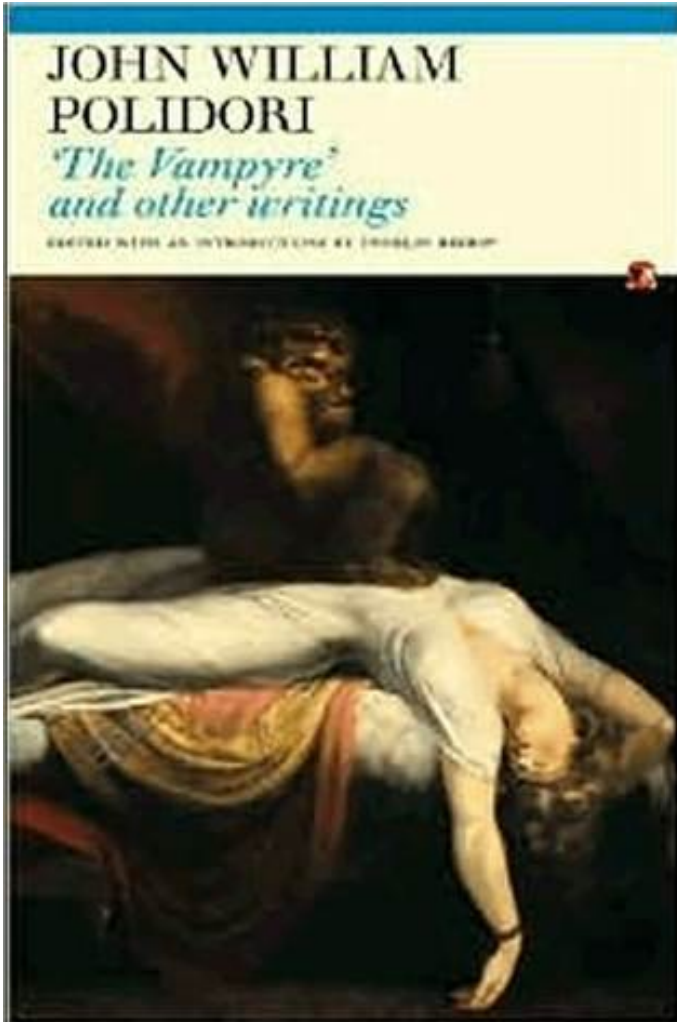


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**John William Polidori**

**The Vampyre; a Tale**



Title: The Vampyre; a Tale

Author: John William Polidori

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## Description

Juny de 1816 a Villa Diodati, una mansió vora el llac Lemán (Suïssa). Quan lord Byron va proposar als seus convidats que cadascú escrivís una història de terror per matar l'avorriment --el mal temps els impedia sortir de la mansió--, ningú no podia imaginar que dos d'aquells relats passarien a la història de la literatura universal: Frankenstein, de Mary Shelley, i El vampir, de John William Polidori, aleshores metge personal de Byron. A El vampir Polidori transforma una figura del folklore europeu en el vampir lord Ruthven, un personatge aristocràtic, sofisticat, seductor i amb poders sobrenaturals que passarà a l'imaginari col·lectiu de tota la humanitat. Al llarg del segle XIX la narració tindrà nombroses edicions i traduccions i influirà decisivament en totes les obres posteriors sobre vampirs, especialment Dràcula de Bram Stoker. La narració que crea la figura universal del vampir.

## Insightful reviews

Linda: "The Vampyre", published 1819, is considered the first vampyre story in English literature and the one turning the vampyre folklore into the classic tale, the mythical vampyre into the aristocratic, cultivated, intellectual and seductive creature. A young man, Aubrey, becomes fascinated with the mysterious Lord Ruthven that has entered London society. They travel to Rome, but Aubrey leaves Lord Ruthven due to certain circumstances. The next time they met, Aubrey's view of him would change irrevocable.

In this short story, the vampyre isn't charming as in later stories. He's egoistical, sadistic, ruthless and without empathy. He doesn't want to be a nice person. He wants to use people for his benefit. He is very generous when giving to people, with the seemingly good purpose of charity, but only to people that will use his money to end up in an even worse situation.

A great issue for Aubrey is whether to keep his word or save the one he cares about - which can seem absurd since most people would break their promises to save their loved ones. A word isn't always that much worth today. Back then, giving someone your word was probably something highly valued and irreversible.

There is not so much character development, as in many short stories, but the main characters are very interesting. Despite an almost non-existent dialogue the prose isn't heavy at all. The story is thrilling and Aubrey's anxiety and fear are felt by the reader.

This short story is immensely influential. It began in the early 1800's when the author elite - Lord Byron, Percy and Mary Shelley, and Claire Clairmont - came together at the Lake Geneva in Switzerland. Among these authors were Byron's physician, John William Polidori. They decided to write a horror-story. This is a historical moment. Lord Byron and Percy Shelley discarded their stories, perhaps because they thought nothing could compare to poetry. Mary Shelley wrote "Frankenstein" and Polidori used Byron's discarded attempt and wrote "The vampyre". Thus, this story is a work by both of them, and furthermore, the characters Lord Ruthven and Aubrey are based on Lord Byron and Polidori. Neither of them wanted it to be published, but nevertheless, it was.

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It's impossible to describe the impact these people had and still have on authors and readers. What did they talk about? What fascinated them? These works of literature are only a small part, a tiny glimpse, of their strong imagination.

Melinda Jane Harrison: This is the first vampire story in the English language, and Polidori based the character on Lord Byron, which was not a stretch, since Byron was pretty much an emotional vampire to those around him. Polidori is an interesting character himself. In films, he is always portrayed as crazy or ugly, some little fiend hanging on to Byron, etc. But it's not true. He was smart as can be, young, young, and very handsome. He was also educated and a physician and a member of the Polidori family that went on to produce Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Christina Rossetti.

Polidori was hired by an editor to travel with Byron and write memoirs of the trip, which we all hear about as *The Haunted Summer of 1816 in Geneva* where Byron met P.B. Shelley for the first time.

Although this story is sometimes attributed to Lord Byron, that is false. Polidori wrote it. He died by prussic acid, though he has one of the most interesting coroner's reports in history.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Wil...](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wil...)

Kushnuma: This is one of the first published stories relating to vampyre's.

Sam Quixote: John Polidori was once Lord Byron's medical professional who Byron about. the 2 met up with Percy and Mary Shelley at the beaches of Lake Geneva and one evening determined upon a ghost tale writing competition. Percy and Byron, of the Romantic movement's shining stars, gave up early on claiming prose was once not anything to poetry, yet Mary Shelley and John Polidori went ahead. Mary wrote "Frankenstein" whereas Polidori wrote "The Vampyre", a considerably smaller and not more recognized story. "The Vampyre" tells the tale of the charismatic Lord Ruthven approximately Europe with the impressionable Aubrey following him everywhere. the following we discover a few of the attributes recognized to vampires those days. Ruthven has "irresistible powers of seduction" (p.4), "night offers him power" (p.7), "superhuman strength" (p.8) and the sunshine "disturbs him" (p.8). it is also instructed he has strength over minds although that would simply be the character's weakness. i am not going to claim Polidori merits loads of credits in bringing the vampire into pop culture as his brief tale is basically forgotten. It used to be Stoker's novel "Dracula" that mixed the attributes of a vampire besides others with a robust tale with a compelling significant character. "The Vampyre" serves in basic terms as fodder that would have encouraged Stoker. Polidori cannot write, his prose is hard and dull. even if it is a 20 web page brief story, "The Vampyre" is a hell of an extended tale. The interest issue is what retains this tale released and the very fact of Polidori's connections to Byron and the vampire myth. Ruthven is obviously Byron who, like Ruthven, travels approximately Europe "corrupting" younger women utilizing his charms. Polidori is the helpless Aubrey who follows Ruthven/Byron about. the tale is: Aubrey follows Ruthven approximately till after Ruthven kills Aubrey's love in Greece. Aubrey then is going again to England to guard his younger sister from Ruthven. Too late, and Aubrey's sister is

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doomed. The end. uninteresting for readers of gothic fiction, unknown and rightly so for the final reader, it is a footnote within the vampire fable and not anything more. For enthusiasts of historic gothic fiction only, or you can be greatly bored.

Hattie: i would desired to learn this for some time now, as we are learning Frankenstein in class, and that i discovered the tale of the Villa Diodati rather intriguing. even supposing this brief tale is not quite good written or enjoyable, I nonetheless imagine it really is relatively vital to the Gothic, because it was once the 1st vampyre tale ever written. it is also particularly fascinating that this tale had an identical idea as Mary Shelley, after they got the problem by means of Lord Byron to put in writing a ghost story. I additionally discovered that this story reflected Frankenstein in a few places. For example, i discovered Aubrey quite just like Victor, and Lord Rutherford just like the creature...

Constanza: Es un relato que ya había leído hace muuucho tiempo, pero no lo tenía en físico, recientemente lo adquirí e hice una re-lectura y me volvió a encantar como lo hizo aquella vez.<http://booksforfly.blogspot.com/2014/...>

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