

A history of

VAMPIRES

LONG BEFORE **CHRISTOPHER LEE** PORTRAYED **DRACULA** ON THE SCREEN...

...BEFORE **BELA LUGOSI** BROUGHT **DRACULA** TO THE CINEMA FROM THE BROADWAY STAGE...

...LONG BEFORE **MAX SCHRECK** ENACTED THE PART IN THE 1922 CLASSIC **NOSFERATU**...

...EVEN BEFORE **BRAM STOKER'S** IMMORTAL 1897 NOVEL, **DRACULA**... THERE WERE **VAMPIRES!**

BUT **UNLIKE TODAY**... WHERE **VAMPIRES** ARE TRADITIONALLY PORTRAYED AS HANDSOME MALE ACTORS LIKE **LEE** AND **LUGOSI**, THERE ONCE WAS A TIME WHEN THE VAMPIRE WAS THOUGHT OF AS A FAR MORE **FEARSOME** CREATURE OF THE NIGHT!

WHILE NOT A **VAMPIRE** IN THE STRICTEST SENSE OF THE TERM, THE FLORENTINE **BLOOD BEAST** REMAINS A **MYSTERY** TO THIS DAY, AND HAS GONE DOWN IN THE PAGES OF HISTORY AS ONE OF THE FEW **TRUE**, DOCUMENTED CASES OF BLOOD-LUSTING **VAMPIRISM!**



RECORDS STILL EXIST TELLING OF THE MAMMOTH FANGED BEAST THAT DRAINED THE **BLOOD** OF WOMEN IN FIFTEENTH CENTURY FLORENCE!

BUT EVEN BEFORE THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY, THE **EGYPTIANS** HAD THEIR OWN VERSION OF THE **UNDEAD**...



IT WAS COMMONLY BELIEVED THAT THE **ROTTING CORPSE** OF A LEPROUS **SLAVE** WHO DIED IN BONDAGE, WOULD RETURN FROM THE **GRAVE TO FEED** ON THE BLOOD OF EGYPTIAN ROYALTY!

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY **SPANARDS** HAD THEIR OWN **UNIQUE** VAMPIRE...
...THE CHILD-SIZED, MULTI-FANGED **SLUG**... THAT MIRACULOUSLY TURNED INTO A HANDSOMELY SUN-BRONZED **NOBLEMAN** WITH THE MORNING LIGHT!

THE **DUTCH** TELL OF THEIR 'DRACULA' TWO HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE BRAM STOKER CAME UP WITH HIS! THEY CALLED HIM **VOLMAR!**



HE WAS AN **UGLY** BEAKED-FANGED MAN-THING... PREYING **EXCLUSIVELY** ON THE AGED...

...CONTINUED FROM INSIDE FRONT COVER

THE POPULAR WESTERN EUROPEAN CONCEPT OF A VAMPIRE...THE ONE STOKER ADHERED TO IN HIS *DRACULA* NOVEL...ALLOWS THAT THE VAMPIRE MAY CHANGE FORM.

IT CAN BECOME A GREAT CAT, A BAT, OR RETAIN ITS HUMAN FORM!



OVER IN EASTERN EUROPE A WAYS, ROMANIANS CALL THE VAMPIRE STRIGOI. THE STRIGOI ARE OBSCENE DEVIL BIRD-MEN! THEY FLY ONLY AT SUNSET, HYPNOTIZE THEIR VICTIMS... AND EAT HUMAN FLESH, WATERING IT DOWN WITH BLOOD!

AND OVER IN RUSSIA... CHILDREN HAVE BEEN TAUGHT FOR CENTURIES, TO FEAR YORI, THE NOTORIOUS CHILD-THIEF..!

SHE THEN DRAINS THE CHILD OF ALL IT'S BLOOD! WHAT THIS ACCOMPLISHES IS UNCLEAR! BUT THE LEGEND MUST SCARE HELL OUT OF DISOBEDIENT RUSSO KIDS!

AS THE LEGEND GOES, YORI WHISKS AWAY BAD LITTLE CHILDREN IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT!



YORI HAS BEEN CAUGHT AND KILLED MANY TIMES! BUT ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, SHE STILL LIVES ON... AS A GOOD VAMPIRE MUST!



ONE OF THE STRANGEST VAMPIRE LEGENDS COMES OUT OF CHINA!

THE CHINESE TELL OF FIVE BROTHERS WHO CONTRACTED A WEIRD DISEASE!

THE SICKNESS DROVE ALL FIVE OF THE BROTHERS MAD! THEY BOUGHT OUT DARKNESS... FEARED THE SUN... AND LUSTED FOR THE TASTE OF FRESH HUMAN BLOOD!

IN SHORT, THEY HAD ALL THE SYMPTOMS OF VAMPIRES, BUT ONE...

...THEY WEREN'T DEAD!

THE BROTHERS SPREAD THEIR VAMPIRIC DISEASE BY FEEDING FROM THEIR VICTIMS... JUST ENOUGH TO ALLOW THE VICTIM TO LIVE... AND BECOME A WALKING VAMPIRE TOO!



BUT THE MOST POPULAR VAMPIRE OF ALL TIME IS STILL... DRACULA!



AND WHETHER THE KING OF THE UNDEAD IS USED IN MOVIES, BOOKS OR COMICS, HE ALWAYS MANAGES TO GET HIMSELF KILLED!

...UNLIKE MOST OF THE OTHER VAMPIRES IN THE WORLD!