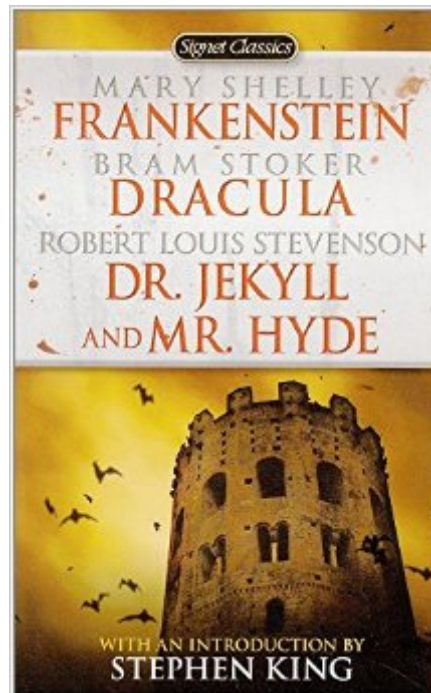


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Frankenstein, Dracula, Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde (Signet Classics)



Synopsis

Three horror icons come together in one indispensable tome—with an introduction by Stephen King. Within the pages of this volume you will come upon three of the darkest creations of English nineteenth-century literature; three of the darkest in all of English and American literature, many would say—and not without justification. These three creatures, presented together for the first time, all have a great deal in common beyond their power to go on frightening generation after generation of readers—but that fact alone should be considered before all others.

From the Introduction by Stephen King: A scientist oversteps the bounds of conscience and brings to life a tortured creation. A young adventurer succumbs to the night world of a diabolic count. A man of medicine explores his darker side only to fall prey to it. They are legendary tales that have held readers spellbound for more than a century. The titles alone—Frankenstein, Dracula, and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde—have become part of a universal language that serves to put a monster's face on the good-and-evil duality of our very human nature. And the authors—Mary Shelley, Bram Stoker, and Robert Louis Stevenson—equally as mythic, are still possessed of an inventive and subversive power that can shake a reader to this day with something far more profound than fear. They gave root to the modern horror novel, and like the creatures they invented, they've achieved immortality.

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Customer Reviews

This is a great book. It's nothing less than an inexpensively priced guided tour of horror with Stephen

King as your host. As much as the classics themselves I also enjoyed reading King's take on them. As America's modern successor to these authors King's perspective is helpful in appreciating the stories you're about to read. And what he has to say is interesting for the ways in which it does and sometimes does not bear itself out: As to Frankenstein, King observed that Mary Shelley would often depart from her story to offer philosophical speculations more akin to a dorm room than a horror story. For my part, though I respect King's opinion, I found her digressions to be helpful as part of the overall narrative. Though the public consciousness for its part seems focused on the more sensational aspects of the Frankenstein monster's appearance and demeanor, I think Shelley's speculations also have a legitimate role. I found some of her observations to be very prescient given modern developments in gene research. As to Dracula, King basically said that the book used deliberative pacing to help establish mood. For me however the book kind of reminded me of what Charles Dickens may have been like had he written horror stories. I saw the pacing and detail as just means by which Stoker tried to establish credibility for what was a pretty incredible story. Where Stephen King was offput by Van Helsing's use of antiquated medical techniques, for me they kind of lent a certain mood and verite to the story. At his time, Van Helsing with all his brandy and deving rods was (believe it or not) at the forefront of medical science.

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