

# Shows and Movies that flip the Dracula myth on its head

By: Amanda Armstrong

Vampires have been a large part of horror stories and historical myths for centuries. Bram Stoker helped push the idea of vampires past local myths into the spotlight with his story Dracula. Over the years people have made their own variations of the Dracula story.

One of the first documented words for vampire was said to originate in 1047 Russia/Ukraine. From that first known story, more started to appear and it set in motion years of vampirism mass hysteria all over the known world until 1772. By the time Dracula was published in 1897, there had been various stories and “actual” cases of vampirism. I’ve decided to delve into the stories that took to a different path at what makes vampire.

This list might contain spoilers, so be warned.

1. Van Helsing (2004) – This movie decided to focus more on Helsing than Dracula. It kept a lot of the original concepts about vampires, such as shape changing, blood drinking, aversion to sunlight and holy water. The major change for this movie was the origin of Dracula himself. He was changed into a demon after being killed as a human, by the “hand of God”, Gabriele.
2. Dracula 2000 (2000) – In this movie, it pulls Dracula into, at the time, modern society. Van Helsing, in this movie, has tried to kill Dracula numerous times and nothing has worked. In 1897 Van Helsing traps Dracula and decides to use his blood to prolong his life until he can destroy Dracula for good. The second big issue facing Dracula in this movie is silver, but it gets tied back to his origin. This story also plays on the religious aspects, by saying that Dracula is actually Judas Iscariot and his aversion to silver is because he sold out Jesus for thirty silver pieces.

3. Twilight (2008) – While this might cause a lot of groans, there is a very legitimate reason for it on this list. While this was based on the YA (Young Adult) novel of the same name, this is more about vampires than Dracula. While Dracula and vampires in myth have aversions to things like sunlight and silver, Stephenie Meyer decided to toss out that particular manual out the window. In her version, vampires' skin is turned into a hard diamond like substance, which makes them impossible to kill unless you are either a werewolf or vampire. One of the downsides to such a skin, is that in direct sunlight, you would sparkle like covered in glitter or a diamond.
4. Underworld (2003) – This movie, like twilight, is set in modern times. During the course of this movie, it's said that werewolves and vampires are a byproduct of a virus. That a man named Alexander Corvinus survived a plague and it mutated his blood and made him immortal but still human. He had three sons, one turned into a vampire from the bite of a bat, another turned into a werewolf from a wolf bite and the last, while still caring the same mutation stayed human with an average life span. Vampires in this film still follow the normal rules of the vampire mythology.
5. Dracula (Netflix 2020) – This three-episode show is the newest take on Bram Stoker's Dracula story. It starts in the Victorian era in episode one and episode two is on the ship to England, but during episode three it jumps to today's society. Van Helsing has been changed to Agatha, a nun at a convent that interviews Jonathan Harker. It's hinted that Dracula wasn't even human to begin with. The other change that is expanded is that he collects people's memories and languages through drinking blood. "Blood is Lives". One of the most shocking comes during the last episode, where it's shown that everything Dracula is afraid of actually can't affect him.

This trend of changing the “rules” for vampires is essentially bringing new life to the story of undead. I’m looking forward to what new stories people are going to bring us and I’m hopeful that the supernatural creatures of the night are going to make a big comeback.