



The Journal of Professor Abraham Van Helsing

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Professor Abraham Van Helsing was the fictional creation of Bram Stoker for his dark work of fantasy *Dracula*--or was he?

Fragments of a recently discovered journal suggest otherwise.

For the first time, in his own words, the legendary vampire hunter tells his own story

- his background and early years
- his research in Rumania and the Mideast
- his medical work
- and most importantly his discovery of perhaps the greatest threat to man's dominion on earth, vampires.

Filled with data to inform, and tips to educate, the journal is more than a study of vampirism. It is also the story of a man's obsession with eradicating the world of its greatest scourge, a dark evil that claimed his wife in its thrall.

Working with the textural fragments he inherited from his grandfather, Professor Allen Conrad Kupfer, has managed to piece together the story behind the story that did not begin and end with Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

The Journal of Professor Abraham Van Helsing Details

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Author : Allen C. Kupfer

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From Reader Review The Journal of Professor Abraham Van Helsing for online ebook

Lisa James says

Out-freaking-standing! This one makes you THINK, & gives you plenty of back story into Van Helsing. HIGHLY recommend this little gem to anyone who enjoys vampire lore! It reads like a journal, & even though poor Van Helsing himself loses everything, we are fascinated by his story, & intrigued by Daniel's notes at the bottom of the pages. The sketches are well done, haunting & creepy. This is a short novella, but it will grab you, shake you, & give you insights. The parallel with Sesame Street's beloved Count was one that I didn't even know existed, & my mind was completely blown.

Marsha says

This “journal” catches just the right tone of secrecy, mounting emotion and inner revelation. We learn a great deal about Abraham Van Helsing—his scholastic passion, his curiosity, his impatience and occasional blunt tactlessness—but also about the shadowy creatures he is tracking. These vampires are a shadowy yet very real threat, striking without warning and seemingly with few weaknesses. They are malicious, ruthless and much like rabid dogs. They don't need to trade blood with their victims; a mere bite is enough to infect someone and change them into one of the nosferatu, the “walking dead”.

Hampered as much by his colleagues's disbelief as the limited power of the human will, the horror, fear and despair that attend Van Helsing's feeble attempts to root out the growing vampire menace are made manifest with every page. There are neither Slayers nor fearless vampire killers here to stop these demons. With very few exceptions, they are so powerful, killing them remains near impossible. All humans can manage is a kind of holding pattern in which they put up plants, religious symbols and other frail defenses to keep them at bay.

“The Journal of Professor Abraham Van Helsing” exerts its icy grip slowly over the senses, making you wish to hurry home before the sun sets and lock all the doors and windows. In spite of the glut of vampire novels on the market, this book takes us back to the origins of the nosferatu, reminding us that, before we were enamored of them, we were terrified of their presence. It rattles the nerves and leaves behind a lingering sensation of unease.

Lucile says

Halloween Read # 5!

You have heard of Van Helsing. Now read more about him. It will enrich your understand of vampires!

Kayla says

I picked up this gem at a book sale forever and a day ago. Since then it has sadly been sitting collecting dust. Mostly because books like these are one of my weaknesses. Gothic tales are my favorite, especially the original stories from the Victorian era. So I'm always on the lookout for retellings, or add-ons, to those stories I grew up loving. *The Journal of Professor Abraham Van Helsing* fit that bill to the letter. While packing for my trip it seemed like the perfect book to read in between whatever mischief I was going to be getting up to with my brother.

This is the story about how Abraham Van Helsing first learned about the vampire plague spreading across the globe. How the Professor became trapped into the world of the damned, and why he arrived in London to help fight against Dracula.

With all of the different myths surrounding vampires these days because of TV shows and movies, it was nice to get back to the original mythology of these creatures. While some of their weaknesses have transcended from books to screen, a few of them have not. For example, anytime seeds are spilled on the ground the undead are compelled to stop and count them all. It's a small thing that even I had forgotten until diving back into the world of Dracula.

As for the story itself, I felt like the story flowed well. At times there are three different narrators, Van Helsing, Daniel Kupfer, and Professor Allen C. Kupfer. The shifts of each narration is easy to follow. I never had to take a step back to figure who was talking. I didn't mind the notes that Daniel Kupfer adds to Van Helsing's journal. They had an outside view at how Abraham changes from his visit to Dr. Borescu and his introduction to the vampire plague. It also adds a bit to how the world viewed those changes as madness. However I felt the footnotes that were added by Professor Kupfer were not really needed. Occasionally humorous, but really needed.

I was also a bit bummed that the journal skipped everything that happened to Abraham Van Helsing in London when he went up against Dracula. Whether this was a for copyright reasons, or an editing choice, I'm unaware. There was mention of the events and references Dracula himself, but for the most part it felt ignored. Like it was something that Van Helsing went through, but no reason was given as to why he left no notes or entries about the events in London and Transylvania.

While it was good to see that after the events in London Van Helsing didn't stop trying to put an end to the plague sweeping the world, and to see him so close to answers. However, the ending itself felt a little rushed. As a whole I wasn't upset with how it ended. In fact I like that was sort of an open ending. Is Van Helsing alive or dead? Was he undead? I like that you don't really know, but the events themselves a bit rushed. In fact I had to read the last few pages a couple of times because I felt like I missed pages, or maybe misread something. I had a lot of questions about how all of those events unfolded that never really got answered.

All-in-all, it was a fun afternoon of reading. It made me want to pick up Dracula again and reread it. For what is probably the hundredth time by now. While not one of my favorites in the Dracula genre, *The Journal of Professor Abraham Van Helsing* is a fun read.

This review and others can be found at my blog, [Bookish Whispers!](#)

Ken says

This was a very poor attempt to flesh out the story of Van Helsing. A little more research could have gone a

very long way. In fact, late in the book in one of the footnotes, the author speaks of his "shoddy scholarship" in regards to a particular issue. Unfortunately, "shoddy scholarship" was a theme that ran the length of this offering.

The author's understanding of Middle Eastern customs and cuisine were apparently derived from eating at a Mediterranean buffet. His knowledge of Middle Eastern geography was derived from reading the newspapers of 2004 (publication date). (Tikrit and Mosul ring a bell?)

I understand it was meant to be a journal and as such summaries of events could be expected. The entire story set forth by Bram Stoker was summarized in two paragraphs. I guess the author figures he had nothing of interest to add and had better leave that story to a far better author than himself. On this point, I agree with the author.

There were several instances in the book where the author skipped occurrences that, with a little more research, the author could have added color and flavor to his book. Instead, he just took a shortcut and explained away his omissions.

I think I have put more time and effort in this review than the author took in writing his book. So, I'll just wrap it up...

I really wanted this to be a good book and it really wasn't. Don't waste your time on this one.

Bonnie Owen says

This work of fiction is presented in the form of a journal that was found by the author in his grandmother's home. The journal, as the title suggests, is by Abraham Van Helsing, and tells how he was first introduced to the world of vampires and the beginning of his quest to eradicate this "plague" from human existence. Its an interesting concept for a story, but there are some inconsistencies in the narrative timeline that are quite glaring. Overall, I wasn't really impressed with this book.

Bunny says

This book was written as a series of journal entries with postscripts. I found it both entertaining and enlightening{in a manner}. Interesting for sure. I did read it in one afternoon. At first, I thought perhaps it a ya reader, due to its size and the size of print, but I am not sure that was the intended audience. I don't know that I would recommend it to anyone to read, unless they just "liked" reading everything written on vampires. It was neither a huge tale, nor gory, nor romantic. It was a "journalled" account from Van Helsing's pov. published, after the fact. Though i do not recommend it, I do not regret spending an entire afternoon within it's pages either, so take that for what you will.

Eric says

This is my second read in 10 years and I still like it. My copy is made of old paper to look like an old journal and there are a lot of beautiful illustrations in it. This is supposedly a real journal from Professor Van

Helsing depicting his first contacts with vampires and Dracula. I very much like the classic and scientific angle of this book. Helsing is not an action heroes and this book is not about it. It is an easy and fast read, perfect for the october chill. If you wish to read Dracula with a different perspective and you are fan of "found footage" this book is for you.

John Bruni says

Ultimately, for what this is, it's a fun read. It's interesting to see how Van Helsing's obsession with vampires began, and I think the style is pretty cool. It's a journal, which is in keeping with the structure of DRACULA. Even the connection with Kupfer's grandfather is kind of nice. And then, of course, there's the thing I was wondering about before I even started reading it: if the events of DRACULA are supposed to happen in the middle of this story, how is the real writer going to handle it in the narrative? He actually handles it very nicely, because I think this book would have been a bore if handled in another fashion.

But there are a couple of things I just can't overlook. Obviously, this book wasn't really written by Van Helsing. However, let's pretend for a while that it was (because it's a fun conceit). In DRACULA, we learn that Van Helsing and his wife had a daughter who died prematurely, and that this death had caused a wedge in the marriage. However, in this "journal," the daughter isn't mentioned once, and Van Helsing's relationship with his wife is quite loving. Secondly, when we meet Van Helsing in DRACULA, he comes off as a vampire expert. However, when he sets off for London in **this** book, he's barely a novice. He's had two encounters with the undead. This doesn't make sense. I would be OK if the events of DRACULA happened **after** this book, since he has a few more run-ins, but during? I don't buy it.

This is a flawed book, but it's fun. Don't take it too seriously, and you'll enjoy it. I particularly enjoyed Kupfer's grandfather's notes, especially the last one.

Candace says

It wasn't great but it did leave me intrigued

Nickname says

Che prove abbiamo a sostegno dell'esistenza dei vampiri?

Ma soprattutto, che prove abbiamo, che escludano al 100 % l'esistenza di queste creature?

Abraham Van Helsing è realmente esistito?

La figura del vampiro è da sempre nell'immaginario culturale di moltissime popolazioni di varie epoche, come possono diversi popoli di diversi paesi avere fantasie "comuni"?

Tornando al libro, veramente interessante, che sia originale o meno contiene una verità fondamentale: Il vampiro (se esiste) è una bestia immonda da annientare ed evitare in tutti i modi e non il fighetto patinato da osannare come un dio come ultimamente succede al cinema e nei romanzetti da quattro soldi.

Preeti says

"Professor Abraham Van Helsing was the fictional creation of Bram Stoker for Dracula, his dark work of fantasy. Or was he?"

With the potential for creating an incredible story, Kupfer's work instead fizzles out into nothing. So much potential!

The history of vampires goes back a long way, stretching into Eastern Europe in the 19th, and perhaps even further back, to the Crusades. Or so Kupfer - I mean, Van Helsing mentions in his journal - more and more history emerges as he researches further into the phenomenon known as vampirism.

This is a very, very simple story, presented in the form of a journal of the late (or is he?) Professor Abraham Van Helsing. He was brought into creation by Bram Stoker, as the famed destroyer of Dracula. This is the back story.

Told in very simple words: this happened, then that happened, and then, oh my god, you will never guess what happened next! It reads more like lower tier [for the kiddies:] YA fiction than adult. Are we to believe that a scholar from the 19th century really talked like this? Sounds a bit fishy to me. Not only that, but where is all the research that he supposedly did? One would think it would be present in a journal created for the sole purpose of informing the world of the scourge that will take over soon enough if the world continues to scoff at the idea. And the side stories.. They left me with a feeling of incompleteness; they remained largely unexplored and void of detail.

I don't recommend you buy this book. It's a waste of money. But for a fun time, and to waste an hour or two, definitely go check it out of your library and wile away the time.

Uku says

Not the worst I have read but it's really not something I could recognize for anyone who wants to read a good story... it's waste of money and time. But if you don't care about good story and want to say you read something then you can read it. And of course if you are young enough, obsessed about vampires, sparkling fairies or the real things and care noting about how, what, where and when, this is book for you.

Generally it was entertaining but still a disappointment, proving that anything can be written and published but not everything is worth reading and that is the after taste of the book. It was a good attempt though but would have asked a ton of polishing.

because of some major plot holes. Serious gap is just what happens to the child vampire at the window, author is too busy to get the sexy main protagonist in the window

to toss the main character out cold. It really had not been too much to describe something like; I saw him turn into a shape of bat and fly off. What bizarre sight that was...

Main gap was also in the treatment of the epidemy. None of the three authors of the journal had no mention about it even being taken care of and how or how brutal. I did expect that least the good doctor Dunfred to have at least two or three pages of summary about that since VanHelsing was busy somewhere else. Since the third author who had need to add some side notes here and there and check up some dates and people and mention about them did not have no marking about that though for sure if such thing had happened, second author being around where it took place the should be some markings about it, right? The scenery seemed to be the main event since the meeting with Dracula was out of the question and dealing with Lilith failed over and over again until I assume that even the author lo

st interest on it and made the main character post his journal to his friend.

I was also annoyed how conveniently almost all vanHelsing's friends were killed as if planned all along and the writing style; if it truly was supposed to be his personal diary... there would be no doubt of a bit more markins. Impression I had him about as a character is that he hadn't been behaving like a teenage girl when writing his journal; "oh it is too horrible that I shall not write about it."

In total it makes kind of feeling that whatever the reader is reading, it devinetelly is not anyones journal as it should have been.

On top of that with some of the illustrations that probably are supposed to potray the main protagonist are clearly off-character. If the author potraits person to wear silky robes that hide very little.... if nothing at all, what has artist imagined? Woman in too modern undershirt! Sure artist have their freedoms but how about reading the

book first and being a bit loyal to the author and the story?

Lisa AKA Melanie-Shaun Striker says

Ok, I LOVED this! A fantastically fun read, full of delightful descriptions; including a surprising smattering of gore. A rare (for me) 5 stars!

Nathan says

Featuring a unique layout, "The Journal of Professor Abraham Van Helsing" is an interesting read but is not perfect. When I first saw the hardcover edition of this book I fell in love with it, the ruffled journal-like pages paired with beautiful illustrations, I thought this was going to be a delight to read, which it was at first. The first few chapters were excellent it was the latter chapters that were lacking. The beginning chapters of the story contained a lot of violence and eroticism that was similar to other vampire stories. Nothing was added to the vampire mythos other than the humourous part about counting. The story begins to lag after Van Helsing returns home and sets off on another vampire hunt; there is some action but it is not as exciting as the first action sequences and do not expect a neat ending because the story ends abruptly which is truly disappointing especially considering the buildup.
