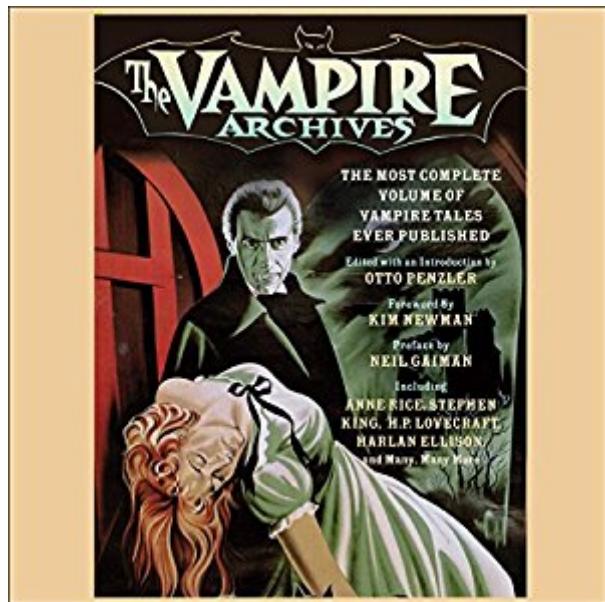


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The Vampire Archives: The Most Complete Volume Of Vampire Tales Ever Published



Synopsis

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 best-selling Black Lizard Big Book of Pulps-has compiled the darkest, the scariest, and by far the most evil collection of vampire stories ever, with over 80 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, and Clive Barker. The complete list of narrators includes Peter Altschuler, Mark Bramhall, Scott Brick, Cassandra Campbell, Marc Cashman, Jonathan Cowley, Erik Davies, Mark Deakins, Robertson Dean, Susan Denaker, Susan Duerden, Harlan Ellison, Ryan Gessell, Stephen Hoye, Carrington MacDuffie, John H. Mayer, Paul Michael, Allyson Ryan, Robin Sachs, Fred Sanders, Rob Shapiro, Simon Vance, Bob Walter, and Steve West.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I can't say with any degree of certainty that this is indeed "the most complete volume of vampire tales published" but at over 1000 pages and 80 plus stories it must come awfully close. It does

contain the most notable works for sure ('Carmilla', 'Dracula's Guest', 'Mrs. Amworth') but there are a few that are conspicuous in their absence ('The Vourdalak' by Tolstoy, 'The Unicorn Tapestry' by Suzy McKee Charnas or 'The Night Flier' by Stephen King). However, while many of the most anthologized tales are here there are many others I am not familiar with and seldom see in collections of this kind: M.R. James' 'Wailing Well', Charles Beaumont's 'Place of Meeting', or Roger Zelazny's 'Dayblood' just to name a mere few. The stories range over a wide spectrum of the vampire genre and you will find traditional Gothic horror tales, romantic vampires, humorous vampire stories as well as supposed 'true' vampire tales and even a few that stretch the definition of 'vampire' from the normal accepted sense of the word. As to be expected of an anthology of this size the quality of the stories vary (with personal taste playing a big role here) from undisputed classics to the just mediocre but you would be hard pressed to find an out and out clunker in the lot. For me, one of the biggest selling points is the extensive bibliography of vampire stories and novels that editor Otto Penzler has assembled: over 100 pages of material that may not be completely exhaustive but is certainly going to be of use to a lot of folks be they academics or just a casual reader who wants to know what else is out there in the way of vampire fiction. Bottom line: if you do not already own a good vampire anthology (and maybe even if you do) you would be hard pressed to find a better selection and range of vampiric short fiction than the one Penzler has assembled here. Plus, the inclusion of a massive bibliography makes this an irresistible inclusion in your vampire library.

Every fall, I revisit horror classics in film and in books and when I saw "The Vampire Archives", I just knew I had to have it. The contents are amazing in the breadth of vampire stories and at 1034 pages, this is one heavy tome. The biggest flaw in this publication is in the abysmal binding and paper quality. The paper is flimsy and as careful as I am with all my books, I don't see how this book is going to hold up over repeated use. The cover is flimsy too and as much as I love the cover art (reminds me of those classic Hammer horror flicks), I think the publishers could have done so much better. Perhaps in the future, this could be re-issued as a two volume edition in hardcover and with better quality paper. That would be ideal. OK, ranting aside, the contents are impressive. As some reviewers have noted, there are some significant omissions, notably John Polidori's "The Vampyre" (though it merits a mention in the bibliography at the back of the book). Here's a listing of all the stories contained in this tome:

Pre-Dracula
Good Lady Ducayne - M.E. Braddon
The Last Lords of Gardonal - William Gilbert
A Mystery of the Campagna - Anne Crawford
The Fate of Madame Cabanel - Eliza Lynn Linton
Let Loose - Mary Cholmondeley
The Vampire - Vasile Alecsandri
The

Death of Halpin Frayser - Ambrose BierceKen's Mystery - Julian HawthorneCarmilla - Sheridan Le FanuThe Tomb of Sarah - F.G. LoringLigeia - Edgar Allan PoeThe Old Portrait - Hume NisbetThe Vampire Maid - Hume NisbetTrue StoriesThe Sad Story of a Vampire - Eric (Count) StenbockA Case of Alleged Vampirism - Luigi CapuanaAn Authenticated Vampire Story - Franz HartmannGraveyards, Castles, Churches, RuinsRevelations in Black - Carl JacobiThe Master of Rampling Gate - Anne RiceThe Vampire of Kaldenstein - Frederick CowlesAn Episode of Cathedral History - M.R. JamesSchloss Wappenburg - D. Scott-MoncrieffThe Hound - H.P. LovecraftBite-Me-Not Or, Fleur De Fur - Tanith LeeThe Horror At Chilton Castle - Joseph Payne BrennanThe Singular Death of Morton - Algernon BlackwoodThe Death of Ialotha - Clark Ashton SmithThat's PoeticThe Bride of Corint - Johann Wolfgang Von GoetheThe Giaour - Lord ByronLa Belle Dame Sans Merci - John KeatsHard Times for VampiresPlace of Meeting - Charles BeaumontDuty - Ed GormanA Week in the Unlife - David J. SchowClassic TalesFour Wooden Stakes - Victor RomanThe Room in the Tower - E.F. BensonMrs. Amworth - E.F. BensonDoctor Porthos - Basil CopperFor the Blood is the Life - F. Marion CrawfordCount Magnus - M.R. JamesWhen it was Moonlight - Manly Wade WellmanThe Drifting Snow - August DerlethAylmer Vance and the Vampire - Alice and Claude AskewDracula's Guest - Bram StokerThe Transfer - Algernon BlackwoodThe Stone Chamber - H.B. Marriott WatsonThe Vampire - Jan NerudaThe End of the Story - Clark Ashton SmithPsychic VampiresThe Lovely Lady - D.H. LawrenceThe Parasite - Arthur Conan DoyleLonely Women are the Vessels of Time - Harlan EllisonSomething Feels FunnyBlood - Fredric BrownPopsy - Stephen KingThe Werewolf and the Vampire - R. Chetwynd-HayesDrink My Red Blood - Richard MathesonDayblood - Roger ZelaznyLove...ForeverReplacements - Lisa TuttlePrincess of Darkness - Frederick CowlesThe Silver Collar - Garry KilworthThe Old Man's Story - Walter StarkieWill - Vincent O'SullivanBlood-Lust - Dion FortuneThe Canal - Everil WorrellWhen Gretchen Was Human - Mary A. TurzilloThe Story of Chugoro - Lafcadio HearnThey GatherThe Men & Women of Rivendale - Steve Rasnic TemWinter Flowers - Tanith LeeThe Man Who Loved the Vampire Lady - Brian StablefordMidnight Mass - F. Paul WilsonIs That a Vampire?The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire - Arthur Conan DoyleA Dead Finger - Sabine Baring-GouldWailing Well - M.R. JamesHuman Remains - Clive BarkerThe Vampire - Sydney HorlerStragella - Hugh B. CaveMarsyas in Flanders - Vernon LeeThe Horla - Guy de MaupassantThe Girl With the Hungry Eyes - Fritz LeiberThis is WarThe Living Dead - Robert BlochDown Among the Dead Men - Gardner Dozois and Jack DannModern MastersNecros - Brian LumleyThe Man Upstairs - Ray BradburyChastel - Manley Wade WellmanDracula's Chair - Peter TremayneSpecial - Richard LaymonCarrion Comfort - Dan SimmonsThe Sea Was Wet As Wet

Could Be - Gahan Wilson The Vampire: A Bibliography - Daniel Seitler Final verdict - If you're a diehard fan of vampire stories, then this is a must-have title for your reading pleasure.

The Vampire Archives nearly has every short vampire story but is missing a few significant titles. It does not have John Polidori's, "The Vampire," nor does it have Alexis Tolstoy's, "The Vampires." But it has a lot of very good titles and nice little bios of the authors and a bibliography big enough to choke the undead. Several people have noted that it is printed on cheap pulp paper but the price makes it worth buying. If you want what is probably the broadest and most complete vampire short story/novelette book you ought to get this book.

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