



## The Vampire Archives

*Otto Penzler (Editor) , Kim Newman (Foreword) , Neil Gaiman (Preface) , Anne Rice , Stephen King , Harlan Ellison , Lisa Tuttle*

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**The Vampire Archives** is the biggest, hungriest, undeadliest collection of vampire stories, as well as the most comprehensive bibliography of vampire fiction ever assembled. Dark, stormy, and delicious, once it sinks its teeth into you there's no escape.

Vampires! Whether imagined by Bram Stoker or Anne Rice, they are part of the human lexicon and as old as blood itself. They are your neighbors, your friends, and they are always lurking. Now Otto Penzler—editor of the bestselling **Black Lizard Big Book of Pulp**s—has compiled the darkest, the scariest, and by far the most evil collection of vampire stories ever. With over eighty stories, including the works of Stephen King and D. H. Lawrence, alongside Lord Byron and Tanith Lee, not to mention Edgar Allan Poe and Harlan Ellison, **The Vampire Archives** will drive a stake through the heart of any other collection out there.

Other contributors include:

Arthur Conan Doyle • Ray Bradbury • Ambrose Bierce • H. P. Lovecraft • Harlan Ellison • Roger Zelazny • Robert Bloch • Clive Barker

## The Vampire Archives Details

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# From Reader Review *The Vampire Archives* for online ebook

## Lisa Wolf says

This 1000+ page book is a treasure trove of vampire lore, with an incredibly rich array of vampire stories spanning the ages from classic to modern. Stories by Bram Stoker and Arthur Conan Doyle are included, as well as Roger Zelazny, Stephen King, Anne Rice, and Clive Barker. The bibliography alone is worth the price of the book. This 30-something page guide to all written vampire works is a masterpiece, and is pure entertainment in and of itself. A must-have for all lovers of the vampire fiction genre.

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## Meredith says

This is one massive tome. Unfortunately, the paper quality is truly horrible, and neither it nor the binding were built to last. It's puzzling why so much trouble was gone through to put together a stellar collection if it wasn't built to last.

Is this anthology "the most complete volume of vampire tales ever published" as the subtitled claims? Quite possibly. The obligatory excerpt from *Varney the Vampire* and the short story that began it all "The Vampyre" by Polidori are glaring omissions, but a lot of harder to find pieces are included. The selection of early vampire stories is very good. Most of the modern vampire stories date from the 1970's and 1980's.

The arrangement is a bit odd. It's divided up into: Pre-Dracula, True Stories, Graveyards Castles Churches Ruins, That's Poetic, Hard Times for Vampires, Classic Tales, Psychic Vampires, Something Feels Funny, Love . . . Forever, They Gather, Is That a Vampire?, This Is War, and Modern Masters. Three stories published after *Dracula* are included in the pre-Dracula section that should be in the Classic Tales section, and several other stories that are pre-Dracula/pre-1897 are scattered throughout the other sections. Also, the title of the True Stories section is misleading as it contains three fictional stories rather than actual accounts of vampires. Reading some of the newspaper accounts from 18th Century Eastern Europe or New England or even more modern incidents at Highgate Cemetery would have been fun.

The bibliography included at the end is excellent for vampire novels contemporary within the last decade with a sprinkling of older works included as well.

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## Steven says

Some fun stories in this collection, some of which have been very hard to track down due to reprint rarities. I was very happy to find some old pulp authors I love like Carl Jacobi and Fredric Brown and Manley Wade Wellman herein.

Still, for writers of horror or dark fantasy, the greatest strength of this book could be its 111 page bibliography of every published vampire fiction short story or novel or collection. It does note that the bibliography doesn't include comic books, games, television, plays, or movies (which is a fair decision for a book on vampire tales, not total media). Even so, it's a great resource that's made me start hunting down a copy once this one goes back to the library.

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## **Aist? Aidukait? says**

This is amazing and I would highly recommend, especially for the sci-fi ones. Well worth the time.

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## **Anca Lumei says**

Mixed bag of stories.

For reference, this is the list of contents:

### **Pre-Dracula:**

Good Lady Duwayne by Mary Elizabeth Braddon  
The Last Lords of Gardonal by William Gilbert  
A Mystery of the Campagna by Anne Crawford  
The Fate of Madame Cabanel by Eliza Lynn Linton  
Let Loose by Mary Cholmondeley  
The Vampire by Vasile Alecsandri  
The Death of Halpin Frayser by Ambrose Bierce  
Ken's Mystery by Julian Hawthorne  
Carmilla by Sheridan LeFanu  
The Tomb of Sarah by F. G. Loring  
Ligeia by Edgar Allan Poe  
The Old Portrait and the Vampire Maid by Hume Nisbet

### **True stories:**

The Sad Story of a Vampire by Eric Stanislaus Count Stenbock  
A Case of Alleged Vampirism by Luigi Capuana  
An Authenticated Vampire Story by Franz Hartman

### **Graveyards, castles, churches, ruins:**

Revelations in Black by Karl Jacoby  
The Master of Rampling Gate by Anne Rice  
The Vampire of Kaldenstein by Frederick Cowles  
An episode of Cathedral History by M. R. James  
Schloss Wabenberg by Scott Moncrieff  
The Hound by H. P. Lovecraft  
Bite-me-not or Fleur de Feu by Tanith Lee  
The Horror at Chilham Castle by Joseph Payne Brennan  
The Singular Death of Morton by Algernon Henry Blackwood  
The Death of Illa Lotha by Clark Ashton Smith

### **That's poetic:**

The Bride of Corinth by Johann Wolfgang van Goethe  
Giaur by Lord Byron

La Belle Dame Sans Merci by John Keats

**Hard time for vampires:**

Place for Meeting by Charles Beaumont

Duty by Ed Gorman

A week in the unlife by David James Shaw

**Classic tales:**

Four Wooden Stakes by Victor Roman

The room in a tower by E. F. Benson

Mrs Amworth by E. F. Benson

Dr. Porthos by Basil Copper

For the blood is the life by F. Marian Crawford

Count Magnus by M. R. James

When it was moonlight by Manly Wade Wellman

The drifting snow by August Derleth

Aylmer Vance and the Vampire by Alice and Claude Askew

Dracula's Guest by Bram Stoker

The Transfer by Algernon Blackwood

The Stone Chamber by H. B. Marian Watson

The Vampire by Ian Neruda

The end of the story by Clark Ashton Smith

**Psychic vampires:**

The lovely lady

The parasite by Arthur Conan Doyle

Lonely women are the vessels of time

**Something feels funny:**

Blood by Frederik Brown

Popsie by Stephen King

The werewolf and the vampire

Drink my red blood

Day blood

**Love, forever:**

Replacements

Princess of Darkness

The silver collar

The old man's story

Will

Bloodlust

The Canal

When Gretchen was human

The story of Chugaro

**They gather:**

The men and women of Rivendell

Winter flowers

The man who loved a vampire lady  
Midnight mass

**Is that a vampire?:**

The adventure of the Sussex vampire  
A dead finger  
Wailing well  
Human remains  
The vampire  
Strigella  
Marcius in Flanders  
The Horla  
The girl with the hungry eyes

**This is war:**

The living dead  
Down among the dead men

**Modern masters:**

Necros  
The man upstairs  
Chastelle  
Dracula's Chair  
Special  
Carrion Comfort  
The sea was wet as wet could be

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**MattA says**

Too massive to read in a single check-out from the library, I skipped large portions of the book. As it's an anthology, it's difficult to assign one overall rating. Some of the stories are five-stars, others are barely two. So I give the tome four stars as a nod to it's exhaustive scope. If you're a true and total fan of everything vampire, go ahead and plow through it. Otherwise, just pick and choose.

The first section of the anthology contains the older, "pre-Dracula" vampire stories which I found to be a bit repetitive. They all seemed to follow the same pattern of a long buildup to a climactic reveal that, yes, the antagonist is a vampire(!). Since we know from the cover that these are all stories about vampires, those reveals come across as less dramatic than they might if you had found the stories outside this anthology. The later entires generally assume you know these characters are vampires and rely on other devices to build their stories. I found these later offerings to be much better reading.

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**Ed King says**

There are more vampires than you can shake a stake at in this collection. Another great anthology from Otto Penzler.

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## **Deborah Markus says**

This book is just what it ought to be -- great, varied, and complete without being boringly exhaustive. It's a good mix of classic and modern writers, each given a brief but informative introduction at the beginning of his or her story.

Some of the stories won't make sense unless you know some legends about vampires that have dropped out of common knowledge. It used to be thought, for instance, that suicide was a direct path to vampirhood.

This collection also has a few stories from an early twentieth-century fad for psychic detectives -- Sherlock Holmes with magical powers. Not great literature, but good clean fun.

Every possible variety of vampire is represented here, and the stories are arranged by category rather than chronologically, which keeps the collection lively.

I read this via audiobook. There are several narrators, all very good and carefully chosen to suit each story -- no American women reading stories told by British men or vice versa.

If you don't already love vampires, this isn't the book that will convert you -- though I dare anyone not to be intrigued and disturbed by Gahan Wilson's "The Sea Was Wet As Wet Could Be," or Mary A. Turzillo's "When Gretchen Was Human." I think my favorite, though, is Tanith Lee's "Bite-Me-Not, or Fleur de Fur."

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## **Jason Henderson says**

Outstanding but it's really weird that Penzler leaves out "The Vampyre" because he thinks it's poorly written. It seems like a complete archive should include it anyway.

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## **Takipsilim says**

Having been impressed and much moved by *The Black Lizard Big Book of Pulps: The Best Crime Stories from the Pulps During Their Golden Age--The '20s, '30s & '40s*, I decided to get this book after seeing the same editor and overlooking the tacky and cheap-looking cover. I wasn't too familiar with Vampire fiction other than *Dracula* and was quite hesitant to purchase and dive straight into such a thick and unfamiliar tome. But as I browsed through, the prose seemed good and the feeling just right, so I decided to fork out the cash.

And fortunately I did. *The Vampire Archives: The Most Complete Volume of Vampire Tales Ever Published* is perhaps the best anthology of vampire short stories yet. Editor Otto Penzler did the same admirable job with this collection as he did with "The Big Book of Pulps". The omnibus contains stories from the Victorian era to the present and one is witness to all things toothy and bloody from castles and mansions with elegant gardens to cassettes and VCR's. Though the best stories here lack the punch and lingering timelessness of the Pulp anthology, this is a far more consistent book in terms of quality barely marred by duds. Memorable tales like Joseph Payne Brennan's outstanding "The Horror at Chilton Castle", Clark Ashton Smith's flawless "The End of the Story", Frederick Cowles' unsettling "Princess of Darkness", and perhaps the best vampire

tale ever written, F. Paul Wilson's "Midnight Mass", make this arguably the best anthology of 2009.

Not only prose is included but verse as well. Fine efforts by literary behemoths like Byron, Goethe, and Keats add an interesting touch to a universal topic.

The only criticism I have on the book is the lengthy and unnecessary 100+ page bibliography at the end. Of importance to researchers but useless to the average reader (the entries don't contain any descriptions of the stories at all) the space taken by the bibliography could have used at least five more stories for the collection. Considering the number of books featured on the list, they certainly could have picked some of the best of those to round up an already rewarding compilation.

If you're a longtime fan of the genre and want to refresh your memory with it or familiarize yourself further with the subject, or if you're a newcomer to this particular field, this is one volume that will take proud place in your bookshelf.

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### **Peter Longworth says**

This is an excellent collection of short vampire stories. Over the last three years I've really embraced the short story medium in a big way. Editor / compiler Otto Penzler has done an excellent job in this compilation of vampire stories. A word of warning, make sure you get the English edition with the full page text, the paper is much better, too

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### **Jennifer says**

Checked this book out in order to read "Carmilla" by Sheridan Le Fanu for November bookclub and ended up reading 99% of the remaining stories. I had no idea of the depth or scope of vampire tales, and this collection is still fairly limited and doesn't include all the worldwide variations. It's a wonderful selection of primarily European and American vampire tales. The Foreword discusses the influence of the 1871 "Carmilla" on Bram Stoker's Dracula and other vampire stories. It describes the history of numerous vampire stories and their adaptations to movies and other media. The Preface by Neil Gaiman made me laugh – don't read it unless your sense of humor is dark, twisted and you appreciate Stephen King. Otto Penzler's Introduction sums it up well, "Trying to understand the myth of vampirism is like trying to understand the concept of God. All depends upon the culture, the era, and even an individual's imagination and gullibility, or faith." I learned that in Jewish legend, Lilith, Adam's first wife, "sucked the blood of men and attacked infants, turning them into Lilam, or children of Lilith, who then grew to feast on blood as well. This myth lasted into the Middle Ages." And in ancient Greece, "vampires were the children of Hecate: beautiful women who seduced and drained the blood of innocents . . . they had the power to transform themselves into various kinds of animals . . . [and could] attack during daylight hours as well as at night." The most surprising thing I learned was how much more common female vampires were in earlier stories than male vampires.

The stories are divided into sections such as Pre-Dracula, Graveyards/Castles/Churches/Ruins, Classic Tales, Psychic Vampires, Love, War and Modern Masters. As usual I loved the oldest, most Gothic styled tales and didn't even finish reading the modern versions.



Carmilla by Sheridan Le Fanu was a surprising story on many levels – great Gothic atmosphere with a lesbian love story twist. There are some intriguing aspects, including a mountebank who sells them both a charm to ward off vampires, which the vampire cheerfully pins on herself.

I also enjoyed The Master of Rampling Gate by Anne Rice, which ended with an interesting twist. Again a female vampire dominated the story.

And over 100 years later Brian Stableford paid homage to Le Fanu by bringing Carmilla back for his tale, The Man Who Loved the Vampire Lady, which begins with this lovely quote, “A man who loves a vampire lady may not die young, but cannot live forever.” Walachian proverb.

Favorite quotes:

The Death of Halpin Fraser by Ambrose Bierce

“He thought he was walking along a dusty road that showed white in the gathering darkness of a summer night. Whence and whither it led, and why he traveled it, he did not know, though all seemed simple and natural, as is the way in dreams: for in the Land Beyond the Bed surprises cease from troubling and the judgment is at rest.”

Bite-Me-Not or Fleur de Fur by Tanith Lee

“There comes a time . . . when they are together, these two creatures. Not together in any accepted sense, of course, but together in the strange feeling or emotion, instinct or ritual, that can burst to life in an instant or flow to life gradually across half a century, and which men call Love.”

And remember, according to Bram Stoker in Dracula's Guest, “The dead travel fast.”

“Why, I have the heart of a small boy,” he said. “It’s in a jar, on my desk.” Robert Bloch when asked if he was a macabre writer.

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## **Jack Keely says**

At over nine hundred pages, this weighty tome has given me some physical as well as mental exercise. I received THE VAMPIRE ARCHIVES as a birthday present. Since I am more of a novel kind of guy, a book of short stories that was literally as thick as a brick wasn’t exactly what I would have chosen. But once I started nibbling away at it, I found plenty to enjoy. This book is not all suave bloodsuckers in capes and evening dress (although you will find some). Lisa Tuttle’s ‘The Replacements’ is about creepy little vampiric animals that exert a strange allure. The story by Sabine Baring-Gould called ‘A Dead Finger’ is about... well, you guessed it. Many of the stories are old and more than a little creaky which I quite enjoy. There are more recent tales including some by contemporary masters such as Stephen King and Anne Rice. I revisited some old favorites like ‘Carmilla’, and made a few new finds like ‘Popsy’. In fact, I think I will drag the thing back to my coffin and bite down on another one right now.

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## **Barbara says**

What a fun book.

My copy is audio so I don't have the problems others have mentioned,

I am reading it slowly, savoring each tale. The introduction to each story sets it in place in literature. It's going to last a long time!

It's over 63 hours!

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### **Lady of the Lake says**

The stories in this anthology

Rate between 2 and 4 stars so overall I will rate the book at 3 stars. It's definitely a book to come and go with... It wasn't one I wanted to go from one story to the next all in a row... So if you do read this plan on doing so in starts and stops as the mood strikes you. You will like it much better that way!

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