

# Dracula

A tension-filled adaptation of  
Bram Stoker's thrilling tale. . .

Adapted by Joellen K. Bland

## Characters

JONATHAN HARKER

COUNT DRACULA

THREE VAMPIRES

MINA HARKER

LUCY WESTENRA

DR. JOHN SEWARD

PROF. ABRAHAM VAN HELSING

RENFIELD, *a patient*

KARNES, *an attendant*

## SCENE 1

**TIME:** *Turn of the century.*

**SETTING:** *A gloomy room in Castle Dracula, in Transylvania. Torches over fireplace give flickering light. Table, center, is set with dishes of food, etc. Large open window is at left, and working door, at right.*

**AT RISE:** *After a moment of silence, a knock is heard.*

**JONATHAN HARKER** (*Calling off right*): Hello? (*Creaking sound is heard as HARKER opens door and looks in.*) Count Dracula? (*Steps in, carrying*

*luggage*) It's Jonathan Harker. . .the lawyer you sent for from London! (*No answer*) The coachman said I should come in. (*Crosses center, sets down luggage. Suddenly, door slams behind him. He turns quickly.*) Count? (*Opens door, looks out, steps in, closing door*) That's odd. (*Looks around*) Gloomy old place. (*Notices table*) Ah, see here, the table is set! (*Stands with back to window.* **COUNT DRACULA**, *in black, with black cape, suddenly enters at window.*)

**DRACULA:** Welcome to Castle Dracula, Mr. Harker!

**HARKER** (*Startled; turning*): Oh! Count Dracula? (*DRACULA bows.*) Forgive me. (*Bows*) I didn't hear you come in. I apologize for arriving so late. It must be well after midnight.

**DRACULA:** I am often up at this hour of the night. You will need food and rest after your long journey. (*Crosses to table*) Won't you sit down and eat?

**HARKER** (*As DRACULA pours wine*): Thank you. Will you join me?

**DRACULA:** I have already dined, and I do not drink. . .wine, that is.

**HARKER** (*Sitting at table*): I've never eaten on gold tableware.

**DRACULA:** It has been in my family for many generations.

**HARKER** (*Holding up plate*): Extremely well polished! I can see my reflection in this piece. (*He starts, then looks quickly up at DRACULA.*) That's odd.

**DRACULA** (*Quickly stepping aside*): Is something the matter?

**HARKER** (*With a nervous laugh*): I didn't see your reflection in the plate, but I thought you were standing beside me.

**DRACULA:** The shadows in this room can be deceiving, Mr. Harker. Please—enjoy your meal. (*Sits in opposite chair*)

**HARKER** (*Staring at DRACULA a moment, then beginning to eat*): This is delicious. (*Sound of wolves howling is heard off left; HARKER looks up, alarmed.*) Wolves! They sound very close. (*Continues to eat*)

**DRACULA** (*Pleased*): Listen to them! The children of the night. What music they make! (*With a sly smile*) But you are a city dweller, and perhaps you do not share my feelings.

**HARKER:** I'm afraid not. But you'll soon be a city dweller yourself, Count, once you move to London.

**DRACULA** (*Sighing*): Yes. I have read of your great city, and I long to go there, to share its life and (*Mysteriously*) its death. I want you to arrange my journey to England, Mr. Harker. I shall require your services for at least a month.

**HARKER** (*Startled*): A month! (*He cuts himself on knife; in pain*) Ah!

**DRACULA:** What is it?

**HARKER:** I've cut my finger.

**DRACULA** (*Rushing to HARKER; fiercely*): Your finger bleeds!

**HARKER** (*Drawing back, alarmed*): It's only a scratch. (*Pulls out handkerchief, wraps it around his finger*)

**DRACULA** (*Slowly turning away, breathing hard*): Take care, Mr. Harker. A cut. . . can be very dangerous.

**HARKER:** Yes, it was clumsy of me. (*Uncomfortably*) I had planned to stay only a day or two, Count.

**DRACULA** (*Icily*): You will stay as long as I need you! (*Fiercely gazes at HARKER, then turns and sits*)

**HARKER** (*Uneasily*): Very well. I will write to my wife and tell her my visit will be longer than I expected.

**DRACULA:** Good. (*Calmly*) Now, tell me about the house you have purchased for me.

**HARKER** (*Clearing his throat*): Yes, of course. It is called Carfax, and dates back to medieval times.

**DRACULA:** That will suit me perfectly. I am of an ancient family. (*Harshly*) The blood of Attila the Hun flows in my veins! (*Quietly*) Shall I have any close neighbors at Carfax?

**HARKER:** Only Dr. John Seward, a respectable gentleman who operates a private hospital for the insane.

**DRACULA:** Very well. (*Sound of howling*) Ah! An hour until dawn. (*Rises*) I must leave you now. Sleep well, Mr. Harker. (*Smiles, baring his teeth*) And dream well! (*Bows and sweeps out*)

**HARKER:** What a strange man! (*Sound of howling*) I'm beginning to wish I hadn't come! (*Goes to luggage*) I must write all this down in my journal, but first a letter to Mina. (*Takes paper*)

from bag) It's so dim in here. I'd better ask the Count for a candle. (*Crosses to door, tries to open it, finds it locked*) Locked! (*Pounds on door*) Count Dracula! (*No answer*) Count Dracula! (*No answer; he turns away.*) Why would he lock me in? Am I his guest or his prisoner? (*Sound of howling; he crosses to window.*) This window must be a hundred feet above ground! How brightly the moon shines. (*Leans out window*) What's that? Something moving below me! (*Leans out window; astonished*) I can't believe my eyes! Count Dracula, crawling down the castle wall—head first—with his cloak spread out behind him like the wings of a bat! (*Turns into room, overcomes with fear*) What is this creature in the form of a man? (*Stumbles to couch*) What's happening to me? (*Wipes brow*) There's a mist before me. . . something cloudy. . . I can't move! (*With effort*) I. . . I feel sleepy, but I can't close my eyes. (*Lies motionless as THREE VAMPIRES in white gowns enter right*)

**1ST VAMPIRE** (*Urgently, to 3RD*): Go on. You are first tonight.

**2ND VAMPIRE**: Yes, go on. The master has brought him here for us.

**3RD VAMPIRE**: But the master said we must not touch him!

**1ST VAMPIRE**: We are hungry! This man's blood is warm and waiting. Go on! (*3RD VAMPIRE bends over HARKER, baring her teeth. 1ST and 2ND VAMPIRES hover expectantly. Sudden-ly, DRACULA swoops in from window, furious. He flings 3RD VAMPIRE aside and angrily gestures the other two away.*)

**DRACULA**: How dare you touch him when I have forbidden it! This man belongs to me! When I have finished with him, then you may have him. Now, go and seek your prey in the village! (*Laughing harshly, VAMPIRES*

*exit right. DRACULA looks triumphantly at HARKER.*) You will remain here for as long as I command! (*DRACULA crosses to window, spreads cape and swoops out. Lights slowly fade up as HARKER stirs and awakens.*)

**HARKER**: What horrid dream was this? Or was it a dream? (*Sits up*) Those creatures meant to suck my blood! (*Rushes to door, frantically shakes handle*) Still locked! (*Stumbles back to couch*) What is happening? I must get out of this place! (*Blackout. After a moment, lights come up on tired-looking HARKER, who is at table, writing.*) Today marks my fourth week here, and I have not left this room. I fear I shall never leave it! Count Dracula has always been very secretive, and he has destroyed every personal letter I have tried to send. His fierce, hypnotic eyes terrify me, and his hand, whenever it happens to brush against mine, is cold as death! Every night in his terrible presence I become more weak, helpless, unable to control my own will! Every night—(*He looks up, struck with sudden thought.*) Every night! Why have I never seen him by day? He and those hideous, laughing women always vanish at dawn! (*Rises, putting notebook into pocket*) Tomorrow the Count leaves for England—he has also arranged to ship fifty large boxes—but he has said nothing about my departure. He must plan to leave me behind—a helpless prisoner. Those women. . . they must be waiting for my blood! (*Rushes to window*) I must get out of this room! If Dracula can find footholds along these walls, so can I! If what I suspect is true, I must find him before the sun sets! (*Climbs out window. Curtain*)

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## SCENE 2

**SETTING**: A burial vault in castle. Two coffins with closed lids are center.

**AT RISE**: *HARKER enters left, carrying a candle.*

**HARKER:** This underground crypt terrifies me. (*Sees coffins*) What's this? (*Looks closer*) A shipping label directed to Carfax? Why would Count Dracula send coffins to England? (*Cautiously, he lifts lid of one box*) Dirt? A coffin full of dirt? (*Lifts lid of second coffin, then recoils in horror*) Count Dracula! Dead? (*Looks closer*) No, he can't be! His eyes are open. . .yet they are glassy. His lips are red. . .blood-red! (*Holds his hand before DRACULA's face*) No breath! (*Eagerly*) He is dead! (*Leans closer, then freezes in horror*) No! His eyes. . .his terrible red eyes. No! (*With a great effort he turns away, slams lid closed and staggers backward onto other coffin.*) Count Dracula is a vampire! (*Suddenly realizing*) Tomorrow when those boxes are shipped to England, he will lie in one of them! Of course! It is the only way he can travel such a great distance without rays of sun. (*Jumps up*) I can't let him go to England. (*Looks around wildly, picks up loose board*) I must stop him! (*Flings up coffin lid and raises board to strike, but cries out and his arms stop in midair*) No! His eyes—I cannot look at him! (*Tries to lower board, but cannot*) I must break his spell! (*Suddenly*) I know—the cross. (*With tremendous effort, he moves one of his arms so it forms a cross with board. Sound of hissing is heard from inside coffin. HARKER falls backward.*) Yes! The cross repels vampires. The spell he held me in has been broken. (*Desperately*) I must get to England before he does! (*Keeping cross before him, he backs off left. Blackout*)

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### SCENE 3

**TIME:** Evening, six weeks later.

**SETTING:** Dr. Seward's Hospital, outside London. Writing desk is at right.

**AT RISE:** Lights come up on MINA HARKER, writing at desk.

**MINA:** August 19th. At last, after

almost three months without a word, I have a letter from my beloved Jonathan, in a hospital in Budapest. He has been dangerously ill, the result of some terrible shock. But he is nearly well and will soon be home. If only I could be equally happy for my poor friend Lucy! Her strange illness is much worse, and Dr. John Seward has brought her here to his private hospital. It is quiet except for one patient who escapes from his room every day. (*MINA looks up as RENFIELD, barefoot and wearing pajamas, dashes in.*)

**RENFIELD** (*Calling over shoulder*): You can't catch me, Karnes! I can run faster than you! (*He stumbles and falls beside desk.*)

**MINA:** Oh! (*Goes to him*) Have you hurt yourself? Let me help you. (*Helps him to his feet*)

**RENFIELD:** I'm all right. (*Anxiously*) Please, don't tell Karnes where I am.

**KARNES** (*Off left, closer*): Renfield!

**RENFIELD:** Please don't let him lock me up again. It's so lonely. (*Huddles behind MINA as KARNES enters, followed by DR. JOHN SEWARD.*)

**KARNES:** Here he is, Dr. Seward.

**MINA:** Must you take him away?

**KARNES:** Yes, ma'am. He's under treatment, you see, and shouldn't be out of his room. Come along, Renfield. (*Leads RENFIELD off right*)

**MINA:** The poor man.

**SEWARD:** He is a rather sad case. Has delusions, sees things no one else can see.

**MINA:** I hope you can help him.

**SEWARD:** I'm sure we can, Mrs.

Harker. . . I understand your husband will arrive in a few days.

**MINA** (*Smiling*): Yes. I'm so eager to see him. He's had a very hard time.

**SEWARD**: I'm sure you will be the right cure for him—just as your being here is helping your friend.

**MINA** (*Concerned*): How is Lucy this evening, Dr. Seward?

**SEWARD**: No better, I'm afraid. But I've called in Professor Van Helsing, the best rare-disease specialist in Europe. He's examining Lucy now. If anyone can help her, he can.

**PROF. VAN HELSING** (*Entering left*): Ah, here you are, John!

**SEWARD**: Professor! Let me introduce Lucy's dearest friend, Mina Harker.

**VAN HELSING** (*Bowing*): Mrs. Harker.

**MINA**: Professor Van Helsing. Thank you for coming.

**SEWARD**: What is your opinion of Miss Lucy, Professor?

**VAN HELSING**: She has lost much blood, yet shows no signs of anemia. She complains of difficulty in breathing, heavy sleep, and dreams that frighten her. But the most serious symptom, and one she cannot explain, are the two small punctures in her throat!

**SEWARD**: Do you know what is wrong with her?

**VAN HELSING**: I have a suspicion, but I pray I am mistaken. Nevertheless, I must take precautions. Go back to her, John. She must not be left alone. Mrs. Harker, will you come with me to find the gardener?

**MINA**: Very well. (*Exits right with VAN HELSING*)

**SEWARD** (*Shaking his head*): Now, why does he want to see the gardener? (*Exits left; blackout; curtain*)

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#### SCENE 4

**TIME**: A few minutes later.

**SETTING**: *Lucy's hospital room, with bed near window at left, small table and two chairs before fireplace at center. Mina's desk remains down right. There is a tray with coffeepot, cups on table; curtains at window.*

**AT RISE**: *LUCY WESTENRA lies in bed. SEWARD is drawing curtains.*

**SEWARD**: Try to sleep now, Lucy.

**LUCY**: But I am afraid to sleep, Dr. Seward. Every night, I have the same horrible dream! I see two burning red eyes and a vicious face bending over me. It doesn't remain long, but it terrifies me! Afterwards, I awaken feeling so weak. . .so ill.

**SEWARD** (*In reassuring tone*): You may sleep tonight without fear. I'll keep watch, and if I see any evidence of bad dreams, I'll wake you at once.

**LUCY**: I want to sleep so much—peaceful, restful sleep. (*Gratefully*) Thank you, Dr. Seward. (*VAN HELSING and MINA enter with box of flowers.*)

**SEWARD**: Well, Professor, what do you have there?

**VAN HELSING**: A cure, I hope!

**MINA**: It's the strangest medicine I've ever seen. Garlic flowers!

**VAN HELSING**: We must hang them around the window, door, and fireplace. (*He and MINA hang flowers.*) Ah, I see you turn up your nose, Miss

Lucy, but these flowers are strong medicine.

**LUCY** (*Smiling*): Very strong! I believe you are playing a joke to cheer me up, Professor.

**VAN HELSING**: It is not a joke! There is a purpose in all I do. You must also wear a wreath of these around your neck. (*Puts flowers around LUCY's neck*)

**SEWARD**: If I didn't know better, I'd say you were trying to keep out an evil spirit.

**VAN HELSING** (*Quietly*): Perhaps I am. Now, Miss Lucy, you must sleep. And take care not to disturb these flowers, no matter how disagreeable they may be.

**LUCY**: I won't, Professor. Thank you.

**VAN HELSING**: Good night. (*Exits*)

**MINA**: Good night, Lucy. Sleep well. (*Arranges covers over LUCY, kisses her on forehead, then exits. SEWARD pours cup of coffee. Sound of howling is heard off left. LUCY stirs restlessly.*)

**SEWARD** (*Startled*): What on earth is that? There are no wolves around here. Must be some stray dogs. (Sounds of fluttering and banging outside window) Now, what? (*Crosses to window, pulls curtains aside*) Why, it's the biggest bat I've ever seen! (*Waves arm*) Get away! Go on! Confounded creature! There, gone. (*Closes curtains, looks at LUCY, who lies quietly*) Good. She's asleep. (*RENFIELD bursts in.*)

**RENFIELD**: Dr. Seward!

**SEWARD** (*Crossing to him; gently*): Now, Renfield, you know you mustn't be out of your room. I'll take you back.

**RENFIELD**: No! I don't want to go back.

(*Playfully*) I'll run and you can chase me. (*Runs out*)

**SEWARD**: No! Wait! Renfield! (*Runs out after him; howling sound again, then fluttering and banging sounds at window. LUCY tosses fitfully. RENFIELD reenters, laughing, looking over his shoulder.*)

**RENFIELD**: I tricked you, Dr. Seward. You won't find me for a long time. (*Sound of thunder; he turns abruptly to window, transfixed; in awed tone*) Yes, master, I obey your command. (*Crosses to window, opens curtains and removes garlic flowers*) I'll take the flowers away. I know you don't like them. (*Gently slips flowers from around LUCY's neck, then turns to window*) It is done, master. Now reward me as you promised! (*Sound of thunder. Lightning is seen and DRACULA leaps into room at window. Frightened, RENFIELD backs toward door.*)

**DRACULA**: I will reward you, Renfield, but I have more important matters to attend to now.

**RENFIELD**: Yes, master. I will wait. But don't forget me! Don't forget Renfield! (*Runs out, closing door. DRACULA turns toward LUCY, who suddenly wakes, sits up, and stares, terrified.*)

**DRACULA**: My nocturnal visits to you are almost over. Soon you shall be entirely mine. . .you shall be as I am! (*Moves her*) Do not resist! It is useless. No one can resist Dracula! (*Raises cape; there is a flash of lightning, then thunder. Blackout for a moment to indicate passage of time. When lights come up, it is the next morning. LUCY is in bed. SEWARD sleeps in chair. VAN HELSING enters with MINA.*)

**MINA** (*Worried*): I hope Lucy is all right. (*Crosses to bed*)

**VAN HELSING**: Poor John. He looks

exhausted. (*Shakes SEWARD*) John, wake up!

**SEWARD** (*Waking*): What? Oh. . . I must have nodded off. How is Miss Lucy?

**MINA** (*Screaming*): Professor!

**VAN HELSING**: What is it? (*Rushes to bed*) She has lost more blood! A great deal of blood!

**MINA**: The garlic flowers are gone!

**SEWARD**: But that's impossible! She slept soundly all night.

**VAN HELSING**: Are you sure? Were you here every minute?

**SEWARD**: Yes! I went to sleep only after the sun came up. (*After a pause*) Wait. I was gone a little while when I went after Renfield.

**VAN HELSING**: Renfield?

**SEWARD**: Yes. He escaped from his room again last night. But I wasn't gone more than ten minutes.

**VAN HELSING**: Ah! That was long enough! (*Takes LUCY's pulse*)

**MINA** (*Frightened*): Professor, I've never seen her so pale.

**VAN HELSING**: Her heartbeat is very weak. She must have a transfusion. (*Brings bag of instruments to bed and rolls up one of his sleeves. LUCY gasps for breath.*) The two punctures in her throat are fresher, tinged with blood. (*Raises LUCY's head. She gasps, looking wildly around.*)

**MINA**: Professor, what's happening to her? (*LUCY suddenly bares her teeth, growls, lunges at SEWARD. VAN HELSING holds her back.*)

**VAN HELSING**: Stay back, John! Don't

let her touch you! This will pass in a moment. (*LUCY struggles frantically, then suddenly falls back, limp.*)

**MINA**: Lucy!

**LUCY** (*Weakly*): Mina, pray for me. Professor, I think you know what has happened to me. Give me peace, if you can.

**VAN HELSING**: I will, Miss Lucy. I swear it! (*LUCY smiles, closes her eyes and turns her head away.*)

**MINA**: Lucy! (*Kneels beside bed, sobbing*) Oh, Lucy!

**VAN HELSING**: She's dead, but her suffering is just beginning. I will do whatever I must to make sure no one else suffers as she has! (*Blackout. Curtain. After a moment, lights come up on MINA, writing at desk down right.*)

**MINA**: A week ago my poor Lucy was buried in the Hampstead Hill churchyard. How I miss my dearest friend! Professor Van Helsing is determined to find the cause of her death. Thank heaven Jonathan is here now, although it breaks my heart to see him so pale and worn, so nervous and agitated. Last night he gave me his journal to read. What a terrible ordeal he experienced! I thank heaven for his escape from Castle Dracula, and tremble when I think that he has sworn to find that monster here.

**HARKER** (*Running in with newspaper; anxiously*): Mina! I saw him!

**MINA** (*Frightened*): Do you mean—

**HARKER**: Dracula! Yes! He has arrived at Carfax. And look at this in today's paper! (*Hands her newspaper*)

**MINA** (*Reading*): A Hampstead Mystery. During the past week in the neighborhood of Hampstead, several young children have strayed from

home. They often remain lost overnight, then are found the next morning, all wounded in the throat, as if attacked by an animal. The children tell of being led away by a beautiful lady in a long white dress. (*Looks up*) What does this mean?

**HARKER:** I believe Professor Van Helsing can explain it. He must read my journal. Come! (*Leads her off right. Blackout. Curtains open, lights up on hospital room.* **VAN HELSING, SEWARD, HARKER, and MINA** are gathered around table; journal and newspaper are on table.)

**VAN HELSING:** Jonathan, you were fortunate to escape with only a temporary breakdown of your sanity.

**SEWARD** (*Shaking his head*): This is incredible! Count Dracula—a vampire—at Carfax! (*To VAN HELSING*) How can we be rid of this monster?

**VAN HELSING:** First, we must free Miss Lucy from his bondage.

**MINA:** But Lucy is dead!

**VAN HELSING** (*Pointing to paper; soberly*): Not really. She is the beautiful lady of the Hampstead Mystery.

**HARKER:** She has become like the vampires I saw at Castle Dracula.

**SEWARD:** But, how?

**VAN HELSING:** When the vampire sucked her blood and she appeared to die, he made her like himself—undead.

**MINA:** What do you mean—undead?

**VAN HELSING:** Vampires are cursed with immortality. By night they feast on blood of the living, and so add new victims to their kind. Lucy has begun her undead existence on Hampstead Hill.

**MINA** (*Covering her face*): Oh, how horrible!

**SEWARD:** Professor, what can we do?

**VAN HELSING:** To free her from Dracula's power and give her eternal rest, we must seal her tomb after she leaves it at night. Then we will wait for her to return. She will not be able to enter, and if we keep her within a circle of crosses until sunrise, she will find her final peace.

**MINA:** Heaven help her!

**VAN HELSING:** We shall do it tonight. Then, we must track Count Dracula and destroy him! Jonathan, can you remember all the places he sent his coffins filled with his native soil?

**HARKER:** Yes. Carfax, Whitby, and Exeter. But there are fifty coffins!

**VAN HELSING:** We must locate each one and purify it with the cross so he cannot use it. Then we will arm ourselves with the things that repel him—garlic and the cross—and when he seeks us out, as he most definitely will, we shall trap him! Come, we have much to do, and little time to accomplish it! (*Blackout. Curtain. A moment later, lights come up on MINA seated at her desk, writing. She wears a large cross on chain around her neck.*)

**MINA:** The task is done. At last, my dear Lucy's spirit is at peace. (*Sound of howling; she looks up a moment, then continues writing.*) Professor Van Helsing and Jonathan have found all but one of Count Dracula's coffins. Now we wait for this monster to seek his revenge upon us. Dr. Seward believes that Renfield was the means of Dracula's entrance here, for the vampire can enter only when invited by someone inside the house.

**RENFIELD** (*Rushing into room, very agi-*



tated): Mrs. Harker! Mrs. Harker!

**MINA** (*Jumping up*): Renfield!

**RENFIELD**: My master wants me to come to him, but I don't want to! You are my friend. (*Loud sound of howling; he turns to window, clutching throat as if being strangled.*) No! No, master! (*Turns to MINA; anxiously*) I must warn you! (*KARNES, SEWARD, HARKER, and VAN HELSING enter. All except KARNES wear crosses on chains around their necks.*)

**KARNES**: There he is!

**SEWARD**: Take him back to his room, Karnes, and stay with him.

**RENFIELD**: No! Wait! (*Dodges around desk*) Mrs. Harker, you must leave at once! (*Sound of howling again; RENFIELD falls to his knees, clutching throat, facing window.*) No, master! Leave me alone!

**KARNES** (*Puzzled*): What's the matter with him?

**MINA** (*Gently*): Renfield, why do you want me to leave?

**RENFIELD** (*Urgently*): My master said he was coming for you. (*He winces and clutches throat, struggling to speak.*) He said I must let him in, just as I did before. (*He pulls hands from throat; angrily.*) But he promised to reward me, and he hasn't kept his promise! I'm very angry with him! Please go, while there is still time! (*Runs out*)

**KARNES**: I'll get him, Dr. Seward! (*Runs out*)

**HARKER** (*Excitedly*): There's no doubt that Dracula has power over Renfield, but he can't overpower us! Each of us is wearing a cross. I've made sure there is garlic at every window, door, and fireplace in the hospital. And even if

Dracula should find a way in, the four of us can hold him here until dawn. (*Checks watch*) It is less than an hour until sunrise.

**SEWARD**: What if we fail?

**HARKER**: We mustn't fail!

**KARNES** (*Running in; breathlessly*): Dr. Seward, Renfield's escaped onto the grounds. I'll need some help to catch him.

**VAN HELSING**: We mustn't lose sight of him. Come on! (*Runs out, followed by KARNES, SEWARD*)

**HARKER**: Mina, you stay here. The room is sealed.

**MINA**: I'll be all right. Be careful, Jonathan! (*HARKER exits; MINA closes door. Sound of howling off left; MINA folds arms tightly.*)

**RENFIELD** (*Off left*): Help! Somebody help me! He's following me! I can't get away from him!

**MINA**: Renfield!

**RENFIELD** (*Wildly; off left*): Help! Please, help me!

**MINA**: Poor Renfield! (*Runs to window, pulls curtains aside, looks out*) I can't see him. What's that? Something in the air. . . a bat, flying right toward the window! (*She backs away.*) No. . . no! (*She reaches for her cross, but her hands stop in midair; she stops, staring fixedly out window.*) The eyes. . . the burning red eyes. . . no! (*She backs away a step, then stops, transfixed; sound of thunder*) Yes. . . I will do as you command. (*Slowly, she takes cross from neck and drops it on floor. Then she removes garlic flowers from window, opens pane.*) It is done. Come in. (*She backs slowly to center as DRACULA sweeps in through window.*)

**DRACULA:** You have a strong will, but I am stronger! You seek to destroy me, but you will submit to my power! You will become mine forever! (*Raises cape and moves toward her. MINA remains transfixed*)

**RENFIELD** (*Bursting through door*): No, master! Do not touch her!

**DRACULA:** Fool! You betrayed me! (*Moves toward RENFIELD*)

**RENFIELD:** No! I'm not your slave anymore! (*Leaps at DRACULA; DRACULA seizes him by the throat. RENFIELD struggles for a moment, then collapses and falls lifeless to the floor.*)

**DRACULA** (*Turning to MINA*): Now, I must drink. . .and fly to my resting place. I haven't much time! (*Raises his cape and moves toward MINA. SEWARD, HARKER, and VAN HELSING rush in, each holding cross out in front of him.*)

**HARKER:** Mina! Mina! (*DRACULA whirls around, enraged. MINA, startled out of her trance, screams and recoils, but DRACULA seizes her.*)

**VAN HELSING:** Surround him with your crosses!

**DRACULA** (*Backing away*): Foolish mortals! You dare try to destroy me? Just as I have conquered my enemies for hundreds of years, I shall conquer you! This woman shall become as I am, and then each of you in turn shall become her victims!

**HARKER** (*Desperately*): You'll never have her, you devil! (*Leaps at DRACULA, dropping his cross*)

**MINA:** Jonathan, no! (*DRACULA releases MINA, seizes HARKER by throat. VAN HELSING thrusts his cross into DRACULA's face. DRACU-*

*LA recoils, hissing, releasing HARKER. MINA pulls HARKER away.*)

**VAN HELSING:** Remember our plan. Surround him! (*VAN HELSING guards door, SEWARD, fireplace, HARKER and MINA, window.*)

**DRACULA** (*Hissing*): You're clever, Van Helsing, but you cannot win! (*Hurls himself at window, but HARKER springs forward with cross; DRACULA yells, cringes.*)

**HARKER:** We must hold him off a little longer! It is almost sunrise! (*DRACULA rushes at door.*)

**MINA:** Watch out, Professor! (*VAN HELSING holds out cross and DRACULA turns back.*)

**VAN HELSING:** You cannot escape, monster! (*Sound of cock crowing is heard off left. DRACULA, frantic, hurls himself at window. Rays of sunlight shine in, and he falls back with a cry of rage.*)

**HARKER:** Move in! Keep him in the sunlight! (*VAN HELSING and SEWARD move behind DRACULA.*)

**DRACULA:** My curse upon you, Jonathan Harker! My curse upon all of you! (*Trapped between brightening sunlight and circle of crosses, he cringes and cowers, hissing and snarling. He is forced to edge of window; he turns, blinded, falls through window with strangled cry. All rush to look out.*)

**MINA:** Now his tormented soul may find peace at last!

**HARKER** (*Holding MINA*): This horror is ended, Mina. We are free of Dracula forever! (*Curtain*)

**THE END**

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## PRODUCTION NOTES

### Dracula

**CHARACTERS:** 6 male; 5 female.

**PLAYING TIME:** 35 minutes.

**COSTUMES:** British dress of the turn of the century. Seward, white doctor's coat. Dracula, black suit, long black cape, pale make-up, fangs. Lucy, nightgown. Renfield, pajamas. Karnes, white uniform. Vampires, long, white gowns, pale make-up, blood-red lips.

**PROPERTIES:** Luggage; handkerchief; notebook and pencil; candle; paper; pen and inkwell; coffeepot and cups on tray; box of "garlic flowers" on string; wreath of "garlic flowers"; doctor's bag; newspaper; five crosses on chains; pocket watch.

**SETTING:** Scene 1: a gloomy room in Castle Dracula. At left is a window, low to floor. It must be large enough to allow easy passage by Dracula. Door is at right. Stone fireplace, center. Large table and heavy wooden armchairs are center, and couch is right. Table is set with "gold" plates, bowls of food, gob-

lets, wine bottle. Walls are hung with tapestries and lighted torches. Scene 2: before curtain. Bare stage with two coffins, center, and board on floor nearby. Scene 3, before curtain, desk and chair are at right. Scene 4, hospital room. The fireplace set in Scene 1 may be used here, with different coverings and decoration on furnishings. Add curtains at windows, paintings on walls. Bed is at left, near window. Small table and chairs are center. Desk remains down right.

**LIGHTING:** Flickering light from torches; dim lighting for entrance of Vampires; subdued light in burial vault; bright light in Lucy's room; lightning flashes; spotlight with yellow gel for sunlight in Scene 4; blackouts.

**SOUND:** Door creaking and slamming; howling of wolves; thunder; fluttering and banging at window.