



Dracula's Guest

Bram Stoker

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A passage from the manuscript of Dracula.

Dracula's Guest Details

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From Reader Review Dracula's Guest for online ebook

Peter says

Set in Munich an English traveller has a very eerie experience on an old cemetery of an abandoned village. It is Walpurgis Night. The inscription on the headstone mentioning a female countess leads to Dacre Stoker's Dracula. Can a group of soldiers rescue the hero of this story? Why is the story titled Dracula's Guest? Well written, spooky and quick to read for every Dracula and Dracula fan. Dracula is looming over the pages of this story. Recommended!

Lau says

«Los muertos viajan deprisa»

Éste es el capítulo con el que originalmente iniciaba 'Dracula', y que algún *genio* de la edición decidió sacar para que el libro no fuera tan largo.

Narra una aventura previa que tuvo Jonathan cuando todavía estaba en Munich. Es breve pero no por eso menos oscuro (el cementerio de suicidas es especialmente tétrico), y para mi gusto funciona bárbaro como introducción para una gran novela.

Leerlo antes del libro principal es una buena idea, porque además de que era la idea original del autor, ya empieza a sentar las bases del horror y la intriga que rodean al Conde Dracula, y a destrozarse la confiada practicidad inglesa de Jonathan.

Matt says

Some will have noticed that I am in the midst of an interesting Dracula binge, allowing both Bram and Dacre Stoker to offer up their own spins on the tale. While poking around for new finds on the topic, I stumbled upon this short story by the elder Stoker. In rural Germany, a man is travelling by coach and chooses to stray off the beaten path. He makes his way to a manor house and into a sizeable cemetery, where one large tombstone catches his eye. With the sound of wolves filling the air, one such creature soon appears on the scene, as though it felt the need to mark its territory. Alone and in a foreign land at night, our protagonist might have met his match in a lupine enemy, but there's a twist... read the story to find out a little more! A great addition to anyone who loves Dracula or Stoker's writing.

As I read this piece, I felt as though I had already come across it in the past, though I cannot place where I might have done so. Without tipping my hand too much, the title of the piece might not be as truthful for those who skim through the story, though it does have a deeper meaning if you take the time to think about it. Written in 1914—or at least published at that time—it has quite the feel of the original Dracula story, though any reader who has delved into Dacre Stoker's sequel to the Dracula piece will see some parallels there as well. The piece flows really well, though it seems to be done just as it is getting started. I'd almost have wanted more, though Stoker does a fine job with his descriptions and build-up. I would say that anyone handed this piece and told to 'get into' Dracula with it will likely not return to seek out the classic novel, but there is a definite horror aspect that only Stoker can create.

Kudos, Mr. Stoker, for such a great short story. I hope many will take the time to read this after they have invested time in your masterwork on the subject!

Love/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

Mitticus says

Munich, es Walpurgis Nacht, un turista sale a dar una vuelta con un cochero y decide explorar por su cuenta pese a las advertencias de mal tiempo y otras cosas.

Supe de esta historia corta por Lau, y aunque no menciona nombres sino a un 'viajero inglés' y el hecho de provenir de la historia original "**Drácula**" -el primer capítulo cortado por un editor-, esto nos lleva a pensar en su protagonista: Harker.

Por otra parte, es como una historia aleccionaria contra turistas aventureros ... o un precursor de "Hostal" ;P Es el tipo porfiado que 'knows best' y va derecho donde nadie lo invitó.

«Es inglés, y por consiguiente aventurero. A menudo hay peligro con la nieve y los lobos y la noche.»

Aunque resulta extrañamente singular que esto de 'Turismo de Cementerios' ya haya existido desde entonces bwajaja. (y en esta parte niego , absolutamente, que me hayan arrastrado en la noche a ver un cementerio a +3000 mts de altura mientras el cielo estaba lleno de estrellas fugaces, No,eso lo niego)

Me costó bastante meterme en la trama, por eso no puedo darle en este momento más estrellas, incluso busque la edicion en inglés y resulta que no, que la traducción en este caso es bastante fiel, asi que no pierde , y , por tanto, sigue siendo , sin lograr establecer la razón, algo seca.
¿Precursor? o ¿idea primaria? el desenlace deja bastantes cosas clásicas de terror en el aire . Se puede ver que contiene el germen de muchas historias que le copiaran.

classic reverie says

I wanted to read my Halloween stories before or near that day but it really does not matter when one reads a "horror" story. Several years ago I decided to read yearly a horror tale during this time of year. I have read many versions of Dracula like by many different authors and will continue to do so in the future. Bram Stoker's Dracula was my first and seeing this short story, I wanted to read this too. This is an extremely short story which I did not read this version but from "The Greatest Ghost and Horror", see "horror" shelf if interested in my highlights.

Before I go onto my review, my Delphi Complete Works of Bram Stoker had this interesting introduction into "Dracula's Guest" which I will share.

"This collection of short stories was first published in 1914, two years after Stoker's death. Now, it is widely believed that Dracula's Guest is actually the deleted first chapter from the original Dracula manuscript, which the publisher deemed superfluous to the story, although some scholars disagree with this belief. In the preface of the collection, Stoker's wife Florence explains, "To his original list of stories in this book, I have added an hitherto unpublished episode from Dracula. It was originally excised owing to the length of the book, and may prove of interest to the many readers of what is considered my husband's most remarkable work."

One does not need to read "Dracula" to understand and enjoy this story but it gives you a taste of it. An Englishman visiting Germany wanders by himself onto a burial ground on the night of Walpurgis. Strange and scary things happen which are intensified by Bram Stoker's descriptions.

Ângela says

"On the top of the tomb, seemingly driven through the solid marble—for the structure was composed of a few vast blocks of stone—was a great iron spike or stake. On going to the back I saw, graven in great Russian letters: 'The dead travel fast.'"

Dan says

This is not actually a sequel to Dracula but a collection of short stories by Stoker. I've written a couple of lines about each of them.

Dracula's Guest: This is part of the original Dracula which was cut to reduce the length. It has very little to do with Dracula (the character and the book) and is a bit of an odd story really. That being said they are so very creepy moments in it.

The Judge's House: A haunted house story which is absolutely fantastic. It's chilling.

The Squaw: A particularly gruesome story involving cats. Predictable but contains some fantastic imagery.

The Secret of the Growing Gold: A weird ghost story, which I didn't like very much.

A Gipsy Prophecy: The classic format of characters learning a prophecy and then trying to stop it coming true. It doesn't do what you expect it to do and this is really pleasing.

The Coming of Abel Behenna: Two men fall in love with the same woman. Only one can marry her and it seems they will go to any length to ensure they can have her.

The Burial of the Rats: This story confused me. It's mostly a long chase but I just didn't get what the point

of the story was. Mind you, what the title actually means pretty unpleasant...

A Dream of Red Hands: The story of a bad dream and a man desperate to make up for past sins. Not exactly a horror story but it makes you think about whether people should be forgiven for their crimes.

Crooken Sands: This begins as a very funny story and then turns into a great little psychological tale. I was beginning to think the stories got worse as they went along but this one was one of the best of the book and a great way to end.

Overall it's a great collection of gothic horror stories. In some ways it's very much of its time with women feeling less important (they mostly faint in these stories), though I found that odd considering Dracula portrays some quite strong female characters. If you want some gothic horror then you can't go far wrong with this collection.

Char (Tacky Genre Buff) says

I thought this collection was just okay. I enjoyed the story The Judge's House the most. A good rat story is always fun.

I was a bit disappointed in this collection. I'm a big fan of Dracula and I guess I just expected more.

Christian Doig says

Esta excelente colección de relatos breves del autor de Dracula fue publicada después de la muerte de Stoker por su viuda Florence, y aunque la edición que he leído sólo incluye cuatro de los nueve cuentos que constituyen la totalidad de la antología, no deja de ser un buen ejemplo del arte narrativo de uno de los más emblemáticos autores de la ficción gótica de todos los tiempos.

"El huésped de Drácula" fue originalmente concebido como un capítulo introductorio de la celeberrima novela de vampiros, mientras que los demás habían sido publicados en diversos periódicos anglosajones. Yo tuve la fortuna de leer este cuento, muchos años atrás, en la magnífica edición de Dracula que Oveja Negra ofreció como parte de su colección Best-Sellers durante los '80s.

Siendo como es una joya prosística, "El huésped de Drácula" inaugura perfectamente el volumen, pero mi relato favorito debe de ser "La casa del juez", una pequeña obra maestra de horror que dosifica a la maravilla suspenso y ambientación. También disfruté muchísimo "La squaw". Ambos trabajos muestran una vez más el dominio que Stoker poseía sobre las convenciones del gótico --sus escenarios macabros y las insólitas criaturas que los habitan--, y las posibilidades de tales elementos para atrapar la imaginación.

Asimismo la colección señala el interés de su autor por la aventura de lo desconocido y lo sobrenatural (relacionado con la maldad). "El entierro de las ratas" propone una excepción a esto último, pero confirma la capacidad ficcional de Stoker, aunque, y pese a su extensión, resulta ser su narración menos prolija. Se trata de un eficaz cuadro de supervivencia casi apocalíptica, en el cual el protagonista es perseguido por seres humanos marginales que pueden recordar a los zombies; sin embargo, curiosamente me ha parecido su relato menos logrado.

Recomiendo Dracula's Guest and Other Weird Stories, en cualquiera de sus versiones.

Kristen says

I had never heard of this book before, but when I ran across it and saw who the author was, I snatched it up and started reading. What we have here is a series of short stories published by Mrs. Stoker after the passing of her husband. The stories range from the disturbing supernatural tale of "The Judge" to the vampiric title tale of "Dracula's Guest" some versions of this book include the "Lair of the White Worm" which although it is not one of my favorite of Mr. Stoker's Cannon, it is still a very creepy and disturbing novella.

This is a VERY short read, and can be completed in a day without trouble. As with all short story collections some will be more to your taste than others. None really packed the punch of "Dracula" but then few tales do. My personal favorites were "Dracula's Guest" in which a British fellow fails to heed the warning of the locals and ventures into a hellish evening of wolves and the supernatural... and we are left with the feeling that his next venture may prove even worse for him.

"The Judge" was also interesting... though I really would have liked for there to be more to this story. A learned man takes up residence in the local haunted mansion to get some peace and quiet while studying. He gets more than he bargained for in the end. This was a very interesting and dark tale with "Twilight Zone" or "Tales from the Crypt" written all over it. It is very cinematic in tone and could have been much longer.

In all there are tales of vengeance, redemption, the supernatural, pacts with the Devil, angry black cats, beggars run amok, murderers, insanity... if you love the short stories of Edgar Allen Poe, then you really need to pick up this collection. If you have read and re-read Dracula and can't get enough, then pick up this book... it's hard to find (my copy came from a used bookstore and it looked like a dog had gone to town on the cover) but it is well worth the hunt.

Oliviu Craznic says

A short story way better than the „Dracula” novel, sometimes included as a first chapter of „Dracula” (though this was, probably, Stoker`s intent, it was also, probably, intended, in fact, for an earlier „Dracula” version, quite different from the one we know - the style is quite different, and the tale stays better on its own; as „Dracula”'s first chapter, it makes little sense and it does not connect well with the rest of the story).

Cinty Herrejon says

Es un cuento muy corto y originalmente era el primer capítulo de "Drácula". Me gustó mucho no sé porque decidieron eliminarlo del libro, ¿Por qué?

Shaun says

This is a collection of short stories published by Stoker's wife after his death.

Though a prolific writer in his own right, Stoker really only had one commercially successful book, his revered classic *Dracula*. So it's no surprise that the first story in this collection, *Dracula's Guest*, was also chosen as the anthology's title. Note however, that the other stories, while in the horror/Gothic tale genre, are not *Dracula*/vampire stories.

As is the case with many short story collections, there are stories in this collection that shine and sparkle, or in horror's case, creep and crawl, and others not so much. Some of my favorites included *Dracula's Guest*, *The Squaw*, *The Gipsy Prophecy*, and *The Coming of Abel Behenna*, which all, in my opinion, approach the genius of Poe and Lovecraft. I especially enjoyed the last two, which were intriguing cautionary tales that I hadn't necessarily expected.

In addition to Stoker's famed *Dracula*, I have also read *The Jewel of Seven Stars* and the overall writing and themes in this collection are consistent with these other works.

I would recommend this to Stoker fans, horror fans, and those who appreciate the writings of Poe and Lovecraft and/or those who are interested in exploring the history of horror and the Gothic tale.

The collection can be downloaded for free from the Gutenberg Project.

Ευθυμ?α Δεσποτ?κη says

Πολ? καλ?τερο απ' ?τι περ?μενα, πολ? πιο ενδιαφ?ρον, με ανθρωπινες ιστορ?ες και πρωταγωνιστ?ς που δεν τους λες και ?μεμπτους. Ομολογ? ?τι ο Στ?ουκερ δε με κ?ρδισε με τον Δρ?κουλ? του αλλ? με το?το εδ? μου δε?χνει τι ?ρεσε στον υπ?λοιπο κ?σμο.

Isa Lot says

Me ha gustado más de lo que pensaba que me gustaría. Podemos encontrar el típico relato de terror gótico, con lobos, tormentas, pueblos malditos, leyendas del folclore rumano, etc. Se acerca más a la típica leyenda del vampiro clásico y por ello me gustó.
