



The Letters of Mina Harker

Dodie Bellamy, Dennis Cooper (Foreword)

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In Dodie Bellamy's imagined "sequel" to Bram Stoker's fin de siècle masterpiece *Dracula*, Van Helsing's plain Jane secretarial adjunct, Mina Harker, is recast as a sexual, independent woman living in San Francisco in the 1980s. The vampire Mina Harker, who possesses the body of author Dodie Bellamy, confesses the most intimate details of her relationships with four vastly different men through past letters. Simultaneously, a plague is let loose in San Francisco—the plague of AIDS.

Bigger-than-life, half goddess, half Bette Davis, Mina sends letter after letter to friends and co-conspirators, holding her reader captive through a display of illusion and longing. Juggling quivering vulnerability on one hand and gossip on the other, Mina spoofs and consumes and spews back up demented reembodiments of trash media and high theory alike. It's all fodder for her ravenous libido and "a messy ambiguous place where pathology meets pleasure." Sensuous and captivating, *The Letters of Mina Harker* describes one woman's struggles finding the right words to explain her desires and fears without confining herself to one identity.

The Letters of Mina Harker Details

Date : Published September 27th 2004 by University of Wisconsin Press (first published 1998)

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Author : Dodie Bellamy , Dennis Cooper (Foreword)

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From Reader Review The Letters of Mina Harker for online ebook

Blake Nemec says

If you love the epistolary form and New Narrative fiction, this will take you. Dirty love letters between Bellamy and Sam D'Allesandro comprise half the book. He is dieing on the way. In the center is his funeral which is followed by Bellamy's excavation into texts and writing and death. I read sections here and there before sitting down and reading it in its entirety, I recommend either.

I'm not sure about the effort to write as Mina Harker, but I've never read Dracula so am probably missing alot on that level.

Liza says

in theory, i really love this book, but actually reading it didn't do that much for me. there was a kind of gooey 90s vibe i liked but something about reading tons about women's desire for men just really turns me off. a little like chris kraus that way? and even (secretest) kathy acker. i think there is probably a form of misogyny in this that i should work on. more recent dodie bellamy i like more with my feelings.

Oren Whightsel says

this book isn't for everyone...but bellamy is truly an amazing writer.

Tom prigg says

What can I say? Dodie Bellamy is a shock-jock poet whose adolescent writing can only be characterized as drawing dicks on a restroom stall.

She purposely, I think its purposely, destroys any hopes of flow with her experimental treaties for shit on paper.

People like this garbage because they feel like they have to like it.

Susanna says

The Letters of Mina Harker is a dishy fictionalized memoir from SF literary illuminary Dodie Bellamy. As with other stuff I've seen from Dodie, a mix of beauty and vulgarity and sometimes a surprising combo of both at once. Vulgarity maybe isn't quite the right word. Explicit information. TMI (but you want to keep reading anyway). By turns touching and repugnant. Etc. You get the idea. You should read it.

Elizabeth says

mina harker, passive girl reporter no more! bellamy gives good sentence and even better sex.

Mitch says

Amazing epistolary novel. Mixes "real" diaristic writings with imagined diaries, blurs all literary boundaries and entertains, too. Sexy, funny, claustrophobic and alarming. I first read this work in fragments, which were being published in various magazines and newsletters, seemingly frantically trying to reach a readership, which breathlessly awaited every installment. Takes all the air out of the room. Place carefully on the bookshelf. Plays well, but with finality, with others.

Matias Viegener says

One of my favorite books ever. It virtually created a new genre: Writing Through. This book is a writing-through of Stoker's Dracula. The seamless splicing of Dodie and Mina has to be one of contemporary literatures great tropes. The narrative spin between the novel and Dodies I knew a few of the writers to whom Bellamy addressed the letters, and the overlap between Dracula character and addressee adds yet another layer to a delicious and erotic textual web.

Sara says

i remember reading this book under the covers with a flashlight in my little apartment on 21st street. i had just quit a job as a stocker at the esprit outlet. my boyfriend was away on tour and i was lonely though i had houseguests. i checked the book out from the san francisco public library.

Morgan M. Page says

Like Kathy Acker but obsessed with horror movies instead of opaque French literary theory, Dodie Bellamy explodes languages and writes a series of letters on her relationships with men while possessed by the spirit of vampire Mina Harker. Bellamy is living a narrative, as Kevin Killian tells her several times throughout the book, and that narrative is bursting at the seams, threatening to spill out into all kinds of incoherent directions. I'd give this a four but I'm giving it an extra star for the butt-hurt dude who gave it a one star review because he hates women (be honest, if a man wrote this from a man's perspective, you'd be cumming your pants about it).

D.W. Lichtenberg says

This book is breathtaking in its use of language. Told in a faux epistolary, it details the fight for the body of Dodie Bellamy between the author and the vampire (spirit?) Mina Harker. Ultimately, it's hard for me to make a judgement call on a book like this. While I feel I might be able to get a lot out of the read if assisted in an academic setting, ultimately I found very few roads into this book. I was constantly stalled, the language is the language for the sake of being the language, and I am much more concerned with emotional content than simulation of emotions through beautiful craft.

Masha says

Some of the lines in this book have stayed with me forever.
