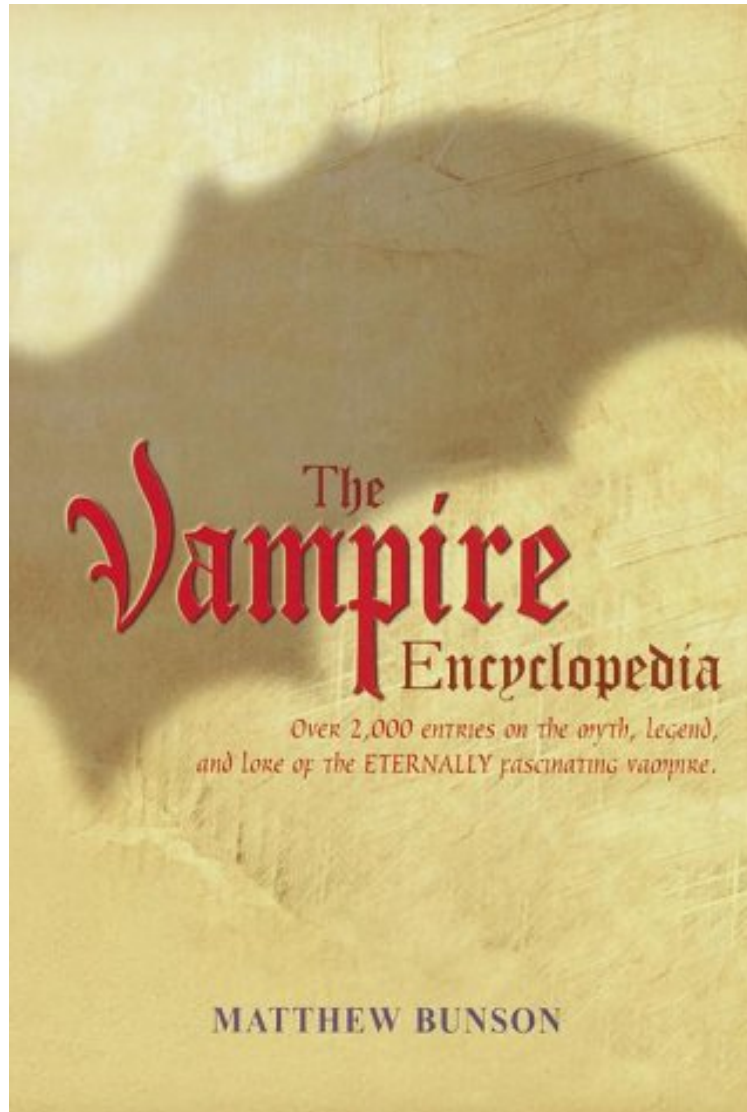


The Vampire Encyclopedia

Matthew Bunson

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Matthew Bunson : The Vampire Encyclopedia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Vampire Encyclopedia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. On my to do list.By C. B. McKenzieI love vampires and purchased this for my grandson who had an assignment for school. He finished it which says it must have been pretty good and unfortunately, I did not read it but have it on my list to do.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. bookBy QUEEN Bbought for a friend who was writing a book, and they couldnt get the book in London. I purchased and mailed to them, I trust they god the use they required from the book.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Beware the vampire, Kuang-shi, churel, strigoi, mullo...By E. A. Solinas
In my humble opinion, I consider "The Vampire Encyclopedia" to live up to its name -- this is THE vampire encyclopedia, and I haven't seen another one (including the "Vampire Book") with this much information. Matthew Bunson seems to have cobbled together every scrap of vampire trivia he could, including everything from movies to ancient myths, literature to obscure history. The book is (obviously) set up as an encyclopedia with alphabetical entries for just about everything related to vampires -- Bunson explores vampire movies, literature, theater, poetry and art from countless sources. While some of these are obvious choices ("Dracula," "Carmilla," Stephen King, Anne Rice, movie adaptations of said books, Hammer Horror), Bunson includes loads of lesser-known and obscure examples of art (Munch paintings, operas, penny dreadfuls, ancient Anglo-Saxon poems, "The Night Stalker"). Some of the more obscure authors are quite surprising. In fact, that is one of the most fascinating aspects of the book. While Bunson sometimes goes overboard on what he considers vampire fiction (I don't really see Dorian Gray as a vampire, okay?), he chronicles quite a few works that you normally would not hear when you hear about vampire fiction. No, it does not list "Twilight," so don't even ask. Additionally, Bunson addresses vampires in history... no, not REAL vampires, but people/incidents that cropped up throughout history. There are scholars who did studies on the undead, incidents that were blamed on vampirism (a necrophiliac, Middle-Eastern "ghouls," people who believed they were vampires), and lots of other real-life incidents that were connected to what people thought was vampirism. But in my humble opinion, the best part is the vampire mythology. We don't just get the garden-variety Draculaean bloodsuckers -- Bunson collects vampiric creatures from literally all across the world. Examples: the Phillipine aswang, the polecat-like bajang, psychic vampires, the Scottish fairy known as the baobhan-sith, the Arabic algul, the Chinese Hsi-hsue-kuei and Kuang-shi, the Ashanti obayifo, the sexually voracious gypsy mullo, the Albanian lugat, the Malaysian penanggalan, the Mexican tlaciques, and many many more. And just in case there is a single bloodstained stone left unturned, Bunson includes entries for just about everything connected to vampires -- countries where they are found, weaknesses, strengths, powers, victim types, rituals to prevent/stop vampirism (such as prone burials, holy items, certain woods), lifespans, animals, scientific names, plants, and pretty much anything else that is associated with vampires. Whew. As you can see, this is a pretty comprehensive guide to vampires, and is heavier on mythology, history and folklore than the more pop-culturish "Vampire Book." The main problem is that it's also quite light on sources -- there are some appendices that give you book titles and "vampire societies," but it's unclear whether these were also Bunson's source material. It would be nice to know where he got all this info from. "The Vampire Encyclopedia" is indeed a vampire encyclopedia -- it takes bloodsucker art, pop culture, world myth, history and literature and mashes it all gleefully into one expansive tome. Definitely a must-have if you love all things vampiric.

With over 2,000 entries in A-to-Z format, THE VAMPIRE ENCYCLOPEDIA is a one-stop reference for everything and anything to do with vampires, from books and films to the history of the vampire legend and ways to RESIST THESE IRRESISTIBLE CREATURES. The vampire is alive and flourishing in books, hit television shows, clubs, even comic books?there's no end in sight for the immortal ones!

From School Library Journal
YA-This reference source, which includes all one ever wanted to know about the undead, is a real find for devotees of the horror genre as well as readers enticed by the 1992 movie Bram Stoker's Dracula and current novels by Anne Rice and others. The alphabetic entries, which vary in length, relate to vampires in film, literature, folklore, poetry, art, medicine, religion, and comedy. The encyclopedia includes four appendixes: short stories, novels, a suggested reading list, and vampire societies and organizations with addresses and membership fees. All of this plus black-and-white photos from memorable movies and sets make for fascinating research and browsing.
Carol Clark, R.E. Lee High School, Springfield, VA
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From the Inside Flap
With over 2,000 entries in A-to-Z format, THE VAMPIRE ENCYCLOPEDIA is a one-stop reference for everything and anything to do with vampires, from books and films to the history of the vampire legend and ways to RESIST THESE IRRESISTIBLE CREATURES. The vampire is alive and flourishing in books, hit television shows, clubs, even comic books?there's no end in sight for the immortal ones!