



# The Living and the Undead: Slaying Vampires, Exterminating Zombies

*Gregory A. Waller*

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With a legacy stretching back into legend and folklore, the vampire in all its guises haunts the film and fiction of the twentieth century and remains the most enduring of all the monstrous threats that roam the landscapes of horror. In *The Living and the Undead*, Gregory A. Waller shows why this creature continues to fascinate us and why every generation reshapes the story of the violent confrontation between the living and the undead to fit new times.

Examining a broad range of novels, stories, plays, films, and made-for-television movies, Waller focuses upon a series of interrelated texts: Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (1897); several film adaptations of Stoker's novel; F. W. Murnau's *Nosferatu, A Symphony of Horror* (1922); Richard Matheson's *I Am Legend* (1954); Stephen King's *Salem's Lot* (1975); Werner Herzog's *Nosferatu the Vampyre* (1979); and George Romero's *Night of the Living Dead* (1968) and *Dawn of the Dead* (1979). All of these works, Waller argues, speak to our understanding and fear of evil and chaos, of desire and egotism, of slavish dependence and masterful control. This paperback edition of *The Living and the Undead* features a new preface in which Waller positions his analysis in relation to the explosion of vampire and zombie films, fiction, and criticism in the past twenty-five years.

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