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Since it was first published in 1897, this now classic horror novel, which brought its author international acclaim, has spawned a global following, inspiring hundreds of films and setting the seaside town of Whitby in North Yorkshire on the map forever. A sickly child, Bram Stoker (1847–1912) developed a fascination with the supernatural during his enforced confinement. He went on to become actor Henry Irving's business manager at the Lyceum Theatre in London, yet continued to pursue his literary interests. His iconic villain takes his name from Vlad the Impaler (1431–76), also known as Vlad Dracula, whereas the vampire's appearance and powerful personality is modelled on Irving. Famous for its epistolary form, *Dracula* went through eleven editions during Stoker's lifetime. Succeeding generations continue to be enthralled and thrilled anew by the tale's dark terror and deeply unsettling undercurrents.

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Dracula

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TO

MY DEAR FRIEND

HOMMY-BEG

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CONTENTS.

—————						
CHAPTER I.						
Jonathan Harker's Journal I
CHAPTER II.						
Jonathan Harker's Journal 15
CHAPTER III.						
Jonathan Harker's Journal	...	...	..	...	..	... 28
CHAPTER IV.						
Jonathan Harker's Journal	...	...	...		...	.. 41
CHAPTER V.						
Letters—Lucy and Mina ...	...	...	...	...	..	... 55
CHAPTER VI.						
Mina Murray's Journal	...	...	...	...	..	... 64
CHAPTER VII.						
Cutting from "The Dailygraph," 8 August	...	...	...	...	...	... 77
CHAPTER VIII.						
Mina Murray's Journal	..	...	...	...	...	... 91

	Page
CHAPTER IX.	
Mina Murray's Journal	106
CHAPTER X.	
Mina Murray's Journal	120
CHAPTER XI.	
Lucy Westenra's Diary	135
CHAPTER XII.	
Dr. Seward's Diary	148
CHAPTER XIII.	
Dr. Seward's Diary	166
CHAPTER XIV.	
Mina Harker's Journal	182
CHAPTER XV.	
Dr. Seward's Diary	198
CHAPTER XVI.	
Dr. Seward's Diary	212
CHAPTER XVII.	
Dr. Seward's Diary	223
CHAPTER XVIII.	
Dr. Seward's Diary	237

Contents.		ix
CHAPTER XIX.		
Jonathan Harker's Journal	... ..	Page 254
CHAPTER XX.		
Jonathan Harker's Journal	... ..	267
CHAPTER XXI.		
Dr. Seward's Diary	... ..	282
CHAPTER XXII.		
Jonathan Harker's Journal	... ..	297
CHAPTER XXIII.		
Dr. Seward's Diary	... ..	310
CHAPTER XXIV.		
Dr. Seward's Phonograph Diary, spoken by Van Helsing	... ..	324
CHAPTER XXV.		
Dr. Seward's Diary	... ..	339
CHAPTER XXVI.		
Dr. Seward's Diary	... ..	354
CHAPTER XXVII.		
Mina Harker's Journal	... ..	372

How these papers have been placed in sequence will be made manifest in the reading of them. All needless matters have been eliminated, so that a history almost at variance with the possibilities of later-day belief may stand forth as simple fact. There is throughout no statement of past things wherein memory may err, for all the records chosen are exactly contemporary, given from the standpoints and within the range of knowledge of those who made them.