



DRACULA by Bram Stoker

Adapted by John-Robert Partridge & Catherine Prout

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CHARACTERS

JONATHAN HARKER

DRACULA

MINA HARKER

LUCY WESTENRA

ELIZABETA

RENFIELD

DR VAN HELSING

DR JACK SEWARD

ARTHUR HOLMWOOD

COACHMAN

CAPTAIN

PRIEST

AGENT

VAMPIRESS

JOURNALISTS/VOICES

DRACULA

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----- RENFIELD'S CELL -----

The lights come down on the audience, and the stage goes to blackout. Heavy breathing is heard from different cast members and whispering barely audible.

A light comes up from the side of the stage alongside a creaking sound effect – it looks like a door has opened and light is flooding in. RENFIELD is 'thrown' into his cell, muttering about the master.

RENFIELD

No, no. Let me go, don't put me in there please. Oh God, oh God, dear God, he's coming, he's coming!

The door closes and it is in near blackout again.

INMATES

[Variations on] He's coming. He's very near, yes he's very near. Can you feel it? I can feel it in my spine. I can feel it in my stomach, in the hairs on the back of my neck. I can feel it in my blood.

RENFIELD

I can feel it, I can feel it in my blood. The blood is the life! The blood is the life!

Blood curdling scream and clap of thunder. Total blackout.

Spot hits a man standing with a suitcase and map it is JONATHON HARKER.

-----HARKER'S JOURNEY-----

HARKER

Left Munich at 8.35pm on the 1st of May, arriving at Vienna early next morning.

VOICE 1

Budapest is wonderful.

VOICE 2

Welcome to Bukovina.

VOICE 3

Moldavia is in the midst of the Carpathians.

HARKER

We arrived in Klausenburgh after nightfall, I stopped at the Hotel Royale and for supper, I had a chicken done up some way with red pepper, it was very good. I must remember to get the recipe for Mina.

DRACULA

Welcome to the Carpathians....*[quiet laughter]*

HARKER

Stopping at the Golden Krone Hotel for change of horses.

VOICE 1

The Herr Englishmen?

HARKER

Yes, Jonathon Harker.

VOICE 2

For you.

HARKER is handed a sealed letter he opens it

DRACULA

My friend, Welcome to the Carpathians, I am anxiously expecting you. Sleep well tonight. At the Borgo Pass my carriage will await you and bring you to me. I trust your journey from London has been a happy one, and that you will enjoy your stay in my beautiful land – your friend, Dracula.

VOICE 3

Transylvania – one of the wildest....

VOICE 1

And least known places in Europe.

VOICE 2

Must you go, young Herr, must you go?

VOICE 3

Do you know what day it is?

HARKER

It is the eve of St. George's Day.

VOICE 1

For your mothers sake don't go.

VOICE 2

Do you not know that tonight when the clocks strike midnight all the evil things in the world will have full sway?

VOICE 3

Do you know where your going? And what your going to?

VOICE 1

Wait a day or two at least.

VOICE 2

Take a crucifix.

The sound of a coach and horses travelling very fast towards Castle Dracula.

DRACULA

Velcome to Transylvania.

VOICE 4

Welcome to the Borgo Pass.

VOICE 1

Denn die todten reiten schnell...

VOICE 2

The dead travel fast...

This sequence continues whispered under the next section

VOICE 3

There is no carriage here, the Herr is not expected after all. He will come back with us and return in the daylight tomorrow or the next day or the next.

The sequence gets louder and more intense until the next line cuts the sound like a knife.

COACHMAN

You are early tonight, my friend.

VOICE 3

The English Herr was in a hurry so I thought....

COACHMAN

That is why, I suppose, you wished him to return with you. You cannot deceive me, my friend; I know too much and my horses are swift. Give me the Herr's luggage. The night is chill mein Herr, and my master the count bade me take care of you.

The sequence continues under the sound of the horses and wolf howls until all comes to a deadly silence.

-----INTRODUCING DRACULA-----

DRACULA

Mr Harker?

HARKER

Yes?

DRACULA

Welcome to my house, enter freely of your own will and leave some of the happiness you bring.

HARKER

Count Dracula?

DRACULA

I am Dracula. I bid you welcome Mr Harker. Come in, you will no doubt need to refresh yourself after your journey, your supper is prepared, I pray you be seated and sup how you please. You will I trust excuse me that I do not join you but....I have dined already.

HARKER sits down and begins his meal. DRACULA watches him and then holds up a letter.

DRACULA

I received this from your department from a Mr Hawkins?

HARKER

My superior sir.

DRACULA

Ah! He speaks most highly of you [*reads*] A young man, full of energy and talent. He shall attend on you during his stay and will take instructions in all matters.

HARKER

He is a most gracious employer

DRACULA

And you a most humble employee my friend. Now tell me of the house you and Mr Hawkins have procured for me.

HARKER

Ah yes ...the estate is called Carfax.

DRACULA

Good.

HARKER

The house is very large and dates back to all periods. To medieval times even. One part of the stone is immensely thick with only a few windows.

DRACULA

Very Good.

HARKER

They are heavily bared with iron.

DRACULA

For safety?

HARKER

Absolutely.

DRACULA

And the location?

HARKER

There are but few houses close at hand, one very large house that has been converted into a private lunatic asylum. But is not visible from the grounds, and nearby is a small chapel.

DRACULA

I am happy for this.

HARKER

It is a most exceptional property.

DRACULA

I am glad it is big and old. I am myself of old family – the Dracule, and to live in a new house would kill me.

HARKER

The house is perfect.

DRACULA

I rejoice also that there is a chapel. We Transylvanian nobles love not to think that our bones may be amongst the common dead. The walls of my castle here are broken. The shadows are many, and the wind breathes cold. I love the shade and the shadows, and I care to be alone with my thoughts when I may.

HARKER

Yes, yes I understand.

At that, a wolf howl is heard in the distance.

DRACULA

Do not be startled. Just listen to them – the children of the night. What sweet music they make.

HARKER

Music?

DRACULA

Ah my young friend you dwellers from the city cannot enter into the feelings of the hunter, the freedom, the thrill of the chase, the ...My apologies you must be tired, you must retire now and sleep as long as you will. I will be away until the afternoon. Goodnight Mr Harker, sleep well, dream well.

HARKER

Goodnight.

VOICE 3

Don't go.

VOICE 1

Take a crucifix.

VOICE 2

For your mother's sake don't go.

VOICE 4

Do you know where your going and what your going to?

MINA

Jonathan? // Jonathan

DRACULA

//Jonathan.....

DRACULA appears behind HARKER who has been day dreaming and is now shaving – DRACULA appearing makes HARKER jump and cut himself.

HARKER

Damn!

DRACULA

Take care how you cut yourself. It is more dangerous than you think in this country.

DRACULA smiles and takes the razor from HARKER and the mirror mystically follows the razor. DRACULA wipes the trickle of blood from HARKER's neck and begins to shave HARKER himself.

DRACULA

Tell me about your England. I have read many books that have given me hours of pleasure. What of London? I have longed to go through the crowded streets of your mighty London to be in the midst of the whirl and rush of humanity to share its life, its change, its death and all that makes it what it is. But alas, as yet I only know your tongue through books.

HARKER

You speak English exceptionally well Count.

DRACULA

I thank you my friend for such flattering words. I know the grammar and the words but yet I know not how to speak them.

HARKER

Your English is well studied and you have mastered it expertly.

DRACULA

I know that did I move and speak in your London, none would know me. Here I am a noble. A boyar! The common people know me and I am a master. But a stranger in a strange land; he is no one. And to know not is to care not for.

HARKER

A stranger in a strange land.

DRACULA

You shall I trust, rest here with me for a while so that by our talking I may learn the English intonation, and I would that you would tell me when I make an error, even the smallest in my speaking.

HARKER

Of course.

DRACULA

Thank you, since your arrival have you written to your loved ones?

HARKER

I have dispatched to Mr Hawkins to inform him of my arrival.

DRACULA

Pray my friend, write to your loved ones and inform them that you wish to stay with me for a further month.

HARKER

Do you wish me to stay so long?

DRACULA

I desire it much; nay I take no refusal. When your employer engaged you to come to finalise my purchase of Carfax it was understood that my needs whatever they may be would be met, is it not so?

HARKER

Indeed Count but.....

DRACULA

Then you will stay will you not?

HARKER

Of course.

DRACULA

Good, now I trust you will forgive me, but I have much work to do in private, write the letters as I bid you, you may use my library if you wish.

HARKER

That is very kind of you sir.

DRACULA

You may go anywhere you wish in the castle, except where the doors are locked, where of course you will not wish to go. There is a reason that all things are as they are, and did you see with my eyes and know with my knowledge you would perhaps better understand.

HARKER

I am sure sir....

DRACULA

We are in Transylvania; and Transylvania is not England. Our ways are not your ways and there shall be to you many strange things. Let me advise you my dear young friend, nay let me warn you with all seriousness, that should you leave these rooms you will not by any chance go to sleep in any other part of the castle. It is old, and has many memories and there are bad dreams for those who sleep unwisely. Be warned! Should sleep now or ever overcome you, or be like to do, then haste to your own chamber for your rest will then be safe.

ELIZA

Jonathan.....

ELIZA

Come to us...

ELIZA

Come lie with us Jonathan.

HARKER does not hear the voices, and sits and begins to compose his letter to MINA.