

DRACULA AND THE ECO WARRIOR

Synopsis

1) The concept

To take the original DRACULA story by Bram Stoker and update this powerful modern myth so that we can ask questions about Climate Change and how humans damage the natural environment of this planet earth.

Act 1

An airport in the USA in a few year's time. A huge storm has led to all flights being cancelled. There is chaos. We meet a passenger desperate to get a flight. His name is Jonathan Harker and he must get to Pennsylvania for an important business meeting. He finally persuades a drunken man to drive him to his destination many miles away. He travels through a nightmare land, destroyed by industry and pollution. There are terrible storms and endless rain. He arrives at Dracula's Tower, a broken skyscraper. He is rescued from a mob of alcoholics and beggars by a helicopter and eventually meets Dracula at night in the Count's comfortable office in the heart of the burnt out skyscraper. Harker wants to sell old properties in Eco town to Dracula. Eco town is an environmentally progressive small city that hopes to be a model for future responsible living on the earth. But it is in financial trouble. Harker's boss is Lucy Renfield, who pushes him to complete the deal and save Ecotown, whatever the problems or moral compromises. Dracula is interested in buying the old houses in Ecotown that have cellars. He terrifies Harker but it seems the deal can be sealed. Dracula extracts a lot of personal information from Harker including the name and details of his fiancée, Mina – an alternative medicine Doctor and leading personality in Ecotown. Harker has terrible dreams that are in fact Dracula stealing all his data. Dracula agrees to the deal and tells Harker he is not a prisoner and will be flown back to Britain tomorrow and that he is free to explore the Tower but not the forbidden rooms. Harker ignores his advice as he seeks sunlight (the Tower is always dark) and from the roof sees Dracula attacking the tramps and beggars and sucking their blood he escapes in terror but is trapped in a lift (elevator) that takes him to the underground levels of the tower where fracking is taking place. The Tower almost collapses from the strain on its foundations, the noise and fracking process are terrifying. Female Vampires drill for oil and seeing Harker go for his blood, he is both attracted and repelled but just as it seems he will be destroyed Dracula appears and claims him for himself.

Act 2

Eco town, Britain - the world's most environmentally conscious urban settlement, run on community democratic participation and a centre for alternative lifestyles. There is even a cult of the earth goddess they call Gaia. We meet Mina, Jonathan's fiancée'. She is worried about him being delayed in the USA but thinks it is only because of the terrible storm that has made communication impossible as the power has gone. We see various aspects of Eco town, the use of solar cells and renewable energy for all power, bicycles for transport etc. Lucy Renfield (Harker's Boss) reassures her good friend Mina that all will be well and that they can save Ecotown. A Researcher tells Lucy that the sea water quality is amazing after all her efforts but he is worried by rising sea levels and the increase in rain.

An oil tanker is in trouble in the storm off Ecotown. The ship is carrying Dracula. Mina is taken to the ship by a rescue helicopter as she is a doctor but the rescuers are killed by Dracula. The Captain is dead tied to the wheel. Mina alone survives as the ship crashes onto the shore and Dracula escapes on an oil slick that poisons and pollutes the waters.

Act 3

The play then follows Dracula as he meets Lucy and starts to seduce her with ideas and money - he will invest in Ecotown if only he can frack for oil and gas under his own properties. She agrees, she is changing. Mina is in hospital after being hurt in the tanker wreck, Harker appears but is mad, a servant now of Dracula and obsessed with eating flies. Mina is shocked but survives his attack.

Dracula breaks into Lucy's house and drinks her blood. Lucy appears on a motor bike and takes Mina from the hospital to confront Jonathan who is working for Dracula. To their surprise they find him almost sane again, but addressing a large public meeting. Harker denies Climate change, using all the standard (discredited) arguments to claim that climate change is a natural cycle not affected by humans. He wants to persuade the people of Ecotown to accept more drilling for oil in their land, he becomes hysterical and Mina tries to stop him but Dracula appears and he and Harker escape by helicopter.

Lucy is watching a YouTube film (there is a lot of modern digital/smartphone use in the play and dramatic structure). It shows Vampires at work in Fast Food chains and is a comedy, it links the themes of the play to the audience's own eating habits in a comic manner). Mina laughs but she then confronts Lucy about her change and Jonathan's. When they kiss good bye Mina realises that Lucy has Vampire teeth now and drips blood and even oil from her mouth. It is too late!

Lucy goes online to find information about destroying Vampires. She connects with Professor Helsing at Utrecht University. He agrees to meet her in the Second Life Virtual World as that is the only safe place. In a strange world peopled by avatars, Mina meets Van Helsing who tells her how to destroy a Vampire with a stake of wood through the heart, garlic and crucifixes etc. A second avatar approaches and Van Helsing logs out in fear that this is a spy of Dracula's. But the avatar warns Mina that only sunlight will kill Dracula. Who can she believe? She logs out in distress.

Lucy is riding her motor bike with Dracula behind her, they go faster and faster, guzzling more and more gas until the bike skids and Dracula pushes Lucy and flies off the bike. Lucy is dead, she has served her use and now Dracula wants only Mina - Mina the goddess of Eco town, a living Gaia.

Lucy's funeral. Rain, the flood water is rising. The fracking under Ecotown has started. Mina breaks into the cemetery and tearfully opens Lucy's coffin and hammers a stake of holly wood through her heart. She sobs with sadness. Dracula rises behind her but instead of attacking Mina he comforts her. He understands her pain. He takes Mina to the Sacred tree to pray for Lucy and talks to Mina about how they are alike. Dracula wants to destroy what is terrible on the earth, and the greatest terror is humanity. He tells Mina that her ecological paradise can only be achieved by destroying the virus of humanity, a humanity who does not deserve the planet. Then just a few special people can be left to enjoy the renewed world: people like him and Mina - Demon and Goddess, two sides of the same coin. Mina seems to agree. She struggles but is attracted by the idea. Harker appears above them watching and waiting dreaming that he can fly if he eats enough flies, rejoicing in the rising water that will destroy humanity.

Mina at the sacred tree prays and meditates, Dracula pours verbal poison in her ear until he persuades her that he loves only Mina. He goes to bite her throat but Mina says that love is not death and he must kiss her lips. Dracula does so but it is a trick, because Mina knows the sun is about to rise and this will destroy the Vampire. The sun rises, at the last moment Harker tries to stop Mina but it is too late and Dracula melts to ash in the sun. Betrayed by love...

Harker changes as his Master melts and returns to his old self, unsure if this was all a dream. Mina and Harker are reunited. They pray at the Sacred tree for a world where humanity and nature are in harmony. They post a Youtube clip of Mina recycling Dracula's ashes. Smiling they return to their home but the wall crashes down and there is Lucy, laughing with at the stake though her heart that did not kill her and ready to take over the world and destroy Mina and our fragile planet earth.