



The Empire of Fear

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"Terrific vampire fiction."

THE KIRKUS REVIEWS

Since the sixteenth century, England has been a land ruled by the Undead. Vampires rule with terror and the darkly-seductive promise of life eternal for the lucky few. Edmund Cordery, member of the cabal pledged to penetrate the mysteries of the vampires and destroy them, strike the first blow. But it will fall to his son, Noell, to carry on the crusade of human against inhuman. And it will fall to those who come after Noell to keep the struggle alive for over three centuries--from England to Malta to modern-day America, where destiny will decide finally whether the forces of horror or humanity will hold sway over all....

The Empire of Fear Details

Date : Published October 1993 by Ballantine (first published October 17th 1988)

ISBN : 9780345377579

Author : Brian Stableford

Format : Mass Market Paperback 469 pages

Genre : Horror, Paranormal, Vampires, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Alternate History, Fiction, Novels

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Curby Pugo says

This book starts out slow and I mean sloooooowwwwwww. Not the type of literature i am used to when dealing with vampires. But little by little you can grasp what it is about: destruction of the vampire virus.

Ezebediah says

Inizio assai promettente, poi il romanzo si affloscia con un ritmo lentissimo. Tanto da chiedersi se non sia stato scritto da un vampiro con tanto, infinito, tempo a disposizione.

MissM says

Barely a vampire novel. VERY dry and slow and plodding. Really has very little point and I only finished it out of some desperation it would get better. It didn't.

The book is actually from 1988 and is being republished with a snazzy new cover. But it's really outdated and they're just trying to cash in on the vampire popularity right now. But what kind of vampire is not a single bit stronger or faster then a normal person, can go out in the sun and has to use a knife to cut for blood?

Also, the author must have some weird fascination with anal sex as the entire book is centered around it. Right from the beginning, we're told the theory that vampires make other vampires by butt sex. Okay...1980's AIDS commentary perhaps?

Anyway, it's really not very good at all. Took me ten agonizing days to finish it.

Cathy says

Interesting alternate history where Attila's army brings vampirism to Europe and by the 17th century the ruling aristocracy is near invulnerable to pain and death. (Makes it easier to argue the divine right of kings ...) It's a good adventure with pirate voyages, expeditions into Africa, early scientific method and a sympathetic protagonist. It's also the most philosophical vampire novel you will ever read.

Angela says

Epic vampire novel in the alternate history subgenre begins in 17th-century London. The world is ruled by a powerful aristocracy of vampires. Edmund Cordery, courtier to Richard the Lionheart (yes, THAT Richard, and he's a vampire), believes that the secret process whereby vampires are made from common men must

have a natural explanation. His microscope proves his undoing, but not before he entrusts his secrets to his son Noell, who becomes a fugitive to preserve both the knowledge and his own life.

Great book!

Eric says

I paid two dollars for this book at a used book sale, and it was worth every penny. This may be the worst vampire novel I have ever read.

I don't say this lightly - I've read countless vampire stories, but right now I can't think of a worse one. What really stinks is that the premise is exciting and promising, but Stableford does little to nothing with it.

It's the early 1600s. England is ruled by the Empire of Gaul, established by Charlemagne and currently ruled by Richard the Lion Hearted. The cool thing is that Charlemagne and Richard are vampires. Vlad Tepes, also known as Dragyula, rules central Europe, or Wallachia. Vampires exist in Africa but do not rule, while the Muslims of the Middle East have battled back repeated vampire attempts at conquest. The New World has not yet been discovered.

Edmund Cordery, mechanician for Prince Richard, works to destroy the vampire empire and gain freedom for the common men who chafe under their tyrannical rule. He has obtained a dangerous plague from Africa, injects himself with it, and sleeps with the Lady Carmilla, a beautiful vampire lady (all vampire ladies are babes). Carmilla drinks his tainted blood and dies of the plague, though few other vampires do in the epidemic that ravages the human population. Edmund's son, Noell, is whisked away to a convent, where he studies about vampires.

Up to this point, the book isn't bad. But after this, it slows to a plodding and dull pace. Noell and his monk mentor hook up with a pirate, go into exile in Africa, journey to the continent's heart to discover the secret of vampirism, discover that vampires are created by a mixture of human blood and - get this - vampire semen. The pirate, his saucy wench, and the monk mentor become vampires, but not Noell, though he tries. Noell and friends then lets the secret loose on the world, create an army of vampires to challenge Gaul and Wallachia, and then lose to Gaul and Wallachia. The Epilogue is even more dull, as Stableford introduces a moody teen who can't help feeling sorry for himself because he also cannot be vampire. The epilogue takes place in 1983, in which all humans strive to become vampires after they've married and spat out a kid or two. The kids grow, reproduce, become vampires, and that's how the human population grows. Those who cannot become vampires are cursed and pitied, like this poor teen. But he meets the pirate's saucy wench on a beach, and becomes her lover. We also learn that the vampire origins came from an asteroid that crashed in Africa 13,000 years ago.

Not only is the book boring, but it's stupid. I'm no vampire purist, but Stabledord's vampires bear little resemblance to the sharp-toothed creature of the night. They have no fangs, venture out during the day, aren't any stronger than humans (though they heal quick and can control pain), and by the 1980s don't even drink blood - they take pills instead.

It's all lame, it's all corny, it's all dull, dull, dull.

Michaela says

Po skúške som si otvorila túto krásku. :) Román hovorí o období vlády Richarda Levieho Srdce, cca rok 1623. (Žije veru dlho, nielen on, ale aj Attila, Vlad Dragulya a iní...) Veru, vládcami sú prevažne upíri. Áno, ťítate správne, práve medzi š?achtou sa nachádzajú tí, ktorí pijú krv svojim poddaným. A nielen obrazne. No aj medzi oby?ajnými ?u?mi, fascinovanými nesmrte?nos?ou sa nájdú takí, ?o sa chcú takýchto vládcov zbavi?. Nie každý chce byť ako oni. Neillov otec, mechanik Edmund Cordery sa pomocou mikroskopu pokúšal odhaliť tajomstvo premeny ?loveka na upíra. Syn je v?aka tomu nútený sa skrývať. Zatia? som len na začiatku, ale je to ozaj zaujímavé. Pre?o je biologicky viac upírskych žien? Ako dochádza k premeně? Na toto ešte odpoveť nepoznám. Ale pá?i sa mi, ako sa tento autor popasoval s témou. Originál je tuším z r. 1988, takže zaujímavý poh?ad - vtedy sa na upírov pozeral takto a možno aj on dal základ tým sú?asným, pretože mali krásnu, bledú a ?istú pleť, boli tmavovlasí, prí?ažliví. :) Upíri v tomto svete necítia bolesť, ak nechcú, dokážu rýchlo regenerovať a živia sa nielen krvou. Zatia? ma to mimoriadne zaujíma, lebo tuším, že sa to ešte zamotá...

Dodatok po do?ítaní:

Už viem, pre?o mi to bolo také známe. Lebo závere?ná ?as? (sú?astnos?) vyšla kedysi kdesi ako poviedka.

Ak máte chuť sa dozvedieť iný príbeh o upíroch a o tom, ako vznikajú, nech sa pá?i, Ríša strachu na vás ?aká...

Jonathan says

This is not (likely) your teenage daughter's vampire novel--thankfully! The story delves into an alternate history involving the protagonist's escape from 17th century vampire run Britain, and an adventure into the heart of Africa. I was actually maybe twelve when I read this for the first time,(I've read it several times since), but it's definitely geared towards a more adult audience. Though the pace can be a bit slow at times, there's plenty of sex and violence to keep one's attention. For the patient, mature reader, this might be one of the more interesting takes on vampire mythology you'll read. The details are astonishing, and the journey is epic! But if you don't like historical fiction and/or have a firm, unwavering idea of what a vampire has to be, then this book probably isn't for you.

Olethros says

-En novela ¿es suficiente con ambientar y situar muy bien al lector?-

Género. Narrativa Fantástica.

Lo que nos cuenta. Situada a comienzos del siglo XVII, nos retrata un mundo en el que los vampiros (no exactamente los del tipo tradicional en el género) se han hecho con el poder en todos los países e instituciones de Europa. El protagonista, Noell Cordery, huye de Inglaterra para proseguir las investigaciones de su padre sobre la base racional y científica del fenómeno vampírico, emprendiendo un viaje que nos llevará a diferentes localizaciones.

¿Quiere saber más de este libro, sin spoilers? Visite:

Stephen Palmer says

My favourite Brian Stableford novel, I really loved this one. A perfect mix of SF, alternate history, Africa and BS's superb writing.

Toolshed says

I was really tempted to give it full 5 stars, and for a long while I thought that I'm going to. Such a brilliant novel. Thoughtful, almost philosophical book which posits many hard questions about human condition and the meaning of life, oh and did I mention that it's an alternative-history vampire novel? The style was really quite ornamental, dense and, which I found very good and actually appealing, it was much more oriented on the narrative than dialogue. I thoroughly enjoyed the world-building and history-oriented passages as well as the pseudo-mythologically energized parts which took place in Africa. Also, it was refreshing to see the role of a vampire being approached from a different perspective, one which is less demonizing and more realistic, with the main focus being on the aspect of immortality instead of all the "gruesome" aspects of a vampire as a figure which are often emphasized in vampire novels. Stableford also managed to give the book a great pacing (the chapters are almost rigorously segmented, with each of them having about 10 pages and rarely exceeding that) and a great variety which is achieved by changing up the narrators (Edmund, Noell, Ntikima, Dragulya, Richard). I like how the author managed to cover such a long time span but at the same time wrote the respective parts of the novel so cleverly that the reader barely feels he is missing anything - this might be especially due to very well-written introductory sections at the beginning of each new part. Sadly, I found the last part a bit underwhelming as it shifted the general tone of the novel towards sci-fi and also thought it was a bit anti-climatic after everything that happened before that. However, it did work nicely as a kind of epitaph to our own fragile mortality and the inevitability of death, with the only solution being acceptance and willingness to make our mark on this earth despite the limited time that was given to us. Even though we have to face the truth and come to terms with the fact that there is no miraculous Adamawara meteorite coming to save us from our mortal condition.

Tita says

Há muito que tinha este livro na estante à espera de uma oportunidade para ser lido. Sabia que tinha vampiros e nada mais.

Temos uma sociedade idêntica à nossa, mas onde os vampiros estão inseridos e onde controlam a sociedade. Nesta sociedade, Edmund Cordery é um homem da ciência, que pretende descobrir como pode terminar com os vampiros e com o seu poder. Mas quando se interrompidas as suas pesquisas, transmite os seus conhecimentos ao seu filho Noel, que acaba por ter que fugir e se esconder.

A acção decorre em vários locais, tais como Inglaterra, África e Malta. E temos vários tipos de personagens diferentes: vampiros, monges, piratas.

Achei a ideia da história interessante mas a verdade é que achei o meio do livro muito chato e maçudo. A própria escrita é um pouco mais formal, como forma de respeitar a época pretendida, e um ritmo muito lento. Julgo que o autor poderia ter abreviado certas partes, porque realmente os capítulos passados em África aborreceram-me bastante.

Um outro aspecto que me desiludiu, mas que se prende por eu não saber nada sobre a história, foi que pensei que se enquadraria mais no género de terror e não tanto como romance épico. Só a de um empalamento, focando as diferenças entre empalar um humano e um vampiro é que me deixaram algo "desconfortável".

Tasula says

I read this years ago and still remember much of it- VERY good book, but forewarned, it's quite brutal.

Alexandra Rolo says

Acabei por ter uma relação de amor-ódio com este livro durante as três semanas que demorei a ler as suas páginas. Por um lado a ideia da história é diferente daquilo a que estamos habituados, por outro a escrita do autor é, em muitos pontos, extremamente pesada e aborrecida.

Num mundo governado por vampiros, Edmund Cordery é um homem de ciência decidido a descobrir como se poderia destruir estas criaturas. No entanto as suas pesquisas com o microscópio acabam interrompidas e deixadas nas mãos do seu filho Noell.

Noell é uma pessoa assombrada pelas escolhas que o seu pai tomou e acaba por ver em Quintus a figura paternal que nunca teve.

No meio de vampiros, piratas era a última coisa que eu esperava ver mas esses também aparecem e desempenham um papel importante para o crescimento da nossa personagem principal.

Na sua procura para dar resposta às perguntas de seu pai, Noell e os seus companheiros acabam por viajar até África onde descobrem que o processo de criação de um destes seres, não é fruto de magia mas sim de uma mistura especial que deve ser feita que pode nem sempre funcionar.

Podemos ver também todo um conjunto de nomes e acontecimentos históricos como pano de fundo para este enredo.

Duvido que alguma vez vá voltar a ler este livro, até porque cada vez que lhe pegava ficava com sono e cheguei mesmo a adormecer. No entanto para quem gosta do género é uma boa leitura, sempre é uma versão diferente daquilo que temos visto nos últimos anos.

A versão portuguesa é da Saída de Emergência, mas uma vez mais eu li em inglês por isso não posso comentar a tradução.

in: <http://livroportodolado.blogs.sapo.p...>

Jose Solis says

Una novela muy buena del género de vampiros.

Londres, 1620. Cientos de años atrás, el vampiro Atila conquistó el imperio Romano. Desde entonces, Europa está bajo el dominio de príncipes vampiro (Carlomagno, Vlad Tepes, Ricardo Corazón de León, el papa Borgia), quienes mantienen el poder gracias a su inmortalidad y a que conservan celosamente guardado el secreto del vampirismo. Gracias a ese secreto mantienen bajo control a la aristocracia y la gente común, quienes los sirven con la esperanza de que algún día les sea concedida la inmortalidad.

Noell Cordery es un naturalista inglés que sigue los pasos de su padre para tratar de comprender el fenómeno del vampirismo desde una perspectiva racional, y con eso, provocar que el imperio de los vampiros pierda poder. Ayudado por la reciente invención del microscopio, sabe que el secreto debe consistir en un algo puramente biológico, basado en la sangre y otros fluidos corporales. Es acusado de traición, y logra escapar con unos piratas, y su viaje lo llevará hasta el corazón inexplorado de Africa, a la mítica cuna del vampirismo. Lo que encontrará y entenderá ahí, provocará una verdadera revolución cuando regrese a Galia.

Lo que me gustó de la historia es que la realidad alterna es muy convincente, gracias a la inclusión de personajes reales bien trabajados. Y también que el fondo de la historia es acerca del nacimiento de la ciencia y el pensamiento racional, quitándole influencia a la superstición y el pensamiento mágico.

Muy buena y recomendada.
