

DRACULA EXTRACTS

Written by

Bram Stoker

DR SEWARD'S PRIVATE ASYLUM (FROM CHAPTER 20)

DR SEWARD enters to find RENFIELD sitting on the floor, in intense thoughts. RENFIELD looks up, as if he's been waiting to ask:

RENFIELD  
What about souls?

DR SEWARD  
What about them yourself?

RENFIELD  
(looks up and down and  
around for an answer)  
I don't want any souls!

DR SEWARD  
But you want life, and you like  
life?

RENFIELD  
Oh yes! But that is all right; you  
needn't worry about that.

DR SEWARD  
But how are we to get the life  
without getting the souls also? A  
nice time you'll have of it, with  
the souls of thousands of flies and  
spiders and birds and cats buzzing  
and twittering and miaowing all  
around you.

RENFIELD  
Stop it. Stop it!

DR SEWARD  
(relentless)  
You've got their lives, you know,  
and you must put up with their  
souls!

RENFIELD puts his fingers in his ears and screws his eyes up tightly, rocking and screaming. DR SEWARD falls silent, watching and making notes. After a while, Renfield calms down and looks at DR SEWARD.

DR SEWARD (CONT'D)  
Would you like some sugar to get  
your flies round again?

RENFIELD  
Not much! Flies are poor things,  
after all. But I don't want their  
souls buzzing round me, all the  
same.

DR SEWARD  
Or spiders?

RENFIELD  
Blow spiders! What's the use of spiders! There isn't anything in them to eat, or, or, or...

Beat

DR SEWARD  
I see. You want big things that you can make your teeth meet in? How would you like to breakfast on an elephant?

RENFIELD  
What ridiculous nonsense you are talking!

DR SEWARD  
I wonder what an elephant's soul is like?

RENFIELD  
I don't want an elephant's soul, or any soul at all! To hell with you and your souls! Why do you plague me about souls? Haven't I got enough to worry, and pain, and distract me already, without thinking of souls?

(Beat)  
Forgive me Doctor, I forgot myself. I am so worried in my mind that I am apt to be irritable.

THE HARKERS' BEDROOM (FROM CHAPTER 21)

JONATHAN is asleep. MINA awakes to see DRACULA. She is about to scream.

DRACULA  
(to MINA, indicating JONATHAN)  
Silence! If you make a sound I shall take him and dash his brains out before your very eyes!

MINA is silenced.

DRACULA (CONT'D)  
First, a little refreshment to reward my exertions. You may as well be quiet; it is not the first time, or the second, that your veins have appeased my thirst!

MINA

Oh God, pity me!

DRACULA drinks. MINA swoons to the floor. DRACULA looks at her mockingly.

DRACULA

And so you, like all the others, would play your brains against mine. You would help these men to hunt me and frustrate me in my designs! You know now, and they will soon know, what it is to cross my path. They should have kept their energies for use closer to home. They dared to play wits against me! Against me, who commanded nations, and intrigued for them, and fought for them, hundreds of years before they were born! And you, their beloved Mina, you are now flesh of my flesh, blood of my blood, kin of my kin, my bountiful wine-press for a while, and later you shall be my companion and helper. You shall be avenged in turn; for all of them shall minister to your needs. But first you must be punished for what you have done. You have fought against me; now you must answer my call. When my brain says "Come!" to you, you shall cross land or sea to do my bidding. And to that end, this!

Dracula uses his sharp nail to open a vein in his neck. As the blood pours out, he forces the helpless Mina to drink.

GALATZ (FROM CHAPTER 26)

VAN HELSING

Our dear Madame Mina is once more our teacher. Her eyes have seen where we were blind. Now we are on the track once again, and this time we may succeed. Our enemy is at his most helpless, and if we can come on him by day, on the water, it will soon over. We shall not rest until the Count's head and body have been separated, and we are sure that he cannot reincarnate. Now men, to our Council of War; for, here and now, we must plan what each and all shall do.

DR SEWARD

I shall get a steam launch and follow him. There must be no chances, this time.

VAN HELSING

Good. And Jonathan should go with you.

JONATHAN

I will do anything to destroy Dracula. But my place is with Mina.

VAN HELSING

No, friend Jonathan. You are young and brave, and can fight. And it is your right to destroy him - that thing which has given such pain to you and yours. Be not afraid for Madame Mina, she will be in my care. I am old. My legs are not so quick to run as once they were, and I am not used to fight with lethal weapons. But I can be of other service; I can fight in other way. And I can die, if need be, as well as younger men. So, while you, Lord Godalming, and Jonathan go in your swift little steam-boat, I will go with Madame Mina. Her hypnotic power will surely help us, and we shall go right into the heart of the enemy's county.

JONATHAN

Do you mean to say you would take my wife, tainted with that devil's illness, right into the doors of his death-trap? Not for the world! Not for Heaven or Hell!

VAN HELSING

We must obliterate that nest of vipers -

JONATHAN

Do you know what that place is? Have you seen that awful den of hellish infamy, with every speck of dust a devouring monster in embryo? Have you felt the Vampire's lips upon your throat?

VAN HELSING

My friend, it is because I would save Madame Mina from that awful place that I would go.

(MORE)

## VAN HELSING (CONT'D)

Remember that we are in terrible straits. If the Count escape us this time, he may choose to sleep him for a century; and then in time our dear Madame Mina would come to him and keep him company, and would be just as those others that you saw. You have told us of their gloating lips, of their laughter as they devoured that innocent child. You shudder. Forgive me that I make you so much pain, but it is necessary.

## JONATHAN

Do as you will. We are in the hands of God.