"I, Abraham Van Helsing, Doctor of Sciences, University of Amsterdam, here continue the untold tale of Dracula, he who was a Warrior Prince in his lifetime, and who lived on beyond the grave, feeding for centuries on the blood of his innocent victims...and of his desire to gain, once more, the love that was torn from him with the death of his beloved Elisabeta.

The story is told in the documented journals and diaries, letters and memos, of Mr. Jonathan Harker, recently of London...of Dr. Jack Seward, my former student and now my colleague...of our precious Miss Lucy Westenra...and the personal diary of Wilhelmina Murray.

"Little did Jonathan Harker suspect, when he left the side of his fiancée...our dear Mina...that the foreign nobleman to whose castle he journeyed on business was no human being at all, but the vampire lord of a ravaged land.

"While Dracula himself made ready to depart for England, there to expand his Empire of Blood, Harker was forced to send letters to Mina and his employer, telling them that he was remaining as the Count's guest for a time...but in truth, he had become the midnight plaything of three female vampires who served his undead host...."
JONATHAN HARKER’S JOURNAL 15 JUNE

These may be the last words I write in this journal. The letters I wrote to loved ones have sealed my doom. Dracula has condemned me to this castle with those women.

No... Mina is a woman. These are devils of the pit!
I have not yet seen the Count in daylight. Can it be that he sleeps when others wake?

If I could but find him... I will kill him, and find a way out of this dreadful place.

Goodbye, Mina, if I fail...

Goodbye, all...
The count's Gypsies—fearless warriors who are loyal to the death to the nobleman they serve.

The count had me give instructions for fifty boxes of "experimental earth" to be loaded aboard the ship Demeter—to be delivered to his newly acquired Carfax Abbey in London.

Day and night the Gypsies, toil, filling boxes with decrepit earth from the bowels of the castle. I fear that this evil cargo is part of a scheme.
-- and that I am the Devil's accomplice.

DRACULA...

SPANG
I have only received a few hurried lines from my beloved Jonathan in weeks. I am uneasy about him... ...and about Lucy. She has taken lately to her old habit of walking in her sleep, as she did when we were children.

I love him, and I've said "yes"!

Oh, Lucy—finally! Don't tell me—"it's the Texan with the big knife?"

No— to my dear "Number Three"—Lord Arthur Hollywood, Seventh Earl of Godalming, and you are to be my maid of honor!

I'm honored... but I thought you loved that Texas creature.

Oh, I do— and I shall continue to love him— whenever and wherever he wants me to!

And Dr. Seward, too—brilliant Dr. Seward, my "number two"!

Lucy, you can't marry all three! Why not? Why can't a girl marry as many men as want her?

Mina, this is the most exciting day of my life—and you don't seem to care!

It's just that—I'm terribly worried about Jonathan. His letter is so unnatural— so cold. Not like him—
IT'S RAINING!
--AT ALL.
RRMMMA BBB!

OH, MINA--LOOK AT US! WHAT IF ARTHUR AND JONATHAN SHOULD SEE US LIKE THIS?

WRAK-oom!

Captain's Log --
The Demeter...
21 June 1847.
We picked up fifty tons of experimental earth bound for London, England. Set sail at moon into a storm that seemed to come out of nowhere, carrying us out to sea.

9 July. Second mate has gone missing. Nearing Gibraltar. Storm continues.

Crew uneasy. Believe someone or something is aboard the ship with us.
GATHER 'ROUND, MY LITTLE FLIES.

THE MASTER IS AT HAND...

...THE MASTER OF ALL LIFE!

YES! ONE THOUSAND FORTY-TWO -- ONE THOUSAND FORTY-THREE...

"THE CASE OF RENFIELD GROWS EVER MORE INTERESTING..."
...yet there is method in his madness with his flies and spiders.

Had I the secret of even one such brilliant mind — the key to the fancy of one lunatic —

Since my rebuff by Lucy Westenra, nothing seems of sufficient importance.

Work is my cure.

If only I had a strong cause.

Like my poor... mad friend... Renfield...

I am here to do your bidding, master!

I have worshipped you long and from far off. Now that you are near, I am your slave!

I await your commands!

thra-koom
LUCY...

IS THAT YOU...?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
LUCY!
LUCYYYY!

ARAAAAARRRRRRAAAA

NO...

DO NOT SEE ME--!

KRAKOOOOOMM
HIS EYES...

...EYES...

IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU WERE DREAMING... WALKING IN YOUR SLEEP AGAIN.

PLEASE... DON'T TELL ANYONE... PLEASE...

...LET'S GET YOU HOME...
The power of these things -- these insatiable creatures -- is greatest at night.

But make no mistake about it -- they can move about in the daylight.

Although they weaken --

--as do most evil things--

DON'T LEAVE USSSS!
YOU WANT USSSS!

--they are still a dangerous foe...

...though what they can do to me is as nothing, compared to the carnage Dracula may wreak if he reaches London.

READ IT HERE! SODDENEST AND GREATEST STORM ON RECORD STRIKES ENGLAND...
Dock Worker killed by unknown animal off Russian schooner “Demeter”.

Escaped wolf from zoo still at large!

Paper, guy? Read all about the storm?

Yes...

Pall Mall Gazette

Wolf escapes from London Zoological Gardens

“Berserker” delivered from Siberia five

Worst storm of the century hits London and coastal regions

The Strange Case of the schooner “Demeter” from

Forgive my ignorance. I am recently arrived from abroad, and do not know your city.

Is a beautiful lady permitted to give a “lost soul” directions?

For “lost souls,” I would suggest Westminster Church. You may purchase a street atlas for sixpence.
I have offended you. I am only looking for the cinematograph.

I understand it is a wonder of the civilized world.

Now, if you will excuse me...

If you seek culture, visit a museum. London is filled with them.

A woman so lovely and intelligent should not be walking the streets of London without her gentleman... who is perhaps "away on business"?

I will most certainly not be escorted by any gentleman who has not been properly introduced. Such impertinence. How refreshing.

A quality that could cost you your life in my homeland.

Do I know you, sir? Are you acquainted with my husband?

Shall I call the police?

Forgive my manner of rudeness. I am but a stranger in a strange land.

I shall bother you no more.

Then I should hope never to visit there!
SIR... IT IS I WHO HAVE BEEN RUDE. I--
PLEASE... PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.
I AM PRINCE VLAD DRACULA OF SZEKLYS. THUS SERVE PROPER INTRODUCTION?

A PRINCE, NO LESS, AM I TO BE IMPRESSED WHEN LONDON IS OVERRUN WITH PRINCES AND DUKES AND SHEIKS AND COUNTS?

A MEANINGLESS TITLE.
YOUR SERVANT...

I AM WILHELMINA MURRAY.

IT IS I WHO AM HONORED, MADAM MINA.
Help me--Jack--please--I don't know what's happening to me. I'm changing--I can feel it.

I hear everything--servants whispering at the other end of the house--mice in the attic stamping like elephants--

Help me--!

Horrible nightmares--eyes--

I see things in the dark, as plain as day--

And I'm starving--but I cannot bear the sight of food.

Help me--!

I'm here, Lucy. Nothing will harm you...
Hello, Jack--and how's my lovely fiancee today?

Well... frankly, Arthur... I'm confounded.

Awww-- brooding over Lucy again, Jack?

She has difficulty breathing... but no infection is present. She complains of nightmares that terrify her, but I cannot remember them.

I can only conclude it must be something mental.

Hear that, Quincey? Last week, Jack wanted to marry her--

-- this week he wants to commit her to his asylum!

Hahahahahahahahaha!

I am at a loss, I admit.

I have taken the liberty of cabling my mentor, Abraham Van Helsing, the metaphysician-philosopher.

Van Helsing knows more about obscure diseases than any man in the world.
HE SOUNDS LIKE A GODDAMN WITCH DOCTOR TO ME.

DO IT, SEWARD! BRING HIM HERE!
SPARE NO EXPENSE!

GGRRRRRRRRRRRRR
IT'S THAT WOLF THAT ESCAPED FROM THE ZOO!

GET HIM--BEFORE HE KILLS SOMEBODY!

I'LL GET YOU BACK, YOU--

STOP HIM!

OOF!

ASTOUNDING...

THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO SCIENCE!
HOW CAN YOU CALL THIS “SCIENCE”? DO YOU THINK MADAME CURIE WOULD INVITE SUCH COMPARISON WITH DANCING GIRLS? REALLY!

HA HA HA!

I--I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE. I MUST GO...

PLEASE...

... DO NOT FEAR ME.

YOU ARE THE LOVE OF MY LIFE!

'AY!', WHAT' SAT?

LOOKS LIKE A BLOOMIN' DOG!

AW, IT'S JUST PART OF THE SHADOW SHOW!

MY GOD--WH-WHO ARE YOU?

--ALIVE AGAIN!

YES! YOU ARE SHE--THE ONE I LOST--
NO!

STREGO!

COME HERE, MINA...

WHINNNNE

HAVE NO FEAR...
THANK YOU, PRINCE, FOR A MOST UNUSUAL EVENING.
HOWEVER, I AM NOT ACCUSTOMED TO SUCH... ADVENTURES.

FOR ME, THE DAY IS JUST BEGINNING.
JOIN ME, MADAM, MINA...

PLEASE, I AM NOT "MADAM."
I AM ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED. MY FIANCE IS AWAY ON BUSINESS.

I MUST NOT SEE YOU EVER AGAIN.
WITNESS THE STRUGGLE.

THE GREAT MYSTERY OF LIFE AND DEATH CONTINUES.

BUT, DR. VAN HELSING—YOU HAVE YET TO EXPLAIN YOUR THEORY.

AH, IT IS THE FAULT OF SCIENCE THAT WANTS TO EXPLAIN IT ALL.

BUT WHEN SCIENCE CANNOT, SCIENCE SIMPLY SAYS THERE IS NOTHING TO EXPLAIN.

THE KEY TO ALL LIFE AND DEATH LIES HERE... PASSION... BLOOD.

BLOOD IS LIFE... AND GIVES LIFE.

THE TROPICAL PAMPA VAMPIRE BAT MUST CONSUME TEN TIMES ITS WEIGHT IN FRESH BLOOD EACH DAY, OR ITS OWN BLOOD CELLS WILL DIE.

YET—IS FRESH BLOOD ENOUGH TO PROLONG LIFE? THE KEY TO IMMORTALITY—

DR. VAN HELSING—

--A TELEGRAM FOR YOU.

CUTE LITTLE VERMIN.
Professor Van Helsing -- how good of you to come!

I always come to my friends in need when they call.

Jack -- tell me everything about your case.

She has all the usual physical anemic signs.

Her blood analyzes normal -- and yet it is not.

She manifests continued blood loss -- I cannot trace the cause....

Lucy...!
Nooooooooooo

There is no time to be lost...!
PART TWO

The Players

Director Francis Ford Coppola insisted on a young cast for BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA. The notable exception was to be Anthony Hopkins as Prof. Van Helsing, a decidedly offbeat "father figure" who guides the novice vampire hunters (and victims) through their paces.

"Mina is barely twenty years old in Stoker's novel, and Lucy is almost twenty," explains Hart. "Dracula himself was a young prince when he renounced Christ and became a vampire. Harker is in his early twenties and Lucy's suitors are all in the same age bracket. For once, you're not seeing thirty year-old actors and thirty year-old actresses in these roles."

Adds Coppola: "In terms of personalities and functions, all of the characters in our movie are like the characters in the book, including many characters that are usually cut out (of other film adaptations)."

Top: Prof. Van Helsing and his intrepid band of vampire slayers prepare for an epic confrontation. Right: Gary Oldman's Dracula is a tormented, enigmatic creature of the night.

BY GARY GERANI
Coppola, who, as a camp counselor some years back used to read “Dracula” to his kids, embraced his young players and brought them all to his home in Napa County, California. There they loosened up socially, played theater games, read the novel (a formidable task) and, of course, rehearsed endlessly. When filming began, the ensemble was ready.

**GARY OLDMAN as DRACULA.** From warrior prince to Byronic lover to various unearthy incarnations, Oldman embodies sensual evil and was the director’s first choice for the coveted lead role. Although, in pre-production, screenwriter Hart wasn’t sold on the young British actor, his opinion soon changed: “I think Gary’s having the most fun he’s ever had in his entire life. As dark as the character is, he’s brought a compassion and tenderness to it that people haven’t seen in Dracula before.”

“I tried to play him like Raphael, a fallen angel,” observes Oldman. “Of course, it’s a delicious cocktail because he’s very much like the Devil. Vampires are fascinating people. And so sexy!”

Previously, Gary Oldman impressed moviegoers with important roles in JFK, STATE OF GRACE, SID & NANCY (as Sid Vicious), PRICK UP YOUR EARS, CRIMINAL LAW and TRACK 29. He’s also performed frequently on stage, including with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

**WINONA RYDER as MINA/ELIZABETH.** Veteran of several successful films, among them Tim Burton’s BEETLEJUICE and EDWARD SCISSORHANDS, this youthful beauty was immediately drawn to the dual role of Mina/Elizabeth, Dracula’s eternal love.

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*Top: A romantic encounter between Dracula (Gary Oldman) and Mina (Winona Ryder) is captured on film. Right: Dracula’s three vampire brides await their next victim. Far right: Sadie Frost as Lucy, possessed and corrupted by the evil of Dracula.*
“Winona was looking to play an adult part, after years of being a teen star,” comments Jim Hart. “The character of Mina goes through a transformation that she was going through in her own life, she was growing up.”

Actually, it was Ms. Ryder’s special interest that got the BRAM STOKER’S DRACULA started in the first place.

“Not knowing much about Dracula, I read the screenplay and really enjoyed it,” Ryder recalls. “Later, I had a meeting with Francis Ford Coppola and I brought the script along to see if he’d be interested. It turns out he’s a tremendous fan of Dracula…”

The rest, as they say, is Hollywood history.

**ANTHONY HOPKINS as PROF. VAN HELSing.**

What a match...Hannibal the Cannibal vs. Vlad the Impaler! Amusingly, there was some initial concern that Hopkins’ pseudo-mad Van Helsing might appear too formidable for the lovestruck, sympathetic vampire portrayed by Gary Oldman. The creation of the monstrous “wolfen Dracula” and the gross, humanoid “bat Dracula” evened the odds a bit.

“The characters in this story are like twin heads of the same coin,” offers Coppola. “On the other side of Dracula is Van Helsing, who’s also demonic in his own way. To make Stoker’s character come alive, I encouraged Anthony Hopkins to follow his instincts and do these weird, mad things…”

Various Van Helsings have graced the screen over the years, ranging from dottering-but-determined Edward Van Sloan (in the Lugosi version) to dashing and heroic Peter Cushing, the very essence of scientific rationality. Even legendary thespian Laurence Olivier took a crack at the good doctor in John Badham’s 1979 DRACULA, which starred Frank Langella.

KEANU REEVES as JONATHAN HARKER. He’s Mina’s fiancé, an ambitious 24-year-old who must travel to Eastern Europe to finalize London real estate purchases made by a certain Transylvanian count. Significantly, Harker is the
Light that battles Dracula’s Dark for the love of the young Mina...and loses. Reeves’s major film credits include the BILL & TED romps, POINT BREAK, DANGEROUS LIAISONS, I LOVE YOU TO DEATH, RIVER’S EDGE and PARENTHOOD.

SADIE FROST as LUCY. A newcomer to films, this spirited actress won the role of Mina’s best friend and consequently a victim of Dracula. As in the novel, Lucy is coquettish and beautiful, the ultimate flirt. “Winona and I became pals at Napa, which everyone calls ‘Camp Coppola,’ and I think this comes through in the movie,” says Ms. Frost. “I happen to be a gymnast, and when Francis discovered that, he used it in my vampire scenes. My movements became very insect-like.” And what about the much-publicized sensual aspects of the movie? “Everything is very stylized, in the tradition of (filmmakers) Cocteau (BEAUTY AND THE BEAST) and Murnau (NOSFERATU). I trusted Francis on this. I knew I was in the hands of an artist...”

RICHARD E. GRANT as DR. JACK SEWARD, CARY ELWES as ARTHUR HOLMWOOD and BILL CAMPBELL as QUINCEY MORRIS. Lucy’s ardent admirers, they are the Tom, Dick, and Harry of the Victorian set. “I’m the one she chooses,” states Elwes with a twinkle in his eye, although it’s Dracula who really has Lucy spinning. Grant plays the director of a London asylum and Bill Campbell, late of THE ROCKETEER, is once again an All-American icon, this time a visitor from the states who becomes embroiled in Van Helsing’s ghoulish vampire hunt. Since Coppola and Hart retained Stoker’s high-energy “western” chase sequence, having a bona fide cowboy like Quincey aboard added to the scene’s credibility.

TOM WAITS as RENFIELD. Dracula’s deranged slave and procuer, an insect-eating patient in Dr. Seward’s asylum. Although Waits acting credits are impressive—he worked previously with Coppola in THE COTTON CLUB, RUMBLEFISH and THE OUTSIDERS—He is of course best known as a musician. His movie music credits include NIGHT ON EARTH, DOWN BY LAW and an Oscar nomination for the song score of ONE FROM THE HEART.

Waits follows in the frenzied footsteps of numerous bug-devouring actors, the most famous being Dwight Frye in the original 1931 Bela Lugosi version. Often, the Renfield and Jonathan Harker characters are combined, as in Hammer’s 1958 HORROR OF DRACULA.

The death of Lucy, and her horrifying rebirth as a vampire. Has Mina fallen under Dracula’s spell, or is it eternal love that drives her into the vampire prince’s arms? Also, Part Three of INSIDE COPPOLA’S DRACULA: Of Monsters and Magic.
“He commands the meaner things—the bat, rodent, wolf.
He can see in the dark—and hear beyond mortal bounds.

“Dracula can do all these things, and yet he is not free.”

—Van Helsing