

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture

Encyclopedia of the Vampire: The Living Dead in Myth, Legend, and Popular Culture

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture serves as a fascinating gateway into one of the most enduring and captivating supernatural figures in human history. From shadowy folklore to blockbuster movies, the vampire has morphed and evolved, embodying our deepest fears, desires, and cultural anxieties. This article journeys through the rich tapestry of vampire lore, exploring how these living dead have emerged from ancient myths, embedded themselves in legends, and ultimately transformed into icons of popular culture.

The Origins of Vampire Mythology

Vampires have been part of human imagination for centuries, but where did the idea of these nocturnal bloodsuckers first arise? The encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture often traces vampire origins to early Eastern European folklore.

Ancient Myths and Early Beliefs

Long before vampires were glamorized in novels or films, many cultures had stories about spirits or creatures who fed on human life force. In Mesopotamia, the Lilitu demons were believed to prey on men, while in ancient Greece, tales of the Empusa and Lamia described seductive entities that drained blood or vitality. These early myths contributed foundational elements to what would become vampire lore.

In Slavic and Balkan traditions, vampires were typically portrayed as revenants—dead individuals who returned to life to terrorize the living. These revenants were often associated with disease, death, and the unexplained phenomena that plagued communities. The belief in vampires was so strong that various rituals, such as staking bodies or placing garlic around homes, were used to protect against them.

Vampires in Western European Folklore

As vampire stories spread westward, they adapted to local cultures and

religious beliefs. In Western Europe, vampires were sometimes linked to witches or demons. The 18th century saw a wave of vampire hysteria, especially in areas like Hungary and Serbia, where reports of vampire attacks led to public exhumations and folklore studies.

This period was also critical in shaping the modern image of the vampire. The encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture notes that these early accounts highlighted traits such as nocturnal activity, aversion to sunlight, and an insatiable thirst for blood—features that persist in today's vampire narratives.

Vampires in Literature: From Gothic Horror to Romantic Antiheroes

The transition of vampires from folklore to literature marks a pivotal moment in their cultural journey. Literature not only preserved vampire myths but reimagined them, adding depth, complexity, and emotional nuance.

Classic Gothic Beginnings

One cannot discuss vampires without mentioning Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula*. This seminal work immortalized Count Dracula as the quintessential vampire figure—a nobleman with supernatural powers, charming yet terrifying. Stoker's novel drew heavily on the folklore compiled in the century before and synthesized various vampire traits into a compelling story of horror and seduction.

Prior to *Dracula*, John Polidori's *The Vampyre* (1819) introduced the vampire as a charismatic aristocrat, establishing the trope of the seductive vampire that would dominate later works. Meanwhile, Sheridan Le Fanu's *Carmilla* (1872) explored themes of female vampirism and lesbian subtext, expanding the genre's boundaries.

Modern Interpretations and the Rise of the Vampire Antihero

The encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture highlights the significant shift in vampire portrayals during the late 20th and early 21st centuries. No longer merely monstrous villains, vampires became complex antiheroes and tragic figures.

Anne Rice's *The Vampire Chronicles* series revolutionized the genre by delving into the psychology and morality of vampires, presenting them as beings struggling with immortality, identity, and existential dilemmas.

Similarly, Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* saga introduced a new generation to vampires, blending romance with supernatural elements and appealing to young adult audiences.

These modern portrayals often humanize vampires, focusing on their internal conflicts and relationships, thus keeping vampire lore relevant and relatable.

Vampires in Popular Culture: Film, Television, and Beyond

Vampires have thrived in popular culture, dominating screens and inspiring countless adaptations, spin-offs, and reinterpretations.

Iconic Vampire Films and TV Shows

From the silent era's *Nosferatu* (1922) to the glamorous *Interview with the Vampire* (1994), vampire cinema has continually reinvented the creature of the night. The 1931 *Dracula* film starring Bela Lugosi cemented the visual image of the vampire in popular consciousness, complete with the cape and hypnotic stare.

Television series like *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *The Vampire Diaries* expanded the mythology, mixing horror with teen drama and fantasy elements. These shows brought vampires into contemporary settings, exploring themes like friendship, power, and morality.

Vampires in Video Games and Comics

The encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture also recognizes the impact of vampires in interactive media and graphic novels. Video games such as *Castlevania* and *Vampire: The Masquerade* allow players to immerse themselves in vampire worlds, exploring complex narratives and supernatural abilities.

Comics and graphic novels frequently feature vampire protagonists and antagonists, often blending horror with noir or superhero genres. This diversification reflects the adaptability of vampire mythology across different entertainment platforms.

The Enduring Appeal of Vampires

What makes vampires so endlessly fascinating? The encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture suggests several reasons.

Symbolism and Psychological Resonance

Vampires often symbolize the human struggle with mortality, desire, and the taboo. Their immortality confronts us with questions about life's meaning and the cost of eternal existence. The act of blood-drinking can be seen as a metaphor for intimacy, power, or even addiction.

Adaptability Across Cultures and Times

Vampires have shown remarkable flexibility, absorbing cultural anxieties and evolving alongside societal changes. Whether reflecting fears of disease, sexual repression, or the allure of forbidden desires, the vampire myth adapts to the collective psyche.

The Blend of Horror and Romance

Few creatures blend terror and attraction like vampires. Their dual nature as monsters and lovers creates compelling narratives that explore the complexity of human emotions. This blend ensures that vampires remain a rich source of storytelling inspiration.

Exploring Vampire Lore: Tips for Enthusiasts

For anyone captivated by the world of vampires, diving into the encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture can be both enlightening and entertaining. Here are some tips to deepen your understanding:

- **Explore diverse folklore:** Don't limit yourself to European tales; vampire-like creatures exist in many cultures, such as the Chinese Jiangshi or the Filipino Aswang.
- **Read foundational literature:** Classic works like **Dracula**, **Carmilla**, and **The Vampyre** are essential for tracing the evolution of vampire stories.

- **Watch a variety of adaptations:** Compare early horror films with modern interpretations to see how vampires reflect changing cultural trends.
- **Engage with fan communities:** Online forums and fan fiction often explore new angles on vampire myths, keeping the tradition alive and innovative.

By appreciating the layers behind vampire legends, enthusiasts can gain insights not only into the creatures themselves but also the cultures that created and sustained these myths.

The encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture reveals a rich, multifaceted world where ancient fears meet modern creativity. Whether as fearsome predators, tragic heroes, or symbols of eternal longing, vampires continue to captivate our imagination, proving that the undead are very much alive in the stories we tell.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'Encyclopedia of the Vampire: The Living Dead in Myth, Legend, and Popular Culture'?

It is a comprehensive reference book that explores the history, mythology, and cultural impact of vampires throughout various cultures and popular media.

Who is the author of the 'Encyclopedia of the Vampire'?

The encyclopedia is authored by J. Gordon Melton, a renowned scholar in the field of religious studies and folklore.

What topics are covered in the 'Encyclopedia of the Vampire'?

The book covers vampire myths, legends, folklore, historical accounts, and their portrayals in literature, film, television, and other forms of popular culture.

How does the encyclopedia address vampire myths from different cultures?

It provides detailed entries on vampire-like creatures and legends from around the world, highlighting similarities and differences across cultures and time periods.

Why is the 'Encyclopedia of the Vampire' considered important for vampire studies?

It is one of the most thorough and scholarly compilations on the subject, offering well-researched information that helps readers understand the evolution of vampire lore and its significance in society.

Can the encyclopedia be used as a resource for creative writers and filmmakers?

Yes, it serves as a valuable resource for creators seeking accurate and diverse information about vampire mythology to enhance their storytelling.

Where can one purchase or access the 'Encyclopedia of the Vampire'?

The encyclopedia is available for purchase through major book retailers and can often be found in libraries or academic institutions with collections on folklore or popular culture.

Additional Resources

****Encyclopedia of the Vampire: The Living Dead in Myth, Legend, and Popular Culture****

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture serves as an essential compendium that traces the evolution of one of the most enduring and enigmatic figures in human folklore. Vampires, as creatures that straddle the line between life and death, have captivated imaginations for centuries, appearing in myths, legends, literature, and modern media. This extensive body of work provides a detailed and analytical exploration of vampire lore, from ancient origins to contemporary portrayals, unveiling the social, cultural, and psychological implications that underpin the mythos of the living dead.

Tracing the Origins: Vampire Mythology Across Cultures

The encyclopedia offers a panoramic view of vampire myths across various civilizations, illustrating that the concept of the undead is far from a monolithic idea. Early vampire-like creatures appear in Mesopotamian, Greek, and Slavic folklore, each culture embedding its own fears and moral lessons within the vampire narrative. For example, the ancient Mesopotamian figure of the ****Lamashtu****, a demoness who preyed on infants and pregnant women, can be interpreted as a proto-vampiric entity.

In Eastern European folklore, particularly within the Slavic regions, the vampire emerged as a revenant spirit that returned from the grave to torment the living. This tradition heavily influenced Western conceptions of the vampire during the 18th and 19th centuries. The encyclopedia meticulously documents these regional variants, emphasizing how societal anxieties—such as disease, death, and the unknown—manifested in tales of bloodsucking entities.

The Role of Vampires in Ancient Myths and Religious Beliefs

Religious interpretations also played a significant role in shaping vampire legends. Within Christian contexts, vampires were often associated with the devil or unholy beings, symbolizing sin and eternal damnation. Conversely, some pagan beliefs depicted vampires as spirits seeking justice or revenge, reflecting complex human emotions around death and loss. The encyclopedia provides critical analysis of these intersections between faith, folklore, and fear, highlighting how vampires acted as metaphors for morality and existential uncertainty.

From Folklore to Literature: The Birth of the Modern Vampire

The transition from oral mythology to written literature marked a pivotal moment in vampire history. The encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture dedicates considerable attention to seminal works such as John Polidori's **The Vampyre** (1819) and Bram Stoker's **Dracula** (1897). These texts crystallized the vampire archetype, introducing characteristics like immortality, aristocratic demeanor, and an aura of seductive danger.

Stoker's **Dracula** remains an indispensable reference point, shaping centuries of vampire portrayals. The encyclopedia analyzes how this novel intertwined Victorian social anxieties—such as fears of immigration, sexuality, and disease—with Gothic horror, thereby elevating the vampire from folklore to literary icon. Furthermore, it compares these early literary depictions with subsequent reinterpretations, noting shifts in narrative tone and thematic focus.

Characteristics Defining the Literary Vampire

Literary vampires are typically imbued with a set of defining features that distinguish them from their folkloric predecessors. These include:

- Immortality and regeneration abilities
- Dependence on human blood for sustenance
- Supernatural strength and speed
- Hypnotic or seductive powers
- Vulnerability to sunlight, garlic, and religious symbols

The encyclopedia explores how these traits evolved over time, adapting to cultural contexts and storytelling demands.

Vampires in Popular Culture: Evolution and Adaptation

The influence of vampire mythology on popular culture is profound and multifaceted. The encyclopedia thoroughly documents the portrayal of vampires in film, television, comics, and video games, noting significant trends and transformations. From the chilling horror of early cinema classics like *Nosferatu* (1922) to the romanticized and conflicted vampires of modern franchises such as *Twilight* and *The Vampire Diaries*, the vampire remains a versatile symbol.

Vampires on Screen: Horror, Romance, and Beyond

Cinema has not only popularized vampire lore but also redefined it repeatedly. The encyclopedia highlights how the genre shifted from outright horror to include elements of romance and drama, reflecting changing audience tastes. For example, the 1931 *Dracula* film starring Bela Lugosi cemented the vampire's image as a charismatic villain, while later movies like *Interview with the Vampire* (1994) explored themes of existential angst and morality.

In television, series such as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *True Blood* expanded the vampire mythos by integrating social commentary on identity, prejudice, and power dynamics. The encyclopedia provides critical insights into how these portrayals both challenge and reinforce vampire stereotypes.

Interactive and Graphic Representations

Beyond passive media, vampires have found a dynamic presence in interactive formats. Video games like *Castlevania* and *Vampyr* immerse players in

vampire-centric narratives, often exploring ethical dilemmas and the duality of the undead existence. Likewise, graphic novels and comics have embraced vampire stories with a blend of horror, action, and romance, appealing to diverse demographics.

The encyclopedia evaluates the effectiveness of these mediums in conveying the complexity of vampire mythology, emphasizing their role in sustaining the living dead's cultural relevance.

The Symbolism and Psychological Appeal of Vampires

Underlying the popularity of vampires is their rich symbolic resonance. The encyclopedia analyzes how vampires embody human fears and desires—mortality, sexuality, power, and otherness. Through an investigative lens, it examines the psychological appeal of the vampire archetype, suggesting that these creatures offer a means for audiences to confront taboo subjects and existential dilemmas safely.

This symbolic dimension is especially pronounced in modern interpretations, where vampires often represent marginalized identities or social outsiders. The encyclopedia discusses how this shift reflects broader cultural movements and evolving societal values.

Pros and Cons of Vampire Symbolism in Media

- **Pros:** Enables exploration of complex themes such as immortality, addiction, and identity; provides a versatile metaphor for human experience; fosters creative storytelling across genres.
- **Cons:** Risk of cliché and over-saturation in popular culture; potential trivialization of original folklore; sometimes perpetuates problematic stereotypes (e.g., romanticizing predation).

Encyclopedia of the Vampire: A Reference for Scholars and Enthusiasts

The comprehensive nature of the encyclopedia makes it an invaluable resource for both academic researchers and casual fans. It aggregates historical accounts, literary criticism, and cultural analysis into a coherent narrative that respects the complexity of vampire lore. Its methodical

approach—blending mythological origins, literary evolutions, and media adaptations—facilitates a holistic understanding of the living dead's place in human culture.

Moreover, the encyclopedia's SEO-friendly integration of key terms related to vampires, undead folklore, Gothic literature, and popular culture ensures it remains accessible to readers seeking authoritative information on the subject.

In synthesizing diverse perspectives, the encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture encourages a nuanced appreciation of a figure that continues to inspire and terrify across generations. The enduring fascination with vampires testifies to their potent symbolism and adaptability, securing their place in the collective imagination for years to come.

Encyclopedia Of The Vampire The Living Dead In Myth Legend And Popular Culture

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture:

Encyclopedia of the Vampire S. T. Joshi, 2010-11-04 An exhaustive work covering the full range of topics relating to vampires, including literature, film and television, and folklore. Encyclopedia of the Vampire: The Living Dead in Myth, Legend, and Popular Culture is a comprehensive encyclopedia relating to all phases of vampirism—in literature, film, and television; in folklore; and in world culture. Although previous encyclopedias have attempted to chart this terrain, no prior work contains the depth of information, the breadth of scope, and the up-to-date coverage of this volume. With contributions from many leading critics of horror and supernatural literature and media, the encyclopedia offers entries on leading authors of vampire literature (Bram Stoker, Anne Rice, Stephenie Meyer), on important individual literary works (Dracula and Interview with the Vampire), on celebrated vampire films (the many different adaptations of Dracula, the Twilight series, Love at First Bite), and on television shows (Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Angel). It also covers other significant topics pertaining to vampires, such as vampires in world folklore, humorous vampire films, and vampire lifestyle.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture: *The*

Vampire Nick Groom, 2018-10-30 An authoritative new history of the vampire, two hundred years after it first appeared on the literary scene Published to mark the bicentenary of John Polidori's publication of *The Vampyre*, Nick Groom's detailed new account illuminates the complex history of the iconic creature. The vampire first came to public prominence in the early eighteenth century, when Enlightenment science collided with Eastern European folklore and apparently verified outbreaks of vampirism, capturing the attention of medical researchers, political commentators, social theorists, theologians, and philosophers. Groom accordingly traces the vampire from its role as a monster embodying humankind's fears, to that of an unlikely hero for the marginalized and excluded in the twenty-first century. Drawing on literary and artistic representations, as well as medical, forensic, empirical, and sociopolitical perspectives, this rich and eerie history presents the vampire as a strikingly complex being that has been used to express the traumas and contradictions of the human condition.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture:

Spooing the Vampire Simon Bacon, 2022-10-10 Famous for being deathly serious, the vampire

genre has a consistent yet often critically overlooked subgenre--the comedic spoof and satire. This is the first book dedicated entirely to documenting and analyzing the vampire comedy on film and television. Various types of comedy are discussed, outlining the important differences between spoofing, serious-spoofing, parody and satire. Seminal films such as *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein*, *Love at First Bite*, *Vampire in Brooklyn*, *Dracula: Dead and Loving It* and *What We Do In the Shadows* are featured. More importantly, this book demonstrates how comedy is central to both the common perception of the vampire and the genre's ever-evolving character, making it an essential read for those interested in the laughing undead and creatures that guffaw in the night.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture: *Spirit Possession around the World* Joseph P. Laycock, 2015-05-26 This book provides a fascinating historical and cultural overview of traditional beliefs about spirit possession and exorcism around the world, from Europe to Asia and the Middle East to the Americas. Possession and exorcism are elements that occur in nearly every culture. Why is belief in spiritual possession so universal? This accessible reference volume offers a broad sample of the traditions and cultures involving possession and exorcism, presenting thoughts on this widely popular topic by experts from the fields of anthropology, sociology, religious studies, history, neuroscience, forensics, and theology. The entries cover the subject of possession and exorcism across all inhabited continents, from the Bronze Age to the 21st century, providing information that is accessible and intriguing as well as scholarly and authoritative. Beyond addressing the Christian tradition of possession and exorcism, Pentecostalism, and New Age and less widely known Western concepts about possession and exorcism, this work examines ideas about possession and exorcism from other world religions and the indigenous cultures of Asia, Africa, and the Americas. It also covers historic cases of possession and presents biographies of famous theologians, exorcists, and possessed individuals. High school and undergraduate readers will learn about world history, religious and spiritual traditions, and world cultures through a topic that figures prominently in popular culture and modern entertainment. Bibliographies that accompany each entry as well as a selected, general bibliography serve to help students locate print and electronic sources of additional information.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture: *Encyclopedia of the Vampire* S. T. Joshi, 2010-11-04 An exhaustive work covering the full range of topics relating to vampires, including literature, film and television, and folklore. *Encyclopedia of the Vampire: The Living Dead in Myth, Legend, and Popular Culture* is a comprehensive encyclopedia relating to all phases of vampirism—in literature, film, and television; in folklore; and in world culture. Although previous encyclopedias have attempted to chart this terrain, no prior work contains the depth of information, the breadth of scope, and the up-to-date coverage of this volume. With contributions from many leading critics of horror and supernatural literature and media, the encyclopedia offers entries on leading authors of vampire literature (Bram Stoker, Anne Rice, Stephenie Meyer), on important individual literary works (*Dracula* and *Interview with the Vampire*), on celebrated vampire films (the many different adaptations of *Dracula*, the *Twilight* series, *Love at First Bite*), and on television shows (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel*). It also covers other significant topics pertaining to vampires, such as vampires in world folklore, humorous vampire films, and vampire lifestyle.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture: *Japanese and American Horror* Katarzyna Marak, 2014-11-14 Horror fiction is an important part of the popular culture in many modern societies. This book compares and contrasts horror narratives from two distinct cultures--American and Japanese--with a focus on the characteristic mechanisms that make them successful, and on their culturally-specific aspects. Including a number of narratives belonging to film, literature, comics and video games, this book provides a comprehensive perspective of the genre. It sheds light on the differences and similarities in the depiction of fear and horror in America and Japan, while emphasizing narrative patterns in the context of their respective cultures.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture: *The*

Origins of the Literary Vampire Heide Crawford, 2016-08-30 The long and distinguished tradition of the literary vampire began in Germany during the Age of Enlightenment. German literature was the first to adapt the vampire figure from central European folklore and superstition and give it literary form. Despite these German origins, scholarly attention devoted to literary vampires has consistently focused on a select set of sources: British and French literature, Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and the phenomenon of the vampire superstition in general. While there have been many illuminating studies of pre-literary vampires and vampires that have already been firmly established as literary figures, the story of the crucial moment of transition from folkloric figure to literary subject has not yet been told. In *The Origins of the Literary Vampire* Heide Crawford redirects scholarly attention to the body of German poetry and prose where vampire folklore becomes vampire literature. This book focuses on the adaptation of the vampire superstition from central European folklore by German poets in the 18th and early 19th centuries for an audience that had become increasingly interested in superstition and occult phenomena in an Age of Enlightenment. In addition to establishing that the origins of the literary vampire in 18th and 19th century German poetry and prose were informed by the stories and reports of vampires from Central Europe, Crawford argues that the German poets who adapted this figure from superstition for their creative work immediately molded it into a metaphor for contemporary cultural anxieties and fears—a connection that would inspire horror literature in general and the traits of the literary vampire in particular for the 19th century and beyond. Contemporary culture has exhibited a marked fascination with eroticized and politicized applications of the vampire. This volume traces these erotic motifs, common political motifs and others to the first vampire poems that were written by German poets. Consequently, this book answers three central questions: What were the origins of the literary vampire; how was the vampire of folklore and superstition adapted for literature; and how did German poets contribute to the development of the vampire and Gothic horror literature? By answering these and other questions, *The Origins of the Literary Vampire* explains how the literary vampire became the ubiquitous horror figure it is today.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture: *The Palgrave Handbook of the Vampire* Simon Bacon, 2024-04-16 Winner of the The Lord Ruthven Assembly Award for Non-Fiction 2024 This Handbook MRW is a unique encompassing overview of the figure of the vampire. Not only covering the list of usual suspects, this volume provides coverage from the very first reports of vampire-like creatures in the 17th century to film and media representations in the 21st century. The *Palgrave Handbook of the Vampire* shows that what you thought you knew about vampires is only a fraction of the real and fascinating story.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture: *Such a Dark Thing* M. Jess Peacock, 2015-02-05 Evil, death, demons, reanimation, and resurrection. While such topics are often reserved for the darker mindscapes of the vampire subgenre within popular culture, they are equally integral elements of religious history and belief. Despite the cultural shift of presenting vampires in a secular light, the traditional figure of the vampire within cinema and literature has a rich legacy of serving as a theological marker. Whether as a symbol of the allure of sin, as an apologetic for assorted religious icons, or as a gateway into a discussion of liberationist theology, the vampire has served as a spiritual touchstone from Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, to Stephen King's *Salem's Lot*, to the HBO television series *True Blood*. In *Such a Dark Thing*, Jess Peacock examines how the figure of the vampire is able to traverse and interconnect theology and academia within the larger popular culture in a compelling and engaging manner. The vampire straddles the ineffable chasm between life and death and speaks to the transcendent in all of us, tapping into our fundamental curiosity of what, if anything, exists beyond the mortal coil, giving us a glimpse into the interminable while maintaining a cultural currency that is never dead and buried.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture: *Horror Literature through History* Matt Cardin, 2017-09-21 This two-volume set offers comprehensive coverage of horror literature that spans its deep history, dominant themes, significant works, and major authors, such as Stephen King, Edgar Allan Poe, and Anne Rice, as well as lesser-known

horror writers. Many of today's horror story fans—who appreciate horror through movies, television, video games, graphic novels, and other forms—probably don't realize that horror literature is not only one of the most popular types of literature but one of the oldest. People have always been mesmerized by stories that speak to their deepest fears. *Horror Literature through History* shows 21st-century horror fans the literary sources of their favorite entertainment and the rich intrinsic value of horror literature in its own right. Through profiles of major authors, critical analyses of important works, and overview essays focused on horror during particular periods as well as on related issues such as religion, apocalypticism, social criticism, and gender, readers will discover the fascinating early roots and evolution of horror writings as well as the reciprocal influence of horror literature and horror cinema. This unique two-volume reference set provides wide coverage that is current and compelling to modern readers—who are of course also eager consumers of entertainment. In the first section, overview essays on horror during different historical periods situate works of horror literature within the social, cultural, historical, and intellectual currents of their respective eras, creating a seamless narrative of the genre's evolution from ancient times to the present. The second section demonstrates how otherwise unrelated works of horror have influenced each other, how horror subgenres have evolved, and how a broad range of topics within horror—such as ghosts, vampires, religion, and gender roles—have been handled across time. The set also provides alphabetically arranged reference entries on authors, works, and specialized topics that enable readers to zero in on information and concepts presented in the other sections.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture:

Dangerous bodies Marie Mulvey-Roberts, 2016-01-01 Through an investigation of the body and its oppression by the church, the medical profession and the state, this book reveals the actual horrors lying beneath fictional horror in settings as diverse as the monastic community, slave plantation, operating theatre, Jewish ghetto and battlefield trench. The book provides original readings of canonical Gothic literary and film texts including *The Castle of Otranto*, *The Monk*, *Frankenstein*, *Dracula* and *Nosferatu*. This collection of fictionalised dangerous bodies is traced back to the effects of the English Reformation, Spanish Inquisition, French Revolution, Caribbean slavery, Victorian medical malpractice, European anti-Semitism and finally warfare, ranging from the Crimean up to the Vietnam War. The endangered or dangerous body lies at the centre of the clash between victim and persecutor and has generated tales of terror and narratives of horror, which function to either salve, purge or dangerously perpetuate such oppositions. This ground-breaking book will be of interest to academics and students of Gothic studies, gender and film studies and especially to readers interested in the relationship between history and literature.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture:

Historical Dictionary of Horror Literature Mark A. Fabrizio, 2023-12-06 Stories of vampires, werewolves, zombies, witches, goblins, mummies, and other supernatural creatures have existed for time immemorial, and scary stories are among the earliest types of fiction ever recorded. *Historical Dictionary of Horror Literature* is an invaluable aid in studying horror literature, including influential authors, texts, terms, subgenres, and literary movements. This book contains a chronology, an introduction, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has more than 400 cross-referenced entries covering authors, subgenres, tropes, awards, organizations, and important terms related to horror. *Historical Dictionary of Horror Literature* is an excellent resource for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about horror literature.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture: A

Research Guide to Gothic Literature in English Sherri L. Brown, Carol Senf, Ellen J. Stockstill, 2018-03-15 The Gothic began as a designation for barbarian tribes, was associated with the cathedrals of the High Middle Ages, was used to describe a marginalized literature in the late eighteenth century, and continues today in a variety of forms (literature, film, graphic novel, video games, and other narrative and artistic forms). Unlike other recent books in the field that focus on certain aspects of the Gothic, this work directs researchers to seminal and significant resources on all of its aspects. Annotations will help researchers determine what materials best suit their needs. A

Research Guide to Gothic Literature in English covers Gothic cultural artifacts such as literature, film, graphic novels, and videogames. This authoritative guide equips researchers with valuable recent information about noteworthy resources that they can use to study the Gothic effectively and thoroughly.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture: Shirley Jackson, Influences and Confluences Melanie R. Anderson, Lisa Kröger, 2016-05-20 The popularity of such widely known works as *The Lottery* and *The Haunting of Hill House* has tended to obscure the extent of Shirley Jackson's literary output, which includes six novels, a prodigious number of short stories, and two volumes of domestic sketches. Organized around the themes of influence and intertextuality, this collection places Jackson firmly within the literary cohort of the 1950s. The contributors investigate the work that informed her own fiction and discuss how Jackson inspired writers of literature and film. The collection begins with essays that tease out what Jackson's writing owes to the weird tale, detective fiction, the supernatural tradition, and folklore, among other influences. The focus then shifts to Jackson's place in American literature and the impact of her work on women's writing, campus literature, and the graphic novelist Alison Bechdel. The final two essays examine adaptations of *The Haunting of Hill House* and Jackson's influence on contemporary American horror cinema. Taken together, the essays offer convincing evidence that half a century following her death, readers and writers alike are still finding value in Jackson's words.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture: *The Ashgate Encyclopedia of Literary and Cinematic Monsters* Jeffrey Andrew Weinstock, 2016-04-01 From vampires and demons to ghosts and zombies, interest in monsters in literature, film, and popular culture has never been stronger. This concise Encyclopedia provides scholars and students with a comprehensive and authoritative A-Z of monsters throughout the ages. It is the first major reference book on monsters for the scholarly market. Over 200 entries written by experts in the field are accompanied by an overview introduction by the editor. Generic entries such as 'ghost' and 'vampire' are cross-listed with important specific manifestations of that monster. In addition to monsters appearing in English-language literature and film, the Encyclopedia also includes significant monsters in Spanish, French, Italian, German, Russian, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, African and Middle Eastern traditions. Alphabetically organized, the entries each feature suggestions for further reading. *The Ashgate Encyclopedia of Literary and Cinematic Monsters* is an invaluable resource for all students and scholars and an essential addition to library reference shelves.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture: *A New Companion to The Gothic* David Punter, 2015-09-08 The thoroughly expanded and updated *New Companion to the Gothic*, provides a series of stimulating insights into Gothic writing, its history and genealogy. The addition of 12 new essays and a section on 'Global Gothic' reflects the direction Gothic criticism has taken over the last decade. Many of the original essays have been revised to reflect current debates. Offers comprehensive coverage of criticism of the Gothic and of the various theoretical approaches it has inspired and spawned. Features important and original essays by leading scholars in the field. The editor is widely recognized as the founder of modern criticism of the Gothic.

encyclopedia of the vampire the living dead in myth legend and popular culture: *The Best Horror of the Year* Ellen Datlow, 2012-05-01 The first three volumes of *The Best Horror of the Year* have been widely praised for their quality, variety, and comprehensiveness. With tales from Laird Barron, Stephen King, John Langan, Peter Straub, and many others, and featuring Datlow's comprehensive overview of the year in horror, now, more than ever, *The Best Horror of the Year* provides the petrifying horror fiction readers have come to expect—and enjoy.

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