Official Comics Adaptation of the Francis Ford Coppola Film

Bram Stoker's

Dracula

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Topps Comics

4 of 4

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Suggested for Mature Readers
"I, Dr. Abraham Van Helsing, Doctor of Sciences, University of Amsterdam, herewith steel myself to complete the story of Dracula, the Fifteenth-Century Warrior Prince who had returned from the grave as one of the Undead...and who had come to England not only to establish an Empire of Blood, but also to find the reincarnation of his lost love, the beautiful Elisabeta.

"And find her he did...in the person of our dear Wilhelmina Murray, fiancée of one of his previous victims, Mr. Jonathan Harker.

"It is the documents of the actual participants in the struggle against Dracula which I have reproduced to tell the tale, such as the journals of Mr. Harker, now husband to our Mina.

"It was the death of Mina’s childhood friend, Lucy Westenra, that finally began to marshal the forces against Dracula. I persuaded the three men who had loved her to go with me to her tomb: her betrothed, Arthur Holmwood, the future Lord Godalming...the adventurous Texan, Quincey P. Morris...and Dr. Jack Seward, once my student but now my colleague, and the overseer of a nearby lunatic asylum.

"There, we all saw for ourselves the blood-hungry vampire that Miss Lucy had become...and, with tears in our eyes, I directed her fiancé to put the fateful stake through her undead heart.

"But, meanwhile, Dracula, had seen in dear Mina the reborn soul of his beloved Elisabeta...and he meant to take her for his own, for all eternity. Our only hope was to discover the secret place where he slept by day..."
TERRIFYING AS YOUR STORY IS, MR. HARKER, YOUR JOURNAL IS TRUE—I WILL PLEDGE MY LIFE ON IT!

AND YOU, DEAR MADAM MINA, WHO INSIST I READ YOURS, GIVE ME HOPE THERE ARE GOOD WOMEN STILL LEFT, BUT EAT—EAT!

---TASTE OF THEIR BLOOD?

NO! GOOD, THEN YOUR BLOOD IS NOT INFECTED WITH THE DISEASE THAT DESTROYED POOR LUCY.

I DOUBTED EVERYTHING—EVEN MYSELF. I WAS IMPOTTENT WITH FEAR. YOU HAVE CURED ME.

AND YOU, MY DEAR MADAM—ARE YOU CURED, AS WELL?

OF WHAT, DR. VAN HELSING?

OF WHATEVER HAPPENED IN THOSE PAGES TORN OUT OF YOUR DIARY.

THE ANCIENT PRINCE DRACUL HIMSELF.

HE DIED FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO--

--BUT HIS BODY WAS NEVER FOUND.
TELL ME, DOCTOR—HOW DID LUCY DIE? I MUST KNOW! SHE WAS MY DEAREST FRIEND, AND NO ONE HAS TOLD ME.

WAS SHE— IN GREAT PAIN?

JA... AT FIRST.

But since we cut off her head and drove a stake through her heart and burned it—

-- SHE IS AT PEACE.

THAT'S ENOUGH, DOCTOR!

NOW YOU UNDERSTAND WHY WE MUST FIND THIS DARK PRINCE AND DO THE SAME FOR HIM.

THERE IS LITTLE TIME...

I KNOW WHERE THE BASTARD SLEEPS. I SENT HIM THERE MYSELF— TO CARFAX ABBEY.

THE BLACK DEVIL IS JACK SEWARD'S NEIGHBOR!

JA.
HE CAN DIRECT THE ELEMENTS--
THE STORM, THE FOG, THE
THUNDER.

HE COMMANDS THE MEANER
THINGS-- THE BAT, RODENT,
WOLF.

HE CAN SEE IN THE DARK--
AND HEAR BEYOND MORTAL
BOUNDS.

DRACULA CAN DO ALL
THOSE THINGS, AND YET
HE IS NOT FREE.

HE MUST REST IN
SACRED EARTH OF HIS
HOMELAND TO GAIN HIS
EVIL POWERS--

-- AND THAT EARTH IS
WHERE WE SHALL
DESTROY HIM.
Mr. Morris, your bullets will not harm him. He must be dismembered. I suggest you use your big knife.

I wasn't planning on gettin' that close to him, Doc.

...where you'll be safe.

The master! I smell him! He feeds on pretty miss!

Be quiet, Renfield!

Renfield? You must let me see him...

I... almost feel pity for anything so hunted as is this count.

How can you pity such a creature? I brought him here, and now I must send him back to hell.

And when this task is done... I shall never leave you again.

Dr. Seward will take you to his quarters...

Renfield, behave yourself now! You're the bride my master covets! I have a husband. I am Mrs. Harker.
MY MASTER TELLS ME ABOUT YOU. HE IS COMING... COMING FOR YOU.

DON'T STAY! GET AWAY FROM THESE MEN!

I PRAY GOD I MAY NEVER SEE YOUR SWEET FACE AGAIN.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU.

MASTER! MASTER! YOU PROMISED ME ETERNAL LIFE-- BUT YOU GIVE IT TO THE WOMAN!

DR. JACK! I'VE BEEN PROMISED ETERNAL LIFE! I AM NO LUNATIC!

I'M A SANE MAN, FIGHTING FOR HIS SOUL!

THE SACRED EARTH OF HIS HOMELAND.

Destroy every box-- sterilize the earth inside.

Leave him no refuge.

Let the exorcism begin!
EXORCIZO TE, IMMUNDISSIME SPIRITUS.

UT DISCEDAS AB ECCLESIA DEI.

I'M A SANE MAN--FIGHTING FOR HIS SOUL!

OMNIS INCURSIO ADVERSARII, OMNIS PHANTASMA, OMNIS LEGIO: IN NOMINE DOMINI NOSTRI IESU CHRISTI.

ADJURO TE, DRACO NEQUISSIME, IN NOMINE AGNI IMMACULAT.

ERADICARE ET EFFUGARE AB HOC PLASMATE DEI.

QUI AMBULAVIT SUPER ASPIDEM ET BASILISCU, QUI CONSULCavit LEONEM ET DRACONEM.
ADJURO TE, SERPENSE ANTIGUE, PER JUDICEM VIVORUM ET MORSUORUM.

PER FACTOREM TUUM, PER FACTOREM MUNDI: PER EUM, QUI HABET POTESTATEM MITTERE TE IN GEBENNAM, UT AB HOC FAMULO DEI.

I TRIED TO WARN HER -- BUT SHE WOULD NOT LISTEN!

SHE WILL BE SPARED, MASTER--

RENFIELD--YOU BETRAYED ME!
YOU CANNOT HAVE HER!

WHAT THE HELL--?

HER SALVATION... WOULD BE HIS DESTRUCTION...

...AND I AM FREEEEE
OH, MY LOVE... YES... YOU FOUND ME...

MINA... MY MOST PRECIOUS LIFE...

I HAVE WANTED THIS TO HAPPEN... I KNOW THAT NOW. I WANT TO BE WITH YOU... ALWAYS.

YOU CAN'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...

YES... I DO KNOW.

I WAS SO AFRAID I WOULD NEVER FEEL YOUR TOUCH AGAIN.

I FEARED YOU WERE DEAD...

THERE IS NO LIFE IN THIS BODY.
But you live! Who are you? You must tell me!
I am nothing. Lifeless... soulless... hated... feared.
Many have suffered because of what I am.

Without you... the love you give me... I am dead to all the world.

God forgive me... I love you.

I want to be what you are... see what you see... love what you love.

Mina... to walk with me, you must die to your breathing life, and be reborn to mine.
I give you life eternal -- everlasting love -- the power of the storm -- and the beasts of the earth.

Walk with me -- to be my loving wife -- forever.

Yes, I--I will--yes.

I will take you as my eternal bride --

--flesh of my flesh--blood of my blood.

Drink--and join me in eternal life!
NO! I CANNOT LET THIS BE!

PLEASE--
I DON'T CARE!
MAKE ME YOURS...

HEAR ME! I AM THE MONSTER
THE BREATHING MEN WOULD KILL!

I AM DRACULA!

YOU WILL BE CURSED,
AS I AM, TO WALK IN THE
SHADOW OF DEATH FOR ALL
ETERNITY. I LOVE YOU TOO
MUCH--TO CONDEMN YOU!

TAKE ME AWAY FROM
ALL THIS DEATH...

MINA--!
WHAT THE DEVIL--?
WATCH OUT!

OLD FOOL!

YOU WOULD DESTROY ME WITH YOUR IDOLS--I WHO SERVED THE CROSS, AND COMMANDED NATIONS HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE YOU WERE BORN!

MY REVENGE HAS JUST BEGUN--AND SHE, YOUR BEST BELVED, IS NOW MY FLESH, MY BLOOD, MY KIN--MY BRIDE!
NO!
LEAVE HER TO GOD! YOUR ARMIES ABANDONED YOU.
NOW YOU MUST PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES!

AARRRR

FAREWELL, MY LOVE...

...FOR NOW.

WHAT--?

MEIN GOTT...
HE HAS A STRONG MIND CONNECTION TO YOU. HIS HEART WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THE GRAVE.

HE IS GONE...

BUT HE SPEAKS TO ME.

I KNOW I AM BECOMING... LIKE HIM. WHEN I FIND IN MYSELF A SIGN OF HARM TO ANYONE I LOVE... I SHALL DIE.

YOU MUST NOT DIE! YOUR SALVATION IS HIS DESTRUCTION. THAT IS WHY I MUST HYPNOTIZE YOU, MINA.

HELP ME FIND HIM... BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. HELP ME, MINA.

LOOK AT THIS FLAME... THIS LIGHT. I WANT YOU TO SLEEP... SLEEP NOW.

YES... I MUST GO TO HIM...

HE CALLS...

WHAT DO YOU HEAR?

THE OCEAN...

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

THE HOLD... OF A SHIP.

GOING HOME...

...HOME...
FROM JONATHAN HARKER'S JOURNAL: 28 OCTOBER

We left London by train and crossed the English Channel that night in stormy seas, no doubt from the Passage of the count's Ship. He commands the winds, but we still have the advantage. By train, we can reach the Romanian Port at Varna in three days. By ship, it will take him at least a week. From Paris, we traveled through the Alps to Buda-Pest. The Count must sail around the Rock of Gibraltar, where we have posted a lookout, and then on to the Black Sea Port at Varna where we will meet his ship and burn it into the sea.

NO TRANSFUSION TUBES, MY FRIEND. THE VAMPIRE HAS BAPTIZED HER WITH HIS OWN BLOOD.

HER BLOOD IS DYING.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, DEAREST. I'M HERE.

MY POOR JONATHAN... HE CALLS ME TO HIM. WHAT HAVE I DONE TO YOU?

NO, NO... I HAVE DONE THIS TO BOTH OF US.

MINA -- IF YOU DIE, I WILL NOT LET YOU GO INTO THE UNKNOWN ALONE.
Noon. Holmwood received a wire from his clerk at Lloyd's. Dracula's ship sailed past us in the night to the port at Galatz...

The black devil is reading Mina's mind! He knows every move we make!

We will follow the bastard upriver on horseback, and cut him off. He must not reach the castle. I will dispatch Van Helsing straight for the Borgo Pass.

If we fail in our task, Van Helsing will have to finish him.

And yet, if there was any other way, I would never let him bring Mina, cursed as she is with that devil's illness, into the jaws of his deathtrap...

...even armed with Quincey's Winchester rifle.
DO YOU KNOW THE PLACE YOU TAKE HER, PROFESSOR?

HAVE YOU FELT THE VAMPIRE LIPS ON YOUR THROAT, OLD MAN?

UNLESS WE REDEEM HER, MADAM MINA IS NOT SAFE ANYWHERE ON THIS EARTH!

YOU THINK YOU KNOW HER PAIN? SHE WILL BE HIS!

GOD'S WILL AND HER OWN ARE OUR ONLY CHANCE!

MAY GOD GIVE HIM INTO MY HANDS JUST LONG ENOUGH TO SEND HIS SOUL TO BURNING HELL!

From Varna, Mina and Van Helsing took a carriage and we continued towards Galatz. I am fearful for Mina. She is now our decoy. Dracula cannot know our plan, as he can read only her mind. But I dread her reaching the castle first.

MINA...

...YOU ARE NEAR...

...but you are not alone!
DR. VAN HELSING--
I--I KNOW THIS PLACE!

YES, MADAM MINA.
IT IS THE END OF THE WORLD.

EAT SOMETHING, CHILD. YOU MUST FIGHT HIS SYPHILITIC CURSE.

I'M NOT HUNGRY.

SINT CUM ARDE. DOR MA MISTUJE. ARDINC. ARDE.

ARDINC. ARDE. ARDINC. ARDE.

YOU ARE SO GOOD TO ME, PROFESSOR.
I know Lucy harbored secret desires for you. She told me.

I, too, know what men desire.

Will you cut off my head and drive a stake through me, as you did poor Lucy?

--You murdering Bastard!?

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!

Sister... take him first, but leave some sweets for us.

Not while I live!

Domine Christos--bless this child--deliver her from evil--!

I have lost Lucy. I will not lose you to him!

You are safe inside the ring!
WHINNEEEE

LIEBER GOTT--

THEY ARE KILLING

THE HORSE!

DO NOT FEAR, MADAM

MINA! IT WILL BE

OUR TURN--

"--WHEN THE SUN RISES

ONCE MORE--"

SCRAPE

WOCK
"--AH, BUT WHEN THE SUN LOWERINGS AGAIN--THAT WILL BE THE ULTIMATE TEST!"

THE WOLVES--DO YOU HEAR THEM? THEY--

PROFESSOR! HE COMES--AND THEY ARE CLOSE BEHIND!

OUR FRIENDS MAY BE TOO LATE--

AROOOOOOOOOOOOO--

"--GOD HELP US--"

--FOR THEY RACE THE VERY SUNSET!"

BLAM

...ELIZABETA...!

...ELIZABETA...

I MUST GO TO HIM!'

MADAM MINA! WAIT!
HARKER--!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE RIDIN' DOUBLE, PARDNER.

WE'VE GOT TO KILL HIM BEFORE THE SUN SETS!

[Image of a man and a horse]
BLAMM

I MUST HELP HIM!

“WHICH ONE?”

“WHICH ONE, MADAM MINA?”
AHHHHH! BLAMM BLAMM

YOU WON'T STOP ME--
FROM KILLING THAT
DEVIL!

NOTHING
WILL!

I'LL GET HIM
FOR YOU--

AARRRGGG

QUINCEY--!

AAAAAAAAAAAAAA
URGK--!

YOU'LL-- NEVER HAVE HER--!

YOU-- WILL NOT BE THE ONES-- TO DESTROY ME--!
Mina--?

When my time comes--will you do the same to me?

Will you?

Mina...

Blamm

No--let them go! Let her go! Our work is done! Hers is just beginning!
Professor! It's Quincey... he's--

We have all become God's mad men.

Rest him, let him sleep in peace.

You cannot leave me! I want to be with you--always!

It is finished.

No--please--I love you...
Mortal love has no hold on us. Ours will last all eternity.

Release me. Give me peace...

UNNNNN!
"We want no proofs. We ask none to believe us. God be thanked that all has not been in vain--the curse has passed away."
PART FOUR  Picture Perfect

With the movie shot, Francis Ford Coppola settled into the formidable challenge of editing BRAM STOKER’S DRACULA. Certain elements were lessened or dropped, others amplified. Early test screenings suggested that a little blood goes a long way. Some very sexy moments were deleted altogether. With the November release date fast approaching, Coppola continued to fine-tune his creation for as long as he possibly could. "Time means nothing to a vampire," the producer-director quipped. "But a filmmaker has obligations to his studio, and to the public." America was expecting BRAM STOKER’S DRACULA on Friday the 13th, November, 1992. Coppola knew he had to deliver, and he did.

"A deliriously imaginative piece of work," wrote Julie Salamon of the Wall Street Journal after seeing the film. "It all unfolds like a chaotic dream, through densely detailed imagery..." Richard Corliss of Time Magazine was equally impressed. "Coppola composes movies as Wagner composes opera," he observed in his review. "The force of his will is as imposing as the range of his art." But perhaps Vincent Canby of the New York Times summed it up best: "(BRAM STOKER’S DRACULA) is a testimonial to the glories of filmmaking as an end in itself." The director couldn’t have phrased it better himself.

Bolstered by critical raves, BRAM STOKER’S DRACULA earned more than 30 million dollars in its opening weekend, a staggering sum that exceeded even the most optimistic expectations. How could Coppola have anticipated such extraordinary interest in the frequently-filmed Dracula legend?

"You don't make movies because you think people might be interested in a certain kind of thing," the filmmaker concludes philosophically. "You make movies to please yourself, to get it in the way you see it, to delight you. If others can appreciate where you're coming from, your vision of it all, then everybody wins."

Francis Ford Coppola directs Winona Ryder (Mina) and Keanu Reeves (Harker) in an early scene from the film.

BY GARY GERANI
“We’ve all become God’s madmen.”

-Van Helsing