoslag<sup>[4]</sup></div><div>D.<sup>[5]</sup></div></div>

brain, a learning beyond compare, and a heart that knew no fear and no remorse... there was no branch of knowledge of his time that he did not essay.<sup>[15]</sup>

Dracula studied the black arts at the academy of Scholomance in the Carpathian Mountains, overlooking the town of Sibiu (also known as Hermannstadt) and has a deep knowledge of alchemy and magic.<sup>[16]</sup> Taking up arms, as befitting his rank and status as a voivode, he led troops against the Turks across the Danube. According to his nemesis Abraham Van Helsing, "He must indeed have been that Voivode Dracula who won his name against the Turk, over the great river on the very frontier of Turkey-land. If it be so, then was he no common man: for in that time, and for centuries after, he was spoken of as the cleverest and the most cunning, as well as the bravest of the sons of the *land beyond the forest*."<sup>[17]</sup> Dead and buried in a great tomb in the chapel of his castle, Dracula returns from death as a vampire and lives for several centuries in his castle with three terrifyingly beautiful female vampires beside him.<sup>[18]</sup>

	<u>Nosferatu</u> <u>Drac</u>
<b>Species</b>	<u>Vampire</u> (also has been classified as an <u>undead human</u> , a <u>dhampir</u> , and a <u>werewolf</u> <sup>[6][7]</sup> )
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Title</b>	<u>Transylvanian noble</u> <sup>[8]</sup> <u>Voivode</u> <sup>[9]</sup> <u>Solomonari</u> <sup>[10]</sup> <u>King Vampire</u> <sup>[11]</sup>
<b>Spouse</b>	Possibly <u>Brides of Dracula</u> (unclear)

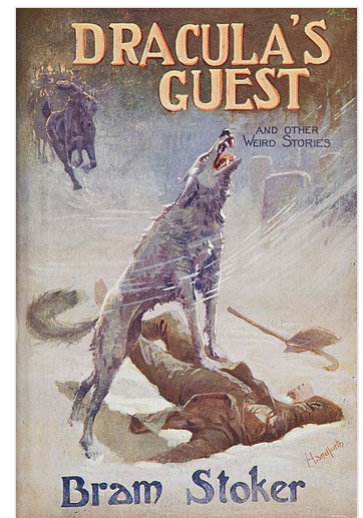
## Narrative

### Short story

In "Dracula's Guest", the narrative follows an unnamed Englishman traveller as he wanders around Munich before leaving for Transylvania. It is Walpurgis Night and the young Englishman foolishly leaves his hotel, in spite of the coachman's warnings, and wanders through a dense forest alone. Along the way, he feels that he is being watched by a tall and thin stranger.

The short story climaxes in an old graveyard, where the Englishman encounters a sleeping female vampire called Countess Dolingen in a marble tomb with a large iron stake driven into it. This malevolent beautiful vampire awakens from her marble bier to conjure a snowstorm before being struck by lightning and returning to her eternal prison. The Englishman's troubles are not quite over, as he is dragged away by an unseen force and rendered unconscious. He awakens to find a gigantic wolf lying on his chest and licking his throat. It keeps him warm and protects him until help arrives. When the Englishman is finally taken back to his hotel, a telegram awaits him from his expectant host Dracula, with a warning about "dangers from snow and wolves and night".

### Novel



Cover of Dracula's Guest and Other Weird Stories, a collection of short stories authored by Bram Stoker

In *Dracula*, the eponymous vampire has decided to move from Transylvania to London. He summons Jonathan Harker, a newly qualified English solicitor, to provide legal support for a real estate transaction overseen by Harker's employer. Dracula at first charms Harker with his cordiality and historical knowledge, and even rescues him from the clutches of the three female vampires in the castle. In truth, Dracula wishes to keep Harker alive long enough to complete the legal transaction and to learn as much as possible about England.

Dracula leaves his castle and boards a Russian ship, the *Demeter*, taking along with him 50 boxes of Transylvanian soil, which he needs to regain his strength and rest during daylight. During the voyage to Whitby, a coastal town in northern England, he sustains himself on the ship's crew members. Only one body is later found, that of the captain, who is found tied up to the ship's helm. The captain's log is recovered and tells of strange events that had taken place during the ship's journey. Dracula leaves the ship in the form of a dog and runs up the 199 steps to the graveyard of St Mary's Church in the shadow of the Whitby Abbey ruins.

Soon, the Count begins menacing Harker's fiancée, Wilhelmina "Mina" Murray, and her friend, Lucy Westenra. There is also a notable link between Dracula and Renfield, a patient in an insane asylum overseen by John Seward, who is compelled to consume spiders, birds, and other creatures—in ascending order of size—to absorb their "life force". Renfield acts as a kind of sensor, reacting to Dracula's proximity and supplying clues accordingly. Dracula visits Lucy's bed chamber on a nightly basis, draining her of blood while simultaneously infecting her with the curse of vampirism. Not knowing the cause for Lucy's deterioration, her three suitors – Seward, Arthur Holmwood and Quincey Morris – call upon Seward's mentor, the Dutch doctor Abraham Van Helsing. Van Helsing soon deduces her condition's supernatural origins, and tries to keep the vampire at bay with garlic. Nevertheless, Dracula attacks Lucy's house one final time, killing her mother and transforming Lucy herself into one of the undead after which Van Helsing and her suitors help lay Lucy's soul to rest by driving a stake through her heart.

Harker escapes Dracula's castle and returns to England, barely alive and deeply traumatized. On Seward's suggestion, Mina seeks Van Helsing's assistance in assessing Harker's health. She reads his journal and passes it along to Van Helsing. This unfolds the first clue to the identity of Lucy's assailant, which later prompts Mina to collect all of the events of Dracula's appearance in news articles, saved letters, newspaper clippings and the journals of each member of the group. This assists the group in investigating Dracula's movements and later discovering that Renfield's behaviour is directly influenced by Dracula. They then discover that Dracula has purchased a residence next door to Seward's. The group gathers intelligence to track down Dracula and destroy him.

After the undead Lucy attacks several children, Van Helsing, Seward, Holmwood and Morris enter her crypt and destroy her to save her soul. Later, Harker joins them, and the party works to discover Dracula's intentions. Harker aids the party in tracking down the locations of the boxes to the various residences of Dracula and discovers that Dracula purchased multiple real estate properties throughout



Ruins of Whitby Abbey in Whitby. As a creature resembling a large dog which came ashore at the Whitby headland, Count Dracula runs up the 199 steps to the graveyard of St Mary's Church in the shadow of the abbey ruins

London<sup>[19]</sup> under the alias 'Count De Ville'.<sup>[20]</sup> Dracula's main plan was to move each of his 50 boxes of earth to his various properties in order to arrange multiple lairs throughout and around the perimeter of London.<sup>[19]</sup>

The party pries open each of the graves, places sacramental wafers within each of them, and seals them shut. This deprives Dracula of his ability to seek safety in those boxes.<sup>[21]</sup> Dracula gains entry into Seward's residence by coercing an invitation out of Renfield. As he attempts to enter the room in which Harker and Mina are staying, Renfield tries to stop him; Dracula then mortally wounds him. With his dying breath, Renfield tells Seward and Van Helsing that Dracula is after Mina. Van Helsing and Seward discover Dracula biting Mina and forcing her to drink his blood. The group repels Dracula using crucifixes and sacramental bread, forcing him to flee by turning into a dark vapour. The party continues to hunt Dracula to search for his remaining lairs.<sup>[22]</sup> Although Dracula's 'baptism' of Mina grants him a telepathic link to her, it backfires when Van Helsing hypnotizes Mina and uses her supernatural link with Dracula to track him as he flees back to Transylvania.



Colorized stills of Edward Van Sloan as Van Helsing confronting Bela Lugosi in Dracula (1931)

The heroes follow Dracula back to Transylvania, and in a climactic battle with Dracula's Romani bodyguards, finally destroy him. Despite the popular image of Dracula having a stake driven through his heart to kill him, Mina's narrative describes his decapitation by Harker's kukri while Morris simultaneously pierces his heart with a Bowie knife (Mina Harker's Journal, 6 November, *Dracula* Chapter 27). His body then turns into dust, but not before Mina sees an expression of peace on his face.

## Characteristics

Although early in the novel Dracula dons a mask of cordiality, he often flies into fits of rage when his plans are frustrated. When Dracula's brides attempt to seduce Jonathan Harker, Dracula physically assaults one and ferociously berates them for their insubordination.

Dracula has an appreciation for ancient architecture and prefers purchasing old houses, saying "a new home would kill me" and that it takes a century to make one habitable.<sup>[24]</sup>

Dracula is very proud of his warrior heritage, proclaiming his pride to Harker on how the Székel people are infused with the blood of heroes. He also expresses an interest in the history of the British Empire, speaking admiringly of its people. He has a somewhat primal and predatory worldview, pities ordinary humans for their revulsion to their darker impulses, feels human emotions and often says that he can love.<sup>[25]</sup>

"Listen to them—the children of the night. What music they make!".

— Count Dracula to Jonathan Harker, referring to the howling of the wolves. *Dracula*, Chapter 2.<sup>[23]</sup>



Though usually portrayed as having a strong Eastern European accent, the original novel only specifies that his spoken English is excellent, though strangely toned.

His appearance varies in age. He is described early in the novel as thin, with a long white moustache, pointed ears and sharp teeth.<sup>[26]</sup> It is also noted later in the novel (Chapter 11 subsection "The Escaped Wolf") by a zookeeper who sees him that he has a hooked nose and a pointed beard with a streak of white in it. He is dressed all in black and has hair on his palms. Harker describes him as an old man, "cruel looking" and giving an effect of "extraordinary pallor".<sup>[26]</sup>

I saw... Count Dracula... with red light of triumph in his eyes, and with a smile that Judas in hell might be proud of.

—Jonathan Harker's journal, *Dracula*, Chapter 4

As the novel progresses, Dracula is described as taking on a more and more youthful appearance. After Harker strikes him with a shovel, he is left with a scar on his forehead which he bears throughout the course of the novel.

Dracula also possesses great wealth, and has Romani people in his homeland who are loyal to him as servants and protectors.

## Powers and weaknesses

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Count Dracula is portrayed in the novel using many different supernatural abilities, and is believed to have gained his abilities through dealings with the devil. Chapter 18 of the novel describes many of the abilities, limitations and weaknesses of vampires and Dracula in particular. Dracula has superhuman strength which, according to Van Helsing, is equivalent to that of 20 strong men. He does not cast a shadow or have a reflection from mirrors. He is immune to conventional means of attack; a sailor tries to stab him in the back with a knife, but the blade goes through his body as though it is air.<sup>[27]</sup> He can defy gravity to a certain extent and possesses superhuman agility, able to climb vertical surfaces upside down in a reptilian manner. He can travel onto unhallowed ground, such as the graves of suicides and those of his victims. He has powerful hypnotic, telepathic and illusionary abilities. He also has the ability to "within limitations" vanish and reappear elsewhere at will. If he knows the path, he can come out from anything or into anything regardless of how close it is bound or even if it is soldered shut.<sup>[28]</sup>



Bela Lugosi as Count Dracula in 1931

Dracula has amassed cunning and wisdom throughout centuries and is unable to die of senescence.<sup>[28]</sup> He can command animals such as rats, owls, bats, moths, foxes and wolves. His control is limited, as seen when the party first enters his house in London. He summons thousands of rats to swarm and attack the group and Holmwood summons his trio of terriers to battle them. The dogs prove very efficient rat killers. Terrified by their onslaught, the rats flee of their own volition.<sup>[29]</sup>

Dracula can also manipulate the weather and, within his range, is able to direct the elements, such as storms, fog and mist.<sup>[28]</sup>

## Shapeshifting

Dracula can change form at will, able to grow and become small, his featured forms in the novel being that of a bat, a wolf, a large dog and a fog or mist. When the moonlight is shining, he can travel as elemental dust within its rays. He is able to pass through tiny cracks or crevices while retaining his human form or in the form of a vapour; described by Van Helsing as the ability to slip through a hairbreadth space of a tomb door or coffin. This is also an ability used by his victim Lucy as a vampire. When the party breaks into her tomb, they open the sealed coffin to find her corpse is no longer located within.<sup>[30]</sup>

## Vampirism

One of Dracula's powers is the ability to turn others into vampires by biting them. According to Van Helsing:

When they become such, there comes with the change the curse of immortality; they cannot die, but must go on age after age adding new victims and multiplying the evils of the world. For all that die from the preying of the Undead become themselves Undead, and prey on their kind. And so the circle goes on ever widening, like as the ripples from a stone thrown in the water. Friend Arthur, if you had met that kiss which you know of before poor Lucy die, or again, last night when you open your arms to her, you would in time, when you had died, have become nosferatu, as they call it in Eastern Europe, and would for all time make more of those Un-Deads that so have filled us with horror.

—Dr. Seward's journal, *Dracula*, Chapter 16

The vampire bite itself does not cause death. It is the method vampires use to drain blood of the victim and to increase their influence over them. This is described by Van Helsing:

The nosferatu do not die like the bee when he sting once. He is only stronger, and being stronger, have yet more power to work evil.

—Dr. Seward's journal, *Dracula*, Chapter 18

Victims who are bitten by a vampire and do not die, are hypnotically influenced by them:

Those children whose blood she suck are not yet so much worse; but if she live on, Un-Dead, more and more lose their blood and by her power over them they come to her.

—Mina Harker's journal, *Dracula*, Chapter 18

Van Helsing later describes the aftermath of a bitten victim when the vampire has been killed:

But if she die in truth, then all cease; the tiny wounds of the throats disappear, and they go back to their plays unknowing of whatever has been.

—Mina Harker's journal, *Dracula*, Chapter 18

As Dracula slowly drains Lucy's blood, she dies from acute blood loss and later transforms into a vampire, despite the efforts of Seward and Van Helsing to provide her with blood transfusions.<sup>[31]</sup>

He is aided by powers of necromancy and divination of the dead, that all who die by his hand may reanimate and do his bidding.<sup>[28]</sup>

## **Bloodletting**

Dracula requires no other sustenance but fresh human blood, which has the effect of rejuvenating him and allowing him to grow younger. His power is drawn from the blood of others, and he cannot survive without it.<sup>[28][32]</sup> Although drinking blood can rejuvenate his youth and strength, it does not give him the ability to regenerate; months after being struck on the head by a shovel, he still bears a scar from the impact.<sup>[33]</sup>

Dracula's preferred victims are women.<sup>[34]</sup> Harker states that he believes Dracula has a state of fasting as well as a state of feeding.<sup>[35]</sup> He tells Mina exerting his abilities raises a desire to feed.<sup>[36]</sup>

## **Vampire's Baptism of Blood**

Count Dracula is depicted as the "King Vampire", and can control other vampires. To punish Mina and the party for their efforts against him, Dracula bites her on at least three occasions. He also forces her to drink his blood; this act curses her with the effects of vampirism and gives him a telepathic link to her thoughts.<sup>[37]</sup> Hypnotism only work before dawn.<sup>[38]</sup> Van Helsing refers to the act of drinking blood by both the vampire and the victim "the Vampire's Baptism of Blood".<sup>[39]</sup>

you, their best beloved one, are now to me, flesh of my flesh, blood of my blood, kin of my kin, my bountiful wine-press for a while, and shall be later on my companion and my helper. You shall be avenged in turn, for not one of them but shall minister to your needs. But as yet you are to be punished for what you have done. You have aided in thwarting me. Now you shall come to my call. When my brain says 'Come!' to you, you shall cross land or sea to do my bidding.<sup>[40]</sup>

The effects changes Mina physically and mentally over time. A few moments after Dracula attacks her, Van Helsing takes a wafer of sacramental bread and places it on her forehead to bless her; when the bread touches her skin, it burns her and leaves a scar on her forehead. Her teeth start growing longer but do not grow sharper. She begins to lose her appetite, feeling repulsed by normal food,<sup>[41]</sup> begins to sleep more and more during the day; cannot wake unless at sunset and stops writing in her diary. When Van Helsing later crumbles the same bread in a circle around her, she is unable to cross or leave the circle, discovering a new form of protection.<sup>[42]</sup>

Dracula's death would release the curse on any living transformed vampire. Van Helsing reveals that even were he to escape, his continued existence would ensure whether or not he victimized Mina further, she would become a vampire upon her eventual natural death.

## **Limitations of his powers**

Dracula is much less powerful in daylight and is only able to shift his form at dawn, noon, and dusk (he can shift his form freely at night or if he is at his grave). The sun is not fatal to him, as sunlight does not burn and destroy him upon contact, though most of his abilities cease.

The sun that rose on our sorrow this morning guards us in its course. Until it sets to-night, that monster must retain whatever form he now has. He is confined within the limitations of his earthly envelope. He cannot melt into thin air nor disappear through cracks or chinks or crannies. If he goes through a doorway, he must open the door like a mortal.

—Jonathan Harker's journal, *Dracula*, Chapter 22

His power ceases, as does that of all evil things, at the coming of the day. Only at certain times can he have limited freedom. If he be not at the place whither he is bound, he can only change himself at noon or exact sunrise or sunset.

—Mina Harker's journal, *Dracula*, Chapter 18

Later interpretations of the character, and vampires in general, would amplify this trait into an outright fatal weakness, making it so that even the first rays of sunrise are capable of reducing a vampire to ash.

He is also limited in his ability to travel, as he can only cross running water at low or high tide. Owing to this, he is unable to fly across a river in the form of a bat or mist or even by himself board a boat or step off a boat onto a dock unless he is physically carried over with assistance. He is also unable to enter a place unless invited to do so by someone of the household, even a visitor; once invited, he can enter and leave the premises at will.<sup>[28]</sup>

## **Weaknesses**

### **Thirst**

Dracula is commonly depicted with a bloodlust which he is seemingly unable to control. Adaptations sometimes call this uncontrollable state 'the thirst'.

### **Religious symbolism**

There are items which afflict him to the point he has no power and can even calm him from his insatiable appetite for blood. He is repulsed by garlic, as well as sacred items and symbols such as crucifixes and sacramental bread.



...at the instant I saw that the cut had bled a little, and the blood was trickling over my chin. I laid down the razor, turning as I did so half round to look for some sticking plaster. When the Count saw my face, his eyes blazed with a sort of demoniac fury, and he suddenly made a grab at my throat. I drew away and his hand touched the string of beads which held the crucifix. It made an instant change in him, for the fury passed so quickly that I could hardly believe that it was ever there.

—Jonathan Harker's journal, *Dracula*, Chapter 2

Placing the branch of a wild rose upon the top of his coffin will render him unable to escape it; a sacred bullet fired into the coffin could kill him so that he remain true-dead.<sup>[28]</sup>

Mountain-ash is also described as a form of protection from a vampire, although the effects are unknown.<sup>[43]</sup> This was believed to be used as protection against evil spirits and witches during the Victorian era.

## Death-sleep

The state of rest to which vampires are prone during the day is described in the novel as a deathlike sleep in which the vampire sleeps open-eyed, is unable to awaken or move, and also may be unaware of any presence of individuals who may be trespassing. Dracula is portrayed as being active in daylight at least once to pursue a victim. Dracula also purchases many properties throughout London 'over the counter' which shows that he does have the ability to have some type of presence in daylight.

on a pile of newly dug earth, lay the Count! He was either dead or asleep. I could not say which, for eyes were open and stony, but without the glassiness of death, and the cheeks had the warmth of life through all their pallor. The lips were as red as ever. But there was no sign of movement, no pulse, no breath, no beating of the heart. I bent over him, and tried to find any sign of life, but in vain... I thought he might have the keys on him, but when I went to search I saw the dead eyes, and in them dead though they were, such a look of hate, though unconscious of me or my presence, that I fled from the place, and leaving the Count's room by the window.<sup>[44]</sup>

He requires Transylvanian soil to be nearby to him in a foreign land or to be entombed within his coffin within Transylvania in order to successfully rest; otherwise, he will be unable to recover his strength. This has forced him to transport many boxes of Transylvanian earth to each of his residences in London. He is most powerful when he is within his Earth-Home, Coffin-Home, Hell-Home, or any place unhallowed.<sup>[28][45]</sup>

Further, if Dracula or any vampire has had their fill in blood upon feeding, they will be caused to rest in this dead state even longer than usual.<sup>[46]</sup>

## Other abilities

While universally feared by the local people of Transylvania and even beyond, Dracula commands the loyalty of the Romani people, as well as a band of Slovaks who transport his boxes on their way to London and to serve as an armed convoy bringing his coffin back to his castle. The Slovaks and Romani appear to know his true nature, for they laugh at Harker when he tries to communicate his plight, and betray Harker's attempt to send a letter through them by giving it to the Count.

Dracula seems to be able to hold influence over people with mental disorders, such as Renfield, who is never bitten but who worships Dracula, referring to him over the course of the novel as "Master" and "Lord". Dracula also afflicts Lucy with chronic sleepwalking, putting her into a trance-like state that allows them not only to submit to his will but also seek him and satisfy his need to feed.

Dracula's powers and weaknesses vary greatly in the many adaptations. Previous and subsequent vampires from different legends have had similar vampire characteristics.

## Character development subsequent to the novel

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Dracula has been portrayed by more actors in more visual media adaptations of the novel than any other horror character.<sup>[49]</sup> Actors who have played him include Max Schreck, Bela Lugosi, John Carradine, Lon Chaney Jr., Christopher Lee, Francis Lederer, Denholm Elliott, Jack Palance, Louis Jourdan, Rudolf Martin, Frank Langella, Klaus Kinski, Gary Oldman, Leslie Nielsen, George Hamilton, David Niven, Charles Macaulay, Keith-Lee Castle, Gerard Butler, Duncan Regehr, Richard Roxburgh, Marc Warren, Rutger Hauer, Stephen Billington, Thomas Kretschmann, Dominic Purcell, Luke Evans, Claes Bang, Nicolas Cage and Javier Botet. In 2003, Count Dracula, as portrayed by Lugosi in the 1931 film, was named as the 33rd greatest movie villain by the AFI.<sup>[50]</sup> In 2013, *Empire* magazine ranked Lee's portrayal as Dracula the 7th Greatest Horror Movie Character of All Time.<sup>[51]</sup>



Christopher Lee starred as Dracula in numerous British horror films produced by Hammer Films. Shown here is the 1958 film *Dracula*. Lee fixed the image of the vampire bearing dual elongated fangs in popular culture.<sup>[47][48]</sup>

The character is closely associated with the western cultural archetype of the vampire, and remains a popular Halloween costume.

- Count Dracula appears in *Mad Monster Party?* voiced by Allen Swift. This version is shown to be wearing a monocle. Count Dracula is among the monsters that Baron Boris von Frankenstein invites to the Isle of Evil to show off the secret of total destruction and announce his retirement from the Worldwide Organization of Monsters.
- *Sesame Street* character Count von Count is based on Bela Lugosi's interpretation of Count Dracula and Jack Davis' design for Dracula from *Mad Monster Party?*.
- Count Dracula appears in *Mad Mad Mad Monsters* (a "prequel of sorts" to *Mad Monster Party?*) voiced again by Allen Swift. He and his son are invited by Baron Henry von Frankenstein to attend the wedding of Frankenstein's monster and its mate at the Transylvania Astoria Hotel.
- Dracula is the primary antagonist of the *Castlevania* video game series, the first two seasons of the *Castlevania* Netflix series, and the main protagonist of the *Lords of Shadow* reboot series.
- Count Dracula appears in the *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes* episode "Spatula, Prinze of Dorkness", voiced by S. Scott Bullock. He relates a tale of how he once gave Dr. Putrid T. Gangreen a serum to transform tomatoes into vampire tomatoes. Though the doctor refused, Zoltan overheard their

conversation and, mistaking the word serum for syrup, ingests the serum himself and renaming himself "Spatula, Prinze of Dorkness" who can turn people into vampires by kissing them in the neck (a stipulation that the Censor Lady put into place in fear of showing the biting and bloodshed associated with vampires on a Saturday morning cartoon). This spread to the other tomatoes and the entire town. When the Sun came up and disabled the vampires, Count Dracula in sunblock appears and deemed that the town is not worthy to be vampires. He then gives Chad Finletter the antidote to the vampirism and advises that the tomatoes be squashed immediately.

- Dracula appears as the lead character of *Dracula the Un-dead*, a novel by Stoker's great-grand nephew Dacre presented as a sequel to the original.
- In the *Supernatural* episode "Monster Movie", a shapeshifter that Sam and Dean Winchester fight considers his form of Count Dracula (portrayed by Todd Stashwick) his favourite form. It is in this form that Jamie killed him with Sam's gun loaded with silver bullets.
- Count Dracula is the main character of the *Hotel Transylvania* franchise, voiced by Adam Sandler in the first three movies and by Brian Hull in the fourth movie.
- Dracula, going by an inversion of his name, "Alucard", serves as the main character of the anime and manga series *Hellsing* and *Hellsing Ultimate*, where he serves Integra Hellsing, Abraham's great-granddaughter, as an anti-vampire warrior devoted to the British Crown.
- Dracula is the primary antagonist of the Showtime series *Penny Dreadful*, portrayed by Christian Camargo. This version of the character is the brother of Lucifer and, thus, a fallen angel.

## Modern and postmodern analyses of the character



Full-size portrait of Vlad Țepeș in the "Gallery of the Ancestors" of the House of Esterházy, 17th century, Forchtenstein Castle

Already in 1958, Cecil Kirtly proposed that Count Dracula shared his personal past with the historical Transylvanian-born Voivode Vlad III Dracula of Wallachia, also known as Vlad the Impaler or Vlad Țepeș. Following the publication of *In Search of Dracula* by Radu Florescu and Raymond McNally in 1972, this supposed connection attracted much popular attention. This work argued that Bram Stoker based his Dracula on Vlad the Impaler.<sup>[52]</sup>

Historically, the name "Dracula" is the family name of Vlad Țepeș' family, a name derived from a fraternal order of knights called the Order of the Dragon, founded by Sigismund of Luxembourg (king of Hungary and Bohemia, and Holy Roman Emperor) to uphold Christianity and defend the Empire against the Ottoman Turks. Vlad II Dracul, father of Vlad III, was admitted to the order around 1431 because of his bravery in fighting the Turks and was dubbed Dracul (dragon or devil), thus his son became Dracula (son of the dragon). From 1431 onward, Vlad II wore the emblem of the order and later, as ruler of Wallachia, his coinage bore the dragon symbol.<sup>[53]</sup>

Stoker came across the name Dracula in his reading on Romanian history, and chose this to replace the name (*Count Wampyr*) that he had originally intended to use for his villain. Some Dracula scholars, led by Elizabeth Miller, have questioned the depth of this

connection as early as 1998. They argue that Stoker in fact knew little of the historic Vlad III, Vlad the Impaler, and that he used only the name "Dracula" and some miscellaneous scraps of Romanian history.<sup>[54]</sup> Also, there are no comments about Vlad III in the author's working notes.<sup>[55]</sup>

While having a conversation with Jonathan Harker in Chapter 3, Dracula refers to his own background, and these speeches show elements which Stoker directly copied from *An Account of the Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia: With Various Political Observations Relating to Them* by William Wilkinson.<sup>[56]</sup> Stoker mentions the Voivode of the Dracula race who fought against the Turks after the defeat in the Battle of Kosovo, and was later betrayed by his brother, historical facts which unequivocally point to Vlad III, described as "Voivode Dracula" by Wilkinson:

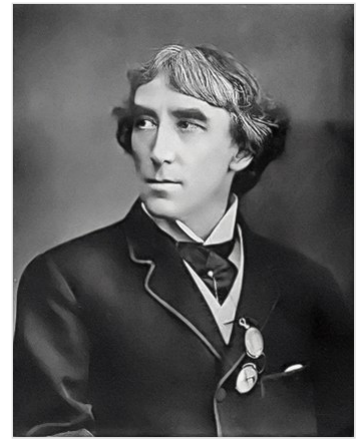
Who was it but one of my own race who as Voivode crossed the Danube and beat the Turk on his own ground? This was a Dracula indeed! Woe was it that his own unworthy brother, when he had fallen, sold his people to the Turk and brought the shame of slavery on them! Was it not this Dracula, indeed, who inspired that other of his race who in a later age again and again brought his forces over the great river into Turkey-land; who, when he was beaten back, came again, and again, though he had to come alone from the bloody field where his troops were being slaughtered, since he knew that he alone could ultimately triumph! (Chapter 3, pp. 19)

The Count's intended identity is later commented by Professor Van Helsing, referring to a letter from his friend Arminius:

He must, indeed, have been that Voivode Dracula who won his name against the Turk, over the great river on the very frontier of Turkey-land. (Chapter 18, pp. 145)

This indeed encourages the reader to identify the Count with the Voivode Dracula first mentioned by him in Chapter 3, the one betrayed by his brother: Vlad III Dracula, betrayed by his brother Radu the Handsome, who had chosen the side of the Turks. But as noted by the Dutch author Hans Corneel de Roos, in Chapter 25, Van Helsing and Mina drop this rudimentary connection to Vlad III and instead describe the Count's personal past as that of "that other of his race" who lived "in a later age". By smoothly exchanging Vlad III for a nameless double, Stoker avoided his main character being unambiguously linked to a historical person traceable in any history book.

Similarly, the novelist did not want to disclose the precise site of the Count's residence, Castle Dracula. As confirmed by Stoker's own handwritten research notes, the novelist had a specific location for the Castle in mind while writing the narrative: an empty mountain top in the Transylvanian Kelemen alps near the former border with Moldavia.<sup>[57]</sup> Efforts to promote the Poenari Castle (ca. 200 km away from the novel's place of action near the Borgo Pass) as the "real Castle Dracula" have no basis in



Shakespearean actor and friend of Stoker's Sir Henry Irving is widely considered to be a real-life inspiration for the character of Dracula.

Stoker's writing; although it bears much similarity to the fictional Castle Dracula, no written evidence shows Stoker to have heard of it. Regarding the Bran Castle near Braşov, Stoker possibly saw an illustration of Castle Bran (Törzburg) in Charles Boner's 1865 book on Transylvania, *Transylvania: Its Products and Its People*.<sup>[58][59]</sup> Although Stoker may have been inspired by its romantic appearance, neither Boner, nor Mazuchelli nor Crosse (who also mention Terzburg or Törzburg) associate it with Vlad III; for the site of his fictitious Castle Dracula, Stoker preferred an empty mountain top.

Stoker's detailed notes reveal he was well aware of the ethnic and geopolitical differences between the Roumanians/Wallachs/Wallachians, descendants of the Dacians, and the Székelys/Szeklers, allies of the Magyars or Hungarians, whose interests were opposed to that of the Wallachians. In the novel's original typewritten manuscript, the Count speaks of throwing off the "Austrian yoke", which corresponds to the Szekler political point of view. This expression is crossed out and replaced by "Hungarian yoke" (as appearing in the printed version), which matches the historical perspective of

the Wallachians. Some take this to mean that Stoker opted for the Wallachian, not the Szekler interpretation, thus lending more consistency to his count's Romanian identity. Although not identical to Vlad III, the vampire is portrayed as one of the "Dracula race".<sup>[60]</sup>

## Portrayals

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Year	Title	Actor playing Dracula	Notes
1921	<i><u>Dracula's Death</u></i>	Erik Vanko	Lost film
1922	<i><u>Nosferatu</u></i>	Max Schreck	Renamed Count Orlok for legal reasons
1931	<i><u>Dracula</u></i>	Bela Lugosi	
	<i><u>Drácula</u></i>	Carlos Villarías	Spanish version using the same sets as the Lugosi version, but with a different cast and crew.
1943	<i><u>Son of Dracula</u></i>	Lon Chaney Jr.	
1944	<i><u>House of Frankenstein</u></i>	John Carradine	
1945	<i><u>House of Dracula</u></i>		
1948	<i><u>Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein</u></i>	Bela Lugosi	
1953	<i><u>Drakula Istanbul'da</u></i>	Atif Kaptan	
1958	<i><u>Dracula</u></i>	Christopher Lee	
	<i><u>The Return of Dracula</u></i>	Francis Lederer	
1964	<i><u>Batman Dracula</u></i>	Jack Smith	
1966	<i><u>Dracula: Prince of Darkness</u></i>	Christopher Lee	
	<i><u>Billy the Kid vs Dracula</u></i>	John Carradine	
1967	<i><u>Mad Monster Party?</u></i>	Allen Swift	Animated film
	<i><u>Blood of Dracula's Castle</u></i>	Alexander D'Arcy	
1968	<i><u>Dracula Has Risen from the Grave</u></i>	Christopher Lee	
	<i><u>Dracula</u></i>	Denholm Elliott	Episode of UK TV series <i><u>Mystery and Imagination</u></i>



Year	Title	Actor playing Dracula	Notes
1969	<i>Las vampiras</i>	John Carradine	
	<i>The Magic Christian</i>	Christopher Lee	
1970	<i>Count Dracula</i>		
	<i>Taste the Blood of Dracula</i>		
	<i>One More Time</i>		
	<i>Scars of Dracula</i>		
	<i>Cuadecuc, vampir</i>		
	<i>Jonathan</i>	Paul Albert Krumm	
1971	<i>Dracula vs. Frankenstein</i>	Zandor Vorkov	
	<i>Night Gallery</i>	Francis Lederer	Episode: "The Devil Is Not Mocked"
1972	<i>Blacula</i>	Charles Macaulay	
	<i>Mad Mad Mad Monsters</i>	Allen Swift	Animated film
	<i>Dracula A.D. 1972</i>	Christopher Lee	
	<i>Count Dracula's Great Love</i>	Paul Naschy	
1973	<i>The Satanic Rites of Dracula</i>	Christopher Lee	
1974	<i>Bram Stoker's Dracula</i>	Jack Palance	Television film
	<i>Blood for Dracula</i>	Udo Kier	
	<i>Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires</i>	John Forbes-Robertson	
	<i>Vampira</i>	David Niven	Released in US as <i>Old Dracula</i>
1975	<i>Lady Dracula</i>	Stephen Boyd	Germany (theatrically released in 1977)
1976	<i>Dracula and Son</i>	Christopher Lee	
1977	<i>Dracula's Dog</i>	Michael Pataki	
	<i>Count Dracula</i>	Louis Jourdan	Television film
1978	<i>Doctor Dracula</i>	John Carradine	
1979	<i>Nosferatu the Vampyre</i>	Klaus Kinski	Remake of <i>Nosferatu</i> (1922)

Year	Title	Actor playing Dracula	Notes
			with the novel's character names restored.
	<i><u>Cliffhangers</u></i>	<u>Michael Nouri</u>	Episode: "The Curse of Dracula"
	<i><u>Love at First Bite</u></i>	<u>George Hamilton</u>	
	<i><u>Nocturna</u></i>	<u>John Carradine</u>	
	<i><u>Dracula</u></i>	<u>Frank Langella</u>	
	<i><u>The Halloween That Almost Wasn't</u></i>	<u>Judd Hirsch</u>	Television film
1985	<i><u>Fracchia Vs. Dracula</u></i>	<u>Edmund Purdom</u>	
1987	<i><u>The Monster Squad</u></i>	<u>Duncan Regehr</u>	
1988	<i><u>Waxwork</u></i>	<u>Miles O'Keeffe</u>	
	<i><u>Scooby-Doo and the Ghoul School</u></i>	<u>Zale Kessler</u>	Animated film
	<i><u>Scooby-Doo! and the Reluctant Werewolf</u></i>	<u>Hamilton Camp</u>	Animated film
1989	<i><u>The Super Mario Bros. Super Show</u></i>	<u>Jim Ward</u>	Episode: "Bats in the Basement"
	<i><u>Captain N: The Game Master</u></i>	<u>Garry Chalk</u>	Animated TV series
	<i><u>Superboy</u></i>	<u>Lloyd Bochner</u>	Episode: "Young Dracula"
1990	<i><u>Attack of the Killer Tomatoes</u></i>	<u>S. Scott Bullock</u>	Episode: "Spatula, Prinze of Dorkness"
1990–1991	<i><u>Dracula: The Series</u></i>	<u>Geordie Johnson</u>	TV series
1992	<i><u>Bram Stoker's Dracula</u></i>	<u>Gary Oldman</u>	
1993	<i><u>The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles</u></i>	<u>Bob Peck</u>	Episode: "Transylvania, January 1918"
	<i><u>Bram Stoker's Dracula</u></i>	<u>Lee Carus-Wescott</u>	Video game
	<i><u>U.F.O.</u></i>	<u>Antony Georgiou</u>	
1994	<i><u>Monster Force</u></i>	<u>Robert Bockstael</u>	
1995	<i><u>Monster Mash</u></i>	<u>Anthony Crivello</u>	

Year	Title	Actor playing Dracula	Notes
	<i><u>Dracula: Dead and Loving It</u></i>	<u>Leslie Nielsen</u>	
1997	<i><u>Castlevania: Symphony of the Night</u></i>	Michael G.	Video game
	<i><u>The Creeps</u></i>	<u>Phil Fondacaro</u>	
2000	<i><u>Dracula 2000</u></i>	<u>Gerard Butler</u>	
	<i><u>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</u></i>	<u>Rudolf Martin</u>	Episode: " <u>Buffy vs. Dracula</u> "
	<i><u>Dark Prince: The True Story of Dracula</u></i>	Rudolf Martin	Television film
2001	<i><u>Dracula, the Musical</u></i>	<u>Tom Hewitt</u>	
2002	<i><u>Dracula: Pages from a Virgin's Diary</u></i>	Zhang Wei-Qiang	
	<i><u>Dracula</u></i>	<u>Patrick Bergin</u>	
2003	<i><u>Dracula II: Ascension</u></i>	<u>Stephen Billington</u>	
	<i><u>Castlevania: Lament of Innocence</u></i>	<u>Crispin Freeman</u>	Video game
2004	<i><u>Van Helsing</u></i>	<u>Richard Roxburgh</u>	
	<i><u>Van Helsing</u></i>		Video game
	<i><u>Blade: Trinity</u></i>	<u>Dominic Purcell</u>	
	<i><u>Dracula 3000</u></i>	<u>Langley Kirkwood</u>	
2005	<i><u>Dracula</u></i>	Wins Dieus	Indian Malayalam-language television series on <u>Asianet</u> .
	<i><u>The Batman vs. Dracula</u></i>	<u>Peter Stormare</u>	Animated film
	<i><u>Dracula III: Legacy</u></i>	<u>Rutger Hauer</u>	
	<i><u>Castlevania: Curse of Darkness</u></i>	<u>Douglas Rye</u>	Video game
2005–2008	<i><u>The Grim Adventures of Billy &amp; Mandy</u></i>	<u>Phil LaMarr</u>	Animated TV series
2006	<i><u>Castlevania: Portrait of Ruin</u></i>	Douglas Rye	Video game
	<i><u>Dracula</u></i>	<u>Marc Warren</u>	Television film
2006–	<i><u>Young Dracula</u></i>	<u>Keith-Lee Castle</u>	TV series

Year	Title	Actor playing Dracula	Notes
2014			
2007	<i>Castlevania: The Dracula X Chronicles</i>	<u>Patrick Seitz</u>	Video game
2008	<i>Dracula</i>	Wins Dieus	Indian Telugu-language television series on <u>Gemini TV</u> .
	<i>Dracula: Origin</i>	<u>Kevin Delaney</u>	Video game
	<i>Supernatural</i>	<u>Todd Stashwick</u>	Episode: "Monster Movie"
	<i>Castlevania: Order of Ecclesia</i>	Patrick Seitz	Video game
	<i>Castlevania Judgment</i>		Video game
	<i>The Librarian: Curse of the Judas Chalice</i>	<u>Bruce Davison</u>	
2009	<i>House of the Wolf Man</i>	Michael R. Thomas	
	<i>Castlevania: The Arcade</i>	Charles Glover	Video game
	<i>Castlevania: The Adventure ReBirth</i>	Patrick Seitz	Video game
2010	<i>Castlevania: Harmony of Despair</i>	Erik Davies	Video game
		Patrick Seitz	
	<i>Castlevania: Lords of Shadow</i>	<u>Robert Carlyle</u>	Video game
2012	<i>Family Guy</i>	<u>Seth MacFarlane</u>	Episode: " <u>Livin' on a Prayer</u> "
	<i>Dracula 3D</i>	<u>Thomas Kretschmann</u>	
	<i>Hotel Transylvania</i>	<u>Adam Sandler</u>	Animated film
	<i>Dracula Reborn</i>	Stuart Rigby	Television film
2013	<i>Castlevania: Lords of Shadow – Mirror of Fate</i>	Robert Carlyle	Video game
	<i>Dracula</i>	<u>Jonathan Rhys Meyers</u>	TV series
	<i>Dracula 2012</i>	Sudheer Sukumaran	Indian horror film
	<i>Dear Dracula</i>	<u>Ray Liotta</u>	Animated film
	<i>Dracula: The Dark Prince</i>	<u>Luke Roberts</u>	

Year	Title	Actor playing Dracula	Notes
2014	<i><u>Castlevania: Lords of Shadow 2</u></i>	Robert Carlyle	Video game
	<i><u>Dracula Untold</u></i>	Luke Evans	
2015	<i><u>Hotel Transylvania 2</u></i>	Adam Sandler	Animated film
2016	<i><u>Penny Dreadful</u></i>	Christian Camargo	TV series
	<i><u>Welcome To Monster High</u></i>	Michael Sorich	Animated film
2017	<i><u>Monster High: Electrified</u></i>	Michael Sorich	Animated film
	<i><u>Monster Family</u></i>	Jason Isaacs	Animated film
2017–2018	<i><u>Monster High: The Adventures of the Ghoul Squad</u></i>	Michael Sorich	Animated TV series
2017–2020	<i><u>Hotel Transylvania</u></i>	David Berni Ivan Sherry	Animated TV series
2017–2021	<i><u>Castlevania</u></i>	Graham McTavish	Animated TV series
2018	<i><u>Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation</u></i>	Adam Sandler	Animated film
	<i><u>Hotel Transylvania 3: Monsters Overboard</u></i>	Brock Powell	Video game
2019	<i><u>Van Helsing</u></i>	Tricia Helfer	TV series
	<i><u>Castlevania: Grimoire of Souls</u></i>	Jack Merluzzi Vinay Murthy	Video game
2020	<i><u>Dracula</u></i>	Claes Bang	TV miniseries
	<i><u>Dracula Sir</u></i>	Anirban Bhattacharya	Indian Bengali-language film loosely based on the legend of the Dracula.
2021	<i><u>Monster Pets</u></i>	Brian Hull	Replacing Adam Sandler.
	<i><u>Monster Family 2: Nobody's Perfect</u></i>	Jason Isaacs	Animated film
2022	<i><u>Hotel Transylvania: Transformania</u></i>	Brian Hull	Replacing Adam Sandler.