



Dracula

Bram Stoker (1847 - 1912)

Read by:	Multiple readers	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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Our culture is fascinated by zombies; always has been. Vampire novels, films and television shows abound in the lists of popular entertainments. Most modern takes, however, are pale imitations of the real goods served up at the turn of the 20th Century by the Irish writer Bram Stoker in his classic novel, *Dracula*. As inescapable as the fact of mortality is the persistence with which the creative mind travels dark roads to attempt to overcome the terminal nature of our lives. Stoker didn't invent the notion of vampires, the undead who sustain themselves on the blood of the living, nor their nighttime wanderings, nor the undercurrent of unrestrained id that renders them a forbidden fruit.

But his masterpiece, *Dracula*, codifies the story and distills its essential elements. *Dracula* is timeless; it remains a novel for today because Stoker tells the story with such great skill that we see, as if for the first time, what we thought we knew of the Count, his castle, and his brood, all of which have too often been obscured by countless adaptations of lesser quality. (Summary by Michael Hogan)

Bram Stoker (November 8, 1847 – April 20, 1912) was an Irish writer best known as the author of *Dracula*. He was born the third of seven children in the seaside town of Clonarf outside Dublin. After graduating from Trinity College he worked as a civil servant and wrote theatre reviews for the *Dublin Mail*. His involvement in the theatre led to a lifelong friendship with English stage actor Henry Irving, who was a model for the mannerisms of Count *Dracula*. Following his marriage to Irish beauty Florence Balcombe the couple moved to London, where Stoker became the business manager for Irving's Lyceum Theatre, a position which gave him entry into London's high society and artistic circles as well as the opportunity to travel the world with Irving's tours. He supplemented his income by writing many sensational novels, most notably *Dracula*, which was inspired by the town of Whitby and the bleak landscape at Slain's Castle near Aberdeen, and which was the product of eight years of research into European folklore and vampire stories, especially the dark stories of Hungarian writer Armin Vambery. In the course of his travels he visited the White House and met William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt and his idol Walt Whitman, among others. He died in London in 1912 after a series of strokes.