

*Jonathan Harker has been sent by his firm to Count Dracula's castle in Transylvania to arrange for the buying of a house. The Count asked him to stay for a month with him. Jonathan reports all that happens in the castle in his diary.*

#### JONATHAN HARKER'S DIARY

8 May –

[...] There is something so strange about this place and all in it that I cannot but feel uneasy. I wish I had never come. If there were anyone to talk to I could bear it, but there is no one. I have only the Count to speak with, and he! I fear I am myself the only living soul within the place. [...] This morning I had hung my shaving glass by the window, and was just beginning to shave. Suddenly I felt a hand on my shoulder, and heard the count's voice saying to me "Good morning". I started, for it amazed me that I had not seen him, since the reflection of the glass covered the whole room behind me. In starting I had cut myself slightly, but did not notice it at the moment. I turned to the glass again to see how I had been mistaken. This time there could be no error. There was no reflection of him in the mirror! This was startling, and was beginning to increase the vague feeling of uneasiness which I always have when the Count is near. But at the instant I saw that the cut had bled a little and the blood was trickling over my chin. When the Count saw my face, his eyes blazed with a sort of demoniac fury, and he suddenly grabbed my throat. I drew away, and his hands touched my crucifix. It made an instant change in him, for the fury passed so quickly that I could hardly believe that it was ever there.

"Take care" he said, "take care how you cut yourself. It is more dangerous than you think in this country."

From Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, 1897, chapter 2.