

JONATHAN HARKER'S DIARY

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Count Dracula

My story begins about seven years ago, in 1875. My name is Jonathan Harker, and I live and work in London. My job is to buy and sell houses for other people. One day a letter arrived for me from a very rich man who lived in Transylvania. He wanted to buy a house in England and he needed my help. The man was Count Dracula, and I agreed to help him.

I found a house for him, and he asked me to take all the papers for it to Transylvania. I was not very pleased about this. I was planning to get married in the autumn, and I did not want to leave my beautiful Mina.

‘But you must go, Jonathan,’ she said. ‘The Count is rich, and perhaps he will give you more work later.’

So I agreed to go. I did not know then of the terrible danger which waited for me in Transylvania.

And so, on 4th May I arrived at a little town called Bistritz. Transylvania was a strange and beautiful country. There were mountains, trees and rivers everywhere. And somewhere high in the mountains was the Count’s home, Castle Dracula. I had six hours to wait before the coach came to take me there, so I went into a little hotel. Inside the hotel it was warm and friendly. The people there were all laughing and talking. ‘Where are you going?’ they asked me.

‘To Castle Dracula,’ I replied.

Suddenly the room was silent and everyone turned to look at me. I could not understand why they all looked afraid.

‘Don’t go there,’ someone said.

‘But I have to,’ I answered. ‘It’s business.’

They began to talk again, but they were no longer laughing. Slowly, the hotel keeper’s wife took the gold cross from her neck and put it into my hand. ‘Take this,’ she said. ‘There is danger at Castle Dracula. Perhaps this will help you.’

When the coach arrived and I got into it, a crowd of people came to watch, and I heard the word ‘vampire’.

The coach travelled up into the mountains. Higher and higher it went, faster and faster. The sun was bright, but above the trees there was snow on the mountain tops.



ACTIVITIES

While Reading

Read Chapters 1 and 2, (*Jonathan Harker's Diary*), and then answer these questions.

Why

- 1 . . . didn't Jonathan want to go to Transylvania?
- 2 . . . was Count Dracula pleased that his new house in England had a little church?
- 3 . . . was Jonathan afraid when he looked in the mirror?
- 4 . . . did the three women want to kiss Jonathan?
- 5 . . . couldn't Jonathan leave the castle?
- 6 . . . didn't Jonathan kill the Count in his coffin?
- 7 . . . did Jonathan decide to escape?

Read Chapter 3 (*Mina's Story*). What did Mina see, hear, or do? Complete these sentences with words from the chapter.

- 1 At Whitby she heard about _____ which jumped off the strange ship from Varna.
- 2 She saw _____ behind Lucy in the churchyard.
- 3 Then she saw _____ on Lucy's neck.
- 4 She went _____ because Jonathan was ill there.
- 5 In Jonathan's diary she read about his _____.
- 6 She saw _____ in the streets of London.
- 7 In a letter from Arthur she heard that _____.