

[PDF] Dracula In Love

Karen Essex - pdf download free book



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Description:

Bruce Feiler Reviews Dracula in Love

Bruce Feiler is one of America's most popular voices on faith and family. He is the author of five New York Times bestsellers, including , , and . His latest book, , tells the uplifting story of how friendship and community can help one survive life's greatest challenges. Read his review of Dracula in Love:

Gorgeously written and erotically charged, the novel Dracula in Love is like its century-jumping

central characters: deeply rooted in the past while pushing ageless mythology into strikingly current realms. Historical novels should have plenty of history, and this novel surely does. Romantic novels should have their share of sex and romance, and this novel delivers both. But its true revelation is its gripping sense of anticipation, heartache, discovery, and unflinching chill.

With *Dracula in Love* Karen Essex turns her inimitable, piercing gaze to illuminating what should be familiar terrain--Victorian England--and what might seem like well-trod territory--a certain Count. Her considerable trick is to make you forget entirely all the baggage that attends her story by planting us firmly in the shoes and the psyche of one of the "victims," Mina Harker. I am walking up the steps of the finishing school with the quivering heroine; I am secreting away in London's subterranean shadows with the jilted lover; I am traveling into the mysteries of southern Austria and Ireland's haunted west coast (yes, begone tired Transylvania!) where our heroine discovers her own dark powers.

I shudder in horror and delight when the fangs make their inevitable plunge.

I met Karen Essex when both of us were briefly embedded in the Southern gothic world of Nashville. She would soon unearth some of history's most misunderstood women and vividly revive them for contemporary ears. From Kleopatra (note the provocative spelling) to the countess of Elgin (and her fascinating courtesan doppelganger from the ancient world, Aspasia) to feuding sisters who posed for Leonardo (watch the genius brought down to earth!), Karen overturns history's conventions and shows how these women are keenly relevant today.

I am hardly a vampire freak. The *Twilight* books "eclipsed" me. And I've never owned a set of plastic fangs. But I do love Karen Essex, and this novel is enough to make me a little bloodthirsty.

From This variation on Bram Stoker's *Dracula* tells the story from Mina Murray Harker's point of view. As a child, Wilhemina was given to strange dreams and sleepwalking, which so alarmed her parents that at age seven she was sent to a boarding school for young ladies to "learn to control herself and her urges." And she did become a proper young lady, with a proper fiancé, a young solicitor named Jonathan Harker. But the bewildering dreams continue, and one summer, which she is spending in Yorkshire with her friend Lucy Westerna, she sees a mysterious shipwreck at Whitby. After that the dreams become more like memories, and a presence, which she cannot see, follows her. Essex, who has been praised for her historical novels, has drawn a detailed picture of England at the end of the nineteenth century, including some of the horrendous psychological practices introduced from Germany. Essex's twist on Stoker's plot is sufficiently original, and the quality of her writing makes this novel stand out among the vampire offerings. --Frieda Murray

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