"Here begins the untold story of the great Warrior Prince Dracula and his lives beyond the grave. The task has fallen to me, Professor Abraham Van Helsing, Doctor of Sciences, University of Amsterdam, to organize and set to record these extraordinary events of the untold story of the great Warrior Prince Dracula; how he lived beyond the grave, feeding on the blood of his victims for centuries, at war with God in hopes of finding his true love.

"I offer as evidence the documented journals and diaries, letters and memos of Mr. Jonathan Harker, recently of London, Dr. Jack Seward, my former student and colleague, our beloved Miss Lucy Westenra and the personal diary of Wilhelmina Murray Harker... dear Madam Mina. For the record, this being the year of our Lord, if he exists, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine. I begin—"
Moslem Turks, led by Sultan Mohammed, have driven the Christians from Constantinople and invaded Romania with a superior force, threatening all of Christendom.

A Romanian Prince from the region of Transylvania—Vlad Dracula, military genius notorious throughout Eastern Europe for his bloodthirsty ways—leads 7000 of his countrymen in a bold sneak attack against 30,000 Turks... as a last heroic attempt to save his homeland.

Dracula's surprise assault routs the Turks...
...And his vengeance is swift and merciless.

**ELISABETA...?**

But even in the midst of triumph for a holy cause... There can be loss.

**ELISABETA--!**
A message -- on the shaft of a Turkish arrow -- it reported you killed. We -- could not stop her. Her last words...

"My Prince is dead. All is lost without him. May God unite us in heaven!"

Is this my reward for defending God's church? Sacrilege! Do not turn your back on Christ! He has chosen you to punish injustice!

I renounce God -- and all you hypocrites who feed off him! If my beloved wife burns in hell -- so shall I!
"The Blood is the Life!"

"-- and it shall be mine!"

...and the river called Time, laced with blood, flows redly down the centuries...
9 May 1897

I arrived today at Hillingham, London, where I shall be staying with Lucy for some weeks. The life of an assistant schoolmistress is sometimes trying, and I have longed to be with my friend, where we can talk together freely and build our castles in the air.

Lucy and I have told all our secrets to each other since I first tutored her at Mrs. Whitehall's school. And now we dream of being married together...

Diary again... Monday. When Jonathan and I are married, I shall be able to be useful to him. And if I can stenograph well enough, I can take down what he wants to say, and write it out for him on the typewriter at which I am also practicing very hard.

...is your ambitious Jon Marker forcing you to learn that ridiculous machine, when he could be forcing you to perform unspeakable acts of desperate passion on the parlor floor?

Lucy--you shouldn't talk about my fiance in such a way. There's more to marriage than carnal pleasures.

...much much more!

Oh, Lucy! Can a man and woman really do--that?

I did--only last night.

Fibber! You didn't.

Yes, I did--in my dreams!

Jonathan--measures up, doesn't he? You can tell Lucy.

So I see...

One Thousand and One Arabian Nights by Ed Tchividjian
WE'VE KISSED, THAT'S ALL. SOMETIMES I PRESS UP TO HIM, AND HE GETS SHY AND SAYS GOODNIGHT.

YOU'RE THE ONE WITH REGIMENTS OF MEN FALLING AT YOUR FEET.

BUT NOT EVEN ONE MARRIAGE PROPOSAL! AND HERE I AM ALMOST TWENTY--PRACTICALLY A HAG.

MISS MURRAY...

...THERE'S A MR. HARKER, WAITING IN THE GARDEN TO SEE YOU.

JONATHAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

ARE YOU DRUNK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY?

DRUNK WITH SUCCESS, MINA! YOU'RE IN THE COMPANY OF A FUTURE PARTNER IN THE FIRM OF HAWKINS AND THOMPSONS!

MY SUPERIOR, MR. RENFIELD, FINALLY LOST HIS GREEDY MIND--AND I'VE BEEN PROMOTED IN HIS PLACE. WE CAN BE MARRIED--AS SOON AS I RETURN!

RETURN? FROM WHERE?

I'M OFF TO EXOTIC EASTERN EUROPE!

SOME FOREIGN COUNT IS ACQUIRING PROPERTY AROUND LONDON, AND I'M BEING SENT TO CLOSE THE TRANSACTIONS. MONEY IS NO OBJECT!

THINK OF IT, MINA--ROYALTY!

I JUST WANT US TO BE HAPPY, DON'T YOU SEE?

AND WE SHALL BE, MY LITTLE NIGHTINGALE. I KNOW WHAT'S BEST--FOR BOTH OF US.

I MUST DASH! MUSTN'T WORRY, I'LL WRITE...
25 May. Left Buda-Pest early this morning. The impression I had was that we were leaving the West and entering the East.

The district I am to enter is on the borders of three states—Transylvania, Moldavia, and Bukovina—in the midst of the Carpathian Mountains...

...one of the wildest and least known portions of Europe.

My Friend—Welcome to the Carpathians. I am anxiously expecting you...

At the Bongo Pass, my carriage will await you and bring you to me. I trust your journey from London has been a happy one, and that you will enjoy your stay in my beautiful land.

your Friend,
28 May. Finally, tonight, I shall meet the Count. I hope I can complete my business with him quickly...

...so I may return...

...to my beloved Mina.

ORDO!

We've stopped! But we're early. No one is here.

(Take this...)

("For the dead travel fast!")
The Borgo Pass. I shall see it tonight, at last.

If I can believe the descriptions of it that I could locate in London, the road through it is an endless perspective of jagged rocks...

Driver? Aren't you going too--

--Fast?

...and of sheer cliffs dropping away to rivers rushing far, far below.

HARROOQO!

STIGO!

MORON!

To traverse the Pass, they say, a man takes his soul into his hands.
Castle Dracula...

If I arrive there by night, as surely I must, given the late hour at which my host's coach will have come for me...
Lucy is to be married in the autumn, and she is already planning out her dresses and how her house is to be arranged. The only detail she hasn’t attended to is who she is going to marry...

I'm so happy I don't know what to do with myself!

I think I'm about to have three marriage proposals! I do hope there's enough of me to go around!

Look! That's a Texan -- Quincey P. Morris!

He's so young and fresh -- like a wild stallion between my legs!

You are positively indecent. I just know what men desire. Watch!

Please, Quincey -- let me touch it!

It's so big!

You are so very sweet and dear...

Number Two is a brilliant doctor. He has an immense lunatic asylum all under his own care. This should prepare him well for life with Lucy.

Dr. Jack Seward.
Lucy says women can't afford to marry for love alone these days—so déclassé.

For me, happiness can only be found through...

...true love.
Welcome to my house. Enter freely of your own will—and leave some of the happiness you bring.

COUNT DRACULA...?

I am Dracula. Come in. The night air is chill, and you must need to eat and rest.

YOU MUST TELL ME OF THE PROPERTIES YOU HAVE PROCURED FOR ME.

The most remarkable is Carfax Estate. The house there is quite large and of all periods back, I should say, to medieval times.

A house cannot be made habitable in a day, and after all...

Excellent. I come from an old family, and to live in a new house would kill me.

...How few days go to make up a century!
You will, I trust, excuse me that I do not join you...

But I have already dined, and I do not sup.

This chalice is Persian, is it not?

Exquisite piece, count. Worthy of kings.

An ancestor?

I see the resemblance.

The Order of Dracul -- "The Dragon." An ancient society pledging my forefathers to defend the Church against all enemies of Christ.

Alas, the relationship was not entirely... successful.

Ugh... Huh... Huh... Huh...

I have offended you with my ignorance, count. Forgive me.

Forgive me, my young friend. I am not accustomed to guests... and my heart is weary with many years of mourning over the dead.

Blood is too precious a thing in these times. The warlike days are over.

The victories of my great race are but a tale to be told.

I am the last... of my kind.

What devil or witch was ever so great as Attila, whose blood flows in these veins?

It is no laughing matter! We Draculas have a right to be proud!

I do so long to go through the crowded streets of your mighty London...
...to be in the midst of the whirl and rush of humanity--
--to share its life, its changes--its death...

Your firm writes most highly of your talents--that you are a man of good...taste.

They say you are a "worthy substitute" to your predecessor, Mr. Renfield.

You, count, are now the owner of Carfax Abbey at Purfleet.

Forgive my curiosity, count, but why ten houses in such precise locations around London?

Is your strategy to raise the market value?

My congratulations...

Very wise, my young friend...

Do you believe in...destiny?

That even the powers of time can be altered for a single purpose?

The luckiest man who walks on this earth is the one who finds--

--true love.
I was married... ages ago, it seems. She died.

I'm... very sorry.

She was fortunate. My life at its best is... misery.

Your Mina will no doubt make a devoted wife -- and you a faithful husband.

Write now, my friend, to your firm, and to any loved ones, and say that it shall please you to stay with me until a month from now.

A month? You wish me to stay so long?

Are you married, Count?

You have much to tell me of London and other interests I may wish to pursue.

I will take no refusal.

28 May. Castle Dracula. I am in a sea of wonders. The Count's wealth is extraordinary, in spite of certain deficiencies in his house...
TAKE CARE HOW YOU CUT YOURSELF...

IT IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU THINK.

A FOUL BAUBLE OF MAN'S VANITY!

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD GROW A BEARD.

AH! THE LETTERS I REQUESTED! SHOULD YOU LEAVE THESE ROOMS, YOU WILL NOT BY ANY CHANCE GO TO SLEEP IN ANY OTHER PART OF THE CASTLE.

IT IS OLD, AND HAS MANY MEMORIES. BE WARNED!

DO NOT PUT FAITH IN SUCH TRINKETS OF DECEIT!

WE ARE IN TRANSYLVANIA, AND TRANSYLVANIA IS NOT ENGLAND.

OUR WAYS ARE NOT YOUR WAYS, AND THERE SHALL BE TO YOU MANY STRANGE THINGS.
Indeed, I have seen many strange things already...

Listen to them—the children of the night. What sweet music they make!

Music? Those animals?

Ah... You dwellers in the city cannot enter into the feelings of the hunter.

What manner of man is this... or what manner of creature is it in the semblance of a man?
What manner of man is this?

R.M. RENFIELD, solicitor of the firm of Hawkins and Thrompkins... just returned from a trip to Eastern Europe with an insatiable hunger for life in any form...

...and how are we today, Mr. Renfield?

MORS D'OEUVRES, DR. SEWARD?

Your diet, Mr. Renfield, is disgusting.

Perfectly nutritious. Each life I ingest gives back life to me. The spiders eat the flies... and sparrows?

The sparrows...

Something larger, perhaps?

Bzzzzzz zzzz-

A kitten! A nice little, sleek, playful kitten, that I can teach and feed and feed! No one would refuse a kitten! I implore you--

Wouldn't you rather have... a cat?

Yes! A big cat! My salvation depends upon it!

Lives! I need lives-- for the master!

Your salvation?

The master will come! He has promised to make me immortal!

Master? What master?

How?
"The blood is the life!"

"The blood is the--"

"Life..."

"You will not by chance sleep in any other part of the castle... bad dreams."
The count has told me. But I feel the dread of this horrible place overpowering me, so I have picked the lock and gone exploring..."
He also said I would see "strange things"...

...as indeed I have.

And more must lie ahead... but I had to chance it.

Forcing the door, I found myself in a chamber with a sumptuous tent—a veritable seraglio.

AH! HERE SOME FAIR LADY SURELY RECEIVED THE COUNT'S PLEASURE!
...you are first, and we shall follow.

He is young and strong. There are kisses for us all.
THIS MAN BELONGS TO ME!

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!

YOU YOURSELF NEVER LOVED -- YOU NEVER LOVE!
YES -- I, TOO, CAN LOVE...

...AND I SHALL LOVE AGAIN.

ARE WE TO HAVE NOTHING TONIGHT?

WAAAAAAAAA...
Dearest Mina,

All is well here. The Count has insisted I remain for a month to tutor him in the English Custom.

Jonathan

To be Continued...
PART ONE Inspiration

Dracula.
The vampire immortal.

Seven decades on the motion picture screen have not diminished his extraordinary appeal and dramatic potential. Actors such as Bela Lugosi, John Carradine, Christopher Lee, Frank Langella, even Oscar-winner Jack Palance -- all have donned the famous black cloak and haunted our collective nightmares. The images are indelible: Dracula transforming himself into a bat, hissing at religious icons, decomposing in daylight, putting the bite on a fetching leading lady. Through it all the vampire king has endured, like some timeless force of nature, waiting to be reincarnated and reinterpreted by a new generation of moviemakers.

Enter Francis Ford Coppola, world-class director of THE GODFATHER trilogy and APOLCALYPSE NOW. His ambitious new production for Columbia is based on the original source material: the classic novel, written in 1897 by Bram Stoker. By contrast, previous Dracula films have been based on the 1920's
stage play and were therefore limited in a number of important ways.

"The original novel is written as a fragment of diaries," explains Coppola. "It was a Victorian horror story. Stoker's innovation was to use a real historical figure -- a great king, the founder of Bucharest -- but all the same a 14th century man who impaled people on spikes. At the same time, we are aware that many elements commonly used in Victorian storytelling are perceived by modern audiences as camp, so we will be taking a more modern approach to what is shocking. This film will be scary. Moreover, it explores the motivations of this creature who has the traits we all carry to some degree...the essence of the vampire: the psychological hunger."

Coppola's project began life, as film projects often do, in the fertile imagination of a young screenwriter. "From Neverland to Transylvania -- it's been quite a year," muses James V. Hart, author of Steven Spielberg's HOOK and the impetus for this new incarnation of the vampire legend. "I grew up on the Hammer films and Roger Corman's stuff, along with things like BILLY THE KID VS. DRACULA at the local drive-in. Then, in 1977, I read the novel. And the best way to read the novel is to read Leonard Wolf's "Annotated Dracula," which is the
duplicate the majestic sweep of Stoker's novel. As a young film buff, Hart envisioned David Lean (LAWRENCE OF ARABIA, DR. ZHIVAGO) helming the ultimate, big-budget adaptation of DRACULA, complete with a rousing high-adventure climax worthy of John Ford's western epics.

Coppola, too, was dissatisfied with Hollywood's traditional take on this material and was delighted

definitive study of Bram Stoker's work."

It was astonishing to Hart that earlier filmmakers failed to capture the truly remarkable aspects of this character and story. "In most of those pictures, Dracula was just a sort of exploitation, blood-sucking monster, who wasn't very attractive. Nobody played him for the powerful, charismatic hero that he was." Also, none of these previous versions dared to

Top: The warrior prince Dracula, tormented by the death of his beloved Elizabeth. Right: The sensuous, deadly vampire brides overpower John Harker. Lower right: The grotesquely aged Count Dracula.
when he received Hart's ground-breaking screenplay. For the first time in cinematic history, Dracula was not presented as a one-dimensional symbol of evil; his origin and motivations were clarified. To accomplish this, Hart deftly combined historic fact with Stoker's compelling fiction.

"That was one of the things that attracted me to the script," admits Coppola. "I knew what Jim was doing because I was familiar with the novel and the Vlad the Impaler basis in reality. The irony is that Dracula starts out as a champion of the Church. He was a hero who single-handedly stopped the Turks, a Renaissance prince whose beloved wife, or wife-to-be, commits suicide when she thinks he's been killed. Later the holy men tell Dracula that she's damned because she took her own life, so Dracula rebels and renounces all that is good. To me, the relationship between God and Man is sacramental. It's our blood, the symbol of human passion that binds us to God and, of course, it's a two-sided affair. Man can renounce God if he wishes."

He can, but his soul suffers for it and peace becomes a dream always out of reach. "Dracula offers us the ultimate bargain with the Devil," concludes Hart. "He offers us 'the infinitely stopped moment,' as Leonard Wolf puts it. He can stop time, live forever, freeze himself down and wake up a hundred years later. And I think there's an enormous appeal to leave what is bothering us now and be able to come back in another era. But of course, Dracula pays an enormous price, and that's really the point of the story. He proves to us that eternal life is not everything it's cracked up to be. That it is, in fact, a curse."

Dracula arrives in London! Lucy becomes his first victim! Lucy's fiancé calls in a controversial Van Helsing. Mina encounters the vampire count and feels first stirrings of ...love? Also, Part Two of INSIDE COPPOLA'S DRACULA: The Players.
BRAM STOKER'S

DRACULA

COLLECTIBLES

ONE
Undying Legend...
TWO
Chilling Novels...
BRAM STOKER'S
DRACULA

Enter into the world of the Prince of Darkness with the only Two official Tie-in novels:

Bram Stoker's DRACULA
The Novel of the Film
Directed by
Francis Ford Coppola

By Fred Saberhagen and James V. Hart

Based on the Screenplay by
James V. Hart, from the Bram Stoker Novel. *With 8 pages of full-color movie stills. $4.99

DRACULA by Bram Stoker
The Original Classic Novel
*With 8 pages of black and white movie stills. $3.99

Available wherever paperbacks are sold

Topps proudly introduces this deluxe quality card series based on the motion picture from director Francis Ford Coppola - BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA.

 100 Cards Featuring Premium Card Stock - Full Color Fronts & Backs
 Crimson Foil Stamping, Glossy Laminated Finish
 Includes Special Subset: Comic Book Art by MIKE MIGNOLA
 10 Cards Per Pack

AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH COMICS SHOPS
"For the Dead travel fast!"