

Dracula: Chapter 4

Element	Notes
Plot summary	Jonathan awakes in his own bedroom and, from the unusual pattern of his laid-out belongings, surmises that Dracula must have carried him there. A few days later, Dracula asks him to write three letters - one saying that his work there was nearly done, another that said he was leaving the next morning and a third which said that he had left the castle and arrived at Bistritz. Jonathan attempts to befriend some gypsies and seemingly convinces them to post warning letters. However, Dracula intercepts them and burns the shorthand letter to Mina. The next morning, Jonathan awakens to find his writing paper, travel details, coat and suit gone. He later watches as Dracula flies out of his window, posing as Jonathan, to go and post the letters. Jonathan describes this as <i>"his new scheme of evil"</i>. The next night Jonathan hears the cries of a distressed woman pleading to have her child back and Dracula's wolves murder her. Jonathan climbs down from his open window to Dracula's window and enters his room. After realising it's empty, he travels down a steep passage and through a tunnel to an old, ruined chapel with a dug-up graveyard. He finds nothing until he looks inside one of the boxes of dirt and sees Dracula lying there. The look of hatred in Dracula's eyes terrifies Harker and he runs back to his room. The following day, Dracula posts the final letter and Harker insists on leaving that night. However, as Dracula opens the front door, a pack of wolves descend on Jonathan and cries that he will wait until morning. The next day Harker scrambles down the wall and searches Dracula's body for a room key before attempting to murder him with a shovel. Unsuccessful, he plots his next move.
Key quotes	<i>"An outrage upon friendship and hospitality!"</i> - Dracula is offended by Jonathan writing a letter in shorthand to Mina, which he of course cannot understand. This is ironic, as Dracula plans to suck Jonathan's blood, turning him into a vampire. Indeed, Dracula has also locked Jonathan in his bedroom and forced him to engage in complex conversations at unsociable hours. The use of a hyperbolic adjective almost makes him seem like a pantomime villain, as there isn't exactly give and take in the "friendship". <i>"A low, piteous howling of dogs somewhere far below in the valley...louder it seemed to ring in my ears, and the floating motes of dust to take new shapes to the sound as they danced in the moonlight"</i> - the dogs/werewolves are not only a gothic symbol but also show how Jonathan is going mad. He has begun seeing things in his dreams and may even be imagining sounds (although we cannot be sure due to the biased narrative).