



0. DRACULA'S DEATH - Story Preface

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**7. DRACULA'S DEATH**

8. THE LEGEND OF DRACULA

One of the ways in which *Nosferatu's* film makers tried to avoid infringing on the copyrights to *Dracula*, held by Bram Stoker's Estate, was to change how the vampire dies. In *Nosferatu*, the vampire Count Orlok dies when sunlight shines on him. That version, which differs from Stoker's *Dracula* (who was *not* at risk from sunlight exposure), has persisted in derivations of the *Dracula* story. This image depicts a digitized screen-shot of *Nosferatu*, when the vampire Orlok meets his fate.

Attempts to kill the real Dracula were even more serious than attempts to kill *Nosferatu*, his celluloid character.

Dracula died a gruesome death. Fighting constant battles to keep or regain his throne, in the end he was most likely killed by an assassin he knew.

In *Nosferatu*, he dies when sunlight strikes his body. In real life he died in battle.

The contemporary account of his death, translated and quoted in the most authoritative source on the subject (*In Search of Dracula* by Raymond T. McNally and Radu Florescu), states:

*Dracula's army began killing Turks without mercy. Out of sheer joy, Dracula ascended a hill in order to see better his men massacring the Turks. Thus, detached from his army and his men some took him for a Turk, and one of them struck him with a lance.*

Dracula did not die easily:

*But Dracula, seeing that he was being attacked by his own men, immediately killed five of his would-be assassins with his own sword; however, he was pierced by many lances and thus he died.*

Death on the field of battle did not mark the end of Dracula. Contemporary chroniclers tell what happened next.

His head, severed from his body, was sent to Constantinople where the Sultan had it impaled. He wanted all to see that Vlad Tepes would kill no more.

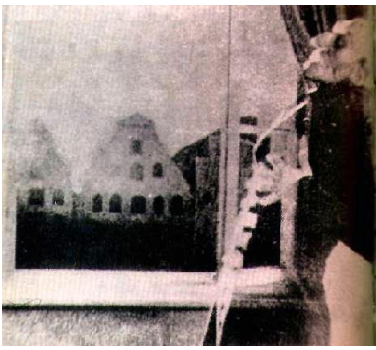
Dracula may have been dead, but tales about him lived. Mixed with the local folklore of vampires, "Vlad the Impaler" took on legendary status after death.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/DRACULA-S-DEATH-Shadow-of-the-Vampire-The-Real-Dracula>

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/DRACULA-S-DEATH-Shadow-of-the-Vampire-The-Real-Dracula>

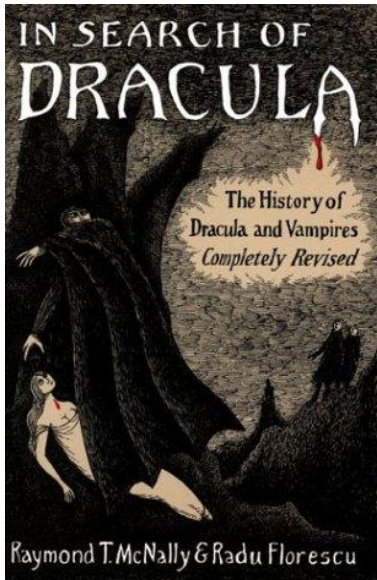


### Nosferatu - Death Scene

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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### In Search of Dracula - by Raymond T. McNally

Book-cover image online, courtesy Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Google Books.

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