

# Netflix puts a new spin on infamous Count Dracula in new mini-series

By TJ Reid  
For the Keizertimes

"Listen to them, the children of the night. What music they make!"

Although legends of the bloodsucking, darkness-loving undead have existed since time immemorial everywhere from Ancient Greece to Mesopotamia, it was Bram Stoker who codified the myth of the vampire in his classic 1897 novel *Dracula*. This landmark piece of Gothic literature catapulted the children of the night into pop culture superstardom, and with this rise of popularity an interesting thing has happened: Our vampires have gotten nicer, sexier, and more heroic. It's hard to remember that these fictional demons were once the absolute epitome of evil when one stops to admire the hunkiness of an Edward (*Twilight*), the sensitive brooding of an Angel (the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* universe), or the silliness of a Leith Evergreen (yes, this is a shameless plug for my own novel, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Apocalypse*, which is available on Amazon). The latest adaptation of the big daddy vampire himself, however, Netflix's *Dracula*, effectively brings the menace back to the legend in a brilliantly acted four-and-a-half-hour

roller coaster ride of playfully subverted expectations.

Developed by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat—names you might recognize if you are a fan of either *Doctor Who* or *Sherlock—Dracula* is a thoroughly British experience in the sense that it is performed by actors who you might not have heard of, but who can act circles around 90 percent of Hollywood's talent. The clear MVP here is the brilliant Claes Bang, who plays a Count who can, at the drop of a hat, shift from silently sinister to chewing up the scenery with such gusto that I'm surprised he had any room in his stomach for blood.

## review

It is also British in the sense that it is very short: just three episodes long with each episode being an hour-and-a-half.

This format may cause the story to lag a bit at times, particularly in the third episode, which I must say isn't nearly as good as the first two. To talk about the third episode in any detail beyond this would be dangerous spoiler alert territory, however, as *Dracula* does what BBC's *Sherlock* does with great delight: starting off with territory that is familiar to those who know the source material and then changing it up in increasingly bigger ways until you're in a completely un-



Submitted  
Claes Bang's Count Dracula confronts Holly Well's Sister Agatha Van Helsing in Netflix's fresh take on the well-worn character.

familiar place without quite knowing how you got there. As a fan of Stoker's original novel, I was thrilled with the ways this series surprised me throughout, even if the story itself lagged occasionally. Again, this is mostly a third episode problem, as the first and second episodes are brilliant.

An additional word of caution—Netflix may say that this series is TV-14, but I can't see how this is possible. *Dracula* is not afraid to get TV-MA gory when it wants to, particularly

in the first episode, which involves, among other horrors, a man wearing the face of another man and the beheading of a nun. Maybe don't watch this one with the kids. If you can stomach it, however, *Dracula* is a bloody brilliant time that not only doesn't suck (again, see my book if you want even more vampire puns!), but also effectively returns the vampire to its rightful place: our darkest nightmares.

*Dracula* is now available on Netflix.

## police scanner

### MONDAY, MAY 25

3:25 a.m. - Theft in the 1000 block of Rafael Court N.  
4:53 a.m. - Physical harassment in the 3000 block of Cherry Avenue NE.  
1:59 p.m. - Menacing with weapon in the 7000 block of Kayla Shae Street NE.

### TUESDAY, MAY 26

9:10 a.m. - Altering a firearm identification number, criminal in possession of counterfeit currency, unlawful possession of methamphetamine on Apple Blossom Avenue NE.  
11:20 a.m. - Possession of methamphetamine in the 100 block of Garland Way N.  
9:09 p.m. - Fleeing a police officer at the intersection of Chemawa Road NE and Kinglet Way NE.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

11:57 a.m. - Traffic accident at the intersection of River Road N and Sandy Drive N.  
3:13 p.m. - Theft in the 500 block of Chemawa Road N.  
4:27 p.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 1000 block of Dearborn Avenue NE.  
6:30 p.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 2000 block of Kennedy Circle NE.  
8:12 p.m. - Unlawful entry into a vehicle with the intent to commit crime in the 6000 block of Ulali Drive N.

### THURSDAY, MAY 28

3:21 a.m. - Arrest for burglary in the 5000 block of River Road N.  
4 p.m. - Failure to perform duties of a driver in the 4000 block of Shoreline Drive N.  
6:52 p.m. - Possession of methamphetamine in the 3000 block of

River Road N.

### FRIDAY, MAY 29

8:11 a.m. - Theft from a motor vehicle in the 6000 block of Pierce Court N.  
2:46 p.m. - Traffic accident in the 6000 block of Keizer Station Boulevard.  
3:41 p.m. - Shoplifting in the 3000 block of River Road N.  
4:50 p.m. - Unlawful entry into a vehicle in the 4000 block of Bailey Road NE.

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## crossword

### Making Capital?

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

### ACROSS

- 1 French novelist
- 5 Sloping passages
- 10 Charles or May
- 14 Ring stone
- 15 Obliterate
- 16 Stadium
- 17 Italian looper?
- 20 Compass pt.
- 21 \_\_\_ Tyler
- 22 Spring period
- 23 Soft drink
- 24 Burn
- 26 Herod's dancer
- 29 European capital
- 30 Steal
- 33 Cut
- 34 \_\_\_ acid
- 35 Finnish port
- 36 Canadian conflict?
- 40 Regret
- 41 Eastern princes
- 42 French river
- 43 Goof
- 44 Streamlets
- 45 Outwitted
- 47 Delicate
- 48 Ditch
- 49 Cornbread
- 51 Farm vehicle

### DOWN

- 1 Band instrument
- 2 Set \_\_\_ : attack
- 3 Plucky
- 4 Cordoba cheer
- 5 Do cobbler work
- 6 Antilles island
- 7 Miss Pickford
- 8 Greek letter
- 9 Kobe coin
- 10 Show fear
- 11 English river
- 12 Segment
- 13 Hardwood
- 18 Tiny bit
- 19 Look
- 23 Stupor
- 24 Slaves
- 25 Where Sligo is
- 26 Supply
- 27 A Rubenstein

- 28 Capacity unit
- 29 Uncouth chaps
- 30 Object pettily
- 31 Corpulent
- 32 Presented
- 34 Salty
- 37 More watchful
- 38 Asian river
- 39 Beginning
- 45 March or smile
- 46 Curse
- 47 Benefactor
- 48 Billiard stroke
- 49 Money, in Morelos
- 50 Earthen jar
- 51 Welshman, for one
- 52 Dissolute man
- 53 \_\_\_ mater
- 54 Mighty monarch
- 55 \_\_\_ Dipper
- 56 Skillful
- 57 Pair
- 58 Make a choice

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