

Jonathan Harker character profile

Who?

- Jonathan Harker is a young solicitor from Exeter who is conscientious and proud of his reputation for being a hard-worker. Whilst he is intelligent and always tries to do the right thing, Jonathan nevertheless finds himself lured by evil.
- Harker is one of the novel's main protagonists and is tasked by his boss - Mr Hawkins - to travel to Transylvania and act as an estate agent for Dracula. It is Jonathan who finds out about Carfax, near Purfleet in Essex, and wishes to discuss the purchase of it with Dracula in person.
- Jonathan lives a simple life and is engaged to Mina Murray, who he hopes to marry upon returning to England. However, he gets sucked into the Count's world and comes close to losing his sanity.

Analysis

- Jonathan Harker embodies the stereotypical, yet highly respected, Victorian man. Much like Dr Seward, he relies on fact and reason and it is this rationality which almost leads to his death. Harker continuously ignores his gut instincts throughout the first few chapters, as well as warnings from the people of Bistritz.
- However, Jonathan fails to live up to the physical strength of the other men, who appear more experienced at fighting than him. This may reflect his sedentary and comfortable lifestyle as a lawyer.
- Jonathan's internal conflict between integrity and subversion is shown through his seduction by the vampire women in Dracula's castle. Whilst he knows that he must stick by his Christian monogamous morals, he also struggles to control the sensual temptations of the *"voluptuous"* women. This may reflect the inner battle occurring within many middle class Victorian men, as seeking the services of prostitutes became an unspoken code of conduct.
- Unlike the eccentric Van Helsing, Jonathan is dismissive of the locals' superstitions and gifts and fails to notice the motif of the supernatural.
- Arguably, Harker appears boring besides the other characters who often seem more symbolic of Gothic conventions and Victorian traditions. It has been suggested that Harker is the quiet, middle class man who balances out the strangeness of the other characters.
- He is also pitied by the other, more dominant members of the Crew of Light, due to Dracula's control of Mina.
- Dr. Seward describes him as a *"quiet, business-like gentleman,"* *"uncommonly clever,"* and *"full of energy"*.
- It is suggested that Jonathan speaks several foreign languages, perhaps making him not so different from Dracula and Van Helsing after all.
- This paper:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/231879533_Vampiric_seduction_an