

## Dracula

The detailed summary of the novel

The story begins with Jonathan Harker, an English solicitor, travelling on a long journey from England to Count Dracula's remote castle in the Rumanian region called Transylvania. Jonathan works for Peter Hawkins who is helping Dracula to buy property in London.

At first Dracula is very hospitable but soon Harker discovers that he has become a prisoner in the castle. One night while trying to escape from the castle, Harker meets three beautiful female vampires, the Brides of Dracula. They try to bite him but the Count stops them. Later, Harker discovers that Dracula sleeps in a coffin in a room under the castle during the day and spends his nights stealing babies from the town nearby.

In the next part of the novel, we are taken to England and the friendship between Harker's fiancée, Mina Murray, and a young lady named Lucy Westenra. After three men ask Lucy for her hand in marriage, she accepts Arthur Holmwood, an aristocrat. The other two men are Doctor John Seward who works in a mental asylum and the American Quincey Morris; they all remain good friends.

Shortly afterwards, a Russian ship crashes into the harbour of Whitby, north east England, during a fierce tempest. All of the crew are missing, and only one body is found, that of the captain tied to the ship's wheel. An animal like a large dog jumps off the ship, which is carrying a cargo of 50 boxes of earth from Transylvania.

The dog is Dracula who has the ability to transform. He has arrived in England and soon shows great interest in Mina and her vivacious friend, Lucy. Soon afterwards Mina observes that her friend is acting strangely and finds two tiny holes in Lucy's neck. Dracula meets Seward's patient Renfield, an insane man who captures and eats insects, spiders, birds, and other creatures in order to absorb their 'life force'. Renfield acts as a kind of vampire sensor and can 'feel' Dracula's movements.

Finally, Mina receives news from Jonathan. He has escaped Dracula's castle and is in Budapest. He is not well and Mina travels to Hungary to accompany him back to England. When he is better the two of them get married. Meanwhile, Lucy's condition deteriorates and she becomes weaker and paler. Doctor Seward calls the specialist, Dr. Van Helsing from Amsterdam. He gives Lucy several blood transfusions but is unsuccessful and she dies.

Jonathan Harker and Mina return to London. Meanwhile Dracula is creating chaos. The newspapers speak about the disappearance of several small children near the cemetery where Lucy was buried. Harker describes his experiences in Dracula's castle to Van Helsing, who connects Dracula with Lucy; he realizes that Lucy has become a vampire and is abducting and biting local children.

Van Helsing, Seward, Holmwood, and Morris, capture Lucy. They drive a stake through her heart and cut off her head. Meanwhile, Dracula has chosen Mina for his next victim and begins to turn her into a vampire. Van Helsing and the others try to save her, but realise they have to kill Dracula to do it. They find Dracula in his London home but he manages to escape. They follow him to Europe, and after a struggle, they drive a knife through his heart and cut off his head. As Dracula's body disintegrates, Mina is saved.