VAMPYR
by Carl Theodor Dreyer

(liberally based on the novel *In a Glass Darkly* by J. Sheridan Le Fanu)

This is the fantastical adventure of young Allan Gray, who zealously dedicated himself to studying the cult of the devil and superstitions about vampires.

Working with such crazy ideas from centuries past turned him into a dreamer, a man dedicated to the imaginary, who little by little began to lose the distinction between real and unreal…

Late one evening, on one of his walks towards the unknown, he came to an isolated inn on the banks of a river, near the town of Courtempierre.

The moon was strange that night.

Light and shadows, voices and faces seemed to possess a different, dormant sense. Allan Gray felt himself being taken over by a strange sensation, and it was very disturbing to him.

He struggled in vain against the terrible fright that was overtaking him, and that night his fear of the intangible never left him. It was so strong that it disturbed his sleep.

What was happening? What was the terrifying secret about to unfold? For Allan Gray one thing was certain: a soul on the brink of death was screaming for help. And a voice within him ordered that he follow it.

In pursuit of fleeting shadows, he came to a large park.

A lone castle stood in the midst of hundred-year-old trees. Here, far away from the entire world, in the sole company of his two daughters and a few servants lived the same Lord that Gray had met at the inn.

[title of the book]: THE STRANGE STORY OF VAMPIRES
by Paul Bonnat

Tales from the past, from many countries, tell of the existence of terrible demons called vampires. On nights when the moon is full, bodies and souls of the dead, unable to find peace in the grave due to bad deeds committed during their lifetime, rise up from their coffins and suck the blood of youth and children in order to prolong their dark existence. The prince of darkness is their ally, and he grants them with supernatural power in the kingdom of the living and the dead.

During the night, these creatures of decadence visit the homes of the living, spreading death and desperation. Whoever falls victim to a vampire cannot be saved from the tragic fate that awaits him. Contamination is indicated by a mark on the neck, similar to a rat or a mouse bite. Vampires hold a mysterious allure over their victims. Neither the most severe cures, nor the most loving attention, nor the most devout prayers…

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The tribulation of a vampire is passed on like an epidemic to the victim, who is left plagued by an unquenchable thirst for blood and a desperate renouncement of this strong desire. And he fights and he surrenders. Thus in turn an innocent youth becomes a vampire and goes in search of new victims, choosing among his closest relatives. This scourge can destroy an entire family, or even an entire town.

Their kingdom is darkness, and their subjects are the spirits of murdered criminals. But even living men can fall under their terrible spell.

Rumors from Hungary tell of a small-town doctor who sold his soul to the devil by becoming accomplice to a vampire, conspiring to commit evil deeds. A vampire always succeeds in turning the most dangerous man into his ally.

As soon as a vampire feels that his victims are under his power, he pushes them to commit suicide so he can deliver their souls to Evil, because he who commits suicide is lost forever. The gates to heaven will never again be open to him. All hopes of salvation vanish.

Who solves the mysteries of life and death? Who discovers the dark secrets hidden from the light of the sun?

As strange as the existence of a vampire may be, the cure to make him disappear is equally strange. The dead who are unable to find peace must be killed, so humanity can be freed.

The secret archives of many convents and many libraries preserve writings on…

…how vampires have been annihilated in some places.

Approximately one human life ago, the town of Kisilova was dominated by a vampire in the semblance of an elderly woman, and the plan went as follows: the grave was opened at dawn, and the woman was found lying within as if she were asleep. Several men then drove a stake into her chest, straight into her heart, thus nailing her wicked soul to the ground. In that very moment, she truly died, and the curse weighing upon her and her victims disappeared.

…to succeed in obtaining freedom from God in Heaven. Here too, legends tell of certain areas that have been visited by vampires.

A quarter of a century ago the town of Courtempierre was devastated by a fatal epidemic that claimed eleven victims. Doctors named the phenomenon with a scientific term, but among the people it was rumored that the epidemic originated from a vampire. Many strongly believed that the vampire was no other than Marguerite Chopin, buried in the Courtempierre cemetery. All her life, Marguerite Chopin had wandered about like a monster in the semblance of a woman. Marguerite Chopin died without repenting, and at the time of her death, the church refused to grant her Last Rites.