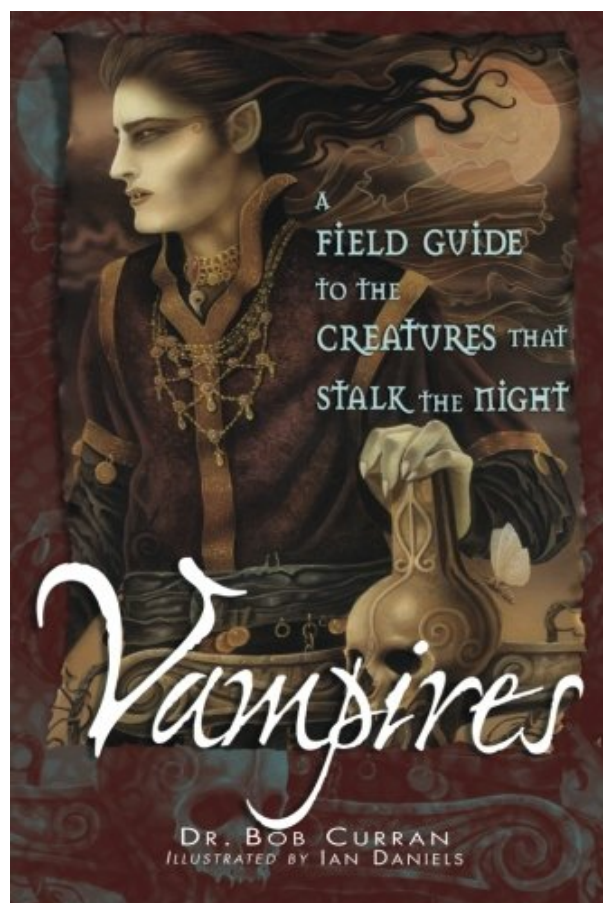
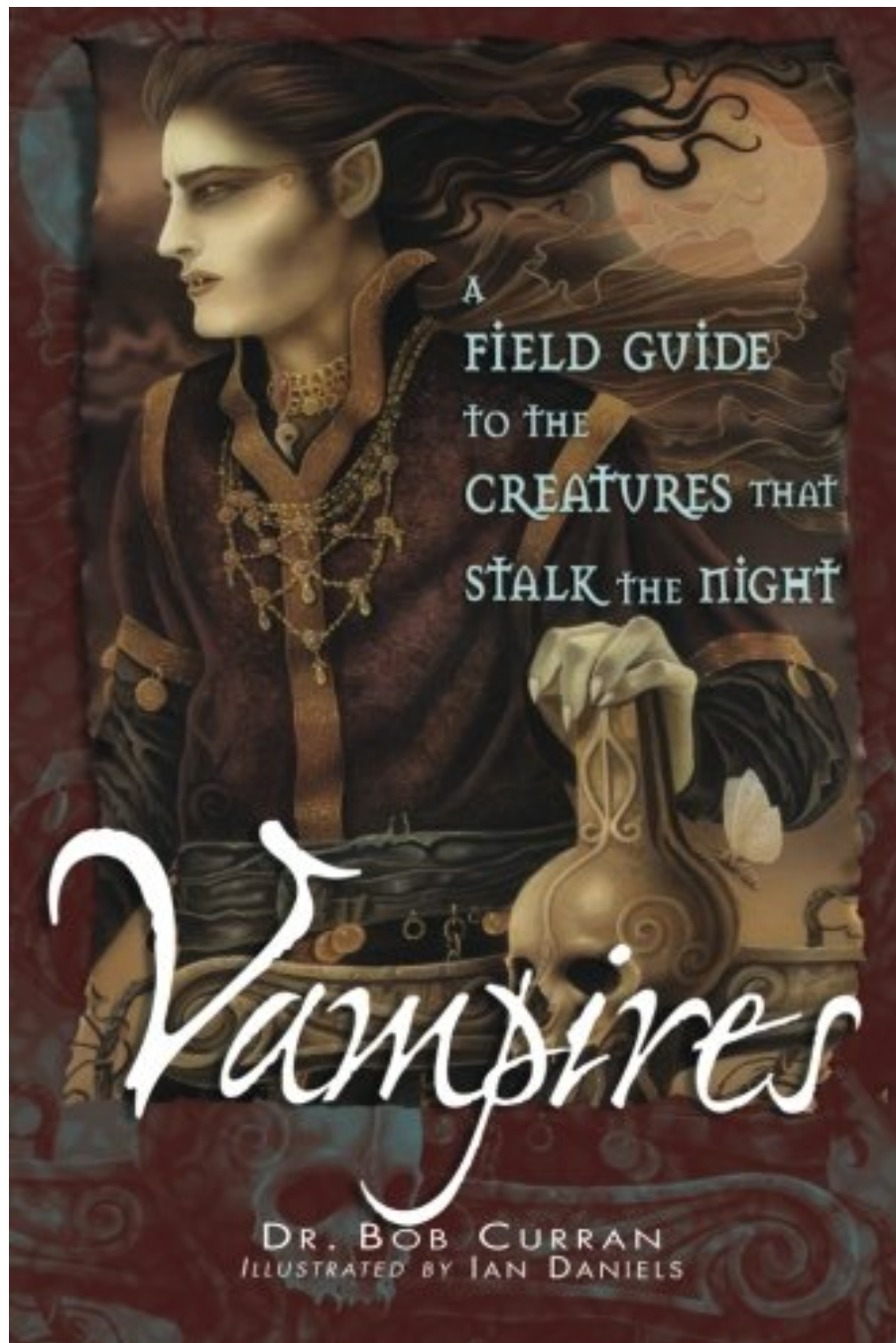


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About the Author

Bob Curran is a prolific writer and expert on Celtic culture and folklore and has penned more than fifty books in eleven languages. He teaches in Ireland and lectures throughout Northern Europe and the United States on folklore and education. Born in Northern Ireland, he held a series of odd jobs in the United Kingdom and the Americas before returning to his native land, including gravedigger, journalist, scriptwriter, mortuary attendant, and radio programmer. Curran has also worked on underground publications, including Oz, a counterculture magazine in London, and as an educational and cultural adviser for the government of Ireland.

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"Vampire!" The very word conjures up visions of ruined castles, of enigmatic, pale-skinned noblemen shrouded in dark cloaks, of slumbering beauties being bloodily ravished by supernatural, nocturnal creatures. But just how accurate is that picture? How much do we really know about these mysterious entities? Surprisingly, perhaps, almost every culture can boast of its own vampire beings, few of which correspond to the stock Hollywood image-some are not even human in form, some do not drink blood, some appear in daylight. Are you ready for such horrors as the Penanggal, the screaming blood-soaked lead that drifts through the Malayan jungle seeking victims; the Jaracacca, the Brazilian stalker that hides in the clothes of its victims to drink their blood or bodily fluids; or the Aswang, the scaly demon of the Philippines, who lies among the leafy roofs of huts and drinks through its tongue? And how do we dispose of vampires? Is the simple stake through the heart-much beloved of Hollywood directors-really enough, or is there something more? And does the sight of the crucifix repel all vampires-what if the vampire is Jewish (a dibbyuk)? Vampires is a unique, lavishly illustrated work that explores the rich diversity of vampire belief and lore, ranging from countries as diverse as Japan, Sweden and Ireland, looking at their historical origins, and setting them in their cultural context.

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Ian Daniels has been a professional fantasy painter and illustrator since 1995 and lives in Kent, England.

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Trust any book on the supernatural by Bob Curran!

By Amanda Pike

Dr. Bob Curran won my respect with his book on werewolves. He is concise while also providing valid facts and research into the paranormal and into folklore. His writing style is simple while at the same time presenting a great many useful tidbits of information.

This is an author that I highly respect and recommend. Anyone who studies the paranormal, history, and folklore should appreciate this man's writing. He is a breath of fresh air in the wake of far too many supernatural reference guides with a slant toward this or that author's favorite work of fiction or personal bias within the subject such as a different author's predisposition toward the study of "psychic vampires". Bob Curran does not use a bias. He writes with a professional straight forwardness that I completely admire and respect. I would recommend any title by this author written as a tool of research into folklore and the paranormal.

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A starting point for lore lovers...

By Rhianna Walker

I really enjoy reading collections of lore that feature classic mythological entities. One of my favorites is the vampire simply because a form of it exists in nearly every culture. Bob Curran's field guide touches on many familiar sources of vampire mythology and many I was not aware of. Though I was somewhat familiar with the Asiatic creatures we could call vampires they are by far some of the creepier and more diverse, which made them particularly interesting to read about. Ian Daniels' illustrations give dimension to the different chapters and help give a visual to some of the more unusual incarnations of vampire.

I would recommend *Vampires: A Field Guide to the Creatures That Stalk the Night* to anyone who hasn't taken the time to explore vampire myths beyond the traditional Hollywood types prevalent in Western culture. While not an exhaustive guide I found it to be an interesting and imagination provoking collective worth the read.

**Review copy received via Net Galley

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A great resource for a vampire fan

By Nicki J

This is a really great resource for any vampire fan out there.

This book looks at vampire myths and tales from all around the world and presents them in this handy 'field guide'. Some of the tales I was familiar with, but others were new to me and were very interesting to read.

Another strong point with this book is the selection of great illustrations throughout. And, for a change, they didn't even slow the scrolling on my Kobo - a very pleasant surprise. A good index at the back helps you navigate if you are looking for something particular; otherwise you can just browse.

The only downside was a lack of references for further reading.

In conclusion: a good selection of varied tales from all corners of the globe; lovely illustrations; a must-read for vampire fans.

I received this book as a free e-book ARC via NetGalley.

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