



Our Vampires, Ourselves

By Nina Auerbach

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Our Vampires, Ourselves By Nina Auerbach

Nina Auerbach shows how every age embraces the vampire it needs, and gets the vampire it deserves. Working with a wide range of texts, as well as movies and television, Auerbach locates vampires at the heart of our national experience and uses them as a lens for viewing the last two hundred years of Anglo-American cultural history.

"[Auerbach] has seen more Hammer movies than I (or the monsters) have had steaming hot diners, encountered more bloodsuckers than you could shake a stick at, even a pair of crossed sticks, such as might deter a very sophisticated ogre, a hick from the Moldavian boonies....Auerbach has dissected and deconstructed them with the tender ruthlessness of a hungry chef, with cogency and wit."—Eric Korn, *Times Literary Supplement*

"This seductive work offers profound insights into many of the urgent concerns of our time and forces us to confront the serious meanings that we invest, and seek, in even the shadiest manifestations of the eroticism of death."—Wendy Doniger, *The Nation*

"A vigorous, witty look at the undead as cultural icons."—*Kirkus Review*

"In case anyone should think this book is merely a boring lit-crit exposition...Auerbach sets matters straight in her very first paragraph. 'What vampires are in any given generation,' she writes, 'is a part of what I am and what my times have become. This book is a history of Anglo-American culture through its mutating vampires.'...Her book really takes off."—Maureen Duffy, *New York Times Book Review*

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

"My central idea: that vampirism springs not only from paranoia, xenophobia, or immortal longings, but from generosity and shared enthusiasm. This strange taste cannot be separated from the expansive impulses that make us human." *Our Vampires, Ourselves* is not your ordinary work of literary criticism, but rather an entertaining, thought-provoking tour of the history of vampires in Western civilization. The vampires and works discussed include Lord Ruthven, Varney, Carmilla, Dracula, Fritz Leiber's "The Girl," famous film Draculas, Fred Saberhagen's Dracula, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro's Saint-Germain, Anne Rice's Louis and Lestat, Stephen King's Barlow, films such as *The Lost Boys* and *Near Dark*, and countless books. As the *New York Times* writes, "Ms. Auerbach presents her arguments with wit and clarity ... Ms. Auerbach implicitly rejects the Freudian and Jungian interpretations of these figures as either psychosexual metaphors or archetypes, preferring to see them in sociopolitical terms. But such interpretations need not be mutually exclusive. There is, after all, more in vampire metaphors than meets any one mind's eye."

From Library Journal

Literary scholar and vampire enthusiast Auerbach (Forbidden Journeys, LJ 4/15/92) poses this book as a history of the Anglo-American culture through its ever-changing vampires. Tracing the evolution of vampires from 19th-century England through 20th-century America, Auerbach makes a number of new and interesting observations that will undoubtedly spur future scholarly discourse on vampirology. From depictions of vampires by Lord Byron down to those of Stephen King and Anne Rice and their various adaptations throughout literature or film, Auerbach illustrates how vampires are personifications of their age, reflecting and embodying social, political, and cultural change. Auerbach's interjections of personal and political points of view may raise questions about objectivity, but her compelling assertions definitely whet the appetite for further exploration and analysis of vampires and culture. Recommended for most public libraries.

Jeris Cassel, Rutgers Univ. Libs., New Brunswick, N.J.

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Review

Ms. Auerbach presents her arguments with wit and clarity, but it is when she hits 20th-century America that her book really takes off.... On the trail of her mutating vampires, Ms. Auerbach suggests that the unexpected popularity, among both the British working class and American students, of the horror films produced by England's Hammer Studios in the 1960s represented a postwar rebellion against the reimposition of patriarchal authority. Yet by the '70s, when the American feminist movement was revitalized, the image of the vampire had changed: now the vampire was the sensitized new man constructed by "wishful feminists." - *The New York Times Book Review*, Maureen Duffy

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patrick Richards:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always aim to and must have the spare time or they will get wide range of stress from both way of life and work. So , when we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not only a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity do you have when

the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is definitely Our Vampires, Ourselves.

Benjamin Hoffman:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Our Vampires, Ourselves, you can enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Ann Walsh:

The book untitled Our Vampires, Ourselves contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the girl idea with easy method. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was written by famous author. The author will bring you in the new time of literary works. You can read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open up their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice examine.

Debra Davin:

In this period globalization it is important to someone to find information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to your account is Our Vampires, Ourselves this book consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented how does the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some analysis when he makes this book. That's why this book ideal all of you.

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