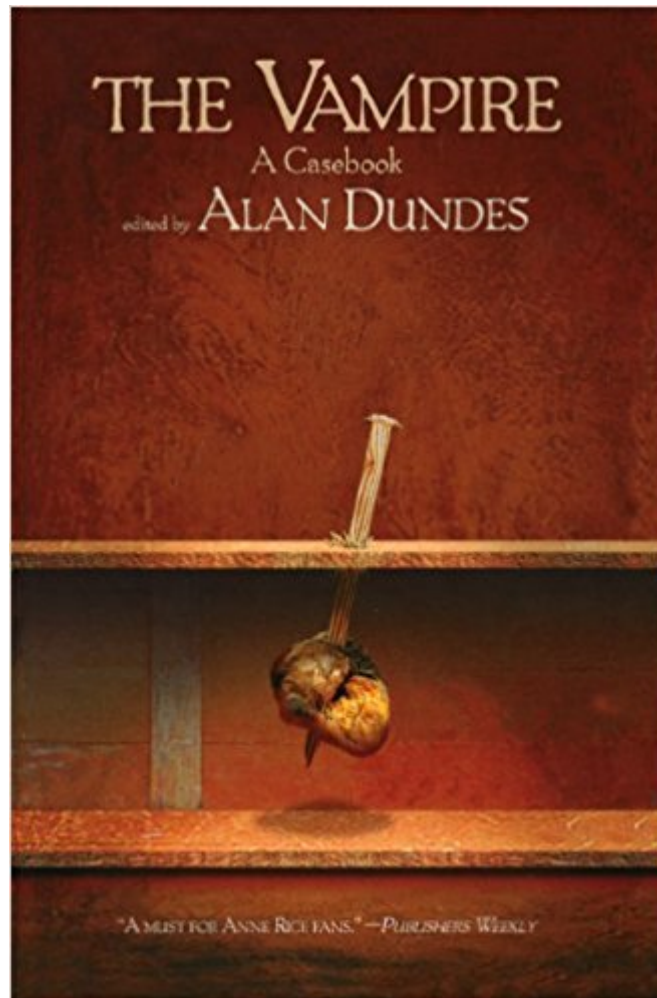


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The Vampire: A Casebook



Synopsis

Vampires are the most fearsome and fascinating of all creatures of folklore. For the first time, detailed accounts of the vampire and how its tradition developed in different cultures are gathered in one volume by eminent folklorist Alan Dundes. Eleven leading scholars from the fields of Slavic studies, history, anthropology, and psychiatry unearth the true nature of the vampire from its birth in graveyard lore to the modern-day psychiatric patient with a penchant for drinking blood. *The Vampire: A Casebook* takes this legend out of the realm of literature and film and back to its dark beginnings in folk traditions. The essays examine the history of the word 'vampire' Romanian vampires; Greek vampires; Serbian vampires; the physical attributes of vampires; the killing of vampires; and the possible psychoanalytic underpinnings of vampires. Much more than simply a scary creature of the human imagination, the vampire has been and continues to haunt the lives of all those who encounter it in reality or in fiction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dundes (*The Walled-Up Wife*, Univ. of Wisconsin, 1996) presents a collection of essays by renowned folklorists (Friedrich Krauss, Juliette du Boulay, Paul Barber, and others) in an attempt to explain and define the tradition of the vampire outside the context of literature and legend. He begins with essays discussing the etymology of the term vampire and its history and ethnography. More in-depth essays follow, with analyses of Romanian and other Slavic vampire folklore. One work treating forensic pathology attempts to explain how "folk" might easily see the natural process

of bodily decomposition as vampirism. Another discusses the psychology of clinical vampirism, and a final essay by the editor, with an admitted Freudian bias, tries to weave together the strands of legend and reality. Recommended for academic and public libraries with strong folklore collections but also valuable as a literary companion. Katherine K. Koenig, Ellis Sch., Pittsburgh Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"The Vampire is a winner. . . Alan Dundes is a truly remarkable scholar."--Wolfgang Mieder, professor of German and folklore and author of "The Politics of Proverbs"
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Wolfgang Mieder, professor of German and folklore and author of "The Politics of Proverbs"

I couldn't believe it when I found out about it. I beat a blazing trail to .com for THIS book! And it's available in Kindle format for download. It doesn't get any better than this! Seriously, I am a dedicated paranormal adventure fan - okay, a Vampire Romance addict... this is NOT a sizzling love story about over-the-top vampires in love. This is a thoughtfully considered, very well researched study of the folklore.. the legends about Eastern European vampires (vampire stories are NOT myths - the author would have you know!) - vampire stories are LEGENDS. Myths are about gods. Vampires are anything but gods - they're demons, undead. Anyway, so Professor Emeritas Alan Dundes taught a course in the English Lit Department at the University of Michigan about Dracula - he was teaching his students how to write vampire fiction. OMG ... a college course on Dracula to learn how to write good vampire fiction? I'm in love! Anyway, his work is well nurtured by the University, now being taught by a protege of his, and the beat goes on! The writing is a bit dry, but by God, you will learn more about vampires than you think you already know. The Europeans view them quite differently than we do here in the USA (because for quite some time now, they have been true believers in the existence of such demons).

For people wanting to learn about some of the background to the vampire -- and dispell some of the old ideas on them -- this book is a must. Dundes collects a number of great articles on various aspects of vampire lore, from folkloric to medical and scientific views on what is behind the revenant

we call the vampyre. it's a great academic book, but even those who aren't students of folklore (or who aren't academically inclined towards anything :)) will find this to be a fascinating read. It's not too overly academic in terminologies or concepts -- enough to give the reader thoughtful and insightly investigations into the vampire lore -- but it's far from fluff materials also. I wouldn't call this a rated R book, but it's certainly not G-rated either. Do know that there are mature themes in this book at times, and not for the faint of heart. We are talking about vampires here in a very serious manner, after all! there are a few graphic passages involving death and how people dealt with the dead which they feared had taken on undeath and revived life to return to haunt the living.

Had to buy this book for a class I took on Vampires. In that class we studied like Slavic folklore, literary vampires, and vampires in general. We had a number of readings from this text. It's an interesting read. Dundes only wrote one or two of the chapters and then the rest are compiled writings by other people. It's an interesting approach to the topic of Vampires. My favorite chapter is the one on the forensic pathology of vampires. Would definitely recommend to someone with an interest in vampires who is looking for a more academic sort of text on the subject.

Arrived in great condition! Very descriptive and informative. Offers many explanations for the origin of the vampire including psychological and sociological approaches. Interesting read!

I was looking for some fresh ideas about the vampire legends and myths, and Alan Dundes supplied them as usual. Interesting material and an alternative to some of the more recent views as seen on TV etc.

Assigned as a textbook. Really loved it and enjoyed reading the great stories. Lot's of interesting information with information I have not seen before.

This rating format is inappropriate for nonfiction!! There is no "plot"!!!!....there are no "characters"! ~~~~~ NONFICTION!!!!!! It analyzes the history of vampires

awesome! it was in perfect condition and it will really help me with the classes I'm taking! thank you again!

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