

MONSTER COMPLEX PRESENTS

DRACULA VS...

13

**Of The Vampire's
Weirdest Fights**



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DRACULA VS... INTRODUCTION

Author Bram Stoker introduced the world to his character Count Dracula in the 1897 novel *Dracula*. It wasn't the first novel about a vampire, but it has proven by far to be the most famous and most influential.

Since its first publication, *Dracula* has led the way for an entire category of fiction. Over the decades, the character has appeared in so, so many adaptations, copies, parodies, pastiches, spin-offs, and every other type of story—portrayed across all types of media, including books, radio, stage plays, films, television productions, comics, anime, games, opera, and ballet. In fact, there are more than 200 films that feature Count Dracula.

In this booklet, I've compiled several examples of Dracula's appearances across different media—with an eye toward some of the more, er, *unusual* instances of his long and storied career in pop culture. It's certainly not exhaustive (seriously, I said more than 200 movies!), but I hope you find the following list interesting. Enjoy!

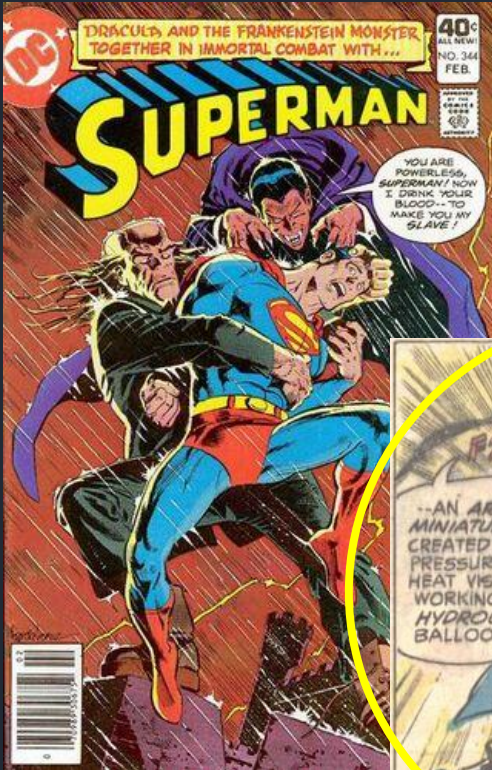
Chris Well

Monster Complex



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DRACULA VS... SUPERMAN



Superman #344 (1979)

In the story “The Monsters Among Us,” Dracula and Frankenstein’s Monster enter the world of DC Comics from another dimension. Superman defeats the vampire in a uniquely “Superman”-way, when the Man of Steel turns a balloon into a miniature sun. (You had to be there.) Then Phantom Stranger banishes the monsters back to their own dimension.



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DRACULA VS... **PARK RANGERS**

“Grandpa’s Call of the Wild,” *The Munsters* (1965)



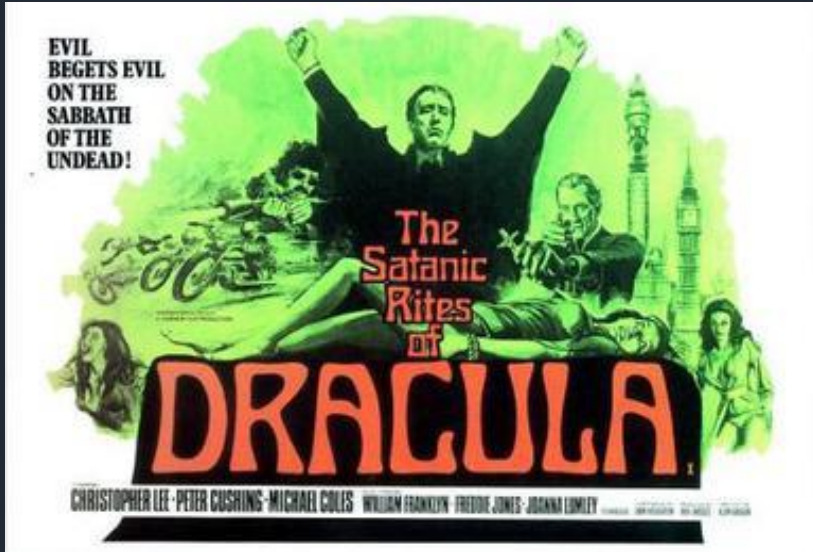
In case you don’t know, here’s the thing—the grandpa on *The Munsters* is Count Dracula. While on a camping trip with the family, Grandpa sees one of his old friends—a wolf—and turns into a wolf himself and runs off into the woods. The park rangers capture the wolves and Grandpa finds himself locked in a cage. Unable to change back, he’s at the mercy of his daughter and son-in-law to get him out of the park. [Click here to watch a clip.](#)



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DRACULA VS... **BRITISH SECRET SERVICE**

Satanic Rites of Dracula (1973)

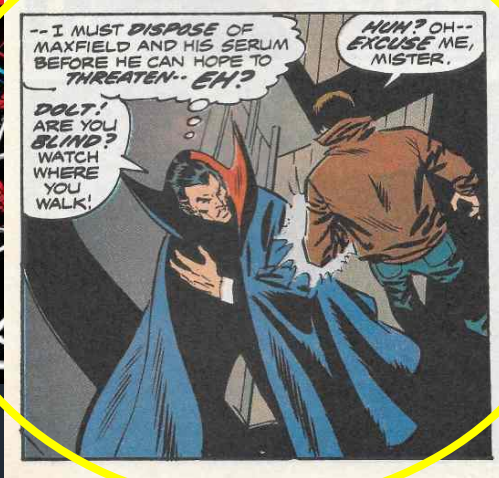


An unorthodox blend of horror, sci-fi, and spy thriller, *The Satanic Rites of Dracula* was the final Hammer film starring **Christopher Lee** as Dracula. The film was also the third with **Peter Cushing** as Van Helsing. What makes this film such an intriguing oddity is that Dracula's evil plan is so much better suited to a Bond villain. With the presence of actress **Joanna Lumley** and the groovy 1970s musical score from composer **John Cacavas**, the whole affair plays out like an episode of *The New Avengers*. [Click here to watch a clip.](#)



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DRACULA VS... SPIDER-MAN



Giant Sized Spider-Man #1 (1974)

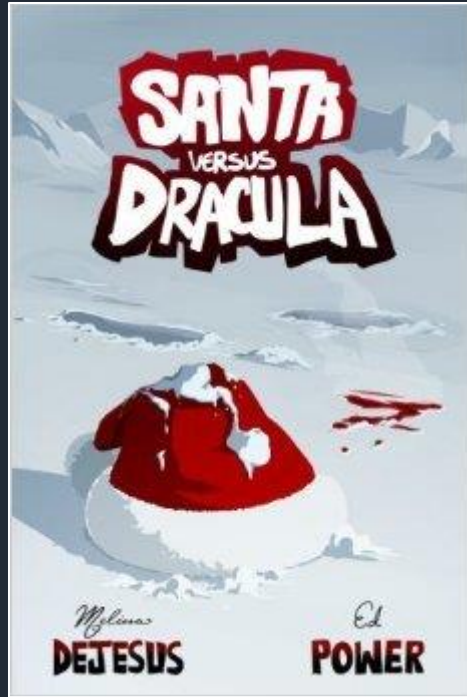
Marvel Comics has been in the Dracula business going all the way back to their long-running 1972 comic book series *Tomb of Dracula*. Not long after, they decided to establish the vampire's ties to the larger Marvel Comics world by having him bump onto Spider-Man. Literally. Yes, that panel to your left is the extent of the confrontation between Dracula and Spider-Man in this entire issue. However, you do get to see the count take on members of the mob. So that's something. Spider-Man later faced Dracula in a 2013 episode of the animated series *Ultimate Spider-Man* and in the 2014 children's book *Ultimate Spider-Man: Spider-Man vs Dracula*. (Dracula has since encountered a whole truckload of other Marvel characters.)



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DRACULA VS... **SANTA CLAUS**

Santa Versus Dracula (2013)



What could be a more clearly defined battle between good and evil than the Lord of Vampires versus a SAINT who brings presents to children?!? In the indie comic *Santa Versus Dracula*, Count Dracula, Igor, Mr. Hyde, and their forces of darkness invade the North Pole to obtain Saint Nick's ability to gain entrance into any home. Santa, Mrs. Claus, Jack Frost and the forces of Christmas are forced to defend their home and their holiday! This time—it's Seasonal...

Written by **Ed Power**, and illustrated by **Melissa Dejesus**.



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DRACULA VS... SUPERBOY

“Young Dracula,” *Superboy* (1989)



When a dhampir (half-vampire) escapes his father and becomes a doctor in a local hospital, he reveals to Superboy that he’s working on a serum which suppresses vampiric tendencies and permits him limited exposure to sunlight. The man’s father sends Dracula to bring him back into the fold—leading to a showdown with Superboy. [Click here to watch a clip.](#)



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DRACULA VS... ANIMANIACS

“Draculee, Draculaa,” *Animaniacs* (1993)



This 1993 Halloween episode of *Animaniacs* includes two segments that parody classic Universal monster movies. In “Draculee, Draculaa,” the Warner siblings are burrowing their way to Pennsylvania but end up in Transylvania. They need a place to stay for the night and, naturally, pick the creepy castle on the hill. Within minutes of meeting the Warners, the Lord of the undead proclaims, “Impudent child, you cannot make a fool out of me!” Which, I guess, makes the rest of the segment inevitable. [Click here to watch a clip.](#)



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DRACULA VS... **BILLY THE KID**

Billy the Kid Versus Dracula (1966)



In this horror/western mashup, a ranch foreman named Billy proposes to his lady boss, unaware that the man pretending to be her uncle is actually Dracula. (Because why not?) The film was originally released as part of a double feature along with *Jesse James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter*. Carradine had played Dracula before—in fact, he took over the role for Universal after Bela Lugosi was out. [Click here to watch a clip.](#)



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DRACULA VS... **ENERGIZER BUNNY**

Energizer Bunny®--Dracula--1993 Commercial

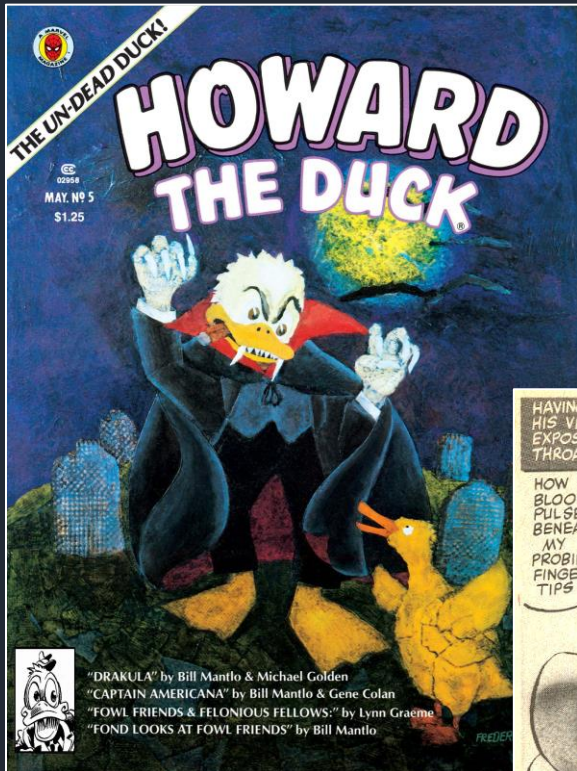


An advertising mascot for many years, the Energizer Bunny represented the unstoppable force that was Energizer Batteries. The popular commercials sometimes crossed over with *other* commercials and brands—with the pink bunny crossing paths with Wile E. Coyote, Darth Vader, King Kong, the cast of *Cheers*, and more. Oh—and, of course, Dracula. Apparently hired by a competitor to steal the Energizer Bunny's battery, Dracula chases the Bunny outside his castle. When he gets locked out, he's still trying to get back into the castle when the morning sun dusts him. [Click here to watch a video.](#)



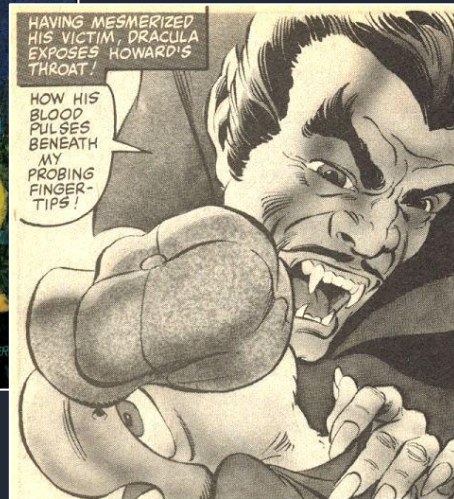
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DRACULA VS... HOWARD THE DUCK



Howard the Duck Magazine #5 (1980)

As I mentioned earlier, Dracula is like all over Marvel Comics. (It's as if they own stock in him or something.) So, you got your **Dracula vs. The X-Men**, your **Dracula vs. The Avengers**, and your **Dracula vs...Howard the Duck**. In *Howard the Duck Magazine #5*, both Dracula and Howard are visiting Cleveland at the same time, when Dracula gets hungry (like you do) and spots the titular duck, which he confuses for a small man. (It's the suit.) Dracula bites into Howard, discovers his mistake, and runs off in disgust. Hilarity follows.



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DRACULA VS... **PINK PANTHER**

“Pink Plasma” (1975)



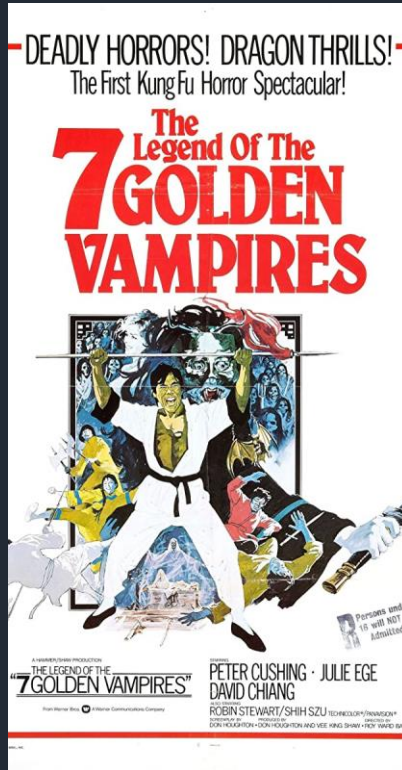
While hiking in Transylvania, The Pink Panther accidentally encounters Count Dracula in his castle. This short cartoon—only six minutes and change—was one of the original 124 Pink Panther animated shorts produced between 1964-1978 by DePatie–Freleng Enterprises. [Click here to watch the short.](#)



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DRACULA VS... **EIGHT KUNG-FU SIBLINGS**

The Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires (1974)



“Black Belts Meet Black Magic!” A cooler idea on paper than its execution, this co-production between the U.K.’s Hammer Films and Hong Kong’s Shaw Brothers Studios, the 1974 film *The Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires* is a sloppy (if sometimes entertaining) mash-up of horror with martial arts. When a whole gang of Chinese vampires terrorizes a village, Hsi Ching enlists Peter Cushing’s Professor Van Helsing to come help his kung fu-trained siblings save the village from vampires—oh, and also zombies. [Click here to watch a clip.](#)



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DRACULA VS... **SUPER FRIENDS**

“Attack of the Vampire,” Super Friends (1978)



Super Friends was the sanded-down superhero show that ABC thought was appropriate for children. So, I guess it was inevitable that when Superman, Wonder Woman, and company faced Dracula—which would have been weird enough—victims became vampires because of some sort of “vampire vision.” You know, beams that shoot out of your eyes. (Like you do.) When Superman and the Wonder Twins (bless ‘em) are eye-beamed into vampires—and their costumes are somehow, er, re-colored—the rest of the Super Friends rush to Switzerland...to discover that they need to find the cave of a South American bat because the gases ... reverse the vampire effect. (Whew!) [Click here to watch a clip.](#)



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DRACULA VS... **THE WOLF MAN**



Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein (1948)

I couldn't resist including this bonus example—because who would have expected that a comedy team would create one of the best monster movies of all time? This is the first Universal film that managed to put Dracula, Frankenstein's monster, and the Wolf Man all on screen at the same time—in the same story, no less! Dracula plans to revive the monster to do his bidding, and needs a suitable brain (i.e., easy to control). His associate picks a freight handler named Wilbur (Costello) to be the brain donor. Larry Talbot (AKA the Wolf Man) and Wilbur's friend Chick (Abbot) interrupt the operation—leading to the first onscreen fight between Dracula and the Wolf Man. Sure, it's a lot of throwing vases and furniture and stuff, but the scene is still a hoot. [Click here to watch a clip.](#)



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[Monster Complex](#) explores monster fiction in all its forms—books, movies, TV, comics, games, and anywhere else you can find stories about monsters and those who fight them. Whether it's stories about science gone wrong, vampires, werewolves, spirits, folklore, mythology, cryptozoology, or anything of the like—Monster Complex is right there with interviews, lists, roundups, and discussions.



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