



Dracula's Heir (Interactive Mysteries)

Sam Stall

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In 1897, Archibald Constable & Company published Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, the most famous horror novel of all time. For reasons still debated by scholars, the first chapter of *Dracula* was cut from the book just weeks before publication. Here, it becomes the central clue in a spine-tingling original interactive mystery.

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Dracula's Heir begins 10 years after the horrific events described in the original novel. Jonathan and Mina Harker are happily married and enjoying life in Bixby, England. Meanwhile, their friend Dr. John Seward is tracking a string of crimes that seems eerily familiar: A 14-year-old girl sleepwalks out of her parents' house and disappears into the night. Two "accident victims" are found drained of their blood, yet there is no crime scene evidence to explain its loss.Â

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When Seward shares his discoveries with the famous vampire hunter Abraham Van Helsing, all the evidence points to Jonathan Harker. After all, Harker spent weeks imprisoned in Castle Dracula as a guest of the Countâ€"was he infected without anyone realizing it? Has the mild-mannered English solicitor spent the last decade lurking in the shadows as a nosferatu? Or is someone (or something) else getting away with murder?

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This chilling mystery novella features 8 removable clues, including a newspaper, a death certificate, Renfield's private journal, and the original first chapter of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. When you think you've solved the crime, you can open the final signature (sealed at the printer) to test your powers of deduction.

Dracula's Heir (Interactive Mysteries) Details

Date : Published August 1st 2008 by Quirk Books

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Author : Sam Stall

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From Reader Review Dracula's Heir (Interactive Mysteries) for online ebook

Anne Michaud says

I *love* these cute books with little surprises hidden inside!! It's a shame the story was short, but at least it felt like the original, with journal entries and letters sealed in wax.

Cam says

This was a really fun book. The removable clues were nicely done, and the story was well-written and engaging. A great Halloween book.

Sara says

Lots of fun and the story is written really well. I guessed the big bad before it was revealed but failed to figure out the motive. So, I had to read the sealed "answer" at the back of the book. However, if I hadn't been so anxious to find out why and reread the first part of the book, I think I could have guessed it all. Maybe. ;)

Josh says

This was an interactive mystery book that came with props (party invitations, photographs) intended to be from the story.

MountainShelby says

First, this is a beautifully packaged interactive mystery book. I was so lucky to find it untouched for sale for only one dollar at the library. Lucky me. The story does a nice job mimicking 19th century writing without being cumbersome and weighing down the mystery. It was a pleasant diversion and I enjoyed the book.

Josh says

This book was quite fun to read. The mystery wasn't all together too complex, and I figured out most of it, but there was one part in particular that took me by surprise. I probably would have figured it out had I taken the time to reread the book. The removable clues were pretty cool, and the illustrations were awesome. Not only was this book a fun mystery but it was also a fairly good story. I would recommend this book to any who enjoy vampire stories and a moderate challenge.

A few complaints.

First it was obvious that the author had read the book Dracula but had then reverted back to pieces of the storyline that had been cooked up by Hollywood.

Secondly, In one of the news paper articles (which was one of the clues) spoke of an underground explosion that had knocked out the electricity to one area of the city, freezing clocks at the exact moment of the disaster. Considering the story was set ten years after the events in the Dracula novel, I am guessing that clocks still ran on old fashioned clock work and were most likely not electric. In the same article, there was a comical mention of Lovecraft, although I believe that it was intentionally put in the text for humorous reasons. Lastly, One of the clues was the supposedly "missing" first chapter of Bram Stoker's Dracula. It was enjoyable to read, but I cannot be sure if it is authentic or not. Not that it really matters, I would just like to know for sure.

Despite all of this, It was a very enjoyable book.

Cindy says

Fun to read; almost like finding a stash of old mail/newspapers and figuring out the mystery. Granted, it was simple enough to solve.

Roswita says

A wonderful "what happens next" story. Sam Stall does an excellent job of continuing the Dracula saga and what occurs in the lives of Dr. Van Helsing and Dr. Seward. The interactive mystery is a nice little twist that just made it all the more enjoyable.

Olivia-Savannah Roach says

I absolutely loved reading this lovely little interactive mystery!

An interactive mystery is a mystery novel where the reader is the one solving it, alongside the main character. I loved how it had clues which you had to pull out and unfold, such as scrunched notes, envelopes which needed opening and little notebooks. It also had its own newspaper. Alongside all that fun, there were beautifully detailed illustrations that went along with the story. I just had to love that aspect of the novella.

I also really liked the writing style of the novella. I was pretty worried before I started reading this one because Dracula is a classic I have come to adore. I was anxious about someone else writing those characters, and trying to fit into Stoker's style. But Stall does a wonderful job. Believe me, if I hadn't known better, I would've been able to believe that Bram Stoker wrote this himself as well. Kudos to the author for mastering his writing style and writing it in a way I could love.

Then we have the mystery itself. Dare I say it was a better mystery and more so intriguing than that of the original novel? I did not guess the culprit myself, although I should've been able to, now that I know what the answer is. I really liked how it involved the previous characters and how they were accused as well. In

fact, the evidence is so convincing that it's hard to believe otherwise. But the clues were clever, and tricky, and it was just fun to read. I especially liked that we get to play along and try to figure it all out ourselves before the answer is given.

There were some new characters, and I did like them. I liked how they moved the time on ten years down the line, and how that played into the story. The ending was definitely haunting – the perfect atmosphere to leave with the reader after having read such a chilling read.

I'm so glad I had the chance to read this one!

This review and others can be found on Olivia's Catastrophe: <http://olivia-savannah.blogspot.nl/20...>

Dan says

Dracula's Heir is an "Interactive Mystery", which means that every few pages there is a pull-out handwritten note or fold-out newspaper which the reader can examine for clues and/or hidden messages. Gimmicky? Sure, a damn fun gimmick.

As a kid I had a similar book-- that one based on A Study in Scarlet. I loved it then, and the appeal of physical interaction with clues is just as strong now. Though the book feels slight in the hand, the nature of the enclosed objects is such that readers will spend more time with it than the page count would indicate.

Dracula's Heir is geared for ages 10+; that's my guess-- there's no age recommendation on the book, but there are a couple sections which might be frightening for younger readers, especially as things pick up towards the end.

The book's mystery is nicely structured, with clues hidden along the way. Even better, the answer is revealed slowly, allowing readers of different ages/aptitudes to solve more or less of the puzzle as their skills of detection allow.

Reading Teen says

Normally, I'm not very interested in vampire books. I read Twilight and hated it. I read The Chronicles of Vladimir Todd and loved it. That's about all of my range in vampire novels. But Dracula's Heir just seemed so original and fun with all of the notes and pictures added to it: I simply couldn't resist.

Dracula's Heir isn't the best book I've ever read; nor is it my favorite. But it was one of the most genius mysteries I have ever read. By the end of the book my jaw had literally dropped in shock of the events that had taken place in this story. It wasn't all that captivating, but keeps you interested until the next twist in the plot. And when you see all of the twists finally coming together, you realize the cleverness of the story.

Dracula's Heir kinda brought me out of my usual reading zone: vampire books and mystery novels aren't things I usually read. But I must say I enjoyed this book quite a bit. I've never read The original Dracula by Bram Stoker, but I know the story (who doesn't?) well enough to understand Dracula's Heir. Anyone who is a fan of murder mysteries would love this book. It's set ten years after the famous events of Dracula so anyone who's a fan of the legend would enjoy this sequel. Although, I must warn you: It is not for the faint of heart.

Austin

Chris says

I really enjoy these interactive mystery books. The page count is short but all of the bits and baubles that are included make it a captivating read anyway. It gets a 4 out of 5.

Erika says

Fun and original, a little predictable but the fun made up for it.

Kim Piddington says

I REALLY enjoyed this! The cover is awesome-the story was engaging- and I loved the multi-genre approach!

Cornerofmadness says

This is just what it sounds like, an interactive mystery. It's just plain fun. It's no big mystery or the world's best writing but it does do a passable job of looking like it was written in Stoker's era. It starts off as a bequeath of some documents to a young attorney named Jonathan Kelso from Lady Godalming but the bulk of it is made up of John Seward's pov and his journals. (He's the psychiatrist in *Dracula*, who tried to help Lucy.)

The book is campy. It's done in faux red leather and it is stuffed full of wood block like illustrations. The most fun part of it are the clues that you yourself have to read from Renfield's and Jonathan Harker's journals, to old time photos to newspapers. You must do that in order to solve the mystery, both parts of it (I did, rather easily but still I really appreciated it for the bit of fun it is).

Seward is made aware of a new killer on the scene and after a few letters exchanged with Van Helsing (which we get to read) they have an idea that maybe just being bitten once or twice passes on a quasi-vampiric state that allows the victim to walk the daylight hours but still needs to kill and that it could wax and wane like malaria. Seward has to investigate with the help of one of his colleagues, Dr. Dolores Morrigan, one of the first lady doctors in England. Much to Seward's dismay it's looking like the most likely

candidate is Jonathan Harker himself. Like I said, it's not hard to figure out who the vampire is, not really but it was fun. It's a tad pricey though.
