Vampirology Part 2 with Dr. Jeff Holdeman Ologies Podcast October 31, 2022

It's no longer a lady recording from a rental car, thank all that is holy. But it's Alie Ward, this is *Ologies*, and this is Part 2 of back-to-back Spoooktobery vampire episodes. And we're getting this up a day early to celebrate Halloween, but this info on spirits and superstition, disembodied ghouls, grain alcohol, pickles, wailing, teeth, horniness, dinner invitations, the changing needs of culture, and vegan vampires, it's necessary all year long, it'll stick with you. So, let's get into it.

First, thank you to everyone at Patreon.com/Ologies for supporting the show. This episode is all your questions, and you too can join, you can submit questions for \$0.25 an episode, that's Patreon.com/Ologies. And thank you also to everyone who rates and subscribes. Subscribing really helps the show, so do that. Also, if you leave reviews, I read them all such as this really fucking nice one from Golden_Girl11, who says:

I love it so much that I have started to wonder what will happen when you run out of ologies.

And Golden_Girl11, don't worry, I have had this exact nightmare and I woke up sweating, only to remember that there's thousands of ologies with new ones invented all the time. There's also a lot of isms, which is a clue that your internet dad is hatching something, whaaat? Okay, stay tuned. Also, thank you to ComposeYourself, who left a review that said the show is beautiful and they are:

Wishing you the beat of lick, Alie.

And that made me cackle, I love you. You can listen to the Catacombs to understand that reference.

Okay, on to Part 2 with beloved Indiana University professor of Slavic and Eastern European Languages and Culture, who helms the bonkers popular course, The Vampire in European and American Culture, vampirologist, Dr. Jeff Holdeman.

Alie: Can I ask you some listener questions?

Jeff: Oh, absolutely.

Alie: They had great ones. You know, you mentioned that every vampire is the one that the age needs and so many people...

Aside: Looking at you, patrons Anthony Cherubino, Ali Vessels, Greg Walloch, Lauren Mascibroda, Kelly King, Kathleen Deyling, Kaitlin Owens, Alex Joseph, Terena, Felix Wolfe, Paul Cirillo, Deli Dames, Samantha Tovey, Nicole, Ursula Wood, Swoon With Us, and first-time question-asker Mandy Hobson, they all want to know...

Alie: When did vampires get so horny? Why are they such heartthrobs and when did this idea that you're going to get seduced by a vampire... When did it start turning into that?

Jeff: So, if we think about it, the folkloric vampire is a reanimated corpse, it's going to stink like a reanimated corpse, ["That's hot."] it's going to have a bloody mouth because it's perceived to be feeding on people. You do not want to be around a reanimated corpse.

Aside: Word.

Jeff: When we get through the 19th century of literature, all of these vampires, our very first vampires are all nobles. Lord Ruthven, in *The Vampyre*, Sir Francis Varney the Vampire, and

Carmilla is a Countess and Dracula is a Count... The nobility has a castle and everything. So, already in the 19th century, when we're trying to demonize the nobility, what better way of trying to tear them down than to call in vampires, people who take more than their fair share, who suck us dry of our life force? ["Newsflash, John. The superrich, they're not like us."]

We get the introduction of beauty. Lord Ruthven is hypnotizing, he's got this weird gray eye but he's still captivating, charming, mesmerizing, and people still keep inviting him into their house to meet their daughters.

Aside: That was the story based on Lord Byron.

Jeff: Varney the Vampire is still a noble and is clever, and smart, and powerful. Carmilla is described as being supernaturally beautiful. She's charming, and she's coquettish, and she is passionate. And then Count Dracula is hypnotizing and is wealthy, he's got piles of money with dust on them in his castle, and he can control the weather, and he can control people's actions, and he can control wolves and everything else. That arms escalation starts already by then with beauty, and with abilities, and with wealth. When you're undead, when you're undying, you remember the old times, which then means that you're this automatic historian. So, you're smart, and you remember things, and you've seen people's actions over a very long period of time.

Nosferatu, dead end because no one wants to be with *Nosferatu*. Bela Lugosi is like, nnhh he's kind of older, but he's got a tuxedo on and he's like... he's debonair, and he's got this way of speaking, and he's kind of mysterious. And then he's got these eyes that are enchanting and he can control people. I tell my students that one of the mysteries we have to solve is how do you go from a reanimated corpse to a VILF? The vampire I'd like to... fornicate with. [*Alie laughs*]

Aside: A VILF! Bless this man, protect him.

Jeff: So, why in the world would you want to be with this gross, reanimated corpse? Well, you clean them up, and give them lots of money, and you make them really smart. And then what we need... They're still predators, they're still dangerous. In 1973 we get Jack Palance from... Do you remember *Ripley's Believe It or Not!*?

Aside: I remember that show but maybe what some people immediately think of with Jack Palance is him winning an Academy Award for *City Slickers* in 1991. And during his Oscar acceptance speech, he paused to do some one-handed push-ups. He was 73 at the time. And one thing I never associate Jack Palance with, as a leathery fitness buff, is the 1974 British made-for-TV version of *Dracula*, starring him. ["Many motion pictures claim to be horrific. Now comes one which reaches a new height in unabated terror. The Bram Stoker masterpiece... *Dracula.*"]

Jeff: Jack Palance had an amazing voice and everything. He is our first remorseful vampire; he feels bad about being a vampire, about having to drink humans' blood. He still has to do it, but he feels bad about it. Introducing that to make us want to have compassion for him then takes off, and then we get this bifurcation of vampire types where there either is the solely evil vampire or there's a vampire that's remorseful about their nature.

And again, this is the '70s and we're trying to understand, psychologically, why people are the way they are, and we're in therapy, and we're trying to heal, and *I'm Ok- You're Ok*. "This is the way that people are different and maybe I can overcome my alcoholism, or my addictions, and maybe there's something about my nature that I can overcome. I'm still redeemable."

Aside: Of course, every human is redeemable but before the 1950s or so, the notion of introspection wasn't super popular. So, what changed things? Well, rewind a few decades actually to 1936 when Dale Carnegie published *How to Win Friends and Influence People*. And then a year later, Napoleon Hill wrote the book, *Think and Grow Rich*. But by the early 1950s, self-help was beginning to grow as kind of an industry and what cracked the door open a little more was a clergyman and author named Norman Vincent Peale writing this massively popular best-selling title, *The Power of Positive Thinking*. So, by the 1970s, a whole generation had been raised with this mindset that maybe we could control our lives with our minds.

Now, the self-help industry has a fervent hold on us. It makes about 10 billion dollars a year in the US alone, which is why I'm really excited to announce I'm finally writing a book. It's called *How to Stop Buying Self-Help Books and Spend the Money Feeding Raccoons Corn Dogs Instead*... That's not true. But I bet if I wrote that book, I could probably buy a boat. Also, do not feed raccoons any corndogs, they can have worms that can eat your brain and kill you. You can see the Procyonology two-parter on raccoons for more on that.

But anyway, in 1972 the book, *I'm Ok – You're Ok*, by California-based psychiatrist Thomas Anthony Harris, enjoyed just a cozy spot on the best-seller list for *years*. And in the 1970s this was a great breakthrough for pop psychology and the notion that our childhood experiences still affect how we regulate, or don't regulate, our own emotions and thus our behaviors. So, while vampires may not have a reflection, they do mirror the zeitgeist.

Jeff: "I'm not stake-worthy anymore, maybe I should be given a chance." And then that evolves, and we get vampires that are then more and more desirable. They go from the kind of bad boy, like, "I know he's dangerous buuut he's hot, he drives a motorcycle..." This James Dean turns into *Lost Boys* and there's a desire to be with a demon lover. ["Well I'd like to try."] And then we just keep adding on, every movie that we get, there's some other way of overcoming this badness. And then we get, "Well, maybe I won't drink human blood, but I'll drink animal blood." Or maybe... PETA is going to get mad at that so maybe we can come up with a synthetic blood that doesn't harm anybody.

Aside: Which, side note, is kind of the narrative hook of the HBO series called *True Blood*, which is set in this time when synthetic blood, called Tru Blood, is on the market, leading to what's called The Great Revelation, which allowed vampires to "Come out of the coffin," they say, and enjoy their parahuman human rights. Tru Blood, the substance, wasn't supposed to be delicious. One character described it as, "Giving up your favorite meal for SlimFast shakes, forever," but it gets a job done. And hello, in real life today, somewhere, so many people are alive human beings choosing to drink Soylent. So, Tru Blood is pretty plausible considering it's convenient, and portable, and allows you to stop murdering people. But is there something more permanent than having to keep buying cases of fake blood at Costco?

Jeff: Maybe there's a cure. We still don't get cures for vampirism at that point because rather than fixing people, and there are so many problems that still haven't been fixed it's like, maybe it's living with this condition which is the important thing. These people don't deserve to be executed or locked up, maybe we can reform them. And then we want to hear that story.

And we want to hear their backstory too. That's, all of a sudden, from that point on, all of our vampire movies have the flashback of why this person became a vampire. ["Now you know what we are, now you know what you are. You'll never grow old Michael, and you'll never die. But you must feed."] It's this exact same fascination with the origin stories of people of why they are the way they are in life, and can you overcome your dangerous urges, and can you be trusted anymore?

Aside: Which brings us to your crotch and the horniest of all the reanimated corpses.

Jeff: Edward Cullen is the manifestation of this. People always ask me, "Do you like *Twilight*, the *Twilight* saga? Do you like those books, do you like that movie?" I'm like, "It doesn't matter if I like them, the point is that *a lot* of people did." And every age creates the vampire that it needs; there had to be something resonating about Edward Cullen that spoke to so many millions and millions and millions of people, that they wanted to be with him. And it's not just the demon lover, it's the person who is able to stay under control.

Bella wants it and Edward is like, [weepy soft voice] "No, I can't." It's like the perfect boyfriend who wants to wait until after they're married. She's begging for it, and probing and pushing and everything. And he's like, "No, no, Bella, I can't." You know? And pulls himself away and all this wonderful, chaste imagery and everything. He's the ideal boyfriend. And Charlie's got his shotgun, he's cleaning the gun on the table and is ready to meet Edward.

[clip from Twilight:]

Charlie: All right, bring him in.

Bella: Could you be nice? He's important.

Then Edward brings Bella home one minute before curfew, it's hard to not like this guy.

Aside: Listen, I had to edit here because Jeff dropped so many plot point spoilers, I had to cut them out because maybe some people out there are going to queue up *Twilight* tonight, for the first time, to psychoanalyze the whole thing and I didn't want an angry mob trying to burn me in a barn, okay?

Jeff: We can have the demon lover who is reformed, who has learned to control his urges, like the whole family has; the Cullen's house is a halfway house, they've all learned to kick the habit and they're all living together, this vegetarian lifestyle. Again, PETA is going to get mad, and the Sierra Club is going to get mad because they're out hunting mountain lions, but other than that, at least they're not killing humans.

Aside: I immediately was like, dude, why don't they just eat squirrels? Or start a gopher catching business at a golf course? But I looked into it, and *Twilight* author Stephanie Meyers apparently has said that she thinks predators would taste better than herbivores, and that checks out. But I was like, what is Stephanie Meyers' deal? I knew she's religious, she's a member of the Church of Latter-day Saints, AKA Mormons, but I didn't realize that *that* is why there is such a push for abstinence-only activities, if you will, until marriage in these movies. This woman delivered us the hottest, most brooding vampire, who is also sensitive and then is like, "Wait for a ring!" But you know what? One person's fantasy genre is another's horror.

Also, before *Twilight*, Stephanie Meyers had never written a book before. She had a dream about the plot, she woke up a little horny, ["Objection, that's pure conjecture." "Objection overruled."] But anyway, she wrote about it and now she makes tens of millions of dollars a year. And then, E.L. James, who somehow churned out literary work that we call books, the *50* Shades series, started those books as fanfic of *Twilight*!

What is my point? My point is, if you have an idea for a book, please write it. This right here, this is a signal from the universe you've been waiting for. Picture me standing over your bed in the shadowy moonlight, I'm holding a frying pan and I'm telling you, I will swat my own head with it if you don't start your book. And actually, November is National Novel Writing month via a nonprofit called NaNoWriMo, which stands for National Novel Writing Month. And NaNoWriMo started over 20 years ago as a challenge for people to write 50,000 words of

a novel in 30 days. And according to their site, now, each year on November 1st, hundreds of thousands of people around the world begin to write, determined to end the month with 50,000 words of a brand-new novel. They enter the month as elementary school teachers, mechanics, or stay-at-home parents, they leave novelists. How inspiring is that? So, NaNoWriMo.org, I'm linking it in the show notes and we're going to donate to them this month as well. So, NaNoWriMo, write a book, do it for future you. And do it for me, with the frying pan.

But yes, back to Edward and Bella and eating mountain lions instead of people.

Jeff: Now, we can live happily ever after, actually completely ever after.

Alie: Ever after forever. [laughs]

Jeff: For ever and ever, right? And so, this is that evolution that we get. It's really, really amazing. And at each step... it can't happen overnight. We had Varney the Vampire as technically our first remorseful vampire. Do you think you'll ever read this?

Alie: Oh no, but I'll take a spoiler.

Jeff: Okay, good. So, Varney is unable to control himself and attempts at killing him have failed, and failed, and failed, all through the 400-plus pages, and he throws himself into Mount Vesuvius.

Alie: Ohhh, what a death.

Jeff: And self-cremates. Wonderful. He's so remorseful, and he can't be killed, and the one way to really, truly cremate a vampire... It's one thing to decapitate and burn them, it's another thing to be thrown into the bowels of the Earth and to be cremated by Mount Vesuvius. That's wonderful. ["Dramaaa."]

The people at that time just did not need that vampire. They still needed nobles to be villains. And we just don't pick up that thread for another 130 years [laughs] until Jack Palance. That's amazing. We needed the literary vampire, the cinematic vampire to be evil, and an enemy, and something that we know how to identify, and name, and stake, and destroy, up until the '70s when we decide that maybe bad people can be reformed, maybe we can overcome our shortcomings. And then that makes everybody salvageable at that point.

Every step is a product of the time, every age creates the vampire that it needs, every step of softening that vampire and making them attractable and making them more marriageable is important. It's an amazing evolution. I've ordered the movies, the 650 or so movies, in my syllabus in chronological order and if you want to watch all of them in chronological order, you can actually see that development over time. It's absolutely fascinating. You can track when the first time a trait gets introduced.

Aside: So, set aside a few months and watch 650 movies. Okay, so that was the first question. Second question, patrons Ali Vessels, Zombot, Angela Clark, Christian Krupp, Alex Parrish, SickSugar, and Pacheecha asked permission to enter the conversation with the query...

Alie: So many people want to know: When do they have to get invited in? Was that something that's super historical or did that emerge in like, 1985? [laughs]

Jeff: This is from folklore. So many of these things– Again, the literary vampire didn't just immediately be born out of nothing. This is just importing all of these traits from the folkloric vampire, selectively at first, and then when the well runs dry, we dig somewhere else. People will go back to these old sources. The Perkowski book has folklore from lots of countries, and

you can tell that people have been reading this book and they hear this word *moroi* and they're like, "Oh, I've got to put that in *Vampire Academy*."

Aside: Okay, sidenote, for more on vampirology, hit the 2006 scholarly reference book, *Vampire Lore: Writings of Jan Louis Perkowski*, which is a textbook in Jeff's class. And buried in all this literary history are mentions of the *moroi*, which now appear as characters in the Netflix series, *Vampire Academy. Moroi* are mortal but they're magical creatures who can go out during the day but with parasols, and they have human blood sources called feeders that they sip from, but they don't kill. And they have more troubled, and kind of bitchy counterparts called the Strigoi, and those *will* drink you dead and/or infect you with simmering rage and the blood munchies. In Roman mythology, *strigoi* means a troubled spirit. And yeah, maybe they're just hangry, maybe they have low blood blood sugar.

Jeff: And so, there's always this pulling from folklore. And in central and eastern Europe, you didn't let people who you don't know into your house. So, I'm an ethnographer and I go out into the villages in Poland and Lithuania every summer. And a stranger walking into a village, even today, people are suspicious. You can see people watching out of their windows. It doesn't help that I go and work in cemeteries too, but they'll often see me, the road only leads to the cemetery and then somebody shows up 30 minutes later just to water the flowers, ["What a coincidence."] and then they're like, "So, what are you doing here?" And then we talk, and I explain what I'm doing, and then they're welcoming. Once I'm a known quantity, I'm welcomed in, but you wouldn't welcome in somebody you didn't know, especially in this premodern time when there are diseases.

So, you don't know if somebody is a murderer, or you don't know if someone's a thief, and you don't know if someone's a plague-bearer. So, it's safer to either keep them completely out of your village, or if they come up, to keep them on the other side of the fence and talk at a distance, and I have a lot of people who will do that. And then if they judge that I'm safe, then they'll let me in, and then we'll be in their yard for a while. And then if they judge that I'm safe, then they'll invite, "Oh you must be thirsty, how about if you come into the house?" And then, according to central and east European tradition, you have to feed a person and give them something to drink.

And so, you know, I go from the person who is looking at me with suspicion to the person who is feeding me and giving me drink and saying, "Next time you're in the village, you can come and stay in my spare room." [Alie laughs] That tradition though, of not inviting strangers in, is very old and it's very logical. And what the weird thing that has then happened is we've... Again, before it would just be, "don't invite a person in," and now, *True Blood*... Have you watched *True Blood*?

Alie: I'm familiar with it but I haven't watched a lot of it.

Jeff: Now, you'll have a reason to go and watch it. But you'll invite a vampire in, and then if they do something you don't like, you say out loud, [clip from True Blood: "I'm rescinding your invitation to my house." wind blows, door swings open.] "I rescind my invitation into my house!" And then the vampire gets dragged out supernaturally out of the house. That's that arms escalation, things that just go over the top and we get that now. We get either, people will bleed if they come into a house uninvited, or they trick people to being invited, or they buy the house and then it's not their house anymore and then I can come in whenever I want to. [Alie laughs] There are always these logical hurdles to get around being invited in. And again, that's the "money will get you into people's house, intelligence will get you into

people's house, brute force will get you into people's house, your status will get you into people's house."

Aside: Just a side note, I watched a scene from *True Blood* where an invite was rescinded and, in the scene, instantly some thunder rumbles, and the front door flings open, and the wind, and the vampire just glides backwards. And the comments on the YouTube video were about how this breakup scene was supposed to be sad but how people just howl with laughter at it. And one YouTuber, Wicka4991, commented, "I always picture a random stage crew member pulling him backwards on a skateboard." Just woosh... and cut.

Jeff: We get to see this in a good form in *Dracula* where there are these good people who are fighting Dracula, among whom are wealthy people, and knowledgeable people, and noble people, and they use their status to commit all these crimes. But because they're good people and they're doing it for a good reason, and because nobody would doubt that they were up to anything bad, they can also break into these places, like where Dracula lives and where he has his stashed boxes of earth all over London and the neighboring areas as well.

We keep seeing this idea pop up in movies in funny ways. Either we do it and it has become a standard norm, or we've turned it into something that's absolutely ridiculous. And sometimes in a comedy then, that's going to be really, really funny.

Alie: Well, what about garlic?

Aside: Asked patrons Rachel Casha, Ali Vessels, Melanie Metzger, Brittany Peek, Michael MacLeod, Lucas O'Neil, Super_Sara, Holly Spencer, Cassie Chatwin, Em Holt, Aven, Erin Ryan, Lizzy Carr, RJ Doidge, Hannah Boyd, Michelle Zentgraf, Margo, Lex Clearwater, and Nicole. Plus first-time question-askers Janell Faraj and Olivia French, as well as listener/farmer, Scott Nickels who offered: If any of you are having vampire problems, I have garlic.

Alie: When did the garlic trope come up?

Jeff: Garlic is old. So, in central and eastern Europe, garlic is medicine. Garlic is medicine, distilled alcohol is medicine, ["Vodka?"] honey is medicine. Honey doesn't go bad and our distilled alcohol, you can use it to clean cuts and to reduce pain. And garlic is just very healthful. And the interesting thing is, unlike onion, which will make your mouth stink, when you eat garlic, it comes out of your pores.

I can remember being in Russia for the first time in 1992, and right after the fall of the Soviet Union, alcohol was really, really cheap and people would just put three fingers on their shirt, meaning, I need two other people to split the cost of a bottle of vodka with me, go into the park, and in central and eastern Europe, you never drink without eating so one of the things you can eat is garlic.

Aside: Okay, I looked this up and he's not lying. In Ukraine, vodka is known as *horilka*, which derives from a root word meaning, "It burns." And apparently, it's very uncouth to drink *horilka* without nibbling on things like thinly sliced pork fat, which is called *salo*, or munching it with garlic pickles. Will that help you in any way? I don't know about the *horilka*, but the garlic might.

According to many, many, many published stories like the 2015 *Journal of Immunology* report, "Immunomodulation and anti-inflammatory effects of garlic compounds," it reports that *Allium sativum*, which is garlic's birthname, can enhance the immune system by stimulating certain cell types, like "Macrophages, lymphocytes, natural killer cells, dendritic cells, and eosinophils, by mechanisms including modulation of cytokine secretion,

immunoglobulin production, phagocytosis, and macrophage activation." Sure, what the fuck does that mean? So, it modulates inflammatory responses and also helps your immune system attack invaders. Maybe not giant, dead corpse invaders who are mad at you, but it's worth a shot.

But why so stinky? I needed to know, and I found out that sulfur compounds are released while your body metabolizes garlic and one chemical, Allyl methyl sulfide, can't be broken down, so our body is like, "Okay, take this to the dump via your blood highway and then just exit via the offramps, your lungs and skin." So yes, even if you are tube fed garlic, straight into your stomach, you will still have garlic breath, which is what one physician discovered in the 1930s, with a patient who probably did not appreciate it.

But other docs are on the case too. There's this one researcher, Dr. Sheryl Barringer of Ohio State University, who has authored so many papers on the matter of garlic breath including the 2017 *Journal of Food Science* banger, "Deodorization of Garlic Breath by Foods, and the Role of Polyphenol Oxidase and Phenolic Compounds." And I read a bunch of it, the TLDR is that drinking milk, or something with fat and water, with garlic in a meal can help break down that Allyl methyl sulfide that stinks. And if you're like, "Who chugs milk these days, unless it's a latte?" You can try acidic lemon juice, or raw apple, which can also break down that sulfur so that it won't have to take the blood highway out your lungs and skin; it can take the regular southbound exits, the turnpike to the toilet, instead.

Now, herbs can also work and according to Dr. Barringer's other paper, "Deodorization of Garlic Odor by Fresh and Dried Herbs" from 2021, the team found that fresh rosemary had the strongest deodorization effect among the fresh herbs, while dried mint had the strongest effect among the dried herbs. So, munch some rosemary or have some mint tea, perhaps.

Now, this is only slightly related, but it's my show so I'm just going to do one more tangent and tell you the world garlic capital is Gilroy, California, which is a smallish municipality between San Francisco and Santa Barbara, and the entire freeway stretch through Gilroy smells like focaccia, god bless it. And they have a yearly garlic festival that involves garlic ice cream and so many wonders. And somehow, I wound up on Gilroy's official city website and saw that their local botanical gardens host a Halloween show for children, and who is on stage? Frankenstein, they got a ghost, and a vampire. Excuse me?! Gilroy... you're the garlic capital of the *world* and somehow you casually, thoughtlessly feature a vampire in your Halloween show? Your whole October branding message should be: The world's safest haven from vampires. No vampires here, visit Gilroy and leave your chainmail turtlenecks behind! Capitalize on this Gilroy. I'm not mad I'm just... I just expected more from you, I guess.

Anyway, yes, Jeff remembers well the food and beverage culture of eastern Europe. The hard stuff at lunch with a side of garlic lard, and honestly, it's probably delicious on the way down but...

Jeff: I can remember being on the trams and just smelling these people who smelled like they were pickled between the vodka and the garlic coming out of them. But it's really high in vitamins and everything, and it grows well, it grows abundantly in the conditions of central and eastern Europe, and it has that magical property of coming out of your skin. It's stinky.

So, if you can imagine, onion might protect your mouth, which is an important orifice to protect, but garlic protects your whole body. And so, you then have the folk traditions of smearing garlic over the windowsills, any place where a vampire could come in, any place where something evil could come in, any portal, you then smear with garlic and that's just a

long, old tradition. So, you can eat it and it makes you healthy and you can smear your windows with it in order to protect. And that falls into what we call an apotropaic, *apotropane*, to turn away an evil spirit. ["Go on now! Git!"] And so, garlic is an apotropaic, it'll repel vampires. So, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It's really hard to kill a vampire, it's a whole lot easier just to keep them away.

Aside: And we will devour them in a minute but first, a word about sponsors of *Ologies* who make it possible to donate to a charity of the ologist's choosing. And this week, the gem Jeff chose the donation to go to the Blood Cancer Research Foundation at Myeloma.org. And my dad, your Grandpod passed away from multiple myeloma in July. And Jeff, knowing that, wanted to point his donation that way in honor of my dad, which warmed my bloody heart. We're also going to toss a small donation to NaNoWriMo.org in honor of you. Yes, I'm talking to you. The one who wants to write a book but has needed a little nudge and the courage. I'm telling you, do it. Thank you and you're welcome. Okay, those donations were made possible by sponsors.

[Ad Break]

Okay, first up, a bunch of you patrons at Patreon.com/Ologies such as Lauren Mascibroda, Justin Saucedo, Jacob Elsbree, Nikki DeMarco, Stephanie Leské, Zombot, Chelsea Rabl on behalf of Bob Bradly, their boyfriend's dad, and Joel Henderson made me ask this pointed question.

Alie: One of the last listener questions we had, a ton of people wanted to know about fangs, [laughs] which is great. Joe Porfido wanted to know: Are they able to use their fangs like straws to suck blood? Or do they pierce and then they suck with their mouth? Do they pop out? Are the fangs always out? What do you think historically of different fang styles?

Jeff: Great. So, we have to distinguish between the folkloric vampire and the literary vampire, and I'm here to make that distinction. The folkloric vampire, there are a lot of things that bite and take our blood in real life. So, if you've ever had an outside dog and found an engorged tick on it, you can very quickly see how the Bulgarians imagined the vampire as just a bag of blood that kind of looks like a Bulgarian bagpipe full of blood. [*Alie laughs*] They don't have bones so that also explains how they would get in and out of a grave. Think of ticks, and think of leeches, and think of fleas, and think of bedbugs, and mosquitoes. Alie, did you know that there are vampire finches?

Alie: I thought bats were the only ones, but I mean, vampire finches... Amazing.

Jeff: Madrilenial butterflies, vampires, bloodsuckers; the assassin kissing bug, blood suckers; the candiru, that's the one that will like... you're in South America and you're peeing in the water, and it jumps up into your urethra. ["No thank you."] And lampreys and lice, these are all natural bloodsuckers.

Aside: Vampire finches? I know that that sounds fake, like a tax-evading flamingo, but it's true! They exist. And these little birdies with sharp beaks live on two of the Galápagos Islands. And while they would love to be eating seeds and drinking fresh water, the islands are a bit arid, so they're simply forced, they are forced to find a seabird, sit on its ass, and peck its wing tips to drink their blood. They must do it. So, yes, they blood-suckle blue-footed boobies, and the world is weird.

Also, vampire bats, which likely started by eating ectoparasites and then just cut out the middle bug and went straight for the blood, they puncture little fang holes and then they just lap up what bleeds out. But what's even creepier is that vampire bats, unlike most other bats,

can run on land, on their wings. They just bound around like beautiful, furry little ghouls. Videos of it are haunting. But out of 1,400 species of bats on Earth, only 3 species are vampire bats and they're endemic to northern Mexico and Central America, and a few countries in South America.

But speaking of regions and kind of eerie hopping around, patron Nathan-Andrew Leaflight left a comment in this week's discussion thread on Patreon, to tell me about the folklore of the Jiangshi, or Chinese hopping vampires, which are a reanimated corpse, sometimes fresh looking, sometimes horrifically decomposed, it really depends on how all-in you want to go with your makeup. And Jiangshi means "stiff" and so a proper impersonation involves hopping, like a bunny, with outstretched Frankenstein arms.

Nathan-Andrew also casually told me to look up southeast Asian Penanggalan, which sounds kind of like a type of omelet, or like a custard dessert but no... oh no. I'm going to read you a small slice of the Wirkopedia entry for Penanggalan because that's plenty. It says, "Its form is that of a floating disembodied woman's head with its trailing organs still attached. From afar, it twinkles like a ball of flame." Just a glowing, vampiric ball of decapitation and entrails. Nothing to see here.

Now, same thing with the African Ashanti folkloric entities called Obayifo, which are vampire witches that at night are said to emit a phosphorescent light from their armpits and anus. Do you know how boring a Dracula costume is at a party when you could have a luminescent butthole? Get a couple glow sticks, think outside the coffin, will ya? Happy Halloween.

Also, for more on bats and ticks and body farms and bones, you can see the other Spooktober *Ologies* episodes any time of the year, really, but we'll link them in the show notes for this. But yes, back to Jeff and eastern European and American vamps.

Jeff: So, you can see the comparison, these things around us in central and eastern Europe, at least half of those things, are feeding blood from us. And then how do you get blood out of a victim? It's got to be something sharp, and if you're living around bedbugs and things, you've probably got bite marks on you. So, that kind of explains bite marks, it explains the diseases that you might get. This area isn't particularly known for malaria despite its swamps, it's just too cold for malaria. And so, our folkloric vampires, what we say is, we never see a folkloric vampire feeding, we only find its victims.

Alie: Oof.

Jeff: And so, when you have a person who has been exsanguinated, a person who has lost blood, something's got to be taking that blood from them. Why are they withering, why are they shrinking? And then we make that jump in logic to say that this must be something that is sucking the life force of blood out of these victims. Again, that's why vampires are blamed for wasting diseases. It's not all diseases. It's not bubonic plague, at least in the beginning, not going to attribute bubonic plague to vampires, or measles, or chickenpox, or something like that. But wasting diseases, anemia and things like that, make really logical choices that we have there.

Now, in terms of literary vampires and cinematic vampires, we can get close enough to them. As a kid when I saw vampires drinking, I was completely convinced that they had straws in their teeth. [Alie laughs] And every kid going to McDonald's would always stick two straws up into their mouth and pretend to be a vampire and drink from that. So, I was completely convinced that vampires had canine teeth and then they were sucking their blood up through that. And then I was like, actually it would just be easier to put it down your throat. [Alie

laughs] So, we can catch a cinematic vampire in the act and do a dental examination, but with folkloric vampires, we never see them feeding, we only find the victims.

Aside: Fangs, not hollow. So, if you've been thinking they're like rattlesnake teeth but with a suction function, we have been officially divested of such flimflam by a professional vampirologist.

Alie: Last listener question, a few people asked, boldly – I thought this was a great question, I wouldn't have thought to ask it. Nancy Kay Clarke, World Nurse Collective, and Lauren Mascibroda wanted to know: If vampires were real and you could be one, would you? All of them wanted to know, would you ever vampire? As a verb.

Jeff: Mmh. That depends on the conditions under which I'm a vampire. [*Alie laughs*] So, there's the moral burden of saying, if I am a blood-drinking vampire, then do I have to drink human blood? Can I drink animal blood or is there a synthetic blood substitute? Or is there a way of just feeling that urge but you can stop it in some other way?

It's bad enough to be human and to see history repeating itself over, and over, and over. Now, make that centuries... I think that would get really frustrating after a while. And that's also why you have vampires in certain works of vampire fiction, that vampires can't kill themselves. There's actually a prohibition against vampire suicide. So, you either have to pay another vampire to slay you or provoke a slayer to do that. But when you're tired and you finally need that, [frustrated exhale] literature is still throwing barriers in our way to try to keep us from ending ourselves.

Which is just a really old tradition of prohibitions against suicide and self-harm, and that's why we'll have works where vampires can't feed off themselves. It's like, perpetual motion vampire machine, "I can just drink from myself and then I'm only harming myself." [Alie laughs] In a movie like Daybreakers, that will accelerate your de-evolution into a Sub-Sider. And then to drink another vampire's blood will cause that and then to drink your own will be even worse.

Aside: Just a PS, I had never seen *Daybreakers*, but *Daybreakers* is the 2009 film starring Ethan Hawke as a hematologist, which is a blood scientist, and yes, we do have a Hematology episode, I'll link it in the show notes. But in *Daybreakers*, vampires have taken over the world after this plague started by a bat... Rude, because we love bats. But in the movie, there was a blood shortage, and a Sub-Sider is a version of a vampire that's starving, and desperate, and jonesing for blood.

I looked into it. Here's my theory: based on the filmmakers' ages, they're twin brothers born in 1976, who attended part of high school in the early 1990s in New Jersey, I think Sub-Siders were born out of the vestiges of the Reagan era war on drugs, which taught school children that if you ever tried any addictive substance, you would live in a sewer, your face would be a battlefield of self-inflicted gashes, and you would break into people's home desperate for your substance of choice, before being killed to the jubilation of cops, which happens in the movie. Sub-Siders should just say no to human blood. We fixed it.

Jeff: So, we throw those prohibitions. So, I will try to lead the best and cleanest life that I can while I have it. But the central and east European life cycle, you want to do your part and complete your life cycle and go, but not too old. So, people who lived to a very old age are accused of taking more than their fair share of life force. Hence the prohibition against very old people. And there are a lot of prohibitions; there's a huge list and they're absolutely fascinating.

Aside: Okay, so I looked into laws against being old and I couldn't find anything and so I checked in with Jeff and he meant prohibited in more of a resource sense. But on that note, in March of 2021, the World Health Organization released its first-ever Global Report on Ageism, and you can download this 202-page PDF, but I'll summarize it for you here: people are mean to old people and disabled people, and it sucks. So, knock it off. There you go. And I will link that report on my site if you want more granular details though.

But okay, one more listener question asked by Andrea Devlin, Red Cedar, Kathleen Sachs, Alexandra Catulle, Anna Frazier, Shelby Smith, Nikki DeMarco, Alia Myers, Dantooine, Kiana Peters, Becks Woodruff, Connie E Carringer, Amanda Richardson, Jacqueline Church, Bennett Gerber, Sam Taylor, Nina Giacobbe. They all wanted to know if Jeff has a favorite vampire movie or franchise and all these people mentioned the following titles, I'm just going to say so that they get on your radar. You ready? *Blacula, Fright Night, Once Bitten, Vamp, Vampire in Brooklyn, From Dusk Till Dawn, Blade, Queen of the* Damned, *Let the Right One In, The Invitation, Lost Boys, Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, of course, *Vampirina, Dark Shadows*, the new *Interview with the Vampire* series on AMC, and I had never heard of this but the Mel Brooks, *Dracula: Dead and Loving It.* So Jeff, pressure is on, pick one.

Alie: Is there a vampire in pop culture that you feel like is your favorite?

Jeff: Every age creates the vampire that it needs; every vampire meets a need at a certain time. Sometimes I like chocolate ice cream and sometimes I like mint ice cream. [*Alie laughs*] So, there are certain times when I need a certain type of vampire movie to watch, and if that's frustration or if that's hope, redemption, or something like that, I'll pull those different vampires out, so I don't typically have a one-time, all-time favorite.

Alie: But you're definitely Team Edward, right?

Jeff: Why are you saying that?

Alie: From... [laughs] From Twilight.

Jeff: You're asking me to pick a vampire over a werewolf, that's... that's not too much of a problem. [*Alie laughs*] I would probably say more that I'm Team Cullen than Team Edward. So, I'll stick within that general family.

Aside: PS, if you haven't seen *Twilight*, Edward lives with a whole-ass coven of vampires in a cool house and his adoptive parents are vampires; they're frozen in the ages of like, 23 and 26 because someone's got to buy wine coolers for these 104-year-old teen vampires. Except, they don't really drink and they're also teetotalers of human blood. They're just like, "Just puma juice please." But Team Jacob, how dare anyone even imply it to Jeff?

Alie: That's a good answer. What about the hardest thing about your job? The hardest thing when it comes to researching this. Is there something that is frustrating about it?

Jeff: Well, I'm a teacher so I spend my time teaching about this. It is fascinating and I think everybody needs to understand vampires in so much more depth than typically what we reduce them to in vampire movies. You can watch a vampire movie for pure entertainment and that's okay. If all you're doing is passing the time by consuming media, that's completely okay. There are perhaps other, better forms of escapism than vampire movies, but... [Alie laughs]

My job of trying to get people to understand vampires, it is to take that folkloric vampire and understand how and why people held it in their belief system. And it takes four very intense weeks of un-programming people and getting people to understand how people were living

in central and eastern Europe, in pre-modern times, when it was really living year to year in survival kind of mode and all the things that could kill you out there, to get everybody to peel back their western lenses, their modern lenses, their 20th and 21st-century lenses. And that attitude of taking someone else's belief system and calling it superstition. So, to get people to understand why we needed a folkloric vampire, so many people can't understand why you would invent a vampire just to be scary. And that's one of the reasons we do it for movies and films but that wasn't the reason we developed a folkloric vampire. It takes a very long time to get people to process that.

And then to get people to really reflect on that phrase, "Every age creates the vampire that it needs," to be able to say, "I can watch this movie for entertainment, but I can also treat it as a cultural artifact" and say, "this is telling me something about the people who created it and the time in which it was created. And to see a vampire movie that is popular over many, many years means that the filmmaker, the author, is tapping into these human universals that we are probably never going to solve." Who can you trust? This is, *Let the Right One In*.

Aside: If you're down to be scared as hell, the 2008 original Swedish version of *Let the Right One In,* involves adolescence, trust, and of course, vampirism, and it sports a 98% Fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes. One critic, Joe Lipsett of the *Horror Queers* podcast, writing that:

It's a near perfect horror film that captures the horrors of bullying and coming of age in a chilly, unflinching fashion. Is this a classic queer romance or a morally conflicted tragedy? The answer may just be yes.

And I watched the trailer, and I was afflicted with instant goosebumps. So, that's 2008's, *Let the Right One In*.

Jeff: Who can you let into your life, into your bedroom, into your family? What are the signs of the red flags for dangerous people? Can people overcome their dark pasts or their urges? We're constantly focused on that. You can have a really good vampire movie that is popular only in a specific time. Frank Langella's 1979 *Dracula*, is like that, based on marital infidelity as divorce rates were rising, that's great.

But the movies which keep coming back and stay fresh and intriguing... *Dracula* is, again, 125 years old, and it is still completely re-readable. It's still moving because the themes of disease and marital infidelity, and the danger of foreigners, and the fears that we have of things that are not like us, those will always tap into lizard brain and make us afraid. Consuming that as literature will always get that chemical release that we can't control that makes it compelling and interesting to consume.

Aside: Which is also why having anchors on cable news, screaming opinion pieces generates billions of dollars a year and influences who is in power while also fomenting hatred and division. But if you lost your older loved ones to political talk radio in the 1980s, should have rubbed some garlic on the dashboard. But on a brighter note...

Alie: And is there a favorite thing about it? Is there something that just really hooks you? Is it the tie to maybe your own history or is it just kind of how enduring it is?

Jeff: We learn to spot vampires all around us and so it is... it's a lens to see the world. We have four types of vampires. So, we have our folkloric vampire which existed in the belief system; we have our literary vampire with its subtype of cinematic vampire; we have the psychotic vampire which is a real person who has a mental illness, who attacks a person in the style of a folkloric vampire or a cinematic vampire, literary vampire. And it's a criminal act to do that, to attack someone and drink their blood.

Aside: PS, just try not to do this. Especially if you happen to have open stomach ulcers; it's a great way to catch a disease. And according to a recent, and pretty helpful *Pop Science* article, titled, "Is it OK to drink blood?" an excess of iron can be fatal to humans. So, unless you're into vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, dehydration, or maybe hepatitis, just grab a cold-pressed beet juice and lie to your vampire friends. Your secret is safe with me, I'm not going to tell anyone.

Jeff: And then we have the psychic vampire, the person who seems to suck the psychic energy or energy from your body. This is now most commonly known to people through the Colin Robinson image of *What We Do in the Shadows*, the television series. Everybody has known a psychic vampire in their life, and this is the person who uses fear, and intimidation, or guilt, or shame to weaken another person. When you're standing from the outside and looking on, it really does look like that person is sucking life force out of the victim there.

What really is happening of course is that that person who is using that intimidation is getting a rush from it and these are our aggressor chemicals that our brain creates in using intimidation, or seeing the results of our action and having that satisfaction, or that thrill that you're doing that. And at the same time, the person who is undergoing that is having negative chemicals being produced in their body, which will lead to loss of appetite, and fear, and nervousness, and anxiety, and everything. It really looks from the outside, that that psychic vampire is draining that person. We can explain that with brain chemistry, so thank you, modern brain science for giving us that reaction. But we can spot those similarities in our everyday life.

Aside: So, those are psychic vampires. And maybe ask yourself, what media do you consume that leaves you feeling anxious and shitty and afraid and smaller? And what people do you associate with who seem to delight in your defeat? If you're feeling drained, you might have a psychic vampire. And also, conversely, do you hate-watch certain people's Instagram stories? Do you tear down cheesy bloggers in the comments section? Check in with yourself. Every vampire rises up depending on need and maybe you need different things to fuel you.

And if you're actually trying to attack people and consume their blood, which happens from time to time, you might have a condition known as clinical vampirism, sometimes called psychotic vampirism, or Renfield's Syndrome, which is an obsession with drinking blood. In honor of Dracula's sycophantic servant, psychologist Dr. Richard Noll snarkily coined this term, Renfield syndrome in protest to psychiatry having too many diagnoses. And to his dismay, it actually stuck as a term to describe wanting to drink blood. So, like a joke turned reality for him, that's just got a really... I guess it's got to suck.

Jeff: Every year we're going to have a news article of someone who attacks someone and drinks their blood. And we know psychic vampires in our lives, and we read literary vampires and see those parallels to our own lives. And again, those vampires are processing these basic human existential problems.

Good vampire literature never gets old. It might get a little bit worn out, but the vampire has evolved so much that if we've had enough of remorseful vampires then we'll pull out the predator vampire again. And if those are exhausted, we can create that next form of vampire, and we're held in check by whether that innovation will resonate with the people who are consuming it. And that's why you might have a movie that might be brilliant, that just doesn't resonate with people. That tells us that that age doesn't need that vampire. And then there are other things that are just so well done that just hit those aspects of the frustrations of our

human mortal existence that will make vampire literature undying. [*Alie laughs*] We will still be making vampire movies and writing vampire literature far, far, far into the future.

Alie: Augh, I think that is so, so amazing to have that kind of context that I've never realized how much I needed that. [laughs] I can see why hundreds of people sign up for your course every year. This has been such a joy. Thank you so much for letting me drain all of the information out of your veins.

Jeff: Always happy to be a willing victim, willing donor. I would be that person, I would be the person whose friend is a vampire, and I would, in controlled quantities, give them my blood. That's why I donate blood every 56 days. [Alie laughs] Lest my students think that I'm a vampire, every fall I'll roll up my sleeve and let them see my mark that I've indeed been giving blood and not taking it.

Alie: Well, this is a good reminder for everyone to go out and give blood.

Jeff: Absolutely. Every 56 days.

So, ask smart people, sanguine questions because, unlike vampires, you live but once. And Dr. Jeff Holdeman is so amazing. If you see him on campus at Indiana University, Bloomington, tell him Dad Ward says hi, give him a fist bump or a high five, and take his class, The Vampire in European and American Culture. There are a ton of links to the studies and books we mentioned and more up at AlieWard.com/Ologies/Vampirology, which is linked in the show notes, so you don't have to write it on your arm, as you drive, please.

And if you're looking for classroom-friendly *Ologies* episodes, we have *Smologies* which are shorter, condensed versions of classic episodes and they're cleaned and edited of my swearing, so they're safe for work, and all ages. Those are right in the feed, or we have them all collected at AlieWard.com/Ologies which is linked in the show notes. Thank you so much Mercedes Maitland and Zeke Rodrigues Thomas of Mindjam Media for the edits on those.

Thank you to all the patrons at Patreon.com/Ologies for sending in questions for this. You can send yours in for upcoming episodes at Patreon.com/Ologies, joining costs as little as a dollar per month, our hearts are cheap. You can wear *Ologies* shirts, and sweatshirts, and socks, and stickers and hats and more via OlogiesMerch.com. Thank you to the lovely Susan Hale for managing that and so much else. Noel Dilworth does all our scheduling and so much more. Erin Talbert admins the *Ologies* Podcast Facebook group with assists from Shannon Feltus and Boni Dutch of the podcast, *You Are That*. Kelly R. Dwyer does our website, she can do yours too. Emily White of The Wordary makes our professional transcripts and Caleb Patton bleeps them, and those are up at AlieWard.com/Ologies-Extras. Nick Thorburn made the theme music. And lead editor is the hotblooded treat, Jarrett Sleeper, who also has to be married to me for eternity, which pleases me. Oh, and happy, happy birthday to the perfect and amazing Simone Giertz, who is not only an inventor and an artist, but one of the best pals a person could have.

If you stick around until the end of the episode, I tell you a secret. And this time I'm going to tell someone else's secret because I love it and it's not really a secret. But as you may know, I've become really good friends with thanatologist Cole Imperi and her husband Victor, who have moved to LA this year. And we were having cocktails on their patio last week, Victor makes excellent cocktails, we were there with Simone, and in my pants pocket, I found a little cardboard paper tube from a roll of dog poo bags that had run out that day and Victor thought it was a cigar butt and I was struggling to find a word to explain what it was. And Victor said, "Oh!" His family calls any cardboard tube at the end of a roll of something, a "Durdur." And I was like, what? What word is

that? They call them a durdur because when you put them to your mouth you can go "Durdurdurdurdurdurdurdurdur." So, like a wrapping paper roll, or a toilet paper roll, or a paper towel roll. [laughs] All those tubes are called durdurs [laughs] and this just delighted me. And Cole, who had been in the house grabbing ice, came out and I asked her, "Cole, what is this in my hand?" And she went, "Oh, a durdurdur." And now, they're durdurs and I love them, and I love them for telling me that. Okay. Berbye!

Transcribed by Aveline Malek at TheWordary.com

Links to things we discussed:

Donations went to <u>Myeloma.org</u> for blood cancer research in honor of your Grandpod, Larry Ward, and to <u>NaNoWriMo.org</u>.

Indo-Iranian Dualism

Jeff Holdeman's Rate My Professors page

Eastern European state of Kievan Rus'

100 Years of 'Nosferatu,' the Vampire Movie That Won't Die

Basics on Romanticism

Nosferatu October 2022 screenings in the UK

October 28 Nosferatu screening at the Million Dollar theater in LA

Nosferatu – original version via YouTube

Nosferatu - restored version

Nazis, Jews and Nosferatu

Bloodsuckers: Vampires, Antisemitism And Nosferatu At 100

NOSFERATU, Blood Libel, and the Jews

Jewish Currents analyzes Nosferatu

"Our Vampires, Ourselves" by Nina Auerback, 1995

The need to belong: desire for interpersonal attachments as a fundamental human motivation

Penny dreadful publications

<u>Images from penny dreadfuls</u>

Watch: Christopher Lee's Classic Hammer Horror: Count Dracula and His Vampire Bride (1973)

<u>Viktor-Rolf Spring 2022 Surreal Shoulder – is it vampire chic?</u>

<u>Jack Palance as Dracula in 1974</u>

Are the Cullens real vampires?

Report on the super rich paying little to no taxes

Pepper vodka and pickles traditions

Video: [Twilight] I have a date with Edward Cullen

Book: The Power of Positive Thinking: 10 Traits for Maximum Results by Norman Vincent Peale

Tru Blood on ebay

Study: Immunomodulation and anti-inflammatory effects of garlic compounds

Study: Fungal infection control by garlic extracts (Allium sativum L.) and modulation of peritoneal macrophages activity in murine model of sporotrichosis

Dr Gerry Carter at Ohio State studies the social dynamics of Vampire Bats!

Malawi cracks down on 'vampire' lynch mobs

Jack Palance Wins Supporting Actor: 1992 Oscars

How Could Someone Who Writes About Lovesick Teen Girls Be a Feminist?

Vampire Academy's Moroi, Dhampir and Strigoi, Explained

Gilroy Gardens: the world garlic capital features a frickin' vampire?

Study: Deodorization of Garlic Breath by Foods, and the Role of Polyphenol Oxidase and Phenolic Compounds: Deodorization of garlic breath...

Study: DEODORIZATION OF GARLIC ODOR BY FRESH AND DRIED HERBS USING SIFT-MS

How To Cure Garlic Breath. Thank you, science. Pop Sci article, 2014

Is it OK to drink blood?

Daybreakers Sub-siders

Tru Blood beverage

The History of the Self Help Movement

Dr. Thomas Harris – author of "I'm Okay, You're Okay"

Clinical vampirism or Renfield's Syndrome

Horilka: Ukrainian vodka

Pepper vodka plus pickles

Video: "Vampires" and Boobies | National Geographic

Video: Vampire bat ...running?

Dr. Gerry Carter: vampire bat expert

Jiangshi aka Chinese hopping vampire

Ashanti vampire-which Obayifo with a glowing butthole

Penanggalan - glowing heads and entrails

DAYBREAKERS Clip - "Frankie Kills Subsider" (2009)

Vampire of the Slavs by Jan Perkowski

World Health Organization 2021 Global Report on Ageism

The Elderly - Suffering in Romania

Clinical Vampirism or Renfield's Syndrome

The Elderly - Suffering in Romania

Books mentioned:

"Frankenstein; Or, The Modern Prometheus" by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, 1818

"The Vampyre: A Tale" by John William Polidori, 1819

"Varney, The Vampyre: Or, The Feast Of Blood. A Romance" by James Malcolm Rymer, 1845-47

"Carmilla" by Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, 1872

"Dracula" by Bram Stoker, 1897

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