



Valentines Edition

As Valentine's Day approaches, the air is filled with love and longing. So, of course, this is the perfect time to discuss the love and romance in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, where love is a bit of a mess.

Dracula himself was a bit of a hopeless romantic with a penchant for dramatic beachside rendez-vous beside being a thirsty blood sucker: "I am longing to be with you and by the sea, where we can talk together freely and build our castles in the air."

Of course, at the heart of our story lies the bond between Mina and Jonathan, Jonathan, the valiant hero, captured within the labyrinthine halls of Dracula's castle, finds solace in the thought of his beloved Mina. Their love, a beacon of light in the encroaching darkness, serves as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of unspeakable terror.

"Do you believe in destiny?" Dracula muses, "That even the powers of time can be altered for a single purpose? That the luckiest man who walks on this earth is the one who finds... true love?" It's like he's auditioning for a romantic comedy. Who knew vampires could have such romantic souls?

But amidst the shadows, there's another tale of love. Lucy, with her radiant beauty and endless charm, finds herself entangled in a web of desire spun by not one, but two ardent suitors. Arthur, the dashing aristocrat; and Dr. Seward, the steadfast friend—all vie for her affections, each offering a glimpse into a future filled with passion and promise.

Yet, it is Dracula, the dark prince of the night, who ignites the flames of passion within Lucy's heart. Drawn to his otherworldly allure, she is ensnared in love as forbidden as it is intoxicating—a love that threatens to consume her very soul.

It's like watching a supernatural version of "The Bachelor," with one undead contestant vying for the hearts of two unsuspecting ladies...

And let's give a round of applause to Mina, the ultimate love warrior, risking her life to save her man, Jonathan, from the clutches of darkness. If that's not true love, I don't know what is.

As we raise our "stakes" for Valentine's Day, let us be reminded of love's transformative power. Perhaps consider offering your loved one a dramatic and yet romantic date with ballet Victoria's *Dracula*?

Here's to a Valentine's Day filled with love, laughter, and maybe just a hint of garlic.