

Blood is the new black as vampires make a comeback. By Emma Weinbren

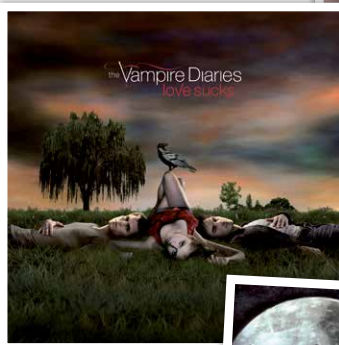
Vampires in Vogue

Vampires are nothing new. **Tales** have been written about the **nocturnal** creatures since the 1800s. People have always been intrigued by the horror and mystery of vampires, but not enough to start a **trend**. For a while, there was only an occasional vampire drama, film or book to keep fans entertained. Then along came *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

The 1992 film introduced us to the character Buffy Summers, an American **cheerleader** who **hunts** down dangerous vampires. The **tongue-in-cheek** film wasn't very successful, but it inspired the writer to make a **spin-off series**. Soon millions of viewers were tuning in to watch Sarah Michelle Gellar bravely fight off the vampire world



while maintaining the appearance of an average high school pupil. But this was just the beginning of vampire domination. These days, vampires are everywhere, and it seems that new vampire stories are created every day. There have been drama series such as *The Vampire Diaries*, and novels such as *Vampire Kisses* and *Vampire Hunter*.



TV series *True Blood* also **jumped on the bandwagon**. The idea was fairly original. In *True Blood*, vampires have discovered synthetic blood. This means that they no longer need to kill humans, and can become normal members of the community. The programme follows waitress Sookie Stackhouse as she develops a relationship with 173-year-old vampire Bill Compton. Together they discover that life is far from quiet in their small town, as friends and family become victims of violent crimes. The series has

generally had good reviews, but some critics are **sick of** the vampire theme. *The New York Post* wrote that even if vampires don't kill humans in the series, many will probably "die of boredom".

The vampire craze



also affected politicians. Presidential candidate John McCain was famously pictured with red eyes, **fangs** and blood around his mouth during the 2008 elections. But fear not, the politician wasn't hiding a dark secret. Photographer Jill Greenberg created these effects using Photoshop to demonstrate her opinion of the



Republican leader, explaining that she was "a pretty hard core Democrat".

So, why do we love vampires so much? Melissa de la Cruz, author of *Revelations: A Blue Blood Novel*, thinks she knows the answer. "Vampires are glamorous creatures who stay up all night partying. And they're thin," she says. "You never hear about a fat vampire." Thin, glamorous and party-loving. Vampires have a lot in common with our celebrities. No longer the creatures of **nightmares**, vampires have become the fashion icons of today. ✱



Vampire Facts

Vampires need to drink the blood of the living. A **wooden stake** to the heart will kill a vampire. A vampire's victim automatically becomes a vampire. Vampires can **turn into** other creatures such as bats, rats or cats. Sunlight burns vampires, who prefer to spend the daylight hours in coffins. Garlic, crosses and running water **repel** vampires.

Vampire Countess

A History of Vampires

1047 - The word "upir" ("vampire" in Russian) first appears in written form, referring to a Russian prince.

1428 - Vlad III, Prince of Wallachia (otherwise known as Vlad Dracula, Vlad Tepes or Vlad the Impaler) is born in what is now part of Romania. He is the original Dracula.

1477 - Vlad the Impaler is assassinated.

1560 - Real-life vampire Elizabeth Báthory is born.

1610 - Elizabeth Báthory is tried and sentenced to life imprisonment for her vampiric crimes.

1748 - The first modern vampire poem, *Der Vampir* by Heinrich August Ossenfelder, is published.

1813 - A vampire appears in Lord Byron's poem *The Giaour*.

1819 - The first vampire story in English, *The Vampyre* by John Polidori, is published.

1897 - Bram Stoker publishes the novel *Dracula*.

1914 - *Dracula's Guest* by Bram Stoker is published.

1931 - The film *Dracula*, starring Bela Lugosi, is released.

1958 - Hammer Films bring out *The Horror of Dracula* starring Christopher Lee.

1964 - *The Munsters* & *The Addams Family* (both of which feature vampire characters) appear on TV.

1976 - The first book of Anne Rice's vampire series,

The killings that shaped vampire history.

The most famous female vampire is Elizabeth Báthory. She was a real countess with a **disturbing** appetite for blood.



Elizabeth Báthory was a Hungarian countess from the **renowned** Báthory family. During her trial, she was accused of torturing and killing hundreds of young women. It is said that she began to **lure** the women into her estate after her husband's death in 1604. She offered them work as servants and many families sent their daughters there.

But it was a trick. Once there, the countess would torture and kill them. During her trial, she was charged with killing 80 women, but some say the figure could be as high as 600. She used several methods to kill them including freezing them, **starving** them and burning them. There were also stories that she **bathed** in their blood to preserve her youth.



In 1610, King Matthias of Hungary ordered an investigation. He sent Juraj Thurzo to investigate. On 30th December, Thurzo and a group of men entered the castle. They arrested the countess and four of her servants. Inside the house, they found a dead woman, others who were wounded and several more who were **imprisoned**.

Three of the servants were found guilty and **executed**. But the countess escaped this **fate**. Instead, she was placed under house arrest in rooms that were **walled up** in her castle. She remained there for four years until her death in August 1614. ☆

Interview With A Vampire, is published.

1992 - The horror romance film *Bram Stoker's Dracula* by Francis Ford Coppola is released.

1992 - The film *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* is released.

1994 - *Interview With a Vampire* (starring Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise) comes to the big screen.

2005 - *Twilight*, the first novel in the *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer, is released.



GLOSSARY

- a tale** *n*
- a story
- nocturnal** *adj*
- related to the night
- a trend** *n*
- a fashion
- a cheerleader** *n*
- a person who directs/motivates, etc. spectators at a sports contest
- to hunt down** *phr vb*
- to find in order to capture or kill
- tongue-in-cheek** *adj*
- not serious; with a comic element to it
- a spin-off series** *n*
- a series that is created from a film
- to jump on the bandwagon** *exp*
- to start doing what everyone else is doing
- sick of something** *exp*
- if you are "sick of something", you have had enough of it
- a fang** *n*
- a long, sharp tooth
- a nightmare** *n*
- a bad/frightening dream
- a wooden stake** *n*
- a piece of wood with a sharp end
- to turn into something** *exp*
- to become something
- to repel** *vb*
- if something "repels" you, you find it horrible
- disturbing** *adj*
- worrying; frightening
- renowned** *adj*
- famous
- to lure** *vb*
- to trick someone to go to a place
- to starve** *vb*
- if someone "starves", they die because they have no food
- to bathe** *vb*
- to wash in a bath
- to imprison** *vb*
- to put in a prison/jail
- to execute** *vb*
- to kill as a form of punishment
- a fate** *n*
- the power that determines what will happen to us; a destiny
- to wall up** *phr vb*
- if a room is "walled up", the windows and doors are blocked with bricks



Michael C. Hall
American actor.
Born 1st February 1971.

Series Quotes

"I have standards."
"I can't always see other people's problems more clearly than my own."
"Harry and Doris Morgan did a wonderful job raising me. But they're both dead now. I didn't kill them. Honest!"
Harry Morgan: Son, there are people out there who do really bad things. Terrible people. And the police can't catch them all. Do you understand what I'm saying?
Dexter: You're saying... they deserve it?

THE DARK AVENGER

Dexter - the crime fighter with a shocking secret.

By Emma Weinbren

I'M
MAKING A
KILLING.



Dexter is a famous American crime series. Dexter Morgan (Dexter) works for the Miami police department and uses his technical expertise to solve crimes. Think you've heard it all before? Think again. Dexter is hiding a dark secret.

Dexter Morgan is officially a **blood splatter analyst**. On the outside, he's the typical all-American hero. He's a **conscientious worker**, he takes good care of his family and he has a **unique knack** for solving crimes committed by **serial killers**. However, his key to understanding serial killers is due to one special thing: he is one himself.

Dexter has always had a dark side. He was **adopted** by Miami Police officer Harry Morgan when he was only three years old after Dexter's mother was **brutally murdered** by drug dealers. As Dexter grew up, Morgan began to notice that Dexter had violent tendencies (he kills neighbourhood pets for a start). As time goes by, Dexter becomes a **sociopath** with an **innate** need to kill. Morgan can only think of one solution to the problem. Since he can't stop his **stepson** from committing violent crimes, he'll teach him a strict moral code. So, he tells Dexter he's only allowed to kill criminals who have killed many times before and who are **remorseless**. Eventually, Dexter follows his **stepdad's** advice and becomes what he is today: a friendly, hard-working family man by day; a dark **avenger** by night.

The show raises a number of moral questions. Serial killer Dexter believes he is **ridding** society of dangerous killers who have **escaped justice** and

who wouldn't hesitate to kill again in the future. But doesn't killing regularly make him just as bad as the **psychopaths** he targets? Actor Michael C. Hall, who plays Dexter on screen, says he has **struggled with** the issue himself. "You could argue that Dexter is, through killing, saving lives," he said in an interview. The series is based on the book *Darkly Dreaming Dexter* by Jeff Lindsay, who wrote the story with this moral dilemma in mind. "Yes, killing is always wrong, no matter what," the author admits, "but on the other hand, aren't there some people that deserve it?"

Some were firmly against the show. The Parents Television Council (PTC) in America disagreed with the series being broadcast on **mainstream television**. President Timothy F. Winter argued that it "compels viewers to **empathise** with a serial killer, to **root for** him to **prevail**, to hope he doesn't get discovered." The PTC believed that **portraying** violence in this way was dangerous and sent out the wrong message to viewers. Fears **escalated** when a murder thought to be inspired by *Dexter* was committed in Canada in 2008.

But critics loved the show for its originality. The first season received **rave reviews**, and Michael C. Hall was nominated for a Golden Globe for his performance in 2006. The following seasons were equally popular and the third season finale gave the American channel Showtime its highest ever ratings for an original series. The show ran for 8 seasons from October 2006 to September 2013. If you like your dramas dark, and you're looking for something different, why not give it a try? Be warned, though: it's not for the **faint-hearted**. *

GLOSSARY

a blood splatter analyst *n*
a medical scientist who looks at the way blood has flowed at a crime scene
a conscientious worker *n*
a person who works very hard/ responsibly/effectively/carefully, etc.
a unique knack *n*
a special way
a serial killer *n*
a murderer who kills three or more people in separate events over a period of time, often using the same methods
to adopt *vb*
to take care legally and formally of a child who has no parents
brutally murdered *exp*
killed in a violent way
a sociopath *n*
a person with an anti-social personality disorder (APD) who has no concern for social rules or society/people in general
innate *adj*
that is a characteristic of that person
a stepson *n*
the son of your wife/husband (but not your biological son)
remorseless *adj*
with no feelings of pity
a stepdad *n*
the husband of your mum (but not your biological dad)
an avenger *n*
someone who punishes people who have done bad things
to rid *vb*
to eliminate
to escape justice *n*
not to be punished for a crime
a psychopath *n*
a psychiatric term to describe someone with a lack of empathy and conscience, and with poor impulse control
to struggle with *exp*
if you are "struggling with" something, you are trying hard to understand it
mainstream television *n*
a public television channel (not a private or cable channel)
to empathise *vb*
if you can "empathise" with someone, you can understand how they feel
to root for *phr vb*
to support someone; to hope they win
to prevail *vb*
to win; to triumph
to portray *vb*
to show
to escalate *vb*
to become stronger; to increase
rave reviews *exp*
very positive reviews
the faint-hearted *exp*
people who are affected easily by the sight of blood, violence, etc.



mortal love

Love stories with a little bite to them.

Vampires didn't always have the best reputation in the world. But novelist Stephenie Meyer changed all that. She's the author of the *Twilight* series. Her first book in the series, *Twilight*, was made into a film of the same name.

In *Twilight*, teens Bella Swan and Edward Cullen meet and start a romance. They fall madly in love but, as in any great tragedy, there's something that stands in their way. This time it isn't strict parents or family feuds but something far less ordinary: Edward is a vampire. Although Edward has been brought up as a "vegetarian" vampire (only feeding on animal blood), he still finds his vampire instincts hard to resist when he's with Bella.

The film *Twilight* received mixed reviews. As always with an **adaptation**, there were some who complained the film had **missed out** important parts of the book. However, the production team tried to stay as close to the original story as possible by having author Stephenie Meyer on set. Meyer was happy with the screenplay and said the filmmakers "took 90 percent of what I said and incorporated it into the script". In the end, *Twilight* took over \$7 million in ticket sales in its first week alone.

For the stars of the film, success brought instant fame... but also a few problems. Robert Pattinson, who played Edward Cullen, was **adored**

by the thousands of teenage girls who fell in love with his character in *Twilight*. This meant he couldn't go out without an escort or bodyguards. Kristen Stewart (who played Bella) was also having a hard time. After rumours of a romance between her and Robert Pattinson, Kristen was the **target** of **jealous** female fans. "Some are **rabid** and look at me with **disdain**," Kristen said in an interview, confessing that **book signings** could be "**scary**".

Kristen also had some harsh words to say about the film, calling fans' enthusiasm for *Twilight* "thoughtless". And her father said that Kristen would only appear at the Oscars "when she makes a great movie, not just one that makes a lot of money".

The second book is about losing true love. The title, *New Moon*, refers to the darkest **phase** of the **lunar cycle**, suggesting that *New Moon* is about the "darkest" time of Bella's life. In the story, Edward leaves Bella in order to protect her from other vampires. Heartbroken, Bella finds comfort with her friend Jacob Black, who is in fact a **werewolf**. Meanwhile, Edward finds himself **in grave danger** from vampire royalty, who present him with an **ultimatum**. At the end of the film, Bella must make a **life-changing decision** over her future. Love will always be a little complicated for this unusual couple, but at least no one could ever accuse them of being boring. ✨



IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST BITE.

I'VE BITTEN OFF MORE THAN I CAN CHEW.

GLOSSARY

- an adaptation** *n*
a film version of a book
- to miss out** *phr vb*
not to include
- adored** *adj*
loved
- a target** *n*
an object of criticism or attack
- jealous** *adj*
envious; wanting what someone else has
- rabid** *adj*
with uncontrollable anger
- disdain** *n*
if you feel "disdain" for someone, you dislike that person and consider them inferior
- a book signing** *n*
if actors/writers, etc. attend a book signing session, they sign (put their names in) books for fans
- scary** *adj*
frightening
- a phase** *n*
a period of time
- the lunar cycle** *n*
the complete series of events in the movements of the moon
- a werewolf** *n*
a creature that is half man and half wolf
- in grave danger** *n*
in a lot of danger; in a situation that could lead to death
- an ultimatum** *n*
a statement forcing somebody to decide between two things, often with very negative consequences
- a life-changing decision** *n*
a decision that will affect someone's life in a big way