



The Mammoth Book of Dracula

Stephen Jones (Editor) , Nancy Holder (Contributor) , Brian Lumley (Contributor) , Basil Copper (Contributor) , Kim Newman (Contributor) , Hugh B. Cave (Contributor) , Brian Mooney (Contributor) , Roberta Lannes (Contributor) , more... Lisa Morton (Contributor) , Nicholas Royle (Contributor) , Paul McAuley (Contributor) , Daniel Farson (Forward) , Guy N. Smith (Contributor) , R. Chetwynd-Hayes (Contributor) , Graham Masterton (Contributor) , Terry Lamsley (Contributor) , John Gordon (Contributor) , Joel Lane (Contributor) , Brian Stableford (Contributor) , Michael Marshall Smith (Contributor) , Conrad Williams (Contributor) , Bram Stoker (Contributor) , Chris Morgan (Contributor) , Mike Chinn (Contributor) , Brian Hodge (Contributor) , Peter Crowther (Contributor) , F. Paul Wilson (Contributor) , Jo Fletcher (Contributor) , Christopher Fowler (Contributor) , Thomas Ligotti (Contributor) , Mandy Slater (Contributor) , Ramsey Campbell (Contributor) , Manly Wade Wellman (Contributor) , Nancy Kilpatrick (Contributor) , Jan Edwards (Contributor) ...less

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With his 500-year lifetime so far, and centuries yet ahead, the character of Dracula has an ever-unfolding biography, to which this 100th-anniversary tribute contributes 33 stories (only 6 of which have been previously published). Dracula visits, in these pages, such locales as the Côte d'Azur, the wilds of Oregon, the Los Angeles of Raymond Chandler, communist Eastern Europe, Rome at the dawn of the 21st century (a chilling tale in which he is forced to imitate the Messiah), and the ruins of post-apocalyptic New Jersey. He encounters Bettie Page, Aleister Crowley, Timothy Leary, Lou Reed, and Francis Ford Coppola (with the entire cast and crew of *Apocalypse Now*, in a hilarious spoof). The authors include such contemporary masters as Kim Newman, Nicholas Royle, Terry Lamsley, Joel Lane, Brian Stableford, and Ramsey Campbell. The book also has a foreword by Bram Stoker's great-nephew, and includes the never-before-published prologue to Stoker's theatrical version of *Dracula*.

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Conversion by Ramsey Campbell

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From Reader Review The Mammoth Book of Dracula for online ebook

Hokuto says

Most of the stories lack either interest or decent writing, but there are a few decent ones among the lot. Not worth a buy, but not a bad borrow.

Taysha says

Although some of the stories here are truly baffling in the sense that I can't imagine how the editor who compiled these works ever thought they were of high enough quality to merit inclusion, some of these are so great that I'd venture to say they have better premises than the source material. Overall uneven but pretty enjoyable.

Riju Ganguly says

In the past few months, I have gone through (again) the annotated version of Bram Stoker's legendary novel ("Dracula Unearthed"), a revisionist view about how the myth might have some actual historical foundation ("The Dracula Papers"), and an action-packed graphic novel dealing with Sherlock Holmes out-witting Dracula ("Victorian Undead: Vol. II"). I had started feeling intrigued with the idea that "Dracula in the past is fair game, but how might he act/react if he gets a chance now, i.e. in this present?", and hence, exhaustive reading in the shape of this anthology.

This book had been published originally in 1997 (to commemorate the centenary of the publication of Stoker's novel), and it already seems dated, with several stories being concerned with the millennium, and nothing about the near apocalyptic threat of terror that pervades our lives now (nobody even knew the name of OBL at that point).

The contents are:

- Introduction: I Bid You Welcome: Stephen Jones explains the idea behind this anthology.
- 1. Dracula: or The Un-Dead: Prologue: the dramatized version of Harker's first meeting with the count, that had been written by Bram Stoker for actual performance: PATHETIC & UTTERLY AVOIDABLE!
- 2. Dracula's Library: a very good story by Christopher Fowler that evokes the sensual & sexual appeal of vampire-related fiction in the form of a hypothetical experience of Jonathan Harker. GOOD.
- 3. The Heart of Count Dracula, Descendant of Attila, Scourge of God: Thomas Ligotti's wry look at the probable future of the Count. TOO SHORT & EXPERIMENTAL.
- 4. Daddy's Little Girl: a modest piece by Mandy Slatter, TOO GOTHIC.
- 5. Conversion: Ramsay Campbell's narrative reads like an experience of a somnambulist, but the dénouement is chilling. GOOD.
- 6. The Devil is Not Mocked: a stunning piece of pulp fiction from the great Manly Wade Wellman. ABSOLUTELY SUPERB.
- 7. Teaserama: a teasing look at Dracula's probable fate, had he been enamoured by one of Hollywood's

legends in the '50-s. VERY GOOD.

8. Blood Freak: Nancy Holder tries to juxtapose Dracula, the flower children, drugs, and a con-man, in a mosaic-kind of story that goes nowhere. NOT BAD, NOR GOOD.

9. Zack Phalanx is Vlad the Impaler: experiences of a filming party in the Carpathians. POSITIVELY MEDIOCRE.

10. When Greek Meets Greek: an enigmatic story from Basil Copper that would unleash threads in your mind that you would keep on trying to unravel. VERY GOOD.

11. Coppola's Dracula: the lengthiest piece of the book, a novella from Kim Newman set in his 'Anno Dracula' universe, which, deservedly, is getting released as a book next year. VERY GOOD.

12. The Second Time Around: Hugh B. Cave pens a pulpy story about crime & retribution. GOOD.

13. Endangered Species: an exceptional monologue from Brian Mooney that is riveting as well as disturbing. VERY GOOD.

14. Melancholia: Roberta Lannes' story is about the inevitable psychological breakdown of the immortal in a society obsessed with psychotherapy, but the handling was quite dissatisfactory. NOT GOOD.

15. Children of the Long Night: Lisa Morton writes a strange piece that seeks to establish Dracula as the lesser evil compared to the Nazis, and even some of the present members of mankind. NOT GOOD.

16. Mbo: Nicholas Royle's story has nothing to do with Dracula, but it is a gripping vampire yarn set in Africa, which is surprising because for some reason people don't think it as a suitable location to be haunted by vampires. VERY GOOD.

17. The Worst place in the World: a poignant story by Paul McAuley, about the travails of a vampire in Africa who tries to retain his humanity while humans around him become worse than animals. VERY GOOD.

18. Larry's Guest: a short piece from Guy N. Smith, set in London of Blitz. MEDIOCRE.

19. A Taste of Culture: Jan Edwards composes a mocking piece which is quite charming. GOOD.

20. Rudolph: R. Chetwynd-Hayes' brazen attempts to mix sex, comedy and horror bombs again. BAD.

21. Roadkill: Graham Masterton eschews his usual sex-oriented penmanship, in producing a neat story. GOOD.

22. Volunteers: Terry Lamsley produces a compact & surprisingly enjoyable story about personal tastes & preferences of social service volunteers. VERY GOOD.

23. Black Beads: John Gordon writes a very mature & disturbing story without an extra word in place. VERY GOOD.

24. Your European Son: Joel Lane's story about organized crime & vampires seem to be following age-old tropes. MEDIOCRE.

25. Quality Control: a taut & thrilling story from Brian Stableford. VERY GOOD.

26. Dear Alison: one of the most poignant & humane stories in the collection, from Michael Marshall Smith. VERY GOOD.

27. Bloodlines: Conrad Williams produces a gut-wrenching piece involving psychopaths, sex and revenge. VERY DARK.

28. Windows of the Soul: an intelligent story from Chris Morgan that envisions Count Dracula as a computer virus. GOOD.

29. Blood of Eden: a very short techno-thriller from Mike Chinn. TOO SHORT, BUT VERY GOOD.

30. Dracula Night: Charlaïne Harris pens a Sookie Stackhouse story. ENTERTAINING.

31. The Last Testament: a haunting story from Brian Hodge that would disturb you, chill you, and keep you intrigued for a long-time. VERY GOOD.

32. The Last Vampire: what would be the reaction of desperate mankind towards Count Dracula in the post-apocalyptic world? VERY GOOD.

33. The Lord's Work: F. Paul Wilson gives us a gripping story about retribution. EXCELLENT.

34. Lord of the Undead: a poem from Jo Fletcher. SO-SO.

Overall, this anthology has several satisfying and some very good to excellent stories. Recommended.

N.N. Light says

I have rarely read anthologies and I think I know why now. This book took a long time for me to finish. I learned some key things about short story compilations. If, within a couple of pages you are flipping to see how many pages are left, you do not like the story. If you can't put the book down until you finish the short story...you have found a winner. This book covers Dracula from inception (the first short story is from Bram Stoker) to beyond modern day. Some of the stories are incredible, some are ok and some are horrible. I will keep the book as I love the great ones and will want to read them again. There are some amazing vampire stories here. They are:

'Daddy's Little Girl' - Mandy Slater; 'When Greek Meets Greek' - Basil Cooper; 'The Second Time Around' - Hugh B. Cave; 'Endangered Species' - Brian Mooney; 'Larry's Guest' - Guy N. Smith; 'A Taste of Culture' - Jan Edwards; 'The Devil is Not Mocked' - Manly Wade Wellman; 'Volunteers' - Terry Lamsley; 'Quality Control' - Brian Stableford.

Those nine stories out of 34 make this a keeper. Each reader may like different aspects of this collection. I am confident enough to say if you are a fan of vampires you will like this book.

Eric Camarillo says

The last five stories are probably the best. Everything else was tedious to get through. Might recommend. Would not re-read.

Bingsy Bings says

some stories were unsuccessful, but most were really entertaining/ some were exceptionally done
